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FACTS

About The American Legion



T*THIS summary of American Legion ideals, history and accomplishments has been prepared by National Headquarters, The American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana. It supplies the answers to questions commonly asked by service men who are not Legionnaires. Copies may be had from the Post or Department Headquarters.*

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Preamble to the Constitution

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent. Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

What Is The American Legion?

The American Legion is an organization of World War Veterans who served honorably on active service in the armed forces of the United States.

When Was the Legion Formed?

First steps toward organization were taken at a caucus in Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919. A temporary constitution was adopted, temporary officers elected and general policies formulated at a caucus in St. Louis, Missouri, May 8 to 10, 1919. A national charter was granted by Act of Congress on September 16, 1919. Permanent organization was effected and a constitution and by-laws adopted at the First National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10 to 12, 1919.

How Is the Legion Organized?

The Legion is organized by departments and posts. Membership is in the national organization by affiliation with a post. There are fifty-eight departments, one in every State in the Union, one in the District of Columbia and others in territorial possessions of the United States and in certain foreign countries. There are 10,000 posts established in every part of the United States and throughout the world.

Who Is Eligible to Membership?

Eligibility is defined by the constitution (Article IV, Section 1) thus: "Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, or inducted or commissioned and who was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided that no

person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status."

What Are the Dues?

There is a national per capita tax of one dollar a year. Department dues average about one dollar a year. Post dues vary, depending on the amount of work done by the post.

What Do My Dues Accomplish?

Of the national per capita tax of one dollar a year, seventy-five cents pays for the member's subscription to the American Legion Monthly for one year. The remaining twenty-five cents goes into the general fund, which is used for the support of Americanism work, national legislative activities, child welfare and other service programs of the national organization. This fund is disbursed in accordance with budgets fixed by the National Finance Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee.

What Can I Do If I Join and Then Change My Residence?

You may hold your membership in your own post, if you wish, or you may, if you like, transfer your membership to a post convenient to your new residence. Transfers are provided for and are constantly being issued. Ordinarily, there is no expense attached to a transfer. Sometimes, however, other posts have higher dues and it may be necessary to pay the difference between what you have already paid and the dues of the post to which you wish to transfer.

Do I Get Any Financial Return From My Membership?

The value of membership in The American Legion cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Yet, through the work of the Legion, many veterans have received returns in such amounts that the interest alone will more than pay their dues for life. As an illustration, the Legion sponsored the War Risk Insurance Act and the Reed-Johnson bill, under which thousands of veterans are drawing from \$8 to \$100 a month. In a number of states it has secured the enactment of a law granting a state bonus and these have run as high as \$500 per person. It secured the enactment of the Adjusted Compensation Act of 1924, under which veterans will receive on an average paid-up insurance of approximately \$1,000. Each year the Legion obtains special (usually half fare) railroad rates for its members to attend national and state conventions. By becoming a member and planning trips accordingly, one may be able to save considerable sums of money.

What Voice Will I Have in Legion National Policies?

You will have a voice in the affairs of your post. As a member of the post, you will have representation in your department conventions and in this way you will assist in establishing department policies. National policies are determined by annual national conventions in which your department will have fair representation, the size of its delegation and the consequent number of votes it casts being based on its membership. Thus, your wishes, formally expressed in department and national convention, will play a part in shaping national policies.

What Is the Legion's Purpose?

Service—service to community, State and Nation! Members of the Legion gave service while they were members of the armed forces of the United States in the World War. The Legion was organized that they might continue to give the same service in time of peace as they gave in time of war.

What Are Legion Principles?

Principles of the Legion are set forth in the Preamble of the Constitution. (See page 2.)

How Is It Conducted?

Activities of the national organization are carried on through the national convention, national officers, national committees and commissions, and the staff of national headquarters. Department and post activities are carried on through their officers and committees.

The National Convention is the supreme governing body of the whole organization. Authority is vested between conventions in the National Executive Committee and the National Commander. Other officers and divisions of the national organization operate under their direction.

Is It Run by the Overseas Men?

There is no rank in the Legion and no distinction between home service and foreign service. The Legion is an organization of veterans run by veterans. Each one has a voice.

Is It Run by a Clique?

The Legion as a nation-wide organization is not run by a clique. Its affairs are under the constitution and conducted by the entire membership through duly constituted officers, committees and conventions.

Why Join a Veterans' Organization?

Because there is a national desire to perpetuate associations formed under the hardships of war. There is comradeship and strength in organization. Individually, we may weigh but little; organized, our voice and influence will be as far-reaching as our organization.

How About Military Obligation?

The Legion's constitution (Article II, Section 1) says:

"The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any conversation or meeting of the Legion."

Is the Legion Militaristic?

The Legion is neither militaristic nor pacifistic. It advocates a military preparedness adequate to the world situation as it is. It works for peace among the nations. It has co-operated constantly with FIDAC (the Interallied Veterans' Federation) in its work for peace. The Legion has committed itself to the following program for peace:

Maintenance of adequate forces for internal and external national defense; enactment of universal service law in time of war for all nations of the world, assuring equal service for all and special privileges and profits for none should war be forced on a nation; promotion of exchange of visits between groups of veterans, making

a study of the various nations of the world; visitation of groups of Legionnaires to all neighboring countries; maintenance of close co-operation with Canadian veterans' societies and exchanging formal or informal visits at national and departmental conventions and at meetings of border posts; continued co-operation with FIDAC for prevention of wars and promotion of peaceful settlement of disputes; education of mankind in international good will.

Is the Legion Political?

Absolutely not. Sections 2 and 3, Article II, of the constitution say:

"Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political, and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a remunerative elective public office shall hold any office in The American Legion or in any department or post thereof.

"Section 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding."

Is the Legion Non-Sectarian?

Absolutely. No distinction of sect or creed is recognized.

What Will the Legion Do for Me?

The Legion's program is in the interest of all veterans. You will be represented by its National Rehabilitation and Legislative Committees at Washington. You will be kept informed of your rights and privileges under all federal legislation of benefit to veterans. You will be able to turn to your local post for assistance at any time. Your post can assist you to obtain hospitalization, compensation and other federal or State aid to which you or your family may be entitled. Under the national child welfare program, your dependent children may be cared for, if necessary, in the event of your death.

What Is the American Legion Endowment Fund?

The American Legion Endowment Fund is a fund of \$5,000,000, contributed by members of the Legion and the Auxiliary and by the general public jointly in a campaign conducted in 1925-1926. Income from the fund, which is held intact as to principal, is devoted exclusively to the Legion's rehabilitation and child welfare work. The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation holds the fund in trust and turns over the income from it to the Legion to be used only for the two purposes named.

What Is the Relation Between the U. S. Veterans' Administration and the Legion?

The U. S. Veterans' Administration is a government organization handling matters of hospitalization, domiciliary care, compensation, disability allowance, pension, war risk insurance, burial flags, employment, emergency officers' retirement, and prosthetic appliances of veterans of all wars, including peace-time ex-soldiers. In addition the Federal Civil Service retirement is handled by this organization. It was created largely as a result of Legion efforts, but is not part of the Legion organization. The Legion co-operates very closely with it in matters affecting the disabled and their dependents.

What Is the Relation Between the Legion and Organized Labor?

The American Legion and the American Federation of Labor have co-operated heartily in Americanism work, in the formation of a national Flag code, in the restriction of immigration and in many

other activities. Representatives of the Federation have attended and addressed national conventions of the Legion, and Legion representatives have spoken before Federation conventions for a number of years.

The Legion, as an organization, has nothing to do with controversies between Labor and Capital. Its only concern in such controversies is that law and order be maintained. There is nothing to prevent the individual member of the Legion, as an individual, from taking either side in such a controversy, but the Legion, as an organization, does not do so.

What Does the Legion Do to Help Veterans Find Jobs?

During the winter and spring of 1930 and 1931 when the depression was severe, The American Legion found employment for 200,000 persons out of work. Thousands of families were fed and clothed through Legion posts working in conjunction with other agencies, usually, in order to obtain maximum results. Arrangements were made by the U. S. Veterans' Employment Service of the Department of Labor to co-ordinate the federal efforts with Legion endeavors in employment. Department employment officers were appointed to consult the Department of Labor officers in each state, and thus promote the employment of veterans. The Legion program embraces all unemployed, and as a major effort has sponsored nationwide campaigns to increase public and semi-public improvements, resulting in many millions of dollars' worth of work being advanced. The 1932 Legion's employment program was determined by national convention action as a most important activity, and called upon the American people to give a job with every dollar donated to emergency relief. In many Legion posts throughout the land, members donated a certain percentage of their wages to aid those comrades who through no fault of their own became idle.

How Has the Legion Helped All Veterans in Legislation?

The following includes only a small portion of the legislation that has been sponsored by The American Legion, and passed by Congress, but it does embrace most of the major laws. A great part of it represents hard-fought battles by the Legion, through its National Legislative Committee, on behalf of the disabled, and all veterans.

BENEFITS OBTAINED FOR ALL VETERANS

L—Public Law	Subject	Year Passed
R29	Preferential rights for 60 days in filing on land	1920
L273	Reduced time to one year required under homestead laws	1920
R59	Investigation of War Risk Insurance Bureau	1921
L47	Creation of U. S. Veterans Bureau	1921
L337	Credit preference to veterans in postal service	1921
L351	Patent for land if veteran is physically disabled	1921
L5	Immigration preference to minor relatives of veterans	1921
L244	Postal preferential right improved and appropriation	1922
R319	Credit for deceased husband's service in homesteading	1922
R36	90 day preference for veterans filing on public land	1922
L190	Extended time for issuance of decorations to veterans	1922
R466	Investigation of U. S. Veterans Bureau	1923
L542	War Risk Insurance amendments totalling \$35,755,322	1923
L120	Adjusted compensation act over presidential veto	1924
L242	World War Veterans Act costing \$30,000,000 a year	1924
L146	World War Veterans Committee In House to aid legislation	1924
L506	Preference to veterans for pre-war postal service	1925
L472	Preference payments of adjusted compensation in death cases	1926
L294	Immigration and naturalization for veterans and families	1926
L525	Liberalized insurance provisions of World War Veterans Act	1926
L46	Honorable discharge for minors misrepresenting ages	1926
L461	Stopped recovery of over-payments made to service men	1926
L348	Army and Navy academies opened to sons of dead service men	1926

L762	Suspension of bonds, loans provided on adjusted compensation	1927
L570	Extended filing time, validated 30,000, adjusted compensations	1928
L1031	Executive order liberalizing preference to veterans and widows	1929
L952	Gold star mothers' pilgrimage to France at government expense	1929
L950, 670	Restored rights of those who misrepresented ages	1929
L303	Amendments liberalizing adjusted compensation act	1930
L536	Consolidation of agencies under U. S. Veterans' Administration	1930
L522	Forty amendments to World War Veterans Act, which include most of Legion's disabled legislation recommended by national convention in Louisville	1930
L78	\$123,000 to aid employment of veterans	1930
L499	Making veterans' wives admissible to United States	1930
L344	Hospitalization for fleet reservists	1930
L743	Emergency Adjusted Compensation Act increased the loan value to 50%	1931
R412	Codification of all Federal Laws pertaining to all Veterans	1931
L303	Made loans available on certificates from date of issuance and reduced interest rate to 3½%	1932
L149	Extended to 1934 right of alien veteran to become naturalized	1932
R29	Provided for printing of 10,000 copies of compilation of veterans laws	1932

FOR DISABLED COMRADES

L104	Increase for permanent disability (\$90,000,000 a year)	1920
L246	\$46,000,000 made immediately available for hospitalization	1920
L251	Quartermaster supplies at cost for veterans in hospitals	1920
L246	Use of National Homes for War Risk Insurance patients	1920
L251	One cent a mile travel for hospital patients (\$250,000)	1920
L246	Refitting of army and navy hospitals (\$295,000)	1920
L264	\$7,000,000 for men in vocational training, increasing allowances	1920
L243	Retirement for disabled emergency naval officers	1920
L52	Vocational training to count as residence on homestead	1920
L384	\$18,600,000 appropriation for hospital construction	1921
L18	\$1,250,000 for Dawson Springs, Ky., and Speedway, Ill., hospitals	1921
L194	\$17,000,000 for hospital construction	1922
L145	\$350,000 for hospital construction	1922
L78	Distribution of forfeited tobacco to Veterans' hospitals	1922
L370	Increased pay from \$20 to \$50 for attendance of totally disabled	1923
L197	\$6,850,000 appropriated for hospital construction	1924
L66	\$5,000,000 appropriated for hospital construction	1924
R351	Congressional investigation and survey of homes and hospitals	1924
L217	\$1,500,000 for Santa Monica Hospital	1924
R71	\$27,116,800 appropriated for hospital construction	1925
L595	\$2,000,000 for indigent veterans in District of Columbia	1925
L472	Fourteen amendments, benefiting 78,819, costing \$15,762,000	1926
L448	22 amendments, benefiting 73,299, costing \$17,500,000 a year	1926
L36, 141, 244, 492	Hospital construction costing \$18,196,400	1926
L762	Prevented reduction of hospital pay for 4,300 (\$2,100,000 a year)	1927
L600	\$1,000,000 for hospital construction; \$3,500,000 for extensions	1927
L480	\$15,000,000 for 4,000 new hospital beds	1928
L563	\$7,000,000 to begin hospital construction	1928
L506	Retirement for disabled emergency army officers over veto	1928
L778	\$6,000,000 for hospital construction; \$3,250,000 for alterations	1929
L29	\$15,950,000 for construction of 20 new hospitals	1929
L868	\$20,877,000 for additional hospital beds and Soldiers' Home construction	1931
L228	Appropriated \$19,467,000 for hospital construction	1932
L194	Extended term insurance for an additional five-year period	1932
L78	Secured an additional \$96,000,000 to the Appropriation Bill for the care of the disabled	1933
L141	\$42,208,000, putting back the direct service connected at the money payments they were receiving at the time the Economy Act was passed; and also putting back as direct service connected, 29,258 presumptives, who were stricken from the rolls, at 75% of the amount being paid them on March 20, 1933	1934
L141	\$25,700, restoring service-connection to veterans injured in government hospitals	1934
L141	\$59,000, providing for payment of insurance where claim was filed and determined prior to March 20, 1933	1934
L141	\$500,000 to provide hospitalization for insane veterans in State institutions	1934

What About the Disabled?

The first and paramount duty of The American Legion is the proper care of the disabled veterans and their dependents of the World War. To insure as far as possible the fulfillment of this sacred obligation of The American Legion and of the necessity of always being in intimate contact with the Veterans' Administration,

the National Rehabilitation Committee with general offices in Washington and field secretaries at strategic points over the country is maintained. There are among the personnel in the Washington office, physicians, lawyers and claims experts. This office handles a variety of matters relating to veterans' affairs. The committee is in close liaison and co-operation with the Veterans' Administration, as well as other governmental agencies and the Congress of the United States on matters relating to veterans and is the center of a nation-wide system for assisting veterans and their dependents in getting their claims adjusted.

Departments and Posts take an active part in rehabilitation work through service officers particularly as to veterans needing help. Splendid and valuable work is done by The American Legion Auxiliary in assisting families of the disabled. The Legion insists on the best in care and cure for the disabled which is possible to modern medical science. It assists in obtaining the necessary legislation to provide proper treatment and compensation for them and suggests improvements in the methods and procedure of the Veterans' Administration. It seeks out the disabled, a thing which the Government, because of its legal limitations can not do. It helps to develop their claims and advances them until the most favorable action possible under the law and regulations has been taken. Money recoveries stimulated by the National Rehabilitation Committee of record subsequent to 1923, the beginning of such records, stand \$40,161,864.99.

The Legion exposed a waste, a confusion and inefficiency existing under the old plan of three separate governmental agencies to handle veterans' problems. It led the movement which resulted in the creation of the U. S. Veterans' Bureau in 1921. With the passage of the Reed-Johnson Bill in 1924, it secured the decentralization of the bureau. This bill gave authority to make ratings and awards out in the field in direct contact with the disabled.

