

THE MAINE Legionnaire



FEBRUARY 2019 Vol. 34, Issue 1

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

I'm calling on you to make 'Buddy Checks'

As active Legionnaires, you and I have an important stake in our time-honored mission, services and programs. Compassionate care for disabled veterans. Wholesome development of youth. Advocacy for a strong and appreciated military. Employment and education opportunities for those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Effective response after natural disasters. Respect for the colors of our country. Honor for the fallen. And influence to advance the needs of veterans – and of a strong America. Without strong American Legion membership, values such as these go unfulfilled. To keep them front and center, we must work together now to make personal contact.

I'm calling on posts, districts, counties and departments to coordinate a team and call Legionnaires and former members simply to see how they are doing. Ask if there is anything The American Legion can do for them. Perhaps they have been sick, lost a spouse or just need to know someone cares. Perhaps they simply forgot to renew their membership because no one called.

More important than membership renewal – or retrieval of Legionnaires



NATIONAL COMMANDER
BRETT P. REISTAD

whose memberships have expired – is the personal contact to see how local veterans are doing and act accordingly if they need help. This is not a membership campaign. It's a comrade-

ship campaign.

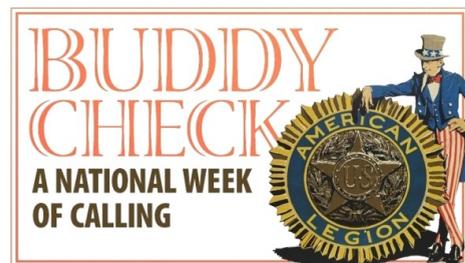
The week leading up the Legion's 100th birthday, March 11-16, is a perfect time to make the calls, but posts that have made other plans to celebrate the centennial at that time can choose another week in the centennial month if necessary.

A Buddy Check toolkit, including scripts for Legionnaires to use when making personal contact, is available online at www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

Remember, this organization was formed a century ago around personal contact and engagement. This "Buddy Check" is about seeing how veterans are doing.

To discover that, it takes personal engagement.

—www.legion.org
Feb. 4, 2019



Legislative Committee Meet & Greet: Some of those in attendance at the Legislative Committee Meet and Greet held at the State House on Jan. 9. Left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, member of Topsham Post 202 Joseph Obrin, Maine State Senator & member of Madison Post 39 Brad Farrin, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Commander David Patch, Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, Dept. Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, Dept. Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley, Department 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut, Maine State House Representative Scott Cyrway, Dept. Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria, Dept. Area 4 Commander Gregory Couture, and Maine State House Representative & member of Lincoln Post 77 Sheldon Hanington.



2019 American Legion State Oratorical Contest: The 2019 American Legion State Oratorical Competition was held Feb. 9 at Thomas College in Waterville. This year's first place winner, representing District 1, was awarded to Marina Long of No. Waterboro, Me., 2nd from left. Miss Long, a Junior at Sanford Christian Academy, will represent Maine at the National Oratorical Contest April 5-7 in Indianapolis for a chance to win up to \$18,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to all contestants who competed at the State level. Front, left to right, rep. District 3 Emily Farrington—5th place, State Oratorical winner, rep. District 1 Marina Long, rep. District 10 Caitlin McKenney—4th place, rep. District 7 Ciara Pitcher—6th place, rep. District 14 Ashley Bussell—3rd place, and rep. District 2 Lucas Wright—2nd place. Back, left to right, Oratorical Judges Dog Wallace, Jennifer Caron, Kurt Schaub, Sean Currie, and Kirk Thurston.

Photo by Amedeo Lauria

Maine American Legion Announces its 72nd Annual Boys State Program

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 72nd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program. This year's program will again be held at Thomas College in Waterville during the week of June 16-20. Every American Legion Post and all subordinate bodies should alert their membership to one of the finest youth programs in the nation.

The American Legion sponsors the Boys State program and we encourage all other groups and organizations to join in promoting the program through sponsorship of candidates to American Legion Dirigo Boys State.

We ask that the officers of your Post contact school principals or guidance counselors for assistance in this program. Make sure that your school officials are knowledgeable of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program.

The tuition fee for the 2019 program will be \$300 per student. Contact The American Legion Boys State, 5 Verti



Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, Tel: (207) 873-3229, or online at www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboyssstate.com for application materials.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 72nd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.



Commander's Comments

Retention: The Key to Membership Growth

Why do Veterans join The American Legion and not renew their membership the following year?

Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to find out why they joined in the first place. If their reason for joining is realized during their first membership year, they will probably renew.

When we consider why Veterans leave The American Legion, we find what we call the three M's of retention:

Moved – Mad – Mortality

Mortality: We can't do much about this one when our members report to post everlasting.

Moved: Operation Stay Active follows members from department to department so we might transfer those who moved or at least keep them renewed in their current Post but follow-up is necessary to assist the member in keeping his/her membership current.

Mad: This is where face-to-face contact is necessary. This is where the "rubber meets the road." Who or what is the member upset with? The retention/membership worker must find this out before anything can be resolved. Most "mad" problems can be resolved by discussion and working it out with parties concerned. We must try!

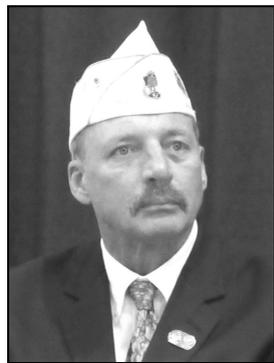
The use of the three "I's" of retention as described here will help prevent many of the situations that cause members to leave our ranks.

I – Initiate: Tell the story of The American Legion.

I – Indoctrinate: Explain individual programs.

I – Involve: Find the interest area and involve the new member.

Many of the things Legionnaires take for granted are not fully understood by the new member. Whether it is a Post, District, or Department event, the content and



**COMMANDER
SCOTT PARADIS**

importance of the event must be explained to the new Legionnaire before he/she will make a decision to attend. Words which must become action in order to retain members are: Communication: Let everyone know

what is going on.

Activities: Who, where, what, when, why and how must be answered to all possible participants.

Involvement: We must get as many Legionnaires as possible involved in the many and varied programs of The American Legion without burning them out or scaring them off.

The importance of retention at all levels is obvious for solid growth not only in membership but also in programs and overall accomplishment. Just like the military, retention begins when the new member joins. This is accomplished with a good sponsorship program. Assign a sponsor to each new member until the Legionnaire feels knowledgeable and comfortable with their membership in The American Legion.

How Important Is Membership Retention? Approximately 11 per cent of Maine Legionnaires do not renew their membership each year. That's how important it is. Not for the sake of numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state, and national levels.

Thank you for your service and the privilege of your time.

A 'First' Look

My Fellow Legionnaires! I continue to be privileged to serve as your 1st Vice Commander for the Department of Maine. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and I enjoyed seeing all of you who braved the weather and made it to our Mid-Winter Conference!



**MATTHEW
JABAUT**

If you did make it, you would have heard about the incentive for our Goal to Grow targets. We are offering \$1,000 to each district that meets or exceeds their Goal to Grow target! We also had some posts that have already made their post Goal to grow and made their 100 percent by Dec. 31! Please also remember the other incentives that are out there like the \$5 per member renewal for members that have not renewed since 2014, 2015, or 2016, or that the new National Commander's pin now includes members that have renewed at least six members, in addition to those that have recruited at least three new members.

We continue to focus on membership and engaging our members as we prepare to deliver on our programs. Hopefully the outreach and engagement we have done so far helps all of you to get people working our programs with you. This will be a great time to showcase all the great work we do in our communities.

As we are out in our communities for our programs, now is the time to start shifting to looking at new members who are not familiar with our great organization. Please use all of these opportunities to talk to veterans about our programs and the meaning of membership. Our pro-

grams are a great way to get people aware of the great work we do and to recruit new members. Bring applications and other information with you as you work these programs, or just use the Legion app! You can sign up new members right through it, or online through the Department Webpage.

While we look to that transition, let's not forget our current and expired members! By now, hopefully, all of your posts should have received a tool kit for the National week of calling or "buddy check" from national. The National Commander has launched a program to reach out and contact all of our members leading up to all of the 100th birthday celebrations. Please talk about this and plan for this initiative in each of your posts. The toolkit includes, how-to, scripts for the calls, and access to member lists and expired member lists. Please make every effort to connect and re-connect with all of our members past and present that have been a part of making the organization great and invite them to celebrate the 100th anniversary with us! If you have any questions about this program or getting it up and running, please feel free to reach out to me or the Department Headquarters.

I want to again thank each and every one of you for all of your efforts on membership so far this year. We are on the right track and have made every national target date so far. The last 10 or 15 per cent is the most difficult to achieve so we will need to leverage all of our resources and members to get there and I ask for your continued support and dedication to The American Legion, Department of Maine.

Our mission as a Department should be to support and enable our posts and districts to be successful, please let us know what you need. We are here to support you!

Helping Maine Grow!

NEC Update

Iwould first like to commend 2nd Vice Commander Deb Couture and Department Commander Scott Paradis for the content of the Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor recently. There was a lot of information given out. I think it was a great one to attend even if the weather wasn't that good for traveling to attend.

As the Department of Maine's representative at the National Executive Committee my main job and objective is to represent you, the members, on that committee. As I have continuously stated over the past years I am "Proud to Serve" the Department and you as its members.

As a result to being appointed as your



**LLOYD
WOODS**

National Executive Committeeman, I have been assigned by the National Commander as Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. The staff member/Director assigned to the Commission is Joseph Sharpe, Jr.

During the last meeting of the NEC there were 27 resolutions considered, 25 were approved and 2 were tabled for further study. All the resolutions topics covered a number of areas pertinent to our work relating to veterans. However, two of the resolutions I feel were very important to us. The first was that since December 7, 1941 the United States has been involved in at least 12 known armed hostilities with a total of 1,600 casualties of our military. In order to recognize the time periods, a resolution has been approved and forwarded for approval that since we have been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that

More on "NEC UPDATE", Page 5

Americanism Report

As Winter is winding down, the Oratorical Contest is done. Now it is time to turn our attention toward Boy's State and Nation. It will soon be School Scholarships, Baseball and Memorial Day planning and prepping time.

How many of us has a certificate that shows we have experience and knowledge to teach? The answer is all of us, it is called a DD Form 214. Contact the local school and volunteer to come in and teach Flag Etiquette and talk to the students about your positive experiences during your time in service.



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

Get a Scouting Troop, Pack or Den to assist in a Flag Folding Ceremony or invite the Scouts to assist your Post in a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

As the snow and ice leave, get out to the less able Legion member's homes to do a little spring clean-up.

How many Posts have an active School Award Medal Program or similar community services?

Many churches have a 4 Chaplain's Service, as an example.

Support a Town's school or Recreation Department's Baseball team at any level. Go to a Veteran's home or a Care Facility for a visit. A box of coffee, juice and some approved snacks can go a long way in making someone's day brighter, as well as yourself.

You can get a lot of mileage on the road to happiness for a few cents and a few minutes of time.

Thank you to the Americanism Committee for the great work that has been done, and the work that is ongoing.



A 'Second' Look

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor in January. We may have been racing against the snow-storm to finish the conference, but all went well and everyone made it home safely.

That was our last conference at the Spectacular Event Center. The owners are selling the building. They have done a great job for us for many years and they will be missed. We thank them for everything that they have done.

A lot of information was shared at the conference, as we "Showcased Our Programs"

Jack Dean Mitchell, the Chester L. Briggs American Legion Post 47 Chaplain, did an outstanding job singing the Star Spangled Banner. We received updates from speakers on Law and Order, Women Veterans Advisory Committee, Jr. Shooting Program at Brunswick Post 20, Legislative Committee, Constitution and By-Laws; updates from the Department Service Officers; and 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut and Judge Advocate Jason Hall brought us up to date on the Maine Legion College. Maine has graduated approximately 30 students in the first 2 classes and a third Maine Legion College class will be starting in March. Please contact our Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, if you are interested in attending. This is a class that you do not want to miss. The instructors (Matt, Jason, and Kelly) are fantastic and the information that you receive will help to guide you at all levels of The American Legion.

We were fortunate to have Major General Farnham, Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management and the Adjutant



**DEBRA
COUTURE**

General of the Maine Air and Army National Guard give an update on the Air Force and Army in Maine and LCDR Netzler, Commanding Officer of the Navy Operational Support Center in Bangor, give an update on Navy forces and deployments for Maine units.

Caleb Richardson, the 2018 Maine Boys State/Boys Nation representative presented on his experiences at Boys State and at Boys Nation in Washington, DC. Steve Moran also presented on the 2018 Boys State program at Thomas College.

Tommy Adkins, our Department Finance Officer, gave us all an update on Department Finances. Tommy is finishing up his tenure as the Department Finance Officer this year. Tommy also just completed an IRS audit with flying colors. He really knows how to make finances interesting. We will definitely miss Tommy's personality and sense of humor when it comes to giving us financial updates. Tommy, I thank you for a job well done and for your many years of service. You have done a great job.

The Department of Public Safety presentation and question/answer session on Beano and Games of Chance was a big hit. Both Jim Gass and Milton Champion from the Gambling Control Unit helped to explain the new rules and regulations.

Don Hands brought us up to date on the State's 100th Anniversary activities and his Centennial Book. If you have not had a chance to read his book, you should. Don did a great job. The book includes information on Maine's first 100 State Commanders. You can still order it through the Department for just \$35.

As we approach the American Legion's 100th Anniversary on March 15, 2019, I encourage all of you to come to the Hall of Flags at the State House on Friday, March 15th as the Maine American Legion 100th Anniversary Plaque is unveiled. The plaque will be located just outside the Governor's Office next to the Women Veteran's Plaque. The ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. that afternoon.

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans. Have a wonderful Maine Spring.



Meritorious Service Award Presented To Hampden Post 213: Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present a Meritorious Service Award to Hampden Post 213 during Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Receiving the award is District 13 Commander Donald Candage.



Meritorious Service Award Presented To Monson Post 116: Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present a Meritorious Service Award to Monson Post 116 during Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Receiving the award is District 14 Commander Daniel Nutter.

On the Agenda

MARCH MEETINGS

District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 20, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. mtg. and election of officers. Refreshments.

APRIL MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 9, Gray Post 86, District 2 Past Commanders and 1st District Presidents night, social hour 5 – 6 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. Meeting to follow and nomination of officers.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Apr. 14, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 17, Rumford Post 24, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. mtg. and installation of officers.

District 6 – Knox: Apr. 20, Camden Post 30, 11 a.m.

District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 10, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: Apr. 21, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: Apr. 7, Bangor Post 12, 2 p.m., refreshments served. Dist. 13 elections.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 20, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg. Election of officers.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 7, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. meal, 2 p.m. mtg. Nominations.

MAY MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: May 19, Scarborough Post 76, 2 p.m. Post Everlasting and election of officers. Installation to follow.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming Commander.

District 5 – Oxford: May 21, W. Paris Post 151, 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. mtg.

District 7 – Lincoln: May 1, Damariscotta Post 42, 5:30 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: May 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: May 5, Howland Post 97, 2 p.m., refreshments served. Installation of officers.

District 14 – Piscataquis: May 18, Greenville Post 94, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg. Annual meeting and installation of officers.

District 16 – S. Aroostook: May 4, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m. Meal is at discretion of post.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: May 5, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. meal, 2 p.m. mtg. District elections.

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 9, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.

District 6 – Knox: June 22, TBD, 11 a.m.

Money Matters

Just thinking out loud—

W. Edward Deming, a world-renowned business consultant, once said, "It's not necessary to change, survival is not mandatory." That got me to thinking about our (The American Legion) situation with membership. In many respects we are in a similar situation with most social and fraternal organizations today in that our membership continues to drop, and that loss has an impact on our abilities to do things.

Deming also said, "It is not enough to do our best, we must know first what it is that we need to be doing, and then do our best".

A Battalion Commander I worked for once asked if there was anything more worthless than doing something with great efficiency which didn't need to be done at all.

Both are interesting thoughts which caused me to reconsider something my wife (Chris) said to me some time ago. I complained that we didn't have enough members attend our Post meetings. She said, "strange, because every time you have something that needs to be done you never have a shortage of members or resources." That is true, I remember thinking, and then gave it no more thought.

On another occasion, I was speaking with my wife about the Department membership goals, when she asked what the membership goals were back when The



**TOMMY
ADKINS**

American Legion was first getting organized. I don't know if they had any membership goals in those early days, I replied. Well then what were their goals, she asked. I don't know, I said, but they would probably have been something more centered on the Four

Pillars I would guess.

There it is, the point seems to be when there are things to do people come to do them. Maybe people like to do things not just be a number.

Perhaps our approach should be: Here is what we need to do. If you can, please join and help us get it done. As Chris often tells me, you get more things done when you follow your plan than when you must discover the path as you go.

RAMIFICATIONS OF REVOCATION OR CANCELLATION OF A

More on "MONEY MATTERS", Page 5

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Judge Advocate

My current role has brought me to many Posts across the state of Maine. I find myself sitting in many Post meetings and though we all have access to the Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, I find that the meetings are either punctual, professional, and short..... or unstructured, argumentative, and lengthy.



JASON HALL

If you are in the latter category, there is a tool that can help. A tool that may be stated in about 99% of the Post by-laws across the state.....Robert's Rules of Order.

Here is a quick self-assessment tool. You should use Roberts Rules if:

- You find yourself wondering "where to go from here" during your meetings.
- Your meetings regularly stray from topics of conversation.
- Even short agenda's take hours to accomplish.
- Your by-laws state you will use Roberts Rules.
- Your meeting minutes are missing important parts of previous meetings.
- You are looking to build capacity (do more – more efficiently).

Your board has a member with a "strong personality" who feels the need to

dominate all conversations (*Hard to believe*).

1. Roberts Rules are a Road Map: Roberts Rules will help give your meetings structure by giving you a proven process to follow during your meetings. There are procedures within Roberts Rules that will help you run meetings in an efficient and professional manner. Just follow the process. Start using Roberts Rules and, in just a few months, your meetings will go faster and more tasks will get done.

2. Meeting Minutes Made Easy: It can be difficult to track what is being said at a meeting when the conversation strays from topic. The Adjutant's eyes start spinning and there are talks of getting a recorder to keep up with the side conversations and discussion. By using motions, in accordance with Roberts Rules, the tracking of meetings becomes easier to document and straying off topic, a common problem for many boards, becomes easier to recognize and correct.

Trust me, your Adjutant will thank you for the structure of a more formalized process.

3. Everyone Has a Voice: The process of Roberts Rules ensures that everyone has an opportunity to speak on a topic. A good Commander will use Roberts Rules to check in with every person at the table and give them the chance to speak. It can also limit the amount of opportunities someone can speak on a topic. The idea of limiting the number of times members can speak on a topic has advantages:

- Members will learn to be more on point and thorough when it is their turn to

More on "JUDGE ADVOCATE", Page 5

The Adjutant Speaks

As we currently endure the winter weather that we claim does not bother us, we are heading into our busy schedule again. After much planning for our Winter Conference, Jan. 19 & 20, we were challenged with a "big Storm" arriving on the evening of the 19th. We cancelled the Executive meeting for Sunday and started earlier on Saturday. Because of the distance many of our members had to travel, we did not expect the turnout that we had. Everyone arrived with a positive attitude and were willing to adapt to the schedule. We had some great speakers and presentations and most of all patience from those present. Our goal because the food had been purchased in advance, was to end the day's activities and move right into the banquet room with little fanfare and get everyone on the road by 6 pm. Well after a prayer and a thank you to all that attended, we were all on the road by 5:30 pm, I kept track with a few people from York and a couple from Madawaska only to learn that everyone arrived home before the storm. Thank you to all that attended.



PAUL L'HEUREUX

Next on the agenda is the State Oratorical Contest to be held in Waterville at Thomas College. It will be over before you receive this paper but I want you all to know that if you ever want to see a program that shows the talents of our youth in this country today, try to attend next year's program. I guarantee that you will be energized and possibly enough to help promote this in your own Post.

Currently, we are working on our membership goal for the next 3 months. We are starting to see younger members at many Posts around the State, and our leadership within the State Officers, Area Commanders, District Officer and the Post level has changed and we are seeing the positives because of this. After meeting with many of the new members, we

know what they look for within the organization. They look for what we are doing? Are we active at the Post level? Do we reach out to the community that we belong to? Are we proactive at the State and National level to make sure that we watch the legislation that is passed and how it affects Veterans' issues? Imagine that, those principles were talked about at the formation of The American Legion. If you think about it, most of us were looking for the same things when we joined. So let's see how you're doing? Let's look at the following 6 items: Post does not have any active programs; Post is not conducting regular or scheduled meetings; Post membership has declined at an alarming rate; Post leadership has lost interest or vision; Post is no longer providing for current local needs; and Post members aren't willing to assume any offices. If that sounds like you, well it might be time to step up and call your State HQ and plan to have a Post Revitalization Team go in and help you turn things around. We can even bring in a Team from the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. And by the way, part of that team is made up of younger members.

I want to close by reaching out to those members currently reading this paper and have not paid their dues, why not? Do you realize what a difference we make in a Veterans life every day? How about for his or her family? What about the homeless Veterans that The American Legion works with? We were all involved in Maine with the issue of the United States Coast Guard not getting paid; and before we knew it, Legion Posts all over the State were having fundraising events to make sure we could help our fellow Veterans. They never needed guidance; they knew what to do. So, if you cannot get involved at your Post, how about doing the next best thing, PAY YOUR DUES and help make a difference today. And should you feel like helping a little more, sign up a new member. I know you have relatives and friends that could belong and let them know also that this is a TEAM effort and we do make a difference. Stay warm and remember to stay FOCUSED and keep moving FORWARD. Thank you for all that you do.



