

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 15
JULY 24, 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 143rd 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

Maine American Legion Baseball



Donate right from
your personal Clynk
online account!

[Click Here](#) to watch a
video showing you how.

[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, Shrewsbury, MA

[Northeast Junior Regional Championship:](#)

Aug. 9 - 11*(Approx. dates) Quincy, MA

[SR World Series:](#) Aug. 14 - 19, Shelby, NC

For more information, please contact:



Scott Bishop, Chairman
Phone: 207-745-0555



Email: chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org

District Awards

**Attention Districts, Please Take Notice:
July 24 Deadline for 2025 Membership
Awards is TODAY!**

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

District Meetings

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

AUGUST 2025

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.

Maine American Legion College Registration Now Open!

Oct. 24, 9:00 a.m. – Oct. 26, 3:00 p.m.

Location: Department Headquarters Training Center,
5 Verti Drive, Winslow.

The coursework prepares Legionnaires for leadership
positions in posts, districts, and departments through education,
development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student
leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting
The American Legion. [Click Here](#) for more info on the training.

Prerequisites: Students applying must have completed The
American Legion Basic Training Online Course and send the
certificate of completion to jason@mainelegion.org by Oct. 15.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY, EMAIL:
jason@mainelegion.org

No cost to students, lunch provided.

Priority seating for Legion members.

Auxiliary and Sons, if there is space, can attend as well.



COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2025-26

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

EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE



EMBER'S PAWS OF 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.

★ ★ DONATIONS ★ ★ The American Legion Department of Maine

Commander's Project - Ember's Paws of Hope

Westbrook Squadron 197.....\$100
Westbrook Unit 197.....\$100

VA&R

James Nelson.....\$50

American Legion Department of Maine Foundation Maine American Legion Baseball

Hammond Lumber.....\$6,000
WS Emerson.....\$500

Thank You!



Submission Deadlines

November 2025 Issue
Deadline: October 17, 2025

February 2026 Issue
Deadline: January 23, 2026

May 2026 Issue
Deadline: April 17, 2026

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.*

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!***



**PAST
COMMANDERS
CLUB**

[See Page 7 for PCC Form](#)

National American Legion College Application Due to National July 31



The 2025 National American Legion College is scheduled for **Nov. 16-21** in **Indianapolis** at American Legion National Headquarters.

[Click Here](#) to Learn More About National American Legion College, Qualifications, and Download a Fillable Student Application.

NEW! Maine Legion Challenge Coin & Lobster Lapel Pin!

[Click Here](#) 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! [See Page 11](#) to view and print the form.

Join The American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge



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](#)

106th National Convention

Tampa Bay, Florida

August 22 – August 28, 2025

Helpful Information for Registered Attendees:

[Click Here](#) to view the Calendar of Events, Resources, Dress Code, Discounts, Maps, and More! (details added as they become available.)

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



**** 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 rachael@mainelegion.org 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.



 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

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	Renewal Mail Dates
May 14, 2025	July 1-8, 2025
September 10, 2025	October 4-10, 2025
October 15, 2025	November 8-14, 2025
December 10, 2025	January 3-9, 2026
February 11, 2026	March 1-8, 2026
April 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 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.

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 National Convention	

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.



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](#)

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



★ Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants ★

District Meeting Calendar Forms Available Online!

[Click Here](#) or visit:
www.mainelegion.org
under Forms/Application

Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions

Available online at:
mainelegion.org or go to:
www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php

It's fast *and* easy!

MILITARY TRIVIA

Q. What was the only U.S. Naval vessel to ever have had a mutiny?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

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 legion.org/publications under Membership.



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



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 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.

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](#)

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 usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654.



Thank you VETERANS

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

MILITARY DISCOUNT **\$300** Off Your Entire Purchase*

NO MINIMUM PURCHASE REQUIRED

[GET OFFER](#)

Lesson Plan: An Excerpt From “Growing a Post” Training Guide

Recruitment of Volunteers

Many people in your community are potential volunteers. How you choose to seek them out is the key.

Many individuals in your community may be willing to help with something. When you ask, try to be specific. For example, you could ask a business to sponsor a hole at your golf outing, or a local knitting club could make hats for your homeless outreach efforts.

What talents do they have? Matching abilities with your needs takes time, but getting to know your community through networking is the key to finding those connections.

Avoid burnout by agreeing on expectations. Ask someone for 2 hours of their time and make sure that time is respected. Reassure them with the proper setup and training. Remember, their time is valuable. A little praise can go a long way. If needed, offer constructive feedback in a diplomatic manner. When volunteers have a good first experience, they will be eager to assist when you need them again.

Be the cheerleader for the group. When you get really busy, lead a song or a cheer to keep spirits up. Show them the results of their efforts so they feel invested in the success of the project. A simple “thank you” from the post leadership at the podium, a certificate, or a volunteer “after party” promotes camaraderie and a sense of pride.

People are more willing to assist in projects when measurable results and value can be seen. Community pride and mutual helpfulness are terrific motivators. Your enthusiasm for Legion programs should show when you are recruiting volunteers.

Many businesses provide paid time off for volunteerism. It looks fantastic on their corporate statement at the end of the year. Try to provide them with flexible opportunities to volunteer. Work around their schedule when opportunities allow. Encourage projects that their families may be able to participate in as well. What can we do as an organization to change your mind? Are there other

things you would be willing to do to help?

Preparation is the key to success, especially when you are representing The American Legion to your community. A good volunteer base will help your post support its programs and the local community.

[Click Here](#) to access more training information from the “Growing a Post” training guide available to download on Dropbox.

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](#)

BE THE ONE

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 second *USS Somers* was a brig in the United States Navy in 1842, during the administration of President John Tyler. It became infamous for being the only U.S. Navy ship to ever undergo a mutiny, which led to 3 executions.





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.

Post Adjutant

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

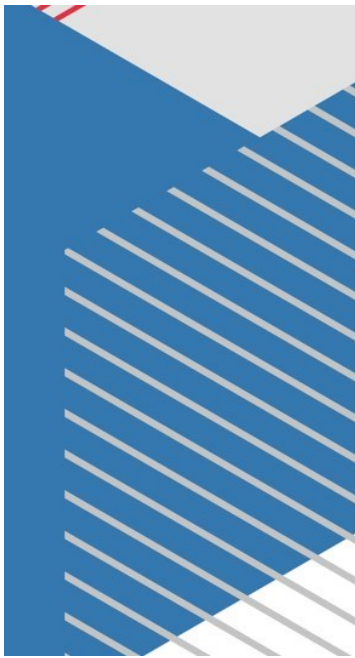
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____

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: Jason@Mainelegion.org

AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE



Limited Edition

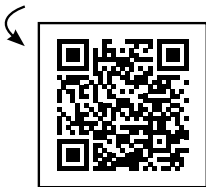


Lobster Pin

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