

## **“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