

Membership Questions

What are the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion?

Thanks to the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act), Congress expanded the current eligibility period to cover Dec. 7, 1941, to the present, and includes the current war campaigns. Previously, there were seven declared war periods. Now there are two, the current war period dating back to World War II and another war era covering World War I. No other restrictions to American Legion membership changed.

How much are the annual membership dues?

Each of our local Posts determines its own dues rate. However, new members who join through National Headquarters are offered a special introductory dues rate, and are automatically placed in the Department (State) Headquarters Post in the state in which they reside. (This is considered a “holding” Post; there are no meetings or activities.) The amount a member pays to renew his/her membership each year after joining depends on the Post where their membership is held. Each Post determines its Legion programs and social functions, as well as the amount of annual dues, so it varies from Post to Post; however, \$40.00 annually is the approximate national dues average. Visit [the post locator](#) to find the annual dues rate for Posts in your area.

Where can I find my member ID number?

Once you join The American Legion, you're assigned a permanent 9-digit Member ID number that will remain yours as long as you're a member. (If you ever transfer to another post, always make sure to provide your original Member ID Number.) You'll find the ID number on your membership card and it's also the first 9 digits shown above your name on our magazine labels. (It always starts with a 1 or 2.)

If I join online or submit a membership application to National Headquarters, will I belong to a local Post?

When you first join The American Legion, through National Headquarters, your membership will be assigned to the department (state) Headquarters (HQ) post in your state of residence. The HQ posts are basically administrative posts only and there are no meetings or activities, although you're entitled to the same membership benefits, and can visit the local posts as a guest. You can choose to remain in the HQ Post but it is recommended that you visit posts in your area and if you find one you like, you're free to transfer. It's a great way to get involved with your local community.

How do I transfer my membership to another Post?

The transfer process is simple. Visit the post you're interested in joining and speak with an officer. You'll need to provide your 9-digit member ID and should also be prepared to show a copy of your DD214 (or similar) to verify your eligibility. After acceptance of your membership, the post will submit the necessary paperwork to notify the department (State) and National Headquarters of your transfer

When does my membership expire?

Your membership actually expires on Dec. 31 of the paid year shown on your card. It can be a little confusing because your annual dues are supposed to be paid by Jan. 1 each year so National starts accepting dues for the upcoming year on July 1. The goal is to have everyone renewed for the New Year by Jan. 1, when it begins.

If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. Feb. 1, the member is suspended, June 30, the member is dropped from the membership rolls.