



Commander Corner Alex Slocum, Department Commander

I am two months into my commandership so I need to start off with thanking the department for electing me to this position. I have led many meetings as a post and district commander, but it's a different feeling taking the gavel for the first time as department commander. So, thanks for having the confidence in me to lead the 24,500 plus members of Missouri.

One last plug on our 2026 membership year and I'll put it to rest. We did well percentage wise compared to most of the other departments and nationally we sat in 12th place at the end of the 2026 membership year. A vast improvement from previous years. Unfortunately, we still missed our membership goal by over 900 members. The largest war era of members who paid 2025 dues but didn't in 2026 were our Vietnam veteran members. Post commanders please reach out to your Vietnam veteran members and get them to renew or rejoin your post. They are the largest group of members and it will hurt the department greatly if they continue to exit the American Legion.

Our national convention in Louisville has come and gone. Our new national commander is John W. "Jay" Bowen from the Department of Colorado. He was elected to lead the American Legion for the next year.

He will be here in Missouri on his official visit arriving on 28 October and departing on 2 November. His visit will be in Zone 4. Once we finalize the schedule it will be published and if you have an opportunity to attend an event, please do so.

Hugh "Homer" Holmes was elected as the National Vice Commander for the Central States which includes Missouri. He will travel to the department on 16 September and depart on 19 September. His visit will be a membership drive and will stay mainly in Districts One and Two.

Keep in mind the 2027 American Legion National Convention will be in Kansas City. We will need some volunteers to help the national staff put this event on. More on this to come.

If you have never been to a national convention then next year's convention is the one to go to. The actual convention itself is only three days (Tues – Thurs). If you want to come up for opening ceremonies or just the election of new national officers then you can register with your districts as a delegate or alternate next year. You can also register as a guest at the convention hall. You have to be registered to get into the convention itself.

I need to address an issue that is happening within the department way too often. We are closing posts continuously. One of the reasons is there isn't any members stepping up to be the post officers. Then the current officers have just up and quit. There are certain steps a post has to take to close. Just because the post isn't active doesn't mean it has closed. Official closure actually comes from the American Legion National Executive Committee. They vote on post closures when they meet at various times throughout the year. The Department Executive Committee (DEC) has to vote on closures first and this can occur at any of our three DEC meetings.

I know the struggles post have regardless if they are in a rural area or inner city. If your post is having issues and on a continuous decline then you need to have an EXIT STRATEGY. Do it now and don't wait especially if you have a post home, military static display or honor guard rifles from the US Army. Those items need to be properly disposed of before a post can be submitted for closure. Get a hold of your district commander for guidance.

A couple years ago the department established a Department of Missouri Legion College to instill knowledge and leadership skills to our members. I attended this training in April this year and encourage those in or wanting to be in a leadership role to attend. The course is held in Bourbon, MO in early April. Keep an eye out for the enrollment announcement to this through the monthly mailings on our department web site.

In closing I just want to thank all the members within Missouri for all your do for the American Legion and veterans. Keep up the Effort!

Alex Slocum

Commander

American Legion Dept of Missouri



American Legion Department of Missouri

Commander Project 2026 - 2027

Commander Alex Slocum

Project: **Wreaths Across America**

Web Site: <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org>

Process: To sponsor a wreath(s), go to the above web site or scan the QR code.



Click on Sponsor Wreaths tab (red)

1. Choose number of wreaths and click next
2. Click Choose a Specific Location then click Select your Location
3. In the Search tab (upper left) type in Missouri State Veterans Cemetery and click Search
4. Select from the cemeteries listed (Bloomfield, Higginsville or Jacksonville)
5. To find other participating cemeteries enter the zip code or address in the search tab on right side of the map
6. Follow the steps to customize and complete checkout





Lloyd Miller
Senior Vice Commander

As your new Senior Vice-Commander, I would like to start out by acknowledging the Great Job that our 2025-2026 Commander and Senior Vice-Commander did in working hard to achieve great strides and accomplishments in membership in carrying out their goals for the 2025-2026 year. Even though the Department of Missouri American Legion did not achieve 100% in its membership, there were several Districts and many Posts that were able to accomplish that goal. As your Senior Vice-Commander, my goal is to work with each Zone Commander and District Commander in helping them reach out to each Post to get them the information that could be very helpful in identifying things that can be done at the Post level that could help increase their membership.

