

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Robert E. Newman**

*Indiana*

Chairman

**John W. Querfeld**

*Illinois*

Director

The National Internal Affairs Commission was established by resolution of the National Executive Committee in 1947. The original charge for this constitutional commission remains: to formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes.

Among those purposes are all those not properly the responsibility of any other national commission, as well as membership strategies, post formation, clerical and records administration for posts and individual members, and special projects. The commission provides guidance and assistance to the national adjutant on necessary administrative operations.

Under the broad interpretation of those purposes not properly the responsibility of other commissions, Internal Affairs oversees awards, constitutional discipline and commemorative activities. The commission also monitors legislative and other regulatory activities that potentially affect American Legion posts and departments, recommending appropriate courses of action.

The commission has six standing committees assigned to it for supervision and coordination: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Committee, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII Commemorative Committee, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance Committee, American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee, Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and Membership & Post Activities Committee. The latter has separate reporting responsibilities to the national convention and the National Executive Committee.

Internal Affairs is responsible for overseeing and reviewing the activities of Sons of The American Legion, which is a major program and not a separate organization. The commission also oversees the long-term programs and activities of Paid-Up-For-Life, the National Emergency Fund, American Legion Riders, National American Legion College, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club, and national training initiatives to include District Training-in-a-Box, Post Training-in-a-Box and short how-to videos.

## **National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee**

**Henry P. Bradley**

*Massachusetts*

Chairman

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets at least three days before the convening of the national convention. This committee has the responsibility to receive, consider and transmit all resolutions – with or without recommendation – to the appropriate convention committee for a report to the convention. During an average year, between 200 and 300 resolutions will be assigned.

## **Constitution & By-Laws Committee**

**Vincent Gaughan**

*Illinois*

Chairman

The National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion can only be amended by the duly elected delegates at a national convention.

However, the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, established by the authority of the National Executive Committee in 1939, authorizes this committee to study and make proper recommendations concerning all of the matters that pertain to the National Constitution and By-Laws, as well as matters relating to the Uniform Code of Procedure, which provides rules and regulations for the revocation, cancellation or suspension of department and post charters of The American Legion.

## **Membership & Post Activities Committee**

**Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer**

*Wisconsin*

Chairman

**Matthew E. Herndon**

*Indiana*

Internal Affairs & Membership Deputy Director

Membership and programs go hand in hand to make The American Legion an organization able to provide people and resources to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

## **Membership**

Final 2017 membership – 1,964,478

Final 2018 membership – 1,881,901

2019 membership as of Aug. 1, 2018 (projected) – 1,805,000

## **56<sup>th</sup> Annual National Membership Workshop**

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual National Membership Workshop will convene in Indianapolis on August 8-10, 2019, with more than 300 department and district officers in attendance from all 55 departments.

Many who attend already have a good understanding of The American Legion's membership program, especially as it pertains to their departments and districts. There is an opening session where attendees will hear from the national leadership and guest speakers. There will be three concurrent breakout sessions which typically comprise of district commander training, department membership chairman training and long-term membership planning training. Subject matter for each session varies year to year depending on the trends of the membership focus. When the workshop concludes, the attendees leave prepared to face day-to-day membership challenges with a better understanding of The American Legion as it relates to matters involving retention and the ability to recruit new members.

The goal of the workshop is to provide these essential membership workers with the tools, knowledge and the desire to conduct an effective American Legion membership program. Whether they are involved in membership recruitment or program implementation, the workshop teaches Legionnaires to help veterans and provide communities the essential programs to maintain a quality of life for which all veterans fought and served to preserve.

## **Post Development/Revitalization**

The Membership & Post Activities Committee developed a training program in January 1996 designed to assist posts, districts and departments in developing and revitalizing posts. The program provides training workshops to interested volunteers, along with practical field application.

The success of the program is evident, based on the revitalization and development of nearly 6,000 American Legion posts in the past 23 years. Many departments have succeeded in revitalizing posts without any actual assistance from National Headquarters staff. Whether departments request field assistance or just send members to the training workshop, positive results follow if they adhere to guidelines.

