




Department of



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

**South Carolina
The American Legion**
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April 3, 2014

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Conflict cannot survive without your participation.

System Worth Saving

On April 14 Post 6 at 7 p.m. will be hosting an informal town hall meeting on The American Legion's "A System Worth Saving". Two individuals from the Washington, DC office will be in the area from April 14 to April 16 and will be visiting the VAMC Dorn and talking to employees and staff. 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. Also, if you would like to attend the meetings with the committee at Dorn, space is limited. Please let me know as soon as possible if you desire to attend at the office.

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

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. Please wear your Legion caps.

Legacy Fund News

Last year the challenge for The American Legion Legacy Fund was met by a total of \$764,000 being raised. The Fund provides educational assistance to the child/children, or the legally adopted child/children, of active duty United States military, Guard and Reserve personnel who were federalized and died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Since 2004, more than 100 grants of educational assistance have been awarded, and the number of grant requests continues to grow each year as more and more children enter college. We do not want to turn any eligible child away. The American Legion Riders have organized and will execute the ninth annual American Legion Legacy Run and it is scheduled for August 17-21, starting in Indianapolis, IN, and ending in Charlotte, NC, site of this year’s 96th National Convention. The Riders will be leading the National Convention Parade in downtown Charlotte. All monies go directly into The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The National Commander’s goal is to raise \$400,000 for the Legacy Fund and in order to meet this goal your support is needed. Any checks should be made payable to **THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA and in the memo section, Legacy Scholarship Fund** and send it to the department address of **P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063**. We will place the funds in an account and present it to National at the Convention in Charlotte. Your help and assistance will be appreciated.

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.

Veterans Memorial Day Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament will be held at the Tara Golf Course, 300 Country Club Drive, Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, South Carolina 5/26/2014. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Please arrive one hour early so you can be paired with your sponsors. **Thirty-two veterans will be sponsored by community members.** Each foursome will consist of one sponsored veteran and three community sponsors for a total of 32 teams All veterans will be

treated to lunch. All veterans not participating in the Memorial Day tournament may play either at Monticello golf course or after the tournament at Tara for member prices. **Volunteers welcome.** Sponsored by McCormick County Veterans Affairs and SLV. Hold-in-one car sponsored by Quality Nissan. FMI, participants and volunteers please contact one of the following: Bob McAIntosh, SLV Golf Director (864)391-4175, Gary Shafer, Coordinator (210) 391-5522 or Tara Clubhouse csmith@slv-sc.com (864) 391-4115.

**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 4, Friday – 95% Membership Target Date.

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 22, Tuesday – District 12 Chesterfield Community Hut, 100 Dogwood Court, 6:30 p.m. Mtg. 7:15

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

April 26, Saturday – District 8 @ Summerville Post #21, Elections 105 Sumter Ave.

April 26, Saturday – District 16 @ Beaufort Post #207, Lunch 11a.m., \$8.00 113 Harrington St.

April 26, Saturday – District 13 @ Pendleton Post #113, 304 Lebanon Rd., 10 a.m.

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 #13 – Posts #51, #67, #113

District #2 – Posts #136, #145,

District #14 – Post #100

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 #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

Solemn Farewell

On March 25, 2014, a **73** year member of The American Legion, Department of South Carolina answered the final call to the Commander of us all. Richard Henry Hussey, Sr., Post 40, Myrtle Beach was that veteran. It is also believed that Mr. Hussey was one of the founding members of Post 40. He truly believed in our organization. May he rest in peace.

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.

Home Depot News

The Home Depot Foundation added \$3.9 million in grants to organizations across the country that address veterans' housing needs. The recent round of grants brings the Foundation's financial contributions to the issue of \$65.7 million since launching its mission in the spring of 2011 of ensuring every veteran has a safe place to call home. To date, donations made by The Home Depot Foundation have impacted more than 10,200 units of veterans' housing. Some of the project funding included:

- \$1.7 million to nonprofits to repair or construct 323 units of permanent supportive housing for veterans, including 225 units that serve veterans with families.
- \$800,000 to nonprofits that will provide transitional housing to 131 homeless veterans.

- \$400,000 to a nonprofit organization that offers 58 women veterans and their families a permanent supportive housing solution.
- \$875,000 to provide critical home repairs and maintenance to 126 single-family homes owned by veterans and their families.

Proud to Serve

Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant