Legion, Chip Ganassi enter multi-year IndyCar alliance

The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) today announced a multi-year sponsorship agreement for the No. 48 Honda in the NTT IndyCar Series. Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson will drive the street and road courses while former Indianapolis 500 winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan will handle the ovals.

“We’re excited about this new relationship with The American Legion as it allows us to further the sponsorship program on the No. 48 team with Jimmie and Tony, while also representing a very important relationship with an organization dedicated to supporting veterans,” said Chip Ganassi, team owner of Chip Ganassi Racing. “Jimmie in particular has a long-standing appreciation for the service of veterans.

(Read more about the IndyCar throughout the paper)
The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. 

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the top three finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

After all the local/post level contests have been completed, the state contest will be held in Anchorage on February 27, 2021. Contests will be in person. There will be no virtual aspects to these contests.

Local/post level contests will be held all over the state. American Legion Post #1 in Anchorage will be holding the local contest for the Anchorage area on February 13, 2021. This is my first year as being the Alaska State Director for this contest. I would like to thank Jan Scott for her years of service.

You can contact me a johnwhitlock@gmail.com if you have any questions about the contest. You can find more information about the contest on the world wide web at https://www.legion.org/oratorical.

Happy Winter, Happy New Year from the Service Office!

Just a few updates from our office, we are still presently closed for in person appointments, we do have selected days with few face to face appointments available however most of our business is happening through email, fax, or drive by parking lot appointments. Crazy times! We do not have even the slightest idea of when we might open again, our office opening is dependent on Veteran's Benefit Administration Regional Office opening and with the increase in COVID cases, that is not happening anytime soon. Frustrating to best, but we are doing our best to continue to assist Veterans.

Derek continues to be a wonderful advocate in the Kenai Peninsula Area, he is working full time with Veterans, he does not have a current office to meet Veterans at and he is still doing an amazing job! New to our office but not new to the job is Veteran Service Officer Ryan McNeely, Ryan is joining us with over 5 years of experience as a VSO, he does amazing work with Veterans as well and I am thrilled that he is part of our team!

Our outreach travel is extremely limited right now, if you do live in an area outside of the Kenai Peninsula or Anchorage, please give us a call and we will see what we can do. For the Anchorage Office, our office staff can be reached at 907-257-4802 or our cell phone which is 907-250-5779. Ryan McNeely can be reached by email at ryan.meneely@va.gov, Jamie Carlson can be reached at jamie.carlson@va.gov , Derek Morris can be reached at derek.morris@va.gov and his contact number is 907.741.9997. Please give us a 2 hour turn around time to respond to messages as our hours are different currently.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2019-2020

Commander.........................Hunter Davis.........................1550 Charter Circle, Anch., AK 99508
First Vice Commander..........Mike Downs............................1550 Charter Circle, Anch., AK 99508
Second Vice Commander......Deb Davis.............................1550 Charter Circle, Anch., AK 99508
Adjutant Officer...............Sharon Cherrette.....................1550 Charter Circle, Anch., AK 99508
Service Officer..................Jamie Carlson.......................201 N Muldoon Rm 2A 215, Anch., AK 99504
Sergeant-At-Arms.................Mike Hayward.....................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Chaplain............................Marty Carlton.....................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Historian............................Ray Untiet, Jr......................1530 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Judge Advocate...................Ken Jacobus........................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Executive Committeeman......Dale Chubin.........................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Executive Committeeman......Jeremiah (Joe) Sullivan..........1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Executive Committeeman......Don (DJ) Jones.....................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

NEC........................................Jim Pisa............................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Alt. NEC..............................Steve Huisman....................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AIDES

Alvin Diaz..........................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508
Bonnie Whaley......................1550 Charter Cir, Anch., AK 99508

The Department of Alaska is located at 1550 Charter Circle Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Phone #907-278-8598
1st Vice Michael Downs on Membership

Merry Christmas and good riddance 2020! Now on to membership, please take out your membership card and look at the year at the top. If it says anything other than 2021 reach out to your post and renew your membership, you can also save yourself and your post time by going to https://www.members.legion.org/ all you need to do is put in your membership number and your last name, you even get a picture of your card that you can carry around on your phone. Next place to look at is, the post number it should have numbers like 1, 3, 11, 12, 15, 16, 28, 29, 33, 35, 57, to name a few, what it should not say is 077. This means your still at that MEPS station, which is fine if you want to be in a paper or at-large post, but the posts need you and your help more than ever.

