



**Department of  
South Carolina  
The American Legion**

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June 14, 2014

## **SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE**

**Truth always wins over falsehoods.**

### **Palmetto Boys State**

On Sunday, June 8 I visited the campus of Anderson University where the Palmetto Boys State was being conducted. This year marks a fantastic year in the history of this premier program of The American Legion. This year through the hard work and diligent effort of many the attendance at PBS went over **1,000** delegates. That is correct as a matter of fact, I believe the number was 1,016 delegates. That is fantastic and I wish to thank everyone who had anything to do with having that many young men participate in this great program.

At 7:30 there was a program honoring The American Legion and those Legionnaires attending that program. I was somewhat surprised that not more of the Blue Hat Legionnaires attended as it is a program honoring them. Please if at all possible next year attend that program and hopefully they will have it again. It was and is well worth the time to attend.

On Friday June 13 and Saturday, June 14 I along with Department Commander John Collins attended talent night at Anderson University and then graduation on Saturday morning. Let me tell you I was very impressed with how Director Stephen Lewis and Sinclair Lewis have handled this fantastic program. High KUDOS goes to both as well as to their staff members and counselors. All Legionnaires should attend some of the next year events to witness this program and how the young men transform from boys to men in just a week. They go from nervous young men on Sunday to brothers all on the following Saturday. Wish all of the delegates the very best in the future.

### **New Dept Officers**

Last Saturday, May 31 at Greenville at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention, the following officers were elected to the indicated offices for the ensuing 2014-2015 American Legion Year. They are:

Commander: John Collins, Post #3, Greenville

Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: John Davis, Post #249, Dillon

Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Harry Brown, Post #208, Charleston

Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander: Bob Scherer, Post #200, Boiling Springs  
Department 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander: Michael Strauss, Post #172, Headquarters  
Alternate NECman: Cecil "Bud" Hennis, Post #178, Murrells Inlet  
Department Historian: Bill Wade, Post #147, James Island  
Department Chaplain: James W. Quarles, Post #25, Laurens

Congratulations to all of the above officers and look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

### **2015 Membership Cards**

Next week the Department Commander and I will be travelling over the state distributing the 2015 Membership Cards to the following districts. Anyone who would like to attend these meetings may very well do so even though they are geared more for the Post Commanders and Post Adjutants as well as the District Commanders.

June 16 – District #16, Beaufort #207 @ 10 a.m.

District #7, Williston #75 @ 2 p.m.

June 17 – District #10, Laurens #25 @ 7 p.m.

### **Kudos**

Kudos goes to Commander Rich Struth and fellow members of Post 179 who presented an outstanding Memorial Day Program at Live Oak Cemetery, Hwy 61. They had one of the largest programs in the tri-county area and provided covered seating for 150 guests, golf cart transportation to the ceremony site, placed hundreds of flags on the graves, had all branches of the service in uniform presenting wreathes for their respective branch, two dozen Legion Riders, coolers filled with chilled water, outstanding Honor Guard with guest speaker District 2 Commander Joe Lysaght. A cookout and refreshments was provided after the ceremony.

### **VA News**

District Commander Frank Coderre has passed on information that there is a new dental plan that the VA has and stated that information can be found at the link below if anyone would desire to use it. The link is:

<http://www.deltadentalvadip.org/plans/rate2.html>

### **ALRSC News**

The American Legion Riders of South Carolina (ALRSC) are looking for your help. Over the past three years the ALRSC has raised over \$160,000.00 that has been donated to the American Legion Legacy Fund. Currently

we have ALRSC Chapters at the following post: Post 2 Abbeville, Post 3 Greenville, Post 6 Columbia, Post 15 Sumter, Post 28 Spartanburg, Post 34 Rock Hill, Post 71 North Augusta, Post 84 Hemingway, Post 121 Williamston, Post 166 Goose Creek, Post 178 Murrells Inlet, Post 179 West Charleston, Post 186 Little River, Post 193 Chapin, Post 195 Lugoff and Post 200 Boiling Springs. The ALRSC can be the best recruiting tool a post can have for recruiting new members. The Immediate Past State Commander and Current State Commander both have said that increasing membership is a critical need for the American Legion Department of South Carolina and what better way to get some of our younger veterans involved with the Legion. I know it is hard to convince young people the importance of the Legion so we have to offer them an incentive and the Legion Riders could be that incentive if the ride a motorcycle. Ask any of our active Chapters and they will tell you that some of the Riders joined the Legion because of the Riders and most have become actively involved with the Legion. I can think of no other program in the American Legion Department of South Carolina over the past 3 years that have received more positive publicity than the Legion Riders and it does not cost the post anything to start a chapter. Think back to the first year we presented checks at the Convention and all the open mouths that were around as the amount from each Chapter was announced. We even exceeded our expectations but we realized that we were had a great thing going for the Legion. For the District Commanders remember what Commander Collins said at our last DEC meeting – “Just Ask”. Ladies and gentlemen the veterans are there we just have to reach them and the Legion Riders is a proven way. You may say that your post isn’t large enough for a Riders chapter. We have one Post with only 56 Legionnaires with a chapter. I say that to encourage even smaller post to begin the process. If you have members of your post who ride a motorcycle and you want to start one, they can join one of the current Rider Chapters to get the ball rolling on starting your chapter. WE WILL HELP, however we cannot do all the work. It takes effort on the post part to make this program a success and you can watch your membership grow. If you are interested please contact me at [grady@sc.rr.com](mailto:grady@sc.rr.com) and arrangements will be made for someone to come to your post and talk with your members about starting a Legion Riders Chapter.

Grady Richardson  
ALRSC State Director  
District 19 Commander  
Post 84 Adjutant

**Aiken Cty Vets  
Office**

Following is the new address of the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Office, now located in the new county administration building: Aiken County Veterans Affairs  
1930 University Parkway, Ste 2305  
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

The telephone numbers will not change. The above is from the VAO Jim Harris.

## Pro Bono Info

Lawyers4Vets - Monthly Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic

**Introduction:** As a service to area Veterans, the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center has partnered with the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center and members of the private bar to establish Lawyers 4 Vets, a Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic.

**Purpose:**

Lawyers 4 Vets connects low income and homeless Veterans with attorneys who provide legal advice and representation on certain issues.

**Legal Issues and Services:** The clinic will ONLY address the following topics:

- Obtaining identification (Social Security, South Carolina State ID, birth certificates)
- Child support and visitation issues (in South Carolina)
- Expungements and pardons (for convictions from South Carolina courts)
- Consumer protection
- Simple wills and healthcare power of attorney

**Eligibility:**

Veterans will be screened for eligibility, and if eligible will be given an appointment at the clinic. Lawyers 4 Vets will assist eligible Veterans regardless of military discharge status.

**Appointments:** Veterans who would like to be screened for eligibility should call the number listed below and leave a message including their name, phone number, and legal issue. The Veteran will be contacted within 2 business days by an intake volunteer who will ask the veteran a number of questions to determine if they are eligible. If the Veteran is eligible and has a qualifying legal issue, they will be given the next available appointment at the legal clinic. Appointments are required for a Veteran to receive a face-to-face meeting with a lawyer. Walk-ins will not be seen and will be directed to contact the telephone intake.

**Number to call:** Toll Free 1-877-289-6000

**Clinic Dates:** The Clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The 2014 Clinic dates are:

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| * May 15, 2014       | *June 19, 2014     |
| * July 17, 2014      | *August 21, 2014   |
| * September 18, 2014 | *October 16, 2014  |
| * November 20, 2014  | *December 18, 2014 |

**Where: (BY APPROVED APPOINTMENT ONLY AND SPECIFIC LOCATION PROVIDED UPON CONFIRMATION):** Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia SC 29209.

## What's Happening

**June 13, Friday** – Post #185, 534 Wild Wood Lane, Lugoff having a “SOCK HOP” from 7-11 p.m. \$7 per person \$12 per couple with refreshments available.

**June 16, Monday** – Post 147, James Island will be hosting an update on recent bills passed to insure better treatment for our veterans presented by Senator Lindsay Graham. It is asked that anyone attending please wear your American Legion cover. District Commander Lysaght asks that District 2 Executive Committee to wear their Navy blazer, polo or open collar shirt and cover.

**June 23, Monday** – Post #195 will be holding a blood drive 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Main Hall on Wild Wood Lane. FMI contact Bill Heil 438-8614.

## KUDOS

A big KUDO goes to Post #31 Lancaster who along with the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association when they combined their efforts to provide breakfast for the county's Emergency Workers and Law Enforcement officers at the Post #31 building on Kershaw Camden Highway. The breakfast was put together as a way to say thanks to police, firefighters and EMS workers on Memorial Day. Grits and eggs were on the menu.

## Post Officer Listings

**District Commanders Please Note:** Even though you may have the same officers in the same positions for the 2014-2015 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.

Proud To Serve

Lloyd H. Woods  
Department Adjutant