



Commander’s Corner
John Buckwalter

It has been a very busy and eventful Spring. Missouri Legionnaires have been active across the state. The bottom line, however, is that we continue to face a membership challenge. We are well behind our goal and our past performance. It is mid-May, and we have renewed less than 90 percent of our 2024 members. If you have not renewed yet, please take care of it. If your buddy at the Post is complaining that they have not gotten their Legion Magazine since February, then they have probably not renewed. Remind them. The Legion is only as strong as the members—You are the Legion.

I want to compliment Tirey J. Ford Post 21, Independence, for a very successful 49th Truman Pilgrimage on May 8th. It was an honor to represent the Department of Missouri as the Legion family paid tribute to the first Legionnaire to be elected President of the United States-Harry S. Truman. Harry Truman was a proud, and active member of Post 21 before, during, and after his service as President. Past Department Commander Mark Clark and Dorothy Ballew were cochairs of the event. Post 21 welcomed members of the Legion family from across Missouri, as well as representatives of the Departments of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Illinois.

Preparations are underway for the 2025 Department of Missouri Convention in Cape Girardeau from July 10-July 13. I encourage you to join the Department leadership at the convention, if only for a day or two. Posts will elect delegates in June, if they have not done so already. Volunteer to represent your Post as a delegate or alternate. If you are not a delegate, remember that the major portion of the convention is open to all Legionnaires, only the Sunday morning session and election are limited to delegates and alternates. Information on the Convention is included in this newspaper, and further details will be provided in the June edition issued just before the Convention. The deadline for reserving a room at the convention hotel is June 13.

I want to take a moment to remind all of my fellow Legionnaires of the Mission of the Legion-To BE THE ONE to prevent Veteran Suicide. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose and requires our constant attention. The campaign began over two years and two National Commanders ago and will continue into the future. Our fellow veterans deserve our attention, concern, and support in the struggle to make it to another day. We must support one another.



★ DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, INC. ★ PO BOX 179 ★ JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0179 ★
★ (573) 893-2353 ★ (800) 846-9023 ★ FAX (573) 893-2980 ★
★ E-MAIL: info@missourilegion.org ★ WEBSITE: www.missourilegion.org ★
John Buckwalter George Scarborough Jerome Goolsby
COMMANDER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
2802 N. New St. 231 HIGHWAY E PO Box 1514
Berkshire, MO 63501 BERIA, MO 65406 St Joseph, MO 64502

LOWRY A. FINLEY-JACKSON, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
May 2, 2025

CALL FOR
ONE HUNDRETH AND SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, INC.

The One Hundredth and Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc., is hereby called and in conformity with the action of the One Hundredth and Fifth Convention, will be held **July 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2025** at the **Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center, 3351 Percy Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.**

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

1. In the Department Convention, each Post shall be entitled to one vote, and in addition thereto, one vote for each fifty (50) members, or major portion thereof whose current National and Department dues have been received by the Department Adjutant not later than ten days before the convening of the Department Convention. Section 2, Article V, Department By-Laws.
2. No Post shall be allowed a vote in the Department Convention that shall not have certified to the Department Headquarters on or before November 1, preceding such convention, a bona fide list of its Post officers for the year beginning October 1 preceding said November 1, Section 4, Article IX, Department By-Laws.
3. Absent Delegates. In the Department Convention, the vote of any absent delegate not represented by any alternate, shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present from his Post. If no delegate or alternate from any Post is present, the vote of such Post may be cast by a majority of the delegates from its District. Proxies are not recognized in the Department Convention and shall not be used. Section 3, Article V, Department By-Laws.

CREDENTIALS

Credential certificates, certifying the delegates and alternates, signed by both the Post Commander and Adjutant, should be mailed to the Department Headquarters immediately upon election of such delegates and alternates and not received later than **ten (10) days prior to convening of the convention or Monday, June 30, 2025.**

REGISTRATION

The Department Executive Committee did levy a **\$10.00 registration fee to be paid when submitting Delegate/Alternate certifications to Department Headquarters. Non-refundable.**

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee, as now constituted, is hereby called, and will be held in the Cape Rock meeting room at **8:15 p.m. Thursday July 10, 2025.**

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

In order to facilitate the business of the Convention, each District should select prior to **June 16, 2025**, one member for each of the following Committees: **RESOLUTIONS, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, and CREDENTIALS.**

In selecting members for these Committees, Districts should select Legionnaires who will be in St. Louis in time for the organization meetings of each of the below designated Committees:

The CREDENTIALS Committee will meet in the **Cape Rock meeting room, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 2025.**

The RESOLUTIONS Committee will meet in the **Cape Rock meeting room, at 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 11, 2025.**

The CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Committee will meet in **Cape Rock meeting room, at 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 11, 2025.**

NAMES, ADDRESSES, DISTRICT AND POST NUMBER of the delegates selected to serve on these Committees should be forwarded to the Department Headquarters **IMMEDIATELY** after their selection and received not later than **Monday June 16, 2025.**

RESOLUTIONS

All Resolutions should be prepared in **TRIPPLICATE, TYPEWRITTEN, DOUBLE SPACED** and **MAILED** to the **DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, NOT LATER THAN NOON, Tuesday, June 10, 2025.** Resolutions should bear a caption indicating the **SUBJECT MATTER.**

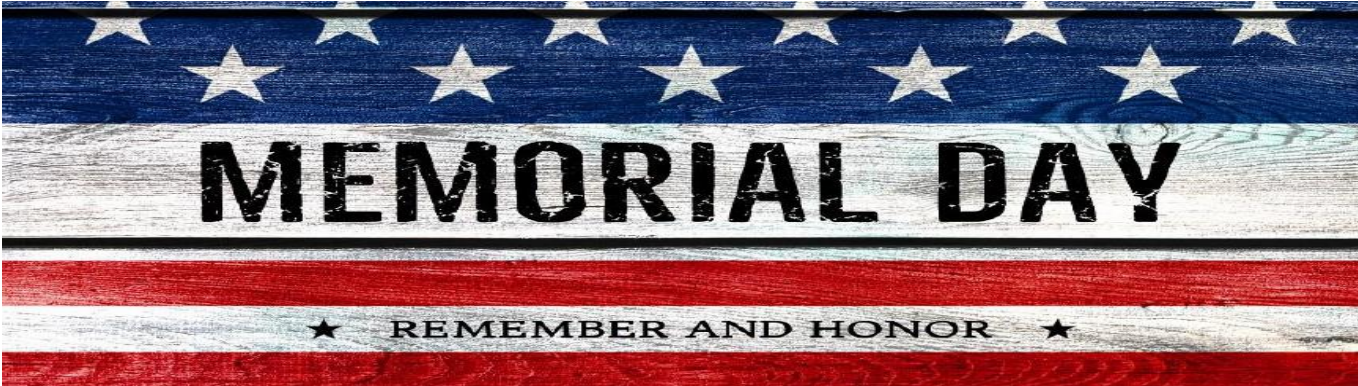
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS Section 1, Article XIX of the Department By-Laws read as follows: "These By-Laws may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the total authorized representation thereof, provided that such proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the Department Adjutant to the members of the Department Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least 15 days prior to the convening of said convention or by publishing same in the Missouri Legionnaire at least once prior to the convening of said convention, except however in cases of emergency the Department Executive Committee may present, through the Convention Constitutional Amendments Committee, an amendment by a two-thirds vote at the meeting of said Department Executive Committee held immediately preceding the convention. An amendment shall be in force upon adjournment of such Department Convention."

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Department Headquarters will be opened by the Department Adjutant in the Lorimier meeting room at **3 P.M., Thursday, July 10, 2025.** Only business which pertains strictly to convention matters should be addressed to Convention Headquarters. NOTE: All scheduled meetings, etc., will be in accordance with the prevailing time of the Convention City.


John Buckwalter, Dept. Commander


Lowry A. Finley-Jackson, Dept. Adjutant





George Scarborough – National Executive Committee Member

The American Legion National Spring Meeting was held May 5-8 at Indianapolis, Indiana for National Commission/Committee meetings as well as the National Executive Committee (NEC). Meetings were very well attended with lots of content and interaction. The Department of Missouri had representation from the Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Marketing Commission, and Media & Communications Commission.

General Items of Note

- The Department of Washington charter has been reinstated effective 1 March 2025.
- The Department of Colorado per (Resolution 24) charter remains suspended while reorganization and investigations continue. The hope is for their charter to be reinstated in the Fall of 2025. The American Legion programs in this department continue to function and are doing well.

Other National matters of interest include:

1. One Hundred & Twenty-Six (126) Posts were approved for cancellation of which seven (7) were from our Department.
2. The NEC passed Resolution No.4 stating that the National Historian is authorized to enlist the support of any past National Historian or current Department Historian when conducting the Department history contest and post history showcase at no expense to the National organization.
3. The NEC passed Resolution No.5 titled Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States stating Departments were encouraged to actively participate in their state 250 commissions to enhance state and local efforts to celebrate American 250.
4. As of May 2, 2025 the membership total is 1,316,792 which is 90.86% of the traditional membership goal of 1,445,882, which is 57,346 members behind this same time for the traditional membership report for 2024.
5. **Be The One** training sessions are on-going and updated regularly at <https://www.legion.org/betheone/training> and are free and available for anyone to participate. This is just amazing information and good for all of us, have a look at it!
6. Lastly, the NEC approved one additional National Convention location:
 - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania August 22-28, 2031

These are the approved National Convention locations :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Tampa Bay, Florida | August 22-28, 2025 |
| 2. Louisville, Kentucky | August 28-Sept 3, 2026 |
| 3. Kansas City, Missouri | August 27-Sept 2, 2027 |
| 4. Columbus, Ohio | August 25-31, 2028 |
| 5. Indianapolis, Indiana | August 24-30, 2029 |
| 6. Salt Lake City, Utah | August 25-31, 2030 |
| 7. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | August 22-28, 2031 |

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Executive Committee representative! God bless you , your families, and this great nation of ours.



2024-2025 Department Commander’s Project

Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy

The principal responsibility of our law enforcement authority is to insure all the rights and freedoms of ALL members of our society and the purpose of The Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy is to provide firsthand experience of Law Enforcement in promoting and safeguarding American Freedom and Rights. During the academy, the actives are classroom instructions, first aid, demonstrations of police skills such as personal defense and weapons firing.

For a student between the ages of 16 and 18 they must have a C average or higher (2.0+GPA), be of good moral character, present a neat appearance and be sponsored by a Legion Post. To help with the cost, please consider donating to the Cadet Patrol Academy.

Methods for Donating

Please make your donations to The Cadet Patrol Academy by sending a check to The American Legion Department of Missouri, Attention Cadet Patrol Academy, PO Box 179, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Your donations will help support The Cadet Patrol Academy.