Another piece of legislation having far reaching effect is the Act of July 3, 1930, which consolidated and co-ordinated governmental activities affecting war veterans. This has resulted in the U. S. Veterans' Administration.

Nearly every piece of disability legislation in effect prior to March 20, 1933, when the Economy Act was approved, was initiated by the Legion and enacted by Congress upon representation of the Legion.

The Economy Act repealed all public laws granting medical or hospital treatment, domiciliary care, compensation and other allowances, pension, disability allowance, or retired pay to veterans and the dependents of veterans of the Spanish-American War, including the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection, and the World War, or to former members of the military or naval service for injury or disease incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the military or naval service (except so far as they relate to persons who served prior to the Spanish-American War and to the dependents of such persons, and the retirement of officers and enlisted men of the regular Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard). This Economy Act (Public No. 2, 73d Congress) gave authority to the President of the United States to grant certain benefits to veterans by regulations. The Legion has been instrumental in bringing about certain liberalizations in the regulations issued by the President before the passage of Public No. 141 which was passed by the Second Session of the 73d Congress March 28, 1934. In the spring of 1933 the National Rehabilitation Committee of The American Legion wrote a Four-Point program which received the unanimous approval of the Chicago Convention in the fall of 1933. The first three points of this Four-Point program have been substantially covered by the legislation of March 28, 1934, more details of which may be found in this pamphlet under "What Does the Legion Do in Legislation? Specific information concerning the legislation enacted March 28, 1934, may be had upon application to the National Rehabilitation Committee, The American Legion, 1608 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Veterans' Administration has disbursed for the care of the disabled and dependents of the World War more than \$6,905,937,280.

In 1933 the Congress made available for all purposes \$581,988,000 to be expended by the Veterans' Administration during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934.

The sum of \$124,877,000 has been authorized by the Congress for new hospital, domiciliary and out-patient dispensary facilities of which \$119,952,000 has been appropriated. In addition there has been

expended since 1923, over \$16,800,000 from regular fiscal funds for permanent improvements and extensions to Veterans' Administration facilities. The Veterans' Administration has seventy-three facilities for the hospitalization and care of veterans, with a bed capacity for hospitalization as of November 30, 1933, of 41,250 and 23,370 beds for domiciliary care.

Percentage distribution of money expended by the Veterans' Administration for the fiscal year 1933 was as follows:

Direct benefits86.57%
Indirect benefits (hospitalization, treatment, etc.)	9.82%
Administrative	3.61%

What Does the Legion Do for Its Dependent Children?

In the Child Welfare Program of The American Legion we find the practical philosophy of the sacredness of home life—the fundamental ideal of cementing and aiding in keeping family ties intact—helping fathers and mothers and children to a more wholesome condition of life—a better opportunity to secure and enjoy the normal necessities of life.

In Child Welfare organization there is a National set-up of a National Child Welfare Committee composed of a representative from each Department (the 48 States, the District of Columbia and the Departments of Alaska and Hawaii). The National Committee is divided into five Area groups; an Area Chairman appointed by the National Commander to preside over each Area group.

The five Area Chairmen, with the National Chairman and National Vice-Chairman, form the Executive Committee of the National Child Welfare Committee.

A director trained and experienced in Child Welfare is in charge of the National Child Welfare Division.

The National Child Welfare Division has developed a system of service to the State Departments of The American Legion that makes possible advice, guidance, supplementary financial aid to families and children. National and local field service through experienced child welfare workers provides an all-inclusive program of child care.

The organization is pledged to a policy of utilizing all existing social and child caring facilities in the community and State. It has developed a child welfare legislative program and through the State Departments every effort is made to effect improved and increased child welfare facilities to the end that every State be able to assume its responsibility toward its dependent children.

The National Child Welfare Division is a clearing house for the State Departments of The American Legion; its functions are executive, educational and instructive; it is prepared to disseminate helpful information gathered from the State Departments and various other sources, concerning Child Welfare legislation and Child Welfare facilities. Through the emergency aid fund made available from a portion of the Endowment Fund and through the generous regular financial contributions of the National Forty and Eight, The National American Legion Auxiliary, and the Eight and Forty, it is able to extend temporary financial assistance for the care of dependent children of Veterans of the World War, in their own homes or under other forms of care best suited to the needs of the children.

In each State Department of The American Legion a Child Welfare organization has been developed with a Department Child Welfare Chairman, appointed by the Department Commander. When cases of families and children are referred in a State, they should come to the attention of the Department Child Welfare Chairman, and he will make investigations and transmit his report and recommendations directly to the National Child Welfare Division.

All investigational and supervisory work in connection with the granting of assistance from the National Fund for the care of children is done through the Legion State Departments under the supervision of the Child Welfare Division through its experienced personnel.

The organization is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and maintains the high standards of service and child care that are essential to membership in the League.

How the Legion Carries on Americanism

The Americanism program, as mandated by National Conventions, is divided into three major objectives: Education, Youth Activities and Community Service. In addition to the promotion of the activities classified under these three headings, the office of the Commission carries on a continuous fight against the dissemination of un-American and unpatriotic propaganda.

In the Education objective, the mission of which is to promote interest in our schools, stimulate a greater educational effort, to have taught to our children lessons in loyalty and patriotism and to prepare the foreign-born for American citizenship, the following activities are considered of major importance and are carried on by a great number of Posts:

American Legion School Award.—To build in boys and girls citizenship qualities. **Citizenship Schools for Foreign-Born**—To prepare immigrant petitioners for American citizenship. **Flag Education**—To build patriotism in our youth. **American Education Week**—To interpret to the general public the aims, needs and achievements of our schools. **Constitution Week**—To encourage an adequate appreciation of the importance of the Constitution. **Occupational Introduction for Boys**—To give to the youth some idea of the problems they will face in adult life. **Keeping the Boys in School**—To give each boy an opportunity to continue his education by providing employment.

In the Youth Activities objective, the mission of which is to build a solid foundation for the future of America, the following activities are considered of major importance:

Boy Scouts—To build citizenship. **C.M.T.C. and R.O.T.C.**—To instill a higher sense of the civic responsibilities of the individual citizen. **Junior Baseball**—To teach lessons in citizenship. **National Youth Week**—To develop the leaders of tomorrow. **Junior Rifle Clubs**—To promote Americanism through marksmanship.

In the Community Service objective, there are some two hundred activities in which Posts over the country engage.

Safety First program; elimination of fire hazards; emergency relief units; playgrounds and recreation for the community; aviation activities; city advertising; swimming pools; erection of memorial buildings; community service council; conservation activities; educational entertainment courses; creation or enlargement of public libraries; establishment or beautification of public parks; establishment or improvement of tourist camps; erection and equipment of community buildings; establishment of free clinics; promoting betterment of public health conditions; assisting in the solution of traffic problems; erection of highway markers; maintaining volunteer fire departments; promotion of junior athletics; probation work; establishment of summer camps; promoting and safeguarding winter sports; establishing ambulance service; sponsoring open forum meetings.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1933 over 5,000 School Award medals were presented by American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units.

1,415 Posts carried on citizenship schools for foreign-born.

828 Posts carried on occupational introduction activities.

Over 108,000 copies of the Flag Code were distributed.

Over 600 Post Education Committees were formed to work with other local interested agencies on plans to keep the schools open during the economic depression.

Practically all Posts co-operate with educational groups in the promotion of American Education Week and Constitution Week.

1,914 Boy Scout troops sponsored by American Legion Posts.

Over one-half million boys participate in the Legion Junior Baseball program each summer.

The Legion helps in the enrollment of candidates for C.M.T.C. camps and in the maintenance of R.O.T.C. units in high schools, colleges and universities.

Hundreds of Posts help promote National Youth Week.

Junior Rifle Clubs have been organized by hundreds of Posts.

4-H Clubs have received the attention of a large number of Posts.

7,101 Posts interested themselves in the elimination of fire hazards.

