

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 04
FEB 12, 2025

The American Legion, Department of Maine
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727
www.mainelegion.org | legionme@mainelegion.org | 207-873-3229
www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine



Welcome to the 132nd Edition of The Leadership Ledger. It includes Post, Department and National reports, leadership training events, upcoming conferences/conventions as well as rules and regulations pertaining to local, state and national laws. The Ledger is available by visiting the Department's website at mainelegion.org under "News & Events" or on the home page. If you have any information to be published in The Leadership Ledger, please forward to Dept. HQ via email at:

legionme@mainelegion.org



Colby College

4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville, ME 04901
Sunday, June 15, 2025 - Friday, June 20, 2025

Registration: Sunday, June 15 at Noon
Graduation: Friday, June 20 at 3:00 pm
Cost per student is \$400

Packets will be mailed to posts and high schools shortly. The forms that need completion and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine along with a check in the amount of \$400/student are: [Dirigo State Application, Parental Consent, Medical Authorization, and Performing Arts \(if participating.\)](#)

Checks should be made payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine, Attn: Dirigo State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

For more information, please contact 873-3229 Ext. 1, or email: jason@mainelegion.org



Upcoming Holiday

American Legion State Headquarters will be **closed** on **Monday, Feb. 17** in observance of President's Day. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

2025 Washington Conference

The 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held February 22-26, 2025, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave, Washington DC.

The Annual Washington Conference brings together Legionnaires for critical discussions with lawmakers, informative sessions with members of Congress and VA leadership, and insights on legislative priorities from the National Commander. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally.

The Legion's key priorities for the 119th Congress are focused on several issues that impact veterans, service members, and their families, including PACT Act implementation and oversight, suicide prevention and mental healthcare access, military quality of life, paying the US Coast Guard in the event of a government shutdown, modernizing the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and more.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about Washington Conference, including legislative and event agendas and hotel reservations.

BE THE ONE 2025 TRAINING

April 19 | August 16 | October 18 | December 20

Please Note: The February 15 Be The One training has been cancelled.

Where: Dept. of Maine Training Room
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

For more details on the Be The One campaign visit: betheone.org

To reserve your spot or for questions, email: betheonedeptme@gmail.com

Scholarships Available



Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship.

Any post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by visiting www.mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications or by contacting us via email at legionme@mainelegion.org or by phone at 207-873-3229.



COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2024-25

Department Commander
Tricia Thurston asks that each
Post and Legionnaire support her goal!

Mission Working Dogs

Their MISSION: To improve the lives of their community members who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently despite a physical disability and by providing therapy dogs which will bring mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.

Their VISION: At Mission Working Dogs, we train purpose-bred dogs to aid individuals with disabilities so that the handler can live a life to the fullest and more independently.

Their GOAL: Service dogs can assist those with physical disabilities such as mobility impairments by fetching dropped items, opening doors, and turning on and off lights. They can also help individuals with PTSD by learning to recognize an increase in anxiety, carrying medications, and providing deep pressure therapy to calm or redirect the handler. Dogs working as facility dogs are often trained to recognize a patient's affected side in the case of a stroke and to approach on the side the patient is able to pet with or throw the ball. Patients are able to work on fine motor movements in petting or caring for the dog as well as gross motor skills playing fetch with a dog that's able to bring the ball exactly to where the patient needs, such as on a side table or directly into their hand, rather than on the ground or trying to play tug with it inappropriately.

Their PLAN: Service dogs are generally trained for approximately two years and undergo a wide range of assessments on their physical health, temperament, and tasks or skills to make sure they can properly support their handler throughout life.

Donations can be made to **The American Legion Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727**



Please place in the memo line of the check: **Commander's Project 2024-2025**

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the DONATE button.



Email Scam Alert!

****Attention Legion Members****



Commander Thurston is not sending out emails requesting your time or for you to purchase gift cards! Please do not respond and do not use the email they are using. Past Commanders are still being scammed as well. Some people are using the emails that they've received from the scammers thinking they are actually sending out emails to these Commanders.

Please check the emails when you are sending out legitimate emails trying to reach past Commanders or when sending group emails that include past Commanders.

Show Your Support to Maine Veterans by Donating Today & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

Deadline for Submission May 9, 2025

DONATE \$25 Receive NEW Challenge Coin & Name in Yearbook	DONATE \$50 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin & Name in Year- book	DONATE \$100 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2025 Convention Yearbook
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NEW! Maine American Legion BE THE ONE Challenge Coin, left, and Maine American Legion Lobster Lapel Pin, right.



Show your support to Veterans in the state of Maine! Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2025 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

Donate \$25 and receive our newest Maine American Legion Challenge Coin, \$50 and receive our new challenge coin and lobster lapel pin, or donate \$100 and receive our new challenge coin, lobster lapel pin, and a 2025 Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, click the button below, or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You may also visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.



The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@mainelegion.org.

Be The One Challenge Coin & Lobster Lapel Pin Order Form

Order forms are **now available** for your Post to utilize, giving members multiple ways to order! Simply print and provide the forms at your Post.

[See Page 9 for Order Form](#)



★ ★ **DONATIONS** ★ ★
The American Legion Department of Maine

Commander's Project "Mission Working Dogs"

Gray Post 86.....\$250
Jo Chapman.....\$50

Maine Blind Camp

Gray Post 86.....\$150

National Commander's Campaign (Dan K. Wiley)

Gray Post 86.....\$250

**American Legion Department of Maine Foundation
National Leadership Fund**

Gray Post 86.....\$250

Thank You!

District Meetings

Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

- District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb. 17, Lisbon Post 158, 6:30PM**
- District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 19, Buckfield Post 58, 7PM**
2025 Nominating Committee
- District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 15, Dover Post 29, 12PM lunch, 1PM Meeting**
- District 1 – York: Mar. 15, Biddeford Post 26, 12PM**
- District 3 – Androscoggin: Mar. 17, Sabattus Post 135, 6:30PM**
- District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 19, Norway Post 82, 7PM**
Meeting & Election of District 5 Officers,
Refreshments After
- District 9 – Kennebec: Mar. 12, Gardiner Post 4, 6PM**
- District 13 – Penobscot: Mar. 2, Brewer Post 98, Meeting at 2PM**
- District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 15, Brownville Junction Post 92, 12PM Lunch, 1PM Meeting**



USAA is proud to be the Preferred provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654.



Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE LATEST POST EVENTS](#)



[CLICK HERE FOR THE STATE DIRECTORY](#)

Call Dept. HQ at 873-3229 or email: legionme@mainelegion.org to get the password!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!

The State Directory has been posted on the Department Website in the past however it is now password-protected. Please call Dept. HQ at: 873-3229 or e-mail legionme@mainelegion.org to get the password, or if you have any questions or concerns. For safety reasons, you must provide your name, position, post number, and member ID number to be granted access to the Directory.

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. [Click Here](#) or visit www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application to download an application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, *please do so today!*



Q. What were the ages of the youngest men & of the oldest man killed while serving in Vietnam?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



Attention Post Leadership!

If your Post is below the per capita dues rate of \$41 then your Post is considered upside-down, and your members will not be able to pay their dues online.

Is Your Post Utilizing Its' Sales Tax Exemption?

All Legion Posts in the state of Maine qualify for Sales Tax Exemption.

If your Post currently does not have a Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, please call Dept. Headquarters for assistance at 207-873-3229 so we can send you a packet containing detailed instructions on how to obtain this status.



THE AMERICAN LEGION 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SCHEDULE

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
May 15, 2024	July 1-8, 2024
September 11, 2024	October 5-11, 2024
October 16, 2024	November 9-15, 2024
December 11, 2024	January 4-10, 2025
February 12, 2025	March 1-7, 2025
April 9, 2025	May 3-9, 2025

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Squadron Forms/ Applications

[Print a SAL Membership Application](#)

[Squadron Officers Form](#)

[Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable](#)

[Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable](#)

[Click Here for the Latest Membership Report](#)

District Awards

American Legion Jacket: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by Dec. 31, 2024.

American Legion Ball Cap: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by March 12, 2025.

NEW **Highest District Overall Membership Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250):** Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership percentage 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

NEW **Highest District Overall Membership Renewal Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250):** Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership renewal rate 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

For more Information [Click Here](#) and find:
2024-25 Membership Goals & Awards Manual

Membership **IMPACT** Reports

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities. American Legion Posts can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities by [submitting consolidated post reports online](#). To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit: www.legion.org/about/reports or www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact

Donate to the National Commander's Campaign (Dan K. Wiley)

Donations for the 2025-26 National Commander's Campaign are greatly appreciated! Scan the QR code with your phone or [Click Here](#) to make a donation. On the donation page, please choose "Other" from the "Use this donation for" dropdown menu and notate "National Commander's Campaign" under the notes. Thank you! [See the Letter on Page 7 for More Information.](#)



No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number—Dial 988 then Press 1—in your

phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit:

www.legion.org/renew



Legion Baseball Registration Open for 2025 Season



Teams may begin online registration for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 American Legion Baseball season is open at baseball.legion.org

Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, [contact your department chairmen](#).



Honor Flight Maine will be hosting three charter flights in 2025:

Flight #1 from Bangor International Airport will be April 25-27th.

Flight #2 from Portland International Jetport will be June 27-29th.

Flight #3 from Portland International Jetport will be September 5-7th.

Flight #4 from Bangor International Airport will be October 10-12th.

All Maine Veterans interested in going on a trip should go to HonorFlightMaine.org to apply. The site also contains applications for those wishing to be Guardian for a Veteran and for Volunteers. Honor Flight Maine is an all volunteer organization.

Thank Your Flag Buyers!



A free Citation of Appreciation is available for your use on [our website](#). Give this certificate to anyone who purchases an American flag to benefit your Post.

[Microsoft Word Document \[DOC\]](#)

[Fillable PDF](#)



The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized. The 2025-26 tuition is capped at \$28,937.09 which is the maximum amount the VA will pay out per academic year.

The application deadline is NO LATER THAN Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

[View Scholarship Information](#)

[Scholarship Application](#)

Scholarship Opportunity for 2025 Boys State, Girls State Participants

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of either program and are a direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. veteran.

Deadline: Scholarship applicants must complete and submit their online application prior to 11:59 p.m. (local time) of Day 1 of their respective American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

[Click Here to Learn More & Apply](#)

American Legion Cribbage Boards

Get your American Legion Cribbage Board in time for the holidays!

Purchase yours today at:

The American Legion
Department of Maine
Headquarters, 5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727

\$30/each - Pickup Only
*Proceeds Support Warren
Post 218 Members*



FRONT



BACK

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)



[Click Here](#) to watch a short video about **No Cost Legioncare**



TANGO ALPHA LIMA PODCAST

[Click Here](#) to Listen to the **Tango Alpha Lima Podcast:**
<https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm>

TECHNOLOGY 101

a resource for those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today's world. Increased proficiency with computers and cell phones et al is good both personally and professionally.

Windows Keyboard Shortcuts to Know in 2025

Save time and simplify routine tasks like formatting text, printing your screen, and more.

The best Windows keyboard shortcuts save time because they let you avoid having to reach for your mouse or look through a menu just to accomplish something basic.

Below is a cheat sheet for all the essential Windows keyboard shortcuts you should be using, plus others that are useful for some specific situations.

BEST WINDOWS SHORTCUTS ON YOUR KEYBOARD

This first set is the best keyboard shortcuts you'll likely use most frequently.

These could be the more universal shortcuts because they work not only within the Windows operating system but also in most software programs.

(Note: The + symbol is shown in the examples below to mean you will press two keys simultaneously. You do not need to press the + key. For example, with the Copy shortcut, Ctrl+C, press and hold the Ctrl key, and then press C key simultaneously.)

Ctrl+C: Copy selected content. (Ctrl+C can also abort commands)

Ctrl+V: Paste copied content.

Ctrl+Shift+V: Paste unformatted content.

Ctrl+X: Delete and copy selected content. (Good for moving text, files, etc.)

Ctrl+A: Select all available content in focus.

Ctrl+Z: Undo the previous action.

Ctrl+Y: Redo the previous action.

Ctrl+S: Save what you're working on.

Ctrl+O: Open a new file.

Ctrl+P: Open the print dialog box.

Ctrl+F: Open the search tool to find something on the page.

Ctrl+R: Refresh the contents on the screen. (Only F5 works in some cases.)

Alt+F4: Close the active program.

F11: Enter full-screen mode.

Esc: Stop or close a prompt or process.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS FOR SCREENSHOTS

You can use the print screen (PrtScn) button to take a full screenshot of everything on your screen(s) or use these keyboard shortcuts for more control.

Alt+PrtScn: Screenshot just the active window.

Win+PrtScn: Auto-save full-screen screenshot to Pictures > Screenshots.

Win+Shift+S: Choose a part of the screen to make a screenshot.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS FOR TEXT MANIPULATION

Most text input fields, including word processors like MS Word, accept a handful of formatting, navigation, and selection-related keyboard shortcuts.

Ctrl+B: Bold the selected text.

Ctrl+i: Italicize the selected text.

Ctrl+U: Underline the selected text.

Ctrl+K: Insert a hyperlink into the selected text.

