



The Alabama Legionnaire

October 2016

American Legion, Department of Alabama
www.legional.org (334) 262-6638 or (800) 234-5544

Mid-Winter Conference January 12-15, 2017

This year's conference will be held in Montgomery, Alabama at The Embassy Suites hotel. To make reservations please call 334-269-5055 and tell them that you are with The American Legion to ensure you get our rate of \$115.00. The cutoff date for reservations is December 12, 2016. Please call today and make your reservations. With each room night you will receive a free breakfast and a two-hour manager's reception in the bar area. We will be publishing an agenda at a later date. There will also be a banquet on Saturday the 14th, menu and pricing will be published next in next month's newsletter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

Executive Assistant, Christy Jones will be having surgery on October 13 and 18, 2016 and will be out of the office for at least 2 weeks. She will be answering her emails from home if you need to get in touch with her.

National Commander Charles Schmidt Visit

Tuesday, November 08, 2016

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| TBD | Pick up Commander Schmidt from Birmingham Airport Depending on flight schedule may visit a local post |
| TBD | Arrival at Birmingham Sheraton Hotel for the evening |

Wednesday, November 09, 2016

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| TBD | Breakfast |
| 10:00 am – 11:00 am | Travel to Pelham, Alabama |
| 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Lunch and Social at Matthew Blount Post 555 |
| 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Travel to Tuscaloosa, Alabama |
| 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Possible OCM presentation to Tuscaloosa VA and visit with long term care veterans |
| 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm | Travel to Birmingham, Alabama |
| 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Dinner and social at B. W. Howell Post 171 |
| TBD | Arrive at Birmingham Sheraton Hotel for the evening |

Thursday, November 10, 2016

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| TBD | Breakfast |
| 5:45 pm | Distinguished Guests Reception – Birmingham – Jefferson Convention Complex |
| 7:00 pm | National Veterans Award Dinner and Dance – Birmingham – Jefferson Convention Complex Ballroom |
| TBD | Arrive at Birmingham Sheraton Hotel for the evening |

Friday, November 11, 2016

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| TBD | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am | Veterans Memorial Service – Cathedral Church of The Advent |
| 10:30 am – 12:30 pm | World Peace Luncheon – Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Ballroom |
| 1:30 pm | National Veterans Day Parade – Parade Route |
| 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Dinner Fairfield Post 347 |
| TBD | Arrival at Birmingham Sheraton Hotel for the evening |

Saturday, November 12, 2016

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| TBD | Breakfast |
| TBD | National Commander Depart Birmingham, Alabama |



Charles E. Schmidt
National Commander
The American Legion

Charles E. Schmidt
National Commander
The American Legion

Charles E. Schmidt was elected national commander of the 2.2 million-member American Legion Sept. 1, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the 98th national convention of the nation's largest veterans organization.

Schmidt enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and served on active duty until his retirement in 1990. During that time he advanced from an administrative clerk to become a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School, earning a commission and assignments to Executive Support Officer positions at major headquarters. His Air Force assignments took him to Oregon, California, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, England, Germany, Philippines and Vietnam.

As an active duty servicemember, Schmidt joined Story-Hardin Post 164 in Craig, Mo, in 1984. At his military retirement as a major, he was employed by the Air Force Total Quality Management Program at Lowry Technical Training Center in Denver, Colo.

He transferred his American Legion membership to Harney County Post 63 in Burns, Oregon, and helped revitalize the department's Tenth District after moving there and beginning a 15-year career with the Greater Oregon Federal Credit Union. He retired from the credit union as the executive vice president. He is a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Legion member.

Schmidt served as department (state) commander of the Oregon American Legion in 2004 and 2006. He has served at every level of The American Legion, including National Executive Committee member from 2005-2016. Gov. Theodore Kulongoski appointed Schmidt to the Governor's Advisory Commission to the director for the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. He was appointed to a second 4-year term in 2008.

While serving in the Air Force, Schmidt earned a Bronze Star, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device and two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, a Vietnam Service Medal, an Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, an Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, an Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one silver oak leaf cluster, an NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship with bronze star, an Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with four bronze stars.

Schmidt resides in Hines, Oregon, with his wife, Linda. They have two daughters, Andria and Cori and two sons-in-law, Peter and Anthony. They also have six grandchildren: Madeline, Alex, Adan Raymond, Nicholas and Thomas.

**PERSONAL PREFERENCES
NATIONAL COMMANDER CHARLES E. SCHMIDT**

HOBBIES: Hunting, Fishing, ATV, Camping, Snow skiing

RELIGION: Protestant-Episcopalian

SPORTS: Football, Baseball, Basketball

BEVERAGES: Sparkling Water, Clear soda, Cabernet or Merlot, Light beer

MAIN COURSE: Fish, Poultry, Beef (ribeye)

SNACKS: Fruit, Yogurt, Protein bar

FAVORITE DESSERT: Apple Pie (dutch caramel)

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: None

MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS: No Lipitor

BRANCH OF SERVICE: U. S. Air Force (highest rank – Major)

POST: Post 63, Burns, Oregon

GIFT SUGGESTIONS: Regional items, Eagles

SIZES: Polo Shirt L Dress Shirt 16½x34-35
Suit 46R; Trousers 38/30
Legion cap 7 ½

MRS. Linda Schmidt: Shirt L/Sweater L; Handbags – medium size;
Gifts – Decorative glass, Crystal, Antique glass

LEGION PROJECT: Temporary Financial Assistance, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and
Service Officer Education Training

DIRK LEVY, NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE

MAIN COURSE: Beef

BEVERAGES: Social functions – Malibu rum and pineapple juice; dinner – any; room –
water

DIETARY/
MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS: None

BRANCH OF SERVICE: Army

POST: Post 34, North Bend/Coos Bay, Oregon

SIZES: Polo Shirt L; Dress Shirt L or 18x32-33

Commander's Corner



Dear American Legion Family,

Montgomery, AL....The Fall Leadership Conference, 30 September – 1 October, was a success. All of the Commissions and Committees were well prepared and delivered outstanding reports and action plans. A great deal beyond “the book” was learned by all with the sharing of ideas and successful programs at the Post, District and Division level.

We learned from one another and I personally gained many new insights and left with fresh perspectives and on a variety of subjects and approaches to “challenges and opportunities”.

Special Recognition:

A salute to the Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary and Riders who attended the Fall Leadership Conference.

Your participation and leadership in your respective responsibilities are the framework for the continued success for the American Legion Department of Alabama.

Bob Barefield, 2nd Vice Commander, Post 911, Hoover, for being awarded the DAR Distinguished Citizen Award 2015. Bob USA – Retired is Chairman of Alabama National Veterans Cemetery Support Committee and served on the Board of Directors of Blue Star Salute Foundation.

Barry Blount, Commander Post 555, Pelham and member A.J. Blount for securing a memorandum of understanding from the Commander, US Army Recruiting Battalion, State of Alabama, supporting the American Legion and instructing those in his command to do so.

Jeremiah Denton, Deceased, Post 88, Mobile, for being inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame. Admiral/Senator Denton was a Vietnam POW famous for blinking “Torture” in morse code in an interview while in captivity.

Lou Lartigue, Post 250, Fowl River, USA-Ret for being selected by a peer group as Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year 2016. Lou serves with the Post 250 Honor Guard, is a past VFW Post Commander and currently is President of the South Alabama Veterans Council and a member of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort Foundation, Board of Directors.

October Thought:

The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have. Vince Lombardi

“Don’t assume anybody knows anything unless you tell them yourself’ J.C Hardee-USMC

Respectfully,

Jim Jeffries
Commander
The American Legion, Department of Alabama

MEMO FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

“A dream doesn’t become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.” Colin Powell, statesman and retired Army general

Many of you probably remember Colin Powell. Some of you may have even worked with him when he was on active duty. I hope that his quote will inspire you to believe that you can achieve success, but we will have to work for it. Most things don’t come naturally. We must work for them, especially if it’s important. I hope that you agree that our efforts to grow The American Legion is a fruitful endeavor to serve and support our veterans. No one will care more than you.

Veterans Day is right around the corner. I know there are many local activities at your post and nearby. If not, then I encourage you to participate in one of the grand parades in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery or Mobile. Birmingham’s parade is probably the oldest and largest. Participation deadlines are quickly approaching. Christy sent out the American Legion’s Veterans Day speech via email. It may be helpful to folks that have been asked to give a speech for that day. You can modify to make it a little more personal.

For the NASCAR fans, I plan on attending the fall race in Talladega on October 23. I’ve been invited by the Dixie Division of Military Vehicles to ride with them in a parade on the track prior to the race. I can’t wait!!

I think that we had a great Leadership conference and training. We had several attending. Unfortunately, leadership from many of the struggling posts were not present. It’s hard to grow your membership, if you aren’t learning and growing your leadership. I threw out a challenge at the conference for all leaders and members to wear their Legion caps the week leading up to Veterans Day and each District recruiting/recruiting event. This is a great opportunity for everyone to demonstrate their commitment. Send me your pictures where you are wearing your caps to work, out to dinner, to the barber/beauty shop and more. You have time to order a cap, if needed. Also, let me know how many folks asked you about your cap or service. Don’t forget to ask them to join The American Legion if they are eligible.

Let me know if I can help with events and activities happening in your areas. I can be reached via email at srvice.commander@legional.org or stacey36542@gmail.com, or by phone at 334-424-7138. If I don't answer, then please leave a message.

Thanks for all that you do in your continued service to our country and the men and women that participated in their oath of service in the Armed Forces.

Act to Inspire,

Donna K. Stacey
Senior Vice Commander

Results Not Excuses



Department of Alabama

October 2016

Hi Legionnaires,

We are back from our Fall Leadership Conference, and what a good conference it was. Leadership first starts by embracing the vision and the organization, the American Legion. The topics that were covered at the conference started with the Children and Youth Committee, the Oratorical Committee, the Veterans Retreat Committee, the Investment Committee, the Gift to Veterans Committee, the American Legion Riders Committee, and the Membership Commission. These are the committees and the commission that show who we are and what we stand for; the Veterans and their families and the community. I would be remiss if I did not mention the Post Service Officer Training which we hold at every meeting; fall training, midwinter training, and state convention. Our main concern is to increase our membership so that we can run our programs. As always, I challenge each and every one of you in the American Legion Family to recruit three (3) members so that we can continue to fulfill our mission. We must be faithful to our cause if we are going to lead, and lead by example. The spotlight is not pleasant all of the time. Protect the house or (post), love one another, and keep a close eye on the prize; the Veterans and their families and the community.

Leroy Davis Jr.
Jr. Vice Commander
Department of Alabama
for God and Country

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Thanks to all who attended our Fall Leadership Conference. This conference is critical for Commanders and Adjutants from all levels to attend. We learn from each other and about our Legion programs. Unfortunately, many in these positions did not attend. We need to do better!

We barely met our October Department membership target of 55%, by achieving 55.3%. Now we need to focus on November goal of 65% by Veterans Day! So far, 4 of our Posts have already achieved 100% of their goal for the year, while 90 Posts have exceeded the 55% goal. 8 Districts and 1 Division have met their 55% goal. Great work so far, but don't slow down now.

District 11 revitalization takes place October 21 and 22. Volunteers are needed for their call center, so if you can spare a couple of hours contact the 11th District Adjutant (Mary Day Smith) or 1st Division Commander (Jeff McNair). Your help will be greatly appreciated. Other Districts should be planning their revitalization activities so we can get publicity in their areas. Provide me details about your recruiting/activity plans 30 days in advance of your activity to allow National enough time to send post cards to veterans in your area. Press releases should be provided Jim Johnson, Department Public Relations Officer, at least 45 days in advance of your revitalization. You may want to contact the District 15 and 22 Commanders to get some "lessons learned". **Volunteers are the key to success of these efforts** -- get them motivated!

I commend 34th District Commander Parmer and his Post commanders for their work on beginning to execute their revitalization plan at the Post level. It is being conducted a little differently from other Districts due to some situations unique to them. Thanks for taking the initiative and moving forward.

Don't forget the **National "Race to The Top" competition** that Districts 31 and 35 won the past 2 years in their category. Any District that achieves 100% of their membership by March 31st is eligible. The winner is the District that achieved the greatest percentage increase from their previous year membership number. For example, District "A" previous year percentage was 95% and this year on March 31 was 125%; District "B" previous year percentage was 100% and this year on March 31 was 128%: in this example, District "A" wins because they increased 30% (95% to 125%), while District "B" increased only 28% (100% to 128%). It would be nice for our Department to have another winner this year!!

A large American Legion membership is essential to our ability to serve veterans at local, state and national levels! It provides us "strength in numbers" that our political leaders at all levels are aware of and respond to. As said before, without a growing membership we cannot have the manpower and financial resources necessary to support our veterans, their families, our communities, and conduct American Legion programs.

Thanks for all your great work. I know it takes time and effort to work membership, but the results are well worth it!! Stay focused and keep it up!!

**"GREAT RESULTS COME FROM OUTSTANDING PLANNING, COMMITMENT, EXECUTION AND TEAMWORK"
RETAIN -- REINSTATE -- RECRUIT**

Wayne Stacey
Membership Commission Chair
334-313-8921
staceycw@gulftel.com

Chaplain's Comments

From The Chapel

After watching the first presidential debate I am again asking-"Where was God?". There was never any mention of his name- never any mention of seeking his guidance-or trusting in him to lead us - show us the way-bless our efforts etc. It would seem our next president prefers that we go it alone. Our whole country appears to be so divided and we must find a way to come together again. The best way indeed-the simplest way is with God.

One of the many things I love about the American Legion is the fact that we always begin with prayer. We first go to God and ask his blessing on all that is done according to his will. That he be "WITH US" in all that we do.And-I believe as long as we do that we will remain strong and undivided in our efforts. As individuals we may sometimes disagree but as a Godly organization we are together.

Please continue to pray for our country and of course our leaders in our American Legion. God loves you and I love you too.

Philippians 1:3

Duke

Shooters Sight Picture

The Alabama Junior Shooting Program is off and running. The last time we spoke there was tremendous excitement regarding the Shooting Program. Well, things have not changed and it is picking up steam. In addition to Post 133 and Post 555, Post 911 has established a program by partnering with a local JROTC unit and Post 135 has established a program with two JROTC units. That makes four Shooting teams state wide and other Posts are working hard to stand up their own teams. Post 5 opened its doors only a few weeks ago and they have already identified an individual who is willing to move forward with a team and they may have located an organization interested in the program. Post 44 is working through locating air rifles and Post 15 discussed moving forward with a team this past weekend.

When a Post is considering a shooting team, do not allow the plethora of issues to overwhelm you. Break the process down into four simple stages. Most importantly, identify a champion to take on the challenge and get the Program started. If the coach has passion and drive, the team will develop quickly. They need to remember the toughest part of the job is getting started but once it starts, it will take on a life of its own. Second, locate an indoor range. The range, from firing line to target, is 32' 9.7" (10 meters) long and there should be ample room (~15-20') for coaches and Range Safety Officers to move freely behind the firing points. Each firing point should be no less than 39" (1 meter) in width. Post 133 shoots in the Post front room with only four firing points and Post 555 (partnered with Shelby County Shooting Sports Association) has an enormous indoor range with over 15 firing points. Gyms, church centers, youth centers, basements etc. all work well. Ensure the range is safe by posting signs at access points and work with what you can get.

Third, obtain equipment. The initial "buy-in" is expensive if the Post purchases all new equipment. However, sweat equity and fund raising greatly reduces initial cost. Make shooting stands from PVC pipe and shooting mats can be PT mats. If purchased new, these two items can cost over \$150 for one shooter. Be smart with your money when you start and buy what you need as your team gains shooters.

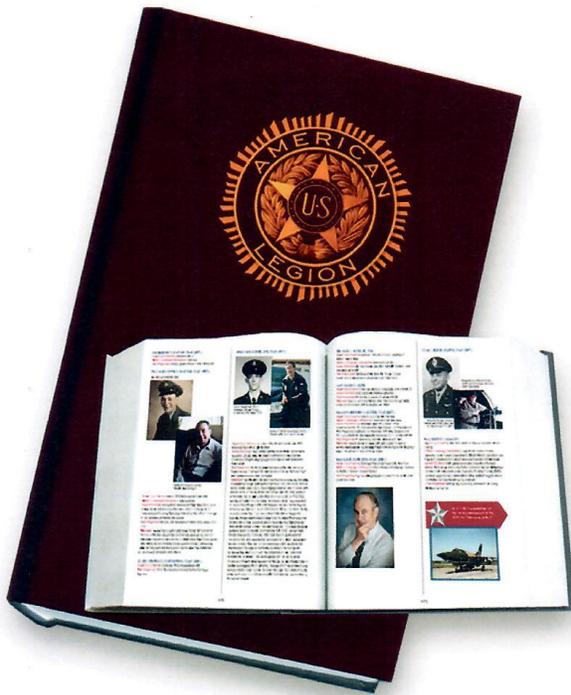
Fourth, locate shooters. Tapping into the Legion family is a safe bet but look for shooters from other organizations. Look to organizations who already have a shooting team or requirement in their organization. The Boy Scouts have a shooting badge requirement and is a natural fit. Do not forget about the Girl Scouts. Remember, Emma Thompson set a new Sporter record (575/600) this year at the American Legion Championships. Look to local JROTC units. Many schools do not allow the Units to shoot on campus so JROTC units are looking for partnership opportunities and may have equipment.

All four stages will come together only if the Post is behind the team. Starting a new program is never easy, so expect growing pains and "I do not know" situations. The Shooting Sport has been around for decades and somebody, somewhere as the answers you need. Talk about the Program, get the local media informed, wear your shooter shirts in town and most of all, talk to and show the kids you support them. If they feel supported, they will bring more shooters in, participate in fund raising to defer the cost of new equipment, help set-up the range, make the job of coaching much easier, and make the Post proud. Support the Shooting Program and amazing things will begin to develop.

Anthony J. Kissik
Alabama American Legion Junior Shooting Coordinator
AJKissik@Yahoo.com



The American Legion Department
of Alabama Publication Project
is about to begin!



Starting soon, Publishing
Concepts (PCI) will be
contacting you via mail, phone,
and email to request that you
update your information.

We understand security and
privacy are concerns, but please
know that PCI is a trusted
partner of the American Legion
Department of Alabama. Don't
miss out on the opportunity to
be included!

PCI not the big company

www.publishingconcepts.com

Frequently Asked Questions By members

1. I received an email/postcard/phone call from a company asking for my personal information. They said they were working on a directory for The American Legion Department of Alabama. Is this a legitimate project, or is it a scam?

