

OHIO LEGION NEWS

Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Ohio

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October | November | December 2025



Of The Year Awards Banquet

Saturday January 17th, 2026

The Department of Ohio is hosting a formal banquet to honor outstanding members of our communities and Legionnaires at Mid-Winter Conference.

Social hour starts at 5:00PM in the foyer with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00PM. Commander Oren will be presenting awards to the members of your communities who have won various "Of The Year" awards.

Members, Posts, and Districts are encouraged to attend and support those being recognized.

Formal attire is required.

Reservation cutoff is **January 12th, 2026**

Cost is **\$40.00** per person. Please return this form with payment.

****All banquet tickets must be reserved in advance****

****Tickets reserved will be handed out at the event****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

of tickets at \$40.00 per person _____ Amount: \$_____ Check #_____ or

Credit Card #_____ Exp. Date ____ / ____ CVV _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

E-mail address (****Required****): _____

Return to: Department of Ohio • 60 Big Run Rd. • Delaware, OH 43015

The American Legion Department of Ohio 2026 Mid-Winter Conference

Marriott Columbus Northwest
5605 Blazer Pkwy
Dublin, OH 43017
on

Friday, January 16, 2026 – Sunday, January 18, 2026

This is an American Legion Family event for The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Riders. The conference is focused on training and education of the American Legion and its offices/ programs through Buckeye American Legion College. Anyone is welcome to attend the conference and any meetings and classes offered.

To make reservations please call 1-800-228-9290 to receive the discounted group rate of \$131.00 plus tax, or make reservations online at: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1743428043226&key=GRP&guestres-link2=true&app=resvlink> Please reference "American Legion Mid-Winter" when making reservations.

Deadline for hotel reservations is **December 26th**

After arriving and/or checking in at the hotel, visit the Department Information Table for the Mid-Winter Conference program/schedule.

Please visit: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/department-mid-winter-conference/> for more information.

The Department of Ohio will also be hosting a formal awards banquet. Registration for the Department Awards Banquet can be downloaded at: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/wp-content/uploads/2026-Mid-Winter-Leadership-Awards-Banquet.pdf> and mailed to Department or filled out on-line toward the middle of the Department Mid-Winter webpage.

E-mail confirmations will be sent to verify your banquet ticket purchase. If you do not receive an email after purchasing a ticket, please contact Department Headquarters.

For more information on the event contact Christie White at: programs@ohiolegion.com or call (740) 362-7478.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

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TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE: E-Mail articles with photos to: legion@ohiolegion.com or vulgamore@ohiolegion.com

- Need assistance or have questions? Call Department Headquarters at 740.362.7478.

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Monday-Tuesday-Thursday Only

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Cincinnati, OH 45220

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F: 513-475-6346

Dayton VAMC/WPAFB:

Gary Felver, DSO

The American Legion C/O VA Patient Tower, Room 1D-145e

4100 W Third St PO Box 335

Dayton, OH 45428

P: 937-268-6511 ext. 2967

E: gfelver@ohiolegion.com

Columbus VAACC

Vacant

The American Legion

Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulator Care Center

420 N James Rd, Room 1A045 Columbus, OH 43219

P: 614-257-5497

Chillicothe VAMC:

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Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Stan Oren
Department Commander

Greetings, Legionnaires!

I hope you are enjoying the Fall weather. We are forming a committee to encourage participation for USA's 250th anniversary celebration. Aspects such as engaging veterans, local leaders, and volunteers in organizing state and community events, as well as honoring service, fostering unity, and commemorating history will be the focus. Brad Beatty has agreed to lead this effort.

We are also putting together a dedicated team for developing a strategic 5-year membership plan to lead us into the future, fostering growth, retaining members, and ensuring the

American Legion's vitality and impact within our communities. In addition, we are putting together a team focusing on Post revitalizations, 100% submittal of CPR's, and 888 memberships. CPR's can be based on calendar year activities instead of fiscal year. This information is used to show Congress the magnitude of activities Legionnaires are doing in our communities.

At the National Fall Meetings, I've committed our Ohio Legion to a goal of 92.3% membership retention rate this year. Ohio was recognized as number one in retention last year. Let's continue that success this year. Get out and do the Buddy Checks, stay in touch with your members, encourage and support them, get them involved.

I had the opportunity to visit our veterans in the Sandusky, Ohio VA facility. Due to additional funding increases, an additional 16 units were opened to house additional veterans.

We visited the Advanced Platform Technology (APT) located

at Cleveland VA. It is dedicated to advancing medical technologies that improve the quality of life for veterans and individuals with disabilities. During the visit, we observed cutting-edge equipment and technology being developed to improve the lives of disabled veterans. One remarkable innovation is the use of electrodes that enable individuals to regain movement and participate in physical activities. Another technology observed is a form of "body armor"- robotic exoskeletons that can be fitted to the arms and legs. These devices use electrodes to monitor the user's effort: if the person is tiring, the robotics offer increased support; if they are slacking, the system reduces assistance, encouraging active engagement. This technology not only restores mobility but also provides significant psychological benefits by allowing individuals to stand, walk, and interact with others. We met a veteran who had lost his leg above the knee and now benefits from a sensor

pad placed in his artificial foot. Before the sensor technology, he had difficulty navigating surfaces like ice because he couldn't sense his foot's position, putting him at risk of falls. Now, he can feel where his foot is, and he even reported being able to run up and down stairs. Overall, these advancements at the VA lab are making a profound difference in the lives of disabled veterans, both physically and psychologically.

I want to encourage donations to my Commander's Project, Challenged Champions Equestrian Center, which provides therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted activities for veterans and individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Donations can be sent to Department marked for my project.

It is an honor to be your Commander. Thank you for your support.

For God and Country,
-Stan Oren
Department Commander



1ST VICE COMMANDER



Gary Cox Jr.
1st Vice Commander

Good day my fellow Legionnaires,

If you have not noticed, I have been holding meetings for the Post First Vices and the District First Vices virtually on Microsoft Teams if you have not had an opportunity to sit in - I would please ask you to do so. My next 1st Vice Commanders meeting

will be the third Tuesday in November the 18th.

National has put out several membership and recruitment incentives to include the Family of 3 form, the Post Excellence Award, the 103% membership goal, and the 2026 Membership Excellence Incentive pin certification. I want to congratulate the

state of Ohio at sitting over 60% of our goal for membership quota, hitting just before November. I look for all of us to continue this path, driving for the 70,535 Legionnaires we need to meet this year's quota.

-Gary Cox Jr
Department of Ohio
1st Vice Commander

BE THE ONE





2ND VICE COMMANDER



Holly Lewis
2nd Vice Commander

As the leaves fall and we gather around tables of gratitude, November reminds us of what truly matters—connection and belonging. For The American Legion, these values are not just ideals; they are the lifeblood of every Post, the foundation on

which our community stands.

Connection is more than attendance at meetings or events. It's about creating spaces where veterans feel seen, valued, and part of something larger than themselves. Belonging is what keeps members engaged long after the uniforms are hung up - it's the feeling that your presence matters, your story counts, and your ideas can shape the future.

November is also a time of reflection and renewal. As we honor Veterans Day and give thanks for the bonds we share, it's the perfect moment to ask a simple yet powerful question: What could we do differently to

welcome and engage our next generation of members?

Our younger veterans carry fresh energy, bold ideas, and a deep desire for purpose. They're balancing careers, raising families, and serving their communities in many ways. Because of these demands, they may be more drawn to project-based volunteering—efforts with a clear mission, tangible results, and a defined beginning and end. Service projects, community partnerships, or one-day initiatives can offer flexible opportunities that fit their busy lives while still deepening their sense of connection to the Post and its

mission.

When connection deepens, membership grows. When belonging is nurtured, leadership emerges. And when we make space for new ideas and new ways to serve, The American Legion continues to live up to its purpose—serving America by serving each other.

This November, let's not just remember what we've built; let's reimagine what's possible.

-Holly Lewis,
Second Vice Commander,
Department of Ohio

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**DEPARTMENT
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DEPARTMENT TREASURER



Ken LaVoy
Department Treasurer

Greetings Legionnaires,
We are quickly approaching

the halfway mark for the fiscal year and I want to update you on how we are doing financially as an organization. This year the Finance Commission has made major strides in ensuring our budget is more reflective of our actual expenses and income. Even with these steps in the right direction, there is more to do as we continue to face increasing costs, declining membership and unforeseen expenses. The Fi-

nance Team continues to explore effective strategies for cost-saving measures and other partnerships to generate recurring revenue for the Department. We are asking for you to do your part as well in recruitment, retention and financial stewardship. Helping ensure the vitality of our organization and programs remain strong in the years to come. A promised initiative this year is to assist Finance Officers, Dis-

trict and Post Commanders alike with their financial questions. Our goal is to not only maintain financial transparency, but to increase the support of our leadership teams throughout the Department.

Thank you for your continued backing and dedication. Let's work together to keep our American Legion strong!

-Ken LaVoy,
Department Treasurer



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



Kevin Motter
Department Historian

Hello Historians!

I hope you had a great fall, Historical as it were. So many remarkable things are being done within the Posts, Counties, Districts and the American Legion Department of Ohio. As you are aware, we are shying away from the traditional History books and going to a digital format

for Historical Contest judging. Please follow this links for the fourteen-page 2026 Historian's Guide with all the information you need to develop a truly award-winning History for your organization: <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2026entries/2026-contest-and-showcase-info>

Our Assistant Department Historian, Bob Mason, and myself look forward to seeing your histories prior to the Department Convention for our selection of the best histories in the Department.

Very Respectfully,
-Kevin Motter,
Department Historian



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Ron Distel
Department Chaplain

Greetings Comrades;

I hope all is well with everyone. I have been rather busy

since the Department Summer Convention. I have been notified of several that were in need of comfort thoughts and prayers for loved ones and family. I respond as soon as I receive a request. Be sure to include an address if you would like a card sent.

Before we know it, the Mid-Winter Conference will be upon us. "WE" will be conducting the 4 Chaplains Service on Sunday morning, January 18th - (room number and time will

be announced at a later date). Last years' service was memorable and was well attended. "WE" also started a Personal Memorial Dedication for anyone who has lost a loved one or a friend since our last gathering. Information forms will be available in the hotel lobby, fill it out and get it to me as well as be present at the service for recognition.

If you know of someone that is under the weather or has passed on PLEASE contact me - I will

send an appropriate message. I can be reached at crosswindacre@aol.com, or you can call me at 419-862-2344. If I'm not home, I have a recorder (I know, OLD school) leave me a message. Looking forward to seeing you all soon - Remain Healthy and Stay Safe.

God Bless,
-Ron Distel,
Department of Ohio Chaplain



MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Sherry Yockey
Membership & Post Activities Manager

Ohio Rises in Membership Rankings

Congratulations
Ohio Legionnaires!

Thanks to your dedication and leadership, **Ohio has reached 65.45% in membership - ranking 23rd nationally!** We achieved this milestone ahead of the November 13 target, proving what teamwork and determination can accomplish.

Our next goal is **75% by December 10**. We fell just short last year, but with renewed effort, we can make it this time. Encourage your Posts to reach out, renew, and recruit - every member matters!

On the **Sons of The American Legion** side, Ohio stands at **33.91%**, ranking **37th nationally**. With steady engagement and communication, we'll continue to rise in the standings.

Recruit and Retain The Mission Ahead

To help us reach our goals, I am asking **every member to recruit two new members** into *The American Legion*.

National Commander Dan Wiley has introduced a **special incentive pin** that will be awarded to any Legionnaire who recruits two new members. This is a great opportunity to be recognized for your contributions to our organization's growth. The **deadline for this incentive is June 30, 2026**.

