

HISTORIAN REPORT JUNE 27, 2020

How's it?

My greeting is "slang" or the pidgin language spoken in the Hawaiian islands, which is an informal greeting such as "How are you", "How is it going", that the locals in the Polynesian islands commonly greet one another.

It is my way of greeting you, with what feels comfortable to me, my fellow brothers and sisters of the United States Armed Forces. We should be treating each other and our veteran legionnaires in a friendly family like manner. We are "Ohana", the Hawaiian word for family, because of what we commonly share, "WE SERVED" our country, and we are honored to have had the opportunity, that as a family unit, we joined to continue to serve in The American Legion.

During the year 2019-2020, our service year started off based on building "A Foundation For the Future" with our National Commander Bill Oxford plowing the way, and State Commander Roger Friend leading us in Ohio. Little did we know that a pandemic of a virus would cripple the world and our communities, and we would be re-building our future literally from the ground up.

But during the quarantine not all communities shut down. Some American Legion Posts across the state persevered and continued to serve their legion members, families, and communities as best as they could.

There were food drives and medication deliveries. There was a shortage of toilet paper and our Ohio Legion Post Family of legionnaires, sons, auxiliary and junior members found the resources to get the scarce necessity collected and delivered.

Some auxiliary members prepared bagged lunches for children who were homeschooled. There were auxiliary and rider members sewing masks for hospitals, care homes and Frontline Essential Workers.

Our VA deputies and volunteers gathered up donations and delivered snacks and beverages to caregivers and patients during the shutdown as no visitors were allowed.

As an "Ohana", some post families followed the state guidelines and prepared meals for delivery and take out that helped bring in some income. While some posts found creative ways to make money & show their patriotism even while they were shutdown (contact me and I will share with you what they did and are still doing).

The Ohio Legion family visited veterans, members, children, and high school seniors with a drive by parade in their honor to welcome them home from the hospital, support them to know they were thought of, a caravan of wavers and balloons to celebrate birthdays and graduations since many were quarantined or they were complying to social distancing guidelines.

ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE A PART OF OUR HISTORY 2019-2020! There are NO blank pages in The American Legion Family history. On behalf of our National Historian James "Jim" Mariner and the support of our NADHAL President Robin Singleton, "we adapt and continue to go forth and carry on the American Legion history tradition".

The post historian, commander, and or adjutant are put in charge of those events and records as they happen. Your history can only be told by those who are living it right now. I encourage you to write the story, the long and short of it.

As Jim Mariner said in his recent newsletter "...while keeping safe with **adaption** and **change** during these unprecedented times, please remember preserving and recording our history is important as we are building "A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE". [emphasis added]

Due to the shutdown of American Legion Posts around the world and across the nation, we have been advised directly from the National Historian that the **deadline** in judging the post history books at the national level has been extended.

Therefore, the Department of Ohio Contest deadline for Post History Book and the Post History Narrative are extended from June 30th to July 31st.

Mail or hand deliver to me or directly to Department of Ohio 60 Big Run Rd., P. O. Box 8007 Delaware OH 43015 by or on July 31, 2020.

The term period of your history should not change. As an example if your year started in May 2019 and naturally would end May 2020, then include what you did from May 2019, **including** the time your post shutdown and if any of your legion post family participated in food drives, medication deliveries, toilet paper runs, social distancing visits and parades, virtual video poppy and memorial day activities, posts audio or video conference calls, virtual zoom or messenger room meetings through May 2020.

After May 2020, your 2020-2021 post history begins.

The guideline instructions for the History Contest 2019-2020 is in the American Legion Officers Guide 2019 on pages 140-149. It is also on the TAL national website <https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/271A0219-Officers-Guide.pdf> or you can also find it on the Ohio Legion website Historian Section <https://www.ohiolegion.com/historian-2/>

The overall winner of the Department of Ohio 2019-2020 History Book Contest will be announced at Mid-Winter and will be submitted to National to compete against all other Department winners.

Each Ohio submission will be entered into our Department Annual History Incentive drawing – One Historian and or Post will win an American Legion tie and tie tack from Emblem Sales to promote our brand. The incentive drawing will be held at Mid-Winter.

Thank you, Commander Roger, for this appointment and the journey it has taken me.

I would like to again thank my committee member and wife Dayna Beyer aka Tsi Sim Mar, Auxiliary Department Historian for her dedication to preserving our Ohio Legion Family History, and Assistant Historian, Virgil Arling, Past Department Historian for his mentorship, guidance and service to The American Legion.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at 419-566-9523. Fax 888-225-3180 Email albeyer49@gmail.com address: 6013 Garber Rd., Bellville OH 44813

God bless all of you and your families – In His Service –

Al Beyer, Department Historian