



**ADJUTANT'S
NEWSLETTER**
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The Department of New Hampshire

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



FALL CONFERENCE

I would like to thank everyone who came to the Fall Conference for your attendance. Although the majority of the conference addressed membership issues we had a good crowd and the most I have seen, even going into the afternoon session, for some time. If you did not attend and would like to know what was discussed, I have posted that information on the website for your review.

The biggest change that is coming down the road, announced recently at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, is that the submission of membership transmittals will soon be done on line through MyLegion and we are getting away from the paperwork trail that always seems to get bogged down in the processing of membership. This new process will hopefully cut down on the amount of time a member pays for his/her membership and shows up as a new or renewal member on the Post roster. This cuts down on the amount of renewal notices members will get as a result of the delay in the time it takes from when the member pays for his/her membership to the point where national has received the members name on a transmittal through Department Headquarters processed the old way. There are also many other benefits to processing membership through MyLegion versus the old system of paper.

This is supposed to start the first part of January 2018 and of course if your Post is not connected to MyLegion it is highly recommended that you do so. Also, membership reports will not be generated by Department as they have in the past and the only membership report will be the one generated through MyLegion.org. This cuts down on the lag between Departments numbers and the numbers national shows which always seem to be behind.

Again, if you want to learn more about this new process and get on board before the beginning of the year, I recommend you refer to the information on the website, under Membership Processing 2018. Or call us at the office and we will try to explain it to you over the phone.

As always, we held our annual Fall Raffle and drawing at the conference this last weekend. The following are winners of this year's Fall Raffle, congratulations to them all. Thanks to everyone for your support on this much needed program we hold twice a year.

Fall Raffle Winners!

\$2500.00 – John A. Dieffenbach
\$1000.00 – Andre L. Derry
\$500.00 – George E. Stocker
\$200.00 – Emil Ouellette
\$200.00 – Vincent P. Miller
\$200.00 – Dennis L. Pelletier
\$200.00 – Lloyd C. Bennett
\$200.00 – Walter J. Bardiches

Department Service Office

Curtis Lenz, Department Service Officer
Michael Hartt, Assistant Service Officer

As of October 1, we have two full-time Service Officers working in our Department Service Office. The Service Office is also now open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

I would like to report that both our new Service Officers have done tremendous work in the limited amount of time they have been in office. I would like to highlight some of the things they would like to accomplish, their goals, and vision for the veterans of this state.

STRATEGIC PLAN (SERVICE OFFICE)

PUBLICIZE REOPENING OF DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICE

Flyers to all American Legion Posts
Emails to Post Commanders
Articles in local newspapers
Public Service Announcements on local radio stations
New Hampshire Chronicle Feature

PRODUCE TRI-FOLD BROCHURE ON DSO

Hand out to Chamber of Commerce Offices
Hand out at job fairs and events attended

MONTHLY VISIT TO VETERAN'S HOSPITAL TO OFFER SERVICES TO VETS

QUARTERLY DSO NEWSLETTER

Both Curt and Mike have already shown they are a good team and first priority is all veterans within the State of New Hampshire.



For your information:

**SERVICE DECALS FOR "NEW" NH
VETERAN LICENSE PLATES**

From state website: “Pursuant to RSA 261-C, the NH DMV is issuing Veteran Decal Plates. Veteran Decal Plates can only be issued to a motor vehicle registered pursuant to RSA 261:87-b. Similar to the Decal Plate, a Veteran Decal Plate includes a 3”x 3” blank square on the left side of the plate however it contains distinguishing veteran design. Veteran Decals are NOT available at DMV locations, they have to be purchased from the NH Office of Veteran Services.”

- The stickers are ordered through the NH Department of Veteran Services
- The plates are ordered through the DMV

For more info see:

https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/benefits/1_plates.htm

<https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/documents/service-decals.pdf>

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/registration/decal-plates.htm>

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXI/261-C/261-C-1.htm>

(See attached example of plate)

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Thanks to our new Department Service Officer, we now have a new Twitter account, Facebook Page, and of course our website, legionnh.org. We have been lagging in our use of social media for some time now. Social media, whether you like it or not is what people are looking at to gather their information through the course of the day. The American Legion has learned in order to help with getting new members to join that the use of social media is going to be the easiest, fastest and up to date way to get our message out to our members new and old.

The Department has had a Facebook page for some time controlled by different people. We are in the process of getting rid of those old pages and creating a page that is more modern and a place where people can go to get the most up to date information for this Department. As a result, we also opened a new Twitter account. Although not everyone has a Twitter account this is the fastest way to get last minute information out to our members as quickly as possible. The President of the United States has shown this to be true.

Below is a posting of what we have for social media for this Department.

American Legion NH

#LEGIONNHSOCIAL



<https://twitter.com/LegionNH>



[Facebook.com/TALDNH](https://www.facebook.com/TALDNH)



Legionnh.org

HASHTAGS

#AmericanLegion

#AmericanLegionNH

#LegionNH

#NHLegion

#NHLegionnaire

VETERANS DAY

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is providing free general admission for all veterans, active duty military and their immediate family members on Saturday, November 11, thanks to one of the veterans on our board of directors!

The general public is also welcome to celebrate Veterans Day at the Discovery Center, with standard general admission costs of \$10/adults, \$9/students and seniors, \$7/children 3-12, free for members and children ages 0-2; five planetarium shows (including the new Life Under the Arctic Sky) will be offered on Veterans Day, for an additional \$5 per person.

For more information please contact Jeanne T. Gerulskis, Executive Director for the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center at the information below.

2 Institute Dr.
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-7827 x120
(603) 568-5519 (mobile)
jgerulskis@starhop.com

SYSTEM WORTH SAVING

The American Legion System Worth Saving (SWS) team will be visiting the Manchester VA Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire **on November 13-15, 2017** for the purpose of conducting an SWS site visit. On **Monday, November 13, starting at 7:00 pm**, we would like to host a veteran's town hall meeting at an American Legion post of your choosing near the local VA medical center. The purpose of the town hall meeting is to gather information from veterans about their health care experiences at the medical center. On **November 14-15**, we will conduct an SWS site visit at the **Manchester VA Medical Center**. During the site visit, we will discuss information learned during the town hall meeting, medical center best practices, challenges, and recommendations. This information along with additional information we obtain from VA OIG, GAO reports, and the media will assist our team in developing a well focus questionnaire that will guide the team through their site visit with VA Executive leadership and staff.

To ensure the success of the town hall meeting and SWS site visit, we strongly encourage at a minimum the **Department Commander, Department Adjutant, NECman, Post Commander, PNC, and the VA&R Department Committee Chairman** be in attendance if their schedule permits. The SWS team will consist of NECman William Roy (NH) and Warren Goldstein, Assistant Director for Health Policy.

If you have any questions, feel free to email or give me a call at 202-263-5761.

Survey says veterans strongly back legalizing medical marijuana

Veterans tend to be an older, more conservative group, but that doesn't stop them from advocating for a radical change in direction from the nation's outdated policies on marijuana. The American Legion, represents many conservative veterans, but that doesn't stop it from taking progressive positions on certain key issues.

A survey released Thursday by [the American Legion](#), the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization, indicates near-unanimous support among veterans for research on medical marijuana, with an overwhelming majority supporting legalization of the drug for medical purposes.

[/Finally, a degree in marijuana: But it's not for stoners or slackers.](#)

The Legion adopted [a resolution](#) last year calling on the Drug Enforcement Administration to reclassify marijuana from its current illicit status to a category “that, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.” The resolution also called on the DEA “to license privately funded medical marijuana production operations.”

“People ask ‘aren’t you a law and order group’. Why yes we are,” said Verna Jones, the Legion’s executive director, at a press conference with members of Congress. “But we’re also a group that takes care of veterans. And when veterans come to us and say a particular treatment is working for them, we owe it to them and listen” and do the research required.

The Legion made it clear, however, that its support of marijuana ends where fun begins.

“It is very important to note that The American Legion is NOT advocating for recreational use of marijuana,” its statement said.

This is one of several progressive moves for an organization that represents voters who largely voted for President Trump, according to exit polls.

- Last month, the Legion urged Trump to veto Republican legislation overturning a [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule](#) prohibiting financial firms from imposing arbitration on consumers and barring class-action lawsuits.
- When Trump moved to ban transgender people from the military, the Legion rebuffed him, saying: “Any requirement that disqualifies an able-bodied person from serving in our armed forces should be based solely upon its proven adverse effect on readiness, and nothing else. ... Should that standard become questionable, The American Legion relies on the judgment of the senior leadership of the military” and not, notably, the president.
- After the August white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, the Legion said it considers that those who display the Confederate flag are “by very definition anti-American,” because the Confederates waged war against the United States.
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By the way, the Legion allowed women members from its beginning in 1919, not a common practice then, according to Joseph M. Plenzler, the organization’s spokesman. They could vote for the organization’s national commander before they could vote for the president of the nation.

[/Legal marijuana is saving lives in Colorado, study finds](#)

Regarding medical marijuana, the key finding from the survey of 802 people, 513 veterans and 289 of their caregivers is that 9 in 10 favor medical research on it and four-fifths support legalizing medical marijuana. “Support for medical cannabis, and research on medical cannabis is high across veterans and caregivers, all age ranges, gender, political leanings and geography,” said a memorandum from Five Corners Strategies, which conducted the survey for the Legion.

But two important points: The survey was commissioned by an organization that supports the research findings, and the survey has limitations. The most important limitations are that the sample was limited to a list of landline phones, a method which excludes veterans in wireless-only households as well those in which a veteran household was incorrectly identified on the list. Also, the survey recruited respondents using automated recorded voice. That has the benefit of eliminating human bias in those asking survey questions. But it achieves lower cooperation rates than live interviewers.

“The federal government has lied to the American people for a generation about cannabis in asserting it has no medical value. I can tell you it’s not true,” said Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.). He expects his bipartisan legislation to reclassify marijuana in order to facilitate medical research will receive relatively quick congressional action.

There is broad support for medical cannabis across various categories, according to the survey:

- Geography: “The support for research and legalization is spread across the country, in states where medical cannabis is currently legal and in states where it is not.”

- Political orientation: Among veterans and caregivers federally legalized medical marijuana is supported by about 9 in 10 self-identified liberals, almost as many conservatives and 7 in 10 independents.
- Age: While support for medical cannabis research and legalization drops the older veterans and their caregivers become, it remains strong even among senior citizens. Among those 60 and older, more than three-quarters favored medical marijuana. All in the 18 to 30 age group agreed.

It's worth noting that 60 percent of those surveyed were 60 or older. That's one reason for the finding that "the majority of veterans surveyed that are using cannabis are over the age of 60," according to the memo.

"It is also clear from the survey that veterans are accessing cannabis to assist them in states with and without medical marijuana programs," Five Corners added.

Veterans and their caregivers are not alone in favoring a more sensible approach to medical marijuana. A [Yahoo News/Marist poll](#) found 84 percent supported it in March, including majorities of Americans of all ages. The lowest level was 65 percent among those ages 69 and older.

The Legion is making progress in its quest to change Uncle Sam's old ways. Last week, all 10 Democrats on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs urged VA to research the impact of medical marijuana on chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans.

So far, however, the Department of Veterans Affairs has not changed its policy. VA Secretary David Shulkin, however, has indicated a willingness to examine medical marijuana when federal law allows.

"There may be some evidence that this (medical marijuana) is beginning to be helpful," Shulkin said when asked about it in May, the last time he commented on it. "And we're interested in looking at that and learning from that. But until the time that federal law changes, we are not able to be able to prescribe medical marijuana for conditions that may be helpful." (*Joe Davidson, 2017, Power Post, Washington Post*)



Please Post