National Commander Dale Barnett from the Department of Georgia will make his official visit to the Department of Delaware, Wednesday to Friday, March 16-18, 2016. Activities in the three districts and several posts are in the planning stages. When date, time, and place are confirmed for the activities, information will be released.

Commander Barnett was elected National Commander on September 3, 2015 in Baltimore, MD, during the 97th national convention of the nation’s largest veterans’ organization.

Commander Barnett graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and served as an Army infantry officer from 1974 to 1996, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. A member of American Legion Post 105 in Fayetteville, Ga., he served The American Legion at every level, including Department (State) Commander of Georgia from 2007 to 2008. After leaving the military, Barnett taught high school social studies and coached basketball, baseball and cross country. He was the Creekside High School Teacher of the Year in 2005-2006 and a national board certified social studies teacher in 2003.

Raised in central Indiana, Commander Barnett attended Whiteland Community High School, where he was student body president, captain of the track and basketball teams and president of the Whiteland United Methodist Youth Basketball Team. He credits his experience with Hoosier Boys Nation in 1969 with his decision to attend West Point.

Commander Barnett served from 1990 to 1991 as the battalion executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. His decorations include The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2 Awards), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and Pathfinder Badge.

In addition to an International Relations/Public Affairs degree that Barnett earned at West Point, he holds a Masters of Business Administration from Boston University and graduated from Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Barnett served as The American Legion National Membership and Post Activities Chairman from 2008 to 2010 and National Economic Chairman from 2010 to 2013.

Commander Barnett and his wife, Donna, live in Douglasville, Ga., and have five children: Michelle, Andrea, Desiree, Kathalyn, and Joseph. They also have four young grandchildren: Heather, Daniel, Joanne and Brandon.

In conjunction with the official visit, the Department of Delaware will hold a banquet to honor National Commander Barnett on Friday evening, March 18, 2016, commencing with a social at 5:45 PM, followed by dinner and program, at Walter L. Fox Post #2, 835 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901. The banquet menu entrée is a choice of Prime Rib or Crab Cakes. A selection for entrées will be made with the ticket order. Tables are in groups of eight. Coat and tie are the dress. Tickets are $30 per person. Pre-event ticket sales only as tickets shall not be sold at the door. Cutoff date for ordering tickets is Saturday, March 12, 2016. Checks are payable, and to be sent, to the Department of Delaware, PO Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973.

For those that may need overnight accommodations, the MainStay Suites, 201 Stover Blvd., Dover, DE 19901 is being utilized as the Department HQ hotel. The hotel telephone number is 302-678-8383. The MainStay Suites is located directly adjacent (north side) to Walter L. Fox Post #2.

Department Commander James Gallagher and the Department officers urge all posts to send a delegation to the banquet and share a memorable evening with Commander Barnett. For additional information, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, at 302-628-5221, or by e-mail at adjutant@delegation.org.
Jim Gallagher
State Commander

There’s nothing better than having something to report but good news. Membership both legion and DMS is going great, keep up the good work. I’ve stated numerous times that we can get to 100% and I truly believe that. If there is anything the department can do to help please contact me. One idea that I’ve seen work is really quite simple, take your renewal, DMS, and Post 4 lists and split them up and give them to your post officers. have them call the members and get them on board. Post 28 did this and as you can see it made a huge difference in their numbers. Currently we are working on establishing posts on the Delaware Tech campuses. Sean Sparks from National is helping in getting all the details so we can make a final presentation. Our grotto’s night netted us $1000, thanks to all who participated. the people at Grotto’s we’re very happy and have suggested doing it again. Hopefully we can and hopefully we can get a little more involvement. Last year we did not get too many post consolidation reports and I don’t understand why. Please, please get them done and get them in. And like always, if you need help call us and we happily assist you in getting this critical report completed. A special thanks to Roy Lambert, Rebecca Crouser and Jackie Ertzweller for the great job they are doing in updating and improving our website. If you haven’t looked lately please do so and remember we are still under construction. Post historians and commanders should ensure that current information about your post activities are sent to webmaster@delegation.org so they can be added. There are three feeds on the site; the left side is a calendar events, the right side is feed from National and the center feed is where your input will be featured. So please take a look. It is now an easy tool to use for the entire department.

Stay warm, stay safe, and most of all- keep up the great work you do.

For God and Country
Jim Gallagher
State Commander

Jeff Crouser
1st Vice Commander

It has been a year of ups and downs for the Department. Membership has been quite a challenge for many of you, but all of you have shown the perseverance to continue to push. Remember, membership is the backbone of the organization and it is up to you, the Post’s to make that happen. We at the Department are here to help. You elected us to represent your Department, and all of us at the white hat level and beyond do our best to represent you well.

With that being said, we can only report what you report. 2nd Vice Commander Maryanna Moderhak has worked tirelessly to spread the word about the Post Consolidated Reports (PCR). This is the second most important thing you do at the Post level. We cannot report what we do not know, and the PCR is where we get to “talk” with often. I appreciate the many conversations I have been able to have with many of them.

Since these are going to be occurring before our next Legionnaire edition I want to request that all post members encourage others to be sure and sign up on line for the LIT insurance, IT’S FREE. Please Post Officers see that all members are encouraged to enroll and it’s simple to do right on line.

The next thing that I want to stress is getting all your facts together to enable you to complete the Post Consolidated reports. These are SO important to have every post represented in reporting. I believe the start date is the first of March so please get started now in gathering the information from your posts. I know that everyone does many things that are not reported and then your Posts go unrecognized. That is so unfair when many of you do so much. You deserve the credit.

Maryanna Moderhak
2nd Vice Commander
Department of Delaware

Reverend Wayne Hicks
Department Chaplain

As we welcome in the New Year 2016 I would like to wish everyone a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Hope everyone had a wonderful and Happy Christmas. As many of you know by now, that on March 25th of 2015 I had my gallbladder removed after getting over a severe Aorta disease. It was from where it joins the heart to down past my stomach. I had an attack on Christmas day and was rushed by ambulance to the ER in Milford from Millsboro, it was a blood clot cyst on the lower Aorta, they seem to have that under control as well as the other part of my Aorta, which they seem to think they can heal with medications. They say about a year or more.

I wish to thank everyone that visited me in the hospital, and all of the get well cards from all of the posts and all of the messages on Facebook, and texts, and phone calls. Let us not forget those that are in far worse shape than I; pray for them and their families and loved ones. There are so many Veterans coming home from overseas with traumatic injuries, and those suffering from PTSD.

I know that God is in most of our hearts, and that God has the healing power over all things. I have witnessed a lot of his healings, and I am sure glad God has watched over me. I am trying to fulfill my duties as Department Chaplain, doing a little corresponding with those that need prayer when loved ones have passed away, and need words of encouragement when down and sick.

So God bless you all
For God and Country, Reverend Wayne Hicks

Deadline for next Legionnaire: June 12, 2016

THE DELAWARE LEGIONNAIRE

AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

SUBSCRIPTION: Free to Members
Send copy and correspondence to: THE DELAWARE LEGIONNAIRE
Bettyly Evans, Editor
1-302-875-0167
email blmoe@hughes.net

COMPOSITION & PRINTING: DOVER POST CO.
Happy New Year! Before discussing the plans for the new year, I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the Department as we closed out the prior year. Our units organized and participated in September 11th and Veterans Day remembrance ceremonies, including the Delaware Memorial Bridge Ceremony, presented the POW/MIA table ceremony, and explained the “Tear Drop” Military Suicide Awareness Program. We supported our troops, their families, and local veterans through the “Stand-Down Program,” the “Stockings for Soldiers Program,” the “Angel Trees,” and shipments of items to our deployed troops.

New schools participated in the Pocket Flag program. Local students won awards the National Essay Contest and National Poppy Poster Contest. Fundraising efforts supported local children through the COTA program and our organization’s members through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Events and projects were conducted to help support the needs of the local communities at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our units participated in projects at local schools, such as, “Backpacks for Students” and “Labels for Education” and provided support to students.

Our Girls State program was very successful this year! The bill taken to Girls Nation by our delegates was passed during the session. In addition, a photo of Johnsenia Brooks, Girls Nation Delegate from St. Thomas More, hugging the President was selected as a “July Picture of the Day” and presented on the White House website. Special thanks to Helen Skelton and Beverly Buchanan for all of your work with this program!

Who are we? We answer this question routinely by sharing our stories and our mission through local media and news outlets and with our local communities. Internally, we distributed newsletters and supported the branding efforts of our organization.

Units actively worked to recruit new members and rejoin lapsed members. There have been several recruitment fairs, special projects and community outreach events. We are on track with our goals and heading towards the finish line for the year! Let’s keep working our magic and strengthen our organization!!!

The Leadership Committee has an ongoing project to develop e-learning tools to assist in training our members. “Leadership — Framework for Civility” has been distributed and “Protocol” is due to be released soon. Other committees will begin work on additional e-learning tools soon. The Department has also initiated a Department Newsletter. A “Name the Newsletter” Contest will be starting soon. The Department is also in the process of developing a Department Website that will allow us to increase our online presence and ability to share organizational news and information.

Upcoming events include visits by the National President, Sharon Conaster, and Eastern Division Vice President, Helen Skelton. Please attend the luncheon for President Conaster hosted by Unit 28 on Friday, February 26 at 1pm.

Ladies, I’m awed by your accomplishments! Please keep up the great work that you are doing with your programs. United in Service to Veterans

Dr. Alete A. Krauss
State President

Limited below is one of the resolutions that were passed at the NEC Fall Conference this pass October 14-15, 2015 pertaining to the Legion Riders.

If anyone is interested full details of all NEC Resolutions they can be reviewed at American Legion National Headquarters Archive Library.

Resolution No. 8: Assignment of American Legion Riders Advisory Committee.

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee hereby approves the responsibilities and authorities of the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee and assignment to the Internal Affairs Commission effective October 14, 2015; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee purpose shall be to work in concert, as directed by the Internal Affairs Commission, with American Legion posts, districts and departments as needed to build awareness and support of the Legion Rider program and the annual Legacy Run, and such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed seven members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That of the seven members appointed at the fall 2015 meeting of the National Executive Committee, two shall serve for a term of one year; two shall serve for a term of two years; and three shall serve for a term of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years;

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That at its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander may appoint such consultants and national commander’s representatives as he may deem appropriate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the “Outline of Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees” shall be updated to reflect the above.

For God & Country,
John A. Endres
Alternate NEC, Department of Delaware

The American Legion Washington, DC conference will be held February 21–24 at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Sunday will be a Department Commander’s meeting with the National Commander to discuss the membership strategic plan and a Reception hosted by National Commander candidate at the American Legion Post 136, Greenbelt, Maryland. Monday, several meetings will be attended by representatives from the Department of Delaware.

Tuesday will start with the “Commander’s Call & Know Before You Go.” This meeting is a joint session at which members of Congress, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Dept. of Defense will present information on topics of importance for the veteran and military communities. American Legion members will meet with their own state Congressional leaders and articulate their legislative priorities for their veterans during the Capitol Hill Walk.

On Wednesday all attendees of the Washington Conference are encouraged to attend the National Commander’s testimonial on the Legion’s legislative priorities before a joint hearing of the Senate & House Veterans Affairs Committees. I will present a full report on the Conference at the next DEC meeting.

For God & Country,
Kenneth G. Whitman
NEC, Department of Delaware

The holidays are over so now we must get down to work. There is so much that needs to be done for our members, ourhomelss veterans and let’s not forget our older senior veterans. Just a kind word will go a long wait with some.

In February our Auxiliary National President will be visiting Delaware. In March our National Legion Commander will visit states Delaware. Please try to go to a Post and visit with them and make them feel welcome to our smallstate.

Soon the Post elections will be coming up. Please attend your Post meetings and please vote for the person who is qualified for the Offices. Every member is eligible to run for an Office, but do they know the Legion and how it operates. Remember that the day of the “Good Old Boy” is in the past. We need experience and knowledge now.

Please keep sending your pictures and articles. Remember that this is your paper. A special Thanks go out to the Officers who had their reports in early. For the pictures, Thanks Bob Royland, Scott Phillips, Jim Lafferty and the Auxilians from Post # 581 and 17.

Bettylou Evans
Editor

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Bettylou Evans
Editor
**Department of Delaware hosts American Legion Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser**

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Delaware will host the National President Sharon Conatser from Wednesday February 24, 2016 thru Saturday February 27, 2016. During her visit there will be lots of opportunities for the Legion Family to participate in the events planned for her. On Wednesday evening the Officers, Past Department Presidents, and Unit Presidents will join her for dinner. As in the past on Thursday she will visit Dover Air Force Base and the Home of the Brave on Thursday.

Thursday evening Unit 2 and Unit 14 will host a “Meet and Greet” in Smyrna at Post 14 from 6PM – 9PM and invites the Legion Family to attend. On Friday morning after a visit to either the Milford Veterans Home or Port Miles her luncheon will be hosted by Unit 28 at the Post home in Milford. After the meeting the District will be having a Fish Fry at Post 28 to help raise funds for the District’s programs. The Fish Fry will take place from 1 PM till 5 PM. This is a good way to enjoy a great meal and also help out the District. Have your Saturday meal at the Post 28 and don’t worry about cooking at home.

At the District meeting this day, February 20th, a representative from the Shorebirds will be the guest speaker and he will talk about possibly having a Legion Day at one of the Shorebirds games this coming baseball season. If this can be arranged, the details will be forwarded to all members of the Department of Delaware when finalized.

For God and Country,
Jim Lafferty
Commander, Sussex District

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**Auxiliary Unit Dover**

Tech Sgt Clarence Blanks is a member of the American Legion Post 2 in Dover. He served 20 years in the USAF and also served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He then retired from DAFB in 1983 as an Entomologist as Silver Engineer Squad room. Mr. Blanks was invited to a Thanksgiving dinner at Princess Royale in Ocean City, MD by Saundra Caldwell who is a member of the Auxiliary Unit 2. Lita Hetherington a member of Unit 2 joined them.

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**SUSSEX DISTRICT COMMANDER**

Bettylou Evans
Editor

The holidays are now history and winter has finally arrived. We all should take a deep breath and look forward to whatever 2016 has in store for us. Hopefully 2016 will be a good and healthy year for all. 2015 closed out with the Sussex District doing a great job with the Thanksgiving for Thousands food drive and the Christmas Food Drive. For Thanks giving, a total of 7,250 boxes were packed and for Christmas a total of 1,150 boxes were packed for the needy members of the Sussex County community. A great job was done by all and giving back to the community and helping others in need is what the holidays are all about. Thank you for your help and commitment to these programs.

The Sussex District Christmas Party was a great time for all those in attendance. They enjoyed a great meal and Santa Clause handed out gifts to all the ladies that attended. Thank you to all that attended for making the event so pleasant and enjoyable. It was really a nice time. We received quite a few requests to do the same thing next year. A special thanks to Bettylou Evans, for all her efforts arranging the dinners and supplying the poinsettias for the ladies. Thanks also to Bob Michael, Richard Jefferson, Lee Glasco and Jim Gallagher for paying for the refreshments served at the party.

The Sussex District will have its first meeting of 2016 on Saturday February 20th at 10AM at Post 28 in Millsboro. After the meeting the District will be having a Fish Fry at Post 28 to help raise funds for the District’s programs. The Fish Fry will take place from 1PM till 5PM. This is a good way to enjoy a great meal and also help out the District. Have your Saturday meal at the Post 28 and don’t worry about cooking at home.

At the District meeting this day, February 20th, a representative from the Shorebirds will be the guest speaker and he will talk about possibly having a Legion Day at one of the Shorebirds games this coming baseball season. If this can be arranged, the details will be forwarded to all members of the Department of Delaware when finalized.

For God and Country,
Jim Lafferty
Commander, Sussex District
New Castle District Council Oratorical Contest Committee. Chuck Armbruster, Past Department Commander; Michael Burris, Post 29 Commander; Jim Brady, Past Department Commander, Maryanna Moderhak, Department 2nd Vice Commander; Peter Dirga, District Finance Officer; Ed Colaprete, District Commander; and, Aleta Krauss, Department Executive Committee.

New Castle District Council Oratorical Contest. Michael Burris, Commander Post 29; Jim Brady, Past Department Commander; Contestants Shreyas Parab (Archmere Academy), Eric Long (Wilmington Charter), Owen Riley (Salesianum), Liam O’Connor (Caesar Rodney), and Ed Colaprete, District Commander.

2015 HOLIDAY SWEEPSTAKES REPORT

Printing $2,483.50  Gross Donations $14,027.00
Postage $1,498.43  Less Expenses $8,132.33
Prizes $4,000.00  Net Donations $5,894.67
Staging Cost $150.40  Total Cost $8,132.33

Due to the drop in donations, prize money will be reviewed by the Budget Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:

Benjamin W Hollinger  Milford DE
Walter T Vandunk  New Castle DE
Joseph V Kehow  Milton DE
Frederick W Bryner  Smyrna DE
Jacques S Smock  Georgetown DE
Kenneth R Rocks  Lewes DE
Todd J McCubbin  Camden Wyoming DE (2nd time)
William V Hawke III  Wilmington DE
John D Moses  Millboro DE
Joseph W Dabrowski  Wilmington DE
Andrew Washington  New Castle DE
Eric Bengreyfield  Townsend DE

The funds raised by Department of Delaware, The American Legion sweepstakes contests are reserved for veteran’s programs, support for their families, Boys and Girl State and Trooper Youth programs just to name a few.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 Holiday Sweepstake. If you haven't supported the Department Fund raisers please reconsider and those that have please continue. The next sweepstakes program will be the 2016 Summer Fling.

John A Endres
Sweepstakes Committee Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Delaware Girls State Program Fundraiser

Delaware Boys State and Delaware Girls State are looking for a few good volunteers

Delaware Boys State and Delaware Girls State are looking for Legionnaires or Auxiliary Members with the following qualifications to help us grow our programs:

1. Medical – Nurse, Doctor or EMT
2. Scholarship Support – Reading, Reviewing or Grading essays on Scholarship Applications
3. Teaching/Lecturer – Specifically Speech or Debate Essentials
4. Grant Writing/Fundraising – Future income opportunities

Medical Support – both the Girls State/Boys State Program are “encouraged” to have medical staff available during the camp sessions. The Delaware Girls State Program is lucky enough to have a nurse volunteer for the past several years; however the Boys State does not have anyone available and must rely on counselors and/or emergency room visits. We would like to make this available to both programs.

Scholarship Support – as part of both programs there is an opportunity for the participants to fill out and submit for the Sam Sung Scholarship. While the final decision is based out of the National Office, each State must/can submit one winner. Reading and Grading take a lot of time away from the program that can be better spent with the camp.

Teaching/Lecturer – Both programs are always in the market for great public speakers with something to say: Life experiences that would add value to both programs. Specifically speech and/or debate experience is preferred but not exclusive.

Grant Writing/Fundraising – Both programs are always in the market for additional income.

Please note that all of these “wishes” will only take a few hours of your time – we are not asking you to assist for the entire 5 days – only a few hours of your time.

If you have any of these qualifications please contact Lisa McCarley, Delaware Girls State Director. I will discuss all qualifications and needs for both programs.

The American Legion organization held a combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis the weekend of Sept 25, 26, and 27, 2015.

The Conference was broken down into different sessions. They were Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball, Girls State (from the Auxiliary) and Chaplains.

The Boys State Conference began with a combined Boys State Girls State Session on Friday night. After greetings from National Commander Dale Barnett and Auxiliary National President Sharon Conatser we heard from the Auxiliary Secretary Debbie Buckler. The evening ended with To Hirschauer, Director, American Legion Auxiliary Marketing Division about how to sell the programs. Most of what these two individuals said do not apply to small departments – and what did we do try and implement. However, according to Mr. Hirschauer, we need to make more use of social media beyond Facebook and greater use of the print media to sell the programs to our WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam veterans.

On Saturday we received an Insurance update from S.A. Van Dyke, Inc. the company that insures the Delaware Boys State program. It does not appear to be any change in the insurance costs at this time – and the main point was to make sure each program was insured. The next session was on how to select for Boys Nation.

The direction was not to have a straight election – with no other process involved. They have found that those that are elected by students with no other input are the poorest prepared for the Boys Nation Program. It turns out the process we use is the one preferred by the Boys Nation Program and the ranking process in the evaluation of Boys Nation program proved that this year.

We spent a lot of time going over major changes in the administration of the Sam Sung Scholarship. The entire process will now be on line. National will close the ability to submit the application the first day, or other specified date selected by the program, of Boys State (Girls State) for each department. All paper work will have to be done on line – including information from the schools and proof of military service. One issue was the legibility of the proof of service – it needs to be scanned so that it can be read – otherwise the person is disqualified. Also, they will no longer accept obituaries as proof of service. The local Boys State/Girls State program will then make its own selection and submit everything online to national organization with the click of the mouse.

