

THE MAINE Legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

“We are Team 100!”

To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members in Maine:

A century ago, The American Legion was founded by veterans who had a post-war mission. Their mission, one that continues today, was to care for veterans, provide patriotic programs for our nation's youth, advocate for a strong national defense and instill a societal pride in what it means to be American.

That pride is on display in posts and communities throughout your department. It is the posts that people pass on their way to work every day. It is the posts that sponsor the local youth activities and “welcome home” events for returning troops. It is the posts that transition into emergency shelters when natural disasters hit.

And we continue to count on our posts to ensure that our American Legion will remain a strong force for a second century! No legislative accomplishment, successful program or fundraising endeavor would ever be possible without a strong membership base.

Veterans rely on a strong health care system, a comprehensive GI Bill and employment opportunities when they leave the service. They need to know that The American Legion works tirelessly to make these benefits possible. Our centennial is a perfect opportunity for you to remind your fellow veterans that they have strong advocates in The American Legion. Tell our story to your local media and invite eligible veterans to join our organization. Remind those who have not renewed, or perhaps left The American Legion many years ago, that their presence is missed and they still have a home with us.



NATIONAL COMMANDER
BRETT P. REISTAD

I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion Family. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable convention.

We are Team 100!

Brett P. Reistad

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander

Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer to Host Annual State Convention

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce its 101st Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer. Department Commander Scott Paradis will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 7. The Holiday Inn in Bangor located on 404 Odlin Road will be the headquarters hotel.

This promises to be an exciting and eventful convention for all of the Legion family members and their friends. Please take the time to join us in recognizing our award recipients, listen to various guest

speakers as well as Maine dignitaries, and learn what The American Legion, Department of Maine has to offer our Veterans and their families around the state of Maine.

The registration fee to attend is \$10/person which covers both sessions to be held June 7-8. Please note that all invited guests and family members will not have to pay a registrations fee.

Please show your support to our Veterans and Legionnaires around the State of Maine by making every effort to attend.

York Post 56 Reaches Out to Veterans

Donald G. Hands, York Post 56 Commander
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

An event held by The American Legion National Office and American Legion Department of Maine was hosted at Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 of York on Mar. 22. Several York County American Legion Posts were represented. The purpose of the event was to focus on community service and assistance to Veterans.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Service Officer Carl Curtis spoke about the Veterans Administration. His presentation was very helpful and he answered a number of questions from the crowd concerning health care and the VA claims processes Veterans need to follow. In addition, he talked about the role of the

Post Service Officer and how that position is crucial in guiding fellow Veterans to get the help they need.

This was followed by The American Legion National Membership Coordinator Kevin Mook. He reminded the group that “The American Legion is and has always been about serving Veterans”. He then spoke of ways to reach out to the over 17,000 Veterans in the York County area.

After his presentation, the group began strategizing how best to meet the needs of Veterans in our present day and age. Many manned phones calling Veterans in York County and invited them to join their local American Legion Posts.

I was very pleased with the event as it showed The American Legion's commitment to Veterans and the Community are as strong as ever.



Department Commander Scott Paradis, Department 2nd Vice Commander and Coordinator of the Event Debra Couture, Governor Janet Mills who was available to read the Proclamation honoring the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion, and Guest Speaker Past National Commander Anthony Jordan.

American Legion's 100th Anniversary Plaque Presentation:

The American Legion, Department of Maine 100th Anniversary Celebration and Dedication of The American Legion 100 Years of Service plaque (1919-2019) took place at the State House in Augusta March 15. Many Legion Family members and guests were in attendance to celebrate this significant event and to witness the unveiling of the 100th Anniversary plaque (seen here) which hangs in the State House, Hall of Flags. Left to right,



Veterans in the York County area during the District 1 Revitalization Training held Mar. 22 at York Post 56.

**New Ways
To Reach
Out To
Veterans:** District 1 Commander Gordon Kendall, left, speaks with Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, center, and National Membership Coordinator Kevin Mook, right, about learning new ways to “reach out” to

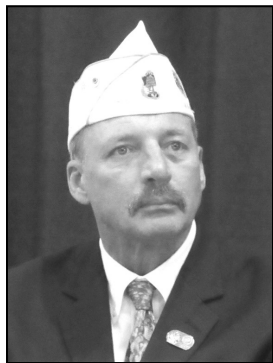
Commander's Comments

WOW, what a year it has been! I cannot believe that my tenure as the State Commander of the greatest Department in the country is almost over.

I want to thank all the Legionnaires for letting me have this tremendous experience. It is truly one I will cherish for the rest of my life. Also, thank you Norman Partridge for faithfully reading my articles and always telling me how good they were.

No one can be a decent Commander without a good team helping and supporting them, and I definitely had that this year. All the State Officers along with PNC Anthony Jordan, NEC Lloyd Woods, NECA Randy Kluj, Rachael, Sue, Sherry, Kierra, and Alyssa who worked tirelessly to make The American Legion a better organization and to also make me look good which in itself can sometimes be a monumental task.

I respectfully take my hat off to all the Area, District and Post Commanders. What an extraordinary job you people have done this year. You are the backbone



**COMMANDER
SCOTT PARADIS**

of The American Legion and I salute each and every one of you. Last but not least, I would like to thank my loving wife, Sherree, for putting up with me, helping me, and occasionally enlightening me, that I am NOT the

Commander at home.

In closing, I think I am one of the most fortunate people in the world to have had this opportunity. If I can ever help any of you, please feel free to reach out to me. I am not going away, just stepping back for now.

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

NEC Update

Hello again, by the time this is published in the latest edition of the paper, some of the posts and districts will have conducted their annual nominations and elections and possibly installment of newly elected officers for the upcoming



**LLOYD
WOODS**

American Legion year. To those that already have done so, I would like to express my most sincere congratulations and wishes for the best in the upcoming year. For those who have to conduct the nominations and elections I wish you all the best and hope that your group will continue to do what we as Legionnaires do best – take care of those Veterans who have stepped forward and served our country, for their children and families. We need Veterans to step forward and continue the work that our predecessors started back in 1919.

Also, the National Executive Com-

mittee will more than likely have met in Indianapolis and continued the work of The American Legion of which this would be my second meeting as your representative on this committee. A report from me on what was taken up will appear in the next edition of the paper. I also would like to report that not only am I your representative on the NEC but I have also been appointed by the National Commander to be a member of the Subcommittee on Resolutions for the National Executive Committee of which I am very proud. That means that our great Department of Maine continues to have a presence on the NEC but also has a presence on the important committee that takes up resolutions before the NEC. I think this is very important and want you all to know that I will do my best to represent you and our Department to the best of my ability.

I look forward to seeing you at the Department convention in June which is coming up quickly. I hope you have safe travels in the upcoming months. It looks like spring is starting to get here and believe me, like a lot of others, I say it can't come soon enough.

If there is anything I can do to assist you, please contact me. Again, thank you for being a member of the world's biggest Veteran's organization.



NVC Introduction & Response: (Left Photo) National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods introduces National Vice Commander—East, Paul Spedaliere to those attending The American Legion Family Joint Testimonial held at Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta on May 11. (Right Photo) National Vice Commander Spedaliere gives his response to those in attendance.

A 'First' Look

My Fellow Legionnaires! It has been my privilege to serve as your 1st Vice Commander for the Department of Maine. I hope you all have had a wonderful year and am looking forward to seeing you all at the Department Convention in June!



**MATTHEW
JABAUT**

I want to thank all of you for your work in this 100th year! We have accomplished some great things as an organization. We still have some work to do around membership and would ask that all of you continue to reach out to our expired members to engage them in our upcoming holiday ceremonies. Inviting them back to Legion membership and to our Elections, Installations, and Dept. convention is a great opportunity to reconnect.

We still have time to give our organization the best gift which we could give

for a 100-year birthday, and that is membership growth. Please continue to work on this through the end of the national membership year, 30 days prior to National convention, or July 24th. I would love to see as many Posts and Districts make their goal to grow targets by then which would lead our Dept to overall membership growth in our 100th year.

There are many tools out there to help you be successful in this endeavor, but the biggest one is your own, the will and desire to do it. Once you have that, we can provide anything else you need. As we have found with some of our District and Post revitalization and engagement events, renewing and new members can be just a phone call, email, letter, or visit away. Many times, they are wondering why it took so long to reach out. We have a great organization, and we need to continue to reach out to past and new members to remind them that we are still here and doing great things that we want them to be a part of.

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

Helping Maine Grow!

Americanism Report

Comrades, as spring is upon us and so is the spring sports season. As the fields dry, baseball practices are in full swing. I encourage all Posts to support their local Legion, Babe Ruth, Little League or County Teams. For more information on Legion Baseball, contact Department Chairman or visit www.legion.org/baseball.



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

As Posts are getting the Boys State candidates ready to go to Boys State which will again be at Thomas College in Waterville. The dates are June 16 check in and graduation on June 20.

With the spring/summer activities get underway, invite the local ball teams, Scouting Dens, Packs, and Troops into parades the Posts are in.

During the Flag Day Ceremonies invite Civic groups, Scouts, schools to attend; maybe do a Ceremonial Flag Retirement at an extended care facility/Veterans Home.

Hope to see the bleachers filled at The American Legion Day at Hadlock Field. The Sea Dogs vs. Altoona on May 26 at 1:00 p.m. Be sure to mention The Maine American Legion when purchasing your tickets.



The Class Of 2019 Maine Legion College began at Department Headquarters in Winslow on Mar. 30. Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut led the class during the morning session. The other instructors assisting were (not pictured) Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Department Sergeant-At-Arms Kelly Ela, and our newest Instructor Harrison Post 139 Commander Ethan McKenney who recently returned from National Legion College.

A 'Second' Look

Fellow Legionnaires, it continues to be an honor to serve as your 2nd Vice Commander. The year has gone by very fast and the State Convention will be here before we know it. The convention will be the 2nd weekend of June this year and will be held in Brewer at Jeff's Catering. Perhaps the temperatures will be above 60 by that time.



**DEBRA
COUTURE**

I think we have all had enough of the 2019 winter weather. I just heard on the news that a year ago today, it was in the 80's in Bangor and 90's in Portland. However, today the temperatures reached a high of 48. I believe we will be jumping from winter directly into summer. Let's hope that summer lasts longer than a few weeks.

Thank you to all the Posts that have had 100th Anniversary celebrations. I encourage all Posts to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion. I am sure that none of us will be around for the 200th anniversary so we need to make the most of this great year. Be proud of The American Legion for what it has accomplished for our Veterans over the past 100 years and open your doors and celebrate by inviting your community into your Post.

Also, thank you to all those who helped make the unveiling of the State of Maine's American Legion 100th Anniversary Plaque possible. It was a great day on March 15, 2019 in the State House Hall of

Flags. Governor Janet Mills read the Proclamation honoring The American Legion's 100th Anniversary. Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan was the guest speaker. If you have not had the opportunity to see the plaque in the Hall of Flags in Augusta, I encourage you to make the trip to see it. It hangs next to the Women Veteran's Plaque, just to the left of the staircase outside of the Governor's office.

Finally, if any of you had the opportunity to participate in the membership revitalization for Districts 1, 2, 16, or 17, you know how much fun it can be to call our Veterans and talk to them about joining a local American Legion Post. My husband, Greg, and I had a great time in York and South Portland in March. Many Veterans we spoke with were glad that we called and thanked us for reaching out to them. Some said no one had ever bothered to call. I encourage all Posts and Districts to get the lists of names from National and/or legion.org and schedule a day or two to work together and call these men and women. You may be surprised how many are ready to make that commitment to join your Post. It was especially fun to work with Renee Wells, District 16 Commander. Renee drove from Aroostook County to York and Cumberland Counties that March weekend and spent 3 days helping to make those calls. We had quite a competition going. Our Department's 1st Vice Commander, Matt Jabaut, and our State Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, did a great job setting up these sessions, bringing in a representative from National to work with us. It was a fantastic idea. Thank you both for all your hard work. I hope we can make this a statewide effort.

Have a wonderful spring/summer and I hope to see you in Brewer in June.



**Photo Op With
Department
Commander: Department
2nd Vice Commander Debra
Couture, left, and Area 4 Com-
mander Gregory Couture, right,
gather for a photo opportunity
with Department Commander
Scott Paradis during The Ameri-
can Legion Family Joint Testi-
monial held at Augusta Post 2 on
May 11.**

**Teamwork: De-
partment Chaplain Pa-
tricia Thurston, left,
wife of Area 2 Com-
mander Kirk Thurston,
right, in attendance at
the Department Testi-
monial held at Augusta
Post 2 on May 11. This
year Patricia will be
running for Sergeant-At-
-Arms and Kirk as 2nd
Vice Commander for
The American Legion,
Department of Maine.**



On the Agenda

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 9, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.
District 6 – Knox: June 22, TBD, 11 a.m.

Money Matters

After six years, this is my last article as the Department Finance Officer. It is time for new ideas and new energy. It has been a great run; I've enjoyed the people I've met and worked with throughout all these years. Our leadership is strong, and our Adjutant keeps us focused. There have been a few bumps in the road, but we have come a long way since Commander Hargreaves and Adjutant L'Heureux went through the doors of our old facility looking for a new place to hang our hats. I think it was even our Office Manager, Rachael Currie who alerted us to this place we now call the Home Office. An agreement as to price and the Adjutant was soon signing the contracts and the rest is a bunch of interesting stories which get better with every telling.

One lingering story is that we spent a lot of our dues building the Home Office Compound. As the Finance Officer, I can tell you that is just not true. A lion share of what has been accomplished has been through special fund raisers and donations of time and resource by too many to mention. Together we have come far. We have a way yet to go, but I have every confidence that our leadership team with the help of all of you will get us there. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as the Department of Maine Finance Officer over these years.

I would be remiss if I didn't say something about the Ladies in the Home Office and our Department Service Office. Rachael; Susan; Kierra; Sherry; Carl; Maureen; Julie and Alyssa, we just couldn't have done it without you. You are all terrific to work with and I will miss you all greatly. Thank you so much for all your support over these years.

Deo, I want to thank you personally for all you have done and are doing. You have been a blessing to this organization, please don't doubt that for a moment.

To Tony Jordan- our Past National Commander- and John and Lloyd our Past National Vice Commanders and all the Department Commanders I've had the honor of serving. Yours has been an unselfish labor of love at often the expense of your families. Though being, National



**TOMMY
ADKINS**

Vice Commander and/or Department Commander has its rewards, I have seen up close the burdens you all have had to endure. I want to thank each and everyone of you for all you've given to this organization and I salute you. Lesser men would have failed.

Additionally, I want to thank John Hargreaves. John, your hand rest heavily upon each of these Department Budgets over these past seven years. Thank you buddy! You and Jennifer will always be in my heart. You will always be like a brother to me. Thank you for the one hundred and one things you have done for this organization over the years.

