



**ADJUTANT'S  
NEWSLETTER**  
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## THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE THE AMERICAN LEGION

**TO MY LEGION FAMILY:**



### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Now that I am back from some much needed time off it is back to the grindstone. I want to thank everyone who came to our Department Convention this year. I also want to thank those volunteers who helped us with the set-up and tear down and everything in between. A big shout-out to Wayne and Dee Thomas from Post 5, who helped us again this year with registration and other services which contributed to the success of this convention.

Your newly elected Department Officers are:

Department Commander:  
David Meaney

National Executive Committeemen  
William Roy

Alt. National Executive Committeemen  
Ken Maynard

Department Vice Commanders  
Sherm Philbrick  
Oliver Brooks  
Rick Bickerstaff  
Mike Faccioli

Department Judge Advocate  
Doug Micklon

Department Historian  
George Boddie

Department Auditor  
Mark Vatcher

Congratulations to all our elected leaders.

I would also like to mention and thank the entire Convention Committee for taking the load off the Department Staff this year. This made for a better convention and allowed us to concentrate on other details.

As many of you know the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention will be held in Manchester, N.H. at the Radisson. Housing forms are available if you want to get them in early. Let's work to make our centennial year the best convention ever.

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Now on to the 99<sup>th</sup> National Convention which will be held in **Reno Nevada, August 18 – 24, 2017**. The Department of New Hampshire will be staying in the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino Hotel, 2500 East Second Street, Reno, NV 89595. I recommend to those of you wishing to go to this convention this year that you start making plans now. <https://www.grandsierraresort.com/>

The cost per night is \$115.00 + 13% tax + \$2.00 Tourism Tax = \$132.00 a night. I have King and Queen rooms available. Right now I have 23 rooms assigned to this Department. However the Keene Band from Post 4 has decided to join us this year and will also be competing in the National Band Competition along with joining us in the parade.

There is free parking and valet parking available at the hotel. This particular Hotel has a lot of amenities available within the hotel to include many restaurants, activities for the family, and of course gambling.

A copy of the housing form, along with other information is on the website which needs to be back to me with a one night deposit by **July 1, 2017**, [www.legionh.org/page/content/members/national-convention-information](http://www.legionh.org/page/content/members/national-convention-information). Even though the deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>, I would like to have names to me of those that know they are going for sure now. I need to get a idea of how many rooms I might have left because I need to set up the Keene Band this year too and may have to request more rooms beyond the 24 I have now. I appreciate any assistance in this since the hotel we are going to has 17 departments staying in it.

The banquet tickets this year will be \$47.00 a piece. I need people to get back with me as soon as possible on how many tickets they might want. I originally will order 30 tickets, but if there is more that want to go, I need those numbers before national sells out. After that it is first come first serve for any tickets that departments might have left over.

I will be updating the national convention page as I get information. So please take a look when you get a chance. Just to give you an idea and round trip ticket to Reno is costing between \$1000 to \$1500 for 2 people depending on what airline you want to take and how many stops there are.

The following people have been elected as National Delegates for this Convention.

John Graham  
Tony Rabbia  
Bob Dionne  
Maurice Anderson  
Emil Ouellette  
George West  
Robert Glover  
Joe Caouette  
Bob Bournival  
Ken Maynard  
Bill Roy  
David Meaney  
George McCall  
Bill Firth  
Charlie Arkwell

There were several right-in delegates made. If you are one of those right-in delegates and you wish to go to this convention, you need to get a hold of me asap so I can add your name to the count.

## **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION & INSTRUCTIONS**

**9/11 National Day of Service Grant Projects – 1-time opportunity to apply for an American Legion Auxiliary \$1,000 service project grant!**

**Application DEADLINE June 30! Time's really tight, here's the scoop:**

The American Legion Auxiliary has just been awarded a CNCS grant to make **50 awards of \$1,000 each** for **9/11 National Day of Service Projects**.

Grants will be awarded for service projects and 9/11 remembrance activities that must take place between Friday, September 8, 2017 and Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Each grant of \$1,000 requires a \$250 cash or in-kind services match (making the grant total \$1,250 on paper.) Applications are due June 30<sup>th</sup>!

