



National Liaison NOTES

News and updates from the National Headquarters.



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This is the August 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 21, 2014. 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 Charlotte.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – Charlotte – The National Convention will be held in Hall C2 (lower level) of the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC. 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 or upper level. 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 21st, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Friday, August 22nd, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Saturday, August 23rd, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The SAL registration desk will be located in the SAL staff office area, Ballroom A&B, (street level), Charlotte Convention Center.

DELEGATE STRENGTH MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE – The delegate membership strength target date was July 23, 2014. This target date determines official seating for the National Convention as well as computations for delegate votes. A separate memorandum was emailed on July 24th 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.

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 43rd 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 22, 2014. The National Convention will start immediately at 1:00 pm, Friday, August 22, 2014 in Hall C2 (lower level) of the Convention center. More information on detailed agenda items can be found by clicking on our web page at www.legion.org/sons.

PRE-NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – The Pre National Executive Committee meeting will be held prior to the opening of the National Convention in Room 213A of the Charlotte Convention Center at 10:00 am on Friday, August 22nd.. 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. The post-NEC meeting will be 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 Charlotte:

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
9. Commission & Committee Visitor Badge

CONVENTION COMMITTEES – Convention Committees will be meeting on Friday, August 22nd beginning at 8:30 am in the Charlotte Convention Center, Rooms 211A&B, 212A&B, and 213B-D, second level of the Charlotte Convention Center. The Sons National Executive Committee meeting starts in Room 213A (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 Charlotte from the following vendors:

Chair & Equipment Rental – 800 Central Ave, Charlotte, NC, telephone (704) 333-8431 contact Stacey or at www.chairequip.net.

Elder Options – Contact Scott TenBroeck at info@elderoptionsforyou.com.

Scootaround Mobility Solutions, telephone (888) 441-7575 or at www.scootaround.com.

Tarheel Mobility and Repair Center – Contact Brian Keith, telephone (336) 608-8810 or at www.mobility-repair-rental.com.

MEDICAL SERVICES – NATIONAL CONVENTION - Arrangements have been made through various agencies to provide medical services for our attendees at the Charlotte Convention Center and the Westin Hotel. During convention show hours our attendees, if inside the Charlotte Convention Center, you would go to the nearest “house” telephone, dial “6090”, 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 Charlotte Convention Center, please list (704) 339-6090 as the number for security. If you are attending a meeting/function at the Westin Hotel, please use any house telephone and dial “0” 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 Westin Hotel, please list (704) 375-2600 as the number for security. If you are attending a meeting/function at the Hilton Charlotte Center City Hotel, please use any house telephone and dial “0” to report an emergency. The operator will

then dispatch emergency assistance to your location. If attendees would like to program their cellular telephones for emergency situations within the Hilton Hotel, please list (704) 377-1500 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 Hall B of the Charlotte Convention Center during tradeshow hours respectively to provide VAMC related information. The VAMC personnel will not attend to emergency medical situations unless absolutely necessary. However, should an attendee require medical services we would encourage our attendee to contact one of the local hospitals listed below or follow the procedures listed above and seek the appropriate assistance.

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical
8501 University East Dr
Charlotte, NC 28213
(704) 597-3500

Carolinas Medical Center
1000 Blythe Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 355-2000

Kings Mountain Hospital
706 W. King Stret
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
(980) 487-5000

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 North Carolina.

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

Route 1 (Red) – Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Hyatt House, and Sheraton/Le Meridian

Route 2 (Green)– Aloft, Holiday Inn City Ctr, Marriott City Ctr, and Omni Charlotte

Route 3 (Orange) – Courtyard, Doubletree, and Residence Inn

Route 4 (Yellow) – Embassy Suites and Renaissance Suites

Please go to www.legion.org/sons or 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 (704) 525-7600 to arrange for pick-up.

NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE/EVENT - The National Convention parade will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2014 starting at 4:00 pm. Please assemble at 3:15 pm. It will be an outdoor parade event as in years past and will start from Tyron and Phifer Avenue turning left onto Tyron Street. Formation will be in the left lane on Tryon. 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.

CHARLOTTE AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION – Those members flying to Charlotte for the National Convention and desiring transportation to any of the downtown hotels can, if desired, use Taxi transportation. A \$25.00 flat fare from Charlotte Douglas International to any destination in Center City. Base charge covers up to two people; \$2 for each additional person. Rates to other areas of town are metered at \$2.50 for passenger pick-up and \$.50 for each 1/5th of a mile.

TOURS & SOCIAL EVENTS - There are many tours and social events being offered during the National Convention, August 22 - 28, 2014. Most of these events can be found on the SAL web page at www.legion.org/sons and on The American Legion web page at www.legion.org under National Convention. Please check web pages for updates.

