



# BLUE HATTER



## TABLE OF CONTENTS - November 2025

Department of Utah	1
Happy 250th Birthdays	2-4
Happy Thanksgiving	5
National Commander	6
Department Commander	7
Department Vice Commander	8
Membership	9
Area Commanders	10-11
Department Adjutant	12
NEC	13-21
Legionnaire Highlight	22
District Commanders	23
Training	24-27
Be the One	28-29



# BLUE HATTER



## TABLE OF CONTENTS - November 2025

Chaplain	30
Children & Youth	31
Judge Advocate	32
Historian	33
Finance & Treasurer	34-35
Americanism	36-39
Legion Preamble	40
Thank You for Everything You Do	41-48
Legionnaire Creative Artists	49-51
Auxiliary Gift Shop	52
Sons of the American Legion	53-58
American Legion Riders	59
Featured Nonprofit	60
Last Word from the Editor	61-62



November 2025 Issue



# BLUE HATTER



As posts throughout the Department of Utah celebrate veterans, please consider doing Buddy Checks as part of your activities. The holiday season is upon us. Take time to contact members of your posts and also members who are not Legionnaires. By doing Buddy Checks we also ensure that we continue to fulfill our Be the One mission by changing and saving lives through the process of doing Buddy Checks. Check out [legion.org](http://legion.org) for great ideas!

In addition to Veterans Day, we hope you enjoy time with your family and friends during the holiday season, and that you stay safe. There are many events happening until the end of the year. Please take time for yourself too and enjoy quiet moments to reflect upon your blessings.

## DECEMBER DEC

December DEC is scheduled for December 6, 2025 at the historic Utah County Courthouse where Post 13 regularly meets in Provo. Please make sure you are on the Department Adjutant's email list to receive the information for DEC. Rick Mead, Department Adjutant, can be reached at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) or by phone at 801-539-1013.



## Happy Holidays!

From everyone in the Department of Utah, we wish you merry and happy holidays. Please stay warm and enjoy every minute with your family, friends, and communities. Thank you for your continued dedication and support of The American Legion!

*Happy Holidays*

Happy Birthday, Army!



Happy Birthday, Navy!





Happy birthday, Marine Corps!

250



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

1775 - 2025

Semper Parati  
UNITED STATES MARINES



# HAPPY Thanksgiving

Wishing you a Thanksgiving sprinkled with moments of reflection, joy, and deliciousness!

[utlegion.org](http://utlegion.org)

## 2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMANDER



**DAN K. WILEY**

**2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMANDER**

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
**BE**  
**THE**  
**ONE**

### National HQ

The National American Legion Headquarters has a wealth of information on their revamped website ([legion.org](http://legion.org)), including what The American Legion is about, programs, services, membership, media, and who to contact.



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

([america250.org](http://america250.org))

Join in the efforts of The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge! Celebrate the Nation's semiquincentennial by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service. ([legion.org](http://legion.org))

Go online to [legion.org](http://legion.org) today, register, and learn more about how you can support a participant or donate.



## 2025-2026 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Please let me know if your Post does Military Funeral Honors. Leave me your Post # and city. Between November 1st and December 31, 2025, recruit 1 Legionnaire to receive a Beehive Pin. Recruit 3 and receive a Department Challenge Coin. Send name of recruits, membership number and Post where they have joined along with your name and Post. To [johnpeggyr@gmail.com](mailto:johnpeggyr@gmail.com) or text (801) 502-8439.

Please let us know the date your Post and District is holding your Oratorical Contest. Please include Post number, City, Date and Time.

Be thinking of Post Members or other Veterans that may be alone this upcoming Holiday season. Please include them in any Holiday activity you think they might enjoy. With the current shutdown, Be the One and Buddy Checks are needed. This is our best time to shine and support those who shared in serving with us that may be in need or just someone who cares to reach out.

Thank you for all your efforts in this great organization. Please remember you are needed and so important to the Department. We wish you a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season.

God Family and Country,  
John Robertson  
Department Commander  
801-502-8439  
[johnpeggyr@gmail.com](mailto:johnpeggyr@gmail.com)  
[commander@utlegion.org](mailto:commander@utlegion.org)

# 2024-2025 DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



**KENT ANDERSON**  
**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER**  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

The Area Membership Workshops have begun with Area 1 and Area 2 now completed. This workshop is meant to be a discussion with the Posts and District members and leaders to explore ideas, concerns and problems they are experiencing and determine what other Posts are doing. The workshops went very well but sparsely attended. Overall, for those who attended it was productive. Area 4 workshop is planned for January 17, 2026. This is an opportunity for the Department Leaders to interact with members and get a better understanding of how the Posts and Districts are doing. It was also an opportunity for members to get acquainted with the Department leadership.

I have also had the opportunity to be invited to the Park City, Post 14 meeting where a new Post Commander was elected and installed. I was also invited to attend the Logan, Post 7 meeting where efforts are being made to revitalize the Post and elect new leadership which they have not had. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Department leaders to meet with Post and District members. I am always available to schedule a time to meet with any Post or District if desired.

The strength of the American Legion begins with the strength of the Post. Post strength begins with members who are willing to step up and conduct the mission of the American Legion. I encourage each of you to take it upon yourself to find at least one new member to join the Legion. It is important that new members are welcomed and sworn in at the first meeting. Keep them informed about what the Legion does and assign a mentor to take them under their wing until they have a better understanding of the Organization. It does no good to acquire a new member if we cannot retain them in the future.

If there is anything I can do to help you in any way, please contact me. I look forward to getting more acquainted with you and making your experience better.

My contact information is as follows:

Kent B. Anderson  
Dept. Vice Commander  
702-524-7728  
Kba6991@gmail.com

*Become  
The  
Change*



# Membership Targets and Management



## 2025-2026 National Membership Target Dates

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff  
September 10, 2025 - 50%

Fall Meetings  
October 15, 2025 - 55%

Veterans Day  
November 13, 2025 - 65%

Pearl Harbor Day  
December 10, 2025 - 75%

Mid-Winter  
January 14, 2026 - 80%

President's Day  
February 11, 2026 - 85%

Legion Birthday  
March 11, 2026 - 90%

Children & Youth  
April 8, 2026 - 95%

Armed Forces Day  
May 13, 2026 - 100%

Delegate Strength  
30 Days Prior To National Convention

## About National Membership Awards

[legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards](https://legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards)

## Questions?

Follow up with your Area Commander, Department Vice Commander/Membership Chair or Department Adjutant.

## Manage Your Membership

Visit [mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/](https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/)

## Access to MyLegion for Leadership

If you do not have access to [mylegion.org](https://mylegion.org) as a Post or District Commander and/or Adjutant, please contact Rick Mead, Department Adjutant, to gain access at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) or 801-539-1013.

# 2026

### Lock in a three-year membership

**REMINDER**

The American Legion three-year membership option is still available for new joins and renewals. The multiyear membership option can only be accessed on the national website at [legion.org/join](https://legion.org/join) or [legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew). More than 51,894 members have taken advantage of this option.

### A few things to keep in mind about the multiyear membership:

- Payment for the three-year membership is upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

# 2024-2025 AREA COMMANDERS



**Bob Jones**  
**Area 1 Commander**  
 Post 9, Ogden  
 801-336-6951  
 rohojo1@aol.com



**Ninzel Rasmuson**  
**Area 2 Commander**  
 Post 140, Riverton  
 385-900-3124  
 ninzel9@gmail.com



**Austin Kendall**  
**Area 3 Commander**  
 Post 11, Vernal  
 435-790-5159  
 ajkendall01@gmail.com



**Marti Bigbie**  
**Area 4 Commander**  
 Post 142, Sun River  
 435-668-5770  
 martibigbie@gmail.com

## AREA COMMANDER DUTIES AND COUNTIES

Every year, Area Commanders are nominated and elected to have oversight of their Districts while simultaneously working with Districts and Posts to help them be successful.

For the Department of Utah, there are 4 Area Commander positions. They serve as Department 2nd Vice Commanders over their representative Districts. Each area has 2-3 districts within their area. The Districts within each Area are as follows:

**Area 1** (Northern Utah): Districts 1, 2, & 3  
 Cache, Box Elder, & Rich Counties (District 1)  
 Weber, Morgan, & Davis Counties (District 2)  
 Summit, Wasatch Counties + SLC Post 2 (District 3)

**Area 2** (Central Utah): District 4 & 8  
 Utah & Juab Counties (District 4)  
 Salt Lake & Tooele Counties (including SLC, less Post 2) (District 8)

**Area 3** (Eastern Utah): Districts 5 & 9  
 Carbon, Emery, Grand & San Juan Counties (District 5)  
 Duchesne, Uintah, & Daggett Counties (District 9)

**Area 4** (Southern Utah): Districts 6 & 7  
 Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Millard & Wayne Counties (District 6)  
 Iron, Beaver, Washington, Kane & Garfield Counties (District 7)

See the following pages for your District Commanders and the counties they serve.

