




Department of



"Get on Board the Communication Train"
Gene McDaniel, Department Commander 2013/2014

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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

You must be in tune with the times and prepared to break with tradition.

90% Target Date

For information, yesterday, March 12 was the National Membership Target Date for 90% traditional membership for the departments to reach. Well guess what. The Department of South Carolina **DID NOT** reach that target! And, you will be surprised by how much we didn't make it by. 9 renewals. That is correct **ONLY NINE (9)**. And guess further. We got those in the mail at department **TODAY, 3/13/14**. It is really too bad to have missed the date of 90% by only 9. Hopefully we will reach the next target dates if we all work together.

**National Commander
Testimony**

On Wednesday March 26 at 10 am, National Commander Dan Dellinger is scheduled to bring The American Legion's testimony to a joint meeting of the House and Senate veterans affairs committees. We have been told that it will be available for live viewing via computer at the following URL.

<http://www.veterans.senate.gov/>

**From the National
Commander**

It is no secret that veterans have highly sought after skills that translate well to the workplace. Veterans possess leadership, problem-solving, logistics and many other skills important to hiring managers today. Major companies realize this. Just take, for example, the impressive roster of companies that sought job candidates with military experience at hiring fairs recently in Detroit and Louisville, KY. The list includes Ford, PNC, Wal-mart, Verizon Wireless, Eli Lilly, Lowe's, Game Stop and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Those were just two of the scores of job fairs planned for this year, thanks to the Hiring Our Heroes initiative – sponsored by The American Legion, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. Next month, for example, Post 210 in Celina, Ohio, will host a Hiring Our Heroes job fair. Questions may be directed to hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or (202) 463-5807.

That's only part of how The American Legion is helping today's veterans find and secure employment. Just this week, National Headquarters staff re-launched the Veterans Career Center e-newsletter. The monthly newsletter contains job fair listings, employment resources, job-hunting tips and more. To sign up to receive the free e-newsletter, go to legion.org/newsletters. To see a listing of job fairs, check the Legion's job fairs calendar. The American Legion also has an active LinkedIn account which has information useful for today's job seekers. Better yet, if you know past or current servicemembers who are looking for jobs, share the above information and links with them.

Veterans helping veterans find work. It's just one more way in which the nation's largest veterans organization is quietly having a positive impact in communities nationwide.

Thank you for what you do every day on behalf of veterans and their families, and America's future generations.

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. Anyone who would like to let the committee know what you think about your VA health care be known and help improve the quality of care you receive is asked to RSVP to wkennedy@legion.org or 202-263-5769.

State Oratorical Contest Results

Last week I reported that Mason Browder of Gaston won 3rd place and Chinyere Victoria Nwankudu of Florence was 4th in the finals of the South Carolina State Oratorical Contest. The two should have read just the opposite with Chinyere in 3rd and Mason in 4th. My apologies for the error.

2015 Post Data Form

The above form was mailed to each post for completion and returning to Department by April 15, 2014. This form is used by us and National for renewal notices when sent as well as correct any addresses and for any dues changes. It is imperative that these be completed as soon as possible and returned to us by the above date so any changes can be made to our and National's records. Your cooperation in the matter will be greatly appreciated.

Rally For Veterans

Just a heads up that on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 a "Rally For Our Veterans" will be held in Columbia, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the North End of State House Steps. Keynote speaker will be Captain Michael Haley. All veterans are invited to attend to show our Legislators who we are and advocate for Veterans' benefits and services.

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.

**SSA Disability
Claims Processing**

Beginning on March 17, 2014 the Social Security Administration will start a new process to expedite disability claims of veterans who have a compensation rating of 100 percent permanent and total (P&T) by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Please share this exciting news with your members, colleagues, and other interested parties. For more information visit SSA website at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

What's Happening

March 15-17 – American Legion Birthday Celebration

April 5, Saturday – District 9 @ Rock Hill Post #34, 199 S.Cherry Rd., Rock Hill 10 a.m.

April 5, Saturday – District 19 @ Hemingway Post #84, 2333 Hemingway Hwy. Hemingway, 10 a.m.

April 12, Saturday Cayce Post 130 Community Garage Sale 8a-5p. Auxiliary Bake Sale with hot dogs and all fixins 10a-5p. FMI contact Darlene Walton 803-794-7624.

April 12, Saturday – District 5 @ Chesnee Post #48, 820 S. Alabama Ave., Chesnee light meal to follow.

April 22, Tuesday – District 15 Aiken Post #26, 636 Old Airport Rd., 6:30 p.m. please RSVP

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 #11 – Post #63

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

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 #20 – Posts #64, #78, #156

LIT AD&D FREE

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 were 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
Dept. Adjutant