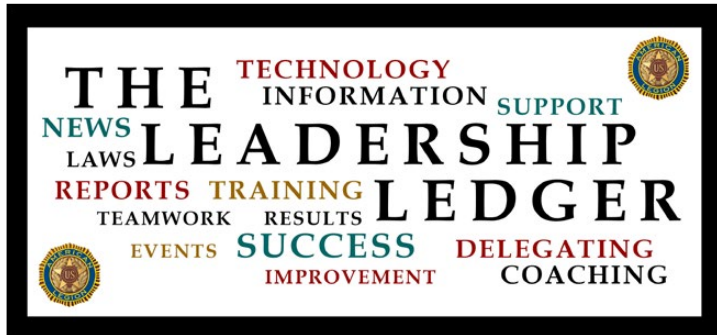


THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 16
AUG. 7, 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 144th 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

District Meetings

Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 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 3 – Androscoggin: Sept. 15, Livermore Falls Post 10, 6:30 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Sept. 17, Oxford Post 112, 6:00 p.m. Refreshments after

District 8 – Sagadahoc: Sept. 7, Bath Post 21, 6:00 p.m.

District 14– Piscataquis: Sept. 20, Guilford Post 119, 12:00 p.m.

District 17 – Aroostook: Sept. 7, Stockholm Post 136, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**QUICKLY & EASILY
RENEW ONLINE TODAY!**

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



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.



Email & Text Scam Alert!
****Attention Legion Members****



Commander McKenzie is not sending out emails requesting your time or for you to purchase gift cards! The links in these emails and texts are part of a phishing scam. Please do not respond or click on the links, and do not use the email or texts 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 and phone numbers when you are sending out legitimate emails trying to reach past commanders or when sending group emails that include past commanders.



COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2025-26

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

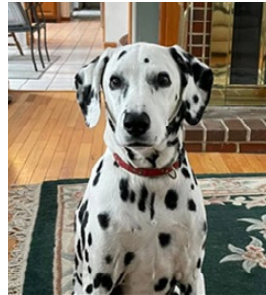
EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE



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

Madawaska Post 147.....\$300
Kevin Ronan (Windham Post 148).....\$50

Maine Blind Camp

Hampden Post 213.....\$300

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.*



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.

Maine American Legion Baseball

Congratulations!

2025 Maine Senior American Legion Baseball
State Champions: **Roderick-Crosby Post 28 Flyers**

2025 Maine Junior American Legion Baseball
State Champions: **Old Town-Orono Twins**

[Maine American Legion Baseball Website](#)

[Northeast Senior Regional Tournament:](#)

Aug. 6-10, Shrewsbury, MA

[Northeast Junior Regional Championship:](#)

Aug. 8-10, 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



Donate right from
your personal Clynk
online account!

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



Celebrate the nation's
semi-quincentennial
by taking part in **The
American Legion's
USA 250 Challenge**

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

Saluting National Purple Heart Day



August 7

The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while serving, on or after 5 April 1917, with the U.S. military. With its forerunner, the Badge of Military Merit, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members.

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.)*

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 9](#) to view and print the form.

****Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants****

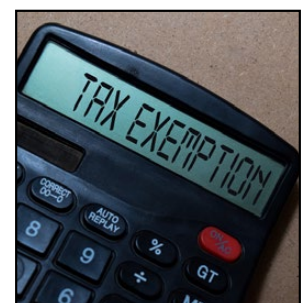
[MyLegion.org](#) training lessons
are available at State Headquarters.

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.



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](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php)

It's fast *and* easy!

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB



**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!*

[See Page 7 for PCC Form](#)



Honor Flight Maine Upcoming Charter Flights:

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](#)



Q. Particularly in the Pacific theater during World War II, the Japanese were very adept at intercepting communications between U.S. forces and then acting on that information to their benefit. What did the U.S. Marines do to stymie and confuse the Japanese military?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



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

Wellcare Delivers the Coverage You Need and More



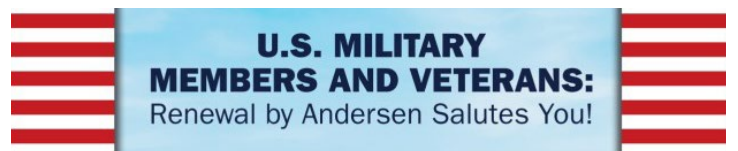
Wellcare is honored and excited to be the exclusive Medicare Advantage partner to The American Legion. Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans work alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the things you both want and deserve. More access. More benefits. More support. With clear answers to every question 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.



Military Discount for those who have served



\$300 OFF
Your Entire Purchase*

NO MINIMUM PURCHASE REQUIRED



GET OFFER ▶

Training Tuesdays Recap: How to Run a Post

Key Takeaways from “How to Run a Post”

1. Preparation Sets the Tone

- Effective meetings start with intentional planning.
- Confirm RSVPs, send read-ahead materials, and prepare with your officers.
- Use the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies to ensure consistent structure.

2. Agendas Are a Tool for Respect

- A clear agenda respects your members' time.
- It helps stay focused, make decisions, and ensures all business is addressed.

3. Quorum Is More Than a Number

- Quorum ensures legitimacy.
- Build a culture of attendance accountability—without it, you can't vote.

4. Roles Are Shared Power, Not Hierarchies

- Every officer's role is critical: Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, and all others.
- Leadership works best when it's shared, not siloed.

5. Finance Talks Belong in the Room

- Transparency with budgets protects the post and your officers.
- Use reports, receipts, and planning to avoid trouble and build trust.

6. Programs Reflect Your Purpose

- Programs are how the community sees you.
- Empower members to plan, run, and celebrate them.

7. Virtual Etiquette Still Matters

- Mute mics, use chat professionally, and stay engaged.
- Modern meetings need structure just like in-person ones.

8. Gatekeeping Weakens Posts

- Be inclusive. SAL and Auxiliary can attend unless executive session applies.
- Transparency and open doors strengthen culture and membership.

Questions & Answers

Q1. Do we need a formal agenda for each meeting?

A: Yes. A standard agenda based on the Officer's Guide should be customized monthly.

Q2. Can we skip reading minutes during meetings?

A: Yes, if minutes are sent ahead, you can vote to omit reading.

Q3. How can others register for future sessions?

A: Share legion.org/training. Registration is individual.

Q4. What if chat isn't working?

A: Chat is enabled in all Training Tuesday sessions. If you're having trouble, try refreshing your browser or switching from the Teams app to the web version. You can also use the raise hand feature or email afterward if needed.

Q5. Can SAL or Auxiliary attend post meetings?

A: Yes, as observers, unless restricted by the Post Constitution & Bylaws. Only disciplinary matters require executive session privacy, during which non-members must leave the room.

Q6. Which officer role is most important?

A: All are vital. Leadership is collaborative. Posts thrive when everyone shows up.

Training Tuesdays: How to Run a Post

[Click Here to Watch the Training Video](#)

[Click Here to Learn More \(View past presentations and register for future training sessions\)](#)

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 Marines learned that the Navajo language was only spoken, and since many Navajo code talkers were members of the United States Marine Corps during World War II, they were trained to use their native Navajo language to transmit coded messages. This innovative approach to secure communication proved invaluable in the Pacific Theater, as the Navajo language, unwritten at the time, was not easily understood or deciphered by the enemy.



Navajo Code Talker Memorial -- Window Rock (AZ) August 2013 by Ron Cogswell, CC BY 2.0



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

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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

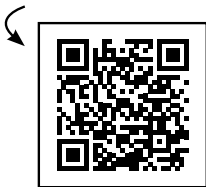


Lobster Pin

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