THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER Vol. 6 Issue 07 MAR 27, 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 135th 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

Attention Adjutants & Commanders:

The Annual Post Data Report forms have been mailed to Posts. Please fill out the form accordingly and <u>mail it back to Dept. HQ as</u> <u>soon as possible, arriving no later than</u> <u>April 9th</u>, or scan & e-mail it to: <u>legionme@</u> <u>mainelegion.org</u>.

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR), Post Officers Form, Notification of Post/ Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form,

and instructions relating to submission





information and deadline requirements were mailed to to Posts last week. Please be on the lookout for these documents and return to Dept. HQ as soon as possible.

For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229. Thank you for your prompt reply!

Click Here to View the Status of Your Post/District Report and Form Submissions



EGION FAMILY

JOINT TESTIMONIAL

American Legion Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston

American Legion Auxiliary President Stasi Brule

Sons of The American Legion Commander Steve Doyle

Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:00 p.m. Social Hour | 6:00 p.m. Dinner Program to follow - Cash Bar Available

Alden M. Gayton American Legion Post 31 426 Washington Street N, Auburn, ME 04210

Deadline for Reservations: April 25

No tickets will be sold after deadline. Tickets will not be held without payment.

\$30.00 per person

Make checks payable to: American Legion Post 31 Mail to: American Legion Post 31, 426 Washington Street N, Auburn, ME 04210

Click Here For More Info & Event Flyer on Page 9

Post Service Officer

Training Presented by Department Service Officer Carl Curtis

Join us for training, free of charge, to learn more about the benefits afforded to veterans and dependents and to learn how to serve as valuable resources to veterans in your community.

Training Dates:

- Tuesday, April 29
- Saturday, September 20
- Tuesday, October 28
- Saturday, November 15

Click Here For More Info & View Training Flyer on Page 10



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.

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member.

Click Here or visit <u>www.mainelegion.</u> org_under Forms/Application to download an application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, *please do so today!*

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DEPARTMENT OF MAINE THE AMERICAN LEGION		
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Membership in the First Communiters Club gravelinese January 1 in December 71 of such year.		
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Show Your Support to Maine Veterans by Donating Today & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

De	adline for Submission M	lay 9, 2025
DONATE \$25 Receive NEW Challenge Coin & Name in Yearbook	Receive NEW	DONATE \$100 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2025 Convention Yearbook
	THE REPORT OF TH	

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.

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

Did You Know You Can Pay Your Labels Donation Online?

Donations for 2025 Labels can be made on our website by <u>Clicking Here</u>, scanning the QR code with your phone,

or by visiting <u>www.mainelegion.org</u> and clicking on the "Donate" button. *Please be sure to notate "Labels" in the notes so we can identify your donation.* Thank you!



See Page 8 for PCC Form

★ ★ DONATIONS ★ ★ The American Legion Department of Maine

Commander's Project "Mission Working Dogs"

Damariscotta Post 42	\$5,000
District 9 - Kennebec County	\$200
John Neel	\$100

Maine Blind Camp

Pembroke Post 59	\$150	
Windham Post 148	\$100	
Guilford Post 119	\$100	
Unity Post 50	\$100	
So. Portland Post 35	\$100	
Norway Post 82	\$100	
Stockholm Post 136	\$100	
Caribou Post 15	\$100	
Sabattus Squadron 135	\$5	
National Commander's Campaign (Dan K. Wiley)		
Pembroke Post 59	\$100	
Alfred McKay	\$50	

Beals House

Guilford Post 119	\$100
General Fund	
Dala Duriant	¢400

Dale Bryant.....\$100

Thank you!



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 have been mailed to posts and high schools. 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: <u>Dirigo State Application, Parental Consent, Medical Authorization, and Performing Arts (if participating.)</u>

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

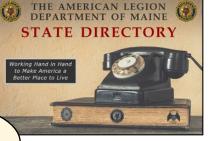
For more information, please contact: Dirigo State Director, Matthew Leclair 207-693-7389 | <u>dirigostateme@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> or Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall 207-522-5471 | <u>jason@</u> <u>mainelegion.org</u>

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 <u>legionme@mainelegion.org</u> 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.

