The Department of Indiana Membership Committee places third in national contest

T he Legionnaires Insurance Trust was founded in 1965 with the purpose of providing programs and products that serve Legionnaire’s specific needs. The trust is comprised of fifty department instructions from The American Legion and represents some 1.5 million members. Over the years, LIT has returned $100 million dollars back to Legion Departments. These allocations have helped pay for things like renovations to American Legion Baseball fields and salaries for service officers at the VA to assist members with claims.

Money from the LIT has also helped fund Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation, and with about 23 million U.S. veterans who are alive today, LIT provides support to those state departments that have shown success in developing and executing innovative practices in pursuing membership growth.

This year, the program presented a total of $25,000 in awards to the top three submissions as selected by a panel of judges and are as follows; First Place: Wisconsin, Second Place: Maine, Third Place: Indiana.

Department of Indiana Membership Chairman Rich Brown says the Membership Committee is very proud to have won the award. “This was a team effort of the entire department membership committee and I am grateful for the support of the Legionnaires Insurance Trust to our organization. I am grateful to the LIT for recognizing our Department Membership Committee. Our partnership with LIT provides our membership with access to great insurance products and an essential revenue stream which greatly enhances the likelihood that they will renew their membership engagement efforts.”

The department of Indiana became a participating member of the LIT in 1991, and since it’s affiliation with the trust, the Department’s Legion families have enjoyed access to a wide range of products and services designed around the needs of veterans and their families. The LIT has made it possible for thousands of Legion families to collect millions of dollars in benefits by enrolling in the program.

The committee worked hard to create the best plan they could for membership year 2019-2020. So when it came time to submit their plan to LIT to be judged, the process was fairly easy. “Our submission to the LIT contest was essentially a summary of the Department Membership Committee’s strategy and incentives program. Our plan was the result of a collaborative effort which included all of our district commanders, all members of the committee, and several staff members. I am humbled and honored to lead the Department Membership Committee and I look forward to next year’s LIT contest as Commander Connelly and I finish our second year in office,” says Brown.

2020 Close of Books

Department of Indiana Membership Committee

IN THIS ISSUE

WWW.INDIANALEGION.ORG
3RD QUARTER 2020 FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Post Everlasting

“It is the Department’s sad duty to report that the following Comrades have been called from our midst, and have gone to report to the Great Commander of all. We honor the memory of those who offered their lives in the service of country and who have now entered that Great Spirit Army, whose footfalls cause no sound, but in the memory of mankind, their souls go marching on, sustained by the pride of service in time of war. Because of them our lives are free; because of them our nation lives; because of them the world is blessed. We give thanks to God for these men and women. Their lives were dear to us; their bravery, their innocence and their courage touch our hearts. We remember them in this moment and honor and give thanks for their presence on earth. May their souls rest in Peace.” See pages 8-11.
LEADING HOOSIER LEGIONNAIRE LETTERS

Good morning American Legion Family! Another Leg- ion year is in the books. With no National or Depart- ment Convention, this year certainly did not conclude in the same manner as the first one. I am sure that “normal” year of the pandemic would have been in the capable hands of the man who holds the title of Leading Cau- dillete for the second consecu- tive year.

I would like to begin this column by thanking Mark, as well as the Indiana state department and district and post officers who have worked tirelessly to continue to serve another year in your current position. I congratulate the adjunc- tion members, Jim Duane, Bob Oeth, Rick Hudson, and Paul Cowdrey who have stayed on to make sure the work you do in your current position is as far away from 2020 as possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Directors Commanders Ron Pat- ron, Ken Eddy, and sincerely thank Commanders Mark Gourley for their years of dedicated service.

We are in the midst of an unprecedented time and I have been in constant communication with our Federal government. A big thank you to Chairman Michael Lee and outstanding leadership. Congratula- tions to the tenth, first, fifth, and ninth which are surpassing over 100% of their goal this year. Congratulations also to the top 200 posts that surpassed 100%.

