

POST DATA FORM (2008 MEMBERSHIP YEAR)

Have you turned yours in to Department?

These forms were sent out to all Posts over a month ago. The Deadline for turn-in was November 15, 2007.

If you have not turned one in, please do so. The staff and I will do what we can to get it to National Headquarters in a timely manner.

Failure to do so will result in your membership renewals going out with the wrong information, specifically, your Post Dues Rate.

FROM VICE COMMANDER ABSHIRE

We are about one half of the way through our 2008 Membership Year and I am honored to have been elected as one of your Department Vice Commanders to serve the state of Louisiana this year. We will concentrate on the four pillars of The American Legion Family in an effort to secure new members and retain renewals. The mutual desire of the Legion, the Auxiliary and the SON's is to take care of our own, support a strong national defense, instill patriotism in others and to provide for the children of these United States.

Renewal notices have been mailed out twice now, to all members who have not renewed yet. This is the time to work on membership. Make personal contacts, using

phone or even better yet, a personal visit. We need to ensure that our Posts exceed their membership goals for this year quickly.

I encourage all members, especially Post Commanders and Post Adjutants, to attend the Mid Winter Conference in Alexandria on January 18, 19 & 20, 2008. Meetings will be held on Friday during the day. Saturday will bring around many greetings from local businesses as well as other Veterans Service Organizations. At the Opening Session we will be addressed by the Southern Regional National Vice Commander, Randall Fisher. There will be entertainment and plenty of good food and beverages. On Sunday we will receive reports from those Committees

and Commissions that have a report to make. We will also be addressed by David Rehbein, Lead Candidate for National Commander.

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you as one of your Department Vice Commanders this year. If you are in need of any assistance that I may offer, please contact me.

For God and Country,

Larry J. Abshire

Department Vice Commander

DUES

STRUCTURE

\$24.50 PER

MEMBER

\$13.50 National
\$1.75 LA Legionnaire
\$2.00 District Revolving
\$.75 Boys State/Girls State
\$6.50 Department
\$24.50

EFFECTIVE

JANUARY 7, 2008

Department Per Capita Dues Increase

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to study the overall operations of the Department Headquarters and the funding for the operations and programs. After two meetings and some extensive discussions, it was recommended that the 2008 Department Dues be increased by \$5.00 effective January 7, 2008. There has been no increase in the Department since 1994, and therefore we were able to go 13 years without a dues increase. This recommendation was brought forth to the Internal Affairs Commission who by a vote of 6:1 made the same recommendation and forwarded it to the Finance Commission for review. After close review by the Finance Commission, and a unanimous vote, it was recommended that this be made into the form of a motion and presented to the 2007 Department Convention for adoption. The report was presented to the General Assembly, motion was made to accept the report and without any further discussion, motion was passed. Therefore, any memberships being sent to Department on or after January 4, 2008 must be sent in at the new rate of **\$24.50** per member.

The increase is to be allocated as follows: \$1.00 to the applicable District Revolving Account; \$1.00 to the Louisiana Legionnaire; \$.25 to Boys State/Girls State; and the balance of \$2.75 to the operating fund of the Department.

Dues Structure effective January 7, 2008 at \$24.50 per member is posted to the left. **This is the amount that must be turned in for each member beginning January 4, 2008.**

NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

UPCOMING SPRING

CONFERENCE DATES

| DIST | POST | LOCATION | DATE | TIME |
|------|------|-------------|----------------|------|
| 1 | 218 | Algiers | April 5, 2008 | 2 pm |
| 2 | 350 | Metairie | April 5, 2008 | 9 am |
| 3 | 96 | Morgan City | April 11-13 | |
| 4 | 74 | Minden | May 3, 2008 | |
| 5 | 51 | Bastrop | April 26, 2008 | |
| 6 | 16 | Covington | April 6, 2008 | |
| 7 | 15 | Crowley | April 20, 2008 | |
| 8 | 145 | Leesville | April 27, 2008 | |

NOTE: 1st & 2nd District have change their original date due to St. Patrick's Day festivities.

FROM VICE COMMANDER NAQUIN

Comrades;

It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to serve as one of your Department Vice Commanders. First, I want to thank you for electing me, and I am looking forward to working with all the newly elected Department Officers, the Auxiliary, the Son's of The American Legion and the Juniors.

I will be coming around to visit as many Posts as I can, even though I am assigned to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Districts.

I will need your help and all the help we can muster, because as you know, our membership is going down at an alarming rate. I am asking you to get out there with me and start beating the bushes, let's get the renewals in and start recruiting some new members as well. You can also call Vice Commander Larry Abshire (Headquarters Post 401 Membership Chairman) and provide him with a list of Zip Codes for your area, so that he can print out a list of members in those areas. Transfer Requests

from Post 401 Cards have been provided to all District Commanders and distributed to all Posts. Let's get out and get these individuals in our local Posts.

If I can be of any help to you, please feel free to call. My phone number is 985-790-3007. My email address is naquineugenesr@bellsouth.net. Again, I want to thank you all for your vote and allowing me the chance to serve you in this great Department.

Eugene J. Naquin, Sr.

Department Vice Commander

I PAID MY POST DUES—WHY AM I GETTING ANOTHER DUES RENEWAL NOTICE?

Examples: If you pay your dues on July 1, 2007 and want to avoid the October 1, 2007 renewal notice, your dues must be received in Indianapolis by September 12, 2007. If you pay your dues on October 1, 2007 and want to avoid the renewal notice on January 3, 2008, your dues must be received in Indianapolis by December 12, 2007. If you pay your dues on December 15, 2007 and want to avoid the renewal notice on March 3, 2008 your dues must be received in Indianapolis by February 13, 2008. If you pay your dues March 15, 2008 and want to avoid the May 1, 2008 renewal notice, your dues must be received by Indianapolis by April 9,

2008.

As you can see, any delay in the Post or Department in the membership process can lead to our members receiving another renewal notice, which will cause confusion and anger.

Therefore, I respectfully request that all Post Adjutants and/or Finance Officers attempt to transmit their membership dues to Department in a timely manner (preferably on a weekly basis). This process will cause the Post, Department and National offices less headaches and provide our members the timely service and respect they deserve.

A current Renewal No-

tice Schedule can be found in the Post Adjutant's Manual and also on the Department Website at www.lalegion.org.

Please reference this information when you receive inquiries via your Post Membership regarding "Dues Notices."

As always, thank you for your service to The American Legion and to the Veterans of Louisiana.

David C. Simon
Department
Adjutant

Sons of The American Legion

It is truly an honor to serve as the 33rd Detachment Commander for the Sons of The American Legion. I look forward to the comradeship as I travel across the state.

Since this issue is coming out so late, I must say it has been an honor working with our newly elected officers, Edwin Grow, Department Commander; Maggie Watts, Auxiliary President; and Ms. Brittany Watts, Junior Auxiliary President.

As the other Detachment officers and I travel throughout this state for installations, conferences and general visitations, please feel free to ask for any help that we can provide. We are here as part of the family and to support our Veterans.

This year is a big year for us. We tried to celebrate our 75th anniversary at Convention, but time did not work out. We were able to serve cake and punch and the film was still shown for those who wished to see it. Thanks to Harvey-Marrero 222 for the cake and punch. This same film will be shown at our Mid Winter conference on Friday evening, January 18, 2008 at 7pm sharp.

The Department of The American Legion's Department Executive Committee approved in final form the Louisiana S.A.L. Life Membership Program. Copies have been brought to all Dis-

trict Conferences and copies were mailed to all Squadron Commanders. It can also be found on line at www.lalegion.org. At this time, we currently have seven members that are paid up for life.

Just as the Legion and Auxiliary, we are pushing membership and doing a good job at this time. We currently have 1,052 members and are at 57.675%. The next target date is November 13th for 35%, but also important for Louisiana, this is the cutoff for 100% plaques. Nationwide we have been holding in the top 10 and 2nd in the Southern Region. For those of you who have e-mail, this is sent out every Friday.

If any of you have e-mail, send me an e-mail and I will include you on Fridays.

During the past DEC in July, the following changes have been made and will be effective in June 2008.

The following officers will be subject to paying \$50.00 toward the purchase of their hats: Commander, Vice Commanders, Adjutant, NEC, and Alt NEC. If their travel requirement is met, they will receive their \$50.00 back.

Membership awards were presented to the highest percentage growth below 30 members, above 30 members, and the largest Squadron. That has been changed to 10

to 30 members, 31 to 90 members, and 91 and above, largest percentage increase, and of course, the largest Squadron.

While I realize that the News and Views only reaches Legionnaire's, some of our members are dual members; I would appreciate if the Post Commander's would share this article with the Squadrons.

As a reminder, Son(s) of the Year - each year the current Commander presents an award to an outstanding member who has worked within his Squadron, Post, and Detachment. You as Legionnaire's would be the most knowledgeable as to who is assisting around your post home. Start your documentation so that you can submit an entry by April 1st, 2008 for this award. On the other hand, any member that has held a Detachment position does not qualify for the SAL of the year, but does qualify for the Commander's Choice Award.

We, the Sons of The American Legion, look forward to working with the Legionnaires and Auxiliaries across this state as we promote the American Legion Programs as well as work membership within the family.

Camille A. LeJeune, Jr.,
Detachment Commander

Membership

Tidbits

Membership is 1,700+ down this year from last year. Yes, we made our 65% National Goal, but last year at this time we were at 74.235%. Presently, we are at 69.170%.

What do we need to do to retain our current members?

What do we need to do to recruit new members?

What are we doing wrong?

What are some of us doing right?

Please share your success stories.

There is no reason why our membership should be dropping from last year! There are Veterans on every corner of this State. Have you asked them yet?

WAR VET HOME INFO

LA Department of Veterans Affairs Commission recently had a meeting at the Reserve War Veterans Home in October of this year. One of the major items of discussion was what to allow as donations to be put inside of each of the War Veterans Homes. One of these items was flags. The intention of the Commission is not to deny any donations of this sort; but there are at least ten or more organizations that would like to put their flag in each home. What the commission wants to do is come up with a plan as to what size each item can be, how it will be cared for and by whom. As soon as a plan has been decided upon, we will put out the information. It is not our intention to offend anyone; we just want to be fair to everyone.

Thank You,
Russell Henry
LDVA Commission Member

National Officer Visits

Mid-Winter Conference, Best Western Inn & Suites, Alexandria, January 18-20, 2008.

Southern Region National Vice Commander, Randall Fisher (Confirmed)

Leading Candidate for National Commander, David Rehbein (Confirmed)

Membership Drive Statewide Visit from February 27-March 1, 2008.

National Commander, Marty Conaster (Confirmed)

Department Convention, Best Western Inn & Suites, Alexandria, June 5-8, 2008.

National Adjutant, Robert Spanogle (Requested)

Second Candidate Out, National Commander, **Clarence Hill (Requested)**

Department Executive Committee & Training, Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge, August 8-10, 2008.

National Judge Advocate, Phillip Onderdonk (Requested)

Department Roster Changes

Below are the updates to the current Department Roster.

NOTE: Changes can be on more than one page.

Page 2, 19, 23 & 56: Commander Edwin Grow change cell phone number: 985-518-0315

Page 2: Vice Commander Eugene Naquin, Districts 1, 2, 3 & 6; 1133 Hwy 55, Montegut, LA 70377, 985-594-5498

Page 4 & 26: 1st Dist. DEC, Raymond Dash, new address: 1825 Suzi Dr., St. Bernard, LA.