What is our American Legion about:

**CHANGING LIVES & SAVING
LIVES !
*BE THE ONE***

BE THE ONE

**The American Legion needs your help in
ending veterans suicide.**

Public: Be the One to:

- ✓ **ASK** veterans in your life how they are doing.
- ✓ **LISTEN** when a veteran needs to talk
- ✓ **REACH** out when a veteran is struggling

Pledge to Be the One at [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org)

Veteran: Be the One To:

- ✓ Talk with others about how you are feeling.
- ✓ Ask for help when you know you need it.
- ✓ Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- ✓ Remember your family and friends care.

If you are a veteran in crisis:

Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

Jerome Goolsby
Senior Vice Commander
Membership Chairman



I wish I had wonderful news for this report.

I do not.

Right now, we are at 89.93% of our target, which considering how well the year started off, is a big disappointment. It would appear that the dues increase by National HQ had a far bigger impact on our Membership Campaign than was anticipated. We are only at 89.77% renewal rate, and we need 90 – 93 % to have any chance at a membership increase. Please contact those on your delinquency list and see if you can get them to renew. If it is any consolation, only 10 Departments have a 90% or better renewal rate at the time I write this and only two Departments have made Goal.

On a happier note, FIFTY Posts have met or exceeded their Membership Goal. My heartiest congratulations to the Commanders and Membership Teams for those Posts. Well done!! And there are still many more Posts that are very close to joining that list – do what you can to get to 100% by Convention.

There's still time to achieve the National Commander's Membership Award – information on that can be found at <https://www.legion.org/commander/pin>.

2025 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

HOUSING REQUEST

July 10 -13, 2025

HOUSING/HOSPITALITY/CAUCUS ROOM & VENDOR TABLE REQUEST

Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center
3351 Percy Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
1-800-325-0720 Group #10010057

Make reservations directly with the hotel, using a credit card for confirmation be sure to mention you are with The American Legion.

****CUTOFF DATE FOR ALL HOUSING RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 13, 2025****
(Group room rates is not guaranteed after the cutoff date)

Cost per night is \$96.00 (plus Sales and Lodging tax)
A \$50.00 incidental fee will be charged during registration

Check in time 3:00 p.m. No exceptions

.....
HOSPITALITY ROOM

DISTRICT CAUCUS ROOMS

Will be assigned by Department Adjutant at Convention

.....
Table Request for Vendors, Post and Auxiliary

All table requests will be reserved through Department Headquarters.
Please call Theresa Boss to make your request 573-761-4143
Deadline for table request: *June 17, 2025*

The Department Convention Itinerary will not be available before May 1, 2025



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Missouri

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Sponsored By

Past Post Commander's Club

10 July 2025

Cape Girardeau Country Club

250 Country Club DR.

Cape Girardeau Mo. 63701

(573)335-8251

Entries must be received by 1 July 2025

- Entry Fee Includes**
- ✓ 18 Holes of Golf
 - ✓ Golf Cart
 - ✓ Prize \$
 - By Flights
 - Longest Drive
 - Closest To Pin



- Two Person Teams**
- Entry Fee \$100.00 per person
 - Mulligans
 - 50/50 Drawing

Fundraiser Proceeds Go To
The American Legion Foundation of
Missouri Charitable Donations

- Team Captain:** _____
- Phone :** _____
- Team Member:** _____

Make Entry Fee Check payable to The American Legion Dept. of Missouri and

Mail To: Betty Gonzales
34CountrywoodDr.
St.Peters MO 63376

ForAdditional Information Call
Betty (636) 485-9772



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Missouri

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Past Post Commander's Club

Hole Sponsor

10 July 2025

Cape Girardeau

Country Club

250 Country Club DR.

Cape Girardeau Mo. 63701

(573)335-8251

Yes, I would like to sponsor a hole in the Department of Missouri Past Post Commanders Club Golf Tournament on 10 July 2024 at a cost of \$50.00.

- Individual, Business or Organization**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fundraiser Proceeds Go To
The American Legion
Foundation of Missouri
Charitable Donations

Make Sponsor Check payable to The American Legion Dept. of Missouri and

Mail To: Betty Gonzales

34 Countrywood Dr.
St. Peters MO 63376

For Additional Information Call
Betty (636) 485-9772





Missouri American Legion Baseball

Tom Rhoads – Baseball Chairman

Dear Missouri, American Legion Baseball Community,

I hope this letter finds you well as we move forward with another exciting season of American Legion Baseball in Missouri. Here are some important updates and announcements from our recent online meeting with National Chairman Steve Cloud and other key state officials.

National Meeting Updates

On Tuesday, March 18th, all state chairmen met with National Chairman Steve Cloud in an on-line meeting, to discuss important matters related to our program. Below are the key takeaways:

- **Budget Cuts and Cost Reductions**
 - National tournament staff will be reduced by 50%.
 - Each state is requested to propose cost-saving measures for the 2026 Regional and World Series tournaments.
- **Key Deadlines**
 - **May 15** – Early registration deadline
 - **June 1** – Final registration deadline
 - **June 30** – Roster approval deadline
 - **July 31** – All state tournaments must be completed
- **New Rules and Regulations**
 - **Dual Roster** – Allowed during the regular season only.
 - **Dual Participation (Rule 6d)** – Permitted only during the regular season.
 - **Extra Innings Rule** – To be implemented for state tournaments.
 - **Electronic Communications** – Not permitted at AAA State, Regional, or World Series games.
 - **Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL)** – Further discussion and updates forthcoming.
- **Scholarships**
 - Scholarship applications will be sent out in April.
 - Submission deadline is **July 15**.
 - All-Academic Teams have been approved for the next five years.
- **Centennial Year Celebrations**
 - National is requesting all states to share their Centennial plans.
- **Health and Safety Updates**
 - New York now requires all coaches to be CPR certified and to have an AED device on the bench.