We have partnered with PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) to produce our new members directory. PCI is a company located in Dallas, TX that publishes directories for educational institutions, fraternities, sororities and military organizations across the nation. This project allows The American Legion Department of Alabama to receive important updates to our database so we know more about our members and how we can better serve you and future members.

2. How do I know my information will only be used for directory purposes?

The American Legion Department of Alabama has a contractual agreement with PCI that states:

a. The names, addresses and information provided to PCI by The American Legion Department of Alabama for the publication of the Directory will be held confidential by PCI, except to the extent that they are utilized in, or in the preparation of, the Directory and except as required by court order or law.

b. The Directory will be made available only to members of The American Legion Department of Alabama. Upon completion of the project, PCI will return to The American Legion Department of Alabama any and all electronic files that have been supplied by The American Legion Department of Alabama or produced by PCI in connection with the production of the Directory.

3. I would like to verify and update my information. How may I do this?

If you have received a postcard or an email with a telephone number, you may call the number to speak with a dedicated representative for The American Legion Department of Alabama project. The representative will verify all the information we have on file for you and make any updates where needed. One of the numbers for The American Legion Department of Alabama members is **TBA**.

If you have received an email with an embedded link, you may go to the online site to review your information. If you have questions, you may call PCI's customer service desk at 1.800.982.1590.

4. Can anyone purchase a directory?

The American Legion Department of Alabama members Directory is available for sale only to The American Legion Department of Alabama members.

5. When will I receive my directory?

The total duration of the directory project is about 12 months. Since we began the project in June 2016, the directories will be distributed in June 2017.

6. I ordered a package containing the Discounted Companion Airline Certificate, but I haven't received the post card requesting verification of my address.

For those who purchase a package containing the Discounted Companion Airline Certificate, they will receive a postcard within 2 -3 weeks and will direct them to go to the PCI website to initiate the certificate process by entering their ID # and order # (shown on the postcard) and verify their mailing address. Alternatively, the buyer can call a toll free number (also shown on the postcard) and leave a voicemail to initiate the certificate process.

You will receive a business envelope that contains the guidelines, terms and conditions, as well as the certified voucher from Award Headquarters so you can begin to make your travel arrangements.

- Basics of the certificate program:
 - The Discounted Companion Airline Certificate allows the holder to purchase two round trip tickets for a bundled rate.
- The Certificate is:
 - 200 US Destinations (continental US)
 - NO BLACKOUT DATES
 - 40 Plus Airline Carriers
 - 24/7 Online Booking
 - 7-Day Advance Purchase
 - Frequent Flier Miles for Both Passengers
 - Low Price Guarantee
 - Fully Transferrable

7. Can I choose some or all of my information not to be printed in the directory?

When you call to update your information, you can tell the representative what information you would prefer to have excluded. You may also communicate this information to the PCI customer service desk (1.800.982.1590) or to the Legion.

8. I ordered a directory/package over the phone and would like to cancel my order. How do I do this?

Call the PCI customer service help desk at 1.800.982.1590, and they will take care of this for you

Dates for Upcoming Retention Team Visits

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|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| District 22 | Completed |
| District 15 | Completed |
| District 34 | September 22-24, 2016 (Cancelled) |
| District 11 | October 20-22, 2016 |
| District 14 | November 17-19, 2016 |
| District 24 | December 1-3, 2016 |
| District 13 | December 8-9, 2016 |
| District 23 | January 26-28, 2017 |
| District 35 | February 9-11, 2017 |
| District 21 | February 23-25, 2017 |
| District 32 | March 9-11, 2017 |
| District 31 | March 23-25, 2017 |
| District 33 | April 6-8, 2017 |
| District 12 | April 20-22, 2017 |
| B/U | May 18-20, 2017 |

War Veterans Scholarship

AFCEA War Veterans Scholarships, Afghanistan and Iraq War Veterans (Undergraduate)

Deadline: November 15, 2016

The AFCEA Educational Foundation is dedicated to providing academic support to U.S. military personnel. *Scholarships are made possible in part by generous contributions from the AFCEA Northern Virginia Chapter*



Merit-based scholarships of \$2,500 will be awarded to persons on active duty in the uniformed military services, to honorably discharged U.S. military veterans (including Reservists and National Guard personnel) of the Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan or Iraqi Freedom Operations (years 2004-present) who are currently enrolled and attending classes in an Undergraduate program part time or full time in an eligible STEM major degree program at an accredited four year college or university in the U.S (see eligibility section paragraph 4 for list of acceptable STEM majors).

