

GENERAL INFORMATION

MYSAL – For those of you who are just now getting the word, MySAL is now available for those squadrons who apply. MySAL.org is a secure internet site linked to the membership data base for the sons. This portal site provides officers with access to the membership data and member-management tools. This system has been up and running for over a year now and at present over 1,017 squadron adjutants have access to this site for their members and use it daily. For further information go to www.legion.org/sons and click on mysal link. Just a reminder – you must be a paid up sons member and only one person per squadron can qualify. See your squadron adjutant for additional details. The portal for the Detachment Adjutants has been developed and currently 27 Detachment Adjutants have access and are using this system in their Detachments.

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL NEC & NATIONAL CONVENTION MINUTES

– In keeping with the latest technology and procedures, the Internal Affairs Division will again be sending out the official SAL meeting minutes by electronic means (email PDF). In the past, a hard copy of the minutes was mailed to all National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Chairman, and Past National Commanders. This will allow each officer above to receive and save this official document for record purposes as well as a major cost savings for the two National Executive Committee meetings and National Convention. The savings in mailing these minutes for postage alone will be well over \$800 per year plus the costs of envelopes and copying. If anyone does not have computer technology or desires to receive a hard copy, please contact the SAL Liaison or National Adjutant O’Hearne. We can mail you a hard copy if requested. We will continue this procedure and evaluate it as we go along for the 2015-2016 year. Individual recommendations on this procedure should be addressed to the National Adjutant for future consideration.

BLUE BRIGADE – Resolution NEC 6-01 established the criteria for the award of the Sons of The American Legion Blue Brigade jacket. The award specifically outlines the criteria for the award for members of the Sons of The American Legion only. Keep in mind, this form must contain names of new members only, not renewals or reinstatements. We have been verifying this data and some forms were returned this year due to ineligible members, i.e. renewals and reinstatements. The new form is contained **in the 2015 Administrative Manual**. Be sure to use the current form. Please inform your Sons leadership that this award is for members of the Sons of The American Legion only established by resolution. Award winners for 2015 will be mailed their jackets via UPS in August / September.

SUBSCRIPTION – THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE – **All members of the SAL can subscribe to The American Legion Magazine** for 12 issues for only \$6.00 per year. Readers can enjoy articles about foreign affairs, ordinary citizens accomplishing extraordinary things, military valor, veteran’s health care, history, etc. Keep up to date with programs of The American Legion and items of general interest. Send a check or money order for \$6.00 along with your complete name, address, date of birth, phone,

email and SAL ID number to: The American Legion, Data Services – N0808, Magazine Non-Member Subscriptions, PO Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

DETACHMENT OFFICERS REPORT FORMS – Detachment officers report forms are being received at National Headquarters and the new officers are being coded into the system on a daily basis. Just a note, the National Constitution and By-Laws state that outgoing NECmen and Alternate NECmen serve until the close of the National Convention. Therefore, all outgoing NECmen are encouraged to pass along information and work with the incoming NECmen. Detachments are encouraged to send in their new officer report forms as soon as possible. All Detachment Officers report forms are due immediately after your Conventions, but no later than August 8th to National Headquarters. The call-in announcement for the Fall NEC meeting will be mailed just prior to the National Convention. Timely reports will insure your Detachment leaders receive this call-in notice and receive any entitlements for the fall meetings as well as getting on any housing list.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS & REGISTERS (2016) – The 2016 membership cards & registers have been printed and shipped to every Department for the 2016 membership year. The last mailing (shipment) of membership cards were mailed out in early June. Detachments are encouraged to contact your Department Headquarters for your membership cards & registers. Let's get a jump on the 2016 membership year and get your cards out early. **Our first membership target date for 2016 is September 9, 2015, which is our 10% membership target.**

RENEWAL POSTCARD SCHEDULE AND MAILING (2016) – The schedule for the mailing of the annual SAL renewal postcards will be **in September**, followed by the **second mailing in January**, then the **final renewal mailing in April**. These mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. Therefore, please follow the membership target dates closely. Above all, “transmit”, as **too many Squadrons are holding membership**. This saves the organization considerable postage costs. All three mailings will be made usually within a couple of days following the target date in that respective month of mailing. The membership target dates are posted on the SAL web page at { **www.legion.org/sons** }.

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH CONFERENCE – The annual National Children & Youth Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 18-20, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration click { www.legion.org } under programs.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE – The National Americanism Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 25-27, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Indianapolis. Included in this conference will be sessions for Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball, and Chaplains. For more information for this conference, agenda, and registration, click www.legion.org under programs.

SAL ‘HONORARY LIFE’ CODE – Honorary life is something that can be awarded by a Squadron/Post to an individual for a specific deed or act. He must be an existing SAL member in good standing and eligible for membership in accordance with the established eligibility criteria as outlined in the SAL National Constitution. **Do not confuse this with any Detachment life programs.** This information is listed in the **2015 edition of the Administrative Manual (page 34)**. This is only a Squadron/Post award, where authorized. To report this information, you can submit a member data form (or on line) and mark the appropriate block “Honorary Life”. The record will be coded at National Headquarters. When the annual membership cards & registers are printed, a code “H” will appear on the membership register that denotes “Honorary Life”. Older versions of the member data form do not contain this block. In that case, just write on the form wherever space is permitting. Squadron/Post Adjutants should sign this form to confirm this status.

NATIONAL UPDATE NEWSLETTER - The summer edition of the National Update newsletter has been printed, however for this edition it will not be mailed as previous editions. Due to timeliness and unforeseen circumstances, we did not receive it in time to print and process it for mailing to all the Sons members prior to National Convention. We sincerely apologize for this late submission and occurrence. **In the meantime, we are posting this edition to the Sons web page at www.legion.org/sons under newsletters.** We are also scheduling to email this edition to all Sons members who we have email addresses on the Sons membership data base. This will be accomplished in August and prior to the National Convention. Hard copies of the newsletter will be available on the tables in front of Hall C of the SAL National Convention in Baltimore. Please feel free to pick up additional hard copies for your members in your respective squadron and detachment. This entire process depends on the help and assistance of volunteers and sometimes due to work and personal commitments problems do occur. Again, we apologize for this inconvenience for the summer issue.

DATE OF BIRTH INFORMATION - The capturing and collecting of date of birth information for the National records of our members has been a slow process. This program is outlined in the **2015 Administrative Manual, page 32**. This information is contained on the membership register for every member of the Sons. Many Squadrons throughout the Country have not submitted this information. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as future actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by postcards, date of birth form (page 47 of the Admin Manual), member data forms, or online at www.legion.org/sons in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page. Detachments are encouraged to pass this information on to all Squadrons and members during scheduled Conferences and Sons meetings.

CWF 100% PER- CAPITA BANNER PROGRAM – The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will be continuing the incentive program for the award year 2015-2016. Each post, unit, squadron or salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation’s award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting

room or it may be attached to your squadron colors. The form for submitting this request can be found on the SAL web page at www.legion.org/sons.

EMBLEM SALES ITEM – For the past several years the Sons shirts have been good sellers and are a tremendous hit. They will be available again for this year’s Convention in Baltimore for Sons members. The SAL polo shirt (french blue and now available in Navy blue) – Aqua-Dry w/pocket made from 96/4/poly/spandex moisture-wicking fabric to keep you dry & comfortable – will not shrink. It has a fashion-textured collar with left chest pocket for convenience and fully embroidered SAL emblem. **Catalog number 507.709X - \$34.95.** These will be available at National Convention through National Emblem Sales. Also available new this year is the SAL Freedom Polo, **catalog number 507.718X - \$33.95.** These are 60/40/cotton/poly material that won’t shrink.

NEW SAL EMBLEM SALES ITEM. A new **short sleeve** dress shirt (SAL) is now available and will be available in Emblem Sales during the National Convention. This short sleeve dress shirt, **catalog #507.600X is a relaxed fit, fully embroidered SAL emblem and available in sizes Medium to 3XL. Cost \$26.95.**

AMERICAN LEGION EXTENSION INSTITUTE – The American Legion’s official training program for officers and members who want to expand their knowledge of The American Legion is now available online. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit www.legion.org/alei. **The program is designed to take less than two hours to complete.** It is divided into six sections with a quiz at the end of each followed by a final exam. The sections closely follow the Four Pillars of service for the organizations which include the history and organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. Upon completion, a participant must pass a final online exam to receive a digital certificate of recognition, and a cap pin. The names of those who have passed will be recorded and indexed at The American Legion National Headquarters. Graduates will have the option to click a box upon completion to recognize their accomplishment on The American Legion national website at www.legion.org. **The online course is \$4.95 for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion.** Registration for non members is \$9.95. Payment can be accepted securely and conveniently on the course registration page. This course replaces the series of printed booklets that were previously sold through National Emblem Sales.

FUTURE DATES

American Legion Baseball World Series – North Carolina August 14-18, 2015
National Convention – Baltimore, MD - August 28-30, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 10% - September 9, 2015
The American Legion Day - September 16, 2015
National Children & Youth Conference - September 18-20, 2015
National Americanism Conference - September 25-27, 2015
Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference - October 10-11, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **25% - October 14**, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **35% - November 13**, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **45% - December 9**, 2015
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **60% - January 20**, 2016
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **75% - February 10**, 2016
Washington Conference 2016 - February 21-24, 2016
Membership Target Date – 2016 – 80% - March 9, 2016
American Legion Birthday - March 15-17, 2016
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **90% - April 13**, 2016
National Oratorical Contest – 2016 - April 15-17, 2016
Spring NEC & National Management Institute Training - April 30 – May 1, 2016
Membership Target Date – 2016 – **100% - May 11**, 2016
Veterans Assistance Day - May 21, 2016
Junior Shooting Sports National Championship – Colorado 2016 - July 14-24, 2016
American Legion Boys Nation – Washington DC 2016 - July 22-30, 2016
Membership Target Date **105%** & Delegate Strength Date 2016 - **July 26, 2016**
National Convention – Cincinnati, OH – 2016 - August 26-28, 2016

FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES

Baltimore, Maryland – August 28 - September 3, 2015
Cincinnati, Ohio – August 26 – September 1, 2016
Louisville, Kentucky – August 25-31, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota – August 24-30, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana – August 23-29, 2019
Reno, Nevada – August 28 – September 3, 2020