

NATIONAL AWARDS

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

Each American Legion Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the recruiter from that Post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the membership year by the May target date. Department Headquarters will supply certification forms to be completed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and submitted to Department Headquarters by the May target date plus one week. Department Adjutants will determine the top new member recruiter for their respective Department and certify the winner to National Headquarters, on or before the last day of May. The top new member recruiter, properly nominated and certified from each Department, will be awarded a framed certificate noting his/her accomplishment.

NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the Departments will be declared National Membership Recruiter of the Year. The award includes a trip to the National Convention: six days and five nights for the Legionnaire and guest, round-trip air transportation, hotel accommodations and reserved seating tickets to the National Commander's Banquet for Distinguished Guests. Monetary awards will be presented to the next highest 26 individuals:

- One \$1,000 check
- 10 \$150 award checks (third place)
- 15 \$100 award checks (fourth place)

Department Adjutants must nominate top recruiters on or before the last day of May.

THE GOLD BRIGADE

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more new members (transfers do not count) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for enrollment in the elite Gold Brigade of The American Legion. These very special Legionnaires will be awarded unique gifts designating affiliation with the Gold Brigade. Also, special recognition will be given to those Legionnaires through special announcements in the *Dispatch*, online and other media. The gifts awarded to a Gold Brigader will depend on the number of times he or she has qualified for this award.

FIRST TIME GOLD BRIGADE

- Gold Brigade Patch
- Special Gold Brigade cap pin
- Gold Brigade certificate
- Designer jacket **or**
- Polo Shirt **or**
- Sweater with a Gold Brigade logo

SECOND TIME + GOLD BRIGADE

- Gold Brigade Patch
- Gold Brigade certificate
- "Hash mark" for jacket sleeve
- Designer jacket **or**
- Polo Shirt **or**
- Sweater with Gold Brigade Logo

GOLD BRIGADE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AWARD

A Gold Brigader who has won the Gold Brigade award for five consecutive years is eligible for a distinctive Gold Brigade blazer. A Legionnaire may only qualify once every five years. Department Adjutants must submit all Gold Brigade certification forms to National Headquarters by the last day of May.

GOLD BRIGADE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OR MORE AWARD

A Gold Brigader who has earned the Gold Brigade Award for at least six consecutive years or more to include the current membership year is eligible for a \$150 check and a Legion cap with the label "Master Recruiter". Department Adjutants must submit the certification form by the last day of May.

THE SILVER BRIGADE

A Legionnaire who recruits 25 to 49 new members (transfers do not count) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for this award. A silver pin and certificate will be awarded. Silver Brigade and Gold Brigade awards cannot both be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year.

PIONEER AWARD

The National Membership & Post Activities Committee created the Pioneer Award on May 5, 1965, to recognize those directly involved with new Post formation. However, recognition and awarding of this citation are the new Post's responsibility. Completed certification forms should be returned to Department Headquarters for approval prior to being forwarded to National Headquarters. All Pioneer Awards will be returned to Department Headquarters for proper presentation.

COUNTY COMMANDER 100% PIN

This special pin is worn only by those Legionnaires who as County Commanders accomplished at least 100 percent of their assigned County membership goals. These Commanders may be nominated at any time during the calendar year.

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT PIN

The New Post Development Pin is available to members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion who assist with the initial start-up of a new Post. Volunteers can be nominated at any time throughout the year.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S PIN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

American Legion National Commander Charlie Schmidt will award his National Commander pin to any Legion member who obtains three new members into the Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion; forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your Detachment or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs. To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, National membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt's incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are exhausted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

To qualify you need to recruit (1) new member into The American Legion. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2017 Membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 Membership year.

NATIONAL POST AWARDS:

POST HONOR RIBBONS

Honor ribbons are awarded to Posts whose membership for the current membership year (as of December 31) achieves an advance membership (for the year about to begin) equal to or greater than the final membership for the year ending.

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE ALL-TIME HIGH AWARD

This certificate is awarded to all Posts that have, by December 31, enrolled an advance membership for the membership year equaling or surpassing the Post's previous all-time high membership.

FIVE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE YEAR ALL-TIME HIGH POST AWARD

This citation is awarded to those Posts that have received the Certificate of Meritorious Service All-Time High Award, five or more consecutive times. After a Post has won the award for five consecutive years of all-time

membership highs, it may continue to win the award each year thereafter as long as each year's membership sets a new all-time high.

POST REVITALIZATION RECOGNITION LETTER

Individuals who assist in revitalizing a Post will receive a recognition letter from the National Commander welcoming them back into The American Legion.

POST EXCELLENCE AWARD

The purposes of this award are membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A Post achieving this qualification will have had numerous Post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many Posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award.

The standard to be achieved in each area:

- **Membership.** Must be at least one member greater than the previous year. At least one Post officer attends District meetings.
- **Youth activities.** Must sponsor and actively participate in at least one primary youth program: Boys State, American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boy Scouts, or Junior Shooting Sports.
- **Community service.** Must accomplish a community service project with members of the Legion Family actively working in the community outside the post home. A wide range of potential projects exists, such as a project centered on one of Children & Youth's emphasis areas to fulfilling a strictly local need. A monetary donation may be part of the project but may not constitute the entire project.
- **Service to troops/veterans.** Must accomplish a project supporting troops or veterans in the community with Legion Family members outside the post home. Potential projects include the Family Support Network, Heroes to Hometowns, or simply helping a local veteran with necessary updates to his or her home. Again, a monetary donation may be part of the project but may not constitute the entire project.

The District Commander responsible for the Post will certify a Post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The District Commander will submit a list of Posts meeting the criteria to the Department Headquarters. That list should include the Post name, Post number, Post address, and Post Commander's name. Ideally, the last two criteria are accompanied by copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects. That method ensures the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

NATIONAL COUNTY AWARDS:

COUNTY COMMANDER RACE TO THE TOP

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the County without regard to geographic locations. County Commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on final membership year totals, and a top County Commander for the National award will be selected from each of the five categories. Post ribbons will also be awarded to each top County Commander for all Posts in those Counties. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category, but no additional ribbons will be awarded for the Posts in these Counties.

Category I – 15-1,499 members

Category II – 1,500-2,999 members

Category III – 3,000-4,999 members

Category IV – 5,000-7,499 members

Category V – 7,500 or more members

First Place – The top County Commander and guest in each category whose County membership on March 31 represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year's membership will receive a trip to the 99th National Convention in Reno, NV in 2017. **This cannot be less than 100 percent to qualify.** Each winner and guest are entitled to a trip to the National Convention as a distinguished guest of the National Commander, including round-trip airfare, tickets to the National Commander's Banquet, and hotel accommodations for six days and five nights. These County Commanders will also receive Legion caps signifying they are Race to the Top winners, awarded on stage at the National Convention with ribbons for each of the County's Posts.

Second Place – The County Commander in each category who County membership on March 31 represents the second highest percentage over the final previous year's membership will receive a \$500 check. **This cannot be less than 100 percent to qualify.**

Third Place – The County Commander in each category whose County membership on March 31 represents the third highest percentage over the final previous year's membership will receive a \$375 check. **This cannot be less than 100 percent to qualify.**

COUNTY COMM. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD & COUNTY HONOR RIBBON

All County Commanders whose May target date membership exceeds the previous year's membership by at least the number of Posts in that County will be awarded the County Commander Achievement Award framed certificate. In addition, the County will receive a County Honor Ribbon for its County colors.

COUNTY COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

County Commanders who create new American Legion Posts in their respective Counties and have the new Post's temporary charter application on file at National Headquarters by the May target date will receive a framed certificate.

* Certification Forms for Awards Below*

**CERTIFICATION FORM
GOLD BRIGADE
FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AWARD**

Departments: Send to National Headquarters by last day of May.

The following member of the Department of _____ qualifies for the prestigious fifth consecutive year Gold Brigade award for enrolling fifty or more new members into The American Legion by the May target date.

A Legionnaire may only qualify for this award once every five years.

This Navy blue blazer replaces the gold blazer of previous years.

(Circle One)

Man's Blazer: (Cut) Short, Regular, Portly (Stout), Long, Extra Long, Extra Extra Long
PLEASE SPECIFY EVEN SIZES 34-54 _____ Size

Lady's Blazer: (Cut) Short, Regular, Long, Extra Long, Extra Extra Long
PLEASE SPECIFY EVEN SIZES 4-20 _____ Size

(Please Type or Print)

Name _____ Post No. _____ Mem. ID _____

Phone (____) _____ Years of being a Gold Brigader 20____ - 20____

Certified:

Department Adjutant (signature)

Date

DEPARTMENT REMINDER - Forward a copy of this form to the National Membership Division and a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before the last day of May.

**CERTIFICATION FORM
GOLD BRIGADE
SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OR MORE AWARD**

The following member of the Department of _____ qualifies for the sixth consecutive year or more Gold Brigade award for enrolling fifty or more new members into The American Legion by May target date.

This award is a \$150 check and a Master Recruiter Legion cap, along with a Gold Brigade plaque, cap pin, and hash mark.

Note: Please type or print; make sure all of the information below is complete to help avoid processing delays.

Name: _____ Member ID#: _____

Phone: _____ Post #: _____ Post City: _____

Years qualifying for Gold Brigade: _____

Number of NEW MEMBERS enrolled (minimum 50): _____

Please specify crown type (Regular, Fort Knox, Women's crown): _____

Please specify (Lined or Unlined): _____ Cap size: _____

Mandatory Insignia (Y/N): _____ If yes, please list: _____

Certified:

Department Adjutant (signature)

Date

DEPARTMENT REMINDER - Forward a copy of this form to the National Membership Division and a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before the last day of May.

CERTIFICATION FORM
SILVER BRIGADE NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD

POST: RETAIN COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

SEND TO: DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE MAY TARGET DATE

The following member in the Department of _____ qualifies for the Silver Brigade Award for enrolling 25 to 49 **NEW MEMBERS** into The American Legion by May target date.

Silver Brigaders receive a silver pin and a silver certificate.

NAME _____ POST NO. _____

ADDRESS _____
City State ZIP

PHONE: (____) _____ Number of NEW MEMBERS enrolled (25 to 49) _____

Department Adjutant (signature)

Post Adjutant (signature)

Date

ADDRESS

DATE

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

DEPARTMENT REMINDER - Forward a copy of this form to the National Membership Division and a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before the last day of May.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PIONEER AWARD

Post Commander:

Post Adjutant:

The American Legion has authorized issuance of a citation titled "The American Legion Pioneer Award." Your post may make nominations for this award immediately after securing a temporary charter.

This award is a means of recognition for an individual who has made the greatest contribution in helping to get your post chartered and insuring a successful operation.

You can play an important role in giving proper recognition both to the nominee and to your post. If your post has someone to nominate, please complete the information below and return to your department headquarters for certification and forwarding to National Headquarters.

_____ Post No. _____ located at _____

Department of _____, was chartered on _____, 20_____

Nomination for The American Legion Pioneer Award is hereby made for: _____

Post No. _____ feels the above nominee deserves the Pioneer Award because:

ATTEST:

Post Commander

Post Name and Number

Address

City and State (ZIP)

Post Adjutant

Department Adjutant

The above information is certified as correct:

Date _____, 20_____

Department

DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM NEW POST DEVELOPMENT PIN

This recognition, in the form of a specially designed cap/lapel pin, is for any individual who assists in starting a new post.

Department adjutants may nominate these individuals by name at any time once the temporary charter has been submitted.

POSTS: Mail to Department Headquarters

TO: The American Legion
Attn: Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Date _____

The Department of _____ requests New Post Development Pins for the following individual(s) for assisting in the development of Post _____.

Name of individual(s) who assisted in starting this new post.

ADJUTANT _____ **DEPARTMENT** _____

DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY

Pins will be shipped directly to the department for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
2017 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN
CERTIFICATION FORM
THREE (3) NEW MEMBERS
(Duplicate as needed)**

Date: _____

Recruiter's Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Send to Post

Send to Recruiter

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION. A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

**(3) NEW MEMBERS:
(Include full name, Department, Post)**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

*Please Note: Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your Detachment or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

***All requested information is mandatory. Please ensure form is filled out completely before submission.**

Return completed forms to:
The American Legion
National Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

or by Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: ssparks@legion.org or
rheron@legion.org



**NATIONAL COMMANDER CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
2017 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATION FORM
ONE (1) NEW MEMBERS
(Duplicate as needed)**

Date: _____

Recruiter's Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Send to Post

Send to Recruiter

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (1) NEW MEMBER INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION. A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

**(1) NEW MEMBER:
(Include full name, Department, Post)**

1. _____

*Please Note: The member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your Detachment or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

***All requested information is mandatory. Please ensure form is filled out completely before submission.**

Return completed forms to: **The American Legion
National Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

or by Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: ssparks@legion.org or
rherron@legion.org

**CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE
POST ALL-TIME HIGH AWARD**

This certificate is awarded to those posts which, by December 31st, have enrolled an advance membership for the year about to start equaling or surpassing the post's previous all-time high membership.

POSTS: Mail to Department Headquarters by January target date

TO: The American Legion
Attn: Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

DEADLINE: January 31st
Date _____

Please list posts in numerical order starting with No. 1

The Department of _____ requests citations for the following posts:

Name of Post/ Post No. _____	<u>Location</u>	<u>All-Time High</u>	No. of advance members <u>Dec 31st</u>
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Department Adjutant

Department

DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION OF POSTS EARNING FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ALL-TIME HIGH AWARD

This award is for a citation to the post which has five or more consecutive years all-time high. Please note a minimum of five consecutive years is necessary to qualify, but a citation can be earned each year the post continues its all-time high performance after the fifth year.

POSTS: Mail to Department Headquarters

TO: The American Legion
Attn: Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Date _____

Please list posts in numerical order starting with No. 1

The Department of _____ requests citations for the following posts:

**NAME OF POST
AND NUMBER**

**NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE YEARS
OF ALL-TIME HIGH MEMBERSHIP**
No. of Years From To

Department Adjutant

Department

DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

POST & DISTRICT REVITALIZATION RECOGNITION LETTER

These letters are awarded to the revitalized post and those individuals who assisted in the revitalization effort.

POSTS: Mail to Department Headquarters

TO: The American Legion
Attn: Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Date _____

The Department of _____ requests a "Welcome Back" letter for Post _____:

Name of individual(s) who assisted in the revitalization of this post.

Department Adjutant

Department

DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY

Letters will be shipped directly to the department for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.