



## LANCE LARSON FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER '26 - '27

January 2026

Friends and Comrades:

I am formally announcing my candidacy for Department Senior Vice Commander for 2026-2027. My Goal is to continue and to expand **Departmental Support of Post Initiatives, Post Goals and Post Programs**. This year **the Posts in the West and their Members** have achieved great success, including **reaching 83% by mid-January 2026**. A true sign of the hard work by each Post to focus on the needs of their Members and their Communities. As Senior Vice Commander I wish to reinforce Departmental Support, not interference, of this Successful Revitalization that is energized by the combined efforts of the Posts to serve their Membership and Communities.

I joined The American Legion (PUFL) after serving in the US Coast Guard. So far, my greatest pleasure in my 16 years as a Legionnaire has been working as a certified Post Service Officer at Post 129 during the last 6 years. I was coached by some of our finest Service Officers, leaders like Past NVCDR Bobby Bryant and Post CDR Jim Hunter. This is one of the most important parts of our mission as set forth in the last sentence of The Preamble: "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

I currently serve as the Department Vice Commander - West (2025-26) and VCDR of Post 129. As an Instructor at the Department's American Legion College for 4 years, I have built many friendships with leaders across the entire state. As VCDR-West, I have met and worked with even more friends at the Post and District Levels. We have helped each other navigate the renewed focus on taking The American Legion's missions to the streets and schools of our communities.

My additional and varied experience as District 5A DEC (2017-18), District 5A VCDR (2018-19), District 5A CDR (2020-21 & 2021-22), Department Sergeant-at-Arms (2019-20 & 2022-23) and as Acting Department Adjutant (Oct. 2023-Nov.2024) has given me the chance to discover the original flexibility incorporated in 1919 by National HQ and the Department HQ, refined over a Century, relies upon and allow Posts to successfully define and meet the needs of Veterans in their Community and the needs of their Community. Like individual jigsaw pieces, local Posts join together in expanding the results for the entire Department. As Senior Vice Commander, I seek your vote to continue to build on these successful, local initiatives and to encourage sharing of comradeship and mission fulfillment across the state.