Charles E. Schmidt is a member of The American Legion, Harney County Post #63 in Burns, Oregon. Schmidt’s Legion membership eligibility is derived from his 27 years of service in the United States Air Force. He is a Vietnam veteran. Currently Schmidt serves The American Legion, Department (State) of Oregon as National Executive Committeeman, representing Oregon Legionnaires on The American Legion’s governing body.

A 32-year, Paid-Up-For-Life Legionnaire, he is a member of Harney County Post #63 in the Tenth District (Grant, Harney, Malheur counties). He has served as Post Commander, Post Adjutant, Post Activities and Membership Chairman. He served four years as District #10 Commander, revitalizing the district and raising American Legion awareness in Eastern Oregon.

Schmidt was elected Department of Oregon Vice Commander in 2003-2004, and served as Chairman of the Department Membership Commission. He was elected Department Commander for 2004-2005.

Charles E. Schmidt: National Executive Committeeman

The American Legion, Department of Oregon

Charlie has served on numerous Department Commissions: Americanism, National Security/Foreign Relations/POW-MIA (Chairman), Permanent Finance (Chairman), Convention Credentials (Chairman), Membership (Chairman), Information Technology (Chairman), Constitution and By-Laws Commissions, Administrative and Advisory Commission (Chairman), and Department Convention Committees. Currently he serves as a member of the Administrative and Advisory Commission.

On the National level he represented Oregon on the Americanism Children/Youth Counsel, the National Convention Americanism Children/Youth Committee. He also served on National Convention Constitution Amendment Committees.

In 2005 Department of Oregon elected him as their representative on the National Executive Committee (NEC). Since that time, Schmidt has served on numerous committees including Americanism, Children and Youth, American Legion Baseball, National Convention, Foreign and Outlaying Departments and Post of The American Legion (FODPAL), Citizens’ Flag Alliance, The American Legion Magazine Commission and as Chairman of the National Executive Committee Liaison Committees to the Internal Affairs Commission and to the Legislative Commission. Currently he serves on the National Executive Committee Liaison Committee to the Marketing Commission and on the Resolutions Subcommittee.

Schmidt also serves veterans through his memberships in the DAV (Life Member), VFW (Life Member), 40/8, and the Elks. He served 2 four-year gubernatorial appointments to the Advisory Committee to the Director, Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs. He also served as a member and Board President of the Harney Educational Support District (ESD).

He is a graduate of the National American Legion College, American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI), Community College of the Air Force, University of Nebraska-Omaha and numerous military residence and correspondence courses.

In the 97-year history of The American Legion, Schmidt is Oregon’s first candidate for American Legion National Commander.
Teen creates U.S. flag with 4,466 toy soldiers

Jacob Feazel wanted to “wow” his teacher with one of his final high school senior art projects, but little did he know that his rendition of Old Glory would also become a viral sensation. A photo of his U.S. flag made up of 4,466 Army toy soldiers has been shared on Facebook more than 300,000 times since February. Jacob spray painted the green and gray plastic soldiers red, white and blue and individually glued them onto a 4-by-6 wooden platform to create the U.S. flag. The project took 56 hours over the course of 11 days and about 25 cans of spray paint.

“I was so happy with what I made,” said 18-year-old Jacob of Peru, Ind., who recently graduated from Maconaquah High School. “I thought, ‘Wow, I did this. That’s awesome.’ It makes me feel proud.”

Jacob’s art project was inspired by sculptor Dave Cole’s “Memorial Flag” piece, which features 18,000 toy soldiers melted and painted to reflect the U.S. flag. “I glued (the soldiers) so they are more visible,” Jacob said. “Putting each of the Army guys on there I thought about each of the guys (and) how they served. They make this flag what it is. They all mean something, so I wanted to make sure they were as perfect as they could be.”

Following its completion, Jacob’s flag was placed in a glass display case at Maconaquah High School for students, faculty and community members to see.

“When Jacob showed up (to the high school) with the American flag piece I was very impressed with the amount of time that I could tell had been put into the project,” said Josh Hancock, Maconaquah High School Art Department chair. “I was proud of him for thinking outside of the box and coming up with a creative way to display his patriotism through art.”

Jacob thought the Facebook photo of the flag, which was posted by his mom, Stacey, would garner a handful of likes. But within 24 hours of the posting, the photo’s social media attention grew to more than 84,000 shares.

The flag “is just touching everybody,” Stacey said. “I keep getting messages from people in the military and how much they loved it and appreciated (Jacob’s) patriotism. That made me feel all warm inside because that’s our son they are talking about.”

Stacey said people have asked to purchase the flag, but it’s not for sale as it’s going to travel throughout Indiana this summer to veteran parades and fundraisers, and then eventually make its way back to the high school.

A flag of this magnitude and uniqueness “hasn’t been done at my school before, which means I’m the first one there,” Jacob said. “It’s awesome. And showing patriotism and knowing that this made so many people happy ... awesome is the best way to describe how it makes me feel.”
The numbers are in! Each year, our Department reports to National on the various mission outreach programs that were conducted during the year. This year, our units spent 11,962 hours doing programs in our local communities. Over $43,000 was spent on the various Auxiliary programs. In total, we served 1,854 military families and 290 children.

On Memorial Day, the Department of Delaware participated in the Delaware Memorial Bridge Ceremony with members from local Law Enforcement Agencies, Local and State Officials and representatives from all Military Branches. The Department of Delaware – both our Commander and Auxiliary President – were called to represent the American Legion in a wreath ceremony.

Our Girls State program will be conducted while this edition of the Legionnaire is going to press. I hope that you will have had an opportunity to visit and see the program in action or follow us on Facebook. If not, please reach out to our Department Chairman, Lisa McCarley, for more information and details. It’s not too soon to become involved in the program for next year!

Upcoming events include the Homecoming Celebration for our Eastern Division Vice President, Helen Skelton. Please join us for a dinner buffet on August 6 at Abbott’s Grill, Milford from 5:30 – 9pm. Due to limited seating, tickets need to be purchased no later than July 5, 2016.

Before I close, I would like to recognize and honor the service of two departed leaders. During the year, Past Department Presidents Alberta Henderson and Eleanor Hartnett passed. In the memory of their leadership, may we find their legacy and carry forward towards mission goals.

Ladies, I am awed by your accomplishments! Please keep up the great work that you are doing with your programs and I look forward to seeing each of you at the Department Convention!! United in Service to Veterans!

Dr. Alete A. Krauss
State President

Another item of concern is the VA Disability Claims for Veterans who were employed or are currently employed by the Government. At this time many of these Veterans have some or all of their claims taken out of their retirement or pay checks. The American Legion is hoping to correct this situation by supporting the Retired Pay Restoration Act H.R. 303 in the House of Representatives and S. 271 in the Senate, in the current Congress.

Since this is the last time I will be reporting as an Officer in the Department of Delaware, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the members of the Department for their support over the years. It has been an honor to serve you.

For God & Country,
Kenneth G. Whitman
NEC, Department of Delaware

Bettylou Evans
Editor

I would like to start this article with a great big Thank You to the Legion Family for all their phone calls, cards, and e-mails during the past two months. You were all very understanding at a time when I needed it. Maurice will never be forgotten but we all know that he is in a better place.

Not much happening in the Legion right now. Membership is almost finished for 2016. The 2017 cards will be out soon and the Officers will be working hard to get the quotas in. The Convention is a little over two weeks away. Hope you are planning on being at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino On July 9th and 10th. After August most Post, Unit and Squadrons will start their meetings. Please try to attend and volunteer your help. The Posts need your support and there are so many Veterans out there that need help. Remember your Viet Nam members are getting older and they are tired. So please try to participate and help out when you can.

Bettylou Evans
Editor

Now that summer is here and the Department Convention is just around the corner, it is time to think back for a moment on this past Legion Year. The Sussex District and the Posts within the district were busy doing many events for their respective posts and also lending a helping hand to support the community and those in need of a helping hand. The Thanksgiving for Thousands, the Thanksgiving at Christmas and the thanksgiving at Easter events packed many thousands of boxes for the needy in our communities. A great job was accomplished by our posts and many people were presented a holiday meal that they not would have been able to afford.

The District conducted a couple fund raisers that were successful. These events raised funds that will be used for the Children and Youth activities and other District activities. A special thank you is in order for the wonderful volunteers at Post 28 for helping with these events and doing all the hard work that contributed to their success.

Unfortunately the Sussex District did not reach their membership goal this year; however it was not because of the lack of effort. I know for a fact that many posts tried very hard and worked hard to bring on new members and make sure existing members renewed their membership. It seems to getting harder each year but we will still keep working to try and make it happen. Congratulations to Posts 17 and 37 for accomplishing their 100% goal.

During the past two months of May and June the District lost two very legionnaires were strong supporters of the District and their respective post. They will be sorely missed and difficult to replace. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. The Sussex District Caucus was held on June the 11th. In September the officers of the Sussex District will meet and lay out the calendar of events for the coming year. One event that will be on the Calendar will be the District Christmas Party. Last year's Christmas party was very successful and there were many requests to have it again this year and we would like to accommodate those requests. Have a good convention and good luck to all the new officers for the coming year.

For God and Country,
Jim Lafferty
Commander, Sussex District

Dr. Alete A. Krauss
State President

NEC

The Spring Meetings in Indianapolis were held April 30 to May 5, 2016. Many meetings were attended by representatives from the Department of Delaware. I attended the Convention Commission Meetings on May 2nd and 3rd. The National Conventions will be held in the following cities. Cincinnati, Ohio 2016, Reno, NV 2017, Minneapolis, MN 2018, Indianapolis, IN 2019, Louisville, KY 2020 and Phoenix, AZ 2021.

The National Executive Committee met on May 4th and 5th. There were 26 Resolutions read, discussed and voted on. Once again, a Resolution was approved to establish a policy to protect the American Flag.

Bettylou Evans
Editor

I would like to start this article with a great big Thank You to the Legion Family for all their phone calls, cards, and e-mails during the past two months. You were all very understanding at a time when I needed it. Maurice will never be forgotten but we all know that he is in a better place.

Not much happening in the Legion right now. Membership is almost finished for 2016. The 2017 cards will be out soon and the Officers will be working hard to get the quotas in. The Convention is a little over two weeks away. Hope you are planning on being at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino On July 9th and 10th. After August most Post, Unit and Squadrons will start their meetings. Please try to attend and volunteer your help. The Posts need your support and there are so many Veterans out there that need help. Remember your Viet Nam members are getting older and they are tired. So please try to participate and help out when you can.

Bettylou Evans
Editor

Now that summer is here and the Department Convention is just around the corner, it is time to think back for a moment on this past Legion Year. The Sussex District and the Posts within the district were busy doing many events for their respective posts and also lending a helping hand to support the community and those in need of a helping hand. The Thanksgiving for Thousands, the Thanksgiving at Christmas and the thanksgiving at Easter events packed many thousands of boxes for the needy in our communities. A great job was accomplished by our posts and many people were presented a holiday meal that they not would have been able to afford.

The District conducted a couple fund raisers that were successful. These events raised funds that will be used for the Children and Youth activities and other District activities. A special thank you is in order for the wonderful volunteers at Post 28 for helping with these events and doing all the hard work that contributed to their success.

Unfortunately the Sussex District did not reach their membership goal this year; however it was not because of the lack of effort. I know for a fact that many posts tried very hard and worked hard to bring on new members and make sure existing members renewed their membership. It seems to getting harder each year but we will still keep working to try and make it happen. Congratulations to Posts 17 and 37 for accomplishing their 100% goal.

During the past two months of May and June the District lost two very
National Americanism Meetings May 2 and 3rd 2016

The National American Legion Americanism Commission met in Indianapolis on May 2 and May 3, 2016. The Commission members heard reports on Youth Education, the American Legion World Series and had an update on Troop and Family Support Programs before breaking in committee and subcommittee meetings. Michael Bredeck of Minnesota talked about the different scholarships awarded by the American Legion. Mr. Eddie Holbrook of North Carolina talked about the effect the Legion World Series has had on Shelby, North Carolina. Bruce Drake of Indiana talked about the effect the American Legion World Series will have on making sure the state programs are structured properly. This was approved.

The section on the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” was next. The National Winner was Benjamin Crosby of Washington State – a sophomore in High School. They also drew the pairing of the first round for next years contest. Delaware is in the group with South Carolina, Georgia, Arizona, New Mexico, and Florida. There was a resolution to change some of the structure of the program. This was not approved, not because of the idea, but because the National Organization costs for the weekend (room rentals, extra judges, prize money) in Indianapolis would almost double.

The commission members evaluated the top 10 Eagle Scout nominations. They also approved a resolution, which was sent onto the NEC, allowing Eagle Scouts to be the son or grandson of a member of the SAL. This was put in because the present requirement is the son or grandson of a member of the American Legion or Auxiliary. There will be a National Scouting Conference Call on Oct 27th. The Eagle Scout of the year is Jacob Kelley of Wisconsin, a runner up from last year. The runner-ups this year include Liam O’Connor of Delaware – Liam will receive a scholarship from the National Organization.

Boys State and Boys Nation was discussed briefly – with the emphasis on making sure the state programs have their insurance.

On May 3rd the Commission met as a whole – and reviewed everything that each of the subcommittees did.

Probably the one that affects Delaware the most is the fact that no one from our National Baseball District submitted a bid for the regional tournament for 2017 and 2018.

The Committee on Children and Youth announced the dates for the Children and Youth Conference. The dates are Sept 16-18, 2016. They would like a representative from both the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion to attend from each department. They also announced the names of the 31 recipients of the American Legacy Scholarships. They were none from Delaware.

The last committee report was the Citizenship and Naturalization subcommittee.

They announced that Get Out the Vote brochure and the Vote America booklet are now available on-line.

-Lyman Brenner

Women Veterans: Tell us your story

The American Legion has created a military women veterans survey in order to make specific recommendations for congressional appropriations, Veterans Affairs programs and facilities, and increase public awareness of issues facing women veterans.

“In our continued efforts to recognize the important contributions of women in the military, who now account for nearly 20 percent of our Armed Forces, The American Legion aims to identify the unmet needs among women veterans,” said Rhonda Powell, the Legion’s National Security Division director and leader of Women’s Outreach Programs. “We also hope to guide and develop a viable quality of life initiative for women who have served and continue to serve.”

All information from the survey is confidential and submitted anonymously. Women veterans can access the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALwomenenvets until July 18.
The first session of the American Legion’s legislative conference took place in Washington, D.C. during the week of Feb 22, 23, and 24, 2016. The National American Legion’s Legislative Committee met in Washington, D.C. for the session, which lasted three days. The Legislative Committee is an important part of the American Legion, as it allows members of The American Legion to influence Congress. The American Legion knows that Congress needs to be impressed with their representatives, the Senators and the Representatives who are in attendance.

The Legion’s emphasis during the session was on veterans and their needs. The members of Delaware’s legion family, represented by their Commander, Carney, in all cases the staff took copious notes on the concerns of Delaware’s legion family.

The last day of the Conference was National Commander Dale Barnett’s testimony on the Hill in front of the joint House and Senate Veterans’ Committee. The members of Delaware’s legion family arrived 45 minutes before the testimony to begin – and could not fit into the hearing room. The hearing was web broadcast and can be heard on The National American Legion web page. The National Commander represented The American Legion well and seemed to impress the Senators and Representatives who were in attendance.

The reason this is important to us is that while The American Legion supports passage of the bill, we are concerned that it is tied to an unrelated funding bill and disappointed it does not meet the Administration’s VA funding request.

