Publicity

The American Legion

AN OUTLINE OF THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOVEMENT UP TO THE PRESENT DATE

The date and text prescribed herein were prepared by the Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Committe of THE AMERICAN LEGION pursuant to instructions of the Executive Committee at its session held April 7, 1919.

The American Legion

This is the name of a tentative organization of those who served in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps during the Great War.

The purpose now is merely to get into the minds of all who saw such service that they shall form their own organization subject to their own direction and shaped according to their own wishes. All organization work so far is tentative. It has had in purpose the creation of the necessary foundation.

When all, or a majority of those in service, are back in their homes in America, a great meeting is to be held at some designated point at which a Constitution will be shaped and a name chosen, Officers selected, and the Americans who served in the World War united in one great organization of their own creation.

The ultimate aim of the association, as held by those members of the A. E. F who have been active in preliminary work is best summed up in the words of the preamble. It reads:

> "We, the members of the Military and Naval Services of the United States of America in the Great War desiring to perpetuate the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy for which we have fought to inculcate the duty and obligation of the citizen to the State; to preserve the history and incidents of our participation in the war; and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an association for the furtherance of the foregoing purposes.

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Those eligible to membership shall be : All officers and enlisted personnel in the Military and Naval Services of the United States of America at any time during the period from April 6, 1917 to November 11th, 1918, inclusive; excepting however persons leaving the service without an honorable discharge or persons who having been called into the service refused, failed or attempted to evade the full performance of such service.

The society shall consist of a national organization with subsidiary branches; one for each State, territory and foreign possession of the United States as well as one in each foreign country where members of the national society may be resident and who desire to associate themselves together.

The officers of the society shall be a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and a board of directors which shall consist of the president, the vice president, together with the chief executives of each subsidiary branch.

The subsidiary branches shall organize and govern themselves in such amnner as the membership of such subsidiary organizations shall determine upon except that the requirements and purposes of the permanent national constitution as adopted shall be complied with.

The representation shall be on the basis of the actual enrollment in the subsidiary branches at all conventions after the adoption of a permanent constitution."

The American Legion is distinct and separate in every respect. It is not associated with, related to or interested in, any other movement, association, organization or society. It represents the spontaneous desire of the whole service to unite for the purposes just quoted.

It is going to be just what you and the others who were in service make it.

The necessity of launching the movement early, for the benefit of those in service, is apparent, particularly to those who know of the abortive and frequently selfish efforts to form veterans' organizations at the close of preceeding wars.

By establishing a rallying point now, those who served

will know where to turn when the natural desire to join such an organization occurs after return to civil life.

The tentative organization, as it now stands in the A. E. F., may be summed up as follows :

(a) An Executive Committee having for its membership two members from each Combat and Replacement Division and S. O. S., section, and sixteen (16) members " At-Large ". Half the membership is soldiers and half temporary Officers. They were selected by their respective units.

(b) A " Liaison Committee " of sixteen (16) members, to represent the A. E. F., in the preliminary organization work in the United States, where the development of the organization will be carried on by States rather than by Divisions or Units.

(c) A Committee of One Hundred (100) in each Division and S. O. S., Section to be designated by the representatives of the Division or S. O. S., section and whose function it shall be to bring the American Legion and its plan to the attention of all officers and soldiers concerned.

(d) A Publicity Committee of Six Hundred (600) members, comprising the news-writers and editors, who are enlisted or commissioned in the army in France. Its function shall be to give information on the subject during the formation period of the organization, following demobilization.

Every member of the A. E. F., is automatically a member of the American Legion and no action is necessary at this time in order to attain membership. No membership campaign is being undertaken, or is authorized in the A. E. F.

Later, in the United States, the organization of State, County and City Units will be initiated by all those eligible to belong along lines to be determined in the United States.

These, then will be eligible to representation at a great Charter meeting or convention in the United States, where the United ideas of all will be incorporated in the National Constitution.

Here is a history of the American Legion, to date :

On February 15, 1919, twenty (20) temporary officers who had been assembled in Paris for conference on conditions in the A. E. F., met by invitation of several of the group, at the Inter-Allied Club.

They decided that something should be done to launch the "After-the-War" organization now, in order that the men in service might be prepared to return to their homes with the idea of forming and directing their own association.

