



# Department of Ohio American Legion

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

---

Robert White

## Learning Objectives

Students will understand the roles and responsibilities of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice in The American Legion

This also applies to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vices of the Auxiliary, SAL, and the Legion Riders



## You've been elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, now what?

- Understand what activities have occurred in the prior year and what went well and what didn't
  - Interview members for what they want to see
  - You are responsible for making the Post and the Post's activities welcoming and fun
-



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice's Role

- Understand the programs of the American Legion
  - Organize activities that support the 4 pillars of the American Legion programs
  - Communicate the activities of the Post to the community and the Post
  - Making it a great Post
-



# What is a “Great Post”

**OPINION: A GREAT POST IS ONE THAT THE COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES AS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE VETERAN COMMUNITY CENTER**

---



## Initial Impressions Matter

- What was your initial impression when you first came to your Post?
    - Impressed? Disappointed? Neutral?
  - Were you met at the door?
    - Greeted? Challenged? Asked to leave?
  - Was the first interaction about...
    - How they could help you?
    - How you could help them (money/membership)?
    - Getting to know each other?
-

## What services does your Post provide to veterans?

- A canteen?
  - Regular access to a VSO?
  - Career, education, VA information/counseling?
  - Volunteer opportunities?
  - Networking?
-



- Sports sponsorship?
  - Military honors?
  - Living History panel for local schools?
  - Four pillars advocacy and awareness?
  - Aid for weather events, tragedy, etc.?
  - Outreach?
-



## Exercise

- Take the next **3-minutes** to brainstorm the top 5 things that you believe veterans need from a VSO
-

## Discussion

- Does your post currently provide for at least 3 of the 5 top things?
-

## Exercise

- Take the next **3-minutes** to brainstorm the top 5 things that you believe **THE COMMUNITY** needs from a VSO
-



## Discussion

- Does your post currently provide for at least 3 of the 5 top things?
-



# Some Thoughts

- Veterans generally need to feel welcome
  - Veterans are at peace in a place they can be themselves
  - **Veterans usually need help integrating with society**
    - Career assistance
    - Education assistance
    - Financial assistance
    - Home/Auto repair assistance
  - Veterans are often at odds with the VA or OGA's
  - Veterans have unique medical/dental needs
  - Veterans like to help other veterans
-

# Community Center Concept



- What if.....
    - Your community assumed that anything and everything related to veterans could be found in the hub of your post?
    - Imagine if your post had a veteran resource officer who had POC's for veteran advocates in the community (businesses, people, etc.)
-



- Help with veteran employment (resumes, placement, etc.)
  - Help with claims and other VA related things
  - Help with temporary financial assistance, counseling, and no interest loans
  - Help with tradesman/mechanics/etc. that offer exclusive discounts to veterans (more if they are Legionnaires)
  - Help with referrals for drug and alcohol rehabilitation
  - Help with temporary housing
-



## Opinion: What a “Great Post” Represents

A known location where a veteran in crisis can walk in the door and be greeted with compassion, sincerity, and genuine help from fellow warriors

*The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness*

---





## Reality...

- It is the long-ball game for sure
    - Participation will always be disappointing at first
    - Keep grinding...
    - Fact: Many will prefer an effortless “bar” and cheap drinks to the idea of being a pillar of the community
  - We are volunteers, thus must be led not managed
-

# Questions



Holly Lewis

EMAIL: [hollywlewis@gmail.com](mailto:hollywlewis@gmail.com)