

The American Legion

Department of New York



2025-2026

Membership
Awards Manual

72,100 Membership Goal

**The American Legion
Department of New York**
1304 Park Blvd
Troy, NY 12180

General inquiries: (518) 463-2215
Membership inquiries: (518) 463-2215 ext. 105
Website: www.nylegion.net
Cassi Harden,
Membership Coordinator: cassi@nylegion.org

**The American Legion
National Headquarters**
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Customer Service: 1-800-433-3318 or cs@legion.org
Website: www.legion.org
myLegion support: 1-833-253-9995
mylegion@legion.org
cs2@legion.org

Department Membership Team

Dept. Membership Chair Joseph R. Patnode jrpatnode@outlook.com	Dept. Membership Vice Chair Eric T. De Kraai eric@dekraai.com
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First District Membership Gene Defrancis BxDeFrancis@gmail.com	Third Dist. Membership Eric T. De Kraai eric@dekraai.com	Fourth Dist. Membership Joseph R. Patnode jrpatnode@outlook.com	Fifth Dist. Membership William Flynn wjflynniii@gmail.com
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Sixth Dist. Membership Robert C. Gardner nyamleg974@gmail.com	Seventh Dist. Membership Donald H. Linborg myopa@frontiernet.net	Eighth Dist. Membership Peter J. Ochocki peter.ochocki@yahoo.com	Tenth Dist. Membership Fred J. Tartaglione, Jr. ftartag@optimum.net
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Post 0001 Coordinator Michael T. Byrnes mtbyrnes@gmail.com	PDC Consultant David R. Riley, Sr. rileydrsr@hotmail.com	PDC Consultant Gary Schacher cpoguns@yahoo.com	TBA Second & Ninth District Membership
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2026 Department Target Dates

September 3, 2025	50%
October 8, 2025	55%
November 6, 2025	65%
December 3, 2025	75%
January 7, 2026	80%
February 4, 2026	85%
March 4, 2026	90%
April 1, 2026	95%
May 6, 2026	100%
June 16, 2026	Department Convention Call

2026 Direct Renewal Cutoff Dates

Must be Received at Dept. by	In Order for Dept. to get to National by	National Starts Mailing Notices for those whose Dues were Not Received by the Cutoff Date (In Alphabetical order by Dept.)	Result
September 3, 2025	September 10, 2025	October 4-10, 2025	If dues not rec'd at Dept. by 9/3/25, members get notices in late October, Mail by early August
October 8, 2025	October 15, 2025	November 8-14, 2025	If dues not rec'd at Dept. by 10/8/25, members get notices in late November, Mail by mid-Sept.
December 3, 2025	December 10, 2025	January 3-9, 2026	If dues not rec'd at Dept. by 12/3/25, members get notices in late January, Mail by early Nov.
February 4, 2026	February 11, 2026	March 1-8, 2026	If dues not rec'd at Dept. by 2/4/26, members get notices mid-March, Mail by early January
April 1, 2026	April 8, 2026	May 2-8, 2026	If dues not rec'd at Dept. by 4/1/26, members get notices in late May, Mail by early March

The above cutoff dates are the dates that membership cards MUST be received at Department Headquarters in order to count toward the listed target, count toward Department Convention awards, or for the member not to receive the next renewal notice.

**CUTOFF DATE IS THE RECEIPT DATE AT
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

2025– 2026 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/ NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 15, 2025	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 13, 2025	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 10, 2025	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 14, 2026	80%
PRESIDENTS DAY	FEBRUARY 11, 2026	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 11, 2026	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 8, 2026	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2026	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

For complete information on the National awards points program, target dates, and information on other important membership goals, see the National Awards Points Program Manual at www.legion.org.

