



Central News – May 2023

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Important dates

6-8 May 2023	HM The King's Coronation
19-21 May 2023	Annual Conference

Membership Council Election Results

We are pleased to announce that following an election in the Manchester and Lancaster region, Bob Howard has been re-elected as the Membership Council Representative for this area. We also have two new Membership Council Representatives, Marc Reynolds who was co-opted in February to cover the Northern region, and Adrian Wright who will start in May covering the South West Midlands region. The Membership Council provides the Board of Trustees with a dedicated focus on Membership in particular the needs of members and the support they give to the Legion's work, and we thank Bob, Marc, and Adrian for their support, and all our other Membership Council Representatives.

Annual Conference: 19-21 May 2023

In the countdown to Annual Conference here are a few final details and reminders:

- Your **questions to the Trustees/Membership Council Forum** can still be submitted in advance or on the day by emailing them to AnnualConference@britishlegion.org.uk
- **Registration Desks at the Riviera Conference Centre** will be open from 1.00pm on Friday 19th May and from 8.00am on Saturday 20th May.
- At the Registration Desks, Delegates will receive their **Lanyard Badge** which must be scanned at the entrance doors to the Conference Hall at the start of every session to confirm attendance.
- Delegates are also asked to collect and return their **Voting Pads** before and after every voting session.
- **What will Delegates be voting on?** Motions will include the role of Local Authorities in Remembrance, representation to MOD on children's visit rights, a review of Poppy Appeal item ordering, reporting back on motions passed at Conference, recruiting for a new generation, and changes to training delivery.
- A reminder to the Proposers of Motions at Conference to make sure that you have arranged Seconders and checked that they are attending Conference and aware that they need to second the Motion from the microphone.
- **Outside the Conference Hall.** In the Exhibition Area you will find information and advice stands on Fundraising, Marketing, Branch Property Trusts, Accounts and Auditing, the Membership Council and the Membership Directorate, together with the NMA, Poppy Shop, Poppy Scotland, the Women's Section and many more.

If you have a question, there will be someone at Conference to answer it.

Membership Council Meeting Notes

On behalf of the Membership Council Chair, [please find the summary notes](#) from the most recent Membership Council meeting.

70th Anniversary of the Korean War

2023 marks 70 years since the signing of the armistice that brought about an end to military operations during the Korean War. 60,000 service personnel from across Britain and the Commonwealth saw action during the Korean War, with 1,100 losing their lives. The Royal British Legion will be marking this important milestone in an often-forgotten conflict with a special service of remembrance at Horse Guards Parade on Thursday 27 July from 11am. If you would like to attend the event, [please register your interest by following the link](#), or visit the RBL website for more details.

Proposed Governance Changes

We have been engaging with our membership since January 2023 about proposed changes to senior leadership roles on the Board of Trustees, with the aim of strengthening our governance.

Over this time, we have had a number of different conversations, sometimes challenging but always valuable, and these have shaped our final proposals which we are taking to Annual Conference this year. We also think that it is right for our Membership to have access to all the material which we have produced as part of this engagement to enable local discussion and reflection on these issues. [Please click on the link here to access the information.](#)

We believe that the proposals we are putting to our Membership through a Charter Motion at Annual Conference are correct and vital to ensure that we are fit for the future, while preserving our treasured and important heritage.

In the meantime, if you have any comments or queries, please could you direct these to the following email: trusteeelections@britishlegion.org.uk

As ever, thank you for all you do and for your ongoing support.

Gift in Wills

In March, the Royal British Legion was proud to support Free Wills Month, a campaign which offers individuals the opportunity to have their Will written free of charge. This campaign saw 307 Wills

written using the service, and 215 of those supporters left a gift to RBL. This is a great achievement and all of us here at RBL are incredibly grateful for this valued support.

Since the start of the financial year until 31st March 2023, there have been 549 Gifts in Wills left to RBL, with an average gift of just over £21,000, generating an overall income of £11.57m. As part of honouring a request in a Will from a supporter, the Legacy Management team also collaborated with the Membership Team to organise a Royal Engineer to attend the funeral of a former Sapper.

Finally, just as a reminder, with Annual Conference fast approaching, if you have any questions that you'd like to ask us about any gifts left to your Branch, or how to promote gift in Wills, please let us know by emailing legacies@britishlegion.org.uk. Also, if you would like any resources to take back to your branch, please email at the above address, and we'll make these available for you to collect at conference. We look forward to seeing you in Torquay!

Military Compensation

Armed Forces compensation (such as a War Pension) is often considered an income source when benefit rates like Pension Credit are calculated, whilst civil compensation is not. As a result, veterans and their families are receiving less financial support. RBL are campaigning to fix this, but we need your input.

Our Campaigns team want to hear from people that have been disadvantaged under the current system. If you or your local members have applied for any benefits while receiving Armed Forces compensation of any kind, we would like to hear from you.

Sharing your experiences will help us to end this unfair treatment of the Armed Forces community. [Please click here to fill out a short survey](#) telling us about your experiences. Alternatively, you can email us at: publicaffairs@britishlegion.org.uk

Centenarian Membership

There were an agreed motion at last year's Annual Conference that membership would be granted free of charge to anyone 100 years old. We are in the process of setting this up with our Data Services team and will provide a more detailed update shortly. Once finalised new membership cards will be sent out to the applicable Centenarian members.

RBL's Neutral Stance

As it stated in the Membership Management Handbook, as local representatives of the Legion, members are expected to behave with integrity, to work together and to trust each other. Our values apply as much when dealing with people face to face as when communicating online, whether through official Legion channels, social media, or personal emails. RBL must always remain politically neutral and unbiased, and therefore as members you must not speculate or comment on political affairs. [More details can be found in the Social Media Policy in the MMH.](#)