A valuable tool for each Post facing challenges in retaining and reaching new members is a summary of the 2026 Convention Membership Meeting. This was a highly productive meeting which provided an opportunity for Legionnaires to share recruitment, renewal, retention, engagement, and Post-revitalization practices being used throughout the Department of Missouri. The ideas generated by participants provided practices that could be used as field-tested guidance and ideas for consideration at the Post, District, and Department levels. There are many Successful Practices and Promising approaches, as well as Weak Practices and Process Barriers that were identified in the Summary. Of the many Successful Practices and Approaches that were identified for successful membership growth, the following were some of the key takeaways: Consistent personal contact with members and eligible veterans (Buddy Check), Visible, mission-focused activity in the community, and A welcoming Post environment that gives members a reason to belong and remain involved. In addition to the Successful Practices and Approaches, it is important that we also look at the Weak Practices and Barriers that can limit the growth of Post membership. Some of the Common Weak Practices and Barriers were: Limited use of Social Media Platforms to reach a broader Veteran audience, Uninviting or Inaccessible Facilities, ineffective volunteer leadership, not effectively using My Legion and MO1000, not making meetings worth attending, and failure to bridge the gap between different age groups of veterans. I would strongly encourage each District Commander and Post Commander, if you have not received this 2026 Convention Membership Meeting Summary, to reach out to your Zone Commander. There is much more information in the Summary that will provide valuable information and ideas that can be useful in helping your Post in all areas of membership.

The results of identifying and putting into practice some of the ideas from the Convention Membership Meeting should be very helpful in the Post, Districts, Zones, and the Department in reaching the National Membership Target Dates. Even though some individual Posts have not met the 1st target date of September 10th, goal of 50%, the Department, Zones, and Districts have been able to accomplish this Goal. Our second target date is October 14th with a goal of 55%. The Department, Zones, and Districts are on pace to achieve this target date and goal of 55%. This would be a great time for Zone Commanders to reach out to their District Commanders, and for District Commanders to reach out to their Post Commanders to help them achieve this goal. The more you can help each other in working together will encourage each Post as they work toward achieving each target date goal. I encourage each Zone Commander and District Commander to familiarize themselves with the Target Dates and monitor each Post's progress within their area. Working with each Post Commander, Post Leadership Team, and each Post Legionnaire will help ensure a strong membership.

I look forward to serving you this year as your Senior Vice-Commander. My goal is to keep our membership strong and growing. With every Legionnaire working together as a Team, our Department can have another successful year. My personal challenge is for each Legionnaire to contact at least one Veteran who is not a member. You might be surprised by their response! This successful challenge will give each Legionnaire ownership in our success. May each Legionnaire have a Blessed Year and look forward to seeing you at Fall Conference.

Lloyd Miller
Senior Vice-Commander



Leadership & Training
Mark Clark, Chairman

Mark Clark Good day my fellow Legionnaires! The new Legion Year is upon us and now is the time to start planning training for your new officers, and anyone interested in becoming an officer in the future. Our Leadership Training Committee can tailor training to your needs, but we can't act if you don't ask for training. You are not sure what you need? We can help you identify the kind of training to address your specific needs and all it takes is a phone call or an email to get that conversation started. Give me a holler and let's see what we can build together!

The 2027 Missouri American Legion College (MOALC) will be held from April 9-11, 2027, at Camp Mihaska in Bourbon, MO. We are finalizing plans now and hope to have registration open in December. More info will be available at the Fall Conference so standby for news! Speaking of the MOALC, have you thought about attending yet? If you are a Post or District leader, have you identified potential leaders in your midst that could benefit from attending? If not, why not? The Posts and Districts who have invested in their members in the last two years have reaped the reward with motivated, educated, and eager graduates who have come back and made a difference. Lord knows, we could use more of that in our department.

It warms my heart to see our MOALC graduates stepping into leadership positions at every level of our organization and that trend will only continue with your support of our college. Our MOALC graduates are an asset to you and I hope you are using them as such. You invested in them, now put them to work!

I know right now everyone is focused on getting the most out of what is left of our good weather and looking forward to the holiday season, but this is the perfect time to hold training sessions in your post or district as things start to slow down from the summer rush. Come by and see me at the Fall Conference and let me help you plan a training session for your area.

Mark R. Clark
Chairman, Leadership Training Committee



Historian's News
Chris Wallingford -Department Historian

Preserve Our Legacy:
A Call to Missouri Post Historians

Every American Legion post has a story worth preserving. It is found in the veterans we serve, the scholarships we award, the flags we raise, the families we support, and the countless hours our members give to their communities. As Post Historians, we have the privilege—and responsibility—of ensuring those stories are not lost.