2026 DEPARTMENT AWARDS CALENDAR

November 6th	Veterans Day New Member Recruiter Award
December 31st	New Year New Member Recruiter Award Post Membership Achievement Award
January 7th	Mid-Winter Plaques
March 4th	A.L. Birthday New Member Recruiter Award A.L. Birthday Citations Bulk Post 0001 Transfers Now Accepted
May 16th	Vincent J. Troiola, PNC Retention Award
June 16th	Convention Call New Member Recruiter Award Membership Recruiter Pins Top Ten Membership Award Department Honor Ribbons Post Membership Citation County Membership Citation District Membership Citation Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., PNC Plaque Maurice Stember, PNC Plaque Fang A. Wong, PNC Plaque Hamilton Fish, Sr., PNC Plaque Richard M. Pedro, PNC Plaque Michael J. Kogutek, PNC Plaque Department Commander's Plaque

**All certification forms for awards can be found at the back
of the Awards Manual.**

All awards are at the discretion of the Department.

2026 NATIONAL AWARDS CALENDAR

As Eligible

**The American Legion Pioneer Award
New Post Development Pin
Revitalization Recognition Letter**

January 7th

**Post All-Time High Award
Five Consecutive Years All-Time High Award**

May 6th

**Bronze Brigade New Member Recruiter Award
Silver Brigade New Member Recruiter Award
Gold Brigade New Member Recruiter Award
Gold Brigade Fifth Consecutive Year Award
Gold Brigade Sixth Consecutive Year Award
Gold Brigade Tenth Consecutive Year Award**

**All certification forms for awards can be found at the
back of the Awards Manual.**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

DEPARTMENT INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

The certification form for each award must be completed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and forwarded to Department Headquarters by the specified date.

New Member Recruiter Awards

To the individual Legionnaire in the Department who, having been reported to the Department Headquarters by the following dates, recruits the most NEW MEMBERS (minimum of 25), the following expense paid trips will be awarded. The winner of the award **MUST ATTEND** the conference or convention in order to receive the following compensation for the winner **only**: 3 days per diem at \$100.00 per day and economy airfare or round-trip mileage at \$.51 per mile – tolls will not be reimbursed. **The certification form must be completed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and forwarded to Department Headquarters by the appropriate dates defined below, winner will be notified.**

Veterans Day	11/6/2025	Mid-Winter Conference
New Year	12/31/2025	Washington Conference
A.L. Birthday	3/4/2026	Department Convention
Convention Call	6/16/2026	National Convention

Membership Recruiter Pins

Each Legionnaire who RECRUITS (New Members) or REINSTATES 10-24 members by **Department Convention Call** will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin.
25-49 will receive a Gold Recruiter Membership Pin with a Sapphire Stone
50-75 will receive a Gold Recruiter Membership Pin with a Ruby Stone
76 and above will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin with an Emerald Stone

Department Commander Membership Incentive Pin

Department Commander John R. Miga will award his Department Commander pin to any Legion Family member who recruits three new members for the 2026 membership year into the American Legion – two of the three **MUST** be Legion members to qualify.

Top Ten Membership Award

To each individual within their Post that has enrolled 10 or more NEW MEMBERS into The American Legion by **Department Convention Call**. Each Post with a qualifying individual will receive a plaque upon which each qualifying individual will have their name engraved. Each qualifying individual will also receive a polo shirt.

DEPARTMENT POST AWARDS:

The awards are based on the Posts, which as of the dates listed below, have the greatest percentage over their 2026 membership goal. PUFL Posts and Posts with less than 15 members will not qualify.

Post Membership Achievement Award

All Post Membership Chairmen that reach 105% of their membership goal by December 31, 2025 will receive a citation. In addition, their names will be entered into a drawing to receive one of three cash awards of \$100.00 each. **Any Post without a Membership Chairman on file will not be eligible**, drawing to be held at Mid-Winter Conference.

A.L. Birthday Citation

A citation will be awarded to all Posts whose membership as of March 4, 2026 exceeds their total 2025 membership achieved prior to the start of the 2026 membership year.

Department Honor Ribbons

Honor ribbons will be awarded to all Posts that achieve 105% of their 2026 membership goal by Department Convention Call.

Post Membership Citation

All Posts that achieve 125% or more of their 2026 membership goal by Department Convention Call will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to National Emblem Sales.

All Posts that achieve 105% or more of their 2026 membership goal by Department Convention Call will be placed in a drawing which will be held at Department Convention.

First Prize winner will be awarded \$300.00

Second Prize winner will be awarded \$200.00

Third Prize winner will be awarded \$100.00

DEPARTMENT COUNTY AWARDS:

The awards are based on the Counties which have the greatest percentage over their 2026 membership goal. They must have 100% or more of their 2026 goal to qualify.

County Membership Citation

A Membership Team medal will be awarded to the County Commander and County Membership Chairman who achieve 100% or more of their 2026 membership goal by Department Convention Call.

DEPARTMENT DISTRICT AWARDS:

The awards are based on the Districts which have the greatest percentage over their 2026 membership goal. They must have 100% or more of their 2026 goal to qualify.

District Membership Citation

A Membership Team medal will be awarded to the District Commander and District Vice Commander who achieve 100% or more of their 2026 membership goal by Department Convention Call.

DEPARTMENT PLAQUES:

Mid-Winter Plaques

To the Area, District, County, and Post with the greatest percentage over 100% of their 2026 membership goal by January 7, 2026

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., PNC Plaque

To the District first to reach its 100% membership

Maurice Stember, PNC Plaque

To the County first to reach its 100% membership

Fang A. Wong, PNC Plaque

To the Post in each category group (1&2, 3-5) first to reach its 100% membership

Hamilton Fish, Sr., PNC Plaque

To the Vice Commander who has the highest percentage average over 100% of their Districts by Department Convention Call

Richard M. Pedro, PNC Plaque

To the Vice Commander whose Area has the greatest number of Posts over 100% by Department Convention Call

Michael J. Kogutek, PNC Plaque

To the County with the greatest percentage of increased membership over the prior year by Department Convention Call

Department Commander's Plaque

To the County and Post in each category group (1&2, 3-5) with the greatest percentage over 100% by Department Convention Call

Vincent J. Troiola, PNC Retention Award

To the County and Post in each category, as of Armed Forces Day, with the greatest retention rate of their previous year's membership as of June 30; PUFLs, transfers in, and

new members excluded. If a member goes to Post Everlasting before renewing and is reported, the retention goal for the current membership year will be adjusted. A minimum of 90% retention must be achieved with the decimal point carried out three places. If multiple Posts or Counties in the same category achieve 100% retention, the first Post or County in the category to do so will be awarded a framed citation. Subsequent Posts or Counties to achieve 100% retention will be awarded a citation. At the discretion of and to be awarded by the Dept. Membership Team.

2026 COUNTY CATEGORIES

Category 1, 15-499 members

Canada	Putnam
Columbia	Schenectady
Cortland	Schoharie
Essex	Schuyler
Fulton	Seneca
Genesee	Sullivan
Hamilton	Tioga
Lewis	Tompkins
Montgomery	Warren
Orleans	Yates

Category 2, 500-999 members

Allegany	Madison
Bronx	Oswego
Cayuga	Otsego
Chemung	Rensselaer
Chenango	Richmond
Delaware	St. Lawrence
Franklin	Washington
Greene	Wayne
Herkimer	Wyoming
Kings	

Category 3, 1000-1499 members

Albany	Ontario
Broome	Orange
Cattaraugus	Queens
Clinton	Rockland
Dutchess	Saratoga
Livingston	Ulster
New York	Westchester
Niagara	

Category 4, 1500-2499 members

Chautauqua
Jefferson
Monroe
Onondaga
Steuben

Category 5, 2500+ members

Erie
Nassau
Oneida
Suffolk

2026 POST CATEGORIES

**Category 1,
15-49 Mbrs**

NY-0004	NY-0221	NY-0526	NY-0890	NY-1174	NY-1447	NY-1670
NY-0019	NY-0222	NY-0551	NY-0893	NY-1195	NY-1460	NY-1718
NY-0030	NY-0231	NY-0553	NY-0894	NY-1199	NY-1461	NY-1748
NY-0037	NY-0257	NY-0573	NY-0910	NY-1212	NY-1465	NY-1750
NY-0038	NY-0265	NY-0581	NY-0916	NY-1218	NY-1466	NY-1785
NY-0040	NY-0271	NY-0582	NY-0920	NY-1225	NY-1492	NY-1815
NY-0041	NY-0274	NY-0587	NY-0937	NY-1227	NY-1498	NY-1817
NY-0045	NY-0275	NY-0589	NY-0938	NY-1236	NY-1504	NY-1833
NY-0046	NY-0296	NY-0596	NY-0948	NY-1246	NY-1506	NY-1836
NY-0048	NY-0335	NY-0603	NY-0961	NY-1250	NY-1513	NY-1848
NY-0063	NY-0346	NY-0620	NY-0963	NY-1253	NY-1518	NY-1849
NY-0064	NY-0347	NY-0625	NY-0964	NY-1256	NY-1523	NY-1872
NY-0069	NY-0352	NY-0626	NY-0973	NY-1268	NY-1524	NY-1888
NY-0071	NY-0353	NY-0629	NY-0979	NY-1269	NY-1525	NY-1949
NY-0073	NY-0354	NY-0632	NY-0982	NY-1271	NY-1530	NY-1957
NY-0074	NY-0365	NY-0633	NY-0983	NY-1287	NY-1532	NY-2001
NY-0081	NY-0377	NY-0650	NY-1000	NY-1290	NY-1540	NY-CN18
NY-0086	NY-0390	NY-0665	NY-1005	NY-1303	NY-1542	
NY-0093	NY-0391	NY-0685	NY-1007	NY-1305	NY-1554	
NY-0098	NY-0397	NY-0692	NY-1012	NY-1310	NY-1555	
NY-0104	NY-0405	NY-0703	NY-1013	NY-1311	NY-1566	
NY-0107	NY-0421	NY-0710	NY-1015	NY-1312	NY-1569	
NY-0109	NY-0422	NY-0723	NY-1017	NY-1315	NY-1573	
NY-0110	NY-0425	NY-0731	NY-1030	NY-1319	NY-1574	
NY-0111	NY-0426	NY-0743	NY-1034	NY-1327	NY-1576	
NY-0123	NY-0427	NY-0753	NY-1045	NY-1338	NY-1584	
NY-0128	NY-0436	NY-0757	NY-1054	NY-1339	NY-1586	
NY-0137	NY-0446	NY-0758	NY-1058	NY-1343	NY-1596	
NY-0145	NY-0449	NY-0769	NY-1065	NY-1360	NY-1597	
NY-0148	NY-0456	NY-0774	NY-1087	NY-1363	NY-1603	
NY-0158	NY-0458	NY-0779	NY-1088	NY-1371	NY-1607	
NY-0160	NY-0471	NY-0788	NY-1091	NY-1379	NY-1614	
NY-0166	NY-0474	NY-0794	NY-1097	NY-1392	NY-1615	
NY-0185	NY-0494	NY-0799	NY-1102	NY-1418	NY-1624	
NY-0187	NY-0504	NY-0806	NY-1131	NY-1420	NY-1627	
NY-0203	NY-0509	NY-0810	NY-1133	NY-1425	NY-1633	
NY-0215	NY-0510	NY-0836	NY-1155	NY-1435	NY-1635	
NY-0216	NY-0515	NY-0845	NY-1167	NY-1436	NY-1644	
NY-0220	NY-0524	NY-0853	NY-1172	NY-1437	NY-1664	

