



Boys State to Boys Nation, Post 416's Logan Greene

(Pg. 8)

TAR HEEL BOYS STATE

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Commander's Corner

A Legacy of Service – A Future of Hope

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence AND our own 75th anniversary of Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416, it is a fitting moment in time to celebrate the accomplishments of our forebears and express our gratefulness for everything they created and fought for so we can be where we are today. To be certain, some of their sacrifices came at great cost and deserve to be honored not only with our words but through our daily actions. In my opinion, a heart of thankfulness is where hope begins and allows our service-minded attitudes to flourish. What I love about belonging to the Post 416 community is everyone, at one time or another, swore an oath (or helped those who did) to serve our nation in their lifetimes because they possessed hope in something far greater than themselves. It was this hope that motivated our service, both for our nation and now for our community.



I had an individual at my workplace who often used the phrase: the bill comes due every day. It took me a moment to appreciate the profoundness of this statement, because on a surface level seems to be about how work never ends. But after witnessing him in action day after day, I finally understood his servant-minded attitude actually informed his hope for the future, which then led to the daily actions he took in his life to make what was desired real. In other words, service happens every day and it's up to ourselves to bring hope into reality. The bill comes due every day. Sometimes it's a big service ask, but in reality on most days it's a cumulation of little "micro-acts" of service. If we're to bring our hope for something greater than ourselves into existence as those who came before us did 75 or 250 years ago, our desire to possess a servant's heart is crucial towards making that happen.

And so friends and colleagues, as we embark on our journey together, my hope for our collective future is one where our legacy is not only honored but thankfully embraced through daily service, large or small. As long as the bill comes due and we faithfully answer the call, our future remains hope-filled and bright.

Sincerely,
Bill Granger
Commander, Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416



Squadron Commander's Corner

As we prepare to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, we also celebrate our Squadron's 1st anniversary. In our first year, the Squadron has grown 140% and is being recognized at the Detachment level for our accomplishments and participation. I was proud to represent Squadron 416 as your delegate to the recent Detachment Convention in Raleigh. Several SAL members from across North Carolina at the Squadron, Division and Detachment level commented on the growth and activity of our fledgling group. Those acknowledgements belong to all of you.

One of the greatest accomplishments by an individual Squadron 416 member is the selection of Logan Greene to be one of only two participants to represent North Carolina at Boys' Nation in Washington, DC, this year. Logan's participation in Boys' State this year was sponsored by Post 416. It was his excellent performance and participation in that event this past week that earned his selection to Boys Nation. This achievement cannot be overstated and will certainly be recognized as he pursues appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. It should be noted that Logan's father, Chris Greene, is the newest Squadron 416 member, and is dutifully serving as Squadron Finance Officer.



Thus far, our Squadron leadership, which will be installed at the upcoming Installation Dinner on 28 July, was elected recently. Besides Finance Officer Chris Greene, your Squadron is led by Adjutant Bill Granger, First Vice Commander Thomas Wilke, and I am humbled and proud to be the Squadron Commander. I cannot thank each and every one of you for this opportunity, and despite the title, it is YOUR Squadron.

I have used the word opportunity several times in past newsletters and emails to the Squadron. As I work to wrap up the 2025-2026 Consolidated Squadron Report and reflect on the many discussions I sat in on at the Detachment Convention, the opportunities for Squadron 416 to serve America's veterans and community at large become apparent. The areas of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; Legislative Affairs; and Americanism, Children & Youth are key components of the SAL. In upcoming separate discussions, I will present the Squadron with some ideas for ways in which I think we can participate in programs to serve the needs and missions of those important activities.

A critical step toward Squadron 416's success in accomplishing that service is, of course, funding. The Squadron has a small pool of funds right now, but what we lack is a budget. The Squadron leadership will meet soon to establish a budget so that when we set goals for achievement, we also have adequate means to fund the efforts. For example, I believe that Squadron 416 should take on sponsorship of participants to Boys' State. That cost is \$500, so we must construct a means to raise those funds. Again, the word opportunity pops up. We will create unique opportunities for Squadron 416 fundraising that don't draw away from anything the Legion Post or Auxiliary Unit are already doing or planning to do.

I've covered a lot of ground in this installment. That leads to the last topic for now. It's time that Squadron 416 start having its own meetings separate from the Post meetings. For now, a single monthly meeting is probably appropriate. There are a couple of ways to do that. First is to meet separately either before or after one of the two monthly TAL meetings. The other is to have our meeting on its own day. Since the TAL meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, and the building is generally available on Tuesdays, perhaps the 3rd Tuesday is a good fit. Let's discuss it at the next TAL/SAL/ALA meeting on 14 July.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support the Post, the Unit and the Squadron. Please reach out with any comments or opportunities to broaden our presence in the local veteran community. I wish you and yours peace, prosperity and positive action as we celebrate 250 years of American freedom and democracy.

Best regards,

Philip A. Goldsby

Commander, Lowe's Grove SAL Squadron 416



American Legion Auxiliary President's Corner

Spring and summer are a busy time for the Auxiliary. On Memorial Day I handed out 100 red crepe paper poppies to the veterans and residents of an assisted living facility in Raleigh. Our own roses and flowers are in bloom all around the building, but we are battling hungry Japanese beetles. More arrive every day.

We will be folding 300 pocket flags for deploying troops just as soon as our order arrives. And we have unit officers for 2026-2027. They are President Jennifer Weideman, Vice President Sandra Rich, Treasurer Fayedean Spencer and Secretary Elaine Wren.

In June, I attended the North Carolina Department Convention and voted as our unit delegate. The best news announced was that outgoing President Beth Whittaker raised \$30,000 for Canines for Service. That will pay for the training of one service dog. They start training as puppies and gradually learn special skills to assist a veteran. They can take items out of the refrigerator or even the laundry.

Our new department president is Katie Pfeil. Her unit is Burgaw#165. She has chosen the Veterans Healing Farm located in Mills River as her president's project. 2025 marked the 12th year of operation. The VHF is dedicated to enhancing the mental, emotional and physical well-being of our veterans and their families. The VHF fosters self-empowerment and peer support through the practice of organic farming, beekeeping and continuing education workshops. You do not have to be a veteran to volunteer. You can contact them at www.veteranshealingfarm.org or call 828 595-6111.

We also have a new District 6 President, Onita Moore from Oxford Unit#166. We look forward to working with her and making new friends in District 6.

In July, I will be attending Legion College. And bring back lots of information to share with you in the next newsletter. The Lowe's Grove Auxiliary will not be meeting in August. But you can stream the National Convention and see our N.C. delegation in action from Louisville Kentucky August 28 to Sept. 23.

Our Daisy and Girl Scout Troops will return in the fall. We invite you to share our joy and common purpose at Lowe's Grove, honoring veterans, their families and caregivers.

Best regards,
Jennifer Weideman
President, Lowe's Grove ALA Unit 416



Post Commander Interviewed in “Voyage Raleigh” Magazine

<https://voyageraleigh.com/interview/life-work-with-william-bill-granger-of-raleigh>



[Transcript of the interview]

Today we'd like to introduce you to Bill Granger.

Hi Bill, so excited to have you with us today. What can you tell us about your story?

I find it wonderous how each step in life seems to prepare us in some way for the next. I retired from active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 2016 after a 21-year career as an Air Force Bandsman – travelling across the United States and around the globe (5 continents) sharing how our nation's Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Guardians serve to make our nation and our world a better place. Those communication experiences landed me in the Triangle after service, which now get stretched everyday as Commander at Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416. While not as far reaching as when in uniform, the message is just as impactful at the community level. In fact, our mission statement of “Veterans Strengthening Our Community” gets put to the test all the time. We identified a few points of interest a couple of years ago that were lacking in our immediate area and have been steadily working to meet those needs since then.

First, we witnessed our veteran community in our area growing smaller every year as the overall number of military servicemembers continue to shrink since the 1970s. One way Post 416 sought to embrace a larger audience was to grow the Legion family through our American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. By standing up and growing these parts of the Legion family anyone who has or had a family member in the U.S. military can join to work side-by-side with our veterans supporting local youth and advocating for veterans and active-duty military personnel and families. While members of our American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a mighty member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service.

Second, we felt a need for increased scouting opportunities to help build character and positive traits in our community's youth. In 2021 we sponsored Cub Scout Pack 495 which currently has over 50 youth in the program, and last year we added Girl Scout Troop 1462 and Daisy Troop 1518 so young ladies can discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—or make their first best friends. We are excited to continue these initial steps for the youth in our area as we empower America through community spirit.

Finally, for anyone not from the Triangle area, there is a huge demand for organized youth sports. With the 101-year history of American Legion baseball, Post 416 chose to focus our efforts expanding the opportunities for youth baseball in our community first. In fact, we have sponsored a post baseball team for the past 4 years running that serves players between ages 13-19. In addition, we have partnered with the South Durham Little League who serves over 1,000 boys and girls aged 4-16 years old through baseball and softball opportunities annually. However, our community has hit a hard ceiling on the number of kids we can help as we have exhausted use of all available area fields during each season.

Alright, so let's dig a little deeper into the story – has it been an easy path overall and if not, what were the challenges you've had to overcome?

Our largest challenge right now is the demand for baseball fields has simply outpaced supply in our area. Post 416 and our sports partners are limited in how many youth we can offer playing opportunities to, and we are turning away some of them simply because we cannot host enough venues for them all. Post 416 has identified about 7 acres of land on our property where we could build 2 or 3 fields and provide a potential home to the South Durham Little League and our American Legion Baseball program. The enormous task that lies ahead is securing government approvals and more importantly the funding required for such an endeavor. While we are still in the very early stages of defining all our needs and the path we must take, the way forward will be challenging but necessary for the continued growth (and health) of our community.

Alright, so let's switch gears a bit and talk business. What should we know about your work?

I love every opportunity I get to brag on my amazing team at Post 416. As the only veterans' service organization located in Research Triangle Park, we relentlessly champion veterans and military members, support military families, and work hard to meet the unique needs of the South Durham County/Northwest Wake County, North Carolina area. Together we've found new ways to honor and remember our veterans' legacy of service and sacrifice while advocating for our community. In fact, 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding our post, so we certainly have something to celebrate this year!

If we knew you growing up, how would we have described you?

I found my way into a school band program in the 4th grade and haven't looked back since. I fondly remember a college professor telling us one day we'd meet our future spouse through music, and he was right! 38 years later, I wouldn't trade my journey with Kathy (my spouse) for anything. I also owe a lot to my colleagues and family who helped me become who I am. While those who knew me in my earlier years would not call me outgoing, a career on the musical stage removes any inhibitions one may have regarding public communication. I believe the phrase, "throwing gasoline on a flame," describes what happens when I'm presented the opportunity of an open microphone. While I've spent the better part of 40 years behind a tuba, I have recently adopted bagpipes as my new hobby for honoring veterans and public safety families in the area, and that fuels my service to my community.

VA Warns of Postcard Scam Targeting Veterans

From https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veterans-benefits/2026/june/va-announces-postcard-scam-targeting-veterans?utm_campaign=Source+Code+Here&utm_content=SCAM&utm_term=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra

Postcards sent to veterans claim entitlement to extra VA benefits or additional payments.

The Department of Veterans Affairs sent a release to make veterans aware of a new postcard scam. Fraudulent postcards are being sent claiming that you, or your spouse, are entitled to “extra VA benefits” or additional payments, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE and dental coverage, regardless of a VA disability rating. The VA stresses not to fall for it.

These scammers claim to be affiliated with VA, and they might instill a sense of urgency, pressuring you to contact them as soon as possible, or within five days. Their goal is to get you to call the number provided. Once you do, they will often use flattery and praise regarding your military service to gain trust. The scammer will attempt to obtain personal identifying information like your Social Security Number, bank account details or other sensitive information.

Never give this information over the phone or on the internet.

VA is monitoring the situation and urges you to remain vigilant against these fraudulent attempts to steal personal identifying information.

The VA encourages you to:

- Refuse to engage.
- Do not call unverified numbers.
- Hang up immediately if you are contacted by unsolicited numbers.

If you miss a VA benefits payment, notice a discrepancy, or suspect suspicious activity with your direct deposit, contact VA right away at 1-800-827-1000. If you suspect you have experienced fraud, you can find out more and report to the appropriate agency at VSAFE.gov or by calling 1-833-38V-SAFE.

The VA shared the following common scam tactics:

Unsolicited postcards, emails, texts or social media messages: Scammers will send communication claiming you qualify for extra VA benefits.

Fake authority on calls or emails: Scammers may pretend to be VA officials and claim there’s a problem with your benefits or account.

Phishing attacks: Scammers may send emails or text messages that appear legitimate but are designed to steal personal information through malicious links or attachments.

Payment requests: Scammers might demand payment using unconventional and untraceable payment methods, such as gift cards, wire transfers, bitcoin or prepaid debit cards.

Social media interactions: Scammers may try to build trust through social media messages or friend requests, only to exploit that trust for their own financial gain.

To protect yourself: Never share any personal or financial information with unverified contacts.

Don’t act on urgent requests from people you don’t know. Legitimate VA communications will not pressure you to respond immediately or provide sensitive information.

If you receive a suspicious postcard, email, text or call, do not call the number provided or click on any links. Always verify the sender’s identity; when in doubt, call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000. Be cautious on social media. Ignore friend requests or messages from people you don’t know or recognize.

Post 416 Boys State Scholarship Recipient Chosen for 2026 Boys Nation



Boys Nation 2026 is the 80th session of the American Legion's prestigious youth leadership program, taking place July 17–25, 2026, in Washington, D.C.

Boys Nation is an **annual educational program** run by the American Legion that teaches high school students about civic leadership, government, and Americanism. It is highly selective, **with two delegates chosen from each state's Boys State program** to attend the week-long event in Washington, D.C., where they act as **mock U.S. Senators**.

(More About Logan's Boys State experience on the next page.)

Photo: SAL Sq 416 member Logan Greene

Logan Greene, Post 416 Representative and SAL Member Attends Tarheel Boys State

June 21–27 marked the 86th annual session of Tarheel Boys State (THBS). Lowe’s Grove American Legion Post 416 proudly sponsored one of its own Sons of the American Legion members, James “Logan” Greene, to attend. Logan is a rising senior at Charles E. Jordan High School in Durham, North Carolina.

Since 1938, Tarheel Boys State has provided North Carolina’s rising high school seniors with an opportunity to learn the principles of American government through hands-on participation in a model state government. The program is designed to help young men better understand the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship while experiencing the democratic process firsthand. Tarheel Boys State is one of the American Legion’s most respected youth leadership programs in North Carolina, providing an immersive experience that encourages young men to become informed and engaged citizens.

Boys State is a leadership program built on action. Participants learn about the structure and function of city, county, and state governments while operating their own student-led government. Delegates run for office, campaign, debate issues, and participate in legislative sessions, court proceedings, assemblies, and hear from distinguished guest speakers.

Throughout the week, delegates develop valuable leadership and life skills. They learn how to build coalitions, navigate disagreements, think independently, and gain the confidence to lead while supporting others. The experience also encourages teamwork, civic engagement, and a deeper understanding of public service.

The program begins with orientation, when participants from across North Carolina gather and meet fellow delegates who share an interest in civic leadership and community involvement. As the week progresses, students form their own cities and political parties, organize campaigns, and participate in mock elections. Workshops and leadership sessions focus on personal development, the importance of community service, and the role citizens play in strengthening their communities.

The closing ceremony of the 86th annual session included remarks from American Legion Department of North Carolina Commander Joseph Reale Sr., as well as comments from the THBS faculty and the student leaders elected during the week. The ceremony concluded with several award presentations, including the announcement of the two delegates selected from the 173 participants to represent North Carolina at American Legion Boys Nation. Logan Greene was announced as one of the two delegates selected for this honor.

American Legion Boys Nation is a prestigious week-long civic leadership program held each summer in the Washington, D.C. area. Two delegates from each state, known as “Senators,” are chosen from their respective Boys State programs to represent their state. During Boys Nation, participants learn about the federal government by electing national officers, drafting and debating legislation, meeting with members of Congress and national leaders, and further developing leadership, public speaking, and civic engagement skills. Selection to Boys Nation is considered one of the highest honors a Boys State delegate can receive.

Logan will represent both Lowe’s Grove Post 416 and the American Legion Department of North Carolina at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., from July 17–25, 2026.

Post 416 proudly sponsored Logan’s participation in Tarheel Boys State. Attendance at Boys Nation is provided at no cost to the delegate and requires no additional financial support from the sponsoring Post. Upon return, Logan will brief the Post on this life shaping experience.



From Around Lowe's Grove Post 416

Over the past three months, the Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416 Family has remained active in service, fellowship, and community engagement. From Post meetings and special events to supporting veterans and our local community, these photos capture a few of the moments that reflect the spirit and mission of Post 416.



April 3 – ALA at the Veterans Motorcycle Enforcers Association

Post 416 ALA President with Members of Veterans Enforcers Association





April 4 – SAL Division III Meeting at Chapel Hill Post 6

SAL Div 3 Commander Thomas Matherly presents SAL 416 Squadron Commander Philip Goldsby its first guidon award – the SAL Dogwood Award for meeting 100% membership goal for FY26.

Front Row (L to R): SAL NC Detachment Commander Brian White, NC Department Commander Devill “Bo” Durham, SAL Division 3 Commander Thomas Matherly

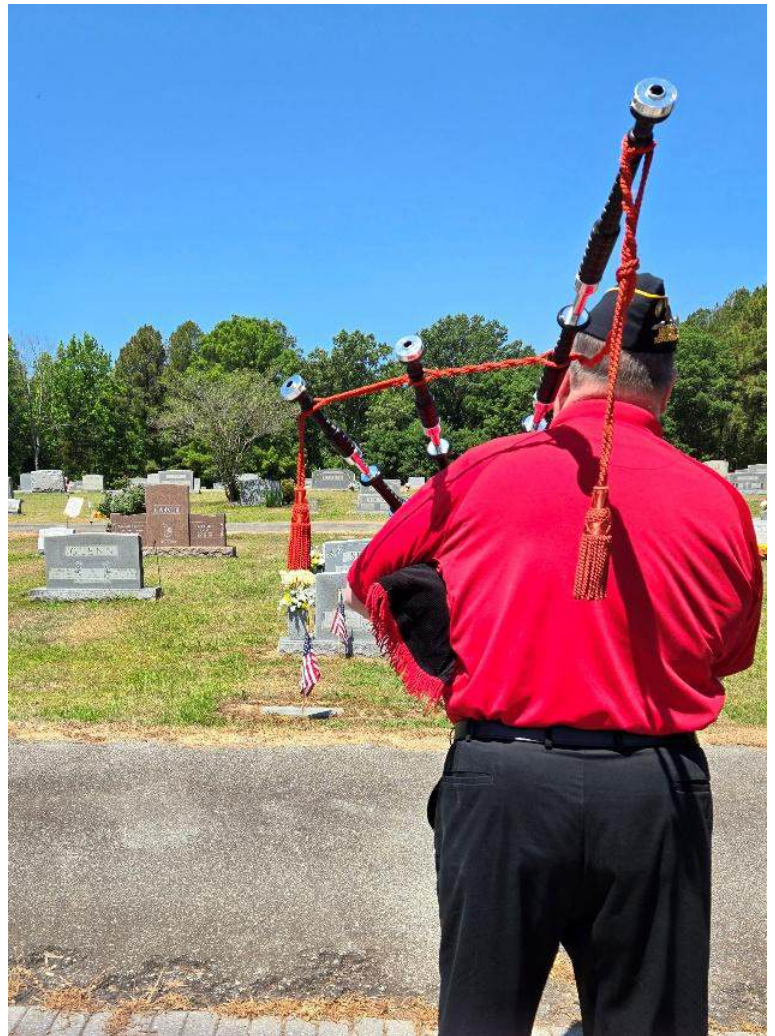
Back Row (L to R): Sq 416 1st-Vice Commander Thomas Wilkie, Sq 416 Commander Philip Goldsby, Sq 416 Adjutant Bill Granger.



April 26 – Spring BBQ Chicken Dinner



May 21 – Memorial Day Flag-Planting Ceremony at Lowe's Grove Baptist Church Cemetery



May 21 – Home Baseball Game Opener for 2026 Season



June 12 – American Legion Department of NC Convention



Post Commander Bill Granger performs during Opening Ceremony



Post Commander Bill Granger recognized by Department Commander, alongside Lumbee Tribe Veteran Color Guard



2026 Baseball Photos



2026 TAL Membership Drive Closed with 100%

We closed out 2026 having reached our retention and recruitment goals. Your continued support of Lowe's Grove American Legion Post 416 is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing our service together.

Thanks to the following members:

Willie Alford
Kellen Arney-Johnson
Milton Austin
John Barricelli
John Bennett
Austine Brooks
Richard Chilausky
Amos Cooper
Robert Davis
Joseph Dean
Stephen DeVoise
Spencer Dewaele
Deanna Dooris
Zach Drum
Manfred Emmrich
Ronald Eurquhart Sr.
Bryant Farrell
Michael Fenning
Michael Frazier
Gale Forest
Pete Gaydosh
Bill Granger
Doug Green
Christopher Greene
Bobby Haggy
David Hartmetz
Eugene Harvey
Walter Henderson
Larry High
Roy Hunt
Jon Hunter

David Hutson
Paul Judge
Rob Kaufman
Ricard Lofton
James Lowe
Alan Mangu
Thomas Meyer
James Mitchell
Mike Mitchell
Joe Oleniacz
Victoria Orto
William Orchard-Hays
Missy Owen
Julius Pyles
Al Rowland
Reynaldo Ruybal
Leo Scrivner
David Sellars Sr.
Marshall Shipp
James Snyder
Larry Strickland
Arvin Swanson
Alvis Tinnin
Ken VanDine
Jerry Vaughn
James Vollmer
Arley Webb
Thomas Wilkie
Desmond Wilson
Wayne Wrenn
David Young



2026 SAL Memberships Achieved!

The 2026 Sons of The American Legion goal had been set at 10 members for 2026, and we smashed this goal and achieved 14 members joined/renewed and hit 140% of our goal. However, we are still small and have room to grow.



Thanks to the following members who've renewed/joined:

Sean Canoy
Philip Goldsby
Steven Goode
Ron Goodson
Bill Granger
Patrick Granger
Chris Greene
James Greene
Ewan Hanson
Liam Hanson
Julian Rouse
Leo Scrivner
Felix Stumpe
Thomas Wilkie



Membership Information

Ways To Pay Annual Dues at Post 416

Current dues remain at \$40 for TAL, \$32 for ALA, \$30 for SAL. There are four different ways you can renew:

- Cash/check in-person to the Adjutant at a post meeting
- Check in the mail to P.O. Box 12202, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
- Online at MyLegion.org . Can do one year or multiple year renewals.
- Online at <https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc>.

Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership Program

American Legion members interested in the discounted Paid Up For Life program can now easily join online: www.legion.org/join/pufl

Legionnaires who become a Paid Up For Life member will avoid any future increases to membership dues and will never have to pay annual dues or receive renewal notices. Other benefits include a lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine.

Once registered:

- Members can either pay in full
- Pay in 12 monthly installments
- Members may also print a personalized Paid Up For Life application from the web page and mail in their payment.

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

After a member signs up, his or her respective department and post will be notified either electronically or by mail. The post has 30 days to notify the department in writing if the applicant is ineligible for a Paid Up For Life membership. The department will then notify National Headquarters about why the application was denied.

Posts may continue to process applications on the current paper forms until informed otherwise.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program: call (800) 433-3318 or email ia@legion.org.

Multi-year Memberships Available

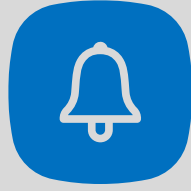
Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join.

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website.
- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.





UPCOMING POST ACTIVITY REMINDERS

July 2026

- 7/1 – Be the One Day
- 7/4 – Independence Day
- 7/14 – TAL/SAL/ALA membership meeting @ 7pm
- 7/21 – Post Executive Committee meeting @ 6pm
- 7/28 – Quarterly Membership Dinner (Officer Installation) @ 6pm
- 7/28 – TAL/SAL membership meeting @ 7pm

August 2026

- 8/1 – Be the One Day
- 8/4 – Coast Guard Birthday
- 8/11 – SAL Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 8/11 – TAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 8/25 – TAL membership meeting @ 7pm

September 2026

- 9/1 – Be the One Day
- 9/8 – ALA Membership Meeting @ 1:30pm
- 9/8 – SAL membership meeting @ 6:30pm
- 9/8 – TAL membership meeting @ 7pm
- 9/11 – Patriot Day
- 9/18 – Air Force Birthday & POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9/22 – “Be The One” Proclamation Reading @ 6pm
- 9/22 – TAL membership meeting @ 7pm

TAL – The American Legion **ALA** – American Legion Auxiliary **SAL** – Sons of The American Legion

