Hello Legionnaires: I want to thank all that supported me in the election in June. I have enjoyed the last three months traveling to various Posts and functions. The big thing right now is membership. The numbers are coming in slowly. With the passage of the Legion Act, each Post should be having a group phone call exercise to let the unpaid members from their Post know that they are not forgotten and they are missed. Also, it would be helpful to run an “AD” in the local paper explaining the “Legion Act” and invite those that qualify to attend the next Post meeting. If any Post needs help with recruiting, just let me know and I will be there with help.

I am looking forward to all the Fall Conferences and meeting each of you. Many thanks again for your support and working with you on our Legion Programs, and especially on Membership.

For God and Country

2020 SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
1st District - Sunday, March 8 - 1:00 PM - Post TBD
2nd District - Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 AM - Post 175
3rd District - Friday-Sunday, March 20-22 - Time TBD - IH- Houma
4th District - Saturday, April 4 - 9:00 AM - Post 399 Koran
5th District - Saturday, April 11 - 9:00 AM - Post 13
6th District - Saturday, April 25 - 9:00 AM - Post 502
7th District - Sunday, March 29 - 9:00 AM - Post 15 Crowley
8th District - Sunday, April 26 - 9:00 AM - Post 387 New Llano

Special Olympics
From Herbie Petik, Jr. - Special Olympics Coordinator
(504) 469-5045

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the American Legion Family volunteers who assisted in the Softball Throw event at Special Olympics on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at Southeastern University in Hammond. We had Legion members, Auxiliary members, Sons of the Legion, as well as Boy Scout Troop 185 from New Orleans, and others who just wanted to work with us. The ENTIRE Softball event is in the hands of the American Legion Family - staging the actual event, as well as the awards presentations. And we have had the javelin throw added as well.

I can’t praise the volunteers enough for their dedication and sacrifice, especially on Memorial Day weekend. The Louisiana Special Olympics organization really appreciates as the Softball Throw is one of the largest events at the games. The American Legion family has participated in the Softball Throw for over 30 years! Thank you to all who donated towards the volunteer lunch, soft drinks, water, and treats for the athletes. Your donations are truly a blessing for the volunteers and the athletes as well. A special THANKS go to Mary and Bryan for their leadership roles this year in the absence of Linda and myself.

Important Notice
From Michael W. Roach,
Dept. Judge Advocate

The majority of the questions being asked by Posts and its members on the procedure to conduct business at the Post level need to be referred to the Post Judge Advocate. The Post Judge Advocate should refer to the Department Constitution & By-Laws to ensure the procedures are in agreement with this document. If the question is covered by that document, it should be adhered to by the Post and its members. The Dept. Constitution & By-Laws is posted on our website at www.lalegion.org for your convenience.

Vice Commander’s Views
Wilbert C. August, Jr.

Is your American Legion Post really committed to make the Post a vital part of the community or is it just another building?
1. Is your Post just a building? If your Post doors close, would anyone care?
2. Is your Post a beacon of the community, providing a local food pantry and veterans art gallery, connecting the organization to business and civic leaders there. USES: Awareness.
3. Do members share their passion for the organization and the technique they use to bring in new recruits. USES: Membership teams/chairmen, recruiters.
4. A mentoring approach could be the Legion Riders, to bring in dozens of active-duty military and veterans as members.
5. Use the power of teamwork as a revitalization tool. USES: Post revitalization teams, community awareness.

We as American Legion members must continually recognize that the community is an important part of our American way of life. We must use our programs to improve the lives of veterans as well as citizens within the communities in which our post reside. American Legion Posts have a responsibility to make American communities better places in which to live.

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

Quotables
“Life is the first gift, love is the second, and understanding the third.”
- Marge Piercy

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything You gave me.’”
- Erma Bombeck
**From the Sons of The American Legion**

**From Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. — NEC/Detachment Adjutant**

Convention is over and Matt Turner, Past Aalt NEC, installed our newly elected officers. Officers installed: Tommy Vassar, Jr. as Commander, Gerald Mott as Vice Commander, Daniel Maurin as Vice Commander, Camille LeJeune, Jr. as NEC, John Lawrence as Alt NEC, Thomas Cordle as Sergeant-at-Arms, Don Ritter as Chaplain, Scott Cousins and Clyde Dugas as Color Bearers. Other appointments included Camille LeJeune, Jr. as Adjutant, Bryon Robichaux as Judge Advocate, Zachary Turner as Historian and Tommy Vassar, Sr. & Zeke Turner as Aide to the Commander. Committee & Commission officers were appointed and volunteers were presented at the July DEC as well as the 2019-2020 budget was approved. We conducted this past DEC meeting to memorialize our deceased family members. Those memorialized included: William Detweiler, Past National Commander, Forrest Travieca, Past Department Commander and Brett Kinney, Past Detachment Adjutant.

What’s going on? If you have elected officers and they were installed, you should have membership on the report. Please don’t hold any membership. We need a jump start on membership since we have done so badly this past year. This year’s report was just issued and we are 2nd in the nation. If you are paying 2019 and 2020 dues, please send separate checks. Remember you must be an active paid member to receive any benefits from National for the Emergency Fund in the event of a disaster. Please check your membership cards when renewing to see who does not show a date of birth, phone number, or email. Complete that information on the membership card and check the appropriate box to the right and National will key that for you. National needs those items for future studies. Membership dues will increase to $11 effective July 1, 2020. Squadrons need to prepare now for that increase.

The 2020 Medallion has been sent to National for artwork. Those will be available for sale at our Mid-Winter Conference for $10. We still have convention pins to sell as well. If you have any questions about the Sons organization, refer to our website: [www.louisianasal.org](http://www.louisianasal.org) and there is a list of officers that can assist you in whatever information you may be looking for or you can email me directly at lamembership@yahoo.com or the National website is: [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons). While this issue does not release our members, we ask that Post Commanders copy and present to your Squadron Commanders so he can present to his audience and members at their next meeting. Membership is everyone’s responsibility.

**FROM TOMMY VASSAR — DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

Most of you know it has been a long recovery since my foot surgery in April. I’ve not been able to travel as much as I wanted to. I did attend our State Convention in June, where I was re-elected as your State Commander, and installed to office by our past ANEC Matt Turner. I attended our DEC in July, where I made my appointments to Committees and Commissions. I attended the join installation of officers at 370 in Westlake, Post/Squadron 179 in Sulphur, and I installed officers in Vinton Squadron 208. I attended our National Convention in Indianapolis IN, alongside with my Aide, our two Vice Commanders, our NEC/Adjutant, ANEC/Jr Pastor Commander, PNC and Past Detachment Chaplain. I attended the Americanism and Child Welfare meetings and also helped judge our scrapbooks and history books. We elected our new national officers. Mr. Clint Bolt from Virginia was elected as our new national Commander and Blair Miles of Alabama as our new Southern Region Vice Commander. We, as a Detachment, donated $1,517.00 to CWIF. For the first time in 34 years we’ve voted on and passed a national dues increase of $3, it will come into effect July 1st, 2020. You will now send $11 to Department after that date.

I also attended the 6th District Fall Conference in Slidell. I will be attending the 7th District Fall Conference on the 29th of September in Crowley, Post #15, 3rd District In Houma, October 5-6th, 4th District In Koran October 19th, 8th District In New Ima, October 27th, 5th District in Monroe on November 5th, and our Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria on January 17-19th, 2020. We are hoping to have National Commander Clint Bolt at Mid-Winter in January and SNVC Blair Miles at our State Convention in June. One of the new goals from both, Commander Bolt and SNVC Miles, is a National Recruiting award; it is for those who recruit 5 or more new members. Membership Excellence Award Pin awarded to any American Legion Family member who recruits at least 3 new members into the Sons of The American Legion. Our Regions Vice Commander has teamed us up against our friends from Virginia. The goal is; the winner is the Detachment with the highest Membership percentage at Spring NEC. However, to claim victory, the victor must be at or above 98%, so let’s get membership in! Please send your membership to Camille as soon as possible.

I would LOVE to get the Detachment at 100% by spring NEC.

Since our DEC in July we’ve had Independence #109 and Hammond Memorial #5 with new charters. We’ve also had Kenner #377 reactivate by paying 17 members. Thank you all very much! I would also like to thank, #285 Loo-Wag-Ran, #222 Harvey Marrero and #81 Gonzales with hitting their 100% by the 20th of September. I would also like to thank #229 Parks, #505 Baton Rouge, #208 Vinton and #3 Alexandra for being 100%. We are now sitting at 104 squadrons while the American Legion has 199 Posts. I would love to see the number of Squadrons get a lot closer to the number of post. With the American Legion/Congress passing the Legion Act, we should be able to grow our squadrons.

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**Final Thoughts**

A Word — From the Assistant Editor

“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.

God’s blessings to all and God bless America! PR