

The American Legion Department of New York



2018-2019

NATIONAL AWARDS

**** Items in red have not yet been confirmed for 2019, they will be removed or updated after the National Convention ****

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

GOLD BRIGADE AWARD

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. Gold Brigade recipients will receive a choice of jacket, sweater with the Gold Brigade logo on the left breast or polo shirt; a cap pin; a Gold Brigade patch for the blue blazer; and a Gold Brigade certificate. A second, third or fourth time winner will receive a Gold Brigade patch and certificate, a "hash mark" for the jacket sleeve, and the choice of either another designer jacket or a sweater with the Gold Brigade logo on the left breast or a polo shirt.

First time Gold Brigade members receive:

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 (or more) Gold Brigade members receive:

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.

Note: 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."

Note: Department Adjutants must submit the certification form by the last day of May.

THE SILVER BRIGADE AWARD

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.

Note: Silver Brigade and Gold Brigade awards cannot both be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year.

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 or 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)

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

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.

DISTRICT COMMANDER 100% PIN

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

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT PIN

The New Post Development Pin is available to any individual who assists 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 Denise Rohan will award her 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 2018 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2017 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 Rohan's incentive program will end June 30, 2018, or when supplies are exhausted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S HONOR RIBBON PROGRAM

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan will award her National Commander Honor Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2018. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a Post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award. The National Commander Honor Ribbon membership incentive program will end May 30, 2018.

NATIONAL POST AWARDS:

POST HONOR RIBBONS

Honor ribbons will be awarded to all Posts whose membership, as of December 31, achieves an advance membership (for the year about to begin) equal to or exceeding the final membership for the year ending.

POST MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AWARD

This award recognizes Posts for their ability to renew their previous year's membership. To qualify, the Post must have at least the minimum number of members to maintain their Post charter within their designated Department and retain at least 90 percent of their previous year's membership by the May target date. This award has three levels:

- 1st level (100% retention) – Plaque
- 2nd level (95% percent retention) – Ribbon
- 3rd level (90% percent retention) – Certificate

The Post Membership Retention Award certification form must be submitted by May 31.

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 award is for a citation for a Post that has five or more consecutive years all-time high. 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.

POST REVITALIZATION RECOGNITION LETTER

Individuals who assist in revitalizing a Post will receive a recognition letter from the National Commander for their hard work. The revitalized Post will receive a 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 DISTRICT AWARDS:

DISTRICT COMMANDER RACE TO THE TOP

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the District without regard to geographic locations. District Commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on final membership year totals, and a top District Commander for the national award will be selected from each of the five categories. Post ribbons will also be awarded to each top District Commander for all Posts in those Districts.

Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category. The District Commanders will be awarded checks in the amount of \$500 for second place or \$375 for third place, but no additional ribbons will be awarded for the Posts in these Districts.

Race to the Top categories

Category I	Districts of 15 to 1,499 members
Category II	Districts of 1,500 to 2,999 members
Category III	Districts of 3,000 to 4,999 members
Category IV	Districts of 5,000 to 7,499 members
Category V	Districts of 7,500 and more members

First place award: The top District Commander and guest in each category whose District membership on March 31 represents the greatest percentage over the final previous year's membership will receive a trip to the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis in 2019. **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 District 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 District's Posts.

Second place: The District Commander in each category whose District 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 District Commander in each category whose District 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.**

DISTRICT COMM. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD & DISTRICT HONOR RIBBON

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

DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

District (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 on the Following Pages

*** Please note, forms must be submitted to Dept. Headquarters for verification, Dept. will forward to National where applicable ***

CERTIFICATION FORM
GOLD BRIGADE
FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AWARD

Departments must submit this form to National Headquarters by the last day of May.

The following member of the Department of _____ qualifies for the prestigious fifth consecutive year Gold Brigade award for enrolling 50 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.

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

Circle one:

Men's blazer (cut) Short Regular Long Extra Long Extra Extra Long

Specify even sizes 34-60 _____ Size

Ladies' blazer (cut) Short Regular Long Extra Long Extra Extra Long

Specify even sizes 4-20 _____ Size

Type or print:

Name _____ Post number _____ Member ID _____

Phone (_____) _____ Years of being a Gold Brigadier 19____ – 20____

Certified:

Department Adjutant

Date

Department reminder: Fax a copy of this form to **(317) 630-1413** or email it to **membership@legion.org**, along with a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before May 31.

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 50 or more new members into The American Legion by the 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.

Type or print, making sure that all information is complete to help avoid processing delays:

Name _____ Member ID _____

Phone _____ Post number _____ Post city _____

Years qualifying for Gold Brigade _____

Number of new members enrolled (minimum 50) _____

Circle crown type: Regular Fort Knox Women's Crown

Lined or unlined _____ Cap size _____

Mandatory insignia (Y/N) _____ if yes, please list _____

Certified:

Department Adjutant

Date

Department reminder: Fax a copy of this form to **(317) 630-1413** or email it to **membership@legion.org**, along with a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before May 31.

CERTIFICATION FORM
**SILVER BRIGADE NEW MEMBER
RECRUITER AWARD**

Send the completed form to Department Headquarters on or before the May target date. Posts should retain a copy for their records.

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 the May target date.

Silver Brigaders receive a silver pin and a silver certificate.

Name _____ Post number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Member ID _____

Number of new members enrolled (25 to 49) _____

Department Adjutant (signature)

Post Adjutant (signature)

Date

Address

Date

Department reminder: Fax a copy of this form to **(317) 630-1413** or email it to **membership@legion.org**, along with a copy of the list of new members signed up to National Headquarters, on or before May 31.

