



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

First for a Reason!

Volume 3 Issue 9

1 September 2026



Wisdom From the District Commander

Hello everyone. It is almost September and at the time this newsletter goes out, the Legion Family will be in Louisville for National Convention. I'll see many of you there and it will be a good time. Hopefully, we'll bring back a lot of good information and greetings from across the globe.

2025-2026 Officers and Staff

Commander Burnell Rau 301 N. 3rd St.
Continental, Ohio 45831
(419) 969-4705 bernrau@gmail.com

1st Vice Commander Jeff Hess 111 S 5th St
Waterville, OH 43566-1304 (509) 995-6595
jeffhess_20@outlook.com

2nd Vice Commander Nicole Rush 3301 W
Lincolnshire Blvd Toledo, Ohio 43606-1224
(419) 297-2133 nrush06@yahoo.com

Adjutant Kevin Motter
516 W. Main St. Montpelier, Ohio 43543 (419) 630-8767
motter.kb@gmail.com

Finance Russell Bohland
223 Dean Rd. Temperance, MI 48133 (734) 847-3543
rgbsb@buckeye-express.com

Chaplain Ron Distel 2010 S Nissen Rd Elmore,
OH 43416-9416 (419) 862-2344
crosswindacre@aol.com

Newsletter Articles Email to:
1stdistrictohio@gmail.com

September 11 th is Patriots Day
“Let us not forget”.

September 18 th is the Birthday
of my beloved Air Force.

Established in 1947, which
makes this service 79 years old.
I personally spent just over 29
years as a member of it.
Wouldn't know where I would
be without it. “Salute!”

The only things that I have
done this past month, as your
District Commander, was make
a cameo appearance at the
District Golf Outing and attend
the DEC meeting in Delaware.
Bradner Post 338 did a great
job setting up and hosting the
District Golf Outing. Thank you
Bradner. The outing had a great
turnout (it sure seemed like a
bunch of folks were there).

All branches of the Legion
Family should have their
membership cards now. 2027
Membership is underway.
Department First Vice
Commander Holly Lewis is
passionate about our
Department's membership. I'm
sure our District First Vice
Commander will have
information on the membership
initiative and the push to talk to
your veterans.

I'll post the same information
about the 541 Family
Homecoming: Continental Post
541 is having a Joint
Homecoming on October 10 th .
We have major representation
in the Ohio Legion Family this
year. Mindi Rue is Department
of Ohio's Auxiliary President,
Todd Bidlack is Detachment of
Ohio's SAL Commander, Chris
Hoeffel is the SAL 1 st District
Commander and I am your 1 st
District Legion Commander. We
are combining for one big party.
If you ever have any questions
or advice about the District or
Legion (in general), call or text
419-969-4705.

I put this in the last newsletter
article, but (please) consider
hosting an event this year.
Show off your hometown
Legion Post and members. Any
post wishing to host an event
can let one of the District
Officers know (call or text)

Web Site: <https://www.thegreatfirstdistrict.com>

Jayson Montgomery

[jraccmm@gmail.com](mailto:jracmm@gmail.com)

Facebook www.facebook.com/The American Legion-Great FIRST District of OHIO

Upcoming E-Boards and Conferences

Fall Conference: October 11th, 2026

A.E.E.E.W. POST 373 5939 STATE ROUTE 109
DELTA, OHIO **Conference begins at 1:30 pm**,
Executive Board follows the Conference.

Mid-Winter Conference: January 10th, 2027

Adams Township Post 553

206 S. BYRNE ROAD TOLEDO, OHIO

Conference begins at 1:30 pm, Executive Board
follows the Conference.

Spring Conference: March 21st, 2027

Bowling Green Post 45

(Meets at VFW Post 1148)

719 S. MAIN STREET BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

Conference begins at 1:30 pm, Executive Board
follows the Conference.

District Convention: May 23rd, 2027

Whitehouse Post 384

6910 PROVIDENCE STREET, WHITEHOUSE,
OHIO

Convention Committees meet at 8:30 am

Convention scheduled to start at 9:30 am.

*Dress for all Conferences and E-Boards is Legion
Business Casual, Uniform Cap, Legion Polo and
Slacks. Dress for the District Convention is Legion
Dress, Uniform Cap, Blue Blazer, Tie, Slacks.

about it. Better yet, be at the Fall/Winter E-Board/Conference. E-Board is where we vote on locations for all events. If you have something that you would like one of the table officers to attend or be involved with, invite us. See you soon...

For God and Country,

Burnell Rau
Commander



Membership With the 1st Vice Jeff Hess

Now is the time to start asking your members to renew. With the per capita increase coming at the beginning of January members that renew before the end of the year will save money if your post has to raise its dues and the post won't have to pay the higher per capita. Members can also renew on the national website for three years. When members renew on the national website they can choose automatic renewal and their dues will be charged to their credit card every time their membership comes up for renewal. (Yearly or every three years) As a reminder, if a member is not current they cannot use the National Insurance Trust. The membership year begins on January 1st. Therefore, if a member is not paid after January 1st they lose this benefit until they are paid. If something happens to the member in a gap in membership the insurance will not pay.



Activities With the 2nd Vice Nicole Rush

Hello Legionnaires!

As we move into this month, let's carry forward the heart of who we are: veterans supporting veterans. Every event we attend is more than just another date on the calendar. It is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, strengthen our posts, and remind ourselves why The American Legion family is so important. One opportunity to come together is the Dept trap shoot tournament in Marengo, Oh on Sunday Sep 6th. Events like this give us a chance to enjoy some friendly competition and comradery while supporting the people and traditions that make our legion community special.

