THE AMERICAN LEGION

A NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR POST COMMANDERS AND POST ADJUTANTS . . .

Advance

Vol. XIX May, 1976 No. 5

National Convention, Aug. 20-26

Scenic Seattle To Welcome Legionnaires

CONVENTION LANDMARK: Towering 600 ft. above Seattle Center (foreground), the Space Needle looks down on the ultramodern Coliseum at left, site of the Convention business sessions, and the Memorial Stadium, where top-notch drum corps will compete in the Musical Spectacular.

LEGIONNAIRES who will be heading for the 1976 National Convention in Seattle should be planning now to make the most of their trip into one of the most scenic sections of the nation.

This year's National Convention - set for Aug. 20-26 - promises to be bonus-filled with fun, food, facilities, and programs.

Convention activities will be concentrated mainly on the Seattle Center grounds, site of the 1962 World's Fair. The facilities and attractions there include the 600-ft. Space Needle with its revolving restaurant-in-the-sky, the Pacific Science Center, the huge Coliseum, and the High School Memorial Stadium.

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Business sessions of the Convention will be Aug. 24-26 in the 14,000-seat Coliseum with the National Headquarters offices — which will open Aug. 16 — in the adjacent Flag Plaza Pavilion.

High School Memorial Stadium will be the site of the colorful Musical Spectacular — the Drum and Bugle Corps finals — Saturday, Aug. 21. The big Convention parade will step off at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, and is expected to last about 5 hours. Parade participants will be happy to learn that the route along Seattle's downtown Fourth Avenue is all down hill.

The National Commander's Dinner will be Tuesday, Aug. 24, in the Exhibition Hall of the Center, and the American Legion Auxiliary's States Dinner will be Wednesday, Aug. 25, in the same location.

Convention sessions for the American Legion Auxiliary will be in the Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle, and the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) will convene Aug. 21-22 in the Snoqualmie Room at the Seattle Center.

The Legion's National Headquarters hotel will be the Washington Plaza, about one mile from the Seattle Center. However, the Washington Plaza is conveniently

(Continued on next page)

COMMANDER'S CALENDAR

May

1	Law Day.
3-4	Meetings of standing national commissions and committees, Indianapolis, Ind.
5-6	National Executive Committee, Indianapolis, Ind.
8	V-E Day
9	Mother's Day.
15	Armed Forces Day.
22	National Maritime Day.
31	Memorial Day.

June

6	32nd anniversary of D-Day, 1944.
14	Flag Day.
20	Father's Day.
25	26th anniversary of U.S. entry into Korean War, 1950.

July

4	Independence Day. 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Your post's observance of this holiday should be a stirring climax to your community's Bicentennial celebration.
21-Aug. 7	The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Boys and Girls Nation, Washington, D.C.
29-30	National Membership Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind.

The American Legion **ADVANCE**

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MEMBER AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: Frank L. Megnin

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Convention . . .

(Continued from preceding page)

located near a terminal for the Monorail which whisks 450 passengers at a time from the Washington Plaza to the Seattle Center in about 90 seconds -- for only 10 cents a ride.

Conventioneers will find a wide variety of places to dine and things to see and do within the confines of the Seattle Center. And everything within the Center grounds is within easy walking distance.

There's a "Fun Forest" where, in a carnival-like atmosphere, it is a day-and-night festival of merriment, games, rides, and lights.

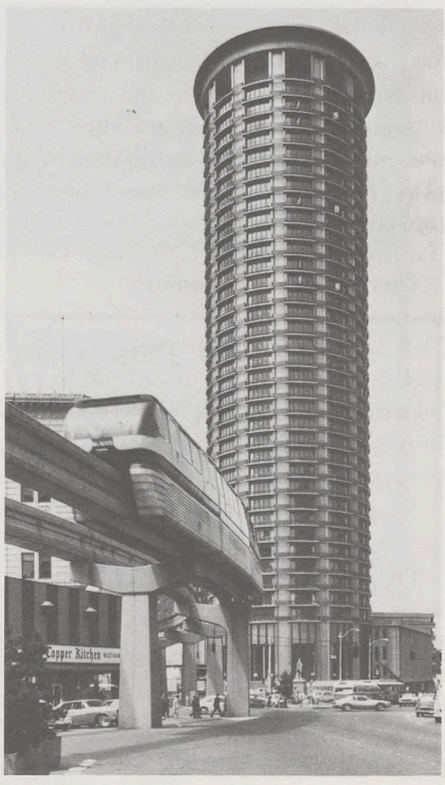
In the Center House, Legionnaires and their families can informally partake of an unending variety of traditional and international food specialties. The lower level of the same building houses the International Bazaar -- dozens of shops offering goods from throughout the world.

Other attractions include the Hall of Fire Engines, the Hall of Aviation, the Playhouse, the Opera House, Art Gallery and Museum, Craft Center, and Veterans Hall.

And, throughout the grass-covered and landscaped grounds of the Center there are islands of quiet and serenity where one can pause between Convention activities and just sit or stroll and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings.

A major seaport on inland Puget Sound, Seattle is a bustling city of more than 500,000. However, it has retained much of the charm and friendly spirit which date back to its settlement in 1851. The city is going all-out for a big welcome to the Legion in August.

See you there!

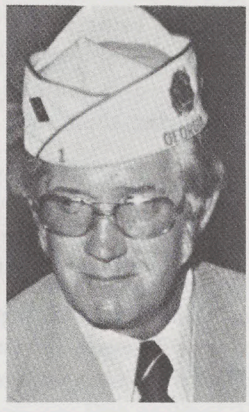


HQ HOTEL: The towering Washington Plaza will be the National Headquarters hotel for the 58th National Convention of The American Legion in Seattle. The Washington Plaza is served by the fabulous Monorail which will take conventioneers to Seattle Center for the business sessions.

Newspaper? Bulletin? Newsletter?

Under Any Name, Post Publication Vital

By
GEORGE W. HOOTEN
(Georgia)
President
National American Legion
Press Association
(NALPA)



NO MATTER WHAT you call it -- newspaper, bulletin, newsletter, etc. -- that regular mailing your post sends to the members is vital. The strength of your post and its programs depends on the knowledge your members have of what is going on.

Not all members of your post can and do attend meetings. They don't get much news of their own posts from the department or national publications. Without a publication, the post must rely on word-of-mouth information which, at best, becomes unreliable and inaccurate.

But there is authority behind what you read in the official post publication. You know the source. Once the paper has left the press or mimeograph and is mailed, the printed word is not subject to twisting or distortion.

Post's Mirror

An effective post publication serves as a mirror in which the many and varied programs of the post are reflected to all the members. Such a paper will also carry news of the members' achievements and good works in order that others may share that feeling of pride of association.

There have always been American Legion papers. One of the first acts following the creation of the Legion in 1919 was the establishment of a national weekly news magazine (now the monthly *American Legion Magazine*.) Departments and posts followed suit, and today there are more than one thousand American Legion newspapers, all published more or less regularly.

ALPA Founded in 1923

The first organized group of Legion papers came into being at the 1923 National Convention in San Francisco, and the American Legion Press Association (ALPA) received official approval at the 1924 National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. The organization altered its name slightly in 1973 to become National American Legion Press Association (NALPA).

Membership in NALPA includes editors and staff members of affiliated Legion publications, writers of American Legion columns in the general press, and those associated with the news services of The American Legion.

NALPA's constant objective is "The Mutual Improvement of the Legion Press -- by Mutual Endeavor." To meet this objective NALPA provides a common meeting ground for those interested in editing and producing publications for their Legion organizations. It acts as an exchange for counsel and ideas and serves as spokesman in national councils, when and where necessary.

Bimonthly Publication

Another source of assistance is NALPA's bimonthly News-Letter to all members. This publication conveys, in addition to news of NALPA members and publications, promotional ideas used by member papers. The News-Letter carries tips on how to encourage readership, frequently including line art which may be used to "dress up" the post paper.

Nearly 1,000 papers are affiliates of NALPA through the membership of those responsible for their publication.

NALPA maintains a close working relationship with the various divisions of National Headquarters -- particularly the Public Relations Division and the Internal Affairs Division where the **ADVANCE** is edited. The P/R Division prepares and distributes the weekly American Legion News Service (ALNS) to editors, columnists, and P/R officers.

NALPA meets in annual session during the Legion's National Convention. At these annual meetings, national officers are elected and outstanding American Legion papers are recognized in the following categories: Best Paper (unlimited category); Best Paper from Post with Fewer than 2,000 Members; Papers Produced by Stencil Process; and Editorial Contest.

Write for Info

Mr. Post Commander: If your post does not have a regularly distributed publication, I urge you to consider the value of such an addition to your post. If your post paper is not now affiliated with NALPA, I cordially invite you to avail your post of the advantages of affiliation.

Further information concerning the establishment of a post paper or membership in NALPA may be obtained by writing:

Frank J. Giambra, Secretary
NALPA
152 Woodgate Road
Tonawanda, N. Y. 14150

Annual Report Measures Performance

AS THE DAYS DRAW DOWN to the close of your year, Mr. Post Commander, you may be asking yourself --

1. How good was my year as Commander?

2. How well does my post serve the community?

3. Is there anything else that I can do to improve my post?

Well, you can come up with some answers to those questions if you get together with your Post Adjutant and make sure your post files a Consolidated Report. The filing of a Consolidated Post Report identifies your post as --

-- a post that keeps efficient records;

-- a post that operates in a businesslike manner; and

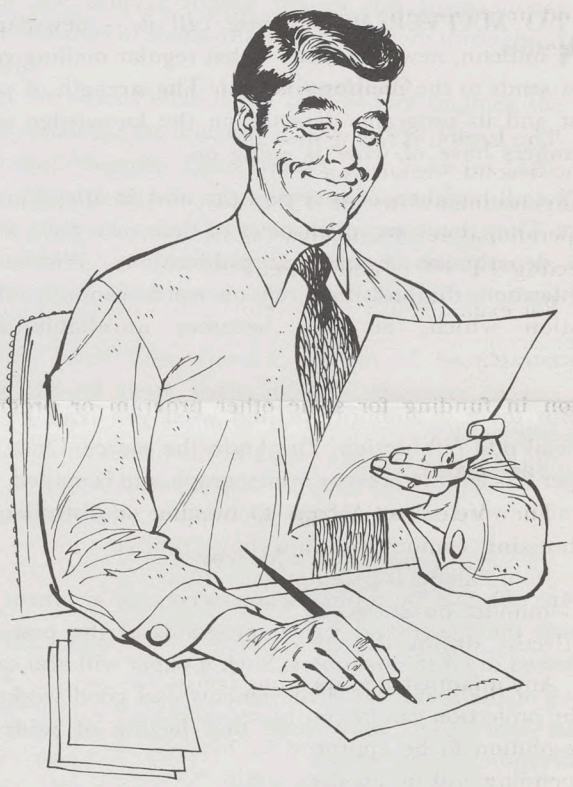
-- a post that is fulfilling its obligation to the community it serves and to The American Legion.

A well-run American Legion Post requires the practice of sound business principles. And the first requirement of any efficient business operation is good record-keeping.

Your annual report sums up the records your post officers and committee chairmen have kept during the year. By bringing all this data into one report you have made the complete record of your year easily accessible for your own evaluation and for future leaders to use in measuring their own accomplishments.

This year's Consolidated Post Report makes good news release material. And your post's membership drive leaders for 1977 will want to make use of some of its data in promotional material to give to prospects.

Don't be discouraged if you don't have something to report in every blank on the three-part, snap-out form. Very few posts carry on every Legion program. In fact,



many outstanding posts devote their time and efforts to just two or three programs or projects which more than justify their existence.

After completing this year's report, be sure to retain the post's copy for files and return the other copies to department headquarters.

Please be sure that your report is sent to department by June 15, or sooner if your department has set an earlier deadline.

The cooperation of all posts is vital if the National Organization is to have accurate data to include in its annual report as required by the Legion's federal charter.

Posts Should Study Needs for Service By Older Veterans

EACH AMERICAN LEGION POST has a stake in insuring that in time of need each of its members, and particularly the aged and the aging, can be assured of services existing within the community to meet those needs.

Perhaps some of these services can be provided through the post with assistance from other sources.

Post Service Officers are asked to study the problems of the aged and aging veterans within their respective communities and neighborhoods to see if there are services which the post possibly could offer.

The Joint Rehabilitation-Economic Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging was established by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion to study all problems of aged and aging veterans, including related matters properly referred to it for consideration.

In this connection, the Subcommittee invites recommendations from all sources as to how an American Legion Post can be of service to the aged and aging veteran.

Suggestions should be mailed to Glen R. Nielson, 1505, First Avenue, N., Wheaton, Minn. 56296.

Legion Faces Legislative Battles

THE FIRST SESSION of the 94th Congress approved a considerable amount of new legislation before adjourning just 12 days before the end of 1975. More than 170 Public Laws were enacted, a number of which dealt specifically with one or more American Legion resolutions.

Listed here are a few of the Legion's accomplishments during the First Session:

Fiscal Year 1976 funds for the Veterans Administration, Selective Service, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development; increased benefits in Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC): maintenance of a strong and viable defense; return of Veterans Day to Nov. 11; and improving the salary structure for VA physicians and dentists.

Challenging Problems

The Legion is facing new and challenging problems in the Second Session as a result of the Budget Control and Impoundment Act of 1974, which has become fully operational and mandatory for all spending measures affecting FY 1977, and thereafter.

For example, any improvements in veterans' programs requiring new expenditures not contemplated in the original budget ceiling will, if approved, result in reduction in funding for some other program or programs, unless provision is also made for additional revenue (additional taxes).

The Veterans Affairs Committee and other authorizing committees must have projected the cost of contemplated legislation in their reports to the Committee on Budget by Mar. 15, if they are to be made effective during the current year.

Any unanticipated spending legislation not included in the projection can be considered in the second concurrent resolution to be approved by Sept. 15, but again, such spending will be juggled within the overall new ceiling, unless a special waiver is obtained or provision is made for additional revenues.

200 Resolutions

More than 200 resolutions requiring enactment of federal legislation for accomplishment, and not satisfied during the First Session, will continue to receive our attention during the remainder of the 94th Congress.

In addition to money bills for FY 1977, the Legion will seek legislation to revise and codify the U.S. Flag Code, restore the Committee on Internal Security as a standing committee of the House, and pressure Congress for adequate funds for the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Internal Security.

We are also seeking funds for improved child health care services, including crippled children, school nutrition programs, and programs to combat juvenile delinquency.

In addition to supporting adequate funds for Veterans Employment Services (VES), we are asking for legislation to elevate VES to a separate division within the Department of Labor headed by an Assistant Secretary.

In foreign relations, the Legion is opposed to all efforts to relinquish U.S. control of the Panama Canal and any new treaties or agreements that would in any way diminish this control. Trade with Cuba and re-establishment of unilateral U.S. reduction in NATO forces is also being opposed.

Against Amnesty

National Commander Harry G. Wiles has specified on numerous occasions that The American Legion supports adequate funding for a modernized, fully equipped, and updated Armed Services, and continues to support legislation to improve the National Guard and Reserve programs, continue the Selective Service System on a stand-by basis, and seek full implementation of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

We are also adamantly opposed to the granting of general amnesty to draft evaders and deserters.

In veterans affairs and rehabilitation, we continue to oppose legislation which would absorb the VA hospitals and medical programs into any national health insurance scheme. We also seek further improvements in the compensation and pension programs, the Vietnam veterans' education program, and further development of the National Cemetery System.

None of these projected legislative objectives will be accomplished unless there is a ground-swell of support from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

National Legislative News Bulletin

The best way to obtain a knowledge of current legislative happenings is through the *National Legislative News Bulletin* which is published by the Legislative Division staff in Washington, D.C. This is the only publication devoted fully to legislation for veterans and their dependents. It is a necessary tool for the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who want to stay up-to-date on the status of the Legion's legislative program.

Subscription to the *Bulletin* is only $4. Checks made payable to The American Legion should be addressed as follows:

National Legislative News Bulletin
The American Legion
1608 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

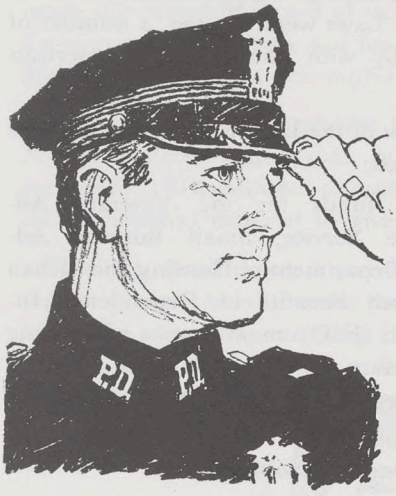
Post Efforts Boost Law, Order

. . . More than 400 children in Bitterroot Valley (Mont.) schools participated in Corvallis Post 91's poster coloring program to promote respect for law enforcement officers.

. . . More than 150 Legionnaires and guests attended Huntingdon (Pa.) Post 24's annual Law and Order Banquet where five Certificates of Commendation were awarded.

THESE, Mr. Post Commander, are but a few examples of what can be done to further your law and order program. While activities vary from post to post and department to department, their collective goal is to support law enforcement throughout the nation.

Here are several suggestions to get your post's law and order program going and a few tools to help with the job:



1. Establish or strengthen the law and order committee of your post. The topic of crime in the streets is as timely as the latest newscast, so you should be able to get the competent volunteer help you need.