Lastly, I want to thank our Adjutant Paul L'Heureux. Paul you are also like a brother to me and I believe you are the light at the end of the tunnel for this Department. Thank you for your consistent direction and the work that you have done that surly exceeds all expectations. The Adjutants job as you well know gets to handle 99.9% of the bumpy lumps along the road to success. Often you must do those tasks which don't make you too popular. That is too bad because you are a great guy, but we don't need a great guy in your position, we need the skills you have been providing all along. Sorry guy, but we are all vying for the good guy position leaving you with the nasty guy job. Thank you so much for all you have done over the years. I will greatly miss working with you.

Now let's get those membership numbers up!

Good-bye all!

Tommy Adkins,
Department Finance Officer



**100th Anniversary Attendees: De-
partment Finance Officer looks over the pro-
gram for The American Legion 100th Anniver-
sary Celebration and Plaque Presentation held
at the State House, Hall of Flags on Mar. 15.
Back, left to right is Auxiliary President Joan
Caron and Tommy's wife Chris deep in con-
versation.**

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Judge Advocate

Failure = Success— Thomas Jefferson was told by his teachers he was “too stupid to learn anything”. He went on to hold more than 1,000 patents.

Walt Disney was told by his former newspaper editor he “lacked imagination and had no good ideas”. We all know how that turned out.

Albert Einstein did not speak until the age of 4, didn't read until 7, and was thought to be mentally handicapped. He ended up altering the world of physics and earned a Nobel Peace Prize.

Abraham Lincoln joined the war as a captain and returned as a private. He failed multiple business attempts and had several failed runs at political offices.

Elvis Presley performed at the Grand Ole Opry, when he walked off the stage he was fired.

Either he was part of the greatest high school roster of all time or his coach made a huge mistake in cutting Michael Jordan from his high school basketball team. Six Championships and five MVPs later, Jordan became arguably the greatest basketball player of all time. Jordan famously said: “I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions, I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I



JASON
HALL

succeed.”

In my career with the American Legion I have had my share of failures.

Fail #1: At my Post a few years back, we were trying to imagine a fun and productive fundraiser to send more young men to Boys State. We tried to put a spin on March Madness and during March we would have a band every Friday night complete with giveaways, 50/50s, and other contests to raise the necessary funds. We advertised on social media, by email, in newsletters, and layered the Post with posters. The first Friday event, a large portion of the Post opted to go to Eustis for a snowmobile weekend. This left about 15 members in attendance. The second Friday event we promoted even harder and had almost 20 members attend. Not much changed for the next two Friday events. A small, dedicated group raised enough funds to cover the overhead of the events with enough profit to cover 2 attendees to Boys State. The same number we send every year. I remember feeling deflated, I couldn't imagine advertising any more than we did. Lesson learned: get more buy in from members prior to events, ensure people will not be on a cruise, on the Saco River camping, or up north on snowmobiles.

Fail #2: I have witnessed a Sons of The American Legion Squadron put on a meal, the ingredients alone were \$600 for this extravagant gumbo with crayfish, shrimp, scallops, lobster, etc. 10 people showed up at \$8 per person. The Son was embarrassed and covered the cost out of his own pocket. Lesson learned: KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid). We now know a simple spaghetti night, classic BBQ, or bean supper is a smaller investment with

More on “JUDGE ADVOCATE”, Page 5

The Adjutant Speaks

As we enter the most challenging part of the Legion business year, it has been a team effort by many to accomplish all the tasks needed to get the job done. We finished the Oratorical with another successful year. We then sent a team to our National HQ to gear up for many of our Americanism programs and to catch up with changes required with the administration of these programs. At the same time, we held meetings at State HQ for the beginning of The American Legion Baseball program in Maine. Our State Director David Gray and Field Director Dennis Damon as well as all Committee members held 2 meetings, then brought in all the team coaches to review all the required rules for the season. All meetings were held at HQ in the Training room and many of the new coaches were very impressed with the facilities at your HQ. Many of them also took the time to visit the new POW/MIA Memorial Monument also located at the “compound”, the name that has been used for the new HQ's. With this program in place, we will see hundreds of boy's from Maine participating in one of the best programs in this country. One team will have the opportunity to compete in the regional competition with a possibility to move on to The American Legion World Series held in Shelby N.C. Over 75% go on to play at the college level and more than 55% go on to play Major League Baseball. What started as a Legion program in 1925 continues to make a difference for the youth in our State and Country. Remember, because of your membership, you also are a part of the team.



PAUL
L'HEUREUX

Our next challenge is the State Convention which has been moved from Bangor to Brewer and will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center. If you have not attended a Convention or it has been a few years since you have, try to make a point to see what we do on behalf of our members and the Veterans in Maine. The event is loaded with many interesting

guest speakers as well as awards and special presentations. Remember June 7th & 8th. Call 873-3229 for more information if needed, or visit our website at www.mainelegion.org.

At the same time, we are also working on another youth program called American Legion Boys State which is held every year at Thomas College in Waterville beginning on June 16th ending on June 20th.

The American Legion Boys State program started in 1937 is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction held in this country. Again another program made possible because of your membership in this organization.

Also during this hectic process, we have completed our yearly audit and everything has been reviewed and we again have done well with all programs, State and IRS reporting requirement for proper financial accountability. As the Finance Committee and the Department Finance Officer review each line item, there has been one concern that has shown up again this year that must be addressed and it involves all of you. As you might guess, it's the current membership numbers, but most of all, it is a certain group of numbers that have shown up this year.

We always hear that younger Veterans are not joining, but this is not the case. They are, and have already stepped in as Post Officers and currently even at the State level as well. Yes, we are losing some by death, but that is a number you cannot change. The number that is puzzling is those who have joined but do not renew after a few years. We even have some with over 10 years. We are 100 years old and have overcome many obstacles during that period. We need your help to continue with our legacy and to make a difference everyday with our programs and continued support of Veterans issues at the local & national level.

If you care to support our Veterans, remember, that one time a year you make a donation for that purpose and you just happen to get a membership card in the process. Also important is that ALL our fundraising goes to that project with no operational cost attached. And to top it all off we have also formed a Foundation (5 months old) and hope to move forward shortly on this new mission. It's a learn-

More on “ADJUTANT SPEAKS”, Page 5



Celebrating 100

Years: Department Officers and Legionnaires in attendance for the celebration of The American Legion 100th Anniversary and Plaque Presentation held at the State House, Hall of Flags on Mar. 15. Left to right, Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Buckfield Post 158 Adjutant Gloria Hall, Buckfield Post 158 Member Barbara Perkins and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

■ “Judge Advocate” (Continued from Page 4)

bigger fundraising potential.

Fail #3: At a Flag Day ceremony, 10 minutes before standing in front of a crowd of spectators.....no Legion officers showed up to assist with ceremony. It's me and a few local Scouts. In 2 minutes, I took the ceremony that was in the Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and hacked it down to me opening the ceremony, doing the prayer, inspecting flags, and the Scouts folding and disposing of flags properly in a burn pit. That was not the failing part, the observers were not familiar with a flag ceremony so they didn't see the mistakes. It was actually some of the pictures taken of the ceremony, one of the Scouts folding jobs on a flag was less than stellar. A community member loved the ceremony and opted to post on Facebook. The picture showed what appeared to be a balled-up flag thrown into the fire and not officially folded. The photographer meant no harm but it did infuriate a lot of people who saw the picture and that's when the angry emails and phone calls to complain began. Lesson learned: Utilize not only your Legion officers, but your Sons, Auxiliary, prominent members of the community, Scouts, etc. Again, the public does not know if you make a mistake at a ceremony, they are not aware of who is supposed to officially playing what roles. Be ready to adapt and push on.

There are many other examples of my failures in the past, there may be some failures in the future.

Don't be afraid to fail, that is how you learn. Don't get gun shy, keep trying.

On a weekly basis, you may have challenges at your Post. You are hesitant to do things because of past failures. It could be not knowing how to run a meeting, not knowing how to tackle finances at the Post, not knowing the order of flags at a ceremony. Many people ask how to set up a room for a committee meeting, a funeral, an installation, or a regular meeting. I also get the tougher calls on membership, disciplinary actions, personality differences and questions on post operations.

There are a few ways to handle those challenges and failures at the Post level. One is your By-Laws. If you haven't read the Post By-Laws recently (or ever in many cases), that is your official rules to live by. Now I understand that times change, and so can the By-Laws.

I recently had a post whose By-Laws stated that dues were \$5. When it has been over \$30 for many years. I had another and the By-Laws mandated the Post provide funding to American Legion Baseball, the town hadn't had a team in 30 years. A recent set of By-Laws allowed for a lounge committee to spend up to \$2000 as they saw fit without approval from the Executive or House Committee, unfortunately

that Post has not had a bank account with \$2000 for many years.

Review your By-Laws, learn your By-Laws, and bring them up to date if need be.

Another way to avoid the potential of failure is 100 years of lessons, speeches, room set-ups, ceremonial scripts, procedure, and time tested information in the Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. I have By-Laws on one side of my briefcase and a printed out copy of the Officers Guide. It has saved me on multiple occasions from embarrassment and more failure. I realize if you want to get the book it costs money, with today's technology you can get a free copy at your fingertips:

<https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/PostOfficersGuideandManualofCeremonies.pdf>

There is also a manual for Adjutants: <https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/Post%20Adjutants%20Manual.pdf>

One for Chaplains: <https://www.legion.org/publications/220452/chaplains-handbook>

An Operations Manual: https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/Post%20Operations%20Manual%2004_05.pdf

Post Training Guides: <https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/MembershipTeamTrainingGuide.pdf>

Membership Tools: <https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/MembershipTeamTrainingGuide.pdf>

The Flag Code: https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/mylegion/officerMaterial/flagcode_07.pdf

And more, all at: <https://www.legion.org/>

You can even learn from other Posts all over the world by creating a free account at: MyLegion.org, and learning how other Posts do things that work in their community.

Last, but not least, you can educate yourself, your committees, your Post through American Legion Basic Training. The course covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities. Education can prevent failure. It's free, give it a shot: <https://www.legion.org/training>

Persistence and certitude are the difference between success and failure. So, if you want to succeed, don't be afraid to fail.

Fail often, fail fast and learn from your mistakes. The more times you fail, the closer you're getting to success.

Jason Hall
Department Judge Advocate

■ “Adjutant Speaks” (Continued from Page 4)

ing curve and we see a great potential to continue with our programs for the future. But you must all help us at this critical time with this membership issue. Please step forward and pay (donate) your current dues and help us get over this hill. The Dept. and District Officers are hoping to get 100% membership for this 100th year. Let's make this a fun challenge and join “Team 100” to accomplish our goal.

In closing, I have dreaded writing this in my article since we first met. Mr. Tommy Adkins our current Dept. Finance Officer is retiring after 6 dedicated years. Never has the Department had such a dedicated person in this position. It all seemed to happen all at once when we first met and started on an unplanned adventure.

John Hargreaves was the State Commander at the time and I am sure he

would agree that we did not see it coming. We set a direction and never looked back. Tommy was our foundation for progress. He took the Department of Maine into a new era of finances and accountability. He kept us all grounded and focused and sometimes we did not even know he was doing it to us. His humor touched us all and we looked forward to those DEC meetings and to have a story about his mother. And if that was not enough, he came with a great partner/wife Chris every Tuesday. That's right every Tuesday for 6 years they made that 1 ½ hour trip to HQ. The kind words from people all over the state about Tommy were a daily event. He is more than a friend, he has been that one person you meet every now & then that has made an impact in my life. I will not look forward to Tuesday's after June 4th, but I know he will be in touch with us when we need some guidance. I would like to see him get 100 handshakes at Convention and maybe a few cards as well. The Department has been blessed!

American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program To be Held at Thomas College in Waterville, June 16-20, 2019

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.



Appreciation Certificate: Wayne Witham, left, from Yankee Communications of Benton was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from The American Legion, Department of Maine for his continued support of Boys State and the State Convention. Presenting the Certificate is Law & Order Chairman Kirk Thurston, right. In conversation, we learned that Mr. Witham had also attended Boys State and has been a strong advocate of the program and The American Legion.

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 1-2 hours.

President's Message

Where has the time gone! This year went by so fast, and it has also been an awesome year. I have traveled from an Island off the Coast of Maine, up to the County and down to Scarborough, not to mention all the other places throughout our beautiful State.

A major event for me this year was signing the Charter of the new American Legion Auxiliary George T. Files Unit 20 of Brunswick along with our National President. I also had the honor of meeting Hershel "Woody" Williams the last living Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima which meant a lot since my husband Ron is a former Marine.

The American Legion Auxiliary also has done a great job honoring our female

Veterans throughout the year; including our continued support of the Betsy Ann Ross of Hope for homeless female Veterans.

What a proud moment it was standing in the Maine State House Hall of Flags when they unveiled the 100th Anniversary American Legion Plaque. Congratulations to The American Legion on your 100th Anniversary and may you continue to strive in next 100 years.

Our American Legion Family Project was just unbelievable. We had decided that we wanted to do something that the Togus VA Center needed to benefit our Veterans. So the Stryker Prime Transport Chair for the Out-Patient Unit was selected. Our goal was to purchase four chairs for a total of \$12,000. Well, the generosity and support we received was phenomenal. We raised enough to purchase seven chairs!! When it comes to supporting our Veterans, The American Legion Family is always there and I am very proud to be part of it.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. Yours in Service for God and Country.

"WE DARE TO CARE" Because they matter.



**PRESIDENT
JOAN CARON**



A Special Day: Department of Maine Auxiliary President Joan Caron, left, Governor Janet Mills, center, and Department of Maine Commander Scott Paradis in attendance at The American Legion 100th Anniversary Celebration and Plaque Presentation held at the State House, Hall of Flags Mar. 15.



Women Veteran Residents Of Maine Veterans Home Honored: Organized by The Maine American Legion Auxiliary,

American Legion and Auxiliary members visited the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on Fri., Apr. 5, to honor the 3 women Veterans who are residents at the home. All enjoyed lunch and the 3 women Veterans received many gifts, including The Maine American Legion Centennial coin and the "Women Who Served" t-shirts. The Veterans are displaying their shirts. Front row, left to right, World War II Veteran Fanny Breton, Annie Hart, and Korean War Veteran Mary Lane. Back row, left to right, Department ADSO Maureen Malley, Diane Jewett, Department Auxiliary 1st Vice President Virginia "Ginny" Chaput, Lois Jandik, Stella Trahan, Soraya Umphrey, Alice Drummond, Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, and Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall. Resident Agnes Cassidy, U.S. Army MASH Nurse and Vietnam Veteran, could not be present for the picture.

Department of Maine Testimonial



Opening Ceremony: Area 2 Commander and Department Testimonial M/C Kirk Thurston welcomes those in attendance at the Opening Ceremony in celebration of The American Legion Family Joint Testimonial held at the Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta on May 11. Left to right, Department Chaplain Patricia Thurston, Past National Commander Anthony Jordan, National Vice Commander-East Paul Spedaliere, Department Commander Scott Paradis, M/C Kirk Thurston, Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, Auxiliary Department President Joan Caron, SAL NECA Don Allisot Jr., SAL Detachment Commander Scott Morton, and Auxiliary Department Chaplain Tina Farley.