Utah's 29 Counties & Their County Seats



# AREA COMMANDER BUZZ



Bob Jones  
Area 1 Commander

Greetings from Area 1; containing Districts 1, 2 & 3 of Northern Utah. Things are happening here in Northern Utah. District 1 Commander Chris Brasted and I have visited Smithfield Post 58 and had a great meeting, sharing information and seeing old friends and comrades. 1st Vice-Commander Kent Anderson, Adjutant Rick Mead and I also recently met with Park City Post 14 for another great meeting, where a new Post Commander was elected and sworn in. The Park City Post 14 has been rather stagnant for several years, but in a few short months have actively holding meetings and gaining new members, that evening their membership hit the 50-member goal and they are not even slowing down. We were also invited to visit Brigham City Post 10, but that meeting was cancelled due to illness of the Post Commander. Commander Brasted and I are scheduled to meet with USU Post 7 to help them get organized and going again. They currently have 17 members, but haven't met for several years, however are ready to again anxious to get going again. Sadly, we still do not have a District 3 Commander, but I am working on that loss. Michiko and I pause to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and ask that you pause with us to pray for those men and women deployed into more than 180 countries around our world, and especially the families they leave behind while they fight to keep us free.



Ninzel Rasmuson  
Area 2 Commander

Thank you Districts 4 and 8 for your ongoing efforts to continue to make a difference in membership, Buddy Checks, and carrying on the mission of Be the One. It has been great visiting with post members and addressing needs you have. As I reflect upon the holiday season, I wish all of you the blessings of the holiday season. Thank you for your service to God, Family, and Country. Please continue to volunteer for those activities and programs that speak to you. You are making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families every day. My heart is full of gratitude for all that you do. THANK YOU! Please do not hesitate to reach out to met to help you with membership, events, activities, etc.



Austin Kendall  
Area 3 Commander

Post 11 Auxiliary unit is doing a great job of helping VETS with their food pantry, they have served 8(eight) families over the last three months, with a total of 1, 063 Lbs of food. \$800.00 in food voucher, 4 handmade quilts, they open it every Monday from 0900 and run thru 1500. They have also received many contributions from the public. They have received great support from the community. With the help of local news media more and more people are finding this support. Miss Teen Utah has produced video of the process at least once a week sometimes more, this helps gets the info out to the public. Ashley Lowder does a post weekly on the Uintah Basin Military and Veteran family with info on the pantry and the Veterans coffee hour every 3rd Saturday of the month which allows veterans to gather for mingling and talks. The posts in the area perform many military Honors for our departed comrades. Post 11 is constantly improving their program to make it quite the ceremony.



Marti Bigbie  
Area 4 Commander

Many thanks to Post 36- Salina in District 6 and Posts 114- Escalante, 81- Minersville, 80- Enterprise and 16- Milford for reaching 100% paid membership per the 10-23-25 Department of Utah 2026 Membership report. In checking with the Posts about paid membership it was found as it was in the past that the Posts receive paid membership around the activities of VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>. The Area 4 Department training for November 8th has been rescheduled to January 17, 2026. LOOK for the upcoming events, meetings and activities for District 6 and District 7 in WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE POST LEVEL later in this Department Newsletter.

# DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT DESK

## Technology Updates from Fall Meetings in Indianapolis

While attending the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, I had the opportunity to speak with Dave Sutton, IT Director at National Headquarters, who shared several updates on technology initiatives currently underway. During a one-on-one discussion, we also reviewed some of the challenges we've experienced with Legion+.

### Legion+ Platform Updates

Legion + recently experienced problems with emails not being received by Legionnaires during account setup. This issue has now been resolved after identifying a problem with the original email platform and transitioning to a new provider.

A new feature has also been introduced to help posts verify new members. When a member completes the sign-up process, they are no longer added directly to the local post roster. Instead, a notification is sent to the Post Commander through the Legion + app, allowing the commander to either accept or reject the new member:

- If accepted, the member is added to the local post roster.
- If rejected, the member is added to the department post—just as they would be if signing up through legion.org, mylegion.org, or direct mail.

Another important note: the QR code feature in Legion + can only be used once per invite, as each code is a uniquely generated personalized invitation. However, the invitation link can be reused multiple times. I'll be testing this further before recommending wider use. A new version of Legion + has just been released, and I encourage everyone to begin using the app for signing up new members. Having members join a post directly through Legion + or a post submitted membership, avoids the member being placed in the department post and having to be transferred.

## Upcoming Technology Projects

In addition to the Legion+ updates, a new CRM system is being developed to replace MyLegion.org, with an anticipated launch in early 2026. More information will be shared as implementation approaches.

A new online registration system will also debut for the next National Convention, which should greatly improve and simplify the registration process.

## Convention Updates

There is ongoing discussion at the national level about increasing delegate fees for the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. While not yet confirmed, this topic remains under consideration. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

I hope you find this useful. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in service,  
Richard Mead  
Utah Department Adjutant / VSO



**RICHARD "RICK" MEAD**  
**DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**





# 2025-2027 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



**Terry Schow, NEC**

As we approach Veterans Day I'm mindful of the service of so many Legionnaires. Among them is Les Bryan who passed away this past week at age 98 and had been a member of the American Legion for 81 years, and when National Commander Seehafer was in town he graciously agreed to stop by Les's house to present his 80 year membership certificate the first I had ever seen. Ogden Post 9 owes much to Veterans like Les and Casey Kunimura. I have found that most American Legion Posts have a handful of people that are the spark plug for the engine that runs the Post. Les was certainly one of those and he will be sorely missed. It was such an honor to know a man with such commitment to the American Legion and to our veterans. To each of you. I thank you for your service for you could be doing many things other than helping your fellow veterans and the Legion.

As many of you know, Utah has been selected to host the 2030 American Legion national convention. It will be our 4th National Convention and we're the only state to have such an honor starting in this publication. We will have a call for volunteers for those who would like to help out. *Please send me an email and then the subject line national convention volunteer as we will start collecting your names.*

Now the government shutdown is having an effect across the country, and I would like to know if it has affected you as I am in frequent contact with our Washington office and with our legislative leaders and I want to share with them any new problems that may be causing you. From a legislative standpoint, it is most important that you contact members of Congress about legislative items. An important website is [legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action). I urge you to go there frequently and let your members of Congress know how you feel about the issues affecting Veterans if you have questions on how to do this, please let me know. It's really quite a simple process and all it requires is a couple of clicks.

As we approach the holidays I urge you to reach out to your members who may be in need and offer assistance to them. This is just an extension of the Buddy check program the Legion is advocating for. The National Commander will be in Utah from February 19-22, 2026. If you have an event or program you would like him to attend please let us know and we'll see if we can fit it into his schedule.

A cautionary tale concerning international travel. A Utah veteran traveled to Mexico and had a severe health issue. He ended up getting transported back to the states and ended up with a \$100,000 medical bill and the VA would not pay for it. I highly recommend any international travel that you sign up for travel insurance which is usually less than \$1000.

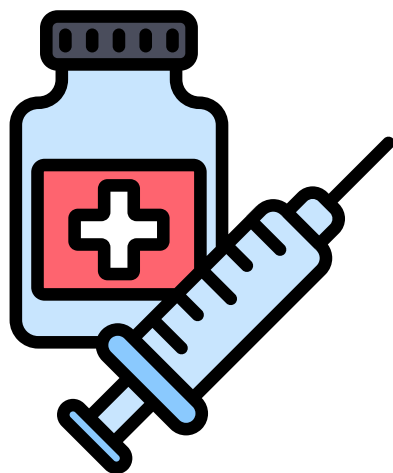
I've had queries about VA compensation payments and health care during the shutdown. The VA is funded a year in advance so VA payments and healthcare are not affected but the VA regional office is not open, but Rick, Tami and I can help you with VA questions. For those that don't have one I urge you to set up an account at [va.gov](https://va.gov) which gives you access to your va claim documents and prescriptions and ability to communicate with your VA providers

Best Veterans Day wishes to you and your family as most of you will be quite busy serving your fellow veterans.

Terry Schow

## Vaccine Clinics (Starting Sept. 17, all locations)

Clinic Locations	Days	Times
Salt Lake City Campus	M - F	8:00am - 2:00pm
Pocatello	M, F	1:30pm - 3:00pm
Idaho Falls	M, W, F	1:00pm - 2:00pm
Ogden	M, W, F	10:00am – 2:00pm
Cache Valley	M – F	1:00pm - 3:00pm
South Jordan	M – F	8:30am – 3:00pm
Elko	M – F	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Orem	M – F	11:00am – 3:00pm
Price	M, W, F	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Roosevelt	F	1:30pm – 4:00pm
St. George	M – F	10:00am – 12:00pm
		1:00pm – 3:00pm



**Get your  
flu shot  
today  
with the VA!**

**Questions?**

**Dial 801-582-1565**

# LEGISLATIVE

To learn more about the National Legislative Division, visit [legion.org](http://legion.org).

The National Legislative Division accomplishes the mission of The American Legion by providing the following services:

- Lobbying all Members of Congress and their professional staff to accomplish the goals of The American Legion's Legislative Agenda;
- Management, constant communication and education, and active engagement of the Legislative Council of The American Legion;
- Liaising with the Chairman of the Legislative Commission, and its Convention Committee;
- Liaising with the other divisions and commissions of The American Legion;
- Partnerships with the Marketing, Media, and Communications Commission and Division to ensure broad dissemination of The American Legion Legislative Agenda;
- Program education and training development opportunities;
- Supplying and disseminating program information, materials, and resources; and
- Advocacy for The American Legion and its programs at local, department, and national levels to include Legislative training at Department events as required.



## Government Shutdown

If you are experiencing difficulty and need assistance, The American Legion is here to help you navigate available resources. Contact the Department Adjutant or other members for help.



## Do you know?

Do you know who your District representatives are?

Visit [le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp](http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp) and then enter your street address in the first field and your zip code in the second field, then click Find. You may also click on the map to determine who the State Senator and House Representative are for that location, or contact your county clerk for official legislative district information.



## AMERICAN LEGION

This is the inaugural article for the Service Officer Corner. Many of your members are not aware that the Legion has service officers who can help them with veteran's benefit and veteran's claim information. As we travel around the state doing the district meetings, we will have VA claims forms with us and we urge you to invite your members to the spring and fall district meetings. **Attached to this newsletter is a VA form 21-0966 VA intent to file a claim.** This form allows a veteran to file a VA claim within one year of the date of the form and if approved the VA benefit will be retroactive to the date filed. We encourage you to print out copies of these forms for members. A Veteran can file a VA claim for any injury or illness caused by or aggravated by military service. Member of the guard reserve are in a unique situation. If traveling to and from a drill and you are injured that can be a basis for a claim while at drill or summer camp. If your members have questions have them email one of the service officers listed below.

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ACCREDITED AMERICAN LEGION VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

#### **Terry Schow**

[tschow48@gmail.com](mailto:tschow48@gmail.com)

801-644-2058



#### **Rick Mead**

[adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org)

801-699-1526

The Department Service Office is located in the VA Regional Office at 550 Foothill Dr., Salt Lake City. Phone number 801-326-2380. Fax number 801-708-8078. They are there Monday and Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Service officers are one of your best recruiting and retention tools. They offer valuable service to your members.

### Did you know?

Legionnaire Tami Santerre is a new VSO for Department of Utah.

Tami Santerre

(801) 831-3677

[AFLadyVet14@outlook.com](mailto:AFLadyVet14@outlook.com)

or [tami.santerre@va.gov](mailto:tami.santerre@va.gov)

(for any VSO inquiries, etc.)

Tami is in the VSO Office every Monday unless it's a holiday.

Office Address:

SLC Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 550 Foothill Blvd.  
SLC, UT 84113

Office: (801) 326-2380 for Monday appts.

Fridays at Post 9 (4:30-6:00) 845 W. 24th St.,  
Ogden Utah 84401

Tami will also go to District 2 posts upon request and do remote visits as needed, such support for nursing home and assisted living residents.







### SECTION III: GENERAL BENEFIT ELECTION

**IMPORTANT:** VA may not be able to use this form to establish an effective date for benefits if you do not select one or more of the general benefits listed below.

19. I INTEND TO FILE FOR THE GENERAL BENEFIT(S) CHECKED BELOW: (Choose all that apply)

☐ COMPENSATION ☐ PENSION

**NOTE: ONLY CHECK THE BOX BELOW IF YOU ARE A SURVIVING DEPENDENT OF THE VETERAN.**

☐ SURVIVORS PENSION AND/OR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

**IMPORTANT:** After receiving this form, VA will give you the appropriate application to file for the general benefit you select above. You can also apply for VA disability compensation online at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). If you give VA a completed application for the selected general benefit within *one* year of filing this form, your completed application will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. Only the *first* completed application for each selected general benefit that is received after you file this form will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. You may indicate your intent to file for more than one general benefit on this form or you may submit a separate intent to file (VA Form 21-0966) for each general benefit. Please complete as much of this form as possible, as VA cannot process this form if we cannot identify the claimant and/or veteran.

### SECTION IV: DECLARATION OF INTENT AND SIGNATURE

By filing this form, I **HEREBY INDICATE MY INTENT** to apply for one or more general benefits under the laws administered by VA.

I acknowledge that:

- (1) this is **not a claim for benefits**,
- (2) I must file a complete application for each general benefit with VA before VA will process my claim; and
- (3) a complete application for the same general benefit(s) as indicated on this form must be received within one year of the date VA receives this form for my application to be considered filed as of the date of this form.

20. SIGNATURE OF VETERAN/CLAIMANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT (**REQUIRED**)

 SIGN HERE

21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)

-   -

22. NAME OF ATTORNEY, AGENT, OR VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION (VSO) (Please Print)

**NOTE:** This form may only be completed by a VSO, attorney, or agent if a valid power of attorney has been completed.

**Where to Send Correspondence - After completing this form, mail to:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Evidence Intake Center  
P.O. Box 4444  
Janesville, WI 53547- 4444

**PENALTY:** The law provides severe penalties (including fine and/or imprisonment) for willfully submitting any statement or evidence of a material fact you know to be false, or for fraudulent receipt of any document you are not entitled to.

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment Records-VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required only to preserve a date of claim for an application that is received within one year of receipt of this form. VA uses your Social Security number to identify if you have a claim file and to ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine the appropriate application and provide it to the claimant.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine the intent of the claimant and to provide the claimant with the appropriate application for VA benefits (38 U.S.C. 5102). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 5 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

# PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

## A GUIDE TO YOUR VA BURIAL AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors our nation's Veterans with dignified burial services and final resting places that commemorate their service and sacrifice.



**155+ VA national cemeteries**



**120+ VA grant-funded cemeteries**



**14 tribal cemeteries**



**50 states**



**3 territories (Guam, Saipan, and Puerto Rico)**

Eligible Veterans have earned burial benefits at a VA national cemetery for themselves, their spouses, and qualifying family members. VA's burial and memorial benefits can save families thousands of dollars and planning in advance can reduce stress at a difficult time.

## Benefits at a VA national cemetery include:



**Burial site**



**Burial of a casket or urn**



**Government headstone or marker**



**Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds**



**United States burial flag**



**Presidential Memorial Certificates**



**Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) profile page**



**Military funeral honors** (provided by the military services)

## Did you know?

Family members of a Veteran may also be eligible for a burial allowance for the Veteran, helping you cover burial, funeral, and transportation costs.



## Cremation

Cremated remains are treated with the same care, respect, and honors as casketed remains. Depending on the cemetery, VA provides a columbarium niche, in-ground burial of cremated remains with a headstone or marker, or scattering garden options.

## Headstones, markers, and medallions

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are available to mark columbaria used for interment of cremated remains. The style chosen may be limited by the cemetery. VA can also provide a Veteran medallion that can be attached to private headstones in private cemeteries.

## Pre-need burial eligibility application

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible.

Completing the simple, online pre-need burial eligibility application is the starting point in end-of-life planning with your family.

## Veterans Legacy Memorial

Once approved for pre-need burial eligibility, Veterans get access to VA's Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), the largest online memorial site dedicated to America's Veterans.

[VLM's Living Veteran page](#) allows Veterans to upload their own:

- » images
- » autobiographies
- » military and life milestones
- » historical documents

## Spouse and dependents

Burial benefits available for spouses and qualifying family members interred at a VA national cemetery include:



Burial site



Burial of a casket or urn



Headstone or marker inscription



Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds

Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

## Planning to use a private cemetery?

For Veterans who prefer a private cemetery, VA provides these memorial benefits at no cost:



Government headstone, marker, or medallion\*



United States burial flag



Presidential Memorial Certificates

\*Installation costs not included



Scan for [more information](#) on VA's burial and memorial benefits and to start your pre-need burial eligibility application today.

# UTAH VETERAN EMPLOYMENT

## Welcome to Fall 2025!

First of all, THANK YOU for participating in the Utah Patriot Partnership and recruiting employees worth fighting for! As you know it is a great way to gain recognition for your organization's military veteran employment program. We would love to have more organizations join the ranks! Help us spread the word. Tell your friends to learn more and apply online at <https://jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/patriotpledge.html>

Our team is here to help you connect with military veterans and military spouse job seekers. Similar to other employer panels and job clubs, we are attempting to reach veterans and employers statewide by holding events virtually and in person. Events are constantly being updated and posted. For future events, please review our Workforce Services events page <https://jobs.utah.gov/department/events.html> and subscribe to the Veteran & Military Affairs events calendar by visiting <https://veterans.utah.gov/events/>

As the leaves fall and the cold approaches, we want to make you aware of some important upcoming military veteran affiliated events:

**Oct 14, 2025** VIRTUAL Invest in Talent: Discover Tax Credits, Bonding & More

<https://jobs.utah.gov/department/events.html#event=78095095;instance=20251014120000?popup=1&lang=en-US>

**Oct 15, 2025** Women in the Air Force Association Dinner & Fashion Show <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/connecting-past-to-the-present-air-force-dinner-fashion-show/>

**Oct 16, 2025** Alzheimer's Walk at Southern Utah Veterans Home <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/alzheimers-walk-at-southern-utah-veterans-home/>

**Nov 3, 2025** VIRTUAL Resume Critique & Insight Workshop

<https://jobs.utah.gov/department/events.html#event=77897966;instance=20261103120000?popup=1&lang=en-US>

**Nov 6, 2025** Utah's Statewide VIRTUAL Job Fair

<https://jobs.utah.gov/department/events.html#event=78140937;instance=20251106100000?popup=1&lang=en-US>

**Nov 6, 2025** Utah Centenarian Veteran Celebration <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/utah-centenarian-veteran-celebration/>

**Nov 7, 2025** Pacific Island Veterans Day Dinner Gala <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/3rd-annual-pacific-island-veterans-day-dinner-gala/>

**Nov 10, 2025** Utah County Veterans Celebration <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/utah-county-veterans-celebration/>

**Nov 11, 2025** Veterans Day - Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military, in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served ? not only those who died ? have sacrificed and done their duty.

