

HUBMASTER REPORT APRIL 2016

Purpose

The Hubmaster Report is published monthly to promote membership retention and member involvement through effective communication. Please help by ensuring distribution to each Post. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

Department Convention Information

The 2016 Department Convention will be held in El Paso, TX, July 13-17 in the El Paso Convention Center. Hotel and registration information is on the Department website at <http://txlegion.org/conventions/department-convention/>.

To help defray the cost of the convention the El Paso Legion Family is selling ads for the program, polo shirts and hats, which if you order now can be shipped to your home so that you can have them on day one of the Convention. Pins will be available for sale during the convention.

You can order a high quality polo shirt with pocket or ball cap at this link:

http://www.texaslegionpost58.com/?page_id=106

Or a program ad at this link: http://www.texaslegionpost58.com/?page_id=115

Membership Update

There is often confusion about The American Legion membership year. Membership cards are valid from the time of issue until December 31 of the calendar year printed on the card. After December 31st a member is considered delinquent. The final renewal notice will be mailed April 27, 2016.

Membership Standings on April 1, vs. 98% April 6th Target

	1st Division	2 nd Division	3 rd Division	4 th Division	Total
Goal	15,537	16,669	21,524	10,132	63,862
Current	12,942	13,786	18,364	8,608	53,648
Percent	83.3	82.7	85.3	85.0	84.0

Membership Achievement Salute!

To the 63 (13.3%) of 472 Posts that have already achieved the 98% Target

A Proven Method

The slogan “Just Ask” has long been recognized as a proven way to recruit new members and new members must be a priority for us to continue to be able to support the 97 years old 4-Pillars of our organization. As of April 1st (and this is not an April Fool joke) 152 of our 472 Posts (32%) have not reported recruiting a new member this year. It’s not too late if we start now. The opportunity is huge – nationally there are 7 million Vietnam veterans and 5.5 million Gulf War veterans.

Let’s adopt an attitude of “I’ll Try!” and “Just Ask!”

Legislative

The Legislative Priorities for The American Legion to the 114th Congress 2nd Session are on the national website – legion.org

A grassroots effort is needed now to support the *Retired Pay Restoration Act*, H.R.303 and S.271 in the current Congress. Act now by contacting your members of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor these bills. You can also use The American Legion Action Center to contact your Senators & Representatives.

“Get Out The Vote”

Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion’s “Get Out the Vote” program was initiated in 1920. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that a country cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task. A free brochure is available at this link: <http://www.legion.org/publications/161191/get-out-vote-brochure>

April Deadlines

April 29 - Boys State Registration Ends. With only 30 days remaining, applications are 53% ahead of last year and the program is on the way to another record-breaking year. You still have time to support this program that offers a “once in a life-time” opportunity for our youth.

April Dates To Remember & Looking Forward

April - Month of the Military Child –Military children are a treasured resource and they sacrifice and serve in their own way. To honor their service, in 1968 Casper Weinberger declared April as the month of the Military Child.

April 4 – Gold Star Wives Day – founded prior to the end of WWII to provide support for the spouses and children of those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday – 68 years ago the Army Air Corps Reserve officially became the Air Force Reserve.

April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday – founded 108 years ago when Congress established a Medical Reserve Corps the official predecessor of the Army Reserve