



The Legion Bulletin



Merry Christmas!!

December 2009

Hours - 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Holiday Office Hours: Closed December 24, 25, 2009

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January 1, 2010

Raleigh, NC 27611

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Conference Awards Reminders

Just a reminder that the following award nominations will be considered at the Mid-Winter Conference:

- ◆ Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Scouter, Unit Leader, Venture Advisor, Sea Scout Skipper, Cub Pack, Scout Unit, Varsity Scout Unit, Venture Crew Unit and Sea Scout Ship of the Year Awards
- ◆ Service Officer of the Year
- ◆ Department News Media Award
- ◆ Fireman & EMS of the Year
- ◆ JROTC Officer and NCO of the Year

All nomination forms should be returned to Dept. Headquarters no later than **Feb. 15, 2010**.

Mid Winter Conference

The annual Department Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 19-20, 2010, at the North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC. 1-800-445-8667 is the number for reservations, or you can call the hotel direct at 1-919-872-2323. You must specify you are with The American Legion. **Cutoff date for reservations at this rate is February 4, 2010.** The room rate will be \$85 per night plus tax. The holidays will be over and everyone should be ready to get away for a very informative and enjoyable conference.

Go-Getters

Post Adjutants; please refer to the enclosed Go-Getter Certification Form. December 31 is the final date for Legionnaires to **qualify** to be a Go-Getter. The form should be completed by the Post Adjutant and returned to Dept. Headquarters by **January 31, 2010**. A member must secure at least 10 members to qualify for the Go-Getter Club.



Oratorical Contest

Please do not forget this year's Oratorical Contest. The dates are listed below and will be followed without exception:

By December 18, 2009 – School Contests completed

Jan 16, 2010 – County or Post Contests completed

Jan 23-30, 2010 – District Contests

Feb 13-20, 2010– Division Contests

March 6, 2010–Dept Final, host, Post 155 Kings Mountain

District and Division Chairmen, remember to report your Contest Dates to Department as soon as your plans are made. It will also be imperative that you keep your contestants aware of their contest dates in your respective districts as turn around time is very tight for Department to get letters out to the winners at the various levels. **National rules apply to all levels of competition in North Carolina. Please review your American Legion National Official rules as well as your Chairman's guide.**

A D & D Policy

This Department and the Legionnaire's Insurance Trust (LIT) provide you with the opportunity to have \$1,000 of accidental death & dismemberment (AD&D) insurance at "no cost". The only requirements are you must be a legionnaire in good standing and complete the enrollment activation. The present coverage runs through August 31, 2016, a full seven years if you are enrolled. Call LIT Customer Service Center toll free and check your status at **1-800-235-6943**. This is your responsibility and no one can do it for you. After checking your status, do your fellow legionnaires at the post a favor and remind them to check their enrollment as well. Make sure your post members are enrolled in this free benefit.

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Pull Tabs – Fall Conference



Membership News

A reminder to all Posts concerning membership renewals: (as found in the North Carolina Constitution and By-laws, article IV, section 5), "A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1 shall be classed as delinquent. If dues are paid on or before February 1, reinstatement shall be automatic. If still delinquent after February 1, all privileges shall be suspended. If still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Post, Department and the National organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service" When submitting a member for a PUFL, after January 1, 2010, the 2010 dues must be paid first. Please, when transmitting, recheck your cards and notes before mailing to avoid delay in processing. If a member is transferring and has already paid dues for the year, only include a signed member data form. "No money, no renewal card". When transferring out of state or HQ36 members, please put the member's current address on the member data form. Finally, applications are not accepted at Department for new post members. Please provide a renewal card.

Post Check Up

1. Is your post incorporated?
 2. Does your post have an EIN number?
 3. Does your post require 2 signatures on financial transactions?
 4. Is your Finance Officer bonded?
 5. Did you advise Headquarters of your present post officers' information?
 6. Are you proud of the condition of your post home and property?
 7. Are your post meetings informative/interesting?
 8. Do you invite guests, speakers/local community leaders?
 9. Is your post involved in Legion Programs/Community programs?
 10. Do the local veterans know how to contact your post for assistance?
 11. Is the local military recruiter (all branches) a member of your post?
 12. Does your post have a membership contact team?
 13. Does your post have an annual post audits?
 14. Does your post have adequate insurance on your property and activities?
 15. Does your post employ security guards during post building rentals?
 16. Does your post file form 990 each year with the IRS?
 17. Have your post officers attended NC Legion College?
- Recruit + Retain + Reinstate + DMS List = Success

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Baseball Season 2010

The 2010 American Legion Baseball season will be here sooner than we think!

This year the process for registering your team is new. It will all be handled by American Legion National Headquarters online. As soon as we have the specific guidelines, we will be sure to send them out to all team contacts.

A special note to all posts, if you sponsor an American Legion Baseball team, your post needs to be incorporated to protect the members. If you are not, call Department Headquarters for the proper forms to incorporate.

VA To Provide Glasses and Hearing Aids To Those Who Are Not Service Connected

A new directive allows the VA to provide glasses and hearing aids to those who are not service connected for those conditions (Priority Groups 6-8). In the past, these were available only to those service connected for the condition. These are now considered part of the preventive care package for all veterans enrolled in the VA, who meet certain criteria. The link: http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1789 or http://www1.va.gov/vhspublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1789

Outlines the requirements for obtaining eye glasses and hearing aids. Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system are eligible for battery replacement and repair of hearing aids even though those aids were purchased from a private source. Even though glasses and hearing aids may be provided at no charge, there may be a co-pay required for those in groups 6-8. Audiology is a specialty clinic with a \$50.00 co-pay for some services. There is no co-pay for the devices or the batteries. Nor are there any charges for visits for the purpose of adjusting, repairing or modifying hearing aids. (Source: VHA Directive 2008-070 dtd 28 Oct 08++)

US Dept. Of Homeland Security

Secretary Janet Napolitano unveiled a new website designed to provide a one stop location for veterans and veterans organizations to learn about DHS many veterans outreach initiatives and hiring and contracting opportunities, go to: support@govdelivery.com

DD214 Accessibility

Veterans or veterans families looking for a copy of their DD214 can find it by going : [HTTP://vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov)