**Nov 11, 2025** Veterans Day Dinner - West Valley City <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/veterans-day-dinner-west-valley-city/>

**Nov 13, 2025** Military Informational Network & Outreach Event

<https://jobs.utah.gov/department/events.html#event=78115683;instance=20251113100000?popup=1&lang=en-US>

**Dec 13, 2025** Veteran-Owned Business Holiday Market <https://veterans.utah.gov/event/2nd-annual-veteran-owned-business-holiday-market/>

\*I can sign your organization up to participate in the Virtual Job Fairs. For the other events, please see the links & instructions. We also encourage you to go beyond the pledge by obtaining the HIRE Vets Medallion Award [Add a little bit of body text](#) the only federal-level veterans? employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development. April 30, 2026 is the HIRE Vets Medallion Program Application Deadline.

Here is a link to some helpful videos on how to access your account, post jobs, etc. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fna-MBE22WM&list=PLC7xoL4RFgn\\_EB5f2MpLkhdIOI7o3ghz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fna-MBE22WM&list=PLC7xoL4RFgn_EB5f2MpLkhdIOI7o3ghz)

Of course, should you want to contact me, please email or let's set up a time to meet (see below). Together we can strive towards better employment outcomes for our military veteran community!

Lisa D. Duckworth, SPHR

State of Utah's Local Veteran Employment Representative

[lduckworth@utah.gov](mailto:lduckworth@utah.gov) (385) 656-7587

LinkedIn profile: [linkedin.com/in/lisa-d-duckworth](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-d-duckworth)

[jobs.utah.gov](https://jobs.utah.gov)

## LEGIONNAIRE HIGHLIGHT



### **JOHN MCCLELLAN POST 76 COMMANDER TREMONTON, UT**

John McClellan exemplifies the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment both in and out of uniform. A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, John has continued his service through dedicated involvement in American Legion Post 76 in Tremonton, Utah. Known for his steady leadership and deep sense of duty to fellow veterans, John plays an active role in supporting community outreach, veteran assistance programs, and patriotic education initiatives. His steadfast example reminds us that service does not end when the uniform comes off—it simply takes on new meaning in service to others and to the community he calls home.

Thank you for your service to God, Family, and Country, John!



# 2024-2025 DISTRICT COMMANDERS



**Chris Brasted**  
**District 1 Commander**  
Area 1  
Cache, Box Elder, &  
Rich Counties



**Jon Rue**  
**District 2 Commander**  
Area 1  
Weber, Morgan, &  
Davis Counties



**Vacant**  
**District 3 Commander**  
Area 1  
Summit, Wasatch Counties  
+ SLC Post 2



**Shiela Heindel**  
**District 4 Commander**  
Area 2  
Utah & Juab Counties



**James Martin**  
**District 5 Commander**  
Area 3  
Carbon, Emery, Grand &  
San Juan Counties



**Jeff Stithem**  
**District 6 Commander**  
Area 4  
Sanpete, Sevier, Piute,  
Millard & Wayne Counties



**Tris Coleman**  
**District 7 Commander**  
Area 4  
Iron, Beaver, Washington,  
Kane & Garfield Counties



**Gene Cottrell**  
**District 8 Commander**  
Area 2  
Salt Lake & Tooele Counties  
(including SLC, less Post 2)



**Craig Carlson**  
**District 9 Commander**  
Area 3  
Duchesne, Uintah, &  
Daggett Counties

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every year, District Commanders are nominated and elected to have oversight of their district while simultaneously working with multiple posts within their district to help them be successful. The District Commander serves as a liaison between the posts in their District and the Department of Utah. In their role as a District Commander they are also charged with visiting posts, providing training for posts, answering questions, leading District meetings regularly, holding activities and events to support veterans and their families, and being engaged with local community and state functions.

District Commanders typically have two Vice Commanders. Usually, the 1st Vice Commander is responsible for membership oversight and the 2nd Vice Commander has oversight of activity and events. The District Adjutant is typically an appointed position by the District Commander and works directly with Post Adjutants in tandem with the Department Adjutant to ensure membership and financial matters are managed timely and responsibly.

For the Department of Utah, there are 9 District Commander positions. It is recommended that District Commanders have been a Legionnaire for at least 3 years in a post leadership position before becoming a District Commander. For all members, it is also recommended that the free and online basic training is completed prior to becoming a District Commander so that they have a working knowledge of The American Legion. National Legion College is also recommended for those who are in post and District leadership positions, or those who potentially would like to be in post and district leadership roles. Learn more about National Legion College at [legion.org/college](http://legion.org/college).

**For District Commander contact information, please contact your Area Commander.**



## **NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC DEPARTMENT TRAINING CHAIR**

A training calendar has been developed and submitted to the Department for 2025-2026. Please visit [utlegion.org](https://utlegion.org) and go to the Training and News tab for information. For your convenience, the training calendar is also provided here for you in this newsletter.

If you have training topics you would like to see, please notify me, which may also include training you may desire to be conducted by your Area and/or District Commanders.

Please make sure you go to <https://legion.org/alei> to take the free Basic Training course through The American Legion, even if you have taken it before as there is updated information for this particular training. In fact, I encourage you to take the this training annually.

Let's show up and learn together!

## **National American Legion College**

We would like to congratulate Kent Anderson, Department Vice Commander/Membership Chair, for being selected to attend the college in November 2025. Great job, Kent!



## **Basic Training**

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Visit [legion.org/alei](https://legion.org/alei).





2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS  
6PM VIA ZOOM

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**SEPTEMBER**

**4**

## **BUDDY CHECKS & MEMBERSHIP**

with Kent Anderson, Membership Chair &  
Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**OCTOBER**

**2**

## **VA CLAIMS**

with Terry Schow, NEC & Rick Mead,  
Department Adjutant, VSOs

**NOVEMBER**

**6**

## **AMERICANISM PROGRAMS**

with Paula Stephenson, Department  
Americanism Chair

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**

2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS  
6PM VIA ZOOM

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**DECEMBER**

**4**

## **POST & DISTRICT BYLAWS**

with Barb Beck, Department Judge Advocate

**JANUARY**

**8**

## **BE THE ONE & CHAPLAINS**

with Randy Edwards, PNVC / PDC / Dept  
Chaplain & Rick Jeppesen, Post 76,  
Tremonton, Department Be the One Chair

**FEBRUARY**

**5**

## **AUXILIARY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

with American Legion Family Leadership

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**

2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS  
6PM VIA ZOOM

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**MARCH**

**5**

**POST & DISTRICT ADJUTANTS**  
with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**APRIL**

**2**

**DIGITAL & MEDIA POWER**  
with Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC / Area 2 Commander

**MAY**

**7**

**CPR, CSR & AWARDS**  
with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**



# BE THE ONE



# BE THE ONE



## RICK JEPPESEN, POST 76 DEPARTMENT 'BE THE ONE' CHAIR



In 2023-2024 as Department Commander, Ninzel Rasmuson, started the Be the One Chair for the Department. In an effort to carry on having a Be the One Chair, Department Commander Joe Guimond appointed PDC Ninzel Rasmuson to be the Department Be the One Chair for 2024-2025. For 2025-2026, Department Commander John Robertson has appointed Rick Jeppesen from Post 76 in Tremonton. 'Be the One' is the mission for The American Legion for the purpose of veteran suicide prevention. It is safe to say that it is also for the purpose of family members and friends too. It is definitely an American Legion Family mission for the Department of Utah. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders members have taken this mission very seriously. We are making a difference.

As we forge ahead to change and save lives of veterans, please reach out to Rick Jeppesen to provide suggestions as to how we can continue to grow this important mission in Utah. Please call or text Rick at 435-282-5689.

## Resources

What's the quickest way to get help in an emergency? If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Call 988 and press 1
- Text 838255
- Visit the VA Crisis Line website at [mentalhealth.va.gov](https://mentalhealth.va.gov)

## Did you know?

According to The American Legion, today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That's more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.



At the 2024 Department Convention in Vernal, UT, Department Commander Rasmuson provided 200 Be the One **Columbia Protocol** yellow bags to members for the purpose of supporting The American Legion Be the One mission and the training efforts being provided by Columbia University.

As a member, you have direct access via your computer to attend virtual suicide prevention training. The American Legion announced online on April 9, 2024 that The American Legion partnered with Columbia University to train and educate Legion Family and community members on how to interact and respond to a veteran in crisis. The training is to support The American Legion's Be the One mission to end veteran suicide.

The training provided is the Columbia Protocol, also known as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale, that supports suicide risk assessment through a series of simple, plain-language questions that anyone can ask. The answers help users identify whether someone is at risk for suicide, assess the severity and immediacy of that risk, and gauge the level of support that the person needs.

**You can register for training at [betheone.org](https://betheone.org).**

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities.

Be the One supplies and information may also be accessed through the Department Adjutant. Send an email request to [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org).

# DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

## Jesus Makes Peace

Our message comes from Ephesians 2:11-16 + Psalm 9:1-11.

In AD 55, the Romans scored a series of victories that extended their reach north, all to what is now Scotland. But the Celtics fired back with fierce guerrilla warfare. Rome countered, and war continued. In AD 122, the Roman Emperor Hadrain built a fortified wall to separate the Romans and the Celtics. Portions of Hadrain's wall are still standing in England.

There are a lot of walls still standing today. Walls between husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends. We all need some walls to come down. The word one appears four times in today's reading, Ephesians is about being one with people. And yet when people cross our line in the sand, our response can be "You're going to pay!"

Read this next part slowly: Someone else has already paid for all our hurt and rejection. Jesus paid the price for all sin, for all people, for all time, and he did it with His own blood. One Savior, one sacrifice for all. We can stop building walls now. If any of us have created a wall and had caused a divide and built a wall, may I be the first to apologize and ask for your forgiveness. Jesus, break down my dividing walls of hostility. Amen.

If we have had any Post Everlastings this year, please inform me to add to our Department Post Everlasting Ceremonies. Thank you.

Randy D. Edwards  
Chaplain (2025-2026)  
Department of Utah  
801-224-6168





## CHILDREN & YOUTH



### **JOE GUIMOND, PDC, DEPARTMENT CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIR**

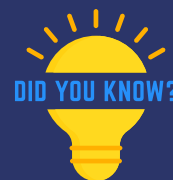
Through Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), a local Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of minor children of eligible veterans and servicemembers, when all other sources of assistance have been exhausted. Working through national headquarters, the Legion post is able to secure limited cash-grant assistance. Money for TFA comes through the American Legion Endowment Fund. For questions about TFA, please contact Joe Guimond.

Additionally, The American Legion's Children & Youth pillar's most critical issues are: child pornography, catastrophic illness, intellectual disabilities, immunization for needy children, family integrity, media violence, drug abuse, and child sexual exploitation.

Lastly, the foremost philanthropic priority of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is to provide other nonprofit organizations with grants to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation.

### **The role of the ANEC**

The ANEC supports the NEC nationally for the Department. In Utah, the ANEC is Richard Fisher. Please contact him if you have any questions.



### **Children & Youth**

The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, work with quality organizations that provide services for children and provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people. Children & Youth is one of the four pillars of The American Legion.

To learn more about what the Children & Youth pillar is, access information at [legion.org](http://legion.org).

# JUDGE ADVOCATE



## **BARB BECK** **DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE &** **DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIR**

The amended Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules for the Department of Utah was approved during the June 2025 Department Convention. If you have not received a copy, please contact the Department Adjutant at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) to request a copy.

It is encouraged to read and understand this important document that serves as a governing document for the Department of Utah.

### **Department JA Role**

The Department Judge Advocate is here to help you with questions you may have about your Constitution and Bylaws as the current C&B Chair. If you have other questions as to their role as the Department Judge Advocate, you may contact Department JA Beck at 801-866-9663 or via email at [bbeck41@comcast.net](mailto:bbeck41@comcast.net).

### **Did you know?**

In addition to the national commander and vice commanders, six national constitutional officers are appointed annually by vote of the National Executive Committee. They are the adjutant, treasurer, judge advocate, historian, chaplain and sergeant-at-arms. Officers elected by the national convention take office upon adjournment and serve until the end of the next convention.





# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



**NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC**  
**DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN**

**In a first, department-selected one-year post histories on display for attendees.**

The National History Showcase took place on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tampa Convention Center during the 106th American Legion National Convention.

Beginning with this year's national convention, as approved in Resolution 20, each Legion department was invited to submit:

- 1 one-year digital department history, judged and showcased in an online exhibit
- 1 one-year hard-copy post history, for showcase at the national convention
- 1 one-year digital post history, for showcase in an online exhibit

To give the post histories the widest possible audience, the showcase highlighted those selected by their departments to participate. In addition to the hard-copy books on display, departments were invited to choose a digital post history for display in an online showcase. These entries were either winners in their department contest or histories the department historian felt were deserving of national recognition. Only submissions certified by a department adjutant were included in the showcase.

Since many departments host their own contests for post histories, only department histories will be judged at the national level going forward. The results of the 2025 Department History Contest were announced by 2024-2025 National Historian Jennifer Laux during the showcase and posted to the contest and showcase website. During the event, Laux reviewed all the post histories and selected the history of Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117 (Palm Bay, Fla.) by Dana Jackson for a special "Historian's Choice" certificate.

The American Legion 2025 National History Contest and Showcase received:

- 6 digital department histories
- 9 hard-copy post histories
- 8 digital post histories

Visit the 2025 National History Contest and Showcase [website](#), where digital department contest results can be found and all digital entries can be viewed. Check out [legion.org/nadhal/forms/oneyearnarrative](https://legion.org/nadhal/forms/oneyearnarrative) to learn the rules of writing a 1-year narrative for submission nationally, and more importantly, to have an accurate record for your post.



## MARTI BIGBIE, PDC, AREA 4 COMMANDER & DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

If you have questions about the Department 2025-2026 budget, please contact me or Department Treasurer, Gene Cottrell. The Finance Committee consists of five members and reports are provided during DEC meetings for the Department.



Ask about donations you can make to the Department to help veterans and their families in Utah. There are many great programs.

[utlegion.org](http://utlegion.org)

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of 5 members for the Department and they each serve 5-year terms. Currently, the Finance Committee includes Marti Bigbie, Finance Committee Chair, Hayes Stromness, Richard Fisher, Ninzel Rasmuson, and Becki Knepper. The budget is managed by Gene Cottrell, Department Treasurer, and he works directly with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant and the Finance Committee.

## Did you know?

Short-term: With a financial plan, you typically track your progress on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. With a budget, you record your income and expenses on a weekly or monthly basis. Generally, the closer you stick to your budget, the more progress you will make on your financial plan.

The Department Treasurer developed and submitted a 2025-2026 budget and shared it with the Department Adjutant, Finance Committee and the DEC. Membership and fundraising for the Department are important for continued growth.

# TREASURER



## GENE COTTRELL, POST 17 COMMANDER, DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER & DEPARTMENT TREASURER

During the 2025 Department Convention, the 2025-2026 budget was provided to the Finance Committee for review and approval. The budget is a continual work in progress and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Let's have a great year!



### Did you know?

Annual budgets act as benchmarks against which an individual or company can measure progress and as tools to help better manage money. Budgets can be in balance (expenditures = revenues), in deficit (expenditures exceed revenues), or in surplus (revenues exceed expenditures).

### Department Fundraising

Through membership efforts and fundraisers, we will continue to make a difference in our Department. It is recommended when it comes to raising funds for a nonprofit to consider the four P's.

Have you ever heard of the four P's? The P's are:

**Passion**  
**Persistence**  
**Philanthropy**  
**People-Focused**

If you have passion, people will listen and believe.

Let's have a great year as we share our passion for The American Legion!





## UTAH BOYS STATE

A once in a lifetime opportunity that will change your life.

Big things are happening, your staff are working at full speed ahead, don't spare the horsepower, burning the candle at both ends etc., they shouldn't be expected to do it all on their own. It's your program and we need you to get involved, get smart about the program, motivate your fellow Legionnaires to get into your schools and be prepared to sell civics education and engagement, leadership, character building and all the other great attributes of your program. Boys State is so much more, more than is ever expected, it's transformative not only for the young men that take part but equally important the volunteers that participate.

*"By its very definition, civic responsibility means taking a healthy role in the life of one's community. That means that classroom lessons should be complemented by work outside the classroom. Service-learning does just that, tying community service to academic learning." – John Glenn, astronaut and senator.*



Many Posts are receiving reports from the young men they sponsored this year. A common theme is the amazement of how quickly the boy's bond with complete strangers. Everyone will tell you Boys State isn't anything like they expected, and they learned more in this one week than an entire semester in school.

It's a super fun way to learn and gain self-confidence. Many have never really spent any time with veterans, and the experience with veterans is a highlight in their young lives. They all agree the week is well worth it, "the best week of my life".

Our website, [utahboysstate.org](http://utahboysstate.org) is undergoing a face lift so check periodically for good information. One highlight you'll see is our activation of a functioning UBS alumni under the umbrella of the UBS Foundation. First salvo "Founders 250" in celebration and recognition of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We'll soon be sending out information to all the current and past UBS alumni, staff and counselors that we have email addresses to encourage joining the alumni community, there are great things in store, more to follow.

- The class of 2026 is scheduled to start on June 7 and graduate on June 13, 2026.
- The application portal will open on February 1, 2026, and close on April 15, 2026.
- If the application is completed on time, with check or money order the cost will be \$475.00, if paid electronically the cost is \$490.00.
- If any deadlines are missed and/or a student wants late entry the cost will be increased with a late fee of \$125.00.
- If you have the funds and willingness, please donate, it's a very worthwhile cause.  
[www.utahboysstate.org/ubs-foundation/](http://www.utahboysstate.org/ubs-foundation/) **HELP WANTED!**
- Email [ubs@utahboysstate.org](mailto:ubs@utahboysstate.org) Thanks for your service. Team Boys State





## DEPARTMENT OF UTAH AMERICANISM PROGRAMS 2025-2026

### AMERICAN LEGION UTAH BOYS STATE

Douglas Case, President/Chairman

Cell: (385) 222-6057

Email: [utahboysstate@utlegion.org](mailto:utahboysstate@utlegion.org)

Website: [www.utahboysstate.org](http://www.utahboysstate.org)  
(information/Student Registration)

**Class of 2026: June 7-13, 2026**

**at Weber State University (WSU)**

**Scholarships at Graduation: \$500 to \$10,000**

**WSU offers to 2025 Boys State graduates =  
\$2.25 million**

### AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL (U.S. Constitution) CONTEST

Becki Knepper, Chairman

Cell: (712) 574-9900

Email: [becki\\_knepper@hotmail.com](mailto:becki_knepper@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical)

**Post Contests in January 2026**

**District Contests in February 2026**

**Department Contest: March 21, 2026**

**Scholarships: Dept level: \$750-\$1,500  
National level: \$2,000-\$25,000**

### AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

Major Kit Workman, Chairman

Cell: (801) 540-6464

Email: [kworkman1@aol.com](mailto:kworkman1@aol.com)

Website: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) > GET INVOLVED > YOUTH PROGRAMS > JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

**Competition Schedule: September 1, 2025 to  
July 26, 2026**

**Scholarships: \$500 to \$5,000**

### AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

John Decker, Chairman

Cell: (801) 628-5329

Email: [6decker@gmail.com](mailto:6decker@gmail.com)

Nation website: [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

**Steve Hansen, Baseball Commissioner  
(sign up teams)**

Email: [utlegionbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:utlegionbaseball@gmail.com)

**Online registration opens January 1, 2026**

**Closes June 1, 2026**

**Scholarships: \$500 to \$5,000**

### SCOUTING AMERICA

Gene Cottrell, Chairman

Cell: (435) 830-9518

Email: [genecottrell1967@gmail.com](mailto:genecottrell1967@gmail.com)

National website: [www.legion.org/scouting](http://www.legion.org/scouting)

**Eagle Scout of the Year Applications due March 1,  
2026 to Utah Department Adjutant  
Application download from National website  
Scholarships: \$500 to \$10,000**

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Joseph Guimond, Chairman

Cell: (801) 541-9952/Department HQ: (801) 539-1013

Email: [jguimond1963@gmail.com](mailto:jguimond1963@gmail.com)

**Website: [www.legion.org/tfa](http://www.legion.org/tfa) for Temporary  
Financial Assistance information**

# UTAH BOYS STATE FOUNDATION



**NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC**  
**UTAH BOYS STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &**  
**UTAH BOYS STATE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**

The Utah Boys State Foundation is working on putting together a Boys State Alumni group! Additionally, the Board is putting together information for you to share with your family, friends, and community partners and members to help us raise funds to support the citizens who attend Utah Boys State each year. You can look forward to more information being introduced and provided to you soon. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at [ubsf@utahboysstate.org](mailto:ubsf@utahboysstate.org) and/or 385-900-3124.



## Did you know?

Registration for Utah Boys State is from February 1 – April 15, 2026 and the cost is \$475 per student this coming year. If you have questions, please contact Doug Case, President, Utah Boys State.

## You Can Help Us

Finding donors begins with clearly defining your organization's mission and identifying who is most likely to connect with your cause. Start by researching individuals, corporations, and foundations whose values align with your work. Build relationships through networking events, community engagement, and personalized outreach rather than one-time asks. Use tools like donor databases, social media, and local business directories to locate potential supporters. Finally, communicate the impact of Utah Boys State through compelling stories and transparency about how donations make a difference—people give to people and missions they trust.





Oratorical  
Contest



## "A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

*Over \$203,000 in National American Legion Scholarships*



SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE





## **Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and goodwill on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of  
The American Legion (Auxiliary Only);

to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

### **CALL TO ACTION!**



Challenging every Legionnaire and Auxiliary member to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion with a goal to have it completely memorized by the end of this year.

*You got  
this!*



## THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO

Some of the following pages show the amazing amount of service posts do as “Blue Hatters” in their communities. The posts who provided submissions are examples of what we know is happening throughout the Department. As a Department, we are grateful to every member’s commitment to the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. Keep up the great work and know that we “Thank You For Everything You Do!”



# UTAH AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARDS



## HONORED TO SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Throughout the State of Utah, hundreds of Legionnaires render Color Guard ceremonies, funeral detail services, and more as members of their post as American Legion Honor Guard members. It is an honor and privilege to provide this support and service to veterans families when they lose a loved one. Services are provided regardless of rain, snow, or shine. Families may request services from their local posts. Please contact the Department Adjutant at [adjutant.utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant.utlegion.org) for more contact information about Honor Guards in Utah.



Legionnaires, Post 1, Nephi



Honoring Our Honor Guards, 5/2024

## Resources

Visit the website below to share your Honor Guard stories on LegionTown USA.

<https://www.legion.org/honor/honorguards>



## Let Us Know!

Tell us about the services you provide as Color Guards, Funeral Detail, etc. We want to know more about what you are doing in your communities to serve. Send submissions to [ninzel9@gmail.com](mailto:ninzel9@gmail.com). Thanks!



Post 140, Riverton, 2023



## Post 11, Vernal

Private First Class Setarra Roberts from Vernal recently graduated Army Basic Training. Local American Legion, Witbeck-Gardner Post 11 Commander Craig Carlson attended her graduation ceremony held in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Commander Carlson presented her with a Certificate of Commendation recognizing her "Commitment to serving the United States Armed Forces in the name of Freedom and Democracy and for courageously protecting our Liberty and Independence.

PFC Roberts was also a member of the Civil Air Patrol "Squadron 117 Knighthawks" for 4 years prior to enlisting where she obtained the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant.

Post 11 SGT at ARMS, Tim Dirzuweit, who holds the rank of 1st Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol and is the AeroSpace Education Officer was instrumental in teaching her many subjects in the AeroSpace program ranging from airplanes to asteroids. PFC Roberts was also the Captain of the Color Guard where she led her team to a 2nd place win at a Regional Color Guard Competition and at that time was the only "ALL" female Color Guard Team in the state.

Congratulations PFC Roberts for a job well done!



PFC Setarra Roberts and Craig Carlson, Post 11 Commander  
October 2025







## Post 58, Smithfield

### Monthly Meetings Are More Than a Meeting

I had the opportunity to visit Post 58 Smithfield for their October meeting and I was able to witness something extraordinary. They started off with discussing their post business and it was really informative with good discussions on important matters that they were able to knock out in about half an hour. I can say that some local high school students are in for a special treat come Veterans Day. After their business was finished, they evolved into a beautiful reminder of why membership matters, why an organization like the American Legion should hold high value in a veteran's life. Why a monthly meeting is more than just a meeting.

They evolved straight into the ultimate "Buddy Check" as they started updating one another about their friends who are also members of the post and included updates on family members. Naturally talking about others is going to turn into storytelling that gets sidetracked into more stories. Before you know it, you're listening intently and reminiscing about your own experiences which gets you involved with the conversations as differences and relatable things are mentioned regardless of service branch. More important, the shared laughter. They do circle back to express sympathy and concern for their buddies.

Phone calls are important in doing buddy checks but to be able to see one another eye to eye brings out the best of us in showing that when we are asking about someone's well-being, we mean it. Empathy is something that we can't hide and that is going to make someone more open to sharing what's going on in their personal lives. As post holds meetings, activities, and events, we are going to develop a special bond with one another, much like when we served with our units. And just like the people you served with, fellow Legionnaires become close enough to feel like family who we truly care for.

The members of Post 58 show an unbreakable bond that should make any member look forward to the next meeting. Not just for the business but the camaraderie. For each other's well-being. Post Adjutant Tom Hundshamer told me that those guys usually meet up for morning coffee each day but it takes showing up to the first meeting to meet your new friends/family members.

That is why a meeting is more than a meeting. A provided place to call home with understanding and caring people.

Chris Brasted  
District 1 Commander



## Post 134, Clearfield



### So Costly a Sacrifice

Love of history brings Borgstrom family to Post 134

Merrilee Gardner, Deborah Borgstrom, Nathan Keoppel, Jennifer Nelson and  
Commander John McClellan Post 76 Tremonton

On Tuesday, October 21, 2025, Clearfield Post 134 welcomed members of the Borgstrom family, Nathan Keoppel, and members of the Legion family. The special occasion was a surprise presentation of their book, "So Costly a Sacrifice" by Mark Hutson to Nathan from the Borgstrom family.

Nathan was sponsored to Boys State by Post 134; while at Boys State he heard a summary of the book, So Costly a Sacrifice, the story of a **four-gold star** family from the Tremonton area and expressed his interest to one of his city counselors, John McClellan. As fate would have it John had known the family for years. John reached out to the Borgstrom's who donated a signed copy of the book for presentation and agreed to take part in the presentation.

While at Boys State, Aerts City, Nathan

was elected as a state senator where he enjoyed the legislative process. He has been offered a scholarship valued at \$14,000 from Weber State University.

As posted on Amazon. "So Costly a Sacrifice, the true story of one family's enormous sacrifice during WWII. Hutson uses Gunda Borgstrom's own words, as well as correspondence from military commanders and President Roosevelt himself to piece together the astounding, heartbreaking journey of bringing Gunda's sons' home."

On hand representing The American Legion family, Department Commander John Robertson Post 79, PNVC Paula Stephenson Post 27, District 1 Commander Chris Brasted Post 76, members of Posts 11, 76, 79 and 134.



