

THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 103rd 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

• POST SERVICE OFFICER • TRAINING

• WHEN •

December 2, 10 am-2pm (rescheduled)

• WHERE •

The American Legion Training Room
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

• RSVP •

Reserve your spot by emailing:
jason@mainelegion.org

Department Service Officer Carl Curtis will be hosting Post Service Officer training to any Legionnaire interested in gaining knowledge (you don't have to be a PSO). Space is limited, reserve your spot today.

10th Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon

Saturday, November 18th, 2023

American Legion Rumford Post 24

184 Congress St. Rumford, Me.

See page 8 for more details.

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



Thanksgiving 2023

The American Legion State Headquarters will be closed November 22-24 for Thanksgiving.

Please plan accordingly.



RETURN CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DISABLED VETERANS OR THEIR FAMILIES



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,
Few insults are more egregious than to take advantage of disabled veterans or their families, under false pretenses. We know it's immoral to exploit any veteran filing for VA benefits. The American Legion wants the return of criminal penalties enforced against these non-accredited violators.

The American Legion or other accredited veterans service organizations (VSO) are the best first step for veterans seeking assistance because we successfully provide expert help free of charge for hundreds of thousands of veterans a year. We also understand and support a veteran's freedom to choose representation – whether it's a VSO, another claims agency, law firm or private company.

But we support that right on a key condition: that anyone who represents a veteran in the filing of a claim is accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Accreditation means the representative has been vetted, is trained, and is accountable to VA's rules, which include the regulation of fees that can be charged.

These rules exist for good reasons. They prevent exploitation. As it now stands, nothing stops or deters profiteers from overcharging and taking advantage of veterans. That has to end.

The American Legion continues to work with VA to share information and educate veterans about free services available through VSOs like accredited American Legion service officers who helped veterans receive \$16.8 billion in disability compensation last year alone.

All accredited representatives who assist veterans must be held to the same level of accountability as our service officers, who have been successfully helping with claims since the birth of VA.

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer

NOV 14, 2023

To use for our exclusive benefit what is not ours is theft.

~ [Jose Marti](#)

SEEHAFER BRINGS “BE THE ONE” TO MAINE IN AFTER-MATH OF SHOOTINGS



By John Raughter
NOV 09, 2023

The sign posted at the makeshift memorial in front of Schemengee's Bar and Grill in Lewiston, Maine, reflects what many in the community feel. “Fix the mental health system,” was the message to a town reeling from a mass shooting on Oct. 25, which took 18 lives.

Mental wellness has been a priority for The American Legion as well. National Commander Dan Seehafer leaned on his pastoral background while taking his “Be the One” message to the Department of Maine during a visit Nov. 3-4.

“God gave us two ears for listening,” Seehafer said. “For me as an ordained minister, I do it all the time. We have office time. I have it with my members and people in need. We talk. Over 90 percent is listening. When people seek my counsel, they are the ones talking. By the time we are done with my little portion, they say, ‘Pastor, I feel a lot better.’ And I didn't even basically say a word. So, it's that listening.”

Seehafer added his appreciation for Past National Commander Tony Jordan, who referred to him as “the right commander at the right time.” It's a sentiment that was shared by many American Legion Family members who met Seehafer during his visits to six different posts in the Pine Tree State.

“I think it's critical that we show family support,” added American Legion Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson, who accompanied Seehafer on some of the post visits. “We know the individual who did these atrocious crimes had some mental health issues and the Legion Family – that's the Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion – firmly believe in our Be the One mission. And that mission is to destigmatize mental health. It's been a taboo subject for far too long.”

Matt Jabaut is a Lewiston native and The American Legion National Membership & Post Activities Commission Chairman. “I'm lucky in the fact that I have lots of different families and the Legion obviously being a primary one. Some of the first messages I got were from Legion Family members, who were messaging me and saying ‘Hey, are you all right?’ They know that I'm from Lewiston, that I live in Lewiston, went to Lewiston High School. It's a big part of my community.”

Post 153 in Auburn hosted Seehafer for breakfast Saturday. The post is just a few miles from where the shootings occurred. Paul L'Heureux, a member of the post, described the tight-knit community.

“When this came about,” he said, “nobody knew who the victims were in the beginning. Within the next eight hours after the event, some of the names started to surface. It became apparent that as large as we thought we were here, we weren’t. Your thought process became we are not that big. We are a community of one.”

Department of Maine Adjutant Jason Hall also noted the smalltown feel that permeates the state and the impact that such a massive crime has on its residents. “In Maine, every town is a rural town. We’re all close knit. Most parts of the country are six degrees away from separation. Maine is two degrees from separation. It almost affected every person in Maine. We either played softball with that person or it was our hairdresser’s brother. It was a schoolteacher’s aide from your high school. It was somehow connected to every person in Maine.”



Click on the image to watch the video

or go to:

<https://www.legion.org/commander/260480/seehafer-brings-%E2%80%98one%E2%80%99-maine-aftermath-shootings>

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. 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

and click on the Donate button.

Make sure to type: “**Commander’s Project**” in the Note section.

Thank You!!!



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!

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. What did **L. Ron Hubbard**, famed of the **Church of Scientology**, do in May of 1943, while commanding sub chaser USS 815 near the Oregon coast?



~ 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.



7 Things To Do With Your Old Smartphone

1) Home Security System. Turn Old Phones into Security Cameras. You don't have to drop tons of money for a simple home monitoring device. Just dig out an old smartphone, charge it up, and install a home surveillance app like [Presence](#), [Manvthing](#) or [AtHome Camera](#). Just set up the old camera so that it's pointing in the direction of the area you'd like to monitor and, preferably, keep it plugged in so that you never really have to mess with it. These apps will send your main phone notifications when movement is detected, so you never have to worry about your home's safety while you're away.

2) Baby Monitor. To make [this trick](#) possible, you'll need two old smartphones or, preferably, one old one and your current device. Download an app like Cloud Baby Monitor, Dormi or Baby Monitor 3G onto both of the devices. Make sure that the "baby monitor" device, which will stay in the little one's room, has its camera facing the nursery, close enough to see baby, but far away enough to get the full picture. Follow the instructions through your app of choice and be sure to set up the privacy settings so that only you can see the live stream of your child. Make sure your WiFi network that you'll be using is password protected.

3) Dash Cam. Plugging and unplugging, mounting and unmounting can be a pain. So if you have an old smartphone, make it your permanent dashcam by plugging it into a power source, mounting it and downloading an app like [Autoboy Dash Cam](#).

4) WiFi Extender. It's definitely annoying when that one corner of your house gets no WiFi signal. To fix that, use an old smartphone as a WiFi extender. It's perfect for checking Facebook or sifting through emails, just don't expect to download huge files through this method. Download the [Netshare](#) no-root tethering app onto your old device, which will be the extender, and your current device. Open the Netshare app on the first device that will be sharing WiFi and press "share internet connection." You'll be given a group SSID and password for the second device, which you'll use to connect.

5) GPS Tracker. Are you the type of person that constantly forgets where you've parked your car? Or maybe you're a worry wart and want to know that your car hasn't been stolen while you're away from it. Either way, using an old phone as a [GPS tracker](#) is a cheap option to give you some peace of mind. Sure, it won't be as good as a dedicated GPS device since software running in the background will kill the battery fast, but you can use a portable charger to make the battery last a few days. Make sure you've turned on "Find my iPhone" or navigated through your Android device's settings and switched on tracking. Toss the phone into your trunk or glove compartment and you're ready to go!

6) Make Some Money. Selling your old smartphone doesn't have to be a pain and you don't have to constantly monitor eBay, anymore, either. Amazon Trade-In might not get you the most bang for your buck, especially if you have a newer model phone, but it's definitely the easiest. All you have to do is visit the [trade-in website](#), look up the brand and model of your phone, print a free shipping label and wait. If Amazon wants the phone and you're okay with the price, then you'll get an instant digital gift card. If you don't like the deal or Amazon rejects your phone, it'll send it back to you at no charge or you can choose to donate the phone for free. This is also a good option for old tablets and even books (plus other devices, like streaming sticks, which earn you a discount on new TV sets).

7) Donate. Cell phones are literally [exploding](#) in junkyards and dump trucks, so don't be that guy who throws yet another device into the trash or the recycling bin. That's right, you *can't* just toss it into the blue bin and hope for the best. Call2Recycle, a national recycling program, estimates that two thirds of California's waste facility fires in 2017 were caused by explosions in old lithium ion batteries. That's because recycling facilities don't have the capacity to take apart the old handsets, so they're tossed, instead. You can take the old phones to a local [Goodwill](#) store, which will, in turn, find a recycling partner that can help. Usually these are going to be third party companies that specialize in electronics refuse, so don't worry about your data—most places will wipe it before taking it apart.

If there's a specific cause that you're passionate about, there's a good chance there's an accompanying organization that will take your old phone and put it to good use. Here are a few:

- **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** The organization accepts cell phone donations, which it then recycles thru a partner organization, [Cellular Recycler](#). The Coalition receives a portion of the proceeds raised through refurbished cell phone sales, helping to fund its programming.

- **Secure the Call:** This nonprofit helps vulnerable people without access to emergency services by collecting old phones and then shipping them out to agencies who can redistribute the phones to senior citizens, people suffering from domestic violence and more. All cell phones, even if they're not activated on a carrier plan, can call 911 (we all pay monthly fees as part of our phone bill to keep this program alive). To print a shipping label to send in your old phones, [click here](#).

- **Cell Phones for Soldiers:** The national nonprofit provides emergency services and cost-free communication to soldiers through its program, which takes old mobile phones and recycles them. Find a drop-off location [here](#).

For more information, go to:

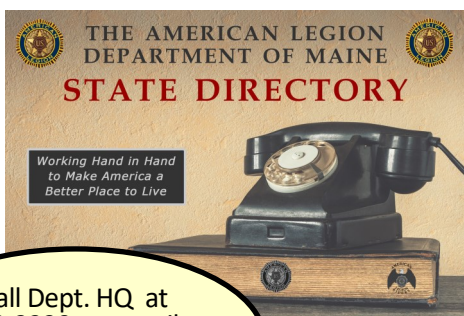
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/7-things-to-do-with-your-old-smartphone/ss-AA1hvv7p?&ei=32>



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 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 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.

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.

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

Warrant Templates
All Post/District Officer Positions
Available **on-line** at: 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](#)

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

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

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

www.legion.org/renew



MILITARY TRIVIA

A. During WWII, L. Ron Hubbard once led a 68 hour battle off the Oregon coast, involving 2 Navy blimps, 2 other Navy sub chasers and 2 US Coast Guard ships against two Japanese submarines, in which he claimed definitely he sank one & badly damaged the other, "beyond doubt". An analysis later concluded that there were never any Japanese submarines in the area.



Later in his career, during an unauthorized live fire action within Mexican waters, he was relieved of his command.

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.

BE THE ONE

TRAINING - 2024



2024 Training Dates

January 27 th	March 30 th
May 25 th	July 27 th
September 28 th	November 30 th

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

American Legion Be the One Campaign

To Reserve Your Spot Email:
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.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected • Be Heard • Be Informed

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

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

DONATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2022-23 Commanders Project – Thurston
 Post 9, Machias..... \$50.00
2023-24 Commanders Project – McKay
 Post 111, Turner.....\$35.00

Thank You!!!



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 choices the college/university they are attending the college/university is given the amount they have won.

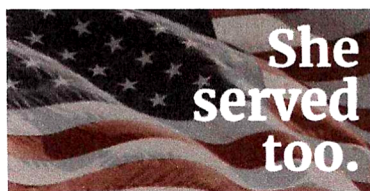
PLEASE: Go to the Leadership Ledger and print a copy of all the documents listed. Read and review with your team. Write down any questions you may have and call me.

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

CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maureen Malley
207-557-3109

Maureenmalley.66@gmail.com



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



**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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23. _____
24. _____

Use back side if additional space is required.

SUBMIT TO:

The American Legion, Dept. of Maine
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

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

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