



# THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



## DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected – Be Heard – Be Informed

### Upcoming District Meetings

**District 12 – Hancock:** Mar. 9, Blue Hill Post 85, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.  
**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Mar. 20, Brownville Jct. Post 92, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.

### District Meetings Cancelled

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Feb. 20 | Dexter Post 53

Welcome to the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Leadership Ledger. It includes Post, Dept. and Nat'l 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 [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.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 Department HQ via email at [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org).

## 90% MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

MARCH 9, 2021

Total Number Needed: 683

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MEET THIS GOAL!

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY!**

VISIT <http://www.mainelegion.org> OR VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)



## WHAT VETERANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING VACCINE FROM VA

As an influx of veterans seek the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, many want clarity on when and where they will be able to get their vaccines. Under a plan developed by VA in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and federal guidelines, VA is disseminating the vaccine through a phased plan.

According to VA, the phased plan will enable it “to do the most good for the most people” during this time.

Under the current plan, VA health-care personnel, veterans living in VA long-term care facilities and veterans who are at higher risk for serious complications or death due to COVID-19 are able to get their vaccines now. These high-risk veterans include those with chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, in-patient spinal cord injuries and disorders, and those with comorbidities. Additionally, family caregivers who are enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers are eligible for vaccination when the veteran they care for becomes eligible, according to VA.

For more information and to determine if you’re eligible to receive your COVID-19 vaccine from VA, [visit this web page](#). Additionally, veterans can find their local VA health facility and its current plan by [visiting this VA page](#).

Due to a larger percentage of high-risk patients within the VA health-care system compared to the general public, it may take longer for veterans not at an increased risk to receive their vaccine. In some instances, it may be faster for a veteran to receive a vaccine through their state rather than through VA. You can find information on [your state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan here](#).

“The American Legion has the utmost confidence in VA to balance the vaccine rollout, while prioritizing the most vulnerable veterans and health-care providers,” said Mario Marquez, director of The American Legion’s Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. “VA has assured us they will provide this balance with site-specific resources, needs, availability and local status of the pandemic.”

In order to be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through VA, a veteran must be enrolled in the VA health-care system. However, veterans attempting to enroll in VA health care for the first time who fall into category 8g, will not be eligible for the vaccine as they are also not currently eligible for VA health care. This is due to a VA change in policy from 2003 which removed 8g eligibility as these veterans do not have a service-connected disability and their income exceeds the allotted amount to qualify for VA coverage.

The American Legion supports 8g reintegration into VA health care. At the 2016 National Convention, the [National Executive Committee](#)

[approved Resolution No. 2](#) that called for the reinstatement by VA.

“The American Legion stands behind providing access to VA health care to veterans regardless of their economic status,” Jeff Steele, an associate in the National Legislative Division, told the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Dec. 2, 2020.

The American Legion is also on record in recent testimony, supporting legislation that calls for standing up a bipartisan commission on veterans health-care eligibility and benefits design.

As more vaccines become available, VA plans to offer free COVID-19 vaccines to all veterans receiving VA health care who want one. If you are a veteran who is not currently enrolled or receiving health care through VA, [visit this web page to apply](#).

For additional information, contact an American Legion service officer who is specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. To find a service officer near you [click here](#).

*The American Legion  
February 3, 2021*

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## DONATIONS

### Vet Aid

David Crosby, Cooper, ME

\$20

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why is the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) so important that every post should submit one?**

When the National Commander testifies before Congress, the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) data is used to provide numerical data of what the collective American Legion is doing. Leadership at all levels of the organization need to impress upon our posts that they need to report what they are accomplishing in their community. The CPR is important to the business of The American Legion.

The Federal Charter requires the National Organization to report to Congress on the activities of the corporation during the prior calendar year. The CPR is essential in collecting the data to compile this report to Congress.

Every post is most likely doing something in the community. It is important that the post leadership report what they are doing and at what level they are assisting. The post or department may fill out a CPR to just submit a report but the level of participation is what is essential. This is made easier by using the CPR form on [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org). It has the capability to keep a running total and save the data until the next event. The magnitude of our numbers from just 68% (which is yearly average at National level) of our posts reporting has a major impact on Congress.

A department headquarters may also report program accomplishments on the department HQ post's CPR. For instance, if the department sponsors four young men to Boy's State, or department staff members donate blood during a blood drive, those activities should also be reported on the departments HQ CPR.

## How can we get stories into *The American Legion Magazine*?

*The American Legion Magazine* is the nation's largest and best-read publication for veterans and their families. With a monthly readership of over 2 million, the magazine receives hundreds of submissions per month and can only publish a small fraction of them, balanced within an editorial calendar that addresses major issues facing our nation and the world. Submissions can be sent by e-mail to [magazine@legion.org](mailto:magazine@legion.org) or by mail to *American Legion Magazine*, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Submissions cannot be returned, so the Magazine strongly urges members not to send original photos or documents.

