



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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

THE 97TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

CALL TO THE

**97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**THE 97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
THE AMERICAN LEGION, IS HEREBY CALLED; AND, IN CONFORMITY
WITH THE ACTION OF THE 2013 CONVENTION, WILL BE HELD IN
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ON JUNE 26, 27 AND 28, 2015.**

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. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (2 YEARS)**
 - C. ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (2 YEARS)**
 - D. FOUR VICE COMMANDERS (1 YEAR)**
 - E. TREASURER (1 YEAR)**
 - F. JUDGE ADVOCATE (1 YEAR)**
 - G. HISTORIAN (1YEAR)**
 - H. AUDITOR (1 YEAR)**

3. TO ELECT REQUIRED NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO THE 2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION (BALTIMORE, MARYLAND) (NOTE: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN, 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 26.

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 S. Yoder
Department Adjutant

Last two months I addressed the Department Convention coming up on June 25 – 28, 2015, in Manchester, N.H. at the Radisson Hotel. I felt it is important to bring this information to you until convention for those that may have missed it in previous issues.

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.

Additionally, the Department is trying to make its Ad Book better from years past. This year we have a company out of Massachusetts, Eastern Advertising, who will be soliciting for commercial and business ads for our Ad Book. I want to make you aware of this in case your Post receives any calls from businesses in your area wondering if this is a true solicitation. The money raised from this book will go towards offsetting the cost of convention and to programs of the American Legion. I have posted on the website the Ad form for Posts to use when requesting to submit an Ad for the Post or a candidate which will go directly to us. The deadline for getting these Ad forms back to us is May 1st.

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
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)

10:20 AM REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE

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

**11:30 PM 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**

1:00 PM DEPARTMENT TRAINING - TBA

**2:30 PM CAUCUSES (CAUCUSES WILL BE BROKEN UP INTO 4
DISTRICTS EACH)
(#1 CAUCUS, DISTRICT 1,3,5,7)
(#2 CAUCUS, DISTRICT 2,4,6,8)**

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
CONSTITUTION & 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

**2:30 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.**

THE 97TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention that is fast approaching and is to be held on August 25 – September 3, 2015. The convention sight this year will be Baltimore, Maryland. I have started taking room reservations for those wishing to go. The room costs are \$149.00 a night which includes the 15.50% tax. If you wish to drive to this convention at the same time the parking rate is \$25.00 a day and is Valet parking only. The Department of New Hampshire will be staying at the Baltimore Harbor Hotel which is three blocks from the convention center. A one night deposit of \$149 needs to be sent in with your housing form to the Department. The deadline for reserving rooms is July 10, 2015.

I have set up a tab on the front page of the department website for the National Convention where I will be attaching information for this convention as time goes along. The Housing form for this convention can be found on the website and I will include it in the newsletter package.

If you are planning on going to the National Commanders banquet then the cost of a ticket is \$45.00 a person. I have a limited amount of tickets and need to know as soon as possible if you are going to purchase one so I can adjust the count if need be and request more from national.

Air Force: Keeping A-10 means F-35 delays, F-16 cuts



Keeping the A-10 would impede plans for both the F-16 and F-35, the Air Force says. (Photo: Airman 1st Class Gustavo Castillo/Air Force)

As a retired Air Force veteran I just wanted to give the A-10 it just rewards. While deployed in Afghanistan I saw firsthand what this aircraft did for supporting ground troops in theater. There is no other weapon system currently in the Air Force arsenal that can back up the support the A-10 has given boots on the ground over the last 25 years that I am aware of and I was in the Air Force Security Forces for 30 years. It will be a sad day indeed when this great aircraft finally loses the battle to the political circus that is currently going on behind the scenes. The following is just a little information of some of the political regaling going on in Washington and the Pentagon over the coming or going of the A-10 and its long service to all the services over the years. Our own Senator Ayotte even believes the scrapping of the A-10 would be bad for the future of close combat air support covering our troops on the ground.

