



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Windjammer



Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Leon J. Wetzel Post No. 9

2026

Winona, Minnesota

Winona Area Veterans Center



Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country,
we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- to maintain law and order;
- to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- to make right the master of might;
- to promote peace and good will on earth;
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



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Scholarship & Financial Aid

Veterans Legislation & Benefits

National Security & Protection of Our Flag

I WANT YOU

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To Learn More, Contact:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 9

302 EAST SARNIA STREET

WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Eligibility Dates

World War I

April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918

World War II – Present

Dec. 7, 1941 – Present*

* if currently serving on active duty today, you are eligible.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 9 WINONA
WINDJAMMER

**COMMANDER**

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507 429 5029

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Windjammer
March/April 2026

Happy Spring – Legion Family,

Rick Schell

As veterans, we understand something many others do not: service does not end when the uniform comes off. The bond forged through shared sacrifice is lifelong. Our Legion exists because connection matters. In a world that moves quickly and pulls people apart, we must be intentional about staying engaged with one another—a phone call to a fellow member, attending a monthly meeting, or reaching out to someone we haven't seen in a while. These small acts strengthen our entire Post. Connection is not just about attendance—it is about belonging.

When we stay connected:

- We preserve our shared history.
- We support each other through life's challenges.
- We mentor the next generation of veterans.
- We remain visible and impactful in our community.

As your Commander, I encourage every member to take one simple step this month. Reach out and invite someone to coffee. Check in with a battle buddy. Bring a fellow veteran to our next gathering. Stop in at 5 p.m. and share a beer with Lefty. Our strength has always been unity. Let us continue to stand together—not only in memory of our service, but in commitment to one another today. Be sure to check out Trish's article and our calendar for opportunities to stay connected.

Together in service,

Rick Schell
Commander





BAR REPORT
From your Post 9 Facilities Manager

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 9
BAR REPORT**

March/April 2026

Trisha Schneider Hello Spring!!!!!!!!!!

Hope everyone had a good beginning of 2026! I would like to thank everyone that came out on New Years Day and celebrated with us here at the club, it was a huge success, and we appreciate all of your support!!!

We are in lent, which means fish fry every Friday night and that will go through March 27th. Like the past few months, we have a lot of rentals and events happening in the banquet hall. If you need space to rent, reach out to me and we will get your event on the books! My email is leonjwetzal9@gmail.com this is a great way to reach out to me.

There will be some price changes happening soon. The changes will affect certain things but not everything. I just want to give a heads up so that there is no misunderstanding when certain things change.

April 5th, the bar will be closed for Easter.

SAL is having a Chicken Q April 18th, the bar will be opening at 10:30am!

Hope everyone stays safe and well and we will see you at the club!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Trisha Schneider
Facilities Manager
American Legion Post 9**





The American Legion Post 9
AUXILIARY NEWS



PRESIDENT

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Pam Husman
8390 Cherry Lane
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Diane Cada
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary News and Events

March/April 2026

**Greetings Ladies,
Hope all is going great with you, hang in there spring is coming!**

**PLEASE NOTE!!
Auxiliary meeting on Wed. March 4th , @ 5:00 pm.**

Spring Basket and bake sale,

**Drop off baskets on Tues. March 17th. Drawing on Friday April 3rd after the Fish Fry ?
Bake sale on Friday, April 3rd, you can drop off on Thursday afternoon OR before 4:00 PM on Friday.
Please plate / bag your goodies and the ladies working will do the pricing, want to help, let Julie, 507-458-8724 or, Karen 507-454-4953 know. We Need you we can't do it by ourselves, you are part of our club, Please help!**

Fish Fry could use people also, call Gwen 507-450-9270, let her know.

**Have you paid your dues???
Do you have any ideas for fund raising for the Auxiliary, let us know!
Come to the meeting and share.
God bless our Veteran's and active troops, bring them home safe.
Thank you to our Police, Fire, EMTs, and all you keep us safe and healthy**

Happy St. Patrick's Day Happy Easter

**Hugs,
Diane**



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 9 S.A.L. NEWS



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507 450-6536



Greg Lemmer

SAL News and Events March/April 2026

Hello Legion Family,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This past year we gained a few new members who are very active within our squadron. It always great to get new members, it's even better when they are as active as these guys are. We are always open to new members, so grab an application and join up.

The SAL will hold its first Chicken-Q of 2026 on Saturday January 3rd at the Legion. We look forward to seeing you there. Our Chicken-Q's and Broasted Chicken events allow us to donate back to the Legion family and the community. Our group will also be supporting a UAW Chicken-Q on Feb. 21st. The proceeds of their Chicken-Q go to benefit Veterans.

