



# News & Views



Rodney Holliday – Department Commander  
Bryan D’Oriocourt & Roy Cook  
Department Vice Commanders

Pat Reeves, Editor

## COMMANDER’S CORNER

*Rodney Holliday*



In the November edition of *News & Views*, I mentioned several areas that are sequential for The American Legion, our Communities, and to the benefit of all veterans. Intentionally being redundant, I feel the need to again touch on these topics.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Renewals and acquisition should be worked continually throughout the year. Without Membership, The American Legion would lose the ability to advance veteran causes and concerns, and eventually cease to exist! We need the renewals of members familiar with our programs and goals – and the acquisition of new and younger members to get involved with and continue The American Legion Programs that enhance the lives of all veterans and communities.

The bottom line is the fewer American Legion members, the less The American Legion can contribute to the needs of not only American Legion members, but all veterans and communities. The greater the Membership, the greater influence The American Legion will have in structuring and making available the benefits of Legion programs from community to national.

**POPPY PROGRAM:** What better way to subject the public to veterans’ presence and help them be aware of the many American Legion programs for youth, those for community improvement, and those to aid veterans’ needs and benefits.

Congratulations to the winners of the Veterans Day Raffle drawing held 10:00 AM at the Lake Charles Civic Center, just prior to the 11:00 AM Veterans Day Program. The winners of cash amounts 3, 2, and 1 thousand and 5 each \$500 were spread over the state quite evenly. These veterans I consider as not taking a chance, but giving a chance! Every member that purchased raffle tickets “gave” to benefit The American Legion and to the benefit of veterans. I am sure that in purchasing the raffle tickets, it was not in the belief they would actually win a portion of the prize.

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## THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

“Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. Talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

Make all your friends feel there is something in them.

Look at the sunny side of everything. Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.

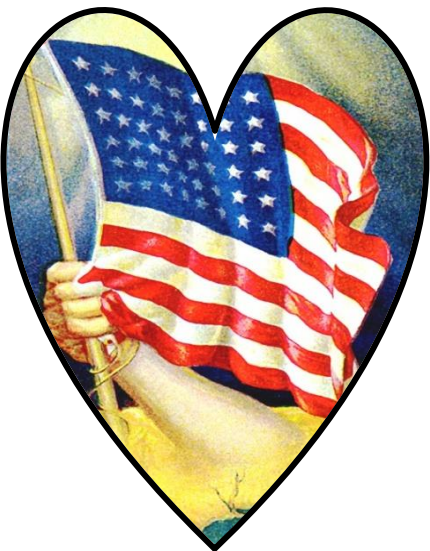
Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

Give everyone a smile. Spend so much time improving yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.

Be too big for worry and too noble for anger.

~ Christian D. Larsen ~



email

**Adjutant**

[adjutant@lalegion.org](mailto:adjutant@lalegion.org)

**Diana**

[admin@lalegion.org](mailto:admin@lalegion.org)

**Denise**

[membership@lalegion.org](mailto:membership@lalegion.org)

## FROM THE ADJUTANT

*Larry Maxwell*



Greetings,  
Fellow Legionnaires:

I would like to thank each of you for bearing with me during my first eight months as your Department

Adjutant. Denise has been with us for about four months and is doing a great job of learning all her various responsibilities. It is great to have her as a part of the American Legion family. While Membership has remained current throughout this year, some of my tasks as Adjutant had fallen behind. I am able to report that the Department office is current in all aspects of its operation.

**Membership for the 2017 – 2018 year:** Our National Target Dates thus far had been to be at 50% of our annual goal by 9/13/2017; at 55% by 10/12/2017; at 65% by 11/15/2017; at 74.37% by 12/15/17; and 80.46% at 1/18/18. To this end, the Department of Louisiana has met and exceeded each of these National goals. As of 1/18/18, Louisiana ranks 48<sup>th</sup> of 55 internationally. As a Department, our Membership rate is slipping and we need all the help we can get!! At 12/31/17, the Department was over 4% behind 12/31/16.

**Legionnaire and News & Views:** The next issue of each will be published in May 2018. For the **Legionnaire**, I ask each District Commander and Post Commander to submit an article or pictures to show what has been going on in each of your communities. These articles and pictures need to be submitted on or before April 1, 2018.

