



Department of



**South Carolina
The American Legion**
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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

**There are those who believe they can do something and those that believe they can't.
Both are right.**

Hiring Our Heroes

There will be a Hiring Our Heroes hiring event at Fort Jackson on February 11, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a workshop commencing at 9 a.m. at the Solomon Center, at 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd., Fort Jackson, SC 29207. For more information go to the following or contact Davy Leghorn, Assistant Director, Veterans Employment & Education Division at 202.263.5746 or dleghorn@legion.org. You can also go to the following website <http://www.hiringourheroes.org/hiringourheroes/columbia-sc2>

System Worth Saving

The visit scheduled for March 14-15 & 16 at the Dorn Medical VA center has been postponed as well as the Town Hall meeting at Post 6 on March 14. The tentative date is now April 14 same time and same place, Post 6 at 7 p.m. Any further information will be relayed when received.

Time Change Oratorical Quadrant 3

The time for Quadrant 3 Oratorical contest is now at 10:30 a.m. and not at 12 noon as previously advertised. Same place just a time change.

Legislation

Yesterday, February 4 a press conference was held in Washington on a bill which could impact the state of South Carolina. That bill was S.1982. Contained in this bill is a provision for South Carolina to get a Primary Care and Dental Annex in Charleston and a CBOC consolidation in Myrtle Beach. It was reported that it would be very helpful if Senators Graham and Scott were cosponsors of this bill. This bill is one of the most comprehensive veterans' bill in decades. For more information go to the following site:

<http://www.veterans.senate.gov/newsroom/majority-news/watch-chairman-sanders-press-conference-on-s-1982->
Contacting the Senators would be helpful and asking them to cosponsor that bill.

VA Info

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Today VA, along with agency partners Defense, Education, Justice, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Federal Trade Commission launched an [online complaint system](#) designed to collect feedback from veterans, service members and their families who experience problems with schools when using [Post-9/11 GI Bill](#) benefits and the Military Tuition Assistance Program. Military and veteran students and their family members can now submit feedback at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/feedback.asp.

The initiative is part VA's roll-out of the President's Executive Order for Principles of Excellence and is designed to empower students and their families, ensuring they have the best information needed to make the most informed educational choices; while holding institutions of higher learning to the highest standards. By reporting schools who are failing to follow the President's [Principles of Excellence](#), students can help improve the school experience for themselves and other beneficiaries of military and veteran education benefit programs.

A variety of partners helped to spread the word about this new initiative, including the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). [VFW called the new online system a 'Game Changer.'](#) Agency amplification included a blog written by [CFPB's Holly Petraeus](#), [Department of Education website announcement](#) and [FTC press release](#). News coverage of the announcement included articles from [Stars and Stripes'](#) Leo Shane and on the [AP Wire](#).

The new feedback system is just one in a series of new tools launched recently to help veteran and military education beneficiaries learn more about their vocational aptitudes, select an educational institution and best use their education benefits. Additional resources include:

- The ['Factors to Consider When Choosing a School' guide](#) offers future students steps to take when researching, choosing and attending a school.
- [CareerScope®](#) is a free, new tool that measures a student's aptitude and interests through a self-administered online test, identifying potential career paths.

You can help us spread the word by forwarding this email and sharing the following tweet from VA:

[@DeptVetAffairs](#) VA News Releases: Federal Agencies Partner to Protect Veterans, Service Members and their Families Using **GI Bill**... <http://1.usa.gov/MlzWfP>

V/R

Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

District Commanders

Please keep in mind that you should be notifying Department when you have your meetings set, time, location and any other pertinent information. Also, after the meeting, it is requested that you send Department a brief of the meeting, what happened, who was there, etc. A copy of the minutes would be extremely helpful in the area. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Marketing Initiative

The National American Legion has announced that a test market for a potential new alliance with Founding Fathers Brewing Company presenting a high-quality, American-made product with the mission of supporting American military families with half of their net profits. The goal is to offer the product to our members through participating post homes. The product will be priced competitively with category leaders and will be offered in three varieties. The product will be distributed through each post's current wholesaler with local distributors and company representatives calling on each post in February and March offering the product line.

The test market will launch this program in February in **nine states** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, **South Carolina** and Tennessee) with product being available in April, 2014. You may also check www.foundingfathersbrewingco.com for more information.

2013 Enhancements

Just a note to remind all that the 2013 enhancements are due in department no later than April 30, 2014 in order for the post to be considered in good standing and to participate in the 2014 Department Convention and any of the programs of the Department of South Carolina. At this time there are only 14 posts that need to pay the 2012 enhancement. Please check to see if your post has paid on the 2013 amount due and encourage the responsible officers to do such. It will be greatly appreciated.

What's Happening

February 8, Saturday – District 1 @ 10 a.m. Cayce Post #130, 402 Naples Ave., Cayce.

February 8, Saturday – ALR DEC 11 a.m. Department Headquarters

February 14, Friday - Task Force Marshall ceremony 1 p.m. Building 3912 at McCrady Training Center. Gate guard will give directions. Will be 106 sailors present at the ceremony.

February 15, Saturday – All Quadrant Oratorical Contests be held in various locations. Contact the Vice Commanders and see the website <http://www.scarolinalegion.org/page/contest/programs/hw-dare-maness-high-school-oratorical-contest> for more information.

February 18, Tuesday – District 15 @ 7 p.m. Saluda Post #65, 108 S. Randolph St. meal at 6:30 p.m. meeting 7 p.m.

February 22, Saturday – District 5 @ 10 a.m. Spartanburg Post #28, 94 West Park Drive. Meeting will be followed by brunch.

February 22, Saturday – District 13 @ 10 a.m. American Legion Post #107, 205 Lucky St., Westminster. Light refreshments.

February 25, Tuesday – District 17 @ 6 p.m. American Legion Post #15, 34 South Artillery Dr., Sumter.

KUDOS

A great evening was had at Charles McGee Byrd Post #120, Seneca on Monday, February 3 in celebrating their 39th year of honoring Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies. The meal was great and the camaraderie excellent. The Law Officer of the Year was selected as Henry Barnett, from the Department of Natural Resources. CONGRATULATIONS for your selection also to the members of the post for sponsoring this event.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences goes to our Department Commander James “Gene” McDaniel and his family who this past week lost his mother, Mrs. Marian Corley McDaniel. Our heartfelt prayers goes to the family.

Post Officer Listings

District Commanders Please Note: This means also that even though you may have the same officers in the same positions for the 2013-2014 year, you should also submit a listing to department. Also, for those that have email addresses, please indicate that on the listing. Your assistance and attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. The following is a listing of the posts. If they are in your district, please contact them and request they submit the information as soon as possible. This information is as of today, 12/19/2013.

District #1 – Posts #79, #142, #174, #217

District #2 – Posts #136, #145,

District #3 – Post #231

District #6 – Post #126

District #8 – Posts #21, #105, #128

District #10 – Posts #24, #70

District #13 – Posts #51, #67, #113

District #14 – Post #100

District #15 – Posts #77, #153, #154, #168, #169, #232

District #17 – Posts #35, #202

District #18 – Posts #47, #118, #266

District #19 – Posts #8, #114

District #11 – Post #63

District #20 – Posts #64, #78, #156

District #12 – Posts #60, #74, #80, #92, #213 (The blank form is on the website to be used if needed.)

**LEGION CARE
AD&D**

Just a reminder of the free \$1,000 to the Legionnaire AD&D insurance available thru the LIT. Last year the program was expanded to cover up to \$5,000.00 free insurance IF you were travelling on official Legion business and was killed or had a dismemberment as a result of an accident. Official business would be travelling to or from a meeting either at the Post, District or Department (conference or convention). All the Legionnaire has to do is apply for it and is not automatic. I do not know of any family who could not use the additional funds at a time of necessity due to the loss of a loved one. In reviewing just what members of posts that are participating in the program, it is very eye opening that many, many members have not enrolled in this program. To enroll all that is required is complete the application or call toll free 1-800-235-6943 with your membership number.

Proud to Serve,

Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant