



NEWS & VIEWS



Forrest Travirca, III - Department Commander
ARCHIE BOYETTE & DAN LEONARD
 DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

Pat Reeves, Editor

COMMANDER'S CORNER

One of the constantly asked questions regarding VA Health Care relates to the issue of emergencies.

I spoke with Marilyn Brown at the Southeast Louisiana VA Health Care Center in New Orleans recently. The question of payment was presented to Ms. Brown, regarding payment of emergency care by the VA. The answer: In a "true" emergency with a zero availability of a VA Health Care facility near enough to provide care, the veteran should seek immediate care from a local hospital.

If the veteran's emergency is related directly to his or her service connection, then the fees are paid by the VA. If it is not and the veteran has Medicare or other insurance, then the veteran must claim the event for payment through those means. If the veteran has zero connection and zero insurance and the event is truly an emergency, then the VA will cover the cost.

The VA will not cover "left over balances". In other words, should a claim be filed with the insurance company and they pay 80%, that 20% balance will not be paid by the VA.

One must remember that the event must be a true emergency. Once the emergency becomes stable, the veteran must seek VA Health Care as soon as possible.

I feel the question is now answered.

FOR GOD & COUNTRY
Forrest Travirca, III
 Department Commander



Dates To Remember

May 5

VE Day 1945

May 13

Mother's Day

May 19

Armed Forces Day

May 22

Maritime Day

May 28

Memorial Day

(National Auxiliary Poppy Day)



In Honor Of Memorial Day And Mother's Day, With Deepest Appreciation We Honor All Who Have Gone On Before Us, Those Who Gave The Ultimate Sacrifice, And The Mothers Whose Sacrifices Are Also Not Forgotten

**"Peace to each manly soul that sleepth,
 Rest to each faithful eye that weepth."**

Thomas Moore

FROM THE ADJUTANT

The Spring Conferences are all said and done. Now we have to prepare for the Department Convention and, from the looks of it, it seems that we should have a fairly large turnout. All the rooms in the Convention hotel are booked; two of the overflow hotels are booked, and we are working on the third one. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with you at the Convention.

The question: "I PAID MY POST DUES - WHY AM I GETTING ANOTHER DUES RENEWAL NOTICE?"

I thought we should spend a few moments on the membership renewal process this to resolve any misunderstandings relative to Department's receipt of membership dues. It's May and we are closing out another membership year within the Department. As you know, July will bring the first of our 2008 membership renewal notices to our Louisiana Legionnaires and a push for a 100% membership year will be underway.

Our dues process has several time requirements once a member pays his/her dues at the local Post. Everyone has to complete their responsibilities for the process to work.

It's important for everyone to first understand that a member's dues are not officially paid until the dues are received and processed at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. All dues received at Department from the Posts are processed and mailed to Indianapolis on a weekly basis (usually on Thursday, unless we have specific Target Dates earlier in the week). No dues are left in the Baton Rouge Headquarters over five (5) days.

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**VICE
COMMANDER'S
VIEWS**

Archie Boyette



We are nearing the end of this membership year and it is time for that kick before the finish line. There are Legionnaires out there who need a personal visit or a phone call follow up. Now is the time to do it! If you have a friend or know someone who has not renewed, do them a favor and remind them.

Area Commanders, visit with your Posts; give them your experience, expertise, and assistance in getting that final kick. Post Vice Commanders, help your Post Commanders and Adjutants. Get that list of members who need to renew and visit with them.

We are all recruiters. Ask that veteran out there waiting to be asked. The American Legion has the best programs to offer a new member and also the best representation in Washington on issues that are important to the veteran.

The June Convention is on schedule; all that is needed is your presence. Vote for your candidate for Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, NEC, ANEC, Sergeant-At-Arms, and Color Bearers. Don't forget that there are seven hospitality rooms for your enjoyment and a band for your dancing pleasure Friday and Saturday night. Post 64 Band will be playing on Saturday also. Somewhere in this mix you should be able to find a weekend that is memorable. Hope to see you there.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Department Vice Commander this past year. It has been an experience I will value; your hospitality and comradeship have always been very heartwarming.

FOR GOD & COUNTRY
Archie Boyette
Dept. Vice Commander

QUOTABLES

**"None of us
is as smart as
all of us."**

Ken Blanchard

**Convention
Dates**

STATE CONVENTION

June 7-10, 2007
Best Western Inn
Alexandria, LA

DEC

July 27-29, 2007
Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, LA

**NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

August 24-30, 2007
Reno, Nevada

**Oratorical
Contest**



Rayne Post 77 and the 7th District hosted the 70th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program on March 11, 2007 at the Post Home in Rayne, LA. Seven outstanding young Americans competed for scholarship monies and the honor of representing our state at the National Finals in Indianapolis. Winner of this year's contest is William Andrew Duncelman, a Junior at Houma Christian High School, representing Post 380 Chauvin and the 3rd District.

**SPECIAL
OLYMPICS**

Will be held on
Saturday, May 19, 2007
Southeastern
University
Hammond, LA
8 AM till 3 PM or so

**VICE
COMMANDER'S
VIEWS**

Dan Leonard



District Conferences have come to an end and it has been a pleasure seeing and speaking with all of you on my visits to the eight Conferences. You are to be commended for all the hard work that has been accomplished with Legion Programs.

The Department Convention is right around the corner and we will be voting for new leadership. Please send your credentials by the required date and make sure you have your check for your delegates. It is very important for you to send someone to Convention to cast your votes for your Post. We have qualified candidates seeking office who wish to give of their time working for you. **SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE.** Voting is one of our privileges; make sure you take advantage of it.

Membership is the life blood of the American Legion and there is still time to send in membership. Talk to those who have not renewed. Let's get behind our Department Commander to put Louisiana on top.

Memorial Day is coming up, so please make an effort to honor the veterans in your area. Commander Traverca's Testimonial Dinner will be held at Post 83 in Lockport on May 27, 2007 at 1:00 PM. Please try to attend.

Hoping to see all of you at Department Convention in June. It has been a pleasure serving as your Department Vice Commander.

For God and Country
Dan Leonard
Dept. Vice Commander



**Note of
Interest:**

**National Convention
decanter's donated in
memory of Paul M.
Severson, PDC 1979-
80, are on display at
Department
Headquarters.**

From The Adjutant Column Continued...

I totally believe that in order for our membership dues process to work properly, Post membership dues should be mailed to Department Headquarters on a weekly basis. I realize that our membership coordinators at the Post are volunteers and a weekly membership mailing isn't always possible, but it is very important.

Let me explain.....Louisiana currently has five (5) dues renewal notices mailed to its members (see the chart in column at right) If the member pays his/her dues to the Post in a timely manner, but the Post delays mailing these dues to Department HQ in a timely manner, the member will receive another renewal notice.

For example: A member receives a dues renewal notice on July 2, 2007. The member pays the Post on July 15, 2007, but the Post doesn't mail the member's dues into Department Headquarters until September 15, 2007. The Department receives and processes the dues and mails the dues to National Headquarters in Indianapolis by September 22, 2007. Process done - no more renewal notices, right? **WRONG!**

"Why does the member get another dues renewal notice on October 1, 2007, when his dues are paid?" Answer: To avoid receiving another renewal notice, the dues must be received into Indianapolis by a certain time frame - it's called the **CUT-OFF DATE** (See Chart at right).

Here's how the cut-off date schedule works: If a member pays his or her dues on July 2, 2007 and wants to avoid the October 1, 2007 renewal notice, the dues must be received into Indianapolis by September 12, 2007. Or, if a member pays his or her dues on October 1, 2007 and wants to avoid the January 3, 2008 renewal notice, the dues must be received into Indianapolis by December 12, 2007. Again, if a member pays his/her dues on January 3, 2008 and wants to avoid the March 3, 2008 renewal notice, the dues must be received into Indianapolis by February 13, 2008. Finally, if a member pays his/her dues on March 3, 2008 and wants to avoid the May 1, 2008 renewal notice, the dues must be received into Indianapolis by April 9, 2008.

As you can readily see, any delay by the Post or Department in the processing of membership will lead to the members receiving another membership renewal notice which causes confusion, anger, and unnecessary postal expenses.

I sincerely ask all Post Adjutants, Post Finance Officers, and Membership Coordinators to make every attempt to transmit collected membership dues into Department Headquarters on a weekly basis.

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Doing so will relieve the Post, Department, and National Offices of avoidable headaches, and provide our members the timely service with respect they deserve.

Following is the 2008 Renewal Notice Schedule. Please reference this information when you receive inquires from your Post membership regarding "dues renewal notices". As always, thank you for your service to The American Legion and veterans of Louisiana. Remember, however, the best membership renewal notice method is still personal contact by the local Post.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
DAVID SIMON
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**



**ANOTHER Good Reason
To Re-new
Your Membership!**

Regular Legion Membership - 2008 Renewal Notice Schedule

*Denotes that the cutoff date is also a membership target date. Transmittals received after this date will not prevent subsequent notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

<u>CUT-OFF DATES</u>	<u>RENEWAL DATES</u>
May 1, 2007	July 2, 2007
*Sept. 12, 2007	October 1, 2007
*Dec. 12, 2007	January 3, 2008
*Feb. 13, 2008	March 3, 2008
*April 9, 2008	May 1, 2008

*****NOTE:*****

**Transmittals are due in to
Department Headquarters AT
LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO
EACH OF NATIONAL'S CUT-
OFF DATES.**

**Your American
Legion
Dept. of LA Website
www.lalegion.org**



Visit our Website for the latest information on Conventions and Meetings, Post and District events, news and announcements. Share your Post and District news with others. For more information on submitting items for publishing on the web, call Pat at Dept. HQ, 225-923-1945.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Testimonial Dinner for Department Commander Forrest Traverca, III

Will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2007 at Post 83 in Lockport. Tickets are \$15.00 each. 985-532-6786, Leo or Linda Simoneaux.