**NEF:** We need to replenish the National Emergency Fund, especially after the effects of Hurricane Harvey have impacted our State. While our minimum goal of \$.50 per member has been met, collecting over \$19,000, we still have only 26 Posts out of 206 Posts State-wide that have contributed to this fund; that is 180 Posts within Louisiana who have not yet contributed. Please contribute to this fund at least \$.50 per member!!!

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

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I ask that you continue support for these fund drives – maybe you can be one of the prize winners next time!

We have completed Fall Conferences for all 8 Districts, have made it through the Holiday Season, and by the time you are reading this **News & Views**, held the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference, looking forward to Legion Programs such as Oratorical, Boys and Girls State, and the District Spring Conferences. Also, there will be consideration for those members announcing for Post, District, and Department Offices for the coming year. For those announcing for these Offices, please keep in mind the work that is expected from you and not the privilege of simply wearing "The Cap".

I have repeatedly stated that this is "A We Year and NOT a Me Year". Let's try to keep this idea forefront the rest of this year and in the years ahead of us. Together we can reach our goals! A THANK YOU for your efforts on Membership. To date we have met our goal; continue and don't let up – we need to obtain our goal of 19,500. It would also be really nice to exceed this number and reach the membership we fell short of last year – 20,601. WE can obtain that goal – JUST ASK!!

On a sad note, we have lost several members this past year, some that were long time members and mentors of this Great Organization of Veterans – THE AMERICAN LEGION. Please remember those families and our nation in your prayers.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**



### VETERANS MEDALS

An Army veteran or next-of-kin may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written request along with a copy of a DD Form 214 or other discharge papers to:

**National Personnel Records  
Center**

**1 Archive Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138**

You may visit the NPRC website at [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans). For veterans separated, discharged, or retired after October 1, 2002, medals may be requested by submitting written request and a copy of the DD Form 214 to:

**U.S. Army Human Resources  
Command**

**ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A  
1600 Spearhead Division  
Avenue**

**Fort Knox, KY 40122**

The HRC website is [www.hrc.army.mil](http://www.hrc.army.mil) and the phone number is 502-613-9126.

## A REMINDER

**Department Convention:** Is from June 7 – 10, 2018 (Thursday – Sunday) at the Best Western Hotel in Alexandria.



### DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA 2018 ORATORICAL "CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"



All Post and/or Parish contests must be completed and the winner certified to their respective District Chairman no later than one week prior to the appropriate District contest established by the District Oratorical Chairman.

#### **Important Certification Note:**

Each District winner must be certified by the District Chairman to the Department Chairman **no later than Friday, February 23, 2018**. This certification should be done by completing the District Oratorical Winner Certification form and return electronically to the Department Chairman at [halbonsharp@charter.net](mailto:halbonsharp@charter.net).

The Department Contest will be held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches **Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 1:00 pm**. ALL DISTRICT contestants must arrive for briefings by 12:00 noon. This Contest will feature the winner from each of the 8 Districts with the finals winner certified to represent the Department of Louisiana at the National Contest to be held in Indianapolis on April 13-15, 2018.

All District Chairmen from across the Department are urged to invite school debate and speech teams from their areas to attend this amazing competition and observe these 8 contestants speak on our Constitution. It is an experience worth viewing.

**H.T. "Terry" Sharp  
Department Oratorical Chairman  
Home. (985) 892-7515  
Cell (985) 373-3305  
Email: [halbonsharp@charter.net](mailto:halbonsharp@charter.net)**

## FROM THE ADJUTANT

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**Poppy Fund:** When the general public sees someone wearing a poppy, they readily associate that to The American Legion. Funds received from Poppy drives are used for our Children and Youth Programs, Direct or Temporary Financial Assistance. We are getting an increased number of such requests, but to date only 13 Posts have contributed to this fund leaving 193 Posts that have not contributed to this fund; that is 93.7% of our 206 Posts State-wide that have not contributed!!! Please, if your Post has not contributed, write out a check today of at least \$25.00 if your Post has under 200 members and \$40.00 if your Post has over 200 members. Or better yet, do a Poppy drive; keep 50% of the proceeds in your Post and send the other 50% to the Poppy Fund!!!

#### **New 2017-2018 Department Rosters:**

Rosters are available and an initial delivery has been made to each of the Districts. The distribution of these rosters is to Department and District Officers and Post Commanders and Adjutants. If you have not received your roster, please contact Department and we will send you one. As usual, there are several corrections to be made to the Roster. Please email any corrections noted to [adjutant@lalegion.org](mailto:adjutant@lalegion.org) or if you do not have access to a computer, please mail or call corrections into the Department. The Department will create a log of corrections which will be distributed monthly in the mid-month mailings, and we will also be updating our electronic copy of our Roster. Electronic copies of the Roster are available to anyone; simply email [adjutant@lalegion.org](mailto:adjutant@lalegion.org).

**Other Programs:** Let's all get busy with membership, but also with sponsoring our Americanism and Children & Youth programs such as:

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; Boys State Program; Sponsoring outstanding individuals within our communities by nominating them for awards such as Educator, Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, Junior ROTC, 4-H, FFA of-the-year. The American Legion serves our country's veterans and supports our local communities and has a wide range of programs to accomplish this - there is something for anyone to become passionate about!

Once again, it has been a pleasure serving as your Adjutant. I also encourage each District and Post Adjutant to sign up for "mylegion.org" to assist you with your membership information.

**For God and Country**





## Vice Commander's Views Bryan D'Oriocourt

Greetings Legionnaires: By the time you read this, our Holiday Season will have come to an end. I sincerely hope you have enjoyed a happy, safe, and blessed Holiday Season. In the past few months while visiting with you, I have seen and learned many things, some of which I will share with you later.

We are doing well with our Membership drives, but this is not the time to sit back on our laurels; this last 25% is the toughest part, as we all know from our past experiences. It's time to come together and plan another Membership drive to try for those last few hold-outs. Should you need some help, your Dept. Officers will be happy to assist any way we can.

My thanks goes out to Posts 307, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Post 175, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; and Post 225, 7<sup>th</sup> District for inviting me to their Christmas celebrations. We definitely enjoyed the festivities, comradeship, and FOOD!!! All was different; all was terrific. My thanks to the great cooks.

Earlier I mentioned seeing and learning. My hat is off to the members of Church Point Post 225 for the best and all-inclusive ceremony I have attended. The entire Legion family was equally represented, the flags of Legion, Sons, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders. Most of all was the P.O.W. Ceremony. These guys really nailed it.

I hope I got to see you at the Mid-Winter Conference, and that all came by the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Hospitality Room to visit awhile.

Thank you for all your support and thoughtfulness during the past half year. We are now entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**For God and Country**



## FLU SHOTS INFORMATION

Walgreens has been awarded exclusive contract to provide

Flu Immunizations for VA Patients outside of VA facilities this year at no cost to the patient.

Flu shot program materials are available on the VA website.

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>

VA patient can walk into most Walgreens pharmacies with their VA ID card and get a no cost flu shot. VA patient's clinical record is electronically updated by Walgreens – no paperwork to take to the VA.

## MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS FOR 2107-2018

*H.T. "Terry" Sharp*

Media/Communications Chairman

A completed copy of a section of the form must be attached to each entry. **All entries must be in Department Headquarters no later than FRIDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** Forms can be obtained from Dept. HQ and on the Dept. website at [www.lalegion.org](http://www.lalegion.org).

The Commission on Media/Communications will meet on Saturday, **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018** in Department Headquarters at 9:00 AM. Categories for the Awards are as follows:

### **CATEGORY 1 – POST PUBLICATION**

**AWARD:** A Post Publication is a newsletter mailed to each member at least six (6) times during the period July to May. The information part of this newsletter may be printed: Electronically and emailed to members or by any other type of printing process and mailed out. Each entry will be judged on format, general appearance, legibility, news content, reader's interest and community service.

### **CATEGORY 2- DISTRICT PUBLICATION**

**AWARD:** A District Publication is a newsletter mailed to each post in the District at least six (6) times during the period July 1 to April 30. The rules and judging are the same as for Post Publication.

### **CATEGORY 3 – POST PUBLICITY**

#### **CHAIRMAN AWARD:**

The name of each Post Publicity Chairman must be submitted by their respective Post Commander and received by their District Media/Communications Chairperson no later than 3:00 PM, May 11, 2018. Candidates will be judged on the information submitted to the Media/Communications Commission. Information considered, but not strictly limited to: Newspaper articles, On-Line articles (published or unpublished), Post Activity Announcements with or without photos. **Attach a letter of recommendation and supporting documents describing the candidate's activities.**

### **CATEGORY 4 – AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING POST SCRAPBOOK:**

A Post Scrapbook tells the story of the Post during the current Legion year. There must be a caption under each picture describing the activity depicted and names should be listed if practical. The American Legion emblem must be affixed on the cover of the Scrapbook. Each book will be judged on neatness, contents, activities and interest.

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## Vice Commander's Views Roy Cook

First of all, thank you again for all the prayers, cards, gifts and thoughts after my near death accident. It has been a battle trying to get up to par, yet I have still been able to visit several of our Legions. I also want to thank all my supporters who urged me to run for Department Commander, but at this time, I think it better to sit out a year, come back and run for Vice Commander again, and then the next year, if I win, try for Commander. I am a man who does the job he is elected to do and I was worried that I might not be able to fulfill my obligation as Commander.

We have Posts that are struggling with money problems or participation. It is sad that these Posts have been operating for years and now, there are no young Comrades to take over, and our long standing Legionnaires are getting older and tired. Please go out, recruit new members and make them welcome and get them involved. We must keep our Legion alive so we can complete the endeavors of the Legion.

I was honored to represent the American Legion organization at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Shreveport. I met some very good Veterans and the Conference was nice and organized. They had the ROTC present the flags and a ROTC violinist performed the National Anthem.

Our Mid-Winter Conference was great, good speakers and good entertainment. If you missed it, you need to make sure you come to State Convention in June. All reports need to be turned into Department and credentials mailed before deadline.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**

### **2018 SPRING CONFERENCES**

**District 1** - Post 366, Destrehan  
March 24 – 8:00 AM

**District 2** – Post 366, Destrehan  
March 24 – 12:00 Noon

**District 3** – Post 31, Houma  
Holiday Inn, Houma  
April 27-29 – 9:00 AM

**District 4** – Post 450, Shreveport  
Southern University of Shreveport  
May 5 – 10:00 AM

**District 5** – Post 521, Monroe  
April 21 – 9:00 AM

**District 6** – Post 16, Covington  
April 14 – 9:00 AM

**District 7** – Post 1, Lake Charles  
March 11 – 9:00 AM

**District 8** – Post 387, New Llano  
April 22 – 9:00 AM

## MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS FOR 2107-2018

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**POST NARRATIVE:** The Narrative History Book should be a one-year Post chronicle. This is the most important chapter in your history and must be as complete as possible with a graphic account of the Post and its activities. The Historian should relate in narrative form and chronological order all important events and programs conducted during the year by the Post or conducted jointly with the Auxiliary Unit, the Sons Squadron, the Parish, the District, the Department and National levels. (Remember, this is the Post's History and not the Department or National). **THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH SCRAPBOOK OR NARRATIVE FOR JUDGING.**

**CATEGORY 5 – LOCAL NEWSPAPER AWARD:** The Commission will recognize local newspapers that provide a broad treatment of American Legion Programs and activities. It is the responsibility of each Post to supply information to local newspapers. Awards will be presented in the following categories: All local newspaper coverage, one to multiple local papers, can be combined into one single submittal. All articles must pertain to the activities of the Post, Post events, programs and other involvements in the Post community.

**CATEGORY 6 – MULTI/MEDIA AWARD:** The Commission will recognize two Divisions of Electronic Media Venues used by Posts to further the mission, message and programs of the American Legion. One award in each Division will recognize the Post that best represents each Division as follows: **Division 1** --- Web Page, Facebook Page, Twitter Pages, etc. **Division 1** will be judged on the Professional Design of the page, that being, the use of the American Legion LOGO, Post number and location, and the attractiveness to the general public to create interest and the desire to join the American Legion. It will also be judged on the updates of activities of the Post as well as the activities and updates of the Department. Each page should also include reasons and benefits of becoming an American Legion member as part of their general design. For submittal, all access Links should be sent to [genefranques@gmail.com](mailto:genefranques@gmail.com) no later than May 1, 2017. **Division 2** --- Radio, TV, Editorials, Public Announcements, etc. **Division 2** applies to Post achievements in Radio/TV editorials, live coverage, live interviews and announcements. Please reference date, time, TV or Radio Station or network and title or purpose of event. Email this information to [genefranques@gmail.com](mailto:genefranques@gmail.com) no later than May 1, 2018. **Attach a letter of recommendation and supporting documents describing the candidate's activities.**



