CALL

Ninety Ninth Annual Department Convention
Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

By authority of the Department Executive Committee, the Ninety Ninth Annual Convention of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. is hereby called to meet with convention sessions in the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, 1131 North DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware, starting Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 9:00 AM-EDT and continuing through Friday, July 14, 2017.

Purpose

The annual department convention is the legislative body of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. The convention is called for the setting of programs of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. for the ensuing year; for the amending the Department Constitution and By-Laws; for the electing of officers for the ensuing year and delegates and alternates to the Ninety Ninth National Convention in which will be held August 18-24, 2017, in Reno, Nevada; for the receiving of reports from officers and committee chairpersons; and for the transacting of other business as may be brought before it.

Representation

Representation in the convention shall be by post, and in accordance with the provisions of the Department Constitution, Article V – Department Convention, Sections 2 through 10:

“Section 2. In the Department Convention, each Chartered Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the Department Adjutant thirty (30) days prior to the date of said convention and to one alternate for each delegate.

Section 3. The Department Executive Committee shall annually determine delegate and alternate registration fees.

Section 4. Each Post shall be required to pay the registration fee for each and every delegate that the post is entitled to no later than the start of the Department Convention. A post failing to pay registration fees pursuant to the preceding sentence shall have its delegation disqualified for all purposes and no individual delegate will be permitted to vote at the Department Convention; provided, however, that non-payment of registration fees shall not disqualify a delegation from participating in any District Caucus or electing district officers. Payment of registration fees at any time during the Department Convention will qualify a Post delegation from that point until close of the Department Convention.

Section 5. The delegates and alternates of the Department Convention shall be chosen by the vote of each Post. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which each Post is entitled.

Section 6. The vote of any delegate who may be absent shall be cast by the senior alternate present. The seniority of alternates is predicated by their numerical listing on the registration form. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, but may only vote as herein set forth; provided, the alternate’s registration fee is paid.

Section 7. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the member’s Post.

Section 8. At the conclusion of roll call voting, for each vote required to be conducted by the Department Convention, the chair shall ask if any Post not casting its vote during the roll call vote wishes to cast its vote. Upon recording the vote of any originally passing Post, the chair shall announce that voting is closed and direct that the tally be taken and the results announced. Posts may pass only one time during the Department Convention regardless of the number of matters voted on.

Section 9. The following Department and National Officers shall be delegates-at-large to Annual Department Convention:

Department Commander
Department First Vice Commander
Department Second Vice Commander
Department Adjutant
Department Finance Officer
Department Judge Advocate
Department Chaplain
Department Historian
Department Service Officer
Department Sergeant-At-Arms
One District Commander for each District
National Executive Committeeman
Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Section 10. All Past Department Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be delegates for life to all Department Conventions with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts, and to all District Caucuses at which any election provided for in this Constitution shall be held and at which their respective Posts may be entitled to vote; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall give to any such persons the right to more than one vote. The failure of any Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Department Officers and National Officers of the Department of his or her right to vote, provided he, himself, or she, herself, is properly registered as a delegate.

Post delegate voting strength shall be determined according to the membership books and records of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. at the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Each post shall accredit its delegates, in writing with full name and American Legion member identification number, together with the registration fee of $15.00 per delegate, to the department adjutant at department headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Road, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 939, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) by the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

Each post is entitled to send to, and seat in, the department convention, a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which such post is entitled in accordance with the provisions of the Department Constitution, Article V – Department Convention, Section 2. Each post shall accredit its alternates, in writing with full representation in the convention.
The department leadership thanks the members for the outstanding support during the recent national commander’s visit. Commander Schmidt and Aide, Dirk Levy, had a very enjoyable and informative visit with the department. Also, the volunteer support for the recent Sussex district revitalization was outstanding. Thank you all.

The department is heading in the right direction and continues to grow its programs. There are several posts that have started Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack programs and a renewed focus on strengthening the Children & Youth pillar of our department. There has been an expressed interest in starting a Junior Youth Shooting Team and he is currently looking for a post interested in sponsoring this program.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. The department must continue to work its programs, support the less fortunate veterans, and stay involved.

The American Legion needs to be in the forefront and relevant to local communities. People believe The American Legion, in general, has gotten old and stale. It is everyone’s duty to ensure that they are aware of all the great things The American Legion family accomplishes for our community, state, and nation.

Plans are well underway for our department convention in July, and currently are working on moving forward into the 2018 year and beyond. Continued support is needed. The recent visits by the national officers and the continuing growth and support of youth programs show what the department can accomplish when all are working together for a common goal. Again, thank you for what you do, because no one says it enough. Without all the tireless volunteers across this department, the department could not do it without you.

Yours in Service,
Jeffrey K. Crouser
Commander
The American Legion,
Department of Delaware, Inc.
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

My Fellow Veterans; A thank you to all who have kept up with me during my recovery from the dissected aorta, I still have the dissected aorta, but the doctors have pretty much cleared me for light duty. I have a follow up with the surgeon in a year, and my cardiologist every 6 months now.

Not to many deaths this year; as we mourn the loss of a great service officer; Bob McBride, please Keep him and his family in your prayers. Ruth his wife is not doing very well, but we can all pray For her and a speedy recovery.

We have had a lot of Get Well wishes sent out, and pray that they are all on their way to a speedy Recovery as well. Please keep all of the Veterans returning home from harm’s way, keep them and their families in Your prayers, remember most of them are suffering from PTSD, and TBI, and loss of limbs. They need all Of the support that we can offer and give them. They (as we all did) put our lives on the line for our Great country, time to give back. Hopefully with the time remaining we can all come together and show our support for them and One another. Before long the Department Convention will be here and vote in another Commander And leaders for the following year. Let us all support the new choice of leaders as we have in the past.

For God and Country,
Reverend Wayne Hicks
Department Chaplain

SUSSEX DISTRICT COMMANDER

I want to thank Post 17 for hosting the Sussex District Revitalization that took place February 10th and 11th. I also want to thank the Posts within the District that participated in this membership effort. The Posts that did participate reaped the benefits and increased their membership rolls. Unfortunately, there were a few posts that did not participate and their membership status reflects their absence. There were over 44 transfers from Post 4 to various posts within the district and several renewals as a result of the phone calls reminding those who had not yet renewed their membership. Thanks again to Post 17 for their hospitality and the great job they did hosting this event.

Congratulations to Laurel Post 19 for hosting the National Commander’s Banquet. They did a great job. The food was outstanding and the hospitality was second to none. Great job and thank you.

It is that time of the year when all posts should be working on their consolidated Post Report. This report is a very important document in that it is used by the National Organization to stress to the leadership in Washington just how much the American Legion does, not only to support our veterans, but also for the Children and Youth in our communities and community organizations throughout our country. Last year the Department of Delaware had 100% participation and there is no reason why we cannot do it again this year. Any post within the Sussex District that may have questions regarding this report may call me and I will be available to help.

The Sussex district has two remaining meetings and they are: April 19th a regular meeting held at Oak Orchard Riverdale Post 28 and June 10th when the District will host its annual caucus at Post 28. The April 19 meeting will start at 7 PM and those wishing to order a meal can do so starting at 6 PM. The June Caucus will take place at 11 AM followed by a BBQ lunch. At the June Caucus elections will be held for District Officers for the next year. Come on out to these remaining events and participate in the meeting and the elections. If any legionnaire is interested in running for a district officer’s position, please contact me and have someone nominate you at the June 10th caucus.

It is important for the district to have new officers and new ideas. The next item of importance coming up will be the Department Convention in July held at the Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. This annual event gives our legionnaires and opportunity to meet other legionnaires from other districts and posts within the Department of Delaware. It is also the time when the Department officers for next year are elected and installed in their positions. It is important for all posts to have delegates representing their posts at the convention.