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

NOMINATION FORM
RECRUITER OF THE YEAR

Post Adjutants must send this form
to Department Headquarters.

Department Adjutants must send this form to
The American Legion Fax: 317-630-1413
PO Box 1055 Email: membership@legion.org
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Type or print:

In the Department of _____, the top new member recruiter of membership enrolled for current membership year as of May target date, and transmitted to National Headquarters, is:

1. Name _____ Post _____ Member ID _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Number of new members enrolled (minimum 10) _____

Attach list of names and ID numbers of new members.

The next highest new member recruiter (make additional copies if needed):

2. Name _____ Post _____ Member ID _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Number of new members enrolled (minimum 10) _____

Attach list of names and ID numbers of new members.

Post Adjutant

Date

Department Adjutant

Date

This form must reach Department Headquarters on or before the May target date and National Headquarters by May 31.

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 way to recognize an individual who has made the greatest contribution in helping to get your Post chartered and ensuring a successful operation.

You can play an important role in giving proper recognition both to the nominee and to your Post. If your Post would like to nominate someone, provide the information requested below and return this form to your Department Headquarters for certification and forwarding to National Headquarters.

_____ Post _____ located at _____

Department of _____, was chartered on _____, 20 _____

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

Post _____ believes the above nominee deserves the Pioneer Award because _____

Attest:

Post Commander

Post name and number

Address

Post Adjutant

City State ZIP

The above information is certified as correct:

Date _____, 20_____

Department Adjutant

Department

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 American Legion Post.

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

To: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

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:

Department Adjutant

Department

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

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

**NATIONAL COMMANDER DENISE H. ROHAN
2018 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN
Certification Form
(3) New Members**

Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the Post. One pin per recruiter, incentive goes through June 30, 2018 or until quantities are depleted.

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 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR).

PLEASE NOTE: EACH NEW MEMBER LISTED MUST BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION. PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

All requested information is mandatory. Please ensure form is filled out completely before submission. Please allow up to 2 weeks for processing.

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

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: ksingleton@legion.org



100% AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON

100% American Legion Family Ribbons will be awarded to any Post family that achieves 100% membership by the 2018 100% target date. (American Legion Family is defined as a Post and/or any combination of Auxiliary unit or SAL squadron. **(Each must achieve 100% to qualify)**)

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

Date _____

The Department of _____ certifies that the following American Legion Posts families have achieved 100% of their American Legion Family goal. (For example, if a Legion Post has an Auxiliary unit and/or a SAL squadron; they all must achieve 100%.)

Examples

100% Post (please include Post #)	100% Auxiliary	100% Squadron	No. of Ribbons
Post 29	Yes	Yes	3
Post 50	Yes	no squadron attached	2
Post 500	no auxiliary unit	Yes	2

Check all that apply:

100% Post (please include Post #)	100% Auxiliary	100% Squadron	ALR Chapter (yes/no)	No. of Ribbons

**DEADLINE IS MAY 30TH
 DUPLICATE AS NECESSARY**

 Department Adjutant

 Department

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE
POST ALL-TIME HIGH AWARD

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

To: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

Date _____

List Posts in numerical order starting with No. 1.

The Department of _____ requests citations for the following Posts:

Name of Post/Post number	Location	All-time high	Number of advance members on December 31

Department Adjutant

Department

DUPLICATE FORM AS NECESSARY

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

This award is for a citation for a Post that has five or more consecutive years all-time high. 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.

To: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

Date _____

List Posts in numerical order starting with No. 1.

The Department of _____ requests citations for the following Posts:

Name of Post/Post number

Number of consecutive years of all-time high membership

Number of years From To

Department Adjutant

Department

Date

DUPLICATE FORM 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.

To: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

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

Letters will be sent directly to the Department for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM
**DISTRICT COMMANDER
RACE-TO-THE-TOP AWARD**

To: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

This is to certify the below listed District Commander whose District membership on March 31 represents the greatest percentage over the previous year's final membership, and we have transmitted the information to National Headquarters for receipt by the April target date.

Cannot be less than 100 percent to qualify

Competition will be divided into five categories based on the membership of the District without regard to geographic locations. District Commanders will compete in each of the following categories based on the previous year's final totals.

Category I	Districts of 15 to 1,499	Category IV	Districts of 5,000 to 7,499
Category II	Districts of 1,500 to 2,999	Category V	Districts of 7,500 and above
Category III	Districts of 3,000 to 4,999		

The National Convention trip will be given to the District Commander and guest in each category whose District membership, transmitted to National Headquarters no later than the April target date, represents the greatest percentage over the final membership of the previous year.

Name _____ District number _____ Category _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City / State / Zip _____

Previous year final membership _____ Current year membership _____

Percentage of current year increase over previous year's final membership _ _____

Number of Posts within the District _____

Department Adjutant

Department

Date

This form must reach National Headquarters on or before the April target date.

CERTIFICATION FORM
**DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

TO: The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Att: Membership Division
Fax: (317) 630-1413
Email: membership@legion.org

This is to certify the below listed District Commander has created _____ new Post(s) in District _____. This also certifies a new temporary Post Charter is on file at National Headquarters.

Name _____ District No. _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

New Post numbers _____

Department Adjutant

Department

Date

This form must reach National Headquarters on or before May 31. Post charter applications must already be on file by the May target date.