Missouri State Program Updates

State Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament will take place at Bear Creek on **May 10th**. We are actively seeking teams, sponsors, and donors to support this event. Your participation and contributions will help make it a great success!

100th-Year Celebration Game at Busch Stadium – July 28

We are selling tickets for this historic event at Busch Stadium! Field box seats are available for only **\$30**. To purchase, please contact your coach, district chairman, zone commissioner, or reach out directly to me.

Centennial Tournament

The Centennial Tournament will be held at the Warrenton Athletic Fields in July. We are continuing to accept team registrations. Visit our website for details and to sign up.
www.missouriamericanlegionbaseball.org

Centennial Merchandise

To commemorate our 100th year, we have purchased Centennial bag tags for every player, outfield banners for regional and state tournaments, and special Centennial commemorative hats for state tournament champions.

Border War Game

The Missouri AAA All-Stars will face off against the Illinois AAA All-Stars on **August 17th** at Grizzlies Field in Sauget, Illinois. Mark your calendars for this exciting matchup!

Missouri Centennial Celebrations

We encourage all teams to promote our Centennial Year throughout their regular season. One suggested way to celebrate is by inviting Missouri Legion alumni to throw out the first pitch at games.

New Initiatives

During the recent 9th District Baseball meeting, a proposal was introduced to start a **14U league next year**. We will be exploring this idea further. Additionally, we will begin rebranding our age divisions as follows:

- **19U** (formerly AAA)
- **17U** (formerly AA)
- **15U** (formerly A)

Thank you for your continued dedication and support for Missouri American Legion Baseball. Let’s make this Centennial Year one to remember!

Sincerely,

Tom Rhoads
Missouri American Legion Baseball State Chairman,
email: daddy75.tr@gmail.com, cell: 314-304-6702

Historian Corner
Submitted by – Jerome Goolsby

Our Department Convention will soon be upon us. Please make sure to check the Convention schedule to find out when the contest will be conducted so you can get your book in on time. I will also try to post info on the Department Facebook page. Your book should cover the 2024 – 2025 Program Year ONLY.

This year we will be holding the following contests:

- Digital Post History Contest – this contest will be held in accordance with the 2025 Historian’s Guide. (A copy of the guide is available by e-mailing jerome@jeromegoolsby.net)
- A hard-copy Post History Contest. The winner will be sent to National HQ to be showcased at the upcoming National Convention. The rules for the contest are at <https://www.missourilegion.org/programs> and click on the “History Contests” link.
- An “Open Class” contest – if you do a book and don’t want enter in the first two contests, this is the category for you. This award is Department level only.
- District and Riders contests will also be available for those who submit a book. This award is Department level only.

As a reminder, photos from events have been posted at the Department’s Facebook page in the photos section, please feel free to use any of them you want to for your own book, but make sure you note you got it from the Missouri Department Historian’s Office.



AJ Noonan -Chairman
Education and Scholarship

Department of Missouri Scholarship Winners Announced

The Education and Scholarship Committee met on 02 May 2025 to select the winners of the American Legion Department of Missouri Scholarships for the 2025-2026 Academic year. Committee members AJ Noonan (Chairman), Tom Tanner, Alex Slocum, Bob Maddox, and Rose Noonan reviewed applications submitted by High School Seniors to select the following winners:

JOSEPH J. FRANK SCHOLARSHIP

- Addison Ratliff, Weaubleau
- Adison Souder, New Bloomfield
- Noah Hartmann, Salisbury
- Preslie Todd, St. Joseph
- Aidan Ryan, Nevada

LILLIE LOIS FORD SCHOLARSHIP

- Jadrian Thurman, Montgomery City
- Jasmine Cooper, Lincoln

CHARLES L. BACON SCHOLARSHIP

- Jacob Burnes, Sikeston
- Megan Rice, Green Ridge

M.D. “JACK” MURPHY NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

- Asia Frazier, Waynesville

ERMAN W. TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Claire Akers, Bucklin
- Kendall Link, Meadville
- Ava Nipper, Jackson

SHANE DEAN VOYLES SCHOLARSHIP

- Lanie Bailey, Versailles

COMMANDERS SCHOLARSHIP

- No qualified applicants received.

MO DETACHMENT, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

- Albany Wood, Unionville

Students will be notified by the American Legion Department of Missouri. The Committee congratulates all the selected winners and wishes them the best in their future endeavors.

“TOOT OUR HORNS AWARD PROGRAM”
A project of the Media and Communications Commission, Department of Missouri

This program is to encourage each post in Missouri to promote the American Legion in local and state media; to increase participation in district and department functions; to improve public relations with non-members; to encourage posts to set and attain goals they can be proud of in support of American Legion and veteran programs; to encourage non-member veterans to join the American Legion, and to encourage posts to develop a line of communication between them and their members.

A “TOOT OUR HORN plaque” will be presented to each post qualifying with “BARS” to be added for each completed membership year that the post participates in this program. This application MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30th of the membership year that this award is being applied for. Posts qualifying for the TOOT OUR HORN award will be announced at the Department Convention and the awards will be presented at the Fall Conference. Listings of all Post(s) receiving their award for the current year will also be published in the “*Missouri Legionnaire*.”

REQUIREMENTS

Complete a minimum of 5 out of the following 10 categories:

- ___ At least 6 advertisements, notice of meetings, or listing in local media (newspaper, television, radio, etc.) announcing post meetings.
- ___ Publish a Post newsletter. This may be paper or emailed. (attach copy of newsletter)
- ___ At least 2 post members attend the State Convention (provide a list of those who attended, signed by Post Commander or Adjutant)
- ___ At least 2 post member attend the State Spring DEC meeting or Fall Conference (provide a list of those who attended, signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant)
- ___ Post participation in a community event (parade, fair, troop rally, etc) (Attach a photo, newspaper clipping, etc.)
- ___ Philanthropic activity (e.g. benefits, fund-raisers for a charitable cause, food pantry collections, bell ringing for Salvation Army, etc.)
- ___ Conduct a new member recruiting campaign or Post revitalization campaign
- ___ Conduct a complete Buddy Check
- ___ Attain 100% or membership goal for current year by the May National target date.
- ___ Maintain a post web presence (webpage, Facebook, centennial page)

Complete a minimum of 3 of the following categories

- ___ Conduct monthly meetings
- ___ One or more members of the Post is a District Officer (provide name(s) and office(s) held
- ___ One or more members of the Post is a Department Officer (provide name(s) and office(s) held
- ___ Host a District meeting
- ___ Submit the Consolidated Post Report for current year (attach copy)
- ___ Submit Certified Post Officer list to Department within 30 days of Department Convention

Reporting is to be done on this form as soon as requirements are met but no later than June 30th of the current membership year.

Copies of substantiating materials must accompany this application.

Post Name and Post Number: _____

Membership year submitted for: _____, Date submitted: _____

SIGNATURE OF POST COMMANDER OR ADJUTANT: _____

SEND THIS APPLICATION AND SUBSTANTIATING MATERIAL(S) TO: The American Legion, Department of Missouri, ATTN: Media & Communications Commission, P.O. Box 179, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0179

This form up-dated on October 30, 2024

May 2025	
23	National Poppy Day
26	Memorial Day - Department Headquarters Office Closed
June 2025	
1	Be The One Day
13	Cutoff for Department Convention Registration
8-14	Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy – Jefferson City
14	Flag Day
14	Army’s 249 th Birthday
15	Post Consolidate Data Reports due to Department Headquarters if you are filing a paper form.
15	Father’s Day
19	Juneteenth Day – Department Headquarters closed
21-28	84th Missouri Boys State (Lindenwood College)
23	JROTC applications are due to Department Headquarters
26-29	Missouri American Legion Legacy Ride
27	Korean War Remembrance Day
30	Toot Your Horn entries due to Department



Auxiliary President – Shanna Jelinek

Greetings from the American Legion Department of Missouri. Spring has officially arrived, filling the air with fresh energy and giving us a renewed sense of mission. I hope this message finds you all well. It's hard to believe how quickly the year is flying by— Convention will be here before we know it!

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your service to our country. It is your courage, dedication, and sacrifice that protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Words cannot fully express how thankful we are for all that you’ve done.

Our members have been working on reports and Impact Numbers. It’s essential we showcase who we are and what we do—so others understand why we matter. This season offers the perfect opportunity to highlight our efforts with events surrounding Poppy Day and Memorial Day.

I’ve had the pleasure of visiting several districts recently and will be visiting more in the coming months. A few of us from Missouri also had the opportunity to attend the ALA Mission Training in Iowa, led by our National leadership. It was an incredibly informative and inspiring experience.

As my year as Department President draws to a close, some exciting events are still ahead. In May, I laid a wreath at the tomb of President Harry S. Truman—an incredible honor and deeply meaningful experience.

ALA Missouri Girls State is scheduled for June 21–28, 2025, at Lindenwood University in St. Charles. I’m especially excited to participate in a new role this year as Department President, stepping out from behind the scenes. If you’d like to visit the campus during the week, please let us know. We’d love to see you on Thursday for Legion Family Day!

Looking ahead to July, I can’t wait to see many of you at the Department Convention in Cape Girardeau. Leading up to the event, we’ll once again be holding an online auction, closing Saturday night of Convention. Please log in, sign up, and take part. If you have items you'd like to donate, reach out to the Department office or to me directly—we’d love to make this fundraiser a great success once again.

NATIONAL POPPY DAY
MAY 23, 2025



Legion Riders
Bob Norris
ALR Director



Hello to one of the best Legion families. It’s May and lots of things for the Missouri ALR and Chapters around the state. Several chapters are holding events for raising funds to support local communities and veterans in the state. Car shows, poker runs, clothing drives, food drives, and gun raffles, all of which benefit veterans, schools, and communities. Several chapters give scholarships to students for college.

At the state level, the Legacy Ride will be held on the 27th thru the 29th of June. The ride starts in Popular Bluff. Then we’ll travel to Sikeston and follow the Mighty Mississippi to Hannibal and end in Columbia. We will be visiting a Missouri Veterans Cemetery, the Stars and Stripes National Museum, 2 Missouri Veterans homes, and several American Legion posts. Along the route we’ll be stopping at a scenic overlook of the Mississippi river looking into Illinois. All donations received will be shared between the national Veterans and Children’s Foundation (Foundation of Hope) and the Missouri Foundation. Something I would like to point out about the riders. The ALR members pay to do this ride, they spend their own money during the ride by paying for hotels, gas, and meals. With gas prices, participating fees, rising cost of food, and the cost of hotels the average rider spends around \$700 plus the expense of traveling to the ride and back home after the ride. With the average number of 100 riders per year over the 10 years of doing the Legacy Ride, the amount these American Legion members have spent plus their time is staggering. Why do they do this? They believe in the mission of the American Legion. So, the next time you see a member of the rider program, a simple pat on the back, saying “Well done” means a lot to them. They don’t ride for the applause but for the cause.