We are hovering around 70% of our membership goal, however 14 of 39 Posts are at 50% or below, meaning we still need 1,685 renewals or new members. Our next target date is January 21 at 80%. Hoping for an end of the year surge. I know several Department officers willing to assist, as always contact me anytime, I would love to get all Posts on the Membership System, some are still writing out cards and then delivering them to Department. It is way more efficient and will improve your ability to find new members.

Buddy Checks are an excellent means for keeping in touch with those past members that have not renewed in a while and to find out how they are getting along. Perhaps they may renew and perhaps not, but it says The American Legion is alive in the community and cares about their veterans. You do not have to be an officer to do this, ask your Adjutant or Commander for a list.

Increasing our community exposure. Wear your legion gear; post the good deeds you do on social media; start using the #AlaskaLegion; carry some applications; get door hangers made; look for veteran license plates; buy a friend or family member a membership; tell your coworkers; form a membership team at your post; advertise. These are a few of the things we are doing at Post 1. I would love to hear your ideas.

Top 5 Reasons Veterans and their families Renew Membership 1. Recognized for holding an office or being part of a team that accomplishes worthy projects. Recognized for being a member of a respected, reputable organization. 2. Post functions, activities, and programs meet expectations. Post Activities are educational, enjoyable, and beneficial to the member. 3. Security of knowing member benefits meet expectations, service officers and Post Newsletters combined with the Web Site articles are interesting, informative, beneficial and accessible. 4. Sharing of personal ideas, goals, and feelings. Interaction with members that have similar views or interests. 5. The American Legion media system benefits membership, The American Legion magazine, Legion Dispatch, Department and Post Newsletters combined with the Web Site articles are interesting, informative, beneficial and accessible.

I had really hoped to grow membership this year in the State, there is still a chance however the virus and our government is not making it any easier. I know a lot of posts are still struggling in the Anchorage bowl just to pay the bills and Haines is probably still dealing with a community disaster, which in your area you are helping with.

From the desk of Department 2nd Vice Commander, Deb Davis

We made it to 2021! I'm sure a lot of us are definitely done with 2020 and hoping for a better year ahead as we support our posts and communities. So, guess what I am going to start harping on now? The November 2020 Dispatch might give you a clue…In reading Commander Oxford's '3 Membership Goals"… Yup, Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) They are due to National by July 1. You can start working on it now. From my experience, they are not hard to do and can be made easier by reviewing your post minutes for things the post accomplished. Or keeping notes on a calendar. If your post is not using a computer, you can submit the information by hand copy to Department. Even if you think your post has nothing to report… it does. Even if it is just your membership numbers… report it. The data in these reports will be used to inform Congress among other entities who can use that information.

We would like Alaska to be able to report 100% submission of CPRs. And I will be reaching out to posts who did not submit last year to see if I can help them with their CPRs. For now, Happy New Year!