**Category 2,
50-149 Mbrs**

NY-0008	NY-0157	NY-0303	NY-0430	NY-0660	NY-0954	NY-1276	NY-1610
NY-0022	NY-0165	NY-0304	NY-0431	NY-0664	NY-0958	NY-1278	NY-1623
NY-0026	NY-0167	NY-0310	NY-0435	NY-0676	NY-0962	NY-1282	NY-1634
NY-0031	NY-0168	NY-0316	NY-0443	NY-0688	NY-0972	NY-1285	NY-1636
NY-0032	NY-0169	NY-0317	NY-0447	NY-0721	NY-0974	NY-1296	NY-1640
NY-0034	NY-0175	NY-0322	NY-0463	NY-0730	NY-0977	NY-1298	NY-1642
NY-0035	NY-0178	NY-0323	NY-0465	NY-0737	NY-1006	NY-1308	NY-1650
NY-0042	NY-0184	NY-0326	NY-0476	NY-0739	NY-1009	NY-1309	NY-1672
NY-0044	NY-0188	NY-0327	NY-0488	NY-0754	NY-1021	NY-1320	NY-1683
NY-0047	NY-0189	NY-0332	NY-0489	NY-0770	NY-1026	NY-1341	NY-1688
NY-0050	NY-0190	NY-0333	NY-0492	NY-0772	NY-1033	NY-1342	NY-1720
NY-0052	NY-0193	NY-0334	NY-0493	NY-0798	NY-1038	NY-1346	NY-1738
NY-0054	NY-0199	NY-0336	NY-0505	NY-0805	NY-1041	NY-1357	NY-1749
NY-0057	NY-0204	NY-0342	NY-0506	NY-0808	NY-1044	NY-1361	NY-1758
NY-0062	NY-0213	NY-0348	NY-0514	NY-0814	NY-1050	NY-1368	NY-1771
NY-0065	NY-0214	NY-0350	NY-0521	NY-0830	NY-1060	NY-1377	NY-1776
NY-0066	NY-0224	NY-0358	NY-0529	NY-0832	NY-1080	NY-1380	NY-1779
NY-0068	NY-0230	NY-0359	NY-0530	NY-0834	NY-1082	NY-1404	NY-1780
NY-0078	NY-0232	NY-0360	NY-0531	NY-0838	NY-1089	NY-1430	NY-1788
NY-0080	NY-0233	NY-0367	NY-0532	NY-0854	NY-1092	NY-1434	NY-1812
NY-0082	NY-0234	NY-0374	NY-0533	NY-0858	NY-1107	NY-1443	NY-1832
NY-0088	NY-0246	NY-0376	NY-0554	NY-0859	NY-1118	NY-1448	NY-1846
NY-0089	NY-0248	NY-0379	NY-0555	NY-0862	NY-1120	NY-1449	NY-1847
NY-0090	NY-0252	NY-0381	NY-0562	NY-0873	NY-1122	NY-1456	NY-1871
NY-0091	NY-0253	NY-0388	NY-0568	NY-0875	NY-1128	NY-1478	NY-1917
NY-0092	NY-0255	NY-0394	NY-0569	NY-0876	NY-1132	NY-1479	NY-1928
NY-0103	NY-0268	NY-0398	NY-0575	NY-0899	NY-1134	NY-1493	NY-1946
NY-0116	NY-0269	NY-0401	NY-0576	NY-0900	NY-1142	NY-1528	
NY-0118	NY-0270	NY-0402	NY-0579	NY-0905	NY-1146	NY-1533	
NY-0120	NY-0273	NY-0404	NY-0588	NY-0907	NY-1152	NY-1539	
NY-0124	NY-0278	NY-0407	NY-0601	NY-0911	NY-1168	NY-1544	
NY-0126	NY-0281	NY-0409	NY-0607	NY-0924	NY-1181	NY-1545	
NY-0130	NY-0282	NY-0410	NY-0616	NY-0925	NY-1208	NY-1552	
NY-0131	NY-0283	NY-0411	NY-0617	NY-0927	NY-1219	NY-1560	
NY-0134	NY-0286	NY-0414	NY-0637	NY-0930	NY-1229	NY-1575	
NY-0135	NY-0289	NY-0417	NY-0638	NY-0931	NY-1244	NY-1582	
NY-0136	NY-0294	NY-0418	NY-0651	NY-0944	NY-1248	NY-1587	
NY-0141	NY-0297	NY-0420	NY-0655	NY-0950	NY-1266	NY-1593	
NY-0149	NY-0301	NY-0428	NY-0659	NY-0953	NY-1273	NY-1600	

Category 3, 150-199 Mbrs			Category 4, 200-299 Mbrs			Category 5, 300+ Mbrs
NY-0059	NY-0429	NY-1280	NY-0020	NY-0556	NY-1612	NY-0061
NY-0072	NY-0434	NY-1286	NY-0024	NY-0701	NY-1645	NY-0256
NY-0079	NY-0490	NY-1322	NY-0025	NY-0746	NY-1711	NY-0337
NY-0083	NY-0535	NY-1324	NY-0070	NY-0789	NY-1794	NY-0362
NY-0094	NY-0567	NY-1424	NY-0087	NY-0821	NY-1796	NY-0457
NY-0113	NY-0583	NY-1468	NY-0150	NY-0833	NY-1830	NY-0460
NY-0140	NY-0586	NY-1489	NY-0151	NY-0880		NY-0468
NY-0144	NY-0622	NY-1618	NY-0162	NY-0892		NY-0527
NY-0154	NY-0634	NY-1626	NY-0173	NY-0904		NY-0574
NY-0155	NY-0673	NY-1663	NY-0205	NY-0912		NY-0702
NY-0156	NY-0694	NY-1682	NY-0219	NY-0915		NY-0735
NY-0161	NY-0734	NY-1700	NY-0229	NY-1040		NY-0787
NY-0181	NY-0777	NY-1757	NY-0239	NY-1066		NY-0942
NY-0183	NY-0800		NY-0291	NY-1113		NY-1291
NY-0259	NY-0803		NY-0330	NY-1151		NY-1376
NY-0264	NY-0846		NY-0355	NY-1153		NY-1450
NY-0272	NY-0881		NY-0396	NY-1279		NY-1520
NY-0277	NY-0928		NY-0406	NY-1302		NY-1619
NY-0329	NY-0939		NY-0432	NY-1365		
NY-0366	NY-1194		NY-0440	NY-1451		
NY-0419	NY-1231		NY-0442	NY-1477		

“BIG TEN POSTS”

<u>Post</u>		<u>2025 Total</u>	<u>County</u>
NY-0787	James Harvey Spire	872	ONONDAGA
NY-1520	Joseph E. Zaloga, Inc.	531	ALBANY
NY-1450	Mohawk	518	SARATOGA
NY-0527	Hamburg	495	ERIE
NY-0362	East Aurora	460	ERIE
NY-0468	Greece	452	MONROE
NY-1376	New Hartford	443	ONEIDA
NY-1291	Lt B R Kimlau Chinese Memorial, Inc.	426	NEW YORK
NY-0942	Cottreall-Warner	417	MONROE
NY-0337	Robert Lee Walsh	380	FULTON

CERTIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS FOR DEPT. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

New Member Recruiter Award

The Legionnaire who recruits the most new members (minimum of 25) **by the following dates** is eligible for the following expense paid trips:

Veterans Day	11/6/2025	Mid-Winter Conference
New Year	12/31/2025	Washington Conference
A.L. Birthday	3/4/2026	Department Convention
Convention Call	6/16/2026	National Convention

Membership Recruiter Pins

The Legionnaire who recruits new members or reinstates expired members is eligible for the following:

- 10- 24 will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin
- 25-49 will receive a Gold Recruiter Membership Pin with a Sapphire Stone
- 50-75 will receive a Gold Recruiter Membership Pin with a Ruby Stone
- 76 and above will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin with an Emerald Stone

Must be received at Department Headquarters no later than June 16, 2026

Recruiter Name: _____ Post: _____

Address: _____

Post Adjutant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recruiter Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list below the names and ID numbers of the members you have recruited for the above awards. Use additional sheets if necessary.

JOHN R. MIGA DEPT. COMMANDER'S PIN



Awarded for recruiting three new members,
including at least two Legion members
for the 2026 Membership Year

Fill out the information below and send to:
The American Legion Dept. of New York
1304 Park Blvd, Troy, NY 12180, Att: Cassi Harden
or cassi@nylegion.org

Recruiter Information:

Name: _____ ID#: _____

Address: _____

Post #: _____ Date: _____

Post Adjutant Signature: _____

Member Information:

Please include the **name, address, and ID# (where available)**. Please attach a supplemental sheet or use the back of this form if necessary.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

TOP TEN MEMBERSHIP AWARD

NEW MEMBER PLAQUE

CERTIFICATION FORM

POST: RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

**SEND TO: DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS (ATTENTION: CASSI HARDEN)
OR EMAIL, CASSI@NYLEGION.ORG BY 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

The following member of Post _____ qualifies to have their name engraved on the Post “New Member Plaque” and to receive a polo shirt for enrolling 10 or more **NEW MEMBERS** into The American Legion by **June 16, 2026**. (*Please attach the list of names with each nomination form or use the back of this form if necessary*).

NAME: _____ POST: _____

ADDRESS:

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip

PHONE: (____) _____ SHIRT SIZE: _____

Number of **NEW MEMBERS** enrolled (10 or more) _____

Recruiting Member (signature)

Post Adjutant (signature)

Date

Date

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Bronze Brigade Recruiter
- Silver Brigade Recruiter
- Gold Brigade Recruiter (Contact Dept. HQ for Fifth, Sixth, and Tenth Consecutive Year Certification Forms)
- The American Legion Pioneer Award
- New Post Development Pin

POST AWARDS

- Certificate of Meritorious Service (Contact Dept. HQ for Five Consecutive Year Certification Forms)
- Revitalization Recognition Letter

DISTRICT AWARDS

- District Commander New Post Achievement Award

CERTIFICATION FORM

**BRONZE BRIGADE
NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD**

Send the completed form to Department Headquarters by May 6, 2026. Posts should retain a copy for their records.

The following member in the Department of _____ qualifies for the Bronze Brigade Award for enrolling 15 to 24 new members into The American Legion by the May target date.

Bronze Brigadiers receive a bronze patch and a certificate.

Name _____ Post # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ Member ID _____

Number of new members enrolled (15 to 24) _____

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.

DUPLICATE THIS FORM IF NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

SILVER BRIGADE
NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD

Send the completed form to Department Headquarters by May 6, 2026. 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 Brigadiers receive a silver cap pin, patch, and certificate.

Name _____ Post # _____

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**.

DUPLICATE THIS FORM IF NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

GOLD BRIGADE
NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD

Send the completed form to Department Headquarters by May 6, 2026. Posts should retain a copy.

The following member in the Department of _____ qualifies for the Gold Brigade Award for enrolling 50 or more new members into The American Legion by the May target date.

Attach the list of names with each nomination form.

First-time qualifiers receive a Gold Brigade cap pin, certificate, a Gold Brigade patch, and choice of a jacket **or** sweater **or** polo shirt with the Gold Brigade logo.

Second- to fourth-time qualifiers receive a Gold Brigade certificate, a hash mark for the sleeve, and the choice of either another Gold Brigade jacket **or** sweater **or** polo shirt with the Gold Brigade logo.

Seventh time and beyond (except Fifth, Sixth, and Tenth time) qualifiers receive a Gold Brigade certificate, a hash mark for the sleeve, and the choice of either another Gold Brigade jacket **or** sweater **or** polo shirt with the Gold Brigade logo, and \$150 check.

Check the appropriate box(es):

A [] First award **B** [] Second-fourth award (#) _____ **C** [] Seventh time plus (#) _____

Choose One: Jacket Polo $\frac{1}{4}$ Zip Unisex Sweater

Ladies' Jacket or Polo: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Men's Jacket or Polo: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Men's Jacket – TALL: L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

$\frac{1}{4}$ Zip Unisex Sweater: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Name _____ Post # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ Member ID _____

Number of new members enrolled (15 to 24) _____

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**.

DUPLICATE THIS FORM IF NECESSARY

THE AMERICAN LEGION PIONEER AWARD

The National Membership & Post Activities (M&PA) Committee may issue the Pioneer Award citation to dedicated Legionnaires who unselfishly devote their time and effort to ensuring the success of a new Post. Once a Post receives a permanent charter, they may recommend the individuals most instrumental in its success for this award. Posts may nominate a potential awardee by providing the information requested below. **Return this form to your Department Headquarters** for certification who will then forward it to National Headquarters.

Department of _____, was chartered on _____.

I hereby nominate _____ for The American Legion Pioneer Award.
NOMINEE FULL NAME

Post _____ believes the above nominee deserves the Pioneer Award because
POST NO.

Attested by:

Post Commander

Post name and number

Address

Post Adjutant

City, State, Zip

The above information is certified as correct:

Department Adjutant

Date _____

Department

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

NEW POST DEVELOPMENT PIN

The New Post Development pin is a specially designed cap/lapel pin to recognize 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. Pins will be shipped directly to the Department for presentation at an appropriate ceremony. **Mail to Department Headquarters.**

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

Departments Send To:

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

Fax: 317-630-1413

Email: membership@legion.org

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

POST ALL-TIME HIGH AWARD

This certificate is awarded to those posts which have enrolled an advance membership for the year about to start equaling or surpassing the post's previous all-time high membership by December 31 of that year. Posts may still be given an all-time award if they surpass the all-time high for the current century (2000s) but not the past century (1900s). **Mail to Department Headquarters by January 7, 2026.**

Date

List Posts in numerical order

The Department of _____ requests citations for the following Posts:

Post Name & Number Location All-Time High # of advance members on Dec. 31st

Departments Send To:

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

Department Adjutant

Fax: 317-630-1413

Email: membership@legion.org

Department

Deadline is January 31st

DUPPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

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 also receive a letter from the National Commander welcoming them back into The American Legion. Letters will be sent directly to the Department for presentation at an appropriate ceremony. **Mail to Department Headquarters.**

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

Departments Send To:

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

Fax: 317-630-1413

Email: membership@legion.org

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

CERTIFICATION FORM

DISTRICT COMMANDER

NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Send the completed form to Department Headquarters by May 6, 2026. Post charter applications must already be on file at National.

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

Name _____ District No. _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

New Post numbers _____

Departments Send To:

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

Department Adjutant

Department

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

Deadline is May 31st

Date

DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

ELIGIBILITY

The Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act of 2019 – The LEGION Act – offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military Veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is serving now.

You are also eligible for membership if:

- Your basic training time was on federal activation orders and during the above period.
- You were federally activated subsequent to and during the period given above.
- Your activations were for training or for missions; check the title and subsection of your activation orders.

Under eligibility guidelines for Legion membership, the term "active duty" as used in our national constitution includes "active duty for training."

However, our guideline further defines National Guardsmen and reservists as eligible under services to federal activation orders Title 10, Subsection 672 or Subsection 12301, created following Desert Storm to replace Subsection 672. In other words, to determine eligibility for service members in the National Guard or reserves, the activation order is the authority line. Non-eligible activation orders are Title 32 for the National Guard and Title 10 Subsection 270 for the reserves.

Space Force

Per Title 36 of the US Code, Chapter 217, Section 21703,

An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation [The American Legion] only if the individual—
(1) has served in the Armed Forces of—
 (A) the United States at any time during—
 (i) the period from April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or
 (ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or
(B) a government associated with the United States during a period or time referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and
(2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time.

The United States Space Force was created by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, signed by the President on December 20, 2019. It became Public Law No: 116-92,

“§9081. The United States Space Force

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT. — There is established a United States Space Force as an armed force within the Department of the Air Force....

(c) SPACE FORCE AS AN ARMED FORCE. — Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “Space Force,” after “Marine Corps.”

Thus, as amended, Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code reads:

(4) The term “armed forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

Therefore, as title 10 of the United States Code now includes Space Force as an “Armed Force” and our federally chartered membership criteria uses the same wording [“has served in the Armed Forces.... any time after December 7, 1941”] there are no necessary acts required to extend membership to all who have served or continue to serve in the United States Space Force.