These officers took it upon themselves to invite all the Divisions and S. O. S. Sections to send representatives to a general caucus. This caucus was held in Paris March 15, 1919, to March 17, 1919.

The caucus organized; adopted a preamble, selected the name "The American Legion", elected an Executive Committee and adjourned with the policy firmly established that the whole movement should limit itself to creating the foundation of an organization to be completed and consummated later in the United States.

The Executive Committee was charged with carrying out that plan. It met, effected a temporary organization, and adjourned until such time as the enlisted members selected for the executive committee could be present.

The second meeting of the executive committee was called at Paris on April 7, 1919, at which time, substantially, all the Divisions and S. O. S. sections were represented. The committee then organized, designated a Committee of fifteen to work in the United States with those who are advancing the organization there and arranged for the exploitation of the work in France.

GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN THE UNITED STATES

Units which have returned home and those which served in the United States, are actively rallying to the American Legion throughout America. A preliminary caucus is set for May 8th, 1919 to be held at St. Louis and will be similar in character to the initial caucus held in France and at which the American Legion was founded. The following cablegram from Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who was among those designated to represent the American Legion in the United States, is reproduced herewith :

> "All going well. Expect over one thousand delegates at the St. Louis Caucus May 8th, embracing all States in Union. Organization going in every State. Delegates at St. Louis being elected by convention system in every State. Returning soldiers will find established machinery created for election of delegates to general American Legion convention to be held this Fall. Plans for consideration of caucus, are : indorsement of name American Legion and a six phrase confession of faith similiar to that adopted at Paris; creation of Executive Committee to cooperate with Executive Committee created in France and put American Legion definitely in operation.
>
> American Legion organization is springing into existence all over America request that returning men get in touch with State organizations and cooperate in creation of machinery for November convention.

Get in touch with this movement after you have reached your home.

There follows in the ordered named, the following detailed information :

(a) Membership of the Executive Committee.

(b) Membership of the Committee representing the A. F. F., in America.

(c) Membership of committees at the original caucus and which drafted the original tentative organization.

(d) Membership of the original meeting which issued the request that the A. E. F., hold a caucus to found an "After-the-War" organization.

(*a*) Executive Committee of the American Legion.

Colonel Milton J. Foreman, Chairman,

Lt-Col. George A. White, Secretary,

Major R. C. Patterson, Jr., Asst. Secretary.

1st Div. — Captain E. Morgan Gilbert, Sgt. Earlie Franklin,
2nd Div. — Colonel Harold C. Snyder, Sgt. Harry Martin,
3rd Div. — Lt-Col. Daniel G. Stivers, Regt. Sgt. Maj. David Ogden,
4th Div. — Major Emmett R. Ratliff, Corp. Jess Fred Eaker,
5th Div. — Major Ray R. Chanfant, Sgt. Reginald L. Kelley,
6th Div. — Major E. L. Milliken, Bn. Sgt. Maj. John F. Wenger,
7th Div. — Captain E. D. Toland, Regt. Sgt. Maj. Wm. H. Brown,
26th Div. — Lt-Col. Wm. J. Keville, Regt. Sup. Sgt. Wheaton Freeman,
27th Div. — Lt-Col. Edw. E. Gauche, Sgt. Maj. Samuel A. Ritchie,
28th Div. — Brig-Gen. Wm. G. Price, Jr., Sgt. Edward L. Myers,
29th Div. — Lt-Col. O. M. Hurd, Color-Sgt. A. Z. Holley,
32nd Div. — Lt-Col. George M. Wilson, Regt. Sgt. Maj. F. A. Bowles,
33rd Div. — Colonel Milton J. Foreman, Sgt. Willie Sandlin,
35th Div. — Lt-Col. Bennett C. Clark, Sup. Sgt. Fred Heney,
36th Div. — Colonel Charles W. Nimon, Sgt. Maj. L. H. Evridge,
39th Div. — Captain James O. Dolby, Sgt. Jess Brown,
41st Div. — Colonel Frank White, Sup. Sgt. Edward J. Roach,
42nd Div. — Colonel H. J. Reilly, Sgt. James T. Whitelsey,
77th Div. — Major Duncan Harris, Sgt. Lawrence Miller,
79th Div. — Lt-Col. Stuart S. Janney, Sgt. Benj. R. Kaufmann,
80th Div. — Captain Arthur F. Shaw, 1st-Sgt. Brengel,
81st Div. — Major Theo C. Tilghman, Sgt. Wm. S. Beam,
82nd Div. — Captain Frank Williams, Sgt. Alvin York,
83rd Div. — Lt-Col. W. C. Lawrence, Jr., Corp. M. T. Theuer,
88th Div. — Lt-Col. George C. Parsons, Wagoner Dale J. Shaw,
89th Div. — Lt-Col. Frank W. Smith, Regt. Sgt. Maj. Lewis W. Banker,
90th Div. — Major William R. Brown, Sgt. Fred J. Griffith,
1st Army. — Lt-Col. L. L. Bolles, Sgt-Maj. Race,

