




Department of



South Carolina
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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones you will have positive results.

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.

Phishing Scam

Phishing Activity Targeting Veterans/My HealthVet

This is to inform you of several reports that Veterans received an e-mail from a non-VA email account requesting that they click a link to confirm their interest in a secure exchange of medical records. These emails are NOT being generated by VA or My HealthVet. The message is designed to look like it came from My HealthVet so the Veteran will be tricked into clicking the link. My HealthVet and VHA Privacy and Security teams are aware of this issue and are working to inform Veterans and law enforcement about these events. Veterans should NOT open the message but NOT delete it until VA has a copy with the embedded links in the message. If you think you have one of these phishing messages, you can forward it to my e-mail address (James.Doherty@va.gov) and I will take it for action. If a Veteran or a family member reports that they clicked on the link of a "bogus" email, it is recommended they update and run their anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-spyware program and change their passwords.

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. Let’s have a great showing of Legionnaires to show our support for veterans.

VA News

As reported on 3/24/2014 the federal Department of Veterans Affairs is eliminating its requirement for most veterans enrolled in its health care system to report their income information each year. The policy change, which takes effect this month, will ease the burden on veterans and improve customer service, according to the agency. The VA instead will automatically match income information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration. “Eliminating the requirement for annual income reporting makes our health care benefits easier for Veterans to obtain,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement. “This change will reduce the burden on Veterans, improve customer service and make it much easier for Veterans to keep their health care eligibility up-to-date.” Vets who are applying for health care benefits for the first time still will be required to submit income information. There are no changes in the agency’s long-standing policy of providing free care to veterans who are indigent, have catastrophic medical conditions, have a disability rating of 50 percent or higher and who have conditions that are official rated as service-connected.

Vets are urged to continue using the health benefits renewal form to report changes in their personal information, such as address, phone numbers, dependents, next of kin, income and health insurance. For more information, visit the VA’s website or call 877-222-VETS toll free.

Job Opportunity

Vacancy recently posted: **Claims Representative II**, OEPP Veterans Affairs (FTE, Richland County). FMI contact www.jobs.sc.gov for application.

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 11 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.

**Marine Sponsored
Scholarships**

The **Marines' Memorial Association** (www.marineclub.com), which is under the leadership of Major General James ('Mike') Myatt, USMC (Ret.), asked me to send you this below and attached important information regarding scholarships that are now being offered by the Marines' Memorial Association to military veterans who served honorably in any of the military branches. **The deadline for the scholarship application, which can be completed online, is April 23, 2014.** So please forward this below information and the attached special announcement on to your Veterans Services offices and to your network of Veterans Services support organizations that are located throughout the state of South Carolina so that they can spread the word to our deserving veterans who are either currently attending college or who want to further their education by attending college starting this fall.

The **Marines' Memorial Association** is pleased to announce that the organization is offering college scholarships to military veterans who would like to attend college during the 2014- 2015 school year. The Marines' Memorial Association scholarships this year are valued at over \$30,000. Our goal is to provide scholarship funds to veterans who could use extra help paying for college this fall. Please remember that **the deadline for the online scholarship application is April 23, 2014.**

Special Announcement: College Scholarships For Military Veterans

The Marines' Memorial Association is an organization that is open to veterans and active duty personnel of all military branches who served honorably in the military and in April 2014 the organization **will award \$35,000 in scholarships to our U.S. Military Veterans from all branches.**

The following 2 Scholarship Programs are open to all veterans and do not require a membership to the Marines Memorial Association to apply:

THE HAMMER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Five of these Hammer Family Scholarships are available in the amount of **\$5,000 each**. All eligible **U.S. Veterans who wish to study in the fields of Math, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, or Engineering (Aerospace, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial, Manufacturing, Materials, or Mechanical)** are welcome to apply. James and Linda Hammer are Benefactor Members of the Marines' Memorial Association and are eager to assist student Veterans committed to advancing their education.

Link to the Hammer Family Scholarship online Application on the Marines Memorial Association's Website - <http://205.139.107.86/Hammer2014>

THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Four of these Memorial Tribute Scholarships are available in the amount of **\$2,500 each**. The Tribute Scholarship is available for military personnel leaving full time service and entering an undergraduate college program. All US military personnel who have transitioned from Active Duty to reserve or civilian status within the past 3 years may apply.

Link to The Tribute Scholarship online Application on the Marine Club website:
<http://205.139.107.86/TributeSchol2014>

Website for The Marines' Memorial Association - <http://www.marineclub.com/>

For More Information about our Scholarships, call the Marines' Memorial Association directly at: **(415) 830-9820.**

**SSA Disability
Claims Processing**

Beginning on March 17, 2014 the Social Security Administration started 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, Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. Meeting at 10 a.m. Guest speaker Jim Hawk, Past Department Adjutant, Future of The American Legion.
April 12, Saturday Cayce Post 130 Community Garage Sale 8a-5p. Auxiliary Bake Sale with hot dogs and all fixings 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

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 H. Woods
Department Adjutant