



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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE: Recently a small delegation of members from the Department of New Hampshire went to Washington DC this last month to voice this Departments opinions and concerns on issues effecting veterans and service members alike. The American Legion continues to play a big part in expressing to our National delegations the things that affect our veterans today. The Department of New Hampshire had the opportunity to visit both our Congressional Representatives, and State Senators. This year we were able to meet with all our representatives in conjunction with attending the testimony of our National Commander Dan Dellinger in his report to Congress on the Legion's legislative goals and priorities for veterans and national defense.

Some of the things that were addressed include protecting national defense from more budget cuts, opposing any increases in TRICARE fees, ensuring stability of funding for the VA, getting jobs for our veterans, and of course the VA claims backlog to name just a few.

In meeting with Senator Ayotte, we were also briefed on some of the things of concern for this nation in relation to Russia's advance in Ukraine. Senator Ayotte had just returned the day previously to our meeting from a European visit in the Ukraine. It is obvious that Congress is concerned about our military reductions and how other nations perceive the United States and our ability to protect our interests. These recent events should be an indication of the necessity to maintain current military strength levels. As Commander Dellinger stated in his address to Congress this last week, "America needs to get back to understanding the principles of national defense espoused by presidents Eisenhower and Reagan". It comes down to where there can only be peace through strength.

I want to recognize our National Executive Committeeman Earlon Beale for putting together a very successful trip.

2014 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: As many of you know the 2014, as well as the 2015 conventions will be held in Manchester, at the Center of New Hampshire, Radisson. Our Housing Chair, Charlie Leveille, along with Lisa Beale have been working hard on securing the required number of rooms for this year's convention. We have changed some things this year and are requiring Posts sending delegates to convention to make sure they pay for their rooms prior to getting to convention. We have had issues in the past with rooms being reserved and not paid even after convention is over.

Final payments for your rooms are due April 30, 2014. It is important that your Post sends in payments on a timely basis.

We ask that you help us in making this one of the most successful conventions in some time.

Department Calendar

April 2014

April

- 5 Welcome Home Vietnam Ceremony – White Mountain High School – 2 pm
- 5 Boston Red Sox American Legion Night – All day
- 5 District 5 Spring Conference – Post 112 Epsom – 10:00 AM
- 5 District 2 Spring Conference – Post 23 Milford – 11:00 AM
- 6 Installation – Post 72 Alton – 1:00 PM
- 7 Installation – Post 41 Whitefield – 7:00 PM
- 7 Installation – Post 48 Hudson – 7:00 PM
- 8 Installation – Post 28 Suncook – 6:00 PM
- 8 Installation – Post 23 Milford – 7:30 PM
- 8 Installation – Post 49 Tilton – 7:00 PM
- 9 Installation – Post 34 Plaistow – 6:30 PM
- 9 Installation – Post 21 Concord – 7:00 PM
- 10 Installation – Post 26 Bristol – 7:30 PM
- 12 District 8 Spring Conference – Post 17 Groveton – 8:00 AM
- 12 District 1 Spring Conference – Post 11 Jaffrey – 9:00 AM
- 13 Installation – Post 58 Belmont – 7:30 PM
- 14 Installation – Post 27 Londonderry – 7:30 PM
- 14 Celebration – Post 100 Pelham – 6:30 PM
- 14 Installation – Post 112 Epsom – 7:00 PM
- 15 Installation – Post 109 Windham – 7:30 PM
- 15 POW-MIA Meeting – Post 2 Sweeney – 6:30 PM

- 16 Installation – Post 88 Loudon – 6:30 PM
- 16 Installation – Post 66 Plymouth – 7:00 PM
- 16 Installation – Post 115 Danville – 7:00 PM
- 17 Installation – Post 31 Penacook – 7:00 PM
- 17 Installation – Post 13 Greenfield – 7:00 PM
- 19 Department President Testimonial – Post 7 Rochester – 5:00 PM Social
- 21 Installation – Post 98 Merrimack – 7:00 PM
- 22 Installation – Post 2 Manchester – 6:00 PM
- 22 Installation – Post 95 North Conway – 7:00 PM
- 22 Installation – Post 116 Dunbarton – 7:30 PM
- 25 Installation – Post 100 Pelham – 6:30 PM
- 26 Auxiliary DEC – Post 37 Hooksett – 9:30 AM
- 26 District 4 Spring Conference – Post 2 Manchester – 10:00 AM
- 26 Post 20 Color Guard – Mount Washington Hotel
- 27 CMN Bowl-a-thon – Boutwells Bowling – 11:00 AM
- 27 MWV Blessing of the Bikes – Chapter 95 ALR – 10:00 AM

Post Responsibility: Over the years there have been several issues with some of our local Posts in regards to failing to meet the obligations of their charter as a part of the American Legion and follow the requirements imposed upon them by the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws. Specifically, we have Post Officers who feel that it is okay or allow others to hold membership per-capita due to National and Department, alter financial books and statements and have gone as far as misappropriate funds from their own Post and its members. These actions have caught a lot of attention within your Department Executive Committee and National Headquarters has also started to take action against Departments not following the same proper procedure or requirements. As a result I was asked to address this issue in my newsletter and remind our American Legion Leadership they have a responsibility to provide the best service to their members. The following Articles of our Constitution and Bylaws address those Posts that may have Post Officers that do not meet minimum standards as elected officials and properly manage the business, property and affairs of the Post as part of the American Legion.

Article VII, Section 9, of our Department Constitution and Bylaws reads,

“Any Post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion Post, or refusing to pay the per capita tax due State and National Departments, shall upon order of the Department Executive Committee through the Department Commander, surrender its charter; upon failing to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation”.

Additionally:

Article VII, Section 11, reads,

“In case of revocation of the charter, the Post of The American Legion organized under the charter shall cease operations and turn over to the Department Headquarters, not only its charter, but all its records, property and assets in the possession of the Post or its officers within twenty (20) days thereafter”.

Let me remind everyone that misappropriation of funds is theft by statute in the State of NH and is prosecutable above and beyond what action the American Legion can take.

It is not the intention of the Department to become a police state, but it is the responsibility of this Department as members of the American Legion to ensure that our members are being treated fairly, their finances and resources are being managed properly. If this is not occurring then some sort of action is taken to correct any conduct or misappropriation as a result. Over the years there have been cases in some of our Posts where thousands of dollars have gone missing and or property has been lost because of mismanagement and misappropriation. Let it be known that it is your responsibility as a Post Officer to ensure this kind of activity is reported to proper authorities or some other action is taken to correct this activity.

“Serving as a Post Officer is a privilege and honor bestowed upon you by your fellow comrades. Through your election, your peers have recognized your leadership skills and potential to manage the post effectively”.

As a Department we will be monitoring any activity from any Post that could be considered inappropriate and will take action if necessary to correct that activity.

We have a great Department within the State of New Hampshire with dedicated people and up and coming leaders who want to see us grow and continue to be the voice for our veterans throughout the State. But we have a responsibility to those very same veterans to lead by example, to serve with loyalty, commitment, honesty, and integrity.

Next Department Executive Meeting: The next DEC meeting is scheduled for May 31st, place TBD at 10:00AM. This will be our budget meeting and will finalize our FY 2015 budget that will be presented at our Department Convention.

PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD