

The first year of assuming an officer position is typically a learning process, especially for a commander who needs to know about everything. What I've learned over the past year, over 14 years as a Post member and officer, and as an American Legion (AL) member for 19 years helped solve many challenges. The AL prefers officers hold most positions for 2 years to allow other qualified members a chance to serve. I request your support for one more year.

I believe a Post Commander should possess a couple essential qualities: 1) Be an experienced member of both the AL and Post 6 to understand the importance of how the AL can fit into a veterans' life and know the basic structure and responsibilities of the entire AL network; 2) Honor the AL requirement for officers to be in the AL uniform for meetings by investing in an AL cap with office designation.

A new commander usually faces unexpected issues; maybe ones that that never occurred before. I've had my share of unique challenges to overcome over the past 9 months.

The challenge of what priority to give to the bar has become a concern—more on that below.

Started as Commander with no Adjutant—possibly the first time ever for a Post 6 commander.

Performed basic Adjutant duties for over a month while we searched for another volunteer.

Solved the problem of not having a Post website administrator. Our only skilled website manager for over a decade died, and we had no one to fill this role. I searched and found a skilled volunteer.

Held together the kitchen team during times of transition. Few Post members have the knowledge and time to manage a kitchen and cook meals for both monthly meetings and for Wednesdays at the Post. The kitchen team was getting tired. To improve morale I decreased the workload of our kitchen team by arranging to have half of our monthly meeting meals professionally catered.

Replaced the Bar Manager with a seamless transition. Previous Bar Manager had to resign owing to workload overdose because he was also our Finance Officer. We now have a responsible Bar Manager.

Safeguarded the Post: 1) Responsible alcohol use and standards of conduct started to deteriorate. I, in conjunction with your Executive Committee, had to instill awareness of American Legion and State alcohol procedures and standards of conduct to ensure safe behavior. 2) My research of a rental client's unusual request led us to discover we were never protected with liquor liability insurance coverage. The Post is now protected from this potential catastrophe.

We now have many needed policy documents to better inform our members: Members Guide, Animal, Fac & Grounds, Alcohol, re-instituted and publicized our key FOB responsibilities policy.

-- From two existing appointment letters, I created 24 more custom letters and 22 committee descriptions.

Supported fellow members. Recognized superior performance by issuing awards to six Post members
Future.

1) We need to decide on how the Post facility will serve our members. Many Posts have full-time bars with bars being the main reason for members to come to the Post. Our current membership count cannot support a full-time bar with a paid bartender. It is possible--with a major increase in risk--to open the bar more often if those who want to open up the bar daily step forward with a responsible plan approved by the Executive Committee. However, our two experienced Bar Managers have not expressed a desire to participate due to the additional responsibilities, risk, and likely low member turn out involved.

2) **Utilize the property for outdoor rentals.** I've been in talks with experts who operate outdoor competitions like mountain biking, electric bicycles, One Wheels, and electric motorcycles. These events can help us continue the trend of increasing rental income AND attract younger veterans.

I look forward to help continuing the improvements we've made in the past 9 months. Thank you for your support this past year. I look forward to serving as your Commander for one more year.

Robert (Bob) Medred