THE MOVING WALL IS COMING TO MNDEN

Display will be November 8-12, 2007. For more information call Roy Kirkham, 318-377-2975

A Reminder....

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing,
fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grown
In Flanders Fields.

**(Lt. Col. John McCrae, MD
1872-1918, Canadian Army)**



**LET'S SHOW WE CARE.
WEAR A POPPY THIS
YEAR!**

From Rodney J. Trahan, President, M. C. "Mike" Gehr Blue Cap Club

To all District 2007 Winners of the American Legion prestigious M. C. "Mike" Gehr Award, congratulations!

You are all great Americans and obviously very dedicated to your Post by working and volunteering towards accomplishing the goals of the American Legion and God and Country. You are now a contender for the most prestigious State Blue Cap Award. Good luck. The presentation of the State Award will be made on Sunday, June 10, at 9:00 AM at the State Convention.

The Department Blue Cap Club will meet on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 2:30 PM in Alexandria's Best Western Inn. I hope to see you there.

From Camille LeJeune, Jr. - Detachment Commander, Sons Of The American Legion

This year we celebrate our 75th Anniversary of the Sons of The American Legion. I know that National is currently working on something for Reno. Enos Bellanger has gotten a copy of the original movie, "Sons Of The Legion", and we watched it at Mid-Winter. A suggestion was made that we possibly do a "sit down" dinner Saturday afternoon at Convention, give out the rest of the awards from Covington, then show the movie to those who wish to stay. The movie is 62 minutes long and worth the time to watch. For more information, please contact me at la_sal_det_cmdr@yahoo.com or 225-922-0284 work, 225-718-0896 cell.

A lot of hard work has gone into this past year with regard to membership. Every Legion Post in the Department can sponsor a Sons of The American Legion Squadron. It simply takes 10 direct male descendants (adopted or step) from any Legionnaire to join our organization. For those of you who recently attended any of the District Conferences in which I addressed the group, you have heard my message that you as Legionnaires are the key to the Sons, Auxiliary, and Juniors to become a member of this great organization.

It has been an honor and privilege this year as Detachment Commander to travel with your Department Officers for the Legion, Auxiliary, and the Juniors. It was during these times when strangers handshake and become friends for life. Once you meet any member of this organization, you can truly say that we are an "American Legion Family".

List of Candidates For Department Officers 2007-2008

For Commander: Edwin Grow, Morgan City; Joseph W. Caldwell, Vivian; and Al Sanders, Monroe

For Vice Commander: Johnny Square, Baton Rouge; Eugene Naquin, Montegut; and Larry Abshire, Westlake

For NEC: Charles Aucoin, Westlake

For ANEC: Bobby Watts, Tickfaw and Harold Burson, Shreveport

For Sgt.-At-Arms: Irwin Bouvier, Cut Off and Chester Vallery, Shreveport

For Color Bearer: Don Vallery, Bossier City and James Fitzmorris, Covington



Remembrances

In a month that honors women and veterans,
a story of both.....

Back in September of 2005, Martha Cothren, a Social Studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, did something in her Military History class not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she took all of the 27 desks out of the classroom.

The students in her class came for first period, walked into the room with no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where's our desk?" She said in reply to them, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them." They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said. They answered, "Maybe it's our behavior." She told them once again, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing. Third period, same thing. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom.

The last period of the day, Martha Cothren gathered her class. They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. She says, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily." She went on further and said, "Now, I'm going to tell you."

Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. As she did, 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their full uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. They placed each of the school desks in a row and then went to stand along the wall. By the time the veterans had finished placing the desks, those kids, perhaps for the first time in their lives, understood how they earned those desks.

Martha said to her class, "The truth is you don't have to earn those desks because each one of these 27 veterans and countless other veterans like them have already done it for you. They did it for you; they put them out there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly to learn, to be good students and good citizens. They all paid a price for you to have that desk and don't ever forget it." (Special Note: The VFW chose Cothren as a Teacher of the Year in Arkansas for 2005-2006.)

Last Words - From The Editor

"The most important single influence in the life of a person is another person...who is worthy of emulation." Paul D. Schafer

Who better to honor this month of May than both the caring mother who teaches the quality of life that leads to the good citizen who in turn becomes the veteran willing to lay down life, limb, and liberty for his or her country, both parties much worthy of emulation....and, last but not least, our heartfelt thanks.