

MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP

It seems you are always asked to increase your membership and no matter what programs you begin discussing, you always come back to membership.

The reason for this is obvious -- “membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion.” Without members, there would be no Legion programs. Without members, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishment in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. But, The American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919.

It is often emphasized, “It is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong.” Often times your members are hesitant to ask veterans to join The American Legion because we are asking the veteran for his money and his time. Do you not feel, as a Legionnaire, that time and money will be well spent in advancing the many and various programs of The American Legion? Don’t be hesitant or apologetic, ask them to join, ask them to renew – NOW.

You must offer every eligible veteran the opportunity to be a Legionnaire. Many Legionnaires ask; “What do you talk about when you approach a prospective member?” Because of the American Legion and its nearly three million members there is:

- A fair and equitable GI Bill of Rights for our veterans
- A Flag Code to direct the proper display and respect for “Old Glory”
- A viable VA Health Care system
- Courage to fight for a Constitutional Amendment against flag desecration
- Persistent efforts to secure recognition and treatment for illness caused by Agent Orange and unknown illnesses from the Persian Gulf War

You can tell the prospective Legionnaire about:

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, which contains updates on the status of legislation that directly affects all veterans...information on outfit reunions...monthly interviews with key government officials...debates on the “Big Issues” from two opposing points of view...occasional accounts of real-life experiences during the war years...and much, much more.

The American Legion Member Benefit Plan. Substantial travel discounts for both the member and family include motel and rental car discounts, eye care plan, and the discount prescription program. Also, medical and dental insurance plans are available. (Go to www.legion.org for more information.)

American Legion Life Insurance Plan...available only to members...the largest, low-cost insurance plan of it’s kind in the country. Now offering exciting plans for members and their families.

The American Legion Membership Card, which gives the member access to nearly 14,000 Legion Posts worldwide and guarantees that our members will always have a fellow veteran nearby.

But more important are the intangible benefits of membership, the ones you can’t put a dollar value to – the lifelong friendships that develop from being actively involved with others...the leadership qualities one gains by holding offices at the Post, District, Department, or National echelons...the sense of accomplishment one feels after seeing a project through to successful completion...and most importantly, the self-satisfaction of knowing that just by being a member we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

All of the above-mentioned benefits of membership, both tangible and intangible, add up to one thing – opportunity. This opportunity is enhanced by additional benefits of membership available through your Department and your Post.

At your next Post meeting, emphasize to your Legionnaires that membership in The American Legion is an opportunity to be shared with those non-member, eligible veterans. The American Legion provides for our veterans and their families through the following programs:

Troop Support Services (TS2)
Legion Riders
Assistance to needy children and families
College Scholarships to High School Students
Veterans Administration Volunteer Services
Blood Donor Program
High School Oratorical Contest
Boys State and Nation
American Legion Baseball
Job Assistance Programs
Boy Scouts, Cub Packs, Explorer Units
Flag Education Programs
Crime Resistance

Temporary Financial Assistance
Heroes to Hometowns
Missing Children Programs
Drug Abuse Programs
Teenage Suicide Prevention Programs
Special Olympics
The American Legion Auxiliary/Girls State and Nation
The National Emergency Fund
The Family Support Network
The Flag Honor Guard
Sons of The American Legion
Department Service Officers
Children's Miracle Network Affiliation

Ask them where their interests lie and offer them the opportunity to serve.

As The American Legion continues its intensive drive to protect and preserve veterans' benefits programs – especially in the area of medical care – the numerical strength of the organization is so important. Is your Post doing its part in the nationwide drive to increase the Legion's growth?

The American Legion – “Still Serving America!”

ASK THEM



TO JOIN -- TO RENEW