TO MY LEGION FAMILY:

Winter Conference

A reminder to mark your calendars for the Winter Conference 2019. The Conference will be held on January 26, 2019, to be held at Rochester Roland E. Patnode, Post 7. The Conference will begin with 8 am coffee, and 9 am opening. As in years past lodging can be reserved at the Holiday Inn.
Express, 77 Farmington Rd, Route 11, Rochester NH. 603 994-1175. There is a block of rooms set aside for the Legion with a cheaper rate available. They will go fast so reserve today. A agenda will be out soon.

Online membership Processing!!

All Posts in the Department of NEW HAMPSHIRE can now process their membership online.

This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via myLegion, and eliminates the need for Post Officers to send the National/Department portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department Headquarters office.

If you are currently a myLegion user, just select the “Process Membership” option in the left-menu. The attached instructions should help you navigate through this new feature.

If you are NOT a myLegion user, go to www.mylegion.org and sign-up by completing the “Authorization Form” located at the bottom of the web page.

Please print the attachment for instructions and more details.

If you experience any problems or issues, please respond to this email or call 1.800.433.3318.

PROCESS MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION The “Process Membership” feature in myLegion allows American Legion Post Officers to renew, add new members and transfer-in existing members from other Posts. (NOTE: Posts can only transfer-in members that dues are being paid for.) This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via myLegion, and eliminates the need for Post Officers to send the National/Department portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department Headquarters office.

Electronic check (Echeck) is the only payment method available when using this feature. The account must be a valid business checking or savings account held with a US Bank. Credit card payments are only accepted for foreign Posts outside of the US that do not have a checking/savings account with a US Bank.

Each dues payment charged for a member is the sum of the National Per Capita plus Department Per Capita in effect at the time of the transaction. National Headquarters will handle payment of the Department Per Capita back to the Department Headquarters office.
ELECTRONIC CHECK (Echeck) PROCESSING GUIDELINES The processing time for Echecks is 5-8 business days. During the 5-8 business day period, a “Pending” charge will be placed on the funds in the checking/savings account designated by the American Legion Post. In addition, the batch status in myLegion will also show a “Pending” status for the 5-8 business day period. After a successful transfer of funds to the bank at National Headquarters, the transmittal status of the batch will change to “Closed”, and the member information will be applied to the National Database.

Credit card transactions should clear within 24-hours

Declined Echecks If a Post submits payment for a batch of transactions and the Echeck is declined, the transmittal status of the batch in myLegion will be set to “Declined”. Common reasons for declined Echecks are:

1.) Insufficient funds  2) Bank Account has been closed  3) Invalid Bank Information

In the event a membership batch is declined, the Post Officer will be notified via email, and the batch will NOT be applied to the National database. Declined batches can be re-submitted within 14-days. If not re-submitted within the 14-day period, the batch will be deleted.

The Post will be charged all penalty fees levied by the ACH (Automated Clearing House) processor for declined Echecks. The American Legion National Headquarters reserves the right to suspend the “Process Membership” feature for a Post at any time due to a high volume of declined transactions, or malicious use of the myLegion site.

If you need further examples there is a additional instructional manual that you can get to view the screens you will be working with. The Department went online for this as of today.

The American Legion Commander Introduces New Membership Incentives

Good morning, Legion Leadership.

December Renewal Notice
The fourth renewal notice has been mailed and is starting to be received by Legionnaires. In your dialogue with your posts and districts, please remind them to personally contact their members to see how they are doing and encourage them to renew their membership.
New Post Incentives

We announced last week the new incentives approved by National Commander Reistad for this year to encourage posts go after and renew 2014, 2015 and 2016 expired members and bring them back on to post rosters. A letter was mailed out last week to departments explaining these incentives. Another letter will be mailed to the district and county commander this week and then posts. Below is one of the email blasts that is being sent out today helping to get the word out.

Here are a few questions that have been asked since the original email was sent out last week.

- *Is the post $5 incentive retroactive to July 1st?* The award was announced on 11/28. That is the start date for the post incentive.
- *Departments don’t have the ability to access the full expires list. Will this be available?* IT has finished updating the department access and should have full access.
- *Why is 2017 expires not included?* The 2017 expired members are still receiving renewal notices to renew at the post. There will still be members who renew their membership just from the renewal notice. The 2014, 2015 and 2016 do not receive the renewal notice. They will receive a DMS mailing. By engaging these members the hope is they will renew at the local post.
- *Is it required to pay back past dues or just 2019?* The ultimate goal is to renew these members for 2019. After they agree to renew for 2019, if the post wants to try and get past dues paid they are more than welcome to do so.

Thank you for all of your hard work and effort. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Still Serving America,

Matthew E. Herndon
Deputy Director, Internal Affairs & Membership
Phone:317-630-1406 Fax:317-630-1413

Veterans Services Information Sessions

The Adjutant General of the New Hampshire National Guard is planning a series of information sessions for Veterans Service Organizations around the state. The intent is to bring together the local leaders of posts, chapters and departments to discuss resources and how to better access the services available to veterans around the state. These sessions are not intended to be town hall meetings, but rather to bring the leadership from the various organizations together to exchange information on what services are available to veterans and how to better access them.

The first of these sessions will be held on 19 December from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the New Hampshire National Guard Readiness Center 350 Meadow St. in Littleton. Others will be scheduled after the New Year.

We need your help to get the word out to your local posts, chapters and departments and invite the appropriate representatives from your organizations. If possible it would be helpful to know the points of contact for your organizations around the State.
The sessions will be held at the New Hampshire National Guard Readiness Centers in Littleton, Manchester, Portsmouth, Concord and Nashua. These are the locations that have Family Assistance Coordinators. This will be an excellent opportunity for you and your organizations to provide your thoughts on how we can highlight challenges veterans have accessing the services they have earned and showcase the value that veterans bring to our communities.

The Director of the NH Office of Veterans Services, the Administrator of Community Based Military programs from Health and Human Services, the Director of the National Guard Service Member and Family Support along with the Family Assistance Specialist and OVS Veterans Service Officer will be there to provide an overview of New Hampshire’s initiatives to improve access to and delivery of services in support of veterans.

The agenda includes:

- An update on executive order 2018-01 and the efforts to codify it into law
- A demonstration of the 211NH website and how to use it to find and access services
- A discussion of the Role of the Bureau of Community Based Military Programs and the mission to reduce gaps and strengthen services for veterans, service members & their families who are not accessing services at the VA or Vet Centers.
- An introduction to the Veteran Service Officer and Family Assistance Coordinator and the services they can access including:
  - Assistance with VA Claims
  - State Veterans Benefits
  - Crisis intervention
  - Tricare and Dental insurance
  - Employment
  - ID Cards and DEERS enrollment
  - Financial Assistance
  - Housing

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Good morning Legionnaires and veterans advocates, today is Tuesday, December 4, 2018 which is National Cookie Day, National Dice Day, National Cookie Day and Extraordinary Work Team Recognition Day.

This Day in TAL History:

• Dec. 4-10, 1921: The American Legion and the National Education Association collaborate to address widespread illiteracy, advance the teaching of citizenship and conduct the first American Education Week to improve public schools.

This Day in History:

• On this day in 1991, Islamic militants in Lebanon release kidnapped American journalist Terry Anderson after 2,454 days in captivity.
• 1918: President Woodrow Wilson departs Washington, D.C., on the first European trip by a U.S. president. After nine days at sea aboard the S.S. George Washington, Wilson arrived at Brest, France, and traveled by land to Versailles, where he headed the American delegation to the peace conference seeking an official end to World War I.
• A Viet Cong unit penetrates the 13-mile defense perimeter around Saigon’s Tan Son Nhut airport and shells the field for over four hours. South Vietnamese and U.S. security guards finally drove off the attackers, killing 18 of them in the process. One U.S. RF-101 reconnaissance jet was badly damaged in the attack. The guerrillas returned that same night and resumed the attack, but security guards again repelled them, killing 11 more Viet Cong during the second battle.
This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to our 41st President of the United States George H.W. Bush. He was one of the most honorable people I have ever met and dedicated his life to his family and to this country, from WW II to the leader of the free world.

Rest in Peace
Events Recognized

Wreaths at Boscawen
sponsored by Blue Star Mothers of NH
Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery
110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscawen, New Hampshire 03303
https://www.facebook.com/events/188510715373842/
http://www.nhsvc.com/1030am-wreaths-at-boscawen-sponsored-by-blue-star-mothers-of-nh-0
https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/
http://www.nhsvc.com/
https://www.bluestarmothersofnh.org/
https://www.bluestarmothers.org/
Announcements

**Free Flu Shots - For Active, Guard/Reserve, Retirees, & Veterans**

While we're on the topic of health care, I should bring up flu shots. The military requires all active duty members and Guard/Reserve members to obtain a flu shot. These are provided on base to all members (Guard/Reserve members can also obtain flu shots on an active duty base).

Active duty dependents can also get free flu shots on base, as can military retirees and their dependents.

Veterans are also eligible for free flu shots through the VA or a partnership with Walgreens.

We have more information on the many ways you can get a free flu shot.

The flu is nasty - please protect yourself!

[https://themilitarywallet.com/free-flu-shots/](https://themilitarywallet.com/free-flu-shots/)

**2019 TSP Contribution Limits**

The 2019 Thrift Savings Plan contribution limits have been announced. There is another increase for 2019, bringing the annual contribution limit to $19,000, plus a $6,000 catch-up limit if you are over the age of 50.

We have the run down on our site, including additional TSP rules, examples, and much more information. This is great info to take in if you are working on your retirement planning.

You can learn more here:

Renew – Recruit - Reconnect

Please Post

God Bless Our Troops

ARMY  USMC  NAVY  USAF  USCG