The American Legion, Department of Maine 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 <u>www.mainelegion.org</u> | <u>legionme@mainelegion.org</u> | 207-873-3229 https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine

Volume 4 Issue 19 September 21, 2023

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 99th 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

FALL CONFERENCE

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

🏹 Attn: Legion Members 🛩

The Department Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Westbrook Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 23 at approx. 3:00 pm

Auxiliary DEC will be held on Sunday as noted on the form (See page 7)

Fall Conference Agenda (see page 11) **Fall Conference Meal & Hotel Reservations**

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

ATTENTION ALL POSTS! Employee Retention Credit (ERC)

If you haven't yet applied for **ERC**, the deadline is <u>April 2024</u> to get a refund. In order to apply, your Post must have one or more W2 employees during the years 2020 and 2021. Ron Witham is an independent consultant and he will help file your claim. He has helped over 90 entities, including American Legions, for a total of nearly \$13 million to date. He can be reached by phone at: 207-314-2767. His e-mail is: <u>rwitham.mps@gmail.com</u>.



The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

> Thomas College 180 West River Rd. Waterville, Maine 04901

February 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

All contestants should plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m. (Snow Date: February 17, 2024)

Maine HS Oratorical Scholarship Application

Department of Maine Oratorical Brochure 2024 Oratorical Rules Brochure

Oratorical Promotional Brochure - National

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help with the program (judges, tabulators room monitors, etc.). Those who are interested, please call Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229

elp Support the Maine American Legio Oratorical Scholarship Program by Donating Today!

To Donate By Debit or Credit Card: Visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the DONATE button, or simply scan the QR Code with your phone. Select the Oratorical Contest listed under the "Use This Donation For" dropdown menu and select Donate with Debit or Credit Card.



By Check: Please make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked "Oratorical Program". Mail to:

The American Legion, Department of Maine 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

Thank you in advance for your support!

SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT VETERANS



SEP 20, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Every day, a group of 45,000 honorable servicemembers risk their lives to keep America safe. Their patriotism, selfless service and love for our country is no different than ours.

However, too often they find their path to U.S. citizenship a complicated, bureaucratic maze filled with uncertainty. And instead of becoming American citizens through their military service, these veterans are denied that opportunity and left to find a new home-land, or risk their life to return to their native country.

The American Legion supports H.R. 4569, the Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2023, which honors the sacrifices of our immigrant servicemembers by giving them enhanced opportunities to become U.S. citizens and preventing their unjust deportation from the country they swore an oath to defend.

Reps. Mark Takano, D-Calif., and Maria Elvira Salazar, R-Fla., are co-sponsoring the bipartisan legislation. In a letter I sent to them, I wrote, "Men and women who served honorably should not face undue barriers to citizenship or face deportation from the country they served or fought to defend. Congress must act to ensure our nation honors the service of non-citizen immigrants who have honorably served our nation."

As veterans, we owe it to our brothers and sisters who are caught in this quagmire. While our birthplaces may be different, our love of country is the same.

Join The American Legion in calling for Congress to streamline the process for immigrant veterans to more easily obtain their citizenship which they earned through their service to our country. <u>Sign up</u> <u>for our Grassroots Action Center</u> so you can easily contact your representative and encourage them to support this legislation.

Thank you for your support and your continued service to making this nation the greatest one on earth.

~ National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer

"Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom." ~ Bob Dylan

COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023

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. In 1960, The American Legion learned of a plan for joint State-Federal cemeteries, by State Convention in 1962 (in Old Orchard Beach), a resolution was passed attested by Department Adjutant Nathaniel Cobb. The resolution was to establish a Legion committee at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta since the burial space at Togus was closed. The Committee was tasked with finding land, deciding on building designs, placing flag poles, deciding on marker types, and working on getting legislation passed to support this massive project.

Fast forward to 2023 - A chapel that had stood at the well-established cemetery 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.

Commander McKay states "This is a very muchneeded building to provide a dignified space for our veterans, their spouses, and their families. The building renovations will allow protection from the elements year-round and ensure The American Legion, continuing with their Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery history, remains a frontrunner in honoring all veterans who enter Post Everlasting".

If you would like to support Commander McKay's project in renovating this necessary building, 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

and click on the Donate button.



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

Thank you!

NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL J. SEEHAFER'S INCENTIVE PROGRAMS



100% AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by the 2024 100% membership target date. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and/or any combination of an Auxiliary unit or Sons squadron. Each must achieve 100% membership to qualify for the award. The department adjutant will transmit information to:

The American Legion National Headquarters Attn: Internal Affairs & Membership P.O. Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Download the American Legion Family Ribbon form.

103 PERCENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will award his "Be the One" dog tag to any post commander, district commander, county commander, division commander, department commander or membership chairman who achieves 103% of their assigned membership goal for 2024.

Download the 103 percent membership award form.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S PIN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer will award his national commander "Be the One" dog tag to any Legionnaire who obtains two new members into The American Legion. One to replace you and one for growth.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2024 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2023 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. New Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members do not count toward this incentive. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Download the National Commander Incentive Pin form.

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE AIRFORCE

The American Legion SEP 12, 2023

Sept. 18 is the birthday of the Air Force. Now the second-youngest of the service branches, the Air Force was officially founded as an independent service in 1947, although



Capt. Andrew "Dojo" Olson, F-35 Heritage Flight Team pilot and commander, performs a high-speed pass during the Canadian International Air Show in Toronto on Sept. 1, 2018. (Airman 1st Class Alexander Cook/U.S. Air Force photo)

the U.S. military deployed aerial components even back in World War I. Here are some things you might not know about the Air Force:

1. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has maintained a tradition since 1955 of "tracking Santa" as he travels around the world on Christmas Eve. Today, you can download apps to follow along on your smartphone. (via We Are The Mighty)

2. The Air Force shares its birthday with the CIA; the National Security Act of Sept. 18, 1947, created both entities. (via We Are The Mighty)

3. That same year, Capt. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 rocket-powered aircraft. (via We Are The Mighty)

4. Celebrities who served in the Air Force include Jimmy Stewart, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, Chuck Norris and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry. (via We Are The Mighty)

5. "Air Force One" isn't a plane, but the radio call name for any Air Force plane carrying the president of the United States. (via We Are The Mighty)

6. Two U.S. presidents – Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush – served as airmen. Reagan's time was before 1947, when the branch was still the Army Air Forces. (via USO)

7. The Air Force was the first service branch to create a provisional Cyber Command, in 2006. Today USCYBERCOM is a unified DoD command.

8. The Air Force's official song is titled, fittingly, "The U.S. Air Force," and includes the familiar line, "Off we go into the wild blue yonder." (via Grantham.edu)

9. The Air Force's colors are ultramarine blue and yellow – blue for the sky, and yellow for the sun and the excellence required of personnel. (via Grantham.edu)

10. Only 4 percent of all Air Force personnel are pilots. (via howstuffworks)

MILITARY TRIVIA

Q. Within Arlington National Cemetery there is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier plus three crypts to the Eastern end. Which crypt is empty & why?

~ 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.



LAPTOP VS DESKTOP: WHICH SHOULD YOU BUY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL 2023?

The debate between laptops and desktops has been going on since laptops were first created and massproduced, with plenty of positives and drawbacks from each side. There are plenty of families trying to sort through all this information, to make the best decision for the students among them based on their own needs and preferences.

Differences Between Laptops and Desktops

The argument for a laptop

A tower desktop is hardly portable.

A desktop PC is a static, stationary computer that will stay on a desk in an office or bedroom. It usually consists of various parts: a tower, a monitor, a keyboard, and a mouse. PCs are generally more customizable than laptops as well. You can put together top-of-the-line parts for every aspect of the PC when you choose a desktop computer, and upgrade those components as they become outdated. This means that they last much longer than a laptop.

A laptop (also called a notebook) is a portable, all-in -one device that usually has USB inputs on the sides for optional peripherals. Laptops have a built-in screen, a built-in keyboard, a trackpad that acts as a mouse, and can vary in size. Laptops are generally limited by their size but many modern batteries are big enough to provide 12 or more hours of power before needing to recharge. However, unlike desktops, laptops are either very limited or impossible to upgrade, meaning that they last for a much shorter period of time than a desktop.

A laptop is the best option for students who are going to school outside of the home every day and need a computer for classes. While laptops are more delicate than desktop PCs, you can now find rugged laptops that will take a fall or two without being destroyed. And unlike a desktop, a laptop can be used right out of the box with minimum setup.

Laptops are best used for productivity work like reading, word processing, streaming videos, or using social media. If you or your child wants to have the freedom to roam while using a computer, a fully charged laptop should last an entire day for working or learning.

Not to mention that some of the best laptops for students and best laptops for kids are Chromebooks, which solve the expense issue that laptops tend to suffer under. The OS is simple to use for both young students and parents, and there's an extremely low risk of a Chromebook being infected with malware or having glaring security issues.

The argument for a desktop

If you want a computer with a lot of versatility, a desktop PC is for you. Desktops can store huge files and gaming ones can run the best PC games at high settings. Desktops can also be changed to fit your needs.

You can add more storage, RAM, and a better graphics card to improve your computing experience. Desktop PCs also do not run on a battery, so you can use them for longer without stopping to plug in and recharge. But you can't easily transport a desktop computer around and schools don't allow for a desktop to be set up at your desk.

Desktop PCs are great for a home-schooled or distancing-learning scenario. A desktop computer can be used during the school day for learning and word processing, and during off-hours for gaming and entertainment.

There are also all-in-one PCs, which are stylish devices where their components are built behind the screen. This means they are easier to move and set up, as you don't need to connect as many wires, and they take up less space on the desk as well. However, they are also more expensive, and not as easy to upgrade as normal desktop PCs.

What's the best choice?

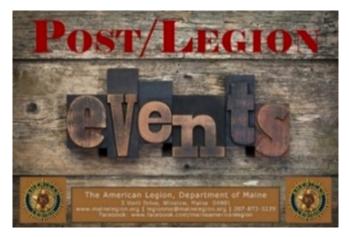
If a desktop PC and a laptop have the same specifications, the general rule is the laptop will be more expensive. Top-of-the-line laptops generally have higher price points than desktop PCs and they also have all of the limitations listed above. High-end laptops are still a great investment because they can be used for gaming and streaming in addition to schoolwork.

A top-of-the-line desktop can be used more often by a distance-learning student, with a lower up-front cost for parents. Eventually, upgrading the PC can be a time-consuming and expensive process, but the initial out-of-pocket costs don't have to be sky-high.

It really boils down to the student's specific needs, as well as the overall buyer's budget. If portability isn't necessary then it's best to invest in a PC



Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



Click here to see the Latest Post Events



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 or e-mail <u>legionme@mainelegion.org</u> to get



the password, or if you have any questions or concerns.

Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions Available <u>on-line</u> at: <u>MaineLegion.org</u>

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Squadron Forms/Applications <u>Print a SAL Membership Application</u> <u>Squadron Officers Form</u> <u>Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable</u> Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable

<u>2023 Digital Convention</u> Yearbook Now Available Online!

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

Check it Out Today!



PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 9 for an application.

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. The Tomb is the final resting place for the World War I Unknown Soldier, and the three other crypts were intended to contain the remains of Unknown Soldiers representing World War II and the Korean War with the 3rd crypt for an unknown soldier from the Vietnam War. However, the remains that were placed within the last crypt were identified & the body of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Blassie was exhumed & returned to his family, leaving the Vietnam crypt empty.



Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

<u>Click Here</u> or visit: www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application



MEMBERSHIP

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <u>https:// www.legion.org/membership/impact</u> 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 <u>submitting consolidated post reports online</u>. To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit:

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



Attention: 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.

Print 2024 Membership Cards in MyLegion

A merican 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.

POST/DISTRICT FORMS



Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit: www.legion.org/renew

ONLINE TODAY!

OUICKLY & EASILY RENEW



DISTRICT MEETINGS Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

District 5 – Oxford: Oct. 17 Buckfield Post 58, 7:00PM Refreshments (Pumpkin Pie?) after.

District 12 – Hancock: Oct. 10 Bar Harbor Post 25 Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: Oct. 21 Milo Post 41, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM

District 15 – Washington: Oct. 8 Pembroke Post 59, 2PM



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.

DONATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2023-24 Commanders Project – McKay Maine Veterans Cemetery Arnold Snyder Jr. Ph.D., Post 157...... \$75.00 Windham Post 148......\$200.00

2022-23 Commanders Project – Thurston "Operation Reboot Outdoors"

Machias Post 9..... \$100.00

Blind Camp Dover-Foxcroft Post 29.....\$50.00

Thank Joi

To see which forms your post still needs to submit.

E GION

FALL CONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA Westbrook Community Center 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, ME 04092 September 23rd, 9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremony:

- 1. Post Colors
- 2. Prayer
- 3. POW MIA
- 4. Pledge of Allegiance
- 5. Preamble
- 6. Introduction of Guests
- 7. Welcome by Past National Commander Anthony Jordan
- 8. Opening Remarks from Commander McKay
- 9. Val Kapthanasis- representing Senator Susan Collin's Office

Introduction:

Baseball Committee Updates Baseball Video Oratorical, Shooting Sports-Joe Michaud Dirigo State Committee Updates- Jason Hall Women Veterans Advisory Committee – Caroline and Mary Jerry Dewitt- Maine Veterans Cemetery/Commander's Project Introduction of National Assistant Adjutant Rodney Rolland – NEC Lloyd Woods Video-How To Get Things Done In The American Legion Membership – 1st Vice Tricia Thurston "Make a Difference, Pay it Forward." Every Legionnaire is a Recruiter- 2nd Vice Leroy McKenzie Video- BE THE ONE/End the Stigma Warren Post 218- District Commander Ray Lewis

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session (1:00 p.m.):

Video- Bringing in New Members Programs and Membership- Department Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge Video- Engaging Membership Post Engagement and Retention Tips- Drew and Leroy Video- How To Welcome and Engage New Members Sweepstakes Drawing – State Adjutant Jason T. Hall

Closing Remarks/Ceremony

DEC Meeting Tentatively Scheduled for 3 pm

American Legion Family Fall Conference

Saturday, September 23th All meetings will be at <u>Westbrook Community Center</u> (WCC)

Luncheon at WCC- \$10.00 per person

Corn Chowder Assorted Sandwiches and Wraps to include: Turkey Club, Chicken Caesar, Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Tuna Salad *sandwiches can be made gluten-free Homemade Potato Chips Assorted Cookies to include: Snickerdoodle, Chocolate chip and Oatmeal Cream Pie *gluten-free chocolate tart

Reception and Dinner at Post 197- \$25.00 per person

Cocktail Reception prior to dinner: White Cheese Fountain *GF with assorted Veggies, Bread and Pretzels Antipasto Skewers Shrimp Cocktail *GF Plated Dinner (Choice*): Tossed Salad, Rolls & Butter *Cheese Stuffed Glazed Meatloaf *GF *Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Port Tenderloin Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable *Creamy Broccoli Alfredo Pasta *GF with Garlic Bread

Dessert will include a Chocolate Fountain *GF with Assorted Fruit and Treats: Pumpkin Whoopie Pies and Apple Pie Cheesecake

Sunday, September 24th

All DEC meetings will be at Westbrook Community Center (WCC)

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More exciting information, agenda, and times will be provided soon via facebook and chatter - stay tuned!

Lodging

Fireside Inn	and Suites
--------------	------------

81 Riverside Street Portland, Maine 207.774.5601 American Legion Family Rate - \$175.00 per night, *plus 9% lodging tax*



*	Mail In and Submit Payment by September 15th	 ·····>
Name:		Trcle Choice Pork Tenderloin
Post/ Unit		 lfredo Pasta
Lunch 🔿 Yes 🔿 No 🕴		0.00 per person 5.00 per person
Dinner O Yes O No #		nount Enclosed Dayable to ALA Unit 197

Mail to: ALA Unit 197 Attn: Cathy Clements - 300 Conant Street, Westbrook ME 04092 Questions? Email Cathy Clements at catclem02@icloud.com



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	
1	13
2	14
3	15
4	16
5	17
6	18
7	19
8	20
9	21
10	22
11	23
12	24

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: <u>www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php</u> *** Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club have increased to \$5.00/member)***

FALL FUN RIDE POST 14 FAIRFIELD American Legion Riders

Saturday, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Registrations: 9:00-9:30am

Kickstands UP: 10:00am

\$20.00 Per Bike

- Ride will go scenic route to Farmington & return to Post 14
- Lunch provided by VIKING CHEESE TACO by BOBO (truck)
- 1 stop planned for both directions
- Raffles and other fun games at each stop with opportunities to win prizes with the Grand Prize Raffle upon return



ALL PROCEEDS TO BE PUT IN OUR VETERANS' XMAS GIFTS FUND FOR LOCAL RETIREMENT HOME(S)

HOMELESS VETERANS' Mobile Stand Downs



HANNAFORD 295 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine

MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES / VET CENTER 634 MAIN STREET, SPRINGVALE, MAINE

TOGUS 1 VA CENTER, AUGUSTA, MAINE

Events Sponsored by: VA Maine Healthcare System, VA Maine Homeless Veterans Program, Veterans Benefits Administration, Vet Center, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, FedCap-Veterans Forward, VFW, Operation Brotherhood, Elks Lodge, Maine Veterans in Need, Maine DOL CareerCenters, Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness, Volunteers of America Northern New England, Preble Street, and V.E.T.S. Trailers.



OCT. 4

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

OCT. 18

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

OCT. 25

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.





