

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 5 Issue 28
Dec. 12, 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 128th 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 & JANUARY 2025

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 20
Mechanic Falls Post 150, 6:30PM

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

District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21
South Paris Post 72, 7PM
Oratorical Contest, Refreshments After

District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 8
Augusta Post 2, 6PM

Donate to the National Commander's Campaign

Donations for the 2025-26 National Commander's Campaign are greatly appreciated! Scan the QR code with your phone or [Click Here](#) to make a donation. On the donation page, please choose "Other" from the "Use this donation for" dropdown menu and notate "National Commander's Campaign" under the notes. Thank you! [See the Letter on Page 7 for More Information.](#)



Holiday Schedule: The Department Office will be closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 for Christmas and New Years. The next Leadership Ledger will be published on Jan. 2. 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](#)

Be The One Challenge Coin & Lobster Lapel Pin Order Form

Order forms are now available for your Post to utilize, giving members multiple ways to order! Simply print and provide the forms at your Post. [See Page 9 for Order Form](#)





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

[Click Here to Listen to the Tango Alpha Lima Podcast:](https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm)
<https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm>

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 Yearbook	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 was the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops Unit and how did they function?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

★ ★ DONATIONS ★ ★

The American Legion Department of Maine

Commander's Project "Mission Working Dogs"

Rumford Unit 24.....	\$641
St. George Post 34.....	\$100
Various People at Women Veterans Luncheon (Hat Sales).....	\$130
Various People.....	\$60

2025 Annual Convention Yearbook

Dale Hoist.....	\$50
Michael McKenzie.....	\$50
John Ott.....	\$50
Werner Spletstoesser.....	\$50
Harry Doughty.....	\$25
James MacFeat.....	\$25

General Fund

Alfred H Marin, Post 36.....	\$10
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Thank You!



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



Commander Thurston is not sending out emails requesting your time or for you to purchase gift cards! Please do not respond and do not use the email 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 when you are sending out legitimate emails trying to reach past Commanders or when sending group emails that include past Commanders.

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!*



OFFICIAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

Don't forget to TUNE IN to watch the greatest rivalry in all of sports, on CBS on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern.



Get Ready for America's Game!

[Shop Now](#)



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.

phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)



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

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**



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	Renewal Mail Dates
May 15, 2024	July 1-8, 2024
September 11, 2024	October 5-11, 2024
October 16, 2024	November 9-15, 2024
December 11, 2024	January 4-10, 2025
February 12, 2025	March 1-7, 2025
April 9, 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.

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 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!

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

[Click Here To Learn More](#)



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 \(hellogrouper.com/al\)](http://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 8](#)



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SNOWFLAKES
SNOW
BELLS
HOLLY

CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS
TREE

LIGHTS
SANTA
WREATH
DEER

GINGERBREAD
SNOWMAN
WINTER
SLEIGH

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.

Want to Take Better Smartphone Photos? Try These 10 Tips From Pro Photographers

Smartphone cameras have only gotten more phenomenal in the past three years, with companies beefing up photo resolution, adding more lenses, and integrating photo storage options that keep you snapping without fear of filling your camera roll. Ask anyone with an Instagram account and you'll soon discover the camera is the killer feature on any smartphone.

If you've got the latest and greatest smartphone, you should step up your photography game to match. So here are some tips from professionals, along with some accessory recommendations, that will take your snapshot game from amateur to Ansel Adams.

First, start with a clean slate

Before you shoot a single picture, you'll want to make sure your gear is in order. Often, that means doing a bit of pre-shot cleaning. "That's the first rule for me," says portrait and fine art photographer Henry Oji. "Always clean your phone camera lens before you take an image."

While wiping your lens on your jeans might do the job, using coarse materials, like a cotton shirt, or a napkin you dipped in water, may end up damaging your lens over time. If you'd like to keep scratches at bay, use a softer material — like a microfiber cloth — to clean any smudges off your camera lens.

A little framing goes a long way

Artfully framing shots may require a more creative state of mind, but that doesn't mean you have to line everything up all by yourself. Luckily, you can employ your camera to assist you when it comes to framing and composing your shots.

In iOS (iPhone devices), visit Settings and select Camera. From there, enable "Grid" to deploy a rule-of-thirds overlay in the Camera app. That grid will help you better compose your image, and keep your shot parallel with any vertical or horizontal lines in your shot. On Android devices, visit Settings > Apps > Camera, and select "Grid Lines" to choose between a rule-of-thirds overlay or a square overlay for perfectly framed Instagram images.

That framing is one part of composing the image itself — and so is making sure you're not capturing any unwanted subjects while you shoot. "Composition, composition, composition!" says portrait and nightlife photographer Kenny Rodriguez, whose subjects rarely stay in one place for long. "I would suggest making sure that everything in the frame is there because you want it there."

Ditch the digital zoom

As much as you'd love to get a closer look at that dog across the field, you might have to be content with a picture. But zooming in before you take the shot is not the solution. Digital zoom shots are simply cropped and resized images, unlike the optical zoom functionality you might find on a full-blown camera. Digital zoom will not only yield a grainy image, it will

reduce the resolution of the overall photo and exacerbate any vibrations from your hands, leaving you with an inferior representation of that adorable canine. That includes shots taken on phones with multiple camera lenses, like the iPhone XS or Samsung Galaxy Note 10+. In general, avoid digital zoom as often as possible — but knock yourself out with the telephoto lens on your smartphone, if it has one.

Look for light before making your own

The flash of an LED light from a smartphone doesn't flatter anyone, no matter what pose you're striking. And that glaring light coming from a single source will more often than not give your images a harsh, odd-colored look compared to light being diffused from one or multiple sources.

Instead of depending on an underpowered light to properly illuminate your subject, try to find other sources of light you can use, be it the waning sun, some indoor lights, or even some candlelight if you want to get artsy with it. If you're really at a loss for light, you could always employ another smartphone's flashlight mode to provide a more consistent light source.

Steady yourself — or use a tripod

If your shots of the city skyline look a little off-kilter, or your images during sunset seem a bit blurry, you should familiarize yourself with the photographer's most useful tool: the tripod. "A good tripod ... is absolutely essential, but for smartphone photographers it is usually left out," says Morgado.

Sure, a steady hand is always better than a shaky one, but neither can match the tripod's versatility when it comes to putting your own spin on your photos. "It gives you an amazing range of new techniques and photography styles: long-exposures, time-lapse, low light photography, light painting and many many other uses."

Pocket-sized tripods are perfect for smartphone photography, and are often device-agnostic, meaning you can use it with almost any phone...

Continue reading the article: <https://time.com/5660278/smartphone-camera-picture-tips/>

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](#)

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. In WW2, the US Army developed this unit, consisting of two Divisions and many very talented members, nicknamed "The Ghost Army," was developed to create misleading diversions for enemy units including inflatable weapons, including tanks, jeeps, trucks, airplanes, barracks, and sound trucks to simulate troop movements and activities, which worked extremely well. So classified was this unit, that its existence was never acknowledged until 1996.

Learn More: www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/exhibits/traveling-exhibits/ghost-army-combat-con-artists-world-war-ii



The American Legion

Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

Tel: (207) 873-3229

FAX: (207) 872-0501

E-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org

Website: mainelegion.org

December 5, 2024

To Our Fellow Legionnaires:

As you may be aware, each year we request donations to give to the leading candidate for the position of National Commander of The American Legion. The individuals do a lot of traveling and have expenses that they may need assistance in covering.

Each department donates to this cause, and we are not the only ones to do so. The many departments also supported our own Tony Jordan when he was campaigning for National Commander and it is only right that we, the Department of Maine, do so also.

This year, I am asking those who are listed in the National book and have received appointments or reappointments to any of the National Committees or Commissions to donate at least \$75.00 to help defray the cost of seeking that position. Your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you are capable of and inclined to do so you may donate a larger amount.

This year, the leading candidate is Dan Wiley of Kansas for the year 2025-2026. He is presently scheduled to attend our Department Convention in June 2025.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Please send them to the Department of Maine Headquarters at **5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901**, and earmark your check or money order to the "National Commander's Campaign"

Thank you and let us make this one a great one.

Lloyd Woods
National Executive Committeeman

Anthony G. "Tony" Jordan
Past National Commander

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

AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE



Challenge Coin
(Front & Back)



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