As we gather at events throughout the District, I also encourage each of us to think about membership. Membership isn't simply about numbers-it's about people. Every new member brings another story, another set of experiences another voice, and another

I attended the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis on Aug 6 th though the 8 th . There was a lot of great information in that workshop. One of the things they talked about was a way to help cut the cost of membership. Posts could have a fundraiser that is dedicated to membership. The funds from that project could be used to offset membership dues. So instead of a member paying \$40 for example they could pay \$30 and the money from the fund raiser could be used to pay the rest.

I am very interested in doing a county or district revitalization. We will need volunteers to help make phone calls, knock on doors, and greet people as they come in. We will also need a service officer that can process claims. In addition, we will need a post to host the event. Lunch will be provided to all of the volunteers. I would like to do this in January or February. If your Post would like to host this event or if you would like to volunteer to help please let me know.

As of the time of this writing the District membership was at 1,813 which is 28.10% of goal. I think that is pretty good for this point in the membership year. We need to talk to our members and encourage them to renew before the end of the year. The first quote deadline is Sept 9 th . If your Post makes qouta by that date you will split \$4,000 with any other posts that make quota by that date. The next quota date after Sept is Nov 11 th . If your Post is quota by that date you will split \$6,000 with any other posts that make quota by that date.

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Hess
1st Vice Commander



opportunity to strengthen the future of the American Legion. So, this month I challenge you: Bring a friend, check on a buddy, invite a veteran to an event, or reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. Sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation to remind someone that there is still a place for them at the table. Together, let's continue building a District where veterans and their families feel welcomed, valued, and connected. Keep sending in flyers to post and county events. I look forward to seeing you out and around the District. Let's make it a great month!

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Rush
2nd Vice Commander



Chaplain's Thoughts with Chaplain Ron Distel

Greetings Comrades,
Happy September, can't believe that FALL is just three weeks away. - --
Where does the time go???
I was informed last week that Past 1st District Commander 1989-1990 Robert "BOB" Kane is in Hospice Care as he continues to battle Cancer that is invading his body. Next - - - - "Our" current 1st District Commander Bernie Rau has been visiting his Doctor for a Serious ear infection that also could effect his balance. lastly "Our" Finance Officer Russell Bowland has been going through issues of Partial loss of vision in his left eye, causing an array of problems and concerns. - - - - -Please keep all of these dedicated individuals in your thoughts and Prayers.
With prices out of control reach out to your neighbors and make sure that they are O.K.. - - - - -Many will not let on that they are sacrificing food for bills. - - - - -
Also with colder weather approaching some may be lacking proper protection. "WE" all have a THREE day holiday weekend coming up . If your going on a trip "BE CAREFUL". What ever your doing this month ----- STAY SAFE.
In Closing don't forget that appointment that you have every Sunday Morning.---
--- See you in Church
God Bless and Thank Care

Respectfully
Ron Distel
District Chaplain

From the Desk of the Adjutant Kevin Motter

NOTICE OF PER-CAPITA INCREASE AND 2027 DUES CARDS!
The \$5.00 Department Per-Capita increase was passed at the Convention in Toledo Ohio. This will take effect 1 January 2027. National and Department Per-Capita, (what National and Department both keep in dues) was \$32.50. With this raise it will go to \$37.50 per member. It is suggested you raise your dues to \$40.00 at a minimum. Dues notice mailings were delayed coming from the National HQ. The next scheduled mailing should be in the October/November timeframe.
I have re-started the 1st District Adjutant's Call for the third Wednesday each month. This is an informal get together of Post and County Adjutants with me to discuss issues and even possibly come up with solutions. Our last one was on August 19th, and our next will be September 16th. Check your email for the link to join the meetings.
GO ARMY!

v/r
Kevin Motter
1st District Adjutant

NEWS FROM NATIONAL HQ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

We are still waiting for the renewal reminders from National Headquarters with no ETA due to technical difficulties.
In the meantime, please contact your Posts and Squadrons and encourage them to begin reaching out to their members. Emails and phone calls are a great way to remind members that it is time to renew their membership.
If you are still in possession of 2027 Membership Cards, please contact the Posts and/or Squadrons whose cards you have and make arrangements to get the cards to them. This will help ensure our Posts and Squadrons receive their cards as quickly as possible and will help reduce the high volume of calls to the Department regarding membership cards.
Urgent Reminder – Annual Reports
Please continue to collect **Consolidated Reports and Officer Certifications**. Both reports are past due.
Posts and Squadrons that have not submitted their **Officer Certification are expired in myLegion and are unable to process membership**. Please make sure these reports are submitted as soon as possible so your Post or Squadron can continue processing membership.

Department Bowling Committee – Teams Meeting

2nd Vice Commanders,

You are invited to participate in the Department Bowling Committee Teams meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. You should have already received the Teams meeting invitation.

The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm and identify possible locations for the 2028 and 2029 Department Bowling Tournaments.



When: Wednesday, September 9



Time: 7:00 PM



Where: Microsoft Teams

Hosts: Department 2nd Vice Commander Kenneth LaVoy and Department Bowling Chairman Peggy Gross

We try to have the tournament locations scheduled two years in advance, but we are currently having difficulty finding Posts willing to host the tournaments.

I am asking each District 2nd Vice Commander to reach out to the Posts in your District to see if there is a Post that would be interested in hosting one of the upcoming Department Bowling Tournaments.

Let's see if we can get some Posts interested in hosting and get the next couple of years scheduled!