But recruiting is only half the mission - **retention is just as critical**. Continue making **Buddy Checks**, reaching out to fellow veterans to let them know we care and that they are not forgotten. These calls or visits are **not about membership or dues** - they're about **friendship, con-**

cern, and connection. A simple "How are you doing?" can make a powerful difference in someone's life.

Timely renewals preserve continuous years of service, maintain access to Legion benefits, and strengthen the bond that unites us all.

Remember, we are the **largest wartime veterans service organization** in the nation. Our mission is to mentor youth, sponsor wholesome community programs, advocate patriotism and honor, promote strong national security, and remain devoted to our fellow veterans.

Together, through **recruiting and retaining**, we will ensure the continued strength and success of *The American Legion*.

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 15, 2025:** Winter DEC Meeting - Department HQ, 10 AM
- **Nov. 18, 2025:** Post 1st Vice Commander Meeting, 6 PM with Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr. Cox, Jr. (Verify or update your contact info at myLegion.org or in

the Legion+ App.)

- **Jan. 16-18, 2026:** Mid-Winter Conference - Dublin, Ohio

Legion Family! Register now for the 7th Annual Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament - February 2026

Register online by **Dec. 1, 2025**, at:

<https://www.ohiolegion.com/post-activities/departments-bowling-tournament/>

We're also looking for a Post to **host the 2027 Department Bowling Tournament**. Please contact Department HQ if interested.

Holiday Closures

- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24-26: Christmas
- Dec. 31-Jan. 2: New Year's

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our veterans, families, and communities. Your hard work and enthusiasm keep our Department strong and makes Ohio proud!

-Sherry Yockey,
Membership & P.A. Manager

RETAIN. RECRUIT. REINSTATE.



ROBINSON'S RECAP



John Robinson
Department Adjutant

Hello Members,

Finding Veterans Programs and Sports Opportunities Across Ohio

Veterans across Ohio have access to a growing number of programs and recreational opportunities designed to help them connect, stay active, and thrive after military service. From support networks to adaptive sports, these initiatives are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who served.

Connecting With Local Support

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) serves as the primary gateway for ben-

efits and community programs. Through 88 county veterans service offices, ODVS offers help with healthcare, housing, education, and financial assistance. Its comprehensive Veteran Resource Guide connects veterans directly to local agencies and services tailored to their needs.

"These programs ensure no veteran in Ohio feels left behind," an ODVS spokesperson said. "Whether you're looking for benefits, support groups, or new opportunities, your county office is the best place to start."

The ODVS also provides information on mental health services, homelessness prevention, and employment resources through its official website at <https://dvs.ohio.gov>.

Veterans Sports and Outdoor Recreation

Beyond benefits and assistance, many veterans are rediscovering a sense of purpose and community through sports and recreation programs. Adaptive

and inclusive athletic programs are helping veterans stay active while connecting with peers who share similar experiences.

A standout example is PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere), a program from the PGA REACH Southern Ohio Foundation. This free six- to eight-week initiative introduces veterans with disabilities to golf, emphasizing wellness and camaraderie. "It's not just about golf—it's about confidence, connection, and healing," said one program organizer.

Other groups, such as Veteran Recreation Ohio, specialize in outdoor activities like hiking, camping, and fly-fishing, while building lasting friendships among veterans. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of National Veterans Sports Programs sponsors nationwide adaptive sports events to aid physical and emotional recovery. Also, The Columbus area Sled Hockey team called Ohio Warriors compete

in tournaments and help build comradery in a growing sport.

All of these programs need our support as Legion Members. We need to remember the Four pillars and start working them. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation our first pillar.

Getting Involved

Veterans can start by visiting their county veterans service office or exploring statewide options online. Many programs are free, open to all ability levels, and designed to support both wellness and social engagement. See if your post can help in getting programs started in your area.

From golf greens to hiking trails, Ohio's veteran community continues to prove that service doesn't end with discharge—it simply takes on a new mission: connection, health, and hope.

VR,

-John Robinson,
Department Adjutant

 **AMERICAN LEGION** | **DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**



DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Ron Distel
Auxiliary President

GNOME in Action: The Department of Ohio Champions "Service Not Self"

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio has been

making waves across the Buckeye State in 2025, living out the motto "Service Not Self" with renewed energy and purpose.

From attending all 14 District Conferences to mobilizing officers and volunteers statewide, the Department has been a beacon of support and advocacy. We're spreading the word every day and our entire membership is focused on assisting our military and veterans in meaningful ways.

One of the most heartfelt initiatives this year is the **Creative**

Arts Festival, a special project that offers veterans a therapeutic outlet for healing through artistic expression. The festival not only showcases talent but also fosters connection and emotional well-being.

Membership growth and retention remain a top priority, with the theme "**Driving the Membership Experience**" guiding efforts to engage current members and welcome new ones. Through outreach, storytelling, and community involvement, the Department is ensuring that the Auxiliary's mission

continues to thrive.

Our veterans are the reason we are here and we should assist them in any way we can...with passion, purpose, and a united front, the Department of Ohio is proving that service, creativity, and community go hand in hand.

-Renee Kohl, President
American Legion Auxiliary,
Department of Ohio

 **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** 





AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Ohio American Legion Riders

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DISTRICT DIRECTORS

There is a District Director meeting December 4 via TEAMS. All District Directors should attend

or have someone in your place. Please bring with you something from your District that riders would like recognized and/or promoted.

UNITY PATCHES

The next award announcement will be at Mid-Winter. Applications need to be submitted to State ALR by December 16, 2025, to receive your Patch at Winter Conference in January.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Riders Mid-Winter meeting is set for January 17, 2026, at 2:00PM. Open floor nominations will be done for State ALR Director position. Nominees must be present to accept nominations.

OHIO ALR ROMP 2026

The 2026 ROMP is scheduled for June 11-14, 2026, and being hosted at Avon Lake, Post 211. Updates to come on events.

Thank you and God Bless,
-Candace Messer,
OH ALR State Director



For additional information visit the Department Legion Riders WebPage at:

<https://www.ohiolegion.com/legion-riders/>



LEGISLATIVE

David Root's E-newsletter
[CLICK HERE](#)



Jacob Brault

Dept. Legislative Liaison

At the time of writing this article the Government has been shut down for 31 days with the Senate failing to pass the Pay our Troops Act of 2026 multiple times. By utilizing the Grass-roots action center on Legion.org you can make a difference by contacting Congress and urge them to pass this incredibly important piece of legislation that ensures our service members of the Armed Forces will be paid in the event of a government shut-down.

With Ohio Legislator returning for their first full month in October I feel it best to put out some helpful tips to the body for interactions that are helpful when contacting legislators and resources available to stay up to

date with happenings around the statehouse. See below for more information.

The mission of the Legislative Commission is to review all State, Federal, House, and Senate Bills pending to gauge the level of support from The American Legion Department of Ohio as well as lobbying tasks on behalf of the 75K+ Legionnaires within Ohio. The Legislative Commission members meet at least annually and are tasked with maintaining open lines of communication with local Legislators in their Districts to inform them of how The American Legion is at the forefront of helping veterans, their families, and our children & youth and to encourage participation in our programs. The Legislative Commission urges Legionnaires to create their own individual account on the Ohio General Assembly website and Congress website at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/authentication/sign-in> and <https://www.congress.gov/> - There, you will be able to view the current legislative activities as well as search current legislation. If you

are planning to interact with State Legislators or Members of Congress, please keep the following in mind:

DO

- » RESEARCH YOUR LEGISLATOR
 - » BE PREPARED
 - » BE SPECIFIC
 - » ASK FOR ACTION
 - » KNOW THE ISSUE
 - » USE TIME WISELY
- » BE CONSIDERATE OF THEIR TIME
- » PLAN OUT YOUR REMARKS
- » SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM YOUR LEGISLATOR
 - » TELL THE TRUTH
 - » BE RESPECTFUL
 - » FOLLOW-UP
- » ADDRESS THEM PROPERLY
- » FORGE RELATIONSHIPS
- » VISIT LOCAL OFFICES AND WORK WITH STAFFERS

DON'T

- » BE DISRESPECTFUL
- » BE UNPREPARED
- » DISMISS STAFF
- » MONOPOLIZE THE MEETING
- » TALK LOUDLY OR UNPROFESSIONALLY
- » CONFUSE THE LEGISLATIVE ISSUE

» LACK BREVITY

- » BE AFRAID TO SAY "I DON'T KNOW" "I'LL GET BACK WITH YOU"
- » BE CONFRONTATIONAL OR ARGUMENTATIVE
- » USE INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
- » PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION
- » FAIL TO FOLLOW UP

You can also stay up to date with the National Legislative Division with their weekly "Grass-roots Action Updates". To join the weekly updates email, grass-roots@legion.org. For more information on your online legislative resources, please visit our website at: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/legislative/> or contact your District Legislative Chairman.

Legislation active in the Ohio State House:

HB 1 Enact Ohio Property Protection Act

HB 22 Authorize homestead exemption for surviving military spouses

HB 27 Designate Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge

HB 40 Increase disabled veteran enhanced homestead exemption

Legislative cont'd

HB 50 To designate a portion of SR 47 the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway."

HB 61 Modify homestead exemption, owner-occupancy tax credit amount

HB 95 Support members of Ohio Veterans Education Council

HB 96 Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27

HB 135 Prohibit source of income discrimination in rental housing

HB 198 Regulate manufacture, sale of inhalable, ingestible hemp products

HB 204 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day

HB 234 Designate Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway

HB 259 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway

HB 267 Regards creation, display of veterans benefit and services poster

HB 297 Regards funds provided by county for Memorial Day expenses

HB 316 LaRe Designate MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway

HB 339 Allow surviving spouse to retain Purple Heart license plate

HB 344 Regards electronic instant bingo, lottery terminals; levy a tax

HB 360 Designate SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange

HB 383 Designate Litten Brothers Memorial Highway

HB 384 Designate Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway

HB 385 Designate PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino Memorial Highway

HB 414 Designate Navy Seaman Jadwisiak Memorial Highway

HB 419 Create the Save22 license plate

HB 434 Exempt military driver's license applicants from driver's ed

HB 451 Designate CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway

HB 452 Designate 761st Tank Battalion Day

HB 476 Authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law

HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State

HCR 18 Urge Congress to recognize US troops who served in Honduras

HCR 20 Honor the United States Navy; commemorate its 250th anniversary

HCR 21 Recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps

HCR 23 Recognize 250th anniversary

ry of United States Army, Chaplain Corps

HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary

SB 17 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day

SB 21 Designate Rutherford B. Hayes Day

SB 39 Provide for informational poster on veteran benefits and services

SB 56 Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes

SB 88 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act

SB 92 Authorize total property tax exemption-totally disabled veterans

SB 148 Designate a portion of State Route 2 the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway."

SB 179 Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals

SB 193 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway

SB 197 Legalize, tax internet gambling; make other Gambling Law changes

SB 218 Exempt armed forces-certified child care provider from licensure

SB 223 Require ODNR discount pro-

gram for veterans, service members

SB 253 Designate Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day

SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards

SR 21 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment

SR 22 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim

SR 52 Honoring the DAR Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its 150th Anniversary

SR 97 Observing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Ohio

SR 123 Honoring Deborah A. Ashenurst on her retirement from the OVDS

SR 192 Recognizing Rutherford B. Hayes Day in Ohio October 4, 2025

-Jacob Brault,
Legislative - National Security -
VE&E Coordinator

Get involved with The American Legion - **GrassRoots Action Center** where you can contact your Congressional Representatives.

