



BLUE HATTER

A blue hat with a gold band, featuring the American Legion logo and the word 'UTAH' on the side.

Department of Utah
Department Newsletter

May 2026

BLUE HATTER



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BLUE HATTER



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

ARMED FORCES DAY

On Armed Forces Day, the Department of Utah proudly honors the men and women currently serving in every branch of our United States Armed Forces. We thank them for their courage, dedication, and commitment to defending our nation and preserving our freedoms. Please join us in showing gratitude to those who serve today.



MEMORIAL DAY

This Memorial Day, the Department of Utah pauses to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice secured the freedoms we enjoy today and reminds us of the true cost of liberty. As we approach America250, we reflect on 250 years of freedom made possible through the courage and sacrifice of generations of patriots. We remember them with gratitude, reverence, and a renewed commitment to serve others in their memory. May we never forget our fallen heroes or the families who carry their legacy forward. Thank you to all of the Honor Guards for their ongoing services every year at Utah's cemeteries.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Department of Utah Department Convention will be held June 26–28, 2026, in Richfield, Utah. This annual gathering is an important opportunity for members across the state to come together for business meetings, reports, elections, training, fellowship, and to help shape the future of our organization. All members of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders are encouraged to attend and participate. Your presence strengthens our Department and ensures every program and family member has a voice. Please make plans now to join us in Richfield as we celebrate accomplishments, conduct the business of the Department, and continue building a stronger future for The American Legion Family in Utah. More details on schedules, meetings, and lodging have been shared already from the Department Adjutant. Please see **IMPORTANT** information below to complete and submit, as appropriate.



Accommodations for Department of Utah

2026 State Convention

Richfield Utah – June 26th, 27th, and the 28th 2026

Hotel:	Rooms: \$100 plus tax (\$13.62)
Quality Hotel by Choice Hotels	Suite – a king with a pull-out couch (+ \$10)
540 South Main Street	King
Richfield, Utah 84701	Queens (two)

Call **435-896-5465** to make reservations (mention you are attending the American Legion State Convention)

RV: Spaces are \$57.95, if you mention "American Legion" you will receive a 10% discount off of that.

We have a block of 10 reserved for members with Trailers (more available if needed)

Venture RV Park

420 West 1500 South

Richfield, Utah 84701

435-896-3886

Venturervpark.com

Utah Army National Guard Armory

620 West 200 South

Richfield, Utah 84701

**Food Reservation Form
American Legion Dept. of Utah Convention**

June 26 – June 28, 2026

Deadline for food reservations/payment Friday, June 19th, 2026

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Luncheon – Saturday June 27th

Cost \$20.00/person
Club sandwich or Chicken wrap
Served with salad and drinks, cookies

Name _____ Post/Squadron _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____ # of Tickets _____

Auxiliary Luncheon – Saturday June 27th

Cost \$20.00/person
Club sandwich or Chicken wrap
Served with salad and drinks, cookies

Name _____ Unit _____

Email Address _____

Phone# _____ # of Tickets _____

**American Legion Family Banquet
(Auxiliary/Legion/SAL/Legion Riders/Guests)**

**Saturday June 27 – Cost \$35.00/person
Buffet Style Dining**

Menu : Roast Beef or Malibu Chicken, served with mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, salad & muffin. Dessert & Lemonade or water (lemon bars & brownies)

Name _____ Post/Unit _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____ # of Tickets _____

_____ Roast Beef

_____ Malibu Chicken

.....
Total Amount Enclosed _____

Check # _____

Make Check Payable to: ALA Dept. of Utah

Send completed form and payment to:

ALA Department of Utah PO Box 148000 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-8000

For Questions – Please contact Cary Fisher at alautah@yahoo.com



The American Legion, SALIINA 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 and its members

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: \$ 235

Half Page Ad: \$160

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

**THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR DONATION**

"We are truly grateful for your generous donation and the impact it will make in our veteran community. With your help, we can continue to work towards a brighter future, empowering individuals and transforming lives. With your donation of \$100 or more you may choose from one of the following light boxes as a thank. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery as each piece is hand made for you. Please choose from the following numbers or if you don't see what you want ask us to make it for you. Add your name, address and the number you choose to the following page.

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  |
| 5 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 8 |  |
| 9 |  | 10 |  | 11 |  | 12 |  |
| 13 |  | 14 |  | 15 |  | 16 |  |
| 17 |  | 18 |  | | | | |

Lights are included, usb adaptor will be needed.

Return the following information along with a check for your donation to:

Jeff Stithem, Convention Committee

P.O. Box 13

Salina, UT 84654

For questions email utahpostal@hotmail.com

Subject Line: Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Choice of Number (1-18): _____

If wanting more than 1 light box please contact Jeff via email. Duplicate form as needed.