Eligible candidates actively pursuing an undergraduate degree at a four-year university must be at least second-year college students enrolled part time or full time as sophomores or juniors at the time of application. An overall 3.0 GPA is required. Freshman and senior level students are ineligible to apply.

All candidates must provide a copy of Certificate of Service, Discharge Form DD214, copy of latest performance review or other verification of service in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Please black out your Social Security Number when submitting.)

Distance-learning or online programs affiliated with a major U.S. institution are eligible.

*Scholarship awards are subject to availability of funding. Scholarship awards are restricted to tuition, mandatory fees, books and labs. This information is in effect for the 2016-2017 school year.

Applicants must be U.S. citizen currently enrolled and attending a four-year accredited college or university in the United States as a sophomores or juniors at the time of application. Freshman and senior level students are ineligible to apply.

Enrolled part time or full time in an eligible undergraduate degree program and an overall 3.0 GPA is required.

Candidates must be majoring in the following or C4I-related fields related to the mission of AFCEA: Biometry/Biometrics, Computer Engineering, Computer Forensics Science, Computer Programming, Computer Science, Computer Systems, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Geospatial Science, Information Science, Information Technology, Information Resource Management, Intelligence, Mathematics, Network Engineering, Network Security, Operations, Research, Physics, Robotics Engineering, Robotics Technology, Statistics, Strategic Intelligence, and Telecommunications Engineering.

Served in Afghanistan and/or Iraq War (from 2003 to present)

NEW: War Veteran Teacher Certification Program: Students actively pursuing a credential/licensure for the purpose of teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) subjects at a U.S. elementary, middle/intermediate and high schools are eligible. Current credential and licensure students must have completed a bachelor's of science degree. Expected graduation/completion date cannot be in the year the scholarship is awarded.

Important:

PLEASE NOTE: At least two letters of recommendation will be required from field-of-study professors. If that is not possible, we will accept recommendations from commanding officers/employers in the related field of study. Instructions on electronic submission of the recommendation letters will be provided to the endorsers as part of the on-line application process.

If they do not receive the email and would like to mail the letters, address posted below. Transcript would also be mailed to this address if it cannot be sent electronically.

Mrs. Casmere Kistner
Manager, Scholarship and Awards
AFCEA Educational Foundation
4400 Fair Lakes Court
Fairfax, VA 22033

An official transcript reflecting all college-level study will also be required.

All items must arrive by the deadline date - electronic submissions in pdf format preferred.

If electronic submission is not possible, please send official document to the AFCEA address listed above. DD214 is also required.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the Educational Foundation at edfoundation@afcea.org.

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/war-veterans>

Good Afternoon All,

National Commander Schmidt has another incentive award up for grabs. This award means money for the department and recognition for a National Vice Commander! It will run from the January 1, 2017 to May 31, 2016, and works like this:

To reward departments that continue to show a culture of growth by employing the tactics outlined in The Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth by recruiting new members: A monetary award will be issued to the department with the largest percentage increase of new members from January 80% target date to May 100% target date, and the National Vice Commander over the region with the largest percentage increase will receive a recognition award. Status updates will be emailed each target date beginning in January. Please see below for other details, and feel free to contact me at rherron@legion.org or Sean Sparks at ssparks@legion.org.

A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

This award is strictly based on recruitment of new members

Post transfers from any source will not count

All departments are eligible for this award

Categories will be the same as big 12 competition (with the addition of Mexico and Philippines in Category VI)

National Vice Commander of the region with the largest percentage of increase will also be recognized

Have a great day,

Rolanda Herron

**Rolanda Herron
Assistant Director, Membership
The American Legion
317-630-1326**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS • DEFENSE • AMERICANISM • YOUTH

Exciting Announcement about Your No-Cost LegionCare Coverage

If you enrolled in the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) **LegionCare No-Cost AD&D Program** prior to 1/1/2015, your coverage was set to expire on August 31, 2016. We know that many of you have not re-upped for the program. **LegionCare is such an important benefit that we couldn't have you lose it through overlooking this.**

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust took action to make sure this wouldn't happen. We negotiated with the insurance company and are pleased to announce that if you signed up for LegionCare coverage and remain a member of the Legion Family, you will no longer have to worry about any expiration. Your coverage is now one and done.

If you have never signed up, you still need to do so. When you do, you'll never have to sign up again.

Here's a brief review of LegionCare. All dues-paying Legion Family members have the opportunity to enroll in LegionCare, a complimentary NO COST accidental death benefit provided to you by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

LegionCare provides you with:

- \$5,000 in Accidental Death Coverage for covered accidents that occur if you are traveling on official Legion business. *
- \$1,000 for all other covered accidents.
- 24/7 protection that covers members at home, at work and while they are travelling away from home.

Plus, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older.

You are guaranteed this NO COST benefit with no health questions, no hidden qualifications as long as you sign up one time. There is no reason for you or your members to pass up your opportunity for this important benefit.