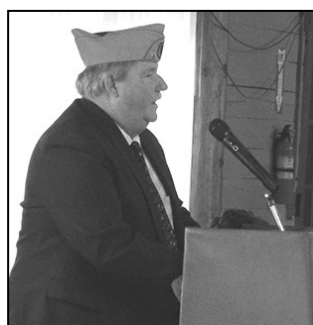
Legion Response: Department Commander Scott Paradis gives his response to those in attendance at The American Legion Department Testimonial held at the Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta on May 11.



Legion Talk: Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and Past National Commander Anthony Jordan talk Legion business at The American Legion Family Department Testimonial.



Testimonial Enjoyment: Department of Maine Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, left, and Department Auxiliary President Joan Caron, right, enjoying The American Legion Department Testimonial held at Augusta Post 2 on May 11.



SAL Introduction: Sons of the American Legion NECA Don Allisot presents the SAL Honors Ceremony and introduction for Detachment Commander Scott Morton.



SAL Discussion: Sons of The American Legion Adjutant Bruce Pierce, left, and SAL Detachment Commander Scott Morton, right, take a few moments to discuss SAL business.



Response From SAL: Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Scott Morton gives his response to those in attendance.

Service Office Update

What a great time to be a member of The American Legion. Across the state, Posts are conducting elections which means new leadership, new ideas, and new Service Officers. I look forward to meeting all new Service Officers at one of my Service Officer seminars. I just finished one on April 30. What an awesome time. There were 25 in the class and I would like the next one to also have a large number. I think it is past time to invite The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons to the course as well. **That's right Legion Family, it's time.** We are all in this together.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

There have been some changes to the way we do business since the last article. The Appeals Modernizations Act (AMA) went into effect on the Feb. 19. This overhauls the appeals process completely which was much needed because it was the same system that was used since World War II. You now have five different options to choose from if you decide to launch an appeal. I will not go into too much detail now but please work with a VSO to help you through the process. I will go into a little more detail below in the appeals to claims section. It has also changed the way claims are filed. Even though one of the first options under the appeal process is the supplemental claim, this is also used to file a new claim on any condition you as a Veteran were denied. **No matter when that was.** You will not go back to the original effective date of the first claim. If you do not use the correct form, then the claim will not be worked, and you will get a letter stating why.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS. The appeals process is no longer the strict structure it was. If your decision was after Feb. 19, you fall under the AMA. There are now five lanes you can choose from. The first two are at the regional level. They are called supplemental review and higher-

level review. Then there are three ways to appeal directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals. They are direct, evidence only, and hearing. The time limit is now one year from each decision.

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 first Service Officer seminar was amazing. There were 24 students full of questions and eager to help Veterans. If you have that same drive and want to be able to help with confidence, sign up for the next Service Officer training. The next one will be on June 25. 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.

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 Affairs (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 julie.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.

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
carl.curtis2@va.gov
or call: 207-623-5726
To make a seminar reservation!



Service Officer Carl Curtis who has broken all records with 25 in attendance, the largest class of Post Services Officers, who gave up their time to make a difference by helping those in need. Thank you Carl for what you do.

Service Officers Class At Dept. HQ: Legionnaires attend the latest Post Service Officer Class at Department Headquarters on Apr. 30 which was facilitated by



Celebrating 100 Years: Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, left, and Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, right, in attendance for the celebration of The American Legion 100th Anniversary and the unveiling of the 100th Anniversary plaque 1919-2019 at the State House in Augusta on May 15.

American Legion and Easterseals Maine Partner to Distribute Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance

AUGUSTA, Maine (May 15, 2019) – The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS) is pleased to announce that the American Legion and Easterseals Maine will be points of contact for distribution of Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance (VEFA), which is the result of the passage of LD 1736 in the 128th Maine State Legislature, a bill that was originally sponsored by Representative Louis Luchini of Ellsworth and Representative Bradlee Farrin of Norridge-wock.

VEFA was created to provide assistance for Maine Veterans who suffer an emergency and do not have sufficient savings or access to other financial assistance to resolve the emergency. Examples of assistance needs may include: damage to the Veteran's home due to fire, flood or hurricane that is not covered by insurance; illness of the Veteran or family member that results in hardship; assistance to prevent or resolve the Veteran being homeless; or any other condition that puts the Veteran at risk of not having the basic necessities of food, shelter and safety.

MBVS conducted a Request for Proposal process and has now contracted with two providers, Easterseals Maine and the American Legion of Maine, to process requests for assistance, arrive at an appropriate decision on requests, and issue rapid financial assistance to help with a Maine Veteran's emergency.

MBVS Director David Richmond stated the following:

"We are fortunate to have two proven, capable organizations step up to help us administer this program. Easterseals Maine, which has the capacity and a proven track record of helping veterans in emergency situations, and the American Legion, which was founded 100 years ago with posts and service officers from Eliot to Fort Kent, together will bring local accessibility to this program. I am anxious to begin. We receive requests daily for assistance from Veterans all

over the state, and up until today had very limited resources to be able to assist. This program demonstrates the commitment that the State of Maine has made to not leave Veterans without basic necessities. My thanks to the lawmakers, leaders and citizens that made this program a reality."

Applications can be obtained by contacting The American Legion Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 or Easterseals Maine at 207-828-0754 ext. 1004. Turnaround time for the fund will be 48 hours once the Veteran has submitted a complete application and a decision has been made.

To find the MBVS Veterans' Services Office closest to you, please visit <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/veterans-services-offices/locations/index.html>. You can also call MBVS at 207-430-6035 or visit www.maine.gov/veterans to learn more about available resources.

About Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services was established in 1947 by the State of Maine and is part of the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Our mission is to help Mainers who served, and their loved ones, understand and navigate the benefits, services, and programs available to them. The Bureau does this by being a responsive, experienced, and dedicated advocate. The Bureau is headquartered at Camp Keyes and has seven field service offices located throughout the state and a claims office located at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Togus, Maine. The Bureau also operates the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System which includes four veterans' cemeteries. For more information about the Bureau or to request assistance, please visit our website at www.maine.gov/veterans.

—Sarah A. Sherman
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
207-430-5916
sarah.sherman@maine.gov



er American Legion Post #36 Boothbay; Paul L'Heureux, American Legion, Department of Maine Adjutant, and Amedeo Lauria, American Legion Department of Maine. L to R (Front Row) Candice Wright, MBVS Business Manager, and Stacey Leet, Easterseals Maine.

Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Fund Organizers:
L to R (Back Row) – Ed Harmon, American Legion Post #36 Boothbay; David Richmond, MBVS Director; Darren Henry, MBVS Acting Deputy Director; David Patch, Command-

— Your Letters —

Scholarship Helps For a Great First Year

American Legion,
Thank you very much for my scholarship. I have had a great first year and appreciate your help.

Sincerely,
Jake Brewer

The "Boots Article" Receives Great Review

Dear Ms. Ela,
Many, many thanks for your article "The Boots", published in The Maine Legionnaire, February edition. Your depth of knowledge, skill at transmitting the detail and ability to understand your fellow veterans are invaluable. When you touched on the handicap parking issue, it brought to mind my own experience, alas, I wish I could have been as mature and capable of dealing with the "questioning" person as you.

In my case, I believe the people involved will never forget their transgression.

Your article was thoroughly enjoyed, many thanks again.

Dwayne Hatfield
Mars Hill Post 118

Superb Assistance From The American Legion Service Office

Dear Maureen Malley,
I want to thank you for your superb assistance to Gayle Brann on Wednesday 24 April 2019. Your genuine concern for Gayle was obvious and is to be celebrated. The massive tasks survivors face are overwhelming, from the VA to town taxes. The assistance the American Legion Service Officers provide is indispensable. I would hazard a guess – that without the assistance of a Service Officer – many survivors would never get around to filling the claims for their many benefits or their applications would be incomplete or contain errors.

I also learned a little more about the process which may help me help others.

Again I thank you for your pleasant perseverance and patience in assisting Gayle Brann.

Robert C. Lee
Brigadier General (Retired)
Former Assistant Chief of Engineers
USA Corps of Engineers,
The Pentagon

Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL

We've revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process.

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

•No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.

•No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"

•Join the other 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."

•Avoid future dues increases. No matter what in-fla-tion does, you never have to

pay another penny in dues.

•Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year. To get your Paid Up For Life membership, please visit www.legion.org/join/PUFL and enter your name and member ID.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program, contact customer service at (800) 433-3318 or Department of Maine State HQ at 207-873-3229,

--www.legion.org/join/PUFL



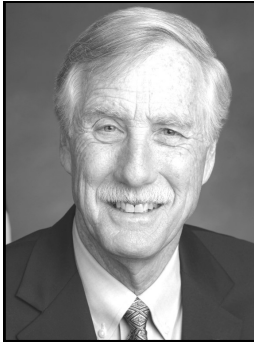
100th Anniversary Celebration: District 9 Commander Donald Chase, left, Department NEC Lloyd Woods, center, and Past National Commander Anthony Jordan, right, in attendance at the State House, Hall of Flags for the celebration of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary.



The Impact of Our Service Members and Sacrifices of Our Veterans

Last month, I participated in an incredibly informative and deeply emotional Congressional Delegation to Iraq. Traveling with Senators Tammy Duckworth, Democrat from Illinois, and Johnny Isakson, Republican from Georgia, we took part in a whirlwind three days of meetings with American military officials, State Department officials, and Iraqi and Kurdish leaders.

There were many important takeaways from the trip, including the ongoing threat that ISIS poses if left unchecked. But the emotional core of the trip – the moments that stuck with me in the days since – were those I spent with our military personnel, including my time with active duty service members from Maine and members of the



**SENATOR
ANGUS KING**

Maine Air National Guard. Everywhere I went I saw the dedicated, hardworking service members working to create stability and keep the region and the world safe. The progress we've made in the fight against ISIS is directly tied to the bravery of these men and women.

It was incredible to meet with so many active duty members of our armed forces, but every day was a reinforcement of the immense sacrifices our veterans make every day to keep us safe. The most incredible reminder came in the form of my colleague, Senator Duckworth – who, if you're not familiar, lost both of her legs 15 years ago in Iraq when the Blackhawk helicopter she was piloting was shot down. This story culminated in one incredibly special moment: when our helicopter flew over the location where Senator Duckworth was shot down. It's an experience I'll never forget, and it underscored the immense gratitude I feel for her service and for the service of all the men and women who've answered the call to defend our nation. No matter when or where you served, I come back from Iraq with one simple message: thank you.



Senator Tammy Duckworth: Senator Duckworth—if you're not familiar, lost both of her legs 15 years ago in Iraq when the Blackhawk helicopter she was piloting was shot down. This story culminated in one incredibly special moment: when the helicopter flew over the location where Senator Duckworth was shot down 15 years ago.

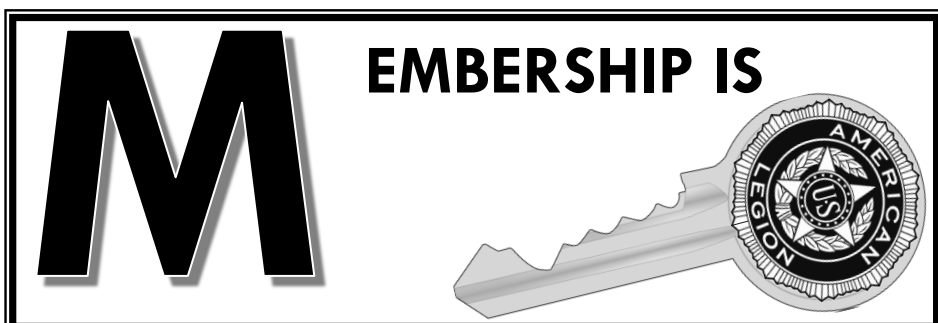
101st National Convention of The American Legion

This year's National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN Aug. 23 to Aug. 29, 2019. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be the Embassy Suites Indianapolis, 110 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

The hotel room rate is \$136 plus Tax Rate of 17% per room/night for one Bedroom King Suite or one Bedroom Double Suite. Additional Occupant in Room per Day—\$20.00 (Triple//Quad); Rollaway

Rate per Day – Not Available; Parking Rate per Day – Self Parking Only.

If you are thinking about going to National Convention, please let The American Legion, Department of Maine know by calling (207) 873-3229, or email paul@mainelegion.org and we will be sure to put you on the mailing list for the information. For more information, please visit www.legion.org/convention/ resources.



Caring for Veterans Who Served Our Nation

It was a pleasure to host Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie here in Maine recently to participate in multiple events focused on veterans. Throughout the day, Secretary Wilkie and I met with dozens of Maine Veterans and discussed ways to improve Veterans services and ensure they are receiving the high-quality health care that they deserve.

Secretary Wilkie and I joined the rest of the Maine Delegation and Governor Janet Mills at a groundbreaking ceremony for Maine Veterans' Homes' new facility in Augusta. Once the project is completed, Maine Veterans' Homes will be able to provide care in a home-like setting to 138 Veterans, who will each have a private room and a private bathroom. The state-of-the-art building will be equipped with the latest technology and will offer a range of treatments, from short-stay nursing and rehab, to long-term memory care. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I helped secure funding for the construction of this new Veterans' home.

Secretary Wilkie and I also toured Cabin in the Woods, a project led by Volunteers of America Northern New England, to provide permanent housing for homeless Veterans. The community of 21 cabins is situated on 11 acres at the VA Togus campus and focuses on helping Veterans find employment, rebuild families, and achieve stability and independence.

During his confirmation hearing to become VA Secretary last year, Secretary Wilkie related how the combat experiences of his great-grandfather in World War I and his father's long and difficult recovery from wounds he received in Vietnam impressed upon him, as he put it, "the cost paid by ordinary Americans caught up in the incommunicable experience of war." As the daughter of a World War II



**SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS**

Veteran who carried the wounds he sustained at the Battle of the Bulge throughout his life, I greatly appreciate Secretary Wilkie's personal commitment to our Veterans. From his family's long tradition of military service to his own distinguished contributions to our country both in uniform and in civilian roles, he brings invaluable insight to the challenging position of VA Secretary.

As a member of both the Defense Appropriations and Veterans Affairs and Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittees, I have pushed for policies that reinforce our nation's commitment to members of our military, Veterans, and their families, such as supporting military caregivers, improving health care for Veterans, and fighting to ensure continued funding for Veterans homelessness programs.

Following my advocacy, legislation signed into law last fall included \$865 million 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. That legislation also includes my provision to ensure Veterans in rural areas maintain convenient access to health services close to their homes, which is based on the highly successful ARCH program pioneered here in Maine.

How to Make a Difference

Comrade Gerald Q. Miller has been a member of Wells Hussey Post 42 for 29 years. He is very active in his Post and tries to make all meetings and helps out where ever he can. He has held the following positions in his Post: Historian, 1st Vice Commander, Commander and Finance Officer. He's also involved with the Posts scholarship program and sits on that board.

Comrade Miller has been instrumental in bringing together World War II, Vietnam, Korean and other Veterans enjoying getting to know one another and talk about old times.

This all started when Miller was working part time at a local grocery store. He worked as a bagger and would observe Veterans coming into the store. No one would offer a word of thanks or even shake their hands. This was on Miller's mind when he went home for the day. He was telling his wife about what he had observed. She suggested he start a coffee morning to bring some of these Veterans together.

When at work, Miller decided to drop whatever he was doing and made a point of going up to these Veterans thanking them for their service. Being a retired Veteran

himself, he knew how good it made him feel if someone stopped him and thanked him for his service. (Just Vet's no Dues). This is how this all got stated. He went to his Post and asked them for their support. Then he went to one of the local nursing homes and talked with the nursing home director to see if it would be supported by Veterans that were residence at these facilities, the answer was yes.

So July 2009, the very first get-together was held by nine Veterans at Schooner Cove on the Miles Memorial Hospital campus. At that gathering, it was decided they'd have coffee and donuts just as they did during World War II, the get-together would be held the first Wednesday of each month. Now for the programs, Miller would invite guess speakers from the Veterans Administration and other organizations. Sometimes he just presents interesting topics & videos. At some of the get-togethers, Veterans just tell their untold stories. Now nine years later, these get-togethers are still being held the first Wednesday of the month at Chase Point Assisted Living and have gone from nine Veterans to twenty plus.

— Bits 'N Pieces —

Gardiner Post 4

Gardiner Post 4 for their donation of \$100 to Trek Across America, \$250 to Durham Warriors Project, \$100 to Habitat For Humanity and \$100 to Girl Scouts of Maine.

South Portland Post 35

The Sea Cadet Unit held a pancake breakfast and collected canned goods in support of the North East Sector. \$1,600 was collected and distributed. John Hart delivered a truckload of canned goods and food supplies to the South Portland Base. The Base through the CPOA is building a food pantry for their personnel. \$1,200 was collected through the post and was delivered to the Coast Guard by way of the Chief Petty Officers Association at the Base.

Madison Post 39

Unit 39 for their donations of \$100 to a high school student who has been chosen as a National Youth Delegate to represent Maine to attend Washington Youth Summit for six days in June, \$15 Bingo package for Luck of Draw benefit for a woman who has undergone two brain surgeries, \$50 to help an elementary student diagnosed with Acute Flaccid Myelitis and Hopkins Syndrome towards medical and travel expenses, \$100 to VAVS for comfort items, \$200 to a Madison High School student scholarship recipient, \$50 to Veterans Creative Arts Festival, \$200 to Madison American Legion for their birthday, \$50 to an Auxiliary member's daughter who lost her house to a fire, \$15 Bingo package for LOD benefit for Skowhegan Girls Tennis Team, \$200 to a Madison High School scholarship recipient, \$200 worth of items to People Who Care, \$200 to the Center Point Community Church Food Cupboard and \$100 each to Starks, Solon and Norridgewock Food Cupboards.

Maxine Dube has mailed out \$10,024.32 worth of coupons to date.

Thank you to Maxine and Barbara Wyman for their hours of gathering and cutting coupons. A special thank you to all those who donated coupons.

Squadron 39 donated \$200 to Area High School Undergrad Ethan Knox to help him attend the Youth Summit on the Environment to be held in late June in Washington, DC.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick's Legion Riders Chapter 79 hosted their 4th hugely successful Crop for a Cause event in February, raising \$637 and a large car load of food donations for the House of Hope food pantry (www.houseofhopemission.org). Their next Charity Vendor Fair and Scrapbooking event, Crop for a Cause #5, is already scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Berwick Town Hall Auditorium and indications are that this will also be a sellout, rivaling last year's success.

Presque Isle Post 88

Presque Isle Post 88 places flags on Main Street and various other streets a number of times each season which includes Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Presque Isle Fest Celebration, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day. During 2017, they put out 239 flags each display day.

Phippsburg Post 216

Phippsburg Post 216 for their donations of \$50 to Homeless Veteran's Stand-down, \$50 to Honor Flight of Maine, \$50 to Girls State, \$50 to Maine Fallen Heroes Foundation, \$25 to Troop Greeters Museum, \$50 to Camp Sunshine, \$50 to Town of Phippsburg for the Bike Rodeo, \$50 to Phippsburg Girl Scouts, \$50 to "Take a Kid Fishing program", \$50 to YMCA-Military Kids Sponsor program and \$50 to Berwick Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. in memory of Captain Joel Barnes.



A Day To Remember: National Executive Committeeman Alternate Randall Kluj, left, and Department Commander Scott Paradis, right, attend the anniversary of The American Legion's 100th Birthday Celebration and the unveiling of the 100th American Legion Anniversary Plaque (1919-2019) at the State House, Hall of Flags in Augusta on May 15.



The American Legion Baseball Program



The American Legion Baseball program started in 1926. Its popularity was immediate, although there were some trying times in the beginning, the program found a niche in American culture. This is an understatement because baseball became our national past time. The interest of Major League Baseball was evident even in the early days, this interest continues today. There are hundreds of American Legion Alumni that continued into Major League Baseball. The MLB has given financial support to American Legion Baseball for almost all the years since it began. The program attracted 65,000 young men across this country in 2018. The American Legion Baseball program sponsors a Junior Legion League and of course the Senior Legion League, two separate leagues. This encompasses young men from the age of 13-19 of age.

Because baseball became our national past time, I was fortunate to be able to talk to an American Legion Baseball Director from my own Department of Maine. David Gray has been the Director in Maine for two years. His experience comes from his main career choice of being an educator, his love of baseball with thirty-seven years as an umpire, much of that was for American Legion Baseball. The interview was very informative, and Mr. Gray understands the challenges, and strengths of the program coming from a rural state.

There are eighteen Junior teams and eighteen Senior teams that service over 700 young men in the state. The growth in the Junior program is one of the achievements of the Maine American Legion Baseball Committee.

Travel teams and club teams were discussed and their impact on the program. He quickly pointed out that "American Legion Baseball is the only place that these young men are able to compete at that level of play. The program is the only place that they can compete in a zone, State, Regional and National Tournament" all of these levels test these young men more to expand their abilities and elevate their skills.

The Sons of The American Legion assist this program in many ways but as always there is much more that we can do. Mr. Gray asked that we assist this program in any way we can and in all the local areas that we have Squadrons in. There are many ways that we can assist not only monetarily, it could be as a team manager, coach or just as support in the community.

Director Gray's excitement and enthusiasm about American Legion Baseball was refreshing and I felt that we as an American Legion Family make a difference in our communities, the state and nation, just by supporting these great American Legion programs.

Written by Don Allison
Americanism Commission,
Sons of The American Legion

Maine American Legion Baseball 2019 State Senior Tournament

July 27—July 31

Husson University

Winkin Complex, Bangor, Maine

DATE	GAME	TEAMS
Sat. July 27	Game #1*	Game #1*
	Game #2*	Game #2*
	Game #3*	Game #3*
	Game #4*	Game #4*
Sun. July 28	Game #5	Loser G1 vs Loser G2
	Game #6	Loser G3 vs Loser G4
	Game #7	Winner G1 vs Winner G2
	Game #8	Winner G3 vs Winner G4
Mon. July 29	Game #9	Winner G6 vs Loser G7
	Game #10	Winner G5 vs Loser G8
	Game #11	Winner G7 vs Winner G8
Tues. July 30	Game #12	Winner G9 or 10 vs Loser G11^
	Game #13	Winner G9 or 10 vs Winner G11^
Wed. July 31	Game #14	Winner G12 vs Winner G13#
	Game #15	Winner G14 vs Loser G14 (if needed)

Note * - Home Team is the higher seed.

(Note ^) Games 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents unless absolutely necessary.

Final Note: If 3 teams remain after G13, the WG11 will receive a bye in G14.

Regionals—Shrewbury, MA August 7-11, 2019

World Series—Shelby, NC – August 15-20, 2019

Maine American Legion Baseball 2019 State Junior Tournament

August 1—August 5

Shawn Mansfield Stadium, Bangor, Maine



Maine American Legion Riders Winter Meeting



**Sanford Chapter 19
Receives Plaque Coin:** Another Plaque Coin was handed out recently at a District meeting to Sanford Chapter 19. The coin was presented by Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, to Sanford Post 19 Service Officer Dale Midgley, right. Dale was going to present it to his Post Riders upon returning to Sanford. Thank You Riders of Chapter 19 for the donations and all that you do for Veterans.



**Winthrop Chapter 40
Donation To The National
Legacy Fund:** State Director of the Riders Mike Lallemand, left, presents a special Plaque Coin to Winthrop Post 40 Chapter 40 Director Colin Hewett, right, for their \$500 donation to the National Legacy Fund last year.



**Bridgton Chapter 67
Donation To The National
Legacy Fund:** State Director of the Riders Mike Lallemand, left, presents a special Plaque Coin to Director of Bridgton Chapter 67 Bill O'Neil, right, for their \$500 donation to the National Legacy Fund.



2019-2020 DEPARTMENT OF MAINE LEGION RIDER OFFICERS

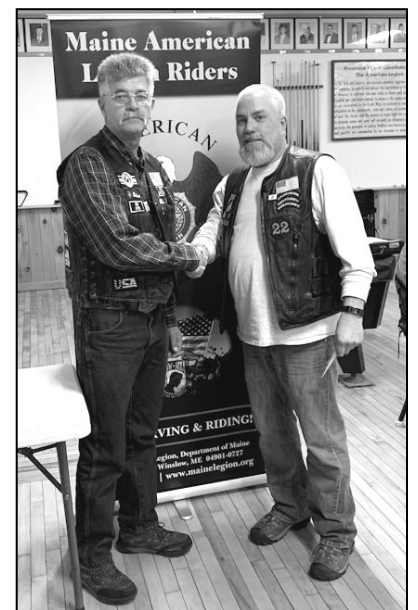
STATE DIRECTOR: MIKE LALLEMAND, WHITEFIELD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: RON WING, SABATTUS
SECRETARY: BRIDGET DAIGLE, MADAWASKA
ROAD CAPTAIN: BARRY BRETON, INDUSTRY
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: CARL CURTIS, RANDOLPH
CHAPLAIN: DONALD MULCAHY, NAPLES
HISTORIAN: CLAYTON BROWN, SEBAGO



Donation For Black Marble

Bench: During the State Riders meeting held on Mar. 23 hosted by Post 40 Riders in Winthrop, Corinna Chapter 73 Director Dave Bolstridge, left, presents a donation in the amount of \$200 for the Black Marble Bench Project. Accepting the donation is the new State Director of the Riders Mike Lallemand of Bath Chapter 21.

**Dixfield Chapter 100 Donates
To Legacy Fund & Black
Marble Bench Project:** During the Riders State Convention, Dixfield Chapter 100 Director Roland Patneaud, left, made a donation of \$500 to the National Legacy Fund to State Director of the Riders Mike Lallemand, right. It should be mentioned that Dixfield Chapter 100 recently made a \$100 donation toward the Black Marble Bench project. From all the new State Officers of the Riders, thank you Chapter 100 for all you do.



“Riders in Motion”

Crop For A Cause: Berwick Chapter 79 Legion Riders hosted their 4th hugely successful Crop for a Cause Event in February raising \$637 and a large car load of food donations for the House of Hope food pantry (www.houseofhopemission.org). Their next Charity Vendor Fair and Scrapbooking Event, Crop for a Cause #5, is already scheduled for Sat., Oct. 19 at the Berwick Town Hall Auditorium and indications are that this will also be a sellout, rivaling last year's success.

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 101st 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 at 8 a.m.. 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, nominations 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



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
101st Annual State Convention Program
June 7-9, 2019

Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, Brewer
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 7, 2019

Resolutions Committee (9 a.m.) Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, Brewer – Open hearing
Committee Chairman, Terry Knowles

First Session
Friday, June 7, 2019

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Opening Ceremonies	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Presentation of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Kelly Ela
Invocation	Department Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
Pledge of Allegiance	ALL
POW/MIA Table for One	Milo Post 4, Organizer
TAPS	Milo Post 41, Peter Polk
Preamble	ALL
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization	Department Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Welcome	Past Nat’l Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
Greetings	Brewer City Mayor, Matthew Vachon
Greetings	U.S. Congresswoman, Hon. Chellie Pingree
NEC Report	NEC, Lloyd Woods
Post Excellence Award (Report)	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Greetings	Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap
Maine Veterans Home	MVH Dir. of Public Relations, Devin Robinson
	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Maine Blind Camp Update	Department Historian, Jeffrey Stevenson
History Awards	Strategic Relations Mgr. Brenda Pennels
Martin’s Point Health Care	Department President, Joan Caron
American Legion Auxiliary	Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Past Commander’s Club	Chairman, Donald Hands
100th Anniversary Presentation	
Introduction of Past Commanders	Past Department Commander, Randy Kluj
& Past Legionnaires of the Year	Past Department Commander, Randy Kluj
Legionnaires of the Year Award	Beals House President, Eileen Krawczyk
Beals House	Assistant Dir. Togus VA Reg. Benefits Office, Chris Smith
Greetings	SAL Detachment Commander Scott Morton
Nomination of Department Officers	Selected Legionnaires
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
3:20 p.m. Recess	
5:30 p.m. Member Appreciation Banquet	Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, Brewer



The American Legion
Dirigo Boys State

June 16-20, 2019
Thomas College, Waterville

Second Session
Saturday, June 8, 2019

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Presentation of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Kelly Ela
Greetings	Governor Janet Mills
Greetings	U.S. Senator, Hon. Susan Collins
Greetings	U.S. Senator, Hon. Angus King
Public Service Awards	Law & Order Chairman, Kirk Thurston
Humanitarian Award	Chairman, Kelly Ela
Greetings	PNC Anthony Jordan to introduce the following candidate for Natl. Cmdr. 2020-2021, Paul Dillard, Texas
	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Department Commanders Award	Boys State Director, Shawn Babine
Dirigo Boys State Presentation	Chairman, Donald Chase
Oratorical Winner of Maine	Department Service Officer, Carl Curtis
Service Office Update & PSO Award	Co-Chairman, Joe Donahue & David Watson
Junior Shooting Sports Program Update	Chairman, David Patch
Update on National Security	Masonry Services, Richard Ware
POW/MIA Memorial Presentation	Dept. Americanism Officer, Alfred McKay & Dept. Cmdr., Scott Paradis
Americanism Awards	Chairwoman, Patricia Thurston
	Board Chairperson, Laurie Sidelinger
Women’s Advisory Committee Update	Dept. Cmdr. Scott Paradis & Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux
Maine Veteran Honor Flight	Dept. Finance Officer, Tommy Adkins & DFC Chairman, William O’Connell
Adjutant of the Year	
Department Finance Update	Scholarship Chairman, Ronald Caron
	Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux
Children & Youth & Daniel E. Lambert Scholarships	Field Director, Dennis Damon
Maine Special Olympics	PR Chairman, Peter Johnson & PR Member, Amedeo Lauria
Legion Baseball Update	Dept. Cmdr. Scott Paradis & Chairman, Kirk Thurston
4th Estate Awards	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
	Department Service Officer Carl Curtis
Boys State Update	PNC Anthony Jordan, 1st Vice Cmdr. Matt Jabaut & 2nd Vice, Debra Couture
	Chairman, Amedeo Lauria
Commander’s Award	Dept. Vice Commanders, Matt Jabaut & Debra Couture
4th Estate Awards	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Roger’s Rangers & Tony’s Tigers Awards	Chairman, Terry Knowles
	Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Legislative Update/Awards	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Membership Awards	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Awards	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Kelly Ela & Dept. Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
Report of Committee Resolutions	Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr. Response	Department Commander, Scott Paradis
Report of Credentials Committee	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle	
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Kelly Ela & Dept. Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
	Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Announcements	Department Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
Benediction	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Kelly Ela (Sine Die)
Retirement of Colors	
Adjournment	Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, Brewer
3:30-5:30 p.m. State Convention Installation for Legion, Auxiliary & SAL Officers	U.S. Congressman, Hon. Jared Golden
Guest Speaker	

Sunday, June 9, 2019

8:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, Brewer



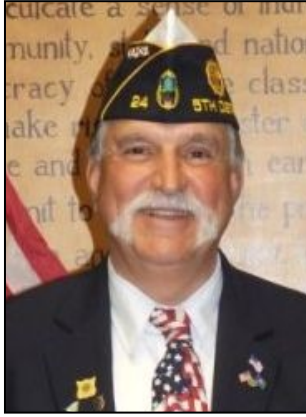
Department Officer Candidates 2019



MATTHEW JABOUT
Commander
Topsham Post 202



DEBRA COUTURE
1st Vice Commander
Litchfield Post 181



KIRK THURSTON
2nd Vice Commander
Rumford Post 24



PAUL L'HEUREUX
Adjutant
Auburn Post 153



GREGORY COUTURE
Finance
Litchfield Post 181



ALFRED MCKAY
Americanism
Damariscotta Post 42



JEFFREY STEVENSON
Historian
Bath Post 21



PATRICIA THURSTON
Sergeant-At-Arms
Rumford Post 24

What a Delegate Should Bring: This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 101st Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 7th and 8th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival and pick up your delegate or alternate packet. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.

Voting: Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer on Sat., June 8, 2019. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 8 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 10:15 a.m.

A Farewell To Our Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins

Thank you for your Dedicated Service to Veterans in the State of Maine and to
The American Legion, Department of Maine



We will miss you!



THANK YOU



STAY IN TOUCH

A TRUE INSPIRATION



GOOD LUCK

BEST WISHES



GOOD LUCK



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.

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) non-profit organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. 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 financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation 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 Vet-

erans 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 or the AL Dept. of Maine Foundation brochure.

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!

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.

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

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



Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

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.

TO PAY BY CHECK OR

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.

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", Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

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!"

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Are you interested in a Retractable Banner Designed for your Post or Special Event?

Please contact Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229 (Banners range from \$100—\$300)

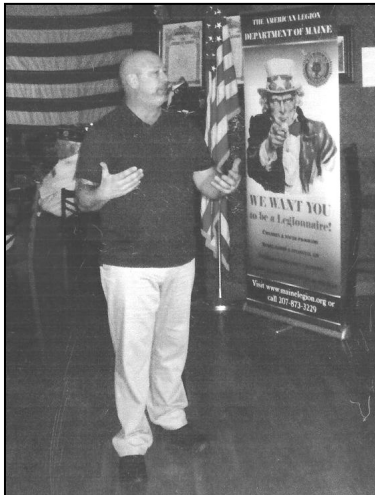
All remaining proceeds go towards supporting Maine Veterans, their families and Maine American Legion Programs.

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 Revitalization at York Post 56



Post Service Officer's Role and Topic Regarding Veterans

Administration: Department Service Officer Carl Curtis speaks about the Veterans Administration concerning health care and the VA claims process along with information about the role of Post Service Officers at the Revitalization event held at York Post 56 on Mar. 22.

What's Next On The

Agenda: Department officers prepare for the next topic of discussion at the District 1 Revitalization Event held at York Post 56 on Mar. 22. Left to right, Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, Department Americanism Officer Al McKay, and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



Old Orchard Beach Post 57

Donation: Post 57 donates \$500 to the Portland Chapter of The Easter Seals Veterans Count Program on Mar. 6. Left to right, Senior Director of Development Joseph Reagan, Post 57 Commander Bill Schlatterer, and Post 57 Finance Officer Michael Filosa.

Photo by Post 57 Chaplain Roger Smith

The Secret is Out

Legionnaire Nick Therrien has a secret that he wants to share with his fellow veterans. Nick is a Navy Veteran and the grandson of Charles S. Hatch Post 79's award-winning Historian, Bob Place. Nick is also a 6 year concurrent member of this Southern Maine Post who currently has the good fortune to be living in Hawaii. However, it's not all fun in the sun for Nick, who is a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH-Manoa). He is earning a degree in molecular bioscience that he will complete by 2021 on his way toward obtaining a PhD in biomedical research.

So what is Nick's secret?

Nick is the Sergeant-at-Arms of UH-Manoa's Student Veteran Organization (SVO) and one of ten veteran students who attended the annual Student Veterans of America National Conference (NatCon), held this year in Orlando, Florida. NatCon is "the largest gathering of student veterans, advocates, thought-leaders, stakeholders, and supporters in higher education in the world". Attendees got to meet and learn from more than 2,000 of their peers and network and connect with potential employers.

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

grew from a grassroots movement of ad hoc student veterans groups organized at various colleges and universities across the country to provide support services for veterans reintegrating into civilian life, education and employment. The SVA mission is "to provide military veterans with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation". There are currently over 1,500 student-led SVA chapters on our college campuses, including the University of Maine at Presque Isle and Fort Kent and at Central Maine Community College.

So what is the secret here? The not-so-secret secret is that The American Legion is one of the dozens of notable corporate and non-profit partners that support and assist the Student Veterans of America. The SVA brings an entire toolbox full of resources, programs, scholarships, grants and internships to the table. Through the experience of having attended the SVA National Conference,



Nick Therrien is one of two UH-Manoa students who have been offered internships. Nick will be the first one to tell you that "the SVA empowers veterans to be successful" and that they provided a big push in the passage of what is commonly known at the "Forever GI Bill" that will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits. So congratulations Nick, on your continued success and best of luck with the internship. Now that the secret is out, we your fellow

Legionnaires promise to help spread the word about this stellar organization so that other veterans can take advantage of the tremendous opportunities available through Student Veterans of America.

To learn more about SVA, check out their website at: <https://studentveterans.org>.

For more information on the Forever GI bill, consult: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/forevergibill.asp.

Written by Post 79 Public Relations Officer
Rosanne Martin



West-Day Post 123 Kezar Falls Field Day: All hands were on deck as members of West-Day Post 123 mustered for Field Day. Floors were washed and waxed, carpets were vacuumed, everything was transformed to ship-shape for spring. Members then enjoyed a pulled pork lunch provided by The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123. Left side, front to back, Dan Gillis, Dan Lemieux, Roger Berube, Gordon Winget, and Commander Albert (Junior) Springer, right side, front to back, David Buddemeyer, Robert Chadbourne, Harold Gillman, and Billy McDowell.



Kennebunkport Post 159 Meritorious Awards: During District 1 Revitalization held at Kennebunkport Post 159 on Mar. 25, Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, had the opportunity to present a Meritorious Award to Post 159 Commander Alexander D'Ascanio, center, and Post 159 Sergeant-At-Arms Shawn Hayes, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Eliot Memorial Post 188 Meritorious Service Award: During a recent District 1 Revitalization meeting, a Meritorious Service Award was presented to Eliot Memorial Post 188. Accepting the award is Thomas "Doc" Clayton from Post 188 by Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, and District 1 Commander Gordan Kendal, left.

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

Recruiting Day Event at Post 35

March 23rd was a windy day in Mill Cove in South Portland and the home of Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35. The morning started off with the traditional American Legion fare of Dunkin Donuts and Coffee. National Headquarters Member Engagement Coordinator Kevin Mook presents the 17 attending volunteers with a short bullet point presentation. The goal of the day was to contact as many members from the local area as possible and encourage them to activate their membership. Several Veterans who signed up to join The American Legion joined but did not attach themselves to a particular Post. These folks were therefore assigned to State Headquarters Post 178 in Winslow. However, there is no Post 178 in Winslow but rather a file cabinet or data file in a computer called Post 178. Therefore, it was the task of the day to contact as many as possible of these people and ask them to transfer to a Post near them. Through the hard work of the volunteers, 26 people were reassigned to Active Posts.

Cumberland and York County have the most Veterans in the State and The American Legion just wanted to tap into that pool.

On the middle day of a three-day event for Kevin and with the help of District Commanders, Area Commanders and Department 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders among others. Teams were broke down and lists of members of Post 178 were passed out and the phones were dialed. At the end of the day the rolls of several Posts were added to.

With the help of the members of Post 35, a lunch of beef stew and fish chowder with fresh baked biscuits was enjoyed and work was soon resumed. Good Food, Good Fellowship and a Common Goal made for a very productive day.

Thanks to National and Department Staff. It was a rewarding afternoon and an increasing of The American Legion rolls. The training and procedures learned today will not be soon forgotten as we continue to hone out recruiting and retention skills.

Submitted by Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock

District 2 Revitalization Training:

District 2, National, and Department of Maine hosted revitalization training at South Portland Post 35 on Mar. 23. A short class followed by some hands on training and reaching out to potential members in our District and Post area. This event was also broadcasted on local radio stations and other press outlets. We are here to help and show all Veterans in the area we do make a difference every day.



District 2 Revitalization at South Portland Post 35 Mar. 23. Left to right, Department NEC Lloyd Woods, and National Headquarters Membership Coordinator Kevin Mook, right.

Go Post 35 Go!

Gentlemen, today I received the latest Legionnaire for the State of Maine, hopefully you all have received your copy, if so I direct your attention to pages 19 and 20 District 2 News in the Feb. 2019 issue! Post 35 is highly recognized for its' accomplishments over the past 6 months. We have come a long way. As your Commander, I would like to say thank you to all that have made this Post come to life. I have been a member of the Post for the past 27 years or so and this has been a very rewarding time for our Post. Let me bring you all up to date.

About three years ago, we were thinking of selling our Post home, as we were having a very hard time making things come together. Our cash flow was next to non-existing. Then along came Wes Spletstoesser as Commander, through his leadership, John Hart, Mike Pock and Ed Seymourian started looking for ways to help out. John knew of a Grant that Lowes had to help out local communities. He applied for this grant on behalf of the Post and we got it! A Hometown Hero grant with combined efforts of gifts, free labor, and material turned out to be an approximate value of \$50,000 which finished off our downstairs to what it is today. Paul & Mary Neal donated the two Gas Ranges in the galley and Lowes supplied the rest of the appliances. Then Ed Seymourian

heard of the local Grants our City was providing for needy groups to help with older properties in the city, so he and Mike Pock put our Post in for the Grant to redo the roof, \$26,000 plus, we now have a new roof and basically a new home!

This has been one banner of a year for me and our Post! We have come a long way in 3 years. It has been a real pleasure for me to help guide this Post onto a new adventure and a new year. Thank you for the slate of officers that has helped guide me and your Post on this journey!!

I would like to personally thank Mike Pock our Adjutant for the outstanding job he has done this past year and the many hours he has put in with all the communications and contacts he has made. Through his efforts, Post 35 is becoming a name and a Post to be recognized! If you see Mike or any of your Post Officers, give them a thumbs up for a job well done!

As you can see, we have a lot to offer and to be proud of ! We need new members. Talk to your neighbors& friends, and invite them to one of our dinners and show off your new home! By Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott

GO POST 35 GO!!

By Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott

**Fallen American Veterans Foundation:**

Westbrook Post 62 welcomed guest speakers Lou and Jana Sapienza of Rockport on Feb. 6. He founded the non-profit organization, "Fallen American Veterans Foundation",

which works to locate missing military aircraft and crew members lost overseas during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Sapienza's presentation focused on the search for a Grumman amphibious open cockpit biplane, its USCG pilot and radio operator, who succeeded in rescuing two crew members of a U.S. B-17 bomber that crash-landed on the glaciers of Greenland in 1942. A daring second rescue attempt ended in disaster with the loss of the Grumman, its two-man crew and a third member of the B-17 crew in white-out flying conditions. Left to right, Post 62 Commander Gary York, Founder of "FAVF" Lou Sapienza, Post Chaplain Phil LeClerc, Post Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr. and Post Finance Officer Richard Galipeau.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

A Final Salute For Shawn McKeough, Jr.:

Westbrook Post 62 Past Commander Richard Galipeau, left, and 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte, right, attend the fully packed funeral church service of Senior Airman Shawn McKeough, Jr. on Mar. 30 in Westbrook. Both, as well as other members, made a visible presence during the Visitation and Reflection Services



where they welcomed a contingent of U.S.A.F. active duty personnel from Little Rock AFB in Arkansas where McKeough, Jr. was stationed. At the service, Richard had the honor of escorting Maine Senator Susan Collins and Dennis escorted Maine Governor Janet Mills to meet with the family. Subsequently, both were then escorted back out to waiting transportation. Outside, as the remains were being taken to the final resting place, the coincidental Final Salute was taken and published in the Portland Papers.



Youngest SAL Post Member Bids Final Farewell: Bridgton Post 67 was honored to represent their local community as Senior Airman Shawn McKeough was laid to rest. Shawn was killed while trying to stop an armed robbery in Arkansas where he was stationed. Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy, Post Adjutant William O'Neil, Post Service Officer, Department Sergeant-At-Arms Kelly Ela, and youngest Post Son of The American Legion Nathaniel Elsaesser, pictured, stood proud to bid a final farewell to this Maine Hero. You may now

rest in Peace Airman McKeough; we have the watch.

'Save the Post' Efforts Begin

American Legion Post 67 of Bridgton kicked off the first "Save the Post" fundraising effort this past Saturday. With the support of the Bridgton Community Center, organizers were able to host the spaghetti supper at the facility. The group would like to thank the community for their support and generosity that was both inspiring and humbling.

This historic building on Depot Street in Bridgton is in desperate need of restoration. A group of dedicated volunteers have spent many hours cleaning and repairing the building. The building is in dire need of improvements to the roof, siding, windows, doors, plumbing and electrical, heating system, and in general, a lot of TLC.

