



Department of



South Carolina
The American Legion
P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063
Tel: (803) 612-1171
E-mail: dept.adjutant@sc.twcbc.com
Website: www.scarolinalegion.org



April 17, 2014

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned .

IRS Information

The National Office of the National Judge Advocate recently sent a memorandum to all Department Adjutants advising of information that is available from the Internal Revenue Service on publications. **Publication #4221-NC** titled Compliance Guide for Tax-Exempt Organizations, **Publication #598** titled Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations and **Publication #3079** titled Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming. If you desire to obtain a copy, please contact IRS and order them for your post. A limit of 5 can be ordered at any one time.

VA Dental Info

For the first time in history, the U.S. government has authorized a national dental insurance program for veterans enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care and individuals enrolled in VA's CHAMPVA program. Premium rates will vary depending on your geographic region and the plan option you select. There are three options that are available: basic, enhanced and comprehensive. These plans range from about \$8 for the basic up to about \$27 for comprehensive. Veterans will not be getting dental care done by the VA but veterans must be signed up with the VA for health care to be eligible for the dental insurance plan. As stated above, this is the first time that the VA has actually assisted veterans with dental care except for those veterans rated at 100 percent service-connected, have a service-connected disability for a dental injury, or on the VA Voc-Rehab program. More information can be found by going to Delta Dental at deltadentalvadip.org.

San Diego Cross

The Justice Department says a 29-foot war memorial cross on a San Diego mountain is not an unconstitutional promotion of Christianity and should remain on federal property. The Obama administration said an appeals court ruling declaring the cross on Mount Soledad a violation of the constitutional separation of church and state undermined an act of Congress and conflicted with recent Supreme Court decisions.

But, in a filing last week to the nation's highest court, it said an appeal should first be considered by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals because there is no imminent risk that the cross is removed. Last month, the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association asked to skip the appeals court and go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court, saying it wanted to hasten resolution to a legal dispute that began in 1989. The brief by Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said "additional time for reflection" may cause the 9th Circuit to reconsider its position. It says the Justice Department will appeal to the Supreme Court if it loses.

The 9th Circuit has been an unfriendly venue to advocates of the cross, ruling in 2011 that it was unconstitutional because it sits on federal property and sending the case back to U.S. District Judge Larry Burns to consider alternatives. In December, Burns reluctantly ordered that the cross be removed but said his order would be put on hold pending appeals. "So long as the stay remains in place, this case can proceed along the usual procedural course without causing immediate harm to the public interest," the Justice Department wrote in its brief. Verrilli added that the 9th Circuit's earlier ruling was "wrong" and needs to be overturned, either by the appeals court or by the Supreme Court, according to The Los Angeles Times. "The United States remains fully committed to preserving the Mount Soledad cross as an appropriate memorial to our nation's veterans," he wrote.

The concrete cross was erected in 1954 to the memory of veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The federal government seized the property from the city of San Diego in 2006 through an act of Congress in an effort to prevent it from being removed.

James McElroy, an attorney for plaintiffs who have challenged the cross, said the Justice Department made the right call by refusing to join the war memorial association's call for an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court. "This is not a case where the cross is going to be ripped out of the ground anytime soon," McElroy said. "There's no reason to not go the normal course." The Liberty Group, a nonprofit legal group specializing in religious liberty cases, says the Supreme Court petition has received support from 19 states, **The American Legion**, prominent veterans and members of Congress. "We are encouraged by the outpouring of support that the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association has received for its petition to have the U.S. Supreme Court settle, once and for all, the constitutionality of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Cross," said Kelly Shackelford, president and CEO of the Liberty Institute.

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. If you have not already done so, please submit your forms as soon as possible. Your cooperation in the matter will be greatly appreciated.

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. Attached is a diagram of parking available as well as passes for parking to keep from being issued a parking ticket. Put the pass on the dashboard of your vehicle while attending the rally.

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.

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 McAlintosh, 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 17, Thursday – Patriots Point 7:00 p.m. Stories of Vietnam POW's from Alvin Townley. Aboard the USS Yorktown. Free admission, parking \$5.00. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

April 18, Friday – Patriots Point 11:30 a.m. Ground-breaking ceremony for the new Vietnam Experience Exhibit. Visit PatriotsPoint.org for more information.

April 18, Friday – Office closed – Good Friday

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 11 a.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 #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.

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