

Hello!

My couple of months since taking office has been quite busy but very interesting and monumental for the Legion and Auxiliary.

First, I would like to say that I am looking forward to the two years that we will be working together. I have enjoyed my journey within the Legion thus far and know that the next couple are going to be even better!

For those who do not know me, I have been able to work my way through the chairs of the Legion – Post Adjutant, Post Commander, County Adjutant, County Commander, Department Membership Committee, Department Membership Chairman (with the Department being 100% membership my first year), Wisconsin American Legion College Chancellor, District Vice Commander and now, District Commander. I have been very fortunate to have been able to learn much along the way. Do I know it all yet? NO WAY. 😊 But I continue to learn as I go.

GOALS

I want the journey that we will be taking to be a learning one. I am going to work on education and enhancement of the Legion knowledge that we already have. Of course, we do have metrics we need to hit along the way. Those metrics start at the top with National, filter to Department and finally to the Districts.

- First and foremost is **membership**. The goal is naturally 100%. I realize everyone gets tired of hearing about membership but if we don't strive to do our best, we won't be here to worry about doing it for long and our benefits will continue to diminish as there won't be anyone left to fight for them.
 - Vice Commander Johnson has requested that each County set up to do Buddy Checks/Membership rallies during the week of Veterans Day. If you have not yet done so, please contact him by October 12th to let him know when you are planning your event.
- **Retention** is next. We are going for 95% for this year. If you think about a post of 100 members and we look to get a 90% retention rate, this means we will be satisfied letting 10 members go. I don't know about you but I am not satisfied with this. The 95% retention rate takes into account deaths.
- I will be expecting a 96% completion rate for **Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)**. This year we were at 82%. The reason for 96% is that we are probably going to be having some posts consolidate and those CPR's may not get completed as a result.
 - **FACT #1:** You do not need to wait until the end of the year to complete your CPR! Just pick a timeframe equal to a year and use that to submit your data. April to April or May to May. You can also project your numbers if you choose to go June to June. Is it really going to make a big difference if you project donating \$500 to an organization and you donate \$750 or \$400? No it won't.
 - **FACT #2:** The administrative manual has monthly sheets which correlate to the CPR for your adjutant to fill out which will make that final CPR much easier to complete!
 - Why is it important to complete the CPR? Well, this data gets rolled up to Department, then to National where a report is created for Congress to show the impact we have on our veterans, their families and the communities we serve. As an organization, we typically get a CPR completion rate of 62% - **62%**! Imagine how impressive and attractive we would be to new members and organizations if we had a 100% completion rate.
 - Use the data collected in your CPR to place an ad in your local newspaper to brag about how you support our veterans, their families and the community.
 - Make large signs and display them in your Post.
 - Create placemats and have this information proudly displayed for the community to see.
- Children and Youth and VA&R reports are also going to have a goal of 96%. We were at a not-so-impressive 30% for each last year.

NEWS

LEGION Act

I am sure by now everyone has heard the news that the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act) has passed. This changed the eligibility dates from 7 to 2. Basically, everyone who served one day of active duty or served under Title 10 (federal) paperwork since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged, are

eligible to join The American Legion. Please remind those who were not previously eligible that the dates originally determined were done so by Congress – not The American Legion.

While this is great for The American Legion, the most important part of this act was that it made the 1600 service members who died or were wounded during the undefined conflicts/wars eligible for benefits and/or recognition they had been previously denied.

Auxiliary Eligibility

During the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, The American Legion made a change to the eligibility to the Auxiliary. A resolution was approved to allow spouses of female veterans to join the Legion. As you may be aware, the number of female veterans continues to increase and previously, there was no program or organization for their spouses who didn't serve, to join. Mike Rohan, husband of our first female National Commander Denise Rohan, was the first spouse to join.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd District Fall Conference – Saturday, October 26th at the Sheboygan Elk's Club. This Fall Conference is going to be different. Unless needed, there will be no reports given at this conference. Our constitution and bylaws state we only need to give reports during the Spring Conference. As a result, I have speakers lined up, education and some fun as well! For each member bringing in a new person (someone who has not been to a conference), you and the new person will get your names entered in a drawing where each of you could win a \$50 gift card! The more people you bring, the more chances to win! Invitations will be going out soon. Let's fill the hall and enjoy the camaraderie!

REMINDER!

If you have any questions or issues, please make sure to follow your chain of command. This means Commander, County Commander, and then District Commander. Do not call Department! Department is not here to run the day to day operations of the Post. You need to follow your constitution and bylaws when issues arise. If your constitution and bylaws do not address the issues, then they should be revised after the issue has been addressed and resolved.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Legion, please feel free to contact me by any of the methods listed below. If you call me, please leave a message. With all the telemarketer calls going around, I don't answer my phone unless I know the caller.

Again, I look forward to working with the Mighty 2nd District and am anxious to see the great work we will do this year.

Thank you,

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PS – Please send your minutes or newsletters to me so I can attend events you may be planning. I enjoy going to other Posts to meet the members and see how things are done.