

Presidents' 1st Quarter 2026 Memo to E-Board – Committees
January 28, 2026

We are about to thaw out from the ice storm here in South Carolina, it gets to the mid-forties during the day and mid-twenties at night now. I hope it wasn't too bad for you. Fortunately we have not lost power so far.

I'll kick off this update with some **Important 2026 Dates**

February 15, 2026 - Deadline to submit copy and information to be included in the 2026 Spring/Summer Ivy Leaves magazine. Get your stuff to John Harris early or on time.

April 15, 2026 - Deadline to submit nominations for the 2026 Ralph E. Lingert Service Award.

May 1, 2026 - Deadline to submit copy and information to be included in the 2026 Mid-Year Digital E-Ivy Leaves. (Our first All-Digital Issue will be circulated by email only)

June 15, 2026 - Deadline to submit Applications and Patriotic Essays for the 2026 Legacy Educational Scholarships. (Let me know if you would like to be a judge this year)

July 6, 2026 - Deadline to Register for the 2026 National Reunion with Armed Forces Reunions, Norfolk, VA.

July 24, 2026 - Deadline to make Hotel Reservations for the 2026 National Reunion with the Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf, Iowa.

The 108th National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association Reunion will be held at The Isle Casino Hotel, in the Quad Cities, Bettendorf, Iowa - August 2-8, 2026. The Sleeping room rate \$99/ night (\$126.55inclusive of fee & tax) "Thank you for your service" 20 percent discount at all Isle food outlets. Linda Dufek will be coordinating the on-site reunion activities with AFR. Contact her if you can help with the Hospitality Room duties.

Everything for the 2026 Reunion is now on the website.

<https://www.4thinfantry.org/news-events/2026-national-reunion>

If you haven't already checked out a couple news stories on the website, here are links

<https://www.4thinfantry.org/news-events/george-army-is-speeding-transform>

<https://www.4thinfantry.org/news-events/vietnam-veteran-continues-service-through-volunteerism>

National Officer Elections - All (4) National Elected Offices will be up for election at the 2026 National Reunion. To include: **The National President, the National Senior Vice President, the Vice President–Communications, and the Vice President–Finance.**

Jerry Bumpus has asked me to help him with the Nominations this year, so contact me or Jerry if you have an interest in serving, or continuing to serve in an Elected or Appointed position with the Association.

We have two openings for National Appointed Officers - the **National Vice President-War on Terror** and the **National Secretary** who both would be appointed by the President, and serve on the Executive Board. We are looking for individuals with the necessary skills and who want to take ownership of these positions and see this organization prosper and expand. If that's you, or you know someone, contact me.

Don Kelby is continuing his campaign to collect email addresses from members we do not have good email addresses for in our records. We will continue to place notices in the *Ivy Leaves* about the need for member emails. That's a top priority as we continue the digital transition.

Once we fully transition to Digital-Only communications in the next year or so, members without emails will be assigned to a new category of "**NPM**" "Non-participating Member". We'll need to decide how we treat the "NPM's" going forward. Their choice, we'll give them every opportunity to stay connected.

We are working with the new team to publish the printed *Ivy Leaves* magazine. The team of Dittmer Design and Intellicor Communications who have been publishing the Annual Calendar for us and are very familiar with the Association. We have proposals from Carrie Dittmer to create the *Ivy Leaves* and from Intellicor to print the Spring / Summer magazine. All look good.

As you know, Jerry Wadley, of Finisterre Publishing, who has produced the *Ivy leaves* 23+ years, made it official, the 2025 Fall Winter *Ivy Leaves* was his last, as he has closed his newsletter business. I know several of us have sent him a Thank You. John Harris is planning to formally recognize him for his service.

Another change this year will be the addition of a Mid-Year Digital *Ivy Leaves*, setting the stage for more digital communications in the future. Watch for it!

Gary Ladd, Vice President – Communications is continuing to develop a larger social media plan he outlined at the 2025 National Reunion. Watch for more info in 2026. Bruce and Sue Gass who have done an excellent job managing the Associations Facebook page for many years are facing some health challenges. Keep Bruce and Sue and others who are dealing with health issues in your prayers.

Let me wrap up by calling your attention to recent bogus emails that are circulated from time to time claiming they are from me (or anyone else for that matter) requesting you to do something. First, look at the senders address on the email, if not from me or the person in question, **just delete them**. No need to waste everyone's time responding to me or anyone.

That's it for this update; if anything urgent comes up, I'll get back to you.

Contact me with any questions

'Steadfast & Loyal'

Rick Adams, National President