



ADJUTANT'S
NEWSLETTER
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951
EMAIL:
ADJUTANTNH@LEGIONNH.ORG



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

THE 97TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

I know you may be wondering why I am sending out the same information over and over again. I feel it is necessary to make sure that as many of our members are informed as need be in regards to the convention because we are trying some new things this year in regards to training that people need to be aware of. I am including the tentative agenda again in this newsletter. The biggest change again is we are going to be including training this year. How that works out remains to be seen and the comments I have received are that some will be in committee meetings and other things. We understand that but we feel we have moved some things around to make better use of our time and not have so many breaks between events.

The deadline for reserving rooms was March 31. Time is running out to make plans if you are a delegate of your post 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, or the Housing Chairmen, Deb Davis, email: 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.

I 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 a tentative agenda for the convention and I wanted to get this out earlier this year. As always this is subject to change and probably will be. **NOTE:** We will be adding training this year at convention the first time ever; at least in my time as Adjutant:

THURSDAY - JUNE 25, 2015

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

FRIDAY - JUNE 26, 2015

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, TILTON POST 49)
INVOCATION – DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN RAY LAPOINTE
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 RULES COMMITTEE - CHAIRMEN**

9:00 AM (JOINT SESSION)
CALL CONVENTION TO ORDER - DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
COLORS IN PLACE –
INVOCATION – AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN -
PLACEMENT OF POW/MIA FLAG – DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PREAMBLE – DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT DIONNE
ADDRESS OF WELCOME – DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER
CALL TO CONVENTION – DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

9:10 AM **WELCOME ADDRESSES**
GOVERNOR – MAGGIE HASSAN

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER – TED GATSAS
SENATOR – KELLY AYOTTE
NH VETERAN’S HOME COMMANDANT- MARGARET “PEGGY”
LABRECQUE
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
GUEST SPEAKER TBA.

9:50 AM PRESENTATION - NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR – TBA

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

FRIDAY - JUNE 26, 2015 (cont'd)

10:15 AM REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE

10:30 AM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2015-
2016

10:45 AM ADJUTANT ANNOUNCES ROOMS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS
AND CAUCUSES

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM TRAINING – LIQUOR COMMISSION

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM TRAINING - COMMANDERS/POST-DISTRICT
TRAINING

12:30 AM BREAK FOR LUNCH (RETURN AT 1:30 PM)

1:30 PM SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OPENING SESSION
CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2:00 PM DEPARTMENT TRAINING – POST PROTOCOL/HOW TO RUN
POST MEETINGS

POST ADJUTANT TRAINING

3:30 PM CAUCUSE (CAUCUSE WILL INCLUDE ALL DISTRICTS)

5:00 PM COLOR GUARD COMPETITION (RADISSON GRAND BALLROOM)

SATURDAY - JUNE 27, 2015

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, SALUTE TO COLORS
PRAYER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**9:00 AM REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN RESULTS OF MEETINGS:
AMERICANISM
FINANCE CHAIRMEN
CONSITUTION & BY-LAWS
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
RESOLUTIONS
TROPHY & AWARDS
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
CHILDREN AND 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 THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

11:15 AM MEETING OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

11:30 AM REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

11:45 AM ELECTION SETUP

SATURDAY – JUNE 27, 2015 (cont'd)

**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**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6:00 PM SOCIAL FOR BANQUET

7:00 PM BANQUET, INCLUDING CHANGING OF THE GUARD

SUNDAY – JUNE 28, 2015

9:00 AM WREATH LAYING AT WAR MEMORIALS IN PARK

ADJOURN CONVENTION

**REMINDER: THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS
CONVENTION GETS CLOSER.**

There are times I like to remind people where the American Legion came from and think it is important you the member understand our history so that you may be able to explain it to a prospective new member if need be.

While veteran’s organizations like the Grand Army of the Republic, United Confederate Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars grew in the end of the 19th century, the American Legion was born out of the conclusion of World War I.

With nearly 2 million men deployed to Europe, former members of the American Expeditionary Force recognized a need to organize in order to improve morale and lobby for benefits for wartime service. Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., eldest son of the President Theodore Roosevelt, was instrumental in creating the organization, even handpicking 20 AEF officers to report to Paris on Feb. 15, 1919 for the first informal meeting.

While those officers discussed efforts on improving morale of the thousands of GIs waiting overseas for orders to return home, they decided to pursue a duly elected convention of delegates to run the organization — with an equal number from the ranks of enlisted men and officers.

The March 1919 Paris Caucus was publicized in military newspapers and through word of mouth in the ranks. There, a crowd of 2,000 servicemen decided upon the name — the American Legion, drafted a preamble, established a national stateside convention date — Nov. 11, 1919 or one year after the end of hostilities in WWI, and recommended a territorial unit structure.

A May 1919 St. Louis Caucus allowed those World War I veterans who had returned home to join in the birth of the Legion. The stateside convention was largely ceremonial, but did elect Minneapolis, Minn., as the site for the first national convention. On Nov. 10, 1919, 684 delegates from around the U.S. attended the founding convention. Among its resolutions was one to remain specifically non-political — in post-Civil War America the GAR and UCV played a large role in politics. The convention also established a permanent National Legislative Committee to lobby Congress on the Legion’s political objectives.

Chief on the Legion’s legislative agenda was a dramatic improvement of the level of compensation for soldiers who suffered permanent disability during the war. At the time of the end of World War I, American law stated that soldiers who suffered total disability were to receive only the base pay of a private — \$30 per month. The Legion concentrated its lobbying effort in 1919 on passage of legislation increasing payment for total disability suffered in the war to \$80 a month — a sum roughly sufficient in dollars of the day to provide a living wage. Its lobbying efforts were successful by the end of the year.

Through the 1920s, the Legion served a strong social function, building and buying “clubhouses” in communities across America at which its members could gather, reflect, network and socialize. In 1924, the Legion and other veteran’s organizations won their battle for additional compensation for World War I veterans with the passage of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act.

The American Legion was also instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Veterans’ Bureau, now known as the Department of Veterans Affairs, in 1930.

The Sons of the American Legion was formed at the American Legion’s 14th National Convention on Sept. 12–15, 1932. Membership is limited to the male descendants of members of the American Legion, or deceased individuals who served in the armed forces of the United States during times specified by the American Legion.

In 1942, the Legion became a perpetual organization, rather than die off as its membership aged as that of the Grand Army of the Republic was rapidly doing. The Legion’s charter was changed to allow veterans of World War II to join and would later make changes for future conflicts like Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, among others.

The American Legion wrote the original draft of the Veterans Readjustment Act, which became known as the GI Bill. That legislation was later signed into law in June 1944. Over the decades, the American Legion has also been a strong proponent of retaining Christian values in government and fighting Communism, along with promoting veteran’s rights and benefits.

The Legion’s Americanism and youth programs include projects in which young people are given practical instruction in the functions of democratic government. It also sponsors thousands of Boy Scout troops and junior baseball teams. At the turn of the 21st century the total membership of the Legion was about 3 million enrolled in 15,000 local posts, or groups.

This history was compiled from the American Legion, Encyclopedia Britannica and Wikipedia.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 26-28, Department Convention, Manchester NH

Who are The American Legion Riders?

As we roll into June we look around and on a nice day you will see hundreds of motorcycles traveling this great states roads and highways. The month of June also marks one of the state’s oldest and largest events, that being the 92nd Annual Laconia Bike Week. This event is almost as old as the American Legion is for this Department and is also set with some good tradition. However one of things many of us motorcycle enthusiasts see is the many veteran groups that take part in the many events at Bike Week. One of those groups is our very own American Legion Riders. This time of year many people will see the many leather vests of this Departments Legion Rider Chapters. Although the American Legion Rider program is a Post program there are many things the Riders do for the American Legion. I wanted to touch on the Rider program and maybe help you understand exactly what the Legion Riders do as well as other veteran motorcycle groups. I have been actively working on trying to get the chapters in this Department to look at working more closely together and hopefully this will help all the chapters in the state.

