Oratorical Contest

2020 Oratorical Contest Dates as follows:

District 1  Feb 1, 2020, location TBA
District 4  Feb 8, 2020, 1:00 PM, Wilson Co Ag Center
District 7  Jan 11, 2020, 12:00 PM, Post 11 Goldsboro
District 8  Jan 18, 2020, 11:00 AM, F’ville Ch of Nazarene
District 9  Jan 18, 2020, 10:00 AM, St James Community Ctr
District 10  Jan 18, 2020, 3:00 PM, Scotland Youth Develop Ctr
District 11  Feb 1, 2020, 1:00 PM, Post 124 Apex
District 12  Jan 11, 2020, NC Central Univ
District 14  Jan 25, 2020, 1:00 PM, Oak Hollow Mall, High Point
District 15  Jan 18, 2020, 1:00 PM, 1st Baptist Church, Liberty
District 16  Jan 25, 2020, 1:00 PM, Sand Hills Comm Coll
District 17  Jan 25, 2020, 12:00 PM, Post 115 Kannapolis
District 18  Jan 25, 2020, 1:00 PM, King Masonic Lodge
District 19  Feb 1, 2020, 12:00 PM, Salisbury VAMC Bldg 6
District 20  Jan 25, 2020, 1:00 PM, Post 353 Paw Creek
District 21  Jan 25, 20, 12:00 PM, Post 29 Lenoir
District 22  Jan 25, 2020, 10:00 AM, Post 23 Gastonia
District 23  Jan 25, 2020, 2:00 PM, Post 74 Forest City
District 24  Jan 18, 2020, 1:00 PM, Post 70 Asheville
District 25  Jan 18, 2020, Post 108 Franklin
Division I  Feb 8, 2020, Post 38 Roanoke Rapids, 2:00 PM
Division II  Feb 29, 2020, 10:00 AM, Scotland Youth Develop Ctr
Division III  Feb 8, 2020, 11:00 AM, Old Guilford Co Courthouse
Division IV  Feb 22, 2020, 12:00 PM, Post 51 Concord

March 7, 2020 – Department Final, 11:00 AM, Sandhills Comm College, Pinehurst. If any contests are not listed above, please call.

81st Tarheel Boys’ State 2020

The Boys’ State Committee urges Posts to get involved with this important program of The American Legion. Please take an active part in selecting the young men who represent your Post as delegates. There is no better way to assure the survival of our great country than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. This is an American Legion Program. This year’s session will be held June 21 – 27, 2020 at Catawba College. Please send your requests to PO Box 26657, Raleigh, NC 27611, or email @nclegion.org. Request forms for current programs along with information brochures are included in this mailing.

Mid Winter Conference

The Department Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 13-15, 2020, at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC. 1-800-445-8667 is the toll free # for reservations, or the online link is: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/R/RDUNHHF-ALNMWC-20200213/index.html. You must specify you are with The American Legion. The room rate will be $105 per night plus tax.. Cutoff date for reservations is January 20, 2020. Please contact this office with any concerns with your reservations.

The following awards will be selected:

• Rehabilitation, Service Officer of the Year,
• Public Relations Committee will select the News Media Award and Post Website Award
• Boy Scout Committee will be selecting Scout Leaders and Units of the Year and Scouter Scholarship.
• JROTC Committee will select the JROTC and NCO, CAP Squadron & Deputy Squadron Cmdr Awards
• Community Service will select Post Honor Guard Award and new Patriotic Business Awards.

Call Department Headquarters if you need forms.

Student Trooper Program

The twenty seventh session of the North Carolina Student Trooper Program will be held at the NC Highway Patrol Training Center in Raleigh, July 26-31, 2020. Up to 40 students who have successfully completed their junior or senior year can be accommodated at the training center, so be sure to get applications in early. The fee will be $200.00 per student this year. Applications may be obtained by calling Dept Headquarters or by using the enclosed order form.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DATE CHANGE ON STUDENT TROOPER PROGRAM.
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**ROTC Medals Available**

Requests for ROTC medals for deserving cadets will be coming 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 your medals for high schools direct from the Emblem Sales Catalog. (1-888-453-4466)

**Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet**

The annual American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet will be hosted by and held at Post 10 Wilmington, **Saturday March 14, 2020**. Tickets are $20.00 and will be available for purchase at the Mid-Winter Conference. Order Form included with mailing.

**Baseball 2020**

As with last year, **all baseball registration will be handled online by National Headquarters**. There are no exceptions to this. If you do not register at the National designated website, your team cannot play American Legion Baseball. This is also true for the SA Vandyk insurance. Proof of insurance must still be submitted to the Department. Any team who fails to purchase insurance from S.A. VANDYKE shall be disqualified. **Any new team, Jr or Sr, must submit a forfeit fee of $200 to Department Headquarters.** All teams must have insurance purchased from S.A. VANDYKE. Fees for Sr will be $200 Department fee and $50 National fee. Jr will be $100 Department fee and $25 National fee. If anyone is interested in starting a new team, please call Department Headquarters for new team form and online registration information, and State Chairman Terry Boyles at 252-468-2359 for league information. The American Legion National Executive Committee adopted Resolution 16 which mandates a background check screening for coaches, managers and volunteer staff of all Jr. and Sr. American Legion Baseball teams. There are no exceptions!

**Membership Messages**

**Attention: Post Adjutants:** Please do not make changes on the Membership Cards. You can now send them on a piece of paper, by email or by going to National’s website and doing it yourself. Please refer to your Post Adjutants Manual, page 15 for information on your Post Membership Cards and information on the Member Data Form. Also, if someone transfers into your Post, **Please do not forget to include a Membership Data Form. Transfers cannot be made by simply checking the block on the renewal card. Be sure to fill in all information including address and phone number on the MDF. This is especially important if it is a 1981 member. If the member has already paid for this year before the transfer, do not send a renewal card. Remember, no money, no card.**

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**The Legion Bulletin**

**District/Division/Dept Candidates**

Anyone planning to run for District, Division or Department Office will need to get your endorsement information and picture to Department Headquarters by **February 10, 2020** to be included in the March/April/May/June NC Legion News. This is the last issue of publication before elections at the June Convention. **These materials will be used for a “one time only” courtesy announcement.**

**Very Important Reminders**

Make sure that you file your **post taxes** each and every year. If you do not, and you are audited by the IRS, you will be fined and also you could lose your post charter and exempt status. We keep reminding you to file your taxes because we do not want to lose your post and post members. Make sure your post is incorporated to help protect your post members from the liability of a law suit. You will not realize how important this is until your post gets sued. Make sure there are more than one **signature** required on all post written checks and that your post bank knows that it takes more than one member/officer’s signature to borrow money against your post property. Make sure to document all business during your post meetings. This is for a clear record of why and when events happen at your post. Always indicate the number of members that attend your post meetings and document by name who makes a motion and who seconds that motion. You are important and all of you post members are important and your post is important. All the things stated in this article are for you, your post members and for your posts protection. Please listen and take all of this seriously. **As always, please advise if we can assist you in any way to accomplish these requirements.**

**Initiation of New Members**

When was the last time that your post welcomed your new members with an initiation ceremony? Every new member should receive some form of Initiation. The post Commander or an appointed member, assisted by the post Chaplain, shall conduct the ceremony. Small US Flags, The American Legion emblems, Legion publications, and other appropriate items used in the regular initiation ceremony shall be presented by the officiating officers. Certificates of initiation are available from your Department headquarters. This ceremony is located in the Officers Guide, provided to each post Commander, each year. This ceremony is important to your new members because it shows them that they belong and are welcomed to your post. There is a good possibility that this ceremony could help with your post membership retention.