



# National Liaison NOTES

News and updates from the National Headquarters.



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This is the June edition of “News and Updates” bringing the latest information and updates to all National Officers and Detachment leaders.

## **National Convention Notes**

The American Legion adopted in 1999, Resolution No. 25 (Registration Procedures at the National Convention of The American Legion). It states in part “that all delegates and alternates to the respective National Conventions of The American Legion must register prior to, or during, the National Convention. Proper registration will ensure each attendee has the necessary credentials to enter the venues of the National Convention. Without the proper credentials, access to the various venues of the National Convention, including shuttle bus transportation will be denied.” All guest of The American Legion family who are eighteen (18) years of age or older will be required to register prior to attempting to enter any venue of the National Convention, including shuttle bus transportation. Guests who are younger than eighteen (18) years of age, and who are not delegates or alternates to the SAL or Jr. Auxiliary National Conventions will be provided a guest pass at no charge. To facilitate this resolution we will open registration at 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 23, 2012. If you are planning on having any children with you, that will not be registered as delegates or alternates, and will be using the transportation system, please notify us before the Convention so we can note the number of under eighteen guest badges that are needed. These should be listed on your delegate/guest registration forms. Thanks and see you in Indianapolis.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION – INDIANAPOLIS** – The National Convention will be held in the Sagamore Ballroom, (second level) of the Indianapolis Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. During the National Convention we ask that all delegations kindly be seated during the National Convention. We always seem to have a contingent of folks standing in the rear of the room conducting various conversations, etc. We ask that these be confined to the foyer area outside the convention ballroom. The Sergeant-at-Arms and their Assistants will assist in this effort and your cooperation and patience is requested.

**SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION** – The hours of registration we will be open are: Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The SAL registration desk will be located in the SAL staff office area, Hall B, (street level), Indianapolis Convention Center.

**DELEGATE STRENGTH MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE** – The delegate membership strength target date is July 26, 2012. This target date determines official seating for the National

Convention as well as computations for delegate votes. A separate memorandum will be mailed on or about July 27th to all Detachments and Departments along with a listing of the number of official delegates and the exact payment of fees for registration for the National Convention. Just a reminder – payment of delegate registration fees is mandatory per Article V, Section 3 of the National Constitution based on the full delegate strength plus any delegates at large.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES** – This is just a reminder. Resolution #4, Spring 2011 approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion increased the registration fees for the National Convention to \$25 for all delegates, alternates, guests of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion. A copy of this resolution was provided to all Sons NECmen during the fall 2011 meetings. Please make note of this change when processing this years National Convention delegate lists.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION ATTIRE** – All delegates should be in proper dress attire while attending the Convention sessions. Coat and tie is preferred especially when receiving awards on the stage, however, casual dress (trousers, shoes and shirt) is very acceptable. Also, many speakers and visitors will be addressing the sessions and our National Convention delegates. We should be at our best. The wearing of tank tops, short shorts, and shower clogs should be discouraged by your delegation except for small children. The dress of your delegates is a reflection of your detachment. Your attendance during the convention is important and we are very proud to represent all members Nationwide at our 41<sup>st</sup> National Convention.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA** – This years National Convention agenda is as follows: The National Convention Pre-NEC will start promptly at 10 a.m., Friday, August 24, 2012. The National Convention will start immediately at 1:00 pm, Friday, August 24, 2012. More information on detailed agenda items can be found by clicking on our web page at {[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)}.

**PRE-NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – NEW TIME CHANGE**. Effective for this National Convention in Indianapolis, the pre National Executive Committee meeting will be held prior to the opening of the National Convention in Room 210 (second level) of the Indianapolis Convention Center at 10:00 am on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a relative short meeting and a business meeting. There will be limited seating for National Officers, NEC, Alternates, and Past National Commanders only. There is no change to the post-NEC meeting scheduled upon adjournment of the National Convention.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION SPEAKERS** – This is just a reminder that during the Sons National Convention, last minute or late requests for someone to address the National Convention & delegates will not be favorably considered. Some of these requests come from within the Sons as well as outside of the Legion family. The National Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion sets the stage agenda in advance and is finalized and approved 60 days prior to the National Convention. Therefore, this type of request will not be honored unless prior approval has been received and approved in advance by the National Adjutant and/or the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion. To avoid possible embarrassment to any guest, group, entity, and your Detachment, you are requested to refrain from this type of activity and keep the convention on track and on schedule for your delegations for its intended purpose.

**CREDENTIALS** – The following official convention badges and credentials are considered acceptable official credentials for admittance to the National Convention Hall of the Sons of The American Legion in Indianapolis:

1. National Headquarters Staff Badge
2. Distinguished Guest Badge
3. News Media Credential
4. Special ID Card for Past National Commanders (Legion)
5. American Legion Convention Badge
6. American Legion Auxiliary Convention Badge
7. Sons of The American Legion Convention Badge
8. Exhibitors Badge

**CONVENTION COMMITTEES** – Convention Committees will be meeting on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 am in the Indianapolis Convention Center, Rooms 201, 202, and 203, second level of the Indianapolis Convention Center and prior to the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting which starts in Room 210 (second level) at 10 am.

**SCOOTERS, WHEELCHAIRS – NATIONAL CONVENTION** – Motorized scooters and wheelchairs along with non-motorized wheelchairs are available to rent during the National Convention in Indianapolis from the following vendor:

At Home Health Equipment, telephone (317) 759-6104 or 1-(800) 848-4670 Ext 148  
Contact – Mr. Bobby Moran or visit [www.ahhe.com](http://www.ahhe.com) for additional information

**MEDICAL SERVICES – NATIONAL CONVENTION** - Arrangements have been made through various agencies to provide medical services for our attendees at the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. During convention show hours our attendees, if inside the Indianapolis Convention Center, you would go to the nearest “house” telephone, dial “3350”, and then advise the dispatcher of the nature of the call. Security personnel will respond accordingly and will then be in charge of the situation. If attendees would like to program their cellular telephones for emergency situations within the Indiana Convention Center, please list (317) 262-3350 as the number for security. If you are attending a meeting/function at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel, please use any house telephone and dial “2222” to report an emergency. The respective operator will then dispatch emergency assistance to your location. If attendees would like to program their cellular telephones for emergency situations within the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel, please list (317) 822-3500 as the number for security. We recommend that each attendee verify emergency medical procedures within their respective hotels subsequent to checking in to their room(s).

VAMC personnel will also be available in Halls C&F of the Indianapolis Convention Center on Friday, Monday and Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively to provide VAMC related information. The VAMC personnel will not attend to emergency medical situations unless absolutely necessary. However, should our attendees desire medical services we would encourage our attendees to contact one of the hospitals listed below or follow the procedures listed above and seek the appropriate assistance.

Roudebush VA Medical Center (VAMC)  
1481 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 554-0000

Wishard Hospital  
1011 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 639-6671

Indiana University Health Hospital/IU Health Methodist Hospital  
1801 North Senate Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 962-2000

**SALE OF RAFFLE TICKETS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION** – The sale of raffle tickets and other Detachment fundraiser item(s) are prohibited at the National Convention. The only item that can be sold at the Convention site is the Convention pin from the host Detachment of Indiana.

**TRANSPORTATION** - The Shuttle Bus schedule for the National Convention in downtown area of Indianapolis is as follows:

- Route 1 – Hilton Downtown – Friday, August 24 – Thursday, August 30, 2012
- Route 2 – Sheraton Downtown – Friday August 24 – Thursday, August 30, 2012
- Route 3 – Hilton Garden Inn – Friday August 24 – Thursday, August 30, 2012

Please go to [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons) or [www.legion.org/convention](http://www.legion.org/convention) for details on dates and times. ADA service for all above routes and times are available upon request. Call at least one hour in advance (317) 605-9658 to arrange for pick-up.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE/EVENT** - The National Convention parade will be held on Sunday, August 26, 2012 starting at 4:00 pm. It will be an outdoor parade event as in years past and will start at the intersection of North Street and Pennsylvania (Legion National Headquarters) and proceed south on Pennsylvania to Ohio street then north on Meridian Street where the parade ends. More information on the parade and parade route will be listed on the Legion and SAL web pages and also contained in your convention packet upon registering at National Convention. If you plan on marching with the National Sons of The American Legion, the uniform is SAL cap, khaki (tan) pants and blue pullover shirt or equivalent, if possible.

**INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION** – Those members flying to Indianapolis for the National Convention and desiring transportation to any of the downtown hotels can, if desired, call CAREY. You can access CAREY as [www.careyindiana.com](http://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” Downtown/Airport Express. This is a shuttle bus service that operates every 20 minutes (5 am – 9 pm) from the airport and serves 17 major hotels in downtown Indianapolis. Rates are only \$7 each way. Information on the “Green Line” is available in the baggage area of the Indianapolis airport, Zone 6 or at [www.indygo.net](http://www.indygo.net).