Return the following information along with a check for your donation to:

Jeff Stithem, Convention Committee

P.O. Box 13

Salina, UT 84654

For questions email utahpostal@hotmail.com

Subject Line: Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Choice of Number (1-18): _____

If wanting more than 1 light box please contact Jeff via email. Duplicate form as needed.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS PHOTOS

REMINDER:

As a newly elected officer, if you are a member of the DEC and/or have an appointed position from the new Department Commander, please be prepared to have your photo taken at the first 2026-2027 Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting that will be scheduled within 30 days after the Department Convention in July 2026. Make sure you have your cap with you for the photo. It will be taken in front of the American Flag. Photos are for the Department newsletter and website. If you have any questions, please contact Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC.



WHO ARE YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATORS?



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Making a difference in the Department of Utah, starts with getting involved. Attend meetings, volunteer for Buddy Checks, youth programs, veteran outreach, and community service projects. Support membership growth and encourage participation from the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

Stay informed on legislative priorities, speak up for veterans, and be willing to serve where needed. Small acts of dedication and teamwork make a big difference across Utah.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The American Legion continues to lead the fight for veterans, service members, military families, and survivors through strong legislative advocacy in 2026. Key priorities include protecting and expanding access to quality U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care, reducing delays in claims processing, strengthening mental health resources, preventing veteran suicide, and improving support for caregivers and homeless veterans.

Additional priorities include preserving earned benefits, supporting transition programs for service members entering civilian life, enhancing education opportunities, and ensuring a strong national defense that properly supports those who wear the uniform.

Members are encouraged to stay informed, connect with elected officials, and utilize the Grassroots Action Center to make their voices heard. Together, we can continue to advance policies that honor the service and sacrifice of America's veterans and their families.

Utah Legion College Update

Utah Legion College is underway in its continued development and the plan is to hold the first event in June 2027. Stay tuned for further information during the 2026-2027 membership year. If you would like to be an instructor, please contact Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC, Dean, Utah Legion College.



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

Founded in 1965, the non-profit Legionnaire Insurance Trust is comprised of 50 Departments of The American Legion representing some 1.5 million members. For over five decades, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been your Department's endorsed insurance program.

LIT offers Supplemental Health and Accident Plans to all LIT members. LIT's years of experience and valued partnership with Legionnaires has allowed them to customize their programs and products to better serve members' needs.

When you enroll in a LIT program benefit, you'll be proud to know that your dollars are hard at work funding many great community programs.

Over the years, the LIT has returned \$90 million dollars back to Legion Departments. This year, Department of Utah received \$12,045.00. These allocations have helped pay for things like renovations to American Legion Baseball fields and salaries for Service Officers at the VA to assist members with claims. Money from the LIT has also helped fund Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. With about 23 million U.S. veterans who are alive today, we are proud to have been able to give much support to those who served – and continue to serve – our country.

Due to various federal budget cuts, our veterans aren't always getting the help they need, especially when it comes to healthcare. Hundreds of thousands of our men and women who recently served in tours to Iraq and Afghanistan now rely on the VA health system for health care services, as well as our older veterans. Your funds to LIT help support the healthcare and rehabilitative needs of veterans like you.

But that's not all...Since 2007, over \$20 million has helped create scholarships like the Legacy Scholarship Fund, outreach programs, the National Emergency Fund and Child Welfare Foundation. These funds also help support the Boy and Girl Scouts, Operation Comfort Warriors, Soldier's Wish and Camp American Legion.

Funding these programs and activities give LIT the opportunity to honor the past and help give purpose to Legion families and future generations. Help LIT continue these programs and inspire others to do the same for years to come. www.thelit.com



ATTENTION AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT!



It is time to sign your team up for
Accidental Insurance Protection!

The annual offer for Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance is happening now. Please ensure that your Officers are covered with **\$25,000 or \$50,000** of insurance in the event that they are killed or dismembered due to an accident while on Official Legion Family Business*.

This is important. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is offering this valuable protection at competitive rates. Make sure to take advantage of this offer to provide essential coverage for your team. You can elect coverage for department staff too!

\$25,000 of Coverage

• **\$3.24** ANNUALLY per person**

\$50,000 of Coverage

• **\$6.48** ANNUALLY per person**

** Rates may vary by state, see enrollment form

PLEASE DON'T WAIT!

This is important Insurance for your Officers.

To enroll, follow these 3 simple steps:

- 1 Complete the attached enrollment form
- 2 Submit a roster of officers to be covered (listing by name and title)
- 3 Pay the premium

Enrollments must be made annually to properly reflect any changes in the number of officers to be covered. The premiums should be calculated and made payable to AGIA and sent to our Scottsdale office for processing. **This must be paid by July 15, 2026.**

Make sure to take advantage of this offer to provide essential coverage for your team. If you have any questions, please reach out to Gabriela Atwell at gabriela.atwell@agia.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping ensure that your Officers are protected!

*Official Legion Business means traveling to, attending, or returning from a function when the Officer is representing the American Legion in an official capacity. Examples include representing the Legion Family at public ceremonies & events, attending District/Area meetings and many more!

