



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



April 30, 2010

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Teaching is not always about passing on what you know, it is about passing on who you are.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

**Lincoln Post 77**

#### **Mojave Desert Cross**

The national commander of The American Legion today hailed the 5-4 decision of the Supreme Court reversing a lower court decision that could have required the removal of a cross that has stood in the Mojave National Preserve for more than 75 years.

“I commend the court for its decision that finally restores common sense that will enable this symbol to stand proudly as intended – a tribute to honor American soldiers who died in World War I,” said National Commander Clarence E. Hill. “This is a landmark decision that not only preserves the Mojave Desert cross, but also helps protect all memorials to our fallen heroes.”

The American Legion joined as an amicus curiae (friend of the court) in action favoring preservation of the monument that resulted in the case being argued before the U.S. Supreme Court last year. “The court reaffirmed the will of the people through Congress, which passed legislation to accommodate the cross,” Hill said. “The cross should remain because Congress transferred a small plot on which it stands to a private group and addressed constitutional concerns.”

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the ruling, “The goal of avoiding governmental endorsement does not require eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm. Here one Latin cross in the desert evokes far more than religion. It evokes thousands of small crosses in foreign fields marking the graves of Americans who fell in battles, battles whose tragedies are compounded if the fallen are forgotten.”

However, the battle may not be entirely over. The Court remanded the case to the U.S. District Court to give it a chance to see if any other legal alternatives exist. However, the High Court reminded the District Court that: “Respect for a coordinate branch of Government forbids striking down an Act of Congress except upon a clear showing of unconstitutionality.”

The cross will remain covered pending the District Court's review.

"The American Legion will continue to fight for the values and freedoms veterans gave their lives for," Hill said.

With a membership of 2.5-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

### Convention Shirts

Commander Olson and President Hubbard have decided on the National convention shirts for Milwaukee this year. They will be the shirts listed in the Emblem Sales Catalog on page **29** for Legionnaires titled "Stars Polo", item number **707.707X for men** at \$36.95 and **707.717X** at **\$34.95** for female Legionnaires. For the Auxiliary on page **87**, again is the "Stars Polo" in white **#307.707X** at **\$34.95**. For the Sons, page **79** again "Stars Polo" **#507.707X** at **\$36.95**. The shirts can be customized and will be as stated on each page listed. It will be up to each individual to order the shirt from Emblem Sales and to customize if desired.

### For Sale

Lift ramp to go on the back of a vehicle, \$2000 or best offer, in good condition. FMI, please call Don Chase at 441-2214 or call the Legion at 377-8258 and leave a message. Also, 2 electric wheelchairs, 1 regular wheelchair and 2 walkers to **loan** out for however long they are needed.

### Directory Changes

**Pg. 4**, First Vice-Commander Daniel Ayotte, e-mail: [proffrog@roadrunner.com](mailto:proffrog@roadrunner.com)

### District Meetings

**District 16 – S. Aroostook:** May 1, Caribou Post 15, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg.

**District 1 – York:** May 2, North Berwick Post 87, 4 p.m. with refreshments to follow, District elections.

**District 17 – N. Aroostook:** May 2, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner, District elections

**District 7 – Lincoln:** May 5, Damariscotta Post 42, 6 p.m., elections of officers

**District 15 – Washington:** May 9, Woodland Post 23, 2 p.m., elections

**District 12 – Hancock:** May 11, Stonington Post 102, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting

**District 8 – Sagadahoc:** May 13, Topsham Post 202, 6 p.m., election of officers

**District 2 – Cumberland:** May 16, S. Portland Post 35, 4 p.m., elections and nominations, memorial service for deceased veterans and pot luck supper

**District 11 – Waldo:** May 16, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

**District 13 – Penobscot:** May 16, Howland Post 97, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., installation of officers

**District 5 – Oxford:** May 18, Fryeburg Post 137, 7 p.m.

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** May 22, Greenville Post 94, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. meeting, election of officers

## What's Happening?

**Freedom Salute Ceremony:** May 1, Peakes Auditorium, 885 Broadway, Bangor High School, Bangor, honoring the 286<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Maine Army National Guard, consisting of 81 soldiers and their families. The ceremony will commence at 11:00 a.m.

**Camp Tall Pines Clean-Up Day:** May 1, Middle Range Pond just off Route 26 in Poland, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The American Legion/Auxiliary Camp Tall Pines Committee will host a luncheon cook-out for all who join them this day. Please call 879-0489 prior to April 29, if able to volunteer. This helps plan for the right amount of food for lunch.