Exchanging Ideas: Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, left, Maine State Senator and member of Madison Post 39 Brad Farrin, center, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut exchange ideas regarding Legion business during the Legislative Committee Meet & Greet held at the State House in Augusta on Jan. 9.

■ “Judge Advocate” (Continued from Page 4)

speak;

- It can quicken the decision-making process without sacrificing the opportunity to share information;

It can help prevent members, who are determined to have the last word, from repeating the same points over and over.

4. Roberts Rules Means Freedom: I know it sounds funny to think that a more formal process will result in more freedom, but it is true. Anyone who has run a meeting, at some point, has found themselves more caught up in the “running the meeting” than paying attention to what is being discussed. With a firm grasp of Roberts Rules, the meeting facilitator can relax and let Robert Rules run the meeting for them. This will allow them to play a more active role in the meeting itself.

5. Your By-laws Say You Should Use

Roberts Rules: About 99 percent of all American Legion Post by-laws state that they will use Roberts Rules to run their meetings. Chances are you’re supposed to be using them too.

Roberts Rules can seem too formal and stuffy for some people but the rules can be adjusted to the needs and “personality” of your organization. The important thing is to have a process by which you run meetings and accomplish the work that is before you. The more you repeat this process, the more efficient your meetings will become and the more effective you will be at accomplishing goals.

Check out the Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies or pick up a copy of Robert’s Rules for Dummies. Turn your Post meetings into a calm, respectful forum that makes decisions on serving Veterans and communities productive.

Jason Hall
Department Judge Advocate

■ “NEC Update” (Continued from Page 2)

there has been an end to armed hostilities and that Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as “war-time veteran” all military service personnel who served honorable under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during said period.

When the above is done, then the second resolution would go into effect which would change the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion and also change the National Constitution of The American Legion as well as any Auxiliaries.

On another note, as many of the Departments in the past have supported our own Tony Jordan in his quest for National

Commander, we are asking for support for the upcoming candidate Bill Oxford from North Carolina seeking that high office. It takes a lot of time and expense of the individuals who run for that office and it is from members of other Departments donations to assist in helping finance their expenses. Any size donation is acceptable and please send a check made out to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow 04901-0727. Earmark the check “National Commanders Campaign”. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Until next time, I am available to do whatever I can to assist you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at llohin@ainop.com, 207-557-4971 (cell). Again, thank you for being a member of our great organization.

Lloyd Woods, NEC



NEC UPDATE: National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods gives an NEC update to those in attendance at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.

Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to www.mainelegion.org located under Resources and Forms/Applications, or by contacting us via email at legion-me@mainelegion.org or Tel. at 207-873-3229.



■ “Money Matters” (Continued from Page 3)

POST CHARTER

In accordance with Article II, Section 3 of The American Legion National By-laws, upon revocation, cancellation or suspension of the charter of a Post ..., said Post shall immediately cease operations and upon revocation or cancellation shall turn over its charter to its Department Commander or DEC, and the DEC is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agent to take possession, custody and control of all the record, property and assets of said Post;

Upon cancellation of the charter, the Post is no longer legally allowed to operate a corporation as a Post of The American Legion. The Post Corporation shall be dissolved immediately and neither the Post nor any of its former officials shall be authorized to use the trademark or name of The American Legion alone or in conjunction with the name of the former Post. To do so would constitute a violation of The American Legion’s rights of trademark, trade name and letters patent; therefore, all such use must cease immediately. Failure to cease using the name of The American Legion, American Legion will result in legal action pursuant to 18 U.S.C., Section 705.

The Post essentially ceases to exist; however, should the Post have an American Legion Auxiliary, it may continue to function and apply for status as a “widow” unit. The name and number of the cancelled Post will be allocated to the Auxiliary unit.

PROCEDURES TO VOLUNTARILY TURN IN AN ACTIVE CHARTER

Should all efforts to avert the cancellation of a Post charter prove unsuccessful, The American Legion By-Laws require that all Posts complete a series of actions prior to turning in a Post charter and dissolving its corporation. The initial steps include calling a special Post meeting to vote on closing the Post. A letter announcing this meeting must be mailed to all Post members at least two weeks prior to its being held. The letter must clearly state the “purpose” of the meeting. At the Post meeting called to consider surrendering the charter, the Post Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL) and Roberts Rules of Order must be followed. Complete and detailed minutes must be kept of the proceedings. The decision to request that the charter be surrendered requires a majority vote of those members present; unless the Post C&BL specifies that a different majority is required.

Once the Post members vote to surrender the charter, the Post must immediately notify the Department Adjutant in writing of that decision.

Copies of the member notification

letter, minutes of the meeting wherein the vote was taken and an accounting of all Post assets, including real property, must accompany the request to turn in the charter.

The Department Adjutant will notify the DEC which will vote on the matter at their next regular meeting. If approved by the DEC, the Department Adjutant will request, in writing, that the National Executive Committee (NEC) accept the turn-in and cancellation of the Post charter.

Once the DEC approves the closing of a Post, it will close all financial books and records effective the date the surrender is approved. The Post will prepare final financial statements; and conduct an audit of all funds and other assets. A copy of the Post financial records, the records of Post property; along with a final income tax report (form 990) will be submitted to the Regional Director of Internal Revenue with copy provided to the Department Adjutant. The closed records will then be transferred to the Department for safekeeping by the Department Historian. **To complete the closure action, the additional following steps must be taken:**

1. If any Post property and assets are disposed of prior to the DEC authorization to accept the charter, an accounting of all such assets, including detailed minutes of any meeting authorizing the transfer of property or funds, must be provided to the Department Adjutant for review by the DEC. Any remaining property or assets must be turned over to the Department of Maine in accordance with The American Legion National Bylaws Article III, Section.

2. Upon approval by the DEC, the Post may request, in writing, that the Department Adjutant affect a blanket transfer of all remaining members from the cancelled Post to a nearby Post. That action notwithstanding, each member retains the right to transfer to the Post of his/her choice. The Department Adjutant will transfer into all members not transferred by the two options above into Post 178.

3. Since Posts are individually incorporated in Maine State, the closing corporation (Post) must be formally dissolved. The necessary forms are available from the office of the Maine Secretary of State. When the forms are complete, submit them to the Office of the Secretary of State, file a copy with the Office of County Auditor of the County in which the Post is located and provide copies of all filings and responses with the Department Adjutant.

4. Please note: The District membership quota will not be adjusted during the membership year in which a Post turns in its charter. Changes may be reflected in next year’s membership goal.

Tommy Adkins,
Department Finance Officer

Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters. If you are interesting in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@mainelegion.org to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 45 min. to an hour.

President's Message

With the holidays behind us, I just want to say what an honor and humble experience it was to attend and participate in the Christmas Gift Shop at Togus and at the South Paris Veterans Nursing Home. The interaction that we experienced with our veterans was overwhelming. I want to say thank you to all our Chairman's for doing an awesome job. The Christmas Gift Shop is one of the most rewarding programs that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors and makes me proud to be a member.

What a wonderful Mid-Winter Conference, Old Man Winter had nothing on our Department Adjutant Paul and Department Secretary Michelle with their quick work in rearranging schedules and working together to make sure everyone was able to leave earlier to make it home safe.



**PRESIDENT
JOAN CARON**

Update on our American Legion Family Project. I was blown away at the Mid-Winter Conference with the generosity and support that we have received. When we first announced our project to purchase Stryker Transport Chairs for the Out Patient Unit at Togus VA Hospital, our goal was to raise enough money to purchase four chairs at \$3,000 each. Well, so far we have raised over \$20,000! That's right, we are currently working on our seventh chair and we are not stopping there. We are also working on making a decal that will have all four emblems of our American Legion family to be included on each chair. Again, thank you for your support and generosity.

In closing, let's not forget that February marks the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester and when we honor The Four Chaplains who so selflessly did the ultimate sacrifice so others could live. During the month of February, there will be services remembering these four heroes though out the Department, please try to attend this very moving service if possible.

Thank you again for everything you do for our veterans. Yours in Service for God and Country. "WE CARE TO CARE"

Joan Caron
ALA Department President

The American Legion Family Department of Maine Helping Togus VA Hospital & Maine Veterans

We are pleased to announce our American Legion Family Project for 2018-2019 for Legion Commander Scott Paradis, Auxiliary President Joan Caron, and SAL Commander Scott Morton! Helping our VA Hospital at Togus and Maine Veterans.

We are so fortunate to have one of the best VA Hospitals in the country, and what better way to pay homage to it, by giving back. Chief, Voluntary Services Director Jonathan Barczyk told us about "The Red Coat Ambassadors", who are the volunteers who greet the Veterans at the Outpatient Unit. These volunteers have to wheel patients to different parts of the hospital, either for blood work or x-rays, and the wheelchairs they have are old and heavy and often have a hard time. So, he introduced us to the Stryker Transport Chair. When it comes to patient experience, details matter. The Stryker TC is designed to create a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment that speaks volumes to caregivers, patients and their family members. The investment in the well-being of patients and caregivers tells them you care about their comfort and safety-it tells them that they

matter.

The American Legion Family goal is to raise enough

money to buy at least 4 Stryker Transport Chairs for a total of \$12,000. As a Legion Family, we should be able to do this to help our Veterans and volunteers. Please mail your donation, payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked, "Family Project", 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901 or visit www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, our military, our children and youth, and our community.

Remember "WE DARE TO CARE" because our Veterans matter.



VA Togus Veterans Day Ceremony
Attendees: Ron Caron and ALA President Joan Caron in attendance at the Togus VA Medical Center in celebration of Veterans Day, World War 1 and the 100th Year Observance on Nov. 12, 2018, with the eagle carved by a Maine State Prison inmate.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson



Clothing For Veterans:
With the help of members from 3 units (Oakland 51, Fairfield 14, and China 195), a local merchant (Laundry Lounge in Winslow), and community members, The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine collected and cleaned an enormous clothing donation to be

used for our Veterans. NECA Ann Durost, left, and Dept. Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, right, are seen here doing laundry at the Laundry Lounge in Winslow on Mar. 8.

— Your Letters —

Scholarship Helps to Pursue Lifelong Dream

Dear Mr. L'Heureux and The American Legion Scholarship Committee,
My lifelong dream of being a Maine State Game Warden is moving forward, thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of The American Legion Department of Maine C&Y Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at Eastern Maine Community College. The \$500 award gives me the opportunity to earn skills that will serve the community following graduation. Thank you personally for your generosity: Without scholarship patrons willing to support ongoing education, students such as myself would be unable to pursue advance degrees.

Your scholarship will help me earn credentials in Criminal Justice, which requires special training and coursework. My passion for law enforcement is matched only by my love for my community of which I am very dedicated. Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and The American Legion Department of Maine C&Y Scholarship. I am committed to my education, the Criminal Justice field, and one step closer to becoming a Maine State Game Warden, thanks to your generosity.

Sincerely,
Cole LaPointe

Experience at Boys Nation Shapes Future

Commander of The American Legion, Dept. of Maine,
Thank you to The Maine American Legion and its distinguished members for providing me the opportunity to be one of the Senators from Maine at the 2018 Boys Nation program. It was an experience that shapes a lifetime.

Truly, I have returned with not only a better understanding of government, but also more of a patriot and with a profound understanding of one of the week's many phrases – Freedom Isn't Free.

Thank you,
Hagen Jakab Wallace

Boys Nation Truly Amazing!

I want to thank the American Legion for sponsoring me to attend Boys Nation as well as providing me with T-shirts, Boys State pins and spending money. It was very generous of you. I had an amazing time in D.C. and it truly was "A week that shapes a lifetime!"

Sincerely,
Caleb Richardson



Service Office Update

Good morning. This office has been working very hard to start more of an outreach program. Our first attempt was the Fryeburg Fair last year. It was an eye-opening experience. We learned a lot from the event. Trying to have a program that is effective without disrupting our daily operations at the office is very difficult. I will be working with the department to try to come up with a solution to this issue. Other than that, we have been putting the pieces in place to at least start moving forward. We now have portable access to VBMS. This was a very important step because submitting a claim on a Veteran without seeing what is in the client file can be very dangerous for the Veteran. We have also secured a way to use direct upload instead of faxing all of our claims to the intact center. This step will also save us money every day. The next hurdle is the ability to digitally sign our forms. Once we have that figured out, we can have an effective Veteran's outreach program. As an example, I could go to the Fryeburg Fair, sit down with a Veteran, have access to his VA record, and smartly submit a claim. This additional service can and will become something we will all be very proud of. The next issue that must be addressed is staffing for events. My vision going forward is to have a booth or display at all major events in Maine. Only accredited Service Officers will be able to have access to help Veterans file claims, because of the access to all the VA systems we will have.

As you know the Department Convention is coming up. I need nominations for Post Service Officer of the Year. The last few years have been a run off between only two PSOs in the Department. One of the reasons why is that they are truly doing a great job and the other reason is the fact that what they do is articulated to the decision makers for the award. It is important that we recognize their accomplishments.

The Appeals modernization act is coming into effect in February. I will keep you informed as soon as I get more infor-

mation from the VA. I can tell you that this new policy will affect our veterans.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS. Appeals have very strict time lines. See the attached chart! These dates are chiseled in STONE. Do not lose benefits by waiting too long to appeal the denial of your claim; if warranted.

12 months from notification letter, to file a Notice of Disagreement.

60 days from Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA.

30 days from Supplemental Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA.

120 days from the mailing date of a Board of Veterans Appeals Decision to file to progress to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Clams.

Contacting the DSO for Assistance by Telephone. Please just leave your name, phone number, and who you are working with.

Financial Assistance. Keep in mind that requests for financial needs should be directed to your town/city for general assistance (GA), and either a local Legion post for a possible fundraiser or The American Legion Department Headquarters. In addition, we can make referrals to other service organizations, **but we do not have the funds to pay rent, mortgage, credit card bills or other ongoing bills.** If you have children, mention TFA to the Department Adjutant when you call to see if you are eligible to apply.

PSO Training Seminar. The Post Service Officer Training will start back up in April. It will be the last Tuesday of the month as normal. I will try a Saturday this year just to see if I can get more folks to attend. If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at carl.curtis2@va.gov.

You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

**Attention
Post Service Officers**



We Want You...
at our next Post Service Officer's Training Seminar

For More Information
Or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office
at
amedeo.lauria@va.gov
Or call: 207-623-5726
to make a seminar reservation!

PSO Contact Information. Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send us your full name, Post, telephone number (your phone number will not be released) and email address. The purpose is so that members of your post can contact you for local assistance and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

DSO Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay

in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

INTENT TO FILE. Some veterans are not ready to file a claim or are looking for additional information. In that

case, you can execute an Intent to file with our office. That is NOT a claim for benefits. You have 1 year to file your claim; one year period! Failure to file in one year starts the clock on your claim from the day you file. **DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW UP AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!**

NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE. VA claims that are denied and have not been appealed within the appropriate time frame require "New and Material Evidence" to be reopened. It is sometimes futile and frustrating to the veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Af-

fairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements for Veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature.

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll. This option provides Veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

On-Line at www.vets.gov!

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.

If you haven't already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women's health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information on www.va.gov.

PLEASE USE THE DSO TO TRANSMIT YOUR CLAIMS/EVIDENCE TO THE VA; THIS ENSURES A PAPER TRAIL AND EVIDENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED! You can either mail it or drop it off in the office!

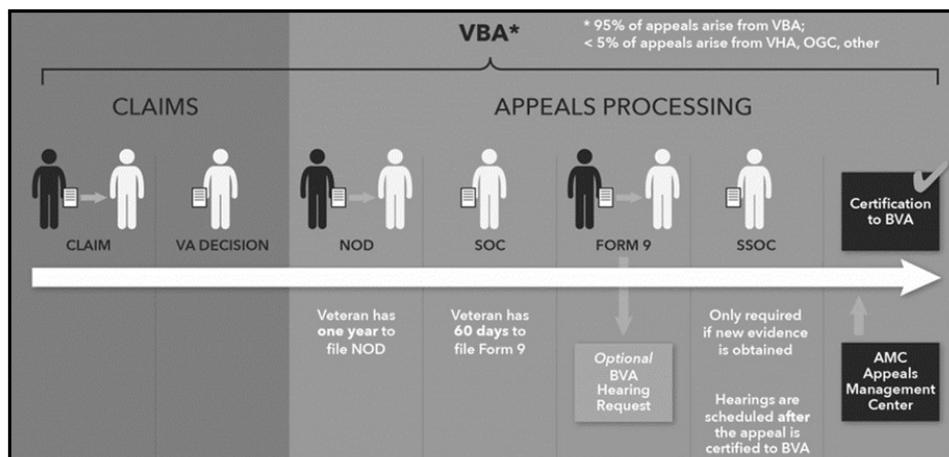
DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.

We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, maureen.malley@va.gov, or juilie.kern@va.gov.

We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, on Friday the hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot's Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in, as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT.

If you are interested in having us speak at your area or district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve status; subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least 30 minutes of your agenda for the presentation.



INSPIRED BY YOUR SERVICE.

For more than 90 years, USAA has supported the military community, and we're proud to honor the members of The American Legion. USAA is committed to stand alongside you wherever life, or the military takes you.

1-877-699-2654 | USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. The American Legion receives financial support for this sponsorship. © 2016 USAA. 231644-0716



The Boots

Last week while I exited my car at our local grocery store, I was confronted by a gentleman who gruffly asked if that was my car. With a puzzled look I answered yes. The man continued on to say "well I saw the disabled Veteran plate and wondered

what's wrong with you. You seem to look just fine to me. I don't understand why young people like you (get to be) considered disabled." It was at that point I decided it was vital to share something that's been on my mind for years. I, like many Veterans struggle to deal with a disease that is slowly killing me on the inside. It doesn't matter how fine I look on the outside. The pure ignorance of humanity can take a big toll on some of us. We aren't always the strong Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen we used to be.

I ignored the man and dragged my tall, proud, grotesquely scarred, PTSD engulfed, medication filled, bullet hole healed, blood clot ridden, body with barely functioning kidneys and lungs that happens to be short of a few organs, into the store, so that I could feed my family with three small children waiting at home. That my friends is why I have a disabled Veteran plate.

This is what inspired me to write... The Boots

ATTENN HUTTTT!!!! You step off that bus to the screams and spit blaring from the mouth of the Drill Instructors and it is at that point, life as you know it just changed. As the days in hell progress, you are all issued a pair of Tall Black Boots.

These boots will quickly become your lifeline and you will never leave without them. You will lace them, shine them, learn how to march diligently and precisely in them. When they get dirty you will clean them and proudly shine them again. You will stand for hours and hours in them. You will do push ups until you puke in them. You will eat in them, you will sleep in them, you will sweat and bleed on them, you will make friends for life in them. They will get wet and give you blisters that make you cringe but you will keep on marching proudly in them. You will train hard and learn to defend yourself and America in them.



SGT-AT-ARMS
KELLY ELA

They will protect your feet as you carry your weapons, bags and fatigued bodies across the mountains, deserts, oceans and more. These are the same boots peeking out from under the white cotton cloth of a soldier just killed in the battlefield. The same boots standing atop a makeshift memorial holding the rifle and dog tags of our sister who just paid the ultimate sacrifice. These are the boots of a United States Veteran.

All of us wore these boots and stood proudly taking the same oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America under the Red White and Blue of Old Glory. There is no person more proud than a Veteran wearing those Tall black Boots.

As each of us moved through our military careers, we traveled the world. We saw the beauty the world had to offer. We saw the terror and awful sights the world also offered. Those boots stood witness with us. As we fell, they fell, as we advanced, they advanced.

When we deployed, those boots deployed with us; we never left without our boots. We left our husbands and wives, our children, and friends. Over and over we left to stand the endless watch of freedom wearing those tall black boots.

As time progressed, each of us were ordered down a different path. Some of us injured on the outside and lost or maimed our limbs. Some of us injured our backs and necks. Some of us burned unrecognizable, while some of us received mental injuries. All while wearing the same boots as our brothers and sisters.

Some of us were unknowingly exposed to agents and poisons resulting in cancer, and diseases with no cure, all while wearing those boots.

Some of us received injuries so great, that those boots had to be put on a shelf below a flag, never to be worn again.

The one thing that stands true is those Black Boots were worn by every United States Veteran, fighting to defend our country. It doesn't matter what branch of service. It doesn't matter if they were on the feet of a man or a woman, young or old. At one point they were laced up and cared for with pride like no other.

Our disabilities may all be different and not always seen on the outside. They were all acquired performing the same mission, while wearing those same tall black boots.

So next time you go to judge that disabled Veteran that looks "fine" on the outside, take a moment to look at his or her feet and remember. At one time, he or she strapped up those boots for your freedom and is now paying the price with no regret. God Bless America.

A Brief History of Kennebunk Post 74

This is a brief illustrative history of American Legion Post 74 of Kennebunk, Maine. Based on newspaper reports dating back to the 1920s, it is not an exhaustive history. Its goal, instead, is to present a brief picture of how the Post changed and developed up through the 1950s. It will do this by looking at the bits of its history, as shown in the news articles, on a decade by decade basis.

Over March 15-17, 1919 in Paris France, an initial formative meeting to create an American Legion Veteran's group was held at the urging of General Teddy Roosevelt Jr. with the assistance of General Pershing. A selected (by Pershing and Roosevelt) combination of career and volunteer military officers attended this first convention. On September 16, 1919 the United States Congress granted a charter for a Veteran's group formation. Out of this initial formative process The American Legion was formed and held its first National Convention on November 10-12th 1919. On December 19th, 1919, in Kennebunk, Maine, Webster Post 74 of the Legion held its first meeting with Frank Littlefield as Chairman, in the lower hall of the Opera House. The later initial, more permanent meeting place would be the Town Hall, but over the decades, the meeting places have changed many times with the current meeting location being 15 Water St., Kennebunk, ME. The Post was named after Harold Webber, the first person from Kennebunk killed in World War I.

The relationship between the new Legion Post and the existing old Webster Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which had been the United States Veteran's group established after the Civil War, was very close and strong. Their missions were basically the same: remembrance, service to community, education, comradeship, and protective continuation of the ideals for which they had fought and died. Jesse Webster who the GAR post had been named after was an example of this code. He had been killed in a canon accident in 1876.

In Kennebunk the two units worked closely together over the many decades until the last member of the GAR (Albert Woodson), died in 1956, and the organization was dissolved.

As the GAR organization aged, the Legion organization gradually took over the duties and fulfilled the responsibilities. (It is worth mentioning throughout the United States, this alliance between the two organizations did not always exist: in Kennebunk it did.) For example, initially, as it did on the June 5th, 1925 Memorial Day ceremonies the Legion members supported GAR activities. These were activities, such as visiting the local cemeteries (like Pine Grove which the Legion has been visiting for approximately 100 years), marching in Memorial parades, and organizing and conducting civic events (such as dances, concerts, plays, etc.), and supporting civic groups such as the Scouts. Within a few years, Post 74 took the lead in organizing and conducting these activities because of the aging and declining numbers of the GAR in attendance. The old guard was passing the mission on to the new guard.

Quite a few Auxiliary organizations sprang up to help continue this work. Groups such as the Women's Relief Organization, Legion Auxiliary, and Ladies Auxiliary directly working with Post 74 in the 1920s on. The continuance of the overall organizational goals, as listed above, was the uniting factor as evidenced by actions through the years.

Up through the late 1930s, other than conducting Memorial and 4th of July events, such as parades, placing flags in the cemeteries, etc., the Post attended the National Conventions in Boston marching in the lengthy parades (10 hours long in 1930 and 18 hours long the next year); refurbished the West Kennebunk Grange hall (1931); lead the Armistice Day celebration in Kennebunk and worked alongside the community organizers to sponsor, organize, and conduct the local celebrations. Also, during this time the Post lead the visit of Veterans to the World War I battlefields in France (1931); sponsored various plays for the public at the Kennebunk Town Hall; supported the GAR vets (1931) dedicated two Oak trees in remembrance at the Nason property; decorated the graves at Mt. Pleasant, Pinegrove, and Evergreen cemeteries (1931); and in 1936-1941 helped support the "Combating Un-Americanism movement" by: Organizing a junior baseball team; Conducting safety first campaigns; Conducting flag education classes; Performing civic work with the Chamber of Commerce Collecting and distributing food for the needy during Thanksgiving and Christmas; Collecting and distributing relief during the March 1936 floods; Setting up the yearly Christmas tree for the town; and organizing and conducting the yearly memorial services.

The 1940s activities were basically divided into three segments: those leading up to the War, activities during the War, and activities after the War. In 1939, the Post attended the 21st American Legion Convention, strongly supported the movement to universal service, provided support to widows and orphans in the Kennebunk area, and visited/supported disabled Vets and hospitals. 1940 again saw the visiting of cemeteries and participation in Memorial Day Events.

In August 1941, Post 74 along with other Legion Posts kicked into high gear with the National Defense Program. The Posts during this program provided and practiced for disaster and relief aid, air raid warning organization and practice, and provision of support to police and fire units. This program was under the direction of the War Department.

On October 29, 1942, by an act of Congress, Post 74 along with the rest of the Legion was incorporated with the commitment to the values of: Upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States; Promoting peace and goodwill in the country and world; Preserving memories and incidents of the two World Wars; Cementing the comradeship born of joint service; and Consecrating efforts of members to promote helpfulness and service to country.

With the Country now on a war footing, the Post members organized Home Guard activities, such as recruiting retirees for activities, training airplane spotters, providing pre-induction training, providing vocational training to disabled vets, setting up observation posts, contributing information to the Town Hall Honor Roll, being involved with war bond efforts, helping collect scarce materials such as metal, and supporting and helping returning vets and their families. These activities occurred along with the usual performance of the Memorial Day observances.

In the post War world, in 1945, the Post helped create the World War Memorial Community Center and in 1946, the Memorial Athletic Field next to Kennebunk High

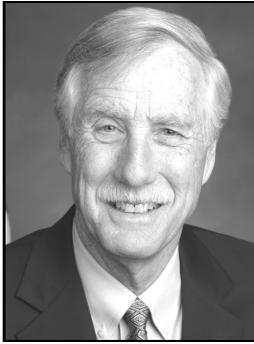


Mother & Son Memorial Day Celebration: American Legion Department of Maine Sgt.-At-Arms Kelly Ela, left, with her son, Nathaniel Elsaesser, a future Legion Rider Chapter 155 and SAL member, celebrate Memorial Day together at the 2018 Memorial Day Ceremony held in Naples.

Coast Guard Keeps Us Safe, Despite Unnecessary Shutdown

The men and women proudly serving in the U.S. Coast Guard were – like hundreds of thousands of other federal employees – caught up in a 35 day partial government shutdown that was both reckless and avoidable. Despite being involuntarily embroiled in Washington’s squabbling, Coast Guard personnel from Eastport, Maine to Kodiak, Alaska upheld their duties to protect our country and continued to patrol our waterways and coastline.

Thankfully, with the shutdown over, Coast Guard members will receive the paychecks they missed; I was happy to cosponsor the bill to ensure federal employees received the pay they were due. But it should never have to be this way. Over the course of the shutdown, we heard



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

stories from Coast Guard families who were forced to take out loans to pay their bills and care for their children. Others still had to rely on food pantries and the good will of neighbors and community members to make ends meet.

This is why we cannot and must not shut down the government for temporary political gain, and it’s why I repeatedly called on the President to take yes for an answer by accepting the bipartisan agreement that overwhelmingly passed the Senate before Christmas and immediately reopen the government. I support increased border security, because I believe it is necessary for national security, but those who protect our shores and border shouldn’t have to suffer as this complicated policy debate unfolds.

As we move on from this unnecessary political maelstrom, I urge my colleagues to remember the damage this shutdown created for hundreds of thousands of federal employees and for thousands more federal contractors. We cannot take for granted the vigilance and dedication of the U.S. Coast Guard who, in the face of adversity, continued to stand watch.

■ Post History

(Continued from Page 8)

School.

The Post was incorporated under State Law in 1946. Also in 1946, the Post refurbished and moved into The Nellie Parsons estate property. Along with the usual Memorial Day activities in May held an antique show in August and scrap drive in September. Of most significance in 1946 was the renaming of the Post by adding the name of Edward Lefebvre (the first service member from Kennebunk killed in World War II to the Post’s name: now Webber-Lefebvre Post 74.

In the late '40s, there were paper drives, sponsored minstrel shows, adoption of a six year old boy in France, working with local Scout organizations, erection of a flag at the then current Post, acquisition of a pool table and television, sponsoring of a "Battle of the Acts" performance, sponsoring of a fun fair and formation of a past commander's club. These types of activities continued into later years with sponsorships of beauty contests, fun fairs, etc. and in the early 1950s, a Crusade for Freedom movement. In 1947, the old World War I German howitzer (1st acquired in 1925), which had been sent to support the necessary metal scrap drive during the War, found its way back and was placed next to the Civil War monument across from the Kennebunk library.

Through the '20s, '30s, '40s, '50s, and into the '60s and on, Kennebunk's Legion Post 74, as have those throughout the country and world, has seen many changes in their size, activities, cultural environment, and membership.

During the years through the early 1950s, Post 74 was, as was also much of the Legion throughout the United States, very active and had large participation. For example, as mentioned, the Mt. Pleasant, Pine Grove, Evergreen, and many other cemeteries in the local area were maintained with flags for Memorial Day and July 4th. There were many sponsored events, such as beauty pageants, public plays, etc. The Post also

provided color guards for many civic events over the years and organized parades and other celebratory and memorial events. They also sponsored and supported many patriotically oriented youth and town activities and, of course, the various war efforts from World War II, to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and it goes on.

But as culture, as time, changed, the Legion and the Post moved through the various wars and a host of other conflicts: the evolving environment and culture forced changes. The Legion and Post, for example, broadened their membership eligibility requirements to include these new Veterans from these new conflicts.

But several other things occurred within our society, as well. One of these was the growing lack of interest in our culture to civic group participation. So from the high membership roles of the 1930s and 1940s, Post 74 and the rest of the Legion saw a steep decline in membership which we are still struggling with today.

As Post 74 moves forward, as does the rest of the Legion, we face these new and continuing challenges of membership, financing, changing social role in a changing society, environment, the core mission of the Post, and larger organization remains the same: a commitment to our members, our shared values, and dedication to the principles upon which our country was founded. Our organizational life stretches back a long way, and as Col. William C. Horton said, as speaker, at the 1925 Memorial Day ceremonies, "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet; lest we forget, lest we forget."

And as we remember individuals like James V. Day (1914-Aug 11, 1986) a WWII Veteran, who was a commander of Post 74 and later went on to become head of the United States Maritime Association for 23 years, and Joseph Lake, who was the last soldier from Kennebunk who had served in the Civil War; we of Post 74, continue this tradition of service and remembrance.

By Donald G. Beane

Supporting Military Caregivers, America’s “Hidden Heroes”

In March of 1919, just four months after they won the peace that ended World War I, veterans of the American Expeditionary Force gathered in Paris for the first American Legion caucus, and that great organization was chartered by Congress before year’s end. Among the American Legion’s first accomplishments was leadership in establishing of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, the forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A century later supporting our Veterans and those who serve today remains among our greatest obligations. That obligation includes supporting America’s “hidden heroes” – the 5.5 million family caregivers who provide essential daily care to spouses, children, parents, and other loved ones who bear the wounds of their service protecting our nation and our freedom.

In June 2017, I chaired a hearing of the Senate Aging Committee to examine the challenges facing these devoted family caregivers. A report released at the hearing found that these individuals provide roughly \$14 billion a year in voluntary, uncompensated care, and they often sacrifice their own physical, emotional, and financial well-being to do so.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I advocated for the inclusion of \$181 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program in the 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill that was signed into law in September. The funding includes a \$300,000 investment for the creation of a Family Caregiving Council to implement the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, a new law I authored that will establish a coordinated strategy to support family caregivers.

In addition, following my advocacy, the 2019 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that also was signed into law in September includes \$865 million – an increase of \$369 million over the amount requested in the administration’s budget – for the VA Caregiver Program. This program, which supported caregivers of post-9/11 Veterans, will be expanded in the coming years to include pre-9/11 Veterans and their caregivers with the enactment of the VA Mission Act, which I championed.

Named in honor of the late Senator John McCain and Representative Samuel Johnson, a Texas Republican, both of whom were prisoners of war in Vietnam, and also for Daniel Akaka, a former Hawaii Democratic Senator and World War II Veteran, the VA Mission Act of 2018 creates a new Veteran Community Care Program to streamline the delivery of



SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

health care and help Veterans access care closer to home. This historic legislation establishes expanded and more flexible criteria for when Veterans may access VA-funded care in their communities, such as when Veterans

face burdens in accessing VA facilities due to long wait times, excessive driving distances, or medical conditions that might affect his or her ability to travel. Veterans in Maine who might have to drive great distances to the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta will continue to have the opportunity to continue receiving care closer to home.

Veterans deserve convenient access to the high-quality health care that they have earned through their service, and I’ve heard from countless Maine Veterans about how excessive distances and long wait times were getting in the way of their access to high quality care in their communities. I am pleased that Congress passed this legislation to expand access to health care services to all Veterans, and I look forward to continuing to work with the VA on its implementation in Maine.

Last November, I was honored to receive the first Congressional Caregiver Champion Award from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, the preeminent organization empowering and supporting our military caregivers.

Former Senator Elizabeth Dole began the Foundation after she came to know family caregivers in 2011 when her husband, wounded World War II hero and former Senator Bob Dole, was hospitalized at Walter Reed. The Foundation’s Hidden Heroes campaign brings vital attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and provides a network for military caregivers to connect with their peers and access vital resources.

It was a particular honor to be presented with that award by Maine’s 2017 Dole Foundation Caregiver Fellow, Marjorie Pennington, whose husband, Matthew, was grievously wounded in Iraq. Her words describe the dedication of our family caregivers: “He fought for our freedom, and I will always fight for him.” These patriots caring for a wounded warrior are among America’s hidden heroes and they need our support.



Kittery Legion Post is Reactivated Posts Need to Change with the Times to Survive

Henry Wallingford was born on Mar. 9, 1893 in Rochester, New Hampshire. By the 1900's, he was attending school and living with his uncle, Samuel A. Jackson, in Kittery, Maine. By all accounts he became a well-respected and responsible young adult. He owned his own motorcycle and worked for B & M Railroad in the roundhouse. He joined the Riverside Lodge of Oddfellows in Kittery on Oct. 5, 1914.

He answered the nations call to war on May 28, 1918. He was a Private and served with the American Expeditionary Forces. He was killed in action on Nov. 28, 1918. His gravestone reads his quote: "I realized that this might happen, but it is all for a good cause, and I am glad that I came." As the first casualty of the war from Kittery, Maine, he became the namesake of its American Legion Post.

During World War II, Keith Harris was an aviator and the son of prominent local Pastor C. Basil Harris. He was declared missing in action and later lost. He became the second namesake to form the Wallingford-Harris American Legion Post 89 of Kittery, Maine.

Over time, the services provided to Veterans and the community were wide and varied. Dinner and dances were hosted early on as was assistance to help Veterans through the "red tape" of the government and understanding their earned benefits. The Post sent numerous kids to Boys and Girls state programs, sponsored American Legion Baseball teams and the local Boy Scouts. Radios were donated for Veterans at the hospital at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. On Aug. 1, 1941, the Post sponsored a block party where they featured an "iron lung" they had bought for the community. Of course, the Post participated in Veterans and Memorial Day exercises such as parades and flag placements. The Post itself was opened to be a home away from home for traveling service members.

The Post had high and low points of participation over time. The late 1960's was a particularly low point and the local



barber, Roger Gauthier, kept the post alive – at least on paper. Hearing of this predicament; Vietnam Veteran Douglas Burnell accepted the challenge to rejuvenate the Post.

Douglas Burnell joined the U. S. Navy in 1946. He served on the USS Chadron PC 564, (a sub chaser), as an electrical engineer. He was discharged in 1951 and entered the CB reserves in 1966 where he went to school for diesel engine and was put on fire fighting and damage control duties as part of the Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion building bases and airfields in Vietnam. He was recalled to active duty on May 13, 1968 and served as a First Class electrician.

His ribbons and awards are numerous including: Combat Action Ribbon; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Ci-

tion; Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation; Civil Action Color; Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device; and M-16 expert medal.

In addition; he was involved in Civic affairs as a member of the Elks Club, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers financial secretary, and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served as Parade Marshal for several years.

I interviewed him and asked him what he remembers about the Post. He told me the Post "did a lot for the teens" They could hang out and play pool. Once again, the Post had become a focal point in the community. Friday night dances were very popular; cost \$4 and were held for the teenagers, some of which would help clean up the

Post for the Saturday night socials. The Saturday night socials were an adult affair with as many as 120 people attending. There were New Year's Eve parties, Halloween parties, and Costume parties. The Post held Bingo contests. The Post Auxiliary was very active having as many as five or six ladies in the kitchen making dinners.

As the Post was a rather large building, it came with a rather large heating bill which the Post was behind on because of the lack of fundraising events and member participation for most of the 1960's.

Rejuvenating the Post proved to be very difficult and here is where we as Legionnaires could learn from the eventual demise of the Post. Commander Burnell was "practically an outcast" in the Post as he was a Vietnam Veteran or a "new kid on the block" as some others would say. Many members were resistant to any change.

Most World War I Veterans were stalwart in their positions. They viewed Post social activities such as the dances and Saturday socials as "liabilities" and not something the post should be involved in. They, of course, didn't participate in these activities leaving more work to the few. For their part, most World War II Veterans saw the activities as money makers and were somewhat supportive yet the two factions couldn't or wouldn't get along. Add to this, many were unhappy having a Vietnam Vet as Commander.

The different factions caused a constant and unpleasant churn in the Post. The Post was no longer a fun place to be. Some members felt the Post lost its identity when they couldn't get their own way. When I asked Past Commander Burnell why the Post shut down, he simply answered, "People were tired of arguing – people stopped coming." I then asked what could be learned from his experience that might help other Posts and leaders. He thought for a moment and answered, "We need to remain principled but change with the times."

Submitted by Donald G. Hands
Dept. of Maine 100th Anniversary Chairman



100th Anniversary Update: 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman Donald G. Hands gives an update on the 100th Anniversary Celebration to those attending the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

Submitting your Post History

Steps for Submitting your Post History:
1. Before you begin, you will need to have some information ready to be uploaded to the National site.

Post namesake (if you have one or more). Also provide a brief history of namesake(s). Paragraph or two

Post/District First Commander, and brief history if available

Post/District significant individual(s) (historical) and history. Bio

History of the Post/District (narrative) Photos optional but great if you have them

2. Collect these items and write up in advance so that they can be uploaded. Any additional information needs to be typed directly on the site.

3. When you log-in, retain your log-in information, so you can go back to the site for edits and additions.

4. Go to: www.legion.org/centennial page

5. Scroll down to: "share your history" (about half way down the site)

6. Scroll a short distance further to: "Tell us about your Post" There are several photos, select the one with "Tell us about your Post", click

7. Next page will ask for: State (pull down and select Maine) and Post # (enter) and click "select".

8. If you have a history site it will come up, if not you are asked to "Please sign in and enter it"

9. Sign in (keeping your sign in info) and follow the prompts, entering info by hand or download.

10. When done, save and enter any photos, save and you're done.

You have successfully placed your Post History on the Centennial National page for all to review (and become one step closer to the Post Excellence Award.)

Looking forward to seeing all the District 2 and Post Histories on the Centennial Pages.

By David Tanguay
District 2 Adjutant

— Bits 'N Pieces —

Rockland Post 1

In the last seven years 175 quilts have been presented to Veterans who have served during war time on foreign soil.

Squadron 1 gave three \$500 scholarships in January to three deserving high school graduates.

Gardiner Post 4

Gardiner Unit 4 donated two bags of gifts to the Betsy Ross House. Also they went shopping for three veterans for Christmas.

Caribou Post 15

Caribou Post 15 for their donations of \$50 to Camp Sun Shine, \$50 to Girl Scouts, \$50 to American Heart Assoc., \$50 to St. Jude, \$50 to Salvation Army, \$50 to Memorial Day Foundation, \$50 to Hope & Justice, \$400 to Caribou Veterans Home, \$100 to Angel Flight, \$25 to Camp Capella, \$125 to Team Leadership, \$200 to Breakfast for Vietnam Veterans, \$50 to United Veterans of Maine, \$75 to Holy Rosary Blanket Ministry, \$50 to Maine Blind Camp and \$50 to T.A.M.C Survivor Health Care.

South Portland Post 35

Post 35 delivered thirteen baskets to the Vet Center in Portland and seven to the Coast Guard base in South Portland. Personnel at these locations move the boxes on to needy Veterans. A portion of the cost is a budgeted item in the Post budget and about 35 per cent of the funds are donated. Items in the baskets include a 8 – 10# frozen turkey, yams, potatoes, squash, carrots, celery, canned vegetables, sugar, flour, gravy, cranberries, cake mix with frosting, Jell-O and pudding and many more items including apples, tangelos and bananas.

Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 spent approximately \$3,000 for boots and coats for Madison and Carrabec students. Thanks to all the businesses who supported this project.

Thank you to Luke Perkins, a junior at Madison Area Memorial HS, who performed the National Anthem and played Taps on the trumpet at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Unit 39 member Maxine Dube has mailed out \$20,346.96 worth of coupons over the summer. Thank you to Maxine and Barbara Wyman for their hours of gathering and cutting coupons. Thank you to all who donated coupons.

Unit 39 for their donations of \$50 to a family who lost their home due to fire, \$50 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner, \$300 to the Gift Shop at Maine Veterans Home, Augusta, \$50 to the President's project, \$50 for Comfort

Items for VAVS at Togus, \$30 each to three Girl Scout Troops, \$50 to sponsor an Auxiliary member running for Mrs. Maine, \$50 to a Jr. Auxiliary member for her American Heritage trip, \$25 to Cedar Ridge Resident's Council in memory of Unit 39 Jean Fortin, \$10 to Camp Capella, \$50 worth of items for Camp Tall Pines, \$100 to a Legionnaire member and family who lost their house in a fire, bought Christmas gifts for two Veterans at MVHA and for three members of Madison Post 39 who are in nursing homes for \$143, \$50 each month for comfort items at Togus for December and January and \$50 to NEADS in memory of Colonel. They also mailed out care packages to two of their deployed Legion members. Local food cupboards will be the recipient of \$700.

Squadron 39 donated \$500 to the Waterville Chapter Maine Home for Little Wanderers, \$500 to the Travis Mills Foundation and \$150 to Wreaths Across America. They also helped defray the cost of a Junior member's up-coming Heritage Tour trip and allocated a \$250 scholarship to a senior at Madison High School.

Pembroke Post 59

Pembroke Post 59 donated \$1,000 in debit cards to the Coast Guard in Eastport.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick Post 79 for their donations of \$400 to the Berwick Fuel Emergency Fund, \$200 to the Table of Plenty, \$50 to the Somersworth-Berwick Food Pantry, \$100 to the North Berwick Bethel Christian Church (Christmas Project), \$100 to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, \$30 to the Dover, NH Police Department (Christmas Baskets), \$35 to the Rollinsford, NH Police Department (Christmas Baskets), \$150 to the Lebanon Union Free Will Baptist Church (Christmas Baskets), for a total of \$1,065 in donations to area charities. These monetary donations were made possible through the Post's annual Fall raffle and the generous donations of raffle items from Maine and New Hampshire area businesses.