### From the Sons of The American Legion

**FROM CAMILLE A. LEJEUNE, JR. – NEC/DETACHMENT ADJUTANT**

At this past Mid-Winter, we had our Detachment Commander as well as our National Commander. As you know John is still working in Idaho Falls, but planned to fly in for the weekend. Vice Commanders Mott & Vassar have been attending Conferences in his absence. Good experience for both Vice Commanders.

Membership is going about the same as last year at this time. If you are getting my emails, you can view and see those reports. We seem to slow down on renewals around the 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. We are currently 8<sup>th</sup> in the Nation and 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Region. We have 21 Squadrons at 100%. Membership awards or donations to programs will be done at Mid-Winter. Today we have 1,306 members at 66.77%, goal of 1,938. National has mailed another renewal notice in September to those that have not been paid at National. Please remember those members NOT paid at National do not qualify for National Emergency Benefits. We, as Squadron leaders should be using emails, phone, or dropping our members a note. Each member's dues help to support The American Legion programs. Please check your rosters and if you have a member that has over 3 years of continuous years, please contact them. We seem to lose more on renewals and gain on new members. We don't have a problem signing up a new member, but have a problem retaining him for future years. Should you need my assistance, please contact me at: [lamembership@yahoo.com](mailto:lamembership@yahoo.com) and I will help whenever I can. We have reached every target date at the National level, congratulations.

Due to limit space in this month's issue: Citation of Achievements will be determined in March; Royce J. Doucet Memorial, Sons of The Year award deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mail your applications to our Commander John Lawrence at 116 Gondrella Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037; the call-in for June Convention 2018 will be mailed in late April or early May. Within the call-in will be your consolidated reporting form, housing form; agenda and election of officer's form for the upcoming year. Donations to The American Legion programs are underway. Please mail your donation to our Adjutant so it can be sent with a cover letter as well as the appropriate form if you are due a banner. All donations must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup> at National to be counted for this membership year; NEC Spring meeting will be held the first weekend in May; Special Olympics will be held in Hammond at Southeastern University in May; State Convention will be in Alexandria from June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>; and Boys State will be held from June 24<sup>th</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>. National Convention will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Should you have any questions, please contact at the email above or check the Sons or Legion's websites. Convention pins (\$5) and 2018 Medallions (\$10) will be on sale at the Conference. Squadrons, please bring extra money to purchase a medallion for your officers. We need to sell these so we don't get in the same situation as our Convention pins. I have Convention pins back to 2012 and continue to bring them but they don't sell. We also need more volunteers to sell these items. Post Commander's, please share this article with Squadrons and their members. Future membership reports will include the above information, as time gets closer.

**FROM JOHN C. LAWRENCE – DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

Dear fellow Sons: As we approach the second half of my third term as Commander for Louisiana, many of you know that I am out of town on a short term work assignment. I would like to thank my Vice Commanders Gerald Mott and Tommy Vassar, Jr. for doing an outstanding job attending Fall Conferences for me in my absence. I would like to thank my Adjutant Camille Lejeune, who as always performs his duties above and beyond the call of duty. I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter and having fun while getting our work done. Finally, should you need help with anything, I am willing to assist you. Continue to push membership and our programs please get out and act. "....If you leave here with the word DUTY implanted in your mind; if you leave here with the word HONOR carved in your soul; if you leave here with love of COUNTRY stamped on your heart, then you will be a twenty-first century leader worthy...of the great privilege and honor...of leading...the sons and daughters of America..."  
– General H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

**For God and Country**



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**A Word - From the Editor**

In this New Year and upcoming month where we focus our love and best wishes on what we hold dear to our hearts, let us take a moment to send a wish and prayer for our great nation and those who are keeping the light of freedom burning for all of us.

*"Tell me whom you love," Houssaye wrote, "And I will tell you who you are..."*

To that one could add: **Stand up** for what you love.....and you **show** others who you are.

*PR*