2021 INDYCAR SERIES SCHEDULE (17 Races)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Track Name</th>
<th>Track Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Streets of St. Petersburg - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Barber Motorsports Park</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Streets of Long Beach - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Texas Motor Speedway Race 1 - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Texas Motor Speedway Race 2</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road Course - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Indianapolis 500 - Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>The Raceway at Belle Isle Park Race 1</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>The Raceway at Belle Isle Park Race 2</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Road America</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Mid-Ohio Sportsscar Course - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Streets of Toronto</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Streets of Nashville</td>
<td>Street Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road Course - Potential Hospitality</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>World-Wide Technology Raceway (Madison, ILL)</td>
<td>Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Portland International Raceway</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca - Potential Hospitality Event</td>
<td>Road Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As veterans, we faced numerous challenges when we returned home from service. We have different ideas and cares, not only for our own wellbeing but for others also. We must never forget that when we leave active service, our duty to God, fellow comrades, community and country is still expected of us. We have sacrificed along with our families, some more than others, both physically and emotionally.

Since retiring from active duty, I have talked to numerous people who would have joined the service except that physical, emotional and other reasons prevented them from serving on active duty. A great majority of them have stepped up to support us veterans. We have earned their respect. Now it’s time for us to work with our communities to insure that our way of life is still around for future generations. We have been blessed with a great nation.

Psalms 47
For God and country
**Happenings at your Post**

Jack Henry Post 1  
Monday - Wings and Fries $7  
Tuesday - Rib Night!! $12  
Wednesday - Taco Night CHEAP  
Thursday - Burgers & Brew $10  
Friday - Steak Night $17  
Saturday - Spaghetti $5  
Sunday - Smoked BBQ $15  
5:00pm except Sunday Starts at 2pm

Seward Post 5  
Taco Tuesday  
Friday Night Steaks  
Food Served every night  
Matsunaka Valley Post 18  
Tuesday Pool League / Taco Tuesday  
Thursday Night Darts League  
Friday Prime Rib and Live Band  
Saturday Cajun Food and Karaoke  
General Buckner Post 16 Family  
2nd Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm  
Friday Burger & Brew 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
1st Friday of the month Special  
3rd Friday Steak Night 6:00pm  
George H. Plumley Memorial Post 20  
Sunday Breakfast 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Every Friday is Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm with an added Special Dish  
Every Sunday Breakfast Menu Dishes 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Every Friday Aux Unit 20 Sponsors  
The Friday Night Raffle 12:00pm - 8:00pm  
Drawing (sign up once a day to enter)  
Every Saturday must be present 4:00pm  
Membership drawing (no sign ups)  
Every Sunday must be present 2:00pm  
Spenard Post 28  
Tuesday, Taco night 6:00pm  
Friday Steak Night and Karaoke, Poker 6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Saturday, Karaoke 8:00pm  
Sunday, Poker 3:00pm - 8:30pm  
Legion, Sons, Auxiliary meetings start at 7:00pm  
Muldooen Post 21  
Check back!  
Peters Creek Post 33  
Thursday Taco Night - 4:30pm - 8:30pm  
1st & 3rd Friday  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Chappie James Post 34  
Thursday night - Wings  
Friday night - steak night  
Saturday is the full menu  
Susitna Valley Post 35  
Open Daily @1:00pm  
Daily lunch specials - eat in or take out. Noon to 5

**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
New Year's Day - January 1, 2021  
Dr. Martin Luther King Day - January 18, 2021  
Four Chaplains Day - February 7, 2021  
Valentine's Day - February 14, 2021  
Presidents Day - February 14, 2021  
Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021

**Cookie Caper 2020**

I was inspired by wife Robyn Downs Auxiliary Chaplain at Post 1, when she got a text from a flight attendant asking her if she could spread the word about baking cookies to other flight attendants. She told me the Elmdendorf-Richardson Spouses’ Club was trying to get cookies for every single soldier or airmen on JBER. We wondered why we would not do that, sounds like our mission.

Off to Costco where we purchased $500 of cookies from our gaming with board approval. We baked about 2600 cookies for 2 days at the post which is 1 cookie for every single soldier / airmen on JBER and then members started showing up with cookies, and Post 35 Auxiliary got in on the Caper and brought over 30 dozen to Post 1. Thanks to Penny Menoza and Susan Caswell. On Pearl Harbor Day we delivered 3,228 cookies to the Spouses Club Outside of JBER.

We did not get to see the smile that a dozen cookies would almost surely create on anyone’s face, but every little bit helps during...
News from SAL Department Detachment Commander, Dale Toenies

Good Day Legion Family!

Now that the holidays are over and we are at the start of a new year in which our lives are not yet back to “normal”, we all need to push on and make our lives as “normal” as possible. I am looking forward for a great year! We have our convention coming up in early April, all Squadron’s should be planning now to get their delegates to Wasilla to participate in the activities.

On a somber note, to our Legion Family at Post 12, our Auxiliary First Vice President, Ann Robinson family and to the people of Haines. Our hearts and prays go out to all of you, May God Bless You All.

Housekeeping stuff. All Squadrions need to update their By – Laws, to include the new Preamble, communication (electronic) and other items that may need to be updated. All Squadrions need to have their By – Laws on file at detachment. Consolidated reports should be updated regularly through the year, and here is the big one, the reports need to be turned in. We sucked last year. Membership is always an on-going thing, we have several Squadrions that have not reported a single member this year, please let us know if you are having any issues. Expect a phone call. This has a direct reflection on Alaska.

Mat-Su Veterans’ Wall of Honor, there is more work that is needs to be done to complete this project, as SAL Detachment Commander, I challenged all Departments, Post, ALA Units, SAL Squadrions and Legion Riders to match or beat $570.00 to be donated as a statewide American Legion Family Project during our 2021 Convention in Wasilla.

Up and coming events. We will be holding a Go-To-Meeting, an informational meeting in mid - January, date to be set. We will do this to discuss our itinerary for the up-and-coming Convention at Post 35 in Wasilla. Other topics will be discussed also. All Squadrions should attend.

We want to thank all the people who purchased, help sell, and manage the 2020 Calendar Raffle for “Team Alaska American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Leadership Development”. It was a great success.

MORE INDY CAR 48 NEWS....

The American Legion will be featured prominently on Johnson’s No. 48 Honda during every race in the 2021 and 2022 NTT IndyCar Series. The largest and most influential veterans service organization will also be the primary paint scheme for two races in 2021, including “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. Kanaan, winner of the 2013 Indianapolis 500, will be behind the wheel for those races.

"This is truly a win-win for all involved," said James W "Bill" Oxford, national commander of The American Legion to showcase how it strengthens America every day through its programs, advocacy and support of veterans and their families. We’re looking forward to bringing that message and our mission to race fans across the country.”

The announcement comes on #GivingTuesday, a day of global giving designed to help change communities and the world. Donors can visit www.legion.org/48 to make a gift and help celebrate this new relationship and veterans across the country.

Johnson, who has family members who have served in the military, will make a $10,000 donation to The American Legion. Johnson hopes his donation will motivate fans and the public to support veterans by donation $48 to The American Legion. The $48 pays homage to the number 48 car that he and Kanaan will drive.

Our family knows firsthand how important it is to recognize our veterans,” said Johnson, who’s grandfathers and brother-in-law served in the military. "It’s exciting to be partnering with The American Legion to be able to show our appreciation to veterans and to continue to raise public awareness and support for this special organization. Giving Tuesday is a great day to announce this partnership and a way for fans to show their appreciation for our veterans.”

SONS FOR KIDS

The Sons of The American Legion "Sons for Kids" aprons are available to order individually or by bulk. The suggested donation per apron is $20 - 100 percent of donations support grants provided by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF).

The donation fee does not include shipping cost provided by The American Legion. Additional donations are appreciated for shipping. To order;

The American Legion
C/O CWF
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46204
For God and Country

I wish you all good health in the upcoming year. You can download a flyer, sign or poster of it by visiting www.ALAforVeterans.org.

We commit ourselves to the ideal: Service Not Self.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers Service Veterans, Military and their families.

We love our flags and what it stands for. We are many. We are one.

We are a community. We help one another.

We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.

We are a community. We live in suburbs.

We are of every color. We are of every faith. We are of every age.

We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.

We are alone, yet we stand together.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. We are called to serve.

A community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their families

We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.

We are of every color. We are of every faith.

We are of every age.

We are anyone and everyone.

We are citizens.

We are of every faith. We live in small town.

We are of every color. We live in cities.

We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers Service Veterans, Military and their families.

We commit ourselves to the ideal: Service Not Self.

I can say that I love the declaration!! You can download a flyer, sign or poster of it by visiting www.ALAforVeterans.org.

We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.

We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.

We are The American Legion Auxiliary. We are called to serve.

A community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their families.

As we begin the new year, we hope that it will be a much better year than 2020. We have had a lot to deal with this past year, but we are resilient, we are strong. We are family!

Whether we are blood related, or related by our commitment to each other, we are definitely family. Family cares for each other, stands by each other and never gives up.

To start our year, let’s spend some time thinking of these quote about family:

“Family is not an important thing. It’s everything.” –Michael J. Fox

“Being a family means you are part of something very wonderful. It means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life.” –Lisa Weed

“In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony.” –Friedrich Nietzsche

“Family is not defined by our genes, it is built and maintained through love” –Anonymous

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life.” –Richard Bach

“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” –Jane Howard

Going forward into 2021, may you all experience things from which you can find cheer and gratefulness. God bless all of you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

The American Legion Auxiliary believes that the more knowledge our young people gain, the better citizens they will become. These days, paying for a college education is becoming a larger financial burden for students and their families. According to College Board, a student who took out loans in 2017 left a four-year public university with over $26,000 in debt, jumping to over $32,000 for a private university. With the cost of attending college rapidly increasing, this number is expected to rise.

That is why the American Legion Auxiliary is so committed to helping students pursue their education through scholarships. The Auxiliary supports various scholarship programs that benefit veterans, the descendants of veterans, and The American Legion Family.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, check out the scholarship info at: www.legion.org/scholarships for eligibility requirements, deadlines, and application forms.

From the desk of Barb Nath, Department Auxiliary Secretary

Scholarship Programs

The American Legion offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs. Information can be found at: www.legion.org/scholarships

AL Scholarship

• Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship

• Spirit of Youth Scholarship

• Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

• Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver Scholarship (info at: www.AlaskaLegionAuxiliary.org/Education)

The American Legion Scholarships

• Samsung American Legion Scholarship (ALA Girls/TAL Boys State)

• Scholarships offered by The American Legion

• The American Legion Veterans Education Center
**ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE**

**OPT OUT FORM** - Please mail to 1550 Charter Cir, Anch. Ak. 99508

I would like to view the Legionnaire online

http://www.alaskalegion.org

Instead of receiving it through the mail

Please permanently remove me from the Legionnaire mailing list. This option will not effect any of the Legion mailings.

http://www.alaskalegion.org

http://www.alaskalegion.org

NAME: __________________________

Membership No: __________________________

Address: __________________________

City: __________________________

State: __________________________

Zip: __________________________

E-mail: __________________________

Signature: __________________________

**SAL 2021 TARGET DATES**

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<td>April</td>
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*Delegte Strength Target Date 2020-2021*

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR**

**ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE ARTICLES ARE DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT NO LATER THEN**

February 10, 2021

**Sons of the American Legion 2019 - 2020**

Detachment of Alaska Officers

Commander

Dale Toenies

1st Vice

Jamie Weeks

2nd Vice

Chris Bedel

Adjutant/Finance

Kevin Collier

Chaplain

Connor Hayward

Sargent-at-Arms

Thomas Armstrong

Chip Duggan

Historian

Shane Raper

Executive Committee

Bill Wilter

Thomas Arness

Rolf Aarnseth

NEC

Howard Fruburgh, Jr.

Alt. NEC

Loren Estrada, Jr.

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**Alaska Legionnaire**

Jan/Feb 2021