See you at the meetings and the convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lafferty
Sussex District Commander

EDITOR

Would like to start this article with a big Thanks to the ones who sent in Articles early. A special Thanks to Ric Santos and Bob Michael for helping At the last minute. The American Legion Auxiliary ladies invited me to travel in the State with them when their Eastern Regional Vice President and the National President visited the State. What an experience.

Learned a lot but the most important was that the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders must work together if they want to grow. They need to really work at being the Legion family.

Cutoff date for next Legionnaire is JUNE 11, 2017. Please send articles and pictures sooner if you can. Remember State Convention is coming up July 13 and 14.

Keep smiling
Bettylou Evans
Delaware Legionnaire Editor
Department of Delaware
CALL
FROM COVER
name and American Legion member identification number, together with the registration fee of $15.00 per alternate, to the department adjutant at department headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Road, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) by the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

Delegates-at-large and past department commanders shall be accredited, in writing with full name and American Legion member identification number, together with the registration fee of $15.00 per delegate-at-large and past department commander, to the department adjutant at department headquarters, 601 Bridgeville Road, Seaford, Delaware (P.O. Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973-0930) after the close of the business day at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2017 shall be at a registration fee of $20.00 per delegate, post alternate, delegate-at-large, and past department commander.

District Caucuses

District Caucuses are called for the purposes described in the Constitution of the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc., Article VI - Department Officers, Sections 5 and 6:

"Section 5. Each District in Caucus during the Department Convention or not more than thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one at-large representative to the Department Executive Committee for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof in the said District. The membership strength of said District for this purpose shall be computed as paid up membership in the Department Headquarters at the close of business on the 30th day prior to the convening of the Department Convention or as of July 1st in each year, which ever date shall first occur. In the event, any District shall have less than its first and only unit of 1,000 members, it shall nevertheless be entitled to elect one at-large representative to the Department Executive Committee. No more than two (2) at-large representatives shall be elected to the Department Executive Committee. Each District in Caucus during the Department Convention or not more than thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one Delegate and one Alternate to the National Convention for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof in said District.

Section 6. Each District Commander and District Vice-Commander shall be nominated and elected by the Posts in his or her District at a District caucus called for that purpose. Each District Commander shall enjoy the authority to establish a District Organization and By-Laws, not in conflict with the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws. In the event of the death, or inability of the District Commander to perform the duties of his office, the District Vice-Commander will assume the office of District Commander. In the event of a vacancy during the term of office of the District Vice-Commander, for any reason, such vacancy shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee upon nomination by the District Posts. Any such appointment shall be for the unexpired term of office only."

Convention Session Seating

Seating in convention sessions will be by districts.

Department, District and Post Officials

Department, district, and post officials, unless elected as a delegate or alternate, may not be delegates-at-large to the department convention, or are past department commanders, have no privileges to the convention except as guests of their respective delegation.

Housing

Delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, past department commanders and their guests shall obtain housing directly with and through the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, or a post may obtain housing directly with and through the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino for its delegates, alternates, delegates-at-large, past department commanders, and/or guests.

Convention Committees

Convention committees shall be:

- Americanism/C&Y (Baseball, Boy Scouts, Boys State, Children & Youth, Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Legacy Fund, and Trooper Youth Week),
- Internal Affairs (American Legion Riders, Constitution & By-Laws, Convention & Meetings, Convention Book and Distinguished Guests, Honor & Merit Awards, Media & Communications, Membership, Sons of The American Legion, and Website),
- Finance, Budget & Audit (Innovations, Sweepstake Programs, and Label Program),
- Legislative,
- National Security & Foreign Relations, and
- Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation (VAYS, Veterans Assistance Program, and Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs).

Convention committees are subject to call for organization purposes in advance of the opening session of the department convention and with subsequent meetings as called by the chairperson, providing that all final policy-forming reports shall be approved by such committee in meetings held after the department convention is formally convened.

Convention committees shall have a minimum of nine members per committee, with a minimum of two from each district. Committees shall be appointed in odd numbers. The Department Commander shall be empowered and authorized to designate the members of all convention committees. Members need not be delegates, alternates, or delegates-at-large to the department convention. Such designations shall be made at any time up to 24 hours prior to the opening of the department convention. There may also be appointed by the Department Commander, one or more advisers to each committee, who shall be members of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

Credentials

Each post should select a chairperson and secretary prior to the department convention. The delegation chairperson or secretary should report to the registration counter on the first floor of the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, immediately outside the hotel ballroom “B,” between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM, Thursday, July 13, 2017, and between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, Friday, July 14, 2017, for detailed instructions concerning all convention arrangements and to register their delegation and take delivery of the credentials for their post delegation (delegates and alternates).

Delegates-at-large and past department commanders should report to the registration counter on the first floor of the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, immediately outside the hotel ballroom, between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM, Thursday, July 13, 2017, and between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, Friday, July 14, 2017, for detailed instructions concerning all convention arrangements and to take delivery of his or her credentials.

Resolutions

Any resolution to be submitted by a post for consideration by the department convention shall be in the hands of the department adjutant, typewritten in triplicate, using proper resolution format, twenty-one (21) days prior to the department convention. It is extremely important that all posts comply with this request, so the proposed resolutions may be classified and referred to the standing committee of the convention. Resolutions shall be received by June 30, 2017.

Constitutional and Bylaws Amendments

Proposed amendments to Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws shall be received by the department adjutant, no later than May 22, 2017, in order that they may be reviewed by the appropriate department committee. All posts shall receive a copy of the proposed amendments at least thirty (30) days prior to the start date of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Convention of Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc.

Department Executive Committee

A meeting of the new department executive committee is hereby called and will be held at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, first floor Ballroom “B” on Friday, July 14, 2017, immediately following the adjournment of the department convention. The meeting is called, as provided in the Department Constitution, Article VII - Department Executive Committee - Section 2 and Department By-Laws, Article I - Department Executive Committee - Section 5 and, for the transaction of business as may be brought before it.

National Convention

Pursuant to action taken by the Eighty-Fourth Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. Convention, the department commander, immediate past department commander, and the department adjutant shall automatically be designated as delegates to the national convention.

Miscellaneous

Instructions covering program, order of business, and other miscellaneous matters will be issued later.

Attest:

Richard J. Santos
Department Adjutant

Signed:

Jeffrey K. Crouser
Department Commander

Distribution:

Members of the Department Executive Committee 1 each Posts 2 each Publication in the Delaware Legionnaire

Jeffrey K. Crouser
Department Commander

Delaware Legionnaire, April 2017

Page 4
Love stock Cancer Benefit

Lovestock was a Cancer Benefit being sponsored by June Jam Ltd INC and was held at Dover American Legion Post 2 to help with medical expenses for John Wroten a local musician who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

A black Stetson Hat autographed by Trace Adkins was auctioned off during the cancer benefit.

The benefit was held for John Wroten shown on the right.
Washington Conference – Legislative Session

Feb 27, 28, and 29, 2017 was when members of The American Legion met in Washington, D.C. for the Washington Conference dealing with The American Legion’s legislative agenda. During this time period the Legionnaires’ in attendance received updates and clarifications on the priority issues of The American Legion.

The first session of the Conference I attended was the Legislative Council Meeting. This session appeared to be on how Legionnaires can influence Congress. The room allotted by the hotel for this session was not large enough and I could not hear what was being said by the speakers because of the influx of noise from the hotel’s hallway. If this session was to be like last year’s the main emphasis was that it takes more than one phone call or e-mail to the Congressman to get him or her to do what The American Legion knows needs to be done. The members of Congress will only do what they see as the desire of the majority of their constituents – and if only one-person tries they do not see it being important to the people they represent. It is up to the members of the Department of Delaware to understand this and try and influence our delegation in D.C. The members cannot expect only the leadership to have much influence if the members do not back them up by also contacting the delegation.

