

MEMBERSHIP

Nine ready to use QR codes

QR codes are everywhere – on business cards, in restaurants for contactless menus and flyers – to drive people to websites, social media platforms and more.

Nine QR codes that direct to Legion.org pages are now available for posts, districts and departments to use on flyers, brochures and for other marketing purposes.

Download the QR codes at [🌐 betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org).

The QR codes drive people to the following Legion web pages: join, renew, Be the One, donate, find a post, find a service officer, The American Legion Media Alliance, Veterans & Children Foundation and Legion.org.

How to scan a QR code

1. Open the built-in camera app on your phone



2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Tap the banner that appears on the screen

Sites to create a QR code

- QRCode Monkey, [🌐 qrcode-monkey.com](https://www.qrcode-monkey.com)
- QR Code Generator, [🌐 goqr.me/](https://www.goqr.me/)
- QR Stuff, [🌐 qrstuff.com/](https://www.qrstuff.com/)
- Beaconstac, [🌐 beaconstac.com/qr-code-generator](https://www.beaconstac.com/qr-code-generator)
- Canva, [🌐 canva.com](https://www.canva.com) (Canva users can use the app within the software to generate QR codes in their designs.)

What to avoid when using QR codes

- Research what size is best for your media. Going too big or too small with the QR code can cause scanning errors.
- Don't put it on the web. Visitors on your site are already there and scanning a QR code is harder than tapping a link. The same applies for email.

CLAIMS AND BENEFITS

Service officers: national staff available for support

In September, there were 1,211 informal hearing presentations prepared by American Legion claims specialists, free of charge, to help veterans appeal their denial of VA benefits. And 307 appeals cases from veterans disputing VA benefits decisions were ruled in favor of the veteran, thanks to free representation from American Legion benefits specialists.

Tony Cross, a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division veterans disability claims specialist, shared during the October Training Tuesday that there are currently 600 Board of Veterans Appeals cases under the Appeals Modernization Act, and 510 legacy cases, assigned to one of the Legion's appeals representatives. Through the Veteran Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, there are three decision review options for disagreements with benefits decisions – Higher-Level Review (form 20-0996), Supplemental Claim (form 20-0995) and Appeal to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

“The request for higher level review takes on average less time than going to the Board of Veterans Appeals,” Cross said. “The board can take on average one calendar year.”

With the increase of board hearings being virtual for veterans, which has seen an increase of benefits granted rate of 56%, Dave Spivey, senior team leader in the Legion's BVA unit, said it's important to prepare the veteran in advance of his or her hearing.

“Make sure the veteran has the ability to communicate with the judge (virtually) and make sure that virtual hearing can go

without any glitches,” he said. “Communicate with the veteran much earlier than the hearing to make sure the veteran is able to connect and communicate.” Spivey recommended doing a pre-hearing to ensure all will go well during the actual hearing.

If an American Legion service officer needs help representing a veteran during a virtual board hearing, please email americanlegionhearingrequests@va.gov. National staff can provide support so a hearing is not delayed or rescheduled. And email va&r@legion.org for all other questions.



Photo by Greg Latza

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New reports in MyLegion

The 2022-2023 Consolidated Post Reports and Consolidated Squadron Reports are now available in [MyLegion.org](https://mylegion.org) for post and squadron adjutants to access.

This report can be updated throughout the year and finalized when complete. The final day to submit online for the 2022-2023 Consolidated Report is Aug. 31, 2023. When submitting online, there is no need to mail a paper form.

Follow these steps to access the reports.

1. Begin in My Groups. The dashboard will display a link for consolidated reports.
2. Click "Edit Reports" or "View/Edit Reports" from the left menu. Then view dashboard. The dashboard with consolidated report options is restricted to post and squadron adjutants.
3. My Consolidated Post Reports window will open. This window provides information for open and closed reports. Click "Edit" to open the report.
4. Click "Edit" in Preview and Final Steps to open the report fields to enter data.

Report information provides field boxes to include data. The number located at the lower right indicates the maximum characters allowed. Tab to go from one field to the next or scroll and click. Please note that the report is no longer completed in sections; it is one continuous form. At the bottom of the form are buttons to "Save as Draft," "Next" or "Cancel."

- Save As Draft – saves draft and allows you to return and make future entries.
- Next – provides "Submit Final" button to finalize. Finalizing

the report closes the report for additional updates.

To print the report: Click "Print Friendly View" link that displays the report questions and answers. Another print link appears. Click "Print." This report can be saved as a PDF or sent to your output printer.

Three new reports in MyLegion

New reports in MyLegion are now available. To access reports from your My Account page, enter My Groups. Go to "Reports/Labels" from the left My Views menu. Then select the desired report. Each report allows you to set parameters. Set parameters and click "View Report."

1. Member dues history

This report is available for posts, squadrons, districts and counties. Enter the member ID and organization (The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion) to view payment history. Payment history provided includes join date and payments (last paid year 2011 to current).

2. Paid members by post

This report is available for districts and counties. This report may take longer to generate data. The paid members report includes all members who have paid to that post.

3. Project stay active

This report is available for posts, squadrons, districts and counties. You can find members by ZIP code that have recently moved into your area to connect with them and see if they would like to transfer to your post.

MEMBERSHIP

Why should posts submit a CPR?

When The American Legion national commander testifies before Congress, the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) data is used to provide numerical data of what the collective American Legion is doing. We report the hours, dollars and numbers of participants to show in quantifiable ways how our organization lives up to its motto of Veterans Strengthening America.

Leadership should impress upon posts that they need to report their accomplishments in their community. For 2021-22, only about 67% of our more than 12,200 local posts submitted reports. The CPR is how we know more than 3,700 posts con-

ducted Buddy Check last year.

The Federal Charter requires the national organization to report to Congress on the activities of the corporation during the prior calendar year. The CPR is essential in collecting the data to compile this report to Congress.

Every post is doing something in their community. It is important that the post leadership report what they are doing to show our impact. The post may fill out a CPR by using the CPR form on mylegion.org. It has the capability to keep a running total and save the data until you're ready to submit.