TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

American Legion Membership Dues Increase

The national organization of the American Legion through resolution has passed a five dollar increase to membership dues. This increase will take effect by the 80% deadline on January 17, 2016. Any dues not received for the 2016 membership year will be subject to the five dollar increase on that date. Dues received by your members prior to this date will not be subject to this increase.

The per capita will increase from 21.50 to 26.50 on that date (JAN 17, 2016) for each member that will need to come to department. It is highly recommended that each post consider increasing your dues to cover this increase and or to at the very least inform each of your members of this increase and when it takes effect.

It is also advised to encourage each member to pay their 2016 dues prior to this date.

We will be discussing this increase further as time goes on and sending out reminders in various publications as a reminder of this dues increase.

We understand the hardships this may cause some of members. The American Legion is still the best veteran service organization in this country and this increase is needed to maintain the programs of the American Legion and cover the costs of dwindling membership and overhead.
Sep 3, 2015--Dale Barnett was elected national commander of the 2.2 million member American Legion on Sept. 3, 2015 in Baltimore during the 97th national convention of the nation’s largest veteran’s organization.

Barnett graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and served as an Army infantry officer from 1974 to 1996, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. A member of American Legion Post 105 in Fayetteville, Ga., he served The American Legion at every level, including Department (State) Commander of Georgia from 2007 to 2008. After leaving the military, Barnett taught high school social studies and coached basketball, baseball and cross country. He was the Creekside High School Teacher of the Year in 2005-2006 and a national board certified social studies teacher in 2003.

Raised in central Indiana, Barnett attended Whiteland Community High School, where he was student body president, captain of the track and basketball teams and president of the Whiteland United Methodist Youth Basketball Team. He credits his experience with Hoosier Boys Nation in 1969 with his decision to attend West Point.

Barnett served from 1990 to 1991 as the battalion executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. His decorations include The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2 Awards), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and Pathfinder Badge.
In addition to an International Relations / Public Affairs degree that Barnett earned at West Point, he holds a Masters of Business Administration from Boston University and graduated from Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Barnett served as The American Legion National Membership and Post Activities Chairman from 2008 to 2010 and National Economic Chairman from 2010 to 2013.

Dale and his wife, Donna, live in Douglasville, Ga., and have five children: Michelle, Andrea, Desiree, Kathalyn, and Joseph. They also have four young grandchildren: Heather, Daniel, Joanne and Brandon.

Barnett took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice commanders are George E. Cushing, Department of Arizona; Jimmy F. Lane; Department of Arkansas; Alan A. Davis, Sr., Department of Minnesota; David L. Gough, Department of Wisconsin; and John W. Hargreaves, of the Department of Maine. They each represent regions that cover the 50 states, the District of Columbia and overseas departments of The American Legion.

National Historian James E. Copher, Sr., of Mound, Minn.; National Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel L. Zimmermann of Douglasville, Ga.; and National Chaplain H.C. Ted Kelley of Camp Hill, Pa., were appointed to their positions by Cmdr. Barnett following the close of the national convention.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER AND LEAD CANDIDATE VISITS**

National Commander Dale Barnett will be visiting the Department on September 10-13, 2015.

He will be the keynote speaker at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial remembrance ceremony at Hampton, NH Post 35 at 6:00 PM

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, 10:00 AM, he and Department Commander John Graham will be leading a 2.1-mile walk to raise awareness of the American Legion and also fundraiser for the National Emergency Fund. The walk will commence and terminate at Sweeney Post 2 with a barbeque to follow at the Post. Sponsorship will be $20.00 per person and will include a T Shirt and the barbeque.

We encourage all Legion Family and guests to support this event as well as to give our National Commander a big New Hampshire welcome. We will also be having a Legion Family booth at Veterans’ Park at this event. We will need volunteers from all of the Legion Family.

The Lead Candidate for 2016 National Commander, Charlie Schmidt from the Department of Oregon, will be visiting our state from Thursday November 19 thru Monday November 23, 2015.
Comrade Schmidt will be attending the Post 79 Thanksgiving Day for veterans at the Tilton Veterans’ Home and the VA Medical Center on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 11:00 AM. All Legion family is welcomed to attend this event to honor our veterans domiciled at these facilities. Not only will there be great food, there will also be entertainment to follow with the AOH Pipe Band and the Amoskeag Strummers!

