

American Legion Training Newsletter



National Headquarters Internal Affairs & Membership Division

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Engage - Train - Empower

Legion College graduates are your leaders



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NALCAA President – Class of 2013

When I attended National American Legion College (NALC) in 2013, the most important takeaway for me was sharing the experience with Legionnaires from all over the country who had as much passion for helping veterans as I did – and still do.

The NALC curriculum focuses on preparing graduates to be effective leaders, trainers, and mentors within The American Legion. Upon returning home to their respective departments, graduates use these skills to help write resolutions, develop, and implement mission and vision statements for posts, lead training initiatives, mentor future American Legion leaders, and more.

Being of continued service to The American Legion and our

military veterans is a passion that should be fostered and encouraged by department leadership. By finding ways to direct the positive energy and ideas that these NALC graduates have when they return home to their department will foster commitment and assistance for years to come.

During their week at NALC, attendees are encouraged to support their departments training efforts in various roles. These roles can include becoming a functional part of the department training cadre as a developer, trainer, administrator, and/or facilitator.

Training is essential to improve engagement with members, however, not every Legionnaire is comfortable speaking in front of people. That's okay as there are plenty of ways to support department training. For a department training program to be successful, roles focused on administration, training coordination, and training development are required – working as a team behind the scenes is just as

rewarding as being the face out front. No matter the level of involvement, it is important to promote training and advancement of The American Legion's four pillars.

As you attend American Legion meetings and events, you will come across NALC graduates at every level of the organization. Many departments have a plan for how best to utilize NALC graduates even before they are sent to Indianapolis for that very informative week. In my home state of Idaho, our graduates are responsible for all areas of the department Legion College. They also review the candidates and assemble the curriculum.

Through training, volunteer strength and today's technology, we can empower our members to become leaders and, ultimately, drivers of The American Legion. With full participation at all organizational levels, we can develop training models that give members access to information and allows them to choose the best learning system for them to engage.

NALC graduates are ready to help.

In addition to my duties as Department of Idaho adjutant, I currently serve as president of the National American Legion College Alumni Association (NALCAA). This assembly of dedicated alumni

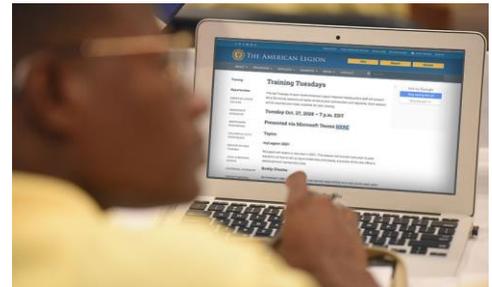
work hard to promote the National American Legion College and to exchange best practices, ideas and plans for continuing the ideals and values learned. And we have a lot of fun along the way.

Any graduate of the National American Legion College,

who is a member in good standing of The American Legion, is eligible for membership in the NALCAA. For more information, visit [National American Legion College Alumni Association | The American Legion](#)

Training Tuesdays

The last Tuesday of each month the Internal Affairs & Membership Division conducts training on various topics of The American Legion. These 60 to 90-minute sessions are aimed at post commanders and adjutants. The Training Tuesday sessions are recorded and available on the Training Tuesday web page at legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays.



Did you know?

About 12,000 American Legion Family members have taken The American Legion's online Basic Training course to expand their knowledge of the organization.

- Learn more about [online Basic Training here](#).

National American Legion College

The 2021 National American Legion College class will take place in Indianapolis Dec. 12-17. Applicants must be a current paid member of The American Legion, a member for the last three consecutive years prior to the NALC session, and have taken the online Basic Training course. Your department may have additional prerequisites or eligibility criteria. The 2021 National American Legion College student application is available at legion.org/college.

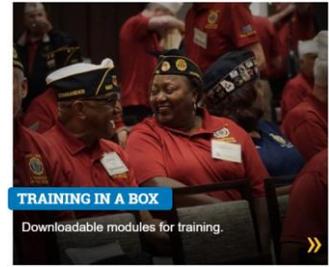


Join The American Legion Media Alliance

American Legion Family members who handle PR and other communication activities at their post reap the benefits of TALMA membership. [LEARN MORE](#)

Training In A Box

There are 16 complete training modules covering 35 topics of The American Legion that are now available for download. Visit legion.org/training and click on the Training In A Box tab to access the modules. Each module contains an easy-to-follow lesson plan to assist trainers of all experience levels. The topics can be taught individually at post meetings or combined to conduct larger district or department wide training seminars.



Program specific modules are scheduled for development throughout 2021 and will be added as they are completed.

Did you know?

After World War I, the poppy flower flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. Learn more about National Poppy Day in May [here](#).

Share your stories on Legiontown



The American Legion has over 12,000 posts around the world who are making an impact on their communities. [Legiontown.org](https://legiontown.org) is a great way to stay connected with your American Legion Family by sharing your post's success stories and reading about others.

Through the "Share Your Story" feature, you can select one of 30 categories that fits your story topic. After submission, your story will be reviewed to ensure proper editorial and legal content, then published on Legiontown.org where it may be seen by other Legion Family members.

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. Are you a trainer? A writer? We need your submissions!

Send your training ideas and articles to LegionTraining@legion.org