



# The Legion Bulletin



March 2011

Hours - 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Monday – Friday

919-832-7506 (Phone)

Email – [nclegion@nc.rr.com](mailto:nclegion@nc.rr.com)

Website – [www.nclegion.org](http://www.nclegion.org)

PO Box 26657

Raleigh, NC 27611

919-832-6428 (Fax)

## Post Data Forms

Post Data Forms will be mailed first class to Post Adjutants this month. Please look them over carefully. Make any changes to mailing addresses or dues structure, sign and return to Department Headquarters by April 1, 2011. This is the way National gets any changes for the direct mail renewal notices that will go out in July, including any changes in dues. **If we do not have them back by April 1, the first renewal notices will not reflect any changes to your post dues.**

## 92<sup>nd</sup> American Legion Birthday

March 15-17 will mark the 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans' organization. Enclosed with this mailing is a "Suggested Proclamation for Local Government" and a "Press Release" for Post use in their community. This momentous occasion gives us a great opportunity to tell our story.

## Consolidated Post Report



It is important for every post to complete this report because it shows individual post activity, but when it is combined with the efforts of all posts reporting, it makes our impact, on behalf of veterans, in the halls of Congress, a voice to be taken serious. The Consolidated Post Report forms have been mailed directly to the Post Adjutants. Please fill them out and return to Department Headquarters as early as possible. Remember, in order for your Post to be considered for any awards presented by Community Service Committee, Children and Youth or Americanism Commission at the Convention, this form must be completed and returned to Department Headquarters by the end of May.

## Veterans' Day in Raleigh

Please make plans to attend the Day at the Legislative Building sponsored by the N.C. Veterans Council on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. We will assemble in 1300 court starting around 8:00 AM supplying coffee and donuts to everyone. Each veterans Organization will have a display table along with visits to our respective representatives to talk about issues and pending bills involving military personnel, veterans and their families. Please make your plans for this date.



## ROTC Medals Available

Requests for ROTC medals for deserving cadets will be coming in from schools across the state. Department Headquarters will provide medals for colleges and universities. It is customary for the Posts to supply the medals for the local high schools. You may order direct from Emblem Sales, 2010 Catalog, page 116, for purchase of these medals. Department Headquarters inventory goes directly for colleges and universities. It might be more timesaving to order direct from Emblem Sales at 1-888-453-4466 or online at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

## Obtaining Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nations memory and record keeper. Part of NARA is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis MO. They store federal military and civilian personnel records. The Civilian Personnel Records Center is at 9700 Page Avenue. They have a website at <http://www.nara.gov>. Their website will provide information on how to obtain records or one can call (314) 538-4261 and get a recorded message on how to obtain records on how to request copies of personnel files. NPRC does not provide a telephone number, which can be used to request records due to the privacy act, which requires a signature of the veteran, next of kin, or authorized representative and staffing limitations at NPRC.

## Help for Posts

Please don't hesitate to contact your District and Division Commanders for assistance with post or member challenges. They are willing to assist you! As always, your Department Staff is available and willing to assist you also.

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9	State Oratorical Contest Flyer



## Post Meetings

Have you considered the following: 1. Two year term limit on Post Commanders. 2. Post planning committee consists of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL, working as a team, programs reflect the family mix. 3. Community involvement, most meetings have a short family oriented opening, usually children's group, church choir, children's dance studio presentation, Scouts skit, JROTC, etc. 4. Concentrated effort to attract, recruit and retain younger members. 5. Adapting Post to interests of younger members without losing older members, re; music rotation or activities changing. 6. Veteran of the month/year recognition. Special table for honoree and family. Reminder: A Post that is doing nothing, will surely fade away. Please get involved with at least one project and there are many that will not cost your post anything but time and effort. Your American Legion and your Community need for you to be involved. You have a lot more to offer that you might think.

## The American Legion Family Banner

You can order a Legion Family Banner as a flag display or as a wall or background display from Emblem Sales. These are 3x5 feet banners at a cost of \$87.75 and it takes approximately 3 – 3 1/2 weeks for delivery. The emblems on the banners are The American Legion, The Auxiliary, The SONS and the Legion Riders. If interested, contact Rolanda Florence in Indianapolis during business hours at 866-632-7131.

## American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

Each post donating at least one (1) dollar during this American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awards year, will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting Room or it may be attached to your organization colors. This is based upon Your post official membership total as of June 1, 2010. Send donations to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

## Payment of Membership Dues

Your Department has in place online payment of dues through PayPal for 1981 members only. Because we at Department Headquarters are responsible for collecting dues for 1981 Members ONLY, this service is restricted to those members. We cannot get in the business of collecting your members' post dues, which would infringe on your accounting process. If your post wants to afford your members the option of paying on line, please consult your Post Website programmer and institute your own system. **Again, the online membership form on the Department Website is for 1981 Members Only! Please inform your members of this restricted membership payment option.**



## 2011 Student Trooper Program

The program will be held at the NC Highway Patrol Training Academy, June 19-24, 2011. There will be a lot of physical activity during this week, so please advise your attendees ahead of time in order for them to get prepared. This will be an active, event filled week under the guidance of The Highway Patrol and The American Legion Counselors. This year's program aims and purposes have been changed to a new direction with expectations for a positive outcome. Legionnaires are requested to contact their local Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices, local High School JROTC programs to find candidates that have a law enforcement or military career in their future. The applicants must have just completed their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade of High School this year (2011). The tuition fee is still \$200.00 per student and each applicant must be sponsored by an American Legion Post. If you are interested in being a counselor, which involves mobility and long hours during this week, please contact Department Headquarters at 919-832-7506. No profanity or tobacco products are allowed. The Highway Patrol has room for up to 40 students this year, so please send in your applications as soon as possible. All applications will be numbered when received and all applications received past number 40 will be on a standby list. This program will only be successful with the support of the local posts in our Department. We encourage you to take advantage of the special youth program and to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to some well deserving young men and women. The American Legion and The North Carolina Highway Patrol are eager to provide a challenging and meaningful week for The Student Troopers. The success of this program is up to " YOU ".

## Boys' State Selection Process Important!

Ronald A. Engel, Deputy Director for Americanism/Children & Youth Division in Indianapolis, has issued this word of caution: ***Do not let the schools make the delegate selection.*** That is the responsibility of the sponsoring American Legion Post. To involve the schools in the selection process sends a message to the Courts that Boys State is a "school activity." When this occurs, Title IX exemptions for Boys State could be eliminated and our programs thrown open to anyone wishing to attend who are willing to pay the delegate fee. Think about the ramifications. There is no better way to assure the survival of our great republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. This is an American Legion Program. Please be active in the process. This year's session will be June 19-25, 2011. The fee will be \$325 per delegate. If you have an interest in serving as a counselor for Boys' State, please contact Chief Counselor Terry Pressley at 828-452-4232. Counselors receive travel expense, food and lodging for the week. You have a chance to work with and see some of the finest young men in government action.