



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

First for a Reason!

Volume 3 Issue 10

1 October 2026



Wisdom From the District Commander

Good day all. Here we are at the beginning of October. The full Harvest Moon was this past Saturday signifying the arrival of Autumn. Leaves will be changing, temperatures dropping and shorts go to the back of the closet.

With National Convention in our rear-view mirror, Legion Family functions will be back on the

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rise. Many things to work on with membership and veteran outreach coming into the holiday season. By Department Mid-Winter, we will know where we sit and what is needed for 2027.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

October 10th is the Joint Homecoming at my post.

Continental Post 541 is having a Joint Homecoming on October 10th. 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 1st District

Commander and I am your 1st District Legion Commander. We are combining for one big party. (Flyer attached in this newsletter).

October 10th (at 10am) will also be the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Executive Committee meeting at Ottawa Post 63. The attendees for the DEC know who they are, but right after the meeting there will be a membership workshop. Please be sure your Sons know of this

training. (Flyer attached in this newsletter).

October 11th at 1:30pm the Fall Conference for the Great First District at the Delta, Ohio American Legion.

October 12th is the Columbus Day holiday.

October 13th is the US Navy's Birthday. For all my Naval veteran comrades, at my Legion Post, I'll play "In the Navy" by The Village People to commemorate the day.

October 15th is the Adjutant's Meeting put on monthly by the Department of Ohio. Contact me if you need more information for this online meeting.

October 26th is designated "Day of the Deployed". Let us remember our comrades away from home around the globe.

October 27th is Navy Day. You may wonder what the difference

Jayson Montgomery
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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.

is between the Navy Birthday and Navy Day (I know I did). There are plenty of differences between the two, starting with the fact that the Navy Birthday is recognized on the anniversary of the historical formation of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. Navy Day was originally chosen to coincide with the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt. While both holidays recognize the service and sacrifices of those in uniform, Navy Day is specifically about military service, where the Navy birthday celebrates the origins and history of the U.S. Navy. Of course, the end of October is Halloween, trick or treat, trunk or treat, corn mazes and small-town festival with apple butter, carmel corn and cider. 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 2 newsletters, 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) 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

We are starting to move into the holiday season. It's a good time to start thinking about holiday parties.

A Halloween party, a thanksgiving dinner, and a Christmas Party are all great ways to bring your membership together. Getting your members involved in post activities will strengthen membership and help with retention. This time of year is a good time to call your members and check in. The holidays can be a very hard time for people who live alone. Suicide rates go up during the holidays. If you make a call you could potentially save someone's life. I have a script that can be used. I also have a QR code for reporting your calls. When you call your members just ask them how they are doing and if the Legion can do anything for them. You should also invite them to attend a meeting or post activity. I know I have said this before and I will keep saying it. I strongly believe that posts should keep in contact with their members.

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. I can also print a list of 888 members in your area. You can call these people and ask them to transfer. This will help with reaching your post quota. If you need help calling



Activities With the 2nd Vice Nicole Rush

No article this month due to illness.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Rush
2nd Vice Commander

people please let me know. I am more than happy to help make calls. As of the time of this writing the District membership was at 2,017 which is 31.26% of goal. That puts us in 5th place in the Department. We need to talk to our members and encourage them to renew before the end of the year. The next quota deadline is Nov 11th. If your Post makes quota by that date you will split \$6,000 with any other posts that make quota by that date. National Headquarters has scheduled the mailing of 2027 membership renewal notices for October 3–9, 2026. Cutoff date for renewals was September 9, meaning, members that paid their dues between September 9th and October 3rd will receive a renewal notice. If they paid their dues, notify them to disregard the notice. There will be an influx of membership processing coming in the next couple weeks. An affordable USB barcode scanner can be used with MyLegion to scan membership cards directly into the transmittal, eliminating the need to search for members or manually enter member ID numbers. Basic scanners are available on Amazon for approximately \$13–\$15 and can make processing multiple renewals quicker and easier.