Windham Post 148

Each Wednesday Post 148 collects non-perishable food items to be delivered to the Portland VET-CENTER on Thursday to support the homeless Veteran population.

Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier received a National Recruiter Hat Pin at the last Awards and Recognition night.

Windham Unit 148 supported the Vet-Coffee program by a donation of two \$100 Hannaford gift cards to help defray the cost of donuts and fruit for the weekly event.



American Legion Baseball Important Notice



The American Legion Baseball Committee, Department of Maine has announced that any American Legion Post, town or high school wishing to enroll a team in American Legion Baseball in Maine during the 2019 season must do so by April 1, 2019. Anyone interested in having a team, should contact State Director David Gray at dgray_103@hotmail.com or call 778-4375.

For more information go to www.mainelegion.org. Click on "Programs" and toggle to "baseball". See "registration open for the 2019 American Legion Baseball season".

The mandatory Senior Legion State Meeting will be held on April 28, 2019 at 10 a.m. American Legion Headquarters, 5 Verti Dr., Winslow, Maine. All teams must have a representative present at this meeting.

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

In 2018, The American Legion awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Award Amounts

Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive \$500.

Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional \$2,500 scholarship.

A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.

All-Academic Team winners will retain their \$500 scholarship from their department.

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight (8) years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

For a copy of the application, please visit

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball> or

<http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/programs/baseball.php>

—www.legion.org

2019 Legion Baseball Registration Now Open

Returning coaches may renew their teams or register new teams. New coaches should contact their department's chairman to find out more information about state-specific rules and deadlines.

Registration will run through the early deadline on May 15. Teams registered after May 15 will be subject to \$200 late fee through the final deadline on June 1.

Each state may set an earlier deadline for registration, however.

Teams registering in 2019 will spend the same amount in national fees and administrative fees as they did last season, while only spending \$6 more for insurance.

Fees for senior teams will remain \$50 for national registration, \$35 for adminis-

trative fees and either \$155 for season personal accident or \$225 for year-round coverage. General liability costs increased by \$6 to \$106.

Fees for junior teams will remain \$25 for national registration, \$35 for administrative fees and either \$130 for season personal accident or \$185 for year-round coverage. General liability costs increased by \$6 to \$74.

State fees, if applicable, will vary by state.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, [contact your department chairmen](#).

For more information on Legion Baseball, visit www.legion.org/baseball.

Insurance purchases will be available after Jan. 15.

—www.legion.org
Jan. 1, 2019



Sixth Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon a Huge Success

Rumford Post 24 along with support from the Women Veterans Advisory Committee held their 6th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in October. Even though the weather was not the best, it was once again a huge success. Our community and members are the best. As always, they donated toward our free giveaways. Dunkin Donuts provided coffee and donuts. Hannaford gave a gift card toward our cake. So many businesses and personal donations were given for this event.

Rumford Post, Unit and SAL 24 vol-

unteers again gave so much of their time and are always the best at supporting our luncheons. Valerie, Carol, Rorrie, Joy B, Keith, Sue, Pam, Rena, Jo, Kirk and Jessica, your endless hours of volunteering are truly appreciated. Our Reiki volunteers Birdie, Kim, Kathy and Rodney were amazing. Diane did an amazing job leading our Paint n Take. Jan and Elizabeth led our book group (Poetry in Motion) and shared. It was amazing. Claire Starnes shared her book and spoke on her Vietnam experiences. Michelle brought her essential oils and explained how they can sup-

port us. Senator Angus King was our guest speaker. He joined us for lunch and addressed our women Veterans then opened it up for discussion. Our Junior Girl Scouts 910 was as usual truly amazing performing the National Anthem and other songs. The Scouts brought homemade cards and also helped serve lunch.

Information tables were set up by TOGUS American Legion Service Office, Vets Center, Bruce Poliquins' and Angus Kings' office.

Thank you to all the Women Veterans Advisory Committee members who also

attended and supported this event.

A special thank you to 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut and Americanism Officer Alfred McKay for attending and helping with dishes and clean up.

We had a total of 39 women Veterans in attendance which was not bad considering the weather we had. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all who supported this event. Without your community and personal support, this would not be possible.

Patricia Thurston
Women's Advisory/Women Veterans Action
Committee Chairwoman



Marine Veterans with Senator Angus King



Navy Veterans with Senator Angus



Air Force Veterans



Army Veterans



Should the Cadet Nurse Corps be Recognized as Veterans?

“They saved lives at home, so others could save lives abroad”. This quote is etched on the plaque at the Eisenhower Memorial Plaza in East Meadow, New York. This plaque was created to honor all those who served in our Cadet Nurse Corps.

The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps was created by Congress on June 15, 1943. President F.D. Roosevelt later signed into law on July 1, 1943. The Corps began in 1943 and ended in 1948. Approximately 124,000 women graduated from the Cadet Nursing Corps.

When World War II began, those who were already trained as nurses were transferred to military service. This created a

shortage here at home. The Cadet Nursing Corps was created to provide enough nurses for here at home while other nurses were sent away during World War II. This program allowed all who were interested to apply no matter what their race was.

Any woman between the ages of 17 to 35 could apply as long as they were in good health and had graduated from a high school with good accreditation. If applicants were accepted, they were then eligible to have their tuition, books, uniform, as well as receiving a stipend. In order to receive this they had to agree to serve and provide services throughout World War II.

Cadet Nurses came from all walks of life that spanned our entire nation. There

were many reasons for wanting to become a Cadet Nurse, but the most important was because their country needed them. This program was considered the largest of the federal programs. This program provided a way for young women to serve their country. They did this in uniform and without being discriminated against. The Cadet Nurse Corps worked stateside and

their efforts were extremely important to our war effort. They took care of our soldiers returning home that needed medical treatment. The Surgeon General, Tomas Parran Jr., told the U.S. House Committee on Affairs in 1945 “We cannot measure what the loss to our country would have been if civilian services had collapsed, any more than we could measure the cost of failure at the Normandy beachheads.”

As of today our Cadet Nurse Corps are not recognized as Veterans. They do not receive benefits that others do who have served our country. How can this be okay? I find it puzzling that these women served our country, wore uniforms and to this day have not been given Veteran status. I realize that they did not go overseas. In the words of Amedeo Lauria, “One Team One Fight”. To me this statement means that, it should not matter where they served as long as they served their country. We all joined for one reason and that is to support the United States of America.

Several bills have been filed in Congress over the past few decades. Nothing so far has worked to help these women. Senator King shared that the Senate passed his resolution honoring the 75th anniversary of the Cadet Nurse Corps. It is wonderful to honor these women but they want more than that. Doris Kent of Green City, Mo. wrote a letter to President Trump stat-

ing “I believe that the women who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps 1943-1948 should receive full veteran status.” Kent’s daughter Mary Riley shares “My mom said at one time they were ‘Veterans without benefits,’” Riley said. “Well, that’s not really a Veteran.” I personally have to agree. “Harry S. Truman told our superiors that we would earn such benefits,” Kent wrote. “Unfortunately, that was not the case. I stood by my husband’s side while he received the honor, recognition, and benefits of being a Veteran for over 65 years, while I received no such recognition.” Doris Kent passed away on Jan. 5, 2019. She died receiving no Veteran’s benefits and no military honors at her funeral service. This in my opinion is a disgrace.

Our Veterans of WWII came home to a strong health care system due to these women serving in the Cadet Nurse Corps. They received critical care by these nurses. They wore their uniforms with pride and were promised they would receive military benefits. My answer to the question would be “yes”, I believe they deserve the honor of being recognized as a Veteran. My hope is that someday they will receive full Veteran status.

By Tricia Thurston
Women's Advisory/Women Veterans Action
Committee Chairwoman



Women Veterans Committee Update: Women's Advisory/Women Veterans Action Committee Chairwoman Patricia Thurston speaks on Women Veterans to those in attendance during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.

A DIFFERENT VIEW...

CHANGING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION

“There may be only one reality, but there are many perceptions of it.”

As Legionnaires, we are or should be very concerned about the public perception of our Posts. The more involved you are with your Post – the more you realize the good your Post does. I believe that most Posts do good work and support the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Remember, you and your Post are where people get their perceptions about the American Legion.

Still, the public perceptions of our Posts are sometimes misunderstood. How many times have you heard such comments as?

“I wouldn't go to the Legion – all they do is drink alcohol.”

“That Post is dead.”

“My Dad was active but the Post doesn't do anything anymore so I didn't join.”

“Nobody ever asked me to join.”

Or worse yet:

“American Legion Post – I didn't know this town had one.”

As Legionnaires, it is our responsibility to care for the reputation of The American Legion. There are steps we can take that do just that. Let's look at a few of them.

If your Post has a bar; maintain an atmosphere that doesn't tolerate over indulgence. Over indulgence is not good for the drinker, will eventually get the Post negative publicity, and possibly even sued. As a Legionnaire – it's a good idea not to drink alcohol with your hat on. Something as simple as a well-meaning friend could put your picture on social media and inadvertently feed the perception of alcohol abuse at the Post.

Make it obvious that your Post is not “dead”. Schedule activities at the Post and encourage members to bring guests. Wear your hat or uniform to appropriate public events. Develop a close liaison with community leaders such as the mayor, police chief, and other community organizations. Invite them. Have someone in the Post develop a good working relationship with the press. It doesn't have to be the

Commander but he or she would be the ideal person. I am speaking from my experience; if the press knows who you are, you can develop credibility – they will work with you.

On the subject of the press, let them know when you are doing a community service or holding another community interest function. Most everyone knows you will be there for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and parades. I am talking about other activities such as visiting nursing homes, sending out care packages, and donating money to charities. Make sure you have a sign identifying your Post and contact information. While we do not do these services for the personal recognition, the press received can go a long way to disprove the perception that the Post “doesn't do anything anymore”.

When I hear; “Nobody ever asked me to join”, I am generally surprised. It may be that someone has asked this Veteran in the past but it wasn't a priority for him or her then and the opportunity was soon forgotten. In any case find ways to reach out to Veterans in your area. My Post puts informational tags on windshields of Veteran's cars. You may get these tags through the Department of Maine. When we have Post functions or go to community functions, we will have a few applications on us – just in case. I printed out a business card that says “Meet me at the Post” and gives meeting times and our location. In addition, go on www.legion.org and print out meeting notices you can put your Post information on and hang up in supermarkets, libraries, and town offices. Remember to ask permission first.

These are behaviors that will Posture us well in our second hundred years of service to God and Country. If you follow these suggestions, eventually you will hear less and less of “American Legion Post - I didn't know this Town had one” and more of “How can I join?”

By Donald G. Hands
Department of Maine, 100th Anniversary Chairman



Welcome Remarks: State Commander Scott Paradis, left, looks on as Past National Commander Anthony Jordan delivers his welcoming remarks to those in attendance during the Annual Mid-Winter in Bangor on Jan. 19.

THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP

“From the common man (or woman) are selected the leaders of tomorrow.”

In our democratic government that is the ideal situation. Having said that, and truer to the issue, The Leadership of The American Legion comes from the ranks of its membership whether at the Post, District, Department, or National level. Each Officer started as a **Veteran and a Blue Hat Legionnaire**.

At the last District meeting, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill mentioned that it is not too soon to be thinking of a future leadership position in the Post or District. The formal nomination process for most will start in Feb. or March with elections in April/May for the 2019-20 cycle. Do you have a skill set to offer the Post or District? Please look at these officer positions as an opportunity to serve your fellow Veteran at the next level. Most Department or even National Commander did not initially think that some day they would rise to that position. It all started with taking that first step, Officer in the Post.

One of the current issues within Post and Districts is a tendency of Officers to remain in the same position for several years. The comment often heard is, no one wants the job, so, I'll stay another year. I've got to admit, I've used that phrase myself as a Past Commander. A way around this situation is to institute “Term Limits” in the Post and District By-laws that limit most positions to 2-3 years before having to be replaced. (one year to learn the job and one or two to make a difference). There are exceptions: The Post Finance Officer and Adjutant often provided training and continuity in the organization and should be retained for longer periods (but not indefinite).

Rotation of Officers in the organization provides opportunities for newer members to step up and make a difference.

This process should not be done in a vacuum. The natural progression is to take a position such as Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms, Historian, Service Officer, etc. to learn the internal workings of the Organization then move up to Adjutant, Finance Officer, Vice Commander, with a goal of becoming the Commander a few years down the road. This progression allows for training and understanding of how the Post or District operates.

One way of getting a jump on any Post or District position is to attend the department level training, Legion College. The Department Legion College is based on a one week long National Legion College Program that each Department sends

one or two candidates annually each October to Indianapolis for the training. Graduates of the last three National Colleges have returned to Maine and are now Department of Maine Officers as well as leaders in their respective Districts and Posts. They are also the Administrators and instructors of the more consolidated, Department of Maine Legion College.

So, where do you fit in as a relatively new member to the Post? First, I would advise learning as much about the Post and its history as possible. Be available to support the needs of the Post and learn about its members and their needs. Next, take a look at your service history both military and civilian and assess your skill sets. Look at where you might be able to make a difference.

Some of our members prefer to be “Worker Bees”, and, are great at what they do. Others may have some organizational skill sets and would like to help plan or administer a program. We have several in this category at the Post level that are making a difference. The next step is owning a position as an Officer and accepting the responsibilities that go with the position. At a recent training session, I attended one concern that was voiced, was “that some members only wear the hat”, (that they fail to comprehend or do the job required). The lack of acceptance might be due to lack of training or lack of initiative. For whatever reason, the failing places a drag on the Post or District. Someone else must pick up the slack or the job just doesn't get done.

One avenue to learn the ropes might be to attach yourself to a mentor or to take an assistant position, (Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Service Officer, Adjutant, etc.) with an Officer. This is a great way to gain experience and see if the job fits.

The good news is that most members that accept additional responsibility do a good job and are rewarded with a certain gratification of a job well done. That is really all there is. We are a volunteer organization, so the rewards must be intrinsic, the feeling of helping and providing a service.

So, I've gone on way to long, the time is now to consider a future as a leader in your organization, build on your skill sets, provide service where you can, get training as an apprentice or more formal training at the Department of Maine, and don't be afraid to throw your hat into the ring. The rewards are immeasurable!

By Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



Windham Post 149 Receives Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay, center, a Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDREDTH AND ONE ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundredth and one Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Brewer, Maine, June 7-9, 2019.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 7, 2019, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2019 National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 8, 2019. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

Alternate delegates are entitled to a seat in the convention but will have the right to vote only in the absence of the duly elected delegates. The decision of the selection of alternate delegates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective delegations. All Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and guests are invited to attend the convention as guests, but have no voice or vote unless delegates.

RULES OF ORDER

The rules of procedure at the Department Convention shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 7, 2019, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
101TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
June 7 — 9, 2019
Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 9, 2019. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2019.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2019 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 8, 2019. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credential reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors.

If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of \$10 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

NOMINATION & ELECTIONS

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 7, 2019, nom-

inations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Adjutant, Department Finance Officer; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 8, 2019, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 8, 2019 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 8, 2019. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 8, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration and your 2019 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 10:15 a.m.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

Uniform of the day during the convention sessions will be The American Legion cap. Only the official representative of another veterans group may wear the cap of that organization in the convention hall.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 8, 2019. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER

Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the Department Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants. Delegates, alternates and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

PRESS

The Department Adjutant's staff will maintain press facilities during Convention sessions. The Department Adjutant must approve all communications from the Department Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant.

This call will be read in all posts and district organizations and posted upon the bulletin boards of all posts. This call is being sent to the officers on record. If new officers have been elected, please transmit this information to them.

Official:
Paul L'Heureux, Department Adjutant
Scott Paradis, Department Commander



Resolutions to be Presented by May 1

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before May 1 of the subject year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be pre-

sented to the Department Adjutant's office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee. Resolutions may be presented by two-thirds majority of the Resolutions Committee meeting at the convention.

Candidates Deadline: May 8

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 8, 2019 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 19, 2019. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws

state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the "Basic Training Course" previously named the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course. Please visit <https://www.legion.org/alei> to complete the course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

Basic Training

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of

the nation's largest veterans service organization is available online at <https://www.legion.org/alei>

Humanitarian Sought

The Humanitarian Award Committee is again seeking nominations for the annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award, considered one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by The American Legion, is presented annually at our State Convention.

An American Legion Post must endorse applicants for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in their chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in their field of work was far in excess of what

one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2019. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org or on the web at www.mainelegion.org.

Eligibility Information

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving, you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

- *August 2, 1990 to date of cessation (Operation Desert Shield/Storm)
- December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
- Operation Just Cause - Panama
- August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada)
- February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam)
- June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korea)

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

(World War II)

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I)

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).



Time To Do It! Pay Your Legion Dues Today!!!

Legion membership is annual, the Legion year running from Jan 1 to Dec. 31. If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by Feb. 1, the member is suspended, is not in good standing, and is not eligible for transfer.

The only method of transferring from one post to another so the continuity of the membership in the Legion is not broken is by formal transfer, which is available only to members in good standing.

If you do not have a membership card that reads "2019" then you are now a delinquent member. Your Post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1, so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage.

If you don't have a "2019" card, please contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

Legionnaire of the Year Sought

Is that exceptional Legionnaire, the one with unquestionable leadership ability, a member of your Post? Do you have that member within your post that seems to stand above the rest in all phases of your post activities? Does he or she aspire to higher positions within the American Legion?

If your post has that member who would qualify for the honor and prestige for the Past Department Commanders Award, why not submit their name and resume? Being chosen for this award is indeed a great honor. When in doubt, ask those who were previously chosen. It is a title you will be known for during your entire Legion career.

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year's winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2019. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at www.mainelegion.org

Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Historical Contest 2018-2019

By: Jeff Stevenson, Department Historian

Awards and Rules

POST NEWS LETTER

These newsletters will be judged in three categories: Posts with a membership of less than 100, Posts with a membership of 100-250, and Posts with a membership greater than 250. The newsletters will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. **Contest ends April 30th and entry must be in NLT May 1st, 2019.** The first place winner in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

DISTRICT NEWS LETTER

The district newsletter will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. **Contest ends April 30th and entry must be in NLT May 1st, 2019.** The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

POST HISTORY BOOK

These will be judged according to the 2019 Officers Guide score sheets. The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1st, 2019. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2019.

**REMEMBER:
PATRIOT'S DAY
APRIL 15TH**





Legion Activities Continue Despite Winter Weather

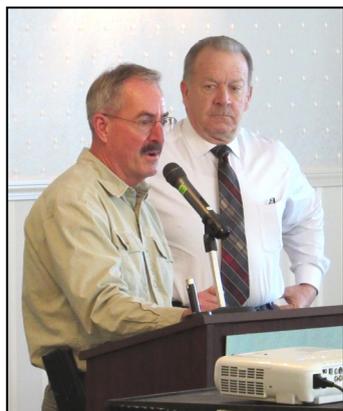


Mid-Winter Conference



South China Post 179 Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present South China Post 179 a Meritorious Service Award during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Accepting the award is District 9 Commander Donald Chase.

Etna-Carmel Post 107 Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present Etna-Carmel Post 107 a Meritorious Service Award during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Accepting the award is Etna-Carmel Post 107 Adjutant and District 13 Commander Donald Candage.



Public Safety Guidelines: Maine Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit Inspector James Gass & Executive Director Milton Champion present public safety guidelines for Post Legions to follow.



Maine Army National Guard: Maine Army National Guard Major General Douglas A. Farnham gives a review of the Maine Army National Guard.



Navy Units & Deployment Overview: Navy Operational Support Center, Commander Officer, LCDR Carl Netzler gives an overview of Units and Deployments.

A Surprise Visit: After returning from a meeting in the Northern part of Maine, Congressman Jared Golden made a surprise visit to the Annual Mid-Winter Conference. He was brief but updated the Legionnaires present about the status of the Government Shutdown and the Committee assignments that he will serve on. Congressman Golden, a fellow Veteran, is also a member of Corey Edwin Garver Post 202 in Topsham.



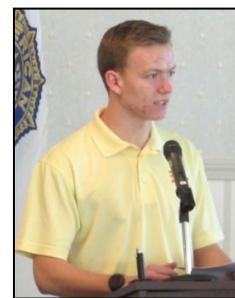
Photos by Jeffrey Stevenson

Sweepstakes Winners Announced

The Mid-Winter Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, January 19, with our Sweepstakes drawing, which saw three of our Legionnaires win the following amounts: Timothy Politis, Augusta Post 205, \$4,000 (grand prize winner), Margaret Brady from the Auxiliary, \$750 and Christopher Sirois, Howland Post 97, \$250.



Dirigo Boys State Update: Dirigo Boys State Deputy Director Steve Moran gives an update to those in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference on Dirigo Boys State as well as a brief overview of what he learned from attending the Boys State Conference in Indianapolis.



Boys Nation Alumni: Cony HS Student/Boys Nation Alumni/Eagle Scout recipient Caleb Richardson talks about his experience while attending 2018 Boys Nation in Washington DC as well as the 2018 Dirigo Boys State program.

Washington Conference

American Legion "Storms the Hill" in Washington D.C. to ask for support for Maine Veterans and Legion Programs. Visited with Senator Collins, Senator King, Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden. Also ran into Maine Governor Mills who was in D.C. for meetings.



A Visit with Senator Collins: Left to right, Dept. 1st Vice Matthew Jabaut, Jarrod Crockett, David Patch, Senator Collins, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Jeri Greenwell, and Amedeo Lauria.



A Visit with Senator King: Left to right, Jeri Greenwell, David Patch, Dept. 1st Vice Matthew Jabaut, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Senator King, Jarrod Crockett, and Amedeo Lauria.



A Visit with Congresswoman Pingree: Left to right, Amedeo Lauria, Congresswoman Pingree, David Patch, and Jarrod Crockett.