If you haven't signed up for LegionCare at all yet, you can enroll now on www.TheLIT.com. Don't miss out on this valuable benefit provided to you by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

**To Enroll, visit www.TheLIT.com
or call 1-800-235-6943.**

* For purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of the Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000.00 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the he/she represents his/her Post, District, Department, Unit, Squadron or National Organization in an official capacity. Bonus benefit for Legion business travel is not available in MN and NH.



Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Alabama

Dear Legion Family,

October is now upon us and our membership goal for this month is 25%. As of the 29 September membership report, 22 Squadrons across the state have met that goal, and the Detachment overall is at 32.2%. Excellent job Squadron commanders and adjutants! That being said, 22 of the remaining 27 Squadrons have not turned in any membership so far this year. I'm sure that I can speak for the other Area Vice Commanders that we will be reaching out to those Squadrons to see what we can do to help them in getting their renewals and new members turned in.

Speaking of membership, be sure to reach out to your Posts to see which Legionnaires could also be Dual members in your Squadron. And, be sure to see if they have any sons who could sign up under them.

Being a new Area Vice Commander this year, one of the early challenges for me was to understand where my Area actually was. I had an idea of where the Districts were, but I knew the Areas weren't a 1:1 match. There was an easy solution to this: create a mapping in Google Earth with an overlay of the State by county that shows the areas with their corresponding districts. Area 1: 11th, 12th, and 14th. Area 2: 21st and 22nd Districts. Area 3: 13th, 15th, and 23rd Districts. Area 4: 24th, 32nd, and 35th Districts. Area 5: 31st, 33rd, and 34th Districts. This has helped me to visualize how the State is divided up, and I hope it helps you as well.



For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy B. Blevins".

Jeremy B. Blevins

Vice Commander, Area 1

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Alabama

Jeremy@jeremyblevins.com



DUAL IS COOL ARE YOU?

*Are you COOL? Help The SAL help
The Legion!*

From the Desk of:
SAL Detachment Adjutant, Andrew Cherry

Sons of The American Legion Membership Eligibility

S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and are members of The American Legion or were eligible for American Legion membership.

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World 1, World War 11, Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

If an individual meets the eligibility requirements for both organizations, it is possible to belong to both, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Individuals who belong to both are known as dual members.

The following eligibility periods have been established for membership in The American Legion:

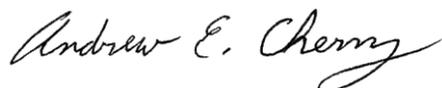
Aug. 2, 1990 thru (still open)
Dec. 20, 1989 thru Jan. 21, 1990
Aug. 24, 1982 thru July 31, 1984
Feb. 28, 1961 thru May 7, 1975
June 25, 1950 thru Jan. 31, 1955
Dec. 7, 1941 thru Dec. 31, 1946
April 6, 1917 thru Nov. 11, 1918

If the veteran through whom eligibility is established is alive, they must be a member of The American Legion, give their Post and Dept. on the application.

If the veteran through whom eligibility is established is deceased, give dates of service on the application. The deceased veteran must have been eligible to be a member of The American Legion.

Some Squadrons may require a copy of the deceased veteran's DD214 or equivalent. The DD214 or equivalent must reflect one of the eligibility dates listed above.

For God and Country,



Andrew Cherry, Adjutant/Finance Officer
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Alabama
saldacherry@aol.com
<http://salalabama.org>



A message from the Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Jeff Frain

A Call to Action: Each Son is asked to sign up three Legionnaires!

The Sons of The American is a program of The American Legion and was created to help carry on all the great principles and programs of The American Legion. We must do what we can to assist them and continue helping the veterans of the past, present and future. With that said, ***we are asking that all Sons members search out veterans in their community and state and sign up at least three Legionnaires each year.*** This not only helps The American Legion grow, but will also help the American Legion Family grow.

Currently, we have 13-20 million eligible veterans that qualify for membership and they in turn have children that can also be a part of the Legion Family. On average, one veteran equals 2 siblings and three veterans equals 6 siblings. For the three Legion members you help join your Post, six Auxiliary and Sons members are able to join.

What could we do for our veterans and their families if the Sons nationally signed up one million new Legionnaires, Auxiliary and sons members in the next two years?

The American Legion Family's core causes are organized and defined by The Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. This project reinforces our commitment to all those that currently serve and have served our great nation; it is also in recognition of our ongoing dedicated support of military families.

Above all, thank you for your continued service!