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Hess
1st Vice Commander



Chaplain's Thoughts with Chaplain Ron Distel

Greetings Comrades;
Welcome to Fall---- AND we know what comes next.
Everyone has been behaving fairly well as I have not heard of many being sick. Past District Commander Joe Navarre's



From the Desk of the Adjutant Kevin Motter

1st District Adjutant's Calls are online meetings you can attend on your computer or smart phone. They are held on the third Wednesday each month. This is an informal get together of Post and County Adjutants with me to discuss issues and

wife passed away this past month. I was on vacation and didn't have the necessary information to be able to send a Memorial card. Joe knows that my thoughts and Prayers were with him and his family.

I was just informed this morning that 1st District 2nd Vice Commander Nicole is in the hospital in Ann Arbor---- being treated for some type of Staph infection. She will be out of Commission for awhile. Please keep her in your thoughts and Prayers.

Well it won't be long until "WE" will be shoveling----Plowing and Blowing snow-----everyone take care of yourselves -- - - - accidents can happen rather quickly when your working in the cold. I hope and Pray that "WE" have a mild winter-- ----and "WE" all get through Safely.

I'll say So long for now - - - - - See you at the fall Conference-- - - - - Be Good & Stay Safe.
God Bless

Ron Distel
District Chaplain

even possibly come up with solutions. Our next meeting will be October 21st. Check your email for the link to join the meetings.

v/r
Kevin Motter
1st District Adjutant



NOTICE OF FALL CONFERENCE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING!

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.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL HQ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Legion Membership: 31.52%

SAL Membership: 17.82%

UPCOMING NATIONAL TARGET DATES

Our next National target date for the Legion is **55% by October 14, 2026.**

For the Sons of The American Legion, our next National target date is **35% by October 14, 2026.**

RENEWAL NOTICE REMINDER

National Headquarters has scheduled the mailing of **2027 membership renewal notices for October 3–9, 2026. Cut off date for renewals was September 9, meaning, members that paid their dues between September 9 – October 3 will receive a renewal notice. If they paid their dues, notify them to disregard the notice.**

In the meantime, please continue encouraging your Posts and Squadrons to contact their members and get renewals in as soon as possible. Personal phone calls and emails can help build momentum while we wait for the renewal notices to arrive.

Please connect with the Posts in your District and offer your assistance as they prepare for the influx of membership processing. An affordable **USB barcode scanner** can be used with MyLegion to scan membership cards directly into the transmittal, eliminating the need to search for members or manually enter member ID numbers. Basic scanners are available on Amazon for approximately **\$13–\$15** and can make processing multiple renewals quicker and easier. Link: **[Amazon Barcode Scanner](#)**

As always, Posts and Squadrons can contact the Department if additional help is needed.

UPCOMING DEPARTMENT TARGET DATE

November 11, 2026 – Quota Post Award: \$6,000, to be divided equally among qualifying Posts.

URGENT REMINDER – ANNUAL REPORTS

Please continue collecting **Officer Certifications** and submit all forms to **forms@ohiolegion.com**.

Posts and Squadrons that have not submitted their **Officer Certification and Consolidated Report are no longer in compliance.**

Please remind your Posts and Squadrons that submitting the **Officer Certification (OFC)** is important not only for compliance, but also to ensure they receive **Department communications and mailings**. Posts and Squadrons Officers that have not submitted their OFC do not have access to myLegion.

It is also very important that officers provide **current phone numbers and email addresses** on their Officer Certification. When this information is left blank, it can make it very difficult for the Department to reach the Post or Squadron when important information needs to be communicated.

With the upcoming **per capita increase**, please ensure the Post in your district are submitting Post Data Reports so that their members' renewal notices reflect the correct dues amount. Effective Date should be January 1, 2027, or sooner. I have again attached the LGN Current and Future Dues Rate report from last week.

DISTRICT First & Second Vice Commanders

THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: MMPA (Membership & Post Activities) Commission Meeting via Teams 9 AM- Call Letters have been mailed to District 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Contact Department First Vice Commander Holly Lewis at **1stVice@ohiolegion.com** or Sherry Yockey at **syockey@ohiolegion.com**

ALL First & Second Vice Commanders! Next TEAMS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 22, 2026, at 6 PM.**

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

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.

Please connect with the Post Officers in your District regarding these meetings and help us obtain **current email addresses and phone numbers** for the Post 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders.

Having accurate contact information is very important so that we can ensure your Posts receive the most up-to-date information and important Department communications.

Buckeye 500

November: Rookie Weekend- Hold at least on qualifying event in the district.

Connect with active-duty personnel, National Guard and Reserve members, transitioning service members, and military families.

To earn **20 points**, at least one qualifying Rookie Weekend event must be held in the district.

Events may be held:

- On a military installation
- At a National Guard armory
- At a Reserve Center
- At an American Legion Post near a military installation
- In partnership with military personnel or transition programs
- Virtually

Events might include an open house, breakfast, family event, resource fair, networking event, or transition-focused program.

January: Bring Them Home- Participate in the statewide 888 Member At Large Campaign

Scheduled for **January 23, 10 AM Department HQ**

Districts work together to personally contact these members, introduce them to a nearby Post, help with transfers and renewals, and invite them into the local Legion community. Participation in the statewide Bring Them Home campaign earns **20 points**.

Dates to Remember

October 1: 8th Annual Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament Registration Opens

October 1st: Teams can register online: [2027 Department Bowling Registration](#)

October 3: MMPA (Membership & Post Activities) Commission Meeting via Teams 9 AM- Call

Letters have been mailed to District 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders

October 10: SAL DEC Ottawa Post 0063 10 AM

October 22: First Meeting - **All First and Second Vice Commander** Teams Meeting, 6 PM.

November 14: LGN DEC Department HQ 10 AM

November 26-27: National & Department Closed for Thanksgiving

December 23 – 25: National & Department Closed for Christmas

December 30- January 1: National & Department Closed for New Years

January 15-17: 2027 Mid-Winter Conference

Holiday Season is around the corner: **It's your reminders to do your Buddy Checks!**

Thank you for continuing to stand together in support of our veterans, strengthening our Posts, and making a difference in the communities we serve.

For God and Country,

Sherry Yockey

Membership & Post Activities Manager

The American Legion Department of Ohio

60 Big Run Rd.

Delaware, OH 43315

(740)816-7552

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT



Robert E. Kane, 79, of McClure, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on November 10, 1946, in Perrysburg, Ohio, to the late Lloyd and Deloris (Zimmerman) Kane. On November 20, 1970, he married Roberta McKenzie at the First Presbyterian church in Grand Rapids, Ohio.

Bob was a 1964 graduate of McClure High School. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. A dedicated member of the Roberts-McMillen American Legion Post 332, Bob served as both post commander and district commander. He also devoted many years to Damascus Township Fire and Rescue as a volunteer firefighter and fire chief.

Bob worked as an electrician and project estimator for Olson Electric of Defiance for more than 40 years. Following his retirement, he enjoyed woodworking, gardening, golfing, and making award-winning wine. He was also a member of the McClure/Damascus Township Historical Society. Above all, Bob treasured time spent with his grandchildren and never missed an event or activity in which they participated.

Bob is survived by his wife, Roberta; son, Aaron (Jill) Kane; grandchildren, Maddie (Justin) Haake, Noah Korak, Mason Kane, Kenzie Kane, and Brady Kane; great granddaughter, Emilia Haake; and sisters, Sharon Schuster and Patricia (Gary) Sherman.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Julie Kane, and brother-in-law, L.J. Schuster.



Evelyn "Evie" Louise (Graham) Navarre, age 75, passed away the morning of Monday, September 14, 2026, with her husband, Joe, by her side. She was born on October 29, 1950, to Ellen Jane and DeWain Graham, in Toledo, Ohio. She lived a very fulfilled life, touching the hearts of everyone around her. She will be deeply missed.

Evie graduated from Springfield High School in 1968. During high school, she attended Penta County Vocational School, focusing on cosmetology, a career that spanned over 21 years in various South Toledo salons. Evelyn was a talented hair stylist, and during her career she began working for Unique Salon Services, a location near her home. After Unique Salon Services, she went on to work for the YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo. She worked at the Summit Branch as the Director of Member Services, retiring in 2015. She was a member and Past President of Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Auxiliary Unit 468 in Sylvania, where she was currently serving treasurer. Evie was also Past President of the Holland Unit 646 American Legion Auxiliary and served as First District Queen 1992. Other achievements include member of Lucas County La Petit Salon 101, member of Eight and Forty where she was currently serving as LaSecretarie Cassiere, Chaplain 2008-2009, and Past Lucas County

Council President 2017-2018. In 2002, Evelyn and Joe were presented with the Exchange Club of the United States Americanism Award "Proudly We Hail" by West Toledo Exchange Club for their longtime care of the flags at the Five Points intersection in West Toledo. She was also an active member of the Augsburg Lutheran Church in Toledo, where she served as Worship Assistant, on various Worship Committees, and the Praise Team. There she became chairman for the Turkeys On the Run Outreach Program - providing Thanksgiving meals for families. When the church closed in 2023, they joined Faith United Lutheran Church. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, doing small craft projects, gardening, as well as vacationing with her husband. Evelyn is survived by her husband, Frank "Joe" Navarre; sisters, Mary Ellen Graham, Ruth Anne (James) Vanderhorst, Linda (fiancé, Donald R. Meadows, Jr.) Graham; brother-in-law, Gary (Judi) Navarre; sister-in-law, Cindy (Mark) Navarre Gribble; nieces, April (Derek Lick) Vanderhorst, Theresa (David Kerher) Vanderhorst, Rosemary Vanderhorst, Joyce Vanderhorst, Laura Vanderhorst; 22 great-nieces and nephews; several aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family members in the Graham and Jacobs Families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ellen Jane and DeWain Edward Graham; parents-in-law, Donna Gabble Navarre and Frank Joseph Navarre, Sr.; great-nephews, Jamez Vanderhorst-Bryan; and great-great-nephew, Dakota Meyer.

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP STATS

District Membership Stats for September 30th, 2026



The Great FIRST District
Ohio American Legion

Made with AI

Monthly Membership Stats Last Available Dept. Stats as of 9/30/2026

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	13	36	-23	36.11%
338	Albert Bowe	Bradner	41	163	-122	25.15%
441	Lybarger-Grimm	Tontogany	33	96	-63	34.38%
533	Rossford	Rossford	13	38	-25	34.21%
539	North Baltimore	North Baltimore	81	194	-113	41.57%
Wood County Totals:			297	782	-485	37.98%
Ottawa County						
113	Alfred G. Dodway	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	34	107	-73	31.78%
542	Scheible-Downing	Put-In-Bay	22	65	-43	33.85%
555	Louis Feuma	Marblehead	8	21	-13	38.10%
Ottawa County Totals:			135	445	-310	30.34%
1st Division Totals:			432	1227	-795	35.21%
2nd Division: Hancock/Putnam/Henry Counties						
Hancock County						
3	Ralph D. Cole	Findlay	102	334	-232	28.44%
511	Mulford-Butler	McComb	4	29	-25	13.79%
Hancock County Totals:			106	363	-257	29.20%
Putnam County						
63	Kern-Slusser	Ottawa	95	216	-121	43.98%
172	Diemer-Dodmeyer	Miller City	17	39	-22	43.59%
287	Charles J. Wagner	Leipsic	10	49	-39	20.41%
516	Bowers-Slusser	Columbus Grove	43	118	-75	36.44%
536	Harter-Williams	Gilboa	20	71	-51	28.17%
541	Winnow-Arn	Continental	41	141	-100	29.08%
715	Colonel Jennings	Fort Jennings	25	135	-110	18.52%
Putnam County Totals:			251	769	-518	32.64%

2nd Division Totals:

Made with AI

Henry County

262	Warren L. McIntire	Hamler	48	102	-54	47.06%
300	Bert G. Taylor	Napoleon	98	334	-236	29.34%
316	Deshler	Deshler	17	59	-42	28.81%
332	Roberts-McMillen	McClure	9	61	-52	14.75%
340	William F. Helmke	Holgate	2	19	-17	10.53%
454	Ward L. Adams	Ridgeville Corners	60	107	-47	56.07%
492	Gilbert Baughman	Liberty Center	4	22	-18	18.18%
Henry County Totals:			238	704	-466	33.81%
			595	1836	1241	32.41%

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

143	John Dale	Fayette	10	39	-29	25.64%
265	Robinson-Gibbs	Wauseon	93	240	-147	38.75%
311	Buehrer-Lauber-Weckesser	Archbold	14	61	-47	22.95%
373	A.E.E.W.	Delta	26	104	-78	25.00%
479	Murbach-Siefert	Swanton	69	219	-150	31.51%
Fulton County Totals:			212	663	-451	31.98%

Williams County

10	J.D. Smith Memorial	Edgerton	6	36	-30	16.67%
60	Yackee-Strong Memorial	Stryker	4	44	-40	9.09%
109	Montpelier	Montpelier	15	64	-49	23.44%
284	Charles E. Arnold	Bryan	38	115	-77	33.04%
307	Agnew-Shinnabarger	Pioneer	12	78	-66	15.38%
662	Edon	Edon	10	47	-37	21.28%
669	West Unity	West Unity	23	69	-46	33.33%
Williams County Totals:			108	453	-345	23.84%

3rd Division Totals:**320 1116 -796 28.67%****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	Ney Community	Ney	4	30	-26	13.33%
Defiance County Totals:			78	210	-132	37.14%

Paulding County

253	Cottrell-Boylan	Antwerp	17	42	-25	40.48%
297	Reuben J. Smith	Payne	24	74	-50	32.43%
341	Giltz-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	Tony Wroblewski	Toledo	57	57	0	100.00%
110	Point Place	Toledo	24	95	-71	25.26%
232	Alva N. Sidle	Grand Rapids	40	98	-58	40.82%
320	Maumee	Maumee	56	216	-160	25.93%
335	Toledo	Toledo	31	45	-14	68.89%
384	Whitehouse	Whitehouse	47	248	-201	18.95%
468	Joseph W. Diehn	Sylvania	97	270	-173	35.93%
512	Toledo Police	Toledo	13	60	-47	21.67%
537	Christ Dunberger	Oregon	30	136	-106	22.06%
553	Adams Township	Toledo	64	200	-136	32.00%
587	Conn-Wessenberger	Toledo	101	321	-220	31.46%
642	Przybylski	Toledo	9	46	-37	19.57%
646	Holland	Holland	40	110	-70	36.36%
786	Donald Dunbar	Toledo	1	16	-15	6.25%
Lucas County Totals:			610	1918	-1308	31.80%
			610	1918	-1308	31.80%

5th Division Totals:

County Line Up		Division Line Up		Standings	
1	Wood	38.98%	1st	35.21%	1st Place
2	Defiance	37.14%	2nd	32.41%	3rd Place
3	Ottawa	35.21%	3rd	28.67%	5th Place
4	Paulding	34.27%	4th	34.27%	2nd Place
5	Henry	33.81%	5th	31.80%	4th Place
6	Putnam	32.64%	1st District is in 5th Place in the Department		
7	Fulton	31.98%			
8	Lucas	31.80%			
9	Hancock	29.20%			
10	Williams	23.84%			
Paid Members:			2,119	Quota	6,453 32.84%
LGN-D1.pdf (ohiolegion.com)					

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					

THE GREAT FIRST DISTRICT DEC2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31			