The other presentations were basically ideas and programs that work with the larger Boys State programs. Texas “Branding of Boys State” is a great idea but costs a great deal of money – unless you have local people willing to contribute their businesses to help (which Texas had from former Boys and Girls Staters). The leadership discussion from Arkansas was interesting but does not deal with the Department of Delaware because of our size. They talked about the effect of meeting individuals who have never met someone who has a different background they do. Something that the Delaware students have done since their first day off first grade.

The section on Crisis Plans and Crisis Planning from California covered what we do every year. The one on selecting a location for the residents for Boys State is a process that we will be looking into this year – especially if Wesley College falls down on the job again. The Concierge Registration Process was an interesting idea that we will consider. The reason for it we do – but it might speed up the registration. The presentations in the afternoon were interesting but can not be implemented in a small department because of logistics.

Finally, the last item – which was on Sunday – was a session with the National Judge Advocate. What he said we had to do because of law we already do – some of the other programs do not. There were a couple of items that we may have to change how we label them to satisfy him – but national does not require. Finally, he went over patent and trademark laws as it affects the program.

The Conference is helpful for the exchange of ideas from one department to another. Most of the ideas are for large departments and will take a great deal of modification to make them useful for Delaware. However, the one thing that comes out of this program every year is the fact that the Delaware students are much better prepared academically for the Boys Nation Program than most of the other departments because we do actual state government every day of the program.
Last year Margie Abbott, the Secretary/Treasurer of Unit 25, had read about Unit 28 collecting cookies and sending them to the troops. During the Peach Festival in Middletown, which is held in August, she read about the local high school baking some of the peach pies that were being sold as part of the festival. In talking with the management staff at the local Bob Evans she learned that they had an abundance of cookie dough that they would be glad to donate to a worthy cause.

With that, she approached the Appoquinimink School District with the idea of one of the schools baking the cookies. The school district contacted the Culinary Department of Middletown High School and they were more than glad to take on the task.

Next she contacted MG Frank Vavala to see if he was available to help. He was eager to come and help. He thanked the students and the auxiliary members for their efforts.

“The cookies bring a spirit of home to those who are away from home during the holidays so there is no greater thing that we can do than to say ‘Thank you’ for what you’re doing – protecting our liberties and freedoms,” Vavala said. “[Cookies] are a great morale booster.”

Appoquinimink School District Superintendent Matthew Burrows also attended the event. “I think it’s a great opportunity for our kids to help out our troops and be involved with the community,” Burrows said. “Cookies bring warmth. And, just for these soldiers to know that someone back home cares and supports them means a lot to them.”

After the cookies were baked, they were taken to Post 28 where they were packed with marshmallows and bubble wrap and put in a box with other assorted items. The boxes are sent to specific military members whose names were previously solicited.

“I just want to thank everyone who was involved with this,” Margie Abbott said. “This all came together very well.”

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Claymont, De—-Once a month every Thursday night you can see the lights lit brightly on the third floor of the firehouse. Meetings for R.C. Dupont Post 18 take place there with little fanfare. You see, this is the post’s home. January 20th will mark the 70th anniversary of the post’s existence, long steeped in history and service.

Named for R.C. dupont, a pioneer in glider and aviation, he dedicated and ultimately sacrificed his life during WWII during a flight test. The gliders he developed helped the war effort pull off daring feats and exploits for our cause. Being soundless, gliders played a small but crucial role in missions at night to avoid detection. In addition to his accomplishments in designing and building gliders, he was a pioneer of rural mail and the founder of Allegheny Airlines, forerunner of US Airways.

In spite of not having their own home, the post is made up of some of the most active legionnaires in the state, serving local community events and county as well as state and national support. The gamut of legion activities: Oratorical Contest, Boys State, local veterans as well as active duty and the local VA are just some of the many activities members support. Member Lyman Brenner is always working tirelessly to recruit new members. Peter Dirga, Chuck Armbruster and Mark Koczak (current commander) all have served in various post positions as well as throughout the state.

For a post that has no permanent home, it has certainly left its mark on the local community and throughout the state of Delaware!
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17, Lewes, Delaware

Unit 17 was honored to have Department Officers join us for our December 2015 Holiday Celebration where we were all able to meet and Honor National 2015 Poppy Poster Contest winner Noelle Sabbagh for National Auxiliary Poppy Poster Contest Class II

A Poppy Program to raise funds for Veterans, a good Poppy Chairperson, Jackie McGuire, a teacher of Art- Denise Costello, a student who already knew about Veterans from her own Pop-Pop- retired military and Lifetime Legion member of Post 17, Lewes, Delaware and grandmother who is a lifetime Auxiliary member and past Department President in Maryland. Noelle’s Poster can be seen on the National Auxiliary website- www.ALAforVeterans.org She submitted her Poppy Poster last May 2015. It was chosen by Unit 17 Auxiliary, chosen at the Department of Delaware and the Eastern Division level and then won the National Award for her age group.

We know her family is very proud of her as is the Department of Delaware and especially Unit 17. Well done everyone- Thanks Noelle

Pictured left to right, Department of Delaware past president and 2015 Leadership chair Arnita Coleman, Unit 17 President Murt Foos, Department of Delaware Poppy Chairman 2015 Maureen Murray, 2015-2016 Department President Aleta Krauss, Poppy Poster Contest Winner Noelle Sabbagh, 2015 Unit 17 Poppy Chair Jackie McGuire, Unit 17 VA&R Chair Jo Stafford, Art Teacher Richard Shields Elementary, Lewes, Delaware Denise Costello, Department of Delaware Chaplain and Unit 17 National Security Chair Judi Whitman.

Proud Grandparents look on as National Poppy Poster Contest winner of Class II receives her gift and proud thanks from Unit 17, Lewes, De.

Bob and Catherine Wheeler are lifetime Legion and Auxiliary members but were glad to just look on proudly as granddaughter Noelle Sabbagh receives a gift from Auxiliary Unit 17 to recognize her winning the 2015 National Poppy Poster Contest Class II.

When her Art teacher mentioned the Poster Contest last May at Richard Shields Elementary School she says she just went home and talked to Pop-Pop and the Poster came easy.

Bob Wheeler is a 41 year member Past Commander Post 183 Parkville Md Balto county, commander Northern central District Md active in Md Boys state as a counselor served on aircraft carrier during Korean conflict is now an Honorary Life member of The American Legion since moving to Lewes De became a member of Post 17.

Catherine Wheeler, is an Honorary Life member of Parkville Unit 183 served many chairs on a Unit level member served as Northern Central district President and department President for the State of Md.
The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) has been protecting Legionnaires and their loved ones for nearly 50 years. Founded in 1965, the non-profit Legionnaire Insurance Trust is comprised of 48 Departments of The American Legion representing some two million members. For nearly five decades, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been your Department’s endorsed insurance program.

The LIT offers Supplemental Health and Accident Plans. Their years of experience and their valued partnership with Legionnaires has allowed them to customize their programs and products to better serve members’ needs. The LIT’s priority is helping Delaware Legionnaires to find the right solution for their insurance needs. They are committed to serving the unique insurance needs and offer a wide range of insurance solutions designed to protect you, your family and your health. One unique program is LegionCare, a no cost accident coverage.

As a Legionnaire in good standing (current year’s dues paid), you are eligible for LegionCare, “No Cost Accidental Death Protection,” that is guaranteed to all Legionnaires. This base benefit is an important benefit extended to valued members – compliments of the Department of Delaware. You cannot be turned down, no matter how dangerous your job or how often you travel. Plus, it pays benefits regardless of any other coverage you have, as well as disabling injuries. But it is not automatic – you have to activate.

Every time you step into your car to go to your monthly Post meeting, you can rest assured your LegionCare benefits are on duty. And this is true if you travel for any Legion function – Post, District, Department or National meetings, fundraisers, softball events, or any event conducted for Legion purposes. That’s because once you enroll in LegionCare, you are covered for $5,000.00 in Accidental Death Protection. Your loved ones will receive a check for $5,000.00 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from any event conducted for Legion business.

You are also covered for $1,000.00 in protection for all other covered accidents, all at no cost to you. There are no strings attached and you pay nothing for this benefit. But your confirmation is required for full activation. Your family or beneficiary will collect cash benefits regardless of any other insurance and you cannot be singled out for a premium increase. Most important of all, this valuable accident protection is issued through The Legionnaire Insurance Trust and endorsed by the Department of Delaware. When it comes to protecting your family’s economic security, you shouldn’t rely on strangers. Get your family in case of your death. How do I confirm these no cost privileges? Just complete the 100% secure online confirmation form. Once your confirmation is submitted, the LIT will finalize your LegionCare benefit file right away. Because this plan is offered to you on a guaranteed basis, there is no long form with complicated health questions to worry about. No medical exam is required. Just fill out the short form on this website to activate LegionCare today. This program is intended to provide coverage for accidents, and is not intended to cover any loss resulting from:

- Suicide; self-inflicted injury, while sane or insane;
- sickness, disease, bodily or mental infirmity or medical or surgical treatment thereof, or bacterial or viral infection;
- use of any drugs or chemical substances not prescribed or taken as directed by a doctor;
- loss while driving intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance;
- war or act of war (declared or undeclared);
- commission or attempt to commit a felony; participation in a riot or insurrection;
- travel or flight in any aircraft (including getting in or out, on or off) being used for test or experimental purposes, by or for any military authority;
- instances are not covered if they are serving as a pilot or crewmember or while they are hang-gliding, parasailing, or parachuting; participation in any organized race or speed contest;
- loss occurring more than 90 days after a covered accident.

LegionCare will become effective upon receipt of your application by the Administrator. You cannot be singled out for cancelation, a benefit decrease, or an increase in your premiums, if Additional Benefits are purchased, due to a change in your health or occupation. Your benefits will continue in full force as long as you pay your premiums on time, remain a Legion member in good standing, and the master policy remains in force.

Your beneficiary for Additional Benefits will be the first surviving class of spouse, children, parents, siblings, or insured’s estate. The beneficiary of any proposed insurance on your Spouse or Children is you. You may change your beneficiary at any time by notifying the Legionnaire Insurance Trust headquarters in writing.

The LIT administrator is the Association Group Insurance Administrators aka A.G.I.A., Inc. Mailing address for AGIA is P.O. Box 26720, Phoenix, AZ 85080. To learn more about your Department’s insurance products and services please call 1-800-810-8369.

Important reminder, LegionCare coverage is not automatic. You have to activate it. Your confirmation is required for full activation. Just fill out the short form on The LIT website to activate LegionCare today. There is a link to The LIT on the Department of Delaware’s website at http://www.delegation.org/. Or, you may go directly to The LIT website at https://www.thelit.com/.

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**LegionCare—No Cost Accidental Death Protection**

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**Hiring Our Heroes**

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

2015 Hiring Our Heroes: Wilmington, DE

A Free列iting Event for Veterans, Spouses and their Families. THe LIT

On-going for 30 years, Delaware's History creationx

320 K Yongtowne W Castle, DE 1972

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

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**Sunday November 1st SAL Squadron 5 Rehoboth Presented a plaque to dedicate the 3rd Davis Gun in front of the post. Those present (L to R) Everett Wadiska Post Commander Bob Pruchneski, SAL Commander Steven Carey Pat Richardson Ron Webster Bill Strachn Jay Allen Bob Cunningham and Jim Hammill**
On December 8, the Department of Delaware recognized Delaware Tech for their support of veterans and military families, particularly the 22in22 campaign to prevent soldier suicide. Commander James Gallagher said, “Thank you to Delaware Tech for all that you do for veterans. We value your commitment to veterans and for raising awareness of soldier suicide through your participation.” Assisting Commander Gallagher with the presentations were First Vice Commander Jeffrey Crouser, Second Vice Commander MaryAnna Moderhak, Alternate National Executive Committeeman John A. Endres and Kent District Executive Committeeperson Kim M. Endres.

RIGHT - Commander Gallagher presents the Office of the President plaque to President Mark Brainard.

BELOW - Commander Gallagher and First vice Commander Jeff Crouser presents the Jack F. Owens Campus plaque to Dr. Ileana Smith, Vice President and Campus Director and Dr. Melissa Rakes, Dean of Student Affairs. David Strawbridge is the College-wide Director of Military and Veterans Services.

ABOVE - Commander Gallagher and Second vice Commander MaryAnna Moderhak presents the Orlando J. George Campus plaque which was accepted by Dr. Lora A. Johnson, Assistant Campus Director and Dr. Kathy A. Janvier, Vice President and Campus Director along with Dr. Regan Hicks-Goldstein, Dean of Student Affairs and Paul Morris, Assistant Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Education as well as David Strawbridge.

LEFT - Commander Gallagher and Alternate NECman John Endres presents Stanton Campus plaque which was accepted by Dr. Lora A. Johnson , and Dr. Kathy A. Janvier along with Dr. Regan Hicks-Goldstein, Dean of Student Affairs; Paul Morris, Assistant Vice President of Work Force Development and Community Education and David Strawbridge.

Commander Gallagher and Kent District Executive Committeeperson Kim M. Endres presents Charles L. Terry Campus plaque which was accepted by June Turansky along with Jennifer Pires, Dean of Student Affairs and David Strawbridge.

Rebecca Crouser a member of Walter L. Fox Post No. 2 and a student at Delaware Tech’s Terry Campus is recognized by President Mark Brainard, Vice President/Campus Director June Turansky and Dean of Instruction John Buckley for her service to our country and for continuing her education. Rebecca is a candidate for graduation with honors in May 2016.
WASHINGTON (January 6, 2016) – Concerned that the White House’s executive action on gun sales would discourage veterans from seeking treatment for mental illnesses or conditions, the head of The American Legion urged President Obama to ensure that the Second Amendment rights of law abiding veterans be protected.

“Nobody wants violent criminals or those with extreme mental disorders to have firearms,” American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett said. “But The American Legion strongly believes that treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or depression by itself, which a number of wartime veterans experience, should not be the sole factor in denying a veteran the right to purchase a firearm. Barring some additional circumstances that would indicate that a veteran represents a dangerous threat, veterans should not have to forfeit their Second Amendment rights. We fear an ‘over fix,’ which would bar any veteran from owning a weapon. That’s what we’re apprehensive about. Veterans have fought to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans. The American Legion believes that the rights of these heroes deserve protection.”

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.
Santa is telling Roland Placente that he was not a good boy in 2015.

Santa is handing out poinsettias to all ladies at Sussex District Christmas party.

Commander Gallagher and his wife enjoying The Sussex District Christmas party.

Dept. 2 Vice & Dept. Cdr. with Amvets #22 Cdr. at Dover Vietnam Memorial.

Dept. Cdr. & 2 Vice Cdr with Amvets #22 Cdr. at Dover Parade.

Veterans Day at the Bridge.

Dinner at Sussex District Christmas party.

Veterans Day at the Bridge.
1st Vice Commander and Boy Scout Troop 95 Asst. Scoutmaster Ron Webster presents a donation to Troop 95 of Georgetown, DE to help support the numerous activities and campouts that the scouts of Troop 95 participate in.
Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

It’s hard to believe that another year has begun. This new year ushers in renewed hope for progress toward a nation where veterans, military members and their families receive all the benefits related to their service.

Soon, I will be addressing members of Congress during the Legion’s annual Washington Conference. I look forward to seeing many of you there and learning about successes of your meetings with your congressional representatives. The Legion is not only the nation’s largest veterans service organization, it is also the most influential. We’ll demonstrate that when we are in Washington next month.

Whether or not you will be attending Washington Conference, you can help push out our key issues to members of Congress, leaders in your community and your local media. Among The American Legion’s top issues and priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress:

• Caring for mental health issues. Congress should provide help and proper funding for veterans struggling with mental health issues, post traumatic stress disorder and brain injuries. Alternative treatments must be provided as options for veterans and servicemembers in need of treatment for brain injuries and mental stress.

• Provide transition assistance. Servicemembers transitioning to the civilian world face many challenges. Congress should ensure that sequestration cuts and budget shortfalls do not impact servicemen and women.

• Expand employment opportunities. Congress should implement a proposed pilot program that would subsidize businesses and non-profit organizations that create on-the-job training opportunities for veterans.

• Protect our nation. Fully fund a superior national defense to battle enemies including but not limited to the Islamic State, North Korea and others.

• Improve VA experience. Veterans must have faith that the health-care system designed for them will be there to meet their needs. There has been progress but there is need for continued improvement and reform such as strengthening the oversight program.

• End veteran homelessness. While improvements have been made to eliminate veterans homelessness, too many are still on the streets. It is essential to continue the funding that Congress pledged to eradicate homelessness.

• Protect the American Flag. The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory, and continues to support legislation that safeguards our nation’s flag from physical desecration.

I encourage you to communicate our priorities to your representatives and senators, write a letter to your local newspaper and share these priorities on your social media feeds. Let’s let the voices of 2.2 million members usher in necessary changes that benefit veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Our Priorities for Congress

SAVE THE DATE

National President Sharon Conatser Luncheon

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016 12 NOON
AMERICAN LEGION POST 28
MILLSBORO, DELAWARE

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

LIGHT LUNCH
DEPARTMENT LEGION, AUXILIARY,
AND SAL WELCOME

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DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE
PRESIDENT
2016 NATIONAL COMMANDER’S BANQUET
FRIDAY - MARCH 18, 2016
AT WALTER L. FOX POST #2
HONORING

National Commander
Dale Barnett
Department of Georgia

Check payable and sent to: The American Legion Department of Delaware
PO Box 590, Newark, DE 19713
Email: adjutant@del legion.org

Cash Bar at 5:45 PM
Followed by Dinner & Program
$30 per Person
Tables of 8

Entrée Choice: Crab Cakes or Prime Rib
Cost & Tic
The Legion’s role in the voting process

Among the freedoms many Americans enjoy is the right to vote for our elected officials. This year, of course, is generating intense interest because a new president will be elected. Additionally, voters will elect every single member of the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the U.S. Senate.

Right now we are entering a critical and exciting juncture as the two major political parties begin to hold primaries and caucuses to determine the front-runners for their nominations. Strong opinions can be found everywhere. Unfortunately, so too can some mistruths. Many political groups were created specifically to spin facts, distort reality and twist words to propel their candidates into office. The American Legion, as a nonpartisan organization, assumes a role of neutrality amid the storm of political rhetoric and images.

As individuals, we are free like anyone else to vote as we wish and support the candidates we think best.

But as Legionnaires, we have an aduty to participate in the election process and encourage others to exercise one of the most important freedoms we, and those who served in uniform before us, fought to protect: the freedom to vote.

On the local level, an American Legion post can take on a greater role in its community by organizing and hosting a political forum or debate among candidates. Remember that any such event must be open to all who are running for a particular office, and the Legion cannot promote any one candidate. When posts are using their facilities for such events, they should remove the emblem and Legion flag to avoid the impression of endorsement for any candidate. (Note that renting out hall space to a political campaign is still fair game, as long as it is not presented as an American Legion-sponsored event.)

Here are some reminders from the Legion’s Get Out the Vote brochure:

1. When hosting a voter registration drive, information and applications must be offered and available to all eligible voters.
2. Legionnaires may express partisan views, but they must do so when they are not wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire, and without a direct connection to an American Legion post.
3. American Legion posts may coordinate forums or debates. However, posts cannot endorse or oppose a candidate, or coordinate activities with a candidate without giving his/her opponent the same opportunity.

Following these guidelines will keep the Legion above the fray without sacrificing any member’s right to participate in the democratic process. It is my hope that each of you do participate in the election process individually, and posts take the lead in their communities by arranging fair debates or “meet the candidates” forums to help all of our citizens fulfill a right too often taken for granted.

Dale Barnett
National Commander, American Legion

Stahl Post 30

VA Nursing Home Christmas Party Tuesday, December 22, 2015

The Ladies Auxiliary organizes an annual Christmas Party for the residents of the VA Nursing Home. This year twelve Stahl members served pizza and ice cream to these wonderful Veterans. Santa Claus and His Adorable Elf passed out a Christmas Stocking to each resident. These 40 Christmas Stockings were loaded with a hat, gloves, small packet of tissues, hand sanitizer, large nail clippers, an Avon package, canteen money, a set of 6 Patriotic Notecards with two Patriotic pens, and a small notepad.

Each stocking also had a Christmas card that was signed with: from your friends at Stahl Post.

Thank you to each person that participated, we saw some smiling faces that night as we feed, entertained, and gifted these wonderful residents. The pictures below are from the Ladies Auxiliary putting the Stockings together.

1 look forward to working with everyone again as we prepare for Christmas 2016.

Sallie Swales,
VA Chairperson