

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 94th 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: Post Adjutants

The Membership Target Date to reach 100% 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 July 26th 2023 target date arrives!!!

CLICK HERE for the Latest Membership Report

2023 Digital Convention Yearbook Now Available Online!



Lots of New Information Including Hyperlinked Business Ads to Websites, Photos, Legion Programs & More!

Check it Out Today!



104th National Convention
Charlotte, NC
August 25 - August 31, 2023



2023 National Convention Reservation/Registration/Banquet Form

For more information, please visit:
Convention Resources

Find a printable Registration Form on Page 12-13.
For any questions or concerns, please contact convention@legion.org.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

FALL CONFERENCE

Westbrook Community Center
426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092
September 23, 2023



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**Fall Conference Agenda & Meal Reservations Coming Soon**

Hotel: Fireside Inn & Suites, 81 Riverside St., Portland (207-774-5601)  
The hotel is just off Westbrook Exit 48.  
(The American Legion rate is \$175.00 per night).



- Francis E. Amoroso, Saco – Winslow Post 178..... \$1,500.00
- Craig Abbott, N. Waterboro – Limerick Post 55.. \$500.00
- Richard Eaton, Levant – Corinna Post 73..... \$300.00
- Rebecca Lloyd, Topsfield – Aux. Unit 178..... \$200.00

**Congratulations!**

## LEGION TO SENATE: DROP THE HOLD

By Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola,  
National Commander



JULY 12, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

When I visited Pearl Harbor last December, I had the honor of speaking with survivors of the infamous attack. The lesson that most Pearl Harbor veterans expressed to me over the years is that America must always be prepared.

Unfortunately, America’s readiness to defend its citizens is unnecessarily harmed due to the actions that are occurring in the U.S. Senate. Really inaction is a better word.

Since Monday, the U.S. Marine Corps has been without a confirmed commandant. It is the first time that the Marines have not had an authorized commandant in 164 years. In fact, 16 general officers in the U.S. Marine Corps have had their promotions put on hold due to a legislative maneuver by a single U.S. senator. The holds are not because they are unqualified but because the senator objects to totally unrelated policies that these officers had nothing to do with.

Other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will retire in the next two months, leaving vacancies in the highest military positions. The people aspiring to these billets will be in good company, as more than 260 general and flag officers so far in all our military branches have had their promotions put on hold because of this. The U.S. Air Force alone has 99 general officer promotions on hold.

This isn’t just impacting the top brass. It impacts the critical staff that generals and admirals will rely on to ensure operational readiness. Some families have sold homes as they await orders that have yet to be finalized. As any military parent with school-aged children will attest, summer is the optimum time to make a permanent change of station.

Quality of life issues are vital to the success of an all-volunteer force. The American Legion has always believed a strong U.S. military is what allows us “to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.” It is why a strong national defense is one of our organization’s founding pillars.

I mentioned my visit to Pearl Harbor. Last month, I visited another hallowed place, Normandy, France. As I saw the final resting place of thousands of freedom’s heroes, I couldn’t help but be grateful for not just their sacrifice but their success in saving

the world. Our victory in World War II might not have been assured without the steady and confident leadership of general and flag officers like Eisenhower, MacArthur, Patton, Bradley, Nimitz, Puller, Roosevelt and countless others. They were the right leaders at the right time. Thank God that no politician deprived us of their leadership when America needed these officers most.

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, National Commander

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## LEGION TESTIFYING THIS WEEK ON CLAIMS PROCESSING

The American Legion



JULY 11, 2023

The American Legion will be testifying this week before the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on a variety of bills that would improve health care and benefits for veterans.

Among bills that Joshua Hastings, a veterans benefits policy analyst in the Legion’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, will testify about is [H.R. 196, Expediting Temporary Ratings for Veterans Act](#).

The legislation would direct the VA Secretary to modify the department’s information technology systems to provide for the automatic processing of claims for certain temporary disability ratings. It would mandate the automatic processing of claims for temporary disability ratings no later than one year after the legislation’s enactment.

The issue stems from inefficiencies in the Veterans Benefits Administration’s processing of temporary disability ratings that have contributed to the backlog for more than a decade. In February 2013, the VA Inspector General reported inspections at VA Regional Offices “have continued to report systemic problems in VBA’s processing of temporary 100 percent disability ratings. We found inaccuracies in 66 percent of the cases we reviewed. These errors resulted in over \$15.5 million in overpayments and almost \$293,000 in underpayments.”

The hearing begins at 2 p.m. Wednesday. [Use this link](#) to view the hearing

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## BENEFITS CALCULATOR



By answering a few simple questions, we are able to help you determine your eligibility for hundreds of available benefits.

[\*\*GET STARTED\*\*](#)

## ATTENTION LEGION MEMBERS

Once again, someone is trying to scam members using e-mail addresses for State Commander Al McKay (commander51500@gmail.com) and James Lowell (legionnn136@gmail.com). There is one from Leroy McKenzie, Chairperson, as well.



**SCAM ALERT**

**THIS IS A SCAM!**

Al's e-mail address is: [boppam@yahoo.com](mailto:boppam@yahoo.com)

Jim's e-mail address is: [jameslowell22@gmail.com](mailto:jameslowell22@gmail.com)

Leroy's e-mail address is: [Leroy.Mckenzie2020@gmail.com](mailto:Leroy.Mckenzie2020@gmail.com)

Please disregard and delete any other e-mail address with their name one. *This is a scam!*

Repeat: **THIS IS A SCAM!!!**

## 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



## 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](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.

## POST/DISTRICT FORMS

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see which forms your post still needs to submit.

## QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

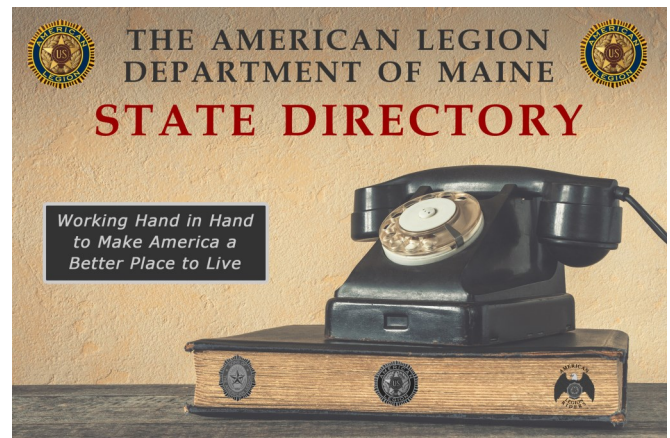
[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



## Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



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



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

Call Dept. HQ to get the Password!!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!

The State Directory has been posted on the Department Website however it is now password-protected. Please call Dept. HQ at: 873-3229 to get the password or if you have any questions or concerns.



## MILITARY TRIVIA

**Q.** What was the only time that Mexico aligned with the US, in a military action, and even sent a unit to fight with the US Army Air Forces?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield,  
Mars Hill Post 118

## 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.



### SUMMER VACATION COMPUTER JOKES SURE TO MAKE YOU GROAN

- ◆ Where did the computer go? I don't know, he ransomware.
- ◆ What does a computer programmer wear? Whatever is in the dress code.
- ◆ Why did the Wi-Fi and the computer get married? Because they had a connection.
- ◆ What you call it when computer programmers make fun of each other? Cyber boolean.
- ◆ What did one computer say to the other after a 12 hour car ride? Darn, that was a hard drive.
- ◆ How do trees get on a computer? They just log in.
- ◆ Which way did the programmer go? He went data way.
- ◆ What kind of dogs do programmers have? Computer Labs.
- ◆ Why can't elephants use computers? Because they're scared of the mouse.
- ◆ What's it called when it takes you a while to find RAM for your computer? Short-term memory loss.
- ◆ Why do programmers like dark mode? Because light attracts bugs.
- ◆ What do computers do on a beach vacation? Surf the net.
- ◆ What's an astronaut's favorite part of a computer? The space bar.
- ◆ Why did the computer spy get fired? She couldn't hack it.
- ◆ Why did the computer programmer's girlfriend leave him? He had problems committing.
- ◆ Why do programmers wear glasses? Because they can't C#.
- ◆ How do lumberjacks shut down their computers? They log off.
- ◆ How does a computer learn something new? Bit by bit.
- ◆ Do you know the band 1023 megabytes? They haven't had a gig yet.
- ◆ Why did the PowerPoint presentation cross the road? To get to the other slide.

## 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>

## PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 10 for an application.

## 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 SAL Membership Report](#)



## Attention: Commanders, Post Adjutants & Americanism Officers

The 2024 Oratorical Assigned Topics have been posted on Mylegion.org. Scroll to the bottom of the home page under Oratorical look for the Assigned Topics. This will be great information to give out to the schools and any possible candidate. Be proactive with this information.

Maureen Malley  
Oratorical Chair, 207-557-3109



## 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.*

### 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!!!*



There's a NEW weblink for Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association: <https://mevetscemetery.org/>

### MILITARY TRIVIA

**A.** During WWII, in 1942, Mexican oil tankers were being routinely sunk by German U-boats off the Florida coast, so they declared war on the Axis and formed a fighter pilot unit identified as Escuadron 201, which served under Gen. MacArthur in the Pacific. It was the only time in Mexican history that their military sent servicemen to serve on Foreign soil & the airmen acquired the nickname "**Aztec Eagles**".



Mexican air force Capt. Radames Gaxiola Andrade stands in front of his P-47D with his maintenance team after he returned from a combat mission. Captain Andrade was assigned to the Mexican air force's Escuadron 201. (US Air Force)

# BE THE ONE



## DONATIONS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

**2023-24 Commanders Project – McKay  
Maine Veterans Cemetery**

Debra Couture, Post 181..... \$500.00

#### Flag Fund

ALF Chapter 147, Madawaska..... \$200.00

### THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE FOUNDATION

Enterprise Holdings Foundation (Grant) \$2,000.00

*Thank you!!!*

- Don't just learn, experience.*
- Don't just read, absorb.*
- Don't just change, transform.*
- Don't just relate, advocate.*
- Don't just promise, prove.*
- Don't just criticize, encourage.*
- Don't just think, ponder.*
- Don't just take, give.*
- Don't just see, feel.*
- Don't just dream, do.*
- Don't just hear, listen.*
- Don't just talk, act.*
- Don't just tell, show.*
- Don't just exist, live.*

~ Roy T. Bennett, [The Light in the Heart](#)

# POST-STIX.COM

## American Legion Beef Stix!!!



“Great delivery!  
Members are  
checking out the  
flavors and letting  
us know which  
ones they would  
like to have on  
hand. Most agree  
that the flavors  
are great and that  
there is something  
for everyone's  
taste buds.”

Find Us On  
[FaceBook](#)

See who else is  
buying American  
Legion Branded  
Snack Stix from  
Post-Stix

## American Legion Beef Stix!!!

We have 4 flavors of Stix each representing a different branch of the American Legion Family. We are currently retailed in over 300 locations in 40 states.

Great for bar sales or fundraising. **FREE** shipping on full case (100 sticks/\$100) orders, shipped to your Legion Post or home. Most posts sell them for \$1.50-\$2.00 each making them \$50-\$100 per case. Orders are placed online with a credit card.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.  
Also feel free to call or email us.

- Pete & Matt

**Post-Stix**  
117 W Jackson St  
Morton, IL 61550  
[sales@post-stix.com](mailto:sales@post-stix.com)  
[www.post-stix.com](http://www.post-stix.com)



**The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of  
Maine invites you to join us at the**

**2022—2023 Homecoming for**

**Eastern Division National Vice President**

**Veronica Gurney**

**Join us on Saturday, July 15, 2023**

**Location:** Fitzgerald-Cummings American Legion Post 2, 7 Legion Drive, Augusta, Maine

**Time:** 2 p.m. social with cash bar; 3 p.m. dinner, with program to follow. Entertainment will follow the program.

**Menu:** Appetizers

**Entrees:** Maine lobster (OR) Half barbeque chicken

Both entrees will be accompanied by fresh Maine clams, corn on the cob, potato salad, cole slaw, tossed salad and rolls. (Both meals are gluten free.) Dessert will be Maine blueberry or strawberry cobbler. A gluten free option will be offered of ice cream topped with berries.



**Cost:** \$45 per person

**Mail reservations to:** Joyce Thurlow, 1 Meadowrue Rd., Augusta, ME 04330 by **July 1, 2023**. Make Checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 and indicate your meal choice of lobster or chicken when making reservation. Also indicate if gluten free dessert is required.

Post 2 will also be open on Friday evening, July 14th, with entertainment as well.

**Local Hotels:**

Maine Evergreen Hotel, 65 Whitten Rd., Augusta, Maine (207) 622-3776

Senator Inn and Spa, 284 Western Ave., Augusta, Maine (207) 622-5804

Best Western Inn, 110 Community Dr., Augusta, Maine (207) 622-4751

Comfort Inn, 281 Civic Center Dr., Augusta, Maine (207) 261-5014



# AMERICAN LEGION

2023

104th NATIONAL CONVENTION

CHARLOTTE, NC

AUGUST 25 – AUGUST 31, 2023

**HOUSING:** The Department of Maine’s hotel will be **The Westin Charlotte**, 601 South College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. The hotel room rate is \$159.00, plus a tax rate of 15.25% per room/night (subject to change) for one King bed or two Double beds; Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20.00 (Triple/Quad); Rollaway Rate per Day – \$15.00; Parking Rate per Day – \$20.00 Self / \$30.00 Valet.

***104<sup>th</sup> National Convention Location: Charlotte, NC***

Find it on the map by visiting <https://www.legion.org/convention/resources>

**FLIGHTS:** Everyone is responsible for their own flight reservations.

**REGISTRATION: The Westin Charlotte – Harris Room**

Friday, August 25 from 10 am -12 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm

**DEPARTMENT CAUCUS INFORMATION: The Westin Charlotte – Harris Room**

Saturday, August 26 from 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Sunday, August 27 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**NATIONAL CONVENTION SHIRTS: AUXILIARY**

**CONVENTION INFORMATION: For Convention resources and information, please visit [www.legion.org/convention/resources](http://www.legion.org/convention/resources)**

Download the National Convention Mobile App with the most up-to-date schedule, floor agenda, and more: [www.legion.org/mobileapps](http://www.legion.org/mobileapps)



**2023 National Convention Reservation/Registration/Banquet Form**

Charlotte, NC – August 25 – August 31, 2023

The Westin Charlotte, 601 South College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

**The American Legion, Department of Maine**

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

I will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ and depart on \_\_\_\_\_

I will require a room for \_\_\_\_\_ people – 1 King \_\_\_\_\_ or 2 Doubles \_\_\_\_\_ \$159.00 plus tax rate of 15.25% per room/night (subject to change); Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20.00 (Triple/Quad); Rollaway Rate per Day – \$15.00; Parking Rate per Day – \$20.00 Self / \$30.00 Valet

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card Number for one night's room deposit: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed please find the following registration fee(s) payable to The American Legion:**

American Legion Delegates, Alternates, or guests (\$35 each): \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to the National Commander's Dinner at \$60 each,

Check enclosed in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, made **payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine.**

**ALL INFORMATION & PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY THE JULY 21 DEADLINE.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_



**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ submit the names of all our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of **\$5.00** per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

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

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

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