PEARL
HARBOR DAY

BILL OF
RIGHTS DAY

DEPT AND
NATL HQ
CLOSED

DEPT AND
NATL HQ
CLOSED

DEPT AND
NATL HQ
CLOSED
CHRISTMAS
DAY

DEPT AND
NATL HQ
CLOSED

DEPT AND
NATL HQ
CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S
EVE

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



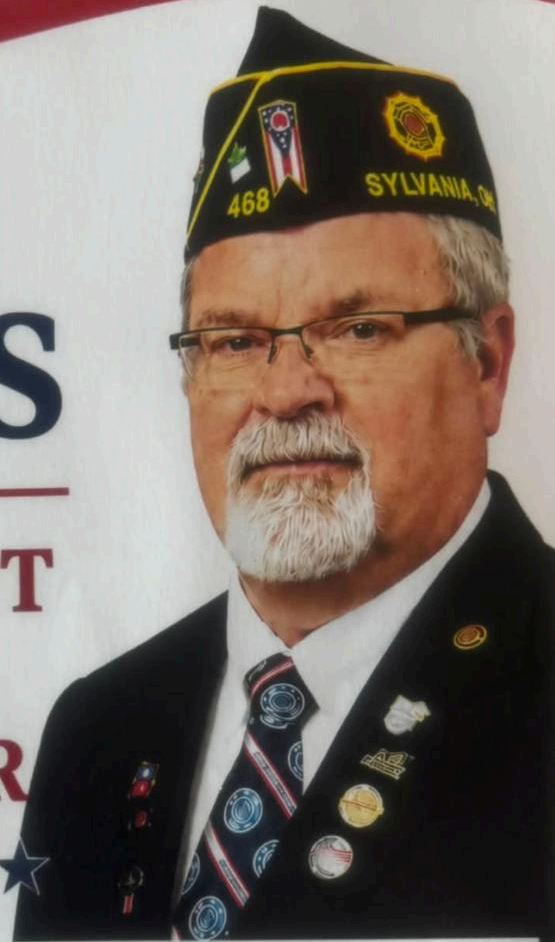
News about Post Grants from Ohio American Legion Charities Inc.

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



★ DETACHMENT OF OHIO



MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP

★ BUILDING A STRONGER DETACHMENT ★

★ MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY ★



DATE:

October 10, 2026



LOCATION:

American Legion
Post 63
Ottawa, Ohio



TIME:

Following the
D. E. C. Meeting

— ★ WORKSHOP AGENDA ★ —

- ★ Proven Membership Growth Strategies
- ★ Recruiting the Next Generation
- ★ Retention & Renewal Tactics
- ★ Transitioning Squadrons to Online Processing
- ★ Squadron Success Spotlights
- ★ 2027 Membership Goals & Resources

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?



COMMANDERS



ADJUTANTS



MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRS



DISTRICT
OFFICERS



FUTURE
LEADERS

★ STRONGER SQUADRONS. STRONGER OHIO. ★



TOGETHER WE SERVE VETERANS • OUR COMMUNITIES • OUR NATION



★ Contact 1st Vice Commander Adam Budner or
Commander Todd Bidlack to RSVP or Any Questions. ★

★ ★ 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 ★

180th Fighter Wing's Exploration Day Hosted by the Recruiting Office!

Saturday, November 07, 2026

0900-1200 (Arrive between 8:00-8:45am)

Activities will include job tours, recruiter time and lunch

**A chance to bring a qualified friend or relative
who has interest in the ANG to explore future
opportunities**

Age requirement: 16-25

Only 50 slots available



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

GoANG.com ► 800-TO-GO-ANG

Please RSVP to the POC below by 20 Oct 2026

(under 18 may bring 1 parent/guardian provide name and birthday of individual)

****All individual must have a REAL ID to access the base****

(RSVP's past 20 Oct will not be accepted)