3,000 Posts now have organized emergency relief corps.

What Does the Legion Do in Legislation?

The Legion has maintained a National Legislative Committee in Washington, since 1919, to represent the ex-service men before the Congress. This Committee takes the resolutions which are adopted by the National Convention which calls for new laws or changes in existing laws and prepares and secures the introduction in the Senate and House the necessary bills to carry out these mandates. The Committee then arranges for hearings on this legislation, and presents the testimony and witnesses in support of its enactment.

The principal objective of the Legion has always been laws beneficial to the disabled men. The Legion was responsible for the legislation enacted in 1921 creating the Veterans' Bureau, and consolidating the agencies dealing with the disabled men and their problems; in 1930 the Legion initiated and secured the enactment of the so-called "Consolidation Bill" which brought under one head the Veterans' Bureau, the Pensions Bureau and the Soldiers' Homes. The purpose of this was, of course, to provide better service.

No law, of course, remains perfect. Time alone, together with the changing conditions have required the presentation of amendments coming out of our National Convention to better take care of the disabled man. That these were effective was proven by the fact that in 1919, 49,450 veterans and their dependents were drawing compensation under the law at that time; whereas, in 1933, prior to the passage of the Economy Act, there were 435,338. During the year 1930, alone, there were forty amendments enacted by Congress, including the law which created Disability Allowances to take care of those men having non-service-connected disabilities. By 1933 there were 412,482 veterans drawing this form of compensation.

As a result of the Economy Act, March 20, 1933, all laws dealing with World War Veterans were repealed and the appropriation reduced by \$460,000,000 per annum. When the Veterans' Administration Appropriation Bill was before the Congress, it was The Legion which succeeded in having it amended so that \$96,000,000 was put back in, making certain that our disabled men and their dependents did not suffer the cruelties intended in the Economy Act; and in the regular session, which convened on January 3, 1934, it was The Legion which presented its four-point program, advocating the complete restoration to our disabled, not only of the compensation which they had been receiving before the passage of the Economy Act, but also hospitalization, and proper care of our widows and orphans.

The Legion secured the enactment of the Adjusted Compensation Act, on May 19, 1924; and on February 26, 1931, over a Presidential veto, we secured the enactment of the law permitting veterans to borrow 50 per cent of the face value of their certificates; and on July 21, 1932, had the interest rate reduced to 3½ per cent.

To date, 3,713,004 certificates have been issued by the Veterans' Administration. The total value of which is \$3,669,684,860. 161,256 certificates have been matured by death. Loans have been secured by 2,854,305 veterans, in the amount of \$1,617,978,870.

Congress, on June 30, 1930, officially recognized the principal of Universal Service in time of war by adopting a resolution which created a Commission to study this subject, which submitted its report to the President March 3, 1932. S. J. Res. 42 was introduced April 11, 1933, to amend the Constitution to allow price freezing and prevent profiteering in time of war. Bills have also been presented in the House, providing for the freezing of prices at the inception of war and to confiscate 95 per cent of all war incomes above normal. The enactment of this legislation into law would eliminate profiteering and slackerism; and would not only provide equal service for all but would also provide for the immediate mobilization of the Nation's resources for defense, if war were declared.

The Legion was not only responsible for the enactment of the Cruiser Bill, which was the first step toward bringing our Navy back to treaty strength, but also, through its constant presentation to Congress of a sound national defense program, it has been largely responsible for securing the appropriation of the necessary funds during the present Congress which will guarantee a Navy for our country which will be second to none.

Through legislation it made possible the visit of the 5,500 Gold Star Mothers to the graves in Europe.

The Legion Legislative Committee is a force for good at Washington, not only for the veterans, but for the entire country as well.

Application for Membership in
THE AMERICAN LEGION

Name of Applicant..... (Please print) (First) (Middle) (Last) Service Serial No.....

Residence Address.....

Date and place of entry into service.....

Branch and unit of service.....

Character of discharge..... Inspected by.....

Date and place of discharge.....

Occupation..... Business Address.....

Have you belonged to an American Legion Post previously?.....

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Department of....., this..... day of....., 19.....;

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