Happy birthday
The American Legion
March 15-17, 2020!

As he stood on the stage in the Indiana Convention Center on Aug. 29 following being elected American Legion national commander for 2019-2020, North Carolina Legislator James W. “Bill” Oxford made it clear continuing the organization’s legacy into its next 100 years is not the job one person can perform. “As I looked around this hall today, I am humbled to beyond belief … to accept this nomination as your national commander,” said Oxford, who was elected during The American Legion 101st National Convention. “We have a terrific organization. Whatever this job is, I will do it to the best of my ability, but I can’t do it alone. I need everybody here on my team, helping us reach our goals and objectives. We are all stakeholders in this organization. We are the future of this organization.” A Proud-Up-For-Life member and past commander of American Legion Post 29 in Lenox, N.C., Oxford said as The American Legion’s centennial celebration comes to an end on Veterans Day, it’s good time to look back on 100 years of successes and accomplishments.

He pointed out the Legion’s role in creating the original GI Bill and being part of efforts to update it, the important role the organization played in the creation of what is now the Department of Veterans Affairs, the drafting of the U.S. Flag Code and, most recently, gaining passage of the LEGION Act.

Oxford noted the Legion’s relationship with the American Legion Auxillary and the growth of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders. And he pointed to youth programs such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, the Oratorical Contest, youth law cadet programs and support for Scouting.

American Legion charitable funds, Oxford said, have provided millions in scholarship money, disaster relief and other assistance. The Child Welfare Foundation has provided more than $16 million in grants to organizations that contribute to the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional needs of children. And the Legion’s Operation Comfort Warriors provides items to recovering wounded warriors and veterans not covered by the federal government.

“When we think about those charities, there’s one special thing about the Legion charities: 100 percent of the funds go toward the programs,” Oxford said. “All operational and administrative costs are covered by The American Legion. All of that money goes to those charities.”

“All of these things we’ve talked about shows who we are, but it also shows what we do,” Oxford said.

What the Legion also does, Oxford said, is promote Americanism through flag education and being involved in local schools, advocate for veterans’ benefits and health care, support a strong national defense, and support America’s youth.

“Does that sound familiar?” Oxford asked. “I think it does, because we are talking about the Four Pillars of The American Legion. That’s the thing that’s made The American Legion the largest, most powerful veterans organization in this country.”

Oxford then turned his focus toward the future. “The things we did yesterday, we do today and we will do tomorrow are building the foundation for the future of this organization,” he said. “And if we think about The American Legion’s policies, programs (and) efforts, we’ve got to consider what makes these programs work. Those programs work by the people who participate in them.”

Oxford said membership is the key to the Legion’s mission succeeding. He set goals of a 90-percent retention rate and adding 100,000 new members in 2019-2020, with a long-term goal of reaching 3.3 million members – the all-time high number set in 1946.

With the LEGION Act’s passage, “we need to recognize and pursue the 4.2 million veterans now eligible to become Legionnaires,” Oxford said.

If we get everybody involved, we can gain 100,000 new members.” Oxford said that while it’s not a goal that can be measured, something else needed is to increase membership is to raise the visibility of The American Legion.

“If there’s fish fry, baseball game, a flag retirement – regardless of what the event is, we need to do two additional things,” he said. “There needs to be a news release before (the event) so people will know about it. Invite them to come and participate and help. And after the event, and just as important as washing the last pot, is doing the same thing.

“We all know what the Legion is and the value we have. But does everybody else? A photo, an article, a video, a blog. And use social media.” Oxford said his initial commander’s project will be promoting The American Legion Centennial Coin, which remains on sale until the end of December. Proceeds from coin sales will help fund American Legion programs that support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the communities in which they live.

“Those centennial coins make great gifts.” Oxford said. “The centennial coins give you American Legion memorabilia. And I know in North Carolina we’re going to use those centennial coins as membership incentives.”

In January, Oxford said his emphasis will shift to fundraising for The American Legion Veterans and Children’s Foundation. All contributions to the foundation go directly to the Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and to Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation efforts – primarily training for American Legion service officers who work tirelessly to help veterans and families understand their healthcare benefits, education and employment opportunities.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, he joined the North Carolina National Guard, attended officers candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served as Department of North Carolina commander, as well as either chairing or being a part of several national American Legion commissions. He is also a former mayor and city council member of Cajah’s Mountain, N.C., and has served as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

“We have a great team, and we will continue to have a great team. But we need a great team,” Oxford said. “When we think about all the things that we do, that team make it possible to accomplish those things.