Jeff Frain

National Commander 2016-2017

Sons of The American Legion

Submitted by; Detachment Adjutant, Andrew Cherry



**2016-2017
MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 | 10% |
| OCTOBER 12, 2016 | 25% |
| NOVEMBER 16, 2016 | 35% |
| DECEMBER 14, 2016 | 45% |
| JANUARY 19, 2017 | 60% |
| FEBRUARY 8, 2017 | 75% |
| MARCH 8, 2017 | 80% |
| APRIL 12, 2017 | 90% |
| MAY 10, 2017 | 100% |
| *JULY 19, 2017 | 105% |

*Delegate Strength Target Date



Sons of the American Legion
Mid Winter Raffle
featuring:

POW/MIA
COMMEMMORATIVE KABAR KNIFE



Comes with a Kabar Display Case



Tickets - \$5.00 each or 6 for \$20.00

See any SAL Detachment Officer for tickets

Drawing to be held at the 2017 Mid Winter Conference
Proceeds to benefit SAL Charities

Sons Membership Transmittal Form

To: American Legion
 P.O. Box 1069
 Montgomery, AL 36101

From: _____ (Fill out Completely)

Transmittal Number: _____ Date: _____

Only those paying members will be included in your totals on the Membership Report.

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---------|---|----|-------|
| _____ | Paid Renewals | @ | \$10.00 | = | \$ | _____ |
| _____ | Paid Transfers | @ | \$10.00 | = | \$ | _____ |
| | Need Membership Card and MDF before we can process | | | | | |
| _____ | Paid New Members | @ | \$10.00 | = | \$ | _____ |
| _____ | Non-Paying Transfers | @ | \$00.00 | = | \$ | NONE |
| | We need just the MDF on this member to process | | | | | |
| _____ | Total Enclosed | | | | \$ | _____ |

For Office Use Only

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Total Renewals | _____ | Renewals to Date | _____ |
| Total New Members | _____ | Total | _____ |
| Total New Members | _____ | New to Date | _____ |
| Total Renewing | _____ | Transfers | _____ |
| | | Total Renewing to Date | _____ |
| Total Nonpaying | _____ | Tranfers | _____ |
| | | Total Nonpaying to Date | _____ |

How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn't cover?

With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more Americans. That's why it's good to know that you now have a choice of competitive Standardized Medicare Supplement plans, offered to members like you. And, all plans are underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

Other features include:

- The freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals who accept Medicare
- Outstanding Customer Service available from courteous representatives ready to answer your questions
- Hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days
- Excellent service from a company with an A+ (Superior, 2nd out of 16 ratings) A.M. Best rating for financial stability as of 10/20/2014

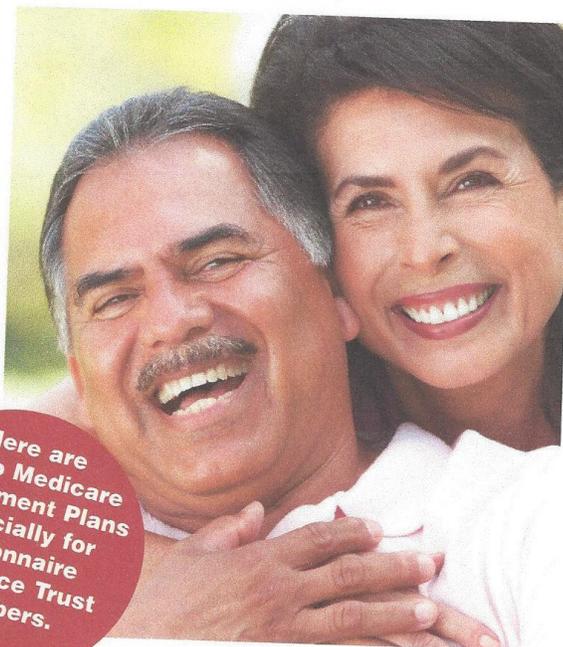
Make sure you can pay for the expenses that Medicare doesn't cover and help protect your family's retirement savings. Apply today for the greater peace of mind you want, at competitive Legionnaire Insurance Trust member rates.

COMPLETE AND RETURN THE REPLY CARD. OR, CALL 1-800-247-1771

(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST)

Underwritten by: Transamerica Life Insurance Company (Cedar Rapids, IA), and Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company (Harrison, NY)

Not connected with or endorsed by the U. S. Government or Federal Medicare Program.



Here are Group Medicare Supplement Plans especially for Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members Medicare Supplement Reply Card

For your *FREE* information kit on the Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans complete and return this coupon.

Name _____ DOB _____
 Spouse Name _____ Spouse's DOB _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Telephone (_____) _____

Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
 P. O. Box 1341
 Valley Forge, PA 19482-9946

818530101 1141377
 MSAD15LIT

If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2021. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH / / _____

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____

DEPARTMENT _____

EMAIL _____

*MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE
YOUR DATE OF BIRTH*

X

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Cut it out

Have you filled out *all* the above information?

Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.