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Mission Statement

The American Legion ensures the overall purpose of Samsung’s scholarship endowment is fulfilled, which is providing direct descendants of veterans who honorably served their country with higher learning opportunities. This is accomplished by reviewing and maintaining eligibility rules for participants; determining the number and value of scholarships to be awarded; selecting the most qualified applicants as Department Finalists and National Scholars; investigating and discussing possible expansion of the program; and establishing guidelines for participation in one such expansion, which is the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association.

Introduction

On July 26, 1995, the Samsung Group and The American Legion held a joint press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce Samsung’s endowment of a $5 million educational scholarship fund to The American Legion for administration to direct descendants of U.S. war veterans. It was a gesture of appreciation from Samsung to U.S. military veterans for coming to the aid of South Korea in its war against invading forces from China and North Korea.

Mr. K.S. Park, Chairman of Samsung Engineering & Construction Co., words from that day remain a source of great pride to The American Legion.

“We (Samsung) wanted to demonstrate our appreciation. The best way to do this, we believe, is to offer educational opportunities to the children and grandchildren of the American veterans who served their country so honorably. The American Legion is the perfect organization for accomplishing this.”

At the press conference, then American Legion National Commander William M. Detweiler, thanked Samsung for their generous endowment. In part, Detweiler stated, “We are fully aware of the significance of Samsung’s offer … Americans who answered a call to duty in the earliest days of the Cold War, and served under the United Nations banner to enforce its mandate and preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula, are truly deserving of this long awaited and deserved recognition (Korean War Veterans Memorial) in what has become known as “The Forgotten War.”
Program Overview

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship issues awards only from interest and other income to the fund. The principal amount of the fund is not used for the scholarships.

Through its existing organizational structure, The American Legion administers the endowment fund and scholarship program at the local, state and national levels. This includes – but is not limited to – selection of scholarship awardees, development and implementation of program organization, and marketing strategy for the program.

Since inception of the scholarship, the Americanism Commission of The American Legion has invited a representative of Samsung to aid its Committee on Youth Education (COYE) in selection of the National Scholars. The COYE consists of members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to selecting the National Scholars, the Americanism Commission’s COYE is responsible for developing and maintaining a plan for the scholarship program’s selection process and eligibility criteria. The commission announced the first Samsung American Legion National Scholars in September 1996.

“Samsung values education. One of the most important contributions we can make is to support students in their pursuits of academic excellence. Helping future generations achieve their scholastic goals is a priority for us.”

- Mr. K.S. Park, Chairman, Samsung Engineering & Construction Co.
Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

Those eligible to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship shall be students who are direct descendant\(^1\) of a U.S. wartime veteran of the following war periods:

- April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918; or
- December 7, 1941 – Until such time as determined by the federal government

Attend an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

Complete the online application process including upload of all supporting documentation prior to 11:59 p.m. at the close of the first day of their respective Boys State or Girls State program.

To be considered as a National Scholar the applicant must:

Have been selected as the finalist from their respective Boys State or Girls State program.\(^2\)

Have been selected as a Samsung American Legion National Scholar by members of the Committee on Youth Education at The American Legion’s annual Fall Meetings, conducted every October.

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1) Direct descendant is defined as the applicant being the legal child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc., or a legally adopted child of a qualified wartime veteran.

2) 100 to 102 department finalists are named each year (two from each state: one from each Boys State and one from each Girls State). Hawaii has historically been given the opportunity to nominate two young people (male and female), by virtue of not having a Boys State or Girls State program. However, in 2016, Hawaii began its Girls State program.
Program Rules and Conditions

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MAY 8-9, 2019
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Resolution No. 28: Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee, September 3, 1995, titled “Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” authorized The American Legion to create a scholarship program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, October 18-19, 2000, titled “Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” established criteria for awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program from an applicant pool of representatives from The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 19, National Executive Committee, October 9-10, 2002, incorporated changes in eligibility criteria for students from Hawaii as recommended by the National Committee on Education with subsequent concurrence by the National Americanism Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 The American Legion was pleased to honor its longstanding relationship with Samsung through presentation of its prestigious Patriot Award, followed by a visit to Samsung Global Headquarters in Seoul, Korea, by the national commander; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion and Samsung Electronics located at the North America Headquarters in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, have reinvigorated discussions of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program to enhance the application process for benefit of the applicants, and publicly promote and elevate prominence of the Samsung American Legion Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Revision to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships were awarded which reflected implementation of dividing the pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists into regions was contained in Resolution No. 24 of the National Executive Committee in October 2014; and

WHEREAS, The recent addition of a formal American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii requires another update to the rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded; and

WHEREAS, The rules and conditions under which Samsung American Legion scholarships are awarded are recommended by the Committee on Youth Education with subsequent concurrence by the Americanism Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded is hereby updated to include the
American Legion Boys State program of the Department of District of Columbia and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program of the Department of Hawaii; and, be it further resolved,

RESOLVED, That all other Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall remain the same; and, be it further resolved,

RESOLVED, That the Rules and Conditions under which Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded shall now read in its entirety as follows:

1. One representative from each American Legion Boys State program, one representative from each American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and one high school junior boy from the Department of Hawaii will comprise the pool of “Samsung American Legion State Finalists”

2. The pool of Samsung American Legion State Finalists will be divided into five (5) geographic regions:
   - Western Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington
   - Midwest Region: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
   - Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
   - Southeast Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
   - Northeast Region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, District of Columbia

3. Two (2) “Samsung American Legion Scholars” will be selected by the Committee on Youth Education from each regional pool of State Finalists

4. Those eligible to apply for the scholarships shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government:
   - World War I April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
   - World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
   - Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
   - Lebanon and Grenada August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
   - Panama December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
   - Gulf War/War on Terrorism August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States government

5. Samsung American Legion Scholars will have six (6) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school, excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission

6. Samsung American Legion State Finalists will have two (2) years to utilize their scholarship funds from the date of graduation from high school excluding any time spent on active military duty or church mission

7. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is for undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. college or university
8. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student to request his/her scholarship funds.

9. The number and amount of the scholarship awards will be determined by the income derived from the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Trust.

10. The scholarship funds may only be used to defray necessary costs of the student’s education (i.e. tuition, room & board, books & supplies, fees and equipment required by the student’s particular course of study or school).

11. A student may request any amount up to and including his/her total scholarship award at one time.

12. The amount of the fund request cannot exceed the cost of education.

13. Students may make only one (1) request per semester or quarter.

14. Scholarship checks will be issued upon receipt of a “Request for Funds” form.

15. A scholarship check will be issued in the normal and customary procedure of a two-party check made payable to the student and school.

16. Students who have not requested their award will receive one (1) written notice reminding them of their award and the time limits remaining to receive their award.

17. State finalists will receive their notice prior to their last year of eligibility.

18. Samsung American Legion Scholars will receive their notice with two years of eligibility remaining.

19. Unused scholarship funds will be returned to the scholarship trust fund for future awards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all rules and conditions shall be included on each Samsung American Legion Scholarship application; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 24 of the National Executive Committee, October 15-16, 2014, titled “Revised Rules and Conditions for Administration of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” is hereby superseded and rescinded.
Resolution No. 9: Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships

Origin: Committee On Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, In 1995 The American Legion was honored to receive a $5 million scholarship endowment from Samsung Group as a gesture of appreciation for the sacrifices of U.S. service men and women who helped maintain security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Those eligible to apply for the scholarships have been defined as students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who served during one or more of the periods of war officially designated as such by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 116-35 titled "Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act" was signed into law on July 30, 2019, thereby recognizing two major war eras – that of April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Enacting Public Law 116-45 declares that the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941, thereby recognizing U.S. servicemembers who served during previously undeclared periods of war; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” be amended so as to remove reference to specific war era dates within the third resolved clause, item 4, and revised to instead read, “Those eligible to apply for a Samsung American Legion Scholarship shall be students who are direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans of the following war periods:

- April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, or
- December 7, 1941 until a time as determined by the federal government”; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That all other rules and conditions reflected in Resolution No. 28 of the National Executive Committee, May 2019, titled “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program” are unaffected and shall remain the same.
### Award History

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Awards not yet paid as of 12/31/2019: $575,581

### 2019 Award Amounts

**10 National Scholars - $10,000**

**Western Region**
- Sadie DeShon (AZ)
- Mason Whitaker (AZ)

**Central Region**
- Ethan Roose (IN)
- Nathan Wolf (WI)

**Midwest Region**
- Henry Heiberger (SD)
- Caitlin Murphy (NE)

**Northeast Region**
- Vada Kirsch (NY)
- Andrew Kirdahy (MA)

**Southeast Region**
- Cambri Driskell (GA)
- Chandler Quaile (GA)

**10 Runners-up - $5,000**

**Western Region**
- Brandan Chapko (CA)
- Ethan Sage (ID)

**Central Region**
- Grant DeBruin (OH)
- Alayna Westenberg (WI)

**Midwest Region**
- Jacob James (IA)
- Samuel Fulbright (MT)

**Northeast Region**
- Emma Hughes (MA)
- William Bradley (ME)

**Southeast Region**
- Maximilian Safranek (TX)
- Michael Brown (TX)

**Remaining 78 Department Finalists - $1,250**

### Fund Balance

As of 12/31/2019: $6,942,279
## 2019 Application Breakdown

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Western Region Scholars

Sadie DeShon

Hometown: Chandler, Ariz.
GPA: 4.43    Class Rank: School does not rank

Academics/Activities
Ambassador in Girl Scouts; Girl Scouts advisory member of Arizona Cactus-Pine Council’s Board of Directors; Yearbook editor-in-chief; Concert and Chamber Choir member; Arizona All-State Choir member; French Club president; French Honor Society member; National Honor Society member; Casteel Theatre Company member; inducted member of school’s International Thespian Society chapter; AWANA Youth Ministries member: Meritorious Award recipient; and piano student.

Community Service / Work Experience
Bronze, Silver and Gold Award recipient for service through Girl Scouts; Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council event volunteer; and Children’s Ministry volunteer at First Baptist Church of Chandler.

Goals
Sadie intends to pursue a bachelor’s degree in history at a four-year institution, with the goal of working as an education curator at a historical site or museum.

Sadie’s great-grandfather served in the Korean War.

Mason Whitaker

Hometown: Oro Valley, Ariz.
GPA: 4.46    Class Rank: Top 3 percent

Academics/Activities
Student Body vice president; Arizona Association of Student Councils State president; Varsity Men’s Soccer captain; Academic All-State; First Team All-Region (soccer); Varsity Football; Second Team All-Region (football); National Honor Society member; Superintendent Advisory Council; Site-Council member; and Southern Arizona Regional Choir.

Community Service / Work Experience
Business owner; social media specialist; lifeguard for the town of Oro Valley; volunteer project at local retirement home; internship at local doctors office; head chair of Arizona statewide Serv-a-Thon; various National Honor Society service projects; and Red Cross honors.

Goals
Mason intends to attend a university and study molecular biology with an emphasis on genetics. He hopes to someday be involved in the medical field doing genetic research.

Mason’s grandfather served in the Air Force during the Korean War.
Central Region Scholars

Ethan Roos
Hometown: Santa Claus, Ind.
GPA: 4.52 Class Rank: 1

Academics/Activities
Class president; swim team captain and IHSAA State Swimming finalist; state runner-up Academic Bowl Interdisciplinary; state finalist Academic Bowl Science; Most Outstanding Student 2018 Deaconess Health Science Institute; executive director of Heritage Hills High School Dance Marathon for Riley Children’s Hospital; 2019 Indiana Association of Principal’s Rising Star; Natural Helpers Outreach Peers Educating Peers; Beta Club; performer in theatrical arts at Heritage Hills High School.

Community Service / Work Experience
Governor for Hoosier Boys State; 2019 Boys Nation senator; founder of the Children’s Crusade to End Homelessness; student panelist for the Spencer County Tobacco Free Indiana; volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, Feed My Starving Children and Special Olympics; Polar Plunge; 10-year 4-H member; 2018 National 4-H Congress Youth Leadership Team member; delegate coordinator of Indiana State Fair Youth Leadership Conference; a supervisor of training and capacity at Holiday World Theme Park & Splashin’ Safari Water Park.

Goals
Ethan intends to receive a degree in neuroscience with the intent to attend medical school and become a surgeon. He also will be taking classes to broaden education in the fields of policy and political science.

Nathan Wolf
Hometown: Freedom, Wis.
GPA: 4.25 Class Rank: 1

Academics/Activities
National Honors Society vice president; Vex Robotics Team; FIRST Robotics Team; Varsity Football; Varsity Track and Field; CYO Basketball; 4-H Club president, vice president, secretary and treasurer; Youth Leaders; Spanish Club; Biology Club; school newspaper journalist; FFA; and Freedom Trailblazers Snowmobile Club.

Community Service / Work Experience
Self-employed as a mechanic; farmhand; Catholic Heart Work Camp mission trip; Highway Clean-Up; coach for flag football team and works with Pillars Organization.

Goals
Nathan plans to major in computer science at a university.
Nathan’s family member served during World War II.
Henry Heiberger

Hometown: Brandon, S.D.
GPA: 4.0 Class Rank: 1

Academics/Activities
Wind Ensemble Band section leader; Marching Band section leader; Chamber Orchestra section leader; South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra principal player; Quiz Bowl Team Captain; Mu Alpha Theta math competitor; Carnegie Mellon University Summer Academy for Math and Science scholar; All-State Orchestra performer; QuestBridge National College Match Finalist; National Merit Semifinalist; and VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest State Finalist.

Community Service/Work Experience
Volunteer service through Serve and Learn Student Association; co-founder of a chapter of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society, an organization that strives to use music to volunteer through caroling, clinics and carnivals; math and science tutor with the National Math Honor Society; and counselor at Camp Invention, a STEM camp for kids. Recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award and the SALS A Volunteer Recognition Award.

Goals
Henry is attending Princeton University this fall.
Henry’s grandfather served as a Marine during the Korean War.

Caitlin Murphy

Hometown: Exeter, Neb.
GPA: 4.0 Class Rank: 1

Academics/Activities
National Merit Commended Student; Academic All-State recipient in music, softball and speech; four-year member of Nebraska All-State Band; two-time State Speech Medalist; Nebraska FCCLA vice president of Competitive Events; Student Council secretary/treasurer; band president; Quiz Bowl co-captain; National Honor Society; choir; Varsity Softball; Nebraska Young Artists Award recipient; Nebraska Leadership Seminar delegate; and Nebraska Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar Delegate.

Community Service/Work Experience
Part-time accounting assistant at Horizontal Boring & Tunneling Co; church volunteer; FCCLA service project volunteer (roadside cleanup, food drive, school supply drive, Red Ribbon Week activities); musical performer at community events; Fillmore County Fair volunteer; Pack Partner Elementary mentor.

Goals
Caitlin is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall.
Caitlin’s great-grandfathers served in World War II and Korea.
Northeast Region Scholars

Vada Kirsch

Hometown: South Wales, N.Y.

GPA: 4.0    Class Rank: 4

Academics/Activities

Summa Cum Laude Academic Achiever; Advanced Placement Scholar; Master Minds; Model United Nations; National Honor Society; LEAD Club; Key Club; first chair in band; women's director in chorus; pianist; coffee house leader; soccer captain; basketball; president Student Government Body for the last four years; Triple Crown Scholar Athlete; President Education Award; Carson Scholar; Harvard Book Award; Moose Heart of the Community Award; All County for Band and All State for Chorus.