The application and instructions/guidelines are attached. The application isn't difficult – it's a 3-page fillable form. For the \$250 required match, you can show donated goods or a \$250 additional cash contribution as the match. It's pretty simple. Also, The American Legion, Sons, and other nonprofit organizations or schools can apply for an ALA 9/11 Service project grant, but they must show that they are collaborating with an American Legion Auxiliary unit, district/county, or department.

The 9/11 service projects must benefit veterans, military, and their families and engage ALA and community volunteers, meaning on average each project should involve about 30 community members and project beneficiaries. The service projects must benefit veterans, military and their families to address veterans' community needs such as reintegration, employment, higher education, housing and community facility improvement, and youth civics education. Each service project must also incorporate a reflection activity around the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the United States.

Funding was awarded to the American Legion Auxiliary by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The 9/11 National Day of Service honors the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 or who rose in service as a result of that tragedy. The ALA Foundation will be approving the individual grant awards via an expedited process on behalf of the ALA. Both National President Mary Davis and ALA Foundation Board President Linda Boone are excited at this unexpected opportunity. We know the time frame is short – but it's a great opportunity and a very easy way to apply for \$1,000 that can be used to help spruce up a Legion post or Auxiliary facility.

**9/11 Day of Service Project options and examples include:**

- a) **Helping military families that have recently moved into the community feel supported**  
such as: a) a "service providers fair" that brings together services providers so that veterans and military families can meet people who provide such services as childcare, crisis management, education, employment, financial advice, tax preparation services, food aid, housing help, homelessness aid, insurance, legal assistance, mental health and substance abuse services, etc; b) a meet-and-greet with community leaders to give advice on living in the area; c) a "town hall" type Q&A event with community leaders; or d) a combination of any of these.
- b) **Hosting a job fair and sessions to help veterans and military families hone their employment skills**  
provide one-on-one advisory sessions to veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses seeking employment; provide resume review, mock interviews, tips for workplace collegiality, small group training in workforce "soft skills"
- c) **Helping new veterans going to college understand their higher education benefits**  
present a fall semester kick-off event for recipients of the GI Bill, offer information sessions on using their GI Bill benefits and additional veterans benefits, and making connections to off-campus resources, including volunteer opportunities in the community.
- d) **Helping with home, post, and community facility improvement and beautification projects (yes, this includes Legion posts and ALA facilities!)**  
a hands-on work day to improve dwelling(s), a community facility utilized by or commemorating veterans, service members, and their families; make light repairs, adaptations, or beautification to exteriors and/or interiors of residences and community facilities such as veterans' memorial parks or veterans' posts.
- e) **Presentation to youth about civics, service, honoring our veterans and military**  
veterans visit elementary and secondary schools to speak to students about service and remembrance, as well as the military and veteran experience; engage veterans who served post-9/11 as volunteers, following the lesson plans about September 11 developed by MyGoodDeed, Inc., and adapting those presentations to include their own "living history".

**Grant Period:** Grant awards will be available on a one-time, non-renewable basis for a budget period not to exceed five (5) months, beginning early July. Funded activities must occur between Friday, September 8, 2017 and Wednesday, September 13, 2017.

The grant application is pretty self-explanatory. To help raise your comfort level to quickly complete and submit a grant application, the ALA will host 3 conference calls to talk about the process and answer any questions. You must pre-register to be on a call; see details in the attached instructions.

The ALA 9/11 Day of Service grant project began as an initiative of the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Goal 1 Team, so congrats that another Goal 1 idea is coming to fruition!

This new, very limited grant opportunity follows the recent announcement shared at the ALA Department Leadership National Conference that, after nearly 8 years, the ALA Call to Service VISTA program is coming to an end. The final grant will expire on July 31, 2017. We appreciate those ALA entities that took advantage of this special program. Watch for an upcoming article about the achievements of the ALA Call to Service program in *Auxiliary* magazine.

Please circulate and share information about this terrific 9/11 Day of Service \$1000 grant opportunity. We're informing Legion NHQ. It doesn't get much easier to ask for \$1,000. Applications MUST be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Happy form filling – thanks!

I will post the applications on the Department website.

## M-1 GARAND UPDATES FOR LOCAL POSTS

I am providing an update of the M1 Garand TM. Revisions to the Operation and Maintenance Guide consists of Blank Firing Adapter/Barrel Inspection Procedures and Physical Security and Inventory Requirements for the rifle.

Please refer to the M1 Garand website for the latest information for use and maintenance.

M1 Garand website (<http://www.m1garandtraining.com/>)

I recommend any Post that has the M-1 in your inventory refer to this site for any updates or instructions. For those Posts that have not inventoried your weapons as of yet I highly recommend you do so.

If you have direct questions on inquiring about your inventory or how to turn in or obtain more rifles you may contact the following:

Denise Boyd  
Operations Manager, Administration Division  
Phone 202-263-2999, Fax 202-861-2728

## VCP Phone Line Imposter

I am including this article in the newsletter one more time, because there are still veterans affecting by this scam. If you know anyone that has fallen victim to this or may have been contacted please let them know about this issue.

It has come to VA's attention that a phone line has been set up by an unknown party to potentially "mimic" the VCP phone line. This imposter phone line may be intended to reach Veterans who inadvertently dial the VCP number incorrectly.

We want you to know that we are taking this seriously and to keep you aware of the steps we are taking. VHA Office of Community Care (VHA CC) has reported the "mimic" line to the VA Office of Inspector General for a possible civil or criminal investigation.

"Mimic" Phone Line

The phone line established to "mimic" the VCP phone line is 1-**800**-606-8198. You know you have reached the wrong VCP phone line when:

- The phone line offers callers a \$100 rebate *if* the caller provides a credit card.
- The phone line does *not* state the caller has reached U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the VCP phone line.

**Be aware** that this phone number incorrectly confirms callers had reached the VCP *if the caller asks that question.*

VCP Phone Line

The correct VCP phone line is 1-**866**-606-8198. This line is for Veterans to check their eligibility for the VCP and ask questions about the program.

If you are unsure if you have reached the correct phone line, hang up and dial 1-**866**-606-8198 again. The phone line will state the called **has** reached the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

## **The White House's promised veteran's complaint line goes live today**

WASHINGTON — President Trump's long-promised hotline for veteran complaints officially launches on Thursday, but questions remain about the long-term plans for the new resource.

The phone line — live now at 855-948-2311 — is designed to “collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner,” according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

VA Secretary David Shulkin on Wednesday described the initial rollout of the line as a soft launch, with “live-answer agents” receiving and processing some of the calls. He promised that by Aug. 15, the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

“This is something the president had talked about,” he told reporters. “We're going to be testing that system starting tomorrow and fine-tuning it over the next several months.”

During the presidential campaign last year, Trump touted the hotline as a way for veterans to have a direct line to the commander in chief, and even suggested that he would answer it himself if the opportunity arose.

“This could keep me very busy at night, folks,” he told a crowd of supporters during a July 26 rally last summer. “This will take the place of Twitter.”

Calls to the line will be kept confidential, but information will be shared with VA officials, and in some cases veterans will be asked to give personal information for responses to specific problems.

Exactly which officials will respond to the problems and how they'll be processed remain unclear. The call center is being billed as “the White House/VA Veterans' Complaint Hotline,” but during the presidential campaign Trump suggested the idea as a way to directly report issues to the Oval Office without interference from VA leaders.

Department officials said they will use information from the hotline to “improve the delivery of care and benefit services to all veterans, including their families, caregivers and survivors,” but offered no further specifics. White House officials have deferred questions about the effort to the VA.

[Leo Shane III](#), June 1, 2017

# DISTRICT FOUR SUMMER BARBEQUE

## PELHAM POST 100

8 WINDHAM RD  
PELHAM NH 03076

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2017  
DISTRICT FOUR MEETING AT 1000  
PICNIC 1100

DUNK TANK, HORSESHOE  
CONTEST, ETC.

\$5.00 PP CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE  
FOR TICKETS CONTACT  
DENNIS COLEMAN

[FOREVERCRUSIN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:FOREVERCRUSIN@COMCAST.NET)

603-233-1108

DEADLINE JULY 3, 2017



**Please Post**