COMMENDER'S CORNER
Byron Comeaux
Legionnaires of the Dept. of Louisiana,
Thank you for your trust, support, and your confidence in electing me as Commander to lead our great Department for the year 2019-2020. I am HONORED!
The American Legion, Department of Louisiana Membership Year has started. The train has left the station, and now it is your time to be on board, especially if you are a team member. National has just completed our 2019 National Membership Training Workshop in Indianapolis. The Department received great news pertaining to Membership for this year. We have our Mission, and this year, National has assigned a goal for the Department of Louisiana at only 18,635. We have approximately 200 active Posts in the Department, and after speaking with the District Commanders, the new District and Post goal assignments will be posted.
(1) We have 16,651 current members on our rolls from last year. Start contacting them today. Explain to them the benefits of having a current dues card for this year, i.e. (NEF), Hurricanes, Wind/Rain Storms, Catastrophic occurrences (Barry), etc.
(2) The National Direct Mail Service (DMS) has placed into the Department 2,060 members last year. Now, all we have to do is get the list and ask those members to transfer into your Post.
(3) With the President’s signature approving the Legion Act amending our Charter to read: “36 USC Section 21703 – Membership: Continued on Page 2

FROM THE ADJUTANT
Tony Betts
Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires: Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Dept. DEC and Convention and helped make it successful! We took care of a lot of business, made plans for the rest of the year, and had a good time in the process. Now, we need to get back to work on membership and programs.
Membership: Our current membership goal is October 9th for 55%, then Nov. 13th for 65%. We need every member. National set our membership goal for the year at 18,665. Only 18,665 we are responsible for 16,661 renewals via member online, post online, and traditional renewals. National will credit our Department with DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) members that join and renew at National. We are planning on 1974 credited memberships from DMS. We do not get funds for the DMS members, but we get credit towards our membership goal. We still send our paid membership to National every week on Wednesday. Online payments by members are becoming more common. Check your Post mylegion.org account each week for paid members and send them their new card.
Legion Act of 2019: By Congressional action, American Legion Membership eligibility periods have been changed to include the continuous period from 7 December 1941 thru now. The ending date will be declared by Congress at the cessation of hostilities, at some future date. An estimated 4 million additional Military Veterans are added to the eligibility pool by the LEGION Act. – All Post members need to recruit them. They are your friends and, in some cases, your family members! Bring them into our great organization!
Duplicates/Renewal Notices: Duplicates are being reduced due to the new Online System we are using at Dept. but they can still happen. Posts need to send
Continued on Page 2
FROM THE ADJUTANT continued from Page 1

Membership in each week to ensure timely processing and to avoid duplicates. Membership must be National by the cut-off date, or the member will receive another dues renewal notice! We receive many complaints from members that they paid their dues to the Post two and three months ago, but just got another notice. Process their dues as quickly as possible to prevent problems.

**NEE:** Members of our state have received grants totaling many times the amounts we have donated, and the year is still young. Please send in your donations to help replenish the funds for the next emergency that will surely happen. Consider it as taking care of our fellow Veterans. Our goal is at least $0.50 per member. Please contribute to this cause.

**Poppy Fund:** Funds derived from Poppy sales are the funds we can use for Children & Youth programs and Temporary Financial Assistance. We are getting an increased number of requests from veterans and their families for these funds. By-Laws Article 1, Section 10 outlines Post responsibilities to provide funds for this program. If the Post conducts Poppy sales, 50% of the sales are to go into the fund. Posts that do not conduct Poppy sales: **Post with less than 200 membership shall remit $25; Posts with over 200 members $40.** We encourage all Posts to contribute to this fund.

**Sweepstakes Drawing:** We have a Sweepstakes Drawing (Prizes range from $250-$3000) on 13 November at Nicholson Post 38 in Baton Rouge at 10:00 sharp! We are having a Membership Party to announce awards. Anyone and everyone in the American Legion Family is invited to attend! Contact Department for entry forms if you did not receive by mail.

**Departments Mid-Winter Conference:** Will be January 17-19, 2020 at the Best Western Hotel in Alexandria. The General housing form is posted on the Dept. website **www.lajolegion.org.**

**District Training:** Past Department Commander Rickey Griffin and I held training at our Department Convention. We and many others are ready and available to come to Districts or other groups to give training, information, and answer questions for Legion Members. Training can range from basic member duties and responsibilities through Department Officers. Adjutant duties and assistance, Programs, and many other topics can be covered. We enjoy speaking with each of you and visiting during your Post or District events. Keep doing the great work that you do each day recruiting members and working on American Legion Programs. Publicize your events and programs in the local newspapers. Only you really know how hard you work for The American Legion. Let the public know also! We are all working for the same team — The American Legion Team. We take care of our fellow Veterans and their families. Thank you for your support and patience. Working together, we can make our organization stronger and better.

For God and Country

*Rudy Bourg, Sr., FDC, A.N.E.C., & Legionnaire Insurance Trust Director*

As your Legionnaire Insurance Trust Director, I wish to pass on important information to all of our Legion Family members. All Adult Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, & Legion Riders are eligible for these programs. As many of you may have heard at the Department Convention and or at the Department DEC, Louisiana received $913,450 just for participating in the (LIT) within (LIT) A.G.I.A. Programs for 2018.

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals in mind. (1) To provide Legion families with low cost insurance protection, and (2) to provide a source of revenue to participating Department of The American Legion. Since its Inception, over 1.6 million Legionnaires within 50 Departments from Coast to Coast have participated. While they do give Adult Members of the Legion family a free Accidental Death of up to $5,000.00, they do offer other insurance programs at a reduced cost as well.

The LIT Plans can help with: Hospital, HELP Plan; Medical Supplement Insurance; Cancer Care; Health Insurance; Accidental Death Protection; Dental Insurance; On-The-Move Travel Accident; Long-Term Care; Emergency Assistance Plus; and Lifeline Medical Alert Service. To learn more and to enroll, go to **www.TheLIT.com.** Should you have any questions, please call 1-800-235-6943 or you may call me, Rudy Bourg, Sr. at 337-298-3201.

Qualifications to be eligible for The FREE Accidental Insurance are: You must be an adult Legion family member with a current Dues Card. Go online to the email address above; click on Accidental Insurance. Please have your current dues card available because you will need your ID number to enroll. Once enrolled, you will not have to re-enroll or renew. This is a permanent enrollment as long as you continue to be a member of the American Legion Family. I believe we should all register for added protection to our family.

For God and Country