Please note: if you have already signed your officers up for the 2025/2026 coverage period, we thank you and please disregard this message.

Underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company.

Policy form series 17-50925. Full terms & conditions, including benefits, exclusions, & limitations, are found in the certificate/policy. Benefits may vary and this program may not be available to residents of all states. Availability of this offer may change. In the event of any discrepancy between this information and the policy/certificate, the terms of the policy/certificate will apply. Matt Bishop MI License No. 6495373.

Offered by: A.G.I.A., Inc.

DOFU 3640262

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 Commander Message



Thank You

As we close the 2025–2026 membership year, I extend my sincere gratitude to every member of The American Legion Department of Utah for your dedication, service, and commitment to our mission. Because of your efforts, we have continued to support veterans, strengthen our communities, mentor youth, and keep The American Legion strong across Utah.

Thank you to our posts, districts, volunteers, and members of the entire Legion Family for your hard work throughout the year. Every membership renewal, every new member, and every hour of service has made a difference.

As we finish this year strong and prepare for the future, let us remain united in purpose and committed to serving veterans, active-duty military, and their families. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to the great work still ahead.

For God and Country,
John Robertson
Department Commander



Department Vice Commander Message

As of April 23, 2026, we have reached 94.9% of our Department Membership Goal of 5,785 members for the fiscal year 2025-26. We only need 290 more members to reach the 100% goal. We have met every milestone this year except the 95% goal in our effort to achieve our final 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. This final push will be the hardest to achieve. The American Legion is an organization that fluctuates due to deaths or those who have lost interest. I would like to encourage our Post's especially to reach out to new members with a welcome, swear them in and make sure to mentor them to become involved. We also need to keep in mind those of our members who have mobility and cognitive issues. No one is to be forgotten.

Thank You

Remember: The only time you should look down on a veteran is when you extend a hand to pull them up.

The Training Committee has been busy organizing the proposed Utah Legion College. It is presently planned to begin in June 2027. More information will be forthcoming. This program will help improve our leadership skills throughout the Department.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Department Vice Commander and have had the opportunity to meet many of you during the year. Currently, I wish to announce my candidacy to run as Department Commander for the 2026-27 year and encourage you to attend your District and Department Conventions.

Do not be afraid to step up in your Post, District and Department. The needs of veterans are not going away and there is need for help from volunteers in every Post, District and Department.

Anyone interested in participating in a position or committee is welcome to contact me. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

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

Kent B. Anderson
Utah Department Vice Commander
(702)524-7728
kba6991@gmail.com

2026 TAL Membership Report as of: April 30, 2026

	* All-Time High	2026	2026	% of	Needed To Meet		
		Dept.	Actual	Year End	100% Target		
		Year End	Mbsp.	Goal	5/13/2026	103%	2026
	Department	Goal					Renewal %
1	ARIZONA	33,145	32,093	96.83%	1,052	34,139	87.06
2	FLORIDA	100,800	96,557	95.79%	4,243	103,824	88.72
3	UTAH	5,785	5,519	95.40%	266	5,958	94.31
4	WYOMING	4,965	4,713	94.92%	252	5,113	88.20
5	NEBRASKA	20,388	19,280	94.57%	1,108	20,999	92.81
6	NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,359	12,627	94.52%	732	13,759	89.05
7	OKLAHOMA	11,750	11,105	94.51%	645	12,102	87.92
8	VIRGINIA	35,970	33,979	94.46%	1,991	37,049	89.68
9	SOUTH DAKOTA	15,200	14,348	94.39%	852	15,656	92.71
10	RHODE ISLAND	2,875	2,702	93.98%	173	2,961	90.58
11	MISSOURI	25,464	23,903	93.87%	1,561	26,227	90.40
12	WEST VIRGINIA	11,136	10,433	93.69%	703	11,470	89.20
13	MICHIGAN	53,120	49,763	93.68%	3,357	54,713	90.31
14	MASSACHUSETTS	24,503	22,925	93.56%	1,578	25,238	88.98
15	TEXAS	52,254	48,865	93.51%	3,389	53,821	88.83
16	KANSAS	17,540	16,397	93.48%	1,143	18,066	89.30
17	PENNSYLVANIA	109,000	101,862	93.45%	7,138	112,270	90.48
18	OREGON	11,662	10,880	93.29%	782	12,011	88.22
19	WISCONSIN	44,260	41,274	93.25%	2,986	45,587	91.92
20	WASHINGTON	17,636	16,444	93.24%	1,192	18,165	89.68
21	SOUTH CAROLINA	19,518	18,186	93.18%	1,332	20,103	91.00
22	MAINE	13,851	12,905	93.17%	946	14,266	91.20
23	OHIO	70,535	65,697	93.14%	4,838	72,651	91.01
24	KENTUCKY	14,121	13,137	93.03%	984	14,544	87.03
25	NORTH CAROLINA	31,146	28,941	92.92%	2,205	32,080	88.50
26	MINNESOTA	53,600	49,798	92.91%	3,802	55,208	91.87
27	ALABAMA	15,650	14,527	92.82%	1,123	16,119	90.56
28	IOWA	32,300	29,964	92.77%	2,336	33,269	91.04
29	MARYLAND	41,300	38,300	92.74%	3,000	42,539	89.03
30	ALASKA	5,275	4,889	92.68%	386	5,433	83.66
31	GEORGIA	30,979	28,665	92.53%	2,314	31,908	84.96
32	LOUISIANA	13,531	12,517	92.51%	1,014	13,936	88.35
33	NORTH DAKOTA	10,580	9,786	92.50%	794	10,897	92.66
34	NEW JERSEY	29,900	27,584	92.25%	2,316	30,797	89.43
35	NEW YORK	72,100	66,367	92.05%	5,733	74,263	89.27
36	COLORADO	15,691	14,434	91.99%	1,257	16,161	87.15
37	DELAWARE	8,178	7,508	91.81%	670	8,423	88.01
38	TENNESSEE	19,748	18,123	91.77%	1,625	20,340	88.17
39	NEVADA	5,482	5,024	91.65%	458	5,646	89.53
40	VERMONT	8,100	7,405	91.42%	695	8,343	89.35
41	CALIFORNIA	64,000	58,265	91.04%	5,735	65,920	87.79
42	MISSISSIPPI	8,274	7,531	91.02%	743	8,522	85.91
43	MONTANA	8,966	8,158	90.99%	808	9,234	88.41
44	INDIANA	57,800	52,563	90.94%	5,237	59,534	88.76
45	CONNECTICUT	13,500	12,272	90.90%	1,228	13,905	88.76
46	FRANCE	3,120	2,829	90.67%	291	3,213	84.95
47	PHILIPPINES	1,000	906	90.60%	94	1,030	83.18
48	IDAHO	7,757	6,981	90.00%	776	7,989	88.81
49	ILLINOIS	56,982	51,230	89.91%	5,752	58,691	88.39
50	NEW MEXICO	8,050	7,227	89.78%	823	8,291	84.91
51	ARKANSAS	7,979	7,047	88.32%	932	8,218	85.46
52	DIST OF COL	1,000	877	87.70%	123	1,030	87.71
53	HAWAII	1,966	1,561	79.40%	405	2,024	78.32
54	PUERTO RICO	3,565	2,561	71.84%	1,004	3,671	66.55
55	LATIN AMERICA	1,000	645	64.50%	355	1,030	63.44
	TOTALS	1,367,356	1,270,079	92.89%	97,277	1,408,376	87.85

2025-2026 Regional Breakdown

Central Region - NVC Stephen T. Weismann (TN)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
WEST VIRGINIA	11,136	10,433	93.69%
MICHIGAN	53,120	49,763	93.68%
WISCONSIN	44,260	41,274	93.25%
OHIO	70,535	65,697	93.14%
KENTUCKY	14,121	13,137	93.03%
TENNESSEE	19,748	18,123	91.77%
INDIANA	57,800	52,563	90.94%
ILLINOIS	56,982	51,230	89.91%
Totals	327,702	302,220	92.22%

Midwest Region - NVC Jerry Landkamer (NE)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
NEBRASKA	20,388	19,280	94.57%
OKLAHOMA	11,750	11,105	94.51%
SOUTH DAKOTA	15,200	14,348	94.39%
MISSOURI	25,464	23,903	93.87%
KANSAS	17,540	16,397	93.48%
MINNESOTA	53,600	49,798	92.91%
IOWA	32,300	29,964	92.77%
NORTH DAKOTA	10,580	9,786	92.50%
Totals	186,822	174,581	93.45%

Western Region - NVC Benjamin E. Headen (AZ)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
ARIZONA	33,145	32,093	96.83%
UTAH	5,785	5,519	95.40%
WYOMING	4,965	4,713	94.92%
OREGON	11,662	10,880	93.29%
WASHINGTON	17,636	16,444	93.24%
ALASKA	5,275	4,889	92.68%
COLORADO	15,691	14,434	91.99%
NEVADA	5,482	5,024	91.65%
CALIFORNIA	64,000	58,265	91.04%
MONTANA	8,966	8,158	90.99%
PHILIPPINES	1,000	906	90.60%
IDAHO	7,757	6,981	90.00%
NEW MEXICO	8,050	7,227	89.78%
HAWAII	1,966	1,561	79.40%
LATIN AMERICA	1,000	645	64.50%
Totals	192,380	177,739	92.39%

Southeast Region - NVC Jan D. Larson (MD)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
FLORIDA	100,800	96,557	95.79%
VIRGINIA	35,970	33,979	94.46%
TEXAS	52,254	48,865	93.51%
SOUTH CAROLINA	19,518	18,186	93.18%
NORTH CAROLINA	31,146	28,941	92.92%
ALABAMA	15,650	14,527	92.82%
MARYLAND	41,300	38,300	92.74%
GEORGIA	30,979	28,665	92.53%
LOUISIANA	13,531	12,517	92.51%
MISSISSIPPI	8,274	7,531	91.02%
ARKANSAS	7,979	7,047	88.32%
PUERTO RICO	3,565	2,561	71.84%
Totals	360,966	337,676	93.55%

Northeast Region - NVC Ronald L. LaRose (VT)

Department	Goal	Actual	Percent
NEW HAMPSHIRE	13,359	12,627	94.52%
RHODE ISLAND	2,875	2,702	93.98%
MASSACHUSETTS	24,503	22,925	93.56%
PENNSYLVANIA	109,000	101,862	93.45%
MAINE	13,851	12,905	93.17%
NEW JERSEY	29,900	27,584	92.25%
NEW YORK	72,100	66,367	92.05%
DELAWARE	8,178	7,508	91.81%
VERMONT	8,100	7,405	91.42%
CONNECTICUT	13,500	12,272	90.90%
FRANCE	3,120	2,829	90.67%
DIST OF COL	1,000	877	87.70%
Totals	299,486	277,863	92.78%

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

2025/2026 TAL Traditional Membership Comparison Report

* All-Time High			
Department	2025 Traditional Mbsp. Total 4/30/2025	2026 Traditional Mbsp. Total 4/30/2026	2025/2026 Comparison ahead/-behind
1 PHILIPPINES	794	906	112
2 UTAH	5,514	5,519	5
3 DIST OF COL	942	877	-65
4 WYOMING	4,786	4,713	-73
5 RHODE ISLAND	2,782	2,702	-80
6 ALASKA	4,973	4,889	-84
7 FRANCE	2,918	2,829	-89
8 OKLAHOMA	11,293	11,105	-188
9 OREGON	11,092	10,880	-212
10 NEW HAMPSHIRE	12,859	12,627	-232
11 LATIN AMERICA	879	645	-234
12 NEVADA	5,262	5,024	-238
13 WEST VIRGINIA	10,678	10,433	-245
14 FLORIDA	96,837	96,557	-280
15 MISSISSIPPI	7,825	7,531	-294
16 DELAWARE	7,814	7,508	-306
17 NEW MEXICO	7,540	7,227	-313
18 LOUISIANA	12,850	12,517	-333
19 KENTUCKY	13,483	13,137	-346
20 HAWAII	1,914	1,561	-353
21 MONTANA	8,519	8,158	-361
22 MAINE	13,282	12,905	-377
23 VERMONT	7,784	7,405	-379
24 IDAHO	7,388	6,981	-407
25 WASHINGTON	16,880	16,444	-436
26 ARIZONA	32,566	32,093	-473
27 SOUTH DAKOTA	14,826	14,348	-478
28 ALABAMA	15,020	14,527	-493
29 NEBRASKA	19,783	19,280	-503
30 NORTH DAKOTA	10,292	9,786	-506
31 KANSAS	16,944	16,397	-547
32 VIRGINIA	34,536	33,979	-557
33 SOUTH CAROLINA	18,751	18,186	-565
34 ARKANSAS	7,619	7,047	-572
35 MISSOURI	24,509	23,903	-606
36 MASSACHUSETTS	23,544	22,925	-619
37 COLORADO	15,063	14,434	-629
38 NORTH CAROLINA	29,572	28,941	-631
39 TENNESSEE	18,793	18,123	-670
40 TEXAS	49,547	48,865	-682
41 GEORGIA	29,365	28,665	-700
42 CONNECTICUT	13,043	12,272	-771
43 PUERTO RICO	3,387	2,561	-826
44 WISCONSIN	42,573	41,274	-1,299
45 NEW JERSEY	28,914	27,584	-1,330
46 IOWA	31,349	29,964	-1,385
47 MARYLAND	39,694	38,300	-1,394
48 MICHIGAN	51,241	49,763	-1,478
49 MINNESOTA	51,928	49,798	-2,130
50 OHIO	68,121	65,697	-2,424
51 INDIANA	55,357	52,563	-2,794
52 NEW YORK	69,181	66,367	-2,814
53 ILLINOIS	54,161	51,230	-2,931
54 CALIFORNIA	61,270	58,265	-3,005
55 PENNSYLVANIA	105,329	101,862	-3,467
TOTALS	1,313,166	1,270,079	-43,087

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



Please see information below regarding the Past Commanders Club.

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



Area 2 Commander

Area 2 Family,

As we close out the 2025–2026 membership year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to every member across Area 2, including our Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters, for your dedication to service, community, and one another.

This year has been defined by action. From strengthening Post revitalization efforts to expanding outreach through Buddy Checks, you demonstrated what it means to live our mission every day. Across Salt Lake, Tooele, and Utah Counties, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of your commitment, with Legion Family members stepping up to lead, to serve, and to ensure no veteran or family member feels alone.

Our Be the One mission, Changing and Saving Lives, has not just been words on a page. It has been reflected in the calls you made, the connections you built, and the lives you touched. Whether through a simple phone call, a visit, or connecting someone to needed resources, you made a difference.

We also embraced opportunities to grow. Participation in programs like the USA250 Challenge and continued support of community initiatives showed that Area 2 is not only engaged but forward thinking. You are setting the standard for what strong, active Posts look like in the Department of Utah.

As we look ahead to Department Convention in Richfield, I encourage each of you to attend, engage, and bring your voice to the future of our organization. The strength of our Department depends on the involvement of every Legion Family member.

Thank you for your leadership, your service, and your unwavering commitment to The American Legion. It has been an honor to serve as your Area 2 Commander.

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;
Utah Legion College: utahlegioncollege@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!

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

No report.

For God and Country,
Austin Kendall
Area 3 Commander



Area 4 Commander



As of 4-22-2026 tabs collected for March and April 23.49.9 lbs for a TOTAL of 91.62.2 lbs

Membership as of 4-16-2026 with 100% or greater for District 6

31 Manti 125.93%, 36 Salina 105.88 %, 61 Fillmore 100%, 118 Redmond 107.14%, 135 Delta 103.17

Membership as of 4-16-2026 with 100% or greater for District 7

16 Milford 150%, 18 Tropic 100%, 20 Parowan 114.29%, 25 Panquich 120%, 32 Beaver 100%

80 Enterprise 100%, 81 Minersville 100%, 100 Hurricane 100%, 114 Escalante 109%, 120 Orderville 106.67%

142 Sun River 111.11%, 912 Washington Growing with transfers

KNOWN FUTURE EVENTS for Posts, District, Department

May 2nd District 6 Convention held in Fillmore at 10:00

May 4-7 National Spring Meeting

May 8 Department Training zoom 6pm

May 25 Memorial Day in St George

8am 2026 Memorial Day Service at SunRiver Veterans Honor Park

10am Service (Honoring Women Vets) Elks Lodge - St George

2pm Program at Southern Utah Veterans Home

== Many more in the area and at Posts in their area

== NOTE: Blanding Veterans Memorial sponsored by Legion Post 97 is completed. The City of Blanding wants to dedicate the Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day 2026. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Tony Wojcik at tonywojcik@gmail.com for time and place

June 7-13 Boys State at Weber State

June 14 Flag Day Post 142 SunRiver hosting American 250 event. To be held at 7am at the SunRiver Honor Park. Reading and ringing of bell for 250 Veterans for State of Utah who died or were serving in the military for the United States of America

June 26-28 Department Convention held in Richfield.

Martie Bigbie, PDC
Area 4 Commander

DISTRICTS



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



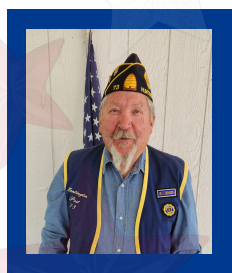
Jon Rue
District 2 Commander
Area 1
Weber, Morgan, &
Davis Counties



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



Jerry Curtis
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

Legion Insurance Trust – A Benefit Worth Sharing

One of the most valuable—yet often overlooked—benefits available to every member of the American Legion is the Legion Insurance Trust (LIT). This program provides no-cost accidental death insurance coverage to all members who enroll, offering meaningful protection for you and your family simply through your membership.

Updated Enrollment Process

While the Legion Insurance Trust has been around for years, the enrollment process has recently changed to make participation easier. Members are now only required to enroll one time. Once enrolled, your coverage will remain active as long as your membership stays current—eliminating the need for repeated sign-ups year after year.

If your membership lapses, your coverage will end and you will need to re-enroll once your membership is reinstated.

What the Coverage Provides

The Legion Insurance Trust includes \$1,000 in accidental death coverage for enrolled members, increasing to \$5,000 if the incident occurs while engaged in official Legion activities.

Additional Opportunities Through LIT

In addition to the base coverage, the Legion Insurance Trust offers access to low-cost supplemental insurance programs, options that may extend coverage to spouses and family members, and additional insurance products tailored specifically for veterans.

A Membership Value We Should Be Promoting

This benefit should be shared with potential members, new members, and current members alike. It strengthens the value of membership and ensures more Legionnaires take advantage of what is already available to them.

How to Enroll

Enrolling is simple. Just go to thelit.com and complete the quick enrollment process. It only takes a few minutes and ensures you and your family are covered.

Bottom line: If you are not enrolled, take a few minutes to do so. If you are already enrolled, make sure your membership remains current—and help spread the word so others can benefit as well.

Yours in service,
Richard Mead
Utah Department Adjutant / VSO

National Executive Committeeman Message

The election season is upon us local, state and federal. The American Legion is non partisan but is actively involved in Veterans Issues locally and nationally. You have often heard me speak during my presentations over the years to get to know who your elected officials are and engage them and invite to Post activities and invite them to speak at Post events. Two years ago, I invited Utah House Speaker Mike Schultz to speak to the Legion State Convention in Ogden. At that time I gave him a packet about Boys State. This year during the National Commanders visit I took National Commander Wiley to the Utah Legislature and met with Speaker Schultz, and a number of other legislators. We had three issues that were of interest to Veterans and Legion members in the Utah Legislature, one was potential modifications to disabled veterans property tax exemption SB78 another was increased funding for Boys and Girls State from \$25,000 for each program to \$50,000 for each program and the third issue was allowing the American Legion, which is a 501(c)19 organization to be treated the same as a 501(c)3 organization relative to tax exemptions. We were successful in all three, this was a large measure to the high regard the public and legislators have for Veterans and education and relationships with legislators, and those in leadership. We had several legislators who were extremely helpful and supportive House Speaker Mike Schultz, Representative soon to be Senator Jill Koford, Senator Ann Milner, Representative Jeff Burton(former Adjutant General Utah National Guard). SB 78 would have given discretion to the Counties concerning the disabled veteran property tax exemption which currently allows that for each 10% of disability, the veteran gets \$50,000 of their property tax exempt from tax, that's the tax value not the appraised value or the fair market value. Some counties have said that they would discontinue the program in order to save money. For many veterans this allows them to pay folks to help them with repairs around their home like fixing sprinklers, etc. Rep Jeff Burton did Yeoman's work on this, but sadly, he will not be in the Legislature next year as he has moved. I have spoken to several Veterans groups and plan to speak with every major veterans organization in the state about this legislation, as I am confident that it would be brought up again next legislation and we need all of you involved educating your elected officials on the negative impact on this to our Veterans.

I would urge each of you to go to (legion.org/action) and let your elected officials know your thoughts on federal veterans issues. If you do not know who your state elected officials are, you can go to the Utah Legislature's website and navigate your way to a section that will tell you who your state house member is and who your state senator is or if you have questions, contact me and I'd be happy to help.

Thanks for all your great work for the American Legion and our Veterans.

Terry Schow
NEC Utah

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!

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.

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**



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.



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



With the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth approaching, I feel both pride and responsibility. Two and a half centuries ago, ordinary people took an extraordinary stand for a country they could only imagine. Their courage gave us more than a date in a textbook it gave us a republic.

As the anniversary draws near, Americans will look back in different ways, at fireworks and parades, at family stories, at worn photographs, and at hard chapters we still argue about. But underneath all of it is the same question I can't shake: will we be the generation that simply celebrates freedom, or the one that strengthens it?

When the 250th anniversary arrives, I hope we treat it as more than a celebration. Let it be a recommitment to the idea that freedom and responsibility belong together.

The founders' courage started the story; our character decides whether it continues in the direction of justice, freedom and democracy.

If we want a stronger America, we can't wait for "someone" to fix it. In a republic, the someone is us.

Winston Churchill called courage the foundation of everything because without it, no other virtue can stand. That applies to citizenship, too. It takes courage to learn the truth when it's complicated, to speak with respect when it's easier to insult, and to serve your community when no one is handing out credit.

The Declaration still sets the bar: "We hold these truths to be self-evident." Those words insist that rights don't come from popularity, wealth, or power. They come from the equal dignity of every person. If we want a nation that lasts another 250 years, we have to live like we believe that, especially when it's uncomfortable.

The signers pledged "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Most of us will never face what they faced, but we inherit what they built, and that comes with duties. Showing up matters: voting, learning the issues, listening before judging, and choosing service over cynicism.

That's why Boys State matters to me. It's not just a program; it's practice. It teaches that self-government is not a spectator sport, and that the future of the republic depends on citizens who are willing to lead.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AMERICA!

May future generations continue to stand for, defend, and enjoy the freedoms we have worked to secure.

Doug Case, President, Utah Boys State



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

DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL CONTEST



Congratulations to our Department Oratorical winners!

1st place: Katie Bell, Homeschool, Mapleton, UT

2nd place: Jacqueline Harlow, NUAMES North, Hooper, UT

3rd place: Makayla Thompson, Tooele High School, Tooele, UT

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**

POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Post 11, Vernal, District 9

Vernal is known for its love of dinosaurs and is referred to as "Dinosaur Land." Dinosaurs can be seen throughout town, on Main Street, in front of businesses, and in front of people's homes. Post 11 recently had the opportunity to do the same. Welcome HAL-A-SAURAS-HATCH! He has been named after The Late Hal Hatch of Post 11. Hal was very instrumental in keeping Post 11 alive and going and had held numerous offices including Post, District, and Area Commander(s). With his great sense of humor, he had made friends all over and in the American Legion Family. Pictured are: (back: L-R) Adolfo Ozeata (Sculpture business owner) Members: Bob Pinkham, Jerry Bodily, Commander Craig Carlson, Anthony Christianson, Jeff Barth, Cody Calder, David Rasmussen (Sons); (front L-R) kneeling is Barbara Luck, (local artist that painted Hal) member Reed Rasmussen, Derk Hatch, Hal's son, and Mrs. Judy Hatch, Hal's wife, members Bob Meinrod and Jim Bryson.



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

District 9 Spring Convention

Thank you to all who participated in the District 9 Spring Convention.



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Post 14, Park City, District 3

Post 14 continues to get together for meetings and events. Good work!



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

District 8 Spring Convention

The District 8 Spring Convention brought together Legion Family members from across the district for a day of connection, collaboration, and renewed purpose. Representatives from Posts, the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders gathered to share ideas, strengthen relationships, and continue building momentum for the remainder of the membership year.

The convention highlighted the importance of staying engaged at every level. Reports and discussions focused on membership progress, community outreach, and the continued impact of Buddy Checks across our Posts. Leaders emphasized that consistent communication and personal connection remain key to supporting our veterans, service members, and their families.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and the award winners!



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

American Legion Birthday

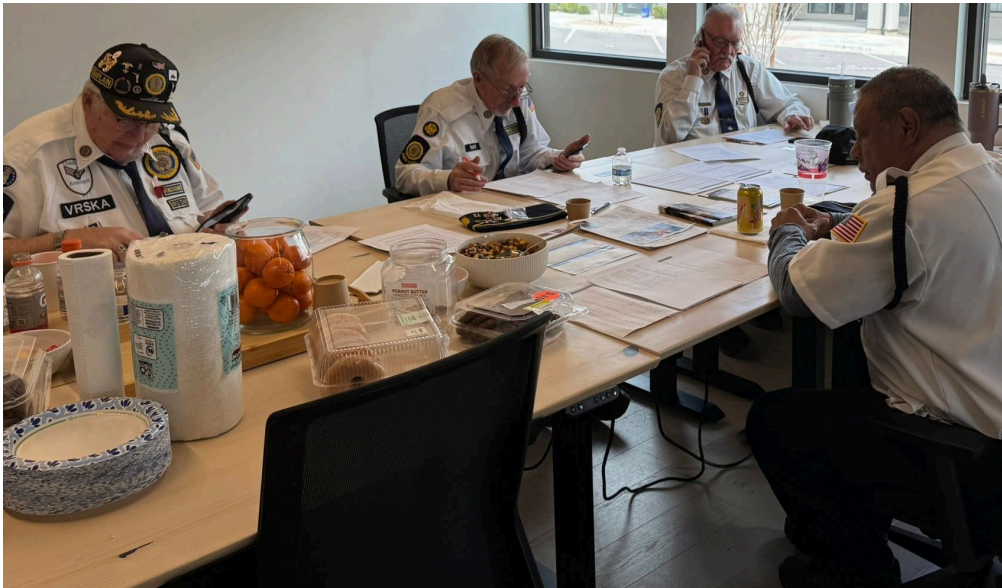
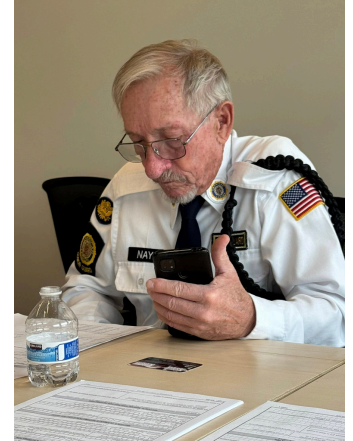
Thank you to all the posts and districts who participated in birthday events for the American Legion! Happy 107th to The American Legion!



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Area 2 USA250 Event

A USA250 event for America250 doing a minimum of 250 Buddy Checks in two days. The total number of Buddy Checks was 1,760+. Thank you to Post 72, Orem, for being the host and for the donation of the space by Kiln.



Great Job!



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

 **6:00 PM**

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 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

Samsung Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to our Samsung Scholarship winner from Utah, Elena Roundy from Cedar High School, who went to the Washington DC Conference to be recognized. We are proud of you and wish you continued success!

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount.

As of 2025 the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$7.6 million in college scholarships to 2,618 recipients since its inception in 1996.

Congratulations!



POST & DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Sisters in Service Event

Celebrating Utah's women veterans at the Utah State Capitol on March 20, 2026



Keynote: Jessica Lynch



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Presents
Honoring Utah's Women Veterans
Sisters in Service

@ UTAH STATE CAPITOL ROTUNDA
Friday March 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Tonight! REGISTER (RSVP) HERE

Please join us in celebrating Utah Women Veterans

Enjoy an inspiring program and social hour with hors d'oeuvres. Connect with fellow veterans and the community as we honor the service and achievements of Utah's women veterans.

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 SUBMISSIONS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone in the Department who submitted great content for the 2025-2026 membership year for the Blue Hatter. It is obvious that we have great things happening within the Department. Thank you for everything you do to help veterans and their families. Look for the new submission due dates for 2026-2027 at the end of Summer 2026.

2026 SPRING CONVENTIONS

Please contact Department Adjutant Rick Mead for information regarding any further details needed for remaining 2026 Spring District Conventions.

You may also contact your District Commander.

adjutant@utlegion.org