

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 85th 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 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.

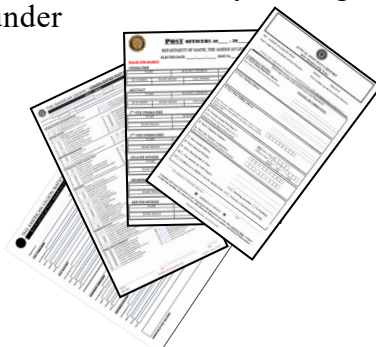
ATTENTION ADJUTANTS & COMMANDERS

Please be on the lookout for Forms that were mailed from Headquarters on March 1st, 2023. The forms include the following: Annual Post Data Report, Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form, Consolidated Post Report (CPR), and Post Officers Form. Please read the instructions carefully on all 4 forms and fill them out accordingly. Deadline requirements and submission information will be included.

Please note that the **Annual Post Data Report** will need to be filled out as soon as possible and mailed back to Department HQ no later than **April 15**. **THIS IS THE ONLY FORM NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE.** All other forms can be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org under

Forms/Applications, and the CPR is now available as well in mylegion.org.

For more information please call Department HQ 207-873-3229.



Thank you for your prompt reply!

LEGION FAMILY ATTENDS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Maine Legionnaires and Auxiliary members represented Department of Maine at The American Legion's Washington Conference, held annually in our nation's capital. The conference gives our organization's leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference.

Richard Flynn (Post 86), Matt Jabaut (Post 202), Andrew Goodridge (Post 28), Gene Connolly (Post 17), Veronica Gurney (Unit 51), and Joan Caron (Unit 135) professionally presented the following legislative priorities to the officials:

- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- VA Healthcare Modernization
- PACT Act Implementation and Oversight
- Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors
- Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity
- GI Bill for Honorable Service
- Support our Afghan Allies
- Concurrent Receipt
- Military Quality of Life
- Pay the Coast Guard
- Protect the American Flag

Though the conversation aimed at these priorities, there was much conversation concerning issues in Maine concerning Veteran Homes, state college tuition, veteran homelessness and affordable housing, tax exemption for disabled veterans, and more.

The Washington Conference culminated with National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola, being introduced by Senator Susan Collins to testify at a joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

Special thanks to the Legion Family for advocating for the veterans of Maine.





HONORING MAINE'S VETERANS

who served their country so that we may enjoy living in a free country!

The 2023 Honor Flight Schedule is:

April 28-30

May 26-28, September 22-24 & October 27-29

The flights return on Sunday morning to a Welcome Home ceremony. This is a great way for the veteran community to honor our fellow brothers and sisters, especially those who paved the way for us. Many organizations are represented at the Homecoming as well as hundreds from our community,

All American Legion members are encouraged to attend this heartwarming event and give our veterans the Welcome Home they deserve and, for many, will be their first.

Rendezvous Jetport 1200, April 30th

Free parking with shuttle buses from the State Office Building, 151 Jetport Blvd, Portland,

Your help is urgently needed to make their last hopes and dreams of finally visiting THEIR memorial a reality. Honor Flight Maine is a 501c3 non-profit organization. To donate, please go to our website (www.honorflightmaine.org) and click to donate, or you may mail a check to the address below.

Honor Flight Maine – PO Box 699
Brunswick, ME 04011
For more information, please call:
207.370.7210



EMAIL SCAM

ATTENTION LEGION MEMBERS

Once again, someone is trying to scam members using an e-mail address with State Cmdr. Kirk Thurston's name.

THIS IS A SCAM!

Kirk's e-mail address is: fuzzyt3@roadrunner.com

Please disregard and delete any other e-mail address with his name in it.

This is a scam!

Repeat: THIS IS A SCAM!!!

Kirk Thurston

Department of Maine Commander's Project



Operation Reboot Outdoors

Support the American Legion Commander's Project!

Please send and make all donations payable to:
American Legion Dept of Maine
5 Verti Drive - Winslow, Maine 04901.

Remember to earmark for Commanders Project O.R.O.