“As we think about who we are and what we do as stakeholders, as the future of this organization, we are building the foundation for the future of the organization for the next 100 years.”

Elected national vice commanders were Bruce C. Feuerbach (Iowa), David L. King (Kentucky), Francis J. MacDonald Jr. (Massachusetts), Richard A. Heigert (Missouri) and Robert D. Liebenow (Oregon).
The Judge's Column

Can a contribution to an American Legion Post, which is a 501(c)(19) organization, be deducted as a contribution by the donee?

The answer is yes; however, there are numerous qualifications. Under the Revenue Act of 1946, supplemental lists have been transmitted to the internal revenue service for an overall group ruling covering those American Legion posts which have been issued yearly by IRS covering those departments and posts. So long as your post file the appropriate IRS end of year tax forms and your post has been listed by the IRS covering those departments and posts. There is a form IRS 1120A on which you must file such documents with the IRS and the Post must meet the qualifications under this section up to include in the year of 1972. By virtue of the passage the Tax Reform Act of 1969 allows an individual donor to make a charitable gift to your Legion Post is deductible.

So what does that mean?

1. The veteran organization must meet the qualifications under section 501(c)19 which are:

- The veterans organization must meet all of the requirements of being organized for charitable purposes. An organization of past or present members of United States Armed Forces; organized in the United States or its possessions; at least 97.5% of its members must be present or former members of the United States Armed Forces; or veterans organization must be a non-profit organization; or an organization of post -war veterans.

- The donee may deduct from the tuition, there is an exemption for posts at least 75% of the members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity.

2. Under section 501(c)19 which are:

- A post or organization of past or present members of United States Armed Forces; organized in the United States or its possessions; at least 97.5% of its members must be present or former members of the United States Armed Forces, cadets (including stu dents on active or inactive duty for training purposes); and spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors or line descendants who are not older than 18 and the post must operate to promote the social welfare of the community, general welfare of the community, to assist disable and widows of the community.

3. Under section 501(c)19 which are:

- A post of war time veterans’ organization. If your post meets those qualifications, the donee may deduct a portion of their gift for tax purpose under 170(c) (3). However, such gifts under the Tax Reform Act of 1969 allows an individual who makes a contribution to a War Time Veteran Organization to a special contribution limitation.

As amended, section 170(b) of the above act provides detailed rules limiting the deduction an individual donor may claim for contributions to charita ble organizations. An individual donor’s charitable deduction is limited in any veterans’ contribution to any other government program, The American Legion, its department and to represent you across our great state. Thank you for rewarding me into your posts and communities. Thank you for the privilege and honor you have given me to work alongside you in fulfillment of a truly sacred task, service to God and Country. The American Legion represents our organization, built on the four pillars, provides an essential service to veteran, active duty service members, and families of our nation. These programs are second to none. Your hard work on behalf of the Legion and dedication to these principles allow us to make a difference in the lives of countless numbers of individuals.

The Judge’s Corner

Gaither M. Keener, Jr
Department Judge Advocate

Membership Report

Nancy Phillips
Membership Chairman

Membership is not just about numbers. It’s about our people. No one is more important than our members & their families. National introduced the Buddy Check last year just in time for our March 15th American Legion birthday. Buddy Check is all about checking on our Post members. It is not a membership drive but a wellness checkup. How are you doing? Do you need any assistance that we can provide? National then expanded it to Veterans Day Week. It’s a time to communicate with our members. But really, we should be communicating with our members on a regular basis. Our Posts operate due to the hard work and hours of help from our member volunteers. Communicate with your members about what activities you have going on, what you need help and as a member offer up some time to help your Post. They will appreciate it.

See Membership, Page 8

Adjudant’s Column

Veterans Day 2019 marks the end of the official commemoration of The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary. As we close out the many national and local celebrations and remembrances, we will never forget the rich history and accomplishments of the organization over the first one hundred years. Of the many achievements of The American Legion in its first century of service, one stands out above all others, The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944—better known as the GI Bill—did more than improve the lives of veterans. It reshaped the future of America. The GI Bill made higher education, home ownership and gainful employment possible for any American veteran to use. The GI Bill propelled a half-century of economic prosperity. Simply put, more than any other government program, The American Legion’s GI Bill prevented a post-war resumption of the Great Depression. Less known is that the GI Bill also provided—for the first time in U.S. history—the ability for a veteran to discharge the characterization of military discharge. Prior to The American Legion, a dishonorable discharge could be issued purely at the discretion of commanding officers. This was the need to explain why. In a similar way, The American Legion helped establish a Board of Veterans Appeals, giving those whose VA claims decisions a day in court to have their appeals heard.

The North Carolina Legion News

James D. Moore, Jr
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Tierian Randy Cash
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Articles May Be Submitted For Consideration To Be Published In The North Carolina Legion News, PO Box 26567, Raleigh NC 27611-6657.

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Wayne and Beverly Mihelich, members of the Lenoir church of Christ and American Legion Post 29 Lenoir, recently returned from Guatemala where they were part of a Medical Mission Trip sponsored by Health Talents International. This adventure took them as part of a medical surgical team made up of Christians from California to New York to Clinica Ejell in the southern Department (State) of Suchitepequez Guatemala near the village of Aldea Montellana. Neither being medical professionals, were able to play a significant role in the success of the trip, Wayne as the Chaplain and Bev as a Caregiver.

Wayne is a 31 Year Veteran of the United States Navy and until 1 July of this year, when he retired for the second time, was the Naval Science Instructor at West Caldwell High School for 15 years. He has also been active in our community as one of the Elders at the Lenoir church of Christ and past Commander, Veterans Services Officer and presently the Chaplain at Lenoir’s American Legion Post 29. Bev is an artist and founding member of the nonprofit Western North Carolina Society of Artisans doing business as the Red Awning Gallery located within HUD Station. She is also a recent member of the American Legion Post 29, due to legislation allowing her as a Cold War Veteran of the US Navy to join the American Legion; she is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 29.

When asked what he will remember most about this trip Wayne stated “Experiencing the trust and faith the patients placed in God and our team to heal them. We had patients from the age of 1 to 75 from throughout Guatemala and one patient who traveled 15 hour by bus from Mexico after hearing about the Clinic.”

During this very eventful trip Wayne was able to pray for the healing of all 68 surgical patients as well as the surgical team, while assisting in the recovery room, and helping in any way he could on the clinics ward. Bev assisted the nursing staff in recovery and on the ward, as well as helping with admissions and discharge procedures.

When asked if this was a onetime trip, they stated “Not at all, we plan on being part of the February team.” Wayne also said “If anyone has any questions concerning the mission of Health Talents International or the American Legion please contact me.”

American Legion Post 400 and American Legion Riders of Post 262 participated in the 51st annual Hickory Grove July 4th Parade held in Charlotte. Many post members rode on a decorated truck with the Post 262 Riders showing their riding skills on decorated motorcycles. The parade route covered a mile and drew many spectators along the way.

Junior Jones
Turns 100

Junior Jones of Elm City celebrated his 100th birthday on Sept. 28 at his home. About 40 people were in attendance at the party, including family friends and loved ones. He was born to Lewis and Sudie Murphy Jones from Greene County on Sept. 25, 1919. He is the last living child of 10 children born to this couple.

He attended school in Greene County and farmed in Greene and Wilson counties. He married Marjorie Doris Bailey Jones in 1938, and they had four children, Betty Lou Snipes Winstead, Thadise Lee Jones, Peggy Ann Jones and William “Bill” Gill Jones, who is deceased. They also have seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Jones served in the Navy during World War II and has been a member of the American Legion for 75 years. Post 13 Commander Ed Costello presented the Continuous Member Certificate to him on Sept. 18 at the Wilson County Fair. He enjoys dancing, breakfast at McDonald’s and occasional visits with family and friends. Jones attends Tabernacle Baptist Church in Wilson.

Journey Jones
Turns 104

The American Legion Auxiliary celebrated Iris Turlington’s 104th birthday on Sept. 25. Turlington, a veteran of World War II, is a member of both American Legion Post 13 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 of Wilson. Turlington grew up in Sampson County but moved to Wilson several years ago to be near family. She joined the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.
On 7 October 2019, Jean Brady, younger sister of PFC Raymond Vick, accepted a pair of military decorations in a ceremony at American Legion Post 12 from US Representative Richard Hudson, 8th Congressional District. PFC Vick was 19 years old, assigned to the 89th Infantry Division when he was killed in action on 26 March 1945.