Page 5: 1st District Commander, Conrad Lawrence, email is: rencon2@aol.com. Add cell phone 504-884-0335.

Page 5: 5th Dist. Cmdr. Jerry Kirkland. Replace with: Ronnie Lyons, 216 Gahagan, Simsboro, LA 71275, phone 318-247-0707, cell 318-245-8816.

Page 7: Past Department Commander, Robert W. Wilson is deceased.

Page 9: Past Department Vice Commander, Robert P. Higgins (1984-1985) is deceased.

Page 12: 2nd District Dept. Asst. Sgt-at-Arms is Robert Kagan, 735 Franklin Ave., Harahan, LA 70123, Phone 504-738-9337.

Page 14: 7th Dist. Community Service Committee, Delete home phone for Michael Bourque.

Page 17: 2nd Dist. Gold Star Banner & Tack Awards, correct email for Donna Fransen is dkfransen@yahoo.com

Page 18: 7th Dist. Change address for Norris Burgess to 707 Auburn Dr., DeRidder, LA 70634

Page 23: 2nd Dist. Committee on Legislation, change Charles Holdeman's phone number to 504-858-7295 (Beeper).

Page 28: I. J. Deshotel, correct address is 3604 Whispering Woods Drive.

Page 28: Blood Bank Committee, 4th District, delete William H. Glasgow.

Page 30: Shreveport VAMC, under Deputies delete Walter Nicholson and Charlie Jones, Jr.. Add, Paul Strange, 1560 Parish Camp Rd., Elm Grove, LA 71051, phone 318-987-5266. Add, Harold D. Burson, 8430 West Wilderness Way, Shreveport, LA 71106, phone 318-866-9655.

Page 32: John H. Cobbs correct email address is: jhcobbs@peoplepc.com.

Page 41: Conrad Lawrence, change email address: rencon2@aol.com. Add cell phone 504-884-0335

Page 41: Raymond Dash, new address is: 1825 Suzi Dr..

Page 44: Conrad Lawrence, Add email address: rencon2@aol.com. Add cell phone 504-884-0335. Post Mailing Address is P. O. Box 7036, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Page 46: Post #333, Commander Alvin S. Rouse, 1209 Colony Pl., Metairie, LA 70003-2339

Page 46: Post #395, John Blouin, III, change phone number to 504-947-7337.

Page 48: Raoul Laurent, Jr. correct email address is: raocal@bellsouth.net.

Page 49 & 51: Correct email for Donna Fransen is dkfransen@yahoo.com.

Page 53: Post #350, Change meeting date to Second Monday.

Page 53: ADD: J. Claude Meraux #360, Chalmette Commander, Hilton Preau, 3112 Fable Street, Meraux, LA 70075, phone 504-220-9889. No meeting time listed and no adjutant. Mailing Address: P. O. Box 2057, Chalmette, LA 70044. Meeting Address: 2209 Culotta St., Chalmette.

Department Roster Changes

Page 62: Post #271, new Adjutant: Joseph Mouton, 16434 W. US Hwy 700, Kaplan, LA 70548, phone 337-643-2002.

Page 63: Change Post Commander's name: Dean Jeansonnc. Add work phone 337-789-0300 and email address: jeansonned@netzero.net

Page 69: 4th Dist. Finance Officer is Milton C. Harrison, 127 Chimney Lane, Haughton, LA 71037, phone 318-949-8079.

Page 73: Post #157, Logansport. New Commander and no adjutant. Commander is David M. Foshee, 401 Uncas St., Logansport, LA 71049

Page 73: Post #182, Post Commander is Vincent Bown.

Page 76: 5th Dist. Cmdr. Jerry Kirkland. Replace with: Ronnie Lyons, 216 Gahagan, Simsboro, LA 71275, phone 318-247-0707, cell 318-245-8816. Area A, B, & C Vice Commander is open at this time.

Page 77: Under Area "C", POSTS, add 544 Tallulah.

Page 80: Post #84, Adjutant, change address to 1035 Lishman Rd..

Page 82: Post #174, Commander's second phone number is 318-766-9043.

Page 89: Post #113, change address for Commander to 42079 E. Daniels Rd..

Page 93: Post #374, delete Post Adjutant.

Page 100: Post #1, Commander, change address to 1530 Ninth St., Lake Charles, LA 70601. Also change Post email to lakecharlespost1@suddenlinkmail.com

Page 101: Post #56, Oakdale. Change Commander to: Vernon Ware, 111 N. 16th St., Oakdale, LA 71463, phone 337-335-1394

Department Roster Changes

Page 102: Post #176, Cameron: New Adjutant, Samantha Hunt, 126 Susan St., Cameron, LA 70631, phone 337-775-5316.

Page 102: Post #183, No Commander Listed.

Page 104: Post #283, New Adjutant: Robert J. Chiasson, P. O. Box 212, Welsh, LA 70591

Page 105: Post #371, Iota, Change Zip Code for Post Mailing Address to 70543-0021.

Page 106: Post #407, New Adjutant: Jesse Harrell, 3026 Bordelon Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611, phone 337-855-2320.

Page 109: Dist. Vice Commander and Adjutant, Billy Ray Foley, add email: adj145@bellsouth.net.

Page 112: Post #25, delete Adjutant.

Page 113: Post #50, New Adjutant: Willie J. Johnson, 5807 Old Boyce Rd., Alexandria, LA 71303, phone 318-449-1497

Page 114: Post #172, New Adjutant: Thomas D. Lopez, 520 Garcie Rd., Zwolle, LA 71486, phone 318-645-6012.

Page 115: Post #303, Olla, Change Commander's phone number to 985-882-5814.

Special Note:

Be sure to notify Department Headquarters of any changes of address of any member of your Post by completing the "Member Data Form". Of special interest are the Commander and the Adjutant. Communication from Department and National Headquarters will be provided to these individuals. All communications received from Department or National should be read by the Adjutant to keep him/her abreast of what is going on and that information should be communicated to your Post membership. Remember, any and all changes must first go through Department Headquarters for processing.

Common Questions

Q—Can a Post demand funds from a Unit for upkeep of Post Home?

A—NO. American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units are related but independent organizations per Article XIII, Section 3 of the National Constitution of The American Legion. Except as prescribed in the above article, an American Legion Post has no authority to control the Unit related to it. The Unit is a separate entity; as such, it has its own treasury.

Q—Can membership eligibility be challenged after membership status is granted?

A—Eligibility is a condition which must exist at all times and can be challenged at any time. Once challenged, the obligation is on the challenged member to prove eligibility. If the condition of eligibility does not exist and/or the member cannot or refuses to demonstrate eligibility, the individual is not a

member of The American Legion.

Q—Can Posts have 'Associate Members'?

A—NO. Only those veterans who meet the stated membership eligibility may join The American Legion. Article IV, Section 2 of The American Legion National Constitution provides: "There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life".

Q—What is the official relationship of a Post to Department?

A—Departments and Posts are autonomous, independent entities, which run their own 'day-to-day' affairs. The Department has a general oversight responsibility to the Posts in the Department but this oversight is not operational control.

Q—Is a Headquarters Post 401 member eligible?

A—Initially, a new member

under the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) program is assigned to the Headquarters Post 401 by providing his/her service dates and character of discharge and signed application certifying eligibility. Upon transfer to al local Post, however, the ultimate responsibility for verifying membership eligibility, using DD Form 214 or other official proof of honorable service with the U. S. Armed Forces, lies with the Post. It needs to be pointed out that of the more than 1.5 million new members acquired through the DMS program, National Headquarters has been informed of less than 100 ineligible individuals.

Q—What does 'Member in Good Standing' mean?

A—It means the member must have a valid membership card for the current Legion year. (Legion membership year runs from January 1 to December 31).