I have attached the Department Bowling Bid Packet for any Posts that may be interested in hosting. Please share the packet with any Post that would like more information about what is required to host the tournament.

Thank you for your help in reaching out to your Posts and helping us get the 2028 and 2029 tournaments scheduled.

First Vice Commanders!

Department 1st Vice Commander **Holly Lewis** and Department 2nd Vice Commander **Kenneth LaVoy** will be hosting a monthly Teams meeting for all First Vice Commanders on the **4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM**, Starting on September 24, 2026.

These meetings will be a great opportunity to share information, discuss membership and Post activities, address questions or concerns, and learn from one another as we work together to strengthen our Posts and the Department.



When: 4th Thursday of each month



Time: 6:00 PM



Where: Microsoft Teams



Host: Department 1st Vice Commander Holly Lewis

All District 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders were invited by TEAMS; I have email all Post 1st and 2nd Vice Officers but many emails have bounced back. Please connect with your Post / Squadron Officers for correct emails and phone numbers so they will have the most up to date information. We are no longer mailing information.

Department Tournaments

8th Annual Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament

Please see the attached flyer.

February 13-14, 20-21, 26 & 27-28

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

February 26: 5:00 PM start

Hosted by **Mt. Carmel Post 72**

Location: Cherry Grove Lanes

4005 Hill Rd.

Cincinnati, OH 45255

Hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites Cincinnati Eastgate

4501 Eastgate Blvd.

Cincinnati, OH 45245

(513) 752-4400

\$109 + tax

Dates to Remember

September 7: National and Department offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 9: Department Bowling Tournament Committee 7 PM via Teams

September 16: Department Golf Tournament Committee 7 PM via Teams

September 24: First Meeting - **All First and Second Vice Commander** Teams Meeting, 6 PM.

October 3: Standing Commission Meetings

- MMPA (Membership & Post Activities) Commission Meeting via Teams 9 AM- Call Letters will be mailed next month to District 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders

Thank you for everything you are doing to continue growing our membership and strengthening our Posts and Squadrons!

Let's have a great membership year!

V/r,

Sherry Yockey
Membership & Post Activities Manager
The American Legion Department of Ohio
60 Big Run Rd.
Delaware, OH 43315
(740)816-7552

Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament

Request for Proposal

August 26, 2026

Interested in Sponsoring Post –

The American Legion Department of Ohio is seeking bids from a local Post to host the 2028 or 2029 Annual Roger Hight Memorial Bowling Tournament. The tournament typically attracts around 100 four-person teams, totaling nearly 500 bowlers and guests. Each year, a separate bid will be required.

NOTE: A local American Legion must serve as the Host Post. A Bowling Alley must have at least 32 lanes.

The style is a Handicap Tournament. The scheduled dates are weekends starting with the second weekend in February and continuing for at least three consecutive weekends.

Doubles and Singles Events are held on Saturday, usually starting at 9 AM, with four bowlers sharing two lanes. (The number of bowlers per lane may vary depending on the facility.)

Four-person team events are held on Sundays unless a team has requested to bowl on Friday night.

The minimum number of rooms typically needed is 75 per weekend. The Post must arrange for complimentary lodging through the hotel's agreement. At least four complimentary rooms will be reserved for the Department staff liaison and the bowling committee members attending that week.

The American Legion Department of Ohio's policy prevents the Bowling Committee from holding the Tournament at the same location two years in a row. However, this rule can be waived depending on the number and quality of bids received.

If you submit a bid packet, ensure that you complete all the enclosed forms and gather all supporting documentation. Then, submit a **FULLY COMPLETED PACKAGE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**. Bid packets that are not completed correctly will not be considered. The Department Headquarters and the Bowling Committee will decide on the tournament location.

Post must send completed bid packets with all supporting data to The American Legion Department of Ohio, 60 Big Run Rd., Delaware, OH 43015. Bid packets for 2028 and 2029 must be submitted by November 1, 2026. The submitted packets must specify the year for which the proposal is intended. A bid packet is required for each year.

"Veterans Strengthening America"

Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament

Host Post Information Sheet

Host Post –

Thank you for your dedication to hosting the upcoming Department Bowling Tournament. Below, you'll find a brief checklist for your review.

Secure a hotel

A completed proposal from each hotel must be provided, detailing the type of rooms (e.g., doubles, kings), the number of rooms, and the corresponding rates. Additionally, we need clear assurance that sleeping accommodation will be available for the entire tournament. Please exclude hotels that are currently under construction or will be under construction.

Please arrange for complimentary housing as detailed in the hotel proposal. The free rooms will be reserved for the Department staff liaison and the bowling committee attending that week.

The preferred room option is one king-size room or suite. The Department requires a minimum of four complimentary rooms each weekend.

Signed Letter by Host Post

A letter must be provided and signed by the Post Commander or the Post Adjutant, noting the date, time, and place of the meeting at which Post members approved hosting the Tournament. Meeting minutes may be requested.

Ball and Bag Check Room

The host Post will operate a room on-site for registration and ball and bag check, in conjunction with the bowling committee, in accordance with the American Legion Department of Ohio Tournament rules. The host post will be responsible for the required equipment, insurance, and other necessary items.

Will the Host Post provide a certificate of liability insurance to Department Headquarters with the bid packet?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Deadline

The 2027 bid packets must be submitted to The American Legion Department of Ohio by November 1, 2025. Please read all the information in this packet, complete all the forms, and indicate the year for which your bid is applicable. Make sure to keep a copy for your records.

"Veterans Strengthening America"

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 66 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007

Proposals/Contracts

All proposals/contracts are the responsibility of The American Legion Department of Ohio.

Finances

The local American Legion does not bear any expenses in the Tournament's actual operation at the Bowling establishment.

Tournament Operation

The Tournament's operation is the responsibility of The American Legion Department of Ohio.

Selection of Tournament Site

The American Legion Department of Ohio and the Bowling Committee will select the site for the upcoming Department Tournament based on a comprehensive review of bids submitted by local American Legion Posts.

***** Special Information*****

The American Legion Department of Ohio policy does not permit the Bowling Committee to hold the Tournament in the same location for two consecutive years. However, this may be waived depending on the number of bids received.

Post-Sale of Merchandise

Your Post may sell items at the Bowling Alley. In the past, Post has sold t-shirts, cans, bottle koozies, and towels. All profits from the post-sale will stay with the Post. The Post is solely responsible for the management and advertising of any sale.

*****POST CONTACT PERSON SUBMITTING BID*****

NAME: _____

TOURNAMENT YR: _____ POST #: _____

ADDRESS: _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

"Veterans Strengthening America"

Bowling Alley Information Sheet

1. NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____
PHONE # _____ Email: _____
NAME OF OWNER/MGR.: _____
NUMBER OF LANES IN HOUSE: _____

LANES PER WEEKEND ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXCLUSIVE USE BY THE AMERICAN
LEGION ON SATURDAY FROM OPENING UNTIL 6:00 PM AND SUNDAY FROM
OPENING UNTIL NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND
THE BOWLING COMMITTEE.

2. BOWLING FEE \$ _____ PER GAME
SINGLES \$ _____ DOUBLES \$ _____
THREE-GAME TOTAL PER 4-PERSON TEAM \$ _____

3. DOES THE LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST APPROVE OF HAVING THE
TOURNAMENT? YES _____ NO _____

4. THE BOWLING ESTABLISHMENT HAS THE REQUESTED LANES (AT LEAST
32 LANES) ON FRIDAY NIGHTS & WEEKENDS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, IF
NEEDED.

YES _____ NO _____

5. BOWLING HOUSE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUTOMATED
COMPUTER PROGRAM. WHAT PROGRAM IS USED?

"Veterans Strengthening America"

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-6007

6. THE BOWLING ESTABLISHMENT WILL PROVIDE SCOREKEEPERS ON ALL TOURNAMENT DATES AT NO CHARGE.

YES ☐

NO ☐

7. WILL THE BOWLING ALLEY ALLOW THE HOST POST OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO OPERATE & RECEIVE ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE BALL CHECK DURING THE TOURNAMENT?

YES ☐

NO ☐

8. CONTACT INFORMATION OF PERSON SUBMITTING BID:

1. NAME

2. ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

3. PHONE #

E-MAIL:

9. THE HOST AMERICAN LEGION POST MAY DECIDE TO SELL ITEMS AS A FUNDRAISER DURING THE TOURNAMENT. THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO BOWLING COMMITTEE.

NOTE: A letter of interest from the bowling establishment must be furnished with this application. Pictures of the house should be included if the Tournament has not been held in the house in the past three years.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

"Veterans Strengthening America"

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007

Hotel Request for Proposal Information Sheet

1. NAME OF HOTEL: _____
2. ADDRESS: _____
3. PHONE # _____ Fax: _____
4. SALES DIRECTOR: _____
5. EASY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SALESPERSON:

6. E-MAIL: _____
7. TOTAL # OF SLEEPING ROOMS: _____
8. TOTAL NUMBER ROOMS COMMITTED: _____
9. "COMP" POLICY: _____
10. GUARANTEED DATES: _____
11. ROOM RATES: _____ TAX RATE: _____
12. CHECK-IN TIME: _____ CHECK-OUT TIME: _____
13. POLICY ON BRINGING BEVERAGES INTO HOTEL/MOTEL _____

14. IS PROPERTY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISABILITIES ACT IN BOTH
SLEEPING ROOMS AND PUBLIC SPACE?

YES ☐ NO ☐

PARKING FEES _____

HOTEL REPRESENTATIVE: _____

"Veterans Strengthening America"

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT

North Baltimore Veterans Never Forgotten

by John W. Harden

Nestled on the back wall of the stage in the hall of American Post 539, North Baltimore Ohio is a piece of history local veterans are very proud of. A mural painted in 1952 by a local painter named "Karl Barth" is affixed to the wall.

On this painting are 4 North Baltimore veterans that served in World War II along with scenes depicting explosions in the background and if you look real close a sniper.

As the story is told, this painting was displayed above the canteen since 1952 in a previous location that was home to Post 539. When that building was evacuated and bulldozed to rubble, the painting was salvaged and stored in a garage adjacent to the current home of Post 539 In 1987. The new post opened in 1988 and it wasn't until approximately 1997 the painting that all

but had been forgotten was “found” in the same place it was stored 10 years earlier. Then Commander Sam Bretz brought it out of storage and discovered that it fit perfectly in the hall, on the back wall of the stage. It was later sealed for protection and hangs where it was hung in 1997.

The individuals on the mural are World War II Veterans that lived in North Baltimore. Frank Paden AAC, Dale Symonds Army, Arvid Steif USMC, and Hilas Brown Navy. Each went on to successful lives and some had harrowing stories from their time serving.

This mural, albeit of World War II veterans, not only represents the “War to End all Wars” veterans but all veterans past and present from North Baltimore Ohio that have served in defense our Great Nation.



DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP STATS



Past Department Commander Stan makes BIG Contribution!

