

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



NOVEMBER 2022

Vol. 37, Issue 4

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

24 Pages

## Resolved: Fighting for the Lives of Veterans

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The success of American Legion programs is directly related to those who orchestrate them on the grassroots level. Programs such as American Legion Baseball, American Legion Riders and many others were conceived at the local level, grew in popularity and have generated significant impact on the lives of veterans, their families, children and youth, and others throughout our great nation.

The American Legion's Be the One campaign has the potential to not only change lives, but save lives. And the initiative will be successful through efforts from local posts, districts or counties, and departments with support from national.

Already, we are seeing successes at the post level. Events are being planned. Conversations are being started. Lives are being saved.

But there is so much more we can do.



NATIONAL COMMANDER  
VINCENT J. "JIM" TROIOLA

opportunities for doing more. These resolutions call for support for Be the One activities and research into veteran suicide prevention. Among them:

- Resolution No. 7: American Legion Family Day. This resolution creates a special day for all posts to honor community members who performed good deeds. On the last day in April each year, this event will be a won-

derful opportunity to honor those who demonstrated how to "Be the One."

- Resolution No. 14: Access to Care. It calls on VA to improve the timeliness of primary care and mental health appointments for veterans. Some veterans wait months for appointments, which increases the risk of suicide, according to the U.S. Surgeon General and National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- Resolution No. 16: Furthering Research Pertaining to PTSD, TBI and CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy). The resolution encourages veterans to continue their legacy of service to others and consider becoming a brain and/or body donor. Researchers would then be able to better study the effects of head trauma so doctors, combat medics, surgeons and others can better manage patients with PTSD and TBI, and therefore reduce the number of veteran suicides. (A recent episode of the Tango Alpha Lima pod-

cast highlighted the work being done by the Concussion Legacy Foundation. Listen to the episode here.)

- Resolution No. 18: Mental Health Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans. The American Legion is calling on Congress to pass legislation for establishing and funding evidence-supported programs and initiatives directed at providing mental health services to justice-involved veterans. Over half of justice-involved veterans have a confirmed mental health diagnosis such as PTSD, all of which require regular mental health support and treatment.

The Be the One initiative is in its infancy. Its success will depend on our combined efforts as the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization. It's an honor to be part of this mission, and I thank you for your support and contributions toward saving the lives of our brothers and sisters in uniform.

[legion.org](http://legion.org)  
10/19/2022

## Ask a Veteran to JOIN Maine American Legion Today!



Let's get word out to our Veterans on Veterans Day and ask a Veteran to JOIN Maine American Legion! Have them scan the QR Code with the camera on their phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click JOIN.

For more information as to why a Veteran should belong visit <https://www.legion.org/publications/246555/why-you-should-belong> or simply [click here](#) to access the Why You Should Belong brochure.



**National Commander** Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola's official visit to the Department of Maine took place on Oct. 19 – Oct. 23. Along with visiting various Legion Posts around northern Maine, Commander Troiola also visited the Loring Airforce Museum located in Limestone, ME on Oct. 20. Left to right, 1st Vice Commander Alfred McKay, Judge Advocate Jason Hall, State Commander Kirk Thurston, National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, Finance Officer Eugene Connolly and Caribou Post 15 member Cuppy Jandreau.



## Commander's Comments

A lot has happened since my last article. Team Maine had a strong delegation go to the 103rd National Convention held in Milwaukee, WI at the end of August. Meetings were held along with training classes on various topics. A lot of great information was offered at these training classes and many Maine delegates attended them. Leading National Candidate Daniel J. Seehafer from Wisconsin stopped by our caucus room to address the Maine delegates. He is running for National Commander 2023-2024. Comrade Seehafer is a Navy veteran that served as a Commissioned Officer of the Chaplaincy program.

Next was our annual Fall Conference held in Millinocket. WOW, was the mutual feeling. I truly appreciated all that attended. The material presented was very informative and generated excellent conversations. The guest speaker National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey updated us on many things happening at the National level. He explained the importance of updated and current Constitution and By-Laws at any level of Departments. A big Thank You goes out to our host for the Fall Conference, Millinocket Post/Unit/Squadron/Chapter 80 did a fantastic job ensuring everyone's needs were met. Great Job!!

District Commanders, remember **you are the first line of defense against troubled Posts**. During your Post visits, use the Post Audit as a tool and sit with the Post Officers before or after their meeting to discuss the audit. This tool will help you identify problems/



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

issues occurring at the Post and help create a path to correct those issues. Usually by the time Department hears about a Post in trouble, it is too late. Revitalization needs to happen as soon as possible. More and more Posts, for some reason, think they can sell their Post and the last member standing gets the rest. Not so, refer to the Department's Constitution & By-Laws for guidelines as follows:

ARTICLE XX: In addition to other legal requirements under existing laws, and the Department of Maine, no Post, District, or any other holding company, or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or interest in any real estate or private property which is equal to twenty-five percent (25%) or more of Posts or Districts net worth unless written notice of such proposal has first been:

(1) Submitted thirty (30) days prior to any subsequent actions to the Department Executive Committee shall review any sale, purchase, transfer, or encumbrances to determine whether such transactions serve the purposes of the Post, District, Department of The American Legion as prescribed in the National and Department By-Laws and Constitution. The Department Executive Committee will also determine if it is in the best interest of The American Legion to involve the Post Revitalization team to help the Post or District through a difficult process, and secondly:

(2) Each member of said Post, District is given a minimum of thirty (30) days notice prior such regular meeting or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and then will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at said meeting to approve. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transaction. (Res. 02-18)

Next was the annual Fall Meetings

[More on "COMMANDER'S COMMENTS" Page 7](#)



### Challenge Coin Presentation:

National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, left, presents State Commander Kirk Thurston, right, with a National Commander's challenge coin during his official visit to the Department of Maine. The presentation took place at Madawaska Post 147 on Oct. 21.

## A 'First' Look

Greetings comrades, I hope the fall has been good to all of you so far and will continue to be so. Soon the snow will be falling, and the new year will be here. A heads up for the snowbirds; do not forget to fill out the snowbird form on the website. Filling this out will ensure that the Department will be able to get important information to you in a timely manner.

It is time for all those that have not, and are not Paid Up For Life members, to get the 2023 dues paid. Did you know that post dues run for the calendar year, and not for a year after you paid them last? Along with the calendar year, if you have not renewed before January 1st, your member benefits are suspended until you become current. This includes entrance to Legion Posts and your LIT insurance. Membership is so very important to the posts in many ways. Not only for the fund's membership dues generate but for the post health and ability to support our programs. Also, to assist in the local



**ALFRED  
MCKAY**

community as needed. The most important and overlooked aspect of membership is welcoming new or prospective members to the post. This can make or break a Veteran feeling welcomed and wanted in said post. A good rule of thumb is to treat new members and visitors as you would want to be treated at a different post as a visitor. Remember, we are the "Legion Family". Also remember, it is time to continue BUDDY checks on our family members. A friendly call, or even better, an in-person visit. Please do not start with or make it a dues reminder call. Yes, dues are important, but not the most important thing. Take them a cup of coffee or a jug of cider and just talk with them. Invite them to a Post function, a holiday meal, whatever you can think of. A friendly word or jester could make you, BE THE ONE.

The membership target dates are as follows:

Nov 9, 2022 - 65%; Dec 14, 2022 - 75%; Jan 19, 2023 - 80%; Feb 15, 2023 - 85%; Mar 15, 2023 - 90%; Apr 19, 2023 - 95%; May 17, 2023 - 100%.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer this coming January. The conference will again be at Jeff's Catering and Event Center. I hope to announce that the Department of Maine is at 100% at the Mid-Winter. So, let's just get it done and show the National Legion that Dirigo also includes membership.

## A 'Second' Look

Winter is coming and with this change also comes the fact that we should all be preparing for our upcoming reports. Deadlines for these reports will be here before we know it or are prepared for it. Let's be proactive this year and shoot for 100% by submitting all reports in a timely manner.

Post Commander/Adjutants will receive the 'Annual Post Data Report' form from Department. This report is due back to Department in April. This is one of four reports that have to be completed and sent to Department each year. The following is a breakdown of each report. Annual Post Data Report – This form shows all post information currently on file at National and Department HQ. Please review and make any necessary changes or corrections and submit to Department HQ. The due date for this form



**PATRICIA  
THURSTON**

will be included in the letter that accompanies this form. Reminder: the Annual Post Data Report is not available online.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) – There are two ways to submit this form. You can go to the website mylegion.org or submit by mail using the paper form which can also be found on the department website. This report is due at National on July 1st; if mailed, it is due to Department by May 29th. The following is information shared on the first page that explains the CPR. "The CPR may be the most beneficial document the post will complete. The post's information, combined with that of other posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill as mandated by our federal charter. Each post has a story to tell and when we speak collectively our strength is magnified".

Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form – Submit as soon as new officers are elected for the current year but no later than July 1st. The Post Adjutant is to complete the form and submit to Department even if the post does not have a Squadron. This report can be found on the Department

[More on "A SECOND LOOK" Page 3](#)



## NEC Update

Hello fellow legionnaires. This article will probably be the shortest one that I have ever done for The Maine Legionnaire paper. At this time, I just returned from Indianapolis



**LLOYD  
WOODS**

and attending the Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee as well as the Department Adjutants and Department Commander having a meeting roughly at the same time.

During this time, the new National Commander had his homecoming gathering at a local post in Indianapolis and the National Executive Committee's Subcommittee on Resolutions conducted review of 18 resolutions to be brought before the National Executive Committee for voting on. The subcommittee meets at least two days prior to the NEC meeting to review any resolutions brought before the NEC. There are six members of the committee with one Chairman and one Vice Chairman coming from the committee making the total of the committee of seven. I am proud to have been named the Vice Chairman of this important committee. I also learned of being named as one of the individuals selected to present

training to the incoming new National Executive Committeemen and women. This training took place the day before the NEC met.

The resolutions brought before the Resolutions Subcommittee and thereafter to the Executive Committee covered various areas concerning the veterans of our nation as well as homelessness, medical coverages changes being proposed. These came from the VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) Commission, the VE&E (Veterans Employment & Education) Commission just to name two. The NEC also heard reports outlining the other Commissions going on and also got written in-depth reports. Each of the resolutions will be listed on the [legion.org](http://legion.org) website.

Another aspect of the Fall Meetings was the forwarding of committee recommendations of each department to the Committee on Committees, who screens those recommendations and forwards them to the National Commander, who is the final vote to make an assignment on the various commissions and committees of The American Legion. As previously stated, the National Commander is the one who makes the assignments; no one else.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for all that you do for The American Legion, as well as what you will do in the future. Until the next time, may God bless you and your family. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please contact me.



**National Commander Visits Madawaska Post 147:** National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, right, welcomes National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola to Madawaska Post 147 on Oct. 21 during National Commander Troiola's official visit to the Department of Maine. To view more photos of the National Commander's visit to Maine, please [click here](https://www.legion.org/commander/photos/257346/national-commander-troiola-visits-department-maine), or visit <https://www.legion.org/commander/photos/257346/national-commander-troiola-visits-department-maine>

## On the Agenda

### NOVEMBER 2022 MEETINGS

- District 3** – Androscoggin: Nov. 13, Turner Post 111, 2PM
- District 5** – Oxford: Nov. 15, Bethel Post 81, 7PM, Refreshments after.
- District 6** – Knox: Nov. 20, Thomaston Post 37, 1PM
- District 9** – Kennebec: Nov. 9, Waterville Post 5, 7PM
- District 10** – Somerset: Nov. 9, Madison Post 39, 6:30PM
- District 12** – Hancock: Nov. 8, SW Harbor Post 69, Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM
- District 14** – Piscataquis: Nov. 19, Monson Post 116, 12 noon lunch w/ Business Meeting at 1PM
- District 16** – So. Aroostook: Nov. 13, Mars Hill Post 118, 1PM (Special Meeting)

