

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 5 Issue 27
Nov. 21, 2024

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 127th 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

DECEMBER 2024

District 2 – Cumberland Dec. 8, 2PM
Maine Military Museum, Tour at Noon
Lunch at 1PM. Bring Toys for Tots

District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 18
Locke Mills Post 68, 7PM District Christmas Party

District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 11
Augusta Post 205, 6PM

District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 10
NE Harbor Post 103
Dinner at 6PM, Meeting at 7PM

Thanksgiving Update

American Legion State Headquarters will be closed
November 27-29 in observance of Thanksgiving.
Please plan accordingly.



Department of Maine Annual Mid-Winter Conference

January 11th, 2025

Jeff's Catering & Event Center

15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412

Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations:

Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401.

Phone: 207-947-0101

Room Rate: \$114 + sales tax

[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#)

Please state "American Legion" when calling for reservations.

Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual.

Deadline: Jan. 5, 2025.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person

Lunch Buffet: \$10 per person

(to be paid to Jeff's Catering by noon)

Please mail registration fee to:

The American Legion

Department of Maine

5 Verti Drive

Winslow, ME 04901-0727

(Notate "MWC" in memo field)

To pay by debit/credit card, [Click Here](#) or visit

www.mainelegion.org, and select **Winter Conference**
listed in the News & Events dropdown menu.

For questions, please call Department HQ at
207-873-3229 or email legionme@mainelegion.org.



The American Legion Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

February 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Thomas College, 180 West River Rd. Waterville

**All contestants should plan to arrive
between 8 and 8:30 am**

Snow Date: February 15, 2025

[Click Here for Topics](#)



COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2024-25

*Department Commander
Tricia Thurston asks that each
Post and Legionnaire support her goal!*

Mission Working Dogs

Their MISSION: To improve the lives of their community members who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently despite a physical disability and by providing therapy dogs which will bring mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.

Their VISION: At Mission Working Dogs, we train purpose-bred dogs to aid individuals with disabilities so that the handler can live a life to the fullest and more independently.

Their GOAL: Service dogs can assist those with physical disabilities such as mobility impairments by fetching dropped items, opening doors, and turning on and off lights. They can also help individuals with PTSD by learning to recognize an increase in anxiety, carrying medications, and providing deep pressure therapy to calm or redirect the handler. Dogs working as facility dogs are often trained to recognize a patient's affected side in the case of a stroke and to approach on the side the patient is able to pet with or throw the ball. Patients are able to work on fine motor movements in petting or caring for the dog as well as gross motor skills playing fetch with a dog that's able to bring the ball exactly to where the patient needs, such as on a side table or directly into their hand, rather than on the ground or trying to play tug with it inappropriately.

Their PLAN: Service dogs are generally trained for approximately two years and undergo a wide range of assessments on their physical health, temperament, and tasks or skills to make sure they can properly support their handler throughout life.

Donations can be made to **The American Legion Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727**



*Please place in the memo line of the check: **Commander's Project 2024-2025***

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the DONATE button.

TANGO ALPHA LIMA PODCAST

Military analyst & author Ethan Brown | Nov. 19

Listen Here: <https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm/240>



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

Deadline for Submission May 9, 2025

DONATE \$25 Receive NEW Challenge Coin & Name in Year- book	DONATE \$50 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin & Name in Year- book	DONATE \$100 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2025 Convention Yearbook
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NEW! Maine American Legion BE THE ONE Challenge Coin, left, and Maine American Legion Lobster Lapel Pin, right.



Show your support to Veterans in the state of Maine! Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2025 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

Donate \$25 and receive our newest Maine American Legion Challenge Coin, \$50 and receive our new challenge coin and lobster lapel pin, or donate \$100 and receive our new challenge coin, lobster lapel pin, and a 2025 Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, click the button below, or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You may also visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button. If donating by check,



please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to:

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

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



Q. What Military award has the same weight & importance as the Medal of Honor?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

Upcoming Wreaths Across America Events in Maine



Wreaths Across America is preparing to kick off the annual Escort to Arlington, beginning Sat., Dec. 7. The following events will take place in Maine:

Saturday, December 7:

6:30 a.m.: Sunrise Service at W. Quoddy Headlight, 973 S Lubec Rd., Lubec (Posts: 65, 9, 59, and 108)

11:00 a.m.: HART Ceremony at Calais Border Patrol Crossing, 180 International Ave, Calais (Posts: 3 and 23)

Sunday, December 8:

9:00 a.m.: Ellsworth YMCA, 238 State St., Ellsworth (Post 63)

12:45 p.m.: Erskine Academy, 309 Windsor Rd., South China (Posts: 179, 163, 195, 2, and 205)

3:50 p.m.: Lewiston High School, 156 East Ave., Lewiston (Posts: 31, 153, 158, 135, 22, 210, 86, 150, 181, 22, and 111)

7:00 p.m.: New Gloucester Veterans Monument - Across from 1029 Lewiston Rd., New Gloucester (Posts: 86, 150, 155, 153, 31, 164, 91)

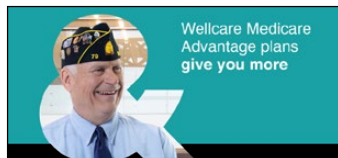
Get your Post Family together at one of the locations and gather to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Medicare Annual Enrollment

Enrollment is Oct. 15 - Dec. 7 and more benefits may be yours. During the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period, Wellcare can help you review your current coverage, discuss your options, and choose a plan that has all the benefits you need.

For clear answers and help enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan, call to speak with a licensed representative today.

877-880-8196 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., 7 days a week. Or scan the QR code to call now.



Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans give you more

CLICK HERE

to Download our FREE eGuide How Medicare Advantage works for military veterans.

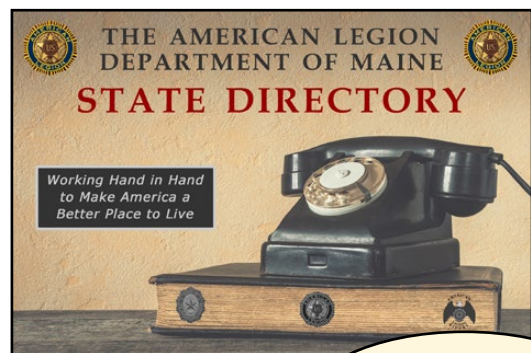


No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number—Dial 988 then Press 1—in your phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



CLICK HERE TO SEE THE LATEST POST EVENTS



CLICK HERE FOR THE STATE DIRECTORY

Call Dept. HQ at 873-3229 or email: legionme@mainelegion.org to get the password!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!

The State Directory has been posted on the Department Website in the past however it is now password-protected. Please call Dept. HQ at: 873-3229 or e-mail legionme@mainelegion.org to get the password, or if you have any questions or concerns.

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!*

TREASURER NEEDED!

[The Beals Hospitality House](#) at Togus is in desperate need of a treasurer. The position requires experience with payroll. BHH is willing to train anybody interested in this position. The Beals Hospitality House lets the spouses of veterans stay free of charge while their loved one is at the hospital. Please contact Kenda Simmons, Beals House President, at 207-242-3192 if interested in the position.



Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)



[Click Here](#) to watch a short video about [No Cost Legioncare](#)



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](#)

**QUICKLY & EASILY
RENEW ONLINE TODAY!**

Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit:

www.legion.org/renew



THE AMERICAN LEGION 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SCHEDULE

Cutoff Dates

May 15, 2024
September 11, 2024
October 16, 2024
December 11, 2024
February 12, 2025
April 9, 2025

Renewal Mail Dates

July 1-8, 2024
October 5-11, 2024
November 9-15, 2024
January 4-10, 2025
March 1-7, 2025
May 3-9, 2025

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be 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.

Veteran-owned Expressoul Coffee is selling Be the One coffee with a 15% discount for Legion Family members.

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



District Awards

American Legion Jacket: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by Dec. 31, 2024.

American Legion Ball Cap: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by March 12, 2025.

NEW

Highest District Overall Membership Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250): Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership percentage 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

NEW

Highest District Overall Membership Renewal Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250): Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership renewal rate 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

For more Information [Click Here](#) and find: **2024-25 Membership Goals & Awards Manual**

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

**BE THE ONE
2024 TRAINING**

.....
2024 Training Date: Nov. 30th

**Where: Dept. of Maine Training Room
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901**

For more details on the Be The One campaign visit: betheone.org

[American Legion Be the One Campaign](#)

To Reserve Your Spot Email: jason@mainelegion.org

Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. 17 veterans still die by suicide each day, or more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need; Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

★ Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants ★

District Meeting Calendar Form
Now 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!

POST/DISTRICT FORMS

[Click Here](#)

To see which forms your post still needs to submit

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

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.



Grouper

**Subject: Get Paid for Being Socially Active
with Grouper Partnership**

Dear Member,

The American Legion has teamed up with Grouper to support our Legionnaires in a way like never before! This collaboration is designed to get eligible participants, 65 or older, paid for engaging in our community, ensuring you stay healthy and connected.

What Does This Mean for You? Participants with an eligible health plan can get an initial payment of \$50 sent to them for being a part of The American Legion. For each three months of activity after that, Grouper will send \$20, if you stay active and keep Grouper updated on your in-person social activity!

Check Your Eligibility: It's easy! [Click here](#) (hellogrouper.com/al) to check your eligibility in just a few simple steps. You'll find out right away if your health plan covers this social benefit.

Is Grouper an Insurance Company? No! Grouper doesn't sell insurance. Their mission is to encourage healthy living through activities that build meaningful social connections and shared experiences. They accomplish this by partnering with health plans to pay you for having fun with friends. This program is free to you and American Legion and we have not shared any of your personal information.

We look forward to sharing more about how this partnership with Grouper is designed to enhance your overall well-being. If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact Grouper at 833-445-2400. Wishing you a healthier, happier future together!

[For More Information See Page 7](#)

IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY DECEMBER

- ★ Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday Dec. 1
- ★ #GivingTuesday Tuesday after Thanksgiving
- ★ National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Dec. 7
- ★ U.S. National Guard Birthday Dec. 13
- ★ National Wreaths Across America Day Dec. 18

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

~General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur



TECHNOLOGY 101

a resource for those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today's world. Increased proficiency with computers and cell phones et al is good both personally and professionally.

HOLIDAY SCAMS

Legionnaire Kevin Horn works in cyber security and provides tips on what to look for via text, email and phone calls.

American Legion Post 321 Commander Kevin Horn in Huntersville, N.C., is educating Legionnaires and posts how not to fall prey to scammers through his Fraud Awareness Friday social media posts and in-person presentations. As someone who works in cyber security, he has seen his share of what scammers will do. For example, scammers in North Carolina are impersonating post members and as a result, a Post 321 Korean War veteran was scammed out of \$1,000 in gift cards.

"It's a problem near and dear to my heart. And the big thing is just educating people," Horn said.

With the holiday season upon us, Horn provided the following tips on how to avoid being scammed via text, email and phone.

Verify the sender and recognize abnormal behavior. If someone you know asks you to get gift cards and keep it quiet from others, which is not their normal behavior, that's a red flag you are being scammed. AI is making things a lot more difficult because AI is taking all the spelling mistakes and old red flags out of the equation.

Watch for gift card fraud. If anybody asks you over the phone to get gift cards, scratch off the back for the code and take a picture or read the numbers off, it's a scam. Don't transmit gift card information over the phone. Ever. "And if the person asking for the gift cards says something along the lines of, 'Don't call me. I'm in a meeting. Just please go ahead and do this and let me know when you get to the store,' it's a scam," Horn said. "If they're telling you to go to the store for gift cards, it's a scam."

Do not sign anything via text message. If you get a text message and it says your package cannot be delivered and that you need to sign in, do not sign in. Nobody's going ask you to sign in via text message. If you have a package inbound, go to the websites of USPS, UPS and FedEx and create accounts so you can track packages.

Don't click links via text message. Most of them are scams and they're hoping that the credentials you use to log in to their scam will be reused elsewhere in another account login. Once they get the login that works, they're going to try every account that you have with those credentials because a lot of people don't change their passwords.

Do not send money. Anything that involves sending money first to get more money back is a sign of a scam.

Be aware of email scams. If you receive an email saying, "thank you for your purchase" or "here is your receipt of

purchase" and they want you to call a number or click a link if you did not make the purchase, that's a scam. "If you're reading those emails, don't open the attachments on a computer," Horn said. And if you get an email or voicemail to confirm a purchase authorization, login to your bank account and look at the pending charges. "If they don't match up to what they're saying your card was charged for, it's a scam. Now, if it does match up, then you need to call your bank. Don't bother calling the number of the person that left a message. Call your bank and say, 'hey, I didn't authorize this.'"

Don't know the number? Don't answer. If it's important, they'll leave a message. And if your answer and there's a delay in the call when you answer, hang up. You can tell if a call is from an auto dialer, which is a common tool in marketing, because there is a delay when they answer. "My general rule is if you don't know the number, let it go to voicemail. If it's important and it's a real person, they'll leave a message. When you start doing that, you'll see that a lot of the messages are all automated, and they're all the same. And in those voicemails, if they say 'we have an urgent matter to speak with Kevin Horn, you need to call us back at this number, this is related to your tax statement,' that's never going to happen. They don't do that."

Be vigilant to behavior patterns. If someone calls claiming to be your grandchild in a car accident and they need you to send money, ask questions to verify that the person you are speaking with is in fact who they say they are. "Somebody had called me many, many years ago asking for my sister. They had some general information that is easily available online, like her address. I took that as, oh, this might be legitimate. And then come to find out it's not legitimate; it's actually a scam. There's so much more data out there that's available for scammers to skim, and they can take that data and they can pull it and centralize it and build a profile based off of you." Learn more on how to stay safe from Phishing and other scams.

Legion.org

Training Tuesdays

Next Session

Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. Eastern time

The November virtual Training Tuesday session will focus on the Legion's Be the One mission and how to connect veterans with the resources they need to prevent, sustain and support themselves before suicide risk factors arise.

[Click Here to Register for the free training](#)

[Click Here to Watch Previously Recorded Sessions Here](#)

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. The "Four Chaplains' Medal is based upon the courage of four chaplains on board the USAT Dorchester along with 900 others in February of 1943, when it was hit by a German torpedo & sunk near Greenland. These four men of God not only distributed life jackets & helped others to abandon ship, they gave up their own life jackets before coming together in prayer as the ship slipped below the waves.

Learn More: www.armyhistory.org/no-greater-glory-the-four-chaplains-and-the-sinking-of-the-usat-dorchester

Life's Too Long Not to Belong

AMERICAN
LEGION

Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health.

The American Legion and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!



LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:

✓ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility

✓ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities



To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

hellogrouper.com/al



No personal information needed to check eligibility – just your health plan name and your age!

GROUPER IS PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:

**Renew
Active**
by UnitedHealthcare

 **OnePass**

Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email info@hellogrouper.com