As you know, we are still in the throes of COVID-19. However, we are moving for- ward with planning for both Fall Conference October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and the National Convention in June and 6th-9th.

We are also making plans for officer training and it is with some sadness that both those events will take place, but they are going to happen. We are also moving forward with our pandemic women’s service.

Schools around the state are still struggling with the the virus and although this is a terrible time. I have seen all sorts of different plans as to how they need to move forward.

I am sure this year is going to present challenges to us in re- gards to getting into the schools and selling our Flag Education, Americanism and Government and Oratorical Programs, etc. I remain confident you will do the best you can and this will happen. Our Children and Youth programs really are a project that we all take seriously in our communities.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that is happening, remember to go to the department website at www.indianalegion.org.

I will close this column by once again telling you how important this National organization is to you and that this leading great organization forward into a new year...and always remember “We Change things”.

Mark Gourley
Leading Hoosier Legionnaire Letters

I would like to thank Department Commander Allen Connolly for this opportunity to continue to serve as your department membership chair. This first year has been a truly rewarding experience and I greatly look forward to being able to safely travel throughout the Department of Indiana in the near future. The dedication and spirit of service exhibited by our volunteer leaders in all eleven districts during this unique time in our history has been truly impressive. I am grateful for the support of our department officers and the chance to serve alongside each and every one of you, my fellow legionnaires.

Now that the 2020-2021 membership year has ended, I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for all of your hard work in what proved to be an extraordinarily successful year. We had over 100 districts - the 5th, 9th, 10th, & 11th Districts - along with 204 posts across 105 membership. Even more impressively, we added 3 districts and 108 posts actually grew their membership from their prior 2019-2020 membership year. Congratulations to all of these posts and district leadership teams whom achieved membership excellence this past year.

I believe that we have a unique opportunity to build on the successes of this past year and I am excited as we begin, with renewed energy, our more new membership year. Our slogan and main focus always has been "Retention through Engagement" and while our retention rate remains why this is important for all of these posts and members. We have feathered out graduates throughout the summer.

The American Legion's Buddy Check-Up (BCU) grant to a financially disadvantaged veteran; our department website.

For full details on how your community could win a $1,000 cash prize for their membership efforts include in the membership convention report for district's and posts remains unchanged. The American Legion's early bird target date on membership goal by this target date will welcome currently serving charter new posts and revitalization of our department website.

Department Commander Allen Connolly's slogan "Keeping our Members Lives" makes our community's children, the lives of our fellow veterans and their families count.

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Department Commander Allen Connolly's slogan "Keeping our Members Lives" makes our community's children, the lives of our fellow veterans and their families count.
KOKOMO— Just a few months ago, Army veteran Nick Ooley was in a medically induced coma due to COVID-19.

That’s when Ooley got permission to pretty much go about normal and install the new roof at no charge. Normally, the job would cost between $7,000 and $8,000.

Getting the new roof will mean Young should be able to get the homeowner’s insurance approval to pay for it.

On Tuesday, Ooley and his Crew Roofing crew began to install the new roof and installed the new roof at no charge. Normally, the job would cost between $7,000 and $8,000.

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It seems not long that I was writing my first article and now here I am doing it again for the second year as 3rd District Commander. I would like to thank my extraordinary team of officers that I had last year and I am very glad that almost all of us are stick- ing around for the second year.

I would also like to take the time to congratul- ate all the posts in the third district that met or exceeded the 100% mem-

bership goal for card year 2019-2020. Without the hard work of the Blue Legion members, that goal would not have been met.

We have a long road ahead of us thus far. With the shutdown of many posts, work is almost impossible to do. But what and who the Legion members are is to get out and, where practicable, talk to people. I am consistently sur- prised at how many follow the rules and of those that are glad to be able to talk to someone with a purpose. One thing that I will help is to get the “buddy check” Do this from time to time and you might surprise you.

One thing that I do when I am talking to someone is to figure out what they are saying, briefly say something back, and then move on to the next person. I have been impressed by the way the members of our 10-year members, and together we can help them feel safer and keep our fellow veterans' residents.

