



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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

AMERICAN LEGION 96TH NH STATE CONVENTION: This is a reminder to everyone of our annual State Convention for the Department of NH on June 20, 21, and 22, 2014. This year the following offices will be open for election:

- A. COMMANDER (1 YEAR)
- B. FOUR VICE COMMANDERS (1 YEAR)
- C. TREASURER (2 YEARS)
- D. JUDGE ADVOCATE (1 YEAR)
- E. HISTORIAN (1YEAR)
- F. AUDITOR (1 YEAR)

Colorguard Competition will be held on **Friday, the 20th, at 5:00 pm**. Those Posts considering on having a colorguard compete need to have an application into Department by **June 10th, 2014**.

We want to remind everyone that Delegate sheets are due to Department by **June 10th** (NO EXCEPTIONS). We will not take Delegate sheets at the convention. If your delegates were not registered previously to convention then they will not be able to vote. Please help us help you.

The following is the agenda for this year's convention.

Thursday – June 19, 2014

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Pre-registration of delegates and alternates.

Friday – June 20, 2014

7:45 AM Memorial Service in the Armory, Radisson Hotel, (Doors Close at 8:00 AM) Opening ceremonies for Convention.

Advancement of Colors (Department Championship Color Guard)

Invocation

Memorial Service

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Only) Registration of delegates and alternates to national Convention at department Hotel headquarters – Radisson.

(If you are a District Delegate to the National Convention you are not required to register again).

9:00 AM Meeting of the Rules Committee – Chairmen

9:00 AM (Joint Session)

Call Convention to Order – Department Commander

Colors in Place

Invocation

Placement of POW/MIA Flag

Pledge of Allegiance Led

Preamble

Address of Welcome

Call to Convention

9:10 AM Welcome Addresses

Mayor

NH Delegation

10:00 AM Break (Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion Excused) 15 Min

10:20 AM Report of Rules Committee

10:30 AM Announcements for Department Officers for 2014-2015

11:30 AM Adjutant Announces rooms for Committee Meetings and Caucuses

11:35 AM Break for Lunch (return at 1:00 PM)

- 1:00 PM Sons of the American legion Opening Session
Convention Committee Meetings
- 2:30 PM **Caucuses (Caucuses will be broken up into 4 Districts each)**
(#1 Caucus, Districts 1,3,5,7)
(#2 Caucus, Districts 2,4,6,8)
- 5:00 PM Color Guard Competition (Radisson Grand Ballroom)

Saturday – June 21, 2014

- 8:00 AM (Cont) registration of delegates and alternates to this Annual Convention
- 8:30 AM Reconvene Convention
Call Convention to order
Colors in Place
Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance
- 9:00 AM Reports of the Committee Chairmen results of Meetings:
Americanism
Finance Chairmen
Constitution & By-Laws
Internal Affairs
Resolutions
Trophy & Awards
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Children & Youth
Uniform Groups
- 10:30 AM Greetings from Department President
Installation of Sons of the American Legion Detachment Officers
Nominations of Department Officers
Presentation of Awards
- 11:00 AM Report from Department Convention Committee Chairmen
- 11:15 AM Meeting of Credentials Committee
- 11:45 AM Election Setup
- 12:00 PM **Election of Department Officers and Delegates to national Convention**

- 12:45 PM Tellers Meeting after the vote
- 2:30 PM Reconvene for Final Business Session
Complete presentation of Awards
- 6:00 PM Social for Banquet
- 7:00 PM Banquet, Including Changing of the Guard

Sunday – June 22, 2014

- 9:00 AM Wreath Laying at War Memorials in Park

Adjourn Convention

I want to remind everyone this schedule agenda is subject to change at any time. Saturday’s reconvene in the morning may occur earlier than scheduled but is determined by Fridays events and it will be announced if there is any changes in times and or places for events. I ask that you be patient. This year’s convention is almost entirely being handled by your Department Office and there are a lot of moving parts for us to handle with such few people. Let’s make this a good convention, something we can be proud off.

COMMITTEE MEETING ROOMS

- 1) RULES COMMITTEE FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 9:00 AM CURRIER ROOM
- 2) INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FRIDAY JUNE 20, AT 1:00 PM
WEBSTER ROOM
- 3) TROPHIES AND AWARDS FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00 PM FROST ROOM
- 4) RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00 PM PIERCE
ROOM
- 5) CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00
PM PIERCE ROOM
- 6) VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00
PM HAWTHORN ROOM
- 7) CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00 PM
STARK ROOM

8) UNIFORM AND MUSICAL GROUPS FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 1:00PM FROST ROOM

9) CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SATURDAY JUNE 21 AT 11:15 AM HAWTHORNE ROOM

District Caucus Meeting Rooms (TBA)

Department Calendar

June 2014

Subject to Change

June

7	8/40 Lamarche – Post 4 Keene – 9:30 AM
20-22	96 th Annual State Convention – Radisson Manchester
28	Allied Memorial Ride

New ID Cards for Vets Enrolled in VA Health Care: The VA is introducing a new, secure identification card called the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. The VA is committed to providing the high quality, safe and effective healthcare Veterans have earned and deserve, and part of this effort includes ensuring the personal security of Veterans. As part of a phased rollout, on February 21, 2014, the VA began issuing the newly designed, more secure VHIC to newly enrolled and other Veterans who were not issued a VIC. Starting in April; the VA will begin a replacement effort to automatically mail the more secure VHIC to Veterans who have the old VIC. All Veterans who are enrolled and have the old card should have their new replacement card by July.



The VA expects to complete mailings of the replacement VHICs by July. To ensure receipt of the new VHIC, enrolled Veterans should make sure that the VA has their correct mailing address. The new VHIC is distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel. The Social Security number and date of birth were removed from the barcode and magnetic strip. Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran's Member ID and branch of service emblem, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID which reflects the Veteran's enrollment in VA health care. The VHIC is for use in VA medical facilities and does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA medical facilities. *Your Current Card is Good until You Receive Your New Card!* Veterans can continue to use their current VIC card until their new VHIC is received as VA health care applications have been enhanced to read both the new VHIC as well as the old card. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced with the new VHIC. *If enrolled in VA healthcare*, a Veteran who does not currently have a VIC can request a VHIC at their next VA health care appointment. In order to ensure your identity, you'll need to present an appropriate form of ID, such as your driver's license. And while you're there make sure that your record is updated with your current address. Your VHIC will be mailed to you, generally within 5-7 days. *If you are not enrolled with the VA and want to receive a VHIC*, you will need to apply for enrollment. You can do that online (which is the fastest way to apply for enrollment) at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll. You can also apply by phone at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), by mail or in person at your local VA health care facility. Of course, you will need to go to your local VA to have your picture taken. Veterans who were issued a VIC do not need to return to their VA medical center to have a photo taken for the VHIC. *Veterans find it is convenient* to bring in their identification documents and get their picture taken for their VHIC at their first scheduled appointment. Be sure to bring an appropriate form of ID such as your driver's license. Once your enrollment is confirmed, your new VHIC will be mailed to you, generally within 5-7 days. *For more information*, you may contact us at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), you may visit your local VA medical facility Enrollment Coordinator or you may find more information online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic.

Annual exempt organization return: Penalties for failure to file

There seems to be some issues with Posts filing their required financial paperwork on time. This is just one of the many issues affecting some of the Posts in this Department. I know of one Post that was fined \$16,500.00 for failing to file required paperwork in a timely basis.

If an organization fails to file a required return by the due date (including any extensions of time), it must pay a penalty of \$20 a day for each day the return is late. The same penalty applies if the organization does not give all the information required on the return or does not give the correct information.

In general, the maximum penalty for any return is the lesser of \$10,000 or 5 percent of the organization's gross receipts for the year. For an organization that has gross receipts of over \$1 million for the year, the penalty is \$100 a day up to a maximum of \$50,000.

If the organization is subject to this penalty, the IRS may specify a date by which the return of correct information must be filed. If the return is not filed by that date, an individual within the organization who fails to comply may be charged a penalty of \$10 a day. The maximum penalty on all individuals for failures with respect to a return shall not exceed \$5,000.

Please note: Automatic revocation occurs when an exempt organization that is required to file an annual return (e.g., Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-PF) or submit an annual electronic notice (Form 990-N, or e-Postcard) does not do so for three consecutive years. Under the law, the organization automatically loses its federal tax exemption.

Penalties for failure to file may be abated if the organization has reasonable cause for the failure to file timely, completely, or accurately.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to make sure that your Post is filing all the required paperwork that it needs to, not just to the IRS, but also to this very Department.

Because of all the problems and issues that have arisen this past year with some of our Posts, Internal Affairs has directed me to track these issues and we are going to start conducting audits of financial books and statements of any post that is showing any evidence of misappropriation, missing funds, theft, fraud, ect. Evidence of a crime will be turned over to local authorities, and mismanagement issues may result in suspension and or revocation of your Post Charter.

As leaders of this organization we are bound by oath and duty to serve those veterans that put their trust in us to operate and run their local Posts as required by our Constitution and Bylaws as well. It is time we bring back some pride within this Department and serve those that have served us and still serve us today.

Our National Organization has taken the same stance with all Departments and has gone as far as removing a Departments Charter for the same offenses. We will not let that happen here.

I hope to see everyone at our Convention!

PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD