

# THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 111<sup>th</sup> 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](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 Dept. HQ via email at: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)

## 2024 AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

The Maine American Legion College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization. The coursework prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting The American Legion.

The curriculum is administered by graduate facilitators of the National American Legion College. It's designed for students to dedicate 3 weekends over the course of the year to learn about Legion history, leadership traits, putting good practice to use, and active participation in practice ceremonies and hands on exercises. Topics include public outreach, fundraising strategies, community relations, and a bonus is the network created with fellow students.

The course work makes students more valuable to their posts and departments, increasing effectiveness and productivity.

The 2024 dates are: Apr. 20-21, July 20-21 & Sept. 21-22  
Maine American Legion College takes place in the Training Center at Department Headquarters (5 Verti Drive, Winslow).

For more information, or to reserve your spot, email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org) today. See official flyer on P. 14.



## The American Legion Family Dirigo State Program

Colby College

4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville 04901  
Sunday, June 16, 2024 - Friday, June 21, 2024

Registration: Sunday, June 16 at noon  
Graduation: Friday, June 21 at 3:00 pm

Cost per student is \$400

2024 DIRIGO STATE APPLICATION PACKET- FILLABLE  
DIRIGO STATE POSTER

Completed forms (Dirigo State Application, Parental Consent, Medical Authorization, and Performing Arts if participating) should be mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine along with a check in the amount of \$400/student. Checks should be made payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mailed to The American Legion, Dept. of Maine Attn: Dirigo State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. FMI contact 873-3229 Ext. 1, or email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)

## ATTENTION COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS

This is a reminder to you all that the 2025 American Legion Membership Card and Registers cut-off date is **April 10, 2024**. It is imperative that you transmit your membership by this date to ensure that your members' 2025 membership cards correctly reflect their continuous years.

The Annual Post Data Report forms have been mailed. Please fill out the form accordingly, making sure your Post Dues rate reflects **\$41 or more**. Mail the form back to Dept. HQ as soon as possible but **no later than April 15th**, or e-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org).

## ANNUAL POST DATA REPORTS

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** from the following posts:

1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 40, 42, 43, 45, 47, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 61, 64, 65, 66, 73, 78, 81, 87, 90, 92, 94, 99, 108, 110, 112, 118, 123, 130, 132, 133, 134, 138, 141, 152, 153, 157, 159, 161, 163, 164, 171, 172, 176, 180, 186, 187, 188, 195, 200, 202, 205, 208 & 213

*Thank you for your prompt reply!*

## DEPTS AND POSTS HAVE RECRUITED AND RENEWED ABOUT 15,000 MORE MEMBERS THAN WE HAD AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

The American Legion  
MAR 14, 2024



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

If the trend continues, the 2024 membership year can be a special one for The American Legion. Departments and posts have recruited and renewed about 15,000 more members than we had at this time last year. While our direct mail efforts have been less successful, this only demonstrates the proven success of personal contact, even if it's by phone.

A larger American Legion benefits all Americans. This means more Legionnaires to engage in Buddy Checks, as we commit to "Be the One" to stop veteran suicide. It means more Legionnaires to operate great programs such as Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, oratorical contests and American Legion Baseball.

Trends can be deceiving, however. In the past, we have started the membership year strong only to lose momentum in the final stretch. "Wait till next year," has been the battle cry for many losing teams. I reject that mentality. There is no time like the present and our membership year runs through June 30.

"Rocky" fans of a certain age are familiar with the song "Eye of the Tiger." The chorus is meant to channel the passion and commitment it takes to win. Generations ago, it took Eye-of-the-Tiger dedication to make The American Legion the largest and greatest veterans organization in the country. We still are.

My predecessor set a goal to recruit 75,000 new members during the 2023 membership year. We surpassed that. The goal for 2024 is 78,000 new members and it is perfectly achievable.

Any Legionnaire who recruits two new members to our organization will receive a "Be the One" dog tag coin from me.

If you are not a current member, you can join simply by [clicking here](#). You can [renew just as easily here](#). If you want to beat inflationary dues increases, consider a [Paid Up for Life membership](#). You could also join more than 10,000 other Legionnaires and try our [new three year membership option](#).

As I said earlier, personal contact matters. Legionnaires who are welcomed by active and engaged posts in their communities are more likely to stay Legion. One of the highlights of my time in The American Legion was when my post, 157 in Horicon, Wis.,

was recognized for "100 percent" and "All Time High" membership awards during years that I served as its commander and adjutant. It was never about "me." It was always about "we."

As The American Legion observes its 105th birthday, I can think of no better manner of celebrating than to put our organization on the path for growth. With your help, I know that we can do just that.

Daniel J. Seehafer  
American Legion National Commander

## NATIONAL COMMANDER CAMPAIGN DONATIONS



January 13, 2024

Dear Legion Members,

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 support of the campaign to the individual as soon as we possibly can after receipt. Sometime we have presented the check to the individual at the Fall Meetings or the Spring Meetings or at our Department Convention. Generally, individuals who have been selected to receive an official call in to the Washington Conference are ones of the first to donate to the campaign. We wish to present the donations as soon as we possibly can.

Individuals who have been selected to receive an official call or are listed as members in the National Commission/Committee book are asked and encouraged to donate to support the campaign. Donations from posts are encouraged as well.

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 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Woods  
Nat'l Exec. Comm

Anthony "Tony" Jordan  
Past National Commander

*For God and Country*

## COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023-24

*Department Commander Al McKay  
asks that each Post and Legionnaire  
support his goal!*



The American Legion, Department of Maine has a long history with the Maine Veterans' Cemeteries across the State. A chapel that had stood at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta since the burial space at Togus was closed, fell into disrepair and was torn down years ago. The committal building that replaced it is heavily utilized and in need of some massive structural renovations. The committal building is an essential tool needed to conduct an interment Service for our fallen comrades. If you would like to support Commander McKay's project in renovating this necessary building, please mail checks to:

**The American Legion Department of Maine**  
Attn: Committal Building  
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit:

**[www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)**

and click on the Donate button.

Make sure to type: **"Commander's Project"**  
in the Note section.

**Thank You!!!**

### Show Your Support to Maine Veterans TODAY & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

**Donate \$100 or More and Receive  
Yearbook and Centennial Coin!**

**Deadline for Submission May 10, 2024**



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 2024 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

To donate with Debit/Credit Card, scan this QR code with your phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button to donate today. 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 info, please call HQ at 873-3229 Ext.2 or email: [rachel@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachel@mainelegion.org).



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**Squadron Forms/Applications**

**[Print a SAL Membership Application](#)**

**[Squadron Officers Form](#)**

**[Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable](#)**

**[Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable](#)**

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



**Volunteers  
Needed for 2024  
State Tournaments  
Mansfield Stadium  
Bangor, ME**

**Senior League State Championships, July 27 – 30/31**

**Junior League State Championships, August 3 – 6**

**Junior Regional Championships, August 9-11  
(CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)**



**The 100th Anniversary of  
American Legion Baseball**

The 100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball will be recognized during the 2025 season. Every Post in the state is invited to do something special and now is the time to brainstorm any ideas!

For more information contact American Legion  
State Adjutant Jason Hall at:

207-873-3229 | 207- 522-5471 or

via e-mail at [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)

***You're gonna lose some ballgames and you're  
gonna win some ballgames and that's about it.***

~ Sparky Anderson

## MILITARY TRIVIA

**Q. Why are soldiers called  
"dogfaces"?**

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield  
Mars Hill Post 118





# TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN THE U.S. MILITARY: AN ALL-VOLUNTARY SERVICE HISTORIC TIMELINE



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MAR 08, 2024

March is Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the remarkable contributions of women in the U.S. military. Throughout history, women have played pivotal roles in shaping the armed forces, breaking barriers, and championing gender equity. This blog explores women's journey in the U.S. military from the early 20th century to the present, focusing on their transition to voluntary service. Read the full article [HERE](#)

## Vietnam War: Women's Roles and Challenges

During the Vietnam War (1955-1975), women served in various roles, including nurses, intelligence officers and support personnel. The Vietnam War marked a significant shift in the role of women in the military, with more women serving in combat support roles than in previous conflicts. Despite facing challenges and discrimination, women in Vietnam made important contributions to the war effort.

Statistics show that approximately 11,000 military women served in Vietnam during the conflict. Among them were the first female general, Anna Mae Hays, and Capt. Mary Therese Klinker, a nurse who died in a plane crash while evacuating Vietnamese orphans.

## 1970s: Military Service Academies Open to Women

In the 1970s, another significant policy change occurred as women were admitted to U.S. military service academies like West Point and Annapolis. This step ensured that women received the same education and training as their male counterparts, setting the stage for future generations.

Nearly 4,000 women graduated from the service academies in the first decade of their admission. This milestone marked a significant step towards gender equality in the military and provided women with opportunities for leadership and advancement.

## 1970s: Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

While not specific to the military, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) aimed to eliminate discrimination based on sex. Its passage in Congress increased discussions about gender equality within the armed forces. The ERA sparked debates about the role of women in the military, and their rights and protections under the law.

## 1973: End of Draft and Transition to an All-Volunteer Force

With the end of the draft in 1973, the U.S. military transitioned to an all-volunteer force, including both men and women. Women were no longer limited to voluntary service and could choose military careers as a viable option. This change expanded opportunities for women in the military and led to increased recruitment efforts to attract female candidates.

## 1978: Women's Army Corps Disbanded

The Women's Army Corps was disbanded in 1978, integrating female soldiers into the regular Army. This move signaled a commitment to gender integration in the military and recognized the valuable contributions of women in uniform.

## Gulf War: Women's Expanded Roles and Combat Support

### The 1990s: Combat Aviation and Navy Ships Open to Women

The 1990s witnessed significant policy changes as women were allowed to fly combat missions and serve on Navy combat ships, breaking barriers in combat roles. Female pilots played vital roles during the Gulf War, and women served on Navy ships, expanding their contributions to the military.

During the Gulf War (1990-1991), over 40,000 women served in various roles, including combat support positions. Women pilots flew transport and refueling missions, while others served as medics, intelligence officers and in logistics roles. Their contributions were essential to the mission's success and demonstrated the expanding role of women in the military.

## 1993: Combat Exclusion Policy Revision

In 1993, the combat exclusion policy was revised to allow women to serve in more roles and units, although it still excluded them from direct ground combat positions. This revision expanded career opportunities for women in the military and recognized their capabilities and contributions.

## 1997: Women in Military Service for America Memorial

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial, established in 1997 at Arlington National Cemetery, stands as a tribute to women's service in the U.S. military. This monument recognizes and preserves the history of women's dedication to their country.

As of 2022, over 258,000 women have registered with the memorial, highlighting the significant contributions of women to the military throughout history. The monument serves as a reminder of the sacrifices and achievements of women in uniform and honors their legacy for future generations.

## Global War on Terrorism: Iraq and Afghanistan

Between 2001 and 2020, the United States was

engaged in two major military conflicts: the Iraq War, which began in 2003 with the invasion of Iraq by a coalition led by the U.S.; and the war in Afghanistan, which started in 2001 with the U.S. invasion to oust the Taliban regime following the 9/11 attacks. These conflicts were part of the broader Global War on Terrorism.

During this time, the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent War on Terror led to increased deployment of women in combat roles. In 2013, the Department of Defense lifted the ban on women serving in direct ground combat roles, marking a significant policy change. Women made important contributions during this period, serving in roles ranging from combat medics to intelligence officers and demonstrating their adaptability and courage in various capacities.

### Trailblazing Women Veterans

The history of women in the U.S. military is a testament to their courage, resilience, and dedication. From our nation's founding to today, women have played pivotal roles in shaping the armed forces, breaking barriers, and championing gender equity. As we celebrate Military Women's History Month, let us honor and remember the women who have served and continue to serve our country with distinction, shaping the future of the U.S. armed forces. Please celebrate with us and listen to the Tango Alpha Lima podcast's four-part special, "Trailblazing Women Veterans" as we dive into notable figures and key events covered in this article

### Mary McQuirk, USAF, ret.

Mary was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force (USAF) Nurses Corps in 1954 and reported to Vance Air Force Base (AFB) Hospital, Enid, OK. As a Charge Nurse of the operating room and central supply. In 1972 Mary attained a rank of Major in the Reserve, and served from 1974-1975 in NKP (Nakhon Phanom), Thailand, as Chief Nurse of a small hospital in the jungle. She returned to the States, was assigned to Pope AFB in North Carolina as Chief Nurse of the Air Force clinic, eventually retiring June 2, 1978. Mary was the first female who was recalled to active duty with two boys under 18 years of age. She broke the mold. [CLICK HERE](https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine/) to read her full story or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine/>



*"I am the veteran, not the wife"*

~ [Andrea Brett](#)

### Alola Morrison, USA Phyllis Page, USN



In 1980 President Jimmy Carter wrote a message to the nation, designating Mar. 2-8, as National Women's History Week (in 1987 it changed to a month). In that letter, he said:

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often, the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

Two female veterans, Alola Morrison and Phyllis Page, both of Windham, shared their achievements, courage and strength as each chose a life in the military while at the same time choosing a life of marriage and motherhood. [CLICK HERE](#) to read their full stories or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine/>

### Alice Zwicker, USA



Alice Zwicker was one of the unsung heroes of Maine. During her career in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, or as child in a small rural town in Maine, she accomplished numerous achievements. These included finishing nursing school, being a part of the army, and, most notably, being a POW for a three-year period during WWII. Although she may not be taught in textbooks, she is a very important part of our history. [CLICK HERE](#) to read her full story or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine/>

### Loretta Perfectus Walsh, USN

On March 21, 1917, Loretta P. Walsh was sworn in as a chief yeoman, becoming the first **female Chief Petty Officer** in the U.S. Navy. Four days earlier, Walsh had been the first woman to enlist in the Navy, having the distinction of being the first woman to serve in any of the U.S. armed forces other than a nursing assignment. Before Walsh enlisted, women served primarily in the medical field, but were civilian employees with few benefits. [CLICK HERE](#) to read her full story or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine/>



## VA SETS ALL-TIME RECORD FOR BENEFITS DELIVERED TO WOMEN VETERANS

The American Legion  
JAN 22, 2024



Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is delivering disability compensation benefits to a record number of women veterans. Right now, 702,557 women veterans are receiving disability compensation benefits from VA – an all-time record and an increase of 180,959 women veterans (or 26%) over five years ago.

The average woman veteran who receives disability compensation benefits from VA has a 68% combined disability rating, and they receive an average of \$26,809 in earned disability compensation benefits per year from VA. The average grant rate for women veterans is 89.2%, meaning that 89% of women veterans who have applied for disability benefits with VA have received benefits for at least one condition.

Women veterans are the fastest growing cohort at VA, and – in addition to delivering record levels of disability compensation benefits — VA is now serving more women veterans in its health-care system than ever before. The sharp increase in women veteran benefits in recent years is largely due to the PACT Act, which has empowered VA to expand health care and benefits to millions of veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving the country.

“Women veterans have fought in every war since the American Revolution, but they have not always been able to access the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserved. But now, at VA, we’re making sure that those days are over,” said Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tanya Bradsher, the first woman veteran deputy secretary of VA. “These record numbers demonstrate that we’ve made tremendous progress in recent years, but they are still just the beginning – we won’t rest until every woman veteran is coming to VA.”

In recognition of Women’s History Month, VA’s regional offices are hosting or participating in 139 outreach efforts specifically focused on women veterans. In addition to disability compensation benefits, VA’s concerted efforts to reach out to women veterans are helping them get education benefits and well-paying jobs: despite only making up 16.5 % of the veteran population, women Veterans received 27.5% of Post 9/11 education benefits and 26.4% of Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits in 2023.

Over the past two years, VA has also dramatically expanded health care for women veterans. Specifically, VA expanded breast cancer screenings and mammograms for veterans with potential toxic exposures; supported access to reproductive health services, including contraception, in vitro fertilization, abortion counseling and – in certain cases – abortion care for veterans and VA beneficiaries; and dramatically expanded one-on-one maternity care coordination for women veterans. Women veterans are also enrolling in VA health care at higher rates under the PACT Act, and VA recently hosted

its first Women Veterans Experience Action Center, helping more than 340 women veterans apply for the care and benefits they deserve. Additionally, as announced by the White House this week, VA and the Department of Defense are launching a new Women’s Health Research collaborative to explore opportunities to promote joint efforts to advance women’s health research and improve evidence-based care for veterans and servicemembers.

In every VA regional office, VA has Veteran Coordinators who function as the primary contact for women veterans. These coordinators are able to provide specific information and comprehensive assistance to women veterans, their dependents, and beneficiaries concerning VA benefits and related non-VA benefits. Each VA medical center nationwide also has a Women Veterans Program Manager, who helps coordinate all the services women veterans might need. Women veterans can also call, text, or chat online with the Women Veterans Call Center at 855-829-6636 to get help and find available resources and services in their area.

To learn more about VA disability benefits, visit VA’s benefits website. For more information on women’s health care at VA, visit <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>.

## BE THE ONE TRAINING - 2024

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### 2024 Training Dates

January 27 <sup>th</sup>	March 30 <sup>th</sup>	May 25 <sup>th</sup>
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>

### Training Location

Department of Maine Training Room  
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901.

For more details on the **Be The One** campaign  
visit: [betheone.org](https://betheone.org)

[American Legion Be the One Campaign](https://betheone.org)

To Reserve Your Spot Email:  
[jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)

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

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



# MyLegion Q&A

**MyLegion.org is a One-Stop-Shop for Managing Your American Legion Membership!**

## Some More General Questions

**I belong to a local post and renewed my membership online. When will I get my membership card?**

National Headquarters usually updates the records within 24 to 48 hours to reflect the dues payment. Your Department Headquarters is also notified and your post Adjutant receives notification through the post officer's version of the myLegion.org website. Your pre-printed annual membership card is at your post and it should be forwarded to you after they review the notification of your renewal. If you don't receive it in a timely manner, contact your post Adjutant for assistance.

**I received a membership invitation in the mail and it says I can also join online at a special website shown on the application. If I join online, will I still get my membership card and the free gift mentioned in the letter?**

Yes, you'll get your membership card and any free gifts mentioned in the letter, as long as you apply from that special website. You should receive your new member packet, including your membership card and free gift, approximately 4-6 weeks after you submit your application online. However, if you decide to mail your application, it would take about 4-6 weeks after we receive your application at National Headquarters. (Applies only to new members who join through National.)

### Contact us:

Customer Service: (800) 433-3318 | Fax: 317-860-3001

E-mail: [mylegion@legion.org](mailto:mylegion@legion.org)

The American Legion National Headquarters  
5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

## Print 2024 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](http://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.

*People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them.*

~ Jim Rohn

## 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](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>

## Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar  
Form now available online!

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



## QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



## Warrant Templates

All Post/District Officer Positions

Available on-line at: [MaineLegion.org](http://MaineLegion.org)

or go to:

<http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph>. *It's fast and easy!!!*

## ATTENTION COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS!

**B**y now you should have received all four **Annual Post Forms**. Please fill out these forms as per the directions (making sure your Post Dues rate reflects **\$41 or more**) and mail the forms back to Dept. HQ **as soon as possible**. The **Annual Post Data report**

should be mailed **no later than April 15th!** For more information please call Dept. HQ @ 873-3229



*Thank you!*



## MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO 2025 RENEWALS

The American Legion  
JAN 22, 2024



If you renewed for the 2024 American Legion membership year prior to the new multiyear membership rollout on Dec. 4, you can now take advantage of a three-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.

Visit [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) for the multiyear membership of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Legionnaires still needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can also lock-in a three-year membership (2024, 2025 and 2026) by visiting [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) or [legion.org/join](http://legion.org/join).

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website ([legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) and [legion.org/join](http://legion.org/join)). Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a three-year membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Please note that the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. For example, if a member renews today (before national per-capita \$5 dues increase come July 1, 2024), National will receive \$18.50 for the next three years. For example, if a department's per capita is currently \$10 and is going to be raised to \$15 on July 1, 2024, then the department will receive the \$10 for the next three years. Once the member renews after the three-year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.

A multiyear membership was approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during the organization's Spring Meetings last May. Resolution 1: Purchase of Multiple Years of Membership approves "a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate."

## DISTRICT MEETINGS

*Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed*

**APRIL 2024**

### **District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 9**

Gray Post 86, 5PM Annual Past President/Past Commander Dinner. District Officer elections

### **District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 17**

Rumford Post 24, 7:00PM, District 5 Installation

### **District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 10**

Richmond Post 132, 6:00PM

### **District 12 – Hancock: Apr. 11**

Blue Hill Post 85

Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

### **District 13 – Penobscot: Apr. 7**

Lincoln Post 77, 1PM

### **District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 20**

Dexter Post 53, 12 Noon Lunch w/Bus. Mtg. at 1PM

### **District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 7**

St. Francis Post 180 – 12PM

Noon meal, Meeting at 1pm, Officer Nominations

## DONATIONS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

#### Commanders Project

Tony Batchelor, Post 35.....\$100.00  
Michael Boyington, Post 84.....\$100.00

#### American Legion Baseball

Thomas "Doc" Clayton, Post 188.....\$100.00

#### Blind Camp

Gardiner Unit 4.....\$250.00  
Madawaska Post 147.....\$150.00  
Locke Mills Post 68.....\$100.00  
Corinna Post 73.....\$100.00  
Unity Post 50.....\$100.00  
Dexter Post 53.....\$100.00  
Skowhegan Post 16.....\$50.00  
Norway Post 82.....\$50.00

#### National Commander's Campaign

Kirk & Patricia Thurston, Rumford Post 24...\$200.00  
Scott Paradis, Corinna Post 73.....\$120.90  
Harold Goodridge, Farmington Post 28.....\$100.00  
Joseph T. Donahue, Brunswick Post 20.....\$50.00

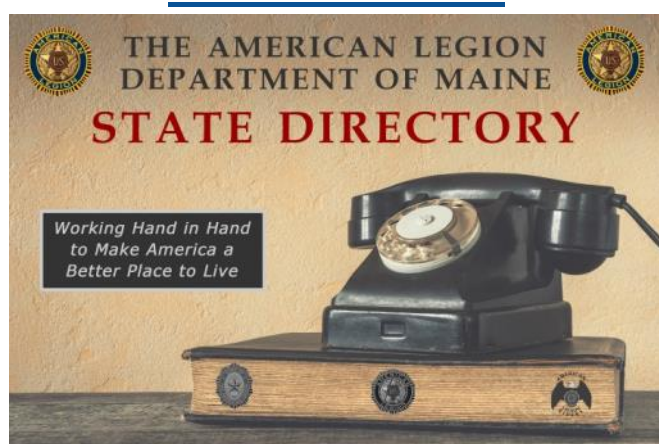
**Thank you!**



## Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



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



Call Dept. HQ at  
873-3229 or e-mail:  
[legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)  
to get the Password!!

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

.....

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!



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

## PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 12 for an application.



## FLAG REWARDS

### Tips & Suggestions

### Gravemarker Flags Count



Does your Post need stick flags to put out for Memorial Day? Stick flags *do* earn Flag Rewards credit for your Post!

### Congratulations!

Brunswick Post 20 has earned **over \$150 big credit** in 2024 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2025:

**American Legion Flag & Emblem**  
5745 Lee Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
(888) 453-4466  
[emblem@legion.org](mailto:emblem@legion.org)



## MILITARY TRIVIA

A. The term “dogface” to describe an American soldier appeared in print at least as early as 1935. Though its precise origin is uncertain, contemporaneous newspapers accounted for the nickname by explaining that soldiers “wear dog tags”, “sleep in pup tents”, and are always “growling about something” and “the army is a dog’s life”... and when they want us, they “whistle for us”.



## 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 et al is good both personally and professionally.



### **FTC just issued warning over this scam stealing thousands from Americans — how to stay safe.**

Government agencies rarely call you on the phone, which is why the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued a new warning regarding a scam that's been used to fleece unsuspecting Americans out of thousands of dollars.

As reported by [BleepingComputer](#), scammers have been impersonating the FTC over the phone for the last five years and while the median loss per call was \$3,000 in 2019, it's risen to \$7,000 per call in 2024.

For instance, last year the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) received more than 14,000 complaints that scammers were impersonating government employees. Combined, they led to losses of over \$394 million dollars representing a 63 percent increase compared to similar scams during the previous year.

Here's everything you need to know about these scam calls impersonating the FTC and other government agencies along with some tips on how you can avoid falling victim to one of these calls yourself.

**Adding legitimacy to scam calls.** Just like in [phishing emails](#), the person on the other end of a phone call could easily be impersonating a government employee. Likewise, in the same way that cybercriminals use spoofed email addresses, it's easy enough to make a phone call appear as if it's coming from a government-controlled phone line.

One of the reasons that these recent FTC scam calls have been so successful, though, is that scammers behind them have taken to impersonating actual agency personnel. This way, even if you look up their full name online during the call, you'll find the profile of a real government employee. This adds legitimacy to these scam calls and makes it easier for unsuspecting Americans to fall victim to them.

Once one of these scammers has managed to trick a victim into believing they are an actual FTC employee, they then coerce them into transferring or wiring money in a bid to protect it. In a [press release](#), the FTC points out that it will "never send consumers to a Bitcoin ATM, tell them to go buy gold bars, or demand they withdraw cash and take it to someone in person." The agency went a step further though and explained that it will also "never contact consumers to demand money, threaten to arrest or deport them, or promise a prize."

If someone who does claim to work for the FTC makes any of these demands or threats, you can easily rest assured that they are a scammer and not from the actual government agency, regardless of how convincing they may sound over the phone.

The first and most important thing to do when you have even a sneaking suspicion that you may be interacting with a scammer, either on the phone or online, is to keep a level head. Scammers and cybercriminals both like to try and [instill a sense of urgency](#) to get you to go along with their schemes.

If you keep your wits about you and don't let your emotions get the best of you, you'll be in a much better position to recognize that a scam is indeed a scam instead of falling for it. Regardless of what information a scammer presents you with, you need to remember that government agencies and their employees will rarely if ever contact you over the phone. With tax season coming up, this is important to keep in mind as [IRS scams](#) are likely already ramping up ahead of tax day.

When it comes to online scams, you want to avoid clicking on any links or downloading any attachments sent to you from unknown senders. This is because they could either take you to a phishing website designed to steal your personal information or they could contain [dangerous malware](#). You also need to be wary about messages from both friends and family that you haven't spoken to in a while as these can also be used for scams like with the [look who died scam](#) we reported on last year.

Another thing you want to look out for is scammers trying to gain access to your computer. This is a common tactic used in [tech support scams](#) where cybercriminals have you install remote access software and then use it to steal personal data, documents and other files from your computer.

Scammers have also started including phone numbers in their phishing emails with the hope that unsuspecting victims may call them back. You see this a lot with [unpaid invoice scams](#), for instance. Under no circumstance should you ever call a number included on an invoice or email for a product or service you didn't personally purchase.

Despite the best efforts of the FTC, FBI and other government agencies, scammers aren't going to stop anytime soon as they continue to make loads of money tricking people into falling for their schemes. This is why you need to be proactive while keeping a level head when dealing with any phone call, email, text or message from a person you don't know and even the ones you do. It could be a scammer on the other end looking to con you out of your hard-earned cash.

~ [Tom's Guide](#)

***Curiosity pulls people into the scam.***

~ Frank Stallone





## Vietnam-Era Veterans Breakfast

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, Augusta Civic Center

*Hosted by the Travis Mills Foundation*



Who: Vietnam-Era Veterans and one guest.

What: FREE full-service breakfast, program and ceremonies

When: 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Where: Augusta Civic Center, 78 Community Drive

*RSVP Below or Scan Code*



<https://give.classy.org/vietnamerveteransbreakfast>

US Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills is an ardent supporter of our Vietnam Era Veterans. SSG Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team are honored to hold this event as a way to say 'Thank You' and 'Welcome Home' to those who served during the Vietnam War.





## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Adjutant

#### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

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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](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php)

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

# **4th Annual Chapter 14 MEMORIAL RIDE**

**Saturday, JUNE 1, 2024**

Rain Date: 6/2/24

**This year we ride to honor fallen riders from  
Chapter 40 American Legion Riders**

- ♦ **Carl G Smith**
- ♦ **John G Brennan**

**\$20 Per Rider \$10/passenger**

**Registrations: 9:00am @Post 14– Fairfield**

**Safety Brief: 9:45**

**Kickstands UP: 10:00am**

- Prize chances at stops. ENTRY FEE GETS YOU IN THE FUN!! (must show wristband)
  - Fun will include: "Pick-a-Card", "Dice Roll", "The Lucky Band"
  - Additional "bands" will be available for purchase
- Ch.40 Legion Riders will have food available when we reach Post 40 in Winthrop
  - \$10 per plate
- 50/50 Raffle
- **PLEASE FUEL UP** before the Ride; length of ride is about 100 mi.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is a memorial ride with the intention to keep alive the memory of fallen Legion Rider's in our local area. Each Rider honored volunteered their time as Legion Riders to assist in raising money for local Veteran's efforts. We want to keep that volunteering spirit alive and use this annual ride event to honor them and donate to chosen charities that have a meaning for each of OUR fallen Riders individually.

**Ch14 currently donates in remembrance of: Stan Johnson and Dennis Day**

**All proceeds from this event will be used for donations to an organization in honor of each Ch14 fallen rider**



**Are you interested in starting your own business?**

**Please join us for an Online**

**Boots to Business**

**A Free, Two-Day Entrepreneurial Training for Veterans /Spouse**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:15 am – 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time**

**Online class to register for the training.**

**please use this link:**

<https://sba.my.site.com/>

When you get to this link, go to the calendar  
and select: **Online Portsmouth, NS, ME**

Offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Department of Defense.

Boots to Business is a two-step training program developed to introduce Veterans and transitioning service members to business ownership. This 2-day workshop helps ensure that every participant has access to a standardized entrepreneurship training track and the small business resources in their local communities. **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, and launch their small business. If you have any questions, please contact William Card at 207-622-8555 or email [william.card@sba.gov](mailto:william.card@sba.gov)