



National Liaison

NOTES

News and updates from the National Headquarters.



Number 5-2012

May 1, 2012

The purpose of this bulletin of "News and Updates" is to provide all the National Officers and Detachment leader's news and information on a continuing basis. Please disseminate to all your membership.

SAL NEWSLETTER – The SAL newsletter (spring edition) has been printed and is being processed for mailing on or about April 30, 2012 to approximately over 300,000 members. This mailing is being sent 3d class non-profit. Please keep in mind that only one copy goes to a given address. If multiple members reside at that address, only one copy will be mailed.

SPRING NEC MEETING – The spring National Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 5-6, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. All Detachment Adjutants were emailed a copy of tentative meeting agenda and the NEC reservation blank form for use with their respective detachment leadership.

NEC RESERVATIONS – The reservations for the spring National Executive Committee meeting are closed. Due to the high attendance, we are using three (3) hotels in the downtown area. Those members who do not have a reservation at the downtown Sheraton were notified by letter of their respective hotel and reservation confirmation number.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE – The NMI sessions will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012 in Circle West, Circle Center, and Circle East Rooms all located in the lower lobby of the Sheraton Hotel. Session 1 will be in the Circle West room, Session 2 in the Circle Center room, and Session 3 in the Circle East room. Attendees have been notified by separate correspondence from the MT&D Committee.

SPRING NEC MEETING UNIFORM – The uniform for the National Executive Committee meeting on Saturday's agenda is business casual, i.e. SAL blue pullover shirt, if available, trousers, and shoes. No shorts, please. Sunday – Coat and tie for the General Sessions. Just a reminder – Red National name badges should be worn with coat and tie only.

SPRING NEC CHAIRMEN MEETING – National Commander Jim Roberts will be meeting with all National Officers and Commission/Committee Chairmen on Friday evening May 4th at 6:15 pm in the Circle Centre Room lower lobby of the Sheraton Hotel.

AMBASSADOR'S TRAINING - Ambassadors training will be conducted on Friday, May 4th at 4 p.m. in the Michigan room, 21st floor of the Sheraton for those future candidates for National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion 2012-2013.

CONVENTION CHAIRMEN ORIENTATION TRAINING – There will be a special National Convention Chairmen orientation training class conducted on Friday, May 4, 2011 at 8 pm in the Michigan Room, 21st

floor of the Sheraton Hotel. The purpose of this training is to familiarize National Convention Chairmen on procedures and guidance on how to conduct presentations during the National Convention. Again, this training is for National Convention Chairmen only.

SPRING NEC – SMOKING – Just a reminder, all public building, work places, and facilities in the Indianapolis area are smoke free by law. The Sheraton Hotel, lobby area, foyer areas, restaurant, cocktail lounge, meeting and sleeping rooms are smoke free by law. Some attendees have requested a smoking room, however the entire hotel is smoke free. Please be aware that some hotels may charge a special fee (tacked onto your bill) to clean rooms designated smoke free if smoking has been detected. This is coming to be an industry standard throughout the country.

SPRING NEC – REGISTRATION – NEC registration will be on Friday from 2-5 pm. It will reopen on Saturday morning at 7:30 am. Packets will be given to the attendees indicated in the sign-in book. Any remaining packets will be available for other attendees and guests after 9:00 am on Saturday. When registering – please check your information in the sign-in book, name, address, and email address.

AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION – INDY – Those members flying to Indianapolis for meetings and desiring transportation to any of the downtown hotels can, if desired, call CAREY. You can access CAREY as www.careyindiana.com or call toll free at 1-800-888-INDY to make a reservation. CAREY has a booth at the Indianapolis Airport at the ground transportation area by the rental cars. Rates are \$16.00 per person one way plus gratuity. Another service is available in the baggage area called “Green Line”. This is a shuttle bus service that operates every 20 minutes (5 am – 9 pm) from the airport to the various hotels in downtown Indianapolis. Information is available in the baggage area of the Indianapolis airport.

NMI BREAKFAST – There will be a National Management Institute (NMI) breakfast during the NEC on Sunday, May 6 prior to the opening of the general sessions. Cost is \$12.00 per person. See any National Assistant Adjutant during registration for your ticket.

NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES – National Emblem Sales will be opened on Saturday, May 5, 2012 during the SAL spring meetings in the lower lobby of the Sheraton Hotel. They will be opened from 7 am to noon only. Call in your order by Thursday, May 3rd and your order will be ready for pick-up at the Sheraton on that Saturday. SAL merchandise will be available plus Emblem Sales will be making name badges as well. You can call 1-888-453-4466 in advance and, of course, bring in your orders. National Emblem Sales will be closed on Sunday.

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAILING – The third and final follow-up SAL renewal postcard was mailed on April 19, 2012. Over 84,000 SAL renewal postcards were mailed to all 2011 members whose record at National Headquarters shows unpaid for 2012. This postcard just reminds the member to contact his squadron for renewal of his 2012 membership. Again, this is the last postcard mailing for the 2012 membership year. Let’s all make that final push for another 100% banner year. Renew, renew, renew.

MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (MAY) – The ninth 2012 membership target date is May 9, 2012. This is our 100% membership target. This is also the cut-off date for the printing of the SAL membership cards & registers for 2013. Again, please transmit all memberships, member data forms, addresses and other changes prior to this date. We want all of our members to have a pre-printed membership card for 2013.

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS – The new SAL consolidated Squadron report forms 2011-2012 were mailed in January. Most were mailed to each Department Headquarters for distribution with some mailed to Detachment Adjutants. Every detachment is encouraged to bring to the attention of your Squadrons the importance of completing these vital forms. Instructions are contained on the cover of the form. Please alert your Squadrons that the reports should not be completed and mailed until the summer months after the squadron elections and your detachment convention time period. Should any detachment have the need for a few extra forms in case of mis-placed or lost forms, please contact your Detachment Adjutant or John Kerestan at National Headquarters for blank copies. The cut off date for receipt of these forms at National is July 25, 2012. No reports will be accepted after that date.

NAME CORECTIONS, MAILING ADDRESS CORRECTIONS – We receive many, many requests for name corrections and changing of mailing addresses throughout the year. Often, we receive mail and telephone inquiries informing us of frustrations in trying to get these changes made. There are many ways to correct this data. First, each Squadron should obtain these changes and send in a member data form. Seems simple, but many frustrations continue to plague our membership. Other ways to make changes is through the SAL web page at www.sal.legion.org under contact us. Also, the American Legion web site contains similar information and contact information. Members can email us at “sal@legion.org” and through the web page above. We can even take information on questions, name changes, and address changes by writing to us at The American Legion, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Please include this information as well as the Sons National Web site www.sal.legion.org in all your Detachment newsletters and bulletins.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – The 41th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 24-26, 2012. Preliminary planning for this National Convention is in the process. Tentatively, the Sons National Convention will be held in the Sagamore Ballroom (2d level) of the Indianapolis convention center, downtown Indianapolis. The SAL office will be in room Hall B. The great city of Indianapolis also offers many downtown amenities such as a shopping mall, many stores, and local restaurants. Tours and shuttle bus information will be listed on the SAL web page after the spring meetings.



AMERICAN LEGION EXTENSION INSTITUTE – The American Legion’s official training program for officers and members who want to expand their knowledge of The American Legion is not available online. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit www.legion.org/alei. The program is designed to take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections with a quiz at the end of each followed by a final exam. The sections closely follow the Four Pillars of service for the organizations which include the history and organization, veterans affairs & rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and children and youth. Upon completion, a participant must pass a final online exam to receive a digital certificate of recognition, and a cap pin who successfully complete the course. The names of those who have passed will be recorded and indexed at The American Legion National Headquarters. Graduates will have the option to click a box upon completion to recognize their accomplishment on The American Legion national website at www.legion.org. The online course is \$4.95 for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. Registration for non members is \$9.95. Payment can be accepted securely and conveniently on the course registration page. This course replaces the series of printed booklets that were previously sold through National Headquarters.

Future Dates

Spring NEC & National Management Institute

Veterans Assistance Day

Membership Target Date 100%

Delegate Strength Membership Target Date

National Convention – Indianapolis, IN

Membership Target Date 10% (2013)

American Legion Day

National Children & Youth Conference

National Americanism Conference

Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference

Membership Target Date 25% (2013)

Membership Target Date 35% (2013)

Membership Target Date 45% (2013)

May 5-6, 2012

May 19, 2012

May 9, 2012

July 26, 2012

August 24-26, 2012

September 12, 2012

September 15, 2012

September 21-23, 2012

September 28-30, 2012

October 13-14, 2012

October 17, 2012

November 15, 2012

December 12, 2012

