



# American Legion Training Newsletter

National Headquarters Internal Affairs & Membership Division

March – April 2022 Volume 6 Edition 2

*Engage - Train - Empower*

## Building blocks to training success



Steven Sperl (AZ), Chairman  
Training Subcommittee to the  
National Internal Affairs Commission

First, I was bestowed the honor of being selected as your chairman of the Training Subcommittee to the Internal Affairs Commission. I was honored once again when

asked to write an article for this edition of the Training Newsletter. I then thought, “Shoot, what I shall write about?” After giving it some thought, I decided to reflect on my journey through The American Legion training opportunities.

While attending the National American Legion College in 2019, I became part of a team that needed to work together quickly to resolve the tasks we were assigned. I correlate that to the forming of a new set of post officers. Those leaders are tasked with forming a quick alliance, so the post runs smoothly.

I realized that my experiences suggested the building of a house. Here’s what I mean:

### **The foundation**

Basic Training, The American Legion's official training program for officers,

members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization, is available at [legion.org/alei](https://legion.org/alei). The program should take less than two hours to complete but can be finished at your own pace if you prefer. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

### **The four walls**

National Headquarters offers various training events, both online and in-person. Member engagement coordinators assigned to each region are available, upon request of departments, to conduct training



sessions during district revitalizations and department conferences. There’s also the National Membership Workshop and National Legion College. Online offerings include the monthly Training Tuesdays, a bi-monthly Training Newsletter and materials for download via the [training web page](#).

At the post and district level, I have seen that short training events are effective ways to end a meeting. Share the

responsibility of coming up with a topic and conduct the training. I have found that members willing to train others are the ones who have the fire in the belly.

As a facilitator for the Department of Arizona American Legion College, I teach a few topics, including club committee responsibilities. The knowledge gained at a department college strengthens and enhances confidence in The American

Legion. This is another example of ways to educate and mentor our future leaders.

These walls speak to our four pillars in the corners of our American Legion training house. The roof is the desire that the Legion Family brings to keep our American Legion alive and relevant. It serves to protect the pillars, walls and foundation of our training experiences. This house leads to taking care of our veterans and emphasizes, doing the right thing for the right reason.

## Sons of The American Legion training opportunities



Michael Monserud (IA), Chairman  
SAL Member Training &  
Development Committee

The Member Training and Development Committee of the Sons of The American Legion has been working very hard. The committee conducted an SAL Commanders Training class during the 2021 Fall Meetings, and since then they have not slowed down.

Both the National Vice Commanders Training class and the National Management Institute 1-3 have been updated, while a National Executive Committee class is being developed and will be held during the 2022 SAL Fall Meetings. And the committee just passed a resolution to replace the National Management Institute with a training class that will mirror the National American Legion College.

One of my goals as chairman is to bring the training of the SAL more in line with The American Legion, and I believe this is one of the first steps in the process. National Management Institute will still happen in 2022; individuals taking NMI-1 will see the program through to graduation of NMI-3.

The class is intended to prepare squadron officers for possible futures in a detachment office or for an appointment to an SAL national committee or commission. It provides the skills needed to speak in front of an audience and covers how to conduct yourself in effective ways to get your message across to the American Legion Family. This training option is vital for SAL members who may be uncomfortable or inexperienced with public speaking.

I encourage anyone to reach out to me at [mikemonserud@gmail.com](mailto:mikemonserud@gmail.com) for assistance in obtaining SAL training materials.

## Information for post officers



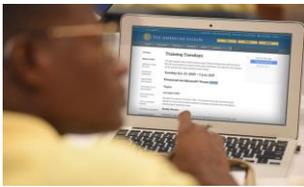
Many American Legion publications and forms are available for download at [legion.org/publications](https://legion.org/publications).

Information on how to use MyLegion.org may be found at: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help>

### 100 Miles for Hope

Registration is now open for The American Legion's third annual fitness/wellness challenge that provides support for America's disabled veterans and military families facing financial hardships. 100 Miles for Hope runs through Sept. 5 (Labor Day) in 2022. For information on registration, tracking miles, incentives and rewards, visit [legion.org/100miles](https://legion.org/100miles).

## Upcoming Training Tuesdays



The last Tuesday of each month the Internal Affairs and Membership Division has committed to conducting training. These 40–60 minute sessions are aimed at post commanders and adjutants.

Upcoming dates for 2022 are:

- March 29 – New PR Toolkit
- April 26 – Consolidated Post Reports
- May 24 – Flag etiquette

Recordings of previous Training Tuesday presentations and PowerPoints are available on the [Training Tuesday web page](#).

## Send us your submissions

As we all know, the best ideas come from the people who are working the programs. So please share your ideas about topics you'd like us to cover in our Training Tuesday sessions and Training In A Box modules.

If you'd like to contribute to the Training Newsletter, we welcome your articles, pictures and anecdotes.

You can send your ideas and articles via email to [LegionTraining@legion.org](mailto:LegionTraining@legion.org).

### About this newsletter

This periodic and Legionnaire-driven newsletter, produced by the Internal Affairs & Membership Division, is designed to address best practices, ideas and training that every Legionnaire needs to know to engage our membership through effective training now and into the future.

Highlighting new training ideas and resources becoming available, it will also feature essays from successful leaders and training ideas of posts, districts, departments and individuals throughout The American Legion.