»<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

NATIONAL SECURITY

JACOB BRAULT
Legislative | National
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The National Security Commission is responsible for reviewing items pertaining to various security issues that involve such items as cyber security, security of our borders, our armed forces, their equipment and numbers so we don't get into a position where we can't maintain our presence in areas needed to insure our safety. The Commission is also involved in military benefits and quality of life items that face our armed forces as well as the veterans that have served. These issues are ad-

ressed by either creating Resolutions to address the items or approve submitted resolutions by other committees or individuals. These resolutions are presented at the department convention to be accepted and, once accepted, move on to the national convention. If the resolution is passed at the national level it will then be presented to congress for possible action.

Other programs that the National Security Commission is responsible for maintaining are:

Operation Comfort Warriors

Operation Comfort Warriors is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort

items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items like sweat suits, DVDs, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas.

National Emergency Fund

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this

emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

POW/MIA Advocacy

The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf Wars, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is a website that you can go to in order to get a list of all POW/MIAs in your area, read stories about their current recovery efforts, and updates on bringing our brothers and sisters home. <https://www.dpaa.mil/>

POW/MIA Empty Chair

Ntl'l Security cont'd

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted

for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

Department Law and Order Awards Program

The American Legion seeks to recognize well-rounded public service candidates who have ex-

ceeded about and beyond the expected duties of their position for public recognition. Post, County, District, and Department may recognize a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Civilian Life Saver of the Year.

The Department National Security Commission strongly encourages every Post and District to recognize a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Civilian Lifesaver of the Year for a record of commendable service.

AMERICANISM

CHRISTIE WHITE

Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

W: 740-513-5199

C: 740-815-0341

E: programs@ohiolegion.com



Buckeye Boys State

"A Week to Shape a Lifetime"

The mission of The American Legion Buckeye Boys State is to provide an educational and leadership program that exposes young men to the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities, and the love for God and Country necessary to being self-governing citizens.

Through a practical, objective, nonpartisan approach, participants in The American Legion Buckeye Boys State program are exposed to fundamental democratic principles in local, county, and state elections and government functions which prepare them for leadership roles as patriotic American citizens.

Buckeye Boys State is a highly structured, intense, "hands on" workshop in Ohio Government.

Candidates selected to Buckeye Boys State must be willing to give The American Legion and Buckeye Boys State an eight-day commitment of their time and 100% willingness to learn and participate.

Candidates are required to attend a Boys State Orientation program in their area. Details on the orientation program are provided to all candidates by the

sponsoring Post/Squadron.

THE FINAL SELECTION IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION POST. A representative of the Post must meet with the candidate and certify him for acceptance.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State will be June 14th-June 21st, 2026 at Miami University. The Buckeye Boys State application process for delegates will be online again. Once you receive your enrollment form, please return it with the number of delegates your post plans on sending along with your payment by March 15th. You will receive back forms that have a specific code for each delegate to log onto the website and enter their information electronically. Each code is specific for each delegate, so the forms CANNOT BE COPIED. Enrollment Forms need to be turned in before Citizenship codes can be sent to the delegates.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State also created QR codes to educate students and schools that are unfamiliar with BBS. These codes are for educational and recruitment purposes only and are not delegate applications.



"PAY IT FORWARD"

BUCKEYE BOYS STATE MENTORS SOUGHT

Legendary Ohio State University football coach Woody Hayes was often attributed telling his players to "Pay It Forward" where Coach Hayes encouraged his players to use their experiences and expertise to enrich and benefit those individuals the players may cross paths with in their lives.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State, like Coach Hayes, is seeking interested American Legion members (men and women), Sons of the American Legion members, and other interested individuals to "Pay It forward" by utilizing their experiences and expertise thru becoming members of the Buckeye Boys State staff and serving as mentors for the young men attending.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State, the premier Boys State program in the nation, is an eight (8) day "hands on" program which teaches the young men attending the organization, operation, and principles of State, County, and City Government in Ohio, as well as learning experiences about Ohio Courts, Ohio School Boards, Ohio Law Enforcement, Banking and Realty, Social Media operations, and much, much more.

Held on the campus of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, American Legion Buckeye Boys

State annually attracts over 700 of the top High School Junior young men in Ohio.

Individuals sought by Buckeye Boys State to join as staff mentors are not required to have a deep knowledge of government operations in Ohio, although such experience would be welcome and an asset.

The knowledge, expertise, and life experiences of just about any profession that interested parties may have had or may possess can be utilized within Boys State.

Although the majority of Buckeye Boys State staff serve for the full eight (8) days of Boys State, there are a number of positions available, notably in Elections and several Government sections of Boys State that would only require ones' participation for three (3) to four (4) days.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State provides all housing, meals, and supplies for Buckeye Boys State staff.

The greatest expense required of a prospective Buckeye Boys State staff member would be the expense of his or her time.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State feels that interested parties who join the Boys State staff will find the investment of their time and efforts returned to them 100 times over by the lasting impressions they will make upon the young men attending, young men *you* can have a hand in shaping to be the future (*cont.*)

leaders of the great state of Ohio and this nation.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State for staff and young men alike can truly be...

A Week to Shape a Lifetime...

Prospective Buckeye Boys State staff members will be required to undergo a Background Check (paid for by Boys State).

For more information on serving on the Buckeye Boys State staff and to secure an American

Legion Buckeye Boys State staff application, please contact:

**American Legion Buckeye
Boys State Coordinator**

Christie White:

E-mail at: programs@ohiolegion.com

ohiolegion.com

Telephone at: 740-513-5199

For information on the overall American Legion Buckeye Boys State program go to:

www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com



Oratorical Program



The Oratorical Program is a constitutional speech contest for high school students, and it offers scholarships upwards of \$25,000. The American Legion Department of Ohio, during this school year, again sponsors an Oratorical Contest for high school students in Ohio. The purpose of the contest is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the United States Constitution, the ability to think and speak clearly and critically, and the acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship. The contest has a prepared oration and an assigned topic which is assigned the day of the contest.

The Prepared Oration (8-10 Minutes)

- The oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest

- Contestants may have a copy

of their prepared oration while waiting in the first holding room. They may consult the copy until they exit to begin the contest. The copy will then be surrendered to the contest official monitoring the first holding room.

- Quotations must always be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

- It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made.

The Assigned Topic (3-5 Minutes)

- The purpose of the assigned

topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution

- The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery

- The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for the current year's contest.

- 2026 Assigned topics

- » Amendment IV
- » Article III
- » Article IV
- » Article VI

The American Legion Department awards the first-place

winner a \$4,000 Scholarship. The second-place winner receives \$2,000 and the remainder of the contestants equally divide \$3,000.

The American Legion Department of Ohio's Oratorical Contest will be held **Sunday March 29th, 2026** at Department Headquarters. Spectators and volunteers are welcome.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS! If you would like to participate in the Department Contest, please contact Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator Christie White at 740-362-7478 or programs@ohiolegion.com

More information on Oratorical can be found at: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/oratorical/>.



Scouting Program



The American Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919.

Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. This is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive

traits in our country's youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community.

There are over 100 American Legion Chartered Scouting Units in the Department of Ohio with over 2,600 participants.

The Department presents the "Department Eagle Scout of the Year" award annually. The

Department winner advances into the National American Legion competition and receives a \$500.00 financial award from the estate of Mikeal and Frances Golato.

The American Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship,

and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

To start sponsoring a Unit, contact scouting@legion.org





Flag Etiquette



Flag Display and Respect

(a) The Flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The Flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The Flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The Flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

Bunting of blue, white, and red is always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform,

and for decoration in general.

(e) The Flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The Flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The Flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The Flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) The Flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed

on paper napkins or boxes or anything designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the Flag is flown.

(j) No part of the Flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The Flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

(k) The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony)

Flag Retirement

a) In proper tribute and in memory and love, our Flag becomes faded and worn and must be honorably retired from life.

b) The approved method of disposing of unserviceable Flags has been by burning.

c) Such retirement of Flags that have become unserviceable may be done in public with respectful and honorable rites.

d) The most appropriate day to perform this ceremony is National Flag Day, June 14th.



Baseball



Important Dates to Review

- Thursday January 1st, 2026, Registration Opens
- Sunday February 22nd Commission Meeting 10am / Coaches Meeting 1pm

- March 31st Deadline to establish players legal residence
- June 1st Deadline for Team Registrations
- June 5th Deadline to submit Transfer forms
- June 25th Deadline for Rosters/insurance and Team Packets
- Monday July 13th 6pm ALB Directors Teams Call to cover Regional Tournaments
- July 16-19, 2026, Ohio Ju-

- nior State Tournament
 - Jr Regional tournaments Must be completed by Saturday July 11, 2026
- July 24-27, 2026, Ohio Senior State Tournament
 - Sr Regional Tournaments Must be completed by Saturday July 18, 2026
- TBD Mason-Dixon Junior National Regional Maryland
- August 5-9, 2026, National Senior Regionals Location TBD

- August 11-18, 2026, ALB World Series
- September 1st, 2026, Official Close of the 2026 Season

The Department Junior Tournament will be July 16th – 19th, 2026

The Department Senior Tournament will be July 24th – July 27th, 2026

Both tournaments are played at Beavers Field in Lancaster Ohio



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CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHRISTIE WHITE

Americanism and
Children & Youth
Coordinator

W: 740-513-5199

C: 740-815-0341

E: programs@ohiolegion.com
ohiolegion.com



The American Legion's commitment to veterans is also a commitment to their children, in every difficulty or hardship.

Special Olympics

The American Legion Department of Ohio has been an active supporter of Special Olympics for over 30 years.

The Department of Ohio provides support by providing donations to the Special Olympics State Fall Games and State Summer Games.

We are encouraging all Legionnaires to volunteer and donate to your local Special Olympics chapters.

Get ready to take the plunge! Registration is officially open for Polar Plunges!! Whether you're a seasoned plunger or gearing up for your first splash, this is the perfect time to rally your team and register.

Department staff has created a team once again for the 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge. As always, our brave local first responders will be leading the charge into icy waters, alongside our Veterans to support our incredible athletes—all are welcome to attend March 27th!

Special Olympics is a program of the Children & Youth pillar, and we have been working on strengthening that partnership and our support. The American Legion was invited to join Special Olympics Ohio at the 2025 Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were multiple classes that we attended in order to learn and help support our partners. We are excited to share that information with the District Chairmen so they can work with the Posts on creating new ways to support our local athletes.

To find local regions and events, please visit sooh.org or contact Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator Christie White at 740-362-7478 or programs@ohiolegion.com.

4th Grade Flag Education Program

The Department of Ohio is pleased to present the 4th Grade Flag Education Program again this year. This is a fairly new program to Ohio.

The 4th Grade Flag Education consists of the "Our Country's Flag" comic book from National Headquarters and a test with 20 questions – both multiple-choice and true/false – and a short essay, which is used as a tiebreaker.

The test is open to 4th Grade elementary students in all public, private, and home schools.

Each student participating in the Flag Education Test Program takes the same test. The answers on the test are scored against a standardized answer sheet. Students are given one hour to complete the test at school. No part of it is to be taken home. Also, students MAY NOT use their comic book, notes, or other materials to assist while taking the test.

Tests and comic books may be ordered by contacting your local American Legion Post. The sponsoring Post will provide the test to the applicable school officials. If desired, the Post may also participate in administering and grading the test.

There will be a male and female District winner. Each winner will be invited to attend the District Conference to be awarded.

Please navigate to these Department website links for more information and the Flag program order form:

» Download informational memo at: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/wp-content/uploads/Flag-Memo-order-2026.pdf>

» Download Order form at: <https://www.ohiolegion.com/wp-content/uploads/Flag-order-form-2026.pdf>

Family Support Network

Through the American Legion's Family Support Network (FSN), Legionnaires assist families of deployed military personnel in various ways: childcare, yard work, car repairs, grocery shopping and routine household jobs.

The National American Legion established a toll-free tele-

phone number for families to call for assistance, and local posts responded to their needs.

Requests are referred to the department, which in turn refers calls to local American Legion posts. The posts contact the families and, if able, provide assistance.

Child Wellbeing Foundation

Every year, The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation (CWF) awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to help nonprofit youth service organizations to improve the lives of children and youth.

CWF has granted more than \$14 million, to hundreds of deserving organizations.

These include the Children's Organ Transplant Association, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the National Children's Cancer Society, the National Autism Association, the MY HERO Project, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and many more.

TFA

Established in 1925, the purpose of Temporary Financial Assistance is to help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses.

Through the American Veteran & Children Foundation, Veterans with minor children can apply for a one-time grant upwards of \$1500. This grant is designed to prevent children of veterans from experiencing homelessness and/or lack of utilities such as heat, water, and electric. Applicants must first exhaust all local and State resources.



Field Fans



Honor our Veterans with the new, American Legion of Ohio Blanket! A beautiful yet practical addition to any home. Proudly made in the USA, this \$79.95 blanket is designed to provide comfort while showcasing your commitment to the American Legion community.

IT'S
GETTING
COLD OUT
GRAB A
BLANKET!



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THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____
First Initial Last Date of Birth _____

Address _____
Street City State ZIP _____

☐ Male ☐ Female

Membership ID# former member Post # Phone # Email Gender _____

Please check war era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Global War on Terror | ☐ U.S. Army |
| ☐ Gulf War | ☐ U.S. Navy |
| ☐ Panama | ☐ U.S. Air Force |
| ☐ Lebanon/Grenada | ☐ U.S. Marines |
| ☐ Vietnam | ☐ U.S. Space Force |
| ☐ Korea | ☐ U.S. Coast Guard |
| ☐ WWII | ☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| ☐ Other Conflicts | |

I certify that I have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or I am still serving.

Signed by applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (check www.legion.org/join for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at legion.org.

D17010

DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____

Received from _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Recruiter's name _____

Recruiter's signature _____

Recruiter's phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____
First Initial Last Initial Last

Address _____
Street City State ZIP Phone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit legion.org.

D17010

DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____

Received from _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Squadron No. _____

Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

/ / ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and older
Date of Birth (Required)

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State _____ ALA ID# _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.

Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living:

American Legion Member ID # (Required) Post # City State _____

☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran served: (check all that apply)

☐ WWII (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Global War on Terror | ☐ Lebanon/Grenada | ☐ WWII |
| ☐ Gulf War | ☐ Vietnam | ☐ Other Conflicts |
| ☐ Panama | ☐ Korea | |

Applicant's relationship to the veteran:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| ☐ Male Spouse | ☐ Female Spouse | ☐ Mother |
| ☐ Grandmother | ☐ Sister | ☐ Self |
| ☐ Daughter | ☐ Granddaughter | |

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____

Date _____

ALA 05/2021

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____

GOOD OF THE LEGION

District 10 – Fall Conference

District 10 conference had speakers from the local Scouts and also had representatives from 17 Posts in attendance.



Post 91 – Observes POW/MIA Day

On September 19th, 2025, Albert E. Baesel Inc. American Legion Post 91 out of Berea, held a ceremony for those 81,000 still missing in action. The Post conducts this service every year. September 19th - the third Friday of September, is designated as POW/MIA Day as established by congress.



Korean War MIA soldier,
CPL Earl E. Kibbey

Korean War MIA soldier,
CPL Edwin C. Martin

Ohio Welcomes Home:

BE THE ONE

GOOD OF THE LEGION

Post 226 – Members Honored for More Than 50 years of Membership

During late September 2025 eight members of the Percy D. Hyatt American Legion Post 226 out of Andover, OH were recognized for their more than 50 years of continuous membership in the American Legion. The American Legion Department of Ohio recently sent Certificates of Continuous Membership to the following Legion members: David J. Paul, 54 years, New Lyme Township; Chris Mason, 55, years, of Granville, Tenn.; Robert Hitchcock, 57 years, Andover; Ronald A. Spieth, 58 years, Oracle, Arizona; Carlton Shipman, 55 years, Warren, Ohio; William French, 54 years, Andover; Leo Crouch, 61 years, Andover; and Roland Britton, 57 years, Andover. An accompanying letter congratulated the men on their years of continuous membership.

"You have dedicated your life to the American Legion and our collective mission to strengthen our communities, states and nation through programs and services for veterans, the military and their families," read the letter from Department Commander Stan Oren and Department Adjutant John Robinson. "With great honor, we present this certificate of appreciation to you." The certificate was issued in "grateful appreciation and dedicated allegiance to the ideals of the American Legion." "And be it further known that such a record of consistent loyalty to The American Legion merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of The American Legion," reads the certificate.

American Legion Percy D. Hyatt Post 226 meets at the Andover Eagles Club at 410 E. Main St., Andover. It's named after the first Andover soldier killed in World War I. It is led by current Post Commander, Bob Hitchcock, who was among the members to receive certificates honoring their years of service. Hitchcock received his certificate at a Post meeting on Thursday, Aug. 14. "We're recognizing all members who have been in the Post for over 50 years," Hitchcock said. "It is our pleasure to honor them not only for their years of service in the military to protect their country, but also here supporting the American Legion." He expressed appreciation for the people who have donated their time to the organization. With some of the honorees living out of state, or because of health or other commitments, not all could be in attendance at the meeting. Hitchcock said the criteria for being a member of the American Legion is having served in the military. People can then apply for membership in their local American Legion. Post 226 has 46 members, with 8 regularly active.

As for the Post's projects, Hitchcock says they support veterans in the area. "We also help out with sending students from our school, Pymatuning Valley, to Boys State and Girls State," Hitchcock said. The organization also is involved with the Americanism and Government Test program, a joint initiative of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. It is open to students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, while 9th-grade students take a practice test. The exam consists of 50 questions in true-or-false, multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank formats. The highest-scoring students have the opportunity to take a trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Legion.

As for his own involvement in the organization, Hitchcock said when he came back from service, he felt it was necessary to get involved and support veterans in the area. "One of the big events we do is on Memorial Day. We go to 11 cemeteries and not only provide a small speech, but we have some buglers we are very fortunate to have with us every year, and we have a gun salute," Hitchcock said. "And we have a small program that is put on at Andover Square." He's grateful for the community support of these ceremonies.

Hitchcock also thanked the Andover Village employees, Bill Webker and Joey Steen, who have dedicated time to hanging up banners in town honoring veterans from the Village. "We've been very happy with their help with that project," Hitchcock said.

Member John Durda said another benefit they offer is an outreach program with the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission that meets from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the last Thursday of every month at the town hall that helps veterans learn about and apply for benefits. The Post is actively recruiting new members, and interested people may contact Hitchcock at 440-293-7166.

-Feature and photo By Stefanie Wessell, Andover Gazette Newspapers



American Legion Percy D. Hyatt Post 226 members gathered for a photo during their meeting in Andover. Commander Bob Hitchcock, standing, second from right, was among those honored for more than 50 years of membership. Pictured, seated, are Ken Brown and Ron Lunardi. Standing are Ken Rudy, Joey Paul, Tom Hitchcock, presenting the certificate to Bob Hitchcock, and John Durda.



American Legion Percy D. Hyatt Post 226 member John Durda presents a certificate to Leo Crouch for his 61 years of membership.



American Legion Percy D. Hyatt Post 226 member John Durda presents a certificate to Roland "Rex" Britton for his 57 years of membership.



American Legion Percy D. Hyatt Post 226 member John Durda presents a certificate to William French for his 54 years of membership.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

Post 71 & Post 222 – Joint Flag Retirement Event

In October 2025, Legionnaires from Forest L. Mumford Post 71 and Basil Grimes Post 222 retired approximately 300 American flags during a flag retirement ceremony held in conjunction with VFW Post #9090.



(Left to Right) Post 71 First Vice Commander Caden Dunn, Post 222 Commander Pat Hannum, Post 71 Commander Jim Bagley, VFW Post 9090 Commander Dave Sowards



Post 357 – Supports Youth Veterans Day Program

1st Vice Commander Roger Bartley representing Don V. Cross Post 357 out of Minerva, OH was one of the attendees from the Post participating at Minerva Elementary School for the Veterans Day Program.



Post 499 – Fighting Hunger

James Stevenson Post 499 out of West Salem, OH had the satisfaction of supporting a new food bank, Together We Can, in our community. This picture was taken on October 21, 2025, in West Salem.



Pictured from left to right is Tracey George, Jen Barksdale, Becky Wasson and Sylvia Miller

Post 572 – Hocus Pocus: Hosts Youth Halloween Party

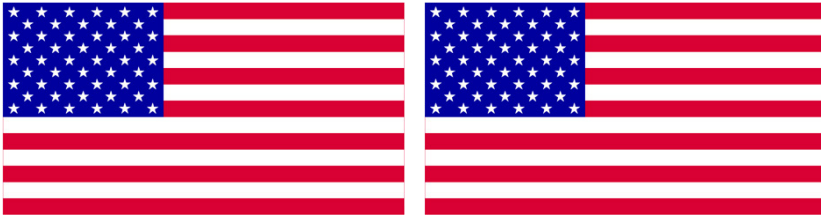
On October 25, 2025, Auxiliary members from Joseph J. Jacubic Inc. American Legion Post 572 out of Parma, OH sponsored the children's Halloween party. A breakfast of pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and French toast was served to the Post children and their families. The Sanderson Sisters performed their Hocus Pocus with the children. There was singing, dancing and interacting with the children and members. A great time was had by all. Wishing everyone a Happy SAFE Fall.



GOOD OF THE LEGION

Post 710 - Flag Retirement Box

Marengo Memorial, Inc. American Legion Post 710 has recently installed a new flag retirement box, providing the community with a proper and dignified way to dispose of old, worn, and tattered American flags. The large, blue box, which was custom wrapped by Dush Graphix at no cost, features a patriotic American flag design. It includes a secure opening for residents to drop off flags. This initiative allows community members to respectfully retire their flags in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code. Members of the American Legion, who are veterans committed to honoring the flag and serving their community, unveiled the new box with a sense of pride. The new drop-off location ensures that all flags collected will be retired properly during designated formal flag disposal ceremonies.



Post 457 – Honors Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee



Richard A. Doritty from Colonel Benson Hough American Legion Post 457 out of Sunbury, OH was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame on November 6, 2025. Richard joins Robert Burr (Class of 2011) as the second member of Post 457 to receive this prestigious honor. Richard was inducted into The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2025. The ceremony was held at the Fawcett Center at Ohio State University where Ohio Governor Mike DeWine presented Certificates and Medals to twenty of Ohio's outstanding Veterans. This prestigious award is bestowed on Veterans from all branches of Military Service who have gone above and beyond in service to their community after their military career. Richard is a founding member of the Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial in Sunbury and worked over 1600 volunteer hours to help build this outstanding memorial dedicated to honor all Ohio servicemembers lost in the War on Terrorism. He also served as a volunteer at Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio where his expert craftsmanship and military historical knowledge helped build this outstanding museum. Richard has served as Sergeant at Arms for Post 457 for over 30 years and served as guardian on several Honor Flights for Central Ohio Veterans as well as on the ground crew. Richard is a true patriot and spent countless hours in volunteering in area schools to educate students on the sacrifices Veterans have made to protect our country and preserve our way of life. He has served on the Delaware

County Veterans Association Honor Guard which provides Military Funeral Services for local deceased Veterans. He has also served on the Sunbury Police and Fire Departments for many years as well as a coach for several of his children's sports teams. Glenn Daugherty, Commander of Post 457, said Richard Doritty exemplifies selfless service to his community and nation. Daugherty also said he is pleased to see Richard join Robert W. Burr as the second Post 457 member of this elite group of Veterans.

-article by Gene Fuller

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST TRAVEL ACCIDENT PROTECTION

THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST "ON-THE-MOVE" COVERAGE STANDS BY YOU –
AROUND THE CORNER OR THE WORLD

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GOOD OF THE LEGION

Post 221

9/11 Memorial Service Observed

On September 11th, 2025, Massillon Post 221 conducted their 9/11 memorial service, and to honor those who were involved with that day. As the Massillon fire chief and police chief spoke a few words with 221 Commander Mortland and Mike Baker.



Post 525

Continuous Year Membership Awards

Gilbert Koontz American Legion Post 525 out of Adena Ohio, recently had some members present Mr. Louis Basich with his 80-year continuous membership pin and certificate. In addition to Mr. Basich, Jim Soboleski was also presented with his 50-year continuous membership pin.



Pictured here: seated is Mr. Basich, a WWII veteran. Standing (L-R): Roger Sliva, Frank Zamski, Jim Soboleski and John George.

2026 Historian's Guide:
History books link for Historical Contest
judging
Scan the QR code below for access.



GOOD OF THE LEGION

Post 527 - Legion Building gets a 'Spit Polish'

During late September 2025, the front of Colvin-Dale Post 527 in Milan, OH was looking a bit dated, as it had been quite a few years since it was renovated; so the Post 1st Vice and a patriotic Squadron member took on the task of cleaning, spackling, and reworking the bricks and other restorative tasks as well as repainting the entire front of the building, to include some intricate decorative paint work, and other tasks to make it once again, a first rate brick and motor home. It's not often when you get folks who are willing to step up to paint and other tasks of course, but NO ONE likes to paint, ha! They also worked tirelessly to replace windows and paint the side of the building to once again make it a showpiece in the Village.



Post 644

Continues to Honor our Women Vets

Six members of Greater Cincinnati Womens Legion Post 644 were awarded Quilts of Valor by Ohio Valley Quilters Guild on November 8th, 2025. All six ladies served overseas. Two other members will be honored at a later date. Also, on November 11th the Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County held its 67th Veterans' Day Commemoration on Veterans' Day. To honor women veterans a wreath was presented by one of Post 644's officers.



Post 529

Honors Patriot Day

This past September, a Patriot Day Ceremony was held in Dillonvale by American Legion McCook Post 529. Another year has passed but "to-day", however, meant a little more in the small Village of Dillonvale, Ohio. September 11 catches everyone differently. Some were there or knew someone who was caught in the tragedy. "To-day" they wish to reach out and say Thank you to those who helped keep us calm and collected as our world spiraled. So, to our Volunteer Fire Department, EMS and Police force - Thank you! McCook Post 529 also honored Mt. Pleasant's VFD/EMS with a \$100 donation.



Decorations and pictures provided by Harlie Sims and Rhonda Myers. Front left to right: American Legion members Finance officer Dan Cermak, John Kaffana, Chuck Ebright, Chaplain/ Vice Commander Frank Santa, Mt. Pleasant Assistant EMS/ VFD Tony Panepucci II, Commander/ Adjutant Michelle Hedgecoke, Chief Mt. Pleasant EMS/ VFD Tony Panepucci, New Legion member Tucker Winski, Tom Hutkay and Roger Silva from Post 525 Adena. Not pictured but present American Legion Auxiliary members: 2nd VP Cynthia Kaffana, Carolyn Dunder, Eleanor Scott and new inductee Jill Winski.



**AMERICAN
LEGION
BE THE
ONE**

GOOD OF THE LEGION



Shown here is Tom Romito addressing the audience. Tom is a Post 610 Legionnaire, 2nd Vice Commander, S.A.L. member, and editor of "The Family Pen of 610" newsletter.

Post 610 - Shines at Veterans Day School Event

No doubt many Veterans Day observances took place throughout Ohio in numerous venues and organizations. One was the Berea-Midpark Middle School "Breakfast with a Veteran" program in Middleburg Heights near Cleveland.

What distinguished this event was the presence of Brook Park Post 610, which featured keynote speaker, Tom Romito, who took the stage and spoke for 15 minutes on the meaning of veterans, why we should honor them, and how the middle school students in the audience can do so. Tom got involved in this program in early autumn when Assistant Principal, Lynnda MacQuarrie asked Intervention Associate, Shari Villarreal to find a speaker for the annual event. Shari, a Navy veteran, Legionnaire, and the Chaplin for Post 610, asked her fellow Post member Tom Romito if he would answer the call to duty, and he did. Tom spoke to about 60 students aged 10-14 and their veteran family members. Part of his remarks were a recruiting effort for the veterans to join Post 610 and the students to join S.A.L. and the Auxiliary as junior members. He also highlighted the American Legion program, *Be The One*, as a way for the students and their veteran family members to honor veterans by helping them to avoid suicide. The event featured the school choir and band, who not only sang the National Anthem, they sang and performed the anthems of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. At the end of the program, the students and their veteran family member came forward for recognition. The veterans received certificates for their service. The students each received a *Join the American Legion Family* flyer and a coin proclaiming 250 years of American freedom that Tom Romito arranged to have on hand for the event.



Post 771 Sponsors 5K Childhood Cancer Charity Benefit

On August 16th, 2025, American Legion Post 771 of Heath, Ohio, proudly held silver sponsor status for the charity "Karis Cause". Karis Cause is an organization, which operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO). The mission of Karis Cause is to provide assistance and a sense of relief to families impacted by childhood cancer. The organization supports courageous children and their families, in their journey, until a cure for childhood cancer is found. So far, they have supported over 900 families in their fight.

Ben Aberegg, along with his special needs son, Jarrod, and daughter, Misty, previously registered to participate in the 5K run / walk representing Heath Post 771. And speaking of volunteers, one of Post 771's own, Mr. Gary Wimer, was front and center as the Event Coordinator, along with Children's Hospital. Upon arrival the first thing noticed was the large turnout of participants, with over 800 individuals registered. The 5K started right at 0900. The runners went out first followed by the walkers. Everyone encouraged everybody regardless if you were a runner, walker, or even spectator. With the encouragement of Jarrod and being caught up in the excitement of the event, Ben Aberegg actually jogged the majority of the 5K while pushing Jarrod in his wheelchair!

Heath Post 771 was just one of the many sponsors of the 5K to benefit the charity. If you look closely at the photo, Mr. Aberegg is wearing a casual American Legion ball cap and a Legion shirt titled "Be The One", which draws attention to, and supports the reduction of veteran's suicides. Prior to those registering that day, after counting up the donations from sponsors and pre-registrants, Karis Cause had already received around \$130,000. And that is in monies alone as the seeds that were planted with the hundreds there to support the cause are still yet to be measured.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, LEADING THE WAY!



TAPS

POST 0001 - HOWARD WINGARD - PATASKALA
POST 0001 - JOHN RODENMAYER - REYNOLDSBURG
POST 0001 - TRACI WASHINGTON - BLACKLICK
POST 0003 - JOHN CAIN - FRANKLIN
POST 0006 - JOHN DAVIS - BROWNSBURG
POST 0006 - KENNETH PARKER - SPRINGFIELD
POST 0006 - ROBIN AULT - TIPP CITY
POST 0007 - LOUIS ALIBERTI - WILLOUGHBY HILLS
POST 0008 - THOMAS YOUNG - MEDINA
POST 0011 - LLOYD WASEM - LANCASTER
POST 0011 - LOY FAUBLE - LANCASTER
POST 0011 - MARK WHITE - LIBERTY TWP
POST 0011 - ROBERT KRILE - LANCASTER
POST 0012 - ALEX HORVATH - NORTH RIDGEVILLE
POST 0012 - ARTHUR MOODY - ELYRIA
POST 0012 - CRAIG BUTLER - AMHERST
POST 0012 - GEORGE SMITH - ELYRIA
POST 0012 - LANCE NILGES - ELYRIA
POST 0012 - TERRY JOHNS - ELYRIA
POST 0015 - AGAPITO REYES - CAMPBELL
POST 0015 - DAVID DAISHER - YOUNGSTOWN
POST 0015 - FRANCIS FONTES - CAMPBELL
POST 0015 - FRED SOLLER - MEDINA
POST 0015 - LAWRENCE PETTIFORD - YOUNGSTOWN
POST 0015 - PAUL DELISIO - YOUNGSTOWN
POST 0015 - PORFIRIO ESPARRA - CAMPBELL
POST 0016 - DAVID SCHNITTKE - JACKSONVILLE
POST 0016 - JAMES BAIRE - LUCAS
POST 0016 - JAMES GOLDSMITH - MANSFIELD
POST 0017 - DONALD OLMSTEAD - GIBSONBURG
POST 0023 - JAMES ELLIOTT - PORTSMOUTH
POST 0024 - RALPH HINES - MARIETTA
POST 0025 - GARY HIDY - WSHNGTN CT HS
POST 0025 - JERRY HAMBY - WSHNGTN CT HS
POST 0025 - LEONARD SINES - CHILLICOTHE
POST 0025 - RALPH WARNER - WSHNGTN CT HS
POST 0029 - CARL HANSEL - ZANESVILLE
POST 0029 - FRED BATES - Ocala
POST 0029 - WILLIAM COX - HOPEWELL
POST 0033 - HOWARD MOSER - STEUBENVILLE
POST 0034 - FRED MAFFITT - JEWETT
POST 0034 - GEORGE NEWTON - CADIZ
POST 0034 - ROY HILDRETH - CADIZ
POST 0037 - GERALD MEES - DAYTON
POST 0039 - HAROLD ELLIOTT - POMEROY
POST 0043 - JOHNNY JOHNSTON - TROY
POST 0043 - MICHAEL MCGRAW - TROY
POST 0044 - CHARLES SHAFFER - CANTON
POST 0044 - DEAN RING - CANTON
POST 0044 - JEFFREY HAMMOND - CANTON
POST 0044 - PAUL ROETHLISBERGER - CANTON
POST 0045 - STEVEN RIEWALDT - BOWLING GREEN
POST 0049 - CHARLES LAKATOS - WILMINGTON

POST 0049 - CHARLES STEPHENS - WILMINGTON
POST 0049 - ROBERT HAMILTON - LEESBURG
POST 0051 - ARTHUR KOURIAN - HUBBARD
POST 0051 - DAVID REXROAD - HUBBARD
POST 0051 - EDWARD HOPKINSON - VIENNA
POST 0062 - DAVID BABCOCK - CHILLICOTHE
POST 0062 - ROGER DANIELS - LONDONDERRY
POST 0064 - EDWARD MORBITZER - RICHARDSON
POST 0064 - JOSEPH PAYNE - MARIETTA
POST 0068 - JAMES SWEARINGEN - WOOSTER
POST 0068 - ROMIE STEPHENS - CLEVELAND
POST 0069 - ALFRED TILLMAN - CINCINNATI
POST 0069 - FRED PLEDGER - MASON
POST 0069 - HERBERT FERRELL - CINCINNATI
POST 0072 - WILLIAM GLENN - ALEXANDRIA
POST 0076 - GARY BLAKE - BELOIT
POST 0076 - GARY MULINIX - BELOIT
POST 0078 - RALPH WEST - LOGAN
POST 0080 - GALEN HACKETT - BRADFORD
POST 0081 - BLAISE MCDANIEL - WELLSTON
POST 0081 - ROGER MCNAMARA - JACKSON
POST 0083 - CHARLES LOCOCO - SANDUSKY
POST 0083 - CURTIS LAUBNER - MARBLEHEAD
POST 0083 - FLOYD RIGHI - HURON
POST 0083 - JOHN FEYEDELEM - SANDUSKY
POST 0083 - ROBERT JOHNSON - SANDUSKY
POST 0084 - CHARLES HANES - KIMBOLTON
POST 0085 - GARY EROW - NASHPORT
POST 0085 - GENE SHELL - HEATH
POST 0085 - JOHN CARLSON - NEWARK
POST 0085 - JOSEPH MONTELL - HEATH
POST 0085 - LEE HUFF - HEATH
POST 0085 - RICHARD HALSEY - BEAVERCREEK TOWNSHIP
POST 0085 - RICHARD RAUCH - NEWARK
POST 0085 - SHIRLEN WILSON - NEWARK
POST 0085 - STANLEY HOUSTON - NEWARK
POST 0085 - WAYNE WRIGHT - NEWARK
POST 0086 - ROBERT HANUSCIN - TORONTO
POST 0087 - ANDREW COPLEY - WOODSFIELD
POST 0087 - JAMES BAKER - LEWISVILLE
POST 0087 - NORMAN WORKMAN - LEWISVILLE
POST 0088 - JOSEPH HANNA - ASHLAND
POST 0088 - ROBERT NICHOLSON - ASHLAND
POST 0091 - ELLIS LOVELL - BEREa
POST 0091 - LAWRENCE JELINEK - STRONGSVILLE
POST 0095 - ROBERT GRICE - XENIA
POST 0096 - ROBERT CATLETT - LIMA
POST 0103 - JOHN LUOMA - ASHTABULA
POST 0103 - ROBERT BENJAMIN - HARTVILLE
POST 0103 - ROLAND ELDRED - ASHTABULA
POST 0104 - ARTHUR LUSTIG - SOUTH EUCLID
POST 0105 - CARL SELDON - LONDON
POST 0105 - CHESTER MOLT - LONDON

POST 0107 - DONALD VOCCA - MARION
POST 0112 - JOE CASWELL - MADISON
POST 0112 - WILLIAM HIXON - MADISON
POST 0113 - LOUIS BALL - MANCHESTER
POST 0113 - THOMAS BERGMAN - PORT CLINTON
POST 0113 - WILLIAM GLOVINSKY - PORT CLINTON
POST 0114 - PHILLIP FEHR - OAK HARBOR
POST 0115 - DAN SIMMONS - DELAWARE
POST 0115 - DON DAVIS - DELAWARE
POST 0115 - JEFFREY HOLLOWAY - DELAWARE
POST 0115 - LARRY DAWSON - ASHLEY
POST 0115 - RICHARD HOLLY - DELAWARE
POST 0115 - RICHARD HUTTER - DELAWARE
POST 0118 - RAFAEL SILVA - LORAIN
POST 0128 - DAN THOMAS - MIDDLEPORT
POST 0131 - TIMOTHY BRADFORD - SALEM
POST 0136 - REX COYKENDALL - MOUNT VERNON
POST 0137 - MERLE MANON - FORT WAYNE
POST 0138 - DON GILBERT - HAMILTON
POST 0140 - ROGER HOOP - ARCANUM
POST 0140 - THOMAS WHITTON - GREENVILLE
POST 0143 - DURWOOD HIBBARD - STRYKER
POST 0143 - JOHN WINZELER - FAYETTE
POST 0143 - LOWELL BEAVERSON - FAYETTE
POST 0144 - ALLEN AMODIO - COLUMBUS
POST 0144 - FRED TAYLOR - COLUMBUS
POST 0144 - RICHARD MUIR - GROVE CITY
POST 0159 - GERALD COMAS - LOCKBOURNE
POST 0159 - THOMAS DOLL - ST CLAIRSVLE
POST 0160 - DONALD ROHN - BREWSTER
POST 0160 - GLENN HAUGHT - LOCKBOURNE
POST 0160 - LINLEY HAWTHORNE - NAVARRE
POST 0160 - RAYMOND GALLAHER - NAVARRE
POST 0165 - BILLY SALYER - MIAMISBURG
POST 0165 - CHRIS FOWLER - SEVILLE
POST 0168 - CHARLES CAMPBELL - BARNESVILLE
POST 0169 - STEVEN BIRCH - TIFFIN
POST 0170 - EDWARD WEBER - UNIONTOWN
POST 0170 - JOSEPH NEDOH - FORT MYERS
POST 0170 - JOSEPH RODGERS - WADSWORTH
POST 0171 - LINUS LOSH - WESTERVILLE
POST 0171 - WILLIAM MERRIMAN - WESTERVILLE
POST 0173 - DONALD STARR - MARYSVILLE
POST 0173 - KALMON GRONAS - LAKEVIEW
POST 0174 - NOLAN MANGEN - NEW WESTON
POST 0176 - FRANK PERKINS - SOUTH CHARLESTON
POST 0176 - KENNETH SILKET - SOUTH CHARLESTON
POST 0178 - JACK CASSEL - ELLENTON
POST 0178 - LAWRENCE SCHOONOVER - VAN WERT
POST 0178 - ROBERT BAER - VAN WERT
POST 0178 - ROBERT STEMEN - VAN WERT
POST 0178 - ROGER BURNFIELD - VAN WERT
POST 0181 - C BAKER - BUCYRUS
POST 0181 - HAROLD EPPLEY - SHREVE
POST 0181 - JEFF MORRIS - BUCYRUS

POST 0192 - DONNIE WRIGHT - FREDERICKSBRG
POST 0192 - LARRY ROTTMAN - THE VILLAGES
POST 0194 - JAMES POTTS - MASON
POST 0194 - LARRY STAPLETON - LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
POST 0199 - CHARLES NOEL - HARRISON
POST 0199 - CHRIS ROBERTS - HARRISON
POST 0199 - DAN PATTON - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - DANIEL SIEMER - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - DAVID GSCHWIND - WEST CHESTER
POST 0199 - DONALD KOCHER - HARRISON
POST 0199 - DOROTHY KIST - HARRISON
POST 0199 - GARY ARSZMAN - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - GARY SMITH - HARRISON
POST 0199 - HAROLD MERGENTHAL - HARRISON
POST 0199 - HARVEY SAWYER - HAMILTON
POST 0199 - JAMES TAYLOR - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - JOHN GREEN - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - MICHAEL JOHNSON - MIDDLETOWN
POST 0199 - NEIL MOORE - CLEVES
POST 0199 - SHAWN ALLEN - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - TERRENCE DUMAS - CINCINNATI
POST 0199 - TERRY BARNES - LAWRENCEBURG
POST 0200 - DONALD PAYNE - HUBER HEIGHTS
POST 0200 - ROBERT HURST - DAYTON
POST 0202 - FRANK CAMINO - LITCHFIELD
POST 0204 - ROBERT KING - CANTON
POST 0204 - ROYAL TESTER - CANTON
POST 0205 - EDWARD HAGARMAN - DOVER
POST 0205 - MICHAEL BECKER - DOVER
POST 0208 - GAY ECKHART - CONVOY
POST 0210 - ANTHONY ABROMAVICH - MENDON
POST 0210 - CALVIN LABORDE - CELINA
POST 0210 - CARL GILMORE - CELINA
POST 0210 - GARY ELEY - HILO
POST 0210 - JAMES GODWIN - MENDON
POST 0210 - JAMES REED - ROCKFORD
POST 0210 - ROBERT EBRIGHT - COLDWATER
POST 0214 - ROBERT LESKO - GENEVA
POST 0214 - WILLIAM BALANTE - WILLOUGHBY
POST 0217 - DOUGLAS EUSTACHE - SIDNEY
POST 0217 - LLOYD APPLGATE - WAPAKONETA
POST 0218 - GARY GINGERICH - MIDDLETOWN
POST 0221 - DANNY WEBBER - BREWSTER
POST 0221 - DENVER MOORE - MASSILLON
POST 0221 - HARLEN HARRIS - CANTON
POST 0221 - RAYMOND BONGINI - CANTON
POST 0221 - WAYNE REUSSER - MASSILLON
POST 0225 - PHILIP SCHINDLER - SYCAMORE
POST 0228 - RICHARD MAJZUN - BELLAIRE
POST 0234 - ALBURTUS FULKERSON - BRUNSWICK
POST 0234 - MICHAEL ANGELETTI - BRUNSWICK
POST 0239 - DON PENDELL - WORTHINGTON
POST 0240 - RAYMOND HUMBARGER - LUCKEY
POST 0241 - JEFF HECKMAN - NEW BREMEN
POST 0241 - JERRY KOEPER - NEW BREMEN

POST 0253 - GERRY SHIDLER - PAULDING
POST 0257 - LYLE GRAY - LOUDONVILLE
POST 0257 - WILLIAM CONRAD - GLENMONT
POST 0260 - TERRY BOGNER - WILLARD
POST 0268 - ROBERT REYNOLDS - DELPHOS
POST 0274 - DWIGHT THOMPSON - STEUBENVILLE
POST 0274 - FREDDIE ALLEN - LUMBERTON
POST 0274 - NORMAN CREASE - COLUMBUS
POST 0281 - WALTER NICHOLSON - HUDSON
POST 0283 - JEFFREY LEE - REYNOLDSBURG
POST 0283 - JOHN OCKERMAN - COLUMBUS
POST 0283 - JOSEPH FAIRCHILD - PICKERINGTON
POST 0283 - RAY GOSNELL - ETNA
POST 0283 - TIMOTHY CORDLE - PICKERINGTON
POST 0283 - WILLIAM KENYON - COLUMBUS
POST 0285 - JAMES EPPLEY - ENGLEWOOD
POST 0285 - NORMAN MCCOY - HEATH
POST 0286 - CHARLES SIMPSON - NEW CARLISLE
POST 0286 - DAVID DUMOUCHEL - DAYTON
POST 0286 - JERRY BELL - TIPP CITY
POST 0286 - WILLIAM FRITTS - NEW CARLISLE
POST 0291 - BRIAN MOSS - KINGSTON
POST 0292 - JOHN OSTERLAND - NEW LONDON
POST 0292 - JOHN SCHNEIDER - HANFORD
POST 0292 - LEWIS FARMER - CENTERBURG
POST 0292 - ROBERT MYERS - NEW LONDON
POST 0297 - JOHN HUEBNER - PAYNE
POST 0300 - ARTHUR GERMAN - NAPOLEON
POST 0300 - JEFFERY BROWN - NAPOLEON
POST 0300 - KEVIN DUNBAR - NAPOLEON
POST 0300 - LEO CLAUSEN - NAPOLEON
POST 0300 - NORMAN SONNENBERG - NAPOLEON
POST 0311 - ALFRED HOLLAND - ARCHBOLD
POST 0315 - JULIUS BROWN - CLEVELAND
POST 0316 - AARON STEVENS - DESHLER
POST 0316 - DENNIS PARKER - DESHLER
POST 0316 - RAYMOND HOGREFE - DESHLER
POST 0316 - WILLIAM WILLIAMS - FINDLAY
POST 0322 - DAVID JONES - EATON
POST 0322 - GARY WOOD - WEST ALEXANDRIA
POST 0322 - GARY WORRELL - FARMERSVILLE
POST 0324 - ASCENSION SALINAS - GENOA
POST 0324 - CHARLES CONLEY - GENOA
POST 0324 - DONALD SNYDER - WALBRIDGE
POST 0325 - JOHN WHITTAKER - MURRELLS INLT
POST 0330 - DELMAR MERRICK - WAPAKONETA
POST 0330 - WILLIAM OEN - CRIDERSVILLE
POST 0331 - JAMES ENGLAND - RAVENNA
POST 0332 - DONALD BARKLEY - NAPOLEON
POST 0336 - DONALD OINONEN - LEXINGTON
POST 0338 - KENNETH AULT - WAYNE
POST 0338 - TERRY BROWN - WAYNE
POST 0340 - BERNARD ZIMMER - NAPOLEON
POST 0342 - DONALD DENTON - SOMERSET
POST 0343 - WILLIAM WUNDERLE - EUCLID