2. Through your law and order committee establish a working and continuing liaison with your local law enforcement officials and firefighters. The support needed by them varies from community to community, so your liaison group can help define the scope and direction of your law and order program.

3. Respect for the laws of our land begins at home and at an early age. "Your Friend -- the Policeman" coloring posters are available for distribution to children in primary grades. (To obtain the posters write: National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.)

4. Extend American Legion recognition to outstanding law enforcement officers and firefighters. Special commendation certificates for this purpose are available from your department headquarters. Award the certificates at a banquet sponsored by your post in which the leaders of your community take an active part.

All too often our law enforcement officers and firefighters remain nameless and unrecognized for the services they perform in our behalf. Presentation of these certificates will help overcome such an oversight.

RR Pension Counts Toward Income for Widows of Veterans

AMERICAN LEGION Post Service Officers, in helping widows and children of deceased veterans evaluate income for pension purposes (old law), are reminded that railroad pensions are considered as income.

A recent determination involving a widow's continued entitlement to death pension benefits has brought to light the need for a clearer explanation of a segment of the *Post Service Officers Manual.*

In Section 1005, Chapter X, relating to income (old law), the booklet states, "The term income includes all money received by the veteran or widow during the calendar year except from certain sources excludable by law and regulations." One of these permissible exclusions is Railroad Retirement Act pensions and annuities.

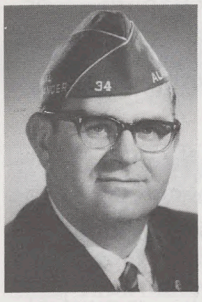
In determining a veterans' eligibility for pension, the above statement is essentially correct.

HOWEVER, in the evaluation of income for pension purposes for *widows and children*, payments of survivor pension and annuities received from the Railroad Retirement Board *are* considered as income.

Public Law 86-28, effective July 1, 1959, provided that pension and annuity payments received from the Railroad Retirement Board were *excluded* from consideration of income in determining eligibility for disability pension for *veterans only*. This exclusion continues to be applicable to claims under laws in effect on June 30, 1960.

Where eligibility to pension is subject to determination under Public Law 86-211 (new law), such retirement payments *will be considered as income*.

'76 Contest Follow-Up Aids Preparations for '77 Oratorical Program



By
LEWIS E. McCRAY
(Alabama)
Member
National Americanism Commission

SO, YOU THINK the Oratorical Contest is over? Well, maybe the speeches are finished for the 1976 contest, but now is the time to really complete this year's program and begin setting the stage for an even better one next year.

As a post officer or contest official, you should see that every person who helped with the contest is recognized properly by your post. Some of these individuals may have worked in the program for a number of years without such expression of appreciation.

As for the contestants, why not invite them and their parents to a post meeting? Promote a good turnout of your members, so the young people and their parents can see how much interest the Legion has in the youth of the community.

Be sure your members are thoroughly familiar with the purposes of the contest and encourage them to express their congratulations and appreciation individually to the contestants. These young people deserve such expression for the time and effort they have put in getting ready for the contest.

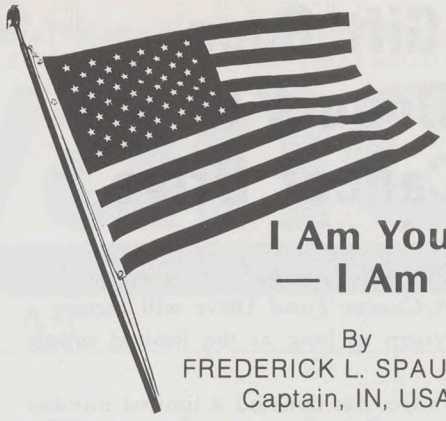
After you have taken these steps, you can truly say the 1976 program has been completed. Now, how about next year?

First of all, if some of your contestants are eligible to participate in 1977, be sure to encourage them to do so.

Also, you should contact your school officials right away concerning next year's contest. This is the time of year when school activity calendars are being drawn up for 1976-77 and school administrators are making the necessary faculty assignments.

While you are making these contacts, be sure to let the school officials and faculty members know how much you appreciate their assistance.

While you are in the process of making these calls, be sure to contact your local news media and express your appreciation for the assistance and support given to the 1976 contest. Let the media representatives know that the program will be repeated in 1977 and you will be counting on their help again.



I Am Your Heritage — I Am Your Flag!

By
FREDERICK L. SPAULDING
Captain, IN, USAR

I WAS BORN on July 4th, 1776, conceived from the hopes and dreams of the people of this young country. As the Nation grew, I too did grow. As I look back on the events of the past 200 years, I recall with pride the determination of your forefathers to make this country a free and independent nation.

Lexington . . . Concord . . . Bunker Hill . . . Valley Forge . . . Yes, they are all just names now, but then they were a message: a message to the world that this young nation had fought for and gained its independence.

In 1812 this independence was threatened. At Fort McHenry, as I flew high above the ramparts, I became a symbol: a symbol to all that as long as I reign, unfurling my colors to each passing wind, this nation will exist as a bastion of freedom for all who abide here.

When this country became a house divided, it hurt me deeply. During that long and regretful Civil War, I wept. I wept for the dead, for the living, and for the devastation of my beautiful country. At the close of that ugly war, my people once again united, bound the nation's wounds, and started this country on its way to becoming the greatest nation on earth.

Since that time I have watched this country struggle through wars, depressions, and scandals. I have been sung to and praised, and with each stanza I grew nobler. I have been spat on and burned but, after each such incident, I grew stronger and more exalted than before.

Today, I watch over this magnificent land of ours with great pride, protecting it as it has protected me. I am the symbol of you; I am the symbol of this nation. I fly throughout the world, representing you and what you stand for. As I exist, so shall you. I am your heritage; I am your flag.

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Special Gift Goes To $25 Donors to Legion Cancer Drive

INDIVIDUAL DONORS of $25 or more to The American Legion Cancer Fund Drive will receive a distinctive gift in return as long as the limited supply lasts.

Seagram Distillers Co. has donated a limited number of the Minneapolis Convention commemorative containers to be given in response to individual donations.

Due to laws governing shipment of liquor across state lines, a bottle of Seagram's Benchmark Premium Bourbon *will not be included* inside the distinctive ceramic container. Design of the commemorative container is a replica of Ft. Snelling's historic "Round Tower." A handsome gift carton bearing a full-color photo of the tower on each side completes the gift appeal of the unusual package.

The ceramic shell will be forwarded from National Headquarters in Indianapolis upon receipt and proper accounting of any individual donation of $25 or more to the cancer fund drive.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Cancer Fund and mailed to National Treasurer, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

Nominations Open For '76 Awards to Employers of Vets

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS and Districts within the next few months will begin the preliminary procedures toward the recognition of employers for the hiring and retention of veterans.

Posts and districts are urged to participate in this endeavor which supports the Legion's on-going "Jobs For Veterans" program. By their initiative, posts and districts will help bring public recognition to employers for doing a good job in hiring and retaining veterans. At the same time, the program helps build good public relations for the post or district and The American Legion.

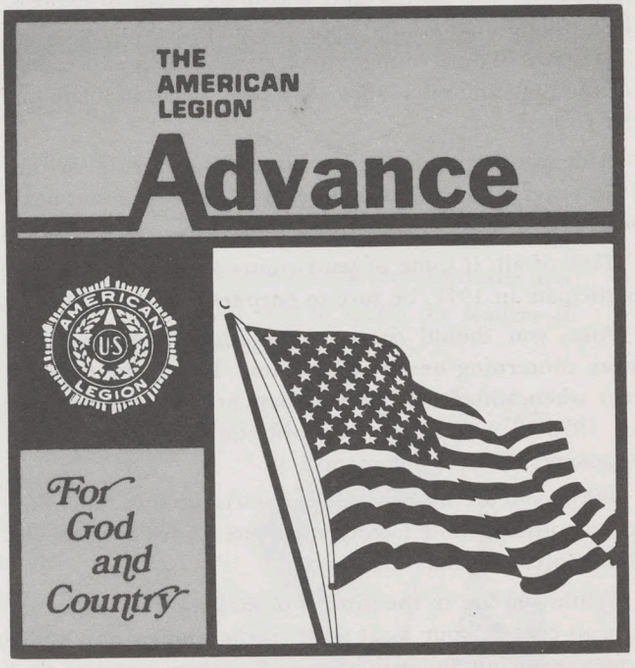
A national award is presented to an employer in each of two categories: I for employers of more than 200 and II for employers of 200 or fewer.

Winners of the 1975 American Legion Employer of the Year Awards for Hiring Veterans are as follows:

I - I. T. T. Federal Electric Corporation Paramus, New Jersey

II - Purolator Courier Corporation San Antonio, Texas

For complete information on how your post or district can be a part of this program, write: National Economic Commission, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.



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