## THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 14 JULY 09, 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 142nd 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: <a href="mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org">legionme@mainelegion.org</a>

#### **Maine American Legion Baseball**



Maine American Legion Baseball Website
Senior Legion Regular Baseball Season Schedule
Junior Legion Regular Baseball Season Schedule

Maine Senior State Championship:
July 26 - 30/31, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor
Maine Junior State Championship:
July 31 - Aug. 4/5, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor
Northeast Senior Regional Tournament:
Aug. 6-10, Manchester, NH
Northeast Junior Regional Championship:
Aug. 9 - 11\*(Approx. dates) TBD, MA
SR World Series: Aug. 14 - 19, Shelby, NC

**Baseball Scholarship Application** (deadline July 15)

For more information, please contact:

Scott Bishop, Chairman Phone: 207-745-0555

Email: chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org

#### **106th National Convention**

Tampa Bay, Florida August 22 – August 28, 2025

#### **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: JULY 18**

2025 National Convention Reservation/ Registration/Banquet Form

Find a printable Registration Form on <a href="Pages 9-10">Pages 9-10</a>

For more information, please visit the

National Conv. Page under NEWS & EVENTS at

www.mainelegion.org

#### **District Awards**

Attention Districts, Please Take Notice: July 24 Deadline for 2025 Membership Awards Approaching!

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

#### 2026 Membership Now Open!

If you have not paid your 2025 dues yet, please do so today to avoid a gap in your continuous years.

## QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit: www.legion.org/renew





#### COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2025-26

Department Commander Leroy McKenzie asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal!

#### **EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE**



**PAWS** OF EMBER'S **HOPE:** A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emotional and mental support to veterans and first responders through the use of future certified therapy dog(s). Members of our team have a diverse background which include being trained in critical incident stress management and peer support, and we visit fire

stations, police stations, hospitals, and veterans facilities to offer comfort and companionship to those who serve our communities.

THE ANGEL: Ember was 9 weeks old when she moved in with Tim Nickels, the goal was to have Ember become a therapy dog. It was discovered that Ember was too attached to Tim but no one knew that would save him later on. Anytime Tim was having a hard day or a bad shift Ember would sit with Tim. Tim was



diagnosed with PTSD in 2020, Ember wouldn't leave his side. Ember knew something was up. Tim became suicidal and made attempts to end his life. Ember stopped him at least three times. When the days were dark, Ember wouldn't let him leave without her.

THE PROJECT: National American Legion asks Departments to partner with local organizations to support BE THE ONE. Commander McKenzie has chosen to partner with Ember's Paws of Hope (EPOH), an organization committed to provide, comfort, support, and emotional healing to veterans and first responders through the unconditional love and companionship of therapy dog. EPOH is dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of those who serve our communities and country, offering a source of solace in times of stress, trauma and hardship.

THE PLAN: We are asking all American Legion Posts and/or members to financially contribute to Ember's Paws of Hope. This new 501-c-3 needs funding to provide more trained therapy dogs and make more appearances to provide physical, emotional and social well-being to others in need.

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: Ember's Paws of Hope or Commander's Project 2025-2026

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.



#### General Fund

Ralph H Collins	\$75
John J Casey	\$50

# Thank You!

#### 2025 Convention Yearbooks Now Available!



#### Click Here to check out the new 2025 Digital **Convention Yearbook!**

Explore new information. including hyperlinked business ads to websites, post and district photos, Legion programs, and more!

If you are interested in ordering a yearbook, please call Dept. HQ at 207-873-3229.

#### **American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge**



elebrate the nation's semi-quincentennial by taking part Jin The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service.

Join the nationwide movement to celebrate America's 250th birthday with purpose and pride. The USA 250 Challenge invites individuals and teams to achieve the goals in some or all three categories — fitness activities, mental wellness and community service. You can choose how to achieve these goals while having fun and supporting our disabled veterans and military families.

> **Click Here to Learn More Click Here to Register**

### **District Meetings**

Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

#### **JULY & AUGUST 2025**

District 1 - York: July 19, Biddeford Post 26, 12:00 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Aug. 20, Bethel Post 81, 5:00 p.m., South Paris Veterans Home BBQ. *Note: SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION*. If cancelled, the District 5 Meeting will be held: Aug. 20, West Paris Post 151, 6:00 p.m.

**District 8 – Sagadahoc: Aug. 3**, Topsham Post 202, 6:00 p.m.

**District 9 - Kennebec: July 9**, Litchfield Fire Station, 7:00 p.m. Speakers will be in attendance.

# NEW! Maine Legion Challenge Coin & Lobster Lapel Pin!

**<u>Click Here</u>** to Place Your Order Today!







Maine American Legion BE THE ONE Challenge Coin, left, and Maine American Legion Lobster Lapel Pin, right.

Coins and pins are \$10 each plus \$5 shipping/handling. Coins and pins are also available for FREE PICKUP at Department HQ. For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229.

Order Forms are also available for your Post to print and utilize! <u>See Page 11</u> to view and print the form.

#### PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

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

Click Here or visit www.



PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

mainelegion.org under Forms/Application to download an application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!

**See Page 7 for PCC Form** 

## 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 <a href="www.mainelegion.org">www.mainelegion.org</a> and clicking on the "Donate" button. Please be sure to notate "Labels" in the notes so we can identify your donation.



#### 2025 American Legion Legacy Run

#### August 17 to 21, 2025

Registration is now open for riders, passengers and supporters of the 2025 American Legion Legacy Run.

Join us August 17 to 21, 2025 on the 2025 American Legion Legacy Run, advancing hope for veterans and their families through our fundraising efforts for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF).

The route will showcase the stunning landscapes of the American South and vibrant eastern coastline, including the scenic beauty of South Boston, VA, the historic Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and the charming beach coast of Wilmington and Myrtle Beach.

Click Here for More Info
Click Here to Register

## \*\*Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants\*\*

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters.

If you are interested in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email <a href="mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org">rachael@mainelegion.org</a> to set up an appointment.

**Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.** 

# 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.





Click Here to Listen to the Tango Alpha Lima Podcast: https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm



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.

#### **2026 Membership Renewal Schedule**

**Cutoff Dates** May 14, 2025

April 8, 2026

September 10, 2025 October 15, 2025 December 10, 2025 February 11, 2026

Renewal Mail Dates

July 1-8, 2025 October 4-10, 2025 November 8-14, 2025 January 3-9, 2026 March 1-8, 2026

May 2-8, 2026

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 successfully scanned. that must 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.

#### 2025-2026 National **Membership Target Dates**

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	September 10, 2025	50%
Fall Meetings	October 15, 2025	55%
Veterans Day	November 13, 2025	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	December 10, 2025	75%
Mid-Winter	January 14, 2026	80%
President's Day	February 11, 2026	85%
Legion Birthday	March 11, 2026	90%
Children & Youth	April 8, 2026	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 13, 2026	100%
Delegate Strength	30 Days Prior to Nation Convention	nal

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. The October Target Date is moved a week to allow departments to participate in Fall Meetings without affecting membership processing for that week. Since Veterans Day falls on a Monday, the November target date will be on a Thursday.



#### **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

## Membership MPACT Reports

The American Legion's success depends entirely 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

#### ★ ■ Attention: District ■ ★ ■ **Commanders & Adjutants**

#### **District Meeting Calendar Forms** Available Online!

**Click Here** or visit: www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application

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MONTH	DATE	Past No.	LOCATION	топ	MEETING INFORMATION
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#### **Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions**

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Available online at:

mainelegion.org or go to:

www.mainelegion.org/pages/ formsapplications.php

It's fast and easy!



Q. What was most unusual about the war in Korea and the U.S. involvement?

## Your Guide to Welcoming New Members

The American Legion's new member welcome toolkit features best practices and resources to actively connect with and engage new members.

#### **Click Here to View the Toolkit**

The toolkit also is available for download and print at <u>legion.org/</u> <u>publications</u> under Membership.





## Honor Flight Maine Upcoming Charter Flights:

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 <a href="HonorFlightMaine.org">HonorFlightMaine.org</a> 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.

# 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.

Click Here To Learn More and Sign Up



#### **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

#### 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 click here.





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



#### Standard Operating Procedures From The Post Adjutant's Guide & MyLegion.org Instructions

## Post Adjutants Guide: ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING

To process membership and transmittals, post and squadron adjutants and commanders must be signed in to MyLegion.org and access My Groups.

The following is a brief overview of how to process membership and transmittals:

#### Renew members

- · Click "Process Membership" in the lefthand menu.
- Click "Add/Modify Transmittal" to open the post transmittal window.
- Search the member's name and check the box to the left of the name to renew. If no results are found, the member is already paid or is in a pending batch. Results in this search provide only the names of members eligible for renewal. The member is added to the transmittal batch and summary recalculates. Click "Save."
- Repeat this process for each member to renew. Select "Save" with each member added.
- Review the post transmittal summary, which will also update the amount due. If the dues are not correct in the summary, contact department headquarters.

#### Add a new member

- Click "Process Membership" in the lefthand menu.
- Click "Add/Modify Transmittal" to open the post transmittal window.
- Click "Add/Transfer Member" to view add/transfer scenario. A member information window will appear where you can add as much information as possible and save. Saving will add the member to the batch.

#### Transfer a member

- Click "Process Membership" in the lefthand menu.
- Click "Add/Modify Transmittal" to open the post transmittal window
  - Click "Add/Transfer Member."
- Enter Member ID number and last name (required). Then click "Continue."
- Verify member information, make any updates and save. Finalize the transmittal
- The "Save" button allows the transmittal to be saved and finalized on a later date. Transmittals are to be finalized within 14 days from the date opened.
- Selecting "Finalize" displays the members in the batch for a final review. Click "Finalize" a second time to reach the payment information window. To view members in the transmittal batch at any time, click "List Selected."
- Add payment information or select "Saved Bank Account" and "Pay Now." Check the "Authorization" checkboxes, then click "Pay Now." A transmittal receipt will appear for you to print or save.
- Bank information can be updated when finalizing a batch. On the transmittal payment window, select "Update Account Information."

#### Transmittal review

Review transmittal history from Group profile. Go to "Transmittal History" on the lefthand menu. A table will display a summary of transmittals. Select the transmittal number to view members in the batch.

To continue reading about Online Membership Processing, view the digital copy of the Post Adjutants Guide and other officer's manuals at <a href="https://www.mainelegion.org">www.mainelegion.org</a> under Forms & Applications: <a href="https://mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php">https://mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php</a>

#### **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:**

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

Click Here For More Info & View Training Flyer on Page 8

#### **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** 



#### **2025 TRAINING**

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: betheone.org

To reserve your spot or for questions, email:

betheonedeptme@gmail.com

#### MILITARY TRIVIA

**A.** The United States never declared war on North Korea. Though millions of lives were lost during the fighting on the Korean Peninsula between 1950 and 1953, they were technically casualties of what was called a "police action."

Under the U.S. Constitution, only the U.S. Congress can declare war on another nation, however President Harry Truman used a U.N. Security Council resolution as legal justification.



#### 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.

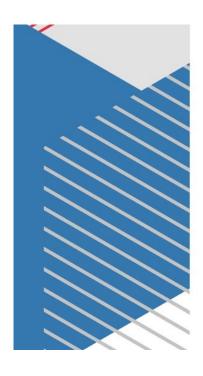
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE	Post Adjutant
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12	24

Use back side if additional space is required.

#### **SUBMIT TO:**

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PAST COMMANDERS CLUB





## **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: <a href="mailto:Jason@Mainelegion.org">Jason@Mainelegion.org</a>



#### 2025 106<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION <u>TAMPA BAY, FL</u> AUGUST 22 – AUGUST 28, 2025

<u>HOUSING</u>: The Department of Maine's hotel will be the **Embassy Suites by Hilton**, **Tampa Downtown Convention Center**, 513 S. Florida Ave. Tampa, FL 33602.

**RATE SCHEDULE:** King Rate (one bed) - \$149.00 or Two-Bedded Rate – 149.00; Tax Rate – 13.5% per room/night (subject to change); Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20.00/person; Rollaway Rate per Day – N/A; Parking Rate per Day – Valet ONLY \$29.00.

106<sup>th</sup> National Convention Location: Tampa Bay, FL Find it on the map by visiting <a href="https://www.legion.org/convention/resources">https://www.legion.org/convention/resources</a>

**FLIGHTS:** Everyone is responsible for their flight reservations.

**REGISTRATION: Room TBD** 

Friday, August 22 from 10 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm

#### **DEPARTMENT CAUCUS INFORMATION: TBD**

<u>CONVENTION INFORMATION</u>: For Convention resources and information, please visit <u>www.legion.org/convention/resources</u>

Download the National Convention Mobile App with the most up-to-date schedule, floor agenda, and more: www.legion.org/mobileapps

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#### 2025 National Convention Reservation/Registration/Banquet Form

Tampa Bay, FL – August 22 – August 28, 2025 Embassy Suites by Hilton, Tampa Downtown Convention Center 513 S. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33602

#### The American Legion, Department of Maine

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

I will arrive on	and depart on			
I will require a room for13.5% + (subject to change); per Day – N/A; Parking Rate	Additional Occupant in	Room per Day -	\$149.00 plus tax rate of \$20.00/person; Rollaway Rate	
Names:				
	Email:			
Credit card Number for one n	night's room deposit			
Type:		Exp. date:		
Enclosed please find the following American Legion Delegates,  I would like to reserve  Check enclosed in the amount  Department of Maine.	Alternates, or guests (\$3	35 each): \$		
ALL INFORMATION & P	AYMENTS MUST BE	MADE BY JUI	LY 18 DEADLINE	
	Name			
	Address			









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.





#### VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG

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



## 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.

OR

≫

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

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	
SHIPPING STREET ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
( )		
PHONE	EMAIL	