The Post Historian is more than the keeper of photographs and newspaper clippings. You are the steward of your post's living record. Your work documents the service, leadership, traditions, achievements, and challenges that define your post during the year. A well-prepared history honors the Legionnaires who did the work, informs future members of what came before them, and strengthens the connection between your post and its community.

A strong post yearbook can include:

- A brief history and description of the post
- Officer and committee information
- Programs, meetings, ceremonies, and special events
- Americanism, youth, veteran-support, and community-service activities
- Photographs with clear captions and dates
- Recognition of members, anniversaries, awards, and memorial observances
- News clippings, newsletters, and other records that help tell the year's story

You do not need to wait until the end of the year to begin. Keep a folder—paper or digital—and add material as events happen. Ask officers and committee chairs for reports. Take photographs, identify the people in them, and record dates and locations while the details are fresh. A little attention throughout the year makes assembling a complete, attractive yearbook far more manageable.

I encourage every Missouri post to prepare a one-year history and enter the Department of Missouri's Post History/Yearbook Contest. The contest is an opportunity to showcase your post's accomplishments, share ideas with fellow Legionnaires, and create a permanent record of service to veterans, youth, and community. Your entry may also be selected to represent Missouri in the National Historian's Showcase.

This is not simply a competition. It is a way to preserve our heritage. Decades from now, members and families will look back through these yearbooks to understand how their post served its community and carried forward the ideals of The American Legion.

Whether you are an experienced historian or taking on the role for the first time, your contribution matters. Begin now. Gather the stories. Save the photographs. Record the service. Build a yearbook your post will be proud to share—and enter it in this year's Department contest.

For contest guidelines, deadlines, or assistance preparing your post history, contact Department of Missouri Historian Chris Wallingford at molegionhistorian@gmail.com.

Let us make certain that the service of Missouri Legionnaires is remembered.



Media and Communication
Commission

2026 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AWARD WINNERS

The Department is proud to recognize the numerous Posts who continue to do an amazing job of telling the Legion's story. The "Toot Our Horns" program is an award which recognizes those Missouri Posts who have promoted the American Legion in local and state media, who have participated in District and Department functions, who have been active in their communities, who have encouraged membership growth in the American Legion, and who have effectively maintained communication with their members. Toot Our Horns applications were reviewed during the Department Convention in July. Winners were first announced during the Department Convention, and the awards will be presented during the Fall Conference. There were 16 Posts who earned Toot Our Horns awards for 2026.

The Posts who earned Toot our Horn Awards in 2026, and the number of awards they have earned:

Emmett J. Shields Post 55, Hannibal, 8th.
John I Wilson Memorial Post 94, Troy, 2nd,
Henry Meldrum Post 114, Sikeston, 1st
Mathews-Crawford Post 131, Warrensburg, 16th.
Moonier Reddick Post 133, Perryville, 9th
Howard S, Keeling Post 138, Bolivar, 1st
Trent Sallee Post 230, Stockton, 12th.
Leon A. Robbins Mem Post 318, Parkville, 1st
Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, 20th.
Oak Grove Post 379, Oak Grove, 2nd,
St. Louis Service Women's Post 404, St. Louis 13th,
Tri-C Memorial Post 464, Conception Junction, 8th
Malta Bend Memorial Post 558, 11th.
Bennett-Dennis-Herrick Mem Post 626, Kansas City, 9th
Heartland Women Veterans Post 1107, Independence, 5th,
Women Veterans of SW Missouri Post 1214, Springfield, 11th.

The Post Newsletter is a valuable tool for communicating to the members of the Post the news, events, and programs that make The American Legion such a dynamic organization of veterans. The Department of Missouri conducts the annual Newsletter competition to recognize the most outstanding newsletters. There are five awards, one for each of five membership categories. Winners of the Newsletter competition were announced at the Department Convention, and the awards will be presented at the Fall Conference. The winners of the Newsletter competition in 2026 are:

Category 1 (15-50 members) Greenfield Post 47, Greenfield, 15th District

Category 2 (51 to 100 members) No Submissions

Category 3 (101 to 200 members) St. Louis Service Women's Post 404, St. Louis, 11/12 District

Category 4 (201 to 500 members) Washington Post 218, 9th District

Category 5 (501 or more members) No submissions

The award plaques will be presented at the Fall Conference.

Instructions and applications for the 2027 Public Relations awards will be posted on the missourilegion.org web page and will be sent to Commanders in upcoming monthly mailings.

A personal thank you to Harry Hodge P388, Joe Diel P312, Phyllis Rosales P626, Scott Hunt P63,
Lucia Greer P444, Phyllis Campbell P6, Stephen Olson P558 for help and advice in evaluating the entries in this competition, it would not have happened without this team effort.



**Kerry Boardman,
National Executive Committee member**

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires!

First, I'd like to say thank you for letting me represent the state of Missouri at National meeting. It is an honor. I'd also like to say Missouri had great representation at the national convention in Louisville, KY. Lots of new faces. There was a lot going on all the time. If you ever have questions or are not sure what's happening, please ask myself, or any department leadership or any others that have been going for many years.

We have elected a new National Commander, Jay Bowen from Colorado. Jay is a personal friend of mine and I know he will do a great job in leading the American Legion. He does have a tour scheduled for Missouri which I am sure the Department Commander has in his newsletter. Colorado is also on its way for its Department charter to be fully reinstated.

Most of the business that goes on at the NEC meeting at national convention is a wrap of the previous year. The big-ticket item that is still going on is the Take Care of American's Veterans Act (TCAVA). Please Google it as it has too many bills to discuss here. It combines many bills into one vote. True, it has many good things in it but one item that has my concern is Section 108. It involves VA taking away future benefits from future veterans to pay for current ones. I personally feel no vet should be denied compensation to pay for current compensation. Until Congress either eliminates Section 108 or fixes Section 108, I cannot support this resolution.



**Missouri Legion Baseball
Tom Rhoads-Chairman**

As your Missouri American Legion Baseball State Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the close of our 2026 season and thank everyone who helped make it successful. Across Missouri, our players competed with heart, our coaches led with purpose, and our families, Posts, and communities stood behind them every step of the way. This season was a powerful reminder that Legion Baseball is about much more than the final score; it is about character, commitment, teamwork, service, and pride in representing something larger than ourselves.

Season Highlights and State Champions

I congratulate each of our state champions and thank their managers, coaches, players, families, and Posts for the effort and pride they brought to the 2026 season.

- **15U:** Ballwin Post 611 — Manager: Karl McKay
- **17U:** Bonne Terre Post 83 — Manager: Justin Hahn
- **19U:** Washington Post 218 — Manager: Kent Getsee

Scholarship Recognition

Congratulations to Rocco Brocato from Oak Grove Post 379, our 2026 Missouri American Legion Scholarship winner. Rocco's achievement is a reminder that Legion Baseball is about more than competition; it is about opening doors, building character, and helping young people pursue their next opportunity. We wish him continued success at Missouri Valley College as he carries his baseball journey forward.

Great Lakes Regional Update

Washington Post 218, our 19U State Championship team, traveled to Lexington, Kentucky, to compete in the Great Lakes Regional. While the team did not advance to the World Series, it represented Missouri with pride, determination, and class. Their efforts reflected the spirit of our program and gave our state another reason to be proud.

Border Wars All-Star Games

This year, Missouri and Illinois once again came together for two Border Wars All-Star games, giving outstanding players the chance to represent their states and compete on a bigger stage. The 19U All-Star game was played at Grizzly Park and was won by Illinois, while the 17U All-Star game was played at Gordon Moore Park and was won by

Missouri. Congratulations to all the athletes who earned this opportunity and represented their teams with pride.

Hall of Fame 2026 Inductee

Our inductee for this year is William "Chief" Dey. He served our program as a coach and a major contributor. Very proud for him to join our Hall of Fame.

Growing Legion Baseball Across Missouri

As we look ahead, I encourage every Post to consider how it can help grow Missouri American Legion Baseball. Starting a team is more than adding a summer program; it is an investment in young people, leadership, confidence, discipline, and community pride. Every new team creates another opportunity for young athletes to learn, compete, serve, and represent their hometowns with honor.

- **Character development:** Legion Baseball teaches commitment, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, sportsmanship, and the responsibility of representing something larger than oneself.
- **Community pride:** The program brings together players, families, fans, veterans, and local supporters, creating a shared purpose that strengthens the bond between the team and its community.
- **Athletic growth:** Players are challenged in a competitive environment where they can sharpen their skills, learn the game more deeply, and discover what they are capable of achieving.
- **Scholarship opportunities:** Legion Baseball can help open doors for young athletes who want to continue their education and pursue their baseball dreams at the next level.
- **Lifelong connections:** The friendships, mentorships, and memories formed through Legion Baseball often last far beyond the final inning of the season.
- **Preparation for the future:** Legion Baseball helps prepare young people not only for higher levels of competition, but also for the challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities they will face in life.

