



BLUE HATTER



Department of Utah
Department Newsletter

March 2026

BLUE HATTER



Table of Contents

Title Page	3
National Commander Visit	4-6
America250	7-8
Department News	9
Department Commander	10
Department Vice Commander	11
Membership Results	12-14
Department Area Commanders	15-26
District Commanders	27-28
Department Adjutant	29-40
National Executive Committeeman	41-44
Veteran Service Officers	45
Department Chaplain	46-47
Be the One	48-49
Be the One SAL / Riders Event	50
Americanism	51-59
Department Training	60
The Four Pillars	61
Post & District Happenings	62-68
LastLaugh	69
Next Submission Due	69
District Spring Convention Dates	69



BLUE HATTER



HAPPY 107TH BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION



Happy Birthday to The American Legion

For over a century, you have stood strong in service to veterans, families, and communities across this great nation. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to patriotism, mentorship, and “Be the One” support for those who have worn the uniform.

Here’s to another year of honoring service, strengthening America, and changing lives, one veteran at a time.

Department Progress

Across the Department, our Posts continue to demonstrate the strength and relevance of The American Legion through meaningful service and measurable impact. From expanded Buddy Check outreach and VA claims assistance to hundreds of volunteer hours supporting hospitalized veterans, our commitment to “Be the One” remains steadfast.

Department-wide, our Americanism programs, including Boys State, the Oratorical Contest, and scholarship opportunities, are preparing the next generation of civic leaders while reinforcing our mission of patriotism and constitutional education. Our members have also engaged in legislative advocacy at the state level, ensuring that the voices of Utah’s veterans and military families are heard.

With continued focus on membership growth, leadership development through Legion College, and strategic Post revitalization efforts, the Department remains united in purpose and forward-looking in action. Together, we are strengthening Posts, serving veterans and families, and advancing The American Legion’s mission across our great state.

Post Everlasting

In February, we paused in solemn remembrance of our comrades who have entered Post Everlasting. Their faithful service to God and Country, their dedication to fellow veterans, and their commitment to our communities will never be forgotten. Though their chairs may now be empty, their legacy lives on in the work we continue each day. We honor their memory by recommitting ourselves to the mission they upheld and by supporting the families they leave behind.

As we reflect on their lives, we are reminded that The American Legion is more than an organization, it is a lifelong bond of service and brotherhood. May we carry forward their example of courage, integrity, and compassion, ensuring that their sacrifice and commitment continue to inspire the next generation of Legionnaires.



THANK YOU NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN K. WILEY



*In February 2026, we welcomed and enjoyed visits
with National Commander Wiley. National
Commander Wiley is from Department of Kansas.*

*Thank you for visiting our Department!
We wish you well as you continue to travel while
supporting veterans and their families.*

Department of Utah



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Strengthening America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

Dan K. Wiley
National Commander
The American Legion
2025-2026

Dan K. Wiley was elected national commander of the country's largest veterans organization on August 28, 2025, in Tampa, Fla., during The American Legion's 106th national convention.

An Air Force veteran, Wiley is a retired state district court judge. He raises cattle in Leavenworth, Kan. Following his Air Force service, Wiley obtained a bachelor's degree in business at the College of Great Falls in Montana. He returned to his hometown of Lawrence, Kan., and earned a law degree at the University of Kansas.

Wiley has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state) and national levels. He is a paid-up-for-life member of Byron H. Mehl American Legion Post 23 in Leavenworth and is a past department commander of the Kansas American Legion. He also represented the state as a member of The American Legion's National Executive Committee.

Appointed by the Kansas governor as a district court judge in 2008, Wiley helped establish and preside over the Leavenworth County Veterans Treatment Court. He has been active in his community and is a past president of the Leavenworth / Lansing Chamber of Commerce, a past chairman of the Leavenworth County Veterans Day Parade Committee and a former member of the Unified School District 453 School Board.

As national commander, Wiley is a strong advocate for The American Legion's "Be the One" outreach mission to prevent veteran suicide. He emphasizes inclusivity in The American Legion Family through the theme, "better together!"

Wiley and his wife, Sonia, have two children, Austin and Christy, and one grandson. Dan and his son, Austin Wiley, are charter members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 36 in Oskaloosa, Kansas. Sonia and Christy are members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

#####

NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN WILEY

NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN WILEY

2026



Korean War Honoree Event, Provo



Korean War Honoree Event, Provo



Korean War Honoree Event, Provo



Meeting with VA & Other Agencies



National Commander Banquet



Tremonton



Tremonton Breakfast



Posy-76, Tremonton

Honoring and Engaging Utah's Veterans

Utah's veterans, first-responders, and military families carry a powerful legacy of service and leadership that has strengthened our nation for generations. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, America250 Utah invites veterans, their families, and service organizations to participate through local engagement, service, and storytelling.

PROMOTE, PLAN, AND COLLABORATE with America250 Utah

- Aligning with the anniversary demonstrates a message of unity and engagement across the state. **Download a [special America250 Utah logo and branding guide](#)** to add to your programming and materials.
- **Integrate America250 Utah themes** into member-recognition programs, dedications, banquets, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and other events.
- **Check out our [organization toolkit](#)** with resources to tell members about the anniversary.
- Share your organization's programming on [America250 Utah's events](#).



CONNECT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

- Individuals and organizations are invited to **collaborate with their [city or county's Utah250 committee](#)** to support events, ceremonies, parades, service projects, and locally-led 250th programming.
- **Organize** flag ceremonies, honor guard presentations, military history lectures, film nights, speaking or intergenerational story-sharing events, or care package drives with civic groups, schools, libraries or youth organizations.
- **Host or attend [America's Potluck](#)** on July 5, 2026. Gatherings are an opportunity to join together, share a communal meal, and connect veterans within and across communities.

TELL YOUR STORY

- **Share your [story of service](#)** with America250 Utah to honor and celebrate Utah's veteran, first-responder, and military member legacy.
- **Nominate** someone within your ranks to share their experiences through [Our American Story](#), a national initiative to preserve the voices of everyday Americans.

RECOGNIZE, TRACK, AND PLEDGE SERVICE IN 2026

- Veterans and military members already make significant contributions to their communities and country. **Recognize their achievements** with the [America250 Utah Service Certificate](#).
- **Pledge** a commitment of volunteer hours and join a nationwide movement of service in 2026, [America Gives](#). Organizations and individual service members are invited to register. Let's make 2026 a record-setting year!
- **Track and highlight actions of engagement** and unity within local chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, United Service Organizations, Blue Star Families, and other support organizations in an organization email or social media.



Learn More & Get Involved

Join in the celebration
[@america250utah](#)



[> america250.utah.gov](#)

AMERICA  UTAH



Utah Department of
**Cultural & Community
Engagement**

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES



Department Announcements

Department encourages all Posts to participate in their upcoming Spring District Conventions. These meetings are an important opportunity to review progress, strengthen communication between Posts and District leadership, share best practices, and prepare for Department Convention. Elections, resolutions, membership updates, and program reports will be key agenda items. Your attendance ensures your Post has a voice and remains informed as we continue advancing our mission to serve veterans, families, and communities across Utah. Please coordinate with your District Commander for dates, locations, and delegate information.

Legislative Updates

The 2026 Utah Legislative Session is underway and will run from January 20 through March 6, 2026 as lawmakers work through a six-week, 45-day agenda at the State Capitol in Salt Lake City. This year's session includes hundreds of bills spanning key policy areas such as budget and tax cuts, housing affordability, education, judicial transparency, and conservation efforts for the Great Salt Lake. Governor Spencer Cox has already signed the first round of bills into law, including measures affecting the state judiciary and court expansion. Lawmakers continue to deliberate education reforms, public safety, property tax proposals, voter registration changes, and other issues that could have lasting impacts on Utah communities, including for veterans and their families. Go to legion.org/action for more information.

Utah Legion College

Utah Legion College is currently being built from the ground up by the Department Training Committee with a clear vision: to create a structured, sustainable leadership pathway for the Department of Utah and others who are interested. We are actively developing curriculum, application standards, graduation requirements, and capstone expectations to ensure the program delivers practical tools for Post, District, and Department leaders, as well as for opportunities for other American Legion Family auxiliaries. This intentional, collaborative process reflects our commitment to strengthening nonprofit governance, operational excellence, and mission impact across Utah. We are excited about the foundation being laid and the long-term leadership capacity this program will create for generations of Legionnaires to come. -Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC, Dean Utah Legion College





Department Commander Message



As we step into a new year, I want to thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to The American Legion and to the veterans, families, and communities we serve across Utah. The strength of our Department is not found in titles or buildings, but in the dedicated men and women at the Post level who show up, serve faithfully, and lead with purpose.

January and February are months of momentum. While winter may slow the weather, it should not slow our mission. This is a critical time to focus on membership, post revitalization, and engagement within our districts. I encourage every Post to reach out personally to members who have not yet renewed. A simple phone call, text, or visit can make the difference. Our strength truly lies in connection.

As we step into a new year, I want to thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to The American Legion and to the veterans, families, and communities we serve across Utah. The strength of our Department is not found in titles or buildings, but in the dedicated men and women at the Post level who show up, serve faithfully, and lead with purpose.

January and February are months of momentum. While winter may slow the weather, it should not slow our mission. This is a critical time to focus on membership, post revitalization, and engagement within our districts. I encourage every Post to reach out personally to members who have not yet renewed. A simple phone call, text, or visit can make the difference. Our strength truly lies in connection.

Our Be the One mission remains a top priority. Suicide prevention and veteran wellness must remain at the forefront of everything we do. Continue conducting Buddy Checks. Continue reaching out. Continue being the reason someone answers the phone and finds hope. One conversation can save a life.

As we move through the 2026 Legislative Session, let us remain engaged and informed. Advocacy for veterans' benefits, youth programs like Boys State and Oratorical, and support for our military families requires our collective voice. When we stand united, lawmakers listen.

District and Post activities are the heartbeat of this organization. I encourage leaders to share updates, photos, and success stories so we can highlight the incredible work happening throughout the Department. When we tell our story, we inspire others to join the mission.

Let us begin this year with renewed dedication, strengthened unity, and a clear vision: to serve veterans, mentor youth, strengthen our communities, and uphold the values that define The American Legion. Thank you for your leadership, your service, and your continued commitment.

For God and Country,
John Robertson
Department Commander



Department Vice Commander Message



As of February 9, 2026, we have reached 89.26% of our Department Membership Goal of 5,785 members for the fiscal year 2025-26. We only need 64 members to reach the 90% March 11 th 90% goal. We have met every milestone this year in our effort to achieve our goal. It is through your efforts we have been so successful. Our renewal shows we have been able to retain most of our members. This is the area that sets up back by having to recruit any loss of members. There is still a lot of room for growth. Do not be afraid to ask someone if they are a veteran, especially if they are wearing a veteran's hat or shirt. We are here to help all veterans whether they are members or not. Hopefully, they will see the advantages of joining and the comradery we have known to feel. Remember: The only time you should look down on a veterans is when you extend a hand to pull him up.

In the December Department Executive Committee meeting Ninzel Rasmuson put forth a Resolution investigate the feasibility of creating a Utah American Legion College for the training of leadership patterned after the needs of our leaders and potential leaders. This Resolution was discussed and approved with the plan investigation to be brought back for further approve to proceed. I attended the National Legion Collage last November and found it extremely beneficial.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Department Vice Commander. Do not be afraid to step up in your Post, District and Department. The best way to get something out of the Legion is to become actively involved.

Thank you all for your service and dedication to the Legion. I will myself be available to assist any District or Post.

Kent Anderson
Department Vice Commander
(702)524-7726
Kba6991@gmail.com

Keep it Up!

2026 TAL Membership Report as of: February 22, 2026

	* All-Time High	2026 Dept. Year End Goal	2026 Actual Mbsp.	% of Year End Goal	Needed To Meet 90% Target 3/11/2026	103%	2026 Renewal %
1	SOUTH DAKOTA	15,200	13,841	91.06%	-161	15,656	90.02
2	ARIZONA	33,145	30,078	90.75%	-247	34,139	83.09
3	NEBRASKA	20,388	18,398	90.24%	-48	20,999	88.94
4	VIRGINIA	35,970	32,270	89.71%	103	37,049	86.28
5	NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,359	11,977	89.65%	46	13,759	85.59
6	FLORIDA	100,800	90,340	89.62%	380	103,824	84.54
7	KANSAS	17,540	15,704	89.53%	82	18,066	86.23
8	MICHIGAN	53,120	47,527	89.47%	281	54,713	87.22
9	MINNESOTA	53,600	47,949	89.46%	291	55,208	88.92
10	UTAH	5,785	5,174	89.44%	32	5,958	90.09
11	IOWA	32,300	28,879	89.41%	191	33,269	88.34
12	WISCONSIN	44,260	39,531	89.32%	303	45,587	88.75
13	NORTH DAKOTA	10,580	9,426	89.09%	96	10,897	89.71
14	PENNSYLVANIA	109,000	97,028	89.02%	1,072	112,270	87.03
15	WYOMING	4,965	4,413	88.88%	55	5,113	84.36
16	MISSOURI	25,464	22,622	88.84%	295	26,227	86.50
17	OHIO	70,535	62,608	88.76%	873	72,651	87.56
18	WEST VIRGINIA	11,136	9,844	88.40%	178	11,470	85.10
19	OKLAHOMA	11,750	10,377	88.31%	198	12,102	83.43
20	WASHINGTON	17,636	15,533	88.08%	339	18,165	85.78
21	MARYLAND	41,300	36,357	88.03%	813	42,539	85.57
22	ALABAMA	15,650	13,760	87.92%	325	16,119	86.96
23	FRANCE	3,120	2,741	87.85%	67	3,213	83.15
24	NORTH CAROLINA	31,146	27,347	87.80%	684	32,080	84.53
25	MAINE	13,851	12,161	87.80%	304	14,266	87.08
26	SOUTH CAROLINA	19,518	17,120	87.71%	446	20,103	86.67
27	NEVADA	5,482	4,791	87.40%	142	5,646	85.91
28	OREGON	11,662	10,186	87.34%	309	12,011	84.17
29	COLORADO	15,691	13,690	87.25%	431	16,161	83.73
30	CONNECTICUT	13,500	11,754	87.07%	396	13,905	85.60
31	NEW JERSEY	29,900	26,012	87.00%	898	30,797	85.03
32	KENTUCKY	14,121	12,282	86.98%	426	14,544	82.51
33	TENNESSEE	19,748	17,150	86.84%	623	20,340	84.47
34	LOUISIANA	13,531	11,750	86.84%	427	13,936	83.89
35	RHODE ISLAND	2,875	2,496	86.82%	91	2,961	84.27
36	NEW YORK	72,100	62,579	86.79%	2,311	74,263	84.80
37	MISSISSIPPI	8,274	7,180	86.78%	266	8,522	82.41
38	DELAWARE	8,178	7,094	86.74%	266	8,423	84.18
39	TEXAS	52,254	45,241	86.58%	1,787	53,821	84.35
40	VERMONT	8,100	7,011	86.56%	279	8,343	85.21
41	MASSACHUSETTS	24,503	21,175	86.42%	877	25,238	85.41
42	MONTANA	8,966	7,733	86.25%	336	9,234	84.69
43	CALIFORNIA	64,000	55,117	86.12%	2,483	65,920	84.24
44	GEORGIA	30,979	26,669	86.09%	1,212	31,908	80.83
45	INDIANA	57,800	49,636	85.88%	2,384	59,534	84.72
46	ALASKA	5,275	4,522	85.73%	225	5,433	78.51
47	IDAHO	7,757	6,617	85.30%	364	7,989	85.35
48	ILLINOIS	56,982	48,454	85.03%	2,829	58,691	84.21
49	DIST OF COL	1,000	848	84.80%	52	1,030	85.10
50	PHILIPPINES	1,000	843	84.30%	57	1,030	79.67
51	ARKANSAS	7,979	6,635	83.16%	546	8,218	81.42
52	NEW MEXICO	8,050	6,656	82.68%	589	8,291	79.45
53	HAWAII	1,966	1,473	74.92%	296	2,024	74.26
54	PUERTO RICO	3,565	2,427	68.08%	781	3,671	63.89
55	LATIN AMERICA	1,000	585	58.50%	315	1,030	58.94
TOTALS		1,367,356	1,201,611	87.88%	28,996	1,408,376	84.05

2025-2026 Regional Breakdown

Central Region - NVC Stephen T. Weismann (TN)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
MICHIGAN	53,120	47,527	89.47%
WISCONSIN	44,260	39,531	89.32%
OHIO	70,535	62,608	88.76%
WEST VIRGINIA	11,136	9,844	88.40%
KENTUCKY	14,121	12,282	86.98%
TENNESSEE	19,748	17,150	86.84%
INDIANA	57,800	49,636	85.88%
ILLINOIS	56,982	48,454	85.03%
Totals	327,702	287,032	87.59%

Midwest Region - NVC Jerry Landkamer (NE)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	15,200	13,841	91.06%
NEBRASKA	20,388	18,398	90.24%
KANSAS	17,540	15,704	89.53%
MINNESOTA	53,600	47,949	89.46%
IOWA	32,300	28,879	89.41%
NORTH DAKOTA	10,580	9,426	89.09%
MISSOURI	25,464	22,622	88.84%
OKLAHOMA	11,750	10,377	88.31%
Totals	186,822	167,196	89.49%

Western Region - NVC Benjamin E. Headen (AZ)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
ARIZONA	33,145	30,078	90.75%
UTAH	5,785	5,174	89.44%
WYOMING	4,965	4,413	88.88%
WASHINGTON	17,636	15,533	88.08%
NEVADA	5,482	4,791	87.40%
OREGON	11,662	10,186	87.34%
COLORADO	15,691	13,690	87.25%
MONTANA	8,966	7,733	86.25%
CALIFORNIA	64,000	55,117	86.12%
ALASKA	5,275	4,522	85.73%
IDAHO	7,757	6,617	85.30%
PHILIPPINES	1,000	843	84.30%
NEW MEXICO	8,050	6,656	82.68%
HAWAII	1,966	1,473	74.92%
LATIN AMERICA	1,000	585	58.50%
Totals	192,380	167,411	87.02%

Southeast Region - NVC Jan D. Larson (MD)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
VIRGINIA	35,970	32,270	89.71%
FLORIDA	100,800	90,340	89.62%
MARYLAND	41,300	36,357	88.03%
ALABAMA	15,650	13,760	87.92%
NORTH CAROLINA	31,146	27,347	87.80%
SOUTH CAROLINA	19,518	17,120	87.71%
LOUISIANA	13,531	11,750	86.84%
MISSISSIPPI	8,274	7,180	86.78%
TEXAS	52,254	45,241	86.58%
GEORGIA	30,979	26,669	86.09%
ARKANSAS	7,979	6,635	83.16%
PUERTO RICO	3,565	2,427	68.08%
Totals	360,966	317,096	87.85%

Northeast Region - NVC Ronald L. LaRose (VT)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,359	11,977	89.65%
PENNSYLVANIA	109,000	97,028	89.02%
FRANCE	3,120	2,741	87.85%
MAINE	13,851	12,161	87.80%
CONNECTICUT	13,500	11,754	87.07%
NEW JERSEY	29,900	26,012	87.00%
RHODE ISLAND	2,875	2,496	86.82%
NEW YORK	72,100	62,579	86.79%
DELAWARE	8,178	7,094	86.74%
VERMONT	8,100	7,011	86.56%
MASSACHUSETTS	24,503	21,175	86.42%
DIST OF COL	1,000	848	84.80%
Totals	299,486	262,876	87.78%

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



2025/2026 TAL Traditional Membership Comparison Report

* All-Time High			
Department	2025 Traditional Mbsp. Total 2/22/2025	2026 Traditional Mbsp. Total 2/22/2026	2025/2026 Comparison ahead/-behind
1 FLORIDA	89,671	90,340	669
2 MISSISSIPPI	7,023	7,180	157
3 PHILIPPINES	736	843	107
4 KENTUCKY	12,198	12,282	84
5 FRANCE	2,712	2,741	29
6 UTAH	5,146	5,174	28
7 DIST OF COL	877	848	-29
8 ALASKA	4,553	4,522	-31
9 WEST VIRGINIA	9,877	9,844	-33
10 WYOMING	4,480	4,413	-67
11 OKLAHOMA	10,470	10,377	-93
12 RHODE ISLAND	2,628	2,496	-132
13 WASHINGTON	15,674	15,533	-141
14 TEXAS	45,387	45,241	-146
15 ALABAMA	13,943	13,760	-183
16 NEW HAMPSHIRE	12,161	11,977	-184
17 HAWAII	1,671	1,473	-198
18 NEVADA	5,012	4,791	-221
19 LATIN AMERICA	823	585	-238
20 NORTH CAROLINA	27,587	27,347	-240
21 KANSAS	15,946	15,704	-242
22 MONTANA	7,990	7,733	-257
23 OREGON	10,463	10,186	-277
24 NEBRASKA	18,681	18,398	-283
25 LOUISIANA	12,042	11,750	-292
26 DELAWARE	7,391	7,094	-297
27 NEW MEXICO	6,955	6,656	-299
28 IDAHO	6,950	6,617	-333
29 SOUTH DAKOTA	14,190	13,841	-349
30 VERMONT	7,393	7,011	-382
31 MAINE	12,544	12,161	-383
32 VIRGINIA	32,655	32,270	-385
33 SOUTH CAROLINA	17,510	17,120	-390
34 NORTH DAKOTA	9,849	9,426	-423
35 ARIZONA	30,545	30,078	-467
36 ARKANSAS	7,103	6,635	-468
37 COLORADO	14,177	13,690	-487
38 MISSOURI	23,242	22,622	-620
39 TENNESSEE	17,782	17,150	-632
40 CONNECTICUT	12,447	11,754	-693
41 GEORGIA	27,377	26,669	-708
42 PUERTO RICO	3,169	2,427	-742
43 NEW JERSEY	26,919	26,012	-907
44 MARYLAND	37,298	36,357	-941
45 MASSACHUSETTS	22,225	21,175	-1,050
46 WISCONSIN	40,625	39,531	-1,094
47 MICHIGAN	48,702	47,527	-1,175
48 IOWA	30,270	28,879	-1,391
49 OHIO	64,296	62,608	-1,688
50 MINNESOTA	49,733	47,949	-1,784
51 CALIFORNIA	57,306	55,117	-2,189
52 NEW YORK	65,022	62,579	-2,443
53 ILLINOIS	50,960	48,454	-2,506
54 INDIANA	52,383	49,636	-2,747
55 PENNSYLVANIA	100,435	97,028	-3,407
TOTALS	1,235,204	1,201,611	-33,593

4 *Area* COMMANDERS

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 (District 3)

Area 2 (Central Utah): District 4 & 8
Utah & Juab Counties (District 4)
Salt Lake & Tooele Counties (including SLC 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.





Area 1 Commander



Greetings from Area 1; containing Districts 1, 2 & 3 of Northern Utah. Things in Area 1, encompassing Cache, Box Elder, Rich, Weber, Morgan, Davis, Summit and Wasatch Counties remain busy with activities throughout. District leadership has been busy in Districts 1 & 2 with training, meetings and social events. We have been cross-training on Military Funeral Honors procedures and generally enjoying each other's company, and sharing of information. Individual Posts are active within their respective communities.

Sadly, we still do not have District leadership within District 3, although Posts are actively performing Military Funeral Honors and other community events. I am still working of finding a District 3 Command team and will keep you posted.

I would take this opportunity to congratulate all of the Legion Family members within Area 1 for their active and community involvement within their respective cities and towns, keep up the great work and remember, now is the time to perform "Buddy Checks" with all of your members, especially those members who have not renewed their membership to 2026 and who are now suspended from membership. Each member may easily bring their membership current by paying their 2026 dues.

Sincerely,
Bob Jones
Area 1 Commander
Department Liaison for Districts 1, 2 & 3
American Legion Department of Utah
(801) 336-6951 or rohojo1@aol.com



The American Legion

DEPARTMENT OF UTAH

Utah Past Commanders Club (UPCC)

Utah State Capitol Building
350 North State Street, Suite 80 ~ P. O. Box 148000
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 539-1013

Randy Edwards, President
1029 East 599North
Orem, Utah 84097
801-224-7477 ~ edwards.randy@gmail.com

Bob Jones, Secretary/Treasurer
3359 North 2550 East
Layton, Utah 84040
801-336-6951 or rohojo1@gmail.com

February 2, 2026

Dear Utah Past Commander:

This letter serves as invitation for you to join the **American Legion Utah Past Commanders Club (American Legion UPCC)**. Eligibility is simply that *you have been elected and/or appointed to the position of Commander at the Post/SAL Squadron, District, Area or Department/Detachment Commander* position and have served at least part of one term in that office. This UPCC is open to everyone who has served in Utah as elected and/or appointed Commander at any level within either the American Legion; or Sons of the American Legion in Utah.

The dues of this club are \$10.00 annually; made payable to “American Legion UPCC” in either check or money order form and mailed to Bob Jones, Sec/Tres; 3359 North 2550 East; Layton, Utah 84040-8497.

The current President of the UPCC is Mr. Randy Edwards whose contact information is above the salutation of this letter and the Secretary/Treasurer is Bob Jones, whose contact information is likewise above the salutation of this letter.

All Utah Past Commanders are welcome to not only join, but are encouraged to join and to help mentor those Legionnaires ~ Sons who wish to go up through the chairs, or to seek more responsibility through fulfilling higher and more challenging positions up to and including Department/Detachment and National levels.

For more information, or for a copy of the charter document for this American Legion UPCC, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Bob Jones with your questions, concerns or inquiries.

Sincerely

Bob Jones

Bob Jones, Secretary/Treasurer
(801) 336-6951 or rohojo1@aol.com

For God & Country, Veterans Strengthening America



SACRED GROUND BETWEEN POSTED FLAG/BANNER

There is a custom in the American Legion and Auxiliary to never walk between the Flag of our Country and the Banner of the American Legion and Auxiliary. There is nothing in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Legion or Auxiliary to support this custom, but perhaps the following little poem will explain this custom

Between these flags that proudly fly
let no man dare to stand,
for here our fallen comrades lie.
A symbol, yes, but mark it well;
here let us humbly pause in memory of the
lads who fell in fighting for our sacred cause.
On sea and land these buddies died,
some lie beneath a foreign sod
in graves caressed by winds and tide,
in spots unknown to all but God.
And so, this place is hallowed ground,
and it shall be forever blest,
as though it were a grassy mound
beneath which gallant heroes rest.
Be ever watchful, Legionnaire,
of those two flags which signify
that we should guard this spot with care
where our departed comrades lie.
And if a man should dare to tread this spot
where lies our gallant brave,
he desecrates that noble dead
as though he walked upon their graves.

Author unknown



Area 2 Commander



Area 2 Family,

As your Area 2 Commander, I cannot tell you how proud I am of the momentum building across Salt Lake, Utah, and Tooele Counties as we prepare for the USA250 Challenge and America250 in 2026. This is not just another event on the calendar. This is history in the making, and we get to be part of it together.



On March 15, we will gather at Post 112 to celebrate The American Legion's birthday and launch our USA250 efforts as one united Legion Family. Music, food, fellowship, and yes, birthday cake. But more than that, we will celebrate 250 years of American resilience and recommit ourselves to service. I hope you will bring a side dish, bring a friend, and bring your pride in what we stand for.

Then on March 16 and 17, Area 2 will step into action. With Post 72, Orem, as a host, and Area 2 American Legion Family, we will complete 250 Buddy Checks in two days. That is not just a number. That represents 250 veterans who will hear from someone who cares. It represents connection, prevention, and purpose. It represents us living the "Be the One" commitment in a very real way.

For me personally, this effort matters deeply. I know what it means to need someone to reach out. I know what it means when a simple phone call changes the direction of a hard day. USA250 is about honoring our nation's founding, but it is also about honoring the veterans who defended it. We do that best not with speeches, but with action. USA250 provides an opportunity for us to do community service.

I am asking every Post and District in Area 2 to lean in. Show up. Volunteer. Make calls. Invite your Legion Family partners to stand shoulder to shoulder with us. Let us set the standard for the Department of Utah. Let us demonstrate what engaged leadership and visible service look like.

The next 250 years begin with what we do right now. Area 2, let's make 2026 unforgettable.

Be the One,
Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC
Area 2 Commander
VAVS / CDCE Utah National Representative
National Legislative Council
The American Legion, Department of Utah
385-900-3124 or ninzel9@gmail.com

**DEPARTMENT OF UTAH
AREA 2
USA250 CHALLENGE**



**FITNESS
WELLNESS
SERVICE**

Celebrate America's 250th

2 Miles Per Day!

MARCH 1 - JULY 4, 2026

Invite a veteran and go walking!
Lace up your sneakers and
join Area 2 Commander
Ninzel Rasmuson
in walking 2 miles a day from
March 1 through July 4, 2026!
An energetic and healthy way to
support USA250! 🇺🇸

Walking not your thing?
What other USA250 activity
can you do to make a difference
from March through July 2026?



<https://www.legion.org>

Look up USA250 Challenge
for more information



You've got this!



You are Invited
Area 2

Salt Lake, Utah, & Tooele Counties
Department of Utah



The American Legion Birthday



and USA250 Challenge Celebration for America250

Celebration immediately following District 8 Meeting

Please bring side dishes to share.

Area 2 Commander providing birthday cake!

March 15, 2026

4-6pm

MUSIC | FOOD | PARTY

Post 112

320 E 3900 S, Salt Lake City, UT

Questions? Call Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC, Area 2 Commander



JOIN US

CELEBRATE THE NATION'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL BY TAKING PART IN THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY 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.

MARCH 16-17, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF UTAH, AREA 2
(SALT LAKE, UTAH, & TOOELE COUNTIES)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BUDDY CHECK AND BE THE ONE EVENT
250 BUDDY CHECKS IN 2 DAYS!

BE THE ONE

HOST: POST 72, OREM

LOCATION: KILN, 412 WEST RIVERS EDGE DRIVE, PROVO, UT

TIME: 10-6PM BOTH DAYS

QUESTIONS? Contact Don Housekeeper, Post 72

THANK YOU TO KILN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

VA Adaptive Sports & Arts Programs



VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is seeking donations that enhance patient experience for our 121 bed in-patient and countless outpatient Veterans. These donations will impact National Adaptive Sport and Arts programs, local recreational therapy events and activities, personal clothing, food security, and hygiene needs, and increase the personal comfort of Veteran Patients. Detailed below are a list of ways that you can make an impact on their lives. Volunteers, donations, and community partnership are managed through the VA's Center for Development and Civic Engagement Office, formerly known as Voluntary Service.



Scan the QR Code to visit the VISN 19 Pay.Gov website



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

Ways You Can Give

Online via Bank Account or Debit/Credit Card:

Scan the QR Code on the front or visit www.pay.gov/public/form/start/53168819 and follow the steps. Select a "Program for Donation" from the drop-down menu.

Mail a check to:

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
500 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84148

*Make Checks Payable to VA Salt Lake City

*Include a remark or note with the program you are supporting.

Bring a check or cash to the VA CDCE Service Office:

Building 8, 2nd Floor, Room 2A05
Phone: (801) 584-1241

Hours: Monday – Friday from 8 am – 4 pm, excluding Federal Holidays

*Include a remark or note with the Program you are supporting.

We will have you fill out a donation form if you visit in-person
Donations can be made anonymously, if requested.

Donations Contact Information

Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
801-584-1241
VHASLCVoluntaryService@va.gov

Fund Information

Fund 1001 – General Recreation Fund
Fund 1006 – Golden Age Games
Fund 1030 – Creative Arts Festival
Fund 1031 – Winter Sports Clinic

Fund 1061 – Wheelchair Games
Fund 1066 – Local Recreational Golf
Fund 1073 – National Golf Clinic
Fund 1074 – Summer Sports Clinic

VA Medical Center Directors have authority to accept gifts pursuant to 38 USC 8301 and VHA Directive 4721 for the general benefit of the medical center and the Veterans we serve. The Chief of the Center for Development and Civic Engagement at each VA medical center may accept gifts that benefit the facility and its patients except for gifts for research and education. Donations provide Veteran patients with many essential services and programs that would otherwise not be available to them, such as transportation services, social service assistance, rehabilitation equipment, recreation programs, activities, homeless Veteran's service, holiday gifts, phone cards, and many other options. Your donations are 100 percent tax deductible and all administrative costs for VA are already appropriated by Congress, so you can be assured your entire donation is going directly to support Veterans in the way you choose. Thank you again for supporting our Veterans as they participate in these games.

George E. Wahlen Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Salt Lake City Health Care System
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
500 Foothill Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84148

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System



Area 3 Commander



Area 3 continues to make steady progress across the Uintah Basin as we begin the new year with renewed focus and energy. Posts throughout the Basin are strengthening communication, improving meeting attendance, and increasing outreach efforts to better serve our veterans and their families. Membership follow-ups and Buddy Checks remain a priority, and we are seeing encouraging engagement at the local level.

One of the highlights of the past two months has been the continued progress of the Auxiliary's food pantry initiative. The pantry is growing in both organization and community impact, providing much-needed support to veterans, active-duty families, and community members facing food insecurity. Donations have increased, partnerships within the community are strengthening, and volunteer participation has been strong. This effort reflects the true spirit of the American Legion Family working together to meet real needs in the Uintah Basin.

We are grateful for the dedication of our Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and volunteers who continue to step up and serve. The momentum building in Area 3 is encouraging, and we look forward to continued growth and service in the months ahead.

For God and Country,
Austin Kendall
Area 3 Commander



Area 4 Commander



National Vice Commander Benjamin Headen and Michele Steinmetz from Headquarters will be visiting March 4,5,6,7th. They will be at Post 100, Hurricane on March 5th 9:00am to 1:00pm for revitalization and Post 74, Cedar City, March 6th 1-4pm.

District 7 convention will be held March 7th 2025 at Post 100 Hurricane. Meeting will start at 10-12 noon. Post reports will be presented by posts on activities from 7-1-2025. Forms will be available for changes that were made to Post Commanders and Adjutants to fill out. CPR paper copies will be available to be completed- CPR's both paper and online need to be completed and turned in by 5-15-2026. This will help Area 4 Commander with year-end reports for the State Convention. All Commanders, Adjutants and executive board members are encouraged to attend OR representatives that can vote/speak for the Post. The meeting is open to all American Legion Members, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. This also is the time that State Directors will be attending, giving their reports, and answering questions.



TO DATE TABS THAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND TURNED IN IS 68.123 POUNDS. Thanks to all for your help.

As of 2-12-2026 MEMBERSHIP FOR DISTRICT 6 with 100% or greater are Post 36-Salina, Post 31- Manti, Post 118 - Redmond and Post 135 - Delta

MEMBERSHIP FOR DISTRICT 7 with 100% or greater are Posts 16- Milford; Post 18 Tropic Cannon ; Post 20 - Parowan; Post 25 Panquitch; Post 32 Beaver; Post 80 - Enterprise; Post 81 - Minersville; Post 114 Escalante; Post 120 - Orderville; Post 142 SunRiver.

Future events for Posts.

District 7 Post 69 Kanab. TAL Birthday Dinner, March. Post meeting held February 18th at the HUT. For the Veterans Monument the planning and gathering of materials is continuing
Wreaths Across America for Kanab is fully funded for 2026. Craft Kits are available for disabled veterans.

District 7 Post 100 Hurricane. Revitalization for the Post will be held on March 5th 9-1:00pm. On March 7th Post 100 hosts the 2026 District 7 Convention 10-12:00.

Jerry Curtis Director Southern Utah American Legion Riders has brought the American Legion Riders back with about 15 members currently. They have had several rides set up with some cancelled to that rain storm we had last month. The new web page is sualriders.org. The collected funds from these rides is going to the Veterans and Children's Foundation.

On March 21st the Chili Cook-off will be held at the Post. For those of us that do not make chili, we will be bringing cornbread.

District 7 Post 142 SunRiver. Washington County Fair April 10-18 celebrating America 250. April 11 Stuff Sale, SunRiver Community Center parking lot (funds go to fund programs of the post). Post meetings March 4th, April 1st and May 6th.

Martie Bigbie, PDC
Area 4 Commander





DISTRICTS



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



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 Post 2)



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

9 District COMMANDERS

While the Department is missing one District Commander currently, there are 8 active District Commanders who are working with their posts at varying levels. On the following page are the roles and responsibilities of what the District Commander is charged with during their tenure.

In addition to districts and posts, there are Sons of the American Legion (SAL) squadrons. Not all posts have SAL squadrons. If you are fortunate to have an SAL squadron to support your post, please encourage their involvement to support your post efforts. It really helps!

Furthermore, if your districts and posts have Auxiliary units, please encourage them to be involved with your posts and squadrons.

And last, but not least, if you have Legion Riders, they are also a tremendous support.

We are an AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.

If you need assistance as to how to contact your District Commander as a post, please contact your Area Commander for further assistance.

DISTRICT COMMANDER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A District Commander serves as the primary leader and liaison between local Posts and the Department within The American Legion. The role is both operational and pastoral—focused on leadership, support, accountability, and communication.

Key Responsibilities

1) Leadership & Oversight

The District Commander provides leadership to all Posts in the district, helping ensure they operate effectively, follow Legion policies, and remain mission-focused. This includes guiding Post leadership, encouraging best practices, and helping resolve challenges.

2) Communication Link

District Commanders are the vital conduit between the Department and Posts. They share Department priorities, initiatives, and deadlines with Posts—and carry Post concerns, ideas, and needs back to Department leadership.

3) Membership & Post Development

A core responsibility is strengthening Posts through membership growth and retention. District Commanders encourage recruitment, mentor Post officers, and support struggling or inactive Posts to ensure long-term sustainability.

4) Program Promotion & Support

District Commanders promote the Legion's programs—Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, National Security, and Children & Youth—helping Posts understand how to participate and succeed at the local level.

5) Advocacy & Representation

They represent the District at Department meetings, conferences, and official functions, ensuring their Posts have a voice in Department decisions and initiatives.

6) Mentorship & Officer Development

District Commanders mentor Post Commanders and officers, helping develop future leaders and ensuring continuity of leadership within the organization.

7) Ceremonial & Community Presence

District Commanders often participate in ceremonies, memorials, and community events, serving as visible representatives of the American Legion and its values.

In Summary

A District Commander is not simply an administrator—they are a leader, advocate, mentor, and connector. Their effectiveness directly impacts the strength of Posts, the engagement of members, and the success of the Department's mission. -NR

Department Adjutant Message



Temporary Financial Assistance – Getting It Right the First Time

As we continue our mission of Veterans Strengthening America, one of the most impactful programs we administer is Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This program provides a one-time grant of up to \$2,500 to support the basic needs of minor children of qualifying veterans. We received five requests in January of this year alone.

Because this is a National program with strict requirements, it is critical that applications are completed thoroughly and correctly before being submitted to Department. Incomplete or poorly documented applications delay assistance and may result in denial.

Home Visit and Interview Requirements

Before completing a TFA application, eligibility of the minor child must be confirmed. Once eligibility is established, the investigator should make an appointment to meet with the family at their residence. Conducting the interview in the home allows us to properly assess the situation, verify living conditions, and ensure the application accurately reflects the family's circumstances.

While the form requires the investigator's signature, it is best practice that two Legion representatives conduct the home visit. This provides transparency, accountability, and protection for both the family and the Legion. The Investigator's Report must include a detailed summary of the family's need, steps taken to improve the situation, and follow-up plans by the Post.

Documentation and Exhaustion of Other Assistance

TFA requires that all other forms of possible assistance be applied for and exhausted. The "Other Assistance" section must be completed fully and supported with documentation. If this section is incomplete, the application will be delayed or denied.

When listing other sources of aid, simply marking "Not Eligible" is not sufficient. A brief explanation must be included stating why the applicant is not eligible. For example, income exceeds guidelines, no qualifying disability, program closed to new applicants, or veteran does not meet residency requirements. This explanation helps demonstrate that the program was properly explored and exhausted.

Applicants must provide all required supporting documents, including membership verification or orders, birth certificates, pay stubs from the last 60 days, bank statements less than 60 days old, employer verification, and all current bills or notices being considered.

Lease and Rental Verification

When rent assistance is requested, a copy of the current lease or rental agreement must be included. The lease should clearly show the monthly rent amount and the legal name of the landlord or property management company. This ensures accuracy in determining the amount requested and confirms the proper payee information for payment. Incomplete rental documentation is one of the most common reasons applications are returned.

Creditor Information and Payments

Only creditors listed in the Creditor Information section of the application will be considered for payment. All names must be legible and accurate, and current statements, disconnection notices, eviction notices, or other supporting documents must be attached. If an expense is not listed and documented, it will not be paid.

Most approved TFA checks are issued as two-party checks made payable to both the veteran (or guardian) and the creditor. Accuracy in listing the creditor's name and information is essential to prevent processing delays.

Eligible Expenses

TFA is strictly limited to the basic needs of minor children, including shelter, utilities, food, clothing, and approved medical expenses. It does not cover cable, internet, insurance, taxes, transportation, consumer debt, or prior accumulated debt that does not directly contribute to the child's immediate basic needs.

Department Submission

All applications must be submitted to the Department Children & Youth Chairman or Department Headquarters for review and recommendation prior to National consideration. Applications sent directly to National Headquarters will be returned without action.

Before submitting, ensure:

- Eligibility is confirmed
- The home visit has been completed
- Two Legion representatives conducted the interview
- All sections of the application are complete
- All required documents are attached
- The lease is included if rent assistance is requested
- A clear recommendation with specific dollar amounts is provided
- Signatures are obtained
- A copy is retained for Post records

Temporary Financial Assistance is a powerful program that reflects who we are as an organization. When we take the time to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a complete application, we uphold the integrity of the program and ensure assistance reaches the children who need it most.

Yours in service,
Richard Mead
Utah Department Adjutant / VSO





Americanism
Division

Temporary Financial Assistance Application

American Legion Department of

NATIONAL HQ USE ONLY
Case No. _____
Date Rec. _____

Please print legibly or type. Instructions located on page 4 of this application.

VETERAN			
Veteran Marital Status			
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Separated
Name			
Date of Birth		<input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Street Address		Phone	
City	State	Zip Code	
American Legion Membership ID# <i>Must be current at date of application</i>			
Character of Service (listed on DD-214) or Attach a copy of current active duty orders.			
Employment Status			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fulltime <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time <input type="checkbox"/> Laid-off <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Leave <input type="checkbox"/> Not Employed			
Date of last day of employment			
<i>If not employed, the investigation report must explain why and what steps are being taken to secure employment</i>			

OTHER PARENT or GUARDIAN			
Name			
Date of Birth		<input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Street Address		Phone	
City	State	Zip Code	
American Legion Membership ID# <i>Must be current at date of application</i>			
Character of Service (listed on DD-214) or Attach a copy of current active duty orders.			
Employment Status			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fulltime <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time <input type="checkbox"/> Laid-off <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Leave <input type="checkbox"/> Not Employed			
Date of last day of employment			
<i>If not employed, the investigation report must explain why and what steps are being taken to secure employment</i>			

The form continues on next page ...

CHILDREN

Full Name	Age	Grade
Full Name	Age	Grade
Full Name	Age	Grade
Full Name	Age	Grade
Full Name	Age	Grade

List additional children on a separate sheet.

Are both parents living in the home? Yes No

If applicable, which parent is absent? Father Mother Other _____

Reason Deceased Deployed Divorced Separated Other _____

Does the child or children reside in the home full-time? Yes No

Who has legal custody of the minor child or children?

Attach supporting custody documentation if applicable.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

In order to be considered for a Temporary Financial Assistance grant, **all other forms of possible assistance must be applied for and exhausted. Failure to completely document this in the following section and attach official supporting documentation will result in delay or denial of the application.**

Source	Date Applied	Status	Amount approved by resources listed below or explanation of ineligibility
Legion post, Unit or Squadron		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Department		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Assistance for Needy Families		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
VA Disability Pension		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Social Security Disability		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Supplemental Security Income		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Medicaid		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Public Assistance		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Unemployment		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Private Charities		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Food Stamps		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible	
Explanation			

The form continues on next page ...

CREDITOR INFORMATION

Most approved checks will be two-party, made payable to the veteran or guardian and the creditor. Please ensure that creditor information is accurate and the name is legible. Only listed creditors in this section will be considered for payment.

Mortgage or Landlord		Phone
Street Address		
City	State	ZIP
Utility Company/ Other		Phone
Utility Company/ Other		Phone
Utility Company/ Other		Phone
<i>Attach current statements, bills, disconnection/eviction notices, and all other expenses to be considered.</i>		

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Include only recurring monthly gross income and expenses. Do not include one-time assistance or accumulative balances on past due expenses. Gross income must include earnings of all persons in the household. Include paystubs for the last 60 days and statement from the applicant's employer verifying employment status.

Monthly Gross Income	Monthly Expenses
Earnings of Veteran/Guardian	Shelter
Earnings of other Parent	Electricity
Earnings of others	Gas
VA Disability/ Pension	Water/ sewage
Social Security	Food
Child Support	Automobile
Other monthly income	Clothing
Specify	Other
	Specify
<i>Total Gross Monthly Income</i>	<i>Total Expenses</i>
\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

The form continues on next page ...

SIGNATURES

INVESTIGATOR

I certify that I fully conducted the above investigation and that the applicant has exhausted all other forms of known assistance. I understand that by having entered my investigative information in this application, and by providing my full name and date in the box below, it is the equivalent to my legal signature and by submitting this application to The American Legion, that I hereby affirm all information provided herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and without any deliberate falsification, misrepresentation, or omission of fact on my part.

Name and Title	
Email	Phone
Street Address	
Signature	Date

APPLICANT

I understand that by having entered my information in this application, and by providing my full name and date in the box below, it is the equivalent to my legal signature and by submitting this application to The American Legion, that I hereby affirm all information provided herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that any deliberate falsification, misrepresentation, or omission of fact on my part may be grounds for rejecting my application for an American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant.

Signature	Date
-----------	------

NOTICE

If you are a recipient of a Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grant and would like to be contacted by staff from The American Legion National Headquarters to publicly share your story of how the Legion assisted you, please sign below. Your testimonial will be used in print, marketing, and online American Legion media. Personal TFA stories promote The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation efforts, through which grants are made possible, and how donations to the foundation support ongoing assistance for veterans and their families in need.

Note: Declining to provide your signature will in no way adversely affect the evaluation of your TFA grant application.

(Optional) Applicant Signature	Date
--------------------------------	------

DEPARTMENT CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN OR AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL

I have thoroughly reviewed this application and recommend the following: Approval \$ _____ Denial

Comments

Signature	Email	Date
-----------	-------	------

The form continues on next page ...

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (TFA) INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Prior to completing an investigation and application, determine if the minor child(ren) is eligible for TFA. The minor child must be under 18 years of age and still enrolled in high school, however, TFA may be extended to youth over the age of 18 until their completion of high school, provided the child is unmarried and has not reached 21 years of age. The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of, a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion. Active duty applicants can be considered without being a member of The American Legion. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$2,500 will be permitted for the minor child (ren) of a qualifying veteran.
2. Once you have determined that the minor child (ren) is eligible, make an appointment with the family at their residence to complete the application if possible. Secure all official documentation and provide all requested information. Your report must include a detailed description of the family's financial need, steps taken to alleviate the situation, and follow-up plans of the post and/or investigator.
3. TFA is strictly for the basic needs of minor children including shelter, utilities, food, clothing and medical. Medical grants must be approved prior to treatment and must be accompanied by a physician's statement and estimated costs.
TFA will not pay for cable, consumer debt, Internet services, insurance, taxes, transportation, previous debt, or any expense that does not contribute to the active basic needs of minor children.
4. The following documents must accompany the TFA application:
 - ✓ Current American Legion membership or military orders
 - ✓ Birth certificates of children
 - ✓ Marriage license
 - ✓ Death Certificate (if applicable)
 - ✓ DD214 (for verification of Legion eligibility) when veteran parent is not in the child(ren)'s life
 - ✓ Custody documentation and legal name changes
 - ✓ Statement from employer on employment status
 - ✓ Pay stubs for the last 60 days
 - ✓ Bank Statements (less than 60 days old)
 - ✓ All current statements, bills, leases, foreclosures, eviction notices, disconnection notices to be considered.
Expenses not documented will not be considered.
5. Ensure all sections of the application are complete and the appropriate signatures are obtained. Incomplete applications may result in delays or denial.
6. Applications must be sent to your American Legion department Children & Youth chairman or headquarters for approval. All applications sent directly to National Headquarters will be returned to the appropriate department without review or action.

Before sending a TFA application to the department C&Y chairman or department headquarters, did you

- ✓ Determine that the child or children are eligible for TFA?
- ✓ Complete all sections of the application and attach all required documents?
- ✓ Obtain all required signatures?
- ✓ Conduct a complete investigation and ensure that all other forms of assistance have been exhausted?
- ✓ Make a copy for your records in case of lost or destroyed application?

All communication about submitted applications should be directed to the department Children & Youth chairman or department headquarters. To protect the privacy of applicants, National Headquarters will not release any information other than to the department.

Upcoming Department Convention Information

Every year the Department of Utah holds convention to allow all the state members, Post, District, Area and Auxiliary to meet, share ideas, discuss business, and to catch up with old friends and colleagues from around the state. This year I am honored to announce for 2026 the meeting will be held in Richfield Utah. A beautiful and vibrant community that is the center of many of central Utah's favorite attractions. A small town feel with many amenities that leaves you comfortable, safe and satisfied with all it has to offer. We could go on but onto the details.

Like everyone who has participated in either the District or Department conventions, it takes money and time. What lasts only 3 days takes months to prepare. For this reason, we are asking our brothers and sisters to help meet our goal of making this a successful and memorable event. Whether you are a member, or a Post Commander, District Commander, Area Commander, or a Department Head, your help is needed. Please take a few minutes and donate, anything will help an all donations will be used to promote the American Legion and its participation in Utah's local communities as we help and support our most valuable asset, the American Veteran.

It's always good to get a few details, although we are still working to make this convention a success, I can share a few details:

Location: Richfield, Utah

Dates: June 26-28, 2026

Hotel: Quality Inn (conveniently located by Black Bear Restaurant)

RV? Yes, we will have wonderful, clean spaces available.

Many more details to come, and don't worry, as the details are finalized, I will be notifying everyone through your District and Area Commanders, so get excited, it will be a great time!

Thank you for your support and consideration, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stithem, Convention Committee

435-851-6231

or email: utahpostal@hotmail.com



The American Legion, SALINA Post 36

Salina, Utah

PO Box 13

Salina, Utah 84654

Request to order Advertising for The Department of Utah Convention
June 26 – 28, 2026

Department of Utah, American Legion Posts Commanders

The cost of hosting a Department Convention takes time and money. We are soliciting your support for the Department Convention June 26th, 27th, & 28th of June 2026.

We are asking for each Post to support the Convention by donating sponsorship to be listed in the Convention book as a Post Sponsorship to the Convention.

You may do it as an advertisement for \$25 or more which would give you two listings in the convention book or you can be listed as a post on the Supporting Post for \$10.00

We will also have individual members that would like to contribute and be listed as personal sponsors.

“Be The One”

Post Support for a Successful Department Convention”

___ **Distinguished and Exceptional Post Contribution Supporter \$100.00 and Above**

___ **Americanism Post Supporter \$50.00 - \$99.00**

___ **Patriotism Post Supporter \$25.00 - \$49.00**

___ **Post Supporter: 10.00 – 25.00**

___ **Individual Member Supporter, Amount \$ _____**

Please e-mail camera-ready ads for advertisements to: utahpostal@hotmail.com

Please Make your Check payable and Mail to:

American Legion Post 36, Attention: Convention Committee Chair

P.O. Box 13

Salina, Utah 84654

DEADLINE NLT May 30, 2026

We also have advertising space available in the Convention Book for POST, District, Area and Department if you wish to help even more. Please consider advertising to ensure that the Richfield Convention is an overwhelming success.

SIZE / PRICE

Full Page Ad: \$ 450

Half Page Ad: \$ 225

Quarter Page Ad: \$115

You or your post has a business card? Want to get it in the Convention book, we have business card sized advertising space available for only \$50.

Thanks for your support of the Department of Utah American Legion.

Respectfully,

Department of Utah, Convention Committee

POC: 435-851-6231

POC / Questions: Jeff Stithem

utahpostal@hotmail.com

435-851-6231

CAM RAHN BAY AIR FORCE BASE- VIETNAM
REUNION – SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2026

October 20, 2025

Department of Utah American Legion Headquarters
ATTN: State Adjutant
350 N. Pine Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Comrade Adjutant:

If you have a newsletter that goes out to all Utah American Legion members request the following reunion announcement be published in first issue of the 2026 year.

“Any service member stationed at Cam Rahn Bay Air Base, Vietnam from 1962-1975 a reunion is being scheduled in Colorado Springs, Co for late September or early October 2026. Dates are being worked out. Contact dicancook@gmail.com for information/registration forms.

Any questions contact information below.

Sincerely,


Jimmy M. White, Co-coordinator
Cam Rahn Bay Air Base Reunion
PO Box 334
Wadena, MN 56482-0334
218-631-3211



National Executive Committeeman Message

By the time you read this, American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley will have come and gone . While in Utah he visited American Legion folks in Utah County, visited the VA Regional, the VA Medical Center, the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives and the State Veterans Office Director. He visited the Hill Aerospace Museum, Post 9 in Ogden and presented an award to Sara Garcia as Legionnaire of the year for Post 9 (2025), the Vet Center in Northern Utah, and the Ogden VA clinic. He will also have visited Casey Kunimura age 101 this month at the George E Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home. He will also have attended a breakfast in Box Elder County. Commander Wiley will wrap up his stay by speaking to Legion Department banquet at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Ogden.

These are busy times as the Legislature is in session and we are working on a couple of issues. First, to increase the funding by \$50,000 for Boys and Girls State and we won't know the outcome until the Legislature adjourned. In addition, we are seeking 501(c)(3) status from the State of Utah for the Legion another Veterans organizations who are 501c19 that outcome will be known when the Legislature adjourns as well.

On February 13th, Dept Adjutant Mead, Randy Edwards and I met with representative Mike Kennedy in his Provo office and discussed American Legion legislative priorities.

On February 19. I met with representative Blake Moore at the Hill Aerospace Museum and discussed the legislative priorities with him as well. With both of the U.S. House members I mentioned that the Census no longer counts Veterans. I urge each of you to have contact with your city County state and federal elected officials and urge them to support Veterans issues.

Thanks for your great work for the Utah American Legion. Most proud to serve with you.

Terry Schow
NEC Utah



National Executive Committeeman Message



PHOTOS OPAS





National Park Access for

Veterans & Their Families – 2026



Lifetime & Annual Free Passes

- Free **Military Lifetime Pass** for Veterans & Gold Star Families
- Active Duty Military Annual Pass for *Service Members & Dependents*

Entrance fees waived for U.S. citizens & residents on these dates.



Patriotic Fee-Free Days – 2026

- Feb 16 – Presidents Day
- May 25 – Memorial Day
- June 14 – Flag Day
- July 3–5 – Independence Day Weekend
- Aug 25 – NPS 110th Birthday
- Sep 17 – Constitution Day
- Oct 27 – Theodore Roosevelt's Birthday
- Nov 11 – Veterans Day



Tips for Veterans & Families

- Get your *Military Lifetime Pass* for year-round free access.
- Use fee-free days for patriotic trips & family outings.
- Bring proper ID when visiting parks.

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>





NORTHERN UTAH MILITARY, VETERAN & FAMILY WELLNESS FAIR

APRIL 18th | 10 A.M - 2 P.M.

DISCOVER RESOURCES

- ✓ Employment & Education
- ✓ Family Support
- ✓ Health & Wellness
- ✓ Benefits & Claims
- ✓ PLUS: Food Trucks, entertainment & activities for the whole family.

FREE ADMISSION

SCAN QR TO REGISTER & HELP WITH PLANNING



Together With:



LOCATION: Hill Aerospace Museum
- 7961 Cottonwood St. Bldg 1955, Hill AFB, Utah 84056 -

Department of Utah Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)

Terry Schow

tschow48@gmail.com

801-644-2058

Rick Mead

adjutant@utlegion.org

801-699-1526

Tami Santerre

AFLadyVet14@outlook.com

tami.santerre@va.gov

801-831-3677

If you are interested in becoming a Veteran Service Officer, please contact Rick Mead, Department Adjutant.

To learn more about the VA Eligibility and Claim process, visit: <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-a-claim/>

We Can
HELP YOU!



Department Chaplain

PURGATORY Soup

When I was around 9 or 10 years old, we lived on a 90-acre farm. My brother Terry and I would do the chores around the farm, put up or fix fences, cut trees for wood, pick up rocks in the newly plowed cleared fields. From the trees we cut we sold ricks of wood for fire places for \$13 a rick. When Terry wasn't around, I was left alone to do chores and on cold days spent time in the house helping my dad and sister clean the house.

My mother worked two jobs. During the day she worked at an Admirals factory and at night she worked at an exclusive restaurant called Harbor Lights in Galesburg, Illinois. We actually lived in Knoxville just a few miles away.

My Stepdad (Honored to call him Dad) was a Shell Oil District manager so had most weekends off. We had one of those 50- or 60-year- old electric Westinghouse rosters. On weekends alone with him he drank and I was his runner to the fridge to keep him supplied. During those bursts of the moment, he would get a burst of energy to make things like my dad's homemade chili. It was really good because he would at the end of the completion of the vat of chili would add his specialty addition of a bottle of beer. Dad had a knack to topping everything off with a bottle of beer or more...that we can leave for more stories. However, when we started cleaning the refrigerator this was another adventure. Dad would want to surprise mother before she got home and have dinner ready. This always ended up with the mixings of everything left over in the refrigerator because my dad was one of those people that did not waste anything. We raised our own cattle, hogs, chickens, turkeys, guinea's, rabbits, and wild fowl. So, the meat was taken out of the freezer and put in the roaster pan.

You have to imagine that this was probably a 5 gallons or so roaster. After the roasting of the meat dad started adding everything left over that was laying in the refrigerator. This sounds like a stew, right? Well, dad had his own version of his concoction. This was his version to be named Purgatory Soup. He said that it would have gone to hell if it was not eaten so he designed this dish as purgatory soup so as not to be wasted. In this cuisine was leftovers put back in to the refrigerator like potatoes, carrots, celery, green beans, peas or whatever was laying around in that hell hole covered stacked Tupperware and vegetable drawers. By the time it was finished it was absolutely delicious. Just like the chili there was always left over from that and was put in Tupperware and frozen to be eaten at a later time.

Purgatory Soup, cont'

My dad not only made sure that house was clean when mom wasn't around, he was a good cook and waited on mother to come home on those weekends and he laid a large towel or rug in front of her like a queen as she entered the house, bowed to her and made sure she was taken care of and loved. In his silly ways he always had a sense of humor. He taught us to work, appreciate what you have and gave us a sense of service to each other.

As Department of Utah, Chaplain for the American Legion this has taught me many things in life. It taught me I wish I could have been a better father rather than a provider. It taught me to appreciate what we have, use what is provided to us, never waste anything and recycle all that we can. Recycle the good moments and share the love given to us. Make the spiritual moments your prized possessions. Make those prized possessions your treasures. Make your hellish moments in life your purgatory soup. Whatever was an obstacle in life overcome it. Make every day your last and love like you have never loved before. Believe in that ONE that never gave up on you and is still there in your darkest moments. After this life, our purgatory life, will be the best testimony of the dates on our headstone.

From the day we were born till the last breath we take will be the story of an eternal legacy. This mix of failures and successes will be our purgatory glory.

Randy D. Edwards, PNVC, PDC
Department Chaplain



BE THE ONE

In Utah, we don't just talk about supporting veterans. We live it. The American Legion's Be the One mission is a call to action, reminding each of us that preventing veteran suicide starts with one conversation, one connection, and one courageous act of compassion.

Suicide prevention is not solely a national program. It is a Department responsibility. It is a Post responsibility. And it is a personal responsibility.

Every Legionnaire in Utah has the power to Be the One.

Be the One to notice when a fellow veteran stops showing up.

Be the One to ask, "Are you okay?" – and truly listen to the answer.

Be the One to connect a struggling veteran to resources, not just once, but until they are supported.

Utah's veteran community spans generations—from World War II and Korea veterans to Vietnam, Gulf War, post-9/11, and currently serving Guard and Reserve members. While their service eras may differ, the challenges of transition, trauma, loss, and isolation often look the same. The solution also remains the same: connection.

As Legion leaders, we must move from awareness to action. That means:

- Conducting regular Buddy Checks
- Promoting the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1)
- Partnering with VA, Vet Centers, and community organizations
- Creating Posts that are welcoming to all generations of veterans and their families
- Talking openly about mental health without stigma

Being strong does not mean suffering in silence. It means having the courage to reach out—and the compassion to respond.

The Be the One mission is not about having all the answers. It is about refusing to look the other way. It is about remembering that sometimes the most powerful words we can say are, "I'm here. You're not alone."

In Utah, we believe in servant leadership. We believe in honoring our oath to care for those who have borne the battle. And we believe that one person can make a difference in another person's life.

This month, we challenge every Post to identify one tangible action you will take to strengthen your Be the One efforts. One outreach event. One training. One renewed commitment to Buddy Checks. Small steps, taken consistently, save lives.

Let us lead with courage.

Let us lead with compassion.

Let us Be the One.

Resilience Wears Many Uniforms

BE THE ONE

On a cold morning this winter, a veteran walked quietly into a local Post for the first time. He had not worn the uniform in years, but the weight of service still showed in his posture. He did not come for recognition. He came because he was tired.

After serving multiple deployments, he returned home determined to build a strong life for his family. For a while, he did. A steady job, a home, children in school. But like many veterans, the transition was not as simple as removing a uniform. Sleepless nights turned into strained relationships. Job changes followed. Pride kept him from asking for help until the day everything felt like it was slipping through his fingers.

What changed his course was not a grand program or a headline initiative. It was a conversation.

A Legionnaire noticed him sitting alone at a meeting and simply asked, "How are you really doing?" That question opened the door. Within days, he was connected with a service officer who helped review his VA benefits. He was introduced to other veterans who understood without explanation. He was invited back, not as a guest, but as a brother.

Resilience does not mean never struggling. It means refusing to quit. It means allowing others to stand beside you when your strength feels thin.

Over the next several months, that veteran began to rebuild. Benefits he had earned but never claimed were approved. He found new employment. He started volunteering at events, setting up chairs, helping with flag ceremonies, mentoring younger service members. The man who once walked in feeling alone now checks on others through Buddy Check calls. He shows up early and stays late. He tells new veterans, "Don't wait as long as I did."

His story is not unique, and that is exactly the point.

Across our Department, resilience looks like veterans choosing to keep going. It looks like Posts reaching out instead of waiting. It looks like quiet acts of service that restore dignity and stability. It is found in conversations, in shared coffee, in someone remembering your name.

The uniform may come off, but the strength forged in service does not disappear. Sometimes it just needs a reminder. Sometimes it needs a team.

Resilience wears many uniforms. And in The American Legion, it never stands alone.

Be the One,
Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC
Editor, Department Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF UTAH

THE AMERICAN LEGION



BE THE ONE

Changing and Saving Lives

Saturday, June 6, 2026

(D-Day Remembrance Tribute Included)

Motorcycle / Vehicle Poker Run

Bringing Hope and Understanding for
Suicide Prevention and Awareness

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30AM - Motorcycle & Vehicle Registration

10:30AM - Kickstands Up - Let's GO!

12:00PM - Party & Live Band Begin

American Legion Post 112 SLC Backyard
320 East 3900 South,
Salt Lake City, Utah

★ EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ★

- ✓ Motorcycle & Vehicle Poker Run
- ✓ BBQ & Live Band
- ✓ Raffles & Auctions
- ✓ D-Day Remembrance
- ✓ Awesome Cars & Community

★ REGISTRATION: ★

Riders **\$35**

Passengers **\$15**

Vehicles **\$35** - Walk-ins (BBQ Only) **\$10**

★ WE INVITE ALL OF UTAH! ★

Questions? Contact Rick Jeppesen, Department Be the One Chair
or Brian Campbell, Riders Chapter 112 SLC **801-400-1135**



DEPARTMENT OF UTAH
AMERICANISM PROGRAMS
2025-2026

AMERICAN LEGION UTAH BOYS STATE

Douglas Case, President/Chairman
Call: (888) 222-6057
Email: utahboysstate@utallegion.org
Website: 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
Call: (712) 574-9900
Email: becki_knepper@hotmail.com
Website: www.legion.org/oratorical

Post Contests in January 2026
District Contests in February 2026
Department Contest: March 28, 2026 UPDATED
Scholarships: Dept level: \$750-\$1,500
National level: \$2,000-\$25,000

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

Major Kit Workman, Chairman
Call: (801) 540-6464
Email: kworkman1@aol.com
Website: 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
Call: (801) 628-5929
Email: jdecker@gmail.com
Nation website: www.legion.org/baseball

Steve Hansen, Baseball Commissioner
[sign up teams]
Email: utallegionbaseball@gmail.com
Online registration opens January 1, 2026
Closes June 1, 2026
Scholarships: \$500 to \$5,000

SCOUTING AMERICA

Gene Cottrell, Chairman
Call: (435) 890-9518
Email: genecottrell1967@gmail.com
National website: 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
Call: (801) 541-9952/Department HQ; (801) 599-1018
Email: jguimond1969@gmail.com

Website: www.legion.org/tfa for Temporary
Financial Assistance Information

LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST CONTACT INFORMATION



Boys State serves to aid participants of all ages in gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the structure and function of our government. The program seeks to encourage further learning and knowledge-sharing, as well as foster respect for foundational principles such as the Constitution, the Rule of Law, and government "of, by, and for the people" - the core pillars supporting our constitutional republic.

In preparing this article, I was reminded of a quote that encapsulates the spirit of teaching:

"The mediocre teacher **tells**. The good teacher **explains**.

The superior teacher **demonstrates**. The great teacher **inspires**." – William Arthur Ward

History not only instructs but often inspires. As a mentor once stated, "Those who do not know history are destined to repeat it."

*This month in history: Imagine the **people**, the **lives** and the **future** impacted by just a handful of events:*

March 2, (1776) American troops begin shelling the British in Boston.

March 4, (1776) American War of Independence: The Americans capture Dorchester Heights dominating the port of Boston, Massachusetts.

March 7 the telephone is patented (1876) Scottish-born Alexander Graham Bell patented his brand-new invention, the telephone. At just 29 years old, Bell invented a device that would revolutionize communication as we know it. *Do you think he considered a handheld computer (cell phone) as the future?*

March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life.

March 12, Hitler annexes Austria (1938) known as the "Anschluss", Hitler's political union of Austria achieved through annexation began on 12 March 1938 and was completed just one day later. Afterwards, Austria was declared an official part of the Third Reich.

March 16, My Lai Massacre occurs in Vietnam (1968). Known as one of the most horrific events of the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre saw the mass murder of around 500 unarmed Vietnamese villagers by U.S. soldiers in the hamlet of My Lai. No one was spared including women, children and the elderly.

March 20, The Iraq War begins (2003). The United States, along with coalition forces, initiated war on Iraq. The invasion was part of President George W. Bush's 'war on terror' and led to the toppling of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The conflict lasted until 2011.

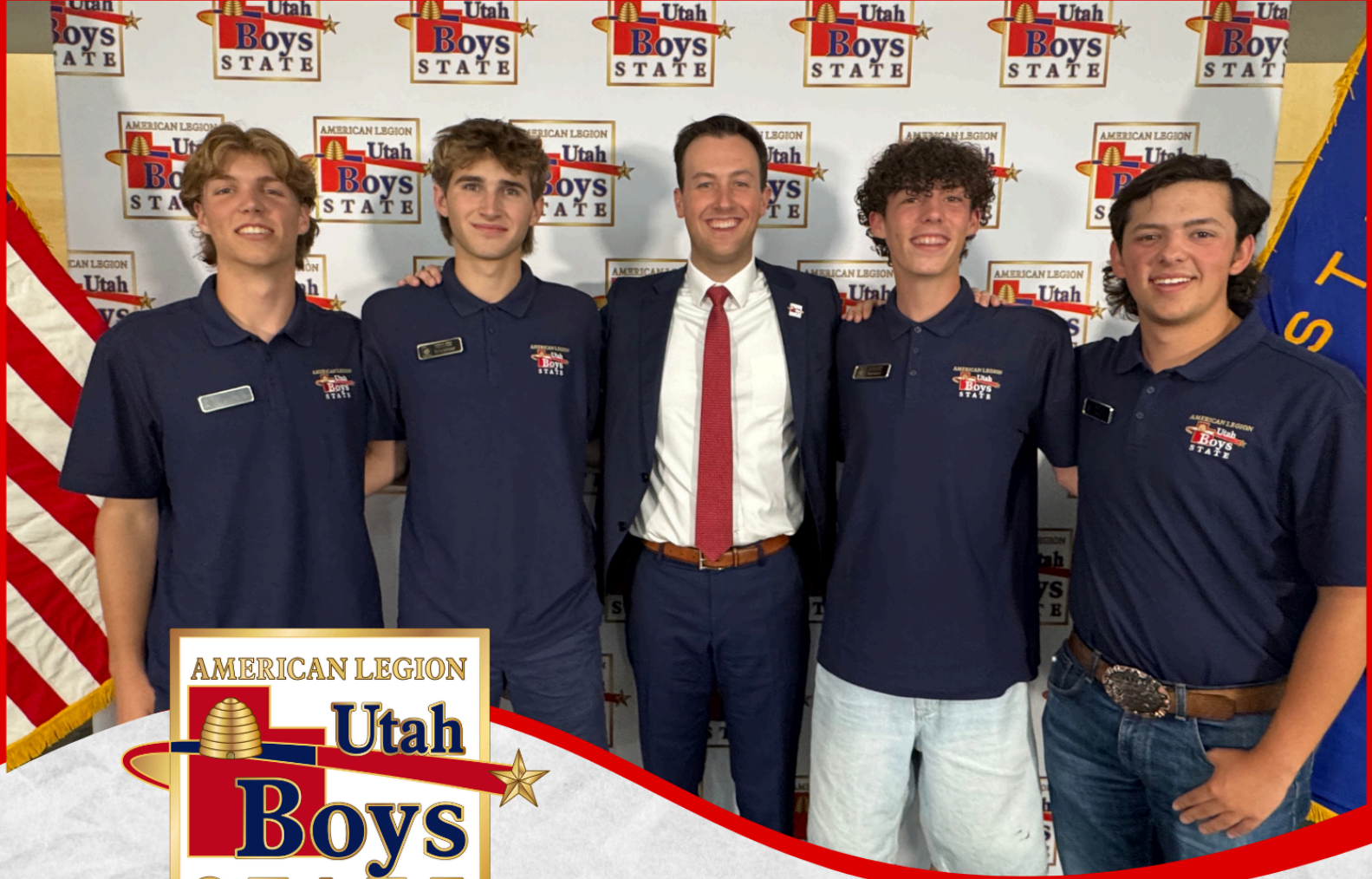
March 11, Fukushima Japan nuclear disaster occurs (2011)

March (2026) could mark a pivotal moment in our shared history. The actions taken during this month may serve as an inspiration for future leaders, educators, and participants. It could signal the beginning of increased and more generous contributions in support of the Boys State program. Additionally, this period may see more legionnaires volunteering as staff members or counselors. Perhaps this year will witness 300 boys attending, or a Boys Nation Senator from Utah elected as Boys Nation Governor. If we aim to be remembered positively, it is essential for everyone to participate actively, prepare diligently, and move forward collaboratively into new opportunities.

Volunteer to help at www.utahboysstate.org/become-a-counselor, it works for staff volunteers as well.

Doug Case
President
Utah Boys State

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them."
-John Maxwell



**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR BOYS
AT WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
JUNE 7 - 13, 2026**

\$475

We Offer:

- 3 hours of political science college credit in 1 week ✓
- Civic education ✓
- \$2M+ scholarship offers in 2025 ✓
- APPLY** February 1 - April 15, 2026 ✓
- APPLY** utahboysstate.org ✓
- For more information, see your school counselor ✓



Learn more!



Scan me!



✉ ubs@utahboysstate.org

🌐 utahboysstate.org



Utah Boys & Girls State Appropriations at the Utah State Capitol

Representatives from Utah Boys State and Utah Girls State proudly gathered at the Utah State Capitol to promote and advocate for continued legislative funding support of these premier civic education programs. Their presence at the appropriations committee meeting demonstrated the lasting impact these programs have on developing informed, engaged, and service-oriented young leaders across Utah.

The delegation had the opportunity to share firsthand how Boys State and Girls State shape civic understanding, leadership skills, and a commitment to public service. Their professionalism and confidence reflected the very principles the programs are designed to instill.

A sincere thank you to Terry Schow, Utah National Executive Committeeman for coordination. We greatly appreciated the State Representatives and State Senators who expressed their continued support during the presentation. Their engagement reinforces the importance of investing in youth civic education and leadership development in our state.

Utah continues to lead by example in preparing the next generation of leaders.





Donate Online: <https://utahboysstate.org/ubs-foundation/>
Donate \$250 to Secure Your Spot!

Join the Founders 250!

- ★ Support Utah Boys State program
- ★ Be part of America's 250th Anniversary
- ★ Donate \$250 by December 31, 2026

Why It Matters

- ★ Developing Young Leaders
- ★ Promoting Civic Education
- ★ Inspiring Service & Patriotism
- ★ Preserving Our Legacy



Your Impact

- Provide Scholarships
- Enhance Servant Leadership
- Expand Alumni Engagement

Recognition & Benefits

-  Exclusive Pin
-  Alumni Membership
-  Recognition at June Welcome Reception

Donate by December 31, 2026

ORATORICAL CONTEST

A Constitutional Speech Contest

The 2026 Department High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will be held on March 28, 2026, at 1PM in the Historic Old Courthouse on 51 South University Ave., Provo, UT

About the Oratorical Contest

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students: 9-12 grades. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes, CNN anchor Lou Dobbs, and former Vice President Mike Pence. Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students.

This year the scholarship award for the first place national oratorical contest winner will increase to \$25,000; the second place national oratorical contest winner will increase to \$22,500; and the third place national oratorical contest winner increase to \$20,000, for a total of over \$203,500 in scholarships awarded for the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.



ORATORICAL CONTEST cont'

The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States. High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds.

The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers. Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest. The contest starts at the Post level and moves up to the District level. The winners from the districts then go on to the Department Contest.

- The Utah Oratorical contest will be held in Provo at the Courthouse starting at 1:00 pm on March 28, 2026.
- Contestants must be there at noon. [Click here for Contest Resources](#). This site has all the information that a post will need to run a contest: videos, scripts, briefings, etc. At department we follow the national procedures and highly encourage posts and districts to follow suit so all contestants know what to expect if they make the next level of competition.
- The winners receive scholarships of \$1500 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

More information about Oratorical can be found at the National American Legion website at legion.org, including for the National Oratorical Rules.

Utah has a Facebook Oratorical page: www.facebook.com/utlegionoratorical -Utah American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program.

For more information about the Department contest contact Becki Knepper, Department Oratorical Chair.



The Department of Utah is always looking ahead and preparing the next generation of leaders. As we plan for the future, we encourage Legionnaires who have a desire to serve at the Post, District or Department level to step forward and express interest in leadership and committee positions. Whether your strengths are in membership, youth programs, legislative advocacy, training, communications, or veteran outreach, there is a place for you to make an impact. Now is the time to get involved, learn the process, and help shape the future of the Department of Utah.

HELP WANTED: DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN starting July 2026

Want to become more knowledgeable about American Legion programs? Supervisory position that works with wonderful Chairs for Utah Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Scouting, High School Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, and Children & Youth. You don't have to be knowledgeable about the programs. Training will be provided. This job is the link with these programs and the Department level and getting information out to statewide Legion Posts. The only absolute is that you are current member of The American Legion in Utah. Requirement to attend 4 DEC's (Department Executive Committee) and provide general report(s) for Chairs not present. Coordinate and assist organizational challenges with Program Chairs.

Contact Paula Stephenson, stphnsnc@aol.com or (801) 589-2871.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL



As members of the American Legion, we know that everything the American Legion does makes American's better. American Legion baseball is part of that, because it teaches boys/players 13-19-year-old leadership, teamwork, fitness and sportsmanship.

We would love to see more teams added this year. You can help! Find out within your Post area if there may be interest with starting a team.

To Play:

Contact Steve Hansen, Utah American Legion Baseball Commissioner. Call 435-760-7030 or email utlegionbaseball@gmail.com.

More information: www.legion.org/baseball.

Support an American Legion team in your area. Contact John Decker, Utah American Legion Baseball Chairman. Call 801-628-5329 or email 6decker@gmail.com.

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**

THE FOUR PILLARS – WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The four pillars of The American Legion are the practical framework that guides our work in every Post, every District, and every Department across the nation. When we align our programs, meetings, and outreach with these pillars, we ensure our service remains focused, measurable, and impactful.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation begins at the local level. Posts can support this pillar by conducting regular Buddy Checks, partnering with accredited service officers to assist with VA claims, and identifying veterans in crisis before challenges escalate. Districts can coordinate training on benefits awareness, mental health resources, and suicide prevention initiatives. Tracking outreach efforts and reporting measurable outcomes reinforces our commitment that no veteran stands alone.

National Security calls us to support those currently serving and to strengthen our communities. Posts can adopt local Guard and Reserve units, recognize first responders, and participate in community emergency preparedness efforts. Districts can build relationships with state and local leaders to advocate for policies that protect service members, military families, and veterans. Hosting educational briefings on national defense issues also reinforces informed citizenship among our members.

Americanism remains one of our most visible pillars. Posts can sponsor Boys State and Girls State participants, conduct flag education programs in schools, host Oratorical Contests, and lead patriotic observances throughout the year. Districts can support Posts by coordinating regional competitions, sharing best practices, and ensuring youth programs are fully funded and promoted. Investing in civic education strengthens the future of our nation.

Children and Youth focuses on the well-being of families. Posts can provide scholarships, mentor youth, support military families during deployment, and partner with schools and community organizations to promote child safety and educational opportunity. Districts can identify gaps in services and create collaborative efforts that extend support beyond individual Posts, ensuring broader community impact.

The strength of the Four Pillars lies in unity of purpose. Each Post does not need to do everything, but every Post should intentionally support each pillar in some measurable way. District leadership can encourage accountability by setting annual goals, sharing success stories, and recognizing Posts that demonstrate excellence in pillar engagement.

When we structure our planning, budgeting, and reporting around the Four Pillars, we move beyond meetings and ceremonies into meaningful service. Together, at the Post, District, and Department levels, we ensure The American Legion remains relevant, responsive, and ready to serve.

For God and Country.

POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

POST 119, West Jordan

Exciting momentum is building at Post 119 in West Jordan as we move forward with focused revitalization efforts designed to strengthen membership, increase community impact, and re-energize veteran engagement in our area.

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Post 119 meetings are now held on the 2nd Thursday of every month

Station 54 – West Jordan Fire Department

9351 Hawley Park Rd., West Jordan, UT
Large Conference Room on 1st Floor to right

 **6:30 PM**

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026



These meetings are centered on rebuilding Post leadership, strengthening programs that serve veterans and their families, and reconnecting with our community partners. Whether you are a longtime Legionnaire, a recently separated service member, or a veteran looking for renewed connection and purpose, your voice and experience matter.

Revitalization is not just about growing numbers. It is about restoring energy, mission focus, and meaningful service to West Jordan's veteran community.

We invite all eligible veterans and current members to attend, bring a comrade veteran, and be part of shaping the future of Post 119 in West Jordan.

Stronger together. Purpose driven. Mission focused

If you have any questions, please contact Ninzel Rasmuson, Area 2 Commander at 385-900-3124 or via email at ninzel9@gmail.com

POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

District 4 Oratorical Contest



On February 7, 2026, the District 4 Oratorical Contest showcased outstanding young leaders who demonstrated a deep understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its enduring principles. Each student delivered thoughtful, well-prepared speeches with confidence, clarity, and passion. The competition reflected the strength of civic education in our communities and the bright future of American leadership.



Congratulations to all participants for their dedication and excellence!



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS



*We
Remember*

POST 112, SALT LAKE CITY

On February 15, 2026, Post 112 conducted a solemn and meaningful Post Everlasting ceremony at Post 112 in Salt Lake City to honor our departed comrades who have answered the final roll call. With reverence and gratitude, we remembered their faithful service to our nation, their commitment to The American Legion, and the lasting impact they made within our Post and community. As their names were spoken and candles lit in tribute, we were reminded that while they are no longer with us in body, their legacy of duty, honor, and service endures. May we continue to carry forward their example and ensure their memory is never forgotten.

POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS



POST 100, HURRICANE

Nannette Billings, former mayor of Hurricane was presented with a plaque for the work she did for the American Legion Rodeo park and the future to be completed Veterans Memorial Park. Presented by Jerry Curtis Director of the American Legion Riders.



District and Post activities are the heartbeat of our organization. Every meeting, service project, award presentation, and community event tells the story of impact happening across our Department. Sharing your updates helps strengthen communication, inspire other Posts, recognize volunteer efforts, and preserve our legacy for future members. Please submit your District and Post happenings to the newsletter editor, Ninzel Rasmuson, so we can highlight the great work being done throughout the state. All photos must be submitted as .png or .jpeg files to ensure publication quality. Thank you for helping us showcase the outstanding work of our American Legion family!

DEATH AND TAXES ?



Do you know what happens to VA disability payments when a veteran dies?

The payments from a veteran's disability compensation benefit **end** upon the individual's death. A surviving spouse is eligible to receive compensation, called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), from the VA under the following conditions:

- The recipient (veteran) dies while on active-duty.
- The veteran died from a service-connected disability.
- The veteran was rated totally disabled for the last 10 years of the individual's life (or at least five years from the date of separation or retirement).

For more about benefits for family members visit www.choose.va.gov/family-members

Courtesy of the Military Officer magazine Feb 2026

Did you know, Tax Deduction for Seniors

New deduction: Effective for 2025 through 2028, individuals who are age 65 and older may claim an additional deduction of \$6,000. This new deduction is in addition to the current additional standard deduction for seniors under existing law.

- The \$6,000 senior deduction is per eligible individual (i.e., \$12,000 total for a married couple where both spouses qualify).
- Deduction phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers).
- **Qualifying taxpayers:** To qualify for the additional deduction, a taxpayer must attain age 65 on or before the last day of the taxable year.
- **Taxpayer eligibility:** Deduction is available for both itemizing and non-itemizing taxpayers.

Taxpayers must:

include the Social Security Number of the qualifying individual(s) on the return, and file jointly if married, to claim the deduction.

Did you know, A Modest New Deduction; For Non-Itemizers

This is the year you should seriously consider making a tax-deductible donation to a great program your "Utah Boys State" program, deductible on your 2027 return.

Most Americans don't itemize deductions. Starting in 2026, the OBBB allows non-itemizers to deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable contributions—or \$2,000 for joint filers. This does not apply to gifts to donor-advised funds, but it does apply to gifts made directly to charitable organizations. Utah Boys State Foundation is a charitable organization 😊 Donate this year take the tax advantage next year, it's win, win.



Last Comments Before We Go

Department Executive Committee Meeting
February 21, 2026

Leadership, Communication & The Blue Hatter

One of the often-unforgiven duties in leadership is the organization of time and the opportunity to properly distribute information to the membership from our Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings. Leadership distribution of knowledge is both challenging and time-consuming. Getting everything communicated clearly to every member requires discipline and dedication.

For the individual member, engagement is equally important. Each Legionnaire must take responsibility to compile information, digest what is important, and ensure it is shared with their Post. Information does not distribute itself — it requires leaders at every level.

The Blue Hatter remains the most important bulletin for distributing information to our membership. It captures the depth and scope of what occurs at our DEC meetings and ensures that every Utah Legionnaire has access to the knowledge necessary to lead effectively. As many of us know from our military experience: Knowledge is Power.

Our DEC meetings are quarterly. They are organized, thorough, and lengthy. The information shared can feel overwhelming. The Blue Hatter captures that information and more for distribution to every Utah American Legion member.

Ninzel Rasmuson works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure we receive this information. Her commitment to training, organization, and communication allows us to become the best Legionnaires in the country. She deserves our sincere appreciation and recognition.

Left Behind the Scenes – Americanism Commission Update

During the DEC, I recognized that much work occurs behind the scenes that often goes unreported due to time constraints on the agenda. Items that deserve attention are sometimes delayed for future meetings and unintentionally forgotten. The following information is important for our membership to know.

Just one week prior to the DEC, the National Americanism Commission released the official Definition of Americanism adopted in October 2025. Some may have read about this from the National Commander in The American Legion Magazine or heard reference to it during the 2025 Department Convention.

At the National Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Utah proposed an amendment to the first line of the resolution to read: 'The American Legion, founded for God and Country in the aftermath of the Great War.' This language mirrors our Preamble: 'For God and Country we associate ourselves for the following purposes,' and places God as our Supreme leader within the definition of Americanism.

Resolution No. 30 – Definition of Americanism (Adopted October 8–9, 2025)

Americanism is defined as a steadfast and heartfelt devotion to the founding principles, enduring values and civic responsibilities of the United States of America, a devotion inspired and exemplified

by those who have honorably served in uniform, including:

- Loyalty to the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law as the unshakable foundation of American democracy, individual liberty and justice.
- Reverence for sacrifice, upholding the dignity of selfless service as demonstrated by veterans and citizens who have placed duty, honor and country above self.
- Commitment to democratic principles, defending free and fair elections, individual rights and accountable governance.
- Patriotic citizenship demonstrated through civic responsibility, public service and respect for national symbols and institutions.
- Respect for God and Country and all Americans, grounded in liberty, equality and justice for all.
- Recognition of national unity built upon mutual respect, shared sacrifice and freedom.

This resolution supersedes and rescinds the 1962 National Convention Resolution No. 105.

Left Behind the Scenes – The 1919 Society

In 2023, Past National Commander Denise Rohan appointed Randy D. Edwards as Utah's Department Chairman for the 1919 Society. The 1919 Society is a network of proud donors who believe in The American Legion's sacred commitment to veterans, military service, youth, responsible citizenship and patriotic values.

The Society supports Temporary Assistance, Disaster Relief, Children & Youth programs, and other American Legion initiatives that directly serve veterans and families.

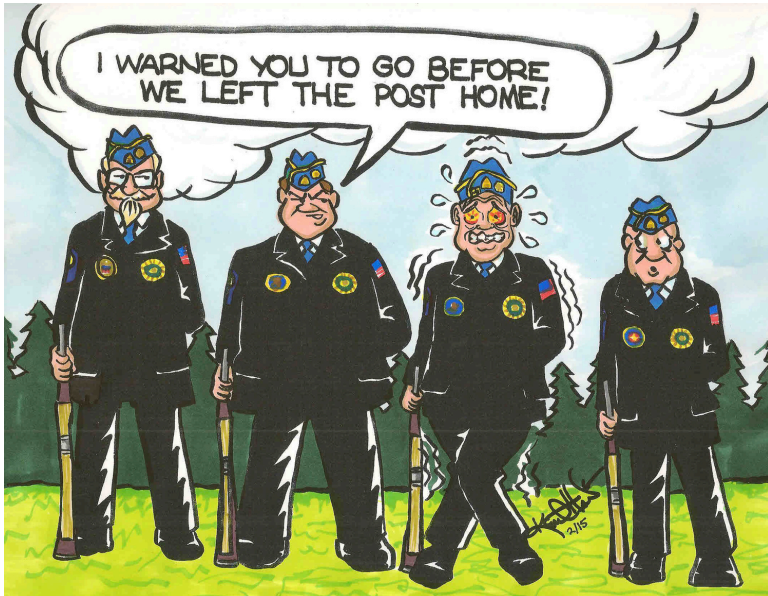
Utah is currently one of 21 Departments that have not met our 2024 or 2025 obligations. Our outstanding commitment totals \$12,937.75. Support is requested from Posts, Legion Riders, Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion, businesses and individuals to help Utah meet its national obligation before the National Convention.

Suggested efforts include fundraising rides, unit fundraisers, garage sales, and direct donations designated for the 1919 Society. Let Utah 'Be the One' to fulfill this commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Department Leadership
The American Legion, Department of Utah

Submission by Randy D. Edwards, PNVC, PDC, Post 13, Provo

LAST LAUGH



POST 27, FARMINGTON

We always enjoy Kent Hansen's cartoons and appreciate that he shares his talents with all of us.

Do you have art, poetry, or stories you want to share? Send it in!



BLUE HATTER SUBMISSION NEXT DUE DATE:

Friday, April 24, 2026
for May Newsletter.

This is the last newsletter for the
2025-2026 membership year.

Please send submissions on time to Ninzel.

Thank you!



REMINDER: DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTIONS

Spring Convention Dates

District 1: April 25, 2026
 District 2: May 9, 2026
 District 3: TBD
 District 4: April 18, 2026

District 5: TBD
 District 6: May 2, 2026
 District 7: March 7, 2026
 District 8: April 11, 2026
 District 9: TBD

If you have questions about Spring Conventions, please contact the District Commander. Thank you.