

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER

Vol. 6 Issue 25
DEC. 18, 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 154th 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

JANUARY 2026

District 1 – York: Jan. 10, Kennebunkport Post 159, 12:00 p.m., Roster of nominations to be circulated

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 19, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 6:30 p.m., Oratorical

District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21, South Paris Post 72, 6:00 p.m., District Oratorical Contest

District 6 – Knox: Jan. 18, Tenants Harbor Post 34, 1:00 p.m., Buddy Checks, Post Accomplishments, CPR

District 13 – Penobscot: Jan. 4, Newport Post 105, 2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m.



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. 8. Please plan accordingly.

ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF MAINE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

January 10, 2026

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way,
Brewer, Maine 04412

[View Event Agenda](#)

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion, Department of Maine, will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Little Field Way, Brewer, ME 04412 on Jan. 10, 2026. The Conference will be hosted by Commander Leroy McKenzie and 2nd Vice Commander Ryan Coffin.

Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101

Room Rate: \$129 + sales tax, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor pool.

[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#) or scan the QR code, right, with your phone.



Please state "American Legion" when calling for reservations. Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual, as the Department HQ will not be coordinating reservations for this conference. **Deadline:** Jan. 4, 2026.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person. Includes unlimited coffee & tea (Regular and Decaf), water all day, and juice, breakfast pastries, and fresh fruits in the morning. This is for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Guests that are attending.

Mid-Winter Conference 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 (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 or scan the QR code, right, with your phone.



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





COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2025-26

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

EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE

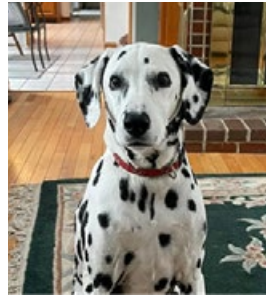


EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE:

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

DONATE \$25	DONATE \$50	DONATE \$100
Receive Challenge Coin & Name in Yearbook	Receive Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin & Name in Yearbook	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 Legion 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. What very special song was created on Christmas Day in 1896 and for which the Marines will be forever proud?

★ ★ DONATIONS ★ ★

The American Legion Department of Maine

General Fund

Portland Plastic Pipe.....\$500

VA&R

James Nelson.....\$50

Thank You!

Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Awards

Nomination forms for the Veterans Employment and Education awards are available through American Legion department headquarters at www.mainelegion.org under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#). There are five available awards.

National Employer of Veterans Award. This award is offered in three categories: Category I – Employers of more than 200 employees (Large); Category II – Employers of 51-200 employees (Medium); Category III – Employers of 1-50 employees (Small).

National Employment Service Award. This award is offered in three categories: Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Local Office of the Year.

Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award. A Legion project or program that improves the quality of life for disabled persons will be considered for this award.

National Employer of Older Worker Award. The American Legion provides an Employer of Older Worker Award for a company that consistently hires older workers, especially veterans.

Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award. Any Legion project or program with a goal of ending homelessness among veterans will be considered for this award.

Nomination forms for the Veterans Employment and Education awards are available through American Legion department headquarters. All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form with no more than two pages of narrative, along with supporting documents. Departments will send reminders to all posts about nominations. The department then selects one nominee as its winner and sends the nomination form for the winning employer. That nomination form must be signed by either the department adjutant or department employment chairman. Selection of the national winners will be made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission during the annual Washington Conference. The national winners will receive a stipend for travel expenses and are presented award plaques at the National Convention.

Also available on www.mainelegion.org under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#) is the **National Veterans Education and Economic Commission Employment Service Award.**

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program



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 [via email](#) and **USPS Mail** to all schools and post adjutants & commanders. **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.**

[Click Here to View/Download Oratorical Application, Brochures, Flyers, etc.](#)



Remember to Submit Award Nominations!



Award applications are available at www.mainelegion.org under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#) for Public Service, Membership, Post Excellence, Americanism, Children & Youth, History, Humanitarian, Individual Recognition, and more. **Members are encouraged to view available awards and submit nominations when applicable.**

[Download Award Forms/Applications](#)

[View Award Deadlines](#)

Maine American Legion Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available for the Department of Maine **Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship.**



Any post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by visiting www.mainelegion.org under [FORMS/APPLICATIONS](#) or by contacting us via email at legionme@mainelegion.org or by phone at 207-873-3229.

Sweepstakes Raffle Reminder!

Raffle tickets for the Winter Sweepstakes drawing have been mailed.

Please contact Department HQ at 207-873-3229 for assistance. The drawing will be held on January 10. Thank you!



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**

Read the SAL Newsletter - December 2025

[Print a SAL Membership Application](#)

[Squadron Officers Form](#)

[Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable](#)

[Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable](#)

[Click Here for the Latest Membership Report](#)

District Awards

American Legion Jacket: Awarded to District Commanders who reach **100% by December 31, 2025**.

American Legion Ball Cap: Awarded to District Commanders who reach **100% by March 11, 2026**.

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 29, 2026**).

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 29, 2026**).

All District Incentive Awards must be verified by the District Adjutant.

**For more Information [Click Here](#) and find:
2025-26 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

★ **Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants** ★

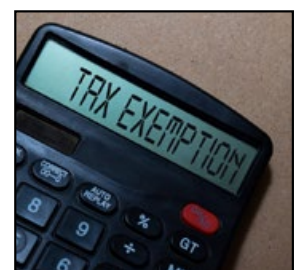
**District Meeting
Calendar Forms
Available Online!**

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



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.



Auto-Renew Notice:

If you auto-renewed your 2026 membership after January 1, 2025, please note that your 2026 membership will auto-renew in December 2025 or January 2026.

For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2. Thank you.

Received Your 2025 Labels and Would Like to Make a Donation?

Label donations can be made online by [Clicking Here](#), scanning the QR code with your phone, or by visiting www.mainelegion.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. **Please be sure to notate "Labels" in the notes so we can identify your donation.**



To pay by check, mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

Label Donations over \$50 receive special donor gift(s) as our thanks to you:

Donate \$50-99 and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin

Donate \$100-149 and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin, AND the Challenge Coin

Donate \$150 or more and receive a 2025 Distinguished Donor Lapel Pin, a Challenge Coin, AND a Lobster Lapel Pin!

Distinguished Donor Pins for 2022, 23, & 24 are Also Available Upon Request at \$50 Each or 3 for \$100.

Limited Supply Available!

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](#)



**PAST
COMMANDERS
CLUB**

****Attention District Commanders and Post Commanders & 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.

Congratulations to the Following Posts for Reaching 100% Membership!

District 1: Kennebunkport Post 159

District 9: Augusta Post 205

District 10: Athens Post 192

District 12: Blue Hill Post 85

District 13: Newport Post 105

District 13: East Corinth Post 115

District 13: East Millinocket Post 13

**As of 12/18/25*

Legion Family Membership Criteria

[Click Here](#) or see [Page 15](#) for eligibility criteria for American Legion Family Membership.

For more information about membership, visit www.mainelegion.org/pages/membership.php

Make a Donation to The American Legion Department of Maine

Help support Maine veterans with a donation to The American Legion Department of Maine.

To donate by cash or check, please mail your donation to: The American Legion Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

To donate by card, visit www.mainelegion.org and click the "Donate" button or scan the QR code, left, with your phone.



If you need assistance, please call our office at 207-873-3229 and we'll be happy to help you.

Legion Baseball Registration Opens Jan. 1

[Register for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season here](#) starting Jan. 1.

More than 3,400 teams and nearly 55,000 youth participate in the program yearly from all 50 states and Canada.

Learn more about American Legion Baseball at www.legion.org/baseball.



The American Legion Style Guide Standards & Best Practices

Appropriate Use of American Legion Frequently Used Terms

In most circumstances, The American Legion follows AP style, as outlined in the latest editions of The Associated Press Stylebook and Webster's New World College Dictionary.

Be the One No quotation marks. Refer to as The American Legion's Be the One initiative, not campaign.

Capitol Capitalize U.S. Capitol and the Capitol when referring to the building in Washington, D.C. Do the same for state capitol buildings: the Iowa State Capitol.

congressman, congresswoman U.S. representative, representative and member of Congress are preferred.

department executive committee Capitalize when referring to a specific department: Wisconsin's Department Executive Committee. Avoid abbreviating DEC.

flag Lowercase in all references: the flag, the U.S. flag. Capitalize Grand Old Flag, Old Glory and the Star-Spangled Banner.

four pillars Phrase refers to The American Legion's central missions: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Sometimes shortened to Veterans, Security, Americanism, Youth. Lowercase preferred: the four pillars upon which The American Legion was founded, the Legion's four pillars.

government Always lowercase, never abbreviate: the federal government, the state government, the U.S. government.

legislature Capitalize when preceded by the name of a state: the Colorado Legislature.

National Emergency Fund NEF on second reference.

Paid Up For Life PUFL acceptable on second reference.

past national commander Capitalize when the title precedes a name. PNC is acceptable on second reference, particularly when referring to a group: PNCs Dellinger, Oxford and Helm.

resolution Capitalize and abbreviate only when referring to a specific, numbered resolution: the NEC passed a resolution, Res. No. 30.

servicemember One word. Preferred over servicemen and servicewomen.

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 Register and Watch Previously Recorded Sessions](#)



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

[Click Here to Register](#)

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE: The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

[Click Here or See Pgs. 9-11 to View the Flyer for Ideas on How to Participate](#)

Renew Your Legion Membership Online Today!

Online renewal is fast, convenient, and safe!



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

www.legion.org/renew



MILITARY TRIVIA

A. On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, John Phillip Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for **"Stars and Stripes Forever"** were born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Corps Band's leader. The iconic song officially became America's National March music in 1987.

The Maine Legionnaire

[Click Here](#) to read the latest issue



Submission Deadlines

February 2026 Issue
Deadline: January 23, 2026

May 2026 Issue
Deadline: April 17, 2026

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](#)



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.





Veterans deserve Medicare Advantage & more

As The Official Medicare Advantage Provider of The American Legion, Wellcare delivers additional coverage that works right alongside your VA benefits.

The coverage you need & more

Don't wait to enroll. The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is October 15 to December 7. [Click or scan to call now.](#)

 **877-880-8194 (TTY: 711)**
8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week



THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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](#).





Thank you
VETERANS

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO'VE SERVED

MILITARY DISCOUNT **\$300 OFF** **Get Offer**

Your Entire Purchase NO MINIMUM

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.





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

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

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

Use back side if additional space is required.

SUBMIT TO:

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

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**



American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere launched the USA 250 Challenge on July 3, 2025. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Click here to [REGISTER](#)

Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. In 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund began doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization.

The USA 250 Challenge – What Can I do? *

AMERICANISM

Promoting patriotism, civic education, and national pride

- Host a 250-minute patriotic concert
- Plant 250 flags around town
- Distribute 250 American flags to local homes
- Paint a community mural with 250 symbols
- Host 250 minutes of civic education
- Light 250 candles in a remembrance ceremony
- Display 250 historical photos
- Launch a 250-follower challenge on social media
- Have a 250-question trivia night
- Display 250 stars with names of fallen heroes
- Share 250 reasons to love America online
- Conduct a 250-minute POW/MIA vigil
- Post 250 American facts leading to July 4
- Host 250 flag-folding demonstrations
- Invite 250 youth for a flag retirement ceremony
- Decorate 250 gravestones for Memorial Day
- Visit 250 senior veterans
- Display 250 coins from history
- Play 250 seconds of taps each evening
- Host a 250-step honor march
- Display 250 state flags from history
- Present 250 flag etiquette cards
- Lead 250 youth in a unity pledge
- Conduct a 250-vote mock election
- Share 250 quotes from the Founders
- Post 250 patriotic memes
- Offer 250 military discounts

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Supporting veterans, caregivers, and their well-being

- Organize a 250-veteran parade
- Hold a 250-donor blood drive
- Collect 250 care packages for deployed troops
- Sponsor 250 free meals for veterans
- Collect 250 hygiene kits for homeless vets
- Offer 250-minute veteran oral history marathon
- Deliver 250 thank-you cards to veterans
- Create 250 buddy check calls
- Share 250 stories from NM veterans
- Deliver 250 thank-you gifts to first responders
- Gather 250 military patches for a display
- Showcase 250 photos of Legionnaires in action
- Host a 250-military unit reunion
- Offer 250 free rides to VA appointments
- Promote 250 veteran businesses
- Recognize 250 women veterans
- Display 250 dog tags to honor service
- Record 250-second veteran stories
- Fund 250 hours of therapy support
- Celebrate 250 birthdays of youth & vets

- Record 250 intergenerational interviews
- Gift 250 lap quilts
- Highlight 250 women in uniform

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Engaging youth and supporting families

- Host a 250-kid youth sports day
- Assemble 250 blessing bags for shelters
- Donate 250 books to a school or library
- Have 250 rocks painted by schoolkids
- Create a 250-penny drive for youth programs
- Host a patriotic coloring contest with 250 entries
- Run a 250-student essay contest
- Host a 250-youth scavenger hunt
- Print 250 coloring sheets
- Offer 250 youth flag pins
- Invite 250 youth to a flag retirement
- Run a 250-word essay contest
- Create 250 sidewalk chalk tributes
- Lead 250-second youth civics lessons
- Build 250 Lego flags
- Plant 250 sunflowers at schools
- Present 250 student flags
- Lead 250-step PE challenges
- Create 250 paper chains of patriotism
- Encourage 250 students to write to vets
- Host a 250-student Constitution Day
- Offer 250 student leadership awards
- Host a 250-point spelling bee
- Display 250 posters from students
- Build a 250-block community puzzle
- Launch a 250-mile classroom walkathon
- Share 250 student veteran tributes
- Craft 250 star pins
- Run a 250-youth citizenship workshop
- Invite 250 parents to Post open house
- Create 250 student art cards
- Sponsor 250 youth meals
- Host a 250-family carnival
- Sponsor 250 scouts
- Offer 250 music lessons or instruments
- Deliver 250 educational posters
- Organize a 250-item backpack drive
- Offer \$250 in school supplies per school
- Post 250 "Know Your Rights" cards
- Fund 250-mile trip for students
- Coordinate 250 volunteer youth hours
- Share 250 reasons to serve
- Host a 250-person youth talent show
- Donate 250 flags to classrooms
- Display 250 crayons for freedom wall
- Offer 250 student merit badges
- Build 250 classroom kits
- Invite 250 homeschoolers to Legion event

NATIONAL SECURITY

Readiness, response, and safety

- Host 250 minutes of service challenge
- Organize 250 hours of community service
- Deliver 250 thank-you gifts to first responders
- Conduct 250 hours of VSO outreach
- Host 250-minute open house tours
- Display 250 military rank insignias
- Promote 250 veteran businesses
- Send 250 cards to deployed NM troops
- Offer 250 free rides to VA appointments

Post and District-level celebrations, fundraisers, and membership drives

- Host a 250-person BBQ
- Perform 250 random acts of kindness
- Serve 250 hot dogs at a picnic
- Display 250 Legion memories on a wall
- Create a 250-member goal
- Print 250 custom 250th t-shirts
- Give away 250 souvenir cups
- Host a 250-slice pie bake-off
- Sell 250 raffle tickets
- Host 250 minutes of karaoke
- Create a 250-themed bingo night
- Decorate with 250 red, white & blue balloons
- Make a 250-bead necklace craft night
- Host a 250-follower photo contest
- Create a 250-brick fundraiser for a memorial
- Install a 250-light display
- Display 250 flags along your building
- Organize a 250-minute dance
- Make a 250-word patriotic poem board
- Host a 250-minute movie marathon
- Give away 250 bracelets
- Have a 250-point trivia game
- Prepare 250 cupcakes
- Post 250 names of members on a wall
- Launch a 250-follower campaign
- Decorate with 250 streamers
- Host a 250-guest open house
- Display 250 Legion patches
- Create a 250-names legacy wall
- Host 250-minute dominoes tournament
- Serve 250 servings of chili or stew
- Sell 250 commemorative coins
- Paint a mural with 250 brush strokes per student
- Host a 250-dollar silent auction
- Award 250 service pins
- Collect 250 old Post newsletters
- Share 250 veteran quotes
- Decorate your post with 250 stars
- Set a goal for 250 volunteer hours

Preserving heritage and promoting The American Legion legacy

- Fundraise \$250
- Plan a 250-mile motorcycle tour
- Conduct 250-mile Freedom Ride
- Host a District 250 Night of Honor
- Send 250 letters to schools
- Print 250 commemorative calendars
- Compile 250 Legion essays in a booklet
- Print 250 memory books
- Host a 250-minute podcast
- Record 250 family military legacies
- Launch a 250-second history shorts
- Share 250-second videos from Posts
- Host a 250-light tribute event
- Create a Department of Maine 250 Honor Roll
- Sell 250 branded lapel pins
- Offer 250 legacy bricks
- Display 250 family service photos
- Make a 250-honor coin display
- Launch a "250 Strong" Legion campaign
- Partner for 250 business flags
- Hang 250 ribbons of remembrance
- Collect 250 letters from alumni
- Add 250 names to a memorial plaque
- Print 250 posters for statewide use
- Launch a 250 seconds of unity challenge
- Send 250 email tributes
- Issue 250th anniversary medals
- Design 250-badge scout patch
- Compile 250 Post newsletters
- Host a 250-mile American history tour
- Make a 250-Year Timeline Wall
- Conduct 250-minute strategic planning
- Distribute 250 "How to Join" kits
- Give out 250 "I Served" stickers
- Celebrate 250 Legion birthdays
- Hold a 250-minute livestream
- Send 250 thank-you texts to volunteers
- Create 250-minute legacy video
- Sponsor 250 wreaths for holidays
- Design 250 patches for riders
- Mail 250 invitations to alumni

*Ideas compiled by Department of New Mexico and
National American Legion

VETERAN HEATING OIL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Working Together to Keep Veterans Warm.

How does it work?

- Veterans apply for support
- The Cole Foundation covers the cost of 100 gallons of heating oil, per veteran, per season.
- Daigle Oil Company delivers the heating oil

Who is eligible?

Veterans who:

- Reside in Aroostook County
- Demonstrate financial need
- Provide proof of veteran status

How to apply

Visit us online to learn more and complete the application.

- Visit colemuseum.org/veteran-heating-assistance-program-arostook-county/

Scan Here!



***If you need assistance completing the application, please call the Maine Veterans Project at (207) 262-6061 or the Cole Museum at (207) 990-3600 #2**

Galen Cole Family Foundation

NO COST TO VETERANS - JUST THE WARMTH AND ASSISTANCE THEY NEED.

Serving Aroostook County Veterans
Supported by the following partnership:





IAM
UNION



LOCAL S6 VETERAN'S COMMITTEE ICE FISHING DERBY

COCHNEWAGON LAKE
MONMOUTH, ME

SATURDAY

JANUARY 31ST, 2026

5:00AM - 3:00PM

**Pre-register or register
day of event.**

**To pre-register, call Local
S6 Union Hall at:
207-442-2063**



ENTRY \$15

INCLUDES ENTRY INTO DOOR PRIZE DRAWING!

DERBY PRIZE CATEGORIES:

- Game Fish
- Non - Game Fish

PRIZES PER CATEGORY:

1st Place : \$100

2nd Place : \$50

3rd Place : \$25

**All proceeds go to Boothbay
Veterans Emergency
Temporary Shelters (V.E.T.S.)**





LOCAL S/6, INDUSTRIAL UNION of MARINE & SHIPBUILDING WORKERS OF AMERICA / I.A.M.A.W.

722 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530 207-443-5566 207-442-9750 (fax)



Hello, we are representatives from IAM Local S6 in Bath, Maine. We are a labor union that represents over 4200 Shipbuilders at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. We are seeking donations to assist with the acquisition of giveaway prizes at our upcoming Local S6 Veteran's Committee Ice Fishing Derby at Cochnewagon Lake in Monmouth, ME on January 31st, 2026.

This event was coordinated to benefit Boothbay V.E.T.S. (Veterans Emergency Temporary Shelters) who manufactures temporary housing structures for homeless veterans in the state Maine. Their invaluable contribution to our community ensures the safety of the men and women who served our country who need our help the most.

We are grateful for any contribution you may be willing to provide, whether it be a prize to raffle off or a monetary donation. We will hold prize drawings throughout the event, with donor's names announced as each prize is drawn. We also have multiple tiers of sponsorships for monetary donations:

Big Catch Sponsor - \$1000 +

Banner spot, promoted on social media, radio spot, two derby tickets, promotional booth space

Flag Sponsor - \$500

Banner spot, promoted on social media, two derby tickets

Hook Sponsor - \$250

Banner spot, promoted on social media

Bait Sponsor - \$100

Promoted on social media

A donation to our event could bring considerable name recognition to you or your business with our growing membership. Strong communities are built through collaboration and generosity. Whether you are able to donate or not, we hope to work with you in the future to support the people of our great state. Thank you for your time and have a great day.

Please don't hesitate to reach out.

LS6secretary@gmail.com

207-751-5935



LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

American Legion

You must have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and have an honorable discharge or be currently serving honorably. This includes all U.S. military members who have served during a qualifying period, such as World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, or current campaigns. The LEGION Act of 2019 expanded eligibility to include anyone who served since December 7, 1941, not just during designated war eras.

Eligible military branches:

- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Merchant Marine (eligible only from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- National Guard/Reserves (all basic training and occupational training schools were considered federal active-duty service)

Eligibility for membership is open to individuals who have served at least one day of federal active duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are still serving honorably.

Sons of The American Legion

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons *of members of The American Legion*, and such male descendants of veterans *who died in service* during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

American Legion Auxiliary

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- (1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
- (2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- (3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
- (4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion. *

* A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives (sister, mother, direct descendants) and/or spouse depends upon her membership in The American Legion.