




Department of



South Carolina
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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

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

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/>

American Legion Baseball World Series

Nearly 80 million viewers nationwide will be able to watch the championship game of the 2014 American Legion World Series on television. This year, the World Series baseball games will broadcast on Internet service ESPN3, with the championship game set for TV network ESPNU, said Eddie Holbrook, co-chairman of the ALWS executive committee. "This has been a dream that we have had since the beginning," Holbrook said of the Legion World Series having a presence on TV. "We had no idea that it could be done by year four." The past two years, the American Legion World Series was broadcasted via ESPN3. As the contract with ESPN3 was up for renewal this spring, the Legion board wanted to look at how to get the games live on TV. In the 2014 event, the World Series will be broadcasted via ESPN3 through the semifinal games. The championship game will be televised on ESPNU, with a potential viewership of 80 million. There may be a few

minor stadium changes at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium to accommodate the new TV presence, Holbrook said. "I don't think they will be major, but we will have to have the fiber and additional power sources to supply satellite dishes," he said. "We will have to have more camera locations. ESPN3 only had three or four, while ESPNU will need six to eight cameras at minimum." Any stadium changes will be decided in early April, Holbrook said.

'Changes the entire format' The tournament schedule will also change to accommodate the TV coverage. "It changes the entire format of the tournament," Holbrook said. "It just used to be a double elimination tournament, but going to ESPNU required a change of format."

Broadcasting the games live makes it necessary to change the format of the World Series from a double elimination tournament to pool play.

"ESPNU needs to know the exact time each game will be played. There can't be any 'what-ifs,'" Holbrook said. "In double elimination, you have what-ifs with the championship game."

With pool play, every team knows exactly what time they are playing and every team gets a day off, because there will always be two teams that won't be playing.

Each team is also assured up to three games, where in the past they may not have played more than two.

To switch to pool play, the board had to get permission from the national Legion headquarters.

Teams will also arrive a day earlier for the tournament, Holbrook said.

'Contributing to travel tourism'

Holbrook said the new World Series format will mean teams will be in town longer, which will mean more opportunities for those visitors to spend money that will help the local economy.

"Under the present format, every team will be playing through Sunday. Their teams and parents will stay in town a day or two longer," Holbrook said. "This gives them a better feel for the events. People will be staying here longer and also contributing to travel tourism."

The 2013 ALWS pumped \$15.8 million into the local economy, according to a report from the Cleveland County travel/tourism department.

Part of the agreement with ESPNU is also to have 30-second advertising spots during the World Series to promote and advertise the county, Holbrook said.

"This provides the county and city the ability to showcase things like the stadium, the Scruggs Center, the Don Gibson, gateway trails and our wineries," he said. "This gives us an opportunity to promote this area and shoot them across the nation."

2014 American Legion World Series

* Aug. 14-19

* For more information, follow @AL_WorldSeries on Twitter, "like" The Shelby Star on Facebook or visit www.legion.org/baseball.

* Follow The Star in the coming months for more information on the ALWS concerts, festival, baseball games and more.

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

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 5, Saturday – District 14 @ Calhoun Falls Post #72, 101 N Gordon Ave., Calhoun Falls, 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 12, Saturday – District 6 @ Bonneau Beach Civic Center, 204 Butter Rd, Bonneau, 10 a.m.

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

April 26-27, Saturday & Sunday – SCALR Legacy Ride

National Personnel

Dan Fastenau, the man who spoke to us at Mid-winter on fund raising has been promoted to Operations Manager for Emblem Sales. He was replaced by C. Shaun Owens, formerly of the Membership Division.

Kudos

To **Post 193, Chapin** for their “We Care” Food Program. They collected over 2,052 pounds of food from Bi-Lo and Food Lion in the month of February. Congratulations to the post, Bi-Lo and Food Lion.

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.

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| District #1 – Posts #79, #142, #174, #217 | District #13 – Posts #51, #67, #113 |
| District #2 – Posts #136, #145, | District #14 – Post #100 |
| District #3 – Post #231 | District #15 – Posts #77, #153, #154, #168, #169, #232 |
| District #6 – Post #126 | District #17 – Posts #35, #202 |
| District #8 – Posts #21, #105, #128 | District #18 – Posts #47, #118, #266 |
| District #10 – Posts #24, #70 | 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.) |

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 Woods
Department Adjutant



Military Appreciation Days

May 1 - 31, 2014 – Myrtle Beach, SC

Myrtle Beach again will host **Military Appreciation Days** during May 2014. This month-long celebration is sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach and PGBA, LLC, as a “thank you” to our dedicated service men and women – and their families. The celebration includes active duty military personnel, reserves, the National Guard and veterans from all service branches.



During May, military personnel and their families can look for **discounts to area restaurants and attractions**, a traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, the big Memorial Day weekend parade with Grand Marshal Montel Williams, live music from the Andrew Thielen Big Band, a 5K run and other special events. For **Military Appreciation Days**, the city also will host a delegation of Wounded Warriors from our nation’s recent conflicts, giving them a much-needed vacation. We are pleased to announce that a traveling **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall** will visit Myrtle Beach, May 14-18, near Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium at The Market Common, and will be available 24 hours a day during its visit.

Now in its sixth year, Myrtle Beach's **Military Appreciation Days** show this community's gratitude and support to the men and women of the nation’s military services. Our thanks are evident during the big Ocean Boulevard parade and family picnic, Saturday, May 24. The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Following the parade, please join us for lunch prepared by the Omar Shriners Chefs. The picnic is free for all military and veterans, along with their families, courtesy of PGBA, LLC. You'll have a chance to meet parade Grand Marshal Montel Williams during the picnic!

Headlining Saturday afternoon is the **Andrew Thielen Big Band** with an outstanding live show. Also featured are military exhibits, kids’ activities and more, including the **Veterans Beard** and **'Stache Beach Bash**. During the picnic, you'll have a chance to meet parade **Grand Marshal Montel Williams**. He's best known as host of The Montel Williams Talk Show, which ran for 17 years, but that fame followed 15 years of active-duty service in the US military.

On Monday, May 26, the Grand Strand Patriotic Alliance will recognize Memorial Day with 11:00 a.m. ceremonies on the Myrtle Beach Convention Center Plaza. The public is cordially invited to attend this and all other events, as we say "thank you" to our military men and women and their families for their service and sacrifice.

For more about Myrtle Beach's **Military Appreciation Days**, contact 843-918-1014, info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com or www.militaryappreciationdays.com.

■ **Memorial Day Parade** – The big Ocean Boulevard Memorial Day Parade starts at 10:30 a.m., Saturday,

May 24, and travels from 27th Avenue North to Ninth Avenue North.



Montel Williams

US Navy veteran and talk show host **Montel Williams** is the Grand Marshal for this year's parade!

■ **Traveling Vietnam Wall** – A traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall is coming back to Myrtle Beach, May 14-18, as part of our 2014 Military Appreciation Days. The Wall that Heals will be available 24 hours a day at The Market Common.



■ **Family Picnic, military exhibits and more** – Join us for a **Family Picnic**, complete with activities for the kids, military exhibits and live music, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 24, on Ocean Boulevard. The picnic is **free** for all military personnel and veterans and families, including the National Guard and Reserve.

■ **5K Run/Walk** – Sign up for this **5K Run** on Ocean Boulevard and the Boardwalk! The race begins at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, May 24. It's free for active duty, reserves and veterans, or \$20 for civilians. [Register now](#).

■ **Memorial Day Ceremony** – Join the Grand Strand Patriotic Alliance for the **Memorial Day Ceremony** at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 26, on the Convention Center Plaza.

Military Appreciation Days

are sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach and PGBA, LLC. We hope you enjoy your visit!



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