

THE RACE IS ON!

Were you aware that the Iditarod started in Anchorage on March 2nd with a ceremonial start, and the official race started on Sunday, March 3rd?

It will run from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska, almost 1,000 miles! (with mandatory breaks)

Here is a photo from the start:



You can follow the race on several Facebook pages and the internet. Just ask your friend Google to help!

As with all walks of life, there are always some hiccups along the way. Just look at those dogs! They look excited to be running!

Did you know that in 1925 dogs were used to carry antitoxin serum to Nome where there was an outbreak of diphtheria? The dogs could carry the medication faster and were more reliable than airplanes and trains.

This is very similar to the American Legion family that was created to assist military, veterans, and their families.

Enough of the Iditarod talk for today, let's talk about our own Mushers!

In the Divisional race –

Last week the Western Division took over first place and they are holding that lead. The Western Division currently has 86.33%

In second is the Southern Division with 86.17% and still contemplating how they can regain their first place spot.

In third is the Eastern Division with 86.4%

4th Place – Central Division with 83.24%

And in 5th place but still fighting hard, The Northwestern Division with 77.44%

The Department of Florida has now hit 102.54% - how high can you go?!

Department of Arizona has 95.74%

Department of New Mexico has 95.03%

Department of Alaska has 94.89%

Department of Michigan 94.03%

Department of Delaware 93.13%

Department of Maryland 92.81%

Department of New Hampshire 92.20%

Congratulations to all of these Departments for having at least 90%!

Here are the top 10 highest numbers over where your department was last year:

Florida 1,569 over last year

Michigan 1,049 over last year

Arizona 883 over last year

Maryland 219 over last year

South Carolina 190 over last year

Alaska 145 over last year

Colorado 142 over last year

New Hampshire 136 over last year

A Tie: Alabama and California 92 over last year

Way to go all of you!! Keep up the Great Membership Race! Push harder when you're tired, you'll be rewarded greater in the end!

Best wishes!

Karen Toll

American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Chair 2023 - 2024



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