The SAL is currently raising funds to purchase bronze grave markers for the veterans who passed in 2024 in Winona County. Funding from the state and local level has been cut from the budget. There are 52 veterans who passed in 2024 in Winona County and we want to ensure they get the proper recognition. The SAL has voted on and approved funds for the 2024 requirements from our own budget. Once we hear the numbers needed for those who passed in 2025 we will be working on suppling them as well. Cost is approximately \$50.00 per grave marker. I have sent out some donation requests to local Winona businesses to help us purchase the 2025 requirements. Anyone wishing to help the SAL support with this endeavor is appreciated. Please feel to reach out to any SAL contact listed on the side of this page for details on how you can help.

Be sure to review the monthly event calendar on the wall at the Legion so you don't miss any of the great upcoming events. The Taco Night, Broasted Chicken, Basket Night, Fish Frys, and Wing Night are always popular.

Remember by patronizing your Legion you are also supporting the Veterans, the Legion, and the Legion Family Members. Your Legion is something to be proud of.

Please take the time to thank a Veteran or active military member. They deserve our Thank You each and every day. Ask yourself; what more can I do to support Veterans and the Legion family, and then take that action.

In closing I wish you all the best. God Bless our Troops past and present and God Bless America.

Best wishes for a great 2026.

Respectfully Yours,
Greg Lemmer
SAL Squadron Commander

BURIAL DETAIL/COLOR GUARD REPORT

Color Guard Functions:

None

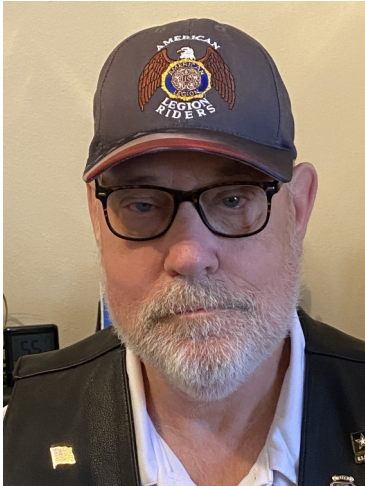


Funerals since 21 December 2025

James S. Theis	8 January 2026
James S. Wineski	20 January 2026
William J. Browne	16 February 2026
Ronald G. Wenzel	20 February 2026



American Legion Riders
Post 9 Winona
March/April 2026



Brian Degnan

Welcome to Spring Riders

By the time most of you see this; we will have switched to daylight savings time. The days will be getting warmer and longer, and the majority of you will have thoughts drifting towards getting in some early season riding. Please be cautious and be aware of the road conditions. There can be many hidden dangers out there.

We had a very busy past couple of months. We had a successful chili feed/meat raffle. Congratulations to the two people who won the TV's from the raffle. Thanks to the

members that contributed their chili selections to sample, and also to the people who showed up and made this a very successful event. Our Tuesday night wings are gaining momentum, and becoming a success. We will continue to have Wing Night on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Thanks for the support, and please spread the word so that we can continue with this program. I want to send out a BIG thanks to the Riders members that work tirelessly, to make this a success.

One last note; we will continue to serve a meal for bingo on the 25th of March, and the 22nd of April, so come out and support this also.

Finally, please continue to support all of the many programs that the various legion groups have to offer,

Thanks

**Brian Degnan
ALR Director**

2026 Event Dates

March 12	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
March 21	Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Pickwick Mill Inc. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone. Pre-sales held until 1:00 p.m.
April 9	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
April 18	SAL Chicken Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone
May 9	Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Chiefs Baseball. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone. Pre-sales held until 1:00 p.m.
May 10	Mother's Day Breakfast Serving time TBD
May 14	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
September 10	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
September 19	SAL Chicken- Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone. Pre-sales held until 1:00 p.m.
October 8	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
October 10	Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Cotter HS Speech Team (TBD) They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone. Pre-sales held until 1:00 p.m.
November 12	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
December 10	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
Date TBD	Two flag retirement dates yet to be determined
Date TBD	Two Adopt-A-highways clean ups, dates yet to be determined.

We hope you can join us and experience the great family environment at the Winona American Legion.

I apologize for the lack of historical content in the March/April 2026 Windjammer.

I will provide more information and content in the May/June 2026 Windjammer.

And in future 2026 Windjammers.

I would appreciate it if anyone has material that they would like to share for Windjammer printing...please let me know what you have.

