



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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

A NEW YEAR:

The Department of New Hampshire has a lot of work to do this year. Membership has and still is a major problem for this Department. While other Departments are flourishing in numbers and making great strides in increasing their membership, this Department continues to go backwards. As of December 31, 2014 this Department is only at 71.133%. We are not even close to being where we should be for the beginning of the New Year and having not made our 75% goal on December 10, 2014 it looks like we will not make our 80% goal due on January 21, 2015.

This Department has caught the attention of National Headquarters and currently there are only two Departments that have worse percentages then we do. Neither of them is in this Continent, being France and the Philippines. As a result of this attention, National Headquarters will be sending people our way in order to get us headed in the right direction. We will be getting a visit from our National Vice Commander, Doug Haggan the week of our Mid-Winter Conference.

I cannot stress enough the importance of each and every officer of this Department, including our Post officers, to get involved in trying to turn things around. If I had a clear answer for you I would give it to you. But I can tell you we do have resources to help your District and your Post in trying to bring awareness to the veterans of this state. I encourage you to take advantage of any and all resources available to you and bring some pride back into this Department.

Additionally as many of you are aware it was announced at the last Department Convention by Internal Affairs that the Department would start taking steps to ensure compliance with the National, and Department Constitution & Bylaws by our local Posts. This included conducting Audits on Posts where issues have come to the attention of the Department. This included any issues of mismanagement and misappropriation by

Post Officers and any other issues affecting the membership of the American Legion in a negative way.

Recently the Department started to do that very thing and has had to take action against one Post as a result of non-compliance issues. Further information will be out on this, however at this time it is only important for our local Posts and their leaders to conduct themselves in a manner that is the standard of the American Legion. We are here to serve our membership and its veterans and not the interests of any one person within a particular Post.

The Department will be moving forward to conduct further audits on other Posts within this Department as is determined to be necessary. There is speculation by some of our Posts the Department has no authority to demand an audit of the Post. This is further from the truth and is covered under the very Constitution & Bylaws in which they operate as stated in the following:

Article VII - Section 13. The books, records, check books and accounts of each Post and District within the Department of New Hampshire shall be made available to the Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and Department Treasurer or their authorized representatives upon demand by registered mail, within ten days, by the custodian of said records.

The Department of New Hampshire wants to make 2015 a positive year and continue to work on the growth of this great organization. But it is also the responsibility of every leader at the Post, District, and Department levels to protect the interests of its membership.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE:

The Winter Conference will be held on January 31ST, 2015, at Post 7 in Rochester. I urge everyone to participate and there will be much that we will try to cover at this conference.

The following is an outline of the agenda as it stands now. Remember this agenda is subject to change and probably will right up to the time of the conference.

I am always looking for suggestions to try to make this conference better. Also we will be looking for a more centrally located area to hold this conference at next year.

Saturday, January 31, 2015:

8:00 am – Registration opens, coffee and Donuts

9:00 am – Opening of morning joint session, introductions, and projects

9:10 am – Introduction of SAL Guest – SAL National Vice Commander

9:20 am – Introduction of National Vice Commander – Northeast Region

9:30 am – Report by Bob Blais – Convention Committee

9:45 am – Any further Announcements TBD, Mid-Winter Raffle drawing

10:00 am – Brief Intermission – Auxiliary and SAL to respective sessions

10:00 am – Legion – Training sessions begin, Speakers TBA from the following:

- Liquor Commission
- Insurance Guidance
- Gaming

11:15 am to 12:30 Lunch – Jr Auxiliary

Legion – Afternoon Session

12:30 pm – Legion reconvene – Auxiliary and SAL to respective sessions

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm - Legion Training

2:15 pm – Any Other business before conference

3:00 pm - Announcements for Office:

Department Commander
National Executive Committeemen
Alternate NEC
Department Vice Commanders – 4
Judge Advocate
Historian
Auditor

3:10 pm – Department Commander remarks

3:30 pm – Closing

2015 VA Disability Compensation Rates:

The following tables show the 2015 VA compensation rates for veterans with a disability rating 10 percent or higher. (Effective Dec. 1, 2014)

Dependents Allowance:

In addition veterans entitled to compensation whose disability is rated as 30 percent or more, shall be entitled to additional compensation for dependents as follows (monthly amounts):

Without Children:

Disability Rating: 30% - 60%

Disability Rating: 70% - 100%

With Children:

Disability Rating: 30% - 60%

Disability Rating: 70% - 100%

10% - 20% (With or Without Dependents)

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$133.17
20%	\$263.23

30% - 60% Without Children

Dependent Status	30	40	50	60
Veteran Alone	\$407.75	\$587.36	\$836.13	\$1,059.09
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$455.75	\$651.36	\$917.13	\$1,156.09
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$494.75	\$703.36	\$982.13	\$1,234.09
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$533.74	\$755.36	\$1,047.13	\$1,312.09
Veteran with One Parent	\$446.75	\$639.36	\$901.13	\$1,137.09
Veteran with Two Parents	\$485.75	\$691.36	\$966.13	\$1,215.09
	\$44.00	\$59.00*	\$74.00	\$89.00

Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote [b](#))

70% - 100% Without Children

Dependent Status	70	80	90	100
Veteran Alone	\$1,334.71	\$1,551.48	\$1,743.48	\$2,906.83
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$1,447.71	\$1,680.48	\$1,888.48	\$3,068.90
Veteran with Spouse and One Parent	\$1,538.71	\$1,784.48	\$2,005.48	\$3,198.96
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$1,629.71	\$1,888.48	\$2,122.48	\$3,329.02
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,425.71	\$1,655.48	\$1,860.48	\$3,036.89
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,516.71	\$1,759.48	\$1,977.48	\$3,166.95
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$104.00	\$118.00	\$133.00	\$148.64

30% - 60% With Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$491.75	\$699.36	\$976.13	\$1,227.09
Veteran with Child Only	\$439.75	\$630.36	\$890.13	\$1,124.09
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$530.75	\$751.36	\$1,041.13	\$1,305.09
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$569.75	\$803.36	\$1,106.13	\$1,383.09
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$478.75	\$682.36	\$955.13	\$1,202.09
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$517.75	\$734.36	\$1,020.13	\$1,280.09
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$78.00	\$104.00	\$130.00	\$156.00
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$44.00	\$59.00	\$74.00	\$89.00

70% - 100% With Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$1,530.71	\$1,775.48	\$1,995.48	\$3,187.60
Veteran with Child Only	\$1,409.71	\$1,637.48	\$1,840.48	\$3,015.22
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$1,621.71	\$1,879.48	\$2,112.48	\$3,317.66
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$1,712.71	\$1,983.48	\$2,229.48	\$3,447.72
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,500.71	\$1,741.48	\$1,957.48	\$3,145.28
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$1,591.71	\$1,845.48	\$2,074.48	\$3,275.34

Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.52
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$182.00	\$208.00	\$234.00	\$260.13
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$104.00	\$118.00	\$133.00	\$148.64

FOOTNOTES:

- **A.** Rates for each school child are shown separately. They are not included with any other compensation rates. All other entries on this chart reflecting a rate for children show the rate payable for children under 18 or helpless. To find the amount payable to a 70% disabled Veteran with a spouse and four children, one of whom is over 18 and attending school, take the 70% rate for a veteran with a spouse and 3 children, \$ 1,642.71, and add the rate for one school child, \$182.00. The total amount payable is \$1,824.71.
- **B.** Where the veteran has a spouse who is determined to require A/A, add the figure shown as "additional for A/A spouse" to the amount shown for the proper dependency code. For example, veteran has A/A spouse and 2 minor children and is 70% disabled. Add \$104.00, additional for A/A spouse, to the rate for a 70% veteran with dependency code 12, \$1,586.71. The total amount payable is \$1,690.71.

These rates were provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The original copies can be found at: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>.

VA Travel Reimbursement

Reimbursement for mileage or public transportation may be paid to the following:

1. Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more;
2. Veterans traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition;
3. Veterans receiving a VA pension;
4. Veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations;
5. Veterans whose income does not exceed the maximum VA pension rate;

Mileage Reimbursement is at the rate of 41.5 cents per mile. These milieage subject to a deductible of \$3 for a one way trip, \$6 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$18 per or the amount after six one-way trips (whichever occurs first) per calendar month. However, these deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

The deductible is also waived for veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations.

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