

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

**TO MY LEGION FAMILY:**

**THE 97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Last month I addressed the Department Convention coming up on June 25 – 28, 2015 in Manchester, N.H. at the Radisson Hotel. This is the same location the convention has been in for the last few years. The deadline for reserving rooms was March 31. As I write this, there are about 48 Posts in this Department that have not made any attempt at reserving rooms for convention. It is important that each Post try to send some representation to the convention. This is the time to make your voice heard and vote for the future leadership of this organization and its annual operating budget. If you have any questions on rooms or the Convention you may contact the Convention Committee Chairmen, Bob Blais, email: [robt125@comcast.net](mailto:robt125@comcast.net), or the Housing Chairmen, Deb Davis, email: [armygirl13@myfairpoint.net](mailto:armygirl13@myfairpoint.net).

I set up a tab on the website where I will be putting information for people to go to and see what is going on along with any forms or applications that need to be filled out for specific events or information. This can be found on the front page of the website at [www.legionnh.org](http://www.legionnh.org).

Additionally, the Department is trying to make its Ad Book better from years past. This year we have a company out of Massachusetts, Eastern Advertising, who will be soliciting for commercial and business ads for our Ad Book. I want to make you aware of this in case your Post receives any calls from businesses in your area wondering if this is a true solicitation. The money raised from this book will go towards offsetting the cost of convention and to programs of the American Legion. I have posted on the website the Ad form for Posts to use when requesting to submit an Ad for the Post or a candidate which will go directly to us. The deadline for getting theses Ad forms back to us is May 1<sup>st</sup>.



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF  
THE AMERICAN  
LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
May 4-5, 1988

Resolution No. 37: Reaffirmation of The American Legion Policy Concerning  
Affiliation With Other Organizations

Submitted by: Resolutions Subcommittee

WHEREAS, The American Legion adopted Resolution No. 6, National Executive Committee, October 10-11-12, 1952, concerning the affiliation of The American Legion with other organizations, and

WHEREAS, The adoption of that resolution was a reaffirmation of a long-established policy of The American Legion which has proved its wisdom by prohibiting The American Legion from joining any such organization, committee, association, council, or group in which The American Legion is not permitted a full voice and vote in determining matters of policy of such organization, committee, association, council or group; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 1988, That The American Legion shall not be a member of, or affiliated with, any organization, committee, association, council or group whereby The American Legion might be committed to a policy contrary to that adopted by The American Legion, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Adjutant is instructed to circulate this resolution to all Departments and National Officers of The American Legion on a yearly basis.

If your Post does have contact with this group or any other group of this nature and you are unsure of its intention call Department headquarters and I will check into it for you and give you an answer as to their affiliation and intentions.

**VA SEEKS NEW LAW TO CHANGE VETERANS CHOICE RULES:**

For many of you, including me, the Choice Card continues to be a matter of question as to when and how to use it. Apparently many others are too as the VA continues to change the rules effecting the card. The following article addresses some of these rule changes.

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson acknowledged that veterans are frustrated with the Veterans Choice program, but said VA is intent on fixing the issues that have cropped up with the new initiative.

The Veterans Affairs Department has asked for new legislation that would let it pay for private health care for veterans who live near a VA clinic but can't get the treatment they need because it's not offered at that location.

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Tuesday that vets are "frustrated" with the VA Choice program, particularly the

requirement that measures eligibility by a veteran's proximity to any VA health facility — even those that are not full-service medical centers.

Gibson said many veterans are excluded from the program because of this provision in the law and few have applied for waivers to the rules.

"Many veterans are frustrated with the Choice program," Gibson said. "Such confusion leads to lower use of Choice."

The VA announced earlier Tuesday that it will change another aspect of the program, the definition of the 40-mile distance rule for veterans to access the Veterans Choice program.

Instead of using an "as the crow flies" measure of 40 miles, VA will rely on actual driving distance from a VA medical facility as the qualifier to use the program. Some lawmakers expressed skepticism that VA needs formal legislation to make the change to accommodate veterans who live within the 40-mile distance but can't get the care they need.

But lawmakers pledged to make the fix. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate committee, said his staff would work with the staff of the committee's ranking Democrat, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., to draft legislation in the next two weeks. "The faster we act on that, the better off we are. I don't think there's any disagreement on the committee," Isakson said.

VA officials say the department distributed nearly 80 million VA Choice Cards when the program was initiated in November 2014. To date, it has approved about 46,000 requests for care and managed 44,461 appointments.

VA has a process to get patients to private care if they face undue burdens accessing VA care, but only 125 have asked for a waiver so far, Gibson said.

"It's our program, and we're working hard to improve it, to quickly overcome issues as we discover them and to ask for your assistance in areas where we need help," Gibson told the senators.

He said next month VA will send teams to facilities in some areas served by private contracts to analyze why they have long wait lists for care but few Veterans Choice referrals.

He also asked Congress to update the laws that allow VA to enter into agreements for providing care through civilian doctors.

"This change would let us streamline and speed up how we purchase care for an individual veteran," Gibson said.

Representatives of veterans' advocacy groups who testified at the hearing said they're delighted that VA decided to change the criteria for enforcing the 40-mile rule — a change that VA says will take effect in the coming weeks — but still harbor some concerns about VA's support of the Choice program.

**"Seems to be a problem of following the letter of the law instead of the spirit of the law," grumbled Roscoe Butler, the American Legion's deputy director for health care.**

Blumenthal also expressed concern that regardless of future legislative changes, VA might find loopholes to deny veterans care. He urged the department to act quickly in helping veterans use the program.

"This is not a threat to VA," Blumenthal said. "It's a different mode of helping serving the health care needs of veterans." (*Kime, Patricia, 2015, Military Times*).

### **2015 FIRST FLIGHT HONOR FLIGHT NEW ENGLAND:**

This will be the first time I addressing this program but I believe very much in what this flight does and is similar in nature to what the Pease Greeters do out at the Pease Airport for returning heroes. I was one who benefited from these greetings when returning from deployment in 2009 and appreciated all that these volunteers do to greet our men and women of our armed services.

**1ST FLIGHT OF THE 2015 FLYING SEASON!!!**

**SUNDAY APRIL 19TH, 2015**

**Greeters for the send off / welcome home can meet us at the Manchester/Boston Regional Airport terminal.**

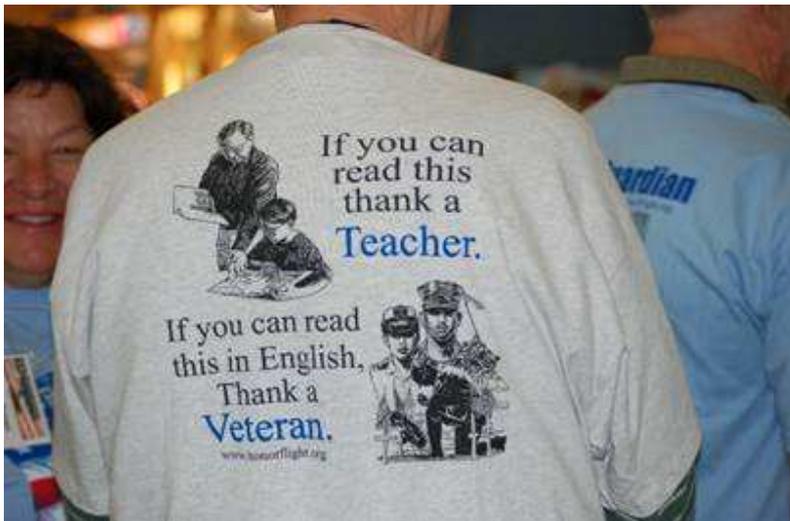
**PLEASE COME SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND PASS THIS INFO TO ANYONE YOU THINK WOULD BE INTERESTED. BRING FLAGS, BANNERS, ENTHUSIASM, AND GRATITUDE FOR OUR HEROES!!!**

The **FIRST** flight of the 2015 season is fast approaching. We are so happy to begin the new season in the place where it all began. The Manchester send offs and welcome homes are events like no other. Our heroes are always amazed by the turn out and by the sincere appreciation that our HFNE family shows to them. **As with all flights since 2009, YOU will be the ones to make this flight successful.**

**APRIL 19TH 2015- Southwest Airlines**

**The bus with our heroes will arrive curbside at the Southwest Terminal approximately 6 AM**

**We should be landing at the Southwest Terminal at 10:15 PM.**



The HFNE veteran T-shirt says it all. Since 2009, it has been their mission to say **THANK YOU** to the men and women who sacrificed so much for us and this great nation. We will not relent, and our mission will not be over until our New England heroes receive the thanks they so richly deserve. HFNE will always be committed to our heroes, no matter where they reside in New England.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE **WWII AND KOREAN WAR** HEROES IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO JOIN US.

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING.

PLEASE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- April 11, Auxiliary Spring Conference, Lebanon Post 22, 9:30 am
- April 12, CMN Bowl-A-Thon, Boutwells Bowling center, Concord
- April 18, District 1 Spring Meeting. Location TBT, 10:00 am
- April 18, Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home, Pease ANGB, 2:00 pm
- April 19, District 4 Spring Meeting, Manchester Post 43, 12:00 pm
- April 25, Commander Dionne Testimonial Dinner, Hooksett Post 37, 6:00 pm
- April 25, District 8 Spring Meeting,

**MILITARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

- April 1st, 1945: U.S. forces land on Okinawa
- April 1st, 1968: Operation Pegasus begins
- April 2nd, 1865: Siege of Petersburg ends
- April 2nd, 1942: India- Burma Campaign begins
- April 4th, 1945: North Apennines Campaign ends
- April 5th, 1945: Po Valley Campaign begins
- April 6th, 1862: Battle of Shiloh begins
- April 6th, 1917: U. S. enters WWI
- April 7th, 1862: Battle of Shiloh ends
- April 9th, 1865: Lee surrenders at Appomattox
- April 9th, 1942: U. S. forces on Bataan surrender
- April 9th, 1987: Special Forces becomes a separate branch of the Army
- April 12th, 1861: Rebel forces fire on Fort Sumter
- April 12th, 1983: Aviation Branch established
- April 16th, 1947: Medical Specialists Corps established
- April 19th, 1775: Battle of Lexington and Concord
- April 25th, 1898: U. S. declares war on Spain
- April 26th, 1832: Black Hawk War begins
- April 28th, 1952: Occupation of Japan ends
- April 28th, 1965: U. S. forces invade Dominican Republic
- April 29th, 1970: U. S. forces invade Cambodia
- April 30th, 1863: Battle of Chancellorsville begins

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION:**

I was going to take this section out of the newsletter this month but after our poor showing for our April 95% deadline I decided to leave this in. None of it has changed and this Department is still in last place in membership ranking across national. As I write this we are approximately 1100 members shy of our 95% goal which is on April 8.

I tried to open people's eyes by showing them the following statistics but apparently either people do not care or patriotism is dying in this Department. This is a hard cold fact that if we do not do something soon to turn our membership around we will start to lose the voice we have in Congress and at the state level along with over shadowing the VA and the many other veteran programs that the American Legion has promoted over the years. This includes scholarships and children and youth programs and many others across the board.

Did you know that the last time our membership was below 2 million was 1945 when it was 1,667,742? Our 2014 total ended the year at 2,208,651 – lowest total we have seen in 70 years!

I know none of us want to see those totals drop below 2 million.

This year the Department of New Hampshire will be at its lowest mark for membership since 1966 when we had a total of 17,706 members and run the risk of going even lower to figures this Department has not seen since 1955.

Recently I sat down with PDC Bill Hooley and we went over a strategy that he is looking to incorporate in his Post. This will involve sending letters out past members and veterans within the community explaining what the American Legion is all about. Additionally there needs to be more face to face contact with veterans who still have many questions about the American Legion that not always a mailing can cover. I am going to include the following as part of a draft letter that I believe Post Commanders can use as a recruiting tool to send out to prospective members in their community. This can be tailored to your Post specifically as this one was and include any information that you feel is important.

Dear Veteran,

Remember when you decided to enlist into the military, you took an oath to defend our nation and its constitution not knowing where your assignment may be or whether you would be stationed state side or in an overseas location far away from home. However you dreamed of doing your part for this great nation with honor and pride protecting this countries freedom and fighting for the future of your family to be free. You did this not thinking about the sacrifice you may have to make and this shows you care for all the things this country was built on.

The battle is not over and we need your help. The American Legion continues to fight for those things you earned while serving this country. To carry on the mission of aiding our veterans, their families and all the programs the American Legion supports which give back to those who fought and served so bravely. Help us help them and you. Join the American Legion and become a voice for our veterans. Whether you come to our Post for a meeting or to socialize with the many veterans and families that belong to this Post there are many advantages and perk's that come along with becoming a member of the American Legion. There is a bi-monthly Legion magazine, a State newspaper, Post newsletters that show what the American Legion is doing for you and the community around you. Additionally there is a breakfast the last Sunday of the month. For just \$7.00, \$6.50 for seniors, children are welcome; you can enjoy an atmosphere that encompasses a sense of family; plus many other benefits and events which are part of this American Legion Post.

In order for you to understand the American Legion it is important that you know what the American Legion does. As a potential member of the American Legion you become part of a voice and seat before Congress. You become part of an organization that is at the forefront of all service organizations and without the American Legion there would have been no GI Bill. Many veterans do not know the GI Bill was one of the greatest pieces of social legislation ever passed for veterans

and was solely supported by the American Legion at a time when people thought it would do no good. A lot of people thought America couldn't afford it. But the GI Bill made it possible for veterans, like you, after World War II to get an education and accomplish great things. This continues today and if not for the GI Bill thousands of veterans would not be getting the education they are today. The American Legion ensured this legislation passed and since has helped all veterans who had few if any benefits.

The American Legion is a veteran's organization that provides financial, social and economic support to members of the armed forces and their families. Since 1919, the American Legion has been a support structure for veterans. No other organization can even say or come close to that. The American Legion continues to provide services to help veterans file claims and find employment and also supports all members of the military. As a result the American Legion led the way in ensuring our veterans continue to receive the best care holding the VA accountable for recent events inside that organization leading to a much needed restructure of leadership in the VA.

The American Legion has been involved directly and indirectly in helping people come back from natural disasters for decades through programs like the National Emergency Fund that has raised millions of dollars to help veterans and their families recover from all types of natural disasters through direct participation in cleanup to financial assistance and services.

You can become part of this great organization that was built on honor and pride, the very things that many joined the service for to begin with. Be part of the American Legion tradition that has been in existence for almost 100 years. Will you not help us become stronger, be a member of the American Legion!

Our Post dues are \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely

Post Commander  
American Legion

Let's get it done!!

The fate of where we go is in our hands. The solution is simple – we have to sign up and keep more members than we have - not an easy task but one I know together we can accomplish it.

## **FACT SHEET: 'Superbug' and Scopes:**

If you are wondering why I am putting fact in my newsletter this month; well I believe sometimes we have to be concerned about what is going on medically with our veterans too and this particular fact was one that was brought to my attention some time ago. I wanted to pass it on to those that may have concerns or have heard issues about these procedures.

There has been some concern regarding the 'superbug' and scopes associated with the spread of the disease.

What you should know:

- Manchester VAMC does not perform procedures that require or utilize these scopes.
- Manchester VA does not use *duodenoscopes*

The scopes in question are *duodenoscopes*, which are used in complex procedures that examine or treat diseases of the bile or pancreatic duct. These procedures, Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), require a specialized scope that uses a complex elevator wire channel and have an opening at the tip.

The scopes used at the Manchester VA are the standard colonoscopes and endoscopes that **DO NOT** have a special channel or opening, and are used for examination and diagnosing.

**What we use:**

Endoscope



**Scopes in question:**

Duodenoscope



Veterans, if you have questions, please feel free to contact our Infection Preventionist, Meri Robinson, MSN, RN at (603) 657- 5395.

**PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD**