

# Washington State Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) junior d&b corps population estimate

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At the 1930 American Legion National Convention in Boston, MA, a committee was formed to study the feasibility of forming a "Junior Legion" to be called the Sons of the American Legion (SAL). In May 1933 the National Executive Committee approved a constitution and by-laws for the organization and the first SAL Squadron from Seguin, TX, Post #245, was chartered one month later on June 6, 1933.



One of the many activities a SAL squadron could participate in was drum corps. Each corps was made up of sons whose fathers were members of the American Legion, ergo, SAL.

In Washington State, SAL corps existed primarily between the mid-1930s through the early-1940s. The last existing SAL Squadron in Washington State was from Mountlake Terrace (north of Seattle). They disbanded in 1956.

We have identified 26 Washington State



American Legion senior corps from 1919 to 1965. Let's assume 30% of those posts had an SAL corps at one time or another. That estimate is based on our research. [NOTE - We have been uber diligent in counting every Legion senior corps we could find, but that doesn't mean some didn't escape our dragnet.] Additionally, not all junior corps born of a Legion Post were SAL corps, some were just junior corps without the SAL designation, rules or regulations.

Legion post numbers were assigned in order from the number one on up. Rainier Noble Post #1 in Seattle was the first and West Seattle Post #160 is the last we have documented on our site. The sad fact is that not all posts had a drum corps. I mean, why wouldn't you want to have one? They're fun and expensive, right?

Let's complicate our estimate by saying we've only captured 80% of all Legion senior corps. So that would be 80% times (total corps) = 26 known corps in the fourth paragraph; 26 divided by 80% = 33 total Legion senior corps in Washington State. This isn't your typical drum corps article, is it? Now put down your beer and pay attention!

In the fourth paragraph we also postulated that 30% of the 26 Legion posts

## THE LEGION HEIR

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**Hamilton Squadron No. 26 Drum and Bugle Corps in Pride of Maryland**



we did a back-of-the-envelope calculation to see what that number might be. Anybody out there have numbers for their local area? If so, please let us know.

The good news? Y'all passed math class today! Hopefully we did, too.

Much thanks to Robert Meyers, Bellingham Washington Legion Post #7 historian, who sent us photos of his 1937 SAL D&BC. He was the genesis of this this madness.

Long Live Drum Corps! -- PacificNorthwestDrumCorps.com --

**Images -- (previous page) Bellingham American Legion Post #7 SAL corps, 1937 (left and right, bottom row) American Legion Convention program, Portland, OR, 1932; SAL catalogue cover; (this page) American Legion newspaper article announcing the formation of SAL, April 1938; SAL badge and logo; SAL, Spokane, WA, 1939; (left) Bellingham SAL corps gets new single-valve bugles; Salem, OR, SAL that later morphed into the Flamingos and then the Argonauts.**



had SAL corps. So, take the theoretical total of 33 Legion senior drum corps from the paragraph above and multiply it by 30% and you get 33 (30%) = 10 SAL corps in Washington State, assuming we've captured 80% of all Legion senior drum corps and that no post had a SAL corps without also having a senior corps.

We are not going to troll the Internet to find and document every SAL drum corps that existed in the Pacific Northwest. That would take a long time, so



August 1939 Spokane, Washington



July 1959 - Salem, Oregon