Jean Brady had wanted for years to track down her brother’s missing medals. Congressman Hudson, speaking to her after a Ronald Reagan Dinner last year in Pinehurst, offered to have his staff undertake the project. PFC Vick’s decorations had been lost for nearly 75 years. During the last week in September 2019, Congressman Hudson’s staff contacted Ms. Brady with the good news. American Legion Post 12 Commander, Mike Gast arranged and hosted the 7 October 2019 outdoors ceremony on the grounds of the post in Carthage, NC.

Congressman Hudson presented Ms. Brady PFC Vick’s World War II Victory Medal along with lapel pin for honorable service. In addition, Post Commander Mike Gast presented Ms. Brady a Post 12 plaque to honor PFC Vick’s service.

Flag Retirement at Post 38 in Roanoke Rapids

American Legion Post 38 Roanoke Rapids NC installed a new flag retirement box to place torn and tattered U.S. flags for retirement. The new box is located at the Post, 717 American Legion Road. The box was designed and built by Legionnaire Richard Odom. Pictured are Richard Odom and Glen Mosley placing the first retired U.S. flags in the box.

Garner Post 232 Hosts Picnic for Durham VA Hospital in-patient veterans

For the second consecutive year Post 232 hosted a picnic at Lake Benson Park in Garner for the disabled veterans residing at the Durham VA Hospital. The day began with Terry Chatfield, Post Historian, giving a guided tour of the Garner Veterans’ Memorial Park, then followed by a picnic at Lake Benson Park. The veterans enjoyed bingo, sandwiches, and the camaraderie with the Post members and hospital staff.

New Elementary School in Rowan County Learns Flag Respect

When two elementary schools with long histories and proud traditions merge into a new school there are new traditions to be established and two distinct personalities that must be married together. Earlier this year, Cleveland and Woodleaf elementary Schools moved from their old facilities and became the all new West Rowan Elementary School.

One of the new traditions will make local veterans proud. Harriet Garwood, an Air force veteran, whose grandson attends West Elementary, observed that the newly formed flag detail, made up of energetic 5th graders, needed a little help with this responsibility. As a member of American Legion Post 342, he approached fellow Legionnaire Bob Price, who is also a member of the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard, to see if he could help the school out. The next day, Bob visited West Rowan Elementary School and met with the Principal Kris Wolfe, to discuss a training program he would be able to provide for the newly formed Flag detail.

The following day, twenty-two students from four classes, began 5 days of training. They learned about flag etiquette, the proper way to fold the stars and stripes, the proper way to hold and carry the school’s flags, the order in which the flags are raised and lowered, and how to properly post the American flag at half-staff if the need arises. The final lesson dealt with the presentation of the colors (how to march in formation rather than just walking to and from the flagpole.)

So a new tradition is born and two schools grew a little closer in their efforts to become one. What other traditions will give West Rowan Elementary School its own history to build on?
On Friday, May 24 during the Senior Awards Program at South Rowan High School in China Grove, “Wild Bill” Corriher presented his “Wild Bill” Corriher JROTC Scholarships to all 4 applicants. Each recipient received a $1,000 scholarship. These scholarships were made possible through numerous supporters from the community. The scholarship recipients were Taylor Alexis Gillespie, Madison Nicole Lowery, Jamie Erin Minehart and Anthony Michael Skrip.

Taylor Gillespie plans on attending Pfeiffer University and majoring in Nursing or Criminal Justice. Madison Lowery has plans on majoring in Criminal Justice at Catawba College. Jamie Minehart plans on attending UNC-Charlotte and majoring in International Business. Anthony Skrip plans on majoring in Nursing at Rowan Cabarrus Community College.

From left to right – Taylor Gillespie, Madison Lowery, Jamie Minehart, Anthony Skrip & “Wild Bill” Corriher.

Raleigh Post 1 Celebrates 100 Years

Having the distinction of being the first American Legion Post in NC, Raleigh Post 1 celebrates 100 years of service to God and Country in 2019. Notable among many illustrious Post Commanders is Josephus Daniels, Jr., son of Secretary of the Navy, and Ambassador to Mexico, Josephus Daniels. For six months in 1919, Post 1 was the American Legion presence in NC before the Department was established. The first Post location (1919-1960) was on Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh. In 1960, operations were moved to the current site at 3600 Lee Road, a large farm on the outskirts of Raleigh. The original farmhouse from the 1930s, sitting on 15 acres of land, is still used as the post home.

Post 416 Fundraising

Post 416 in Lowe’s Grove has had a busy fall fundraising season. A Fall BBQ Chicken fundraiser was held with (from L to R) James Lowe, Commander and George Scruggs, Chaplain putting the finishing touches on the chicken before it’s served. The fundraiser they are best known for is the “Peanuts”. This involves a monthly peanut cooking which supports most of their outreach efforts, especially at the USO located in the RDU airport. Pictured (from L to R) E.V. McBroom, Sgt-at-Arms, Larry Strickland, 1st Vice-Commander, and David Hartmetz, Historian.
Post 532 Receives Governor’s Award

At a special awards ceremony this past January, George Lee Post 532 was formally presented with the Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service. Originally nominated for this award by Mr. Silas Brown, former Clay County Agricultural Extension Agent in 2017; the formal award was not made until 2019 due to several weather and scheduling factors that prevented an earlier award. In 2016 the Post was given the opportunity to relocate to the County Community Services building which had been abandoned and needed extensive renovation. In addition to being given the opportunity to establish a much needed new Post home, members volunteered to take on a total internal renovation of the building which included offices for the Clay County Extension Soil and Water Conservation Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Four-Square Community Assistance project. The award was made by Robert Peck, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Clay County. During the award ceremony Mr. Brown stated that “The renovation project would not have been possible had it not been for our local American Legion Post and their many able volunteers who worked many long and tiresome hours in order to reach completion within the two month window given for the renovation effort.” He went on to state “It was amazing to see such efforts by these volunteers who were serving merely for the benefit of the community after already having served their country through military service.” Working eight hours every day for more than 30 days with an average of 10 people, the Post volunteered more than 2,000 hours of labor to complete the project providing a considerable financial savings to the County.

L-R: Horace Jones, Commander Peter Munos, Deputy Stacey Jones, Capt. William Coker, Trooper Brandon Jefferson, Deputy LaPorsha Davis, Paramedic Joseph Castleda, Officer Michael Molson

Post 53 holds Salute to Heroes

Henry K. Burtner Post 53, American Legion held their annual Salute to Heroes on Friday August 16, 2019 at their post home located at 729 Creek Ridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27406. The post salutes local heroes from the Guilford County Emergency Management Service (EMS), Guilford County Sheriff Office/Detention Center, Greensboro Police and Fire Departments, and North Carolina Highway Patrol (Troop D). This year’s recipients are:

Guilford County EMS – Joseph Castleda
Guilford County Sheriff Deputy – Deputy Stacey L. Joseph
Guilford County Sheriff Detention Deputy – Senior Officer LaPorsha Davis
Greensboro Police Department – Capt. William D. Coker
Greensboro Fire Department – Capt. William D. Coker
North Carolina Highway Patrol – Trooper Brandon Jefferson

The post has recognized the local heroes for fifty plus years according to Post Adjutant, Bob Davis. Bob has been a member of the post for fifty years and the post has been doing it as long as he has been a member. This year’s ceremony was hosted by Post Commander, Peter Munos. This year’s ceremony was attended by Greensboro Police Department: Deputy Chief Brian James.

The four pillars of the American Legion are: Americanism, National Defense, Veterans Rehabilitation and Education, and Children and Youth. The Legion in its Preamble specifically calls out to maintain law and order and through this program we recognize the law and order of our local community. One of the children and youth programs the post is involved with is American Legion Baseball and the post and guests heard from our baseball team manager, James Goard who provided a synopsis of their season and reported that next year the baseball program will have a Junior and Senior Team.
President's Message

August was a busy month. I had the honor of attending the American Legion World Series in Shelby. This was a wonderful experience. I had so much fun meeting new people and seeing old friends. Shelby 82 and the Town of Shelby were wonderful hosts. The festivities began with the 7th Inning Stretch, which featured a Martina McBride concert. On Friday, I participated in the National Commander's Awareness Walk. The walk honored our military and police officers, while thanking them for their service. I had the privilege of attending a luncheon hosted by King Post and Auxiliary 185. We were honored to hear from Hal Fritz, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. I had fun throwing out the 1st pitch at a game, and I am proud to say that I got it across home plate. I’ll never forget the hug my grandson gave me after watching my pitch.

After the tournament, it was off to the National Convention in Indianapolis for the 99th American Legion Convention. We all had fun and learned a lot. Here are a few highlights from the week. At the NC get-together, we were privileged to hear from Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Jim “Doc” Cloughan. It was fun talking with him and his wife; they were both kind and interesting. The Auxiliary was honored to hear from Second Lady, Karen Pence. Her speech was inspiring and her service to our military families is admirable. Vice President, Mike Pence surprised us with a visit and discussed ways to support military spouses. Our National President, Nicole Clapp's Installation was spectacular. Beautiful poppies lined the stage. It was an exciting event, and I am eager for her presidential year. She is an inspiration to us all, because she has the experience, personality, and dedication needed to honor her position. The best part was hearing our own Bill Oxford installed as American Legion National Commander, this is a great honor for North Carolina. I hope you will help me wish Bill and Francis a successful year and safe travels as they travel the country representing the American Legion. North Carolina was also honored when, Past Department Commander Patricia Harris, received an award as Woman of the Year, for her work in helping female veterans. Thank you, Patricia, for your service. My heart was touched when the National Membership Chairman, Ann King Smith, closed her membership report with the Rosie Team singing our theme song. I hope you were able to view the stream the Convention and see the great pictures that Lynn Coughe nous posted on Facebook.

September was a busy month as we had our Division meetings. It is always wonderful to travel North Carolina and spend time with the Auxiliary. At the Division meetings, the chairmen presented their Plans of Action for the year. I'm excited to report that there are some exciting things planned with lots of prizes and awards. During September I visited all 4 VAMCs. This year my President's Project is to raise money for the treatment and wellbeing of our veterans who suffer from PTSD. My goal is $20,000. If you or your Post would like to donate, please contact me or Heather at our Raleigh office. During September I had the honor of celebrating The American Legion 100th Anniversa ry at Post 59 in Dunn. In October I celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Post and Auxiliary with Calabash 503 and Cherryville 100. We were honored to have National Commander Bill Oxford with us in Cherryville. I look forward to celebrating with other Posts and Units as we continue to Celebrate 100 years of Service to our Veterans.

Fall Conference was wonderful. Thank you to all who supported the President's Project table. We raised $5,094.34 at Fall Conference for the President's Project. The total to date is $11,863.04. I know that we are going to make that $20,000.

Vice President's Report

Jill P. Puett
Vice President

North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary #1 Again!!

Congratulations in order for our NC American Legion Auxiliary for the third straight year, the highest percent age of paid membership with the addition of 158 new members this year.

The American Legion Auxiliary Membership Team (Uncle Sam Team) has been busy working membership to meet the National Auxiliary Birthday of November 10, 2019. We currently have 17 Units that are 100% from National for being 100% by November 10, 2019. We have 22 Units that are at 90-100%!! We are at 65.52% of membership and are ahead of last year this time. This year we must have 6,058 to be a Goal Department and we want to see this happen. We currently have 3,969 paid members and are working to get the new members and retain our members, plus we want to grow North Carolina this year as we begin our next 100 years. As of November 7, 2019, we have signed up 223 NEW members for the Department of North Carolina. This is an exciting year for us and we want to get the next century off to a good start.

We also have our Legionnaires to encourage family that are eligible to be a member of the Auxiliary to join our ranks. We are making a different report that there are some exciting changes to the eligibility requirements we should grow bigger and stronger for our vets to come to! GO NORTH CAROLINA!!

Jill P. Puett, Membership Chairman Team Members –
Division 1 President Katie Pfeif, Division 2 President Jonie Hicks And Division 3 President Mary Bartlett

2019-20 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Grand Prize, $10,000
Gordon Estes, Post 48

Five 2nd Prizes, $1,000
Frank Dorn, Post 1981
Albert Bailey, Post 525
Dwight Patterson, Post 23
Dennis Sutherland, Jr, Post 10
Richard L. Helmian, Post 106

Six 3rd Prizes, Post $500
Thomas A. Crum, Post 116
Fred Quick, Post 181
Bill M. Murphy, Post 1981
Armande & Anna Clouse
Michael R. Duncan, Post 290
Paul D. Francis, Post 386

Twenty 4th Prizes, $100
Fred R. Medlin, Post 48
Lenwood T. Hendrick, Post 60
Robert C. Embleton, Post 10
Mark B. Ryan, Post 60
Bobby H. Jones, Post 126
Walter W. Huffman Jr, Post 48
Ronald H. Davis, Post 235
Bobby Joe Golkey, Post 51
Ronald Moore, Post 116
James Thompson, Post 48
Francis P. Beto, Post 235
Carl M. Moore, Post 137
William W. Huisinga, Post 109
Charles G. Seaford, Post 51
Ralph S. Baker, Sr, Post 51
Paul C. Williams, Post 107
Lester Waters, Post 51
Rick Land, Post 106
Lance B. Hegele, Post 66
John T. Flynn, Sr, Post 8

Congratulations to all of the winners and a big thank you to everyone that participated in the sweepstakes. Your contributions are making a difference.

November 2019 - February 2020

North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary Members of the Year

Harris one of three Women of the Year

North Carolina’s Alternate NEC Patricia A Harris was selected as one of three 2019 National American Legion Auxiliary Women of the Year Awardees during the National Convention held in Indianapolis IN. She was presented this award for Women Veterans Support Services Inc. She is the Founder and Visionary since 2008. This non-profit organization specializes in Crisis management, advocacy and education for Women Veterans and male veterans with daughters in the State of NC and beyond. Their current funded program, Protective Red Shoe, addresses the issues of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault among our women veterans and Military. With four generations of American Legion Auxiliary membership, Patricia is a dual member with Unit 124 although she started as a Junior with Unit 157 and have served as the Southern Division V&K Chair for the National American Legion Auxiliary. For more information about WVSS, please contact Rev. Shirley King 919-894-1012.

President’s Message

Julie Moore
Department President

Auxiliary was honored to hear from three generations of American Legion Veterans and Military. With four current funded program, Protective Red Shoe, addresses the issues of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault among our women veterans and Military. With four generations of American Legion Auxiliary membership, Patricia is a dual member with Unit 124 although she started as a Junior with Unit 157 and have served as the Southern Division V&K Chair for the National American Legion Auxiliary. For more information about WVSS, please contact Rev. Shirley King 919-894-1012.

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Adjudant

from Page 2

majoring in those cases.

In the aftermath of World War II, American patriots fought bravely in Korea and Viet Nam, and defended the newly-formed government of Saddam Hussein. Like Pearl Harbor, 9/11 will forever be etched into the memory of Americans. A new generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast-

ackets Act, in honor of the American Legion past national commander who was chief architect of the Service-

men’s Readjustment Act of 1944 – the original GI Bill. The American Legion continues its legacy of service with The Let Every-

one Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service or LEGION Act by allowing any honorably discharged veterans who’ve served since 7 De-

cember 1941, to join the American Legion and access its programs and benefits. This will affect some 1,600 veterans who were killed or wound-

ed during their service, which just so happened to be during a previously undervalued period of global conflict honoring their service and sacrifice.

Judge

from Page 2

one taxable year to an amount not in excess of 20%, 30%, or 50% of his or her contribution base. In addition, for tax years after December 31, 1990 section 68 of the code reduces the otherwise allowable deductions for certain taxpayers by the lesser of 3% of his or her adjusted gross income or 80% of the otherwise allowable itemized ded-

uctions. Effectively for tax years beginning after 2012, section 68 applies to taxpay-

ers who are married with adjusted gross income exceeding $300,000.

What does this mean to American leg-

ion post?

Membership

from Page 2

This summer the US Congress gave us a gift with passage of the Legion Act. The Legion Act changed the war eras from 8 to 2. World War 1 and Dec 7, 1941 to present day. There are over 4 million veterans na-

tionwide that have been ineligible to join our ranks until the Legion Act.

Now is the time to go back out in our veteran communities and welcome these veterans to our Posts. Some have already come to us, but others will have to be approached. This is when we look to all of our members to get out and ask. See a veteran hat or clothing, strike up a conversation about being a veteran. Welcome them to join them in the fellowship, camaraderie and fun of being part of our Post family.

But wait. Did you know that the Legion Act also applies to the Auxil-

iary and Sons of the American Leg-

ion? For years many family members could not join the Auxiliary or SAL because their veteran was ineligible due to a war era gap, These family members are now eligible to join our whole family. The Auxilia-

ry also changed their wording for membership from wives to spouses. A growing segment of our military population are women veterans with civilian spouses. The Auxiliary opened their doors to make spouses and family members, who have served, traditional members.

Last year National opened the door for North Carolina to begin MyL-

genion Membership Processing. At first, we had just a handful of Posts ramping up the computer process. Processing membership online was a program we have been fighting for. Members can renew online through the National website www.legion.org but Posts still had to process cards & mail them to the Department. MyLegion Membership Processing speeds the membership application process from weeks to days. Hopefully this will cut down on the unnec-

essary renewal coupons and the mis-

spelling of names and information.

There are 3 ways to join the American Legion. The traditional way is through your local Posts but National also has added members through their website www.legion.org and through mailers sent to veteran addresses. For the traditional member they have a Post home they can go to and join and participate, but for the online & mailed in member they don’t have this opportunity. We are tasked by National HQ with the re-

sponsibility to match these Online/ Mailer Veterans to a Post home near-

to their home by zip code. Over the next several weeks we will be working as a team to place members in traditional Posts from the holding area. Posts have the option to refuse to take membership, but we certainly hope that will be on a limited “case-

by-case” basis. Are these members stuck in a post if they don’t wish to be there? Absolutely not. Mem-

bers have the option to change Posts based on what works for them to match the needs of their family, it may not even be in the same zip code, much less district or even divi-

sion! My Home post is over 3 hours from my house, but that’s what’s best for my family and how I feel like a valued member of the organization. Membership is about fellowship, ca-

maraderie, family & friends helping each other and supporting our fellow veterans.

COLLECTION OF PULL-TABS

The purpose of collecting the pull-tabs is to help pay the rent for families of seriously ill children who stay at a Ronald McDonald House in North Carolina and is sponsored by your Department Children and Youth Commission.

Update: Fall Conference-2019

(1,258 LBS.)

Tarboro Post 19 ........................ 15 Lbs.
Fayetteville Post 32 ............................. 16 Lbs.
Kernersville Post 36 ............................. 23 Lbs.
Edenton Post 40 .............................. 33 Lbs.
Kinston Post 43 .............................. 29 Lbs.
Rocky Mount Post 58 ........................... 12 Lbs.
Asheville Post 70 .............................. 2 Lbs.
Forest City Post 74 ............................ 26 Lbs.
Hendersonville Post 77 .......................... 23 Lbs.
Liberty Post 81 ............................... 40 Lbs.
Shelby Post 82 ................................. 11 Lbs.

Ahsokie Post 102 .......................... 47 Lbs.
Sylvia Post 104 .............................. 5 Lbs.
Laurinburg Post 162 ........................... 4 Lbs.
Rockingham Post 147 .......................... 53 Lbs.
Burgaw Post 165 ............................. 22 Lbs.
Laurinburg Post 181 ........................... 6 Lbs.
Newport Post 203 ............................. 4 Lbs.
Goldboro Post 215 ............................ 29 Lbs.
Kinston Post 219 ............................. 10 Lbs.
Spring Lake Post 230 .......................... 5 Lbs.
Coinjock Post 288 ............................. 41 Lbs.

East Bend Post 336 ........................... 16 Lbs.
Salisbury Post 342 ............................ 47 Lbs.
Greensboro Post 386 .......................... 14 Lbs.
Elizabethtown Post 404 .......................... 28 Lbs.
New Salem Post 440 ........................... 50 Lbs.
Calabash Post 503 ............................ 80 Lbs.
Swift Creek Post 530 ........................... 4 Lbs.
New Bern Post 539 ........................... 5 Lbs.
Wilmington Post 545 ........................... 10 Lbs.
Goldboro Unit 11 ............................. 1 Lbs.
Washington Unit 15 ........................... 1 Lbs.

Cary Aux Unit 67 ............................. 8 Lbs.
Benson Unit 109 ............................ 6 Lbs.
Monroe Unit 225 ............................. 4 Lbs.
SAL Squadron 47 ............................. 1 Lbs.
Kathey Watkins  .............................. 1 Lbs.
Generations Children’s ........................ 30 Lbs.
Church, Goldsboro ............................ 9 Lbs.
Pam’s School ................................. 4 Lbs.