



MAY 2019 MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"I really want to thank The American Legion for the opportunity to do this. This has built so many skills for me, such as confidence, charisma, how to research effectively, how to write speeches effectively, and present to an audience. The American Legion, because of this contest, has taught me so many different life skills that I will use in the future."

- Patrick Junker of Waukee, Iowa, after winning the 82nd American Legion National Oratorical Contest April 7 in Indianapolis and an \$18,000 scholarship

 **\$50,000**

Amount raised by American Legion Riders Chapter 560 in Zimmerman, Minn., to be donated to a state veterans home and to organizations that provide support for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and for transition assistance programs. This is the second straight \$50,000 year for the chapter. Plans are now under way for the 2019 Legacy Run to the 101st National Convention, in Indianapolis. See www.legion.org/riders for details.

 **2,301**

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that have begun the team registration process through April for the 2019 season.

 **9**

American Legion-involved job fairs and career events at active-duty military installations and other venues scheduled in the month of May.

www.legion.org/careers/jobfairs

MEDIA

Tune In

American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad's opening remarks to the National Executive Committee during spring meetings Wednesday, May 8, will be streamed live on **YouTube at 9 a.m.**



 **13**

Number of American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in the month of April, amounting to \$26,937, not counting the \$138,000 in scholarship money awarded in the National Oratorical Contest.

 **\$1,300,804**

Amount raised for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund during the 2018 Legacy Run to Minneapolis and the 100th National Convention, the fifth straight year contributions to the fund have exceeded \$1 million, to help children of veterans 50 percent or more disabled and those who lost parents during active duty since 9/11. See plans for the 2019 Legacy Run at www.legion.org/riders

 **1,141**

Number of VA claims appeals decided in April with representation by American Legion national representatives. Among those disputes, 36.8 percent of the appeals were granted in favor of the veteran, 42.8 percent were remanded, or sent back for further documentation, and only 16.6 percent were denied.

 **3,163**

Number of children so far in 2019 who have been assisted by the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program through April 30. More than 1,730 military and veteran families have received over \$1.05 million in emergency help to pay for shelter, utilities, food and clothing.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

The St. Louis Caucus

"The Preamble of The American Legion, written 22 years before our entry into the Second World War, contains five of the most important words – God, Country, Constitution, Freedom and Peace – that should unite all Americans, regardless of party."

- Hamilton Fish, Jr., chairman of the Committee on Constitution at the May 8-10, 1919, St. Louis Caucus, which produced a preamble that would stand for a century as The American Legion's mission statement



More than 1,100 veterans of the Great War gathered at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater in St. Louis for the initial stateside gathering of The American Legion.

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., a leading figure in the organization's initial planning in France, famously declined nomination to serve as the first national chairman, arguing that such a move would align the Legion with partisan politics, and Henry D. Lindsley, the former mayor of Dallas, was elected to serve as chairman until the first national commander could be elected at the national convention in November of that year.

Among the St. Louis Caucus developments were the drafting of the Legion's Constitution and its time-honored preamble. Dues were set at 25 cents per year. "The American Legion" was adopted as the organization's permanent name. An organizational structure was determined, and Minneapolis was selected as the city for the initial national convention during the first anniversary of the armistice that ended the war.



Number of American Legion National Emergency Fund grants paid in April to posts and members who have endured natural disasters.



Number of pension and debt claims submitted by American Legion national representatives on behalf of veterans and their families in April.



Number of American Legion district membership revitalization campaigns conducted in April, in Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Montana and New Hampshire.



Number of participants, involving 191 clubs worldwide, who competed in the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports postal rounds, aiming to qualify for this summer's national championships in Colorado Springs.



ROAR and SWS

American Legion System Worth Saving and Regional Office Action Review task forces and national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division staff conducted site visits April 8-10 at Little Rock, Ark., and the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Ark.