



National Liaison NOTES

News and updates from the National Headquarters.



Number 12-2011

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This is the December edition of "News and Updates" bringing the latest information and updates to all National Officers and Detachment leaders.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the National Sons of The American Legion, I wish you and your family the best joyous Christmas and holiday season. The National Headquarters will be closed on December 23-26 and on December 30-January 2, 2012 for the holiday season. We will resume regular business hours on January 3, 2012.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "J. Roberts III".

James K. Roberts III
National Commander

General Information

WEB PAGE – As you already know, the SAL web page (www.sal.legion.org) has been down since National Convention. Internal Affairs of The American Legion has been working with the American Legion Magazine to update and reconfigure the SAL web page to meet the new guidelines of The American Legion. This has been accomplished and is up and running. We ask for your continued patience as the new product will benefit the Sons of The American Legion and are consistent with that of The American Legion.

SAL WEB ADDRESS – The SAL web address of www.sal.legion.org has been changed. Effective immediately the new web address is www.legion.org/sons.

NEW WEBMASTER – We are very pleased to announce the new webmaster for the Sons of The American Legion – Mr. Wesley (Wes) Wills from the Detachment of Kansas. Wes has been working with Internal Affairs and The American Legion Magazine staff for the past month with the new system. Managing the new system for content as well as art design, and placement is no easy fix. During this initial process, please don't expect everything to be 100%. This will be an ongoing process and will take time fixing one item at a time. Adjustments and the adding of links and other data will be made daily to this system. We will keep you posted as much as possible.

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAILING – JANUARY (2012) – The 2nd mailing of the SAL renewal postcard will be processed and mailed in January. We expect this mailing to be dropped in the mail on or about January 27th to all SAL members whose record at National Headquarters shows unpaid for 2012. We expect approximately 90,000+ postcards to be mailed for this 2d notice. A follow up postcard mailing will be made in April of 2012 which will be the last one for the 2012 membership year. Just a reminder, these mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. Therefore, please follow these membership target dates closely. Please, “transmit”, as many memberships as you can. This saves the organization considerable dollars in 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 will be posted on the SAL web page at {www.sal.legion.org} when available.

NATIONAL UPDATE NEWSLETTER - The December edition of the National Update newsletter has been printed and being processed. We expect this publication in the mail prior to the Christmas Holiday season. The next mailing is scheduled for March 2012. Chairman responsible for articles should be working on them now and have your items sent to the Editor no later than January 20, 2012.

NATIONAL OFFICER VISITATIONS – Just a reminder that all National Officer Visitation request forms have been received and posted to the Commanders travel log. We are in the process of working on travel for May – June at this time. Procedures for submission of travel requests are outlined and contained in the Sons administrative manual. All requests were due to National by October 31st of this past year. Those submitting travel requests late will be reviewed, however, will not have any priority.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL 2012 – The new 2012 SAL Administrative Manual is being assembled and finalized. We expect to have this publication printed and shipped to all the SAL leadership in January 2012. A copy of this publication will be mailed to each Department Headquarters as well as being listed on the SAL web page.

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS - The new SAL consolidated Squadron report forms 2011-2012 is scheduled to be printed in December. We expect to have these mailed to each Detachment Adjutant (some sent to Departments designated) in late January 2012. The reporting data and forms will basically be the same except for dates, etc. Enough forms are being printed to provide one to each Squadron. Last year (2011), many reports were received and exceeded that of 2010. Please alert your Squadrons leadership during your upcoming meetings on the importance of this annual report. Detailed instructions are contained on the cover of this report form and they should not be completed and mailed until the summer months after the Squadron elections have taken place. More information will be provided in the early part of 2012 on the Squadron report form.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE – The annual Washington conference will be held February 26-29, 2012, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC. Those desiring reservation information are requested to use the group code “AMLE”. For those attending this year’s conference, we will once again schedule a chartered bus for the laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and several other memorials by National

Commander Jim Roberts. More information will be forthcoming from Mr. David Lee (NY), Chairman, Legislative Commission on this event and the availability of bus tickets.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – The 41st 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. The Sons National Convention will be held in the main Convention Center, Sagamore Ballroom (second level) of the Indianapolis Convention Center. The great city of Indianapolis also offers many downtown amenities such as downtown stores, shopping mall and local restaurants. More information will be forthcoming on this year's National Convention during the spring meetings.



NAME CORRECTIONS, 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.legion.org/sons (when available) under contact us and/or through your Post/Squadron Adjutant on MyLegion.Org. 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 (when available). 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.legion.org/sons in all your Detachment newsletters and bulletins.

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.

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 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 2011 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.

DATES OF BIRTH INFORMATION - The capturing and collecting date of birth information for the National records of our members has been a slow process. This program is outlined in the 2011 Administrative Manual, page 31. 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 (when available) 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.

MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE – The next membership target date is January 19, 2012 – 60%. Please transmit as many memberships as possible for this date as the extract of the membership file will be done immediately following this target for the mailing of the renewal postcards. Just a reminder – renewals are the key to success. Please emphasize this to all your Squadrons, Districts, and Sons leadership throughout your Detachment.

NATIONAL COMMANDERS HOMECOMING – We have received many inquiries requesting information for National Commander Jim Robert's homecoming. The dates for Commander Robert's homecoming are March 16-17, 2012 in Lakeland, Florida. Detailed

information can be obtained on the SAL Detachment of Florida web page at www.floridalegion.org/sons.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION – Congratulations to all. The Sons of The American Legion have just reached and exceeded the 5 million dollar mark in donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. Since the beginning back in 1987, the Sons collectively have exceeded 5 million dollars in donations for this worthy cause. A big “**thank you**” goes to all Sons members from all squadrons, districts and detachments in providing grants for children across this country. More information will be announced during the spring meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Future Dates

Membership Target Date 60%	January 19, 2012
Membership Target Date 75%	February 8, 2012
Washington Conference	February 26-29, 2012
Membership Target Date 80%	March 14, 2012
National Commanders Homecoming	March 16-17, 2012
Membership Target Date 90%	April 11, 2012
Spring NEC & National Management Institute	May 5-6, 2012
Veterans Assistance Day	May 19, 2012
Membership Target Date 100%	May 9, 2012
Delegate Strength Membership Target Date	July 26, 2012
National Convention – Indianapolis, IN	August 24-26, 2012
American Legion Day	September 15, 2012
National Children & Youth Conference	September 21-23, 2012
National Americanism Conference	September 28-30, 2012
Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference	October 13-14, 2012

