



Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Maine
5 Verti Drive, Suite B Winslow, Maine 04901
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Call 207-250-0444



Detachment

Officers

Commander
Steve Doyle
Vice Commander
Steve Amergian
Vice Commander
Gunnar Gunderson
Adjutant
George Rice
Finance Officer
Tony Campbell
Chaplin
Paige Morneault
Historian
Phil Skillin
Sgt-at-Arms
Vincent Plummer
Americanism
Llewellyn Buxton
NEC
George Rice
NECA
Steve Amergian
Parliamentarian
Gary Gamage
2nd Dist Cmdr
George Mallard
6th Dist Cmdr
Eric Perry
7th Dist Cmdr
Gunnar Gunderson
8th Dist Cmdr
Phil Skillin
13th Dist Cmdr
Sonny Buxton
16th Dist Cmdr
Anthony Benn
17th Dist Cmdr
Douglas Morneault
Department Advisor
Ryan Coffin

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 8
Nov 06 2025

Commanders Message,

A New Month, A New Focus

2026 membership dues continue to trickle in — thank you to those who have already submitted! If you haven't yet, please send your processed memberships to Headquarters sooner rather than later. Let's keep the momentum going strong.

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a time to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and to ask ourselves: What are we doing to support our Legion Family?

My Commander's Project — the POW/MIA Memorial Wall — has received several generous donations over the past month. Thank you to all the Squadrons that have contributed! Your support truly makes a difference.

Our next DEC Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16th, at 10:00 AM at Headquarters in Winslow. I look forward to seeing you there!

All the best,
Steve Doyle
Detachment of Maine

Membership Status:

As of November 03, 2025

2025 is at 2823 Members

2025 percent of year end goal is 97.75%

As of November 03, 2025

We are #48 out of 55 Detachments for 2026 Memberships

2026 is at 822 Members

2026 percent of year end goal is 29.02%



Target Date:

November 13, 2025
35% of 2026's
Membership

Squadron Planning

November

10 Marine Corps Birthday 🍰

10 American Legion Auxiliary Birthday 🍰

11 Veterans Day

13 2026 Membership 35% Target Date

16 Detachment of Maine DEC Meeting at Headquarters

December

7 Pearl Harbor Day 1941

13 Wreaths Across America Day

20 Space Force Birthday 🍰

January

1 New Years day

10 Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer

26 National Day of the Deployed

Let us know about your Squadron's upcoming events so we can fill this space.

Send in pictures and details of your Squadron's events.



Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)

No Cost LegionCare

Your valued status as a member of the Legion

Family makes you eligible for LegionCare.



Current members only are entitled to the \$5,000 No-Cost-To-You Accident Insurance Protection. If your membership was expired at any point, you will have to sign up again to receive coverage.



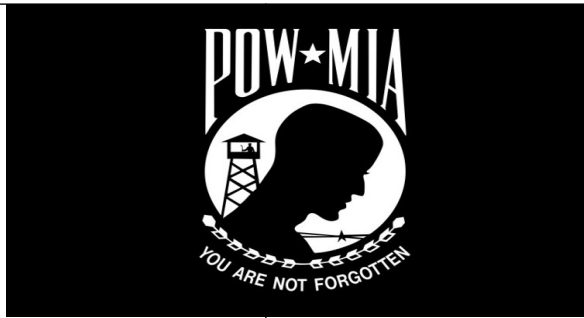
SQUADRONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Squadron #136 Stockholm
Emmett reports "It was really cool to get to meet the National Commander Dan Wiley and to visit all the Posts, meeting members of the Legion Family. I enjoyed his message on continuing the Be the One program to help our Veterans and his Mission of "Better Together" because we really are stronger together".



The SAL Squadron #1
Rockland gave \$500.00 to Honor Flight at our monthly meeting on Tuesday 4 November 2025. Pictured are Commander Eric Perry along with Director Mathew Mank of Honor Flight.





Prisoners of War

The phrase “prisoner of war” wasn’t coined until the 1670’s. In 1949, the Third Geneva Convention, which is international humanitarian law, defined what constitutes a prisoner of war, how they should be handled, and the rights they have. Among the things the Third Geneva Convention describes are expectations for how to treat, care for, and what can be required of prisoners. It also outlines that prisoners of war should be released after wartime has concluded. However, not all prisoners of war are treated according to the Third Geneva Convention. One example of how prisoners of war can be mistreated is also one of the most well-known. Late presidential candidate and U.S. Senator, John McCain, may be most well-known in recent years for his political career, but before he entered the world of politics, Senator McCain served as a naval aviator during the Vietnam War and spent five years in captivity as a POW. Despite the Third Geneva Convention, Senator McCain’s time imprisoned was far from aligned with the treatment outlined for POWs. Upon his capture, Senator McCain was refused medical treatment for a period because he wouldn’t give up valuable information to his captors and was subject to regular beatings as well as isolation. Though initially refusing a release offer that would not include his fellow POWs, Senator McCain was eventually released along with his fellow captives. He returned home and continued to serve until retiring from the Navy in 1981.

Missing In Action

The term “Missing In Action” is a classification that applies to military service members who are reported missing during either wartime or ceasefire. The classification and ability to identify missing service members has advanced greatly over the last 110 years. The Civil War was the conflict that highlighted the need for some sort of streamlined identification for all service members. The need can best be summed up in one statistic: at Salisbury National Cemetery in North Carolina, 99% of the over 12,000 soldiers from the Federal Army are listed as unidentified. It would take until the years leading up to World War I to find a solution. In 1912, identification tags (commonly referred to as “dog tags”) were developed and implemented. In the years to follow, they’d be re-developed, fitted with silencers (to stop the tags from making noise when they hit each other), and are a required part of the uniform for service members. As technology has advanced, dog tags have developed into an integral part of reducing the number of MIA service members. Now, some dog tags can be equipped with a GPS to locate the tag, effectively helping locate service members who go MIA or may find themselves tangled with opposing forces and taken as POWs.

Sons of The American Legion

As of November 03, 2025 SAL
National membership stands at
146,788 members.

That means currently we are at
35.87% of our year end
GOAL of 409,244

Membership = A B C easy as 1 2 3!
Always Buddy Check

Continue to renew, recruit and help us
make more history by reaching 105%.

Let's get it DONE!

REPORTS

All is good in the hood
Sergeant at Arms
Vinnie Plummer
Detachment of Maine
Rockland Squadron 01
The golf tournament went well.
Friday night scallop dinner also
went well. The SALs are working
on replacing all the flags and
replacement light bulbs for the
parking lot.

We are working on distributing
the proceeds from the golf
tournament to veterans support
groups.

I have an internal issue that I
think I'm getting a handle on
thanks to George and Steve!

Eric Perry
District 6 Commander
Detachment of Maine

NEC / Adjutant Report

I have received more 2026
membership dues to process.
Several Squadrons and
individual members have
reached out to me for
assistance with issues that are
a work in process. I attended
Post #20 Brunswick monthly
meeting to discuss the
possibility of establishing a
squadron.

As reported in an earlier
newsletter,
the Detachment of Maine
received recognition for its one
dollar(\$1.00) per member
contribution to the Child
Wellbeing Foundation for
2025. I challenge your
squadron to double this
amount to two dollars(\$2.00)
per member. Send your check
to Detachment of Maine 5 Verti
Drive, Suite B Winslow, Me
04901 with CWF on the memo
line.

Respectfully submitted,
George Rice
NEC/Adjutant
Detachment of Maine



2025–2026 National Membership Target Dates & Goals



- November 13, 2025 — 35%
- December 10, 2025 — 45%
- January 14, 2026 — 60%
- February 11, 2026 — 75%
- March 11, 2026 — 80%
- April 8, 2026 — 90%
- May 13, 2026 — 100%
- July 29, 2026 — 105%

(Delegate strength target,
30 days prior to the
National Convention)

Important Dates for Squadron Interactions

Detachment of Maine DEC Meeting

November 16, 2025
Headquarters
5 Verti Drive
Suite B
Winslow, Me

Mid-Winter Conference

January 10, 2026
Jeff's Catering and Event
Center
Brewer, Me

Oratorical Contest

February 14, 2026
Thomas College
Waterville, Me

State Convention

June 12 - 13, 2026
Jeff's Catering and Event
Center
Brewer, Me

Dirigo State

June 21 – 26, 2026
Colby College
Waterville, Me



POW/MIA Memorial Wall

Commander Steve Doyle is proud to announce his Commander's Project for this year. Two years ago, his project focused on the restoration of the POW/MIA Memorial Wall at the Department of Maine Headquarters — a goal that was successfully completed thanks to the dedication and support of many across our organization. This year, Commander Doyle's project is to support perpetual care for the POW/MIA Memorial Wall. This initiative will ensure that the memorial continues to serve as a lasting tribute to the brave service members who are Prisoners of War or Missing in Action — and to their families — reminding them that they are never forgotten. If your Squadron would like to make a financial contribution to this important project, please send your donation to: Detachment of Maine
5 Verti Drive, Suite B
Winslow, ME 04901
Please write "POW/MIA" in the memo line of your check.
Your support helps preserve the legacy and memory of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.



BE THE ONE

2025 TRAINING DATE December 20

*The next training will be at
Department Headquarters on
October 18th with guest from the
Department of New York and the
National President in attendance.*

*Where: Dept. of Maine Training
Room
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901*

*For more details on the Be The
One campaign
visit: betheone.org
To reserve your spot or for
questions, email:
betheonedeptme@gmail.com*



All Maine Veterans interested in going on a trip should go to HonorFlightMaine.org to apply. The site also contains applications for those wishing to be Guardian for a Veteran and for Volunteers. Honor Flight Maine is an all volunteer organization.



EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE

EMBER'S PAWS OF HOPE

A non profit organization dedicated to providing emotional and mental support to veterans and first responders through the use of future certified therapy dog(s). Members of our team have a diverse background which includes being trained in critical incident stress management and peer support, and we visit fire stations, police stations, hospitals, and veterans facilities to offer comfort and companionship to those who serve our communities



VETERANS FIELD GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to provide quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").



SERVICES TO VETERANS NOT IMPACTED:



VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services.



VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.



Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.



The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.



Call Centers: VA's primary call center (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) will remain open 24/7.



Suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support will continue.



HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!

The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access VA resources 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)



SERVICES TO VETERANS IMPACTED:



VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.



Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.



VA benefits regional offices will be closed.



Public Affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.



No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.

Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.

No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.



No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/ or www.VA.gov for updated information.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Download the VA Welcome Kit www.va.gov/welcome-kit/

Subscribe to #VetResources www.va.gov/vetresources/

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then Press 1

Call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) or visit <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>

If your Squadron has held elections for the upcoming year, please fill out the forms including emails for all your officers to ensure they get recognition and receive updates from Detachment.

CLICK ON LINK BELOW

[Squadron Officer Directory Information](#)

High Importance

**See You at Mid-Winter
Conference**

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of
Maine
5 Verti Drive, Suite B Winslow, Maine 04901
<mailto:saldetmaine@gmail.com>
Call 207-250-0444

'Til Next Time

Thank you for your continued
membership and dedication to
The Maine American Legion Family.