While the agreement does provide a 4.1 percent funding increase over the 2016 level, including increases for health care, benefit claims processing, the Board of Veterans Appeals, the VA Inspector General, medical and prosthetic research, and information technology; The American Legion is concerned that not meeting the VA’s funding request will hinder its ability to meet the expectations for improvement that Congress says it wants from VA. Why would Congress try to undercut VA’s efforts to improve its services to our veterans by not providing funding that is so obviously needed?

We are pleased to see, though, that the bill allows VA for the first time to cover fertility services, including in-vitro fertilization (IVF), for veterans with injuries that cause infertility, an issue The American Legion has strongly urged Congress to support. Currently, veterans who have service-related injuries that prevent them from having children naturally can receive them also. While the agreement covers fertility services, including in-vitro fertilization (IVF), for veterans with injuries that cause infertility, an issue that The American Legion has strongly urged Congress to support. The American Legion is concerned that not meeting the VA’s funding request will hinder its ability to meet the expectations for improvement that Congress says it wants from VA. Why would Congress try to undercut VA’s efforts to improve its services to our veterans by not providing funding that is so obviously needed? We are pleased to see, though, that the bill allows VA for the first time to cover fertility services, including in-vitro fertilization (IVF), for veterans with injuries that cause infertility, an issue The American Legion has strongly urged Congress to support. Currently, veterans who have service-related injuries that prevent them from having children naturally must cover the high costs of IVF out of pocket. The Department of Defense offers fertility services to those serving now, so it’s only fair that veterans receive them also.

We also support the reinstatement of the requirement for VA to report its capacity to provide specialized services, to include spinal cord injury or disease, and the authorization of beneficiary travel for non-service connected catastrophically disabled veterans.

We need your help to ensure senators are informed of our support and concerns about the bill. Please contact them today.
Here are the 2015-16 champions of the Thursday Daytime Senior Bowling League held at Bryan’s Bowling Center sponsored by and representing the Laurel American Legion Post 19. Pictured from left are Alan Klatt, Ed Farrelly, Linda Derr and Team Captain Gator Goff. Photo by Will Derr
Members of the United States Congress:
The American Legion has grown increasingly concerned over the past several months about egregious and politically-driven comments from some groups who claim to represent veterans’ needs. Such comments show little concern for the millions of veterans who rely on VA care and support that they receive at their local facilities.

The American Legion wants lawmakers to completely understand that our more than 2 million duespaying members support a strong and robust VA that puts veterans first.

Election sound bites, media hyperbole, hollow grandstanding and smoke and mirrors aren’t going to correct the imperfections of a $65 billion per year enterprise that employs well over 250,000 caregivers, and serves millions of veterans and their families. If there were a better health-care solution for veterans than VA, the rest assured The American Legion would support it. But to suggest that the millions of veterans who use VA each year are not deserving or entitled to government’s generosity and patriotism by broadcasting fallacies and spouting half-truths is insulting and unfair.

As leaders in providing adequate services and resources to our nation’s military veterans, The American Legion is alarmed when politically-motivated groups masquerade as veteran-centric organizations, exploiting the public’s generosity and patriotism by leveraging the military veteran community to achieve selfish gains. Lawmakers should resist acting on calls for privatization. These calls are coming from groups that do not represent veterans, as do member-based organizations like The American Legion and other federally chartered VSOs. To act upon such propositions risks defrauding veterans out of services and benefits they have earned and deserve through honorable service to our country and protection of the freedoms we all enjoy.

Respectfully,

DALE BARNETT
National Commander
TIME TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

On behalf of more than 2.2 million wartime veterans of The American Legion, I appreciated the opportunity to testify at such a critical time for those who have served our country, their families and the nation itself.

During my testimony Feb. 24 before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs, I talked about a word we've all been wrestling with. That word is accountability.

Men and women of the U.S. armed forces understand what the word means. When asked to stand in harm's way—knowing that fulfillment of obligations and responsibilities can cost their lives—they accept without hesitation. And they go about the business of executing their missions. That's accountability.