A Visit with Congressman Golden: Left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Congressman Jared Golden, Jeri Greenwell, Dept. 1st Vice Matthew Jabaut, and David Patch.

State Oratorical Contest Winner

2019 Oratory Winner: Marina Long, a Junior at Sanford Christian Academy representing District 1 at the 2019 State Oratorical Contest placed first in the constitutional speech contest with her award winning speech Feb. 9 at Thomas College in Waterville. State Commander Scott Paradis, left, awards Miss Long with a check in the amount of \$1500 along with a medal and Certificate of Achievement for her accomplishment.





Help Support Maine American Legion Today!



Help Keep our Maine American Legion Programs Alive!

Support our Veterans and Donate Today!

Your donation will help support Veterans in the state of Maine as well as Children & Youth Programs and other various programs of The American Legion. A few of our programs are listed below. For a complete listing, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

Maine American Legion Programs: General Fund, Vet Aid, Homeless Vets, Legion Baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Oratorical, Jr. Shooting Program, Beals Hours, and Maine Special Olympics.

To pay by credit card, please visit www.mainelegion.org and select the

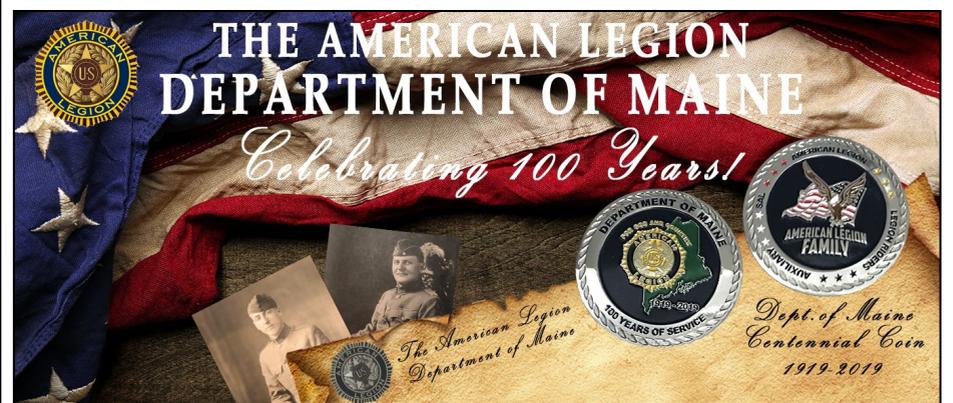
DONATE

button.

You may also mail your check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please indicate on the check The American Legion program you are contributing to.

Thank you in advance for your donation. It is generous donors like you that help provide the assistance needed to keep our programs alive so we can continue to provide support to our fellow Veterans, service members and their families.

To make a donation to The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization, please see below.



Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today!

The Department of Maine recently released a Centennial Coin in celebration of 100 years of service to Veterans, families and local communities. All proceeds will go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion that require much needed assistance. Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, calling Department directly at 207-873-3229 or by check or money order. The coins are \$10 each plus \$5 shipping/handling.

MONEY ORDER, please send payment in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 shipping and handling up to 5 coins to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to include a return address for shipping purposes. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased.

Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. You may pick up your order at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

TO PAY BY CHECK OR

Show your Support to our Veterans in the State of Maine!

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

FOUNDATION

(A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization)

The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization exclusively for charitable purposes. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to programs and services of The American Legion, Department of Maine that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

Please show your support to our Veterans in the State of Maine and donate today to make a difference!

Online donations can be made by visiting us on the web at www.mainelegion.org. Click on the FOUNDATION tab located on the navigation bar and scroll down to the **DONATE TODAY** button.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

Amazon Smile Fundraising Program

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

We are up and running! American Legion Department of Maine Foundation can now accept contributions from Amazon through the "Amazon Smile" program as an IRS 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

It does not cost anything to sign up or donate! When you make purchases on "Amazon Smile" Five cents (.05) of every dollar you spend will be sent to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation for veterans and community programs.

Here is how to sign up!

If you already have an Amazon Account, there is no need to create another one.

You just log in at this link: <http://smile.amazon.com>; When you are asked

to designate to your charity, type in American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping.

Please note: (You must log in through the Amazon Smile portal each time you shop for our Foundation to receive the donation. Do not go in through the regular Amazon portal when you shop.)

The funds come directly to "American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine!"

Please help us get the word out and email to your friends and family!



Car Donation Fundraising Program



for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation..

Our affiliate program makes sure your vehicle is properly handled so you get your tax deduction and Veterans in Maine get the benefit of your donation.

You can currently donate online by visiting www.v-dac.com, or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for possible tax credit and benefit Veterans in the state of Maine.

This is a free, convenient service

For more information, contact The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 or via email at www.legionme@mainelegion.org.

www.mainelegion.org

Follow us on Facebook!

Centennial Raffle

Engraved Henry Rifle

Engraved Henry .22LR (Model H004) - Retail Value \$700
Ticket Price: \$10
Drawing June 1, 2019

The American Legion Department of Maine

Get your Engraved Henry Rifle Raffle Ticket Today!

Ticket Price \$10

Contact your local Post for tickets or call Department HQ at 207-873-3229.

Drawing will be held June 1, 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kezar Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 130; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214

District 1 Community Making a Difference "The All Veterans Monument"

I am writing on behalf of our Veterans. This last year, four volunteers worked and paid for the ALL VETERANS MONUMENT located at the Fairgrounds Restaurant in Cornish. Its location is very nice. One side of the restaurant has flowers, soldier's shadows and much more.

Together, we asked our Veterans if they would like to purchase a military paver with the names on it, and it went over well. We now have 70 pavers sitting in front of the ALL VETERANS MONUMENT.

We have spaces left for 20 more 4x8 granite pavers of any soldier living or passed who would like to purchase a paver. I will be taking orders in March and forward the checks to the Richardson Monument in South Portland who will engrave all the names.

If any Veteran would like to purchase a paver, please let me know. The cost is \$39.04 for two lines or \$44.37 for three lines. This entire project is being done by the owners of the restaurant, VP of the Bangor Bank and myself.

Send me an email at calista@myfairpoint.net if anyone you know of would like to fill in those last 20 spaces. We plan on having this done before Memorial Day.

We love doing as much as we can for our Veterans. This monument is in such a nice area and the restaurant has such good food for those who come here. I did see a van of DAV's there this summer, I was told they enjoyed the monument and pavers.

By Calista Cross



Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present District 1 Commander Gordon Kendal, center, a Meritorious Service Award for Limerick Post 55 at the Mid-Winter Conference held in Bangor on Jan. 19.

Photo By Jeffrey Stevenson

100th Anniversary Celebration: During the regular meeting of Kennebunk Town Selectmen on Jan. 8, the selectmen unanimously approved designating 2019 as the Year of Centennial Celebration for both The American Legion and Kennebunk Post 74. Representing Kennebunk Post 74 at the meeting, left to right, Kennebunk Post 74 Chaplain John Fleshman, Paul Mossner, Kennebunk Post 74 Post Finance Officer Brian McBride, Post Deputy Commander John Gouviea, Shirley Deschawes, Bob De Clercq, John Dulude, Kennebunk Post 74 Post Commander Dennis Lamontagne, and Paul Gregoire.



Berwick Legion Post 79 Donates Ten Bicycles to 2018 Toys for Tots Drive

This past Christmas, Santa wore a somewhat non-traditional color in addition to his usual red and white: Home Depot Orange! Members of Berwick's Post 79 lent a hand to Toys for Tots by buying and donating ten boys and girls bikes. The bicycles were purchased from several area Home Depot stores at a black Friday price, with an unexpected additional 10 per cent discount offered in support of this cause. Additionally, one Home Depot Manager elected to provide seven bicycles at half the black Friday price when told the purchase

was for Toys for Tots and also pledged their support for Christmas 2019! The end result: ten brand new bicycles that list online for \$80 each were purchased for less than \$450.

In addition to making Christmas special for ten lucky boys and girls, the outstanding support and generosity of Home Depot managers and employees, who also assembled all ten bicycles, helped Berwick Post 79 to "stretch" their dollars, making this a Christmas to remember for all involved. Home Depot, we salute you!

By Roseanne Martin



Toys For Tots Drive: Berwick Post 79 prepare 10 bicycle donations for Toys for Tots. Left to right, Pamela and Chuck Bogdan, Post 79 Commander Jeff Chase (in disguise!) and Phil Jenks.

Photo by Bob Place

Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Recognized by York County

As noted in the November 2018 issue of The Maine Legionnaire, Berwick Post 79 was recognized by their Board of Selectmen with the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute. That same month, members of the Post were also lauded at the County level and awarded a plaque recognizing their selection within York County. Berwick Post 79 is now listed as a Spirit of America Foundation (SOAF) recipient on the SOAF website (www.spiroaf.com), along with many other individuals, non-profits, committees, departments, charities, Girl and Boy Scout

troops, churches, clubs, thrift shops, libraries, granges, lodges and societies previously honored. Charles S. Hatch Post 79 now also holds the honor of being the first and only (thus far) recipient of the SOAF Tribute from the town of Berwick. Post 79 now proudly joins the handful of other Maine American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries recognized by the Spirit of America Foundation, Wiscasset Post 54, Mechanic Falls Post 150, and Stockton Springs Post 157.

By Roseanne Martin



**Spirit of America
Foundation Tribute: York County Manager Gregory T. Zinser, left, presents Spirit of America plaque to Berwick Post 79 Commander Jeffrey Chase.**

Photo by Bob Place



2018 Kennebunkport American Legion Memorial Post 159 Year-In-Review

Kennebunkport Post 159 Year-in-Review:

7 December 2017 – Sons of the American Legion Chapter 159 established
22 February 2018 – Legion Riders Chapter 159 established.

24 February 2018 – First annual Cornhole Tournament held. Raised \$1,240 for Post 159

7 March 2018 – Post 159 celebrates the 70th anniversary of its charter.

23 March 2018 – Live Pro wrestling tournament sponsored by North Atlantic Wrestling Camp.

26 May 2018 – First of six All-You-Can-Eat monthly Pancake Breakfast's held – veterans eat free. Former President George H.W. Bush attends. This would end up being President Bush's last public appearance. Post 159 Commander John Leach presented President Bush with a Certificate of Honorary Membership as a member of Kennebunkport American Legion Memorial Post 159.

28 May 2018 – Memorial Day events held including: rifle salutes in Kennebunkport at cemeteries containing veterans; a wreath laying and rifle salute at Post 159 first Commander's grave; and participation in three parades: Kennebunkport, Cape Porpoise and

Kennebunk.

21-22 July 2018 – Annual Antique Show held with various antique dealers from around northern New England participating.

27 October 2018 – Second Live Pro wrestling tournament held.

10 November 2018 – Veteran's Day All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast held. Veteran's from various assisted living facilities in the area (Avita in Wells – specializing in Alzheimer's and dementia care; Huntington Commons in Kennebunk – assisted living facility and Atria in Kennebunk – assisted living and memory care) were transported to and from the breakfast by their respective facilities. All veterans attending were given American Legion Certificates of Appreciation for their service.

18 November 2018 – American Legion Memorial Post 159 annual "Turkey Shoot" held. Raising \$700 for the post.

22 December 2018 – American Legion Memorial Post 159 "Pig Shoot" fundraiser held to raise money for Iraqi war veteran who lost his home and all belongings to a house fire. \$800 raised and presented to him.

Submitted by Post 159 Adjutant Mark Matthews



with a Certificate of Honorary Membership as a member of Kennebunkport Post 159 on May 26. Left to right, (facing camera) Post 159 Commander John Leach, President Bush, and Kennebunkport Post 159 member Clifton Campbell.

Pancake Breakfast: Kennebunkport Post 159 held their first six All-You-Can-Eat monthly Pancake Breakfasts where Veterans eat free. Former President George H.W. Bush attends. This would end up being President Bush's last public appearance. Kennebunkport Post 159 Commander John Leach presented President Bush

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

■ “Year-In-Review”

(Continued from Page 18)



Pig Shoot Fundraiser: Kennebunkport Post 159 “Pig Shoot” fundraiser was held to raise money for Iraqi War Veteran Alec Adams who lost his home and all belongings to a house fire. \$800 was raised and presented to him on Dec. 22. Left to right, Kennebunkport Post 159 Adjutant Mark Matthews, Kennebunkport Post 159 Treasurer Chris Meyer, Fundraiser recipient Alec Adams and, Kennebunkport Post 159 Commander “Skip” Descanio.

Wrestling Tournament: Kennebunkport Post 159 had a Live Pro Wrestling Tournament sponsored by North Atlantic Wrestling Camp on March 23. North American Wrestlers are seen here confronting each other during introductions.

All photos by Post 159 Adjutant Mark Matthews



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Gray Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Cape Elizabeth Post 152; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

WWII Vet Leads Portland Post 17 Veterans' Day Parade

Portland Post 17 put on a Veterans' Day Parade on Congress Street in Portland that went from Longfellow Square to City Hall on Nov. 11. The Grand Marshal was 95-year old World War II Veteran Leo Foisy. Several hundred people waited in front of City Hall to hear Leo give a speech. Hundreds of people let out a gasp of horror as Leo stood up and immediately tripped and fell forward. It looked for a horrible couple of seconds as though Leo was about

to fall face-first down 14 granite stairs. But Leo, as quick as lightening, stuck his cane out in front of himself stopping his fall and the first words of Leo's speech were, "I'm ok!" And indeed he was ok. After a few hundred people heard those words, there was a loud chorus of laughter and much cheering. Leo proceeded to give one of the best speeches of the day. Indeed, he was ok, and then some.

By Thomas P. O'Connor

Portland Post 17 Grand Marshal: Leo Foisy, 95-year old World War II Veteran and Grand Marshal at Portland Post 17 Veterans' Day Parade after the parade on Nov. 11, 2018.

Photo by Post 17 Official Photographer Thomas P. O'Connor



South Portland Post 35 Veterans Day Celebration

South Portland Post 35 Veterans Day was celebrated on Nov. 12 with a parade to honor those who served our country on its wars. The parade was a mixture of marching bands, cub scouts and brownies, fire trucks, Coast Guard Companies, City Dignitaries, American Legion Commanders, and VFW Commanders. Leading the parade was a newly formed Honor Guard consisting of

four American Legion members and one VFW member. The riflemen wore their CPO uniforms and the flag bearers wore blue blazers with grey trousers with white shirt and ties. The average age of the Honor Guard is 72. It was a crisp 1/2 mile march with the cadence counter getting hoarse at the end of the line. A short ceremony was held at the South Portland Veterans

Memorial. After the parade, the members of Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 welcomed all Veterans to lunch. The Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough brought several Veterans to share in the meal and had a chance for some of the younger Veterans to meet some World War II and Korea Veterans. Everyone left warm, fed and happy.



South Portland Post 35 Thanksgiving & Christmas Tradition

South Portland Post 35 carried on a Thanksgiving and Christmas Tradition of packing and distributing baskets for the Holiday Season. This traditional basket, which are actually Banana Boxes, was started by the American Legion Auxiliary some twenty years ago and has had helpers from the DAV, American Legion, as well as the American Legion Auxiliary over the years. Today, 10 people packed boxes with the equivalent of a turkey dinner starting with eight 10 lbs. frozen turkeys including all the fixings, yams, potatoes, squash, carrots, celery, canned vegetables, sugar,

flour, gravy, cranberries, cake mix with frosting, jell-o, pudding and many more items including apples, tangelo's and bananas. This year, Post 35 packed 20 boxes and delivered 13 to the Vet Center in Portland and 7 to the Coast Guard Base in South Portland. Personnel at those locations move the boxes onto needy Vets. A few days before Christmas, this happy band of helpers will start the whole process over again for Christmas. A portion of the cost is a budgeted item in the Post budget but about 35% are donated funds.

Partial Government Shutdown Support for Local Coast Guard Personnel

So. Portland Post 35 Executive Committee met on Jan. 13 to discuss what we as a Post could do to help the Coast Guard Personnel station two blocks away at 259 High Street in South Portland, officially called U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England. The decision was made to ask our members and local citizens for donations. Former Post 35 Adjutant Ed Tyler suggested purchasing \$50 food gift cards. Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott met with Coast Guard Representatives who stated that as Federal Employees they were unable to accept cash donations. Upon further investigation, Post Commander Linscott met with YNC Mikel Zachmann, the President of the Northern New England Chief Petty Officers Association. On Jan.

25, Commander Linscott presented YNC Zachmann with a check from Post 35 for \$865. Half of that money was a direct collection from Post members at and before our monthly meeting. Additional donations have been received since this morning. One donation for \$100 cash was from a Korean War Veteran, who we call Mrs. Anonymous, who said she was a Navy Corpsman in Korea. We invited her to our next supper and asked if she would like to join our Post. We have decided to continue collecting until the Coast Guard personnel pay has been restated. It never hurts to get our message out to the public. Post Adjutant Michael Pock gave a short TV interview that cast a positive light on the American Legion.



Showing Support: Signage in front of So. Portland Post 35 showing support for Coast Guard personnel through the partial shutdown.



Coast Guard Personnel Receive Assistance: So. Portland Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, left, presents YNC Mikel Zachmann, President of the Northern New England Chief Petty Officers Association, right, a \$865 check.



South Portland Post 35 Sea Cadet Advanced to Cadet Chief Petty Officer.

Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Lucas Wright, right, was presented before the Corps of Cadets on Sun., Nov. 11. Chief Selectee Lucas Wright stood at attention while Sea Cadet Commanding Officer Lt. Shannon Williamson, left,

read his promotion order. Following the order, the Cadet Chief Petty Officer from the Portsmouth Sea Cadet unit placed Chief Wright's hat on his head. The next

More on “SEA CADET”, Page 20

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ “Sea Cadet”

(Continued from Page 19)

step was the pinning of the collar devices by his father and grandmother. Chief Wright was then presented to the Corps of Cadets. Chief gave a strong and bold but short speech to the “troops”. CPO Wright encouraged them to work hard and someday they would be standing in his place. In the true fashion of an “Old Salt” CPO Wright pulled no



punches. As they were dismissed, they all gave a resounding “Yes Chief” yell in true Sea Cadet gusto. CPO Wright is the senior “enlisted” person in the Sea Cadet Command and shoulders a great deal of responsibility. The chain of command in the Sea Cadets is just as strong as in the U.S. Navy and rightly so. Congratulations CPO Wright.



POST HISTORY

Stewart P. Morrill Post 35—So. Portland



The Exterior of the Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in So. Portland



Post Sign: Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 sign in front of the Post building.



Interior Look: The meeting room at Stewart P. Morrill in So. Portland.



Banquet Hall



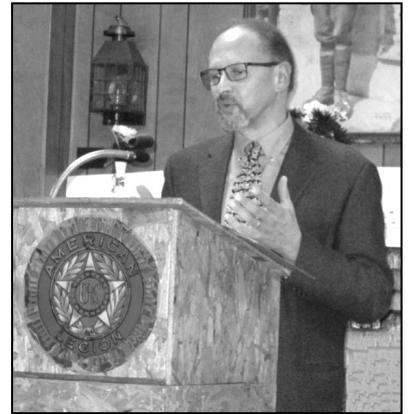
Kitchen

All Photos by Post Adjutant Michael R. Pock



Honoring Fallen Veterans: Westbrook Post 62 Veteran’s Day was celebrated and memorialized at Riverbank Park on Nov. 11 with members of the Post. Mayor Mike Sanphy and other Post 62 members were on hand to participate in this honor of fallen Veterans.

Tuskegee Airman Fighter: Westbrook Post 62 welcomed Robert Sheppard, son of an original All Black Tuskegee Airman Fighter Group assigned during World War II at a recent meeting at the Stephen W. Manchester Post. In his presentation, he gave an eye opening and informative speech about his father, James Sheppard’s World War II experiences which pioneered a major military change about the role change for the All Black Fighter Group and Squadrons. EXCELLENT!



Flag Ladies Receive Invite To Post 62: Westbrook Post 62 started the New Year in grand style by inviting the famous Post 9/11 Flag Ladies from Freeport, Maine as their guest on Jan. 2. Left to right, Carmen, Elaine and JoAnn with Westbrook Post 62 Commander Gary York, Westbrook Post 62 1st Vice Commander Roger

Barr and Westbrook Post 62 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte. It was a great tribute to the American Flag. HAND SALUTE!

Reviving the Legion

BRIDGTON—A group of like-minded Legionnaires have gathered together to revitalize and rehabilitate Bridgton’s Historic Post 67. This is one of the original posts in the state of Maine going back to 1920. The American Legion itself is celebrating its 100th Birthday and it only seemed fitting that this post be brought back to life in Bridgton to serve our Veterans and our community. A team has been formulated with Commander Dennis Moynihan to begin the project. We will once again turn this post into a vital asset to Bridgton’s Veterans and community. Plans are already underway to reestablish contacts with the school system, chamber of Commerce and other civic minded organizations.

The revitalization and the operation of this post will be based once again on the “Four Pillars of The American Legion”

Veterans affairs and Rehabilitation

(VA claims back log, access to VA health care, service officer, Veterans with special needs, homelessness, GI Bill benefits); National Security (support of the troops, quality of life, POW/MIA’s, Operation comfort warriors); Americanism (flag protection, Pledge of Allegiance, illegal immigration, voter registration and participation, Scouts of America); Children and Youth (catastrophic illness, intellectual disabilities, family integrity, family support networks).

The first priority will be to open a “Service Officer’s office” in the community. District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela will now be based in Bridgton at Post 67.

The team is excited and looking forward to serving our Veterans and the community.

Publisher Wayne E. Rivet of The Bridgton News—
January 10, 2019

Article submitted by District 2 Vice Commander Donald Mulcahy



Revitalization At Bridgton Post 67: In front of Post 67 on Depot Street in Bridgton, left to right, Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, Bridgton Post 67 members Clayton “Skip” Brown, Ron Edson, Post 67 Commander Dennis Moynihan, Post 67 member Vinny Yedynak, District 2 Vice-Commander Donald Mulcahy, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, and District 2 Sergeant-At-Arms Bill O’Neil.

Bridgton Post 67 Inventory: Inventory displayed of all items within Bridgton Post 67.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

**American Legion Randall-MacVane Post 142
Loans Military Artifacts to the
Maine Military Museum**

South Portland, Me—January 13, 2019—The American Legion Randall and MacVane Post 142 of Peaks Island has loaned a collection of military artifacts to the Maine Military Museum, located at 50 Peary Terrace.

Frederick W. O'Keefe, Adjutant/Judge Advocate of Post 142, presented the items, which had been discovered in the Post's attic. "We are pleased to be able to bring these out into the open," O'Keefe said. "In particular, we are happy to share a carbine from the Vietnam War and a Civil War era dress sword as well as a steel helmet and gas masks from World War I."

Museum Director Lee Humiston accepted the items and will explore displaying them at the Museum. "We appreciate the opportunity to add these items to our collection," Humiston remarked.

The carbine is a 7.62mm, Type 56 with Bayonet from Communist China and was retrieved in the Republic of Vietnam by U.S. Army Captain John Shute of

Montgomery, AL. The 1860 staff field officers' dress sword was manufactured by the Oak Hill Clothing Company in Boston. The name "C. Dolan" is inscribed on one side of the blade and the initials "A.O.H" on the other.

O'Keefe explained that, thru the years, Peaks Island residents and visitors have donated items to the Post. "We are happy to be able to share these with the public thru the terrific Maine Military Museum," he added.

Humiston said the items will be part of the thousands of military history artifacts the Museum displays. "We appreciate the Peaks Island Post's generosity," he said.

Museum exhibits include every aspect of military service from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. One main focus is American Prisoners of War (POWs) from the US Civil War to Vietnam. Authentic artifacts displayed in a several formats, enable visitors to witness the experiences and sacrifices of U.S. Armed Forces.



**Vietnam War & Civil War
Sword Presentation: Maine
Military Museum Director Lee
Humiston, left, accepts a Chinese
carbine from the Vietnam War and a
Civil War sword presented by Peaks
Island. Peaks Island Post 142 mem-
bers, Fred O'Keefe, center, and
Dominick DeAngelo, right.**



76th Anniversary Of Pearl Harbor Remembered: Each year The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 of Windham remembers Dec . 7, "Pearl Harbor Day", with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Town of Windham's Veterans Memorial in front of Windham High School. This year, joining the Post's Honor Guard for the ceremony were two World War II Veterans, Bob Miele and Carroll McDonald, both Post members. Left to right, World War II Vet Bob Miele, Carroll McDonald along with Post 148 Honor Guards, Wally Clark, Dick Graves, Eric Bickford and Chuck Whynot placing a wreath at the Town of Windham's Veteran's Memorial in front of Windham High School.

Photo by Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay

Veterans Day Wreath

Placement: Windham Post 148 held a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Windham Veterans Memorial Garden. The Memorial was established in 2015 to honor the KIA from Cumberland County Lost in Vietnam. A Floral Wreath was placed on the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Memorial by 3 USMC Veterans and Post members, front row, left to right, Walter Braley, Service Officer Henry "Chuck" Why-



not and Rod Voisine. Background, left to right, Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard members Craig Pride, Eric Bickford, Dick Graves, Dick Drapeau, and Post Sergeant-At-Arms Larry DeHof.

**Windham Post 148 3rd Annual Awards
Recognition Night and Dinner**

Windham Post 148 celebrated their 3rd Annual Awards Recognition Night on Dec. 5. Some highlights from the event included the celebration of Post personnel achievements and the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion. In attendance were over 70 Vets, family members and guests.

During the ceremony, the following members received recognition as being new members of Windham Post 148: 2018-19 not previously recognized went to Richard Drapeau, Robert Clark, Phyllis Page, Susan Walker, and Lyndon Verney. New members for 2019 went to Robert Almstrom, Stephen Ambrose, Maryanne Bickford, Duane Cummings, Michael Eaton, Ben Emmons, Simone Emmons, William Keltner, David Langway, Edward McAlinden, Alola Morrison, James Pruett, and Daniel Smart.

The following members of Windham Post 148 received recognition for Post Longevity—In Seniority Order: Ralph Rao-20, Don McCormick-20, Richard Saker-20, Rod Voisine-22, William Chipman-22, Ed Ovington-22, Peter Slivinski-23, Benerad Pagurko-24, Terry Ladd-25, Charlie Cragin-27, Chris Tucker-28, Early Libby-29, Ken Sawyer-30, Raymond

Chamard-32, William Jihson-33, Mike Schwartz-33, John Boyden-39, Roger Timmons-39, Gardner Percy-39, and Donald Rogers-60.

Recognition for Post Meritorious Service Awards were presented by Windham Post 148 Post Commander Mel Greenier to Eric Bickford, Richard Small, Larry Dehof, David Rendall, David Horne, Henry "Chuck" Whynot, and Past Commander Don Rogers.

Windham Post 148 took a pause during the Awards Ceremony, to recognize a significant contribution in support of the Post and Veterans in the community. The Fourth Estate Award recognizes a local media for their support to Veterans. A citation was presented to the Windham Eagle owner Kelly Manks with a certificate to Editor Lorraine Glowczak. The Windham Eagle Writer Walter Lunt and Kelly received recognition for the Windham Eagle Newspaper for their work with Veterans. Other recipients include Melissa Carter, Mary Emerson, and Matt Pascarella. The Windham Eagle has "Made my job easier..." noted the Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay who presented the plaque.



Post Longevity: District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, left, presents Past Commander Don Rogers, center, an Eagle plaque commemorating his 60 years of continuous service to the Post. Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Don a 60 Year Longevity Citation.



Meritorious Service: District 1 ALA President Marian Curtis, left, presents a Citation for Meritorious Service Award to Unit 148 President Pam Whynot, right.

Honor Guard Table: Windham Post 148 3rd Annual Recognition and Awards Night. At the Honor Guard Table, left to right, Dick Graves, Chaplain Dick Drapeau, Bob Clarke, David Rendall, Craig Pride, Wally Clark, Bob Christie, and David Horne.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



New Membership Recognition: Lyndon "Bo" Varney, center, receives a New Membership Certificate from District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, left, and Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, at the 3rd Annual Recognition and Awards night Dec. 5, 2018.



Post Service Award: Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Service Award

plaque and citation to Post Service Officer Chuck Whynot, left.



Fourth Estate Award: During the 3rd Annual Recognition and

Awards Ceremony held Dec. 5, Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents the Fourth Estate Award to owner of the Windham Eagle newspaper, Kelly Manks, left, in support of the Post and Veterans in the community.



Post Longevity Recognition: Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay, left, a Post Longevity Certificate for 25 years.



Recognition of Post Meritorious Service Awards

David Rendall



Richard Small



Eric Bickford



David Horne



Larry DeHof

Right Photo: Henry "Chuck" Whynot, left, receives Service Award for Past Commander Don Rogers.



Meritorious Service Awards were presented by Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right.



Windham Post 148 Everlasting Gratitude Wreath Program: Members place 900 wreaths on the graves of the fallen Veterans in the cemeteries of Windham. The Program has been active since Dec. 2013 with the Post raising the funds from the local businesses and community to support the program.

Photo By Lin Tanguay (ALA)

Remembering American Legion Member Norman Spear

At the height of the cold war, when the Soviet Union and U.S. were in the midst high stakes' nuclear sword rattling, in the waters of North Korea, the North Koreans intercepted and captured a U.S. Navy vessel purported to be in international waters. The ship? The USS Pueblo.

From that moment the crew of the Pueblo became pawns in an ugly, international game of chess and a black mark on the Nixon Administration. In that ship's crew, in the engineering department was a Navy Sailor from Maine, Norman Spear. He and his fellow crew members endured brutality and severe conditions prior to their release eleven months later. The ship, after fifty years, remains a memorial in North Korea dedicated to the sins of the West.

Norman Spear passed away about a month ago. He was a Windham resident and a quiet man.

I met Norm on March 21st, 2016. I remember the day because it was the first day of the American Legion Post 148's Veterans Coffee Social advertised as a drop-in for local veterans to gather each Wednesday. Norm was one of the early arrivals and sat quietly on the far side of the table.

From all appearance he was a man who had seen a hard life, bent, but not broken. He didn't say much that first encounter and I wondered if he would return the following week.

He did, and except for illness, never missed a Wednesday gathering in two and a half years; always the first to arrive to claim his seat. After a few weeks, the group learned more about his military service and his status as a former POW in Korea. He never spoke much about his service, but occasionally would pass on a little bit about his past. Many days he half-heartedly played a game or two of solitaire as he listened to others in conversation and would occasionally join in.

In the spring of 2017, I was working on a project to locate the grave of a Medal of Honor recipient buried in Forrest City

Cemetery, South Portland. Norm overheard the conversation and perked up. He had worked in Forrest City Cemetery in an earlier time in his life and felt he might be of help in the search. He was. Within two weeks, Norm had located the pauper's grave site and was able to get copies of documents that confirmed the location of Emile Lejeune, the Medal of Honor recipient. With that information, I was able to forward the information to the Medal of Honor Association and get approval for a dedication of the grave by the VA with a VA provided bronze plaque.

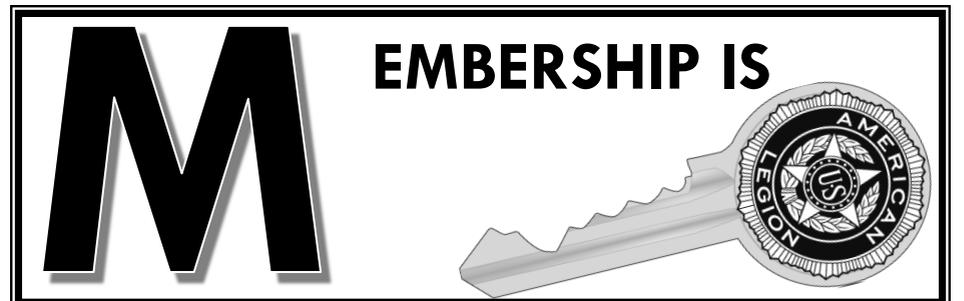
On October 10th of that year, a formal Medal of Honor dedication ceremony was conducted with the assistance of South Portland Legion Post 35. Many dignitaries from the state and city were present. Norm was invited to attend and was included in the ceremony with the duty of placing the Medal of Honor flag on the grave. You could see the sense of pride as Norm undertook the task. It became a defining moment in his life which he would speak about often.

Norm continued to come to each coffee hour without fail. He could also be seen almost daily, sitting in his car in the parking lot of the Windham Veterans Center with a cup of coffee, his newspaper and a pack of smokes. Norm enjoyed the solitude of the Center and even when he could not drive due to a recent accident, would ask family or Post members to drive him, stop by McDonald's for a coffee and take him to the Vet Center. It became his second home.

Norm had his own table and an elevated chair that allowed him to sit more comfortably. His table always had the same vets around him. They were family.

Norm was a bit of an eccentric, but, noted once to me that the Legion Post, "was an organization worth belonging to." Norm was a member worth having in the Field-Allen Post and will be missed at the weekly gathering.

By Dave Tanguay
Special to The Windham Eagle
Jan. 4, 2019



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

Livermore Falls Post 10; Lewiston Post 22; Auburn Post 31; Lisbon Falls Post 66; Turner Post 111; Sabattus Post 135; Mechanic Falls Post 150; Auburn Post 153; Lisbon Post 158; Lewiston Post 210



Auburn Post 153 Passing In Review: Lewiston/Auburn Post 153 Ceremony passing in review on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2018. Members of William J. Rogers Post 153, left to right, Donald Peck, Commander Dan St. Pierre, David Jacobs-Pratt, and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



Auburn Unit 153 Passing In Review: Lewiston/Auburn Unit 153 Ceremony passing in review American Legion Auxiliary members on Veteran's Day on Nov. 11, 2018. Members of William J. Rogers Unit 153, left to right, Laura Woodman-Travers, Vicki Jacobs-Pratt, Audrey L'Heureux, Carol White-St Pierre, and Suzanne Travers.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

Rumford Post 24; Buckfield Post 58; Lockemills Post 68; So. Paris Post 72; Bethel Post 81; Norway Post 82; Dixfield Post 100; Oxford Post 112; Fryeburg Post 137; West Paris Post 151; Peru Post 199



Veteran's Day Gathering: Rumford Post 24 had a great group of Veterans at Post 24 to celebrate Veteran's Day along with representatives of the S.G. Thibault's Funeral Home. Thank you for always providing our beautiful cake for this event.

Annual Boys & Girls State Ceremony:

Napoleon Ouellette American Legion Post 24 and Unit 24 of Rumford held their annual Boys and Girls State supper and recognition ceremony on Sun., Dec. 2. Front row, left to right, Post 24 Commander William Petrie, Girls State Delegates Leigha Carrier, Kylee Pelletier & Courtney Carrier, and Unit 24 President Rorrie Blanton. Back row, left to right, Post 24 Boys State Chairman Kirk Thurston, Boys State Delegates Alex Gorham, William Sorensen, Aaron Cameron, & Bryce Cormier, and Unit 24 Girl State Chairman Tricia Thurston.



Three Generations Coming Together: Rumford Post 24 had three generations coming together for their Veteran's Day Ceremony. Left to right, Edward J Roach III, Donald Edward Roach, Past Post 24 Commander, and Edward J. Roach, Jr., Past Department Commander & Past Post 24 Commander.

Post 68 Veterans Day Address

As we gather here today in remembrance of the Centennial of the Armistice that restored peace to a troubled World, perhaps it should be a time to reflect on how that first terrible conflict of the 20th Century began:

It is an incontestable fact that the German Empire started World War I by declaring War on the Russian Empire on August 1, 1914. Germany's principal ally, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had already declared war on Russia's ally Serbia on July 28, after a Serbian National had assassinated the Austrian heir-designate to the throne, Arch Duke Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie, in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, a month earlier on June 28. The Austrian declaration of War caused the Russians to fully mobilize, thus ignoring Germany's warning that such an act would cause Germany to order mobilization leading to a declaration of war upon Russia. And then the dominoes fell:

Germany declared war on Russia's ally France on August 3, followed by France's ally, Great Britain declaring war on Germany and Austria-Hungary on August, and what with each country's various colonies and protectorates soon following suit, before anyone had time to take a deep breath, the whole world, with the exception of the United States, was engaged in war.

One question that has been examined by various historians is the root cause of the conflict. One rather amazing fact is that so many of the belligerents involved, though their peoples may have occupied their respective territories for millennia and were thus known to the world-at-large, were rather newly created states or had lost significant territories of their former selves. As an address of this nature can only provide a quick snapshot of this phenomenon, the following points are intended as a guide for anyone interested in pursuing further research on the matter.

The Germans have been recognized as a folk since Roman times, but were not united in all their various tribes until the age of Charlemagne, circa 800 AD, and that of his son Lothar, who inherited one third of his father's empire. This German state morphed over time into the Holy Roman Empire, which dissolved in 1806, during the Napoleonic Wars. One of its constituent Kingdoms, Prussia, developing an ever more efficient military regime, began to attract other German states into a united Federation, as it repeatedly won wars against other European states whose reputation was that they were more powerful than Prussia. After alliance between three Southern German States with Prussia's North German Federation (the Norddeutsche Bund), war resulted with the French 2nd Empire of Emperor Napoleon III, who was decisively defeated. Two sometimes French Provinces, Alsace and Lorraine, were ceded to the victorious Germans. (This is a most interesting area of Europe, as the populace either speaks French with a German accent, or German with a French accent, never secure in knowing to whom they are to pay their taxes).

Napoleon III was deposed, a new Republic of France was declared, and the French, believing they had lost a grievous portion of their national honor, swore vengeance and began to prepare for the next bout.

Meanwhile, the last German states signed on, and relinquished a portion of their sovereignty to a united Germany, which was led by the Prussian King, now Kaiser (Emperor) Wilhelm II, who was the titular head of 22 Kingdoms (think ancient tribal areas), 3 republics, 1 Reichsland. Additionally, the Kaiser appointed the Governor of

Alsace-Lorraine, thus providing himself an additional vote in both the Bundesrat and Reichstag.

Italy became a united peninsula, and thus a sovereign power, a feat that not even the Romans were able to accomplish, in 1866. Canada, former colonial territories of Britain in North America, became a Dominion in 1867. Russia, named for the Swedish tribe "Rus", having been conquered in the 13th Century by the Mongol Golden Horde, regained its sovereignty circa 1480, with the Grand Duchy of Moscow becoming the most dominant remnant. Fifty-three years later, Moscow began its march to the East. After crossing the Ural Mountains, its mostly Cossack armies conquered a vast expanse spanning time zone after time zone, until it reached the Pacific in 1647, its total territory (including Alaska and a small colony in mid-coast California) being 14 time zones in all.

In 1867, Russia sold its interests in Alaska to the United States, mainly because it knew it could not defend the territory if it were engaged in another war with Britain (they lost to Britain in the Crimean War of 1855).

One last point about Russia's conquest of Siberia (from the Urals to the Pacific) it was not a gentle affair. The Russians only cared about their fur trade, foresting, fisheries, and extracting mineral resources. They swept across the vast continent to the East exterminating whole tribes in what today would be termed genocide or ethnic cleansing. A good many of these people were genetically DNA matched and culturally the same as the Amerindians of the Americas. Tens of thousands of humans who had occupied the Asian steppes for more than forty thousand years either ceased to exist, and I mean every man, woman, child, and infant, or if having surrendered, were so reduced in number that they had difficulty retaining their identity.

About the only improvement Russia made within this vastness was to build the Trans-Siberian Rail Road from Moscow to Vladivostok in 1914.

Australia, occupied by Aborigine Stone-Age humans for more than fifty thousand years, was colonized by a combination of civil persons, soldiers, and convicts, dispatched by Britain, who arrived in January of 1788. One hundred thirteen years later, in 1901, their mutual descendants declared the Australian Federation.

Then there was the expansion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which showing signs of failure, annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, taking it from the collapsing Ottoman Turkish Empire in 1908. This dual province was mainly composed of Muslim Slavs. It was not a happy takeover, as the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef immediately reintroduced Roman Catholicism, albeit under his own guidance, into the province.

Germany quickly became a great power to be reckoned with in Central Europe. It explored building a strong naval force to counter Britain's absolute dominance of the world's oceans through its Grand Fleet. Not enjoying a great deal of sea going experience, and only having ocean access via the Baltic through the easily blockaded Skagerrak and Kattegat straits between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (a channel leading to the North Sea and thence to the Atlantic), it quickly decided to play most of its cards on a European/Asian contiguous land mass strategy. To this end, Germany built a truly magnificent railroad system, with which it could transport its well-equipped and highly

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "Address"

(Continued from Page 23)

trained armies with dispatch both West and East. But being very much apprised that most of the Atlantic/Mediterranean coastal nations, all of whom possessed modern navies, used these forces to govern and dominate colonies and "protectorates" in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands, Germany very much wanted to enjoy like privileges.

France and Britain, being the self-appointed colony/protectorate membership committee, let the Germans know that membership was closed. France was at that time maneuvering in Morocco to make that Sultanate a protectorate. In 1906, the German Emperor, on a cruise of the Mediterranean, visited Morocco and announced his intention of recognizing the country as a sovereign power. France, with Britain's full backing protested. By 1911, the French managed to insert 20,000 of its soldiers into the Moroccan capital at Fez, whose domination France and Britain thought to be a fait accompli. Germany responded by sending "Panther", a small gunboat, to Agadir, a small Atlantic Moroccan port. The crisis appeared to be heading toward a European War, when France proposed, and Germany accepted, dominion of certain French Colonies in Central Africa, in exchange for Germany's recognizing France's protectorate in Morocco. Germany thereby joined the Imperialistic Colony Club. Needless to say, neither the Moroccans nor the Africans were consulted.

Soon thereafter, Germany, having built powerful new Dreadnaughts and Cruisers, induced China to surrender the Port of Tsingtao for use as a German Naval Base, and claimed possession of a part of New Guinea, the island of Samoa, and the Caroline, Marshall and Mariana Islands. (The United States claimed Guam as a protectorate, which it took from Spain during the Spanish-American War, when it sent the Cruiser USS Charleston to take possession of the island, and initially employed the harbor of Agana as a coaling station for its Pacific Naval forces.) Germany lost all its Pacific possessions to Japan after that country joined the Triple Entente of France, Britain, and Italy, by Declaring War on August 14, 1914.

The Last act that led to WWI was a German-inspired plan, with the cooperation of Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire, to build a rail system from Berlin, through Vienna, the Balkans, into Turkey, at Constantinople, on to Bagdad, and ending in the Persian Gulf. Germany saw this rail connection as an opening to bind and thereby influence the Ottoman Empire. All of Europe was aware that the Ottomans were on the point of collapse. If that collapse occurred, Germany would be in a position to protect Syria, Iraq, and the Arabian Peninsula. Both France and Britain were also anxious to protect those territories themselves. Serbia was the fly in the German ointment. Its alliance with Russia, and by extension with France, was the trigger that plunged the World into chaos, when the Young Bosnia/Black Hand member, 19 year old Serbian Gavrilo Princip, shot both Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, with a semi-automatic pistol that had been provided to him by Serbian Colonel Dragutin Dimitrijevic.

