

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007
PHONE: 740-362-7478 | FAX: 740-362-1429 | EMAIL: LEGION@OHIOLEGION.COM

Subject: Important Update on Membership Dues

Dear Post Officer,

We hope this letter finds you well. We want to take this opportunity to provide you with important information regarding membership dues. Please read the entire message as there are action items for your Post at the end.

Background

During the recent National Convention, the National per capita amount of your membership dues was approved for an increase of \$5, from \$18.50 to \$23.50, effective July 1st, 2024.

Additionally, the Department of Ohio has not had a dues increase since 2004, and during this time, our membership has decreased by 69,138 members, resulting in a decrease in revenue of approximately \$622,242. Inflation and costs have risen over 63% since 2004, placing additional strain on our operational expenses, which are currently running \$1.8M per year.

The Department's current yearly revenue is approximately \$1,300,000, broken down across various sources. This is \$500K less than what we need to breakeven. We currently have investments that we can draw from, but these resources will last us approximately 4-5 years.

Proposal

Therefore, after careful consideration, the finance commission has put forth a resolution to be considered at the Department Convention in July 2024 to increase the Department's per capita from \$9.00 to \$14.00, effective January 1, 2025.

Cost Reduction Initiatives

To address the financial challenges, several cost reduction projects are already underway, including:

- Employee-related measures, such as reducing the number of employees, adjusting positions, and optimizing health insurance benefits.
- Travel budget implementation and refinement of policies for employee travel.
- Office expense reduction through the implementation of electronic versions of the OLN and cost-effective delivery methods.
- Assessment of the building for energy efficiency.

Action Items for Legion Posts

- The dues that you report on this year's Annual Post Data Report form (due by April 15th, 2024) must be equal to or greater than \$32.50 in order to cover current national and state per capita.
- If your dues are currently less than \$32.50, you must raise them to a minimum of \$32.50 to stay in compliance with the Department's Constitution and Bylaws.
- You may want to consider raising your dues an additional \$5.00 to cover the potential department increase that may be effective January 2025.
- Please read this at your next membership meeting to publish the information to your members.

This announcement is made with the intention of providing transparency to our Ohio Legion members so that you can prepare financially. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the membership team at Department (740-362-7478 or membership@ohiolegion.com).

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Sincerely,

Jason Rue
Department of Ohio American Legion
Commander
commander@ohiolegion.com