

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Dispatch

November 2022

Veterans Strengthening America

MEMBERSHIP



DISPATCH GOING DIGITAL ONLY

Final print issue is December 2022. Sign up for the Digital Dispatch to stay informed on membership, training, promotions and more.

By The American Legion

It was announced in the October issue of the *Dispatch* that effective January 2023, The American Legion *Dispatch* goes to a digital-only format. This opportunity will reach more officers and leaders of the organization more frequently with a greater portfolio of resources.

The printed *Dispatch* has been mailed only to post adjutants, department leadership and district commanders. This is all changing to provide a robust e-newsletter and web landing page (legion.org/dispatch) that will provide all officers of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion with a greater portfolio of resources and tools that will inform, educate and engage.

The last printed version of *Dispatch* will be

the December 2022 issue.

The Digital Dispatch currently has more than 30,000 subscribers and growing. With the digital newsletter, you receive American Legion membership, training, promotions and more right in your email inbox.

For more information on the digital format, here are some questions and answers.

Question: Why is The American Legion no longer going to print and mail the Dispatch?

Answer: The digital format also allows American Legion Family members to receive information on such topics as membership recruitment and retention, program delivery and guidance for officers at every level. The printed publication has about half the

NEWS ALERT

Attend Training Tuesdays virtually

The last Tuesday of every month the Internal Affairs and Membership Division hosts a training session virtually on Legion-specific topics such as veterans claims support, legislative support, programs and MyLegion. Listen to archived sessions at legion.org/training/training-tuesdays. The next Training Tuesday is Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

Observe National Family Week

Nov. 20-26 will mark this year's National Family Week. Download The American Legion's National Family Week brochure at legion.org/publications under Americanism. Posts can get involved in established local National Family Week activities; encourage local and state governments to observe and engage in National Family Week; and organize a family festival.

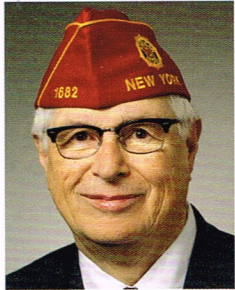
Receive Post Honor Ribbon

Honor ribbons are awarded to posts whose membership for the current membership year (as of Dec. 31) achieves an advance membership (for the year about to begin) equal to or greater than the final membership for the year ending. Certification forms must be submitted to National Headquarters by Jan. 31. The form is in the National Membership Awards Points Manual located at legion.org/publications under Membership.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

A perfect time to reach out to veterans



Vincent J. Troiola
National Commander

Dear American Legion Family members,

The holiday season is upon us. While it is a joyous time, for many this time of year often brings sadness, loneliness and depression. And these feelings can lead to thoughts of suicide for our veterans. This is where we need to Be the One to ask our veterans how they are doing, listen when they need to talk and reach out when they are struggling. We can help save the

life of a veteran by putting our Be the One initiative into action.

There are excellent resources on the Be the One web page, betheneone.org to help you share this message and carry it with you always, especially in these next few months with the holidays. Let's all Be the One to save the life of a veteran.

This season also is an opportunity for American Legion members to reach out and perform Buddy Checks. A simple phone call will go a long way as some veterans and Legionnaires are home bound, lonely and could use a visit for camaraderie. You can invite them to your post's holiday meals or events. A little recognition and showing of care goes a long way.

A Buddy Check kit can be downloaded at legion.org/buddycheck.

When you reach out to veterans, share about the many American Legion programs that can provide needed assistance at this time. That might be The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program if they have young children in the home and are facing a financial hardship with paying a bill, or they may need to speak with an American Legion service officer to help file a VA claim. Whatever the need may be, our veterans must know that we will Be the One and they are not alone

MEMBERSHIP

Expired membership incentive V.E.T.S. pin

To qualify for National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola's V.E.T.S. (veterans, education, teamwork and sponsor) expired membership incentive pin, American Legion members will need to reinstate five expired members into The American Legion for the 2023 membership year who were not a member during the 2022 membership year.

Please make sure that members have been processed before submission of this award. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified on the national database.

Forward the names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Download the expired membership incentive pin form at legion.org/commander/vets-pin.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership excellence "Be the One" pin

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his national commander "Be the One" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Download the "Be The One" membership incentive pin form at legion.org/commander/pin.