Any Post who would like the above dignitaries to attend their Posts please contact:

Bill Roy
23 Cambridge Court
Manchester NH 03103
603-315-5829
wmroy@comcast.net
For the National Commander’s Walk:

Ken Maynard ANEC
6 Epping Woods Rd
Epping, NH 03042
603-817-0515
kenmay1@comcast.net

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 2nd - 1864 Union Forces capture Atlanta
1945 Japan formally surrenders (V-J Day) aboard the USS Missouri
5th - 1972 Palestinian Terrorists killed 11 Israeli Olympic Athletes and a German policeman in Munich
6th - 1941 Winston Churchill visited Bletchley Park
6th - 1814 Battle of Plattsburg begins
7th - Labor Day
9th - 1943 Allied Forces land at Salerno
11th - 2001 Al-Quaida attack on the Pentagon and World Trade Center
11th - 2001 Global War on Terrorism Begins
11th - 1777 Battle of Brandywine
11th - 1814 Battle of Plattsburg ends

September 11th - Patriot Day (flag at half-staff)
12th - 1918 St. Mihiel Campaign begins
13th - 1814 Bombardment of Fort McHenry
13th - Rosh Hashanah (Sunset)
13th - 1847 Battle of Chapultepec
15th - 1944 Rhineland Campaign Begins
15th - 1950 U.S. Forces land at Inchon (Operation Chromite)
16th - 1779 Siege of Savannah Begins
   1918 St. Mihiel Campaign Ends
   1950 U.S. Eighth Army Breaks out of Pusan Perimeter
17th - 1862 Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg)
17th - 1944 Operation Market Garden
   Constitution Day (Citizenship Day)
18th - National POW/MIA Recognition Day
18th - 1863 Battle of Chickamauga Begins
19th - 1777 Battle of Freeman’s Farm (Saratoga Campaign)
20th - 1863 Battle of Chickamauga Ends
21st - 1846 Battle of Monterey
22nd - 1980 Iran/Iraq War Began
22nd - Yom Kippur (Sunset)
23rd - 1780 British Major John Andre captured with treasonous ciphered letter from Benedict Arnold
25th - 1807 Alfred Vail co-inventor of the Telegraph born
26th - 1918 Meuse-Argonne Campaign Begins
26th - 1941 Military Police Corps Established
27th - 1781 Battle of Yorktown
30th - 1949 Berlin Airlift Ends

October
1st - 1943 Woman’s Army Corps Established
2nd - 1780 Major John Andre hanged as a spy
2nd - 1918 U.S. 77th Division “Lost Battalion” is surrounded
3rd - 1990 Germany reunited, Cold War nears end
4th - 1777 Battle of Germantown
5th - 1813 Battle of Thames
6th - 1973 Yom Kippur in Middle East began
7th - 1777 Battle of Bemis Heights (Saratoga Campaign)
   1780 Battle of King’s Mountain
   952 USAF RB-29 Shot down by Soviet Fighters over Sea of Japan
   2001 Operation Enduring Freedom Begins in Afghanistan
8th - 1862 Battle of Perryville
8th - 1918 Lost Battalion (rescued)
10th - 1779 Siege of Savannah ends
10th - 1951 Battle of Heartbreak Ridge
11th - 1776 Battle of Valcour Island
12th - Columbus Day
   2000 Al-Qaida bombed the USS Cole in Aden Yemen
12th - 1968 Operation MacArthur Begins
13th - 1812 Battle of Queenston Heights
   1775 U.S. Navy’s Birthday
15th - 1964 People’s Republic of China detonated its first Nuclear Weapon
17th - 1777 British surrendered at Saratoga
19th - 1781 British Surrender at Yorktown
1864 Battle of Cedar Creek
1944 U.S. Forces land Leyete Island
1978 Women’s Army Corps disestablished
21st - 1962 President Kennedy ordered Naval Quarantine of Cuba after intelligence discovered offensive missile sites on Island
23rd - 1965 Operation Silver Bayonet Begins
25th - 1983 Terrorists destroyed the Marine Compound in Beirut killing 254
26th - 1918 First Combat employment of Native American (Choctaw) Code Talkers
28th - 1776 Battle of White Plains
1861 Lincoln approved establishment of Military Telegraph Department
31st - Halloween
1980 Elizabeth Friedman died (While working for the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Foreign Control during the Prohibition era, she solved over 12,000 rum-runners’ Messages.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
24 HOUR POW/MIA VIGIL
NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME PAVALION
TILTON, NH
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2015
OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONIES
TO START AT 11 AM

COME STAND A “WATCH” (15 MINUTES)
TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVEN’T FORGOTTEN