



2nd District April Newsletter, 4/8/18

“Second to None”

Greetings from the Commander,

From the looks outside, one would think that spring has finally arrived. April fools was on the 1st and Mother Nature is still playing us here on April 8. I am a little late getting out the newsletter but I hope you will see it was worth the wait.

The DEC met on April 7 and we discussed and approved a host of items. I would like to begin with the NEC report because this is the meat and potatoes to why I continue my membership in the American Legion. I am glad that my money is contributing to worthy reasoning's for veterans.

“Suicide Prevention” is getting closer to be a support function and a funded program of the VA. This was the first item the NEC presented so this makes me think it is being heavily pushed on the hill.

Electronic medical records have begun in the branches of service making the veterans medical records readily accessible at the VA after separation. This should greatly support disability claims in the future.

There is still a continued effort with the American Legion, to ensure that the VA medical and prescriptions never becomes privatized. The American Legion is fighting to keep this from happening. Keep vigilant on this item and notify your congressmen and senator saying NO to privatization to any portion of the VA.

The American Legion is pushing to change the classification of Marijuana from a class 1 drug to a class 2 drug so the VA can begin its testing for use and funding by the VA. This classification change must happen for a government entity to conduct testing in the letter of the law.

You know that the National Commander's Motto is “Family First.” This is echoed in her support for the caregivers of our disabled veterans. In many cases these are mothers, fathers, or spouses that have lost jobs and have forfeited life savings supporting their veteran. The NEC reported that she and the American Legion are fighting to get funding for these individuals (the

caregiver). I see this is a need that has been resonated among the veteran community going unaddressed until now.

The final item on the NEC report should bring awareness to the deployed or soon to be deployed Guard and Reservist. It has come to the attention of National that employers have made up waivers that when signed by the veteran forfeits their job after deployment. Signing this waiver legally exempts the employer from holding a job upon their return from active duty. Please pass this on to any Guard or Reservist in your Post that they truly read all documents their employer presents them to sign when being deployed.

I am imploring all Post Commanders to use this information in your last stich effort to gain membership. Put this information in your newsletters and use it in your elevator speech when ask why I should be a member of the American Legion. I can't see why anyone would not want to be part of an organization fighting for our veterans like the American Legion. Think you for your service and especially thanks for your continued support of our veteran community through your membership in the American Legion.

Now onto Department and the reports needed in order to receive 2019 membership cards at the Post. Consolidated Post Reports are available online through MyLegion. Hard copies with instructions will be mailed out to the Post on Friday, April 13. The deadline for completing this report is 6/1/2018. The next report needed is the Annual Post Certification report. This is the report that certifies the Post officers for 2018/2019 Legion year. Submit the report to department with the words "No Change" if the officers are not changing. Please make certain that the information on MyLegion is current to include names, phone numbers, and emails. It's very hard for a new member to find a Post when it can't be found. The Post Certification report is needed by 6/1/2018 as well.

The Department is putting a push on membership to be quota at national by 5/31/2018. Starting today, April 8, 2018, any post that becomes quota before 5/31/18 will receive \$500 from Department. There are over 2/3 of the Posts over 90% in our district needing less than 20 members to make quota. The time left requires membership teams to knock on doors. You can make this happen. Those Posts that have made quota are not left out of the money. These posts can earn \$500 by being all time high in membership by 5/31/2018. This can be achieved by working the 888 list on MyLegion.

Second district fell to 7th place in the Department and 2nd place in the Medium division. We are just 44 members out of 1st place in the division. We can get this back only if the Post want to work membership. Is \$500 worth the effort to take us over the top?

Our summer convention is just around the corner on 5/20/18 at New Knoxville Post 444. We are still in need of a candidate for 2nd Vice Commander. Surly there is past post officer that has made a suggestion in a conversation of holding a position in the district. Please make myself, other district officers, or Past District Commander Ken Schutz aware of this individual so we can give this person needed information to make a sound decision.

For God, Country, and the American Legion.

Kent Long, Commander,

June 29-July 1, 2018, Department Convention, Columbus, Ohio @ the Hyatt Regency Hotel,
350 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215

Please get your events to John McJunkin so he can get them posted on the website. This is free advertisement to the Post. Hope to see you at the events and especially at the next conference.

HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT

Everyone,

I screwed up on Saturday when I talked about the Extra \$500 for Quota Posts and the Extra \$500 for the All-Time-High Posts. My statement was all wrong; this Extra money was for Districts that get Quota and Quota Plus 10% between now and May 30th. What we voted on and approved on our Conference Call on March 19th was that any District that reached Quota by May 30th would receive an Extra \$500 and any District that reached 110% of Quota would receive another Extra \$500. We did not vote on any additional monies for the Posts obtaining Quota or All-Time-High. Below is the excerpt from Rob Hails Minutes of the Conference Call

1. 1st Vice Schmitt recommendation of additional District Incentives. This will be voted on during the next Membership Committee Face-To-Face. PENDING
 - \$500 additional cash award for those Districts achieving 100% of quota by May 30, 2018
 - \$500 additional cash award for those Districts achieving 110% of quota by May 30, 2018

I am surprised that those of you who were on the Conference call did not call me out on this. I realized this when I made the same statement at my District Executive Board Meeting on Sunday. There is no way the Department could afford giving this much money to each Post.

Greetings from the 1st Vice Commander

March Update

MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP

We are at over 90% as of the February 21 report. We are 3rd in Department. We have 18 posts below 90%. Many only need 1 to 3 cards to get the 90%. However, we need all posts to be 100% soon. I am confident that we as the 2nd to None District can get there. Please send memberships in weekly. Please do not hold on to them. Through conversations with many posts, I have been told cards were sent in. However, checking the weekly reports (every Wednesday at noon) I find they have not been sent in. WHERE ARE THEY??? I know there are a few cards out there so please send them in.

The Department has changed their policy for the post credits. All credits over \$10 will be refunded to posts monthly from this date forward. I have 29 checks for refunds which will be distributed under the Good of the Legion at the Spring Conference on Saturday, March 10 at Post 217 in Sidney. The commander or a bonded officer must be present to sign for and receive the post credit checks.

Dan,
1st Vice Commander