As mentioned earlier, the United States

announced on August 4, 2014, coincidentally the same day as Britain declared war on Germany, that it would remain neutral for the duration of the Great European Conflict. The universal opinion of the populace was that they did not want to be embroiled in Europe's Monarchist disputes. Approximately 30% of the people residing in the U.S. were legally admitted residents seeking U.S. citizenship. Another large portion who had emigrated from Europe during and since our Civil War, and were now citizens with descendants, still remembered the interminable wars and readjustments of national borders caused by one kingdom or another seeking to expand at the cost of its neighbor. Also fresh in the minds of many were the programs, essentially war in another guise, against the Jewish populations of mainly Eastern European countries. All had sought and found security in the free capitalistic society of the United States that, with a total population of about half that of Europe, produced more manufactured goods than did all the European countries combined.

In last year's Adjutant Address we examined how and why it was that Germany finally induced the United States to declare war upon it, and how we raised, clothed, and equipped four million military personnel, and sent half of them to Europe to preserve Democracy and to bring the war to a victorious conclusion. We also cited the U.S. casualties in that conflict. Now, let us examine the total cost to the warring nations in terms of those killed or wounded in combat or dead from other causes.

No precise total is possible, given the records available. However, the best estimate is that between 15 to 19 million people were killed, of whom 9 to 11 million were military personnel, the civilian death total being about 8 million. Military wounded amounted to 22 or 23.65 million casualties. Taking a mid-range of military killed, the ratio was 60% for the Allies (Britain, France, Russia, and Italy), and 40% for the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire).

When we consider Germanic peoples as casualties, it may be worth noting the following ironies. France was largely a Germanic nation in that its original Celtic population was assimilated when its territory was overrun and occupied by the Franks, a Germanic tribe, and later when the Province of Normandy was occupied by Danish/Norwegian Vikings. The exception in France was Brittany, founded and occupied by Welsh peoples who had escaped the conquest of England by Germanic tribes; a majority of so-called French in Canada were, in fact, Bretonne.

England's people had been conquered by the Germanic tribes of Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, and again, later by Danish/Norwegian Vikings. Those not conquered were, again, the Welsh in their enclave of Wales, and the Scots in Scotland -- both Gaelic peoples.

Germany had calculated that it would be faced with a disastrous two-front war, so it struck at France through neutral Belgium. Had it not been for the valor of the small Belgian army which refused to yield a corner of their southern border, and what the French referred to as "The Miracle of the Marne", when they were able to stop the German drive on Paris, France would likely have been defeated, leaving Britain to stand alone in the West. The Germans did succeed in driving Russia out of the war by transferring armies on their railroad system, and initiating

the Russian defeat at the battle of Tannenberg at the end of August 1914.

The Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian empires, three of four imperial dynasties that had survived for centuries had ceased to exist at the conclusion of the war. The German Empire continued to exist for mere decades. After the Armistice that we celebrate today, both France and Britain

insisted that Germany be completely humbled, pay heavy reparations, and stripped of her ability to wage war. This policy led within twenty years to a resurgent Germany and World War I, Part II -- what came to be called World War II.

Such was the legacy of World War I.

By Harry G. Orcutt
Jackson-Silver Post 68 Adjutant

Post 68 Dedicates Veterans Monument at Armistice Centennial Ceremonies

Veterans of every declared conflict since Korea, members of Locke Mills Post 68, Officers of Department of Maine, gathered on Sun., Nov. 11, to dedicate a monument in front of their Great Hall inscribed with the names of all Greenwood Veterans who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict. The monument had been gifted to the Post by the Town of Greenwood when the original, thought to be sufficient in size, as World War I was the "War to end all Wars", had been replaced by a larger one in the Town's Veterans Park, when no further names could be added to the monument's face. The present town monument has all of the names of the original inscribed upon it along with the names of men and women who have served in American declared conflicts since then. Though there is now much room to spare, we pray that it will not be necessary for any other names to be added, though we know it probably will.

The event, besides being Veterans Day, heralded the Centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I. The American Legion's

motto being "For God and Country", the day began with a commemorative service at Locke Mills Union Church, presided over by Reverend Sondra Withey. It then moved to Post 68 for a full day of traditional ceremonies, which following the dedication of the monument, included a buffet luncheon, and a spectacular musical program of patriotic songs performed by the Mahoosuc Community Band, and a solo performance by Greenwood born James Bennett, retired Director of the Norwich University (the Military School of Vermont) Band, accompanied on a portable piano by his cousin, Susan Hathaway, of West Paris. Major Bennett performed rousing renditions of Irving Berlin's poignant World War I song, "They Were All Out of Step but Jim", and the humorous "Oh!, How I Hate to Get Up In the Morning." Dozens of residents of Greenwood and nearby towns were in attendance. And they must have been enjoying the event as they stayed beyond the start of a major national football game.

By Harry G. Orcutt
Jackson-Silver Post 68 Adjutant



Veterans Monument Dedication: Jackson-Silver Post 68 members dedicates Veterans Monument on Armistice Centennial Ceremonies on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2018.

Traditional Ceremonies: After the event, a full day of traditional ceremonies took place including spectacular music performed by, left to right, Greenwood born James Bennett, retired Director of the Norwich University (the School of Vermont) Band, accompanied on a portable piano by his cousin, Susan Hathaway, of South Paris.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34; Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110

Hat Presentation: Rockland Post 1 presents World War II Veteran Ben Harding, seated, center, a World War II Veterans hat. Back, left to right, Rockland Post 1 Sergeant-At-Arms Bill Lawry, Rockland Post 1 Adjutant Michelle Sawyer, and Rockland Post 1 2nd Vice Commander Russ Wolfertz, Jr.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

Camden Post 30 Breakfast: Camden Post 30 held a breakfast for our local Coast Guard Station on Jan. 27 in Rockland. Maine House Representative Vicki Doudera attends just about every event that Post 30 puts on as a supporter of our Military Veterans. Vicki was front and center wearing her red, white, and blue apron, handling orders, serving and washing up. Post 30 Commander Frank Carr, left, presents Representative Doudera, right, with an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation for all she has done for Post 30. Representative Doudera is serving her first term in the Maine House for Camden, Islesboro & Rockport in District 94.



Flag Etiquette/Retirement Ceremony: Kinney-Melquist Post 34 in Saint George participated with local Boys Scout Troop and Girls Scout Troop 1831 in flag etiquette education and a flag retirement ceremony on Nov. 8. Front row, left to right, Mariah, Hayzel, Natalie, Josh, Mathius, and Julian. Second row, left to right, Jordan, Winter, Addie, Lydia,

Alyssa, Kayleigh, Evan, and Jack. Back row, left to right, Post 34 Legionnaires Jan Gaudio, Ray Emerson, Steve Pomakis, and Thornton Batty, Jr.

Warren Post 218 Meritorious Service: Warren Post 218 receives a Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Presenting the award are State Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and State Department 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut, right. Accepting the award is District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, center.



Surprise Visit: Santa makes a surprise visit to the Waldoboro Post 149 weekly Bingo. Players enjoyed holiday refreshments and treats from Santa and fun was had by all. Bingo is held every Saturday night at our Post at 181 Jefferson Street, Waldoboro. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Bingo is open to the public and all are welcome; come join the fun! Left to right, Waldoboro Post 149 Adjutant Donna Wallace, Santa (John Gatcombe with his natural beard) and Unit 149 Vice President Katie Winchenbach.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Brunswick Post 20; Bath Post 21; Harpswell Post 171; Thompson Post 202; Phippsburg Post 216

Brunswick Post 20 Hosts Wreaths Across America Convoy to Arlington

The annual convoy of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery from Maine has become known as the country's longest Veterans' parade, and this year, the week-long journey kicked off on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, at West Quoddy Headlight, Lubec, Maine. The escort wrapped vehicles which included, Wreaths Across America employees, volunteers and partner organizations—

including twelve tractor trailers carrying 253,000 sponsored wreaths, were destined for Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 – National Wreaths Across America Day. Locally, Brunswick Post 20, led by Commander W. David Watson hosted the convoy on Dec. 9, 2018, with the Post hosting an evening meal and recognitions. A

total of five local Boy and Girl Scout groups, and Explorer Scouts helped in welcoming the participants, helping to serve the evening meal and clean up after the event. Also a big thank you to our major sponsor for this event, Bangor Savings Bank. Local branch manager Tim Keene and his staff along with Bangor Savings Regional Market Manager Tricia Duchesneau participated, helping serve the 170 or so participants. A meal consisting of a roast turkey dinner with all the fixings that was prepared and catered by Fiona's Catering of Bath was well received. Locally, people of Brunswick showed up in force to view the convoy as it passed through town for the Sunday evening stop in Brunswick (with the majority of the convoy traveling to Bath for the evening stay following the event at Brunswick Post 20) and again on Monday morning as they exit Bath/ Brunswick headed South for the next scheduled stop.

"The Escort to Arlington is an annual Wreaths Across America tradition that allows us to interact with thousands of the supporters who make our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach possible each year," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "This year, we're focusing on our annual theme,

Be Their Witness, and encouraging supporters to keep the memories of our fallen heroes alive through stories, gratitude and education."

Grand Marshal – National President of American Gold Star Mothers Inc. (AGSM), Becky Christmas, led the caravan as it traveled down the East Coast stopping at schools, memorials and other locations along the way to spread the mission and honor our nation's Veterans.

Escort participants included American Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Families, Gold Star Wives of America, Veterans and the Wreaths Across America extended family. Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Patriot Riders of America and Rolling Thunder, flanked the escort along with law enforcement from Maine, lead by Westbrook Police Chief Janine Roberts, all to ensure safe transport for all participants throughout the week.

What began as a pilgrimage by Maine wreath maker, Morrill Worcester, in a single truck to deliver 5,000 wreaths he donated to Arlington back in 1992 has become a national mission more than 25 years later to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

By Brunswick Post 20 Member/WAA Local Coordinator Richard Barter



Boy & Girl Scout Support: Local Boy and Girl Scouts help clean up and serve the evening meal hosted by Brunswick Post 20 for Wreaths Across America event Dec. 8.



Brunswick Post 20 Recognition: Wreaths Across America Grand Marshal and Gold Star Mother Becky Christmas, center, presents Brunswick Post 20 Past Commander Joe Donahue, left, and Brunswick Post Commander David Watson, right, with a State House Wreath during the Wreaths Across America evening meal and recognition night hosted by Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8.



Meal Blessing: Reverend Mark Rockwood from Berean Baptist Church blesses the meal and the convoy at Brunswick Post 20 Wreaths Across America event.



Brunswick Post 20 Boys State Cap Presentation: Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson, left, and Americanism Officer Robert Cameron, right, present a Boys State cap to Parker Swanson, center. Parker attends Region 10 Technical High School in Brunswick. Parker spoke to the Post and shared that he had been hesitant about attending - not much interested in politics, but that it had been a really good experience. He enjoyed learning how government works and made friends with whom he plans to stay in touch...a super young man!

Brunswick Post 20 Boys State Cap Presentation: Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson, left, and Americanism Officer Robert Cameron, right, present a Boys State cap to Parker Swanson, center. Parker attends Region 10 Technical High School in Brunswick. Parker spoke to the Post and shared that he had been hesitant about attending - not much interested in politics, but that it had been a really good experience. He enjoyed learning how government works and made friends with whom he plans to stay in touch...a super young man!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

The Proposed Plaza to Honor All Maine Veterans

After a year of major planning, efforts are underway that will more deeply honor Maine military Veterans through the building of a newly designed Veterans Plaza. It will be located on the downtown Brunswick, Maine Mall, a site currently serving as a WWII Memorial.

Planning thus far includes the design of the Plaza that has gained full and formal approval from both the Brunswick Town Council and the Brunswick Village Review Board. The architects for the Plaza are Richardson and Associates, the firm that designed the well-known General Joshua Chamberlain Statue and Memorial.

"This unique design embraces the concept of honoring ALL Veterans from ALL Branches of military service," states David Watson Commander of American



Legion Post 20, and a Brunswick Town Councilor, "and it invites everyone to sit, spend time, and be reminded of the efforts of all our military to preserve our freedoms that none of us can ever take for granted. Many people have remarked that a Plaza with this mission is long overdue."

An organizing committee has been formed and is currently developing efforts to attract the funding needed to construct the Plaza. American Legion Post 20 is serving as the fiscal agent for the Plaza Project.

Included in the Plaza will be 320 granite honor blocks that people can adopt to permanently honor those veterans they wish by engraving the name of their honoree, their branch of service, and the years they served.



Bath Post 21 Xmas Party:

Bath Post 21 Children's Christmas Party was held on Dec. 23 at the Post home. Left to right, Program Coordinator for 15+ years Lilly Stevenson & Santa (Jeff Stevenson) arriving to hand out toys to local area children.



Kids Party Magician: Conjuring Carroll entertains local area children at the Bath Post 21 Children's Christmas Party Dec. 23.

Photo by Jeff Stevenson



Ring the Bell:

Bath Post 21 member and Department of Maine Historian Jeffrey Stevenson donates his time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



Bath Post 21 Receive State House Wreath:

Wreaths Across America 2018 Grand Marshall Becky Christmas, center, presents Bath Post 21 Past Commander Al Morton, left, and Bath Post 21 member Ed Morton, right, with a State House Wreath during the Wreaths Across America event held at Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8.



Veterans Day Ceremony: Harpswell Post 171 Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Old Town House in Harpswell Center. Left to right, Bugler Rollie Weeman with Post 171 members Bill O'Connell, John Ott, Commander Mike Doyle, Bob Webber, and Gale Doyle.

Photo By Lili Ott



Transitional Housing For Women Veterans:

Harpswell Post 171 visited the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope in Augusta on Dec. 18 to present 22 sets of bed linens to this nonprofit that provides transitional housing for women veterans. It was another effort on the part of Post 171 to help female veterans in Maine. Left to right, Bob Webber, Al Golden, Executive Director Martha St.Pierre of House of Hope, Commander Mike Doyle, Bill O'Connell, Diane O'Connell and John Ott also attended the event.

Photo by John Ott

Harpswell Post 171 held their Togus Christmas Party on Dec. 7.

The major gift was a projector with sound bar and a projector screen. All long-term care and hospice patients received individual gifts and \$10 in canteen coupons. Santa Roy Knight, Elf Rachael, Coast Guard members from Sector Northern New England, South Portland and Post 171 members Commander Mike Doyle, Bob Webber, and Bill O'Connell distributed the gifts. Post 171 members Gale Doyle, Bill Sabrowski, members of the SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War), Auxiliary members Tracy Williams, Lee Dione, and Anne Sosnowski attended. 1st Sergeant Kevin Kurlas, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines came from Brunswick. Lobster rolls and pizza were served. A good time was had by all!



Harpswell Post 171 Receive State House Wreath:

Harpswell Post 171 1st Vice Commander John Ott, left, and Harpswell Post 171 Commander Michael Doyle, right, receive State House Wreath from Wreaths Across America 2018 Grand Marshall Becky Christmas, center at the Wreaths Across America event held at Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8.

Topsham Post 202 Receive State House Wreath:

Topsham Post 202 Historian Nancy-Laffin Gillespie, left, and Topsham Post 202 Commander Josephine Eltzroth, right, receive State House Wreath from Wreaths Across America 2018 Grand Marshall Becky Christmas, center during the Wreaths Across America event held at Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8.



Phippsburg Post 216 Receive State House Wreath:

District 8 Sergeant-At-Arms/ Phippsburg Post 216 Past Post Commander Ken Kellogg, left, and Phippsburg Post 216 Sergeant-At-Arms David Barnes, right, receive State House Wreath from 2018 Grand Marshall Beck Christmas, center, during the Wreaths Across America event held at Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; No. Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205



Augusta Unit 2 New Member Initiation Ceremony:

Augusta Unit 2 Initiation Ceremony was held for seven ladies who joined the American Legion Augusta Auxiliary Unit 2 during 2017-2018 on Sept. 16, 2018. Each new member received a Certificate of Initiation, an Auxiliary pin, a new member book-

let, a poppy, a copy of the Unit By-Laws, an Auxiliary pen, and a small American flag. The four great principles, Justice; Freedom; Democracy; and Loyalty, were explained, as well as each part of the American Legion emblem. The new members were sworn in by Past Department President Joyce Thurlow after they pledged to obligate themselves to the Principles of the American Legion Auxiliary. Third row, left to right, Unit 2 President Soraya Umphrey, and Past Department President Nancy True. Second row, left to right, Past Department Presidents Ann Durost, Joyce Thurlow, Terry Owen, Alice Severence, & Mary Jane Mcloon, and Past Department Chaplain Myrtle Brown. Front row, left to right, new members Laurie Jo Farrar, Melody Rousseau, Lynn Hiner, Diana Smith, and Mary Keller. (Not pictured: Joana Hamilton)



Post 2 Eagle Scout Ceremony: Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey, left, attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Scout Joshua Hoffman, right, of Troop 603 in Augusta on Sept. 28, 2018. The Commander congratulated Eagle Scout Hoffman on his achievement and presented him with The American Legion Eagle Scout Citizenship Certificate and the American Legion Citizenship Medal. Eagle Scout Hoffman described his community support project which he completed as part of his Eagle Scout requirement. Joshua used his project requirement to complete the refurbishment of a children's playground in Augusta. Commander Umphrey cited the importance of the Eagle Scout program and the many hours of work the scout is required to do to achieve the high award.

Photo by Soraya Umphrey

Recognition Of Faithful Service:

Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, left, presents Waterville Past Post 5 Commander Ernie Paradis a plaque from The American Legion National Headquarters at the Waterville Post 5 meeting Nov. 19, 2018. This plaque was to recognize Ernie's 25 years of faithful service on the Americanism Commission. Ernie is a past Sergeant-At-Arms, past State Assistant Adjutant, past Post 5 Adjutant as well as past Waterville Post 5 Commander.



Eagle Carved By Inmate: An inmate at the Maine State Prison took four months/1600 hours of labor to complete the carving of an eagle. It was said that knowing this sculpture was on display at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta gave him a sense of pride and honor and humility. The photo was taken during the Togus VA Veteran's Day Ceremony, World War 1 and 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018.

Photo By Jeffrey Stevenson

Veterans Day Ceremony, WWI & 100th Year Observance

held Nov. 12, 2018 at the Togus VA Medical Center. In attendance, front to rear, Togus Post 90 Color Guard Timothy Donovan, George Eastman Jr. and Leon Cummings, Rumford Post 24 Finance Officer Joy Bordeau, Representative for Angus King Teague Morris, Representative for Senator Collins Chuck Mahaleris and Representative for Bruce Poliquin Tim Gallant.



Rifle Salute & Taps: Army National Guard conducting Rifle Salute & Taps at Togus VA Medical Center in celebration of Veteran's Day, World War 1 and 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson



Keynote Speaker: Left to right, Keynote Speaker Randall Liberty (Warden of the Maine State Prison and serves as Co-Commissioner of Public Safety and Corrections) with Medical Center Director Daniel Ducker, right, at Togus VA Veterans Day Ceremony, World War 1 and 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

One Man's Dedication Above & Beyond to Veterans in Veteran Hospitals & Veterans Homes

One Man's Dedication Above and Beyond to Veterans in Veteran Hospitals & Veterans Homes

This article had been drafted and put together hoping it will be read by a large number of Americans to show them the sacrifice and dedication of one person. Said person being a member of The American Legion Post 40 of Winthrop. This person is known to a large number of residents in the town of Winthrop. He is a popular and sincere person and extends himself to many people and in many various ways. Now that I've got your attention let me describe him and his persona as exhibited to the world.

His name is Arthur Herbert Wells and he was born in the year 1942. Looking at that year we see that it was just after the start of World War II, which began in December of 1941. I touch upon this fact be-

cause it seems that unfortunately we're surrounded by wars. As his life progressed so did the wars.

In the early 1950's, we had the Korean War which was first called a Police Action. That supposedly ended and Korea was geographically divided with a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and was now known as North and South Korea. These divisions were independent of each other and so remain today.

Early months of 1965, U.S. sent 100,000 troops and got involved in the ground war in Vietnam.

Moving onward to 1967, the United States assisted South Korea in the cold war against North Korea in the DMZ. Also the Dominican Civil War was just ended 1965 thru 1966. The United States assisted Do-

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

■ "Dedication"

(Continued from Page 27)

minican Loyalists. Brazil, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras.

Arthur, seeing all these worldly wars, decided to join the armed services of the United States. He then decided he wanted to join the Navy and he enlisted in 1967. He signed up and served two years of active duty, which included part of the year 1967 into 1969.

During that time he was assigned to active duty in the Vietnam war zone aboard an ammunition supply ship AE17 USS Great Sitkin in the year 1968.

Then his next mission was assigned to AE12 USS Randell in 1969. Both of said ships supplied ammunition to the Aircraft Carrier "Enterprise" and the Battleship "New Jersey" and to other war ships in the Vietnam war zone.

During his service time he attained the rank of 3rd Class Boatswain Mate.

After finishing his tour of active duty he was assigned an additional four years in the Naval Reserve. Upon completion this being a total of 6 years he spent with the US Naval Service.

When he finished active duty with the Navy, he returned home and in 1969 he joined The American Legion.

He then found employment at Carlton Woolen Mill in Winthrop and was assigned to the 2nd shift which was the night shift. He became friendly with his supervisor Leopold (Leo) Sawtelle who was not a Veteran. In 1974, Leo mentioned to him that he made a weekly trip, every Sunday to the Veterans Administration Hospital (VA) at Togus, Maine. He went and assisted the handicapped and medically recovering Veterans at said location. Arthur became interested in what he heard and told Leo that he would start going with him on Sundays. Thus it began and it was an every Sunday thing with both of them going to the VA. They would arrive at the VA at 9 a.m. and leave at 1 p.m. It was a 30 minute and 18 mile drive from Winthrop to the VA and a 30 minute and 18 mile ride home every week. This brought the total of time donated to five hours a week.

While at the VA, they would each take three handicapped wheelchair riding Veterans from the Nursing Home Ward to the cafeteria at 9 a.m. for coffee and donuts, and upon completion, take them to Protestant Church Services on the Grounds from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then back to their wards upon completion. They would then go to different wards and talk to and cheer up the sick, ailing, recovering and all other veterans that needed a boost in life.

These joint trips and visits to the VA for Arthur & Leo lasted until 1994 when Leo began losing his sight and could no longer make said trips. Being the man he was, Arthur continued the journeys on his own.

Among other things, they would visit VA Hospitalized Veterans and could do so at their leisure. These bedridden Veterans were very happy to have someone to converse with. Sometime around 1989 or thereabouts, the visiting privilege was end-

ed. The VA set up the Hospitals as being under Quarantine and off limits. They were still able to visit other sections of the VA hospitals, which they did.

In 2012, the VA established and allowed televising the Church Services from VA grounds to all the Wards on Sunday a.m.'s. This became Arthur's duty running the cameras. He did this for a number of years.

Another service Arthur recalled was a Special service they would do for the Veterans, one being on Memorial Day and others on Military Holidays. They would also assist at the Christmas Party. Each year afghan's (clothing) were made by volunteers and Arthur would see that these were given to the Veterans to wear and keep when they ventured out into the winter cold.

Speaking of winter cold, the State of Maine is in the upper northeast quadrant of the United States and the winters are very cold and snow ridden. When you stop and think about that, you ask yourself how has he managed to make a Sunday weekly trip, 52 weeks of the year with those weather conditions? It has taken much dedication and perseverance to continue doing this and he has enjoyed the trip.

In the title of this article "Veterans Homes" are mentioned. There are a number of these homes located within the State as well as throughout the U.S. The nearest Veterans Home to Togus is about five miles west. If there were any Veterans he knew from Winthrop or anywhere for that matter Arthur would always stop there on his way home from Togus. Again these visits encompassed another two hour time period or longer in which Arthur felt good raising the Veterans spirits and boosting their morale.

As if he had nothing else to do, he ran for Post Commander's position and was elected to same and served in that position for three years from 1984 thru 1986.

To add to his idle hours, he has been very active in all his years of membership in the Legion. He spent 25 of those years as Post 40 Chaplain.

To help enlighten the average person Arthur made these weekly trips for 44 years. Counting just Sundays and broken down into the number of days we have two thousand two hundred eighty eight (2,288) days he donated in that time period. Now if we count the hours as per that time, it comes to eleven thousand four hundred and forty (11,440) hours. Now that's a lot of time of which he considers well spent.

The question in many people's minds was posed and he was asked "Why he did it?". His response follows: quoting him, "I have done it for the Veteran and their mental stability. I felt it was a good deed and being a Veteran myself it was my responsibility to help them make it".

In lieu of this short synopsis, I and many members of Post 40, including Woman's Auxiliary, Sons of The Legion, and Legion Riders, all concur with the goodness of Arthur's charitable time given to the many Veterans of this great Country.

God Bless you Arthur and the Veterans and God Bless America.

By Frank Smimmo

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12

Bar Harbor Post 25; Ellsworth Post 63; Southwest Harbor Post 69; Blue Hill Post 85; Bucksport Post 93; Stonington Post 102; Northeast Harbor Post 103; Trenton Post 207

Ellsworth Post 63 Meritorious Service Award: Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, present Ellsworth Post 63 Adjutant and District 12 Commander Albert Scott, center, a Meritorious Service Award during the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor Jan. 19.

Photo By Jeffrey Stevenson



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Bangor Post 12; East Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 85; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; East Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213

Hero's of the Month

Corinna Post 73 recently participated with the Maine Military Supply of Holden to award two grants under the newly formed "HERO'S OF THE MONTH" program.

The program helps out needy Veterans throughout Central Maine who need a lift to get them by. We were fortunate to have two Legion members recommend an award for two needy Veteran's in the Exeter, Maine area.

In late December the Grants for fuel assistance were approved and presented to two Veteran's in Exeter, one Veteran was 91 years old and had served our Country in WWII.

The Legion is very thankful to have participated in this meaningful program provided by Maine Military Supply.

Any organization who might know of needy Veteran's in their area are encouraged to contact Richard White, Maine Military Supply, 179 Main Rd., Holden, Maine 04429 or call 207-989-6783.

It was our pride and honor to have participated with the Maine Military Supply to assist these two worthy Veteran's.

By Dave Bolstridge, Corinna Post 73 Adjutant

Hero Of The Month—Pierce: Corinna Post 73 presents the Fuel Assistance Program Award to Legion member Michael Pierce. Left to right, Post 73 1st Vice Commander Victor Buckland, Recipient Michael Pierce, Richard White from Maine Military Supply, and Post 73 Adjutant Dave Bolstridge.

Photo by Unit 73 Member Linda Colbath



Hero Of The Month—Weeks: Corinna Post 73 presents the Fuel Assistance Program Award to Legion member Laurice Weeks of Exeter. Left to right, Post 73 1st Vice Commander Victor Buckland, Recipient Laurice Weeks, Richard White from Maine Military Supply, Post 73 Adjutant Dave Bolstridge, and in back row Post 73 Service Officer Stephen Colbath.

Photo by Unit 73 Member Linda Colbath

**Have You Asked a Veteran
TO JOIN Today?**
Help us increase membership for 2019!
Join online at www.mainelegion.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued



First Time Member: Etna/Carmel Post 107 Commander Bob Sibley, right, presents first time member of Post 107 Ansel Zetterman his membership card.

Photo by Hermon Post 200 Tom Carle

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14

Dover-Foxcroft Post 29; Milo Post 41; Dexter Post 53; Brownville-Jct. Post 92; Greenville Post 94; Monson Post 116; Guilford Post 119; Sangerville Post 165

Miracle Tree Event: Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 members recently participated in the Miracle Tree Event as a part of the Hometown Holidays Celebration in Dover-Foxcroft. Post 29 donated a beautifully decorated patriotic tree for auction. All money benefits local charities.



District 14 Oratorical Contest: Greenville Post 94 conducted the Post and District 14 American Legion Oratorical Contest at Greenville High School on Jan. 23. The contest requires the students to have an 8—10 minute presentation on a provision of the U. S. Constitution on a subject of their choice and to respond with a 3 to 5 minute presentation to one of the four listed topics on the

constitution that is selected at the competition. The winner of the competition qualifies for participation of The American Legion State Contest at Thomas College in February. Left to right, Greenville H.S. English Teacher & Contest Coordinator Alan Cartwright, Greenville Students, Sophomore Christian Trujillo, Freshmen Ashley Bussell, Eva Patrick, Kayla Berthiaume, Greenville Post 94 Commander Peter Johnson. 2019 results are Winner Ashley Bussell and 2nd Place Eva Patrick.

District 14 Places 3rd In State Contest:

Ashley Bussell of Greenville is shown receiving the third place award at the 2019 American Legion State Oratorical Contest held at Thomas College on Feb. 9. Presenting the award is American Legion State Commander Scott Paradis with Americanism Officer Alfred McKay looking on. Presented with the award was a \$300 scholarship. Ashley's 10 minute speech was based on an aspect of the U.S. Constitution and was titled "In Search of Equality". The presentation described the challenges women in the United States have experienced attaining equal rights and the relationship of those challenges to the rights protected by the constitution.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

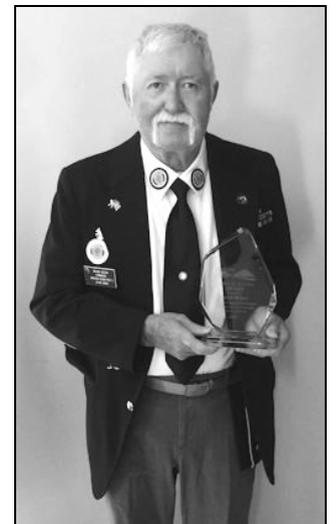
Calais Post 3; Cherryfield Post 8; Machias Post 9; Eastport Post 11; Baileyville Post 23; Danforth Post 45; Pembroke Post 59; Lubec Post 65; Jonesport Post 108; Vanceboro Post 172; Topsfield Post 191



Committed Support From Down East Credit Union: Calais Post 3 Support Fund receives a \$1,000 check from Down East Credit Union staff. Left to right, Branch Manager Becky Perkins, Post Commander Mike McLean, and Loan Officer Jessica Brown. The Credit Union has committed to \$1,000 for the Support Fund for the next four years.

A Big Surprise & Great Honor: I want to thank Dr. Niayesh and the O.R. Staff for their professional and courteous care I received during a recent surgery I had at the Calais Regional Hospital. I also want to thank the St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce for presenting me with the ARLO T. BATES Award 2018. This award is "in recognition of the time and effort dedicated towards serving and improving the quality of life in the St. Croix Region"! This was a big surprise and a great honor. Any correspondence: Commander Calais American Legion Sherman Brothers Post #3, PO Box 311, Calais, Maine 04619, email: calleg3@yahoo.com, Facebook: Calais American Legion. Tel: 207-214-4410(cell). Please leave message. Remember our Veterans!

By Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean



Cherryfield Post 8 Wreaths Across America: Scouts of Pack and Troop 139 serve as Color Guard for the Cherryfield Wreaths Across America Program co-hosted by Cherryfield Post 8 and the Scouts on Dec. 15, 2018. The program featured the National Anthem played by Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston, Pledge of Allegiance led by the Webelos Scouts and the placing of wreaths on the WWI, WWII and Korea/Vietnam Memorials. Following the program, volunteers organized by

wife, Cheryl, spread out to the many cemeteries in Cherryfield, Unionville, Beddington and Deblois to place the wreaths.

Wreaths Across America

Volunteer: Cherryfield Post 8 member and disabled Veteran, Clyde Merrill, has been a volunteer at the Wreaths Across America trucker station in Columbia for several years and well known by many of the truckers. His dream has been to accompany the convoy to Arlington National Cemetery and this was to be the year but Stage 4 cancer intervened and Clyde had to cancel. Although disappointed, he managed to have a few good days in between treatments and was able to be honored at the send-off dinner and was able to ride in the convoy for most of the first day experiencing the excitement of a 5 mile convoy loaded with hundreds of thousands of wreaths to honor our deceased Veterans and Warriors. Left to right, Wreaths Across American founder Merrill Worcester, Volunteer Clyde Merrill, and Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 16

Caribou Post 15; Fort Fairfield Post 27; Houlton Post 47; Washburn Post 48; Oakfield Post 52; Presque Isle Post 88; Mars Hill Post 118; Limestone Post 127; Easton Post 187; Masardis Post 208



Certificates Of Completion: During District 16 meeting held at Houlton Post 47 on Nov. 3, 2018, the following Legionnaires received their Certificates of Completion at the Department Post Service Officers class. Left to right, presenting the Certificates is Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux to Jim Burton of Oakfield Post 52,

Area 7 Commander Rod Collins, District 16 Commander Renee Wells, and Tom Connors of Mars Hills Post 118.

Veterans Receive Pins for Holidays

Many veterans residing in nursing homes received a special visit from members of Houlton Post 47 on Dec. 18, 2018, to receive a lapel pin for the holidays.

Adjutant Scott Brewer, who also serves as the District 16 Sergeant-At-Arms, said the purpose of the gift, a small lapel pin with an American flag with the word Veteran on it, was simply meant as a small gesture of kindness.

"There are a lot of military servicemen and women who are residing in nursing homes now, and we didn't want them to feel left out this holiday season," Brew-

er said. "Their service to our country is what made it possible for us to be free today. We are here to support our Veterans during the holiday season and to make sure they are not forgotten."

Legion members presented about 21 Veterans, who reside at either Madigan Estates or Gardiner Nursing Home in Houlton, with lapel pins during the visit.

Brewer added that Jerry Riley, who serves as the Legion's bugler at events in the community, was the person who spearheaded the effort.

By Joseph Cyr Senior Reporter/Sports Editor
Houlton Pioneer Times, Houlton, ME
December 26, 2018

Veterans Receive Pins For Holidays:

Members of Houlton Post 47 visited several nursing homes in the area to present special lapel pins to area veterans Tues., Dec. 18, 2018. Receiving his pin at Madigan Estates is Eldon Bennett, second from left, who served in the United States Army and Army National Guard for 58 years. Bennett spent one-and-a-half years



stationed in Germany. Taking part in the presentation are, left to right, Bugler Jerry Riley, Bennett, Post Commander Kris Watson, DAV of Aroostook Coordinator Charles Griffith, Post 47 Sergeant-At-Arms Gene Ross, Chaplin Dan Blake and District 16 Sergeant-At-Arms Scott Brewer.

Caribou American Legion Upgrades Floor

Caribou Post 15 has had a very busy January. Our Post has been in the process of upgrading our Post home in preparation of the Legion's 100th Birthday. Our Post has had a small committee, supported by Post Commander Wayne Little, that has made some major upgrades, but the most recent was our biggest endeavor yet. Post Commander Little said, "We were trying to get it done for the 4 Chaplains Ceremony on Feb. 3 which is the 70th anniversary of the Chaplains."

The Post floors were in sad shape being old, uneven, tiles pulling up, tiles missing, and different colors due to re-

placing tiles. Because of this, one of the main objectives was to replace the worn floor. We had to start with the fundraising before we could do that and thanks to the fundraising we have been able to achieve our goal.

The flooring project started on Jan. 13. The group came together along with Loring Job Corp and made it happen. First was to pull up the old tile, move it to dumpsters, sweeping and making sure there was no debris left on the floor.

The major task of removing the old glue used to put those old tiles down was now underway. It was a daunting task that took us the better part of the week. Five

days later using rented belt sanders, working days and evenings, we were finally able to see our old hardwood floor. Clear of debris, we set to work staining the floors and then sealing them with polyurethane.

As of Jan. 20, our floors are complete! The project took more time than we thought, but with the help of the crew and Job Corp, the floors look awesome. We have more work in our Post to do, including new bathrooms and ceilings, but we have come so far thanks in part to all our

volunteers. Legionnaire Jack Dixon and his wife & Auxiliary member Becky Dixon said, "That it had to be done and we came together as a group and did it, and we enjoyed it and had fun doing it. We look forward to completing the rest of it." Post Commander Little also added, "I want to thank everyone who helped, had a part of this, and it could not be done without our volunteers."

Written By Cuppy Johndro, Post Vice Commander and Committee Chair for Upgrades

Caribou Post 15 Upgrades Floors: The new and restored floor at Caribou Post 15.

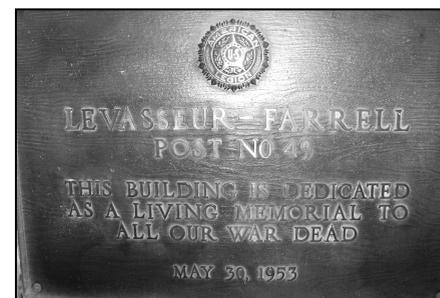


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

Van Buren Post 49; Fort Kent Post 133; Stockholm Post 136; Frenchville Post 145; Madawaska Post 147; Eagle Lake Post 176; St. Francis Post 180

Van Buren Post 49 Post History: Van Buren Post 49 found a long lost bronze plaque made in 1953. Post Adjutant Roy Doucette buffed it up and re-installed it inside the building.



Van Buren Post 49 Continuous Year Recognition: Van Buren Post 49 Commander Harold Lausier at Recognition Night on Nov. 10, 2018 was given a Legionnaire of the Year jacket for his 6 continuous years as Commander.

Quilts of Valor: At Van Buren Post 49 Recognition Night held Nov. 10, 2018, Quilts of Valor were presented to 4 Legion members from the Quilts of Valor Organization from South Carolina. All 4 of these quilts are registered in their Organization. Here is Post 49 1st Vice Commander Alphy Durette, right, and Post 49 Finance Officer Clayton Belanger, left.



Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 2 – Augusta	Richard L. Lorenz	Korea	Post 79 – Berwick	Paul Urbanski	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Robert C. Tarr	Korea	Post 80 – Millinocket	Merrill D. Segee	WWII
Post 4 – Gardiner	John F. Lasselle Jr.	Vietnam	Post 80 – Millinocket	Donald A. Benson	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Chester A. Weed	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	Othniel Thurlow	WWII
Post 4 – Gardiner	Harold J. Shapiro	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Robert J. Hoffmann	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Reginald Bizier	WWII	Post 93 – Bucksport	Stanley B. Bennett Jr.	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Iona Osnoe	WWII	Post 93 – Bucksport	Richard O. Chase	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Earl W. Cole	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Francis V. Whitney	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	George E. Wing Sr.	Korea	Post 97 – Howland	Phillip L. Dawson Sr.	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Frank E. Stearns	Korea	Post 102 – Stonington	Albert G. Stinson	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	Paul G. Packard	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna/Carmel	Donald A. Dysart	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Clifford Cameron	WWII	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Richard E. Mahan	WWII
Post 35 – South Portland	Edward J. McSweeney	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Cecil Theriault	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Ronald M. Gould	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Bruce M. Roubo	Persian Gulf
Post 49 – Van Buren	Rodney V. Ayotte	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Malcolm D. Hatch	WWII
Post 50 – Unity	Laurie A. Nichols	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Maurice Sirois	WWII
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Shirley Hill	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Thomas G. Calder	WWII
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Richard W. Descoteaux Sr.	Vietnam	Post 155 – Naples	Earl M. Cash	Korea
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Robert L. Pettengill Sr.	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Frank Costigan	Korea
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Richard W. Carbonneau Sr.	Korea	Post 164 – Falmouth	Arthur S. Wescott	WWII
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Roger R. Boucher	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Elmo A. Greene Jr.	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Leo P. Glaude Jr.	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Dennis Lindsay	Korea
Post 73 – Corinna	Ethan Kelley	Vietnam	Post 180 – St. Francis	Reuben Pelletier	Korea
Post 77 – Lincoln	Henry J. Hunter Jr.	WWII	Post 197 – Westbrook	Ray L. Littlefield III	Vietnam

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17 continued



Van Buren Post 49 Presentation: Van Buren Post 49 hosted a presentation by Licensed Social Worker Peggy Gagnon with membership and community listening to the presentation about the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou concerning coordination and benefits provided.



National Resolutions Update: Department National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods gives a presentation on the updates of Resolutions presented to National Headquarters during Van Buren Post 49 Recognition night held Nov. 10, 2018.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...

St. John's Newfoundland Post No. CN-09

Potato Harvest BBQ: Every fall for the past 40+ years during Potato Harvest, members of the Cyr-Plourde Post 145 in Frenchville/St. Agathe has a BBQ where all the local farmers buy meals by the dozen for their crews. Part of the working crew, left to right, Clifford Morneault, Philip Michaud (in the smoke), Jean Paul Cyr, Post 145 Commander & Chief cook Roger Bosse.



St. John's Post CN09 Scholarship: Post Commander John Walther, left, presents a Post Scholarship to Rachel Louise Howells, right, at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



Commander Paradis, Post Commander Greg Morin, NEC Lloyd Woods, Gaetan Bourgoin, and Mike Lloyd.

Madawaska Post 147 Donates To Legion Project: Members of Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, Madawaska, present a check in the amount of \$500 to Commander Paradis from the Post to the Legion Family Project for the wheelchairs at Togus. The check was presented at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Left to right,

Hockey Game Opener With St. John's CN09 Color Guard: At the opening hockey game for the St John's Growlers. They have a Color Guard for the first game of the month that is played against a U.S. Hockey Team and St. John's Post CN09 always have a member carry the American Flag. Flag Bearer's, left to right, Corporal Russell, Post CN09 Finance Officer Ray Reiser with American Flag, Canadian Flag Leading Seaman Hacket, Newfoundland Flag Canadian Veteran Jim King, and Corporal Ford.



Corporal Russell, Post CN09 Finance Officer Ray Reiser with American Flag, Canadian Flag Leading Seaman Hacket, Newfoundland Flag Canadian Veteran Jim King, and Corporal Ford.

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Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 19

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2019 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 19, 2019.

Please be reminded that only those articles and/or pictures which are sent in proper form will be considered for publication.

Ineligible stories or pictures that cannot be reproduced will be returned to you. A reminder that stories must be in story format, we are unable to compose your information for you.

As always, the editorial staff may edit all submissions at its discretion.

We are once again asking for input

from all posts, auxiliary units, S.A.L. squadrons, individuals, etc. To make this paper informative to you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

Photos should be clearly marked as to who's who in the picture as well as who took the picture.

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at:

(207) 873-3229

or via email at:

legionme@mainelegion.org



Camden Post 30 Receives Meritorious Service Award:

Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr. Matthew Jabaut and Dept. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Debra Couture present a Meritorious Service Award to Camden Post 30 during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Left to right, District 6 Cmdr. Ray Lewis, Dept. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Debra Couture, District 6 Service Officer Dave Franclemont, Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr. Matthew Jabaut, and Camden Post 30 Cmdr. Frank Carr receiving the award.

Mark your Calendar!

The 101st Annual State Convention will be held June 7-8, 2019 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Me. 04412.

Please plan to join us in support of our Veterans and Legionnaires around the State of Maine by making every effort to attend.



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Birthday Money Donated To Support Legion Family Project:

Brycen Waugh of Mexico, Maine, visited The American Legion, Department Headquarters in Winslow on Dec. 27, 2018 to present money he raised for his birthday in the amount of \$520 to Department Commander Scott Paradis. This money will be added to the Legion Commander, Auxiliary President and SAL Commander's 2018-19 American Legion Family Project to raise money in support of purchasing Stryker wheelchairs at TOGUS. Brycen, along with his mom Katie Waugh and grandmother Colleen Gurney were treated to a tour of The American Legion Headquarters by Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux. Left to right, American Legion Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, Department Chaplain & Post 24 Finance Officer Tricia Thurston, Brycen Waugh and Department Commander Scott Paradis.



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Due to time constraints and staff limitations to fact check all material sent in, we depend on the honesty and integrity of those who submit material for publication and on the expertise of our members and readers to correct misstatements or misinformation whether intentional or not.