

Americanism and Children & Youth
Weekly Report to the National Commander
July 24, 2008
Marty Justis, Director – (317) 630-1203

Boys Nation. Ninety eight young men representing their Boys State programs arrived at Marymount University in Washington D.C. on Friday (18 July). American Legion Legislative Director Steve Robertson addressed the Boys Nation Senate and administered their Oath of Office on Saturday (19 July). Boys Nation Senator Joseph “Wells” Ellenberg from Georgia was elected President Pro Tempore of Boys Nation Senate. Boys Nation Senator Travis Nordgaard from South Dakota was elected Secretary of Boys Nation Senate. Boys Nation Senators Brett Pearson of Maryland and Hayden Belgavy of Arkansas conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns Monday morning with American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser and National Chaplain Elliott Foss. Boys Nation visited the Supreme Court today (Tuesday) to hear General William Suter, Clerk of the Supreme Court – PNCs Sparky Gierke and Al Lance also attended. Joseph Riley of Tennessee was elected President of Boys Nation on Tuesday and Dominick LoBraico of New Jersey was elected Vice President. Daily activities and events at American Legion Boys Nation 2008 may be tracked at www.legion.org/boysnation.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The Foundation received 177 completed grant applications that are being processed for the Board to consider in October.

Children & Youth. As part of the test of a new video conferencing program, a presentation on the Temporary Financial Assistance program is being tentatively scheduled for the latter part of October or the first of November. Look for specific details in the coming months.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY STATUS INPUT
Jack Querfeld, Director, Internal Affairs
(317) 630-1330
July 25, 2008

MEMBERSHIP

We are at 2,385,949 members which is 91.6% of the 2008 goal. As compared to this time last year, we are 33.9K members behind in total renewals (traditional renewals are behind 72K while DMS renewals are ahead by 38K).

As far as 2008 DMS, we are at 197,975---our 2008 target was 190,000. Traditional new starts are behind last year by little less than 9K.

Next target date is the Delegate Strength---Monday, 7/28/08.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION

July 25, 2008

Weekly Report to National Commander

Joe March, Director

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1. **Convention Prep**

PR is working with C-SPAN regarding live coverage of convention speakers in Phoenix. Initial "economic" impact news release will be issued Aug. 1 to Phoenix area media. It will also promote the Job Fair and Veterans Small Business Workshops to be held during convention. A/V is producing patriotic opening video segments and dubbing DVDs of videos, PSAs and other PR materials to make available to members at National Convention.

2. **Tribute to Service**

Thanks to departments who have submitted their short descriptions and names to be announced during the pass-in-review indoor event on Sunday afternoon in Phoenix.

3. **Spirit of Service Awards**

The military departments have identified the five "Spirit of Service" award selectees for this year. They are Sergeant Jeffrey K. Jenkins, U.S. Army; Petty Officer Second Class Kedrick D. Thorn, U.S. Navy; Lance Corporal Kerri N. Frost, U.S. Marine Corps; Staff Sergeant Jeffrey S. Rees, U.S. Air Force, and Petty Officer Second Class James A. Abels, U.S. Coast Guard.

Breaking Stories During the Week:

- ***USA Today*** reported, "The federal government is spending more money on veterans than at any time in modern history, surpassing the tidal wave of spending following World War II and the demilitarizing of millions of troops."
- The ***Omaha World Herald*** promoted the NEF following recent Nebraska storms, writing, "The American Legion is providing another form of storm relief. Since 1989, the National Emergency Fund has provided 40 grants to Nebraskans equaling \$76,000 and 228 grants to Iowans equaling \$247,000. Nationally, the fund has provided \$6 million in assistance to Legion families and posts. Bob Swanson, vice commander of District 14 in Omaha, said that with the recent storms, he'd like to get the word out about the fund. Nebraska has more than 46,000 members of the veterans organization."
- **National Guard (In Federal Status) and Reserve Mobilized as of July 23, 2008** - This week the Navy announced an increase, while the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps announced a decrease. The Coast Guard number remained unchanged. The net collective result is 1,542 fewer reservists activated than last week. At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 83,346; Navy Reserve, 5,766; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 10,848; Marine Corps Reserve, 8,142; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 777. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 108,879, including both units and individual augmentees.

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