POC: SSGT Kayla Kirkman 419-356-6075 or kayla.kirkman@us.af.mil

TSgt Dustin McGee 419-346-9124 or dustin.mcgee.5@us.af.mil

*North Baltimore American Legion Post 539
Presents*

Memorial Dinner to Honor the Four Chaplains



Honoring Unity, Unification and Sacrifice



February 3, 2027

NB American Legion Post 539

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Memorial to follow

Dress is semi-formal



Please RSVP to nbpost539@gmail.com



LEGION *Cruise*



— APRIL 13-18, 2028 —



*Join us for
an unforgettable
getaway!*

— LEAVING OUT OF —
FORT LAUDERDALE

— PORTS OF CALL —



GRAND TURK

AND



**PUERTO PLATA,
D.R.**



STATEROOMS FROM
\$438 TO \$772
PER PERSON

This will be on
Celebrity X Cruises®
SAIL BEYOND®

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

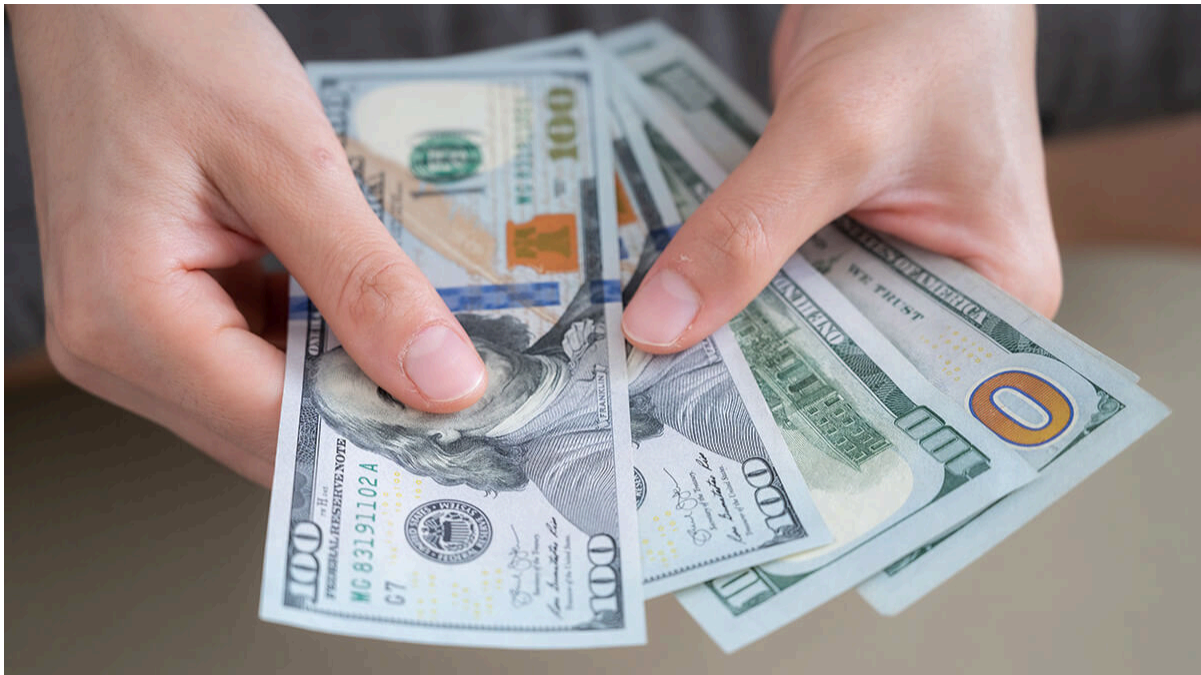
***To join or rent the
Genoa American Legion
call 419-205-1942.***



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 to read current and back issues:



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>

SUPPORT THESE GREAT VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES



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17026 Co Rd 8, Montpelier, OH,
United States, Ohio
(808) 754-5725
Twistedrootsmetalworks@gmail.com
twistedrootsmetalworks.com



Providing mobile Dj, 360/Photobooth,
comedy magic, GAME SHOWS,
Furry Overstuffed Animal Karts,
more!

335 Empire Street, Montpelier, OH,
United States, Ohio
(567) 239-2493
dacluckey@hotmail.com
www.fourofakindent.com

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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