



# Up To Now!

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October 4, 2024

- Oct 7-10 National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
- Oct 8 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 22 Welcome Home Ceremony  
Sioux Falls Convention Center 9:30pm
- Oct 12 Midwest Honor Flight “Shake Rattle and Roll” fundraiser–  
SD Military Heritage Alliance Sioux Falls 7pm
- Oct 13 U.S. Navy Birthday!**
- Oct 14 Native American Day, **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- Oct 15 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 23 Welcome Home Ceremony  
Sioux Falls Convention Center 9:30pm
- Oct 16 SD Vets Council Meeting, Brookings Post 74 11am
- Oct 16 Fall Meetings Target Date 55%
- Oct 20 Dist 5 Fall Meeting, 11 Social, 12 Meeting, White Post Home
- Oct 22 Athletic Commission Meeting, 7pm MS Teams
- Oct 23 Dept Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm MS Teams
- Oct 26 Dist 7 Fall Meeting, 11 Social, 12 Meal, 1 Meeting, Dell  
Rapids Post Home
- Oct 27 Dist 8 Fall Meeting, 11 Social, 12 Meal, 12:45 Meeting,  
Wagner Post Home
- Nov 5 Election Day
- Nov 9 We’ve Got Your Six, Sturgis 11am-2pm
- Nov 11 Veterans Day **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- Nov 11 1LT Josef Thorne Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication 1:30 pm  
Beresford High School Gym
- Nov 14 Trust Fund Committee Meeting, 10am MS Teams
- Nov 14 Veterans Day Membership Target Date 65%
- Nov 15 National Employer Award nominations due to Dept HQ
- Nov 17-21 National Auxiliary President Visit to SD
- Nov 20 SD Vets Council Meeting, Sioux Falls, DAV, 1519 W. 51 St
- Nov 20 Legislative Round Table, Sioux Falls, DAV, 11am
- Nov 21 Legislative Round Table, Watertown, 11am
- Nov 22 Legislative Round Table, Rapid City Post 22, 11am
- Nov 23 Legislative Round Table, Pierre Post 8, 11am
- Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving **HQ Closed**, Display Flag
- Dec 3 Governor’s Budget Address 1pm
- 11 Pearl Harbor Membership Target date 75%
- Dec 12 Dept HQ Christmas Open House 12-4pm, Watertown
- Dec 14 Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South  
Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Sioux Falls 11am
- Dec 14 The 125th Army-Navy Football Game, Sponsored by The  
American Legion
- Dec 20 Department Holiday Open House, 12-4pm, at Dept HQ
- Dec 24-25 Christmas Holiday **HQ Closed**
- Dec 31-Jan 2 New Year’s Holiday **HQ Closed**
- Dec 31 Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, & EMT of the Year  
nominations due to Dept HQ
- Jan 12 Dist 1 Oratory Time and location TBD, storm date Jan 19
- Jan 12 Dist 2 Oratory 10am at SD Mines, storm date Jan 19
- Jan 12 Dist 7 Oratory 1pm at Humbolt Community Center, storm  
date Jan 19
- Jan 14 Legislative Session starts
- Jan 14 Governor’s State of the State Address, 1:00 pm, Pierre
- Jan 15 SD Veterans Council Meeting, Pierre
- Jan 15 SDDVA/SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception, 5:30-  
7:30 pm, Pierre Post 8
- Jan 15 Mid-Winter Membership Target date 80%
- Jan 19 Dist 3 Oratory 2pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre
- Jan 19 Dist 5 Oratory 3pm Brookings Post Home, storm date Jan 26
- Jan 19 Dist 6 Oratory 2pm Kimball Post Home, storm date Jan 25
- Jan 21 MidWinter Go-Getter certification due to Dept HQ
- Feb 14-16 MidWinter Conference in Oacoma
- Feb 12 President’s Day Membership Target date 85%

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings from your Department Commander. Before we get into a summary of events from September, I wanted to inform you all on my personal situation. Some of you may have noticed my absence at the recent district meetings as well as other events. I’m currently in California attending to my mother as she battles a terminal illness. I really appreciate everyone’s kind words of support along with thoughts and prayers.



September started out with being in Wagner for a Labor Day parade (rode in a WWII jeep and had an awesome time) followed by the annual Golf Tournament in Webster with Vice Commander Hempel representing the Department. Shortly afterwards, I had the honor of attending District 1 and 2’s Fall Meetings – well hosted and attended. The following week, Vice Commander Dean represented the Department at the Lemmon Auxiliary’s 100th Anniversary while Vice Commander Hempel attended Shane Lamer’s SAL Welcoming Home ceremony on the same day. Vice Commander Hempel continued to represent the Department at District 3, 4 and 6. I want to thank both the Vice Commander’s for stepping in while I’m in California.

District meetings for 5, 7 and 8 will continue after the Fall Meetings at National next week; I hope to be back in time to attend all of them. Please come to your district meeting as they are very informative and a time for great fellowship. Continue to work on expanding your post Legion family and engaging with the local community. I also ask each post to continue doing buddy checks. Then follow up around the Holidays.

Finally, let me know if you want me to visit your post and/or event. The calendar is still open but starting to fill up.

Kevin Morello,  
Department Commander  
“Legion Family Uniting Communities”



## DEPT COMMITTEE & COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Commander looking to fill the following positions:  
 Membership Committee one position  
 Employment Committee one position  
 VA&R Commission one position  
 Strategic Planning one fill from the Americanism Commission  
 Fundraising Committee one fill from the Membership Committee

## LEGION INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. As a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion. This includes in person or over social media.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on all individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion, by legal definition, is non-partisan and supports "or opposes as necessary" only issues which impact the Four Pillars.

## !!!!!!LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED!!!!!!

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located at the National Grassroots Action Center. Share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While on the Grassroots Action Center page, be sure to sign up for legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.

[www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/home](http://www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/home)

## AMERICAN LEGION SPONSORING ARMY-NAVY GAME

The American Legion is proud to announce an official partnership with the Army-Navy Football Game presented by USAA, which will be played for the 125th time on Dec. 14, 2024. The American Legion becomes the first veterans service organization (VSO) to sponsor "America's Game" in its history.

The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, has secured a multi-year deal alongside presenting sponsor USAA and participating partners Chevrolet, Exchange, Duke Cannon Supply Co. and Palantir. The American Legion will also be participating in year-round sponsorships of both Army West Point Athletics and Navy Athletics. The agreement starts with this year's game at Commanders Field in Landover, Md., and helps The American Legion raise awareness about its Be the One mission to reduce the number of veterans and servicemembers lost to suicide.

## 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2025 dues are \$38.50 for each member sent to HQ.

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

***Cards have been mailed!!!***

Headquarters has received the 2025 membership cards. Certify your officers ***NOW*** to receive your cards. The form is in the Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual or you can email the info to [judy@sdlegion.org](mailto:judy@sdlegion.org) or give Judy a call at Dept HQ.

### ***Post that have not Certified their officers.***

35 HIGHMORE	38 MILLER	41 ALEXANDRIA
70 FLANDREAU	77 BLUNT	82 BULLHEAD
83 TIMBER LAKE	86 ALCESTER	103 ASTORIA
120 ISABEL	125 ROSEBUD	128 HUDSON
158 OLDHAM	201 PUKWANA	238 OELRICHS
239 LITTLE EAGLE	251 PINE RIDGE	
256 NEW UNDERWOOD	265 KYLE	269 WANBLEE
269 PORCUPINE	295 PARMELEE	299 POLO
270 DRAPER	302 MANDERSON	308 EAGLE BUTTE
310 NORRIS	317 ALLEN	324 ROCK CREEK

## LEGION FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE CAPITAL

The Auxiliary is leading the efforts for a Legion Family Christmas

tree at the Capital this year. Decorating will be Nov 23 at 1pm and take down will be Dec 27 at 1pm. Volunteers are needed, contact the Auxiliary if interested at [southdakotaala@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaala@gmail.com). Post/Unit/Squadron/Group are encouraged to provide an ornament following the theme of "Through A Child's Eyes." Please send decorations to The American Legion Auxiliary of South Dakota, PO Box 983, Mitchell, SD 57301 by Nov 10.

## FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2025 MidWinter, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, Feb 14-16

2025 Convention, Crossroads Hotel, Huron, June 19-22

2026 MidWinter, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, Feb 20-22

2026 Convention, Aberdeen, June 18-21

## THANK A VETERAN PHEASANT HUNT PROGRAM

HuntFishSD.com, Hills View Hunts and Guide Service, South Dakota Army National Guard, Aberdeen Elks Lodge #1046, and the Northern South Dakota Chapter of Pheasants Forever are partnering with SFC Brent Wienk to host a Thank a Veteran Pheasant Hunt for Disabled, Retired, and Active Military on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at Hills View Hunts and Guide Service in Eureka, SD.

Goal of the event is to build relationships with Veterans and the outdoors while providing a focus on rehabilitation and habitat conservation.

For more information on how to donate or to nominate a Veteran contact Brent Wienk at [brent.t.wienk.mil@army.mil](mailto:brent.t.wienk.mil@army.mil)

## BASEBALL BIDS DUE

Bids for the 2026 Regional and State tournaments are due to the Athletic Commission no later than December 1, 2024. If you are interested in hosting one of the tournaments contact Beau Garcia for more information. [beau.garcia2@gmail.com](mailto:beau.garcia2@gmail.com) or 605-206-0347

## 2025 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The Mid-Winter Conference is being hosted by Potter Post 3, and will be held at the Arrowwood Resort, in Oacoma, 14-16 February 2025. A block of rooms has been set aside, reservations can be made by calling the resort at 605-234-6376. The rate for the Standard King or Double Queen room is \$104 plus taxes. Be sure to mention you will be attending the American Legion Mid-winter Conference. Other details such as the Joint Banquet, Go-Getters, and training sessions will be coming soon.

## GO GETTER CERTIFICATION

Please send your Go Getter Certification to Dept by Jan 21 for Mid-Winter. [judy@sdlegion.org](mailto:judy@sdlegion.org) The form is available online in the Post Adjutant Manual Forms <https://sdlegion.org/post-adjutant-manual-forms>. The requirement has changed to signing up three new members or getting three renewals. Go out and Get them, all!

## AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Have you completed the Basic Training Course? It is a great way to better understand your American Legion. The course covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities. Following the Course Conclusion, a 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales. Take the Basic Training course online at [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training).

## 2025 SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

The 2025 South Dakota American Legion College will be April 26 & 27th. More details to come soon but mark your calendar.

## TRAINING TUESDAY UPDATE

There is an exciting lineup for National's Training Tuesday ses-

sions. Below is the current schedule:

- Oct 29, 2024: USAA - *Financial Readiness*
- Nov 26, 2024: Be The One - *Finding the Right Help*
- Jan 28, 2025: Membership - *Managing the Post*
- Feb 25, 2025: Programs - *SAL*
- Mar 25, 2025: Resolutions - *Workshop Ideas to Resolutions*
- April 29, 2025: Be The One - *Addiction Resources*
- May 27, 2025: Membership - *CPR/CSR*
- June 24, 2025: Resolutions - *Socializing Resolutions*
- July 29, 2025: Be The One - *UPDATE*

Get more info at [www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays](http://www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays)

### NATIONAL REGIONAL INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE

The American Legion is excited to announce that the first National Regional Informational Conference will be Nov. 16 in Denver.

This one-day training will be Nov. 16 in Westminster, Colo., 20 minutes outside of Denver, at the Westin Westminster hotel. The training is open to any Legionnaire. The Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary will be hosting training as well.

Register at <https://web.event.com/event/3cfa1e02-2191-4597-b13d-60fbfb9c4d0a/summary?RefId=ALA%20Website>

All courses will be 50 minutes of training with a 10-minute break. The current course curriculum is:

Be the One, Constitution & By-Laws, Limits of authority, Officer responsibilities, Liabilities, Post operations, MyLegion, Programs of The American Legion and Resolutions.

All expenses related to attending the National Regional Informational Conference, such as travel, housing and food, are paid for by the Legionnaire. Hotel room rate is \$169 plus tax. Parking is free.

Registration is \$70; this includes a lunch. A week prior to the conference registration will be \$80.

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Legion Family, times like these I think of the parable known as "Stone Soup", the meaning being that we all pitch in to help anyone in the village with what we can contribute. The South Dakota American Legion Education Scholarship is one of the few programs that can directly give financial assistance for Educational purposes to our own or our progeny. I humbly ask that each Legion Post, each Auxiliary Unit, each SAL Squadron and each Legion Rider Club consider to dedicate at least one fund raiser event (at the local level) to add to the principal of the Scholarship Fund. From these contributions we can hopefully increase the Scholarship Amounts to higher levels and attract more attention not just to the Scholarship but all the other opportunities the American Legion can offer. If you do conduct a fundraiser for this noble cause please make funds payable to SDAL Education Scholarship Fund and send to DEPT HQ. All for one and one for all.