All departments are encouraged to participate in this program. However, success requires a commitment from every level of leadership. For more information about the Post Development/Revitalization program, contact your department, write to The American Legion, Internal Affairs & Membership Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, call 317-630-1321 or e-mail [membership@legion.org](mailto:membership@legion.org).

### **Reconnect**

Reconnecting with today's military is a mutually beneficial way for The American Legion to strengthen ties with the U.S. military's total forces – active duty, National Guard and reserve components. "Reconnect" is not an open recruiting pass, but rather an opportunity for The American Legion to make today's newest generation of servicemembers and their families aware of our programs and services designed to assist them in their time of need.

While Reconnect visits to larger installations are important for public relations, success depends on the participation of American Legion departments and local posts in communities in and around military installations, National Guard and reserve units on an ongoing basis.

The American Legion is here to fill a void for National Guard and reserve units who do not always have established military support networks outside of their respective units. These servicemen and servicewomen, along with their families, have taken on a more active role during the war on terrorism than any other time in U.S. history. The American Legion is here to support our nation's servicemembers and their families through the many programs within our Four Pillars, now and in the future.

### **Direct Renewal**

In 2011, we began the "online" renewal process, and as of May 17, 2019, we have over 253,000 members taking advantage of this streamlined and simple process. An important fact is that our new members (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year renewals) show a higher propensity (approximately 43 percent) to use the online option. This is a fast and easy option for our members and a streamlined process for the posts and departments to receive their per-capita.

### **Direct Membership Solicitation**

Since 1982, the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program has brought over 4 million new members into American Legion departments. Obviously, DMS is successful in acquiring new members, but its ultimate goal is to provide a resource of members who can be transferred to a local post. DMS members can also be used to build new posts.

## **Membership Campaign Promotion**

The National Membership Awards Program distributes more than 65,000 various awards annually to recognize membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization. The promotion plan for the national membership campaign is formulated during the annual planning session of the Membership & Post Activities Committee in Indianapolis in January. Following are point achievers for 2018-2019:

**EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF - SEPTEMBER 12, 2018:** Forty departments qualified for the 50% target date: **Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**FALL MEETINGS - OCTOBER 11, 2018:** Forty-six departments qualified for the 55% target date: **Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2018:** Forty-three departments qualified for the 65% target date: **Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**PEARL HARBOR DAY – DECEMBER 12, 2018:** Thirty departments qualified for the **75%** target date: **Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**MID WINTER – JANUARY 17, 2019:** Forty-seven departments qualified for the **80%** target date: **Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**PRESIDENT’S DAY – FEBRUARY 13, 2019:** Forty-eight departments qualified for the **85%** target date: **Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**LEGION BIRTHDAY – MARCH 13, 2019:** Twenty-five departments qualified for the **90%** target date: **Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Philippines, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.**

**“BIG TWELVE” COMPETITION WINNERS:**

**Category I      Ohio**

- Category II**    **None Qualified**
- Category III**    **Michigan**
- Category IV**    **None Qualified**
- Category V**    **South Dakota, Connecticut**
- Category VI**    **Delaware, Utah**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH – APRIL 10, 2019:** Eight departments qualified for the 95% target date: **Alaska, Delaware, France, Mexico, New Hampshire, Philippines, South Dakota, Utah.**

**ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 8, 2019:** Eight departments qualified for the 100% target date: **Alabama, France, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Philippines, Utah, Wyoming.**

By achieving **100%** of the department's **2019** membership goal, the department will receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. The plaque will be presented at the national convention in *Indianapolis*.

**DELEGATE STRENGTH – JULY 26, 2019:** Delegate strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the national treasurer 30 days prior to the national convention. Total number of delegates for each department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR:** Any department commander, who met or exceeds his/her 100% goal for **2019** by **May 8, 2019**, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in *Indianapolis*.

**GOLD BRIGADE RECRUITER AWARD:** A Legionnaire who recruits **50** or more NEW members by **May 8, 2019**, will qualify for enrollment in the elite **GOLD BRIGADE** of The American Legion.

**POST HONOR RIBBONS:** Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to **1,142** posts whose **2019** membership as of **December 31, 2018**, exceeded their final **2018** membership.

**CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE:** These certificates were awarded for **126** posts for attaining a new all-time-high membership for **2019** by **December 31, 2018**.

**FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL-TIME-HIGH:** These citations are awarded to posts with five or more consecutive years of all-time high membership in **2019**.

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS “RACE TO THE TOP”:**

District commanders are the lynchpin of The American Legion's chain of command, serving as the vital link between the national and department organizations and all posts. As we are all aware, the local post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the post level, it doesn't happen at all. District commanders are the people charged with ensuring that all posts in their district maintain their vitality.

Consequently, this unique award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the five top district commanders in each category and reward their successful membership efforts. The winning district commanders and guests receive:

- Distinguished guests of the national commander at national convention.
- 1<sup>st</sup> class hotel accommodations for four nights at convention location.
- Legion cap that signifies they are Race-To-The-Top winners.

The following provides more specific information on how you can win.

Competition will be divided into five categories based on the membership of the district without regard to geographic locations. District commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the final **2018** totals, and a top district commander for the national award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category.

**Category I      Districts of:            15 to 1,499 members**

**Category II     Districts of:            1,500 to 2,999 members**

**Category III Districts of: 3,000 to 4,999 members**

**Category IV Districts of: 5,000 to 7,499 members**

**Category V Districts of: 7,500 and above members**

**Trip to National Convention** will be presented to the top district commander and spouse in each category whose district membership on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify.** First place award entitles you and your guest to attend the **101<sup>st</sup>** National Convention in *Indianapolis*.

**Second Place Awards** will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** represents the second highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify.** Winners will receive a **\$500** check.

**Third Place Awards** will be presented to the district commander in each category whose district membership on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** represents the third highest percentage over the final previous year membership of that district. **Cannot be less than 100% to qualify.** Winners will receive a **\$375** check.

**This year's winners are:**

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS:**

**(TRIP TO NATIONAL CONVENTION – INDIANAPOLIS, IN):**

<b>Category I</b>	<b>Richard F. Devlin, III</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>113.55%</b>	<b>District 1</b>
<b>Category II</b>	<b>Benjamin David Gibson</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>103.60%</b>	<b>District 24</b>
<b>Category III</b>	<b>No submissions</b>			
<b>Category IV</b>	<b>No submissions</b>			
<b>Category V</b>	<b>Stephen C. Hamrick</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>100.47%</b>	<b>District 12</b>

**SECOND PLACE WINNERS (\$500 CHECK):**

<b>Category I</b>	<b>George M. Wooden</b>	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>111.20%</b>	<b>District 4A</b>
<b>Category II</b>	<b>Curtis Ray Humphrey, Jr.</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>102.74%</b>	<b>District 12</b>

**Category III No submissions**

**Category IV No submissions**

**Category V Bradley A. Teis Ohio 100.27% District 10**

**THIRD PLACE WINNERS (\$375 CHECK):**

**Category I Andrew E. Lowen Texas 110.42% District 1**

**Category II Melvin O. Weaver Georgia 102.53% District 11**

**Category III No submissions**

**Category IV No submissions**

**Category V No submissions**

**DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
RECIPIENTS:**

District commanders who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion posts in their respective district and have the new post's Temporary Charter Application on file at National Headquarters by **May 8, 2019**, qualify for a special recognition framed certificate.

**DISTRICT COMMANDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD W/DISTRICT  
HONOR RIBBON:**

All district commanders whose **May Target Date** membership exceeds the previous year's membership by at least the number of posts in that district will be awarded the District Commander Achievement framed certificate. In addition, the district will receive a District Honor Ribbon for its district colors.

**DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:** Each American Legion post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the **2019** membership year by **May 8, 2019**. Department adjutants will determine the top new member recruiter

for their respective department and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before **May 31, 2019**.

The "Department Recruiter," properly certified from each department, will be awarded a plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

**NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:** The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the departments will be declared "National Recruiter of the Year". The winner of this award receives an all expense paid trip to the **101<sup>st</sup>** National Convention in *Indianapolis*.

