ISSUE 2: A TOUR OF LEGION.ORG

Your National Headquarters Website
Maybe you already know your way around the Internet. Or maybe you’re new at this, or a little rusty. If so, see the “Newbie Tips” throughout this booklet. But first things first.

If you want to post comments at the bottoms of stories on Legion.org, you must be logged in. To log in, you must register. All of this can be handled simply by clicking on one of the links at the very top right of the Legion.org home page. After you have registered, all you have to do is log in with your user name and password.

On the home page, you’ll see that Legion.org does accept some ads; they are always labeled “Advertisement.”

Now, go ahead and start checking out Legion.org.
Interactivity

While Legion.org is a great repository of stuff to read, that’s not all. There are plenty of opportunities to interact with the site as well.

For example:

- Click **Find a Post** to open a form to help you locate a Legion post.
- Logged-in members can take The American Legion Institute online course by clicking on the blue **TAKE THE COURSE** button at the top of the Legion.org home page.
- Another useful interactive feature is the **Benefits Calculator**. Find it on the home page of the **Benefits Center**, under **Services**. Fill in the form to find out what VA benefits you or a loved one is may be eligible to receive.
- And for post leaders, there is **MyLegion.org**. Click the **My Legion** text button at the top of the screen above The American Legion header.
- **LegionTV** offers a great collection of both official and member-posted videos. Look for it at the bottom of the home page. When you click on **WATCH VIDEO**, the featured video will appear on a **LegionTV** page. There are many more videos available represented by pictures to the right. Simply click to play.

The Legion.org home page also has a shortcut to the Legion-branded section of **YouTube**, the social-networking site that specializes in sharing videos. Look for the logo at the top of the right-hand column.
Quick links

The Legion.org home page maintains shortcuts to featured sections, special events and affiliated sites (examples at right). Let’s call these yellow boxes “widgets.”

These widgets serve as direct links for Legionnaires and others who either would like assistance from the Legion or personally want to participate by donating or volunteering.

At the top right-hand side of Legion.org, a widget gives visitors quick access to three areas: finding a post, locating a nearby Department Service Officer and looking up reunion information. Each of these options brings you to a search tool.

Bringing it home

You might want to make Legion.org your computer’s “home page,” so that it will be the first thing you see when you go on the Internet. To do so, open your Web browser.* Then:

- **Windows PC:** Click **Tools** in the menu at the top of the screen. Click **Options** (or **Internet Options**).
- **Mac:** Click on the name of the browser in the menu at the top of the screen. Click **Preferences**.

Choose the **General** tab and type or paste http://www.legion.org/ in the **Home Page** field.

* A Web browser is the software, such as Internet Explorer, Safari or Firefox, that gets you on the Internet in the first place and lets you navigate around while you’re there.

Social networking

Facebook is the site that made “Friend” into a verb – as in, “I wasn’t going to, but she asked, so I Friended her anyway.” Your Facebook Friends are all the people who receive the updates you post and are allowed to look at the stuff – birthday, age, real middle name, relationship status (“it’s complicated”), likes, dislikes – you list on your Facebook page. It’s reciprocal, of course. You can see their pages, too, and their updates show up in your News Feed. If this all seems a bit like a junior-high slam book, Facebook was originally created by a couple of college students for other college students.

In addition to updates, Facebook users can post photos and videos, keep calendars, publicize events and try other Facebook applications. Interest groups and organizations, including The American Legion, have affinity pages to publicize programs and host discussions.

Facebook has extensive privacy controls, so no one can see your stuff without your permission. But be sure to pay attention when you set up your account. Letting “Everyone” see your profile means 400 million Facebook users and counting.

Twitter is the site where messages cannot be longer than 140 characters. For comparison, the preceding sentence is 74. You find out what others are “tweeting” by “following” them, just as they can follow you – but only with your permission. Once you have an account, tweets are listed chronologically on your Twitter home page, which also includes the field where you can type in your own 140-character-long thoughts.

Legion.org/facebook provides gateways to two of the most popular social-networking sites – Facebook and Twitter. They’re both free. Otherwise, they’re quite different.

NEWBIE TIP #4

Playing video

If you’ve never watched video online, take a minute to look at the “controls.”

When the video is playing, you can click the Pause button (it looks like an upright “equals” symbol).

When the video is not playing, you can click the Play button (triangle).

To watch full-screen, click the icon with four arrows pointing out. To return to the standard view, hit the ESC (escape) key on your keyboard.

No sound? Click on the Loudspeaker icon to make sure the sound is on; you can also click and drag the volume-output bar. Be sure your speakers and/or computer sound is actually turned on!