Operation ReBoot Outdoors invites you to join in their Mission to provide outdoor recreational therapy to Veterans, service members, and law enforcement personnel who struggle with trauma from war or traumatic events serving our nation and our communities. Operation ReBoot Outdoors shows these heroes they can find purpose after service through the outdoors as well as empowerment in camaraderie. We hope you will be the one to join our Mission to stop the high percentage of suicides that plague our families, community, and country.

We hope that you will *"Be the One"* to reach out to a veteran and to support Operation Reboot Outdoors!

The American Legion Family Department Testimonial



Saturday, May 20, 2023

**Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24
184 Congress St., Rumford, ME 04276**

**[Click here](#) for more information
or turn to page 11.**

MILITARY TRIVIA

Q. What is the only US ship to ever sink a Japanese submarine... with potatoes?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



TROIOLA TO CONGRESS: APPLY ‘PACT’ TO STOP SUICIDES

The American Legion

by John Raughter

MAR 1, 2023



Calling for Congress to apply the same urgency toward stopping veteran suicide as it did toward passage of the PACT Act last year, National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola laid out The American Legion’s legislative priorities before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs committees Wednesday morning.

After praising Congress for passing the landmark legislation which opened benefits to millions of veterans exposed to environmental toxins, Troiola reminded lawmakers about the words associated with the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act.

“‘Pact,’ ‘promise’ and ‘honor’ are terms we must also urgently apply to the epidemic of veteran suicide,” Troiola said. “The American Legion’s ‘Be the One’ initiative, which raises awareness nationally about the problem and seeks to destigmatize asking for help, is our organization’s highest priority today. To us, suicide prevention is a pact we share with our friends and comrades of military service, a promise from each of us in The American Legion to ‘Be the One’ to save at least one other veteran from suicide.”

Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., praised The American Legion for its work in stopping suicides. “Peer support programs encourage veterans to reach out and connect with one another proactively, which improves veterans mental health and reduce the risk of suicide,” she said. “The American Legion recognized the importance of these programs when it created the Buddy Check program in 2019.”

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, called on the Department of Defense to take a greater role in preventing suicide among transitioning veterans. “The Pentagon should put as much time, money and effort into the transition out as they do in the recruiting in...the data shows us that the first two or three years after separation are the danger period.”

Another priority that The American Legion has long advocated is the elimination of the disabled veterans tax, also known as concurrent receipt. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont, promised to reintroduce the Major Richard Star Act, which would eliminate the tax for more than 50,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries. Tester was also praised by King for his leadership in passing the PACT Act.

“The PACT Act would not have passed without Jon Tester,” King said of Tester, who serves as the chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Exorbitant legal fees charged in connection with the Camp LeJeune Justice Act drew a strong response from Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, who sponsored Legion-supported legislation to cap what lawyers can charge.

“You’ve got the trial lawyers of America who are working to rip off the veterans and families of sick Marines,” Sullivan said. “My bill is a choice between taking care of sick Marines and their families or enriching trial lawyers.” Sullivan called advertising by predatory law firms “disgusting.”

During his opening statement, Troiola pointed out that The American Legion provides assistance for such claims “free of charge.”

Women’s healthcare was also addressed at the hearing. “We do believe VA is moving forward, however more needs to be done,” said Autrey James, chairman of The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. “There are barriers to gender-specific high quality care (to) include not being identified as a veteran, not being recognized as a veteran by VA employees, lack of awareness and understanding of VA healthcare benefits and the perceptions that VA is an all-male healthcare system. We have to address that and the way to address that is through training. We have to make sure that VA is properly training those who come in contact with our women veterans to ensure that they are being treated with the same care and dignity as any other veteran who enters the system.”

Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., welcomed The American Legion’s large presence in the Capitol. “The men and women of The American Legion are the greatest advocates here in D.C. and across the country. You know better than anyone else that the veterans community has earned a system that works for them.”

MEMBERSHIP 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](https://www.legion.org/membership/impact). To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit:

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

INCOMING NATIONAL COMMANDER

FEB 13, 2023



Each year, the Department of Maine supports the incoming National Commander with a donation to their campaign seeking such position. Our own Tony Jordan, when seeking the position of National Commander received financial support from the various departments of The American Legion for his campaign and it is only appropriate that we do the same for anyone seeking that position.