Today, accountability is a buzzword that flies through hearings, candidate debates and media releases, generally meaning the ability or, more accurately, inability—to discipline or fire poor-performing executives, managers and employees.

Congress tried to address this struggle by passing the VA Accountability Act of 2014 to remove obstacles that prevented dismissal of poor-performing managers and employees.

VA has described accountability as a top priority in the aftermath of scandals blamed for costing some veterans their lives, the payout of questionable performance bonuses, and ill-fated efforts to discipline executives who were found to have abused their positions. You cannot imagine how disappointed I and my fellow American Legion members were on Oct. 21, 2015, when five senior VA witnesses failed to appear at an accountability hearing, and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs had to issue subpoenas to summon them.

And then, once they were there, two of the key witnesses invoked the Fifth Amendment to avoid explaining findings from the Inspector General that they had manipulated the system to the tune of about $400,000 in unscrupulous relocation costs and practices. Our disappointment only grew after additional hearings established wrongdoing, and punishments were imposed ... only to be overturned in the appeals process.

Veterans do not see this as accountability.

As you read about some of our highest priorities highlighted in the next several pages, please understand that neither I, nor The American Legion, believe the U.S. government is not serving our veterans.

We look at these challenges with confidence that they can—and will—be overcome. We can only achieve accountability to America's veterans if we work together—honestly and transparently—to prove that a grateful nation will put real execution behind all the words.

Congress, VA, the Department of Defense and veterans service organizations must show those who have served in uniform that America can be as accountable to its veterans as veterans have been to America.

These are The American Legion's 22 legislative priorities. We see them as much more than words.

Veterans and Americans at war today are looking to their nation for nothing less than action and accountability to back up those priorities.

Too often, what they're seeing is the assignment of blame over an inability to execute.

We need to find different ways to succeed.

It's time to expand the definition of accountability.
Legion of volunteers fulfill MLK Day of Service promise

By Glenn Rolfe
Sussex County Post

MILLSBORO - Bingo is a Monday night fixture at Oak Orchard/Riverdale American Legion Post 28, where lucky winners claim prize purses of various sizes.

On Monday, Jan. 18, purses of a far different nature filled the bingo hall, carrying a promise and hope for homeless, at-risk women and those in crisis.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2016 brought upward of 60 volunteers to Post 28 for Promise Purses for Homeless Females - a community service project that far exceeded organizers expectations.

“We were totally overwhelmed,” said Tina Washington, Unit 28 Auxiliary president. “It was our first time doing it and we were just overwhelmed by the response that we got from the community. I never saw that many pocket books in one place in my whole life.”

Over 700 Promise Purses were packed, each and every one filled with tissues, hand sanitizer, deodorant, female hygiene products, wet wipes, shampoo, soaps and other every day essentials.

Helping hands from Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 in Lewes, Unit 5 in Rehoboth, Unit 7 in Harrington and Sharptown, Md., People’s Place, Delaware 50+, Delaware State University’s Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and others who volunteered at the event.

Purses are destined for People’s Place, Home of the Brave II which houses female veterans in Milford, the Veterans Center in Georgetown and the Pathway to Success high school mentoring program.

“We’re giving them to domestic violence centers and crisis centers. We are going to reach out to the community and ask anyone that has needs to take some of the purses,” said Ms. Washington.

“And one of the things that we asked every person that volunteered to do was to take two or three purses and put them in the back of their car and as they travel, if they see someone in need, they would give that purse to that person.”

In addition, every Promise Purse contained a Joy Bag, packed by Junior Auxiliary members.

Joy Bag emergency kits include a:
- marble for when are losing yours;
- cotton ball to cushion the rough road ahead;
- Tootsie Roll to help you roll with the punches;
- Penny so you will never be penniless;
- Hershey Kiss because we all need hugs and kisses;
- Rubber band as a reminder to stay flexible;
- Mint for all the things you “mint” to do;
- Toothpick to help you pick out the good in others;
- Paperclip to help you hold it all together.

Community donations supported the Promises Purses project, and there was a generous contribution.