The building and The American Legion Post 67 dates back 100 years. It seems fitting to revitalize both the building and the Post on this 100th year anniversary.



"As the Commander of Post 67, my mission is to make this Post an asset to the veterans and community of Bridgton. When the building is completed our goal is to open our doors in the morning with coffee and conversation among our comrades," Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy said. "Whether we are discussing *The Bridgton News* or news around the world, even our grandchildren, it will be a fellowship of veterans. It will be a place that veterans can come to address their benefit and healthcare needs. A place where they can discuss veteran issues with people knowledgeable in these areas. Our Service Officer Kelly Ela will have regular hours to assist in applying for VA Benefits right here in town. Once again 'Thank you' for your support and generosity."

Published in The Bridgton News—
February 2, 2019



Kitchen Help: Helping in the kitchen during the Save the Post Fundraiser at Bridgton Post 67 on Feb. 3. Left to right, youngest member of the Sons of The American Legion Nathaniel Elsaesser, Post 67 Adjutant Bill O'Neil, Post 67 Historian Clayton "Skip" Brown and Auxiliast Kathy O'Neil.

Background Entertainment was provided by Walker Elsaesser at the Save the Post Fundraiser in Bridgton on Feb. 3.



A Show Of Support from the Department of Maine Headquarters Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy welcomed, left to right, Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley, State Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut and State Department Sergeant-At-Arms Kelly Ela at Save the Post fundraiser in Bridgton on Sat., Feb. 3.



name, branch of service, rank, all ribbons and medals awarded to him was received by his children, left to right, Aileen Burkett, Ronnie Peaco holding the Eagle Cane, and Matt Peaco.

Another Hero Who Lived And Walked Among Us: Bridgton Post 67 honored the late Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Peaco's family on Sun, Apr. 28. A Bridgton native, he was posthumously awarded the "Eagle Cane" for his service during World War II. The Eagle Cane is an honor bestowed upon Veterans by Veterans. Emblazoned with his

Refreshments

Served: After the ceremony honoring the late Technical Sergeant Ronald M. Peaco, refreshments were served for all those in attendance.

Left to right, front row, Nathaniel Elsesser, Matt Peaco, Ronnie Peaco, and Aileen Burkett. Left to right, back row, Bridgton Post 67 Finance Officer Rod Edson, Post Commander Donald Mulcahy, Post Adjutant Bill O'Neil, Post Service Office Kelly Ela, Post Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Brady, and Post Vice Commander DJ Brady.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

REMEMBER: Thanks to the current leadership at Gray Post 86, a special area has been designated so all may understand the importance of this display. We must never forget what they endured so that we may continue to carry on our mission to serve our Veterans, our Country, our Community. "Remember".

Vets on the Ice Open House

You couldn't ask for better weather as the "Vets on the Ice" program held an open house on Feb. 22 to introduce the Veteran's Ice Shed off Kent's Landing on Long Lake, Naples, to the local Community. From 10 am to approximately 3 pm, there was a steady flow of interested Veterans and their families at the shed. The South Paris VA Home brought a couple of their residential members to fish and the VAST coordinator stopped by to check out the Ice Shed before bringing in a group of local Veterans on March 7.

Tim Hoffman of "Vet on the Water" out of Rockland, who donated the Shed, stopped by to try his hand at fishing and ended up working with the VA Home Veterans as they tried their skills in the warmth of the ice shed. The handicap-accessible Fishing Shed is designed with two fishing holes inside as well as a nice toasty Wood-burning stove.

The "Vets on the Ice" project is a collaboration among several organizations including: Vets on the Water, The Sebago Lake Anglers Association, Field-Allen Post 148 of Windham and Naples Post 155.

The Project was conceived last summer when Windham Post 148 Adjutant, Dave Tanguay, and Vets on the Water Organizer, Tim Hoffman, were fishing the Kennebec for Strippers. Tim mentioned

that he had three sheds that could be easily converted to Ice Sheds and wanted to place one this coming winter in the Lake Regions of Sebago for use by disabled Veterans. Dave brought the idea to the Sebago Lake Anglers Association (SLAA). The shed was delivered in December, 2018, to Naples, reconfigured with a wider door and an eight-foot ramp to accept a wheelchair as well as the installation of a stove and a 14 ft. Flag pole to fly the colors.

Launched in mid-January at Kent's Landing in Naples Maine, the shed at first had only modest use. With the warmer weather and additional publicity, the Shed is now in full swing. It has supported small Veteran groups, youth groups from Camp Sunshine, as well as Groups from VAST. The Open House brought out approximately 40 additional visitors who seemed enthusiastic to return and use the shed.

A special thanks goes out to Bob Chapin, President of the Sebago Lake Anglers Association, and Dan Smart of the SLAA for the dedication to bring this program together. Of note, both Bob and Dan have joined the Field-Allen Post so our future collaboration in all things fishing will be easier.

Written by Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



Ice Fishing Shed Open House: Veterans at the Ice Fishing Shed Open House on Feb. 22 off Kent's Landing on Long Lake, Naples. VAST bus from South Paris Veterans Home and the colors flying.

Members At The Ice Fishing Shed For Open House: Windham Post 148 members at the Shed for Open House off Kent's Landing on Long Lake, Naples, on Feb. 22. Left to right, Dan Smart, Dick Graves, Post Adjutant David Tanguay, Jerry Black, and Eric Bickford. Dan, Jerry, and Eric are also members of the Sebago Lake Anglers Association.



Beans And Hot Dog Lunch: Windham Post 148 members Dick Graves, left, and Dan Smart, right, make beans and hot dogs for lunch over the woodstove in the "Vets on the Ice" Shed off Kent's Landing on Long Lake, Naples, on Feb 22.

Fishing In The Shed: "Frank" from South Paris Veterans Home fishes over one of the holes in the "Vets on the Ice" Shed during the Open House Event off Kent's Landing on Long Lake, Naples on Feb 22.



Ramp For A Veteran: Windham Post 148 ramp assembly crew, left to right, Dick Drapeau, Roger Timmons, Craig Pride and David Rendall install a metal wheelchair ramp for Post member Milton Rogers along with Richard Graves (not in photo) who dug the ramp out to the icy ground to make it available for installation. Milton contacted the Post concerning a family emergency and the need for a wheelchair ramp. Within two weeks, the Post found a ramp, dismantled it and rebuilt it on the Rogers' property.

Wheelchair Ramp Installed At Milton Rogers' Home: Windham Post 148 crew, left to right, David Rendall, Dick Drapeau, Craig Pride, Milton Rogers and Roger Timmons, Veterans Serving Veterans. Also assisting were Larry DeHof and Dave Tanguay (not in photo).



Cause To Celebrate: At The American Legion Windham Post 148 Saint Patrick's Day Dinner on Mar. 15 which coincided with The American Legion's 100th Birthday of Mar. 15, 1919, Elder statesmen from the Field-Allen Post 148, left to right, Bob Christie (Korean War), Bob Miele (World War II), and Bob Beane (Vietnam) cut the ceremonial cake in ceremonies prior to a record attendance for St. Pat's Annual Corned Beef dinner hosted by the Legion. Over 90 were in attendance and with \$900 plus collected from the Post's Scholarship Fund. A great time

was had by all! Good Food and Great fellowship.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



Sixty Years Of Service: Windham Post 148 recently received a National Citation recognizing Past Post Commander, Donald Rogers for 60 years of continuous service. The award was presented to Don at Spring Brook in Westbrook by Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay on Tues., Mar. 26. Don also received a Field-Allen Post 148 ball cap and a 60-year lapel pin which he

promptly placed on his Legion Ball Cap. Donny welcomes visitors. He is on the 3rd floor, "Fort Hill" Unit Room 5. Don is a late riser so visits should be made after 11:00 a.m. when he is done with staff. Left to right, Don Rogers' wife Norma, Don Rogers, and Post 148 Adjutant Dave Tanguay.

A Visit To The Maine Military Museum:

Windham Post 148 member Alola Morrison along with her family presents the Uniform items of her father's, (World War II) U.S.C.G. Captain Alvin H. Griffin at the Maine Military Museum Sat., Mar. 23. Presented items include Formal Gold braid epaulets, his Coast Guard Lt.'s Fore and Aft dress cap (pre-World War II), and his formal uniform dress cloak. Curator of the Maine Military Museum Lee Huniston remarked that the Fore and Aft Hat was particularly hard to come by, specifically a Coast Guard Period one. The cap will go on display immediately. The rest of the uniform will be displayed in time when he has a complete U.S.C.G period Lt.'s. Uniform. Alola is a relatively new Post member and a serious cribbage player. She can be found most Wednesday's at the Vet Coffee doing battle on the Cribbage board. Alola has stepped up to support the Legion suppers with her baking acumen. She served her Country as an U.S. Army Nurse and is our Post member in the spotlight this month. Left to right, Alola Morrison, Lee Huniston and Alola's son, Mark Giffin Morrison.



Cutting Of The

Cake: Local Veterans cut a Vet Coffee 3rd Anniversary Ceremonial Cake at the Windham Veteran Center on Wed., Mar. 20. Left to right, World War II P-51 Pilot Carroll McDonald, Henry "Chuck" Whynot, USMC, Vietnam and Founder of the Vet Coffee Program, and Windham Post 148 1st Vice Commander and Membership Committee Chair Rebecca Cummings. There were among 30 Veterans who dropped in for coffee, donuts (and cake).

Chuck started the Vet Coffee three years ago as an opportunity for Veterans to have a place to go and socialize in a friendly setting. The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 has been sponsoring the coffee uninterrupted since Mar. 2016. Local Veterans are welcome to stop by any Wednesday from 9 am to 11 am. Over the last three years, over 40 Veterans have joined Windham Post 148 after coming to the Veterans Coffee Ceremony.



How Post 155 Made A Difference Last Year. Miss Poppy Rylynn Ward places the wreath at the Veterans Memorial at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Naples.



How Unit 155 Made A Difference Last Year: Miss Poppy Rylynn Ward hands out copies of the poem "Flanders Field" at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Naples.

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

District 3 Commander Receives Certificate: Department Commander Scott Paradis, right, presents District 3 Commander Jerry Dewitt, left, a Certificate of Completion at the District 3 meeting held Feb. 17 at Lisbon Post 158. Jerry had just completed the Post Service Officer Class held at Department Headquarters and now has the ability to assist other Posts who attend the District meetings.



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



60 Year National Certificate

Presented: Buckfield Post 58 Commander James Lowell, left, presents 60 Year National Certificate to Buckfield Post 58 member Merton Jones at Locke Mills Post 68's Legion Birthday Supper on Mar. 21.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued



POST HISTORY
Jackson-Silver Post 68— Locke Mills



**Entrance of
Jackson Silver Post 68**



**Meeting Hall of
Jackson-Silver Post 68**



**Honor Wall at
Jackson-Silver
Post 68**



Locke Mills Post 68 Attains Team 100 Status: Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston presents the Department of Maine's Team 100 Award to Jackson-Silver's Membership Team at Locke Mills Post 68's Annual Legion Birthday Supper held Mar. 21. The award signifies that Post 68 reached 100% membership retention before the Annual State Convention in June. A Certificate and Team 100 Cap Pins were presented. Left to right, Post 68 Commander Kelly Bickford, Post 68 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt, Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, and Post 68 Finance Officer/Membership Chairman Raymond Hakala.



and salute you for your many years of service!

Photo By Post 72 Public Relations Officer Vera Angell

South Paris Post 72 celebrate the 100th Birthday of The American Legion for members and their years of service with the Legion with a great meal and delicious cake. Members with years of service are James M Doyle, Jr. (10), Maurice J. Herbert (15), Arthur E. Hill Jr. (20), Joann R. Hill (20). Robert C. Laver-tu (25), Neil O. Tikander (25), Robert W. Fickett III (30), Gilbert F. Turner (55), Harry L. Harper (55), Willard F. Lapham (55). We thank

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



**Thomaston Post 37
Install New Officers:**

Williams-Brazier Post 37 install new Officers for the coming 2020 Fiscal Year on April 4. Elections are held every March at Post 37. This year some of the Post Officer positions were filled with new members bringing with them a new vitality to the Post. Led by an energetic Post Commander, William Demmons, the Post will be

hosting many new events and activities in its continued efforts to increase its membership. District 6 Commander Ray Lewis officiated the installation of the new Officers instructing each in their duty and expectations as an American Legion Post Officer. Each Officer accepted their call to duty heartedly and willingly. After the Installation of Officers, a meeting was held and the gathered membership discussed future plans to attract new membership to, or back to, the Post. These plans will begin to be seen in the coming weeks; the first of which is the next Homemade Baked Bean Supper on April 13 from 5-7 pm at the Post hall in Thomaston. Installed Officers, Post Commander William Demmons (sitting), and left to right, Finance Officer Jon Grout, 1st Vice Commander Jeremy Miller, 2nd Vice Commander Dawn Wright, Service Officer Jeff Wright, Adjutant Kent Woodward, and Historian George Robinson, Jr.

Photo by Inge Robinson

**New Members, New Ideas, New Energy
Equals Revitalized Post!**

**Homemade Baked Bean Supper Returns
After Two-Year Hiatus**

After a two-year hiatus The American Legion Williams-Brazier Post 37, Thomaston, hosted a homemade baked bean supper that was open to the public. Post 37 is one of the oldest (in average age) American Legion Posts in Maine and membership has steadily declined over the years. The baked bean supper was a long time monthly event at Post 37, but because of the decline in membership, the Post was forced to cancel the event. New members have recently joined Post 37, and this led to a decision to re-establish the monthly baked bean supper as an important community event for Thomaston and the local area.

Attendance was low for the renewal, but members are confident that it will increase as the local area learns that the same great tasting food that was served for so long in the past is once again being served at Post 37. Ages for the attendees ranged from preschoolers to a 92-year old World War Two Veteran.

The supper, held Feb. 16, consisted of baked beans, coleslaw and American chop-suey. All were homemade, as well as some of the desserts. In addition, natural cased hot dogs, brown bread, sweet and sour pickles, and pickled beets were served. All was washed down by plenty of coffee and water. There was a great



Thomaston Post 37 guests and serving line at the homemade baked bean supper Feb. 16.

The supper also marked the beginning of Post 37's attempt at increasing the Post's presence in the mid-coast area. Suppers will continue to be held for the remainder of the year, on the third Saturday of each month. Some months will see a switch in the meal being served. This will first be seen in March when Post 37's Women's Auxiliary will host a supper

More on "BEAN SUPPER", Page 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

■ “Bean Supper” (Continued from Page 21)

that will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The baked bean supper will return in April and May.

Post 37 is often used by local organizations for charity and other events, as well as family oriented activities. There are current discussions by the Post membership of having events where a guest speaker will give talks about aspects of the vast military history of the State of Maine

and, especially, the local area. Other events are also being discussed, all meant to bring more veteran members to Post 37.

All Veterans and their families are invited to drop in during any of the events or the monthly meetings. Talk with other Veterans, get a feel for the Post. Perhaps you will find a place to go to for military camaraderie. Post monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. During the winter the monthly meeting is held on the first Sunday, at 2:00 p.m.

Photo & Article by George Robinson, Jr.



Fundraiser Helps A Post 30 Member: Post 30 Chaplain Dave Franclemont, center, presents a check to Lee Dodge, left, a Vietnam Veteran and 39 year member of Camden Post 30, accompanied with his wife, Marlene, right, to help with their medical travel expenses to Augusta and Massachusetts. \$865 was raised at a community benefit breakfast hosted by the Post on Mar. 24.

Photo by Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

Boothbay Harbor Post 36; Damariscotta Post 42; Wiscasset Post 54; Waldoboro Post 149



Son's Of The American Legion Post 42 Hold 1st Annual Ice Fishing Tournament on Feb. 9-10. Left to right, Damariscotta Post 42 SAL's 2nd Vice Commander Ryan Coffin and SAL's Chaplain & Post 42 2nd Vice Commander Mike Brewer.

Photo By Michelle Brewer

Damariscotta Legion Post gives “Gift of Warmth” to Veterans in Hospice

A Nobleboro family's experience at the Togus hospice unit in Augusta has inspired their American Legion Post to make a donation that will help keep terminally ill veterans warm.

Wells-Hussey Post No. 42, of Damariscotta, presented six heated shoulder throws with battery packs to the Togus Springs Hospice Unit at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs campus in Augusta on Friday, Feb. 1.

Mike and Shirley Johnson, of Nobleboro, came up with the idea for the donation in December 2018, when Shirley Johnson's mother's husband, William Plossay, was a patient at the hospice unit.

Plossay, 84, of Nobleboro, a veteran of the U.S. Army and member of the Wells-Hussey Post, died Dec. 26, 2018.

Mike Johnson served in the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion – better known as the Seabees – during the Vietnam War. Shirley Johnson belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary. They joined the post about 12 or 13 years ago.

“We happened to notice that the nurses were coming and going with warmed blankets,” Mike Johnson said of their visits to the hospice unit.

They spoke with some of the nurses, who said many of the unit's patients get cold easily, and it can be difficult to keep patients warm on their way through the corridors from the hospice unit to the main hospital.

The nurses and the Johnsons discussed how electric heated blankets could help keep patients warm for longer peri-

ods of time and eliminate the need to constantly switch out warmed blankets when they cool off.

The Johnsons said one person in particular who helped them come up with the idea was certified nursing assistant Deborah Milbury.

“She's very caring about her patients,” Shirley Johnson said. “The whole unit is very nice.”

The Johnsons brought the idea of a donation back to their Legion Post, which agreed to fund the project.

“It's going to save the nurses a lot of time,” Shirley Johnson said. “They do feel awful nice around your shoulders.”

“I foresee the impact being helpful in keeping the patients very comfortable and giving the nurses more time to help more patients,” Mike Johnson said.

“Instead of having to heat the blankets every 15 minutes,” Shirley Johnson added.

The approximately 31-inch-by-52-inch blankets wrap around the patients' shoulders and have three heat settings. The batteries last three to 20 hours per charge, depending on the setting, according to Mike Johnson.

Clips to hold the shawls around the patients' shoulders were also donated.

Shirley Johnson said they chose the shawls due to the size of the heated area, which is larger than those of similar blankets.

“It's very comfy. It's like a good wool sweater,” Mike Johnson said.

Shirley Johnson said the donation is “just a little more comfort” for the veterans.

“We do what we can,” she said of the local post. The post has provided wheelchairs for disabled vets in the past, the Johnsons said.

“I've been very fortunate through life,” Mike Johnson said of why he thinks it is important for organizations like the Legion to help veterans. “Someplace along the way, I hope somebody's going to look and say, ‘Hey, that guy could use a blanket on his shoulders.’”

“The gift of warmth is a simple and thoughtful way to enhance the quality of life for veterans in hospice,” said Jonathan Barczyk, chief of voluntary service for the VA Maine Healthcare System. “The employees at VA Maine Healthcare System are grateful for the community support we receive to assist in providing exceptional care to veterans.”

By Jessica Picard, Lincoln County News
Feb. 10, 2019



Maine Veterans In Hospice Care Receive The “Gift Of Warmth”: Mike and Shirley Johnson hold up an electric shoulder throw at The American Legion Wells-Hussey Post No. 42 in Damariscotta. The Post donated several of the heated throws to the Togus Springs Hospice Unit in Augusta.

Photo by Jessica Picard
Lincoln County News, Feb. 10, 2019

Damariscotta Post 42 Donates To Community Energy Fund: Wells Hussey Post 42 Commander Bruce Poland, right, presents a \$1,000 donation to Community Energy Fund President Todd Maurer, left. According to Mr. Maurer, the donation from The American Legion will be used to help Veterans in the area.



New Vending Machine At Post 149: Charles C. Lilly Post 149 of Waldoboro announces the arrival of their long-awaited beverage vending machine. The vending machine has proven to be an immediate success as interest in hall rentals has greatly increased recently. Post Adjutant Donna Wallace, left, shares the moment as Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Crawford does the initial purchase.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7 continued**Waldoboro Post 149 Installation Of Officers:**

Charles C. Lilly Post 149 Waldoboro proudly announces their installation of newly elected officers. First row, left to right, Post Commander Donna Wallace and outgoing Commander Edward Bean. Second row, left to right, Area 3 Commander and Installation Officer Stephen Jarrett, Finance Officer Carol Brazier, 2nd Vice Com-

mander Otto Hunt, and 1st Vice Commander John Flaherty. Third row, left to right, District 7 Commander and Installation Officer William Cossette, Chaplain Aloysius O'Donnell, Historian Robert Jordan, Sergeant-At-Arms Ralph Turner, Jr., and Adjutant Timothy Crawford. Charles C. Lilly Post 149 prides itself in community involvement and hosts a weekly Bingo EVERY Saturday night. Doors open at 4:30 pm and games begin at 6:30 pm. Our Bingo is open to the public. Also, the Post sponsors a weekly open house for Veterans and their guests every Tuesday from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Complimentary coffee and refreshments are served. All are welcome; come and join us for camaraderie, fellowship and laughter. VETERAN'S HELPING VETERANS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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



Winter Classic Softball Game: The Mighty Topsham Post 202 held their Annual Winter Classic Softball Tournament on Feb. 23 raising \$1,500 for Cabin in the Woods. Five teams participated, even a Veteran who lives at the Cabin in the Woods. It was a great day with volunteers/players from Topsham Post 202, Brunswick Post 20, and Gray Post 86. Post 202 2nd Vice Commander Nik Hamlin, Post 202 Commander Josefine Eltzroth, and Volunteers of America Representative Sheryl Moore welcomed teams at the opening ceremony.

**Teams Playing In The Snow.****Women Veterans Team: America's Finest.****Winter Classic Softball Winners:** 1st Place went to Team Grateful and 2nd place went to Gray Post 86.

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



Waterville Post 5 Hosts District 9 Meeting: On Mar. 13, Waterville Post 5 hosted the District 9 meeting at their new Post home on 120 Drummond Avenue. Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, back right, informs District members of upcoming events including the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the State House on Mar. 15. Members were given a tour of the new Post Home.

**Women Veteran Residents Of Maine Veterans Home Honored:**

Organized by the Maine American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion and Auxiliary members visited the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on

Fri., Apr. 5, to honor the 3 women Veterans who are residents at the home. All enjoyed lunch and the 3 women Veterans received many gifts, including the Maine American Legion Centennial coin and the "Women Who Served" t-shirts. The Veterans are displaying their shirts. Front row, left to right, World War II Veteran Fanny Breton, Annie Hart, and Korean War Veteran Mary Lane. Back row, left to right, Department ADSO Maureen Malley, Diane Jewett, Department Auxiliary 1st Vice President Virginia "Ginny" Chaput, Lois Jandik, Stella Trahan, Soraya Umphrey, Alice Drummond, Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, and Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall. Resident Agnes Cassidy, U.S. Army MASH Nurse and Vietnam Veteran, could not be present for the picture.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

Why Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 is Unique

What makes the Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 unique is a combination of many factors. Having reached the 40 year membership status, I can quote the old line which is; "the more things change, the more they stay the same." However, for Post 6, this is a good thing. Right away a casual observer will notice that our Post Home has no driveway or parking lot. It also has no telephone. Is this a problem or a "war-stopper?" Not hardly. Located at 114 Second Street in Hallowell, Maine, the building sits close to the street and wedged in-between two larger buildings in the historical section of the small city. The inside meeting space of the building, or Hall as referred to in the old days, reminds folks of an old Maine one-room school house. The meeting room is well appointed, spick and span, and reflects a place where veterans and citizens feel welcome.

As with any American Legion Post, it is the membership, or more appropriately put, the Comrades, who make the Post what it truly is. From its chartering in 1919, our Comrades have been made up of former privates, seamen, and other service members up to and including a former brigadier general. Ownership is the watchword. Throughout the decades, Post 6 has thrived because of the majority who feel ownership in this American Legion Post.

Unlike numerous American Legion Posts, Post 6 does not have a canteen. Although other Posts see the canteen as a source of income, Post 6 looks at not having one as not having an expensive distraction. Income for Post 6 derives from programs that require member input, collaboration and shoulder-to-shoulder work. The programs, to name a few, are the annual yard sale, the annual strawberry luncheon, the annual raffle during Veterans Day, the collection of returnable cans and bottles, sales of flags, hall rental and other smaller ventures. All of these require committed officers and members. Post 6 have such members!

Post 6 donates money to the community food pantry, library, sponsorship of a youth(s) to attend Boys State, purchase and place Christmas wreaths to support the "Wreaths Across America" program and other small community projects.

Along with donations, allow me to point out the activities that Post 6 supports: The post sponsors Boy Scout Troop 647 who hold their meetings at our Post Home. The Post attends and donates to the Scouts

annual "Blue and Gold" ceremony. Certain Post Comrades attend the annual Boy Scout Box-Car Racing Program to assist in judging the winners. Not only does Post 6 march in the annual Memorial Day Parade, the Post organizes the parade and includes the Hall-Dale High School Band, Scouts, Fire Department (did I mention that the Fire Chief is a member?) and others who wish to march with us. At the conclusion of the parade, the Post then holds three separate Memorial Day Ceremonies within the city. The Post 6 Color Guard leads the annual Old Hallowell Day Parade. The Post now holds an annual Family Picnic which has proven to be a huge success. Annually, usually weeks before Memorial Day, the Post flags the city cemetery, the downtown Water Street as well as Second Street. In 1998, the Post adopted six U.S. Navy sailors who perished during the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine and had no home of record. At one of the ceremonies provided by the Post on Memorial Day, a comrade of this Post is selected to place a wreath in the Kennebec River to honor those six sailors as well as All-Souls-Lost-At-Sea. This Post annually hosts the District 9 meeting during a month in the summer season. The annual Veterans Day Breakfast is put on at the Post Home by the Boy Scouts of Troop 647. Post 6 performs a Veterans Day Ceremony with invited speakers every year.

Recently, Post members raised a new American flag over the newly built Hallowell Fire Department during its activation ceremony. Members of the Post's Americanism Committee sponsored a flag retirement ceremony at the Hall-Dale High School. The ceremony was well attended by the entire student body. Post 6 has a very active Centennial Committee and has included projects that include the public such as just recently when we hosted a presentation by Maine Historian (and member of Post 6) Earle Shettleworth Jr. whose presentation was on the subject of Maine In War World 1.

I could go on listing other events, annual or otherwise. However, I hope the reader may "get-the-picture" that Post 6, made up of a small building wedged in between two larger buildings, is more about the dedicated group of proud Legionnaires who truly believe in what they do makes a difference for their community.

Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6, of Hallowell, Maine.....unique indeed.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Member
Steven P. Mairs



A Visit To Maine

Veterans Home: Department Americanism Officer Alfred McKay Sr., visits District 9 meeting at The Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on Feb. 13. Al spoke about The Legion Baseball Program and a special event to be held on May 26 hosted by the Portland "Sea Dogs" Baseball Team. They will be honoring

Veterans and The American Legion with a special day and special pricing.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

Fairfield Post 14; Skowhegan Post 16; Pittsburg Post 32; Madison Post 39; Bingham Post 99;
Jackman Post 122; Hartland Post 141; New Portland Post 173; Athens Post 192



District 10 Installation

Of Officers: District 10 conducted their Installation of Officers at Skowhegan Post 16 on Apr. 15. Front row, Finance Officer Gary Bulger; left to right, back row, 2nd Vice Department Commander Debra Couture, 1st Vice Commander & Historian Tina Richard, Commander Joseph Lefebvre, 2nd Vice Commander Steve Spaulding, Adjutant & Chaplain Richard Robinson, and Area 4 Commander Gregory Couture.



Legion Birthday Celebration & Madison Unit 39

Donation: Madison Post 39 celebrate the Legion's Birthday of 100 years with cake and ice cream prior to the March meeting. Members of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39 of Madison presented Madison Post 39 with a \$200 donation in celebration of The American Legion's Birthday. Holding the cake is Post 39 Commander H. Ralph Withee.



Special Olympics Donation:

Tardiff-Belanger Post 39 American Legion and Auxiliary of Madison present The American Legion, Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux with the 33rd consecutive annual donation of \$1,000 to the Special Olympics of Maine. Left to right, Madison Post 39 1st Vice Commander Vincent Santoni, President of The American Legion Auxiliary Robin Turek, and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

Children And Youth Month:

Members of the Tardiff-Belanger American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39 of Madison fill backpacks for children entering the Department of Health and Human Services System. Most children enter with nothing more than the

clothes on their backs. The Auxiliary provides them with the backpacks filled with items they can call their own in hopes that it makes the transition a little easier for them. This year, Unit 39 Auxiliary donated 25 backpacks for this program. Left to right, front row, Irma Fluet, Nancy Misiaszek, Betty Dow, Ann Cody and Maxine Dube; left to right, back row, Robin Turek, Pat Santoni, Tina Boudreau, Wanda Kranz, Harriet Bryant and Sharon Ziacoma.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10 continued

Madison Post 39 Legion Officers: The Madison American Legion Post 39 recently held their Installation of Officers on Fri., Mar. 29. Installing Officer was State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux. Left to right, Commander Bob Demchak, 1st Vice Commander Vincent Santoni, 2nd Vice Commander Aaron Rollins, Finance Officer John Bryant, Adjutant/Service Officer Bob Washburn, Americanism Officer Brad Farrin, Chaplain Wayne Parks, Sergeant-At-Arms Phil Daigle, Executive Committeemen Ron Page and Gene Tweedie.

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 Program: Corinna Post 73 recently participated with the Maine Military Supply of Holden to award a grant 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 be able to recommend a local Veteran for the Hero of the Month - Richard Thibbetts of Corinna. The Legion is very thankful to have participated in this meaningful program provided by Maine

Military Supply. Any organization who might know of needy Veterans in their area are encouraged to contact Richard White, Maine Military Supply, 179 Main Rd., Holden, ME 04429 or call 207-989-6783. It was our pride and honor to have participated with the Maine Military Supply to assist this worthy Veteran. Left to right, Post 73 Adjutant David Bolstridge, Post 73 Member Ronald Richards who recommended Legion Member Richard Thibbetts for the Grant, Richard White from Maine Military Supply of Holden, Post 73 Commander Victor Buckland presents Certificate Award to Richard Thibbetts of Corinna.

Photo by Post 73 Member Kenneth Kealiher

An Honor to be an American Legion Member of 50 Years

Thank you for the thank you. I want to give you some information on my 50th year as a member of The American Legion because reaching that 50th year membership milestone plateau in The American Legion is such an honor. Born without a father in Philadelphia, PA, on Oct. 1, 1932. Joined the PA Army National Guard at age 17 in 1949; switched to the U. S. Air Force in 1950 and continued throughout the Korean and Vietnam Era's, etc.; in the

U.S.A.F until 1979 (Total military service 30 years).

Joined the Caribou Post 15 in late 1968 while stationed with the U.S.A.F., 42nd Bomb Wing in Limestone from 1966 until 1971.

Upon retirement from USAF active duty, moved family to Bangor.

Transferred my American Legion membership from Caribou Post 15 to Bangor Post 12 in 1976-77.

Picture of my American Legion work

in Post 12 started immediately upon transfer.

a. Served in a number of elected Post offices

b. 1981 - Appointed Vice President, Bangor AL Holding Co., State of Maine.

c. Post No. 12 began sponsorship of the Bangor AL Baseball Comrade baseball team and appointed team manager 1983-1986.

d. 1986-87 - Elected Post Commander. Membership joins in new membership drive created by American Legion National Headquarters.

e. Personally, awarded the New Membership Recruiter Award for 1986-87 by the National American Legion Commander.

f. Bangor Daily News appointed me to write the Guest Column, "Linking Duty, Honor, Country" article for the Bangor-Brewer Marching Event celebration and dedication of the Bangor-Brewer Nov. 11, 1986 VETERANS.

REMEMBRANCE BRIDGE attended by thousands of people. Bangor Daily News article dated Nov. 21, 1986.

g. 1989 - Appointed President, Bangor AL Holding Co., State of Maine

h. 1986 to 88 - Appointed to sell the former Post 12 home on Lower Union St, Bangor, due to lack of operating funds. Upon completion of sale, paid off debts, etc., and started a new investment program to get the Post back on a new financial operating program.

i. 1980 - 2016 (for 36 years) - Responsible for investing and overseeing Post 12 financial program

j. 1990 - Served on Department Americanism Oratorical Committee, 1993-1997 served on Department Legislative Committee, and in 2001, Department Contest and Parade Committee.

k. 1990 - 1995 - Appointed as representative of The American Legion & Post 12, President of the AL Holding Co. of Bangor at the request of State Senator John Baldacci and other Veteran Associations with working with the state legislature to spend monies by the Veterans Administration to build the 5th Veterans Home in Maine. Bangor seemed to be the most logical place to build this home due to supporting city elements and being able to be more available to more Veterans throughout eastern and at that time northern Maine. I personally wrote a Bangor Daily News Article letter "Bangor best site for veterans Nursing Home, dated Aug. 26, 1992. The state legislature tried to select other locations for this home but it took until 1995. With Senator Baldacci determination in the state legislature body and many Veteran organizations and myself were able to also have Governor McKernan put in his efforts after we delivered a signed 682 petition signed by Veterans to have the home built in Bangor on Sept 18, 1992. Our Bangor Veterans Home was finally built here in 1995.

l. The American Legion Department of Maine Adjutant Charles H. Michaud sent a letter, dated Mar. 16, 1996 to Maine Home Director Jefferson Ackor to have some of our members assigned to the Home committees Three American Legion members were appointed to positions. I was assigned to Liaison at the Bangor Home.

m. 1995 - Post terminates AL Holding Co. of Bangor. Positions of two Financial Trustees were added to Post By-Laws.

Myself and one of my Holding Company Officers Royal Henderson were elected to fill these positions/ My financial responsibilities from 1980 continue. Our financial program continues same as former Holding Co. program.

n. 1995 - Post 12 purchases a Popcorn machine and donates it to the Bangor Veteran Home with promises as replacement may be needed the Post will pay as necessary for it.

o. Sept.2, 1999 - Post 12 membership voted to purchase a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) American Legion membership for my past services and work.

p. April 2002- May 11,2005 - As a member of the A.L., Department of Maine Post 12, a retired military member and resident of Bangor, I started a long journey of paying respects to all 248 members of the 101st Airborne Division, of Fort Campbell, KY, going home for Christmas after serving 6 months. Peace Keeping duties in the "Sina Desert" died in the tragic aircraft crash that happened in Gander, Newfoundland (after the aircraft had landed for refueling and taking off for Fort Campbell), Canada along with all 8 crew members of Arrow Air DC-8, chartered by the U.S. Government on Dec. 12, 1985. (My wife and her family & relatives are from Newfoundland)

After notifying my A.L. Department Ron Sailor, my Mayor of Bangor and Gander Mayor and members of the town council of Gander and the Royal Canadian Legion of Gander of my plans to visit Gander and the crash site alongside the Gander River, 3 miles east of the Town of Gander, my journey got started.

1. Letters were prepared by A.L. Department of Maine, City of Bangor introducing my wife and I to the Gander staff and people and my reason to come and view the memorial etc., that was built by the Masonic Lodge members called, "The Silent Witnesses". On the front of the memorial were the full names and grades of each of the 248 soldiers We arrived on the beginning of my trip in April and that started the wonderful relation with Gander and its people of trying to get the U.S.A. to pay \$178,000 to pay the cost of paying 6 tenth mile of dirt road from the TransCanada Highway down to the memorial. I enlisted the aid of Senator Susan Collins and staff to help me as I contacted every department in the U.S. Government up to President Bush trying to get them to pay the cost for paving the dirt road, It took much time and letter writing and phone calling and visits to the Town of Gander, but at the end, I had to give it up. No money could be found or given by the U.S.A. to pay the price. In 2004 -2005, I delivered to the Mayor and Town Council of Gander a complete booklet I maintained throughout this entire time of every letter, phone call, trip etc., that showed that one American Veteran had the interest and tried to do what the U.S.A. should have been able to do to show its respect for those 248 U.S. Army 101st Airborne Soldiers who died in that terrible aircraft crash.

q. 2012 - Spent the entire summer putting together the program to honor all men and women who had served in the A.L. Post 12 during the past 92 years since its beginning in 1920. On Sept. 24, 2012, the City of Bangor held a meeting to honor Post 12 and all its members who had

More on "HONORED MEMBER", Page 26

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

“Honored Member” (Continued from Page 25)

served in its Post since 1920, a period of 92 years. Letters and plaques were presented to the Post by staff & members of the U.S. Congress and Senate. Congressman Michaud had a complete plaque of Post accomplishments read into the records of the U.S. Congress.

Senator Snowe had a U.S. Flag flown over the lawn of the U.S. White House lawn and sent to Bangor Post 12 for this meeting.

r. 2010 - City of Bangor presented me the Paul Bunyan Citizenship award for all the work and service I had given to the people and residents of Bangor during the past 40 years.

s. June 2016 - Retired from my continual Post 12 Financial Responsibilities from 1980 to 2016 (36 years). My other Trustee Royal Henderson and I turned over to Post 12 an amount of \$158,581 in our investment account we were able to accumulate in all these years. In addition to this amount we were able to help fund the Post operation all these years.

By Charlie Birkel, Bangor Post 12



District 13 Meeting At Hermon

Post 200: The District meeting attended by Legion members and two speakers present updates in District 13. The first speaker, Area 5 Commander Willard Leeman, gave an update of standings of all Posts in District 13. One Post does not run their meeting as formatted in the Officer's Guide and another is in the process of closing. The second speaker was Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston who spoke of bills before Congress concerning The American Legion in regard to the tax laws for Posts with games of chances and serving of alcohol. He also spoke about reminder postcards to send to members who are behind on dues to rejoin, plus more issues about recruiting and maintaining members. District 13 Commander Don Candage, center, presents 100% membership certificate to Etna-Carmel Post 107 Commander Bob Sibley, left, and to Hampden Post 213 Commander Tom Healey, right.

Photo by District 13 Historian Tom Carle



Hampden Memorial Post 213 Donates \$100 to Maine Veterans Home in Bangor on Nov. 24, 2018. Accepting the donation is Activity Director Editha Young. Left to right, Post 213 Finance Officer Ken Preble, Veterans Home Activity Director Editha Young, and Post 213 member Buzz Belanger.

Photo by Ken Preble

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

Monson Post 116 Receives 100% Membership Certificate: Monson Post 116 is presented their 100% Membership Certificate and pins at District 14 meeting in Dexter on Feb 16. Left to right, Monson Post 116 Commander Jim Greenleaf, District 14 Commander Dan Nutter and State Department Commander Scott Paradis.



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



New Veterans Wall Panel: Van Buren Unit 49 President Tina Cormier, left, and Unit 49 Historian and Past President Joan Doucette, right, spent at least 6 or more hours constructing a new Veterans Wall panel with pictures of local Veterans who served from World War II to present day. Unit 49 members are constantly assisting the Veterans of this Post with fundraising projects, helping with meals, as will be the case this year as it is our 100th Year Anniversary.



Who's Got The Winning Ticket? Every monthly meeting Cyr-Plourde Post 145 of Frenchville has a door prize. Left to right, Finance Officer Percy Thibeault, Commander Robert Sinclair, Adjutant Tony Paradis, Sergeant-At-Arms Roger Bosse.



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T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 4—Gardiner	Donald A. Cleaves	Vietnam	Post 54—Wiscasset	Charles W. Brawn	Vietnam
Post 4—Gardiner	Phillip A. Collins	WWII	Post 58—Buckfield	Homer Hinkley	WWII
Post 4—Gardiner	Francis J. Gamache	Korea	Post 66—Lisbon Falls	Howard E. Shepardson	Vietnam
Post 4—Gardiner	William A. Perry Jr.	Korea	Post 77—Lincoln	Donald L. Richmond	Korea
Post 4—Gardiner	Miguel F. Munoz	Persian Gulf	Post 78—Strong	Gerald A. Corson	WWII
Post 20—Brunswick	Morley J. Thomas	WWII	Post 82—Norway	Leland A. Millett Jr.	Korea
Post 20—Brunswick	Dante Diedwardo	Korea	Post 93—Bucksport	Charles H. Bishop	Korea
Post 24—Rumford	David Martin	Vietnam	Post 93—Bucksport	Alton L. Gross	Vietnam
Post 24—Rumford	Donald Fifield	Vietnam	Post 97—Howland	Dennis Leonard	Vietnam
Post 24—Rumford	Robert T. Folsom	Vietnam	Post 107—Etna/Carmel	Harvard M. Adams	Vietnam
Post 24—Rumford	Joseph Paulin	Korea	Post 107—Etna Carmel	Robert O. Sibley	WWII
Post 24—Rumford	Charles Riggs	Vietnam	Post 127—Limestone	Clayton Fitzsimmons	Vietnam
Post 24—Rumford	Frank Senkbeil	Korea	Post 132—Richmond	Malcolm D. Hatch	WWII
Post 24—Rumford	Leo J. Gallant Jr.	Korea	Post 132—Richmond	Albert D. Acker	WWII
Post 35—South Portland	William Crowell	Vietnam	Post 138—Winterport	Onel Stevens	Vietnam
Post 36—Boothbay Harbor	Barry Pendleton	Vietnam	Post 145—Frenchville	Maurice Sirois	WWII
Post 37—Thomaston	Beniah Harding	WWII	Post 197—Westbrook	James Flynn	Vietnam
Post 42—Damariscotta	Austin Lincoln	WWII	Post 197—Westbrook	Edward D. LeBlanc	Vietnam
Post 42—Damariscotta	Rowland Gilbert	Korea	Post 197—Westbrook	Robert B. Garland	Vietnam
Post 42—Damariscotta	Bruce Bartlett	Korea	Post 202—Topsham	Steve J. Obrin	Vietnam
Post 49—Van Buren	Hurbain S. Cote	Vietnam	Post 202—Topsham	Roger Flaig	Vietnam
Post 50—Unity	John Cushman	Korea	Post 202—Topsham	Francis Giroux	Korea
Post 50—Unity	Gerald A. Parker	Vietnam	Post 202—Topsham	Bertrand Breton	
Post 54—Wiscasset	Leroy E. Farmer	WWII	Post 202—Topsham	John Stiffler	WWII
Post 54—Wiscasset	James A. Seigars	Korea			

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17 continued

Madawaska Post 147 Presents Continuous Year Membership Awards during Monthly Post Meeting February 11th



50 Year Certificate—Gendreau: Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, right, presents James Gendreau his 50 Year Continuous Membership Certificate.

50 Year Certificate—Cyr: Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, right, presents Richard Cyr his 50 Year Continuous Membership Certificate.



50 Year Certificate—Vaillancourt: Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, right, presents Rick Vaillancourt his 50 Year Continuous Membership Certificate.



50 Year Certificate—Morneault: Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, right, presents George Morneault his 50 Year Continuous Membership Certificate.



60 Year Certificate—Meyers: Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, right, presents Isaac Meyers his 60 Year Continuous Membership Certificate.

LOOKING FOR HELP
LEWISTON SUN JOURNAL

Senior Editor Steve Sherlock is looking for any Maine Veteran who served on a Gun Truck Unit (driver or gunner) or anyone who may have had interactions with those units. The last Lewiston Veteran killed in Vietnam was Charles Soule and he was driving one of those trucks. The Smithsonian Channel did a story about him and the Gun Trucks and he would like to do a story about those units. Please contact Steve at: 207-689-2883 or cell: 207-740-3282 and let him know that you received this information from The American Legion newspaper "The Maine Legionnaire".

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Attention: Next Deadline is Jul. 26

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2019 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be July 26, 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.



100th Anniversary Plaque: The American Legion, Department of Maine 100th Anniversary Plaque (1919-2019) hangs in the State House, Hall of Flags.

A Special Day: Department Commander Scott Paradis, left, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, cut the ceremonial cake in celebration of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary held at the State House in Augusta on Mar. 15. The highlight was the unveiling of The American Legion, Department of Maine 100th Anniversary plaque which took place in the "Hall of Flags".



Trenton Post 207 Korea Reborn Book Presentation:

During a recent visit to Trenton Post 207, left to right, Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins presents a KOREA REBORN book to Trenton Post 207 member Bernard Ryan along with Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall.



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Please mail to: Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.



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.

DISCLAIMER

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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.