Community Service/Work Experience

C/2dLt in the Civil Air Patrol; 4-H member; Empire Auxiliary Girls State representative; Legion Auxiliary member; youth ambassador for a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition; church volunteer; Blood and Tissue Organ ambassador; Advocate Against Bullying; volunteer for Honor Flight, veteran's programs, reading and literacy programs, Ronald McDonald House, and Breast Cancer Awareness.

Member of the American Meteorically Association; award recipient for activism with global warming and climate change.

Goals

Vada will be attending either the AFROTC undergraduate program at Cornell University or the United States Air Force Academy.

Vada's grandfather served in the Vietnam War.

Andrew Kirdahy

Hometown: Marshfield, Mass.

GPA: 4.0    Class Rank: 1

Academics/Activities

Vice President of Class of 2020; Treasurer of History and Global Studies Club; Finance Team Decision Making DECA competitor; National Honors Society; Marshfield Society of Mathematicians member; Spanish Language and Cultural Exchange Program; Varsity Cross Country and Track (Scholar Athlete); Harvard University Prize Book recipient; National Spanish Exam Gold Medalist.

Community Service/Work Experience

Key Club International–New England, Bermuda District Governor.

Goals

Andrew will attend Columbia University in New York City.

Andrew's grandfathers are veterans of the Korean War and Vietnam War.
Southeast Region Scholars

Cambri Driskell
Hometown: Alpharetta, Ga.
GPA: 4.8  Class Rank: School does not rank

Academics/Activities
Peer tutoring; Spanish Honor Society; Science Honor Society; National Honor Society; Math Honor Society; Senior Beta; founder and president of the Interact Club; varsity cheerleading and swim team; Upper School Honor Council vice president; and head of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Publicity Committee.

Community Service/Work Experience
Co-leader of a church youth group; intern for local and state political campaigns; creative writer for father's addiction recovery ministry Vision Warriors; a volunteer yoga instructor; youth umpire; member of the Interviewing Board for Hopewell Youth Association; receptionist for Alpharetta Service Center and Auto; and an independent Biology tutor.

Goals
Cambri intends to pursue the study of international and public policy with a focus on Spanish, followed by law school, practice in the nonprofit field, and service through politics to give back to her community.

Cambri's great-grandfather served in the Korean War.

Chandler Quaile
GPA: 4.68  Class Rank: School does not rank

Academics/Activities
Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout; Magnet Counselor and Event Committee director; North Cobb Model United Nations Program Conference director; Academic Team president; Politclub founder and president; Mock Trial co-founder and vice president; and Empowering People Project founder and co-president.

Community Service/Work Experience
Empowering People Project (nonprofit focused on voter education); People in Politics (postcard writing campaign to connect citizens to their government representatives); National Honor Society; Heart to Heart Community Service Organization; church nursery staff; and church volunteer.

Goals
Chandler plans to pursue a bachelor of arts at Harvard College with a joint concentration in government and sociology.

Both of Chandler's grandfathers served in the Korean War, and his father served in Operation Desert Storm and the War on Terror.
Program Overview

There have been 2,266 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients since inception of the scholarship in 1996. These scholars now range from 18 to 40 years of age and are employed in a wide range of impressive professions around the world.

The Samsung American Legion Alumni Association began development in 2015 as an enhancement to the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. By keeping the alumni engaged with one another and involved with Samsung and The American Legion, we are working to create the premier network of scholars and professionals with a vested interest in upholding the ideals of both Samsung and The American Legion.

The alumni association webpage signup had 215 active members at the end of 2019. The Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA) has 262 active Facebook participants and 141 have joined the LinkedIn group. Other social media accounts were started in 2019 on Instagram and Twitter.

A nine-member National Alumni Board of Directors, a four-member Executive Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from The American Legion Family and Samsung, are working together to grow the association and expand activities. They are assisted by an American Legion staff member acting as alumni coordinator.