**TOURS & SOCIAL EVENTS** - There are many tours and social events being offered during the National Convention, August 24 - 30, 2012. Most of these events can be found on the SAL web page at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons) and on The American Legion web page at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) under National Convention. Please check web pages for updates.

**NATIONAL COLOR GUARD CONTEST – NEW TIME CHANGE** - The National Color Guard contest has been moved to Friday, August 24, 2012 at 5:00 pm in Halls D&E of the Indianapolis Convention Center. Further information can be found at [www.legion.org/convention](http://www.legion.org/convention).

**GOLF EVENT** – There will be a Sons of The American Legion Golf Outing hosted by the Detachment of Indiana, Thursday, August 23, 2012 at the Maple Creek Golf Course & Country Club in Indianapolis, IN. The tournament will be a four person scramble event with a shotgun start at 10:00 am. The only qualification is that each player be a member of The American Legion Family and will be limited to the first 144 players/entries (36 teams). For more information about the tournament or sponsorship, please contact Ray Giehl III, (317) 332-4584 or email [cowboyup6969@att.net](mailto:cowboyup6969@att.net). A copy of the flyer with more details can be found on the SAL web page at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons).

**SONS NATIONAL CONVENTION DINNER** – The Detachment of Indiana is sponsoring a dinner at the Speedway American Legion Post 500 on Friday evening, August 24, 2012. Doors open at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. Karaoke and dance music to follow dinner. Cost is \$25.00 per person with checks payable to Squadron 500, Indiana. Further information can be obtained by contacting Damon Bradtmueller, Detachment Adjutant of Indiana. See dinner flyer on the Sons web page at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons).

## **General Information**

**DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL NEC & NATIONAL CONVENTION MINUTES** – In keeping with the latest technology and procedures, the Internal Affairs Division will again be sending out the official SAL meeting minutes by electronic means (email PDF). In the past, a hard copy of the minutes was mailed to all National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Chairman, and Past National Commanders. This new change will allow each officer above to receive and save this official document for record purposes as well as a major cost savings for the two National Executive Committee meetings and National Convention. The savings in mailing these minutes for postage alone will be well over \$800 per year plus the costs of envelopes and copying. If anyone does not have computer technology or desires to receive a hard copy, please contact the SAL Liaison or National Adjutant O’Hearne. We can mail you a hard copy if requested. We will continue this procedure and evaluate it as we go along for the 2012-2013 year. Individual recommendations on this procedure should be addressed to the National Adjutant for future consideration.

**BLUE BRIGADE** – Resolution NEC 6-01 established the criteria for the award of the Sons of The American Legion Blue Brigade jacket. The award specifically outlines the criteria for the award for members of the Sons of The American Legion only. Unfortunately, an error was made back in 2010 which showed a line on the award form for Sons, Legion, or Auxiliary. We caught this error and have corrected the form to reflect SAL only. The new form is contained in the 2012

Administrative Manual. Be sure to use the current form. We have received several award forms for non SAL members and those were returned to the respective detachment. Please inform your Sons leadership that this award is for members of the Sons of The American Legion.

**SUBSCRIPTION – THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE** – All members of the SAL can subscribe to The American Legion Magazine for 12 issues for only \$6.00 per year. Readers can enjoy articles about foreign affairs, ordinary citizens accomplishing extraordinary things, military valor, veteran’s health care, history, etc. Keep up to date with programs of The American Legion and items of general interest. Send a check or money order for \$6.00 along with your complete name, address, date of birth, phone, email and SAL ID number to: The American Legion, Data Services – N0808, Magazine Non-Member Subscriptions, PO Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

**DETACHMENT OFFICERS REPORT FORMS** – Detachment officers report forms are being received at National Headquarters and the new officers are being coded into the system on a daily basis. Just a note, the National Constitution and By-Laws state that outgoing NECmen and Alternate NECmen serve until the close of the National Convention. Therefore, all outgoing NECmen are encouraged to pass along information and work with the incoming NECmen. Detachments are encouraged to send in their new officer report forms as soon as possible. **All Detachment Officers report forms are due immediately after your Conventions, but no later than August 6<sup>th</sup> to National Headquarters. The call-in announcement for the Fall NEC meeting will be mailed during the National Convention. Timely reports will insure your Detachment leaders receive this call-in notice and receive any entitlements for the fall meetings as well as getting on any housing list.**

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS & REGISTERS (2013)** – The 2013 membership cards & registers have been printed and shipped to every Department for the 2013 membership year. The last mailing (shipment) of membership cards were mailed out on June 6. Detachments are encouraged to contact your Department Headquarters for your membership cards & registers. Let’s get a jump on the 2013 membership year and get your cards out early. **Our first membership target date for 2013 is September 12, 2012, which is our 10% membership target.**

**RENEWAL POSTCARD SCHEDULE AND MAILING (2013)** – The schedule for the mailing of the annual SAL renewal postcards will be in September, followed by the second mailing in January, then the final renewal mailing in April. These mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. Therefore, please follow the membership target dates closely. Above all, “transmit”, as too many Squadrons are holding membership. This saves the organization considerable postage costs. All three mailings will be made usually within a couple of days following the target in that respective month of mailing. The membership target dates are posted on the SAL web page at {[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)}.

**NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH CONFERENCE** – The annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 21-23, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration click {[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)} under programs.

**NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE** – The National Americanism Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 28-30, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. Included in this conference will be sessions for Boy State, Oratorical, Baseball, and Chaplains. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration, click {[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)} under programs.

**SAL ‘HONORARY LIFE’ CODE** – Honorary life is something that can be awarded by a Squadron/Post to an individual for a specific deed or act. He must be an existing SAL member in good standing and eligible for membership in accordance with the established eligibility criteria as outlined in the SAL National Constitution. Do not confuse this with any Detachment life programs. This information is listed in the 2012 edition of the Administrative Manual (page 33). This is only a Squadron/Post award, where authorized. To report this information, you can submit a member data form and mark the appropriate block “Honorary Life”. The record will be coded at National Headquarters. When the annual membership cards & registers are printed, a code “H” will appear on the membership register that denotes “Honorary Life”. Older versions of the member data form do not contain this block. In that case, just write on the form wherever space is permitting. Squadron/Post Adjutants should sign this form to confirm this status.

**NATIONAL UPDATE NEWSLETTER** - The summer edition of the National Update newsletter is scheduled to be printed and mailed during late July/early August. All members should receive their Newsletter prior to National Convention.

**DATES OF BIRTH INFORMATION** - The capturing and collecting of date of birth information for the National records of our members has been a slow process. This program is outlined in the 2012 Administrative Manual, page 32. This information is contained on the membership register for every member of the Sons. Many Squadrons throughout the Country have not submitted this information accordingly. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as future actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by postcards, date of birth form (page 47 of the Admin Manual), member data forms, or online at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons) in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page. Detachments are encouraged to pass this information on to all Squadrons and members during scheduled Conferences and Sons meetings.

**NEW EMBLEM SALES ITEM** – A new item is now available for Sons members from National Emblem Sales. A new SAL polo shirt (blue) – Aqua-Dry w/pocket made from 96/4/poly/spandex moisture-wicking fabric to keep you dry & comfortable – will not shrink. Fashion-textured collar with left chest pocket for convenience. Fully embroidered SAL emblem. Catalog number 507.709X - \$34.95. These will be available at National Convention through National Emblem Sales.



**CWF 100% Per CAPITA BANNER PROGRAM** – The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will be continuing the incentive program for the award year 2012-2013. Each post, unit, squadron or salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting room or it may be attached to your squadron colors. The form for submitting this request can be found on the SAL web page at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons).



**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 now 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](http://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. 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](http://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

Delegate Strength Membership Target Date	July 26, 2012
<b>National Convention – Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>August 24-26, 2012</b>
Membership Target Date 10% (2013)	September 12, 2012
American Legion Day	September 15, 2012
National Children & Youth Conference	September 21-23, 2012
National Americanism Conference	September 28-30, 2012
<b>Fall NEC &amp; Detachment Commanders Conference</b>	<b>October 13-14, 2012</b>
Membership Target Date 25% (2013)	October 17, 2012
Membership Target Date 35% (2013)	November 15, 2012
Membership Target Date 45% (2013)	December 12, 2012

## Future National Convention Sites

- Indianapolis, Indiana – August 24-30, 2012
- Houston, Texas – August 23-29, 2013
- Charlotte, North Carolina – August 22-28, 2014
- Baltimore, Maryland – August 28 - September 3, 2015
- Cincinnati, Ohio – August 26 – September 1, 2016
- Louisville, Kentucky – August 25-31, 2017
- Minneapolis, Minnesota – August 24-30, 2018
- Indianapolis, Indiana – August 23-29, 2019

