

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 102nd 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

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.

Donate \$100 or more and receive a Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook as well as one of our most popular centennial coins to add to your collection. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, simply scan the QR code below with your phone or visit 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 information, please call headquarters at 873-3229 Ext.2 or email: rachel@mainelegion.org.



NATIONAL COMMANDER'S VISIT Daniel J. Seehafer



[Will Visit the Department of Maine to Address American Legion Posts in the Wake of the Recent Rampage in Maine](#)

[National Commander Seehafer's Itinerary](#)

November 3 - 5, 2023

Daniel J. Seehafer was elected National Commander of The American Legion at the 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Thursday, August 31. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," to prevent veteran suicide. To learn more about Daniel J. Seehafer, [click here](#) or visit www.legion.org

VETERANS DAY 2023

In honor of Veterans Day on Saturday November 11th, The American Legion State Headquarters in Winslow will be closed on Friday, November 10th. Please plan accordingly. *Thank you for your service!*



ATTENTION ALL POSTS! Employee Retention Credit (ERC)

If you haven't yet applied for ERC, the deadline is **April 2024** 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: rwitham.mps@gmail.com.

TASK FORCE MOVEMENT: MORE THAN A JOB PROGRAM

The American Legion
NOV. 1, 2023



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,
For many years, The American Legion has worked to help transitioning military personnel convert their experiences in uniform into credits to help them move quickly and effectively into civilian careers that require special licenses and credentials.

Many of those civilian careers are in serious need of qualified professionals. That need grew painfully clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in such areas as commercial truck driving and nursing.

The American Legion is proud to have a place on the steering committee of [Task Force Movement](#), a White House initiative that unites key stakeholders from industry, education, labor, government and the military to help our nation fulfill two key objectives:

- Get the U.S. economy rolling again in areas of need that, if not adequately staffed, pose national security and public health threats.

- Help transitioning military personnel and veterans get into career fields that make the most of their training and can put them in jobs that pay well, offer good benefits and fulfill important purposes, all of which contribute substantially to good mental health and well-being.

Last August, during the 104th American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., [the committee met and announced an important new area of emphasis – health care](#). Look for new developments on that front in the months ahead. Task Force Movement was launched in April 2022 to speed up and ease the process for veterans to work in the commercial trucking industry, which now has some 80,000 vacancies. Five months later, [TFM added cybersecurity to its targeted industries](#), where some 70,000 jobs are available in government and perhaps 10 times that in the private sector.

The program proved successful in its first year, providing scholarships, apprenticeships and education waivers for veterans who had already proven their skills while in uniform. It's no easy endeavor to make this happen because different states and different industries in those states have different requirements to achieve certification. TFM has been working tirelessly with multiple stakeholders to break down barriers for veterans who are ready now to step into these careers in an economy starved for well-trained and capable employees who care about fulfilling important needs in the nation they swore with their lives to protect and defend.

By adding health care to its portfolio, TFM addresses a need The American Legion has listed among its highest priorities for the Department of Veterans

Affairs over the last decade – recruiting and retaining qualified health-care professionals, particularly nurses. The shortage of health-care professionals in the nation right now is estimated at nearly 2 million, so everyone in that industry is competing for talent, more of which is desperately needed.

To keep making progress, TFM looks to continue building its roster of partners from industry, government, education, charitable foundations that want to support the initiative and the veterans community. Online registration forms to get involved are available on the TFM website at taskforcemovement.org.

Most important, all stakeholders – including The American Legion – have a responsibility to close these labor gaps because understaffed hospitals, idled trucks and online vulnerabilities do not simply represent economic inconvenience; they threaten our national security.

~ National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer



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](#)

[See Oratorical Briefing on Page 8](#)

**Help Support the Maine American Legion
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



Write “Oratorical Program” on the check

and Mail to: 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

Thank you in advance for your support! 2

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 much-needed 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!



VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL TO MARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By Jeff Stoffer, OCT 25, 2023



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., a weekend of events will honor the 265,000 women veterans – military and civilian – who served during the Vietnam era.

Hosted by Eastern National in coordination with the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group, the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, programs will include a candlelight ceremony at 6 p.m. on Nov. 10 and a storytelling program at 10 a.m. on Veterans Day. The weekend will culminate in a 1 p.m. ceremony on Veterans Day at the memorial, where the annual Observance at the Wall will be dedicated to the anniversary.

The keynote speaker will be Diane Carlson Evans, chair of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group and founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. A former Army combat nurse and Vietnam War veteran, she led a 10-year mission to build the memorial on the National Mall – the first in the nation's capital to recognize the military service of women, as well as the patriotic service of civilian women. In 2021, Carlson Evans received The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal for her decades of veteran advocacy. She is a life member of Lewis & Clark Post 2 in Helena, Mont.

Anniversary events are open to the public and will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The candlelight and storytelling programs will take place at the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue, 300 feet from the Wall. To learn more about the memorial and coverage of the anniversary celebration, visit vietnamwomensmemorial.org. To learn more about Carlson Evans' efforts to build the memorial, visit dianecarlson.evans.com.

ATTENTION LEGION COLLEGE STUDENTS 2023!

Phase III of Maine Legion College scheduled for October 21-22 has been postponed until November 18-19. *Sorry for the inconvenience!*

MILITARY TRIVIA

Q. In Boeing's Aircraft assembly Plant 2, in Seattle during 1942, what was the rate of production of the B-17 Super Fortress & how many were built there?



~ 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 et al is good both personally and professionally.



Smart TVs: What You Need to Know

If you're thinking of streaming - or already do - a smart TV could be for you. Smart televisions are made by a variety of manufacturers, including, but not limited to, those made by LG, Samsung, Panasonic, Sony, and Vizio.

What Is a Smart TV, Anyway? In a nutshell, a smart TV connects directly to the internet and incorporates an operating system/platform that lets you access, manage, and view online and network-based media content like Hulu or Netflix without the need to use an additional device such as a Roku or Fire Stick.

How Smart TVs Work. Smart TVs access online content by connecting to the same broadband router and Ethernet or Wi-Fi network you use to connect your computer to the internet. Ethernet provides the most stable connection, but if your TV is in a different room or a long distance from your router, Wi-Fi might be more convenient.

Once your TV is connected and turned on, you'll be prompted to enter any login information required by your internet service provider. The smart TV will display an on-screen menu that includes a list of available internet channels provided as apps (similar to the apps on a smartphone). Some apps come preloaded, and you can download more to add to the TV's app library.

How Do Smart TVs Work? When you click on the icon for a specific channel/app, you are taken to its content offerings, which you can select and view.

Exactly how you navigate through the smart TV menu and manage your apps varies with the brand and model.

The Benefit of Smart TVs. The main benefit of a smart TV is access to many channels that offer TV programs, movies, and music without the need to connect a TV antenna or subscribe to a cable/satellite service. Also, some smart TVs provide web browsing, gaming, and access to compatible media content stored on your computer.

Although smart TVs also can receive TV programming via antenna or cable/satellite, Vizio has actually taken the bold step of eliminating built-in tuners and antenna/cable connections on most of its sets in favor of its built-in streaming platform as an all-encompassing replacement.

A Few Things to Consider

The hype surrounding smart TVs is compelling, but there are some cost considerations and limitations to consider.

Although smart TV platforms provide access to many free channels and services, many require either a monthly subscription or a pay-per-view fee. When you start adding up those costs, you could end up spending as much, or more, than a monthly cable/satellite bill. On the other hand, you will be paying only for the channels and content you want.

The smart TV brand/model determines the services and features you can access. Although all smart TVs access a lot of the same core services (Netflix, Vudu, Hulu, Pandora), many additional and niche channels might not be accessible on some smart TV platforms.

Can Smart TVs Spy on You? Using a smart TV may result in privacy issues. Smart TVs and content app providers usually track your viewing habits to provide you with viewing suggestions. For example, every time you log into Netflix, the menu shows what you've watched recently, as well as updated suggestions for related movies or programs that you might like based on your 'watched recently' list.

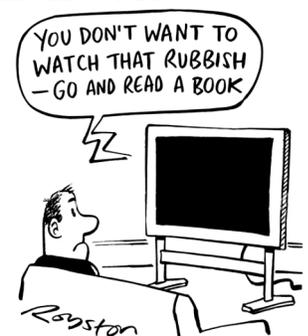
You might think that this type of tracking is a good thing because it cuts search time for movies or programs to watch, but a smart TV might be doing more than track your viewing habits. If your smart TV has a webcam or voice control, there is a possibility that someone could hack in and see/hear you.

Also, any credit card purchases you make using your TV might be trackable by third parties. If your voice control or webcam is on, don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do or say in public—and be cautious with your online credit card purchases.

Do I need the internet to use a smart TV? Yes. Unless your TV supports antenna or cable/satellite television, you need an internet connection to watch TV. That said, you can still connect game consoles and DVD players, although you don't need a smart TV to use those devices.

Do smart TVs come with built-in Wi-Fi?

Yes, most of the time. Look for "Wi-Fi-enabled" in the product description to be sure. To connect your smart TV to Wi-Fi, go to the TV's welcome screen, search for available wireless networks, select your network, and enter the password.



For more information, go to:

<https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-smart-tv-4140172>

10th Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon

American Legion Rumford Post 24
184 Congress St. Rumford, Me.

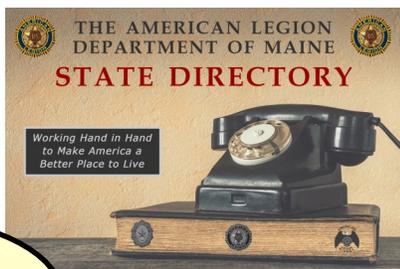
See page 8 for more details.

Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!

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



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

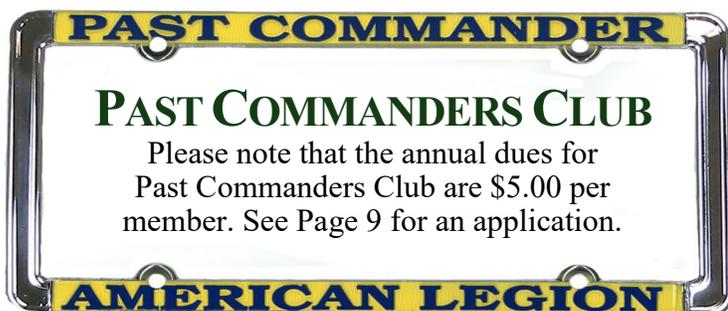


Call Dept. HQ at 873-3229 or e-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org to get the Password!!



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 or e-mail 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 9 for an application.

WINTER CONFERENCE

January 13, 2024
Jeff's Catering & Event Center
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer 04412

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN MILITARY HISTORY

November

- [Month of Nov. National Veterans & Military Family Month](#)
- [Month of Nov. Warrior Care Month](#)
- [Month of Nov. Nat'l Family Caregivers Month](#)
- [11/1-5 National Veterans Small Business Week](#)
- [11/10 Marine Corps Day/Birthday](#)
- [11/11 Veterans Day](#)
- [11/11 Armistice/Remembrance Day](#)
- [11/21 Grenada Campaign Ended \(1983\)](#)
- [11/23 USCG Women Reserve \(SPAR's\) Established \(1942\)](#)

Warrant Templates
All Post/District Officer Positions
Available on-line at: [MaineLegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)
or go to: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.ph>. *It's fast and easy!!!*

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](#)

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. Boeing Seattle Plant 2, produced 1 B-17 Super Fortress *every 90 minutes*, with a total production of 6942! -----

Side Note: In 1942, **about 15 percent** of employees were women and by 1944 that figure rose to more than **40 percent**. In 1943, as the war escalated, Boeing employment faced a crisis. As increasing numbers of male employees were summoned to war, schedules were falling behind due to the shortage of skilled employees. In Seattle alone, [Boeing employed 30,000 women in 1944.](#)



Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form now available online!

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



MEMBERSHIP **IMPACT** REPORTS

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <https://www.legion.org/membership/impact> provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities. American Legion Posts can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities by submitting consolidated post reports online. To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit:

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

ATTENTION! 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.*

POST/DISTRICT FORMS

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see which forms your post still needs to submit.

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.
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.

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

How to Use MYLEGION.ORG

- Account Registration
Please read before registering an account
- Known Issues
A list of known issues and their status
- My Account
For all registered users of MyLegion.org
- My Groups - Departments, Detachments, Posts, Squadrons, etc.
For Legion and SAL Leadership
- MyLegion.org Video Training Series
Video series to help users navigate and get the most out of the features and tools available at MyLegion.org
- Training Presentations
PowerPoint presentations ranging from account registration to membership processing

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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



www.legion.org/renew

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

District 5 – Oxford: Nov. 21, Bethel Post 81
7PM Refreshments after

District 12 – Hancock: Nov. 14, SW Harbor Post 69
Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 13 – Penobscot: Nov. 5
Carmel Grange Hall, 2:00PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: Nov. 18, Monson Post 116 12
Noon Lunch, w/Business Meeting at 1PM

District 16 – S. Aroostook: Nov. 4, Frenchville Post 145
12PM, Meal provided - \$10.00

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Nov. 5, Frenchville Post 145
1PM No meal, Just the Meeting at 1pm

DONATIONS THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2023-24 Commanders Project – McKay

SAL Squadron 42, Damariscotta.....	\$1,000.00
Post 42, Damariscotta.....	\$1,000.00





American Legion Post 24 and the
American Legion Dept. of Maine,
Women Veteran's Advisory Committee to
Honor Women Veterans at the

10th Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon
American Legion Rumford Post 24
184 Congress St. Rumford, Me.

Saturday, November 18th, 2023
Schedule of events: 9:30 to 12:30
Refreshments, Reiki and a variety of activities
while visiting with other women who have served.

Lunch 12:30pm

**More FUN Surprises Planned For
This Year's Milestone Event!**

Please share with all women veterans.
R.S.V.P. by November 16th.
For more information contact Tricia Thurston 357-3289.

You do NOT need to be an Legion member to attend.

Free Giveaways!!

The event is planned for all Women Veterans
and is at no charge to them.

Please plan to stay for group pictures



Fall Conference 2023 Oratorical Briefing

IMPORTANT DATES AND LOCATIONS: The following are fixed dates, the District and Post need to fix their contest dates so these dates are met. There are **NO** exceptions.

1. **National has changed** their contest dates to May 17-19, 2024. **National has changed** the location to Hillsdale College, 33 E College St, Hillsdale, MI 49242.
2. Department of Maine Certified winner is due to National by 5 pm on April 1, 2024 (Responsible, Department).
3. Department of Maine's contest is February 10, 2024, with a snow date of February 17, 2024. Location: Thomas College, 180 W River Rd, Waterville, ME 04901. Time: Candidates are asked to be in place by 8:00am, NLT 8:30am, there are briefings they need paperwork and they need time to settle in and be prepared.
4. Department Must receive your District winner NLT January 26, 2024.
5. Contestant applications are due to the Post NLT December 1, 2023. No exceptions.
6. Posts must coordinate with your District in order for you to meet the Districts level of competition. Even if there is only one contestant you must give the candidate the opportunity to practice at multiple levels.

SPEECHS: Oration is 8-10 minutes of their choice of the US Constitution. The Four Assigned Topics are 3-5 minutes. Candidates must be prepared for all four topics. Anything less than the minimum or over the maximum time creates a time penalty.

AWARDS: Posts and Districts set their own value to the winner/s. Department has their awards and certificates. National is a little different. There are approximately nine groups competing. The Winner/s cash awards are not given to the candidates. When the candidate chooses the college/university they are attending the college/university is given the amount they have won.

PLEASE: Go to the Leadership Ledger and print a copy of all the documents listed. Read and review with your team. Write down any questions you may have and call me.

VOLUNTEERS: Positions available are: Judges, tabulators, room monitors, ushers and door guards.

CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maureen Malley

207-557-3109

Maureenmalley.66@gmail.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.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Post Adjutant

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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

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