As a part of the process of supporting the individuals seeking the National Commander position, we like to present the donations of individuals who have submitted donations in support of the campaign to the individual as soon as we possibly can after receipt. Sometimes we have presented the check to the individual at the Fall Meetings or the Spring Meetings or even at the National Convention.

Generally, individuals who have been selected to receive an official call into the Washington Conference are the first ones to donate to the campaign. We wish to present the donations as soon as we possibly can.

Please make the check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, and note in the "Memo" section "National Commander's Campaign".

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Woods, National Executive Committeeman
Anthony "Tony" Jordan. Past National Commander

Maine Legion College Class 2023



The Department of Maine invites you to take part in the Maine Legion College. The curriculum is spaced out over 3 separate weekends with Phase I scheduled for April 15th and 16th at Department of Maine headquarters.

Those interested in attending must complete American Legion Basic Training prior to April 15-16. Visit: <https://www.legion.org/alei>

For more information [CLICK HERE](#) or

e-mail Jason Hall: Jason@MaineLegion.org

JOB OPENING

AMERICAN LEGION ASSISTANT DEPT. SERVICE OFFICER

Part-time position, 28 hours (4-day work week)

Term of Office. [CLICK HERE](#) for a full job description and qualifications or go to:

http://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job_Description

Resumes can be sent to Department Headquarters, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, 04901

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

Post Service Officer Training

Date: March 25th, 2023

Time: 10 am to 2pm

**Location: American Legion HQ,
5 Verti Drive, Winslow**

Limited space, to enroll please

Email: jason@mainelegion.org



Let's Get The Word Out to Our Veterans!

In honor of the New Year, ask a Veteran to **JOIN** Maine American Legion!



Have them Scan the QR Code with the camera on their phone or visit: www.mainelegion.org

Print 2023 Membership Cards in MyLegion

American Legion post and squadron group leadership can print a current membership card for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

To start:

1. Go to your My Account page in www.mylegion.org.
2. Enter My Groups to access Group Profile.
3. Click on "View Members."
4. Search the member and click on their name from the list to view Member Profile.
5. Click "Membership Cards" and click on the link to view and print card image.

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

www.legion.org/renew



TECHNOLOGY 101

is 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 is good both personally and professionally.



How to Free Up RAM and Reduce RAM Usage on Your Windows PC

Let's look at the ways to reduce the amount of RAM you're using. You shouldn't need to do this often, but these methods come in handy when you notice a memory problem.

1. Restart Your PC
2. Check RAM Usage With Windows Tools
3. Uninstall or Disable Unneeded Software
4. Update Your Apps
5. Use Lighter Apps and Manage Running Programs
6. Scan for Malware
7. Adjust Virtual Memory in Windows
8. Try ReadyBoost to Add More RAM
9. Install More RAM

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.



Post Commanders & Adjutants

If you are currently processing your dues on MyLegion.org, you will no longer have to submit the 2-part card to HQ. All other Posts mailing dues to HQ will still have to submit the 2-part card along with \$31.00 per member.

Attention: Post Adjutants

The **Membership Target Date** to reach 90% is fast approaching and we still have a ways to go! Please **PROCESS** your membership at the Post level or **SUBMIT** to Department Headquarters before the March 15th 2023 target date arrives!!!

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Latest Membership Report!

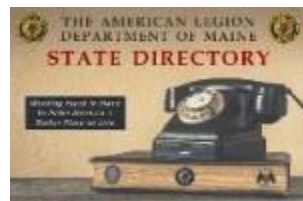
IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

- [3/3 Star Spangled Banner Day](#)
- [3/19 Iraqi Freedom Began \(Iraq War\)\(2003\)](#)
- [3/24 Kosovo Campaign Began \(1999\)](#)
- [3/25 National Medal of Honor Day](#)
- [3/29 Vietnam Veteran's Day](#)
- [3/31 Somalia Campaign Ended \(1995\)](#)

*Stay Connected with
Your Fellow Legionnaires!*



[Click here to see the Latest Post Events!](#)



[Click Here for the State Directory!](#)

FLAG REWARDS

Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!
[CLICK HERE](#) to shop now!



MILITARY TRIVIA

A. WWII, the [USS O'Bannon](#), built in Bath, Me.....was named for the legendary Marine Corps hero Presley O'Bannon, who famously led a ragtag group of Marines and mercenaries in a daring over-land expedition to surprise an enemy in North Africa. The World War II-era destroyer became a ship worthy of its namesake just a year after it was launched, surprising an enemy Japanese submarine – not with cunning or guile, [but with potatoes](#). [CLICK HERE](#) for the full story!

Show Your Support to Maine Veterans in the New Year & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History!



Donate \$100 or more & Receive a **FREE 2023 Yearbook & Centennial Coin!**
CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!

Deadline for Submission, May 6, 2023

Click the 2022 Yearbook above to check it out!

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 2023 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online at www.mainelegion.org. Donate \$100 or more and receive a FREE yearbook as well as one of our most popular centennial coins. Click the above link to donate today, or send a check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program." 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.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 7 for an application.



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.



Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

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



DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

District 3 – Androscoggin: March 12
Sabattus Post 135, 2PM

District 9 – Kennebec: Mar. 8
Gardiner Post 4, 7PM

District 13 – Penobscot: Mar. 5
Etna/Carmel Post 107, 2PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 18
Brownville Junction Post 92, 12 Noon Lunch w/
Business Meeting at 1PM

District 16 – So. Aroostook: March 12
Location TBD, Time: TBD

[Click Here](#) to view all District Meetings!

Warrant Templates - All Positions

Available on-line at: MaineLegion.org
 or go to: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph>

DONATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

National Commander's Campaign

Scott Paradis, Post 73..... \$100.00
 Lloyd Woods, Post 147..... \$200.00

Department of Maine Foundation

Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Post 54.....\$125.00
 Carleen Nickel..... \$100.00

Thank You!



**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

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

Post Adjutant

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**



This form may be filled out on-line at: www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php

***** Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club have increased to \$5.00/member *****

Wednesday - March 8th

WINDHAM VETERANS CENTER



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

FAIR

BE THE ONE

**-FIELD-ALLEN POST 148-
-Portland VETCENTER-**

JOIN US FROM 9 AM - 1 PM

**DOZENS OF VETERAN'S RELATED INFORMATION
TABLES:**

**Town of Windham Social Services Field-Allen Post 148/Unit 148
Veterans of Foreign War Post 10643 Operation Ray of Light
Martin's Point Vet 2 Vet VAST VA Mobile Vet Center
VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator Post 9/11 VETS
VA Interpersonal Violence Coordinator VA Whole Health Team
VA Caregiver Support Team VA Homeless Veteran Program
Honor Flight Maine Quilts of Valor VBA (Vet Benefits Administration)
VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Paws for Pets**

VETCENTER | Connection.
Camaraderie
Community.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

**Windham Vet Center-35 Veterans Memorial Drive, North Windham, Maine
(Behind Reny's North Windham) Info: 207 892-1306**

The American Legion Family Department Testimonial



Join us on Saturday, May 20, 2023 as we honor our 2022—2023 leaders.

The American Legion Department Commander Kirk Thurston

American Legion Auxiliary Department President Debra Rumery

Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Hustus

Location: Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24, 184 Congress St., Rumford, Maine

Post doors open at 2 p.m.

Time: 4 p.m. social; 5 p.m. dinner, followed by ceremony and possible entertainment

Menu: **Choice 1:** Maple, bacon wrapped pork loin **Choice 2:** Shrimp stuffed Haddock

Both include green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, roll and dessert. Either meal can be requested gluten-free.

Cost: \$25 per person

Mail reservations to: American Legion Post 24, Attn: Tricia Thurston, 184 Congress St., Rumford, ME 04276 by **May 5, 2023**. Make Checks payable to American Legion Post 24 and indicate on the check your meal choice when making reservation.

Local Hotels:

Best Western—(207) 507-4061

Blue Iris—(207) 364-4495

Hotel Rumford—(207) 364-3621