At its best, Legion Baseball is more than a game. It is a place where young athletes learn to lead, serve, compete, and believe in themselves. With the continued support of our Posts, coaches, families, and communities, we can keep building a program that changes lives, strengthens towns, and honors the proud tradition of American Legion Baseball in Missouri.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Missouri American Legion Baseball. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue building on this season's success and preparing for the future of our program.

Sincerely,

Tom Rhoads
Missouri American Legion Baseball State Chairman





Department Auxiliary President
Lindy Picray

Greetings! I am so honored to be elected as the Department President for the Department of Missouri! When I moved to Missouri in 2012 to work for the Department of Missouri in the AmeriCorps program, I did not see myself in this position, but here I am! Just a bit about myself, I am a member of Rosco Enloe, Unit 5 in Jefferson City. I am eligible for the Auxiliary through my husband, John Picray- GWOT, my dad Gordon Capps JR- Vietnam, and my grandfathers' Orborn Jones and Gordon Capps Sr -WWII. John and I welcomed a son, Louis, in March 2026 who was signed up for Squadron 5 at the hospital.

My theme for the year is "United through Service." I chose this theme because we are united in our organization due to your service to our county, our service to each other, and our service to the community. Also, my favorite saying in the American Legion Auxiliary is "in the spirit of service, not self." For my president's project I chose to raise money for the Armed Services YMCA at Ft Leonard Wood. John and I are members of our local YMCA, and I wanted to support a program that helps military families.

Office Updates- For those who are not aware, our Secretary Nancy Reeves passed away unexpectedly in December of 2025. Since then, we have had difficulty staffing our office, however we have recently hired someone! We appreciate your patience as our new staff member learns about our organization and how our office works.

Auxiliary Membership updates- At the National Convention in Louisville the American Legion approved gender-neutral language to be reflected in the membership requirements for eligibility in the Auxiliary. Now Auxiliary membership is open to spouses, grandparents, parents, siblings, and direct or adopted descendants of eligible veterans, as well as women eligible for The American Legion in their own right. We look forward to welcoming these newly eligible members into our organization.

I wish Commander Alex, Commander Michael, and Director Tony a good year, and I look forward to serving with them!

Lindy Picray
Department President



Mike Walter – Detachment Commander
Sons of the American Legion

Greetings from the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Missouri !

We invite EVERY SAL Member to attend the **2026 Detachment Fall Conference**. These meetings are not just for Squadron Officers... ALL SAL members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The **Fall Conference General Session** will begin at 10:30 AM, Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Inn at Grand Glaize 5142 Osage Beach Parkway, Osage Beach, MO.

The General Session at the Fall Conference typically lasts 2-3 hours depending upon how many participants we have.

We are going to change the format of the general session somewhat... We are going to dedicate a significant portion of our meeting to a "Round Table Discussion" where all members in attendance can bring up successes and difficulties that your Squadron may be experiencing and share ideas among the Squadrons and hopefully you can take home ideas that will make your Squadron even more successful ! We look forward to seeing and meeting all that can attend !

At the SAL National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, a theme was put forward that makes a lot of sense. *"If You are not Part of the Solution... then You are Part of the Problem"*

We need to be putting more effort in being "Part of the Solution" **for example;**



PROBLEM: Your Squadron is having trouble recruiting new members. **SOLUTION:** Go out and set up a table at an event or grocery store in your community and talk to people about what being a member of the Sons of the American Legion and The American Legion Family as a whole can do for your community and recruit new members to serve.

There are any number of ways that you can engage people in your area... when you are out and about, wear your SAL caps or shirts etc... That alone might lead to striking up a conversation with someone who might be interested in joining your Squadron or a veteran who might want to join the Post !

We have mentioned this before, but We want to continue emphasize the importance of getting the following reports sent in annually. The **Squadron Data Report**, the **Officer Report**, and the **Consolidated Squadron Report**.

The most pressing at the moment is the Squadron Officer Report: We ask that You send in your **Squadron Officer Report Immediately if you have not done so** because Your Membership Cards will NOT be sent to you from Jefferson City until you have sent in your annual Officer's Report. This report **MUST** be submitted annually, even if you have had no change in officers from the previous year.

As we visit Squadrons throughout the state, we cannot begin to thank our SAL members enough for all of the time and work that you have put forth to enhance our Legion Posts and to serve and assist our Veterans and in contributing to the betterment of our communities as a whole. I know that at the Detachment level we are only hearing about a fraction of the actual work that is being done by our members so I would be very grateful if you would drop me an email at; mwalter1059@gmail.com and let me know what projects and events that your Squadron take part in on a day to day basis.

"For God and Country"
Michael L. Walter
Detachment Commander

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Ben Sargent
Grand Chef de Gare

Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope this finds everyone in good health and spirits.

This being my introductory article, I will get right to the business at hand. My name is Ben Sargent, I am the Grand Chef de Gare, Grande du Missouri, Societe of the 40 and 8 2026-2027. I am a 24-year member of the 40 and 8 and I am also a 30-year member of the American Legion post 331, St Robert Mo. Although I have never served as a Post Commander or Vice, I am proud to have served various other Officer positions at post 331 over the years. I truly appreciate everything all Legionnaires do to support the American Legion whether it be just showing up regularly for post meetings or serving as an officer, every little bit that you may be able to do provides support to the organization overall. I encourage all to reach out to fellow Veterans whether they are Legionnaires or not and provide support as we are all Veterans. I feel it is Important to keep in mind that we as Veterans were Brothers and Sisters in Arms at one time no matter where or when We served.

Thank You for Your Service

V/R

Ben Sargent
Grand Chef de Gare



Legion Riders Tony Rumbo -Director

The Value of Volunteering: Serving Something Greater Than Ourselves

Volunteering is one of the most important traditions of organizations such as The American Legion. It is also one of the things that makes our organization different. Legionnaires don't simply belong to an organization—we have an opportunity to serve our veterans, our families, our communities, and our country.

But what do we actually get from volunteering?

The first benefit is purpose and fulfillment. Something is rewarding about knowing that your time and effort helped someone else. Whether you're helping a veteran navigate a problem, supporting a youth program, preparing a community event, or simply lending a hand at the Post, your contribution matters.

Volunteering also creates camaraderie. Many veterans understand the importance of having people around them who share common experiences and values. The American Legion provides an opportunity to build friendships, work together, and remain connected to a larger community.

Another benefit is leadership and personal growth. Volunteers learn how to organize events, communicate with others, solve problems, manage projects, conduct meetings, and work as a team. Those skills can benefit us not only within the Legion, but also at home and in our professional lives.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits is the opportunity to pass something on. Experienced Legionnaires have knowledge that younger members and new volunteers need. By teaching them, encouraging them, and giving them opportunities to lead, we help ensure that the work of the American Legion continues.

A Famous Example of Volunteer Service

One of America's best-known examples of service to the military was Bob Hope.

For decades, Hope volunteered his time to entertain American service members around the world. From World War II through Vietnam and later conflicts, he traveled to military bases, hospitals, and even combat zones to perform for troops.

Hope could have spent his holidays at home enjoying the success and comfort that came with his career. Instead, he frequently chose to spend those holidays with American service members who were far away from their families.

He didn't need the money. He didn't need the recognition. He understood that the men and women serving our country needed to know that someone cared.

His example demonstrates an important principle of volunteerism:

You don't have to be famous to make a difference. You just have to be willing to give what you have.

What Can We Give?

Not everyone has the same amount of time, and not everyone has the same skills. Some members can devote hours every week. Others may only be able to help at an occasional event.

That's okay.

One person may be good at organizing. Another may be good with finances. Someone else may know how to cook, repair something, make phone calls, work with computers, or simply welcome a new member through the door.

Every skill has value.

The American Legion needs volunteers who are willing to step forward and help. Our Posts conduct community projects, support veterans and their families, participate in youth programs, provide scholarships, assist with charitable causes, conduct ceremonies, and support countless other activities.

And while recognition and awards are nice, they shouldn't be the reason we volunteer.

The real reward is knowing that we made a difference.

Leaving a Legacy

Eventually, every one of us will move on. The positions we hold will belong to someone else. The chairs at our meetings will eventually be filled by new members.

What we leave behind is the work we accomplished and the people we helped along the way.

That's why volunteerism is so important.

You don't volunteer because the American Legion needs bodies. You volunteer because somebody needs what you have to offer.

Your experience. Your time. Your skills. Your willingness to show up and help.

Those things can make a difference in someone's life.

And sometimes, the greatest benefit of volunteering isn't what you receive—it is knowing that because you were willing to serve, someone else's life is a little better.

That is the spirit of the American Legion.

That is the meaning of service.

And that is the legacy we should leave behind.

For God and Country,

Tony Rumbo

State Director

American Legion Riders

Department of Missouri

(314) 707-4683

Website: <http://alrmissouri.wixsite.com/alrmo>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlrMissouri>

Facebook ALR MO Legacy Run info

page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALRMOLegacyRun>

What is the Live Life Mission?



Join us for a short, hands-on demonstration of the Live Life Mission, a wellness program created in Missouri for service members, veterans, and their families.

During the session, you will:

- Learn why the Live Life Mission is needed
- Explore 8 different wellness groups
- Choose activities that fit your life
- Learn how to use the Wellness Log to track your progress

Everyone who participates in the entire 30-minute session will be entered into a drawing. Two people will each win a \$40 gift card.

In case you are worried, this is not a physical fitness session

When: October 24, 2026 | 9-9:30am

Location: 2026 Fall Conference, Horseshoe Bend Board Room, Inn At The Grand Glaze, Osage Beach, MO





VA&R National, Department and General News ~Tracy Vawter, DSO

NOTICE OF POSITION OPENINGS

Job Title: Assistant Veterans Service Officer (ADSO)
Employer: The American Legion, Department of Missouri

Job Location: VA Medical Center Campus, Kansas City, Missouri
Wage and Employee Benefits: Starting: \$15-16/hour. 10-20 hours per week, with some flexibility for schedule. On the job training provided. Increasing to full-time.

Job Location: VA Regional Office and St. Louis VAMC, St. Louis, Missouri
Wage and Employee Benefits: Starting: \$15-16/hour. 30 hours per week, with some flexibility for schedule. Paid vacations, Holiday pay, paid sick leave are provided to full-time employees. On the job training provided.



Assistant Department Service Officer-St. Louis and Kansas City Offices

Job Duties

Accurately assist all veterans and their families with Veterans’ Benefits. Understand VA claim process, regulations, manuals, rating schedules and laws pertaining to veterans’ benefits. Log all client contact.

Conduct interviews with claimants to assist in filling out proper forms for submission to the VA Regional Office. Answer questions and supply information regarding benefits and status of claims filed, especially through The American Legion.

Confer with Medical Center and VA Regional Office Directors, Supervisors and Staff regarding veterans’ claims and medical care issues. Represent The American Legion at VA meetings and other functions as directed by the Department Commander, Adjutant or Department Service Officer. Contact veteran patients on the wards at the Medical Center. Appropriately represent claimants at hearings before Regional Office Employees and Board of Veterans’ Appeals Veteran’s Law Judges.

Some travel is required for training and American Legion functions; typically, Spring and Fall Department Conferences, and one DSO School per year or two training sessions online per year.

Education

Successful applicants should be at least a High School graduate, college graduates preferred. Medical, legal, counseling, or administrative background required. Regular use of Microsoft Office, Internet and other computer programs is required.

Work Traits

Applicants should be in good health, i.e., able to be consistently available to claimants during normal working hours, in person at the office. Prolonged sitting and/or standing and other physical activities are expected.

Successful applicant must communicate effectively, both in writing and in person, with veterans, their dependents, VA Regional Office and Medical Center staff, and The American Legion.

Applicant must qualify as a **VA volunteer** - https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/volunteer_at_facility/

Applicant must follow The American Legion Department of Missouri Personnel Policy and VA Code of Ethics regarding dress, work behavior, etc. Alcohol, drugs and abusive language/behavior are not allowed.

Office must be neat and orderly, with filing and information up-to-date, hours of operation posted, and immediate supervisor notified of any absences. Membership in the Organization must be kept up to date.

Details

St. Louis VA Regional Office: In-person, full-time 30 hours per week at \$16 per hour, at Saint Louis VA Regional Office.
Kansas City VA Medical Center: In-person, part-time 10-20 hours per week to start at \$16 per hour.
Travel is required and reimbursed. Travel-related expenses will be reimbursed. A probation period will apply.