### **Sons of The American Legion**

The Sons of The American Legion will conduct its 48th National Convention at the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis.

For 21 consecutive years, the Sons of The American Legion continues to grow their membership, ending the 2018 year at an "All-Time High," with 371,020 members. This number represents a 1% percent increase over the previous year. A total of 31 detachments achieved 100% membership. For 2018, membership in the SAL is projected to be another record-setting year.

The SAL continues to support Legion programs with significant emphasis on Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS), American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF), and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship as well as other vital programs. In 2018, according to the activity reported compiled from the Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR), the SAL provided:

- Over **302,803 volunteer hours** in **VA homes and hospitals** with donations in cash and goods over **\$1.4 million**.
- Over **843,009 volunteer hours** supporting **Americanism programs** with donations of cash and goods over **\$2.6 million**.
- Over **51,437** volunteer hours supporting **Child Welfare Foundation** with cash donations of **\$322,845**. To date, the Sons of The American Legion have contributed over **\$7.8 million** to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The Sons always continue to be an integral component of the American Legion Family and to our local communities.

## **The American Legion Riders**

The American Legion Riders (ALR), organized by chapters in over 2,250 American Legion posts, has grown to an estimated 121,000 members with Rider programs in every department. The ALR programs are administered within the various departments, and therefore there are no national officers for the Riders. The Riders are represented by the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee which contains a chairman, seven members and three consultants. During the Fall Meetings, the National Executive Committee appoints members and terms to the ALR Advisory Committee, who are responsible for advising the national leadership on ALR resolutions that come before the Internal Affairs Commission, in addition to being the subject matter experts to departments and posts.

The Riders annually raise money for many charitable causes, most notably for children and youth programs and for wounded or returned servicemen and women. Since 2006, the annual American Legion Legacy Run has conducted 13 multi-day motorcycle runs, totaling over 18,300 miles and helping our organization raise over \$14.3 million for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship trust program. The program directly benefits post-9/11 veterans who were killed in action, or are assessed with 50% or more service-connected disability by VA. For more information about the Riders, visit [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders).

## **The American Legion Amateur Radio Club**

The rapidly growing American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) has been conducting national radio nets, special event operations and membership activities since 2012. Members in local post “ham” radio clubs enjoy a shared interest in the amateur radio hobby, and work to support local emergency management agencies, law enforcement and fire departments, and FEMA in emergency communications “when all else fails.”

Over 3,300 American Legion family members with FCC ham radio licenses have joined TALARC, making it one of the largest amateur radio programs in the United States. Our own flagship station **K9TAL** located in the basement of American Legion National Headquarters has inspired the formation of sister stations **K5TAL** (Gautier, Mississippi Post 1992), **K6TAL** (Palm Springs, California Post 519), **W6TAL** (Redlands, California Post 106), **AA8AL** (Belle Valley, Ohio Post 641), **KM4MND** (Loganville, GA Post 233), **WL7CXW** (Anchorage, Alaska Post 104), **WB4TAL** (Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina Post 116), **KG7TQX** (Washougal, Washington Post 122), and **K7HLR** (Clearfield, UT Post 139) among others. Other posts and departments have expressed strong interest in developing local post radio clubs and emergency radio teams in service

to their communities. As of May 2018 there were 36 American Legion posts with amateur radio programs and FCC-licensed stations, and more are announced each month with this growing program.

Special emphasis of TALARC is placed on local, regional and national amateur radio emergency communications in support of the National Emergency Fund (NEF) and American Legion post and department support operations before, during and after natural or man-made disasters and terrorist attacks. The American Legion has maintained a standing Statement of Affiliation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) since 2006. For more information about American Legion amateur radio visit [www.legion.org/hamradio](http://www.legion.org/hamradio). Interested leaders should sign up for the national Amateur Radio eNewsletter at [www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters).

### **National Emergency Fund (NEF)**

From January 1, 2019 through May 17, 2019, the National Emergency Fund has provided \$60,575 in grant monies to 24 American Legion or Sons of The American Legion members and three American Legion posts. The fund currently has just over \$6.1 million.