**Sam Sasser
Adjutant
American Legion Post 9**

In A Changing
World, One
Thing Stays
The Same:

*The Military
Experience.*

It's the bond

*between veterans who
have served America, from
the fields of Europe to the
jungles of Asia to the
deserts of the Middle East
and everywhere in between.*

"We will not fail

*those with whom we've
served," was the promise
by generations of veterans.
Help us continue the legacy.*

Join

*today's American Legion -
bonded through service,
committed to the future.*

American Legion Post 9
302 East Sarnia Street
Winona, Minnesota 55987
Phone: 507-454-4281

Check us out!!!!!!



**The
American
Legion**

MEASURABLE IMPACT



\$21 Billion

Amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans in fiscal year 2024, free of charge, by accredited American Legion claims representatives.



114,722

Minimum number of young people nationwide who participated in American Legion youth programs in 2024, including American Legion Baseball, School Awards, Boys State/Boys Nation, Oratorical Contest and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement.



1,431,061

Number of veterans served by the American Legion Buddy Check program between 2020 and 2024 to provide firsthand support to those who have served, and their families, in communities nationwide.



\$3.2 Million+

Minimum amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed to purchase comfort items and experiences since 2007 for recovering military personnel and disabled veterans.



96,691

Units collected through The American Legion Blood Donor Program in 2024, making it one of the single largest organizational contributors.



\$18 Million+

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants issued to military and qualified veteran families with minor children at home facing unexpected economic hardships, through 2024.



\$10.7 Million+

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants that have been issued since the disaster-relief program was introduced under that name in 1989 in communities that have been devastated by natural catastrophes.



786,654

Number of American Legion Grassroots Advocacy Center participants through January 2025, who assist in the advancement of the organization's legislative priorities before Congress.



\$852,593

Amount in American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grants issued for 2025 to non-profit programs that assist in the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of young people facing challenges beyond their control.



1,100

Approximate number of American Legion-led or supported career events for veterans and their families per year.



3,738

Descriptions and photos of military and veterans monuments and memorials worldwide housed on The American Legion National Memorials Database.



\$84.4 billion

Amount in disability benefits secured, free of charge, for veterans between 2020 and 2024 using accredited American Legion service officers.

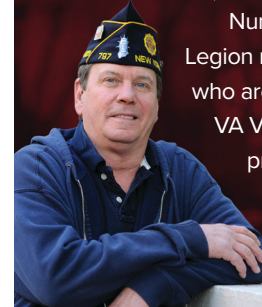


3,000+

VA-accredited American Legion service officers who provide free claims assistance for veterans worldwide.

30,012

Number of American Legion members in 2024 who are members of the VA Volunteer Services program, providing free assistance at local health-care facilities.



\$46.3 million

Amount in benefits secured in 2024, free of charge, from American Legion staff appeals representatives assisting veterans who disputed VA decisions.



17,900

People who were trained, as of April 9, 2025, to detect and prevent veteran suicide using The American Legion's Be the One Columbia Protocol or QPR methods.

2,542

Number of veterans who directly received jobs through American Legion posts in 2024.



54,105

Veterans who received free American Legion representation in VA claims appeals, 2021-24.

\$12 million

Amount in VA debt waivers obtained for veterans, with free assistance from American Legion representatives, 2024.

IMPACT CHILDREN & YOUTH

506/\$1,645,558



Record number of needs-based American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipients in 2024, and the amount of their awards, presented to children of military personnel who lost their lives on duty since 9/11 or of veterans whose VA disability ratings are 50% or greater.

\$8,034,069

Amount in American Legion national and local post scholarships awarded in 2024.



\$21,536,485.50

Amount in American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grants issued since 1954 to non-profit organizations that assist children facing challenges beyond their control.



IMPACT AMERICANISM

3,950+

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by The American Legion Americanism Division, 2020-25.

4,839

American Legion posts that actively participated in Flag Day ceremonies in 2024.



1,538

American Legion Get Out the Vote programs conducted in 2024 at local posts.



10 million

Approximate number of young athletes who have played American Legion Baseball since its inaugural season in 1925.



1,402

American Legion posts nationwide that have active Vets in the Classroom programs to share their military experiences with students.

13,604

Participants in American Legion Boys State programs nationwide in 2024.





Why You Should Belong

Veterans Strengthening America



Why You Should Belong



Veterans Strengthening America

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential organization of U.S. veterans. Today, it accounts for 1.5 million members who support their communities in nearly 12,000 posts worldwide.

Since its 1919 founding, The American Legion has been a staunch advocate for veterans, military members, their families and the communities in which they reside.

It helped create the Department of Veterans Affairs, drafted and drove passage of the GI Bill and updates, and brought into existence dozens of health-care benefits for veterans, including the PACT Act to provide health-care service and disability compensation to millions of veterans suffering from toxic exposures.

Additionally, American Legion accredited service officers provide free representation for veterans and their families applying for disability benefits, survivor assistance, GI Bill opportunities and more. They secure billions in claims assistance each year.

Every day, The American Legion works on behalf of U.S. servicemembers. It is recognized as a leader in transition assistance from military to civilian life, providing resources for careers, education and more.

Other priorities:

- **Volunteering:** The American Legion has supported and actively participated in the VA Voluntary Service program since it began in 1946. Today, 30,000 volunteers serve nearly 700,000 hours annually at various VA medical centers.
- **Mentoring:** In the 1920s, The American Legion played a key role in creating the U.S. Flag Code. Today, Legionnaires teach schoolchildren, Scouts and other youth groups the history of the American flag, how to show respect for it, as well as how to properly fold and care for it.
- **Giving:** The Legion raises funds to award scholarships, provide support for wounded servicemembers and distribute emergency aid to disaster victims.

Why You Should Belong



PILLAR I: VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation pillar is composed of programs, services and advocacy efforts that improve the lives of those who served, along with their families and dependents.

A top priority for The American Legion is Be the One. The mission of Be the One is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide by destigmatizing the need to ask for help, and empowering Legion Family members and others to know when a veteran is in crisis and how to act to save a life. The American Legion has a variety of resources to help members Be the One at [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org). These resources include suicide prevention training, how-to videos, materials to host a Be the One event, and more.

Additionally, The American Legion advocates on Capitol Hill for a well-funded, appropriately staffed VA that can handle benefits claims efficiently, quickly and accurately. Accredited American Legion service officers provide more than 750,000 benefits claims for disabled veterans and their families, free of charge, each year. In fiscal 2024, those service officers provided more than \$21 billion in VA disability benefits.

The American Legion also conducts System Worth Saving visits to VA facilities across the United States for an assessment of the facility and discussions with patients and staff. Working hand in hand with VA, the Legion completes an assessment, offers solutions and publishes its findings.

Be the One is not just a “catchy phrase. It’s not an initiative. It’s a mission. It’s a mission, our mission, to change lives and save lives. That’s what Be the One is. It’s our mission to be the one to save one.”

Daniel J. Seehafer, past national commander of The American Legion

EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS

The American Legion conducts, promotes and supports hundreds of veteran job fairs and career events nationwide each year. Thousands of veterans land jobs because of these efforts. Meanwhile, The American Legion helps place hundreds of other veterans in job-training programs every year. Working veteran-to-veteran with The American Legion Small Business Task Force, along with the Small Business Administration, Department of Labor, VA and corporate associates, The American Legion helps veterans understand the federal contracting process and offers personal guidance for career-seeking veterans.

legion.org/careers

VETERANS EDUCATION AND THE GI BILL

The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill.” providing veterans with education benefits that better meet today’s needs. The law builds on previous GI Bill revisions and adds improvements to the benefit, making it more helpful to National Guardsmen, reservists and those pursuing online education. legion.org/education

WORKING WITH VA

VA and The American Legion are working side-by-side to improve the speed and delivery of benefits claims. Through its System Worth Saving and Regional Office Action Review initiatives, The American Legion pinpoints problems, identifies best practices and works together with staff in VA medical centers. legion.org/veteransbenefits

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For veterans and families disputing benefits decisions by VA, The American Legion has staff representatives who can help with the appeals process or strengthen a case, free of charge to veterans.

WOMEN VETERANS

The American Legion supports women veterans, provides resources to those in transition and works to address their unique needs such as gender-specific health care and military sexual trauma.

DISCHARGE REVIEW

The American Legion offers free assistance to those applying to their service branches for corrections to military records and discharge statuses. American Legion experts help veterans with claims for Combat Related Special Compensation and the procurement of accurate records. Email var@legion.org

HELP FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

American Legion posts throughout the country build shelters or provide financial and volunteer support for homeless veterans. At the national level, The American Legion works with VA to raise awareness and allocate funds to help alleviate the problem. legion.org/homelessveterans

VA VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Legionnaires donate more than 1 million hours of service a year at veterans health-care facilities, working through the VA Volunteer Services program. These volunteer hours save the federal government millions of dollars each year.

FINAL RESPECTS

The American Legion fulfills a sacred duty by honoring the memories of U.S. veterans after their deaths. American Legion honor guards salute their fallen comrades at funeral services throughout the country. American Legion Riders provide motorcycle escorts at services for veterans. The American Legion also works closely with the National Cemetery Administration, Arlington National Cemetery and American Battle Monuments Commission to honor the fallen.

Why You Should Belong



PILLAR II: NATIONAL SECURITY

The American Legion's positions on national defense, homeland security, border control and military support are all part of the long-held American Legion value that the key to peace and world stability is a strong, well-resourced defense.

In order to protect America, troops and their families must have support. The American Legion plays a vital role in supporting those who protect our freedoms.

The American Legion is addressing and improving the quality of life for servicemembers and their families through its Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience (BASE) program, launched in 2022. The BASE program focuses on mental health, childcare, base housing and barracks, community relations, access to health care, education, spousal employment, food and financial insecurities, and more.

The intent of these visits is to work with the Department of Defense and congressional leaders to foster a constructive dialogue on improving quality-of-life conditions for military members and their families.

The American Legion also is heavily involved in blood-donation efforts. The American Legion Blood Donor Program has existed officially since 1942. Over the years, The American Legion became the nation's top organizational donor of blood for the Red Cross. Each year, thousands of Legionnaires donate to support the American Red Cross.

legion.org/security

“These visits are important because we cannot simply rely on web stories or data extrapolated from surveys – we need to hear the servicemembers’ perspective firsthand. Conversations open a two-way communication that spark ideas on reforms and shared best practices.”

National Security Division staff

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) assists wounded, injured or ill active-duty military personnel and veterans by providing morale-enhancing gifts to warrior transition units, VA and DoD medical care facilities, military installations, and 501(c)3 and 501(c)19 organizations which are part of the American Legion Family or such nonprofit entities sponsored by an American Legion legal entity.

legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

The American Legion's support of the U.S. military – from adequate funding for weapons systems to reasonable child care services for deployed troops – is respected in the Pentagon, at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

SUPPORT FOR TRICARE

The U.S. military's health-care system and medical insurance program frequently face challenges in Washington. The American Legion persistently testifies on the need to keep TRICARE and TRICARE For Life viable and affordable benefits of military service.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Dozens of American Legion posts set the tone for preparing for natural disasters. In many communities, American Legion posts serve as civil-defense shelters and havens of relief in the event of catastrophe or attack on U.S. soil.

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The American Legion advocates for strict border and port security as a defense against invasion or attack by foreign enemies, illegal drug trafficking and adverse economic impact. Transnational Criminal Organizations continue to operate across borders while engaging in drug smuggling, human trafficking, arms dealing, money laundering and are a threat to American communities. The American Legion implores lawmakers to work together on behalf of Americans to improve national security.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

The National Emergency Fund has provided more than \$10 million in immediate financial assistance to American Legion members and posts affected by natural disasters. The financial grants have helped American Legion members and American Legion posts rebuild their lives.

legion.org/emergency

BLUE STAR BANNERS

The American Legion's Blue Star Banner was resurrected after 9/11 to acknowledge U.S. families with loved ones serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during wartime. American Legion Blue Star Salutes and other post-sponsored events to distribute the banners are effective expressions of homefront support for military families.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

The American Legion Blood Donor Program recognizes departments in two areas for blood donation efforts: post participation and individual Legionnaire participation.

legion.org/security

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The American Legion maintains a strong working relationship with the State Department to promote peace, human rights and trade on a global scale. The American Legion urges the president and Congress to continue pursuing the "smart power" strategy of using military and economic strength in tandem with foreign aid and human-rights negotiations to fulfill U.S. foreign policy.

FULL ACCOUNTING OF POW/MIAS

The American Legion maintains unwavering support for the full accounting of all U.S. military personnel taken as prisoners of war, missing or killed in action on foreign soil. Official meetings of The American Legion start with a prayer to honor our nation's POWs. POW/ MIA flags, patches and pins are displayed at American Legion events to demonstrate the organization's eternal vigilance.

Why You Should Belong



PILLAR III: AMERICANISM

For those looking to make differences in their local communities, The American Legion is a great place to start. From American Legion Baseball to Boys State/Boys Nation to the Oratorical Contest, there are plenty of opportunities to make your mark.

American Legion Baseball is celebrating 100 years. The initial resolution proposing an American Legion Baseball program was passed at the Department of South Dakota's convention on July 17, 1925, "to teach practical lessons in sportsmanship and citizenship by emphasizing such qualities as loyalty, respect for the rules, fair play, courage and physical fitness."

"How American Legion Baseball has lasted 100 years is what it offers to the young men that have participated in the program," says Gary Stone, chairman of the National American Legion Baseball Committee. "It's a sense of community; it's the only organization I'm aware of that's sponsored by a veterans organization. And if you go back through the alumni that have come through the program, what they've contributed to the community and the nation, those are the things we stand for."

Each season of Legion Baseball culminates with the American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., watched by millions on ESPNU and ESPN3.

More than 50,000 young athletes compete for nearly 3,000 American Legion Baseball teams each year. Some of these baseball players go on to play professionally, including 87 who have been enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

legion.org/baseball

"American Legion Baseball helped me take my game to the next level because I was able to play with so many great athletes. It was a great experience. At the end of the day, those are the experiences you take with you no matter where you play."

Major League Baseball player **Albert Pujols**, who played American Legion Baseball for Post 340 in Independence, Mo.

BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

Young men throughout the country learn firsthand how government works during American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation. From each Boys State program, two delegates are selected to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., where they form a mock federal Senate and meet with top officials in the nation's capital. The American Legion Auxiliary conducts a separate program for young women. legion.org/boysnation

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

American Legion youth air-rifle teams compete throughout the country for a possible berth in the National Junior Shooting Sports championships at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich. legion.org/shooting

ORATORICAL COMPETITION

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program gives thousands of young people the opportunity to hone their speaking skills and learn about the U.S. Constitution. Competitions at the local and state levels lead up to the National American Legion High School Oratorical Contest at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., where top finishers are awarded more than \$203,500 in scholarships. legion.org/oratorical

YOUTH LAW CADET ENFORCEMENT

American Legion departments conduct weeklong American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Programs for rising high school seniors that educate them about law enforcement and instills respect for law officials. legion.org/juniorlaw

SCOUTING

American Legion posts sponsor more than 2,300 Scouting units and provide thousands of dollars in scholarships. The American Legion offers a national scholarship for Eagle Scout of the Year, and the Square Knot Award for Legionnaires who assist Scouting programs in their communities. legion.org/scouting

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

The American Legion provides access to dozens of scholarships and education programs at the national, state and local levels. legion.org/scholarships

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship provides college scholarships for children of military personnel who were killed on active duty since 9/11, or have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. The needs-based scholarship is designed to fulfill a gap after all federal and state grants and scholarships have been used by eligible applicants. Since 2001, the Legacy Scholarship has provided nearly \$7.9 million in financial aid. legion.org/scholarships/legacy

U.S. FLAG PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

The American Legion is the nation's leading supporter of a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from desecration. Since a 5-4 Supreme Court decision in 1989 defined flag burning as free speech, The American Legion has advocated alongside members of Congress, the Citizens Flag Alliance and the majority of Americans to return to the states the right to enact flag-protection laws. The American Legion is also the nation's foremost authority on the U.S. Flag Code and proper dignified disposal of unserviceable U.S. flags. legion.org/flag

VOTER PARTICIPATION

American Legion posts serve as polling places, political debate venues and forums during campaigns. The American Legion is a nonpartisan organization but takes an active role in the political process and encourages Americans to register and vote in all elections. legion.org/vote

Why You Should Belong



PILLAR IV: CHILDREN & YOUTH

The American Legion's Children & Youth pillar is guided by three main objectives: strengthen the family unit, support organizations that help children in need, and provide communities with well-rounded programs to deliver hope and opportunity for young people facing difficult challenges.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) is designed to assist minor children of eligible active-duty servicemembers or eligible American Legion members through cash grants. These grants help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food, clothing and medical expenses.

Over the last decade, over \$5.4 million in TFA grants have been awarded. An example of how The American Legion aids servicemembers was in full view of the nation in January 2019 when the longest government shutdown prevented U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers from receiving their paychecks.

In response, American Legion volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to process TFA grants so the Coast Guard personnel and their families would be able to afford food, pay housing and utilities, and take care of other necessary bills.

In all, the American Legion distributed more than \$1 million to Coast Guard members and their families at that time. While an extraordinary effort, this type of support is carried out by American Legion members daily throughout the United States. [legion.org/tfa](https://www.legion.org/tfa)

"The American Legion was almost like a hero for me. The American Legion eased our financial burden and worry with their assistance to help us."

Ivan Redhorn of Great Falls, Mont., an Army veteran of the Iraq War and a father of six who lost his home to a house fire

Why You Should Belong

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

The American Legion Family consists of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders. Members of the Riders must also be members of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons.