**Special Meeting Post 150 Mechanic Falls:** May 2, 3 p.m., to discuss purchasing an adjacent piece of property.

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLATOON 94<sup>TH</sup> MP COMPANY OF THE US ARMY RESERVE SEND-OFF:** May 5, U.S. Army Reserve Center, 101 Franklin St., Saco, 8 a.m. FMI, please call or e-mail American Legion Post 96 Commander Jim Harper at 229-8573 [jharper@maine.rr.com](mailto:jharper@maine.rr.com) or Event Coordinator Greg Madore at 415-5624 [gmadore@maine.rr.com](mailto:gmadore@maine.rr.com).

**Maine Military & Community Network Event:** May 6, Cary Medical Center, Caribou, 6 p.m. A discussion will be held on "To War and Back Again: Your Neighborhood Service Member Talks about Coming Home". For more information please visit [www.MaineMCN.org](http://www.MaineMCN.org).

**Locke Mills:** May 7, Post 68 is holding a benefit Bingo for the Western Maine Advisory Committee's Military Vehicle Show. The doors will open at 4 p.m. and Bingo games start at 6 p.m. Great food from the kitchen will be available! We hope to see lots of players there and a lot of fun! For further information please contact Commander Wayne Hakala at 875-2375 or by e-mail at [JacksonSilverPost68@roadrunner.com](mailto:JacksonSilverPost68@roadrunner.com)

**Home-Made Baked Bean Supper:** May 7, Dixfield Post 100, 4 – 6 p.m., Baked beans, hot dogs, coleslaw, rolls & butter. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 6 – 12 and free for children 5 and under.

**Palermo Post 163 Breakfast:** May 8, 7 – 9 a.m., all you can eat for \$5.00. p.m. For more info contact Clayton at 993-2589 or email at [cnyork85@hotmail.com](mailto:cnyork85@hotmail.com)

**Seacoast Veterans Conference:** May 13, Pease Air National Guard Base, Bldg 149, 302 Newmarket St., Portsmouth, NH. The conference is free, however you must register by calling Linda at 1-800-852-3345 x 8560 giving your name, organizational affiliation, if any, and contact information and also if you require special accommodations. You will be introduced to State, Federal and Community Resources, learn about VA HealthCare and VA benefits, Tour a Mobile Vet Center.

**Palermo Post 163 Supper:** May 15, 5 - 7 p.m. We are having a rotisserie chicken dinner, all you can eat for \$7.00. For more info contact Clayton at 993-2589 or email at [cnyork85@hotmail.com](mailto:cnyork85@hotmail.com)

**3rd Annual Fun Run & BBQ:** May 15, 353 Main Street, Madawaska. The American Legion Riders, Post 147, Madawaska will be hosting their 3rd Annual Fun Run & BBQ. Registration and BBQ will start at 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. \$10 per person, cash prizes, **Open to the public.** FMI, please contact Chairman Mike Gantnier at [mgantnier@yahoo.com](mailto:mgantnier@yahoo.com) or 436-0160.

**Armed Forces Day:** May 15, Standish Post 128, Route 25 Standish, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Day of recognition and honor for military families. Many events to be held including presentation of the Blue Star Banner.

**Armed Forces Day Celebration:** May 16, North Berwick Post 87 North Berwick. 1p.m. Dedication of bridge to honor all Veterans, Raising of Silver Star Flag to honor those who are wounded or ill and Honoring of War dead.

**Bangor High School JROTC Program:** May 19, Bangor Post 12 announces the recipient of a \$250.00 scholarship for outstanding JROTC cadet candidate. This year’s recipient is Lindsey Hicks of the Bangor High School JROTC program. The award is to be presented at the military ball.

**Placement of American Flags on the Graves in the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System:** May 29, Civic Center Drive cemetery and the Caribou cemetery, 9 a.m. We will gather again on June 1- 2, or June 3 at 9 a.m. (weather needs to be dry) to remove the flags for use again another year.

**Donations**

**THANK YOU**

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Locke Mills Post 68	\$200 – Maine Blind Camp
Dexter Post 53	\$50 – Maine Blind Camp
Sangerville Post 165	\$50 – Maine Blind Camp
The American Legion Auxiliary	\$200 – VAVS
The American Legion Auxiliary	\$135 – CWF
The American Legion Auxiliary	\$395 – Maine Blind Camp
The American Legion Auxiliary	\$1053.45 – Special Olympics
The American Legion Auxiliary	\$47 – Four Chaplain’s Chapel
Anonymous	\$100 – VETAID
Korean War Veterans Assoc., CPL Clair Goodblood Chapter 2	\$100 – Cemetery flags

**Kudos**

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of \$100 to Special Olympics for Camp Tall Pines clean-up day.

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

The next Membership target is 100% by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember your three R's: Recruit, Renew and Reinstate.

The spring report packages have been sent out. I'm calling on all squadrons to fill out those consolidated reports and send them in to Detachment no later than May 8<sup>th</sup>. This information tells the Legion and others what we do from supporting our veterans to our community service.

Squadron 202 of Topsham has donated \$1,000 to the Children's Welfare Foundation. Squadron 21 of Bath has also stepped up to the plate with a donation of \$250 also to CWF. This brings the eighth district's CWF total up to \$1,250! Not to be outdone, Squadron 1 Rockland has donated \$133 to CWF, \$300 to Homeless vets, \$100 to Blind Camp, \$100 to Camp Tall Pines, \$230 to Boys State and \$100 to Special Olympics. That's a total of \$963. Well done, gentlemen. It is both my honor and privilege to serve with Sons like you. Your hard work and generosity has given our programs a much needed boost.

These CWF donations bring our total to \$1,559 which NECA Dave Raymond will present to our National Commander, Mark Arneson, in Indianapolis this week end. Our total to date is \$1,639 which is 54% of our \$3,050 goal by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The CWF exists to help children on a national level. CWF grants help fight childhood leukemia and other terminal illnesses, help find missing and exploited children, provide intervention for at risk children and the enrichment of young lives. In short, CWF is the crown jewel of the Legion's Children & Youth programs. I'm asking all Squadrons to stand tall. Send in your donation to CWF as soon as you can to SAL Detachment of Maine and put CWF in the memo line. Remember this program does more every year to help children because we keep making it stronger with our donations.

The Sons of Squadron One in Rockland are serving up Chicken Marsalla for \$6.00 tonight from 5-7 p.m. followed by music from 7-11 p.m.

Post 5 Waterville will host a benefit concert on June 6<sup>th</sup> for the Homeless Veterans of Maine. Nashville recording artists; Debbie Myers, Sonny Perry and the Nashville North Band, and Maine Academy of Country Music founder Bob Elston and the Road Rangers Band will be performing live on stage from 11 to 4 p.m. SAL Squadron 5 will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. There'll be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. Adult admission is \$10, under sixteen \$5 and under five free. For more information, call Brian Danforth at 314-0222.

If your Squadron has an event and would like it in the SMILE, contact me by Wednesday at [unclebru2@aol.com](mailto:unclebru2@aol.com).

Yours in Service.

Bruce Pierce  
Detachment Commander

**Auxiliary Corner**

Maine has had the honor of having our National President visiting from the 18th through the 22nd. When President Rita arrived at the Portland Jet Port she was met by our Color Guard, the NEC, Bunny Greenlaw, Auxiliary Officers and members. As she stepped off the escalator, the command for a Right Hand Salute was given and for a few magical moments the world stopped. It will be a moment I shall long remember. We had the opportunity to show her some of the many beautiful places that make this state so great. She had never been on a boat and got to not only go out on a U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, but got to skipper it out of the harbor.

Her banquet in Oakland was very well attended, decor was beautiful, meal was delicious and it made for the perfect closure to an exciting three day visit. It is believed that she took a great many nice memories of Maine home with her.

A special thank you to Wanda Eldridge, 4th District President, for her role as MC. Job well done. Also, Oakland Unit 51 went over and above anything I could have imagined to put on a banquet that was perfect in every way. Thank you to the Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Legion for your efforts and hospitality.

Membership has slowed a bit, Ladies. Please get to those members who have yet to "Get on Board". We want **every** member to experience the joy of reaching "Station 100%" before the final whistle is blown. As of 4/23, we are still in 3rd place in the Eastern Division and 20th in the nation.

I will be in Indianapolis from the 29th of April to the 4th of May and will not have an article next week. I shall update you on the MIS Workshop, which I will be attending, when I return.

Time is running out on reserving a place at the 6th District President's Testimonial. RSVP to Betty White, Cherryfield Unit 8 Secretary, @ 546-2530. Tickets may be paid for at the door on May 8, 2010. Social Hour: 5 p.m. Dinner: 6 p.m. \$10.00/person

May 7th is the cut-off date for reservations to the President & Commanders Testimonial on May 15, 2010. Social Hour: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. \$20.00/person. Please call the American Legion Headquarters for more information @ 873-3229. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

-----**WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS RESULTS**-----

**Lois M. Hubbard**  
**ALA President**  
**Email:misslois@mgemaine.com**

**1561 Mason Bay Rd.**  
**Jonesport, ME 04649**  
**TEL: 207-497-5949**  
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Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,  
Department Adjutant

# CERTIFICATION FORM

## “SILVER BRIGADE” NEW MEMBER RECRUITER AWARD

**POST: RETAIN COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**SEND TO: DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE MAY 11, 2010.**

The following member in the Department of \_\_\_\_\_ qualifies for the “Silver Brigade” Award for enrolling 25 to 49 **NEW MEMBERS** into The American Legion by **May 11, 2010**.

**Silver Brigaders receive a Silver Pin and a Silver Certificate.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of **NEW MEMBERS** enrolled (25 to 49) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Adjutant (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
POST ADJUTANT (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY**

**REMINDER:** Forward a copy of this form to Department Headquarters and a copy of the list of new members signed up, on or before May 11, 2010.