



National Liaison NOTES

News and updates from the National Headquarters.



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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 continuous basis. Please disseminate to all your membership.

SAL NEWSLETTER – The SAL newsletter (spring edition) has been printed and is being processed for mailing during mid April 2015 to 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 the same address, only one copy will be delivered.

SPRING NEC MEETING – The Spring National Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 2-3, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. All National Officers and Detachment Adjutants were emailed a copy of the tentative meeting agenda and the NEC call-in for this meeting. This is also posted on the Sons web page at www.legion.org/sons.

NEC RESERVATIONS – The hotel room 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 will be notified by letter of their respective hotel and reservation confirmation number.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE – The NMI sessions will start at 1:30 pm on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Circle West, Circle Center, and Circle East Rooms all located in the lower level 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. A letter of invitation and acceptance is required to attend.

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 Michael W. Moss will be meeting with all National Officers and Commission/Committee Chairmen on Friday evening May 1st at 6:00 pm in the Circle Centre Room lower level of the Sheraton Hotel.

AMBASSADOR'S TRAINING - Ambassadors training will be conducted on Friday, May 1st 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 2015-2016 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. 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 an industry standard in most hotels 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 “Embarque”. You can access Embarque at www.embarque.com or call 1-866-444-2144 to make a reservation. Embarque has a booth at the Indianapolis Airport at the ground transportation area by the rental cars. Another service is available in the baggage area called “Go Express”. This is a shuttle bus service that operates every 30 minutes (8 am – 11 pm) from the airport to the various hotels in downtown Indianapolis. Information is available in the baggage area of the Indianapolis airport and at www.goexpresstravel.com/indy_express or (800) 589-6004. Go Express Green recommends reservations be made online to guarantee your scheduled time.

NMI BREAKFAST – There will be a National Management Institute (NMI) breakfast during the NEC on Sunday, May 3 prior to the opening of the general sessions. Cost is \$12.00 per person. See any of the National Assistant Adjutants during registration for your ticket. Reminder – tickets are limited.

NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES – National Emblem Sales will be opened on Saturday, May 2, 2015 during the SAL spring meetings in the lower level of the Sheraton Hotel. They will be opened Saturday only from 7 am to noon. Call in your order by Thursday, April 23rd 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 SAL renewal postcard is scheduled to be mailed in April 2015 subsequent to the April membership target date. This postcard just reminds the member to contact his squadron for renewal of his 2015 membership. Again, this will be the last postcard mailing for the 2015 membership year. Let’s all make that final push for another 100% banner year. Renew, renew, renew.

MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE – The eighth 2015 membership target date is April 8, 2015 which is our 90% membership target date. The ninth membership target date is May 13 which is our 100% membership target. This is also the cut-off date for the printing of the SAL membership cards & registers for 2016. 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 2016.

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS – The SAL consolidated Squadron report forms 2014- 2015 were mailed in early February. Most of these forms 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 20, 2015. No reports will be accepted after that date as the final report will be published for all Sons of The American Legion nation-wide..

MYSAL – 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 900 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 in April of 2015.

MYSAL Detachment Adjutant Portal – MYSAL Detachment portal is up and running for Detachment Adjutants. To access this portal you must be a Detachment Adjutant only. Detachment Adjutants can apply the using the same authorization form as squadron adjutants. Go to www.legion.org/sons and click on mysal link. This portal site provides detachment adjutants with access to their entire detachment (all squadrons), the ability to make corrections to data, transmittal status to include names processed, and special reports as needed. This is new for 2015 and is available for detachment adjutants only.

YOUTH HANDBOOK – The Youth Handbook has been revised for 2015. The new edition now contains information on the Four Pillars of The American Legion. The youth booklet is included on the annual bulk shipments to department however it is available upon request. This booklet is designed for youth either elementary or middle school members. See you Children & Youth Commission for more information.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – The 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 28-30, 2015. Preliminary planning for this National Convention is in the process. Tentatively, the Sons National Convention will be held in the Hall C (lower level) of the Baltimore convention center. Breakout rooms for Commission meetings will be adjacent and near the Convention Hall on the third level. The SAL office will be in room Hall G at the opposite end of the convention center. The great city of Baltimore 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 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 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

Membership Target Date - 90%	April 8, 2015
National Oratorical Contest	April 10-12, 2015
Spring NEC & National Management Institute Training	May 2-3, 2015
Membership Target Date - 100%	May 13, 2015
Veterans Assistance Day	May 16, 2015
American Legion Boys Nation – Washington DC	July 17-25, 2015
Junior Shooting Sports National Championship – Colorado	July 21-25, 2015
Membership Target Date 105% & Delegate Strength Date	July 23, 2015
American Legion Baseball World Series – North Carolina	August 14-18, 2015
National Convention – Baltimore, MD	August 28-30, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 10%	September 9, 2015
The American Legion Day	September 16, 2015
National Children & Youth Conference	September 18-20, 2015
National Americanism Conference	September 25-27, 2015
Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference	October 10-11, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 25%	October 14, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 35%	November 13, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 45%	December 9, 2015
Washington Conference 2016	February 21-24, 2016
American Legion Birthday	March 15-17, 2016

