

Our History

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization with a mission on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities.

Over the first 100 years, the American Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.. The American Legion stands behind the issues most important to our nation's veteran community.

On August 24, 2017, Denise Rohan from Wisconsin was elected as the first female National Commander of The American Legion.

In recognition of the unique challenges of Women Veterans, and their continued commitment to service of their country, at the 101st Department of Pennsylvania state convention there was unanimous approval for a Women Veterans Committee.

Transitioning from active duty for women veterans is far different from our male counterparts. While the VA has made significant advancements in women veterans health care throughout the VA health-care system, there is still room for improvement.

The American Legion wants every woman veteran who walks through the doors of a Post or a VA medical facility to feel that it was designed with them in mind and no longer has the looks of a "For Male" only building.

As a result of the increase in the number of women veterans, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution 14, in September 2016, which calls for the VA to ensure that all women veterans receive gender-specific quality health care and experience equality with their male counterparts.

A VETERAN IS A VETERAN



Pennsylvania Demographics

According to VA reporting, Pennsylvania is home to approximately 800,000 of the nation's 20 million Veterans. About 55% of those Veterans are age 65 or over. And about 25% are Gulf War or Post-Gulf War Veterans.

Female Veterans are the largest growing demographic, recently surpassing the 60,000 mark. Indeed, the American Legion of Pennsylvanians has seen an increase in Legionnaire membership of 29% this past year. Won't you join us?

Accredited Service Officers

The Pennsylvania Department has several accredited Service Officers on staff in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Erie & Wilkes Barre to assist our female veterans with assistance navigating the VA claims, benefit and internment process.

If you are more comfortable speaking to a female advocate about your unique circumstances, please contact:

Pittsburgh – Stephanie Wilson
stephanie.wilson@va.gov
(412) 395-6247

Harrisburg – Lauren Fox
lauren@pa-legion.com
(717) 730-9100

Erie – Amber Moore
amber.moore@va.gov
(814) 864-4240

Philadelphia - Patricia Crooms
patricia@pa-legion.com
215-381-3032

Wilkes Barre - Erica Nieves
erica@pa-legion.com
570-821-2526

Contact Us

To join our mailing list and receive regular updates, please send an email to

palegionwvc@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you. We would like to hear your stories or assist you with your needs.

Chairperson

Carolyn McCaslin
carolyn.mccaslin@gmail.com

Eastern Section Vice Chairs

Terri Kreckler
terrikreckler@aol.com
Naomi Mastrocola
naomimastrocola@yahoo.com

Central Section Vice Chairs

Janice Gavern
janicegavern@gmail.com
Karis Hagen
hagen.kl@gmail.com

Western Section Vice Chairs

Laura Smerbeck
laura.smerbeck@gmail.com
Carie Mitchell
post658@gmail.com

Follow Us / More Information



palegionwvc@gmail.com



PA Women Veterans

Visit pa-legion.com [FORMS](#) section

Visit legion.org [RESOURCES](#) section



Additional Resources

To Find Your Congressional Representative

www.house.gov

To Find Your State Senator

www.pasen.gov

To Find Your State Representative

www.house.state.pa.us

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

www.dmva.pa.gov



Donate To Help Our Cause

Every tax-deductible donation furthers our cause and outreach to our sisters in arms.

Please send your kind donation to:

PA American Legion
Women Veterans Committee
P.O. Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105



Are you aware that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has recently designated a Women Veterans license plate honoring the service of women?

PENNDOT has various specialty plates for the [branches](#) of service, service [designation](#), [disabled](#) veterans, [combat](#) veterans, [veteran](#), and now, honoring our [women](#) veterans.

Spouse Membership Program



The American Legion is a Family. In as such, ALL Veterans who served honorably since December 7, 1941 can become Legionnaires. But our Family extends, including the mothers, wives, daughters, sons and other family members including step-children.

In January 2020, our family designation grew as Congress approved our request to include the husbands and spouses of female Veterans as eligible for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary.

We encourage you as a female Veteran to sponsor your husband or spouse for membership in the Auxiliary. You may download an application at www.pa-legion.com.

Womens Veteran Day

Women Veterans Day, celebrated on June 12th, honors the bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of women who have served in the U.S. military. Established to recognize the official inclusion of women in the armed forces with the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, this day highlights the vital contributions female veterans have made across all branches, often in the face of unique challenges. It serves as a reminder of their pivotal role in shaping military history and ensuring future generations of women feel empowered to serve.



DEPARTMENT of PENNSYLVANIA

Women Veterans Committee Reference

Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA):

Website: <https://www.dmva.pa.gov>

Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Women Vets:

Website: <https://www.va.gov/womenvet>

Women Veterans USA:

Website: <https://www.womenvetsusa.org/states/pa/>

American Legion Department of Pennsylvania

John Fritz – Department Commander

800 North Front Street

Wormleysburg, PA 17043

(717) 730-9100