In a couple of months, my term as state director will be ending. I know I've probably stepped on a few toes, had disagreements, but we have worked together for a common goal. I want to thank everyone in the Department of Missouri American Legion for being open with me and working with me during my term. I appreciate everyone who came to me with ideas, questions, suggestions, criticism, and we were able to talk about it all. It was really nice that we worked through problems together and came up with a solution. I didn’t know everything, but I hope I got you the correct answer or pointed you to the correct person. Again, THANK YOU.



Detachment Commander
Tim Cudd



Greetings from the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Missouri

As we roll through a very wet Spring and into a hopefully drier Summer the SAL has been busy working on renewals, new members, and even chartering a few new squadrons around the state. As a Detachment we are currently at roughly 93% renewals working hard down the stretch to hit that 100% mark for Missouri. If you, or you know of anyone who has not renewed please encourage them to get that done. The renewals help the Legion Commander when he testifies before Congress, and they start deciding how much funding to provide to the Legion and our Veterans. If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you know that there is a lot going on right now to assist our homeless Veterans. Your local squadrons are here to help when it comes to your local post, the Department of Missouri, or the National Headquarters. I would encourage you to get involved in your community and if not already doing so, see how you can help. There is always a need out there and we all need to step up when possible. As always, the Detachment Officers are here to help. If your Squadron is struggling, we are here to help get everything back on track. If you know of a local post that is interested in forming a SAL Squadron let me know. We can get you all of the information and assist you through the process. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans. Someone is depending on you to BE THE ONE!



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
CELEBRATION BANQUET

Friday, July 11, 2025
Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau
Conference Center
3351 Percy Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

6:30 p.m. Dignitaries Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program

Join us in our American Legion Family Celebration Banquet marking the 2024-2025 Department Commander John Buckwalter, Department President Shanna Jelinek, SAL Detachment Commander Tim Cudd and ALR Director Bob Norris year of service to The Department of Missouri American Legion Family.



Please RSVP by June 30, 2025 and remit your banquet reservation(s) of
\$45.00 per person
(Make Check payable to The American Legion Department of Missouri)
Send to:

The American Legion Department of Missouri
P. O. Box 179
Jefferson City, Mo 65102
If you have any questions, please call: 573-893-2353

Person(s) attending:

Total Included: _____

Scouting

Sr. Vice Commander Jerome Goolsby - Chairman

On behalf of the BSA Committee, I wish to thank everyone in our Department who supported Scouting this year.

Please make sure to submit any support you give to Scouting in your Consolidated Post Report. This information is vital to the year-end report the Committee must file with National HQ. The report is the basis for deciding which Department receives the coveted Belgrano Trophy for support of Scouting. We have won it the last four years and I would dearly love to see our work receive that recognition again this year and keep the streak going for one more year. But as I said, it's based on you reporting that work so please make sure to report your efforts on your CPR.

There is still a need in our Scouting Councils for Merit Badge Counselors, and we encourage any of you with an interest in supporting Scouting and The American Legion Americanism efforts to consider becoming a merit badge counselor. Serving as a merit badge counselor for the American Cultures, American Heritage, Citizenship In The Community, Citizenship In The Nation, Citizenship In The World and Crime Prevention among others will help improve civics education and instill the spirit of Americanism in our youth. Additionally, there are merit badges for trades such as Carpentry that need counselors. Training is available online from Scouting BSA. Please do consider becoming a merit badge counselor, it is well worth the effort. There is also still a need for Religious Emblem Coordinators as well to help Scouts find out about and earn their Religious Emblem Award and help them become the well-rounded citizens we need for our nation's future.

Again, thank you for your support and please do continue your efforts to support Scouting.




100% Goal Post		
POST	Post Name	Commander
551	Norborne Memorial	John Moentmann
33	Elmer Ellis	Allen Reed
106	Donald Holden	Charles Bunch
319	Vogt - Keene - Mintert	Richard Simon
520	LaMonte	Melvin Ficken
545	St Elizabeth Memorial	Joshua Grass
514	Frank Diaz Memorial	Joseph Carretero
349	Dudley-Patton-Harvey	Patrick McGuire, Jr.
273	Howard County	Eric E. Fizer
491	George T. Murphy	Douglas Schouten
256	Maitland - Graham	Richard T. Warner
191	Marshall	Mike Zeka
240	Richland	Charles P. Graviss Jr.
214	Phillipsburg	Lloyd Oberbeck
434	Hartsburg	Gunny Kline
607	St. James Missouri Veterans Home	Richard Doyle
393	Gower Memorial	Ron Hardwick
233	Koca Reeder - Giddens	Dennis Floyd
109	C. Dolph Gehrig	Kenneth Bledsoe
419	Hubert H. Kleiboeker	Cue (Rock) Conway
487	Hardin	Edward Summers
559	Licking Memorial	Luke Howard
261	Cyril A. Graham	Thomas Boatman
586	Swan Lake Memorial	Robert Gladbach
637	Table Rock	Heather M. Lawson
209	Jesse C. Rains	Clifford Nelson
506	Chamois	Steve Duncan
317	Paul A. Hasenbeck	Gerhard Bax
199	Allen - Schiffern	Timothy A. Morehouse
138	Howard S. Keeling	Lawrence Evert
94	John I Wilson Memorial	Mike Bath
43	Kaffenburger - Williams Post 43	Marvin Basnett
264	King - Stephenson Memorial	Richard J. Warner
190	Harris E. Petree	Larry Kurtz
290	Ira Barclay	Darrell Simmons
445	Daniel - Shafer	Patrick Berendzen
78	Charles E. Bollman - Frank T Markovich	James E. Heard
304	Edgar Cole	Henry L. Suddarth
494	Qulin Memorial	Kevin Warren
120	Benjamin - Elliott - Stocklton	Milo Daniel
306	Wilson - Alexander	William (Bill) Dodd
140	Ed J. Kenney	Lee W. Rosenhan
60	George Thomas Cullom	Jerry L. Gipe
34	Wilbur C. Odam Inc	Ora "Butch" Williams
416	LePere - McCalister	John Kramer
221	Monroe County	Brian Chase
230	Trent - Sallee	Larry E. Griffin