- **Sons of The American Legion:** Founded in 1932, the SAL honor the service and sacrifice of veterans. There are more than 390,000 members worldwide. Members include males whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and are eligible for membership in The American Legion. legion.org/sons/join
- **American Legion Auxiliary:** The Auxiliary's membership criteria was changed in 2019 from "wives" to "spouses," allowing males to join the organization. With 7,600 units in the United States, members are dedicated to serving, helping and meeting the needs of veterans, their families and their communities. alaforveterans.org

- **American Legion Riders:** There are more than 2,500 American Legion Riders chapters across the nation. Riders support their communities with local fundraising events and are the primary force behind the American Legion Veterans & Children Fund (VCF). Legion Riders raise awareness and collect donations during the annual American Legion Legacy Ride to support VCF, which raised \$930,000 in its first year riding for the cause in 2024.

Additionally, Riders perform a number of services for American Legion-supported causes and provide support at military funerals.

legion.org/riders



Why You Should Belong

Benefits of American Legion Membership



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Members of The American Legion receive a free subscription to *The American Legion Magazine*, the largest veterans magazine in the nation. Every month the magazine is filled with interesting stories, interviews, graphics, photos and ads of interest to Legionnaires and their families. legion.org/magazine

AMERICAN LEGION ONLINE UPDATE

Members are invited to receive the free twice-weekly American Legion Online Update e-newsletter that delivers a comprehensive round-up of stories, photos, videos and other material straight to their email inboxes. To subscribe, go to legion.org/newsletters.

MYLEGION.ORG

MyLegion is a free, secure website for American Legion members to manage their profile information, print membership cards, renew membership, view member-only discounts, manage American Legion subscriptions to e-newsletters and the magazine, find an accredited Legion servie officer and more. mylegion.org

MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership in The American Legion gives Legionnaires access to discounts on a variety of products and services. Discounts are available through participating providers in auto rental, home services, financial and insurance, medical, moving and relocation, travel and other industries. legion.org/benefits

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE SERVICES

The American Legion and USAA have teamed up to connect the nation's largest veterans service organization with one of the nation's top-ranked insurance and financial services company. American Legion members have access to the full range of financial and insurance services and a separate credit card. For every USAA membership originating through the dedicated American Legion-USAA website (legion.org/usaa) or by a special toll-free phone line – 877-699-2654 – American Legion programs receive a financial donation from USAA.

AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM SALES

Members of the American Legion Family are invited to review the Emblem Sales catalog for the latest in patriotic merchandise, American-made flags and apparel. A catalog of products is shipped to members, or they can visit Emblem Sales online anytime to safely place their orders. emblem.legion.org

GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

Members stay up to date on congressional action related to American Legion resolutions and programs. Additionally, they can receive legislative alerts, easily contact their elected officials to advocate for veteran-friendly legislation, and much more. legion.org/legislative

Why You Should Belong

Contact information

MEMBERSHIP

(317) 630-1327, membership@legion.org

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

(202) 263-5759, var@legion.org

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

(202) 861-2700, vee@legion.org

LEGISLATIVE

(800) 433-3318, legislative@legion.org

NATIONAL SECURITY

(202) 861-2700, ns@legion.org

AMERICANISM

(317) 630-1203, americanism@legion.org

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

(800) 433-3318, magazine@legion.org

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

(800) 433-3318, magazine@legion.org

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

(317) 630-1205, sal@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

(317) 630-1327, legionriders@legion.org

How do I ...

... find a post close to me?

Go to legion.org/posts to search our database.

... find an American Legion job fair close to me?

Go to legion.org/careers.


... find a service officer?

Go to legion.org/serviceofficers to search our database.

Prospective members may fill out the membership application below and bring it to a nearby post. To find a post near you, visit legion.org/posts.

Alternatively, those who meet the eligibility requirements, may join online at legion.org/join or call **1-800-433-3318**

The American Legion Membership Application			
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Name)	(Date of Birth)		
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Mailing Address)	(State)	(City)	(Zip)
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Phone Number)	(Post #)	(Dues)	
_____	_____	_____	_____
(E-mail)	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	(Gender)	
_____	_____	_____	_____
(Signature of applicant)	Date	Name of recruiter	30-009
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably. Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below			
<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines	
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Space Force	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam			
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea			
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts			



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\$ _____ for 20 ____ Post # _____	
Recruiter's Name _____	
Recruiter's Signature _____	
Recruiter's Phone # _____	

