



Locomotive

The Membership Newsletter of
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Massachusetts

Volume 1 - Issue 4 - March 9, 2020



Congratulations to those Squadrons who have exceeded the 2019-2020 membership goal of 105%. We have 24 Squadrons that achieved this feat! Simply AWE-SOME! These 24 squadrons have helped the Detachment of Massachusetts to exceed the 80% target goal prior to the March 11, 2020 target date.



Conversely, there are far too many squadrons that have not submitted membership within the last two weeks and/or their renewal rate is far below the National target of 80% for the March 11, 2020 target date.

A reminder from the Detachment Adjutant of the rule in the Detachment of Massachusetts, Sons of The American Legion Bylaws as well as the Sons of The American Legion National Bylaws. This is a very serious matter:

ARTICLE XI

MEMBERSHIP AND ARREARS IN DUES

Section 1. Application for Squadron membership shall be verified by the designated officials of the sponsoring Post of The American Legion having jurisdiction over the Squadron.

Section 2. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or

District Standings as of March 5, 2020

Dist	GOAL	ACTUAL	%
1	191	173	90.58%
2	292	235	80.48%
3	442	351	79.41%
4	978	832	85.07%
5	1,295	1118	86.33%
6	845	619	73.25%
7	121	93	76.86%
8	442	349	78.96%
9	250	243	97.20%
10	675	511	75.70%
TOTALS	5545	4533	81.75%

National Standings by Region as of March 9, 2020

(Eastern Region) Gary P. Nelson (NJ)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
MARYLAND	16,496	14,339	86.924
PENNSYLVANIA	63,257	53,953	85.292
CONNECTICUT	1,812	1,544	85.210
VERMONT	3,950	3,355	84.937
DELAWARE	2,321	1,960	84.446
MASSACHUSETTS	5,592	4,531	81.026
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,325	4,960	78.419
MAINE	2,662	2,081	78.174
NEW JERSEY	9,972	7,753	77.748
WEST VIRGINIA	2,601	2,002	76.970
FRANCE	251	190	75.697
NEW YORK	30,557	22,280	72.913
RHODE ISLAND	301	213	70.764
DIST OF COL	176	108	61.364
Totals	146,273	119,269	81.539

the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons, Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

I draw your attention to the most current Detachment Membership Report dated 03/5/20.

(1) There are still some Squadrons who have not submitted any dues for the 2020 Membership Year. This means those Squadrons can not promote any fund raising events until members are paid since all members are suspended from all privileges. I know for a fact that members in these Squadrons have paid their dues but nothing has been transmitted to the State House. If any Squadron is holding onto membership that has been accepted and not transmitted to the State House for processing you are seriously violating the rights and privileges of that member.

(2) If your sole qualification to be a member of The American Legion Riders was based on being a member of the Sons of The American Legion then your membership in the Riders is also suspended.

(3) If your dues is not paid and you are still visiting your local Post you must abide by the guest policy of the Post and it is up to the local Post if they will admit you.

There are many discount programs provided for our members such as: Hotels, rental cars, retail stores, insurances, emergency services etc. These are now suspended if you are not a paid member.

What can be done to rectify this situation?. Waiting for the member to come by the Post and pay his dues is not very successful. Sending a letter to those members may help. I suggest giving a list of five or so members to other members in the Squadron and have them contact those in arrears. It is easier for someone to try and contact five or so members then one person trying to contact multiple members. There are many ways to do this but taking care of membership renewals is a number one priority at this time.

We made 100% last year and if we all work together we will exceed 100% again this year.

A significant number of additional Squadrons have begun using MySAL to accomplish membership transmittals. While were at it, let's see how many more Squadrons we can get enrolled in MySAL. Once the Squadron and Post Officers see how easy, efficient, and hassle-free it truly is, they will spread the word. This will continue and we will see a much timelier submission of our membership nationally. Once we accomplish this, our goals will be much more easily met. Using MySAL reduces overhead and time.



There are several renewed charters and two new charters. These squadrons have brought a total of 40 new members into the Detachment. There are several Individual Recruitment Awards that have been submitted from these newly activated squadrons. Again - Awesome effort!

Congratulations to the United Forces Squadron 351 (Holyoke), West Boylston Squadron 204, South Boston Squadron 368, Fairhaven Squadron 368. The Franklin Squadron 75 just recently reactivated its charter. A warm welcome to these Squadrons!

Thank You for your hard work for our organization.

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,

Gene H. Theroux
Vice Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Massachusetts
Membership Chairman
e-mail: membership@salmass.org
www.salmass.org

RECRUIT!
RETAIN!
REINSTATE!

#SALSTRONG





United Forces Squadron 351 Inaugural Meeting

United Forces Squadron 351 Holds First Meeting

The United Forces Squadron 351 of Holyoke held its first meeting on Monday March 9, 2020 at Post 351. The United Forces Squadron will receive its newly issued charter at the Department Executive Meeting this Saturday, March 14, 2020 @ 11:00 AM at the Charles C. Kennedy Post 275, 41 Robbins Road, Chicopee, MA.

Scott Meyer, Squadron Adjutant sitting left taking notes. Bob MacKay, a dual-member will serve as the Legion Advisor.

Membership Committee Call

6:00 PM MST

Call in # (515) 604-9644 Access Code: 889133

Online Meeting

<http://join.freeconferencecall.com/jrnavarr>

The National Membership Committee holds its monthly Conference Calls on the third Tuesday of each month. It is important that we get the message out to as many Membership Chairmen as possible. Please share this with your District and Squadron leadership and ask them to join us.

Important Links

[Detachment Membership Report](#)

[National Membership Target Dates](#)

[2019-2020 Individual Recruitment Award form](#)

[Blue Brigade Award](#)

[Blue Brigade Fifth Consecutive Year Award](#)

[MYSAL](#)

[Detachment Commander Laberge](#)

[Detachment Adjutant Cliff Smith](#)

Commander Bolt's 2019-2020 Goals

Please remember as you travel and promote the Sons of The American Legion and National Commander Clint Bolt's goals for Membership and all Legion Charities.

RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REINSTATE

to reach **400,000** members

Renewal rate above 95%

Obtain 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville, KY

Recognize our achievements

Child Welfare Foundation \$500,000

National Emergency Fund \$100,000

Soldiers Wish \$100,000

Legacy Scholarship \$100,000

Veterans & Children's Fund \$100,000

Operation Comfort Warriors \$100,000



America's Military Fallen Heroes

To learn of the symbolism of the Honor and Remember flag, visit:

<https://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-symbolism>

You may begin to notice Honor and Remember flags flown at locations throughout the commonwealth and at cemeteries.

The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Clint D. Bolt to visit the Detachment of Massachusetts.



The National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Clint Bolt from Virginia, will be visiting us from April 3, 2020 to April 5, 2020. This is a very special weekend. Commanders Bolt's visit will coincide with a combined banquet of The American Legion National

Commander J W. "Bill" Oxford and National President Nicole Clapp. This has never happened before here in Massachusetts and who can predict what a monumental event like this will happen again in the future.

What an experience is available to all the members of the Sons of The American Legion to meet all our National Leaders at one time. What a picture this would be of you for your Post with the Legion Commander, Sons of The American Legion Commander and the National President. This is truly a once in a lifetime possibility.

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH

We are going to have a Detachment Executive Committee Meeting right at the hotel stating at 10:00 AM. **Everyone is invited to attend.** This meeting is not just for those involved at the Detachment Level. After the meeting we hope to have a meet and greet about 1:00 PM at one of the local Posts. If you plan to attend the banquet this is a good event to come to so you can get up close and personal with the Commander.

As you can see we are working hard on making this a very special weekend for our National Commander. We are hoping many of you will attend the banquet and many will take out and ad and send in a booster sheet. Let's show the Commander and The American Legion that the Sons of The American Legion here in Massachusetts are supporting our Veterans and the Children in our local communities.

The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752.

Buddy Checks

The American Legion passed Resolution 18 during their Spring Meetings in May 2019 that calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day.

The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

Commander Bolt has requested that the Sons of The American Legion join in on the Buddy Check and what better time to help us raise our renewal numbers and get us closer to that 400,000 goal!

Divide up a call list. Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.

Start making connections – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.



Time to sign up for The American Legion Media Alliance

Dear Media and Communication supporters,

By now I hope you have received the news that The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) is being put into place and ready to serve you.

The task force from the Media and Communications Commission has been working quickly in order to make this happen. I have two important announcements today:

First, we are ready to begin accepting members. And those who sign up now, will receive six months free — and the opportunity to enter the contests for both this year and next year. A \$15 membership fee will ensure your membership through Aug. 31, 2021.

To join TALMA, please go to www.legion.org/talma/join.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, membership benefits will include re-sources, tips and other materials to promote The American Legion, post events, programs and more. Members will also receive a press credential and lanyard, an electronic newsletter, training and free entry into the annual contest.

Speaking of the contest that is the second major announcement. The first TALMA awards contest is open to all TALMA members. Submissions will be accepted that have a valid postmarked date of April 15 or earlier. (In future years, we will be moving the contest to a digital entry

system. There was not time to put that in place this year in order to have a contest this year.)

For more information about the categories, please visit: www.legion.org/talma/contest.

To enter the contest, please mail your entries to Media and Communications Division, The American Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

At Spring Meetings, the Media and Communications Commission will be judging the contest. Winners will be notified by June 1 and receive a free ticket to the annual banquet at National Convention as well as a beautiful and durable plaque.

I look forward to seeing all the great entries you have compiled this past entry period and am looking forward to your involvement in TALMA. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter W. Ivie".

Walter Ivie, Chairman

Media and Communications Commission

Around the Detachment

The Westfield Squadron 124 donates \$ 1,000 to Friends of the Soldiers Home in Holyoke. The donation was possible through proceeds from the 10th Annual Chot Baginski Ice Fishing Outing held on Saturday, February 1, 2020.



Westfield Squadron 124 Commander Gene Theroux with Cindy Watson, President of the Friends of the Soldiers Home in Holyoke and Chaplain Paul W. Nimchick Jr. The check was presented at the monthly meeting of the Westfield Squadron 124

Detachment Sweatshirts Available

Limited Sizes Available (Large, X-Large and 2X-Large)

\$ 30 each



Available at Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

75th Anniversary of the End of WW II

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The Victory in Europe (VE-Day) is May 8th and the Victory in Japan (VJ-Day) is August 15th. Millions of American men and women served in World War II.

Those millions of Americans who served during World War II are also known as America's greatest generation. Can you imagine what kind of world we'd live in today if it weren't for the service and sacrifice of these millions of American men and women? Perhaps, we wouldn't be speaking English, or to have the ability to speak freely, assemble, go to church without the consequence of being sent to a concentration camp or to be executed? In my view, America's greatest generation through their service and sacrifice saved America, but the world from the tyranny and brutality from the Axis powers. As each day passes since the end of World War II, the service and sacrifice of America's greatest generation is forgotten.

We cannot allow the sacrifice of America's greatest generation that preserved our Rights, Freedoms and Liberties be taken for granted by many of our citizens.

There will be numerous commemorative events held throughout the country including events in Washington, D.C. and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

The Victory in Europe events are available at:

<https://www.75thwwiicommemoration.org/victory-in-europe/dc-events>

The Victory in the Pacific events are available at:

<https://www.75thwwiicommemoration.org/victory-in-the-pacific/hawaii-events>