NATIONAL COLOR GUARD CONTEST – The National Color Guard contest will be held in Hall A, Exhibit level of the Charlotte Convention Center starting at 5 pm on Friday, August 22, 2014. Contest rules and further information can be found at www.legion.org/convention/contests. The Concert Band Contests have been canceled for this year in Charlotte.

GOLF EVENT – There will be a Sons of The American Legion Golf Outing hosted by the Detachment of North Carolina, Thursday, August 21, 2014 at the Renaissance Park Golf Course, 1525 West Tyvola Rd, Charlotte, NC . The tournament will be a four person scramble event with a shotgun start at 9:30 am. For more information about the tournament or sponsorship, please contact PNC Steve C. Laws (828) 312-0451. A copy of the flyer with more details can be found on the SAL web page at www.legion.org/sons.

General Information

MYSAL – For those of you who are just now getting the word, MySAL is now available for those squadrons who apply. MySAL.org is a secure internet site linked to the membership data base for the sons. This portal site provides officers with access to the membership data and member-management tools. At present over 400 squadron adjutants have access to this site and use it daily. For further information go to www.legion.org/sons and click on mysal link. Just a reminder – you must be a paid up sons member and only one person per squadron can qualify. See your squadron adjutant for additional details. The portal for the Detachment Adjutants is being developed and we hope to have this sometime during the fall of 2014.

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 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 2014-2015 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. Keep in mind, this form must contain names of new members only, not renewals or reinstatements. We have been verifying this data and some forms were returned this year due to ineligible members.i.e. renewals and reinstatements. The new form is contained in the 2014 Administrative Manual. Be sure to use the

current form. Please inform your Sons leadership that this award is for members of the Sons of The American Legion only established by resolution.

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 8th 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 (2015) – The 2015 membership cards & registers have been printed and shipped to every Department for the 2015 membership year. The last mailing (shipment) of membership cards were mailed out in early June. Detachments are encouraged to contact your Department Headquarters for your membership cards & registers. Let’s get a jump on the 2015 membership year and get your cards out early. **Our first membership target date for 2015 is September 10, 2014, which is our 10% membership target.**

RENEWAL POSTCARD SCHEDULE AND MAILING (2015) – 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 date in that respective month of mailing. The membership target dates are posted on the SAL web page at {www.legion.org/sons}.

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH CONFERENCE – The annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 19-21, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration click {www.legion.org} under programs.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE – The National Americanism Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 26-28, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. Included in this conference will be sessions for Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball, and Chaplains. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration, click 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 2014 edition of the Administrative Manual (page 34). 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 in 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 2014 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 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.

CWF 100% PER- CAPITA BANNER PROGRAM – The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will be continuing the incentive program for the award year 2014-2015. 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.

EMBLEM SALES ITEM - The shirt was available last year in Houston and was a tremendous hit. It will be available again for this year’s Convention in Charlotte for Sons members. The SAL polo shirt (french blue and now available in Navy blue) – Aqua-Dry w/pocket made from 96/4/poly/spandex moisture-wicking fabric to keep you dry & comfortable – will not shrink. It has a fashion-textured collar with left chest pocket for convenience and fully embroidered SAL emblem. Catalog number 507.709X - \$34.95. These will be available at National Convention

through National Emblem Sales. Also available new this year is the SAL Freedom Polo, catalog number 507.718X - \$33.95. These are 60/40/cotton/poly material that won't shrink.



NEW SAL EMBLEM SALES ITEM. A new short sleeve dress shirt (SAL) is now available and will be available in Emblem Sales during the National Convention. This short sleeve dress shirt, catalog #507.600X is a relaxed fit, fully embroidered SAL emblem and available in sizes medium – 3XL. Cost \$26.95.



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. 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. 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 Emblem Sales.



Future Dates

Membership Target Date 105% & Delegate Strength Date
National Junior Sports Shooting Championships – Colorado
American Legion Baseball World Series – Shelby NC
National Convention – Charlotte, NC
Membership Target Date 10%
The American Legion Day
National Children & Youth Conference
National Americanism Conference

July 23, 2014
July 29-August 3, 2014
August 15-19, 2014
August 22-24, 2014
September 10, 2014
September 16, 2014
September 19-21, 2014
September 26-28, 2014

Membership Target Date 25%
Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference

Membership Target Date 35%

Membership Target Date 45%

Membership Target Date 60%

Membership Target Date 75%

Washington Conference

Membership Target Date 80%

Membership Target Date 90%

Membership Target Date 100%

October 8, 2014

October 11-12, 2014

November 13, 2014

December 10, 2014

January 21, 2015

February 11, 2015

February 22-25, 2015

March 11, 2015

April 8, 2015

May 13, 2015

Future National Convention Sites

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