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legion.org

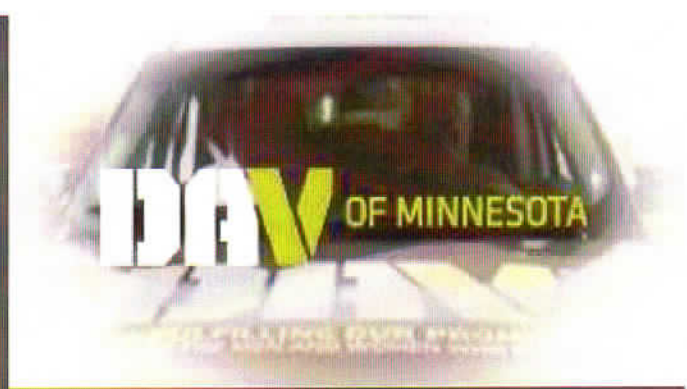


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AMERICAN LEGION POST 9 VETERAN'S RELIEF FUND

The American Legion Post 9 Veterans Relief Fund was formed back in August of 2016. The American Legion Post 9 was involved in a Gospel/Patriotic Concert that was presented at the Central Lutheran Church. This concert was presented in four consecutive days. The concert was the work of about 30-40 very dedicated individuals who practiced once every week for about a year. The concert was a great success and was so much fun just to listen to. The concert was no charge to those attending. At the end of each performance the American Legion Burial Detail asked for donations. We raised \$12900.00 in donations after those four performances. We were amazed at how appreciative the audience was. And the amount of donations we received.

These funds were to be used to help veterans. Thus the formation of the American Legion Post 9 Veterans Relief Fund. All requests for donations are done through the Winona County Veterans Service office. Tom and Rolando, our Winona County Veterans Service Officers, first qualify the person as a Veteran. And Tom and Rolando then ascertain that the request is a valid request.

The fund has provided assistance for electric, water and gas bills, water heaters, heating and cooling equipment, rent, car repairs, property tax, phone bills, lodging, medical bills, mobility products, food cards, and even assistance with funerals.

Once the requests are approved by the County Veterans Service Officers, the checks are written and sent directly to the vendor. This fund is the most direct help to Veterans in the County.

This fund has gone a long way in providing assistance to Winona County Veterans in their time of need. These funds are available to all Winona County Veterans and Veterans do not have to be a member of the American Legion to receive assistance. Over the years we have provided about \$45,000.00 in assistance to 200 plus veterans. We are always asking for assistance in keeping this fund going. Donations to the fund can be made by writing your check to the American Legion Post 9 Veterans Relief Fund. I would like to add that the fund has no administration costs. 100% of funds donated go to help Winona County Veterans.

Your donation will be greatly appreciated by American Legion Post 9, and the Veterans we serve.

Thank you for your consideration of our Veterans Relief Fund.

Respectfully presented.

Sam Sasser

American Legion Post 9 Adjutant



March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ALR Meeting 5:30pm	3 Noon Lions Basket Nite 5p Kwik Trip 8a Coast Guard 7	4 Rotary 11am Bingo 7pm	5 Hiawatha Marines 7p Union Mtg 2-4 pm	6 Fish Fry 4:30-7:00pm Music by Riv- er Run 6-9pm	7
8 Daylight Savings Card Show In hall	9 SAL Mtg 6:30pm Lions Meeting	10 Exec/Post Mtg 5pm 40&8 after ALR Wings 5p	11 Rotary 11am Bingo 7pm Food by Aux	12 Broasted Chicken 5:00-6:30pm SE Patriot 7p	13 Fish Fry 4:30-7:00pm	14 Cancer Benefit in hall
15	16 Red Cross in Hall 12-6pm DAR 6:30pm	17 St. Patrick's Day!!! Basket Nite 5-7p Noon Lions	18 Rotary 11am Bingo 7pm	19 Promoting Agriculture 4:30-7pm	20 Fish Fry 4:30-7:00pm Music by Rhythm Playboys 6-9pm	21 Pickwick Mill ChickenQue by the SAL 11am Local Lodge 1030 At 6:30pm
22 Birthday Party!!!	23 HVMH Meeting	24 Taco Nite 5pm-6:30pm w/meat raffle Union Mtg 7p	25 Rotary 11am Bingo 7pm Food by ALR	26 SE Patriot 7p	27 Fish Fry 4:30-7pm Music by Mudcat 6-9pm	28 WSU Ducks Unlimited
29 Celebration of Life	30 Kwik Trip Meeting	31				



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