Yours in Service,

Mike Pauling, Education Committee Chairman

[michaelpauling@ymail.com](mailto:michaelpauling@ymail.com)

### LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)

**This Year the Department received \$38,311 for the LIT Program.**

*Every legionnaire who signs up for any of the LIT programs brings money right back here to our Department.*

As a member of the Legion Family, you're eligible for No Cost LegionCare Insurance. \$5,000 NO COST To You Accidental Death Protection if traveling on official American Legion business. \$1,000 Accidental Death Protection for all other covered accidents.

Activate your NO COST To You insurance coverage today.

<https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/>

You may also qualify for **Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage Plans through LIT** with a portion of your dollars spent coming right back here to the Department. <https://www.thelit.com/>

### SD DEPT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS RESOURCE BOOK

The South Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs (SDDVA) has

developed a resource book to educate veterans on the benefits and resources that are available to them and their family. This is a great guide with 60 pages of useful information. You can access the guide at the SDDVA website <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/>

Or directly at: [https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/Other%20Publications/2023%20Resource%20Book%20\(July\).pdf](https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/Other%20Publications/2023%20Resource%20Book%20(July).pdf)

### SOUTH DAKOTA STATE BAR VETERANS' COMMITTEE

Provides legal services and referrals to active-duty military, Veterans and their dependents, for **service-related** legal problems.

The SDSB Veterans' Committee also works with the Veterans' Legal Education Group (VLEG) at USD School of Law. Together, they host several clinics each year throughout the state. These clinics **DO NOT need to be service related** and is not formal representation.

However, they do provide guidance and the ability to draft simple estate planning documents at no cost to the Veteran. For more info call 605-224-7554 or email [info@sdbar.net](mailto:info@sdbar.net)

### GROUPER FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

Grouper, the national leader in activity benefit admin, is thrilled to announce a partnership with The American Legion. The collaboration aims to enhance the health of veterans by providing access to benefits that support staying active and engaged. Members who are 65 or older and have participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans can unlock the activity benefit offered by these plans and receive a check in the mail.

If a Legionnaire's Medicare coverage is not affiliated with Grouper and they want to switch to a plan that does have it, they must contact their doctor and/or health care facilities to make sure the switch will not impact current coverage – a lot of SD healthcare providers/facilities do not take Medicare Advantage

Some benefits of Grouper include paying members \$50 per year to help with Legion membership, paying \$20 every 3 months to encourage social connections – preferably Legion related but not mandatory, and monthly emails encouraging being active.

For more info go to American Legion link to register - <https://app.hellogrouper.com/p/al> or call (833) 445-2400 or email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com)

### LEGION HISTORY

**October 13, 1775** The Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later became the U.S. Navy.

**Oct. 17, 1923** The American Legion National Convention in San Francisco passes a resolution (still in effect) that expresses its firm support of equal rights and opportunities "without distinction as to race, color, creed or class." The resolution condemns any individual, group or organization that "creates or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties and destructive to our fundamental law."

**Oct 27, 1943** Captain Arlo L. Olson of Toronto, SD paid the ultimate sacrifice near the Volturno River in Italy during WWII. For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Oct. 20, 1951** During action with a hostile enemy near Sangsan-ni, Korea, Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble of Waubay displayed extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty earning him the Medal of Honor awarded Mar 17, 2008

**Oct. 20 1978** Disestablishment of the Women's Army Corps.

**Oct. 23, 1983** The Grenada Campaign begins.

**Oct. 11, 1990** The Legion creates the Family Support Network to assist families of servicemembers deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. Through local posts, the network offers a wide range of assistance, including financial assistance, mowing lawns, baby-sitting and more.

**Oct. 7, 2001** start of the Afghanistan War.

**Oct. 10-11, 2001** The American Legion creates the American Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on ac-

tive duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

**Oct. 17-18, 2007** American Legion Riders becomes a national program of The American Legion.

**Oct. 1, 2023** American Legion accredited service officers secure what is believed to be an all-time one-year high in VA of \$18.8 billion. Claims related to the PACT Act account for a \$4 billion increase in benefits between 2020 and 2023.

### **NATIONAL COMMANDER POST EXCELLENCE AWARD**

To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attaining a 90% renewal rate, and community activity.

Requirements:

Membership: Attain at least 103% of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.

Consolidated Post Report: CPRs submitted by July 1.

90% Renewal Rate: Renew at least 90% of their 2024 members

Community Activity: The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

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 department headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address, and commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that 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.

The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify to: The American Legion National Headquarters.

### **NATIONAL COMMANDER 103% MEMBERSHIP GOAL DOG TAG COIN**

A dog tag coin will be awarded to any Post, District, County, Department Commander or Membership Chair who achieves 103% of their member goal in 2025. Complete the form online at [www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/103-percent-membership-award](http://www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/103-percent-membership-award) & send it to Dept HQ [hq@legion.org](mailto:hq@legion.org) for verification.

### **NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DOG TAG COIN**

A National Commander's "Be the One" dog tag coin will be awarded to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members. A new member is anyone who was not a member during the 2024 membership year. Transfers do not count. Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members do not count toward this incentive. Only one coin will be awarded per individual. National membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the coin directly to the person who earned it. Complete the form online at [www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/national-commanders-incentive-program](http://www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/national-commanders-incentive-program) and send it to National HQ [kadams@legion.org](mailto:kadams@legion.org)

Do you have an event that you would like to share with the Department or push out to the Press? Please send requests to Department HQ and we can get it in the next Up-to-Now or push to more than 150 media outlets around the state. Please submit an Up-to-Now request no later than Monday before the first Friday of the month. For Press Releases, please allow 5 business days before the event. All requests should be sent to the adjutant@sdlegion.org.

## **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

### **LEGION+ APP NOW AVAILABLE**

Stay connected with your American Legion community, get the latest news, find ways to help, and manage your membership, stories, and podcasts while also finding ways to support others. Legion+ helps you manage your membership, stores your membership card, and has tools to encourage users to reach out to recruit, advocate, and assist other members. The app will let you recruit new members directly into your Post. Get involved and show your spirit of service and patriotism with the Legion+ app today. Download through **your app store**, just search for Legion+.

### **NEW DEPT ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Department has created a membership application online to allow members to join or renew directly into the post of their choice. Simply go to [sdlegion.org](http://sdlegion.org) and click on the Join Today button. Cost is \$50 using credit card, Venmo or PayPal.

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

As we enter October, it's time to reflect on our membership journey so far and set our sights on the goals ahead. Your dedication and efforts have been instrumental in driving our mission forward, and it's inspiring to see the commitment to growing our community.

#### **Current Membership Status**

We've made significant strides in our membership growth this year.

Currently we are at 9,730 which is 62.37%. Thanks to your hard work and the collective efforts of our team, we've welcomed numerous new members into our fold. This influx of new members not only strengthens our organization but also brings fresh perspectives and energy.

#### **Highlights and Achievements**

•New Member Sign-Ups: We've seen a steady increase in new member sign-ups, 133 to date. This is a testament to your dedication and the value our organization offers. The American Legion membership continues to grow older, and it is of up most importance to concentrate on signing up new members. That being said I as your membership chairman and my committee need your input on how to convince younger veterans to join the largest veteran organization, the American Legion.

•Engagement Initiatives: Our recent events and initiatives have been well-received, fostering a sense of community and belonging among our members. These activities are crucial in retaining our current members and attracting new ones.

**Strategies for Continued Growth-** To keep the momentum going, here are some strategies we can focus on:

- 1.Leverage Social Media: Increase our presence on social media platforms to reach a broader audience. Share success stories, upcoming events, and the benefits of membership.
- 2.Host Engaging Events: Organize events that cater to the interests of potential members. This could include workshops, networking events, and community service projects. The American Legion is a co-sponsor of the Army-Navy game on December 14. I encourage each Post to hold an event on that day.
- 3.Referral Programs: Encourage current members to refer friends and colleagues. Offering incentives for successful referrals can be a powerful motivator.
- 4.Personalized Outreach: Reach out to potential members with personalized messages that highlight how our organization can meet their specific needs and interests.
- 5.Showcase Member Benefits: Regularly communicate the benefits of membership, such as access to exclusive resources, networking opportunities, and the chance to make a difference in the community.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we move forward, let's continue to build on our successes and strive for even greater achievements. Every new member strengthens our organization and helps us fulfill our mission. Your efforts are making a real difference, and together, we can reach new heights. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and hard work. Let's make October a month of growth and success!