Every dollar contributed to the fund is used for rendering financial assistance to those who qualify who have incurred devastation from a declared natural disaster. The grants are to be used for immediate needs – lodging, food and clothing – and not as a substitute for insurance. In order to qualify, members must have been displaced or evacuated from their primary place of residence and be a member in good standing at the time of loss and at the time of application. Monies to support the administrative costs of maintaining this fund and to conduct fundraising are absorbed through existing budget areas.

What makes the NEF unique is that American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members and American Legion posts know they can turn to The American Legion for immediate financial assistance without the red tape or repayment requirements normally associated with other federal and state agencies. Through the generosity of American Legion and SAL members and American Legion posts, the National Emergency Fund will continue to meet the basic needs of our American Legion Family in the aftermath of local, state and national disasters.

To apply for an NEF grant or to make a donation, contact the program coordinator at (317) 630-1330 or go to [www.legion.org/emergency](http://www.legion.org/emergency).

## **Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)**

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) was developed in 1975 to document the various activities a specific post has accomplished during the twelve-month reporting period, June 1 through May 31. The CPR may be the most important post document submitted each year. The combined information is referenced when the national commander and others speak to our representatives and validates our ability to testify on behalf of all veterans. An individual post story and impact is amplified when we speak with a collective voice. During the 2017-2018 reporting year, 67% of posts submitted a CPR.

Throughout the reporting year, American Legion post members provided:

- 5,308,342 volunteer hours provided to our communities
- 73,952 pints of blood donated by 48,100 American Legion members
- 122,597 American Legion events covered by media outlets
- 125,318 funeral honors performed at a cost of \$2,666,633
- 1,858 American Legion baseball teams sponsored at a cost of \$5,146,325
- 1,941 Scout Units sponsored representing 44,656 Scouts at a cost of \$1,782,128
- \$5,702,334 donated to school assisted programs and scholarships
- 23,235 American flags presented
- \$107,695 donated to the Legion Endowment Fund
- \$679,348 donated to the National Emergency Fund
- \$7,729,548 in total donations to organizations such as Red Cross, Cancer Research, Children's Hospitals, and the United Way

## **Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL)**

These are Legionnaires who have voluntarily chosen to become Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) members under the national PUFL program, established by National Executive Committee Resolution 10, October 9-10, 1974. It was put in place to provide a more convenient solution for those members who moved frequently and those that maintain a summer and winter mailing address so their membership would remain current. Many members purchase the PUFL for the convenience of avoiding annual payments and a significant savings over the years.

When paid in full, each PUFL member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper membership card directly from National Headquarters to verify their continuous membership years. For more information contact your post adjutant or finance officer or visit [www.legion.org/pufl](http://www.legion.org/pufl).

The seemingly high cost of a PUFL membership may discourage many members from purchasing a PUFL membership. However, given the certainty of future dues increases by national, departments and posts, and with projected 3% annual inflation of today's dollars, the PUFL is a bargain for those who have determined that they would like a permanent membership status supporting our organization.

In fact, the younger the member, the greater the savings projected over a lifetime—often in the thousands of dollars. Posts that purchase PUFL memberships for members in order to provide an honorary life membership also realize that full purchase of PUFL (not dropping the post per capita) also may realize significant future gains as the annual membership per capita is paid back to the post for decades.

### **American Legion Education Institute (ALEI)**

ALEI is The American Legion's online, self-paced training program free to American Legion members. It is the quickest way for those who want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization. It is a great introductory course to learn the organization and its history. Since August 2017, the BASIC TRAINING course (replacing the previous American Legion Extension Institute) has been taken by over 2,500 members. More courses will be developed to expand the online training available. BASIC TRAINING is located at [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei).

### **Training Newsletter**

The American Legion Training Newsletter is a shareable, easy-to-absorb electronic training publication containing best practice articles from national leadership and subject matter experts within our ranks. Upcoming training events, workshops and resources are also found in the Training Newsletter. The newsletter is produced every other month and sent to a growing opt-in email list.

The Training Newsletter can be subscribed to at [www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters) and past issues can be downloaded at [www.legion.org/training/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/training/newsletters).