If not allowed to retire the A-10, the Air Force says it will have to send F-16s to the bone yard and delay plans for the F-35 because there aren't enough airmen to maintain both fighters.

If lawmakers succeed in passing a bill requiring the Air Force to keep the A-10 in its fleet for another year, too few maintenance personnel would be available to stand up the first operating unit of the F-35 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and even fewer to continue maintenance of the F-16, the service told congressional staff in a recent briefing. The base is expected to begin receiving F-35s later this year.

The Air Force plan, if authorized, would be to move F-16s from Hill to replace retiring A-10s at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Indiana.

But if that plan is blocked, the Air Force cannot move the F-16s from Hill. Meanwhile, the Falcon units would lose maintenance personnel to the new F-35 units, causing the F-16s to "lose deployable capability," according to an Air Force talking paper obtained by Air Force Times.

Thus, moving forward with the F-35 "requires the retirement or transfer of assigned Hill AFB F-16s in late FY15/early FY16," the paper says.

Nevertheless, it is looking more likely that the Air Force again will be directed to keep the A-10s flying. House Armed Services Committee chairman Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-

Texas, in his markup of the defense bill included \$682.7 million for the fleet. The bill will go to the full committee Wednesday, and multiple senators have also vowed to keep the planes flying.

The Air Force wanted to move the F-16s to the bases as soon as possible, following environmental impact studies. But the requirement to keep the A-10s at the bases would prompt the service to move the F-16s to the bone yard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, "until such a time they are transferred to another base or divested

permanently."

The Utah base will be the first operational location for the F-35s, with it expected to have 72 of the jets. The base currently has 48 Block 40 F-16s.

The Air Force has said it needs 1,100 trained maintainers to reach initial operating capability for the F-35. Lawmakers have previously blasted Air Force concerns on the maintainer issue, saying it is a "false choice."

After the F-35 program executive Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan raised the issue last fall and said he was worried about the impact on IOC, Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said there are other ways to move money and personnel to support both the A-10 and F-35.

"Suggesting that we must prematurely retire the A-10 to fulfill long-anticipated maintenance requirements for the F-35A is a false choice," Ayotte said in a statement to Defense News, sister publication of Air Force Times. "There are a variety of steps the Air Force can take to maintain the combat-proven and cost-efficient A-10, while also providing sufficient maintenance personnel for the F-35A."

Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh has vowed to reach initial operating capability on time, despite a possible issue with having enough maintenance personnel. This includes hiring contractors and increasing use of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel.
(Brian Everstine, Staff writer, April 28, 2015, Air Force Times)

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3, District 6 Spring Meeting, Lebanon Post 22, 1:00 pm

MILITARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Veterans Beat: Veterans' and patriotic events coming up

The passing of the Easter holidays tells us that a number of veterans' and patriotic events will soon require our attention.

In looking through the **May issue of The American Legion Magazine, Michael D. Helm, national commander**, asks members to post the following observances. The Legion's spring meetings include the National Executive Committee gathering in Indianapolis, May 6-7. A good way to keep up with the news from the spring meetings is on the Legion's national website and social media: www.legion.org, or www.legion.org/media.

Armed Forces Day: Since 1950, the United States has observed Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May -- this year, May 16. Share how your post is recognizing the U.S. military branches and those serving in them, on the Legiontown blog at www.legion.org/legiontown.

Poppy Program: May 25 is National Auxiliary Poppy Day. Resolution No. 3, passed by the NEC in 2014, encourages Legion posts and Sons squadrons to get involved with their Auxiliary units in promoting and distributing poppies for the Poppy Program. Auxiliary poppies are an important fundraiser toward the shared mission of helping veterans and their families.

Posts without an Auxiliary unit should consider starting a Poppy Program of their own. Contact your state department for more information. www.legion.org/departments Legionnaires, and veterans who serve in all vets organizations, join with us in assisting our needy veterans and their families.

The pay is low, but the satisfaction is immeasurable.

PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD