



NEWS & VIEWS



Lester D. Cromwell – Department Commander
 Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr. and Rodney Holliday
 Department Vice Commanders

Pat Reeves, Editor

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Les Cromwell



Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System is scheduled to see its first patient in its new Medical Center by the end of December 2016. The 1.6 million sq. ft. facility, in Mid-City New Orleans, is currently 87 percent complete and will open in phases, beginning with outpatient services.

Veterans in southeast Louisiana have not had a VA hospital since 2005, when Hurricane Katrina rendered the New Orleans VA Medical Center unusable. This new replacement facility will be a tertiary care regional referral center with 200 inpatient beds for medical care, surgical care, transitional care, hospice, palliative care and physical rehabilitation.

During the activation, the health care system will continue to provide health care to Veterans in one of its eight community based outpatient clinics.

"Those clinics will remain in Baton Rouge, Franklin, Hammond, Houma, New Orleans, Slidell and St. John Parish even after the new hospital is built," said SLVHCS Medical Center Director Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE.

When complete, the Medical Center is designed to meet the full array of the health care missions, including education, research and supporting national emergency preparedness and assistance.

The Louisiana Department of The American Legion "Department Convention" will be at the Best Western Hotel in Alexandria, LA on June 10, 11, & 12 2016. Our Southern National Vice Commander will be there with us. Please come and bring greetings.

I thank everyone for your kindness and support that you have given me as your Commander. May God be with you.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic.

It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others no matter what cost."

~ Arthur Ashe ~

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 30, 2016



Dates to Remember

2016 FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- District 1**-October 1-TBD
- District 2**-October 1-Post 64-9:00 AM
- District 3**-October 21-23-Quality Hotel Houma-Post 31, Hosting-9:00 AM
- District 4**-September 24-Post 14-10:00 AM
- District 5**-October 15-Post 122-9:00 AM
- District 6**-September 25-Post 38-9:00 AM
- District 7**-October 2-Post 179-9:00 AM
- District 8**-October 30-Post 387-9:00 AM

FROM THE ADJUTANT

Matt Farlow



Membership:

For 2016 year - Our goal for the year is 22,300. Current membership is 89.12%. The May 11 goal was 100% - we have failed to meet the National goal.

National Dues Increase: As most already know, National voted to increase dues \$5.00 beginning January 12, 2016. Dues to Department are now \$29.50 for new and renewals.

Legionnaire: The next *Legionnaire* will be published in August 2016. I ask each District Commander, each Post Commander, and Committee Chairman to submit an article to show what has been going on in your Districts and Committees. This is your *Legionnaire* to let all our members know what is going on. ***I will need your articles and photos not later than July 1, 2016.***

NEF: The new National Commander, Dale Barrett, wants to replenish the National Emergency Fund. We expect our NEF goal from National this year is \$11,540.00. As of this date, contributions are at \$5,157.50. We encourage all Posts to contribute to this fund since Louisiana depends heavily on this fund following hurricane emergencies.

Poppy Fund: Funds derived from Poppy sales are the funds we can use for Children & Youth programs and Temporary Financial Assistance. We are getting an increased number of requests from veterans and their families for these funds. Bylaws Article 1, Section 10 outlines Post responsibilities to provide funds for this program. If the Post conducts Poppy sales, 50% of the sales to go the fund. Posts that do not conduct Poppy sales, ***Posts with less than 200 membership shall remit \$25; Posts with over 200 members \$40.*** We encourage all Posts to contribute to this fund.

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FROM THE ADJUTANT

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Department Convention: Will be June 10-12 at the Best Western Hotel in Alexandria. Commission meetings will begin on June 10 at 10:00 AM. The DEC will meet at 1:00 PM. The Joint session will begin Saturday June 11 at 8:30 AM. All call outs were mailed in March. Jimmy Lane, National Southern vice Commander will visit us during the session. The VA Session will start at 1:30 PM on Saturday, June 11.

The Testimonial will be on Friday June 10 at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now for \$20.

Housings are posted on the Department website at www.lalegion.org.

National Commander Visit: National Commander Dale Barnett will be visiting the state May 20-23. He will be the guest speaker at the Armed Forces Day event at the WWII museum on Saturday May 21. He will be attending the 3rd District Spring meeting on May 22. Other activities and venues during this visit include a tour of the new VA Hospital in New Orleans, a visit to the Reserve War Veteran Home, and dinner at Post 16 in Covington on Friday May 20th.

2016 National Convention: The National Convention will be held in Cincinnati, OH on Aug 26 – Sep 1. We have been assigned to the Westin Hotel. Information and housing forms are posted on the Department website – www.lalegion.org. Room rate: will be \$151.58 for singles and doubles (\$128 plus 17.5% tax)

2017 National Convention: The 2017 National Convention will be held in Reno, NV.

Legion Centennial: National has developed a portal to document Post history. The link is <http://centennial.legion.org/histories>

Post 1 in Lake Charles, Post 13 in Monroe, Post 83 in Lockport, Post 99 in Monroe, and Post 513 in Thibodaux have already posted information on the site. We encourage District Officers and District Media Commissioners to work with Posts to get as many on the site as possible this year.

Annual Reports:

Post Data Form: *This is a mandatory form from National. POSTS THAT FAILED TO SUBMIT A FORM ARE TOO LATE TO GET CHANGES FOR DUES OR ADDRESS CHANGE. THE FORM CAN STILL BE SUBMITTED.*

Post Officer Certification Form: *This is a mandatory form to be completed and sent to Department following the Post spring elections.*

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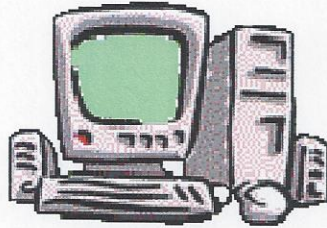
Consolidated Post Report: *This is a mandatory form. Please return to Department not later than June 15, 2016 so Department can get them to National by July 1, 2016. This past reporting year we had less than 36% turn in. The information on this report is what National uses to compile and provide information to Congress. This coming year we will provide the District Commander a listing weekly of the Posts that had not sent their form in. The form is available on-line at Legion.org and will be sent to the Posts in the mid-month mail next week.*

Annual Awards:

Hamley-Barrios Award: Submissions are due to Department not later than May 30, 2016.

Stiffel Award: Submissions are due to Department not later than May 30, 2016.

SEE YOU AT CONVENTION!



Website Information

www.lalegion.org

This is the department website. Please visit it and make use of the info to be found there.

www.legion.org

National has a "revised" website. It really is easier to move around in and provides a lot more information for the Legion.

www.MyLegion.org

Legion is putting more and more functions on MyLegion.org. If you have not already signed up your Post, you need to. If you want to expand your Post membership, the system will give you names and contacts for the veterans in your area.

www.mySAL.org

National has also opened up this website. Please check it out.



The Samsung American Legion Scholarship ONLINE application is up and running at:
<http://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>



**LOUISIANA AMERICAN LEGION
GETTING INVOLVED IN
AMERICANISM YOUTH
SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM**

*Michael Peats, Chairman
Louisiana American Legion,
Americanism*

American Legion of Louisiana is about to start competing in the Americanism Junior Shooting Sports program. The Junior Shooting Sports program is an American Legion program under the Americanism Commission.

It is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic element of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors.

Two Louisiana Posts are looking at implementing the program. The Sulfur Post 179 and the Covington Post 16 are in the process of implementing the program. Junior Shooting Sports is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition into a well-rounded activity.

The Louisiana Americanism Commission is looking at getting this program identified at the Department level with an awards program to be implemented and recognition given to individuals. This program will be discussed at the June Department Convention in Alexandria, Louisiana. Any other Post interested in getting a program going should contact Mike Peats, Department Americanism Chairman, for information at 985-502-8802 or m484048@bellsouth.net.

PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE PROGRAM

To apply for PUFL membership online direct from legion.org, please go to:
<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>.