

How to Implement the 2021 Week of Caring and Sharing

1. Gather a team of Unit members to call or personally visit members and former members of your unit. Divide and conquer. If each member of the team calls or visits 10 members you can reach more members. **Please see the “Sample Scripts and Resources” document created for this event.**
2. At least one week prior to the Week of Caring & Sharing, if you don’t have ALAMIS access to pull a list of members and former members, request one from Department. Ask them to include current paid members, unpaid members (titled as “expired” in the system), and former members of your Unit. These reports will show the date dues were last paid, as well as addresses and whatever contact information we have for them.

IMPORTANT: *Please keep track of and send new or updated contact information to the Dept when you find any. If the unit has ALAMIS access, they can usually do this themselves. And be sure to also inform Dept of any members you may find that are deceased. It is helpful to include an approximate month/year of death.*
3. Create a spreadsheet that includes names, phone numbers, addresses and what your unit members’ current membership status is (current, unpaid/expired or former member not paid since 2017). Those with ALAMIS can export the reports already in an excel spreadsheet. It would be handy if the spreadsheet had columns to make notes after each call/visit. ***If you’d like ALAMIS access for your unit, contact your Dept HQ to request it. It is \$10 per person per year & each unit can purchase up to two users.*
4. Divide the spreadsheet/list among your team members. If a team member has a personal connection with someone on the list, be sure you assign that person to her.
5. Start calling. Make sure you are in a quiet place at the Post or in your home. Start the conversation with general questions concerning their well-being such as:
 - a. Thank you so much for your membership. Mention their number of years of membership if known.
 - b. Let them know you value their membership and time
 - c. Ask how they are doing...and how their family is
 - d. We want to make sure our unit members feel they are part of our Legion Family community and know/feel you can reach out to us during good times or trying times. We rally around our veterans, our community, and our members and that is one of the reasons we are calling today.
 - e. Gently question why you may not have seen them lately if they use to attend.
 - f. Mention some of the mission related events the unit has undertaken in the last year or so and thank them for contributing by way of paying their dues (either recently or in the past) for those that you don’t think have generally attended meetings or come to the Post.
 - i. This could be a lead in to inquire if they might be interested in volunteering in any way if you sensed interest when relaying the good deeds of the unit or if you feel it appropriate to inquire about them renewing or rejoining if it’s been a while – though the purpose of this week is not primarily on asking them for money/dues/membership. That should be a natural cause and effect just from expressing care towards them in general.
 - g. Ask them who the unit can honor in May for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. Thank them for honoring their veterans by their past or present membership.

- h. Let them know you'd love to see them at a Unit meeting or a special event or activity. Have your Post/Unit calendar handy for dates of upcoming events.
6. Make sure you thank all members, current or former, at the beginning and at the end of the call.
7. If you plan to visit members at their homes, please make sure to follow common sense safety rules – if you are traveling to a home or person you've not visited before or are unfamiliar with the area, please go in pairs. Don't go after dark unless they are expecting you. Have a letter, flyer, or business card to leave if no one is home or the member isn't available. Make note to follow up with them another time.
8. If the member wishes to renew or rejoin, be sure to have your payment methods available to share with the member:
 - a. Point them to the ALA National website to pay online if they are not more than one year behind – only current dues can be paid online;
 - b. Call ALA National Headquarters at 317-569-4570, M-F, 8-4:30 p.m. EST to pay by credit card.
 - c. Bring or send payment to the Post/Unit; or better yet...if they are near enough to you, volunteer to pick up the payment.
9. Be sure you leave contact information with the member or with a family member that may be taking a message for the member.
10. Use the spreadsheet to record your calls or visits. Continue to try to reach all members, even if it is after this special week.
11. Consider having the team make calls at the same time at your Post. Make it an "event" and have fun!
12. **Optional:** We'd love to hear how your event went and celebrate with you for taking this step towards sharing or renewing the spirit of the Legion Family. For your unit to be placed in a drawing for a chance at one of 100 \$25 Emblem Sales Gift Certificates, complete the "One Week of Caring & Sharing" award certification form & submit to your department. See form for details and requirements to qualify for this drawing. Rejoining one former member is required and she must be processed by the Department by April 24th, 2021.