



The Legion Bulletin



March 2007

Hours - 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Monday – Friday

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Post Data Forms

Post Data Forms were mailed first class to Post Adjutants this month. Please look them over carefully. Make any changes to mailing addresses or dues structure, sign and return to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2007. This is the way National gets any changes for the direct mail renewal notices that will go out in July, including any changes in dues. If we do not have them back by April 15, the first renewal notices will not reflect any changes.

88th American Legion Birthday

March 15-17 will mark the 88th Birthday of The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization. Enclosed with this mailing is a "Suggested Proclamation for Local Government" and a "Press Release" for Post use in their community. This momentous occasion gives us a great opportunity to tell our story.

Last Call for Candidates



Anyone planning to run for District, Division or Department Office will need to get your endorsement and picture to Department Headquarters by **March 10, 2007** to be included in the April NC Legion News. These materials will be used for a "one time only" courtesy announcement. This is absolutely the last day we can accommodate any endorsements.

Consolidated Post Report

It is important for every post to complete this report because it shows individual post activity, but when it is combined with the efforts of all posts reporting, it makes our impact, on behalf of veterans, in the halls of Congress, a voice to be taken serious. The Consolidated Post Report forms have been mailed directly to the Post Adjutants. Please fill them out and return to Department Headquarters as early as possible. Remember, in order for your Post to be considered for any awards presented by Community Service Committee, Children and Youth or Americanism Commission at the Convention, this form must be completed and returned to Department Headquarters by the end of May.



Community Service Month

Resolution 31, passed by the National Executive Committee on May 5-6, 1999, designates March as Community Service Month. Post Leadership is encouraged to form a committee to host an "Open House". An area of interest is to fix up needed areas in the post home from signage to outside appearance that may have gone unattended due to other priorities.

All levels of leadership should constantly focus on projecting the proper image of The American Legion in their community, not only in the programs sponsored and service provided, but also in the appearance of their Post home and surrounding grounds. The local post reflects the outward image of the whole organization of The American Legion to the citizens in their community. The Post Home should be a pillar of the community. One that would invite prospective members and guests based on appearance alone.

Pull Tabs

The Ronald McDonald House, the house that love built, has been in existence for 25 years in Durham. There goal is to support families with seriously ill children from the local community and from around the world, when they come to Duke for medical care. Volunteers are the heart and soul of Ronald McDonald House. Wherever your interest and abilities lie, your help is needed and will be sincerely welcomed. We in The American Legion adopted the Pull Tab Program as our way of providing funds for the families of these children to have a comfortable place to stay and eat. We all say Thank You for every pull tab amount that you bring to our conferences, convention and also to the office. Every amount is important and helps those who need help in their most trying times of their lives.

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Boys' State Selection Process Important!

Ronald A. Engel, Deputy Director for Americanism/Children & Youth Division in Indianapolis, has issued this word of caution: *Do not let the schools make the delegate selection.* That is the responsibility of the sponsoring American Legion Post. To involve the schools in the selection process sends a message to the Courts that Boys State is a "school activity." When this occurs, Title IX exemptions for Boys State could be eliminated and our programs thrown open to anyone wishing to attend who are willing to pay the delegate fee. Think about the ramifications. There is no better way to assure the survival of our great republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. This is an American Legion Program. Please be active in the process. This year's session will be June 17-23, 2007. The fee will be \$275 per delegate. If you have an interest in serving as a counselor for Boys' State, please contact Chief Counselor Terry Pressley at 828-452-4232. Counselors receive travel expense, food and lodging for the week. You have a chance to work with and see some of the finest rising young seniors in government action.

Baseball Jr. League News

The Baseball Junior League is in the process of preparing for this upcoming season. As with American Legion Baseball, all teams must have S.A. Van Dyk Insurance. North Carolina High School Rules will be followed. Regulation uniform will consist of a Legion patch on a shirt. Any Post interested in sponsoring a Junior League for players whose birth date is on or after June 1, 1990, please contact Department Headquarters and an entry form will be sent to you. There will be an entry fee of \$65, due March 15, 2007. Please note, there will be \$100 assessed each team for protection against forfeits. A check made payable to The American Legion Dept. of NC will be submitted to the Director before play begins. The forfeit fees will be retained from season to season like in Sr. American Legion Baseball.

ROTC Medals Available

Requests for ROTC medals for deserving cadets will be coming in from schools across the state. Department Headquarters will provide medals for colleges and universities. It is customary for the Posts to supply the medals for the local high schools. You may order direct from Emblem Sales, 2007 Catalog, page 128, for purchase of these medals. Department Headquarters inventory goes directly for colleges and universities. It might be more timesaving to order direct from Emblem Sales at 1-888-453-4466 or online at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

Obtaining Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nations memory and record keeper. Part of NARA is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis MO. They store federal military and civilian personnel records. The Civilian Personnel Records Center is at 9700 Page Avenue.

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They have a website at <http://www.nara.gov>.

Their website will provide information on how to obtain records or one can call (314) 538-4261 and get a recorded message on how to obtain records on how to request copies of personnel files. NPRC does not provide a telephone number, which can be used to request records due to the privacy act, which requires a signature of the veteran, next of kin, or authorized representative and staffing limitations at NPRC.

Veterans Helping Veterans

The veterans in our VA hospitals and State Veterans nursing homes need you. They need your time, talents and attention. There are so many ways that you can touch and improve their lives, if you just take the time. You can make a positive difference in their lives, no matter what your age, health condition or financial status. Please consider going to your nearest VA hospital or nursing home as a post project or as an individual and giving just a small portion of your time. Giving of your time is about the most precious thing that you can give someone. In most situations in our lives, we make time for whatever we want to do. Please, "want to do this". Thanks! (NC State Veterans Nursing Home, Salisbury, 704-638-4200. In Fayetteville, 910-482-4131)

2007 Student Trooper Program

The program will be held at the NC Highway Patrol Training Academy, June 24-29, 2007. There will be a lot of physical activity during this week, so please advise your attendees ahead of time in order for them to get prepared. This will be an active, event filled week under the guidance of The Highway Patrol and The American Legion Counselors. This year's program aims and purposes have been changed to a new direction with expectations for a positive outcome. Legionnaires are requested to contact their local Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices, local High School JROTC programs to find candidates that have a law enforcement or military career in their future. The applicants must have just completed their 11th or 12 grade of High School this year (2007). The tuition fee is still \$200.00 per student and each applicant must be sponsored by an American Legion Post. If you are interested in being a counselor, which involves mobility and long hours during this week, please contact Department Headquarters at 919-832-7506. No profanity or tobacco products are allowed. The Highway Patrol has room for 46 students this year, so please send in your applications as soon as possible. All applications will be numbered when received and all applications received past number 46 will be on a standby list. This program will only be successful with the support of the local posts in our Department. We encourage you to take advantage of the special youth program and to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to some well deserving young men and women. The American Legion and The North Carolina Highway Patrol are eager to provide a challenging and meaningful week for The Student Troopers. The success of this program is up to "YOU".