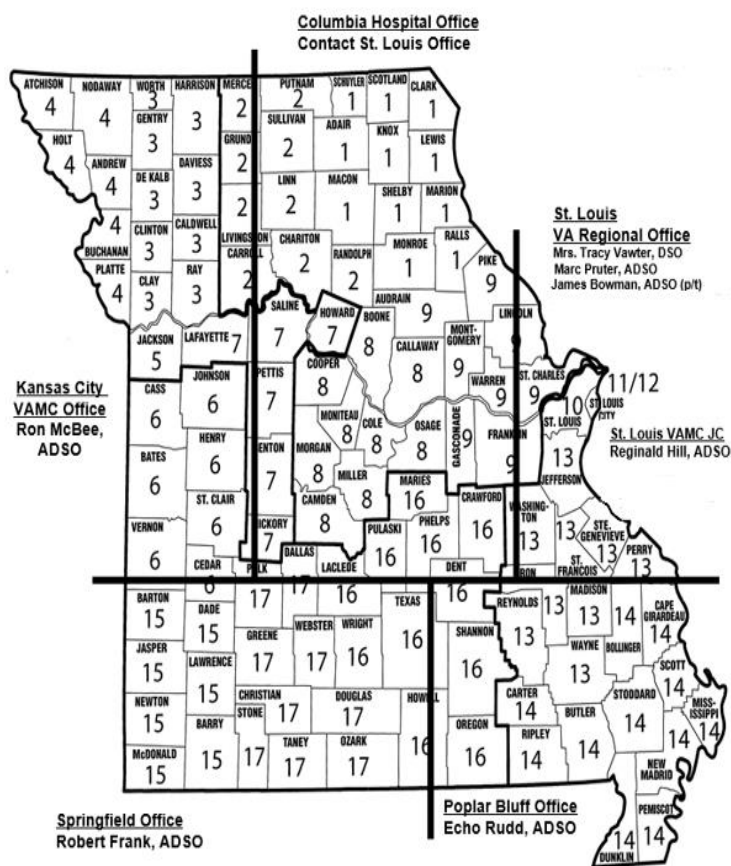
Membership in The American Legion or Sons of the American Legion is required* www.missourilegion.org
*Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based upon honorable service with the U.S. Armed Forces.
To be eligible, a veteran (man or woman) must have served (on active duty or activated under Title 10) any time from December 7, 1941, to present, or meet SAL requirements. <https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion>

Dues are \$45 per year for Post 1000 membership. Transfer from Post 1000 to a Local Post is advised. Mail the attached application with \$45 to Department Headquarters with a copy of your DD214. www.legion.org/join

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 179
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Physical Address:
3341 American Ave
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Phone: 800-846-9023 or 573-893-2353
Fax: 573-893-2980



VSO Map of Service Areas By Districts

2026 FALL CONFERENCE

October 23-25 2026

NEW LOCATION !!!

Inn at Grand Glaize

5142 Osage Beach Parkway

Osage Beach, MO 65065

Room Rate \$92.00 plus applicable tax and fees

Registration will open April 1, 2026

• Online: Visit www.InnatGrandGlaize.com and enter the code AL26.

• By Phone: Call 573-348-4731 and mention The American Legion or provide the group code to the Front Desk agent.

2026 FALL CONFERENCE Schedule

October 23-25, 2026

Inn At Grand Glaize

5142 Highway 54, Osage Beach, MO 65065

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

Friday, October 23

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

District Commanders Training

VA&R Committee

Membership Commission

ALR Executive Committee Meeting

Convention Committee (Department & National)

Saturday, October 24

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

9:30 - 12:00 a.m.

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

ALR General Meeting

Finance Commission

Leadership Training Committee

ROTC

Homeland Security Committee

Live Life Mission Demonstration

Scouting

Cadet Patrol

9:30 a.m. SAL DEC & 10:30 a.m. General Session

Foundation

LEGION GENERAL SESSION

Distinguished Guest Luncheon

Navy Club Meeting

SAL General Session

LEGION GENERAL SESSION

Membership Workshop/MyLegion Training

Boy State District Chair & Commission Meeting

Past Post Commanders Meeting

Catholic Services

Protestant Services

Oratorical Workshop

Service Officers Training

History Book Training

Media & Communication Committee

Children & Youth Commission

Sunday, October 25

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Past District Cdr's Breakfast

Final Session

D.E.C. following Final Session

Main Foyer Meeting Room

Bagnell Room

Grand Ballroom

Bagnell Room

Main Foyer Meeting Room

Upper Terrace Room

Main Lobby Meeting Room

Bagnell

Niangua Salon

Sun Room

Horseshoe Bend Board Room

Linn Creek Board Room

Niangua Salon

Gravois Salon

Main Lobby Meeting Room

Grand Ballroom

Upper Terrace Room

Sun Room

Gravois Salon

Grand Ballroom

Grand Ballroom

Sunroom

Upper Terrace Room

Bagnell Room

Gravois

Grand Ballroom

Niangua

Sunroom

Main Lobby Meeting Room

Gravois

Upper Terrace

Grand Ballroom

Gravois/Niangua

Hospitality Room Linn Creek & Horseshoe Room Friday & Saturday 5:00 – 11:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Updated 9/23/2026