We are three months into the new year and things are moving at a fast pace. So many of you are working hard and doing all you can to keep Team Georgia in the race to the top. Georgia is fortunate to have you on its Team. The Department is so grateful and appreciative for all you do to take care of the Veterans in Georgia. Our Veterans deserve our help and assistance. No greater service can we render than to continue to serve those who have served. It's a revolving cycle that has a powerful impact on The American Legion. Let us continue to inspire positive change and help our fellow comrades. Let us continue to conduct buddy checks. Let us continue to pay tribute to those who have transition to Post Everlasting. Let us continue to hear the issues of our Veterans by listening to their concerns. Let us continue to lend a helping hand to the Veteran’s family. Let us continue to show our humanity by doing our part to mitigate the population of Veterans who are homeless and hungry as well as those who are not clothed in their right state of mind. Let us continue to recognize the “burden to bear” as we carry the weight and lighten the load of our fellow Veteran. Together, we are Stronger; we are Better; we are the Agents of Change.

For God & Country…

What Is a Coronavirus? A coronavirus is a kind of common virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. Most coronaviruses are not dangerous, but some types of coronaviruses are serious, though. In early 2020, following a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization identified a new type, 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Often a coronavirus causes upper respiratory infection symptoms like a stuffy nose, cough, and sore throat. You can treat them with rest and over-the-counter medication. The coronavirus can also cause middle ear infections in children. Coronaviruses were first identified in the 1960s, but we don’t know where they come from. They get their name from their crown-like shape. Sometimes, but not often, a coronavirus can infect both animals and humans. Most coronaviruses spread the same way other cold-causing viruses do: through infected people coughing and sneezing, by touching an infected person’s hands or face, or by touching things such as doorknobs that infected people have touched. Almost everyone gets a coronavirus infection at least once in their life, most likely as a young child. In the United States, coronaviruses are more common in the fall and winter, but anyone can come down with a coronavirus infection at any time.

Common Symptoms The symptoms of most coronaviruses are similar to any other upper respiratory infection, including runny nose, coughing, sore throat, and sometimes a fever. In most cases, you won’t know whether you have a coronavirus or a different cold-causing virus. If a coronavirus infection spreads to the lower respiratory tract (your windpipe and your lungs), it can cause pneumonia, especially in older people, people with heart disease, or people with weakened immune systems.

What to Do About Coronavirus? There is no vaccine for coronavirus, but the National Institutes of Health is working on one and hopes to begin testing in several months. To help prevent a coronavirus infection, do the same things you do to avoid the common cold:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your hands and fingers away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are infected.

You treat a coronavirus infection the same way you treat a cold:

- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink fluids.
- Take over-the-counter medicine for a sore throat and fever. Do not give aspirin to children or teens younger than 19; use ibuprofen or acetaminophen instead.
YOUR POST CAN: JUST DO IT!!!

National Commander's Honor Ribbon

American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford will award his 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2020. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

103 Percent Membership Award

American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford will award his national commander "A Foundation for the Future" membership incentive pin to any post, district, county, division, department commander or membership chairman who achieves 103 percent of their assigned membership goal for 2020.

National Commander's Pin Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford will award his national commander "A Foundation for the Future" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2020 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2019 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Post Excellence Award

The American Legion's Post Excellence Award has added new criteria. To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attaining a 90 percent renewal rate and community activity.

The purposes of this award is membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A post achieving this qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award. The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

- **Membership**: Post must attain at least 103 percent of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings.
- **Consolidated Post Report**: CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.
- **90% Renewal Rate**: The post must renew at least 90 percent of their members that were on the 2019 roster.
- **Community Activity**: The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.
TAL Georgia Post 500's 2020 project is to send a package to each member of a deployed U.S. Army unit. Working with students and staff from Brock Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia Post 500, family members packed boxes and letters for soldiers in Afghanistan. The unit has 150 members and 40 of the assigned soldiers are females. Late last year this unit was attacked with missiles and a ground probe. Fortunately, there were no fatalities but there were injuries. The initial increment shipment of 25 packages were mailed Wednesday February 26, 2020. Post 500 plans to mail remaining packages every 2 weeks until each soldier receives a package.

Pictured are Post 500 members are: SAL Commander Tony Watts, Chaplain Eddie Paterson, Past Post Commander G. John Parker, Legionnaire General Cope, Past SAL Commander Willie Bradley and current Commander James Putney.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2020  Washington Conference / Washington, DC  Mar 08 – Mar 11
2020  Department Spring Conference, Duluth GA  Mar 19 – Mar 22
2020  National Commander's Visit to Georgia  Apr 19 – Apr 22
2020  Commander Project-Fundraiser, Augusta GA  Apr 25 – Apr 25
2020  National Spring Conf Meetings, Indianapolis  May 04 – May 07
2020  Department Convention, Duluth GA  Jun 19 – Jun 21
2020  National Convention, Louisville, KY  Aug 28 – Sep 03

Taking Care of the Legionnaire

Posts are reminded to send their renewals to the Department for immediate processing. Many Legionnaires are finding that they have paid their renewals to the Post; but the Post has not forwarded the renewal. Also, these same members are receiving renewal notices and reminders from the National HQs. If your post or district has not met the milestones of membership renewals, keep your head up and keep on plowing and growing your membership. Become creative in your efforts to get new members, to renew current members, and to reclaim former members of the American Legion family. RENEW your membership today by mail, by credit debit card, and electronically (through the Post Adjutant using Post-e-Processing).

Membership Renewal Rankings
as of the End of Month February 2020

District 3:  1st Place.  Jake Christman  91.36%
District 5:  2nd Place.  Walt Cusick .  88.69%
District 1:  3rd Place.  Dennis Fitzgerald  86.50%
District 10:  4th Place.  Bob Stites.  85.59%

For God and Country...

ZESTE C. DEBRO
Department Adjutant
DEPARTMENT SPRING CONFERENCE - DULUTH
March 20-22, 2020
HOTEL RESERVATION
Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096
770-923-1775

Guest Information:

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City / State / Zip: ____________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ E-mail: ____________________________

Post ___________________ District ___________________

Payment Information  (Checks must be made out to the Hotel)
Check enclosed: (payable to: Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel for one-night deposit of $117.00) or
Guarantee by credit card:  □ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ Amex  □ Other

Card Number: __________________________ Expiration Date: ________ MO/YR

(Credit card will not be billed until you have checked in; however, if you must cancel your reservation, you
must personally contact the hotel within 72 hours of check-in or you will be charged).

Hotel Information:  The Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel is a NON-SMOKING HOTEL!

Arrival Date: _____________  Departure Date: _____________  Number of People in Room: _____________

Please Check One:  □ King (one bed) $117.00  □ Double: (two beds) $117.00

*Price does not include taxes, fees, etc.

Do you require a handicap accessible room?  ______ Yes  ______ No

Name(s) of other(s) sharing room: __________________________________________

Please complete this form in full and return to:  The American Legion, Department of Georgia
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281

DEADLINE: Friday, February 7, 2020
# Banquet and Registration Form

**DEPARTMENT SPRING CONFERENCE**  
March 20-22, 2020: DULUTH, GA  
**SONESTA GWINNETT PLACE ATLANTA**

Register *EARLY* to avoid the long lines and to SAVE money:  
Pre-registration before February 7, 2020 ⇒ $10.00  
Registration on or after February 8, 2020 ⇒ $20.00  

The **Commander’s Homecoming Banquet** is Saturday evening 6:00 PM.  
The cost of the Banquet is $42.00 per person  
For Registration and or Banquet, make checks or money orders payable to:  
**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**

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### Member Information (please print):

Name:  
__________________________________________________

Address:  
__________________________________________________

City / State / Zip:  
__________________________________________________

Phone: ______________ E-mail: ______________

Post: __________ District: ______________

Number Registering before February 7 ___  
Number Registering after February 7 ___  
Number attending Commander’s Banquet: ___

at $10.00 per person:  
at $20.00 per person:  
at $42.00 per person:

Reserved Tables are available for parties of 10 people: Names are required.  
**PRINT THE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS YOU ARE PAYING FOR:**

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Please complete and return this form via mail or fax to:  
The American Legion, Department of Georgia  
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281  
FAX: 678.289.8885

The Department Executive Committee (D.E.C.) will meet on Friday evening, 6:00 PM, March 19, 2020. If you are a member of the DEC, you can check-in on the afternoon of March 19, 2020.

**DEADLINE:** Friday, February 7, 2020