Past Department Commander Stan Oren recently presented his selected Charity, Challenged Champions with a check totaling \$17,947.01
Thanks Stan for making an impact!

American Legion Toledo Post 335

At our July 24, 2026 meeting, our Post was presented a T-shirt by Scouting America - Erie Shores Council. Pictured is Nelson Shaffer of Scouting America – Erie Shores Council, along with John Gentle of American Legion Post #335. Nelson is presenting John with a Miakonda Day Camp T-shirt that shows all of the sponsors for this year's day camp. Post #335 gave a donation of \$2,500 to assist Scouting America – Erie Shores Council and the Buffalo Soldiers in their initiative to send youth to camp for free.



District Membership Stats for August 26th, 2026



The Great RRST District
Ohio American Legion
Monthly Membership Stats

Made with AI

Last Available Dept. Stats as of 8/26/2026

Post #	Post Name	Location	2027 Memb	2027 Quota	Plus or Minus	Current Quota %
1st Division: Wood/Ottawa Counties						
Wood County						
28	Perrysburg	Perrysburg	54	112	-58	48.21%
45	Bowling Green	Bowling Green	11	48	-37	22.92%
183	Freedom	Pemberville	51	95	-44	53.68%
240	Troy-Webster	Luckey	6	36	-30	16.67%
338	Albert Bowe	Bradner	37	163	-126	22.70%
441	Lyburger-Gimrn	Tontogany	30	96	-66	31.25%
533	Rossford	Rossford	6	38	-32	15.79%
539	North Baltimore	North Baltimore	71	194	-123	34.54%
Wood County Totals:			266	782	-516	34.20%
Ottawa County						
113	Alfred G. Doaksy	Port Clinton	20	74	-54	27.03%
114	John A. Fader	Oak Harbor	30	126	-96	23.81%
279	Community	Elmore	21	52	-31	40.38%
324	Genoa	Genoa	32	107	-75	29.91%
542	Scheible-Downing	Put-In-Bay	21	65	-44	32.31%
555	Louis Reuma	Marblehead	7	21	-14	33.33%
Ottawa County Totals:			131	445	-314	29.44%
1st Division Totals:			397	1227	-830	32.36%
2nd Division: Hancock/Putnam/Henry Counties						
Hancock County						
3	Ralph D. Cole	Findlay	93	334	-241	27.84%
511	Mulford-Butler	McComb	4	29	-25	13.79%
Hancock County Totals:			97	363	-266	26.72%
Putnam County						
63	Kern-Slusser	Ottawa	74	216	-142	34.26%
172	Diermer-Dodmeyer	Miller City	16	39	-23	41.03%
287	Charles J. Wagner	Leipsic	10	49	-39	20.41%
516	Bowers-Slusser	Columbus Grove	42	118	-76	35.59%
536	Harter-Williams	Glbno	16	71	-55	22.54%
541	Winnow-Inn	Continental	34	141	-107	24.11%
715	Colonel Jennings	Fort Jennings	24	135	-111	17.78%
Putnam County Totals:			216	769	-553	28.09%

Henry County

262	Warren L. McIntire	Hamler	41	102	-61	40.20%
300	Bert G. Taylor	Napoleon	90	334	-244	26.56%
316	Deshler	Deshler	13	59	-46	22.03%
332	Robert McMillion	McClure	9	61	-52	14.75%
340	William F. Holnike	Holgate	2	19	-17	10.53%
454	Ward L. Adams	Ridgeville Corners	40	107	-67	37.38%
492	Gilbert Bauhman	Liberty Center	4	22	-18	18.18%
Henry County Totals:			199	704	-505	28.27%

2nd Division Totals:

512 1835 -1324 27.89%

3rd Division: Fulton/Williams Counties**Fulton County**

143	John Daie	Fayette	9	39	-30	23.08%
265	Robinson-Gibbs	Wauseon	81	240	-159	33.75%
311	Buehrer-Lauber-Weckesser	Archbold	13	61	-48	21.31%
373	A.E.E.E.W.	Delta	25	104	-79	24.04%
479	Murbach-Sidert	Swanton	58	219	-161	26.48%
Fulton County Totals:			186	663	-477	28.05%

Williams County

10	J.D. Smith Memorial	Edgerton	6	36	-30	16.67%
60	Yostice-Strong Memorial	Stryker	4	44	-40	9.09%
109	Montpelier	Montpelier	13	64	-51	20.31%
284	Charles E. Arnold	Bryan	34	115	-81	29.57%
307	Agnew-Shinnabarger	Pioneer	11	78	-67	14.10%
662	Edon	Edon	10	47	-37	21.28%
669	West Unity	West Unity	17	69	-52	24.64%
Williams County Totals:			95	453	-358	20.97%

3rd Division Totals:

281 1116 -835 25.18%

4th Division: Defiance/Paulding Counties**Defiance County**

137	Farmer	Farmer	37	48	-11	77.08%
223	Hicksville	Hicksville	14	60	-46	23.33%
635	Community Memorial	Jewell	23	72	-49	31.94%
680	Nsy Community	Nsy	4	30	-26	13.33%
Defiance County Totals:			78	210	-132	37.14%

Paulding County

253	Connell-Boylan	Antwerp	17	42	-25	40.48%
297	Reuben J. Smith	Payne	24	74	-50	32.43%
341	Gitz-Brown	Oakwood	3	30	-27	10.00%
Paulding County Totals:			44	146	-102	30.14%

4th Division Totals:

122 356 -236 34.27%

5th Division: Lucas County

Made with AI

Lucas County

18	Terry Wroblewski	Toledo	55	57	-2	96.49%
110	Point Place	Toledo	14	95	-81	14.74%
232	Alva N. Side	Grand Rapids	37	98	-61	37.76%
320	Maumee	Maumee	48	216	-168	22.22%
335	Toledo	Toledo	29	45	-16	64.44%
384	Whitehouse	Whitehouse	43	248	-205	17.34%
468	Joseph W. Diehm	Sylvania	82	270	-188	30.37%
512	Toledo Police	Toledo	12	60	-48	20.00%
537	Christ Dunberger	Oregon	28	136	-108	20.59%
553	Adams Township	Toledo	57	200	-143	28.50%
587	Conn-Weisenberger	Toledo	95	321	-226	29.60%
642	Przybylski	Toledo	9	46	-37	19.57%
646	Holland	Holland	39	110	-71	35.45%
786	Donald Dunbar	Toledo	1	16	-15	6.25%

Lucas County Totals:

549	1918	-1369	28.63%
549	1918	-1369	28.63%

5th Division Totals:

County Line Up		Division Line Up	Standings
1	Defiance 37.14%	1st	32.35% 2nd
2	Wood 34.20%	2nd	27.89% 4th
3	Paulding 30.14%	3rd	25.18% 5th
4	Ottawa 29.44%	4th	24.27% 1st
5	Lucas 28.63%	5th	28.63% 3rd
6	Henry 28.27%	1st District is in 10th Place in the Department Paid Members: 1,861 Quota 6,453 IGN-IOI.com/join/oiodivision.com	
7	Putnam 28.09%		
8	Fulton 28.05%		
9	Hancock 25.72%		
10	Williams 20.97%		

THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT SEP2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		107TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LOUISVILLE KY	107TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LOUISVILLE KY	107TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LOUISVILLE KY		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DEPT TRAPSHOOT TOURNAMENT MARENGO, OH				PATRIOT DAY		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					POST SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL DELAWARE, OH	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY						

THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT OCT2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					3	
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	NATIONAL FALL MEETING INIANAPOLIS, IN	NATIONAL FALL MEETING INIANAPOLIS, IN	NATIONAL FALL MEETING INIANAPOLIS, IN	NATIONAL FALL MEETING INIANAPOLIS, IN		10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1 st DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE DELTA, OH						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT NOV2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
DEC Meeting Department HQ Delaware, OH						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
HAPPY THANKS GIVING						
29	30					

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEDULE

County Council	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lucas	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole
1st Monday at 7:00 pm	7/7/2026	8/3/2026	9/15/2026	10/5/2026	11/7/2026	12/7/2026
Bruce Gardner (419) 708-3321		Conn-Weiss. Post 587	Toledo Police Post 512	Whitehouse Post 384	Adams Two Post 553	Diehn Post 468
Williams	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie
Set Tuesdays at 6:30 pm	7/21/2026			10/13/2026		
John McDonald (419) 439-1137	Online			Online		
Def/Pau County	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff
4th Tuesday at 8:00 pm			9/22/2026		11/24/2026	
Chris Newton (419) 576-0728			Antwerp Post 253		Farmer Post 249	
Wood County Council	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole
4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm	7/22/2026		9/23/2026	10/28/2026	11/25/2026	
Steve Benner (419)261-4670						
Putnam/Hancock County	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie
Last Monday at 7:00 pm	7/27/2026		9/28/2026	10/26/2026	11/23/2026	
Burnie Rau (419) 969-4705	(6:00 pm) Gilboa Post 536		Continental Post 541	Ottawa Post 63	Findlay Post 3	

*6:00 Corn Roast

County Council	January	February	March	April	May	June
Lucas	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole
1st Monday at 7:00 pm	1/4/2027	2/1/2027	3/1/2027	4/5/2027	5/2/2027	6/7/2027
Bruce Gardner (419) 708-3321	Whitehouse Post 384	Przybylski Post 642	Grand Rapids Post 232	Toledo Police Post 512	Conn-Weiss. Post 587	Holland Post 646
Williams	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie
Set Tuesdays at 6:30 pm	1/12/2027		3/23/2027		5/25/2027	
John McDonald (419) 439-1137	Online		Online		Online	
Def/Pau County	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff
4th Tuesday at 8:00 pm	1/26/2027	2/23/2027	3/23/2027	4/27/2027	5/25/2027	
Chris Newton (419) 576-0728	Hicksville Post 223	Jewell Post 635	Ney Post 680	Oakwook Post 341	Payne Post 297	
Wood County Council	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole
4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm						
Steve Benner (419)261-4670						
Putnam/Hancock County	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie	Jeff	Nicole	Burnie
Last Monday at 7:00 pm	1/25/2027	2/22/2027	3/29/2027	4/26/2027	5/24/2027	6/28/2027
Burnie Rau (419) 969-4705	Leipsic Post 287	Ft Jennings Post 715	Columbus Grove Post 516	Continental Post 541	Ottawa Post 63	Findlay Post 3



News about Post Grants from Ohio American Legion Charities Inc.

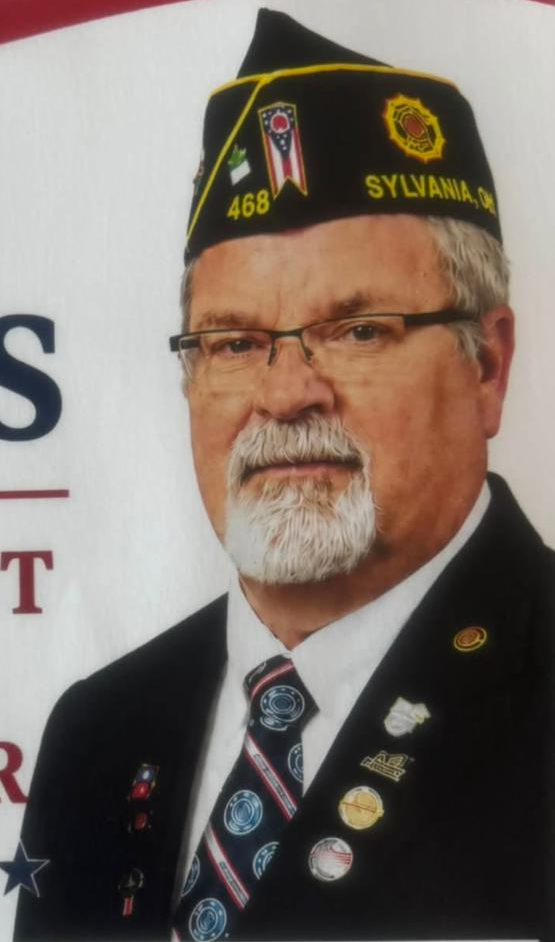
Charles Stennis, Past Department Commander and President of Charities Inc., said they are in the process of establishing a separate 501(c) organization to meet the requirements of the Ohio Attorney General's office regarding granting money back to Posts for improvements. This process should be completed by the end of the year. New guidelines and an application process will be established.

If your Post has news it would like to appear in the Great FIRST District Newsletter, please submit it to the Editor by the 25th of the month for the next issue at: 1stdistrictohio@gmail.com



DEAN BOYERS

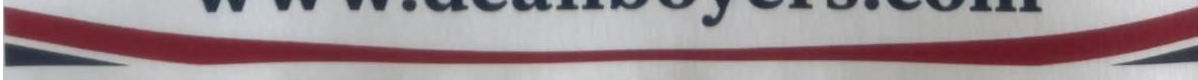
— FOR —
**DEPARTMENT
2ND VICE
COMMANDER**
★ 2027-2028 ★



- ★ Department Treasurer 2026-2027
- ★ Department Sgt-at-Arms 2023-2024
- ★ 1st District Commander 2025-2026
- ★ Lucas County Commander 2023-2024
- ★ Post 468 Commander
 - 2019-2023
 - 2024-2025
- ★ Commissioner – Lucas County Veterans Service Commission

Learn more at:

www.deanboyers.com



★ ADAMS TOWNSHIP ★



CAR SHOW ★ IN THE SHADE ★

TOGETHER FOR A GREAT DAY!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Craft SHOW

Shop Local!
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

★ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 ★

CAR SHOW: NOON – 3:00 PM
REGISTRATION: 10:00 AM • REGISTRATION FEE: \$10



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CARS • TRUCKS • MOTORCYCLES
CUSTOMS • STREET RODS
ORIGINAL & RESTORED

VEHICLES AWARDS
DOOR PRIZES • 50/50 RAFFLES



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DJ POPP

facebook.com/DJRyanPopp



EARLY MORNING COFFEE & DONUTS
★★ WITH A DONATION ★★

CRAFT SHOW: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



★ WOMEN'S CRAFT SHOW (INDOORS) ★

8-FOOT TABLES – \$10

CONTACT: PATTI WATSON
(419) 309-3362

TABLE
FEE
\$10

★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 553 ★

206 S. BYRNE RD, TOLEDO, OHIO

★ MAIL REGISTRATION TO: ★
DAVE PAQUETTE
206 S. BYRNE RD, TOLEDO, OHIO 43614
419-474-8014

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ZIP: _____
VEHICLE YEAR & MODEL: _____

*** MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 553 ***

★ FOOD • VENDORS • RAFFLES • 50/50 • FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ★



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



BOWLING GREEN
VS TARLETON STATE

SATURDAY
SEPT. 5, 2026
12:00 PM



FREE TICKET & CAMO HAT
FOR VETERANS AND THOSE IN ACTIVE SERVICE
(LIMITED SUPPLY OF HATS)

DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR
FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND GUESTS





— ESTABLISHED 18 SEPTEMBER 1947 —

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



★ ★ Please Join Us For a ★

JOINT HOMECOMING

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF OHIO

COMMANDER

TODD BIDLACK

HONORING
AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT
OF OHIO

PRESIDENT

MINDI RUE

AMERICAN LEGION
FIRST DISTRICT

COMMANDER

BERNIE RAU

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION
FIRST DISTRICT

COMMANDER

CHRIS HOEFFEL



5:00 PM
COCKTAIL HOUR



6:00 PM
DINNER
Catered by
BLACK ANGUS ON MAIN
Ottoville, Ohio



PRESENTATION PROGRAM
After Dinner



BOTTLE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER
to benefit
**PAST SAL COMMANDERS
CHARITIES**



LIVE MUSIC
FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION
EVERYONE WELCOME TO STAY!

DRESS CODE: LEGION CASUAL

REGISTER ONLINE



Scan the QR code
to reserve your
tickets online!

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-5434>

PAY BY CHECK

Can't pay online? No problem!

Mail your check with attendee names to:



American Legion Post 541
PO Box 306
109 South 5th Street
Continental, Ohio 45831

Please include:
Names of attendees, phone number,
and email address.



HOTEL INFORMATION

If you wish to stay overnight, our
preferred hotel location is in
Defiance, Ohio.

You may choose from:

- Holiday Inn
- Hampton Inn
- Quality Inn



All hotels are located
near each other.

