TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

CALL TO THE

100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE


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 (1 YEAR)**

F. **AUDITOR (1 YEAR)**

3. **TO ELECT REQUIRED NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO THE 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION (MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA) (NOTE: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 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, JUNE 23.**

**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.**

**DANIEL YODER**

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Welcome all to the upcoming 100th Annual Department Convention. This year’s convention is to be held at the Manchester Hotel Downtown, formally the Radisson. This year’s convention is going to hold some new things and events to start up our centennial festivities. There will be a barbeque held at the Veterans Park across the street from 1 pm to 5 pm, which will include a guest appearance by Governor Sununu. Of course, there will be other things to take in and it will be a time to reflect on the history of this department. Of course, this barbeque will be going on during committee meetings and a Presentation by the VA, but it will allow people to come and go.

Additionally, there will be a baseball game in honor of the American Legion 100th convention. The Fisher Cats have graciously sponsored one of their games for us and we have discounted tickets and there will be a 50/50 raffle, all proceeds to go back to the Department, so please take the time to go out and support this home town team. This game will start at 7:05 pm with the American Legion posting colors and the honoring of our WWII veterans, as well as first pitch.

I would just to remind everyone that it will be difficult to make everything at once, but I encourage you to make some of the events, alt of time and effort has gone into putting these events together.

Another point I want to make is that if you are assigned as a delegate from your Post and are at the convention you are required to cast your vote on Saturday for the 2018-19 department officers. That is your main responsibility as a delegate, including attending committee meetings if assigned. This year I am going to start doing what national does to us if we miss a meeting as a delegate at national convention. They record names and post them to each department wanting to know why a delegate was not where they were supposed to be. I also will be noting delegates who have failed to attend the voting as well as assigned committee meetings. Last year there were over 50 delegates missing from the voting who were at the convention but felt other social activities took precedent.

Additionally, we are still short of many Posts who have not turned in delegate sheets for the convention. The deadline has long gone by and this year if you show up to registration without your home Post sending in delegate sheets for you, we will be turning you away and you will not be allowed to participate in the voting. If you know you are going to be a delegate I recommend you check with your Post to ensure they have sent in all the required paperwork.

I am including this tentative schedule, as always there will be last minute changes and locations so please keep checking to see when those changes occur on the board at the registration area.

THURSDAY – JUNE 21, 2018

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  PRE-REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

7:00 PM  DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – BALLROOM (ARMORY)
FRIDAY – JUNE 22, 2018

7:30 AM MEMORIAL SERVICE IN THE BALLROOM ARMORY (DOORS CLOSE AT 7:40 AM) OPENING CEREMONIES FOR CONVENTION

ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS (DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONSHIP COLOR GUARD, GREENVILLE, POST 13)

INVOCATION – DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN GERRY BERNARD

MEMORIAL SERVICE

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM (ONLY) REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION AT DEPARTMENT HOTEL HEADQUARTERS – MANCHESTER DOWNTOWN HOTEL, DARTMOUTH ROOM 2ND FLOOR BALCONY

(IF YOU ARE A DISTRICT DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER AGAIN)

9:00 AM MEETING OF RULES COMMITTEE – CURRIER ROOM – CHAIRMEN MAURICE ANDERSON

9:00 AM (JOINT SESSION)

CALL CONVENTION TO ORDER - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID MEANEY

COLORS IN PLACE –

INVOCATION – AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN – TERRY OUELLETTE

PLACEMENT OF POW/MIA FLAG – DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - JOE CAOUETTE

PREAMBLE – DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID MEANEY

ADDRESS OF WELCOME – DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER OLIVER BROOKS

CALL TO CONVENTION – DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

9:10 AM WELCOME ADDRESSES

CITY OF MANCHESTER WELCOME – MAYOR JOYCE CRAIG

STATE DELEGATION - TBD
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN POREMPSKI
LEAD CANDIDATE SAL NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER – MIKE COTTON

9:45 AM PRESENTATION – DEPARTMENT OF N.H. LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR –

10:00 AM BREAK (AUXILIARY AND SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION EXCUSED) 15 MIN

FRIDAY – JUNE 22, 2018 (cont’d)

10:15 AM LEGIONAIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD
10:30 AM REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
10:40 AM FUTURE IN SIGHT
10:50 AM VA LOANS – RENEE DUVAL
11:00 AM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019
11:15 AM ADJUTANT ANNOUNCES ROOMS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND CAUCUSES

11:15 – 12:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS

12:00 PM BREAK FOR LUNCH (RETURN AT 1:00 PM)
1:00 PM CENTENNIAL BARBECUE AT VETERANS PARK, ACROSS FROM HOTEL
1:00 PM BREAK OUT FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS
1:00 PM VA BENEFITS INFORMATION SESSION, 1 PM – 5 PM, MAIN HALL- VET CENTER VAN WILL BE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE
1:30 PM SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OPENING SESSION
CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS
3:30 PM CAUCUSE (CAUCUSE WILL INCLUDE ALL DISTRICTS) – PLACE TBD
5:00 PM COLOR GUARD COMPETITION (MAIN HALL)
6:30 PM FISHER CATS SPONSORED BASEBALL GAME FOR AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL – TICKETS DISCOUNTED $12.00, NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL STADIUM
SATURDAY – JUNE 23, 2018

7:30 – 11:00 AM (CONT) REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THIS ANNUAL CONVENTION

8:30 AM RECONVENE CONVENTION

CALL CONVENTION TO ORDER

COLORS IN PLACE, SALUTE TO COLORS

PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

9:00 AM REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN RESULTS OF MEETINGS:

AMERICANISM

FINANCE CHAIRMEN

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

RESOLUTIONS

TROPHY & AWARDS

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

UNIFORM GROUPS

10:00 AM VETERAN’S HOME COMMANDANT- MARGARET “PEGGY” LABRECQUE

10:15 AM FAMILY SUPPORT – CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

10:30 AM GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

INSTALLATION OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OFFICERS

NOMINATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS
11:00 AM REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
11:15 AM MEETING OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
11:30 AM REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

SATURDAY – JUNE 23, 2018 (cont’d)

11:45 AM ELECTION SETUP
12:00 PM ELECTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION
12:45 PM TELLERS MEETING AFTER VOTE
1:30 PM RECONVENE FOR FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

COMPLETE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
3:30 PM NEWLY ELECTED DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TO MEET

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
6:00 PM SOCIAL FOR BANQUET (MAIN HALL)
7:00 PM BANQUET, INCLUDING CHANGING OF THE GUARD

SUNDAY – June 24, 2018

9:00 AM WREATH LAYING AT WAR MEMORIALS IN PARK

ADJOURN CONVENTION

REMEMBER: THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!
VA Benefits Information Session

WHAT: VA Benefits Information Session at The American Legion Department of New Hampshire Annual Convention. The Vet Center van will also be available.

WHEN: Friday, June 22, 2018: 1-5PM.

WHERE: Double Tree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street, Manchester NH 03101.

- VA Benefits and eligibility requirements
- Resources available to veterans

VA benefits experts were on site to assist with:

- VA healthcare enrollment
- Telehealth
- My Healthy Vet enrollment
- Filing a claim with VBA
- Vet Center

Department Executive Board

Meeting “Moved”

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Place Manchester Hotel Downtown.

This DEC will go over the FY 19 proposed budget for submission to the Convention floor.
TODAY IN HISTORY

• 1968: James Earl Ray, an escaped American convict, is arrested in London, England, and charged with the assassination of African American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

• 1862: At the Battle of Cross Keys, Virginia, Confederate General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s notches another victory during the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. Sent to the valley to relieve pressure on the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia, which had been pinned on the James Peninsula by Union General George McClellan’s Army of the Potomac, Jackson’s force staged one of the most stunning and brilliant campaigns of the war.

• 1949: Hollywood figures, including film stars Frederic March, John Garfield, Paul Muni, and Edward G. Robinson, are named in a FBI report as Communist Party members. Such reports helped to fuel the anticommunist hysteria in the United States during the late-1940s and 1950s.

• 1944: U.S. General Omar Bradley, following orders from General Eisenhower, links up American troops from Omaha Beach with British troops from Gold Beach at Colleville-sur-Mer. Meanwhile, Russian Premier Joseph Stalin telegraphs British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to announce that the Allied success at Normandy “is a source of joy to us all,” and promises to launch his own offensive on the Eastern Front, as had been agreed upon at the Tehran Conference in late ’43, and thereby prevent Hitler from transferring German troops from the east to support troops at Normandy.

• 1967: During the Six-Day War, Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats attack the USS Liberty in international waters off Egypt’s Gaza Strip. The intelligence ship, well-marked as an American vessel and only lightly armed, was attacked first by Israeli aircraft that fired napalm and rockets at the ship. The Liberty attempted to radio for assistance, but the Israeli aircraft blocked the transmissions. Eventually, the ship was able to make contact with the U.S. carrier Saratoga, and 12 fighter jets and four tanker planes were dispatched to defend the Liberty. When word of their deployment reached Washington, however, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered them recalled to the carrier, and they never reached the Liberty. The reason for the recall remains unclear. Israel later apologized for the attack and offered $6.9 million in compensation, claiming that it had mistaken the Liberty for an Egyptian ship. However, Liberty survivors, and some former U.S. officials, believe that the attack was deliberate, staged to conceal Israel’s pending seizure of Syria’s Golan Heights, which occurred the next day. The ship’s listening devices would likely have overheard Israeli military communications planning this controversial operation. Captain William L. McGonagle was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic command of the Liberty during and after the attack.
Department Events Recognized

July 19-23, 2018
Souhegan High School
412 Boston Post Road, Amherst

The Milford Rotary Club and Marie Grella of Amherst are collaborating to bring The Moving Wall to Souhegan High School in July 2018.

The Moving Wall is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The wall will be on display around the clock and free of charge for public viewing from July 19th through July 23rd. This is a large undertaking and many volunteers will be needed. Additionally, a variety of sponsorship opportunities are available for those interested in supporting the event through corporate, individual or in-kind donations. To volunteer or become a sponsor, please contact Marie and Peter at info@MovingWallNH.org.

Two fundraisers are already being set-up – a Flag Day 5K on June 15th and a Flag Sale featuring 3’x5’ United States of America flags made in the USA.

The Flag Day 5K is a run or walk event through picturesque Amherst with the start and finish lines at the Amherst Green. The 5K will be professionally timed by Millennium Running. The entry fee is $25 pre-event and $30 day of the event. For more information or to register online, please visit www.AmherstFlagDay5K.com.

The Flag Sale - Interested in supporting The Moving Wall event by purchasing some new USA colors to fly at your house? Sign-up today or place your order for a 3’x5’ flag at info@MovingWallNH.org. The cost is $25 per flag and all proceeds go to The Moving Wall event in July.

Great video about the Moving Wall at UNH in May 2017 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygim8nFrZRo

Website  www.amherstflagday5k.com Direct Registration for 5K at Millennium Running www.runreg.com/flag-day-5k
NEW ENGLAND DISABLED SPORTS

White Mountain Warfighter Experience

Join us for a 3 day and 3 night White Mountain Warfighter Retreat.
When: August 13th-16th
Who: Veterans with a disability
How: Email Dana at DanaR@NEDisabledSports.org or call 603-745-9333 to sign up TODAY. Limited spots available!

This program was funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
Department Adjutant (ME) receiving this year's revenue from the Legion Insurance Trust. There are new programs for LIT this year and I encourage all to go to www.theLIT.com.

You are cordially invited to attend the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Hampshire Dedication Ceremony of their Memorial Stone at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery 110 Daniel Webster Highway Boscawen N.H. 03303 on Saturday 9 June 2018 at 1000 Hrs.
A Marine stands guard as smoke and flames rise from a burn pit at Camp Fallujah in Iraq on May 25, 2007. Advocates say that not enough is being done by federal officials to address the long-term health problems from exposure to the pits. (Cpl. Samuel D. Corum/Marine Corps)

WASHINGTON — Advocates for veterans exposed to toxic smoke from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan say federal response to the problem is too slow, too incomplete and sadly too late for thousands of troops succumbing to fatal diseases.

That’s despite more than a decade of research into the health effects and lawsuits over troops’ exposure to burning contaminants.

“When I went to the doctor and complained about chest pains, she told me ‘Well, you’re too young to have any type of chest complications,’” said Carlos Fuentes, director of VFW’s National Legislative Service and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Afghanistan’s Helmand province in 2009.
“We can’t wait decades like our Vietnam vets waited when it comes to Agent Orange conditions. Congress and VA and DOD must improve research.”

More than 141,000 veterans and current service members have enrolled in VA’s Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, which allows individuals to document their experiences and illnesses.

But federal officials believe the number of troops exposed over the years tops 2 million. And only about 9,000 veterans have applied for disability benefits based on toxic exposures from the waste pits, leading supporters to question whether the departments are doing enough outreach to understand the problem.

“Year after year, we have seen an upward trend in the number of our members reporting symptoms associated with burn pit exposure,” said Tom Porter, legislative director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and a Naval reservist who also deployed to Afghanistan.

His group has lobbied in recent weeks for legislation that would require more in-depth monitoring of service members’ health for signs of illnesses connected to toxic exposure in combat zones.

Similarly, California Democrat Raul Ruiz has introduced legislation requiring federal officials to allow family members to record their loved ones’ medical issues in the VA burn pit registry, in an effort to broaden the amount of information collected on the issue.

But he also wants to see VA officials do a better job reacting to problems they’re already seeing among the veterans population instead of continuing years-long studies into the problem.

“We need to do more,” he said. “We don’t have the time right now to wait for more studies. We have veterans dying from rare cancers. It’s time to put veterans above bureaucracy.”

At a House Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing on the issue Thursday, VA’s chief consultant for post-deployment health, Ralph Erickson, said that officials are focused on the problem but also acknowledged definitive research on the issue is still years away.
The four-year-old burn pit registry “can give us ideas of what we should be looking at, and what we need to prioritize.” Pressed by lawmakers, he also said that he wished the listing had more names and participation.

Defense Department officials opted not to attend the hearing. Their absence drew additional questions from irked lawmakers about their commitment to identifying the long-term health problems with the pits, which have largely been scaled out of use overseas in recent years.

Rep. Clay Higgins, R-La., said the past use of burn pits amounts to “essentially deploying chemical and biological weapons against our own troops,” making the department’s decision to skip the hearing all the more upsetting.

(Leo Shane III, 2018, Military Times)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

I am leaving this in here one more month since I receive more and more calls from veterans on how to get their records.

For those of you that have issues finding copies of your military records, the following is one way of doing that. Just follow the instructions below.

Military Records

Records may be obtained by one of the following ways:

1. By linking to the National Personnel Records Center and obtaining a copy of SF 180, must provide a telephone number where you can be reached.
2. 
3. Send a request including:
   o Type of record needed
   o Veteran's full name
   o Service or Social Security number
   o Branch and dates of service, to include if person was enlisted person or an officer
   o Current mailing address and telephone number
   o Mail to:
The Adjutant General's Department  
Attn: Mr. Peter Fortier  
4 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301-5652

4. E-mail Mr. Peter Fortier  
5. Fax the request:  
   603-225-1341, Attn: Mr. Peter Fortier  
6. Phone 603-225-1380 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Historical Military Records and Information:

Due to the size of our staff in the Human Resources Office, we are not able to conduct any historical research that may require a lot of time.

Those wishing to conduct historical research of military records may do so by contacting Mr. Peter Fortier at (603) 225-1380 to coordinate a date and time that you would like to visit our archives at:

The Adjutant General's Department  
4 Pembroke Road  
Concord, NH 03301-5652

Form TAGNH 24 (Record Request Form)

During the convention we are hoping to hold the event below. We are still waiting on final confirmation but will verify in future issues. We are also going to have the VA Van Care Center at the Radisson as well. These are things I have always wanted to have for our members and veterans at our conventions and thanks to Curt, our Service Officer, for helping me coordinate this with the VA.

Renew – Recruit - Reconnect

Please Post