

WEEKLY STATUS INPUT
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
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2024 Traditional Membership:

Membership as of the December 4th report is at **97.81%** of the 1,452,188 goal with **1,420,373** current members (new recruits, renewals and encumbered DMS transfers).

2025 Traditional Membership:

Membership as of the December 4th report is at **68.80%** of the 1,445,882 goal with **994,810** current members (new recruits, renewals and encumbered DMS transfers). The 75% target date is December 11, 2024, four departments have already met or exceeded this goal.

DMS New Member Acquisition:

The 2025 DMS new member acquisition program has acquired **38,500** new members since July 1. This represents about **38.50%** of the projected 100,000 for 2025.

New Members by Branch of Service and Conflict:

This chart shows the branch of service and war era for new members brought in at the post level and DMS for 2025.

Conflict	Conflict Totals	Percentage:	Branch of Service	BOS Totals	Percentage:
OTHER	16,525	31.06%	USA	25,109	47.20%
GW_TERRORISM	15,152	28.48%	USN	10,403	19.55%
VIETNAM	9,394	17.66%	USAF	9,318	17.51%
PERSIAN_GULF	4,787	9.00%	USMC	6,255	11.76%
Unknown	4,495	8.45%	Unknown	1,227	2.31%
LEBANON_GRENADA	1,576	2.96%	USCG	815	1.53%
KOREA	590	1.11%	USSF	46	0.09%
PANAMA	571	1.07%	USMM	29	0.05%
WWII	107	0.20%	Total New Members:	53,202	
WWII_MM	5	0.01%			
Total New Members:	53,202				

Multi-Year Membership:

The multi-year membership option is now available to all members and can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/renew. To date **43,160** members have taken advantage of this option. We encourage departments to put information out in emails and newsletters informing and encouraging members to use this option.

National Commander LaCoursiere's Membership Goals:

Commander LaCoursiere's focus is on retaining the members. He worked with the M&PA Committee on creating the Department Retention Award. His expectation is to engage current members on a regular basis. Whether it is through Buddy Checks or contacting members about their membership dues, members need to feel wanted and valued.

Retention:

As an organization, Commander LaCoursiere set a goal of 90% for retention. A column has been added to the daily, weekly, and target date membership reports for each department. **Our current retention rate is 67.41% at the traditional level. There are 52,777 department headquarters post members who are paid for 2024 that have not renewed for 2025 and 548,416 at the post level and who have not renewed for 2025.**

As we see from above, there is a large pool of members within the posts and departments. There is the capability to immediately identify and start the engagement process to contact the member to renew their membership.

Recruiting:

National Commander LaCoursiere set a goal of 75,000 new traditional members for the 2025 membership year. **To date we have recruited 33,001 new members into the organization at the local post level.**

New Member Video:

Former American Legion Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Matt Jabaut hosted a new-member orientation video that provides a clear understanding of the nation's largest veterans organization and what the Legion does to strengthen America.

The video is ideal for new member orientations at local posts or to show to potential members. You can also email it to new members. You can find the video at this link on the Legion's Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/americanlegion>.

Membership Excellence "Be the One" Dog Tag Coin:

To qualify one will need to recruit three new members into The American Legion. A new member is defined as any eligible veteran joining for the 2025 membership year who was not a member during the 2024 membership year. You can find the form at:

<https://www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/national-commanders-incentive-program>

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

National Commander Navarreté participated in the Fall Conference of the Detachment of Florida. The SAL continues to grow, and 2025 membership is also increasing steadily.

2024 SAL Membership Info. For the week of December 2nd.

Total Actual Membership:	396,548	(New All-Time High)
End-of-year membership goal %:	103.8%	
2024 Renewal Percentage:	90.24%	
Detachments at 100%:	44	
Detachments at 105%:	19	

2025 SAL Membership Info. For the week of December 2nd.

Total Actual Membership:	194,717	
End-of-year membership goal %:	48.53%	
2025 Renewal Percentage:	44.17%	
Detachments at 25%:	55	
Detachments at 35%:	51	
Detachments at 45%:	40	(45% target date Dec. 11)

The National Emergency Fund (NEF):

Approved Grants as of December 5th:

2024 – 86 grants (78 members/8 posts) totaling \$221,607.31

Florida (Hurricanes Debby, Helene & Milton) – 61 members/1 post

Georgia (Hurricane) – 1 member

Indiana (Tornado) – 1 post

Iowa (Flood/Tornado) – 4 members/2 posts

Louisiana (Tornado) – 1 member

New York (Microburst) – 1 post

North Carolina (Hurricane) – 1 member/1 post

Philippines (Typhoon) – 1 member

South Carolina (Hurricane) – 3 members/1 post

South Dakota (Flood) – 2 members

Tennessee (Flood) – 2 members

Texas (Devastating Storms/Hurricane) – 2 members/1 post

It's been a grim year of deadly hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, and other severe weather events throughout the country. We continue to engage with those departments that were affected and NEF staff sent out several e-mails to all department and national leadership regarding the NEF Program.

The two links below provide important information about NEF. First is the PowerPoint of how to complete an NEF application:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYTPVnmrsh0>

This link is to the newly launched website about NEF, grants, and donations:

[Request Assistance | The American Legion](#)

The second is Illinois Department Adjutant and PNC Marty Conatser on how they set up disaster teams within Illinois following a massive tornado disaster a few years ago and which could help other departments with setting up their own disaster relief teams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5ZlecXviD8>

Over the first weekend in November, severe storms, tornadoes, straight line winds and flooding caused a State of Emergency declaration in six counties in Oklahoma. Additionally, the National Weather Service damage survey teams confirmed that tornadoes hit eastern Oklahoma and Northwest Arkansas on Nov. 4.

In mid-October, at least two people died, and hundreds were rescued in Roswell, New Mexico, according to the New Mexico State Police, after extreme rainfall brought severe flooding, stranding motorists, and sweeping away cars. The New Mexico National Guard and other agencies rescued at least 290 people, including 38 who were taken to hospitals, the agency confirmed in a [statement](#). The National Weather Service declared an overnight flash flood emergency for Roswell and nearby areas, as emergency management within Chaves County reported numerous water rescues. We are continuing to track for any NEF applications.

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm and carved a devastating path from Florida's Gulf Coast to Tennessee. Less than two weeks later, while many communities were still reeling from the massive destruction caused by Helene, Hurricane Milton hit Florida in the Tampa Bay area and moved across central Florida toward the Atlantic

Ocean. Hurricane Milton made landfall near Sarasota, Florida as a Category 3 storm, bringing up to 18 inches of rain, causing flash floods, and spurring tornadoes across south and central Florida. Hurricane Milton death toll is at least 25 as of this date.

Hurricane Helene caused power outages for millions of individuals across several states, and thousands of homes sustained major structural damage or were destroyed, causing at least [233 confirmed fatalities](#). Extensive flooding from Helene severely impacted western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee and multiple communities in several states, hampering the delivery of critical supplies, and FEMA approved support for individual households in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Relief efforts are ongoing.

A webinar was conducted by Department of Florida staff after Hurricane Helene and every department was invited. That meeting was recorded, and you can find it at the link below (fast forward to the 24:15 minute mark for the start of the meeting):

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/R1ZqkXs39Wq9EG65YUnACWVmNOjHcFJBrSNSAGJuaFNIQZ_eUZYSRtwaofO3AjHL.iXcq8ZM1JNDKbGcT?startTime=1727886943000

They along with NEF and TFA national staff provided important information and resources to attendees and the meeting was recorded and was sent out to all Legion leadership. We are continuing to process NEF grants on behalf of affected departments.

Tornadoes hit Jay's and Delaware Counties in Indiana September 22, 2024, severely damaging Portland American Legion Post 211, a school, local businesses and several other homes and structures. Jay County did issue a disaster declaration, and Post 211 received a \$10,000 NEF Grant.

Hurricane Francine hit Louisiana as a Category 2 hurricane September 9, 2024. Both Louisiana and Mississippi were declared disaster areas. The affected departments were contacted and continue to monitor for incoming NEF applications.

Several wildfires continue to burn across the country, and we continue to monitor them as well.

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW):

Over 3,100 servicemembers, veterans, and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors in 2023, either by participating in an OCW-sponsored event or receiving care at a grant-receiving facility.

2024 – 8 Grants totaling \$85,149.57

Completed: 8

Grants to servicemembers – 2

Grants to facility – 6

Grants pending – 1

With the passage of Resolution 20 during last month's Fall Meetings, Operation Comfort Warriors has an updated policy manual to address grant requests. Additionally, the OCW landing pages on the National Website have been updated to reflect the changes that were made. It will be incumbent upon the Requestor to provide the information necessary to facilitate grant approval.

Training:

Training Tuesday

The upcoming **Training Tuesday session** is scheduled for **January 28, 2025**, and will focus on **"Managing the Post."** This session will provide practical tools and guidance to enhance post operations and member engagement.

National American Legion College (NALC)

The **2024 Class of the National American Legion College** has demonstrated outstanding progress. Out of 52 graduates, **47 joined the National American Legion College Alumni Association**, marking a significant 90% engagement. Alumni have actively supported training initiatives nationwide by volunteering to share their expertise.

The NALC leadership has transitioned, with **Past National Commander Daniel Seehafer** stepping into the role of chancellor and **Mike Rohan**, Past National Commander's Aide, serving as dean. Their leadership has been instrumental in maintaining the immersive and impactful education environment.

Participant Feedback Highlights:

- **Be the One Session** received nearly perfect scores, praised for its motivational and actionable content, with an average session rating of **4.98**.
- **Legal Pitfalls: Staying Out of Trouble** was highly commended, with attendees calling for more time to explore complex scenarios and emphasizing its importance for district leaders.
- Opportunities for growth included improving audio-visual aids and aligning slides with handouts for easier comprehension.

National Regional Information Conference (NRIC)

The **Boston NRIC**, scheduled for **February 1, 2025**, now has **29 registrants** from various departments across multiple states.

Registrant Breakdown by State:

- **Massachusetts: 7**
- **New York: 6**
- **New Jersey: 4**
- **Delaware: 3**
- **Vermont: 2**
- **Georgia: 2**
- **New Hampshire: 1**
- **Connecticut: 1**
- **Maine: 1**
- **Pennsylvania: 1**
- **Virginia: 1**

Registrant Breakdown by Position:

Position	Number of Registrants
Department Adjutant	3
Department Commander	1
Department Finance Officer	1
District Commander	4
Department Vice Commander	3
Post Commander	2
Past Department Commander	3

Past National Commander	1
NEC	2
Chairman (Media/VE&E)	2
Blue Cap Legionnaire	7

Key Takeaways:

- **State Engagement:** Strong participation from **Massachusetts** and **New York**, with representation from 11 states in total.

Diverse Positions: Includes a mix of leadership roles and grassroots members, emphasizing broad organizational engagement.

To register for the Boston NRIC, please use this link:

[Registration - 2024-2025 Mission Training and National Junior Meetings- Boston, MA](#)

UPCOMING FORM DEADLINES FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS & MEMBERSHIP:

2025 LEGION/SAL BULK SHIPMENT FORM – **NOVEMBER 30 **PAST DUE**

2026 LEGION & SAL MEMBERSHIP CARD FORMS – **JANUARY 15**

CERTIFICATION FORM FOR POST HONOR RIBBON – **JANUARY 31**

CERTIFICATION FORM FOR CERTIFICATES OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE – **JANUARY 31**