## Area 4, District 6 & 7

NOVEMBER 7th UNITE Conference (Southern Utah's Annual Veterans Conference) 10-2pm Best Western Abbey Inn, St George Utah Veteran Entrepreneur Networking Dinner & Event, 6-9 pm, Crush Golf + Grill, 1108 W Black Mountain Dr, St George

NOVEMBER 8th Post 36 Salina 7-11am Fund Raiser at Veterans Memorial Park, Salina, Public Invited

NOVEMBER 11th 9am 14th **SunRiver Veterans Honor Park** for 2025 Veterans Day Service - bring own chair Guest Speaker Erin Cafaero - 2-time Olympic Gold Medalist

11:00 Washington City for Veterans Parade

1:00 Veterans Day Program at Utah Tech

2:30 Hope in America (Art and music by students of Bloomington Hills Elementary) 919 E Brigham Rd, St George

**Post 4** Mt Pleasant Three Volley Salute, 1030am Fairview Cemetery, 1100am Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 1130am Spring City Veterans Memorial

Thanksgiving Potluck, 1800pm Fairview Senior Center

**Post 100** Hurricane Monthly meetings 6pm potluck dinner

**Post 31** Manti Post members to go to Junior and High School for presentations. Fundraiser also to raise funds for projects

**Post 81** Minersville Will and Chelsea Thompson along with Minersville Elementary School putting on Veterans Day Program at school

**Post 18** Tropic Cannon program at High School

**Post 16** Milford Lunch at Senior Center with VFW

**Post 32** Beaver Honor Guard goes to High School so students can shake a Veterans Hand, and the City provides lunch. Also go to Middle School program

**Post 74** Cedar City 10am program at Veterans Park

**Post 25** Panguitch Commander Mack and wife are providing dinner for Veterans

**Post 120** Orderville will be doing something

**Post 114** Escalante putting flags on Veterans graves and give salute put up 10th and take down 14th

NOVEMBER 13th **Southern Utah Veterans Home** - honoring students who are in the scholarship program and fundraiser. Open to public

NOVEMBER 15th **Veterans Day Car Show**, 10-3pm at Southern Utah Veterans Home Ivins. Utah Cold War Victory Medals will be given to Veterans

**Post 4** Mt Pleasant 2025 North Sanpete Veteran Memorial Fundraiser, Auction, Dance, Band, Food and much more 1800pm Contoy Arena, Mt Pleasant





## Area 4, District 6 & 7

NOVEMBER 20th **Veterans Day Luncheon** at Grafton Building at Legacy Park, 339 5500 W Hurricane. Luncheon is \$25. Veterans free but must have a ticket  
Doors open at 10 and lunch starts at 11:15am. come and see the displays

NOVEMBER 27th **Post 74** Cedar City provides free Thanksgiving dinner for Veterans and homeless  
Post 25 Panguitch provide dinner for Veterans and visitors

DECEMBER 7th **St George Pearl Harbor celebration** at Tonaquint Cemetery

DECEMBER 10th **Post 100** Hurricane Monthly meetings 6pm potluck dinner

### DECEMBER 13th **Wreaths Across America**

**Post 32** Beaver Place wreath at monument

**Post 74** Cedar City Lay wreath at monument

**Post 120** Orderville place wreaths on graves

**Post 90/142** St George/SunRiver Ritual Team part of program, salute/rifles

**Post 142** SunRiver Marti to speak and lay wreath for Space Force

**Post 114** Escalante help city and provide gun salute

DECEMBER 16th **Post 4** Mt Pleasant Christmas Dinner 1800pm Spring City Community Center

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

**Post 74** Cedar City Post meeting potluck dinner

**Post 81** Minersville Post Christmas Dinner place TBD

**Post 25** Panguitch provide items for Christmas packages



## Post 14, Park City

What a great meet up at Boneyard Saloon October 18, 2025. Thanks to our VIP's Area 1 Commander Bob Jones, Department Adjutant/VSO Richard Mead and Dept. Vice Commander Kent Anderson, who installed Shelby Hladon as Post Commander 2025-2026.

Congratulations and Bravo Zulu! Pictured as well is Jonathan Kolon DDS, who was reappointed as Adjutant.



L to R: Area 1 Commander, Bob Jones, Jonathan Kolon, Adjutant, Shelby Hladon, Post Commander 2025-2026, Rick Mead, Department Adjutant, & Kent Anderson, Department Vice Commander

## CALL TO ACTION!

Challenging every Post, District, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter to share at least one event they are involved in during the membership year and submit to this Department Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is communicate better and to show the State of Utah the great work and service we do as “Blue Hatters” and as an American Legion Family. At the heart of every member is the “Blue Hatter” who serves tirelessly to make a difference for veterans, families, community, state, and Nation.

As a reminder, all submissions are to be submitted to Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC / Department Newsletter Editor (ninzel9@gmail.com). When you include photos, please select 1-3 of your favorite photos (png or jpeg format only) that tell the story. Content should include at least one paragraph.

Thank you for your support!

*You got  
this!*

# LEGIONNAIRE CREATIVE ARTISTS

## Kent Hansen's Cartoons

For those who have read the Department newsletter for the past decade or so, the cartoons of Kent Hansen have been resident in each issue. The Blue Hatter now continues this tradition. Kent's first paid cartooning job came when he was 15 years old and illustrated a promotional coloring book for a petroleum company.

Throughout his 22-year Navy career, he maintained his strip, **Seabats**, in a variety of publications from Vietnam to the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea. His cartoons have also been featured in a variety of publications in multiple countries, including the U.S. Navy's **All Hands** magazine and **Pacific Stars and Stripes**.



After joining the Legion and taking over the editorship of the Post 27 newsletter, his **Legion Laffs** cartoons began to appear there as well. When the Department began publishing a newsletter, Kent's cartoons were there, too. In 2017, at the National American Legion Convention in Reno, NV, Kent was awarded first place in the graphic arts division of the Legion Media Contest.

"I've got two main reasons for drawing these cartoons," he explained. "First, I hope I can induce a chuckle or two from the readers, and second: I love to draw and I love to laugh! Cartoons just seem like the right place for me. I just hope you enjoy them." -Kent Hansen, cartoonist



HA HA HA

HA HA HA



## *The Cost Of Freedom*

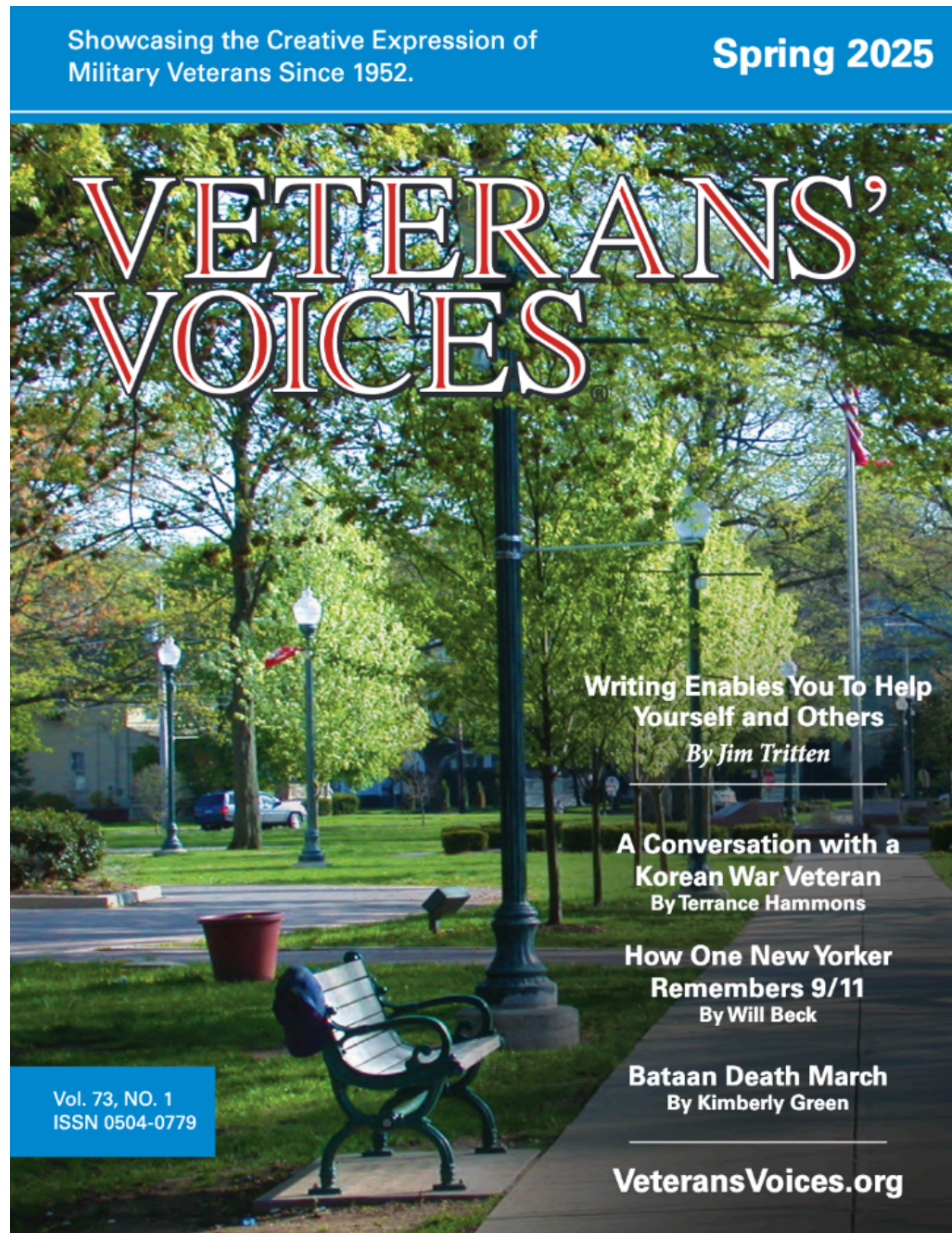
*He died serving our country,  
in a land far away.  
He gave his life for freedom.  
They buried him today.*

*He loved family more than life,  
and had to do what's right.  
To protect them and his country,  
he joined in the fight.*

*Next time you see a soldier,  
don't just pass him by.  
Thank him for his service.  
He might be next to die.*

*How great the cost of freedom.  
How brave those who defend.  
Protect them Lord, that they may  
safely come back home again.*

Ron Tranmer  
Post 140, Riverton  
United States Marine Corps



The Mission of the Veterans Voices Writing Project is to enable military veterans to experience solace and satisfaction through our writing program. Our Vision is a world where people appreciate that writing can both heal and entertain.