District Meetings Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

APRIL 2025

District 2 – Cumberland: April 8, Gray Post 86, 7:00PM, Social Hour at 5:00PM & Past Commander Dinner, 6:00PM Officer Elections

District 3 – Androscoggin: April 21, Turner Post 111, 6:30PM

District 5 – Oxford: April 16, Rumford Post 24, 7:00PM, Installation of District 5 Officers, Light Supper at 6:00PM

District 9 – Kennebec: April 9, Richmond Post 132, 6:00PM

District 12 – Hancock: April 10, Blue Hill Post 85, Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 13 – Penobscot: April 6, Old Town Post 75, Meeting at 2:00PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: April 19, Dexter Post 53, 12:00PM Lunch, 1:00PM Meeting

District 17 - N. Aroostook: April 6, St. Francis Post 180, 12:00PM Meal, Meeting at 1:00PM, Officer Nominations



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 May 15, 2024 September 11, 2024 October 16, 2024 December 11, 2024 February 12, 2025 April 9, 2025 Renewal Mail Dates July 1-8, 2024 October 5-11, 2024 November 9-15, 2024 January 4-10, 2025 March 1-7, 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 Membership that must successfullv scanned. 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 Squadron Forms/ EGION 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 <u>Click Here</u> and find: 2024-25 Membership Goals & Awards Manual

Membership

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <u>www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact</u> 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 <u>submitting</u> <u>consolidated post reports online</u>. To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit: <u>www.legion.org/about/reports</u> or <u>www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact</u>

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District Meeting Calendar Form Available Online!

> <u>Click Here</u> or visit: <u>www.mainelegion.org</u> under Forms/Application

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Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions

Available online at: <u>mainelegion.org</u> or go to: <u>www.mainelegion.org/pages/</u> <u>formsapplications.php</u> It's fast *and* easy!

Q. What was one of the most popular, if not the top of the chart songs for the troops, during the Vietnam War?



~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



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 <u>HonorFlightMaine.org</u> 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.

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 <u>baseball.legion.org</u>

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, <u>contact your department chairmen</u>.

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.



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

BE THE ONE 2025 TRAINING

April 19 | August 16 | October 18 | December 20

Where: Dept. of Maine Training Room 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901 For more details on the Be The One campaign visit: <u>betheone.org</u> To reserve your spot or for questions, email: <u>betheonedeptme@gmail.com</u>

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





BACK

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 <u>Click Here</u> 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.

Wellcare Delivers the Coverage You Need and More



Wellcare is honored and excited to be the exclusive Medicare Advantage partner to The American Legion. Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans work alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the things you

both want and deserve. More access. More benefits. More support. With clear answers to every question you may ask, and a willingness to help in any way we can. It's more of everything you need with no extra costs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65 or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

For straight answers and help evaluating your coverage options, call 877-880-8196 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week, scan the QR code or <u>click here.</u>





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.

These Underrated Microsoft Word Tricks Help Me Beat Writer's Block

Creating something on the page can be messy. Whether you are writing a difficult email or a challenging school essay, writer's block ambushes us all. When the blinking cursor paralyzes me, I turn to these underrated Microsoft Word tricks to help me get through the mental logjam.

Brain Dump With Voice

Typing that first sentence can often feel like wading through mud. When my fingers refuse to move, I borrow the productivity benefits of Word's voice typing to wrangle writer's block. Turning to a mindset of explaining something casually to an imaginary friend helps me verbalize on the page. (Note: You need a Microsoft 365 subscription to use the Dictate command. Otherwise, you can use Windows speech recognition by pressing the Win + H shortcut.)

Go to the Ribbon > Home > Dictate to enable voice typing.

Talking bypasses the inner critic. This method is particularly effective for brainstorming sessions or when grappling with complex ideas. Just dictate the simplest version you can think of. Perfecting it can come later.

Tip: Use voice commands like "comma" or "new line" to format as you go.

Ask Copilot for a Dirty Draft

I fall back to Microsoft Copilot when I am completely stuck. There are three ways to trigger Copilot:

Click on the Copilot button on the Ribbon.

Select the Copilot icon on the Word page.

Press the keyboard shortcut Alt + i.

You can start with an icebreaking prompt: "Give me three different opening paragraphs about [topic] in a casual tone."

At this stage, I don't think about crafting the perfect prompt for the best response.

Tip: Use Copilot to jumpstart your thoughts and not as a replacement for them. Al won't judge your prompt, but you have to judge its answer.

Use Focus Mode

The Focus Mode turns Microsoft Word into a distractionfree editor. It removes the clutter of the Ribbon and makes a tiny dent on the writer's block.

Click on the Focus Mode button at the bottom right on the status bar. Alternatively, go to Ribbon > View > Focus.

In Focus Mode, hover your mouse cursor over the three dots at the top of the screen to reveal the Ribbon. Select Background next to the Focus button on the Ribbon and choose a different background when you want.

Hit Esc to exit the Focus Mode and return to the regular view.

Make Speed With Placeholders

Remember, it's a dirty draft. You don't have to write every bit of information just yet in your document. When perfect phrasing is derailing your progress, mark tricky sections with something like [brackets]. I often write [example] or [url] to maintain my momentum instead of getting bogged down in the search for a hyperlink.

Can't write an entire section? For now, fill the gap with random Lorem Ipsum dummy text. Type =lorem() and press Enter.

This gives you five paragraphs of three sentences each. You can specify the number of paragraphs and sentences you want with numbers within the bracket. For instance, (2,3) inserts two paragraphs with three sentences each.

You can also type =rand() for random placeholder text. Both types of placeholder text can help you visualize how a document will look once you start writing.

Tip: Use Text Highlight Color to mark words and sections you want to revisit later.

Free Write With Bullet Points

The first casualty of writer's block is structured writing. Bullet points in Word are a less stressful method of quickly jotting down ideas on a blank page....

Continue Reading the Article Here: <u>www.makeuseof.</u> <u>com/underrated-microsoft-word-tricks-beat-writers-</u> block/

> By Saikat Basu March 5, 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.

Click Here to Watch Previously Recorded Sessions

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. At #13 on the Billboard Top 100 for 1965, and thought to be the top song for Vietnam Troops... "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" by The Animals

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3mgapAcVdU

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) No Cost LegionCare

Your valued status as a member of the Legion Family makes you eligible for LegionCare.



Current members only are entitled to the \$5,000 No-Cost-To-You Accident Insurance Protection. If your membership was expired at any point, you will have to sign up again to receive coverage.



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.

Sydd Weaks

Lloyd Woods National Executive Committeeman

Anthony 21 Jordan

Anthony G. "Tony" Jordan Past National Commander



DEPARTMENT OF MAINE THE AMERICAN LEGION

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post #______submit the names of all our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of **\$5.00** per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE	Post Adjutant
1	13
2	14
3	15
4	16
5	17
6	18
7	19
8	20
9	21
10	22
11	23
12	24

Use back side if additional space is required.

<u>SUBMIT</u> <u>TO:</u> The American Legion, Dept. of Maine 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Past Commanders Club form is also available in fillable format by visiting www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php

American Legion Family Joint Testimonial





Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:00pm Social Hour | 6:00pm Dinner Program to follow - Cash Bar Available

MENU

APPETIZERS: Cheese & Cracker Platter, Vegetable Platter with Dip BUFFET DINNER: BBQ Chicken, BBQ Pulled Pork, Homemade Potato Salad, Homemade Coleslaw, Homemade Baked Beans and Cake

\$30.00 per person

Alden M. Gayton American Legion Post 31 426 Washington Street N | Auburn, ME



American Legion Department Commander -Patricia "Tricia" Thurston American Legion Auxiliary President - Stasi Brule Sons of American Legion Commander - Steve Doyle

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Deadline for reservations: April 25, 2025

Checks payable to American Legion Post 31| Mail to: 426 Washington Street N, Auburn, ME 04210

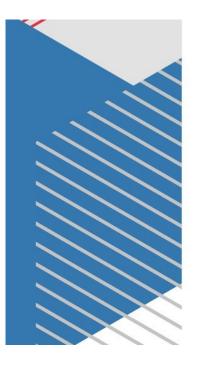
NAME: _

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PHONE: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

OF MEALS: _____





Post Service Officer Training

Presented by Department Service Officer- Carl Curtis

Department Service Officer Carl Curtis has announced four training dates for Post Service Officer training.

A Post Service Officer (PSO) is a very important volunteer position in your post. They are often the first Legionnaire your post members or dependents turn to for help with veteran benefit issues. The PSO's primary duty is to serve as a link between the veteran or dependent and an accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSO) in the Department of Maine.

Join us for training, free of charge, to learn more about the benefits afforded to veterans and dependents and to learn how to serve as valuable resources to veterans in your community.

Tuesday, 29 April

Saturday, 20 September

Tuesday, 28 October

Saturday, 15 November

All training will be at the training center at Department Headquarters (5 Verti Drive, Winslow) with a 10 am start.

Email the Department Adjutant to reserve your seat: Jason@Mainelegion.org