Also this is the first year the Department of New Hampshire has teamed up with Harley Davidson during bike week and we are a co-sponsor of the first ever Veterans Appreciation Day on Thursday, June 18th along with the bike run for veterans and service members to be held the very same day in the Weirs towards Meredith. We will be setting up a booth at Laconia Harley Davidson on June 18 – 21. We will be educating people and veterans on the benefits of the American Legion and hopefully signing up many new members. We will be asking for volunteers to help out on any or all of those days and if you are interested or want more information please call or email me at adjutantnh@legionnh.org or 603-856-8951. But let me give you a little bit of what the American Legion Riders are all about.

In the midst of all the press and notoriety of motorcycle clubs, gangs, and organizations today it is important to know that not all motorcycle enthusiasts who wear organizational vests are gang members or bad persons. Examples of this are the Combat Vets, Vietnam Vets, U.S. Military Vets, and the newly established Military Cohorts out of Rochester N.H., along with many others throughout. As a matter of fact in our area the greatest majority of all “bikers” are good folks who are riders that affiliate with groups that are of similar interests to them. And for the most part “bikers’ are a great resource when needs arise that need funds raised or community needs met.

Just recently, “bikers’ from many organizations did fundraising events the last weekend in May for many causes for veterans and non-veterans alike. I was proud that I saw numerous Legion Riders out in some of these rides such as the Wounded Warrior Ride supporting 45 North program, which unfortunately I missed. Many of our local chapters of The American Legion Riders organizations were a part of that effort.

We support the communities we live in by doing rides to raise money for various charities that are approved by The American Legion regulations. We support community Christmas projects, our schools in the community and various other nonprofits organizations. We have events to support The American Legion families as well.

Who are The American Legion Riders? We are a group of motorcyclists that all belong to one or more families of The American Legion. There are three families of The American Legion. First are the Legionnaires, which are all honourably discharged veterans from all branches of the armed forces that have served this country on active duty during war time eras from WWI all the way to present day. This is the largest veteran organization because it is not required to have served overseas in a combat zone only to have served during that war time eras. Second is The American Legion Auxiliary, which are the females of The American Legion that did not serve in the military but are spouses of veterans, daughters, or granddaughters of a veteran that would be eligible to be a Legionnaire. Finally, there are The Sons of the American Legion, which are the male descendants of the Legion that did not serve on active duty or during a war time era but are sons or grandsons of eligible Legionnaires.

The American Legion Riders is just part of a bigger family of The American Legion because we are made up of all three of these families. We are members who own motorcycles and enjoy riding them. We are not a motorcycle club but a riding club or group.

We do ride as a group. We wear our vests with the ALR patch on the back that lets everyone know who we are and what Legion Post we are members of along with a patch that indicates which of the Legion families we belong to, an American flag patch located on the upper left side of the vest and a POW/MIA patch. We never place any other patch higher than the American flag patch as that is the respect and honor OUR FLAG deserves. We have no territory or turf other than being honored and proud veterans or family members of a veteran that served this country.

Locally there are 18 American Legion Posts that sponsor American Legion Rider chapters.

“American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran’s homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in the Legion Legacy Run, to annually raise money for the Legion Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Legion Riders today

Currently, 106,000 American Legion Riders meet in over a thousand chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign countries. Riders in Iowa have formed an honor guard called The Five Star Freedom Riders, and Riders in Mulvane, Kan., founded the Patriot Guard to protect the sanctity of military funerals from protesters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities.

True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the post level, where the best ideas are born. The Riders are part of many projects and events, including: Rolling Thunder, the annual POW/MIA rally in Washington on Memorial Day weekend. Annual regional rides such as Operation Wounded Warrior, sponsored by Riders in Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, California and other Western states. Local charity events in support of The American Legion and local communities. Raising money for VA hospitals, women and children centers, children and youth centers, schools and other facilities. Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle runs to benefit numerous charities. Local memorial ceremonies and community parades.

The American Legion Legacy Run, an annual cross-country fundraising ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the national convention city. Riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory. Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas, and welcoming them home upon their return.”

So as you see, just as in any other organization or group, lumping all together, good and bad is never the complete picture. We simply ride because we enjoy the fellowship, support common causes and are motorcycle enthusiasts.

When you drive, please watch for motorcycles and drive safe.

