

## **“IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CONTINUOUS YEARS ON MEMBERSHIP CARDS”**

*The statement below from National Headquarters helps to explain the reasoning behind the change on the continuous years on the 2012 membership cards. Please note that no one has lost continuous years, they are just now calculated upon the actual year you are paying.*

"We want to alert you to a difference in the number representing a member's continuous years of membership that were printed on the 2012 ALA membership cards. Going forward, this number will represent the years of Paid membership as recorded in the ALAMIS membership database. In the past, prior to the migration of the Auxiliary's membership database into the ALAMIS, the Legion's system added an additional year.

We discovered that during the time The American Legion managed the Auxiliary's membership data, the continuous years were inflated by one year before printing the next year's membership cards. The rationale was that during the upcoming year printed on the membership card, the member would presumably pay that next year's dues. The ALAMIS isn't designed to calculate presumptions, only actual data entered.

The ALAMIS database uniformly reflects information in real time which preserves the integrity of our data. In the ALAMIS, a member's record reflects the number of years for which that member has ACTUALLY paid dues, as of the date the data is pulled. For example: As of April 12, 2011, Sally had paid her 2011 dues and has 17 continuous membership years. The system shows Sally's 17 years of membership until her 2012 dues are entered into the system, at which time the system will add another year to her continuous years for a total of 18.

The pre-printed cards that National Headquarters recently provided to departments were pre-printed using data from the ALAMIS pulled on April 12, 2011 - before 2012 dues had been paid. Therefore, the number of dues years reflected on the cards represents the years actually paid as of April 12, 2011.

We realize that this is a change. The ALAMIS cannot recognize more years of service for a member than the actual number of paid dues years recorded in the system. In order for National Headquarters to provide pre-printed membership cards to departments, these are the system parameters within which we are able to provide them."

NATIONAL ALA HEADQUARTERS

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING**  
**JUNIOR MEMBERS TURNING SENIOR MEMBERS**

National was required to establish a rule in the new ALAMIS system which will be in effect from this point forward.

The most logical and fair option for National seemed to be... For 2011 dues:

- 1) Any member who was or would be 18 or older by Jan 1, 2011—the beginning of the 2011 membership year -- was billed as a Senior for 2011 dues, regardless of when the dues were/are paid. Based on info in the system, this impacted about 35,000 junior members.
- 2) Any member who had 19 or more years of membership by Jan 1, 2011 was also billed as a senior.
- 3) Members who turned 18 on January 2, 2011 or after were billed as Juniors.

FYI -- a couple years ago when pulling data for strategic planning National discovered that more than 10,000 “juniors” were over 18, some from the 70’s and 80’s; this was a tremendous financial loss for both the Departments and National as they have no idea how many years they’d been paying dues at the junior rate.

Some Units have paid Junior rates for those affected by this ruling in the system and will receive individual notices from Department for underpayment if necessary.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during our conversion from AIM to the ALAMIS membership system. While this is a difficult task and extremely large project, the trials and tribulations will be an eventual advantage to all members, the Department office and to the National organization.