



ADJUTANT'S
NEWSLETTER
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951
EMAIL:
ADJUTANTNH@NHLEGION.COM



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE: I would like to remind everyone that the Washington Conference is approaching fast. The dates of the conference are a month later this year and it is being held March 23-26, 2014. For those wishing to attend this conference you had until February 14 to make your reservations for the hotel. After that date the rate cannot be guaranteed. The room rates are \$217 (1 person), \$227 (2 person) plus tax. You can make reservations online:
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/americanlegion>.

Or you can call 1-800-Hiltons and ask for the group rate for the American Legion.

I ask any of you wishing to go to the conference to let Department know and or NEC Earl Beale so that we may have a count of people for visitation with NH congressional party.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING: This last weekend the Department held its first formal training in over a decade on February 22nd. Initial reports from the training were positive and there were close to 45 members in attendance to receive this training. The majority of the training was presented by members from National Headquarters staff, led by William Sloan from National Headquarters. Subjects ranged from Post Operations to MyLegion.org and others from the (LEAD) Leadership, Education, and Development training program. It is the effort of this Department to build upon this first program and we hope to offer a similar program annually. It is important that if you plan on becoming a leader in this organization you take advantage of this training.

The Department would specially like to thank Department Vice Commander Bob Dionne for all his hard work in organizing this training and helping the staff through the weekend. Also a special thanks to Post 49 and PDC Chuck Lewis for providing refreshments and entertainment to the staff visiting. As well a big thanks to Lisa Beale for her help with the setup.

We will continue to provide the best training we possibly can to our members and future leaders in order to make this Department stronger than ever. It is our intent to pass any information gained to our Districts to help educate further those that may not have been able to make this training.

2014 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: Well it is that time again where we look forward to our annual convention. As many of you know the 2014, as well as the 2015 conventions will be held in Manchester, at the Center of New Hampshire, Radisson. Our Housing Chair, Charlie Leveille, along with Lisa Beale have been working hard on securing the required number of rooms for this year's convention. We have changed some things this year and are requiring Posts sending delegates to convention to make sure they pay for their rooms prior to getting to convention. We have had issues in the past with rooms being reserved and not paid even after convention is over.

First payments should have already been sent and second payments are due February 28th. If you have not reserved rooms for your Post, time is running short and you run the risk of not getting any rooms as a result.

We ask that you help us in making this one of the most successful conventions in some time.

Department Calendar

March 2014

March

- 2 Don Small District 3 Cribbage Tourney – Post 67 – 11:00 AM
- 8 Legion Birthday Party – Post 1 Laconia – All day
- 8 District 8 Conference – Post 20 Woodsville – 9:00 AM
- 10 Installation – Post 17 Groveton – 6:00 PM
- 11 Installation – Post 79 Manchester - 6:30 PM
- 13 DEC Meeting – Department Headquarters Concord – 7:00 PM
- 14 Installation – Post 43 Manchester – 6:00 PM
- 17 Installation – Post 18 Wolfeboro – 7:00 PM
- 24 Installation – Post 1 Laconia – 7:00 PM
- 29 Junior Oratorical Contest – St. Anselm College – 8:00 PM

Adapting to Change: The only constant in the universe is change, everything is always in some state of change, either growing, moving, or aging. It is human nature to always look for ways to grow, learn, and adapt to the world as it races around us. Because of this, it is not surprising that we are always complaining about changes that affect our lives and the adjustments those changes force us to make. Mostly, we like to change as long as we can see how it will benefit us and we resent being forced to change.

Take for instance, Windows 2008. What is wrong with Windows XP? Nothing at all; it works just fine however it does not just work fine for me. I am forced to find new ways of programming, going through different files, and storing information. Despite my feelings about the matter, the truth is that Windows XP can no longer keep up with current internet options and even Windows 2008 is past its prime considering that it is 2014 already. The same is how we look at the American Legion and communicate the mission of this great organization to prospective new members, at the same time keeping our current members excited about being a part of this organization and taking on the ever increasing vacant leadership roles.

Anything can happen in the American Legion, and our younger guys, the newer veterans, they do not want a stodgy old organization or what they perceive as something that doesn't do stuff, or maybe there are limitations, or most importantly does not want to change with the times. They want to see a dynamic leadership, innovative, creative and open to changing how people look and perceive the American Legion. From an old meeting house full men and women just interested in having a social hour, to a place open to finding new ways to helping veterans of today, who will become members of tomorrow and will in turn help the veteran of the future.

As members of the American Legion we have to understand that change is good and necessary and only by embracing it can we keep up with the challenges of tomorrow; keeping this organization alive for the veteran of tomorrow. If we plant the seeds today for a better veteran organization, then we will have the trees of tomorrow standing as a strong and vibrant symbol of a organization that will not falter and continue to help and serve those that continue to serve us today.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: If you are like me and currently a service connected veteran and in the VA health Care system, you may be asking yourself do you have sign up for the Affordable Care Act? The answer to that is no. If you are enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health-care programs including VA health care, civilian health care and medical (CHAMPVA) and spina bifida health care – you have coverage. As a result you fall under the standards of the law and do not need to take any further action. The Affordable Care Act does not change your VA benefits or out of pocket costs.

It is important to note that if you are in Priority Group 8E or 8G, you are not enrolled in VA's health care system and must make sure you have health coverage that meets minimum standards under ACA. These groups are veterans with gross household incomes above VA national income thresholds and the geographically adjusted income threshold for their resident location who are either 0 percent, non compensable service-connected or not service-connected at any rate.

If you have questions further on this subject please feel free to call our Department Service Officer, Gary Wayman at 603-222-5784

Legion Insurance Trust: I want to again remind everyone about a NO COST \$5,000.00 accidental insurance coverage program which the American Legion offers in the event of accidental death. The benefits include \$5,000.00 of Accidental death Insurance if you die within 90 days of a covered accident, from bodily injuries as a direct result of an accident while you are traveling on official business for the American legion. The program also offers \$1,000.00 if you die from an accident that does not include Legion business at all. There are no hidden costs or requirements to get this coverage. I encourage you to sign up today and as many of you know any little bit helps when it comes to deferring the cost and expense of a person who has accidentally passed away. If you wish further information please call my office or go directly to, www.theLIT.com for fast and easy enrollment.

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