



Thoughts from your MEMBERSHIP Chairman

The 2017-2018 Legion is off to a strong start. Commander Denise Rohan has started her term with the introduction of a unique 2018 Membership incentive pin for anyone who recruits three(3) new Legion members between now and June 30, 2018. Post Adjutants should have complete details.

Additionally, there is a 2018 Membership Recruiter "Lapel Pin" available to anyone who signs up three(3) new members between now and May 18, 2018. Forms for the Membership Recruiter Pins are available at our Department, along with the '**Go Getters**' awards.

Additional awards available are a FREE Department of Arkansas Convention shirt. (A \$45.00 value) to any member who recruits ten(10) to twenty(20) new members prior to May 18, 2018. If you can recruit twenty-one(21) or more you will receive all of the above awards plus one(1) night lodging at the Department Convention.

If you would like to learn more about your American Legion? There is an online course that provides the history of our organization along with all of our programs. You can take this course by going to www.legion.org/alei. You do not have to finish the course in one setting. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate and a pin to wear on your cover or lapel. I found that after taking this course, it became a lot easier to answer the question of "Why should I join the American Legion".

We all need to be recruiters. Stop and think, why did you join the Legion. Maybe it was because you found that the members 'speak the GI language', or for the comrade. Maybe it was because you wanted to be a 'stake holder' in the largest and most powerful Veterans Service Organization in the world, whose members served their country and are continuing to serve veterans and their communities. For whatever your reason may be, we need to reach out to our fellow veterans, invite them to become a part of our organization. If we fail to curtail the annual membership loss, we are going to be faced with ever increasing membership dues, along with curtailed benefits available to our members. **WHO IS GOING TO FILL OUR SHOES?** Who is going to lead your Post next year or the year after?

J.W. Smith
Membership Chairman
Department of Arkansas