HOTELS ARE ON YOUR OWN.
A SHUTTLE WILL BE PROVIDED
TO AND FROM THE EVENT.

SATURDAY
★ **OCTOBER 10, 2026** ★



AMERICAN LEGION POST 541
109 SOUTH 5TH STREET
CONTINENTAL, OHIO

\$40.00 PER PERSON

TENTATIVE DINNER MENU

- Steak or Chicken
- Green Beans
- Noodles
- Salad
- Red Smashed Potatoes
- Dessert

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY



★ JOINING TO SERVE VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES ★



LEGION *Cruise*



— APRIL 13-18, 2028 —



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an unforgettable
getaway!*

— LEAVING OUT OF —
FORT LAUDERDALE

— PORTS OF CALL —



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AND



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D.R.**



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PER PERSON

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PLEASE CONTACT

Ty Bowers

✉ ty.a.bwrs@gmail.com

★ **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO GO!** ★



**Genoa
American Legion
Post 324**

302 West St., Genoa

**1st & 3rd Thursday
of every month**

Doors open at 5 pm

(early bird at 5:30 and regular BINGO at 6:15)

No one under 18 years old
No outside food or drink
Refreshments available inside

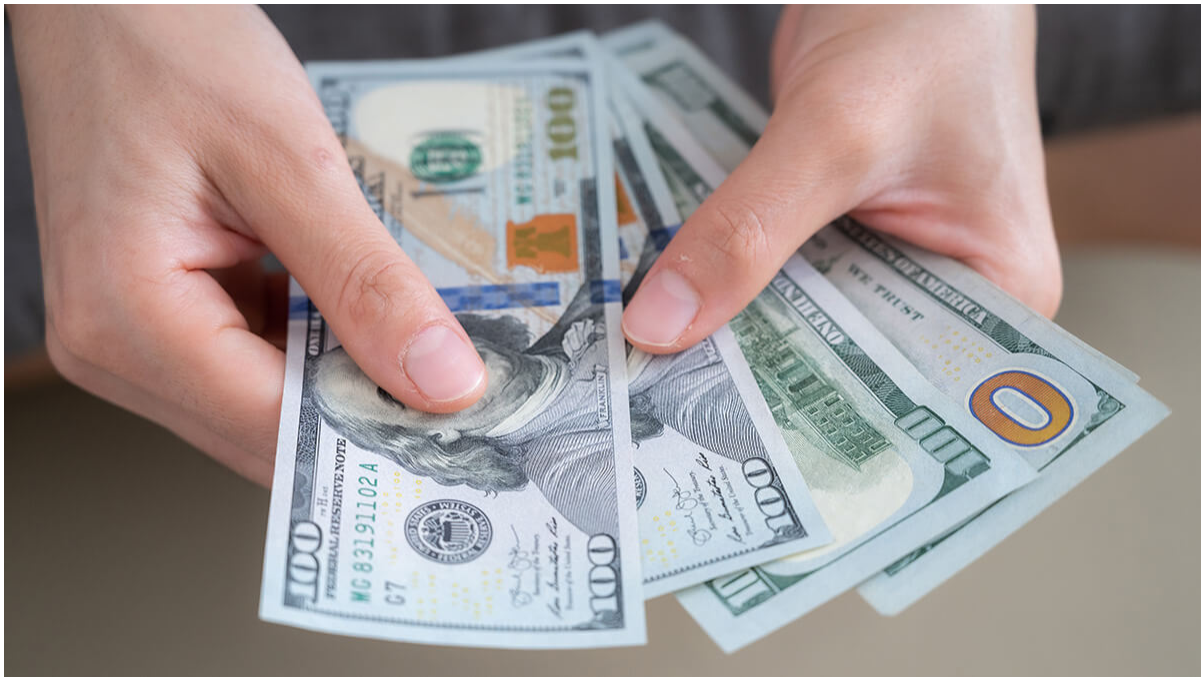
***To join or rent the
Genoa American Legion
call 419-205-1942.***



AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

How many members of your Post have taken The American Legion Basic Training Course?
Have you taken The American Legion Basic Training Course?

Knowledge is Power. Find the Basic Training Course online at www.legion.org



Attend District Conferences and Conventions, WIN FREE Money!

Did you know your Post can win between \$100 and \$400 just by having any Post Officer attend a District Conference or Convention? We draw one Poker Chip at the end of each Conference with a Post Number from each Post in the Great FIRST District, if a member of your Post is present, your Post WINS! If not, the money rolls over to the next meeting. See the meeting schedule on the front page!

NEXT DRAWING IS WORTH \$100.00
ALL YOUR POST NEEDS TO DO IS SEND A DELEGATE!

Not getting the Ohio Legion News?

Click on this QR Code:



1st District Facebook Page

Now you can find and share the Great FIRST District Facebook Page with your Post members by using the QR Code. Point your smart phone camera at the code and BOOM! You are there with all the up-to-date information on District activities.

Or copy and paste the below into your web browser:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091936718414>

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Subscribe and Share the Great FIRST District Newsletter

Of the nearly 7,041 Legionnaires in the District only 262 of them, with ALA and Sons, are receiving this newsletter. Of that number, only half are opening and reading it. Help us grow those numbers. Every Legionnaire with an email address should be receiving it. Forward it to your Post membership. Anyone who wishes to receive it only needs to send me

their name, Legion affiliation and an email address. If you have an event coming up, send it also for inclusion in the newsletter to: **1stdistrictohio@gmail.com**

Connect with us on Facebook or our website!

First District American Legion of Ohio | 516 West Main Street | Montpelier, OH 43543 US

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