



American Legion Training Newsletter

National Headquarters Internal Affairs & Membership Division

Engage - Train - Empower

Volume 6 Edition 3

Department American Legion College

The purpose of a Department American Legion College (DALC) should be to train developing leaders to effectively serve their posts and districts. The four core topics recommended for DALC are mentorship, running a meeting, resolution writing, and facilitator training. For a good department training system to work, support roles focused on administration, training coordination and training development create the structure required to deliver successful training.

From each leadership class, the departments should be able to identify future applicants for National American Legion College. These graduates will help the departments maintain a cadre of approve educators, subject matter experts and facilitators to develop members, keep them informed, and progress the mission of the department.

For information or assistance with starting a Department American Legion College or updating department training materials, please contact us at:

LegionTraining@legion.org.



The American Legion Department of Arkansas recently held its inaugural Legion College with 31 graduates. Of those graduates, 24 were Legionnaires – including six from the Department of Oklahoma and three from the Department of Missouri – and five Sons of The American Legion members and five Auxiliary members.

Be a mentoring presence



Stephen T Weismann (TN)
Department Executive Committee

As we become more tenured in The American Legion and become officers, mentoring becomes a large part of our daily responsibility. We must remain mindful that many of our members attain their skills differently. Some are visual learners, some are tactile learners, and some use other senses to develop neuroplasticity (the ability of the brain to form and reorganize synaptic connections, especially in response to learning). Individuality is the one constant. Our personalities run the gamut from dominant or passive to nurturing or analytical. These dissimilarities require distinctly different approaches toward mentoring. There are, however, foundational principles to effective leadership.

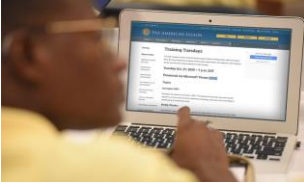
Let's begin our discussion with a motto of mine, **“Don't simply be present, be a presence.”** Members look to those elected to leadership for council and example. Be that leader who sets an example for others to follow. Set a standard, adhere to that standard, and create an environment for others to achieve that standard. How do we create this environment? Present your members with the training and tools necessary to continue our legacy. Cultivate their hunger for knowledge and be there for council when circumstances necessitate the need. Check in on occasion to demonstrate your engagement and to keep them focused. You must be available and approachable. Guide them when appropriate, but do not try to recreate yourself. The member's potential should not be limited by your expectations. Expand their horizons and allow them to flourish. You will grow as well through this process.

Next, consider every day as an opportunity to become a better version of yourself. None of us are infallible. If you're not making mistakes, you're not trying. We will fail in life, far more than we succeed, and that's okay. Learn from it and try again. Be willing to change your approach, if necessary. It is human nature to resist change, so do not be alarmed when met with resistance. Diversity of thought is a valuable tool and should not be disregarded. Instead, use it to either validate your position, or adjust your course of action accordingly.

Lastly, do what is right. Not because it's what you want. Not because it's what someone else wants. Do it because it is right. Everyone reading this deserves to be commended because you have already committed to be part of an organization founded on “service to others.” There is nothing more rewarding than serving a cause greater than yourself. The American Legion is the catalyst for that service. Our veterans, children and communities deserve nothing less than our best. We set the example for others to follow by serving without regard to reward or recognition. We do it because it is the right thing to do.

Veterans Strengthening America

Upcoming Training Tuesdays



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

Upcoming dates for 2022 are:

May 24 – Flag etiquette (one week earlier than usual)

June 28 – Legal matters

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

PLEASE COMPLETE THE 2022 DEPARTMENT TRAINING ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The backbone of the training initiatives developed by National Headquarters is having effective department level training to include American Legion College. This survey is to assess the progress of those trainings over the last few years.

[***CLICK HERE FOR TRAINING SURVEY***](#)

Upcoming Live Training Sessions

59th Annual National
Membership Workshop
July 28-30, 2022
Indianapolis

Subject Matter Expert Training
at National Convention
August 27-29, 2022
Milwaukee, Wis.

Contact us at LegionTraining@legion.org for more information.

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.