



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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



**CALL TO THE
98TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

THE 98TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, THE AMERICAN LEGION, IS HEREBY CALLED; AND, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ACTION OF THE 2015 CONVENTION, WILL BE HELD IN , NEW HAMPSHIRE ON MAY 20, 21 AND 22, 2016.

PURPOSE:

THIS CONVENTION IS CALLED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- 1. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CHAIRMAN OF STANDING AND SPECIAL DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES.**
- 2. TO ELECT, BY A PLURALITY VOTE, THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**
 - A. COMMANDER (1 YEAR)**
 - B. FOUR VICE COMMANDERS (1 YEAR)**
 - C. TREASURER (1 YEAR)**
 - D. JUDGE ADVOCATE (1 YEAR)**
 - E. HISTORIAN (1YEAR)**
 - F. AUDITOR (1 YEAR)**
- 3. TO ELECT REQUIRED NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO THE 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION (CINCINNATI, OHIO) (NOTE: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, IMMEDIATE PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, NATIONAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ARE DELEGATES BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE).**
- 4. TO TRANSACT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY BE LEGALLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE CONVENTION.**

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY BALLOT, WILL TAKE PLACE AS THE LAST ORDER OF BUSINESS DURING THE SATURDAY AM SESSIONS, MAY 21.

ANY CANDIDATE FOR AN ELECTIVE OFFICE IN THE AMERICAN LEGION WHICH REQUIRES A VOTE OF THE DELEGATES TO THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SHALL BE PRESENT ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER NOMINATING SPEECH. IF A CANDIDATE IS UNABLE TO BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER NOMINATING SPEECH, THEN A LETTER SIGNED BY THE CANDIDATE SIGNIFYING HIS OR HER INTENTION TO SEEK THE OFFICE, WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, NO LATER THAN 9:00AM ON THE DAY OF THE NOMINATION. CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION MUST FILE IN PERSON BEFORE 12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY

DAMEL YODER
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

There are only 200 tickets for the banquet this year due to the limited amount of room there is. Tickets are \$30.00 a person and can be purchased from Vern Leighton, Post 43, chochocharlie@comcast.net. We need to have these tickets sold as soon as possible in order to get a meal count to the hotel in a timely manner. Tickets will be enforced at the door. (No ticket no entry)

The Department does have convention shirts available (blue gold shirt or blue crew neck) Shirts are \$20.00 a piece.

Again, I am asking Posts to start thinking about getting names into Department for those members who have passed away since June 1, 2015. The Memorial Service is still scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 20th, before opening ceremonies. The cut off for submitting deceased to Department this year will be May 1st.

The Department is accepting Ads from Posts for the convention Ad book. Kevin Murnane from Post 51, is handling the Convention Ad Book this year and requests should be submitted through him.

2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

I apologize for running the same information month after month, but it is important that people see this information on these conventions in order to meet time lines.

This year's National Convention will be held August 26 – September 1, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Department will be staying at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel, 7373 Turfway Road, Florence Kentucky. This hotel is actually across the river from the City of Cincinnati and about 15 to 20 minutes from the convention center. This will make some travel difficult but National will have buses running as they normally do.

The cost per room is 137.00 this year which includes an 11.3% tax. I have 27 rooms available right now, 3 King, 2 ADA, and 22 Queens. I recommend you get your reservation into me sooner than later. I will need one night deposit of \$137.00, along with the national convention form you need to fill out giving me the nights and accommodation requests. This form is attached to this newsletter this month, and will be available on the website as well under the tab National Convention. Additional occupants in a room will be an additional \$10.00 per person for (3-4) people. A rollaway will also be an additional \$10.00 a night. So if you have more than 2 people in your room make sure you include in your deposit that additional rate.

Parking at the hotel is also free this year which will be a plus for those planning to drive out like me.

There is a restaurant located in the hotel along with a bar/lounge. The breakfast buffet is \$16.00 or there is a full menu for lunch and dinner as well. There are also a few other chain restaurants in or around the hotel within walking distance.

National Commander's Banquet tickets are still available at \$46.00 per ticket. Banquet is Tuesday evening, August 30 at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Seating is Rounds of 10. Commander Barnett has selected Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers as the entertainment. Menu is Fresh Spring Mixed Salad, Roasted Beef Short Rib and Stuffed Chicken Breast, Parmesan Garlic Mashed Potato Cake, Asparagus and Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. The deadline for getting tickets for this is was March 15th. National needs the count and if we wait much longer we run the chance of being split up to other tables around the banquet. I did get 30 tickets for this years banquet and 18 are called for already. If you plan on going to the banquet I need to know ASAP.

The housing forms and other information is posted on the website.

Testimonial Dinner in Honor of

John Graham & Jessie Bernard

Saturday, May 14, 2016
At Hidden Hills Banquet Facilities
Rindge, NH

5:00 pm Cocktails

6:00 pm Dinner

Country Western Buffet

Hind Quarter of Beef with Western Sauce

Barbecued Chicken, Hickory Ham, Chili

Country Style Garden Salad

French Fried Potatoes

Sour Dough Rolls, Condiments

Coffee and Punch

Dress: Western Motif

\$25.00 per Person

RSVP by April 23, 2016

*****Name:

_____ # of Tickets _____

Mail checks to: Karyl Horn, 20 Bunker Lane, Madbury, NH 03823

Make checks payable to: Gerard Bernard (in the memo line put "Testimonial")

Tickets will be held at the door.



WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS CEREMONY

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 11:00am
Hanover High School Gymnasium
41 Lebanon Street
Hanover, NH 03755

Parking is limited on the high school campus. We ask that unless you have a need for close parking, please utilize the Thompson Arena lot at Dartmouth College and the smaller lot across the street. Additionally, street parking, labeled as “requiring a permit”, around the venue will be free to those attending. If you utilize metered parking, you will need to pay. Please come prepared to walk in inclement weather should this be the case.



WANTED



I'm doing a little time for a lot of good!

On May 5th, I'll be going behind bars to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Stop by, call or email me to donate to my "bail" prior to my arrest!

Visit my fundraising page at: <http://www2.mda.org/goto/DanielYoder>

		
About 250 MDA-funded research projects underway in 18 countries	Nearly 57,000 visits to 150 MDA Care Clinics	Nearly 75 weeklong MDA summer camps for thousands of kids

Kids and adults in our community are living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases that take away everyday freedoms like walking, talking, hugging and even breathing. By donating to my bail, you can bring strength and hope to individuals and families in our community living with these life-threatening diseases.



PLEASE POST

As a American Legion member, it is our duty to uphold and promote the children and youth of this country. Besides raising money for the American Legion, I am in the process of raising money for children who are not as lucky to attend some of the more regular programs the American Legion promotes, like baseball, Girl and Boys State to name just a few. These children may not be able to participate because they do not have the freedoms of movement because of the diseases like MDA that keep them from living normal lives like other children.

As a result, I've turned myself in, so I'll be doing a little time behind bars and I need your help to break free! That's right – I'm headed to the slammer and the money I raise towards my bail will help kids and adults break free from the harmful effects of muscle debilitating diseases.

Did you know that muscular dystrophy, ALS and related disease take away everyday freedoms like walking, running, hugging and even breathing? That's why I'm dedicating my time behind bars to help MDA fund ground-breaking research across diseases, provide critical care from the first day of diagnosis and empower families with services and support in hometowns across America.

Please join me by making a donation! With your support, we'll move toward a future in which kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related

life-threatening diseases live longer and grow stronger.

Daniel Yoder

Department Adjutant

American Legion

Below is some information that is going around or needs to be explained about the difference between VA and DOD Disability Ratings.

Here is some useful information for our Veterans. The Department of Defense (DOD) has admitted to under-rating Veterans who were discharged between Sep. 11, 2001 thru Dec. 31, 2009. Any Veteran that was **medically discharged** in this time frame and was **given a disability percentage of less than 20%** is eligible to apply to the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). Please review this link for information:

<http://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review/PDBR-FAQs> .

This link defines who is eligible and other FAQs. This is separate from VA claims and will not affect a Veterans VA benefits. Veterans cannot complete this process electronically, because of the need for original signatures.

What are the Major Differences between DoD and VA Disability Benefits?

Here are some important differences between DoD disability benefits and VA disability benefits. Understanding these differences may help you sort out the benefits puzzle.

- DoD permanent disability ratings do not change after they have been made, while VA disability ratings can change over time. Thus, if the DoD rates your injury at 30 percent and places you on the Permanent Disability Ratings List (PDRL), that rating will remain at 30 percent for the rest of your life. Conversely, if the VA rates that same injury at 30 percent, ten years down the road they may decide to change your rating to 20 percent or less should they believe your condition has improved.
- DoD disability compensation is calculated based upon your service time, rank (basic pay rate), and disability rating. VA disability ratings are based entirely upon the severity of the injury.
- DoD disability ratings are given only for conditions occurring from the injury a service member is claiming, while the VA will take your entire medical condition as a whole into consideration in making a rating decision. Thus, if a service member has several injuries, but only one of those injuries brings him before the PEB for a DoD disability determination, only that injury will be considered in determining his percentage of disability. However, if the VA was to examine the very same individual, they would take into account all of that person's injuries in making their total disability rating.

- If your disability rating is between 30 - 50%, you will be eligible for healthcare with military disability retirement benefits, but may have a lower priority for VA healthcare benefits. (You need 50% or higher disability ratings to get the highest priority for VA healthcare.)
- Between now and 2014, a military retiree who qualifies for VA disability benefits will lose a portion of his retired pay based on complicated rules. (Beginning in 2014, assuming the law does not change between now and then, you will be allowed to collect the full amount of both benefits, if you qualify for both.)
- If you are a low-ranking service member, you might get less from the military retirement disability than from the VA because the military benefit is based in part on rank.
- Again, each agency has its own rating system. So you can receive a different rating from the VA than you did from the DoD. But it is unlikely that you would get a lower rating from the VA than one you got from the DoD. Social Security uses yet another set of standards; you must be found totally disabled to qualify there.

Which system is faster?

Several factors play a role in how long the process will take, including such things as:

- the nature of the injury,
- the amount and quality of evidence to support your claim,
- the backlog of cases that the VA or DoD is dealing with, and
- the number of times your claim is denied or appealed.

In 2006, the VA reported that it took an average of 196 days to get a first decision. But this process can stretch out several years if your claim is denied and appealed numerous times.

The initial DoD process is often even longer than the VA process because service members are usually placed on the Temporary Disability Rating List (TDRL) first. You can remain on that list for up to five years before a final determination is made.

So, the VA may be a faster way to get a disability rating. But also keep in mind that, if you are ultimately successful, the DoD or VA will pay you back pay from the time you incurred the injury, or left the service, respectively. Generally speaking, we don't advise you to pick a program based on how long you think it will take. Instead, start with the benefit that you think fits your situation the best. You may want to ignore this advice only if your primary criteria is getting benefits flowing as soon as possible.

PLEASE POST