“Promise Purses" for MLK Day of Service

(MILLSBORO, Del.)- On Martin Luther King Day, neighbors joined together at the American Legion Auxiliary 28, for “Promise Purses.”

“Promise Purses” is an event where over 400 purses were packed with every day essentials (deodorant, tissues, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc.) for women in need.

The filled purses were donated to Home of the Brave II (female facility), Peoples Place, homeless shelters, domestic abuse facilities and The Vet Center in Georgetown.

Cindy Phillips, event organizer said:
“The whole idea was this purse is going to someone in need. We wanted them to pray over the purse, put in the individual things someone could use and fill it with love.

One volunteer explained why this event was important to her.

“We’ve seen woman carry grocery plastic bags with all of their goods in it and so this will give them a personal feeling, a good feeling about themselves so they don’t have to get in a grocery bag and pull out something they need,” said Roberta Bass.

While picking out a purse among the hundreds, the volunteers put thought into each of the bags they packed.

“I chose this bag because in High School this was my color plain for my school skirt. It’s something I thought was familiar so I’m really going to enjoy packing this bag” said Monica Page.

Volunteers helped for various reasons on Monday, one of which is because of Martin Luther King “we have a dream like he had a dream, we want to see the community do well and minorities do well,” said Bernard Carr.
The Department of Delaware Boys State Program and the Department of Delaware Auxiliary Girls State program combines to hold a County Youth in Government Day for each of Delaware’s counties. Each of our three counties was established prior to the American Revolution and each has a different set up for their government. Although the basic legislative process for each county is the same the terminology and what the county runs differs greatly from one county to the next. Both programs believe that it is important to teach our young people the government process under which they are living.

Each county provides everything that is needed for their day except for the names of the students and the transportation to and from the County Council Chamber.

The furthest anyone comes for the program might be 20 miles as each of the Council Chambers is in the center of their respective county and the parents are responsible to get their students to and from the event.

Sussex County had forty plus students representing eight high schools.

Kent County had fifty plus students representing ten high schools. New Castle had over 150 students representing twenty-six high schools.

Pictures of the events are on the Delaware Boys State Facebook page and each of the respective County Council Facebook pages. The pictures are courtesy of Mrs. Lisa McCarley, the Girls State Chairman.
Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership

Anyone who is currently an American Legion member or who is eligible for membership may become a PUFL member.

Legionnaires can apply for membership online at www.legion.org/puf. After providing a name and member ID number, the member will receive a price quote, then he/she can pay by credit card, or print out a personalized form and mail it in with a check, money order or credit card information. Those without a member ID number can contact Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 for their personalized offer. Lifetime membership can be paid either in one lump sum or over 12 equal, monthly payments. If a member chooses the Time Pay Plan, payment must be made by credit card only. (Check for online promotions if paying in full.) Once a member fulfills the PUFL membership dues, he/she will be protected from any future dues increases at the post, department or national levels.

All PUFL applications must be submitted to National Headquarters by one of three methods:

1. Online applications:
The member can obtain a rate quote online at www.legion.org/puf. Once the quote is received, the member can opt to apply online and their personal information will appear for confirmation. Once confirmed and payment information is entered, the member clicks “Submit” to finish the application process. Note: If no internet access, the post or department can perform the process. A link to the PUFL application page has been added to myLegion.org for posts and departments.

2. Printable applications:
The member obtains a rate quote online at www.legion.org/puf. Once the quote is received, the member can opt to print an application to complete and mail to National Headquarters. The application will be pre-filled with the member’s name, address, birth date, ID number and the total cost of PUFL membership. (Any updates to member’s record can be noted on the application.) The member simply mails the application and payment to National Headquarters at the address on the form. Note: For those without internet access, the application should be printed by the post or department and forwarded to the member for completion. A link to the PUFL application page has been added to myLegion.org for posts and departments.

3. Call Customer Service:
Members can speak to a customer service specialist by calling 1-800-433-3318. They can answer questions regarding the PUFL program as well as print and mail PUFL applications or take them over the phone. Note: This should not be considered the primary procedure, as members, posts and departments have this ability.

   The rate chart listed below applies to post dues of $48.00 or less (Majority of post dues are $48 and below). If a post’s annual dues are $48.01 or higher, the rate chart does not apply. In that case, the online calculator, located at www.legion.org/puf, will provide the correct amount to be charged.

   Some posts purchase a Paid-Up-For-Life membership for their long-time members, and in calculating the cost to remit, the authorizing post officers may choose to leave out some or all of their share of the post dues which will reduce the amount to submit with the application. If this is an option being considered by the post, the post adjutant must contact Customer Service for the correct fee.

Payment of Annual Dues to Posts and Departments

In August of each year, National Headquarters renews all PUFL members for the new membership year. After this massive renewal takes place, checks are issued to the departments, and, depending on the department, a post for reimbursement of annual dues for all PUFL members. All checks are sent to the respective departments for appropriate distribution. Although it’s at the Department’s discretion, it is suggested that posts be credited with their PUFL members when the reimbursement checks are received from National. Per capita checks are accompanied by a detailed listing that include per capita reimbursement amount for each member.

Departments will always receive the same portion of dues they received at the time of the application for the duration of the PUFL membership, assuming the member remains in that Department. (Note: In support of Resolution 6 approved May 2007 by the NEC at its annual spring meetings, departments will receive payment for their portion of the per capita in the amount that was in effect on May 9, 2007 for all PUFL memberships processed on May 9, 2007 and prior.) If a PUFL member transfers into a new Post, whether in the same Department or a different one, the new Post (and Department, if applicable) will always receive the same portion of dues the member’s previous Post (and Department) received.

Posts will always receive the same portion of dues that they received at the time of the application for the duration of the PUFL membership, assuming the member remains in that Post. For example, Legonaire Smith applies for a PUFL membership this year at Post X. The current dues are $35, of which $5 is kept by the Post and $30 is transmitted for the department and National portions. If Post X increases its Post per capita dues next year to $10 (making total dues $40), its reimbursement payment for Legionnaire Smith will remain at $5. But if Legionnaire Jones purchases a PUFL membership next year, Post X will always receive dues reimbursement in the amount of $10 for his membership.

Contact Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 with questions regarding cost, the process or a particular member. For general questions about the Paid Up For Life program, contact the Internal Affairs Division at (317) 630-1330.

Paid Up for Life Pricing – Effective June 2016
(For post dues of $48.00 or less)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>18-29</th>
<th>30-39</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>50-59</th>
<th>60-69</th>
<th>70-79</th>
<th>80-89</th>
<th>90+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEE</td>
<td>$1,535</td>
<td>$1,399</td>
<td>$1,229</td>
<td>$1,025</td>
<td>$815</td>
<td>$599</td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Effective June 1, 2016 all previous rate charts are superseded.

When paid in full, the member will receive a permanent plastic card identifying him/her as a lifetime member. The PUFL member will also continue to receive an annual American Legion membership card mailed directly on or about July 1st of each year.

If a member chooses the monthly payment option and cancels or defaults, the member will not be eligible to participate in the monthly payment plan in the future. However, the member may resubmit an application with full payment at any time. Any funds previously submitted on the cancelled account will not be credited to the new application.

Once National Headquarters receives and processes an application, the member’s post will be notified and allowed 30 days to challenge. Departments will be copied on the notification.

There will be no refund of dues already paid (time or full pay) if the member chooses to cancel his or her membership, discontinue participation in the monthly payment plan, or if National Headquarters must close an account due to delinquency.

Should a PUFL member hold membership in a post whose charter has been canceled, and is unable to transfer to a local post, the member will be transferred to their respective department headquarters post. In the event that the member is expelled by action of his/her post or department headquarters, the unused portion of the PUFL fee, if any, may be reviewed upon recommendation of the post and department with final decision by National Headquarters for any possible refund. A PUFL member may transfer to another participating post with the acceptance of the gaining post.