Youth Government Day - April 9, 2025

Students from Paris High School tour the Capitol , went to morning session of the House of Representatives, during the afternoon they observed the Senate debates and enjoyed pizza at Arris before returning home





THE AMERICAN LEGION

Please join us for


Legion Family Day

Thursday, June 26, 2025
10 am – 2 pm
Lindenwood University Saint Charles, Missouri

We have a fun agenda planned:

- 10:00 AM Check-in at Scheidegger Center for the Arts (Pick up custom ID & Swag Bag) 2300 W Clay St.; St. Charles, MO 63301
- 10:15 AM Welcome Presentation
- 10:30 AM Tour of Schools of Instruction
- 11:30 AM Visit the ALA MGS Shoppe
- 11:45 AM Lunch with Citizens featuring the presentation of the POW/MIA table
- 12:45 PM Visit the MBS Store
- 1:00 PM Attend the MBS General Elections Results Announcement
Meet-and-Greet with Photo Opportunity
- 2:00 PM Conclusion of the formal program

Please feel free to stay after the conclusion of our formal program for our Evening Keynote Speaker!



GIRLS STATE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MISSOURI

🏠 DON'T MISS THE EVENING STATE FAIR!
Featuring snacks, games by the citizens, a live band & more.

RSVP and arrange to attend by:
Phone- Jessie Abney – 660-429-2761 or
E-mail- Jessie.Abney@MOBoysState.org



Truman Pilgrimage May 7-8, 2025

(additional pictures cand be found on the Department Facebook Page)



49th Annual Truman Pilgrimage

Harry S. Truman - 1884-1972

Presented by
Tirey J. Ford American Legion
Post 21
Independence, MO





Inaugural Missouri American Legion College

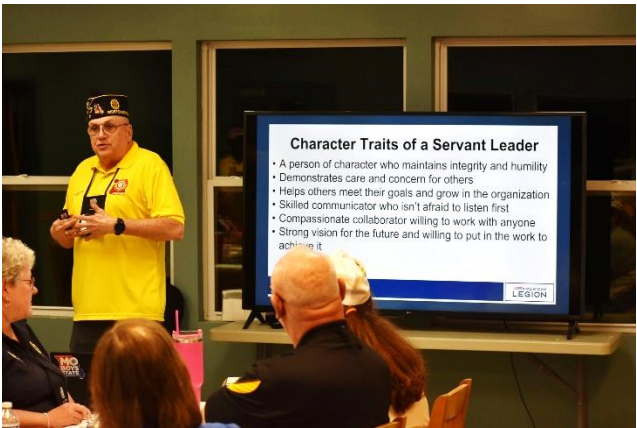
Mark Clark – Chairman Leadership and Training

The Inaugural Missouri American Legion College was held April 11-13, 2025 at the Salvation Army Camp Mihaska in Bourbon MO. Twenty – five students attended from ten different districts. Dean PDC Mark Clark (NALC 2015) , Department Commander John Buckwalter, National Executive Committeeman George Scarbrough (NALC 2013) Department Adjutant Lowry Finley – Jackson (NALC 2010) and Legionnaire Marilyn Mondloch (NALC 2022) provided training in the following areas: History of The National Organization, History of the Department of Missouri, Servant Leadership, Mentorship: The Art of Inspiring, Post Officer Responsibilities, Conducting a Proper meeting, Community Outreach and Involvement, Resolution Writing and Presentation, Understanding Dept/Dist/Post Relationship, Membership Recruiting & Retention. The two-and-a-half-day course provided students with a solid base of knowledge about what The American Legion is, how it functions from Post to National levels and to prepare students to lead The American Legion in the future. The students took part in several group activities to include problem solving scenarios and resolution writing and presentation. (Department Sergeant At-Arms Albert Jackson - NALC 2019 dropped by on Saturday to observe the session)

Congratulations to the Inaugural Class - Don Decker - Post 21, Kenny Dunn - Post 312, Jerome Goolsby – Post 359, Harry Hodge – Post 388, Allision Hope – Post 1107, Ricky Jarrell – Post 331, Sheridin Jones – Post 1107, Bob Koehn – Post 55, Thomas Lockett – Post 174, Bridget McGuire – Post 202, Micheal McGuire – Post 202, Rachel Merlos – Post 1107, Lloyd Miller -Post 221, Richard Nicholi – Post 21, Maria Poindexter -Post 55, James Reynolds – Post 230, Barbara Riggs - Post 434, Katherine Roe – Post 1107, Phyllis Rosales – Post 626, Martin Rueter – Post 400, Anthony Rumbo – Post 312, Ricky Volkmann – Post 97, Renee Walker – Post 1107, Edward Weaverling – Post 285, and Robert Wiggs – Post 2.

