

## Issue: VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

### Message Points:

- The American Legion is comprised of 55 state-level "departments" in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Philippines and Puerto Rico. There are approximately 13,500 local "posts" throughout the state level.
- The 2014 current national membership is roughly 2.3 million — consistent with the year-end totals for 1954 through 1986.
- In 2014, our online renewal process was again well received by the membership and produced better than expected results.
- The American Legion extended its service in communities across the country through the development and revitalization of close to 750 posts in 2013.
- One of the fastest growing activities in The American Legion is the Legion Riders. They raised over 1 million dollars for the 2014 Legacy Run, from Indianapolis, IN to Charlotte, NC in support of The American Legion Legacy Fund—a fund which provide scholarships to the children of active duty troops who died in the war on terrorism since September 11, 2001.
- The American Legion attracts younger veterans. Active-duty members are eligible to join - and they are joining. In fact, The American Legion has over 500,000 members who joined under the War on Terrorism, Persian Gulf, Lebanon/Grenada and Panama War periods of eligibility. Today's active duty service members continue to join.
- The American Legion is "Still Serving America." This is only a part of what The American Legion posts did "for God and Country" in program year 2013-2014.
  1. Donated over 3 million hours of service to communities.
  2. Post Service Officers handled more than 181,129 cases of veterans seeking benefits and just compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  3. Devoted over 867,000 hours of volunteer service to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals.
  4. Donated more than 80,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, making The American Legion the nation's single largest blood donor.
  5. Annually contributes nearly \$40 million on programs benefiting children and youth.

6. Awarded more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC Students.
7. Sponsored almost 19,000 American Legion Boys State delegates.
8. Sponsored more than 2,000 Scouting units serving more than 47,000 youngsters.
9. Sponsored more than 2,000 American Legion Baseball teams and an additional 1,500 youth baseball squads.
10. Awarded more than \$4 million in college scholarships to deserving students.