Writing and graphic arts can help veterans process thoughts, feelings, and ideas they otherwise keep hidden, sometimes masking PTSD. Seeing their writing and art published in Veterans' Voices magazine builds self-esteem and helps heal.

Visit us at <https://veteranvoices.org>



# An Opportunity to Help the Veterans in need who have served our Country

## An American Legion Family Christmas Project

Financial Donations are needed

Donations can be made  
through Venmo.



Additional questions regarding donations  
contact Judy at [judy.daybell50@gmail.com](mailto:judy.daybell50@gmail.com)



Gift Shop is an American Legion Auxiliary program that allows veterans to select Christmas gifts for veterans in need for themselves and 4 family members at no cost. Last year 333 veterans selected over 900 gifts valued at over \$30,000 that were purchased with donations from the Legion family, community and individuals. This year will mark over 50 years since this program was started at the VA Hospital. This project currently is conducted at Christoffersen Veterans home, Southern Utah Veterans home and the VA Hospital.

Financial donations are needed again this year.  
Money can be sent to the Auxiliary Department office as well as via Venmo.

This is an opportunity for Legion posts to serve veterans in need. If you have questions about donations (including venmo payments) or volunteering, please contact Judy Daybell, Auxiliary gift shop program co- chairman. Email [-Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com](mailto:-Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com)





AMERICAN  
LEGION  
**BE**  
**THE**  
**ONE**

## INTRODUCING BILL CLANCY III 2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMANDER SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A member of the Detachment of New York has been elected as 2025-2026 Sons of The American Legion national commander. William "Bill" Clancy III was elected by delegates to the organization's national convention in Tampa, FL.

During his remarks to convention delegates, he set out his goals for an organization that this year surpassed 400,000 members to set an all-time membership record. And he stressed achieving them would be a team effort.

"...I think about we, the Sons of The American Legion ... as a part of the American Legion Family. Four-hundred thousand strong and growing somewhat fast. We, the Sons of The American Legion, as a prominent social force for good, promoting every and all principles laid out in The American Legion Preamble."

Join today!

### Did You Know?

#### Eligibility Requirements

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the **Sons of The American Legion**.

\* Membership applications can be delivered to an [American Legion Post near you](#). There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron. If not, someone at the Post should be able to tell you where to find a Squadron near you. You can always contact [SAL National Headquarters](#) for information about finding a nearby Squadron.



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Sons of the Legion 2025 had membership challenges in the Detachment of Utah. We were at the bottom of membership at the National level. I was out of the country for a month in May and June so I will take part in the responsibility for the low membership. This year we as a Detachment have met all our goals so far so let us keep up with this trend. I am going to try and visit all the Squadrons in the State this year, but I will need your help. If all the active Squadrons could send me the following info, I will update the Detachment Information. We need the Squadron Officers' names and contact information, mailing address for the Squadron, date, place, and time of your meeting.

The Detachment is without an Adjutant. This is a volunteer position so if anyone is interested in this job let me know. I hope all Squadrons are doing online memberships. If you still send your memberships to the Detachment Adjt. Please forward these to 1st Vice Ross King who oversees membership. If you have ideas for events or fundraising contact 2nd Vice Robert Gunn. All other concerns can be directed at me. I have a few Squadron Handbooks and membership pamphlets that I can deliver all I need is contact and mailing information.

This will be a good year if we all work together and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible this year. You can contact Ross King at: [rossking73@gmail.com](mailto:rossking73@gmail.com) and Robert Gunn at: [gunnrobert05@gmail.com](mailto:gunnrobert05@gmail.com). My email is: [jemcdonnell68@gmail.com](mailto:jemcdonnell68@gmail.com) and phone number 801-631-2020.

Thank you for your attention.  
John E McDonnell  
Detachment Commander

## SAL DETACHMENT OFFICERS

Joe Guimond  
NEC

John McDonnell  
Detachment Commander

Ross King  
Detachment 1st Vice Commander

Robert Gunn  
Detachment 2nd Vice Commander

Vacant  
Detachment Adjutant

## SAL Membership

The Detachment of Utah is looking forward to a fun and eventful year for the 2025-2026 membership year.

If you have questions about SAL membership, please contact John McDonnell, Detachment Commander.

**Sign  
UP**



# **2025 - 2026 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES**

---

<b>SEPTEMBER 10, 2025</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>OCTOBER 15, 2025</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 13, 2025</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>DECEMBER 10, 2025</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>JANUARY 14, 2026</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 11, 2026</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>MARCH 11, 2026</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>APRIL 8, 2026</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>MAY 13, 2026</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>** JULY 29, 2026</b>	<b>105%</b>

**\*\* DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE -  
30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION**





**2025 - 2026**  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**  
**SCHEDULE**

---

**CUT-OFF DATE**

**RENEWAL MAIL DATE**

**1<sup>st</sup> NOTICE:**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

SEPT 27 - OCT 3, 2025

**2<sup>nd</sup> NOTICE:**

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

FEB 21 - 28, 2026

**3<sup>rd</sup> NOTICE:**

APRIL 8, 2026

APRIL 25 - 30, 2026



## **Preamble to the SAL National Constitution**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of Veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;

to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses;

to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands;

and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

## **CALL TO ACTION!**



Challenging every SAL member to memorize the Preamble to the SAL National Constitution with a goal to have it completely memorized by the end of this year.

*You got  
this!*

# 2nd Annual Christmas Carol Service

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with us as we sing Christmas carols,  
enjoy treats, and bringing Christmas cheer to Utah's veterans!  
Plus, our special guest this year is Nathan Osmond!



Friday  
December 19, 2025  
6:30pm



William E. Christoffersen  
Salt Lake Veterans Home  
700 Foothill Drive  
VA SLC Campus

Questions?  
Contact Ninzel Rasmuson or Frank Coley







## JOHN SHEPHERD AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR

### Eligibility requirements:

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.
- All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

### Riders Director Contact

John Shepherd,  
American Legion  
Riders Director  
801-360-6373



### Chapter Membership

The American Legion Riders are looking forward to a fun and eventful year for the 2025-2026 membership year!

If you have questions about chapter membership, please contact your local post to learn of where the closest chapter is to participate.



## FEATURED NONPROFIT

### NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER



"We welcome members of the Armed Forces and Veterans from every era to participate in ANY of our programs. These programs provide recreational, rehabilitative, and therapeutic programs to service members, including ongoing lessons, specialized camps, and more.

In most cases, service members are provided access to all National Ability Center recreation and adventure programs at **no cost**, with scholarships being available for accompanying family members."

Learn more at <https://discovernac.org/programs/military/>





Department of Utah  
Wishes You A

Merry  
Christmas

and Happy 2026 New Year!





# LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

## **CONTEST TIME!**

### **Where can you take Basic Training for The American Legion?**

First email received at ninzel9@gmail.com with the answer in the Subject Line **AND** proof of your Basic Training Certificate attached wins a prize! Basic Training must be taken after July 1, 2025. Don't forget to include your name, post number and mailing address! All Legionnaires are eligible to play!



Please send all submissions, corrections, and suggestions to Ninzel Rasmuson, Editor, Department newsletter for the "Blue Hatter" to ninzel9@gmail.com. Should you need to speak by phone, please send me a text message at 385-900-3124 and I will contact you as soon as possible.

If sending photos with submissions, please include 1-3 photos in .jpeg or .png format.

Content and photos submissions are subject to editor discretion and consideration for input into the newsletter.

Please be timely with your submissions as it takes time to complete the newsletter.

All leadership, feel free to share the newsletter among community members and partners. Please ensure all members of your posts and districts are receiving the newsletter as there is important information for all members. I suggest you print one copy to be passed around for viewing during your meetings. Thank you for your help and support!

For God & Country,

Editor, Blue Hatter  
Department of Utah

# BE THE ONE

## **Submission Deadlines and Newsletter Distribution**

### **Submission Deadline**

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Friday, October 24, 2025

Friday, December 19, 2025

Friday, February 20, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026

### **Newsletter Distribution**

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Thursday, May 5, 2026