POST 0344 - RONALD MOENING - FOREST
POST 0351 - FRANCIS DILORETO - FORT LAUDERDALE
POST 0353 - DAVID KRICK - HOAGLAND
POST 0354 - EDGAR COLEMAN - FOSTORIA
POST 0354 - KARL KAYSER - MAUMEE
POST 0355 - JOHN RETHMAN - FORT LORAMIE
POST 0360 - CHARLES MCNALLY - ARCANUM
POST 0363 - GREGORY SMITH - LUCASVILLE
POST 0366 - FRANK DUBIEL - LAFFERTY
POST 0366 - MIKE KIRK - ST CLAIRSVLE
POST 0366 - RICHARD PERSONS - NEW PHILA
POST 0368 - ROBERT WILLIAMS - PROSPECT
POST 0373 - HOWARD RECKNER - DELTA
POST 0373 - MORLEY GALBRAITH - DELTA
POST 0373 - NELSON BELL - TOLEDO
POST 0374 - THOMAS CANDLE - WELLSVILLE
POST 0376 - PATRICK SHIPLEY - INDIANA
POST 0382 - BASIL MEYER - BLUFFTON
POST 0383 - ROBERT URDA - ST AUGUSTINE
POST 0384 - GARY KAZMAIER - MONCLOVA
POST 0384 - JAMES BALDWIN - WATERVILLE
POST 0384 - JAMES LONG - WATERVILLE
POST 0384 - JAMES POWELL - WATERVILLE
POST 0384 - JON TREECE - BOWLING GREEN
POST 0384 - LEROY RYERSON - WHITEHOUSE
POST 0384 - THOMAS QUINN - TOLEDO
POST 0389 - ALFRED WOLFE - BEVERLY
POST 0389 - GENE ALLTOP - BEVERLY
POST 0389 - JOHN KOEHLER - WATERFORD
POST 0389 - RICHARD DANFORD - AKRON
POST 0394 - ERIC ERICKSON - GEORGETOWN
POST 0394 - ROBERT RAU - RUSSELLVILLE
POST 0397 - EMMETT GREELY - VERMILION
POST 0397 - ROBERT MYERS - WAKEMAN
POST 0397 - RUEBEN BILTON - NORWALK
POST 0399 - FRANCIS HOLZSCHUHER - DRESDEN
POST 0401 - WAYNE PAPPERT - CALEDONIA
POST 0405 - EUGENE DURNWALD - NEW WASHINGTON
POST 0405 - KARL HILER - NEW WASHINGTON
POST 0418 - TED DOBBIN - LEXINGTON
POST 0421 - DOUGLAS DOTY - CARBONDALE
POST 0421 - JAMES VINE - LAKEWOOD
POST 0421 - LAWRENCE HANSHAW - BROOK PARK
POST 0425 - GEORGE THORNTON - CINCINNATI
POST 0425 - THOMAS GRAVETT - CINCINNATI
POST 0426 - LARRY LANCE - WEST LIBERTY
POST 0426 - ROBERT GODWIN - WEST LIBERTY
POST 0432 - RAYMOND THOMPSON - MALVERN
POST 0432 - ROBERT FALLOT - WAYNESBURG
POST 0435 - JOSEPH MESCHER - SAINT HENRY
POST 0435 - ROGER BILLUPS - VERSAILLES
POST 0436 - WILLIAM PETERS - NORTH CANTON
POST 0449 - JAMES HEROLD - BARBERTON
POST 0450 - CHARLES KEMMETER - SARDINIA
POST 0450 - CHESTER DREYER - FLORENCE



POST 0450 - DARYL WILSON - PIGEON FORGE
POST 0450 - JOSEPH MOORE - CALIFORNIA
POST 0450 - RAYMOND BIAGINI - MILFORD
POST 0457 - ROLLIE DELONG - SUNBURY
POST 0459 - ELMER BOLLINGER - MIDDLEFIELD
POST 0459 - JAMES ABRAHAM - MORELAND HILLS
POST 0460 - WILLIAM SAUNDERS - CENTERBURG
POST 0468 - EDWIN KLEPAREK - TOLEDO
POST 0468 - FREDERICK FRIESS - TOLEDO
POST 0468 - GENE PAUL - SYLVANIA
POST 0468 - JEFFREY BAUM - SYLVANIA
POST 0468 - WILLIAM LEAKE - SYLVANIA
POST 0470 - DEAN ARMOUR - CELINA
POST 0470 - IVO ALBERS - CELINA
POST 0471 - DALE RATLIFF - SOUTH SHORE
POST 0471 - DAVID JIVIDEN - SOUTH SHORE
POST 0471 - JOHN STARKEY - ASHLAND
POST 0479 - GARY MOHR - SWANTON
POST 0479 - GEORGE RAY - SWANTON
POST 0482 - DANNY HENRY - SCIO
POST 0486 - DONALD KERSHNER - COLUMBUS
POST 0486 - GARY ALSPAUGH - NEWARK
POST 0490 - BRUCE LECLAIRE - NEWBURGH
POST 0493 - ALBERT PRESNELL - WAPAKONETA
POST 0493 - MAX HOLLY - SPRINGFIELD
POST 0500 - DEAN STREBY - FREDERICKTOWN
POST 0500 - GEORGE LEVENGOOD - TIFFIN
POST 0500 - MARLYN WILSON - HOWARD
POST 0503 - WILLIAM BOOCK - SHILOH
POST 0508 - DALE ZIZELMAN - ROCKFORD
POST 0508 - TERRY JOSEPH - ROCKFORD
POST 0512 - MERRITT HIGBIE - STRONGSVILLE
POST 0512 - ROBERT BAUMGARTNER - TOLEDO
POST 0513 - CHARLES NOONAN - CINCINNATI
POST 0513 - CHARLES NOONAN - HAMILTON
POST 0513 - KEN HENNEL - CINCINNATI
POST 0513 - MICHAEL NOONAN - CINCINNATI
POST 0513 - PAUL WOLF - CINCINNATI
POST 0514 - JAMES ROSE - WILLARD
POST 0521 - JOSEPH ZDUNCZYK - SHADYSIDE
POST 0521 - RONALD NOLEN - SHADYSIDE
POST 0522 - WARREN WELZ - MONTGOMERY
POST 0523 - BUD BERRY - BURBANK
POST 0525 - LOUIS CZIBOR - CADIZ
POST 0526 - DONALD DILLON - TIPP CITY
POST 0526 - JOHN THOMPSON - FAIRBORN
POST 0526 - ROBERT FORD - ENON
POST 0529 - HENRY SEEVERS - SAINT CLAIRSVILLE
POST 0529 - ROGER TURLEY - ST CLAIRSVLE
POST 0532 - DONALD REEB - COLUMBUS
POST 0534 - HENRY ARMSTRONG - CINCINNATI
POST 0535 - OBED SNELSON - BELLVILLE
POST 0537 - JACK BARTRAM - PORT CLINTON
POST 0537 - JAMES FOX - CURTICE
POST 0539 - C VANHORN - NORTH BALTIMORE
POST 0539 - DANNY CAUDILL - N BALTIMORE
POST 0539 - MYRON KAUFFMAN - VAN BUREN
POST 0539 - THOMAS DOERING - FINDLAY
POST 0542 - MIKE MANS - PUT IN BAY
POST 0545 - DANIEL KWIATKOWSKI - ANGOLA
POST 0545 - DANIEL ROBB - OREGON
POST 0545 - GEORGE MEZINKO - TOLEDO
POST 0545 - ROBERT GREB - MAUMEE
POST 0545 - ROBERT PRECHT - TEMPERANCE
POST 0548 - ARTHUR SCHNELLER - LOUISVILLE
POST 0548 - DENNIS HAIDET - LOUISVILLE
POST 0548 - DORIO SICKER - LOUISVILLE
POST 0548 - HENRY WEISS - EAST CANTON
POST 0548 - JOHN ZWICK - LOUISVILLE
POST 0548 - JOSEPH STOWELL - LOUISVILLE
POST 0548 - OLEN REED - CANTON
POST 0548 - ROBERT BROWN - CANTON
POST 0548 - RONALD KANDEL - CANTON
POST 0548 - THOMAS YEAGER - LOUISVILLE
POST 0550 - DANIEL MORGAN - NEW RICHMOND
POST 0553 - WARREN PHILLIPS - TOLEDO
POST 0554 - WILLIAM CASE - MADEIRA
POST 0560 - LOUIS TEXTER - CAMPBELL
POST 0560 - THOMAS REPASKY - CAMPBELL
POST 0566 - HARVEY RUSSELL - WADSWORTH
POST 0566 - JOHN KAMM - AKRON
POST 0573 - PAUL RUSSELL - COLUMBUS
POST 0574 - ROBERT HEROLD - ALLIANCE
POST 0584 - DANIEL GAMBLE - MARION
POST 0586 - DENNIS BUSH - VERONA
POST 0586 - GEORGE ADKINS - TIPP CITY
POST 0586 - LESTER HATTON - SEBRING
POST 0586 - ROBERT LENEHAN - TIPP CITY
POST 0587 - CHESTER KENDZIERSKI - TOLEDO
POST 0587 - CLAUDE BARRY - PERRYSBURG
POST 0587 - DALE VANBARG - TOLEDO
POST 0587 - JAMES COBAK - OTTAWA HILLS
POST 0594 - WAYNE SETTY - PEEBLES
POST 0598 - ARNOLD MEYERS - BRADENTON
POST 0598 - FRANK MIONE - COLUMBUS
POST 0598 - LARRY COY - KETTERING
POST 0598 - LAWRENCE PURDOM - BELLBROOK
POST 0598 - RONALD FERGUSON - DAYTON
POST 0598 - THOMAS CONNAIR - KETTERING
POST 0602 - GARY EVANS - RACINE
POST 0605 - ROGER LICHTENBERGER - PROSPECT
POST 0610 - CHARLES GARVEN - CLEVELAND
POST 0610 - EDWARD VENDEL - MEDINA
POST 0610 - KEVIN GAREAU - NORTH ROYALTON
POST 0610 - ROBERT MARINER - NORTH OLMSTED
POST 0610 - ROBERT WAMSER - BROOKPARK
POST 0613 - MELVIN DAVIS - DAYTON
POST 0622 - DWIGHT SHOEMAKER - PORTSMOUTH
POST 0622 - TONY PAYNE - PORTSMOUTH
POST 0627 - HARRY KIDWELL - CLEVELAND