Supporting funds were given to The American Legion through a three-year grant in 2015, followed by an addendum granting additional funds intended to accomplish the alumni associations goals through 2022. Those specific goals are:

- Growth of the alumni association membership base to at least 50% of the total scholarship recipients registered to the SALAA web page.
- Robust engagement of 75% of alumni members on social media, in-person or virtual participation in an activity, advocacy or recommendation of the scholarship to a school or local post.
- Increase in overall awareness of the scholarship and the Samsung-American Legion relationship.
Executive Advisory Committee

An Executive Advisory Committee made up of Legion Family representatives and Samsung representatives was established to aid in the oversight of the alumni association alongside a National Alumni Board of Directors, consisting of scholarship alumni. The Executive Advisory Committee works to ensure that the actions of the alumni association are in keeping with the high traditions of The American Legion and Samsung.

Debra Albers  
National Education Chairman  
American Legion Auxiliary

Greg “Doc” Gibbs  
Past National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion

John Hendrick  
Chief of Staff  
B2B Solutions and Services and Chief Advocate  
Samsung Veterans Community at Samsung Electronics

Michael Westergren  
Chairman  
National Committee on Youth Education  
The American Legion
National Alumni Board of Directors

A National Alumni Board of Directors made up of former Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients was established to aid in the oversight of the alumni association. With oversight from the Executive Advisory Committee, the National Alumni Board of Directors guides the planning and development of the association. The existence of the National Alumni Board of Directors encourages alumni to seek leadership opportunities within the alumni association, while also ensuring that members’ voices are heard.

Nine members will serve for three years as outlined in the by-laws of the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association, reviewed in June 2019 and ratified by vote in December 2019.

Matthew Barreau
1999 National Winner- Southeast Region
Cedar Rapids, IA
Boys State in Oregon
Western Oregon University
Coach for over a decade now at the collegiate level in the sports of track and field and cross country
Conference and Regional Coach of the Year on about 10 occasions.

Eric Bucher
1997 National Winner- Central Region
Miamisburg, OH
Ohio University- BS in Mechanical Engineering
University of Dayton- Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering
Ohio Buckeye Boys State Volunteer
2017 American Legion National Oratorical Contest Judge
Currently the Chief Flight Systems Engineer for the HC/MC-130J Program, Special Operations Forces & Personnel Recovery Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Jessica Jaeger
2008 National Winner - Central Region
Crosse, WI
University of Wisconsin – La Crosse - BS in Accounting and BS in Economics with a minor in Information Systems
Attended Sustainability in Economics study abroad trip to New Zealand and Australia
Employed at RSM US LLP, the 5th largest accounting firm in the United States
Received 3 promotions in 5 years
Completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination

Erin Marvin
2006 National Winner - Southeast Region
Wichita Falls, TX
Casper College - Associates in mass communications, political science and agricultural business
West Texas A&M University - Bachelor’s in Mass Communications
Events Coordinator for Hospice Austin

Courtney Lewis Matiaco
2011 State Finalist - Southeast Region
Kenai, AK
Brigham Young University - B.S. in Health Promotion
Dr. Zachary Tally, PT, DPT, CLT
2010 National Winner- Southeast Region
Spartanburg, SC
Duke University - Doctor of Physical Therapy
University of South Carolina- B.S in Exercise Science
Currently, the first Oncologic Physical Therapy Resident

Dr. Krysta Webster Fink
1998 National Winner- Southeast Region
Blacksburg, VA
Wofford College
Western Carolina University master’s degree in clinical psychology
Oklahoma State University Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.
Completed pre-doctoral internship at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and post-doctoral residency at James Madison University
Licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia and South Carolina
Working as a psychologist at Virginia Tech conducting individual and group therapy.

Samantha Hilger
2012 State Finalist– Midwest Region
Cambridge, MN

Scott Divett
2007 State Finalist– Southeast Region
Little Rock AFB, AR