In order to provide local posts and members a forum to share their stories, The American Legion Media & Communications Division has developed and maintains the [Legiontown USA](http://LegiontownUSA) web site for members and posts to share their stories, photos and other materials. Many of those submissions are positioned on the Honor & Remembrance platform at [legion.org/honor](http://legion.org/honor) which appears online.

Often, a story and photo from a local post is best-suited in a local, district or department publication. In order to reach national print media, the story and/or photo must relate directly to a national issue, value, resolution or initiative. Those who submit articles are encouraged to include a query letter that expresses the

National issue, value, resolution or initiative that matches the submission.

## Are there any other *American Legion periodicals*?

The [American Legion Dispatch](http://American Legion Dispatch) is a national leadership publication that disseminates in print and by e-mail stories and information from posts that can be replicated across the country. Unique programs, membership initiatives, organizational articles and stories of community service are welcome in the Dispatch and can be submitted by e-mail at [dispatch@legion.org](mailto:dispatch@legion.org) or by contacting Editor Cameran Richardson at [crichardson@legion.org](mailto:crichardson@legion.org), or by mailing to American Legion Dispatch, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN, 46206.

There is also the Membership/Training newsletter created by the Internal Affairs and Membership Division. To subscribe to the newsletter please visit [legion.org/newsletters](http://legion.org/newsletters).

<https://www.legion.org/dispatch/faq>

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## PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

If you are a Past Post Commander of The American Legion, Department of Maine and have not yet paid your annual dues to the Past Commander Club in support of the James V. Day Scholarship, please do so as soon as possible.

Visit the Maine Legion website <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication.s.php> and click on the **Past Commanders Club (Fillable)** form under Membership/Post Forms & Manuals. Mail form along with \$2.00 per member to The American Legion, Past Commanders Club, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

It is because of you, and the members and officers of your Post that The American Legion, Department of Maine can authorized 2 students to receive a \$500 scholarship each year. Thank you for your support!

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## MILITARY TRIVIA:

Q. How many military dogs were sent to Vietnam & how many came back home?

*Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118*

## VETERAN'S EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEFAP)

Do you know of a veteran in your community in need of assistance? Someone who during these challenging times just needs a little help to keep them going? Maybe a veteran that is homeless? Or worst of all, a homeless veteran with children? If so, we want to remind you that The American Legion, Department of Maine can assist you to help these veterans during their difficult and troubling times. You can call us at 207-873-3229 Ext. 3 or visit our website: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/resources/va-resources.php>

We will contact you as soon as possible and we hope to enable you to help veterans in need.

## SBA VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM (VIRTUAL)



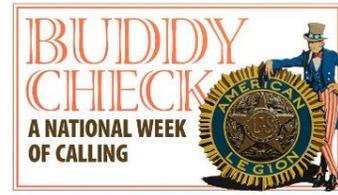
**When:** Weds., Feb. 24 & Thurs., Feb. 25  
8:30am-4:00pm

**Register:** Visit <https://sbavets.force.com/s/> and under the "Boots to Business Class Details/Schedule, please select "Online Portsmouth, NS, ME"

Boots to Business is a training program developed to assist Veterans, transitioning service members and their family members in starting their own business, or growing one that they already have. Any Veteran, spouse and/or dependent children over 18 are welcome to participate!

After completing the 2-day Boots to Business session, participants will have the tools and knowledge they need to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, connect with local small business resources, launch their small business or grow one they have already started. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Card at 207-751-7379 or email [william.card@sba.gov](mailto:william.card@sba.gov)

## BUDDY CHECK: WELLNESS CHECK-INS WITH VETERANS

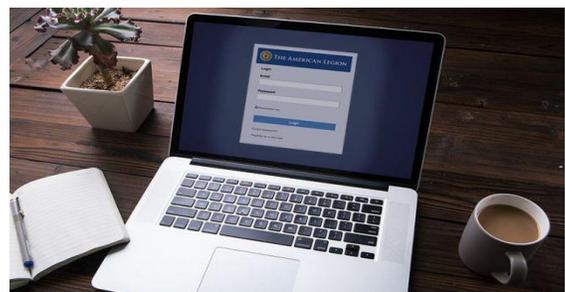


As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities.

The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

For more information, follow this link on how to organize a Buddy Check, Sample Scripts, and FAQ's.

<https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>.  
<https://www.legion.org/dispatch/faq>



## SINGLE WEB SIGN-ON IS HERE

Are you a registered user of national American Legion web resources, such as MyLegion.org, Baseball.legion.org, Legiontown.org or Legion.org? And are you tired of having to log in with your username and password each time you access the individual sites? Good news – a single sign-on is here!

To access the new single sign-on, you must re-register and set up a new password. And more importantly, confirm the response email.

You may have noticed that a new login screen became available Dec. 31 that requires you to re-register. Members and non-members will need to do this for a single sign-on and to continue accessing the valuable information and tools provided through the following American Legion web assets:

- MyLegion.org
- Legion.org
- Legiontown.org
- Centennial.legion.org
- Burnpit.us
- Baseball.legion.org

(Note: this requirement does not currently apply to registered users of the Emblem Sales website.)

This new single sign-on is Stage 1 of a multi-stage rollout that will allow The American Legion to provide a streamlined and better user experience within its web environment – and it begins with this initial step of re-registering. Thank you for taking this first step in a series of exciting American Legion web features that are to come on MyLegion.org and Legion.org.

**How to begin the re-registration process:**

1. Click the “Sign In” tab on any American Legion web property. You will be taken to the single sign-on site.
2. Click “Register as a new user.” Fill in the entire form using your best contact email address and member ID (if applicable). All information you provide is kept safe and secure.
3. Enter and confirm your new password of choice.
4. Click “Finish” to receive your confirmation email.
5. Click the link to confirm your new account in the confirmation email sent (check your junk email inbox). The provided email will be from [sso@legion.org](mailto:sso@legion.org).

**Your questions answered:**

**Q: Why am I told my account no longer exists?**

**A:** The new platform that The American Legion is moving to requires each user to have a unique email address as the username. This, in conjunction with a move from a vendor proprietary system, which required us to renew accounts for all American Legion web properties. Please note that all member information is still within MyLegion, securely and safely housed.

**Q: Should I fill out the entire profile?**

**A:** Yes you should. By filling out the entire profile, especially your member ID, continued access to member-only benefits is ensured.

**Q: What if I haven’t received the confirmation email after registering?**

**A:** Please attempt to log in. You will be taken to the Please Confirm page or click here to generate a new message for the email address used during registration. You may need to enter your email address manually if you go directly to the page.

**Q: What should I do if I confirmed my account but am still having trouble logging in?**

**A:** Please verify that your new password is correct.

Look for more updates as The American Legion National Headquarters improves the web-user’s experience in the months to come.

**IMPORTANT**

To complete the registration process you must confirm the response email sent from [sso@legion.org](mailto:sso@legion.org).

*The American Legion*  
<https://www.legion.org/dispatch>  
January 11, 2021



**CANADIAN  
FRIENDSHIP  
AWARD**



**N**omination forms must reach Department Headquarters by January 31. The Canadian Friendship Award shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran’s organization in Canada.

The award shall be given to individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans’ affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international goodwill and comradeship between The United States and Canada and between their veterans’ organization and The American Legion.

To submit nomination(s) for the Canadian Friendship Award please click here or visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication.s.php>. The nomination form and information is located under Award/Nomination Forms.

## INTERNATIONAL AMITY AWARD

The International Amity Award nominations must reach Department HQ by January 31. The International Amity award shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veterans organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as wartime allies of the United States of America.

The award shall be given to individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the development of international goodwill and comradeship between the United States, the ally and between their veterans organization and The American Legion.

To submit nomination(s) for the International Amity Award please click here or visit [http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication\\_s.php](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication_s.php)



## MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORTS

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on <https://www.legion.org/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 <https://www.legion.org/bythenumbers>

<https://www.legion.org/membership/impact>.

## MISSION BLUE POST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, Resolution #36, Subject: Mission Blue Post Assistance Program was approved. Posts impacted by a government's public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to \$1,000. Posts must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A post must have a current consolidated post report on file.
  - A post must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
  - A post must have filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the departments.
  - A post must have actively participated in one or more The American Legion(s) within the last 18 months.
  - A post must have a financial need.
  - A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American National Headquarters as an additional insured (copy of insurance declaration will be attached to application).
  - A post must provide documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated. The funds from this grant program shall be used exclusively for the following: Current and past due mortgage principal and interest or Current and past due real estate rents or Current and past due insurance premiums or Current and past due utilities.
- The American Legion posts receiving this grant are required to submit a true and accurate report outlining how the funds were used, signed by the post finance officer, and certified by the post commander or post adjutant within six-months of receipt of the grant funds or no later than February 22, 2022. Whichever comes first.

To access instructions and application [Click Here](#) or visit

[https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission\\_Blue\\_PAP\\_Application\\_1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf)

## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TAKE NOTICE!

**Maine American Legion  
welcomes all of you to be part  
of the Official 2021 Annual  
Convention Yearbook**

Showcase your Post, District, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter by sponsoring ad space in the 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook. Individual

donations are also welcomed and appreciated with all individual and business names listed in the “Business & Individual Donors” page of the yearbook.

To donate or sponsor ad space in the 2021 Convention Yearbook in support of Maine Veterans, please [click here](#) to download a copy of the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form and follow specifications & submission instructions. You may also visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the image of Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Request Form.

For questions or assistance in submitting your ad, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

Click on the image below or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and check out the **Digital Version** of the Maine American Legion 2020 Convention Yearbook!



the data you’ve spent so long creating and accumulating. The only way to prepare for the unexpected is to have a good backup strategy in place. There are many different ways to backup your computers, and using multiple forms of backup will minimize the risk of ever losing your valuable files.

### ***What is a Computer Backup?***

The simplest definition of a computer backup is an exact copy. In the case of computer files, we are referring to copies of the original files that you have on your laptop, desktop, or external drive. Creating a backup of original content means having that data saved in two places, but it’s also important to make sure that those two places aren’t on the same type of device. For example, if you have 3 copies of a working document on your computer, if your computer crashes, you will still lose all three. This makes the backup method and medium, an important thing to consider for your backup strategy!

### ***Can I Use Thumb Drives for Backup?***

Technically, yes. In most cases, a simple thumb drive (or flash drive) is the first way most people save their data. Thumb drives are easy to transport, work with most computers, and are relatively small. That makes them a great way to save small amounts of data like presentations or working documents. It’s also easy to give them to others, making them great for collaborative projects.

The downside to thumb drives is that they are usually very small and often are not very dense (meaning, they cannot store a lot of data). This makes them problematic for a few reasons. If your thumb drive is small it’s easy to lose. If you lose your thumb drive then you’re no longer backed up! Not having a lot of storage density is also problematic, as typically a thumb drive will not be able to hold all of the data that is on your computer. For all of those reasons thumb drives are not an ideal solution for backing up your computer.

### ***So How Should I Backup My Computer?***

If it sounds overwhelming and complicated, then you’re starting to understand the complexity of the problem. That’s the bad news. The good news is that there are a lot of options out there to help, and they aren’t very complicated at all, once you are a little familiar with them. Making backups is much easier and less expensive than trying to recover files from a broken hard drive. Not to mention if your hard drive has been lost, damaged, or stolen, backups are the only way that you can recover the data that was on them.



## **COMPUTER 101**

Computer 101 is a resource aiming to help those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today’s world. Increased proficiency with computers and the Internet has positive outcome across all fronts, both personally and professionally.

## **HOW TO BACKUP YOUR COMPUTER**

### ***Why you should backup your files***

In today’s fast-paced world, backing up your files is of the utmost importance. Typically music, movies, films, data files, projects, and photos are all stored in one place – your computer. Laptops and desktops have decreased in cost, and the amount of storage inside them has increased greatly over the last few years. Unfortunately having all of your data in only one place is dangerous.

Computer loss, theft, natural disaster, and accidental deletion, are just some of the ways that you can lose

So start backing up your computer today and save yourself a lot of hassle down the road. All hard drives will eventually fail; it's just a question of when and whether or not you'll be prepared.

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## Shop "AmazonSmile" & Give While You Shop!

Support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile. It's the same as shopping on Amazon with the extra bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases.

### How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.

2. In the search box, type American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

3. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). You must log in through the AmazonSmile portal each time you shop in order for our Foundation to receive the donation, so remember to add a bookmark to make it easier to return and start shopping on AmazonSmile.

The funds go directly to the "American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine!"

Please help us get the word out to your friends and family!

Shop "AmazonSmile" and make a difference Today!



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## MILITARY TRIVIA:

Over 5000 dogs were sent to Vietnam for service & not a single one came back home. In 2000, President Clinton signed an order that military dogs also receive the honors due other veterans & be brought home.



## DUE TO INCREASED CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAINE, DEPT. HQ RECOMMENDS CALLING OR EMAILING BEFORE VISITING

**E**ffectively Immediately! The American Legion, Department of Maine is urging all those planning to visit State HQ to call or email before visiting due to the recent spike in coronavirus cases around the state. An appointment will be made if the matter cannot be resolved over the phone or through email.

Office hours are Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm with some of our staff working remotely during the week and on Friday. Voicemail messages relating to Department, Post or District should be left by calling 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 and messages relating to Veterans Assistance should be left by calling 207-754-6044 or 207-660-9324. All emails should be sent to [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org).

If you are scheduled to visit HQ, please remember to bring your mask and follow social distancing guidelines upon entering.

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## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – INFORMATION- **F**or a complete listing of up-to-date information, cancellations and rescheduled events, please visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) or click the following link: [CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) – INFORMATION Including Cancellations & Rescheduled Events](#)