POST 0627 - REGAN OCONNELL - SEVEN HILLS
 POST 0631 - JOHN STAUB - TAYLOR MILL
 POST 0634 - CORLISS KASER - COSHOCTON
 POST 0635 - KEITH HARDY - DEFIANCE
 POST 0635 - STEPHEN SANTO - DEFIANCE
 POST 0637 - KELVYN MOYER - LANCASTER
 POST 0637 - RICHARD TEESDALE - NEWARK
 POST 0650 - JAMES LEHANE - HOWARD
 POST 0651 - DALE JAMES - FREDERICKSBRG
 POST 0651 - HAROLD EIKLEBERRY - SHREVE
 POST 0651 - KENNETH DUNCAN - FREDERICKSBURG
 POST 0656 - JAMES CARTER - LORAIN
 POST 0662 - MARVIN GEARHART - BRYAN
 POST 0663 - FENTON KOCH - MENTOR
 POST 0667 - FRANK JONES - CANTON
 POST 0677 - JOE BITLER - CANAL WINCHESTER
 POST 0677 - JOHN GIBBONS - PICKERINGTON
 POST 0677 - ORVILLE DYKE - GAHANNA
 POST 0680 - CRAIG RUSSELL - SAINT CLOUD
 POST 0682 - GEORGE PORTER - ST CLAIRSVLE
 POST 0700 - CARL FERCAN - WARREN
 POST 0700 - CHARLES CLARK - ASHLAND
 POST 0700 - DONALD FREER - WARREN
 POST 0700 - JAMES SATTERFIELD - WARREN
 POST 0700 - ROXANE MORRIS - WARREN
 POST 0700 - TERRANCE SAYERS - YOUNGSTOWN
 POST 0700 - THOMAS MCCLOSKEY - LAKE MILTON
 POST 0703 - GEORGE KOEHLER - N ROYALTON
 POST 0703 - JEROME NOGA - PARMA HEIGHTS
 POST 0703 - RICHARD COLONIE - NORTH ROYALTON
 POST 0707 - HORACE FRANKLIN - ENGLEWOOD
 POST 0707 - LARRY SMITHERS - ENGLEWOOD
 POST 0707 - RAYMOND BERTSCHY - DAYTON
 POST 0707 - ROBERT SNELL - ENGLEWOOD
 POST 0707 - ROBERT TURNER - BROOKVILLE
 POST 0707 - RONALD SAUNDERS - BROOKVILLE
 POST 0713 - JACK KORAS - LKSID MARBLHD
 POST 0717 - PAUL MCELHANEY - NORTH RIDGEVILLE
 POST 0717 - ROBERT THOMAS - N RIDGEVILLE
 POST 0735 - FLOYD LOGSDON - DILLONVALE
 POST 0737 - JAMES LOSASSO - YOUNGSTOWN
 POST 0737 - JEFFREY WALDRON - HUBBARD
 POST 0749 - RICHARD MCCULLOUGH - WEST SALEM
 POST 0749 - ROGER BRIGGS - JEROMESVILLE
 POST 0750 - BRUCE WITTEKIND - WATERFORD
 POST 0754 - LOREN WELCH - LEXINGTON
 POST 0760 - LELAND EISENBARTH - SARDIS
 POST 0762 - RALPH OSBORNE - DAYTON
 POST 0776 - ROBERT TAYLOR - HUBER HEIGHTS
 POST 0787 - JAMES CARPENTER - HUNTINGTON BEACH
 POST 0787 - KENNETH CARPENTER - MOORE
 POST 0800 - ALFRED CHARD - GRANDVIEW
 POST 0888 - BOBBY RHEA - FREMONT
 POST 0888 - DAVID AUGSBURGER - ADA
 POST 0888 - DON JAENKE - MANSFIELD

POST 0888 - HERBERT DAFT - GROVE CITY
 POST 0888 - HUBERT COLE - AKRON
 POST 0888 - JOHN DREW - STOW
 POST 0888 - LAWRENCE MICHAEL - NORTH OLMSTED
 POST 0888 - MITCHELL FRIEL - PATASKALA
 POST 0888 - ROLLIN JACKSON - VERMILION
 POST 0888 - RUDOLPH EDWARDS - CLEVELAND
 POST 0888 - TRIPP CANTWELL - WESTLAND
 POST 0888 - WILLIAM RUSSELL - VALLEY CITY
 POST 0888_AD - BOB CAIN - RIDGEWAY
 POST 0888_AD - DALE REED - DAYTON
 POST 0888_AD - DONALD SMITH - HUDSON
 POST 0888_AD - GARY HOLZHEIMER - BROADVIEW HTS
 POST 0888_AD - JAMES SPURCK - GALION
 POST 0888_AD - MARK SHULL - BOWLING GREEN
 POST 0888_AD - MICHAEL SABINE - CINCINNATI
 POST 0888_AD - RICHARD GLOVER - WESTERVILLE
 POST 0888_AD - ROBERT HABERTHIER - FRANKLIN
 POST 0888_AD - RONALD YANTIS - PATASKALA
 POST 0888_AD - TERRY LAWSON - AKRON
 POST 0888_AD - WILLIE JOHNSON - AKRON

TAPS





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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

11/27 - 11/28/2025 Thanksgiving Dept & Natl Closed	12/14/2025 District 14 Winter Conference Post 685 - Streetsboro 10:00 AM	1/10/2026 District 9 Winter Conference Post 236 - Newton Falls 10:00 AM	1/11/2026 District 1 SAL Winter Conference Post 553 - Toledo 10:00 AM	1/25/2026 District 12 Winter Conference Post 171 - Columbus 1:00 PM
12/7/2025 District 6 Winter Conference Post 584 - Marion 10:00 AM	12/24 - 12/26/2025 Christmas Dept & Natl Closed	1/10/2026 District 9 SAL Winter Conference Post 236 - Newton Falls 12:00 PM	1/11/2026 District 2 SAL Winter Conference Post 470 - Coldwater 1:00 PM	2/14/2026 - 2/15/2026 Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament Dayton, OH 9:00 AM
12/7/2025 District 8 Winter Conference Post 420 - Murray City 10:00 AM	12/31/2025 - 1/2/2026 New Years Dept & Natl Closed	1/10/2026 District 10 Winter Conference Post 44 - Canton 8:00 AM	1/16/2026 - 1/18/2026 Mid-Winter Conference Dublin, OH	2/16/2026 President's Day Dept Natl Closed
12/7/2025 District 7 SAL Winter Conference Post 142 - Waverly 9:00 AM	1/4/2026 District 11 Winter Conference Post 29 - Zanesville 10:00 AM	1/11/2026 District 1 Winter Conference Post 553 - Toledo 2:00 PM	1/16/2026 - 1/18/2026 SAL Detachment Mtg. Mid-Winter -Dublin, OH	2/21/2026 - 2/22/2026 Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament Dayton, OH 9:00 AM
12/13/2025 District 4 Winter Conference Post 69 - Reading 10:00 AM	1/4/2026 District 5 Winter Conference Post 344 - Carey 1:00 PM	1/11/2026 District 3 Winter Conference Post 200 - Huber Heights 1:00 PM	1/19/2026 Martin Luther King Day Dept& Natl Closed	2/27/2026 - 2/28/2026 Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament Dayton, OH 9:00 AM
12/14/2025 District 13 Winter Conference Post 91 - Berea 10:00 AM	1/4/2026 District 5 SAL Winter Conference Post 344 - Carey 10:00 AM		1/25/2026 District 2 Winter Conference Post 323 - St. Marys 9:00 AM	

Inside the Cleveland Gaming Classic: A Weekend of Play, Passion, and Community



Submitted by Robert White, Senior Editor, Ohio Legion News



GAME ON — When I stepped into the IX Center on the morning of September 20th, the first thing I noticed wasn't the glow of arcade screens or the thundering bass of game soundtracks—it was the energy. Thousands of gamers, collectors, cosplayers, and families were already filling the massive hall, buzzing with excitement for what has become **Ohio's largest and premier gaming weekend**: the Cleveland Gaming Classic.



I approached a group of young gamers crowded around a vintage arcade cabinet. One boy, no older than nine, eagerly told me, *"I've never played anything this old before!"* His father laughed and added, *"And I don't have to keep giving him quarters—everything is free. This is how every arcade should be."* That theme came up over and over again: **all games were free, and kids ten and under got in at no cost.** It was clear that the Classic wasn't just a show—it was a family experience designed with accessibility in mind.



A Conversation With Chief Gamer Tom Jenkins

I sat down with Tom Jenkins, the

man affectionately known as the "Chief Gamer" and the driving force behind this event. "We wanted to build something that celebrates every era of gaming," Jenkins told me. "But more importantly, we wanted to give something back. Gaming has always brought people together—and now we're using it to support the community." That vision led to the creation of the **Cleveland Gaming Foundation**, a charitable expansion of the Classic's mission. Jenkins explained that the Foundation focuses heavily on supporting youth programs, educational initiatives, and community engagement. "This is where we connect passion with purpose," he said. "And every year, the impact grows."



A Perfect Fit for American Legion Children & Youth Programs

As I walked the venue, I couldn't help but think about how naturally this event aligns with the American Legion's **Children & Youth** initiatives. The Cleveland Gaming Classic is exactly the type of positive, family-centered community engagement that posts can highlight on their **Consolidated Post Report (CPR)**. Several veterans and Legion family members I spoke with agreed. One Navy veteran attending with his teenage daughter told me, *"Esports and gaming bring in kids who wouldn't normally walk through Legion doors. This is our bridge to the next generation."*

Ohio Leading the Charge With Esports

It's worth noting that Ohio is one of

26 departments nationwide that have already established a Gaming (Esports) Committee. Only a few more departments need to come onboard before we hit 29—the number needed to generate major national recognition and support for esports within the organization. Ohio isn't just keeping up with the movement; it's helping lead it.



What You Missed—and What's Next

If you couldn't attend this year, I highly recommend watching the highlight video to get a sense of the excitement and scope of the event. It's a glimpse into a world where nostalgia, technology, creativity, and community meet under one roof. But don't worry—another chance is coming soon. The **2026 Cleveland Gaming Classic** will shift to the **Huntington Convention Center** in downtown Cleveland, running **September 11–13, 2026**. With a larger venue, expanding community programs, and growing national attention, next year's event promises to raise the bar even higher.

As I left the IX Center, I turned back to see a crowd cheering around a finals match on the main stage. A group of kids wearing oversized cosplay helmets rushed past me, laughing, while parents followed close behind. It struck me again that this wasn't simply a gaming convention—it was a community celebration. And for the American Legion, it's a new frontier waiting to be explored.

MORE FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Cuyahoga Regatta



Commander's Homecoming



TrapShoot Tourney



SCAN ME



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TODAY!**

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ONE**

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Digital Ready Posts Campaign:
"Operation: Stay Connected"

Roll call: Is your email up to date?

Are you getting the latest from The American Legion? If we don't have your email, you're out of the loop.

Scan the QR code to fill out a quick form to have Department staff update your contact information for you.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Let's keep our Legion family connected.
#StayLegion #OperationStayConnected

Digital Ready Posts Campaign:
"Operation: Stay Connected"

<https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/>

If you have not already created an online account with MyLegion.org this is a great opportunity to get registered with your current email. Registered members of course have the option of logging on to MyLegion.org, click on your profile, and update/validate/confirm your current email. Receive important updates, Stay in the loop on events and benefits, and Strengthen the network of veterans.

*We served together. We stand together. Let's stay connected.
Update your email today.*



AMERICAN
LEGION

2026 Department Convention July 10th – July 12th, 2026



Hilton Garden Inn Toledo Downtown
101 North Summit St. Toledo, OH 43604

Deadline for Registration is June 6th

To make reservations please call 419-464-9220 and reference **"The American Legion Department of Ohio Convention"**

The discounted group rate is \$169.00/night + tax.

All Post Delegates and Alternates must be registered 15 days prior to Convention.

Delegate and Alternate registration deadline is June 26th!

For more information, contact Christie White at programs@ohiolegion.com or call (740) 362-7478.

You may also visit the website at <https://www.ohiolegion.com/events/departments-conferences-conventions/>.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend the convention and any meetings offered
*** Call Headquarters if you experience difficulties when making hotel reservations.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."