Day two of the conference is called the Day on the Hill. The Delaware Legion Family met with Senator Carper, Senator Coons, and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester. Both Senators and the Congresswoman were not there for the main part of the meeting. Senator Carper had to go to the floor to give a speech dealing with the nomination of the Department of Interior’s Cabinet Senator, Senator Coons and Congresswoman Blunt-Rochester came in at the end after voting on different issues. In all cases the staff took copious notes on the concerns of Delaware’s legion family dealing with the Defense Budget and the many issues connected with the Veteran Affairs Hospitals. Finally, Congresswoman Blunt-Rochester’s staff was made aware that she needs to work with the Veterans’ Organizations and change the impression she has made on them. Her office asked for, and was given, ways she can do that.

The last day of the Conference was National Commander Charles E. Schmidt’s testimony on the Hill in front of the joint House and Senate Veterans Committee. Because of the size of the room The American Legion had to limit the number of attendees. The Legion member from Delaware who received the admission ticket was the National Executive Committeeman, John Endres. The testimony was broadcast for those that wanted to watch but could not attend.

Lyman Brenner
Americanism Chairman

Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Denise H. Rohan

The leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Denise H. Rohan, will attend the 2017 department convention at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, July 13-14, 2017. She is an Army veteran from Verona, Wisconsin (Department of Wisconsin). Her campaign slogan is “FAMILY FIRST”.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise lived in Elkader, Iowa, until joining the United States Army in 1974. Denise’s father was a volunteer Fireman, both parents were volunteer EMTs and very active in their church and community. Learning from their parents Denise and her two sisters have always given back to their church and communities in some way.

Denise has served the American Legion for over 32 years. While Post Commander, she established Sons of the American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333.

She and her husband are both 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 Graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College - Basic Course. Both have gone on to serve as State and National American Legion College Facilitators.

Denise was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the Assistant Bursar of Student Loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Colleges 120 million-dollar loan portfolio made up of approximately 200 different Federal, Institutional and State programs in compliance with all laws, regulations, and policy. She was responsible for the efficiency and design of the computerized student loan accounts receivable system.

She is a graduate of the Mount Senario College (AA), and The College Management Institute.

Denise currently serves as a volunteer in the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airmen and Family Readiness Program.

She has been married to her husband Mike for 40 years. They have a son, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Angeline, grandchildren Sawyer and Isla. Mike is very active with the American Legion on both the State and National levels and is a Past Department Adjutant. Nick and Sawyer are members of Squadron 385, and Isla is a member of Unit 385.

John A Andres, NEC Department of Delaware

During the Fall 2016 NEC meeting, Resolution No. 4 Establish National Poppy Week was adopted.

“RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary further advocate a Congressional declaration establishing a National Poppy Week around Memorial Day, starting the Monday before and continuing through Memorial Day, to bring greater significance to the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifice our veterans make for our freedom.”

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have long utilized the Red Poppy in memoriam to promote reverence for our military who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, and long promoted remembrance of our veterans for their sacrifices in service to our country. There was an article in the April Legion Magazine on National Poppy Week. National Poppy Day, which occurs the Monday before Memorial Day, is May 22nd this year. It signifies the start of National Poppy Week which runs through Sunday, May 28th.
The Delaware American Legion Riders held their monthly Directors meeting at Walter L. Fox Post 2 on April 2, 2017.

Vincent J. Troiola
National Vice Commander
To Attend Department Convention

For the 2017 department convention, National Vice Commander Vincent J. (Jim) Troiola will attend, representing National Commander Charles E. Schmidt. Vice-commander Troiola is no stranger to the department as he has visited the Department of Delaware twice this administrative year for two district Membership revitalizations.

Jim was elected as a national vice commander of the 2.2-million-member American Legion during The American Legion’s National Convention in Cincinnati on Sept. 1, 2016.

A life member of American Legion Post #1682 in New City, N.Y., he served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1974. He has held various offices at every level of The American Legion, including department (state) commander of New York from 2010-2011. He is the current chairman of the Department of New York American Legion Centennial Task Force for the Future and is a member of the faculty of the American Legion College of New York. At the national level, he served as a member of the Membership and Post Activities Committee and the National Security Commission.

Troiola retired from Estate Motors Mercedes-Benz where he was the director of Service and Parts Operations. He has served locally on the Veterans Service Advisory Board and the Military Academy Review Board for former U.S. Rep. Benjamin Gilman.

He is married to Saveria (Savy) T. Troiola. They have two grown children and two grandchildren. They are very supportive of his working with the various veteran service organizations. He enjoys playing golf and collecting die cast model cars and trucks.

All of us in the Department of Delaware look forward to Jim’s easy going personality and great sense of humor at the convention.

Recruiters To Be Awarded With ‘Carry The Legacy Forward’ Pin

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt will award his national commander pin to any Legion member who obtains three new members into the Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. To maintain the integrity of the national commander’s pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt’s incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are exhausted. @ www.legion.org/commander/pin
Ensure the legacy of membership.

Your Honorable discharge means that you are eligible for USAA membership — and that your children and grandchildren can become eligible as well, no matter what age! Begin your USAA legacy with an auto or property insurance policy, and take advantage of USAA’s commitment to serving you and your eligible family members for years to come.

Share your USAA legacy. Get a quote.

MD 1-877-698-2854 | usaa.com/legion
Insurance - Banking - Investments - Retirement - Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

* * * * 

USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of insurance and financial services to the American Legion.

Get the credit card that supports The American Legion.

The American Legion USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard™ supports The American Legion by giving back to its programs through everyday purchases — all with competitive rates and legendary customer service from USAA Bank.

Support the mission of The American Legion. Apply today.

MD 1-877-698-2854 | usaa.com/legion
Insurance - Banking - Investments - Retirement - Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Preparing the credit card offers from USAA with property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not affect eligibility for membership in the American Legion. Eligibility is determined by United States membership in the USAA Alliance as a result of USAA membership. Membership is determined by USAA Mutual Insurance Company and USAA Life Insurance Company. For more information on membership, visit usaa.com/legion. To receive financial support from USAA for its membership, USAA membership is required. ©2018 USAA. 2066-4718
American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt visited the Department of Delaware March 15 – 17. Unfortunately, the weather conditions resulted in the cancellation of visits to Stahl Post #30 and the Delaware National Guard.

The first stop was Nanticoke Post #6 escorted by John Endres, NEC, and Jeffrey K. Crouser, Commander, Department of Delaware, and Robert Michael, Cdr Post #6.

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt presented Paul J. Powell Jr. a Certificate of Continuous Membership for 60 years of membership at the Oak Orchard/Riverdale Post #28.
American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt presented Elmer Hearn a Certificate of Continuous Membership for 50 years of membership at the Nanticoke Post #6.

Visit to Oak Orchard/Riverdale Post #28 with Austin P. Govin, Sr., his Officers and Post Legion family for lunch.
A courtesy call was made with William Peterson, Administrator, Delaware Veteran’s Home followed by a tour of the facility.

The next stop was at Henlopen Post #5 for a social with Post Commander Robert Pruchniewski, the Post and Department Officers.
The last stop on Thursday was at Walter L. Fox Post #2 for a social with Commander Skip Chappee, Post Officers and members.

The American Legion Centennial Celebration

James H. Stewart, Chairman

The American Legion is first and foremost a local organization. Every post in every community across the country has a history worth sharing. In order for posts to raise awareness of their own unique places in their communities, this workbook is provided to offer suggestions and opportunities to research, share and celebrate the Legion’s proud heritage.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee recommends the establishment of centennial committees at the department and post levels. These committees may be separate from traditional post historian offices. Collaboration with the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is also encouraged. Because the Legion has been a part of so many aspects of community life, committees may also choose to involve others in their planning, including:

- High schools and colleges, particularly history programs
- Local media outlets
- The business community
- Churches
- Local historical societies and museums
- Local government entities
- Alumni of local post youth programs

Whether your post was chartered in 1919 or 2009, every post has a story and legacy that has contributed to the overall identity of The American Legion. National Headquarters is now developing a web page that will allow each participating post its own place online where photos, text and videos can be posted and shared. Some posts, of course, have better historical records than others. There is a workbook with a main purpose to help centennial committees start gathering information for presentation online, in the media, at the post and in the community. The workbook can be located at: https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/post_history_workbook.pdf

Commander Jeffrey Crouser appointed me as the Department of Delaware’s chair for The American Legion Centennial Celebration.

The American Legion Centennial Celebration is not only about honoring the past 100 years of Legion history, but also preparing to continue the Legion’s legacy of service. Events and activities at posts all around the world will showcase The American Legion’s commitment to community service, honor, and democracy. Continental Headquarters is now working to develop a web page that will allow participating posts their own place online to post photos, text and videos. Some posts, of course, have better historical records than others. There is a workbook with a main purpose to help centennial committees start gathering information for presentation online, in the media, at the post and in the community.
Legion "Still Serving America." The American Legion’s 100th anniversary program and committees strive to raise awareness and stimulate activity nationwide and beyond, in honor of the organization’s first century, with a vision of continued relevance for veterans and their families as the nation’s largest veterans service organization moves into its second century.

Key objectives are:
• Enthusiastically express to the nation, through commemorations, exhibits, ceremonies, and media initiatives the impact The American Legion has had over the last century, and how it continues to serve.
• Promote the American Legion’s ongoing legacy and founding values of transition assistance, emphatically today as more than 1 million U.S. military troops are leaving the service in the drawdown from the Global War on Terrorism.
• Deliver to the nation specific messages of American Legion service and advocacy for veterans coming home with unique needs, including economic, psychological, and medical.
• Synergize with other entities, including the post-9/11 generation of veterans, business, government, and non-profit service, to ensure the founding values of The American Legion are fulfilled in every corner of our nation.
• Strengthen The American Legion’s identity, both historical and for the future, in order to increase membership, involvement, contributions, and sponsorships.

Delaware centennial posts are Delaware Post #1, Walter L. Fox Post #2, Callaway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post #7, and David C. Harrison Post #14. Jim Sbarra, historian, David C. Harrison Post #14, has taken interest since Post #14 is one of the founding posts. More information will be provided and I ask that the centennial posts interested in completing a centennial post history contact me.
The first stop on Friday was at Dover Air Force Base for a tour of AFMAO, ATC/RAPCON, the ISO Dock, Tower and of the DET 3 Training Simulators.
The last stop of the visit was at Laurel Post #19 for the National Commander’s Banquet. This was a dinner and social with Department Officers, members of the Department and guests and representatives of the Department of Maryland. Remarks and presentations were also made by William (Bill) Carson, DE House of Representatives, BG Michael R. Berry, Delaware National Guard, Detachment Commander Underkoffler, Dept. President Maureen Murry and Legion Riders Chuck Parisan.
Remember when you would open your local newspaper and find an abundance of placed to eat for the weekend at churches, fire companies, and even barbecues from civic organizations? Plenty of volunteers and plenty of food; aw, the good ole days. Whatever happened to all of that?

Look around and you’ll see older people doing the bulk of the work, and maybe a handful of the younger ones working, but will they hang on or move on?

Well, you say the old folks have passed on or have just gotten tired of pulling the weight, and you might say a lot of the young folk only know how to open a can or thaw a frozen package. According to the bureau of Labor Statics, volunteerism in America has dropped to its lowest point in more than a decade. According to the bureau, only 25.4 percent of Americans volunteered last year.

That means only one in four Americans are volunteering every year. The bureau can give us statistics and tell us the types or organizations people tend to volunteer with, what the most common tasks they perform are, and how things differ by various group associations, but they can’t tell us exactly WHY there is a decline.

There are probably a number of reasons that could explain why volunteer rates are failing. One could be because we as a nation don’t invest enough resources in the nonprofit sector. Without resources, nonprofits simply don’t have the capacity to effectively engage volunteers.

Some will argue more people are simply lazier then they used to be. In all fairness, it’s only a slight decrease from the previous year, but the decrease is part of a larger trend. The volunteer rate has slowly dwindled from 29 percent to 25.4 percent in just 10 years. It’s clear that Americans are volunteering less, both in numbers and hours.

Volunteering is an undeniable American activity; it’s often called one of the country’s “core values” – the right to form voluntary associations is even mentioned in the U.S. Constitution.

And at age 79 I for one have felt I have done my share of volunteering and it’s time for someone younger to step forth. A bad back and other medical complications have me sidelined.

Others like myself would rather donate money to our favorite organizations and charities. The average American household donated nearly $3,000 to charities each year. In most cases it’s hard to understand why Americans are engaging with these organizations but not volunteering.

Many in volunteer management think these numbers are disconcerting. Volunteers are important partners for many organizations, and this trend could threaten the capacity and even the existence of several nonprofits.

Another reason some organizations have dropped dinners and other functions is the emergence of grants from the state and county governments. Even sports groups receive grants from charities and booster groups which makes funding easier than selling candy or putting on a dinner.

One of the most frustrating things about the slow decline in volunteering is that no one knows exactly what’s causing it. The volunteer rates vary widely by just about every metric, age, income, region, race, so it’s difficult to pinpoint why the numbers are lower overall.

Journalists have pointed to several possible explanations – ties to the economic stress, government funding, even the amount of single parent households.

What seems to be the most worrisome statistic is a sharp decrease in volunteering among highly educated Americans. The rate of volunteering among people with a bachelor’s degree or higher plummeted from 42.8 percent in 2009 to 39.8 in 2013.

Personally, I think it could be attributed to a shifting trend away from the community involvement due to the emergence of online communities, young people moving more often, and other factors.

Obviously, there are a lot of opinion out there. Which is right? There seem to be multiple reasons at the heart of this issue.

Frank Calio
Laurel Post 19 Legionnaire

---

**National Poppy Week**

In May, The American Legion will launch National Poppy Week as a way to honor fallen U.S. servicemembers, from the battlefields of France a century ago to today’s global war on terrorism.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe and quickly became a symbol of the sacrifices made by servicemembers around the world, including Americans. Returning soldiers brought home the flowers in memory of a barren landscape transformed by the sudden growth of wild red poppies – unforgottably described in a memorial poem to Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae.

It is said, with us, who die.
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt encourages all Americans to wear or display poppies throughout National Poppy Week – which kicks off on National Poppy Day on May 22 – to remember the fallen and for the future of the living.

“Memorial Day is a sacred holiday in the United States,” Schmidt said. “It is a time when we pause, reflect and honor those who have died keeping America and democracy safe. I can think of no better way for Americans to honor those who made their freedoms possible.”

---

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**National Poppy Day**

National Poppy Day, which occurs the Monday before Memorial Day, is May 22 this year. It signifies the start of National Poppy Week, which runs through Sunday, May 28.

**THE HISTORY**

From the beginning, the poppy has been the official flower of The American Legion, which has worked alongside the American Legion Auxiliary to distribute paper poppies and collect donations around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. All donations are used for Legion programs that provide lifelong support of the armed services community – servicemembers, veterans and their families.

**THE FOUNDING SPONSOR**

The Boeing Company is the founding sponsor of National Poppy Day with a major donation to The American Legion. “We thank Boeing for its heartfelt support in this initiative,” Schmidt said.

I learn more about National Poppy Day online: www.legion.org/poppymemorialday