THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

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 146th 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

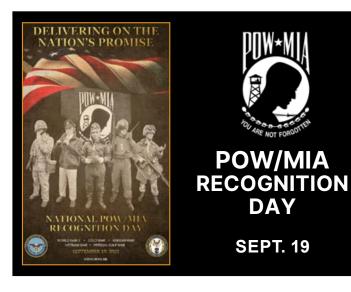
SEPTEMBER 2025

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 6 - Knox: Sept. 21, Rockland Post 1, 12:00 p.m., Auxiliary providing luncheon, Guest Speaker

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



AMERICAN LEGION **DEPARTMENT OF MAINE Fall Conference**

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 **Jeff's Catering & Event Center** 15 Littlefield Way Brewer, Maine 04412

Tentative Agenda: Available Here

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Conference Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Registration is \$10 per person payable at the door. To register & pay online in advance Click Here or scan the QR Code with your phone.



If paying by check, please make check payable to: The American Legion Department of Maine and mail to: 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Lunch will be available to purchase at Jeff's Catering & Event Center.

Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn, 404 Odlin Road Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 947-0101. Rate: \$169/ night + sales tax for either a King or Queen/Queen room. Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor pool. Please mention you are with The American Legion when booking.

Flag at Half-Staff

By a joint resolution approved Dec. 18, 2001, (Public Law 107-89) Sept. 11 has been designated as Patriot Day, which also directs American flags to be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on Sept. 11.





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.

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

Deadline for Submission May 15, 2026

ONATE \$25 Receive Challenge Coin & 📙 Name in Yearbook

DONATE \$50 Receive Challenge Coin, **Lobster Lapel Pin** & Name in Yearbook

DONATE \$100 Receive Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2026 Convention Yearbook







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



Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Convention Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2026 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting www. mainelegion.org.

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.







Q. Of the 47 **Presidents** the U.S. has had, how many served their country in the military?



The American Legion Department of Maine

General Fund		
Therese E Bryan (In Memory of Roger Barr, Post 62)\$10	0	
Maine Veterans Home		
Lincoln Post 77\$10)()	
Sisters in Arms		
ALR Chapter 40 - Winthrop\$50	00	
ALR Chapter 51 - Oakland\$50	00	
ALR Chapter 75 - Old Town\$20	00	
ALR Chapter 86 - Gray\$20	00	
Homeless Vets		

ALR Chapter 86 - Gray	\$200	
Homeless Vets		
ALR Chapter 135 - Sabattus	\$1000	
ALR Chapter 51 - Oakland	\$500	
ALR Chapter 40 - Winthrop	\$500	
ALR Chapter 75 - Old Town	\$200	
ALR Chapter 80 - Millinocket	\$200	
ALR Chapter 86 - Gray	\$200	
Veterans & Children Foundation		
ALR Chapter 135 - Sabattus	\$1000	

Thank You!

ALR Chapter 51 - Oakland.....\$1000 ALR Chapter 80 - Millinocket....\$200

ALR Chapter 86 - Gray.....\$200

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. <u>Click Here</u> 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.



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.



Thomas College 180 West River Rd. Waterville, ME 04901

February 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

All contestants should plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

Snow Date: February 21, 2026

All pertinent information regarding the HS Oratorical Scholarship Program has been submitted <u>via email</u> to all schools and post adjutants & commanders on 9/8. Information packets have also been mailed to all schools and posts on 9/9. Please be on the lookout!

Applications must be received at the Post level by Dec. 6. At the District level, applications for the WINNER ONLY representing your District should be submitted to Department HQ by Jan. 24 for the State Competition to be held Feb. 14.

<u>Department of Maine HS Oratorical Scholarship</u>

Application

Department of Maine Oratorical Brochure

2026 Oratorical Official Rules

One Sheet Oratorical Program Flyer

Oratorical Promotional Brochure - National

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Volunteers are needed to help with the program (judges, tabulators, room monitors, etc.). Those who are interested are to please call Dept. HQ at 207-873-3229

Purchase an American flag by The American Legion



SHOP NOW



Unable to Lower Your Flag?

Attaching this black ribbon to the top of a U.S. flag is an acceptable alternative for flags that cannot be lowered to half-staff.

SHOP HERE

Flag Display FAQ

LEARN MORE

2026 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates

May 14, 2025 September 10, 2025 October 15, 2025 December 10, 2025

February 11, 2026 April 8, 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 successfully scanned. Membership 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 Natior 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

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Membership MPACT 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!

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 8 for PCC Form



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



NEW EMAIL SCAM: DON ALLISOT is <u>not</u> sending out emails requesting favors or to place orders on Amazon.

Commander McKenzie is <u>not</u> 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.

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.



The Maine Legionnaire

Click Here to read the latest issue



Submission Deadlines November 2025 IssueDeadline: October 17, 2025

February 2026 Issue Deadline: January 23, 2026

May 2026 Issue Deadline: April 17, 2026

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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



Humanitarian Committee Update:

I hope that everyone is doing well and feeling their best as we head into fall. I have a huge favor to ask! We need your support to find those in your community or throughout the state that are deserving of



the Humanitarian Award. This award is awarded at our Annual Convention in June. Lately we have had one or two submitted. We CAN do better than this. We should be flooded with applications for this award. There are many people out there going above and beyond to make others' lives better.

What qualifies as humanitarian?

"Humanitarian action includes a wide range of activities, such as providing food, shelter, water, healthcare, and protection to those in need, as well as advocating for their rights and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes".

Traits include: Selflessness, Compassion, Motivation, Communication, Insight, Open-mindedness, Flexibility, and Sensitivity.

Basically, anyone who improves the lives of others without expecting something in return.

Criteria: An American Legion Post must endorse candidates for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in his/her chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in his/her field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. If there is a very close competition, a veteran should be chosen over a non-veteran, and a Legionnaire over a non-Legionnaire, all other things being equal. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

Deadline for submission of nominations will be May 1 of each year. Please ensure that the entire application is complete and at least two letters of support from parties having actual knowledge of the candidate's activities must also be submitted with the form.

You can find the form on our website www.mainelegion.org under the tab labeled forms/applications. You will find the Humanitarian Award form under the award/nomination forms. We look forward to hearing from you and reading your submissions.

Until next time keep on doing the wonderful work you all do for veterans and our communities!

PDC Tricia Thurston Humanitarian Committee Chairperson5



Honor Flight Maine Upcoming Charter Flight:

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

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



Shop Legion apparel, flags, accessories, and more at Flag & Emblem.



You're Invited! Wellcare Medicare Advantage: Virtual Educational Seminar



THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Annual Enrollment Period runs from October 15th through December 7th and we're here to help you understand your options as well as select the plan that best suits your needs. Join us to learn about the enrollment period and how Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans work alongside your VA benefits to provide more coverage than Original Medicare.

Date: 09/18/2025
Preparing for AEP
Location: Virtual Webinar
Time: 4:00 PM EST

During the session, your host will: Give an overview of the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP)

Click Here to Register on Zoom

Don't wait! If you'd like to attend this informational session, please register now!

If you have any issues accessing the session, please reach out to businesspartnerships@centene.com



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.



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



Training In A Box: 2025 National Convention

Presentations From the 2025 National Convention:

District Officers Training

2025 21st Century Strategic Plan July 2025

Membership & post activities committee 21st century strategic plan

2025 District Commander Presentation

How to be a successful district commander: building a cohesive, productive, and effective district

2025 District Revitalization Presentation

Revitalization and enagement

<u>Department Leadership Slides-Incoming Dist. Cmdr.</u>

District commander training

<u>Leading Candidate-Department Commander's Briefing</u> **Questings**

Membership plan questions

Strategic Insight Series

National Judge Advocate: Don't Be That Post or Department

Rights, procedures, and branding

Servant Leadership: A Theory of Influence and Impact
Developing ethical, empowering leaders for the 21st century

Subject Matter Expert

Be The One Suicide Prevention Training: Columbia University

Chaplains In The American Legion

Department Legion College

Developing A Department Training Program

Financial Practices

How To Run A Post #1

How To Run A Post #2

A Step By Step Guide To Starting A New Program In The American Legion

The 2025 National Convention in Words, Pictures, and Videos

The recently completed American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Fla., included various commission and committee meetings, big-name guest speakers and the election of a new national commander.

<u>Check out all of our media coverage from the national convention in Tampa.</u>

<u>Click here</u> to view all of the national convention's videos and see what others were posting throughout the convention on social media using the hashtag #ALCon25.

National Regional Information Conference

Join us in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday, January 31, 2026 and Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, February 7, 2026.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more, with sessions designed to enhance member engagement and leadership.

Learn More & Register Now

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 9

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



October 18 & December 20

The next training will be at Department Headquarters on October 18th with guest from the Department of New York and the National President in attendance.

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. Only 31 of the 47 presidents served in a branch of the U.S. Military.



U.S. President John F. Kennedy, during his time in the Navy (image: John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum)



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.

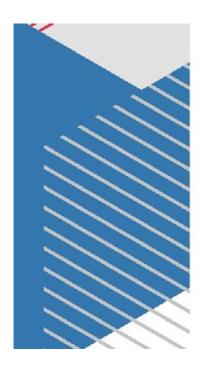
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE	Post Adjutant
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12	24

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: Jason@Mainelegion.org

POW/MIA Town Hall Event

DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) is coming to Maine!





The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Defense whose mission is to recover and identify unaccounted Department of Defense personnel listed as prisoners of war (POW) or missing in action.

Come join us in this rare opportunity to hear first hand in this Town Hall event! DPAA will give a detailed presentation on the agency and its process to recover our MIA's, discuss our Maine MIA efforts, and hold a Q&A session.

Speaking will be **Dr. Stephanie Makin**, from the **Vietnam War Branch of DPAA**, and has specialzed in European recovery efforts.

VFW Jay Post 3335 is honored to host this DPAA speaking event, and give our Veterans and Communities a first hand opportunity in understanding on how our MIA's are recoverd!

When: Thursday, September 18, 7:00 PM

Where: Spruce Mt. High School, 33 Community Drive, Jay Maine.

(Use the Cafeteria entrance)

Who: All Verterans, Veteran organizations and their Auxiliaries, communitiy members, and POW/MIA families are invited to attend this "Town Hall" event!

More Informaion, Contact Jim Manter, Jay Post POW/MIA Chairman, (440) 623-5524



Veterans and Community Connection Expo

Join us for a FREE Veteran and Family Expo

Veterans, Survivors, Service Members & accompanying family members will be able to learn about benefits available through state, federal & community resources.

*Indoor/Outdoor Event

*Giveaways, food truck (available for purchase), music



Register for the Expo here by scanning the QR code





American Legion, American Red Cross, Bureau of Motor Vehicles., Disabled American Veterans (DAV),
Disability Rights Maine, Go Maine, Health Affiliates of Maine, Honor Flight of Maine,
House in the Woods, Maine Adaptive/Veterans No Boundaries, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services,
Maine Career Center, Maine Paws for Veterans, Maine State Approving Agency, Maine Veterans' Homes,
Maine Veterans in Need, Martin's Point, Maine Department of Labor, Mid-Coast Veterans Council,
Military Women's Memorial, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA),
Pineland VAST, Quilts of Valor, Travis Mills Foundation, VetCenter,
Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Inc., Veterans Upward Bound, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW),
Veterans Health Administration, Warrior PATHH
and many more

Disclaimer: The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products or services on the part of the VA.



Expo-style event

Friday, September 19th 10:00AM - 2:00PM

American Legion Post #20
1 Columbus Dr., Brunswick, ME