2nd Army. — Lt-Col. Francis R. Appleton, Sgt. Maj. Harlan J. Preston Jr.,
3rd Army. — Lt-Col. Burk H. Sinclair, Sgt. M. R. Randall,
Gen. Hqs. — Chaplain the Rt. Rev. Chas. H. Brent, Sgt. J. W. Birmingham,
Hqs. S. O. S. — Colonel Jas. H. Graham, Sgt. Maj. Edw. A. Heffernan
Adv. Sec. S. O. S. — Captain O. E. Carlstrom, Sgt. Maj. Hugh L. Scott,
Base Sec. No. 1. — Major William R. Jackson, Cpt. Russell A. Orr,
Base Sec. No. 2. — Major Wm. M. Mead, Regt. Sgt. Maj. Gordon T, Williams,
Base Sec. No. 3. — Lt-Col. Carle Abrams, Corp. Douglas T. Farrell,
Base Sec. No. 4. — Captain Leo J. A. Pironi, Sgt. Benedict B. Schneider,
Base Sec. No. 6. — Major Chas. T. Arrighi, Bn. Sgt. Maj. John J. Sutton,
Base Sec. No. 7. — Major Stanley E. Piasecki, Sgt. Herbert W. Wagoner,
Paris Command-Lt-Col. John Price Jackson, Pvt. Harold W. Ross,
Troops Serving with French. — Captain Arthur W. Kipling, Sgt. M. S. Goldman,
At Large. — Lt-Col. Walter B. Beals, 1st-Sgt. Emmett McClellan,
— Lt-Col. G. Edward Baxton, Sgt. J. W. Proudfoot,
— Lt-Col. D. D. Davis, Sgt. Fred J. Griffith,
— Lt-Col. George A. White, Sgt. W. S. Dolan,
— Major R. C. Patterson, Jr. 1st-Sgt. John B. Posey,
— Major Eric Fisher Wood, Sgt. Eugene Sullivan,
— Captain Ogden L. Mills, Sgt. Upham,
— Lieut. L. R. Fairall,
Regt. Sergt. Maj. Richard S. Jones.

(*b*) Committee to represent the A. E. F., in United States.

Colonel Bennett C. Clark, Chairman,
Brig-Gen. Wm. G. Price, Jr.
Lt-Col. S. H. Janney,
Lt-Col. D. G. Stivers,
Lt-Col. H. J. Turney,
Lt-Col. G. E. Buxton,
Lt-Col. Ruby Garrett,
Wagoner Dale Shaw,
Sgt. Edward T. Myers,
Sgt. Maj. S. A. Ritchie,
Sgt. Fred J. Griffith,

Sgt. Maj. L. H. Evridge.
Regt. Sgt. Maj. Wm. S. Beam,
Regt. Sgt. Maj. Wm. H. Brown,
Bn. Sgt. Maj. Edward A. Hiffernan
Colonel M. J. Foreman, Chairman, and
Lt-Col. George A. White, Secretary, ex Officio.

(c) Committees at original caucus.

