

EVENT TOOLKIT

BUDDIDY CHECK

A NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING



Original Design, 1919

A PLAN FOR OUTREACH
THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT

BUDDY CHECK: A NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need assistance, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone call or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

HOW DO I ORGANIZE A BUDDY CHECK?

- 1. Gather up a team** to call or, if possible, personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 calls just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
- 2.** If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, **visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.**
- 3.** Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. **Print several copies of the lists.**
- 4. Divide up the call list among your team members.** Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
- 5. Make a list of local resources** that include services like financial aid, employment opportunities, veterans services, home and auto repair, caregiver services, transportation services and any other known benevolent veterans assistance services. Having these resources at your fingertips will give the caller confidence that they can address the needs of veterans and give credibility to the purpose of the Buddy Check.
- 6. Start calling** – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and



- former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any post event or activity coming up on your calendar.
- 7. Use the spreadsheet to record your calls** and identify those who haven't been members for several years.
 - 8.** If you are making it a group effort, where many members of your team are calling on a particular night or time, **invite the local media** to show The American Legion checking in on their buddies in the community.

- 9.** Make sure you **thank the member or former member** in the beginning and at the end of your call.
- 10.** If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to **have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips**, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
- 11. Leave contact information** in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY SAMPLE SCRIPTS

The following scripts can help you and your American Legion Family team make buddy checks on members and former members. Use these, modify them or draft your own before reaching out.

Remember, the most important part of the call is to see if the veteran and family are OK, if the Legion can assist and to invite them to celebrate any planned American Legion birthday events or activities.

MEMBER WHO HAS NOT YET RENEWED:

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

RECENTLY EXPIRED MEMBER:

LONG-EXPIRED MEMBER

ACCESS THESE SCRIPTS ONLINE AND MODIFY THEM TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS
WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS DAY SAMPLE SCRIPTS

The following scripts can help you and your American Legion Family team make buddy checks on members and former members. Use these, modify them or draft your own before reaching out.

Remember, the most important part of the call is to see if the veteran and family are OK, if the Legion can assist and to invite them to Veterans Day events or activities.

MEMBER WHO HAS NOT YET RENEWED:

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

RECENTLY EXPIRED MEMBER:

LONG-EXPIRED MEMBER

ACCESS THESE SCRIPTS ONLINE AND MODIFY THEM TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS
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QUICK ANSWERS TO WHAT THE LEGION DOES

NATIONAL

- 1. Stands as the nation's largest and most prominent voice for effective VA health care and disability benefits, GI Bill education and career opportunities.** More than 3,600 American Legion service officers are handling over 700,000 veterans' cases at any one time, across the country and around the world. No other organization provides as much free service for veterans and their families.
- 2. Mentors thousands of children and youth** through healthy, educational, competitive and patriotic programs, including Boys Nation, Oratorical Competition, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, flag education, Scouting, Junior ROTC and more.
- 3. Supports our nation's troops and a strong Department of Defense** through innumerable programs and services for active-duty, National Guard and Reserve components, as well as resources for military families and advocacy for military retirees.

DEPARTMENT

1. What the Department does in support of veterans

2. What the Department does in support of children and youth

3. What the Department does in support of troops/national security

POST

1. What the Post does in support of veterans

2. What the Post does in support of children and youth

3. What the Post does in support of troops/national security
