



Department of Colorado

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DATE: December 17, 2020

TO: Legionnaires

SUBJECT: Monthly Department Status

Greetings,

This letter is part of a continuing effort towards being transparent and forward in getting information delivered in a consistent manner to all Districts and Posts.

**I personally wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Please enjoy the holiday safely.**

1). Training for Dues Direct Processing has been canceled due to a software change at National. The new platform will start to be integrated in November and is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2021. Though the look of MyLegion.org will be similar, many functions will be somewhat different and will require being retrained. The new training will be able to be accessed via online. Once the new software is operational, the current MyLegion.org processing will no longer work and new passwords will need to be issued. As with any software conversions there will be problems so please be patient as we work thru those. This is a positive for us since we will only be learning the new system, and it will provide greater flexibility on posts being able to access and set it up at their convenience. Please be patient and please get with the adjutant to insure your post commander and adjutant information is current for MyLegion.org, as a reminder, please insure your post has a bank account set up direct pay as well.

2.) Unfortunately we have only reached the October Target Date and our next target date January 21st is 80%. We are behind our membership numbers as compared to this time last year. I know we can reach this as we have successfully done this many times before. Congratulations to the following Posts for reaching 100%: 6, 48, 125, 3, 134, 26, 187, 1879, 83. All the following posts have achieved 80%: 8, 71, 77, 81, 138, 160, 90, 105, 109, 2000, 84101, 777, 1992, 171, 9-11, 1980, 11, 207, 131, 142, 406, 143, 54, 104, 55, 64, 172, 86, 194, 44 and post 189. Congratulations for Districts 2 and 12 reaching the 80% target date already as well.

3.) We are promoting the flying of the flag with **“Keeping the Flame of Patriotism Burning”** theme. I have also created a certificate for to be given to Law enforcement agencies called **“Backing Law and Order”** attached with these certificates is a statement of why I feel this is very important for us to recognize these selfless organizations. They can be digitally sent and printed or we will print and mail to you. Please let as many know about these programs as you can. Certificates are available to recognize our 1st responders as well.

4.) During the December 12th DEC meeting it was approved for the 2021 year to hire an office assistant for the Service office.

5.) The annual December DEC meeting was held via Zoom we approved two Committees: A Committee to conduct periodic review of the books and records of the Department and second ad-hoc committee to review the possible sale of the Headquarters building.

5a.) I would like to ask that every District consider having one volunteer to work a fund raising committee, and please let me know who that is. We will be presenting several firearms raffles again this year. It would be nice have many more fundraising events but it takes the teamwork of every district to make these successful.

6.) Oratorical is rapidly approaching; I would love to see all 14 districts represented at the department competition. Remember this program is for High school freshmen thru seniors. More information can be found on ColoradoLegion.org with the increased use of Zoom your posts and districts may look at utilizing these methods to get those candidates ready.

7.) Our Colorado Veterans Kids Fund and Veterans Assistance Fund are in desperate need of help this year. Please if your post can organize a fund raiser and donate, every little bit is appreciated This winter is expected to be harder on families more than in past years when it comes to utilities and groceries.

8.) Our holiday season is upon us. Please remember to think of our Gold/ Blue star families and those deployed this next couple of months and reach out to them thru buddy checks. But also increase our Buddy checks to all veterans and their families and help us do what we can in reducing veteran suicides. This year COVID increased those risks for veteran suicides so please be vigilante of those who may need help but also don't be shy to ask for help if you need to reach out for some help as well. Please stop in or send a greeting to all our veterans in Care facilities all over the state. Many veterans reside in private care facilities as well as veteran care facilities.

9.) No new updates on Criminal Charges involving Desiree Guerra Noechel. Last complete update was sent out to the DEC on 28 October, a preliminary hearing was rescheduled from December 10th 2020 to January 14th 2021 in Denver. Any post wishing to see that information or having any questions in regard to it may contact the Department Adjutant or me.

10.) Mid-Year is still questionable. Due to the uncertainty of that Vice Commander Kossow and Myself have started planning a Virtual Mid-Year as a Back-up plan.

As always I ask and encourage you to please keep your focus on your mission working of the 4 pillars Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Defense, Americanism and Children & Youth programs that directly benefit the veterans, families and children in your communities. Please send us articles on events and great things you are doing in your communities.

If you haven't had a chance to see the 25 patriotic days til Christmas by our Legion family youth hosted by our Department Auxiliary please go to our Facebook pages. PDC Clinton has done an outstanding job on organizing this event. December has been busy; I have visited with Post 75 in Cortez with JVC Lee White. I have attended several events transferring members to post everlasting, and attended a quarterly memorial service at Western Colorado Veterans Cemetery. I have attended a wreath laying service there as well. I have attended some holiday dinners as well.

If you would like me to visit your District or Post, please call and let us get a date and time set. Remember, our Vice Commanders and myself are here for you.

Please, if you have any questions call Adjutant Pat Smith or Myself.

I humbly ask for your help in "Keeping the Flame of Patriotism Burning"

Respectfully,



Greg Jackson, Commander
318-423-6722