Ctrl+H: Open the Find and Replace tool. (confirmed in MS Word and Google Docs)

Shift+Ctrl+[Arrow]: Pick an arrow key with this shortcut to quickly highlight a whole word or paragraph.

Shift+[Home or End]: Highlight everything from the cursor to the beginning or end of the line.

Ctrl+Del: Delete the word to the right of the cursor.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS FOR WEB BROWSERS

If you spend most of your time in a web browser, you'll appreciate these keyboard shortcuts that help speed up your overall web browsing experience.

Ctrl+T: Open a new tab.

Ctrl+Shift+T: Reopen the most recently closed tab.

Ctrl+W: Close the active tab.

Ctrl+[Link]: Press control while clicking on a link. It will open the link in a new tab.

Ctrl+H: View your web browsing history.

Ctrl+J: View recent or active downloads.

Ctrl+E: Start a search using the default search engine.

Ctrl+[number]: Jump to the tab in that position from the left. (e.g., Ctrl+4)

Ctrl+Shift+Del: Open the options to delete browsing data.

Alt+[Left or Right]: Go back or forward a page.

Ctrl+[Zoom]: Adjust the size of the text. (scroll up with the mouse to increase the size)

Ctrl+Enter: Add .com to the end of the text in the address bar, and then visit the page.

Ctrl+F5: Refresh the page, but skip the cache.

Continue reading the full article here: <https://www.lifewire.com/best-windows-keyboard-shortcuts-6503973>

By Tim Fisher
Updated January 14, 2025

Training Tuesdays

The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

Next Session: Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. ET

Be the One: Suicide Prevention with the Columbia Protocol

[Click Here to Register](#)

The American Legion is committed to reducing veteran suicide through its Be the One initiative, empowering individuals to break the stigma surrounding mental health and save lives. As part of this effort, we invite you to a critical training webinar on the Columbia Protocol, the leading evidence-based tool for suicide risk screening.

[Click Here to Watch Previously Recorded Sessions](#)

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. Five Americans killed were 16 years old or younger & the oldest was 62, and 60% of those to die there were under 21 years of age.



The American Legion

Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

Tel: (207) 873-3229

FAX: (207) 872-0501

E-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org

Website: mainelegion.org

December 5, 2024

To Our Fellow Legionnaires:

As you may be aware, each year we request donations to give to the leading candidate for the position of National Commander of The American Legion. The individuals do a lot of traveling and have expenses that they may need assistance in covering.

Each department donates to this cause, and we are not the only ones to do so. The many departments also supported our own Tony Jordan when he was campaigning for National Commander and it is only right that we, the Department of Maine, do so also.

This year, I am asking those who are listed in the National book and have received appointments or reappointments to any of the National Committees or Commissions to donate at least \$75.00 to help defray the cost of seeking that position. Your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you are capable of and inclined to do so you may donate a larger amount.

This year, the leading candidate is Dan Wiley of Kansas for the year 2025-2026. He is presently scheduled to attend our Department Convention in June 2025.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Please send them to the Department of Maine Headquarters at **5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901**, and earmark your check or money order to the "National Commander's Campaign"

Thank you and let us make this one a great one.

Lloyd Woods
National Executive Committeeman

Anthony G. "Tony" Jordan
Past National Commander

Life's Too Long Not to Belong

AMERICAN
LEGION

Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health.

The American Legion and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!



LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:

✓ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility

✓ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities



To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

hellogrouper.com/al



No personal information needed to check eligibility - just your health plan name and your age!

GROUPER IS PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:

Renew
Active
by UnitedHealthcare

OnePass

Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email info@hellogrouper.com

AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE



Challenge Coin
(Front & Back)



Limited Edition



Lobster Pin

**BE THE ONE CHALLENGE COINS
& LOBSTER LAPEL PINS
ONLY \$10 EA**

Choose How You Want to Pay:

SCAN THE QR CODE
& pay with a card.



OR

VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG
and click on the Challenge Coin &
Lobster Lapel Pin order form image
to pay by card.



OR

PAY BY CHECK OR
MONEY ORDER

Fill out and return the
order form below along
with your check or money
order. Please include \$5 for
shipping and handling.



ORDER FORM (CHECK OR MONEY ORDER)
BE THE ONE CHALLENGE COIN & LOBSTER LAPEL PIN

Return This Form and Payment To:
The American Legion Department of Maine
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

QTY COINS \$10 EA.	QTY PINS \$10 EA.
Please Include \$5 Shipping	

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

SHIPPING STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

()

PHONE

EMAIL

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (207) 873-3229