ON CONVENTION

Brig-Gen. Sherbern, 26th Division, Chairman.
Wagoner Shaw, 88th Division, Vice Chairman.
Captain Ogden Mills, G. H. Q.
Colonel Graham, S. O. S.
Private C. W. Ney, 1st Army Troops.
Captain Mahon, 77th Division.
Sergeant Obrecht, 1st Army.
Captain Kipling, Troops serving with French.
Sergeant J. C. Hendler, Paris Command.
Lt-Col. Appleton, 2nd Army Hqs.
Major Gordon, 36th Division.
Army Field Clerk Sowers, Press Section, G. H. Q.
Major Hunger ford, 3rd Army Hqs.
Corporal J. H. Anderson, 3nd Army.
Lt-Col. Wren, 36th Division.

ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Colonel Donovan, 42nd Division, Chairman.
Lt-Col. Graham, 88th Division, Vice Chairman.
Captain Boyd, 29th Division.
Sergeant Tip Bliss, "Stars & Stripes".
Lt-Col. Fitzpatrick, 35th Division.
Sergeant Rollo S. Thorpe, 88th Division.
Lt-Col. Crosby, S. O. S.
Private W. L. Thompson, 11th R. R. Engineers.
Major Graff, 28th Division.
Major Barry Wright, 79th Division.
Sergeant Rommel, Paris Command.

Sergeant V. V. Trout, Paris Command.
Captain Carlstrom, S. O. S.,
Major R. C. Patterson, Jr., Peace Commission.
Lt-Col. Smith, 89th Division.

ON CONSTITUTION

Lt-Col. Buxton, 82nd Division, Chairman.
Lt-Col. Miller, 79th Division, Vice Chairman.
Colonel Rostine, 35th Division.
Major Stewart, 1st Division.
Private Harold W. Ross, "Stars & Stripes".
Lt-Col. Curtiss, 91st Division.
Private Blackwell, Paris Command.
Col. Frank White, 41st Division.
Private Winterich, "Stars & Stripes".
Lt-Col. John Price Jackson, Paris Command.
Lt-Col. Bolles, 1st Army Hqs.
Colonel M. J. Foreman, 33rd Division.
Major Hall, 28th Division.
Lt-Col. Clemens, 32nd Division.
Major Todd, S. O. S.

ON NAME

Lt-Col. Robbins, 2nd Army Hqs. Chairman.
Lt-Col. Goodrich, G. H. Q., Vice Chairman.
Sergeant Dolan, 89th Division.
Lt-Col. Stebbins, 3rd Army Corps.
Sergeant H. E. Fleming, 35th Division.
Major E. S. Haile, 77th Division.
Colonel Gibbs, S. O. S.
Sergeant McElow, Paris Command.
Major Horace Rumsey, 35th Division.
Sergeant C. E. Sommers, Paris Command.
Major D. D. Drain, 3rd Army.
Sergeant G. F. Fleming, Paris Command.
Lieut. Markoe, 2nd Army.
Major Dwight, S. O. S.
Sergeant Barnard, Paris Command.

(*d*) **Member ship of the original meeting which issued the request that the A. E. F., hold a caucus to found an " After-the-War " organization.**

Major Francis R. Appleton, Jr., 2nd Army.
Major G. Edward Buxton, 82nd Division.
Lt-Col. Bennett C. Clark, ex 35th Div., 88th Division.
Major Ralph D. Cole, 37th Division.
Lt-Col. D. J. Davis, ex 28th Div., G. H. Q.
Major Frank D'Olier, QMC., S. O. S.
Lt-Col. W. J. Donovan, 42nd Division.
Major David M. Goodrich, G. H. Q.
Major T. E. Gowenlock, ex 1st Div. 1st Army Corps.
Colonel Thorndike Howe, A. P. O., Dept.
Lt-Col. John Price Jackson, Peace Commission.
Major De Lancey Kountze, G. H. Q.
Lt-Col. R. W. Llewellen, 28th Division.
Captain Ogden Mills, ex 6th Division. G-2, G. H. Q.
Lt-Col. Benjamin Moore, 82nd Division.
Lt-Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. 1st Division.
Lt-Col. R. C. Stebbins, 3rd Army Corps.
Major R. C. Stewart, 1st Division.
Lt-Col. George A. White, ex 41st Div. G. H. Q.
Major Eric Fisher Wood, ex 83rd Division. 88th Division.

C.P.P. Q.M.C. — 4017. — 31.6.19. — 5 M.