Next year’s Department Legion College is scheduled to be held April 10-12, 2026, we will start accepting applications in December of 2025, you don’t want to miss this amazing experience.

A special thanks to Camp Mihaska Director Terry Mahurin and staff for the amazing service provided during our time at Camp Mihaska and to Martin Rueter for suggesting this awesome facility. **Additional photos can be found on the Department of Missouri Facebook page.**



TAPS

Post 0012 - Coffey's Brothers Memorial - Vienna
Simoneaux, Bob,
Post 0015 - Rolo - Calcaterra - St Louis
Diraimondo, Vincent,
Cobb, Earl, A,
Post 0023 - Wayne T. Boles - West Plains
Stirber, Leonard,
Post 0025 - Vern R. Glick - Chillicothe
Kinsella, Lawrence, A,
Post 0042 - Hurley Lee Spicer - Harrisonville
Brelsford, John,
Post 0049 - Ralph Greer - Rock Port
Jones, Leonard, M,
Carter, Byron,
Post 0055 - Emmette J. Shields - Hannibal
Swafford, Jerry, L,
Post 0060 - George Thomas Cullom - Lexington
Wansing, Frank, B,
Post 0063 - Louis K. Juden - Cape Girardeau
Bernhardt, Donald, G,
Mason, Alfred, L,
Post 0067 - Craig - Wheeler - Duzan - Rich Hill
Flater, Nick, R,
Post 0081 - Crawford County Memorial - Bourbon
Sumpter, Richard, D
Wild, Dale, E,
Post 0083 - Jackson - Thomure - Bonne Terre
Gouin, Dorothy, L,
Post 0088 - Pemiscot County - Caruthersville
McCoy, Franklin, J,
Post 0095 - Robert H. Baker - Liberty
Creswell, Harold, R,
Post 0104 - Morgan County - Versailles
Daulton, Dan, C,
Post 0111 - St Louis County Memorial - Shrewsbury
Wodraska, Edw, J,
Post 0118 - Irwin - Easley - Cassville
Stephens, Jerry, L,
Post 0131 - Matthews - Crawford - Warrensburg
Luehrman, Richard, A,
Post 0147 - Joseph B. Koenig - Rhineland
Wesselschmidt, Elwood,
Post 0150 - Buchholtz - Kiefer - Ste Genevieve
Bauman, Francis, S,
Brown, Marion, A,
Post 0153 - Brown - Mabry - Poplar Bluff
Gholson, Kenneth,
Post 0158 - Altenthal - Joerns - Jackson
Sullivan, Billy, E,
Tuschhoff, Harold, A,
Winder, Jimmie, R,
Kutscher, Donald, F,
Post 0162 - Lemay Memorial - Lemay
Bryant, Kenneth, L,
Post 0172 - Webster Groves Memorial - Shrewsbury
Crask, Brad,
Post 0192 - Herman Blum Memorial - Kahoka
Hall, Philip, L,
Jenkins, Charles, C
Ragan, William, D
Smith, Robert, E
Post 0208 - Walter Le Pere - Manchester
Breedon, Norman, E
Post 0221 - Monroe County - Paris
Carter, Alan, D
Post 0228 - Sullivan County - Milan
Fowler, George
Post 0237 - Griffith - Skiles - Richmond
O'Donnell, Martin, L
Post 0240 - Richland - Richland
Brown, Coma, E

Post 0260 - Raymond Sager - Stanberry
Brown, Roy, B
Post 0264 - King - Stephenson Memorial - Marceline
King, Dickie, E
Post 0281 - Arnold Hodge - Piedmont
Church, Vere, E
Post 0284 - John Richards - Fairfax
Vernon, Jack, A
Post 0288 - Glen Ulmer - Hopkins
Florea, Roger, L,
Post 0298 - Liesmann - Roberts - Dixon
Timmons, Joseph,
Carroll, David, K,
Post 0312 - St. Charles - St. Charles
Dickbernd, James, A
Post 0313 - Aloys - Crockwell - St. Peters
Miller, Robert, P
Hill, Leon, L
Post 0318 - Leon A. Robbins Memorial - Parkville
Birkel, Michael, F
Post 0323 - Wentzville - Wentzville
Love, Thomas
Panke, Randall, J
Giesmann, Roy, D
Post 0335 - Fort Bellefontaine Memorial - St. Louis
Borzymowski, Matthew
Post 0338 - Thoman - Boothe - Overland
Woltering, Richard, H
Post 0347 - St Clair Memorial - St Clair
Sohn, Harold, D
Post 0359 - Pony Express - St. Joseph
Hood, Donnis, L
Harshman, Harold, M
Post 0370 - Haney Pennock - Louisiana
Elliott, Harry, E
Post 0551 - Norborne Memorial - Norborne
Noelker, Mark
Post 0555 - Golden Anniversary - St Louis
Fletcher, Robert, W
Kaul, Norbert,
Leiweke, Jerome, F
Post 0624 - Zachariah Davis Wheat - Sunrise Beach
Ragain, Robert, L
Post 0637 - Table Rock - Kimberling City
Welch, Wayne, H
Post 0639 - Vietnam War Memorial - Springfield
Goss, Charles, E
Post 1000 - Department of Missouri - Jefferson City
Filer, Greg,
Graves, Robert, L

