

Candidates For Department Officers 2008-2009

FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

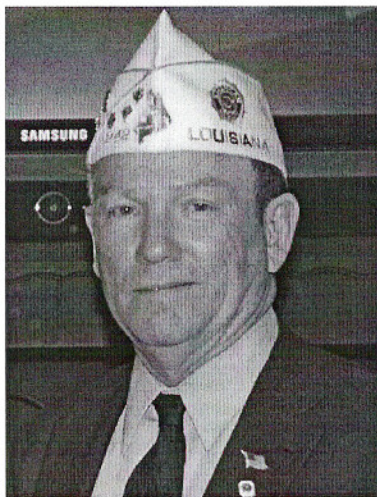


**ARCHIE BOYETTE
POST #3 ALEXANDRIA
DISTRICT 8**

FOR DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER



**JOHNNIE SQUARE
POST #502, BATON ROUGE
DISTRICT 6**



From the Department Commander

Fellow Legionnaires time is closing in and soon you will have another Department Commander. It has truly been an honor serving you as your Department Commander. It is necessary for us to remember that as a member of the Legion Family, we must serve our Veterans and their Families. I thank you for your hospitality when ever we met at Post, District, or Department functions it will always be remembered.

Those who met the National Commander Marty Conatser were very impressed with his presentations. It gave us all that spark needed to carry on with what is necessary to continue working the programs of our great organization.

District Conferences are over now; you have elected your District Officers and have met the Department Candidates that will carry on what is needed to continue the goals of The American Legion. Let us make sure that our voice is heard at the Department Convention electing the Candidates of your choice. Send in your credentials and have a Post representative at the Convention.

Hope to see you at the meetings and hospitality rooms. Remember this is a Legion business meeting, one of three held each year, so lets make the best of it.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Edwin Grow
Department Commander

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA WEBSITE:**
www.lalegion.org



**From Department Vice-Commander
Larry Abshire**

Legionnaires,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as one of your Department Vice Commanders this year and as the Membership Director of Headquarters Post 401. Service has always been my goal since joining The American Legion. I have enjoyed all the experiences and challenges offered to me in the last eight years that I have served The American Legion at the District and Department level. I pledge to continue my efforts for all veterans, their widows and orphans in any capacity requested by The American Legion.

The National Convention in Reno; the membership meeting in Indianapolis; the welcome home of a wounded soldier in Tallulah; the dedication of the War Veteran's Home in Bossier; the Veteran's Cemetery in Caddo Parish; the presentation of a 60 year continuous membership certificate at Koran Post 388 and the National Commander's visit fill my memories. National Commander Marty Conatser talked at several Posts in the state and each time commented that we as The American Legion are the only veteran's organization that is experiencing membership growth, which is a direct result of the DMS program and the use of the Headquarters Post to recruit prospective members for local post. Marty also stated that we must tell our members and the public about what The American Legion provides for its membership as benefits and support in times of need. He stated "The American Legion is here to aid and assist the active military of today and the veteran of yesterday."

The Department Convention will be in Alexandria on June 5-8 2008. Several issues of importance will be discussed and Department Officers for 2008-2009 will be elected. I encourage all posts to this convention. May God bless all and see you in Alexandria.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
Larry Abshire

Act of 2006 requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, organizations that do not file the e-Postcard (Form 990-N), or an information return Form 990 or 990-EX for three consecutive years, will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing date of the third year."

Having some glimmer of the way government works, I would not at all be surprised if missing one year would subject the Post to some sort of penalty.

Check with your Commander, Adjutant or Finance Officer to make sure that your Post has complied with this latest reporting directive.

Since filing must be done electronically, go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on "EO Newsletter." Don't wait, do it now.

By David Simon
Department Adjutant

CALL TO DUTY

*Boots on the Ground
Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline*

1 800 984 8532

Overseas DSN 312 328 0002

Stateside DSN 328 0002

Email: wfsupport@conus.army.mil

A New Way to Save on Prescriptions Introducing The American Legion Prescription Discount Card

Paying for prescription medication continues to be a struggle for many Americans without prescription insurance coverage – more than 44 million in 2005. If you are one of these Americans and a member of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or a dependent your membership is more valuable than you think. Introducing The American Legion Prescription Discount Card administered by Caremark. This new prescription discount card replaced the existing program offered by RxAmerica. If you currently use the prescription discount card program, don't worry. Simply present your current card to the pharmacist along with your prescription to keep saving.

There are some important changes to

The American Legion Prescription Discount Card program:

- Save 20 percent on CVS brand products at all CVS pharmacies
- Save an average of 20 percent off the regular retail price of prescription medicine
- More than 57,000 participating pharmacies nationwide
- Over 99.9% of prescription medicine is included in the program.

When you print and use your prescription discount card you will automatically be signed-up to receive a CVS Health Advocate Card. This card offers 20 percent savings off CVS branded products in all CVS/pharmacy stores nationwide. Simply show your CVS Health Advocate Card at the time of purchase to receive the discount. More savings on prescription medicine are available through the convenient mail service program. Getting started in mail service is easy; simply call the toll-free Customer Care number and provide your prescription information, doctor information and a credit card number. Caremark will call your doctor and mail your prescription to your home or office.

Visit The American Legion website to print your discount card and start saving right away. Your card is good for your entire household – including pets. If your veterinarian prescribes a prescription medicine for your pet that is also used to treat conditions in humans, simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy.

Your Boss and You

- When you take a long time, you're slow. When your boss takes a long time, he's just being thorough.
- When you don't do it, you're lazy. When your boss doesn't do it, he's too busy.
- When you make a mistake, you're an idiot. When your boss makes a mistake, he's only human.
- When you do something without being told, you're overstepping your authority. When your boss does the same thing, that's initiative.
- When you take a day off sick, you're always sick. When your boss takes a day off sick, he must be very ill.

Meaning of Memorial Day

It's a sacred day to all war veterans: None need to be reminded of the reason that Memorial Day must be commemorated. But what about the general public, and more important, future generations? Do most non-veterans really recognize the importance of the day honoring their fellow Americans killed in war?

Judging from what Memorial Day has become—simply another day off from work—the answer is a resounding no. Perhaps a reminder is due, then. And it is the duty of each

and every veteran to relay the message.

Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. America's collective consciousness demands that all citizens recall and be aware of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime.

Far too often, the nation as a whole takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew. That's why they are all collectively remembered on one special day.

This should be regarded as a civic obligation. For this is a national debt that can only be truly repaid by individual Americans. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice in the memories of future generations.

They came from all walks of life and regions of the country. But they all had one thing in common—love of and loyalty to country. This bond cemented ties between them in times of trials, allowing a diverse lot of Americans to achieve monumental ends.

We remember the loss of loved ones, a sense of loss that takes group form. In essence, America is commemorating those who made the greatest sacrifice possible—giving one's own life on behalf of others.

Means of paying tribute vary. Pausing for a few moments of personal silence is available to everyone.

Attending commemorative ceremonies is the most visible way of demonstrating remembrance: Placing flags at gravesites, marching in parades, sponsoring patriotic programs, dedicating memorials and wearing Poppies are examples.

Whether done individually or collectively, it is the thought that counts. Personal as well as public acts of remembering are the ideal. Public displays of patriotism are essential if the notion of remembering war dead is to be instilled in youth.

As America's older war veterans fast disappear from society's landscape, there are fewer and fewer standard-bearers left to carry the torch of remembrance. Such traditions will live on only if there is a vibrant movement to which that torch can be passed.

Now, more than in recent years, the enduring relevance of Memorial Day should be clearly evident. With two wars under way, the public has no excuse not to remember.

This much is owed to the more than 4,500 Americans who have died thus far in Afghanistan and Iraq.

LOUISIANA LEGIONNAIRE

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Commission



Members of the Sons of The American Legion – it has truly been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Detachment Commander for the last two years. I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling the state and meeting so many people that belong to this great organization. The time has come for you to decide to elect a leader that will carry on the programs of our organization and move us forward into the next year.

The DEC made changes last year that affects newly elected officers. Those of you, who may be running for the top five positions, be prepared to pay \$50.00 towards the purchase of your dress cover. If you complete your duties as that officer, you will be reimbursed your money at the end of the year. In the past we have had members elected and not complete their duties and hopefully this will eliminate that practice.

Our Louisiana S.A.L. Life Membership was approved by The American Legion, Department of Louisiana DEC on July 27, 2007. Today we currently have 9 members that are life and I am getting ready to make the first draw from the fund. Those that are on the committee will be given copies at the convention. We currently have about \$2,700.00 invested and there is enough money in the fund to pay the next years draw.

Again this year, we will be hosting the hospitality breakfast on Sunday morning from 7 am to 9 am at the Department Convention. We are still in need for donations to this fund. Any donations can be made payable to Camille LeJeune, I will cash the checks and have the money available to purchase the items that we need.

Important-dates for you to know about: May 6th will be the cutoff for voting strength at Convention. Votes are calculated per register delegate, plus the opportunity to purchase additional votes based on your membership total. The May 6th cutoff is also the date we use to calculate the membership awards presented at the Convention. The next National target date for Membership is May 14th and that will be 100%. Based upon the latest report we are an extremely long ways from this goal. We need to get out there and get those renewals before the year-end closes.

Consolidated reporting forms have been mailed with your call out. Those of you who are not attending the Convention can mail your forms to the

Commander or Adjutant prior to Convention for judging. We need to have all Squadrons submit a form for judging. You know you are doing the work, but you are not turning in the form. These forms are mailed to National to give the Nation a complete report about what we do as Sons of The American Legion.

While I realize that the News and Views only reaches Legionnaire's, some of our members are dual members; I would appreciate if the Post Commander's would share this article with the Squadrons and their members.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at Detachment Convention. We have a pretty tight schedule Saturday but hopefully all will go well and we can finish up in a timely manner. For those of you who have never attended a Convention and would like to come for the day, Saturday is your best day. Come out and meet members of your organization and enjoy the comradeship with them.

Sons of The American Legion
Camille A. LeJeune, Jr.
Detachment Commander



HENRY CEVILLE VIDRINE Memorial Scholarship

Henry Ceville Vidrine was a farmer from Whiteville, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. Henry was born in Grand Prairie, Evangeline Parish, La. and moved to Whiteville, La after he married. Henry enlisted in the US Army at age 17, serving in WW I.

Henry returned home to St. Landry Parish and resumed his farming career. He maintained his crops of vegetables and tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons and 2 acres of cotton. He also had a truck farm that served well to support his family. They also raised chickens, pigs and cows.

Farm life was hard in the 1930s and 40s. The majority of the plowing was done by hand, with a mule or horse. They sharecropped part of the land with the landowner.

Henry worked hard and always had enough to feed his family. There were no

tractors, combines or cotton pickers to help with the work. There was no electricity or running water; water was drawn from the well that was located near the house.

Henry and Edna Soileau Vidrine raised a family of 7 children on the farm in Whiteville, La. All of the children were well educated. Their 2 sons enlisted in the US Navy for military service during WW II. Another son enlisted in the US Army and served in Korea. Yet another son served in the USAF as well.

After they arrived home to St. Landry Parish, the Vidrine sons resumed their own farms. Nathan and John farmed over 1000 acres of cotton, corn and soybeans.

The Henry Ceville Vidrine Memorial Scholarship is given in honor of Henry's contribution to the farming community. His hard work and dedication to provide for his family are the highlights of Henry Ceville Vidrine's life.

Joseph R. Fontenot, grandson of Henry Ceville Vidrine, is the Commander of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 69. It is the purpose of Commander Fontenot to encourage future farmers in their quest to provide quality farm crops and to provide for their families.



April 20, 2008: Sons of the American Legion Squadron 69 member Joshua A. Doucet, center was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Joshua is a member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop # 271. Pictured with Joshua: at left: Joseph R. Fontenot, Commander, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 69; at right: Ray A. Doucet, Joshua's father. Ray serves as Squadron 69 Finance Officer.

**AMERICAN LEGION STATE CONVENTION
GENERAL HOUSING FORM**

JUNE 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2008
Dept. Cut-Off Deadline – May 10, 2008

MAIL TO: Archie Boyette, Housing Chairman, P. O. Box 7724, Alexandria, LA 71306

ONLY ONE RESERVATION PER FORM, PLEASE. PLEASE *DO NOT* DUPLICATE THIS FORM.
Tax is included in the prices listed for all of the rooms below. Please indicate a second choice from the Overflow Hotels in case it is needed. **ROOMS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME BASIS. Check in 2:00 PM.**

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO CENLA CONVENTION CORPORATION.
First night's room deposit is required. All reservations are made through the Cenla Convention Corporation and must be cancelled through the Cenla Convention Corporation to ensure your refund. Please be sure to give your complete home address to receive your confirmation by mail.

BEST WESTERN – ALEXANDRIA (American Legion/Auxiliary Headquarters)
_____ 2 Queen Beds or _____ King (\$71.15 per night)
_____ Suite (\$87.40 per night) _____ Hospitality Suite (\$151.80 per night)
_____ Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____ Ground Floor _____ Handicapped
Note: If ground floor is required, you may be moved to an overflow hotel.

OVERFLOW HOTEL CHOICES

RAMADA LIMITED _____ 2 Double Beds or _____ King (\$71.15 each per night)
SUPER 8 _____ 2 Double Beds or _____ King (\$71.15 each per night)

Note: Transportation will be provided to and from Ramada Limited and Super 8.

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

STREET: _____ **CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE** _____

POST: _____ **UNIT:** _____ **SQUADRON:** _____ **DISTRICT:** _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ **DEPARTURE DATE:** _____

NAME ON CARD: _____ **CARD NO.:** _____

TYPE OF CARD: _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

Please reserve for me and (Names): _____

Note: Every person in room must be registered with hotel.

REGISTRATION FEE FOR CONFERENCE IS \$6.00 PER PERSON. Checks made out to **CENLA CONVENTION CORPORATION** or cash for registration only. Credit cards are accepted for room reservation guarantee only.

NAMES ON REGISTRATION: _____