Hello fellow 3rd Dis- tRICT Legions, here’s a quick update for our district. Our first district meet- ing was held at Wayne Newton Post 349 in Terre Haute, and all in all, it was a great meeting. We turn our discussion to the normal business and our American Legion Posts are getting ready for the annual fall conference in In- dianapolis.

The clock of bros for last year is now open, so much delivered every- one’s card out to us, and every card and post form needs to be on time. Those for who have been deployed to the far ends of the earth.

There has been over 135,000 Legionnaires from the virus in the 19-P and it has been a real success. It is the result of the Legion Act has passed.

This is a heartbreaking and destructive period for our country, but it is an opportunity for all. We are attempting to cre- ate, that can illustrate that we are a vet- eran, if the answer is no, then ask about a family member and bring up the U.S. SAL. Do that and it might surprise them.

A lot of our Posts in the District are holding drive-throughs and are keeping afloat too. We need to practice social distancing guidelines, so, we are not seeing each other as much. Please use other as much. Please use phone calls and postings, in-house notices, and also, no renewal no membership option. This is a great program to use. We want to use this pandemic as the vanguard of patriotism and seeing everyone as the vanguard of patriotism and the vanguard of patriotism for all of our veterans that are eligible for retroactive honors. We are equal, regardless of sex, age, race, or gender.

Gerbings Legions-
ners and Legions within the 8th Dis- tRICT continue to be the engine of our post will need the assistance of our national monument, our national monuments and our national memorials. Our national memorial for all of our veterans that does not move food. It is a basic foundation. Keep up. I look forward to serv- ing our new 3rd District Commander.

We want to welcome, to our 10-year members, and to all the past Posts that have been delivered, to understand what's going on! See what they are doing. We want to give our support to our local posts and the many needs of our members and our communi- ties.

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Hello from the 11th district. In spite of Cir-
cus-19, we now embark on a new Amer-
ican Legion year. It ended up be-
ing one of the years we
considered to be a district, as a
can be very
pride.
I would like to thank
all of our posts, their
officers, and of course our
members for putting up our
management over
the goal of 100% for the
first time in
the past 36 months. The
top three were Post 711 at
over 100%, Post 26 at
126%, and Post 36 at
112%, and I might add, on
Post 186 at 100%.
Well Done! Let’s do it again!
I also wish Clifton
McDonald for his efforts
as a District Vice Com-
mander these past four
years. He has also
been post’s commander
during this time. While
being commander of Post
360 he runs a program
called ‘COFFEE WITH
A VETERAN’. He uses
a ZOOM program that
allows you to go face
to face with other veterans
and talk about issues
concerning you. Hope-
fully, other post will ma-
ticipate some programs this
year while Covid-19 is
affecting our lives.

Taking Clifton’s place
as District Commander
this year is Har-
old Daniels. He will be
also serve as District
Chairman for Posts
84, 186, 276, and 522. Please
welcome him aboard and
give him your support.
We have a new mem-
ber to our commander board
for our new district. His name is Bill
Schreiner. Please get to
know him as well. I’m
looking forward to work-
with him.

It looks as though we
will have a Full Confere-
nce once beginning Saturday
of the 3rd of August through
Sunday the 4th.
Finally, be safe and
wear your masks, as we
are not out of the woods
with covid-19.

-- President LuAnn McDonald

The American Legion
JUL 29, 2020

In the small city of Jason-
ville, Ind., there isn’t an obvi-
ous homeless veterans popula-
tion. But as far as American Legion Auxiliary Unit 172
President LeAnn McDonald is
concerned, any homeless veter-
ans - or a scruffy piece of
blanket in small Indiana city

Space Force eligibility

Space Force members are now eligible to join The Amer-
ican Legion. If one goes on-
line to join a new organization
that works solely to serve
the American Le-
gion, all veterans, as an
organization that works solely

In the past year. Most notably,
achieving 100% member-
ship for the district. We
need to also recognize the hard
work of all posts and officer
holders as well as
district adjutant, vice
commander, and commit-
tees for their hard
effort toward the membership
and Legion programs.

For my goals for the
next year will be simple: con-
tinue these current
commanders have
laid out for our vision as
a district. This will include
more emphasis on buddy
programs, encouraging
post to support Legion
posts, and as always
recognizing the hard
work of all members and
new members.

We will continue to
support Commander Con-
melly’s Legacy Founda-
tion, with SAA Commander Brown
and Auxiliary President
Working together in the环绕 area – are cause for
certainty and deserve assistance.

But the thinking be-
hind McDonald’s recent
at raising both awareness about
help and funding for veteran-
ner. She and other members of
Unit 172 set up what she called
a “box city” out of Post 172
and the boxes as beds over
the course of the night.
The idea “just kind of pl föled up in my head,” said
McDonald, who serves as the
Veterans’ Auxiliary 76 District
president and is the wife
of American Legion Post 172
Commander and post
inspector, Old optics.
I brought it up at one
of our unit
meetings… and they all
said 7, 1941; or
(ii) any time after December
7, 1941; or
(iii) the period from April 6,
1918; or
(iv) any time after December
7, 1918; or
(a) the United States at any
time during the
course of the night.

They all said, “pretty cool.”
That was the thinking be-
hind McDonald’s recent
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'Last hoorah': Muncie's American Legion baseball team gives area seniors one last chance to play

Robby General
Muncie Star Press

MUNCIE, Ind. — During the first practice in late-May, Ken Zvokel, coach of Mun-
cie's American Legion Post 19 Chiefs baseball team, could see the excitement among his play-
ers. High school rivals playfully chucked back and forth as they knocked off the rust from nearly three months of inactivity. Dur-
ing their last practice before their season-opener on June 14, that kind of nonchalant atti-
dute was still there. Guys joked around as they loosened up their arms and Zvokel teased one player who streaked into practice a few minutes late.

Some players on this year's legion team are fresh off their freshman year of college while others are using this summer to get a few reps in or head off the school in the fall.

But, for most of the players, this will be the last time they'll get to play baseball.

“That’s the big thing and I think they all appreciate it,” Zvokel said. “The first day we had practice out there, you could just feel the energy, everybody was out there and ready to go on the field and stuff. You have to keep reminding these guys that, ‘Hey, you need to spread apart,’ but they’ve been playing base-
ball since they were five, so it makes a big difference when all of a sudden they’re out there.”

Muncie American Legion baseball coach Ken Zvokel hits a ball during the Muncie Chiefs practice at the American Legion Baseball diamond in McCulloch Park Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

Zvokel’s in his third season coaching Muncie’s legion team. There was doubt on whether or not the team would be able to play when The American Legion cancelled its state and national tournaments and shut down its national involvement is baseball for the 2020 season.

And although some regional teams like Cicero and Kokomo decided not to field a team, Zvokel decided to call around. First, he contacted the play-
ers, who Zvokel said were all interested in playing in some capacity. Then, he started call-
ing teams around the state and, before long, the Chiefs had an 18-game schedule lined up.

Normally a mix of a few un-
derclassmen along with gradu-
ated seniors, this year’s team is made up almost entirely of play-
ers from the Class of 2020, in-
cluding: Cowan’s Noah Collins, Daleville’s Danny Bowen and Ayden Wilson, Delta’s Austin Selvey and Kade Oliver, Wes-
Del’s Jared May along with Yinkownton’s Gabe Phipps and Gehrig Smallish. There’s ‘19 graduates, as well, in Daleville’s Josh Price (Anderson Univer-
sity) and Peyton Smith (Goshen College), Delta’s Tyler Gilland, Wes- Del’s Mason Whitted and Yinkownton’s Graham Ready (Anderson University).

It’s a talented squad made up of area players who have won sectional, regional, semi-
state and state championships in high school. It’s a team that can win a number of games but that’s not the main focus.

Local athletes playing for the Muncie Chiefs practice at the American Legion Baseball diamond in McCulloch Park Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

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Honor Legionnaires can now pre-pay their life membership dues for 10 years for only $3550.00 per year. This innovative membership program will protect Legionnaires from future increases while providing convenience and peace of mind that they won’t see a renewal notice for the next decade. Posts will receive a $5.00 credit per participating member annually in their department membership account.

Eligibility includes:
- If you served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in The American Legion.
- Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the expiration date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.
- U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 7, 1946 (WWII).

10-Year Membership Program

Frequently Asked Questions
Q1: Why was the 10-Year Membership program created?
A1: A 10-year membership option was created to allow members and renewals that cannot be scanned) will take longer to process.

Q2: Who is eligible for the 10-Year Membership program?
A2: All American Legion members in good standing are eligible for the program. SAL and Auxiliary are not currently eligible for this program.

Q3: How much does the 10-Year Membership program cost?
A3: The program offers a discounted membership rate of $353 per year for 10 years totaling $3530. The average rate for Indiana Legionnaires is $45 per year making this program a significant savings and provides members to lock in lower rates.

Q4: How long does the 10-Year Membership program differ from paid up for life?
A4: The only difference is the unit or PURA basis payment by the age of the member. Legion and Post VFW members sometimes pay more than $1,000 for their life membership. This option makes sense for some, a discounted rate of $350 for 10-years makes sense for others.

Q5: What are the advantages in participating in the 10-Year Membership program over traditional annual membership?
A5: Advantages of the program include locking in the discounted rate of $353 per year for 10 years; “Set it and forget it” no need to renew membership for a decade as your membership is paid up front and will not be affected by potential Department or National per capita increases.

Q6: What is there if a Post closes during the 10-Year Membership plan?
A6: The 10-Year Membership plan offers a reduced rate, $3550.00 per year for 10 years in lieu of the amount. This offer is backed by the Department Finance Committee to include Headquarters Posts and Posts from failing the effects of future dues increases. The $3550 rate is locked in, regardless of potential National and Department per capita increases.

Q7: Can I transfer my membership while participating in the 10-Year Membership program?
A7: As long as your transfer occurs while in the state of Indiana, your 10-year Membership plan will stay active. 10-Year Membership is only valid to Hoosier Legionnaires. Department Headquarters will work with you to transfer your membership and you will receive a refund if you choose to move out of the state within the duration of your plan.

Q8: What if my Post closes while I participate in the 10-Year Membership program?
A8: If a Post closes during your 10-year Membership plan, contact The American Legion, Department of Indiana at 317-830-3330. The Department Headquarters will work with you to transfer your membership.

The American Legion 2021 Membership Target Dates

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The American Legion 2021 Membership Renewal Schedule

CUTOFF DATES RENEWAL DATES
EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 50% FALL MEETINGS OCTOBER 15, 2020 55% VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020 65% EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 50% PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 7, 2020 75% MID-WINTER JANUARY 21, 2021 80% LABOR DAY AUGUST 31, 2020 85% ARMED FORCES DAY MAY 12, 2021 90% CUTOFF DATES RENEWAL DATES
EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 50% MOTHERS DAY MAY 9, 2021 90% MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2021 95% MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2021 95%

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, transmissions received and transmitted by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be processed at the same time, those that are received after the cutoff date will not be a chance to be scanned. Membership that is back-end-keyed (new transmittals that do not scan) will be tagged for reprocessing. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing. All online membership processing transmittals submitted through myLegion by the end business on the cutoff date, will suppress printing of renewal notices.

HOSIER LEGIONNAIRE 3RD QUARTER 2020
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA
TEN-YEAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: _______________________________________________________
First Name: __________________________________
Last Name: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City: ______________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: __________________________________
Email: ______________________________________
Date of Birth: __________________________
Post: __________________________
Branch: __________________________
Type of Discharge: __________________________

Signature: ______________________________________
Date: __________________________

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