### DECEMBER 2022 MEETINGS

- District 2** – Cumberland: Dec 11, Westbrook Post 197, Holiday Program w/ALA
- District 5** – Oxford: Dec. 14, Locke Mills Post 68, 7PM, Appoint Nominating Committee, District Christmas Party
- District 9 - Kennebec:** Dec 14, Augusta Post 205, 7PM
- District 12** – Hancock: Dec. 15, Northeast Harbor Post 103, Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM, Christmas Party
- District 16** – So. Aroostook: Dec. 11, Mars Hill, Time: TBD

### JANUARY 2023 MEETINGS

- District 3** – Androscoggin: Jan. 8th, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 2PM
- District 9** – Kennebec: Jan. 11, Augusta Post 2, 7PM

### FEBRUARY 2023 MEETINGS

- District 2** – Cumberland: Feb. 12, S. Portland Post 35, 1PM
- District 3** – Androscoggin: Feb. 12, Lisbon Post 158, 2PM
- District 9** – Kennebec: Feb. 8, Oakland Post 51, 7PM
- District 14** – Piscataquis: Feb. 18, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM
- District 17** – No. Aroostook: Feb. 5, Van Buren Post 49, 12pm Meal Meeting at 1PM. 4 Chaplains

### ■ "A 'SECOND' LOOK" (Continued from Page 2)

website.

Post Officers Form – Form must be filled out even if there are no changes from the previous year. This form is due to Department by July 1st. The District Officers Form is to be filled out by the District Adjutant and submitted even if there are no changes from the previous year. This form is also due as soon as new officers are elected or to Department by July 1st.

The last three reports mentioned can be found on the Department's website at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under FORMS/APPLICATIONS. Remember, all of the above-mentioned reports need to be submitted each year even if there are no changes. These reports are important. The information contained in these reports goes into updating the Department Directory and mylegion.org.

Onto awards! If you go to our website [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) you will find a vast amount of information about membership and awards. Go to Forms/Applications, scroll down to award/nomination forms, then click on 2022-2023 Member-


ship Goals and Award Manual. Continue scrolling and you will find the individual forms for submitting for these awards. In this manual, you will find information on membership target dates, the 2022/23 renewal schedule and so much more.

As you scroll through the Membership Goals and Awards info you will see the many ways you can share all that you do throughout the year. You can do this by submitting your Post, District, or individuals for their accomplishments. You will find that you can submit them for awards at Post, District, Department, and National levels. We look forward to seeing what everyone is doing and how well you are doing it. It would be great to have a huge amount of entries this year from everyone in our amazing Department of Maine. We want to see what you are doing, how you are doing it and the reasons why you shine. Check out this amazing booklet you will not regret it.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the near future and my hope for you is that you all stay safe and healthy as you do great work for The American Legion. Please know all that you do is appreciated.



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AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

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## 2022 Veterans Day Discounts

The following are some discounts for veterans and servicemembers for restaurants, retail outlets and recreational opportunities for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. While these have been verified, check your local franchise to be sure that they are honoring the discounts and for more information. These will be updated as more discounts become available.

### RESTAURANTS

#### 7-Eleven

[Veterans Advantage Connection | 7-Eleven](#)

7-Eleven, Speedway and Stripes are offering a free Quarter-Pound Big Bite 100% all-beef hot dog in honor of veterans. Available in-store and via delivery through the 7NOW app, this deal is only redeemable on November 11.

#### 54th Street Grill

[54thstreetgrill.com](http://54thstreetgrill.com)

Veterans and active-duty military get up to \$10 off any entrée on Veterans Day. Dine-in only. [Click here](#) for locations.

#### Another Broken Egg Café

[anotherbrokenegg.com/](http://anotherbrokenegg.com/)

Another Broken Egg Cafe offers a Veterans Day Breakfast for Heroes. All veterans, active and retired military servicemembers can enjoy a free Patriot French Toast Combo and coffee on Nov. 11 at participat-

ing cafes. Dine-in only. [Click here](#) for details.

#### Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza

[Home – Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza \(acfp.com\)](#)

Veterans and active-duty military receive a free 12-inch cheese pizza on Veterans Day.

#### Applebee's

[Veterans Day \(applebees.com\)](#)

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill + Bar will give thanks to all active-duty military, veterans, reserves and National Guard with the offer of an in-restaurant complimentary full-size entrée from an exclusive menu. And when dining at Applebee's on November 11, these special guests will also receive a \$5 Bounce Back Card to redeem for dine-in, To Go, or delivery within a three-week redemption window.

#### Aroma Joe's Coffee

[aromajoes.com/](http://aromajoes.com/)

All veterans a free 24oz. drink on November 11.

[Arooga's Grille House & Sports Bar](#)

For a complete list of discounts [CLICK HERE](#) or visit: <https://www.legion.org/veterans-day/257414/2022-veterans-day-discounts>

The American Legion  
Nov. 4, 2022

## The Adjutant Speaks

On the road again and heading up to the County known as the 17th District in the Legion. This is going to be a special trip for me but more so for Jason Hall the Dept. Judge Advocate and the first time

for Gene Connolly the Dept. Finance Officer. We were meeting up at the Caribou Inn & Convention Center to welcome Jim Troiola the National Commander of The American Legion and his Aid Gary Schacher. They were flying into Maine from New Jersey and landing at the Presque Isle airport for a 3-day visit in the northern part of Maine. The National Commander requested to visit the area and we had not had a National Commander up in District 17 for many years.

We woke up Thursday morning to sunshine and dry weather. Our first stop was the PERKINS-PLOURDE Post-136 in Stockholm. This was supposed to be a meet and greet for coffee with their members. Well, nobody would listen when I said they do not know how to JUST make coffee in the County. The buffet was set and conversation with the Commander began. From there, we headed out to MARTIN-KLIEN Post-133 in Fort Kent for lunch. We were very well received, and the Commander enjoyed a little French immersion at the same time. We then departed for the CYR-PLOURDE Post-145 in Frenchville for some more social time. From there, we went to the Loring Air Force Museum for a private tour and a slight drive around to look at what used to be the pride of the County. The remains of the long-ago closed base made all of us pause and thank those who had made the commitment to serve in a very hard area of the state.

Friday morning, we headed off to WILLIAMS-COUSINS Post-118 in Mars Hill. This was a special stop for us because not too long ago this small



PAUL  
L'HEUREUX

post was closing. However, a few dedicated Legionnaires would not give up. Word of this got out around town and it was decided that they need that post for our veterans. Money started to come in and people started to help. Our National Commander had praises for all present and spoke to each member at the gathering.

Our next stop was the LEVAS-SEUR-FARRELL Post-49 in Van Buren. This was another post that made a comeback during some rough times and the National Commander was greeted by the Legion family there as well. Our last stop for the day was the THOMAS O. CYR Post-147 in Madawaska, with yet another meal that none of us will forget for a long time. The hospitality was great, and the remarks made by the National Commander were very well received.

Saturday, we went to the SMART-SOUCIE Post-176 in Eagle Lake for a very warm welcome and a breakfast that served half the community! We then hit the road to the HENRY B. PRATT Post-15 in Caribou for a short visit and then on to the Veterans Cemetery a short distance away. We then headed to the CHESTER L. BRIGGS Post-47 in Houlton. This was our last stop, and the post prepared a large dinner to honor the National Commander's visit to Maine.

We want to thank all the posts that we visited for their hospitality, professionalism, and the pride that was displayed during these three days. I also want to thank our NEC, Lloyd Woods, for organizing this visit and for all the paperwork needed to accomplish the task. To all the Post Commanders, District Officers, and State Officers that live in the County thanks to you all for the support.

The National Commander and his aide were very pleased, as was our own State Commander Kirk Thurston. Commander Thurston remarked how the weather made the 925 miles even more enjoyable. We will never forget the ones who make a difference every day for the veterans of Maine--the hard-working Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Legion Rider members who make our programs work and our communities a better place to live.



**Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Caribou:** A visit to Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Caribou was part of the agenda Oct. 22 during National Commander Troiola's official visit to the Department of Maine. Department Officers, left to right, Judge Advocate Jason Hall, State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, and Finance Officer Eugene Connolly take a moment to honor the many Veterans who were buried there.



## Judge Advocate

It's time....

I served on a Post Executive Committee for a number of years, I was young and new to The American Legion and thought my new ideas and energy would be contagious.

It wasn't.

I learned that not everyone was as motivated as me, not everyone was eager to volunteer, and many didn't know the Four Pillars or why they were members of The American Legion.

I had a few factors stacked against me:

- I didn't grow up around the Post.
- I wasn't related to anyone at the Post.
- I didn't get my education in that area, marry anyone from the area, or work in that area.
- I was younger than the average veteran at this Post.

I was, in fact, a true outsider.

You hear members' concerns that we need younger veterans, when we arrive it can be a different story. They like the



**JASON  
HALL**

veteran needs to see something new and exciting to even want to join that Post. They may not join until 40 or 50 years of age, but they want something besides the 3 B's (Bingo, BBQ, and Booze).

The days of war stories, cigarette smoke, and stale beer are gone. If our organization is to survive another 100 years, we must update our approach and

membership

numbers, yet the older veterans don't want you to change the dynamics of the Post. They like it just the way it is and don't need an "outsider" disrupting the status quo.

The younger

attitudes.

I hear many Officers from multiple Posts suggest we need to get the younger veterans in so changes can be made. I see it differently, you have to offer something to attract those younger vets in, mentor them, and be ready to let them become part of the leadership. Why would anyone join your Post if you don't offer anything?

Some suggestions to seasoned members:

- Listen- weigh the options of what members are interested in trying and hear their ideas.
- Involve- utilize members' talents and try new things with an open mind. Members take ownership of their Posts when they are involved and volunteer more in various ways.
- Focus- every decision or goal should follow one of the Four Pillars. When non-members see the Post hosting blood drives, handing out scholarships, sup-

porting Legion programs, supporting community programs and projects, helping veterans and families, supporting youth activities.... new members will come; they want to be a part of that positive mojo.

Suggestions for younger/new members:

- Don't be a bull in a China shop. Join, listen, and learn. You may have great ideas and energy but you could also rock the boat early.
- Like your parents told you, "Surround yourself with good people". There are plenty in the Legion Family. Surround yourself with like-minded, positive people that support the values of The American Legion.
- Team up with a long-time member volunteering, you can learn a lot and meet new people.
- Form your alliances- Find your tal-

[More on JUDGE ADVOCATE Page 6](#)

## Historian's Bunker

### POST ARTIFACT DISPLAYS

#### PART 1: DUST PROTECTION

In this issue of The Maine Legionnaire, I am getting away from the writing guidelines that I have swamped you with. I would like to discuss artifact displays at a post. During my time as Department Historian, I have been



**GEORGE  
ROBINSON JR**

lucky enough to visit several posts and seen others on the Department Facebook page. I must tell you that I have been impressed with what I have seen, especially the artifact displays. Each Post Historian, or another person that acts as a Historian, will have their own ideas on how to display artifacts at their post. Hopefully the following information will assist you in your endeavors.

As much as possible artifacts should

be protected from dust, moths, handling, and anything else that can damage artifacts. Dust is everywhere and is time consuming during the dusting process. As much as possible, every nook and cranny should be dusted regularly. The below photograph is in my basement. The clutter you see should not happen. This only adds to the dust problem.

I am not implying that I have seen this at Maine posts. It is just an example of what clutter in my basement has led to. There are two German wool uniforms that are open to the air. I used these two uniforms as part of my 4th of July exhibit at my post in 2022. When I was able to free them from the clutter, I saw that they were very dusty. I spent a few hours dusting these, as well as several other wool uniforms. You can also see three uniforms that are in a display case. This should be the preferred way to display uniform tunics, but it can be costly. Obtaining for free is a plus. A good source for this type of case is Michael's. You can often get black cases as a 2 for 1 deal. The three you see are from the closure of USAG Darmstadt in 2008.

Another way to display artifacts is using bookcases. These are not usually good for uniforms because, normally, you only have two uniforms in a case. They are perfect for the display of smaller items, especially headgear. Below are two types of bookcases I have used over the years. The first is a wooden shelf, made up of slats and shelves. They are open all around and dust quickly gathers. You can see both

cloth and metal headgear here. Every single one of them are dust magnets. Metal headgear is the easiest to dust. These shelves are cheap.



**Headgear Display, Worms, Germany, August 15, 1992**

Photo by George Robinson, Jr.

Another bookcase that is excellent for displaying smaller artifacts is one that is a real bookcase. The shelves are wide enough to display headgear and an assortment of smaller artifacts. Protecting these items from dust is easy. Obtain a 4x8 sheet of Plexiglas and cut it to the bookcase face size. Screw it into place and you have a protected dis-



**Bookcase Display, Waldoboro, Maine, October 31, 2022**

Photo by George Robinson, Jr.

play. The problem with this bookcase and Plexiglas option has a price. It can be expensive.

Every historian should have some type of clothes brush at their post. Many of the posts that I have seen artifacts from have done a good job to protect their cloth artifacts. Those that have unprotected uniforms will need the brush to fight off the never-ending battle with dust. Below are photos of three different brushes that are good for brushing dust away. There are smaller ones, but it will take you longer to brush the artifact. I use one that has a handle over the body of the brush.

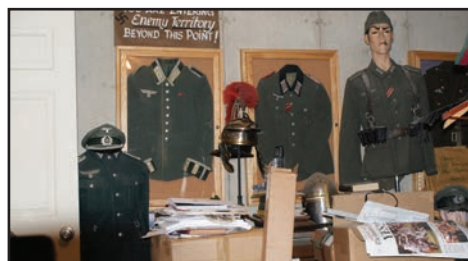


**Various  
Brushes for  
Brushing Cloth  
Artifacts, Waldoboro,  
Maine, November 2,  
2022**

Photos from Google Images

In the next issue of The Maine Legionnaire, I will have part two of artifact protection. This will cover the dreaded moth and the protection of paper artifacts. If any of you have questions or would like to pass on your thoughts and ideas, please don't hesitate to email me at [robmainer@outlook.com](mailto:robmainer@outlook.com).

"History is being made every day. Don't let it pass you by."



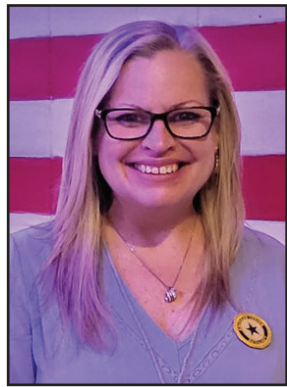
**Personal Artifacts on Display, Waldoboro, Maine, October 31, 2022**

Photo by George Robinson, Jr.



## President's Message

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine is off to an amazing start with our Racing to Membership Theme! Vice President/Membership Chair Pat Grant has been bumping and drafting her way across the state promoting the theme and educating our members on the importance of recruiting new members to join our team! Looks like the green flag is waving for Team Maine and we cannot wait to see the results at the finish line!



DEBRA RUMERY

er walk alone" for Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention has taken on a life of its own. So many Units, Posts, Squadrons, and Rider members across the state have taken this crisis on with such passion, it's incredible! Awareness is spreading, which means prevention is happening. In 4 short months, the donations have totaled \$22,500 and have delivered over \$5,500 in items to Unit 63 and Veteran Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program at Togus. This is only the beginning. We have big plans for the upcoming months! Stay tuned! Thank you to everyone that has participated in letting our Veterans know that they will never walk alone.

For God and Country,  
Debra Rumery,  
215 Rabbit Road  
Durham 04222  
(894-4584)  
[debrarumery@gmail.com](mailto:debrarumery@gmail.com)

President's project "You will nev-

### Suicide Awareness and Prevention 2022—2023 Department President's Project YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE

In 2022 it is estimated that 17 veterans commit suicide on a daily basis.

How do we help?

Togus VA Unit 63 is home to some of Maine's vulnerable veterans. There are a multitude of ideas and needed items your donations can help with for Unit 63. We are not asking for items to be donated, only monetary donations to purchase items requested by Togus as the needs change on a regular basis.

#### Ideas for Unit 63

Stationary items, Slippers, Greeting cards (use 200-300 per month), Puzzles, Toiletries (full-size), DVDs, Paperback books, Games, Possible creation of a library on Unit 63, Sensory items, Christmas gifts for residents, Therapeutic fish tank, Sponsor events, such as pizza parties; movie nights, Bait/tackle boxes, Drawing pads (non-spiral bound), Nintendo Switches w/extra controllers.

Additionally, when patients are discharged they are given resource bags and some receive clothing and shoes. Donations can help purchase items to go into the resource bags, such as sunscreen, bandages, informational pamphlets and other basic necessities.



We will also be working with VA Maine Suicide Prevention Program and Outreach at Togus.

This office works with veterans on Unit 63, but they also have a massive community outreach working with local police, NAMI, DHHS, CBOCs and other agen-

cies working on suicide prevention statewide.

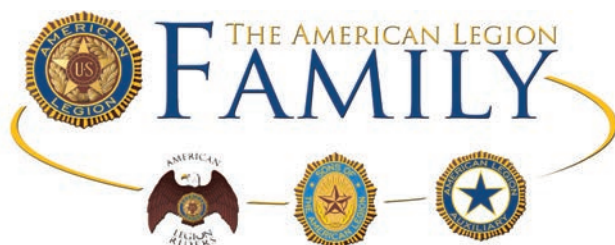
Your donations can assist with creating resource kits that are distributed statewide to help in prevention efforts.

**Start your plans today to hold a fundraiser for this much needed project for our veterans.**

We're kicking off fundraising efforts with the idea of holding walk-a-thons; please see the walk-a-thon flyer for further information. However, that is only one idea of how to raise funds. Be creative as you always are.

Send all donations to Maine ALA, earmarked "President's Project" to Maine ALA, 5 Verti Drive, Suite B, Winslow, ME 04901.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**



### ■ "JUDGE ADVOCATE" (Continued from Page 5)

ent, use it at the Post, and do it with people with the same mindset. Birds of a feather flock together.

- Listen to the long-time members or Past-Officers. They offer a wealth of expertise and have history at that Post.

Other pointers:

- You may have what you think is a great idea that gets voted down at a meeting. Pick yourself up, dust yourself off. You will not win every time, it doesn't mean you give up. Over the course of a year, I would have 50 ideas, and 5 would make it through a vote. Four of those ideas worked....and one was a failure. The next year the Executive Committee would vote to go ahead with six of my 80 ideas, 2 would fail. You are not going to hit a home run every time, you will have a great time trying and for the right reasons. Accept failure and learn

from it.

- New members are interested in: family events, community events, things that support youth, and helping other non-profits (elderly homes with veterans, local food pantries, volunteer fire departments, etc.), they are the video game generation (put an arcade game in your Post), they like pig roasts vs. casseroles, host trivia nights or "movies on the lawn" night for the community, they like a mix of bands, not one genre, they enjoy adventures (Seadogs, Portland Pirates, Maine Celtics, Legion Luge) as a Post Family.

In summary:

Make your Post a warm, clean community center that supports veterans and families; offer programs your membership supports. When you offer something valuable to that community, people want to be a part of that winning team. Try something new, you will be surprised.

## Let's Set Our Goals High This Year

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion.



It has already been a busy and productive time since my election as your SAL National

CHRISTOPHER CARLTON  
SAL NATL COMMANDER

Commander at the 50th SAL National Convention in Milwaukee. I look forward to seeing you during my travels.

I want to take a moment to share with you some of my goals for this year.

**Membership.** Membership is, of course, a priority every year. We would like to reach 103 percent membership by the end of the year. A key to reaching that goal is by focusing on our renewals. I believe that many of our members want to be involved and active; they just don't know how. We need to find out what those inactive members are interested in, what they are good at and give them a job to do. By helping them feel productive and included in the great work we do, we can help ensure that they will renew their membership and spread the word to other potential members.

"Be the One." I am proud to support the "Be the One" campaign. We all know that suicide and mental health are key issues our veterans must face daily. We want to destigmatize asking for mental health support and create opportunity for those with mental health is-

sues to speak freely and get the support they need. Our veterans shouldn't fear the consequences of asking for help.

To "Be the One" means to ask a veteran and their family how they are doing. To "Be the One" means to listen when a veteran or their family needs to talk. To "Be the One" means to reach out when a veteran or their family are struggling. We all need to "Be the One."

**Veterans & Children Foundation.** American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola has set a goal to raise \$2 million for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) this year. I want the Sons of The American Legion to be the biggest contributor to his goal. We can reiterate to The American Legion that, when we put our minds together and work together, we can accomplish great things.

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Carlton  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Commander



**"Purpose is why we journey; passion is the flame that lights the way."**



## ■ "COMMANDER'S COMMENTS" (Continued from Page 2)

held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana starting the second weekend of October. Seven Maine delegates, led by PNC Anthony 'Tony' Jordan, attended meetings and the NEC reviewed many Resolutions, which NEC Lloyd Woods will update us in the near future.

On Wednesday, October 19, National Commander Vincent 'Jim' Troiola arrived in Presque Isle. He was accompanied by his Commander's Aide, Gary, and shadowed by NEC Woods, DC Thurston, DVC McKay, DFO Connolly, DJA Hall and DA L'Heureux throughout his time here in Maine. On Thursday, October 20, we visited Stockholm Post 136 and Fort Kent Post 133 for lunch and from there to the Loring Air Force Museum. The museum is closed for winter, so if you are in the area next year, it is a stop worth making. Friday, October 21 found us at Mars Hill Post 118, Frenchville Post 145, Van Buren Post 49 onto Madawaska Four Corner Park (very nice) and ending at Madawaska Post 147 for a wonderful dinner. Saturday, October 22 we started at Eagle Lake Post 176 for a country breakfast, Caribou Post

15 for dinner, and Houlton Post 47 for another wonderful meal. Commander Troiola and his aide flew out the next morning en route to Arizona. They spend 300 out of 365 days away from home. Commander Troiola's theme is "V.E.T.S., Veterans, Education, Teamwork, and Sponsor." He talked about staying informed with legislative issues by signing up for alerts through the American Legion website <https://www.votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/home>. It is so important for all of us to sign up and notify our elected officials of what is important to veterans. He also talked about 'Be the One' campaign through <https://www.legion.org/betheone> keep informed and sign up for their updates as well. Remember 'Buddy Checks' work hand and hand with 'Be the One' campaign. What better way to help a fellow veteran that may be in need of a friend.

If I do not see you before the holidays, please have a safe and enjoyable time spent with family and friends. Invite someone in your neighborhood that may be spending the holidays alone to join you. You will not regret it, very rewarding for all involved.

See you all at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. Until we meet again, "Fair Winds and Following Seas".

## Kirk Thurston

### Department of Maine Commander's Project OPERATION REBOOT OUTDOORS

Show Your Support by Donating Today!

Operation ReBoot Outdoors invites you to join in their Mission to provide outdoor recreational therapy to Veterans, service members, and law enforcement personnel who struggle with trauma from war



or traumatic events serving our nation and our communities. Operation ReBoot Outdoors shows these heroes they can find purpose after service through the outdoors as well as empowerment in camaraderie. We hope you will be the one to join our Mission to stop the high percentage of suicides that plague our

families, community, and country.

We hope that you will "Be the One" to reach out to a veteran and to support Operation Reboot Outdoors!

Support the American Legion Commander's Project!

Please

send and make all donations payable to:

**American Legion Dept of Maine  
5 Verti Drive  
Winslow, Maine 04901**

Remember to earmark check for  
Commanders Project O.R.O.



## 9th Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon

184 Congress St., Rumford

November 19, 2022

American Legion Rumford Post 24 and The American Legion Department of Maine, Women Veteran's Advisory Committee to Honor Women Veterans at the 9th Annual Women Veteran's Luncheon at 184 Congress St, Rumford, Maine on Saturday, Nov 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Schedule of events, to include refreshments, Free Giveaways, and a variety of activities while visiting with other women who have served.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Guest speakers will speak following lunch.

Please share with all women Veter-

ans. You do NOT need to be a Legion member to attend. Please R.S.V.P. by Nov 17.

For more information, contact Tricia Thurston at (207) 357-3289.

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



## DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM

Thomas College, Waterville  
June 18-23, 2023

Please visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) for more information.  
or contact Jason Hall at 207-873-3229 Ext. 7  
Email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)





## Supporting Maine Veterans, Both This Congress and Next

Nearly 110,000 Mainers wear the proud title of “veteran,” and our state has one of the highest rates of veterans per capita in the country. We owe these brave men and women an enormous debt of gratitude for defending our nation.

As the daughter of a World War II Purple Heart recipient, I learned first-hand of the sacrifice that our heroes and their families make to advance the cause of freedom. Ensuring that our veterans receive the benefits that they have earned through their service is among my top priorities.

During the current Congress, we have improved access to education, health care, and other benefits for veterans. Specifically, we passed new laws that eliminated barriers to veterans enrolling in colleges and universities through the GI Bill, promoted research and provided relief to service members exposed to Agent Orange and burn pits, and expanded access to breast cancer screening and lifesaving cancer care.

When a new Congress convenes in January, I will be the lead Republican



**SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS**

our veterans. That includes working to ensure access to quality health care, including for women veterans and veterans living in rural areas; improving mental health services; funding the expanded caregiver program; and supporting medical and prosthetic research that is so important to the veteran community.

I will also continue to support the HUD-VASH program, which has made a real and positive difference for veterans in our state and around the country.

and, I hope, Chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. I look forward to using this new role to build on the progress that we

have made in caring for

Vouchers through this program help homeless veterans obtain permanent housing along with an array of support services. This program has reduced veteran homelessness by 50 percent since 2010. In Maine, more than 230 previously homeless veterans receive stable housing through these vouchers. I am advocating to fund this program at a level sufficient to provide a voucher to every currently homeless veteran. In the land of the free, there should always be a home for the brave.

In addition to having a strong tradition of military service, Maine also plays a key role in our national defense due to our manufacturing industry and shipbuilding heritage.

By 2025, China is expected to have a 400-ship fleet, yet the U.S. Navy has fewer than 300 battle force ships today. The dedicated and highly skilled workers at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) are essential to helping us confront rising threats and defend our interests around the globe. Earlier this year, I secured funding to construct two DDG-51 destroyers—re-

storing funding for a second ship that the Administration had proposed cutting—and I also secured \$475 million for a modernization project at PNSY.

Along with being either Chairman or Ranking Member of the full Appropriations Committee next year, I expect to serve simultaneously as a leader of the crucial Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In this position, I intend to focus on strengthening our military, including by investing in our shipyards so that they can build and service a larger naval fleet. This is critical to our national security, and it will also help ensure a bright future for Bath Iron Works, PNSY, and the many small businesses in our state that provide goods and services to them.

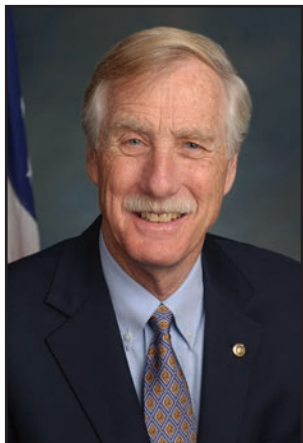
The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary honor the courage and sacrifices of those who serve, and they are effective voices for a strong and effective military. As a Senator with a long record of involvement in national defense issues, and as the grateful daughter of a veteran, I am committed to ensuring that the government keeps those sacred obligations next year.

## Enlisting in the Military is an Extraordinary Commitment

You make a unique commitment when you enlist in the military.

Unlike other jobs, when you sign the dotted line you're not just committing to the hours or the pay – you're putting your own life on the line for our country, our people, and our values. This is a truly extraordinary commitment, and one for which every American owes you a lifelong debt of gratitude.

On Veterans Day this month, we talk a lot about how to honor this commitment. It starts by ensuring you



**SENATOR  
ANGUS KING**

have access to good jobs, world-class healthcare, affordable housing, and robust mental health services. These are all areas where historically – as you well know – our country has not done enough for veterans. We've made a lot of progress over the last few years, including by passing the PACT Act to support veterans exposed to burn pits, but there is a lot more work to be done.

Honoring your service also means remembering your actions, preserving your stories, and ensuring future Americans know about your sacrifices. Because while wars are large international conflicts, we all know they are made up of thousands of brave men and women who step up and answer the call.

Over the last year, I've had the incredible privilege to be a part of this effort by interviewing nine Maine veterans in partnership with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. These conversations, which I submitted last month, will now be preserved in the

Library of Congress' public archives. Here, the veterans' experiences become more than just stories, they become living history that researchers, students, film makers, and family members alike will be able to access for generations.

From veterans who served in World War Two to Afghanistan, each Mainer had different reasons for enlisting, but shared the same values. Like you, they all had a deep love of country, a desire to serve, and a willingness to give their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy.

It has been an immense honor to participate in this project, and I hope you can join me for Veterans Day this year. The Veterans History Project is easy for you and your family to do, and will ensure your story of service is preserved – just go to [loc.gov/vets](http://loc.gov/vets) to learn more. Thank you for your service, your love of country, and all that you have done – and are still doing – for our nation.

## Legion Family to Gather in Brewer for Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 14, 2023 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412.

The conference will be hosted by Commander Kirk Thurston and 2nd Vice Commander Patricia Thurston.

Please watch future editions of the Leadership Ledger for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.

## American Legion Baseball Registration for 2023 Opens Jan. 1





# Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office, the HPACT act has passed. In my last article I gave a brief summary of the changes. I will list some of the changes later in the article, but the law added locations for Agent Orange exposure.



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

Those locations are Guam or American Samoa, Johnston Atoll, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos. If you served at one of these locations or went to one for even a day, call the office so we can talk about it. I recommend all to review and help spread the word of the change. I am afraid that the VA will not go back into the files like it did for the previous changes to notify veterans. It is up to us to do that. This includes surviving spouses whose husband was denied because exposure was not granted due to their service location.

In the last article I talked about the problem with the contracted companies that are handling most of the compensation and pension exams for the VA. As an update I can tell you that the situation is improving. That does not mean that the system is running smoothly. It means that the delay is less than it was and that I am hearing less from veterans that they are told to leave the state of Maine for an exam. If you come across a veteran that was told he must travel outside the state for an exam, please let me know.

If you would like the Department Service Officer to attend your District meeting or a post open house to help attract new members, please give us a call.

The law granted or expanded on locations for Burn Pit exposure from 1990 for Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and the United Arab Emirates. Then from 2001 for Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. If you served in any of these locations,

there are now more than 20 presumptive conditions that you could apply for.

The law also added three locations for atomic veterans who were exposed to Ionizing radiation. They are all around B-52 cleanup sites in the Vietnam era.

If you believe that you were involved or stationed at any of these new locations, please call the office to see if you qualify for disability compensation.

**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 the 19th of February, 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.** You do not have to be a post-service officer to at-

tend 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.

**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.

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. On-Line at [www.vets.gov](http://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](http://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](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov), or [julie.kern@va.gov](mailto: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, 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.



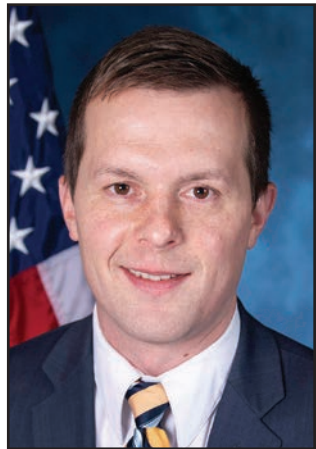
## Maine American Legion Assistant Dept. Service Officer

Part-time position, 28 hours (4-day work week) and qualifications or go to: [http://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job\\_Description](http://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job_Description)  
Term of Office. [CLICK HERE](#) for full job description



## Pushing for the Timely Construction of Global War on Terrorism Memorial

With Veteran's Day right around the corner, I want to update you on our push to build a memorial on the National Mall in honor of the members of our armed services who were killed in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).



CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN

As you may remember, final authorization to build the GWOT Memorial passed the House and the Senate last December. Since then, I've been working with my fellow veterans in Congress to fast-track construction of this memorial. As part of that push, this month I led a bipartisan group of military veterans in a letter urging the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) – the group who decides where and when the memorial is built – to be both thoughtful and timely in their construction of the memorial.

Whether they are veterans of World War II or the Vietnam War, many of us have seen the ways in which the memorials on the National Mall bring together veterans of war, their families, and fellow Americans to heal together and honor the fallen. Swift and careful construction of the GWOT memorial on the National Mall will offer the same for this new generation of veterans, whose physical and mental wounds of war are still fresh.

It is my hope that the GWOT Memorial will offer our Gold Star families, veterans, and others who supported America's post-9/11 counterterrorism efforts

a national place of healing, empowerment, and unity. All Americans deserve a place to honor those who have served our country in different capacities. The Memorial will also help educate a generation of Americans too young to remember the 9/11 attacks and subsequent heroic efforts to keep our country safe. As a GWOT veteran, I know firsthand how much this memorial will mean to me and my family. I'm looking forward to the day I can bring my daughter to this memorial and tell her about the sacrifices made by the brave men and women I served with in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm committed to breaking ground on this memorial and will be sure to write with another update as soon as I have one.

In the meantime, I want to also put out a reminder about the upcoming deadline for congressional military service academy nominations. One of the greatest honors of the job is nominating young Mainers for appointment to the U.S. service academies. If you or someone you know is interested in serving our country and getting a great education, our nation's service academies may be a great fit.

If you know someone who might be interested, or already know you want to apply, learn more and [apply on my website](https://golden.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations) at [golden.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations](https://golden.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations) before the deadline on October 30th.

All this news aside, I know that times are tough right now. Even if it is not related to your service, my team and I are here to help. Please let us know if we can help you solve problems you or your family is having with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, or other federal programs or agencies.

You can reach my staff at:

- Lewiston: (207) 241-6767
- Caribou: (207) 492-6009
- Bangor: (207) 249-7400

You can also send us an email at: [golden.house.gov/contact/email-me](mailto:golden.house.gov/contact/email-me).

## Shop "AmazonSmile" & Give While You Shop!

Support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile. It's the same as shopping on Amazon with the extra bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases.

How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.

2. In the search box, type American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion

Department of Maine Foundation.

3. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). You must log in through the AmazonSmile portal each time you shop in order for our Foundation to receive the donation, so remember to add a bookmark to make it easier to return and start shopping on AmazonSmile.

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

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

**Shop "AmazonSmile"  
and make a difference Today!**

## VA Received Nearly 113,000 Claims Under PACT Act, Urges Veterans to Submit Claims Quickly

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 113,000 claims under a new law that expands eligibility for health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins, agency officials said Wednesday.

The VA said 112,949 claims by veterans have been submitted as of Oct. 22 under The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, since President Joe Biden signed it into law on Aug. 10.

More so, the agency is urging more veterans to submit claims quickly. Joshua Jacobs, the VA's senior adviser for policy and acting Veterans Benefits Administration undersecretary, said veterans should submit their claims before August so their benefits begin from the day the PACT Act became law and they will receive back pay.

"We want to make sure veterans know about it and take full advantage of the benefits that they've earned," he said.

After Aug. 10, 2023, the PACT Act service-connection benefits will begin when they are filed.

The PACT Act seeks to provide an easier path to health care and benefits for veterans who served near open-air burn pits, which were used throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars to burn garbage, jet fuel and other materials. Veterans diagnosed with cancer, respiratory issues and lung disease at young ages have blamed exposure to the toxic fumes from these pits, but the VA contended for years that there wasn't sufficient evidence to support their claims.

Additionally, the law expands health care eligibility to post-9/11 combat veterans and adds 23 conditions related to burn pits and other toxic exposures to the VA's list of service presumptions.

The expanded list includes presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll, strengthens federal research on toxic exposure, and improves the VA's resources and training.

The new law also improves the VA's

workforce and its claims processing to speed up efforts to meet the needs of veterans and establish 31 new VA health care facilities in 19 states.

In August, the VA declared all 23 health conditions outlined in the PACT Act "presumptive" from the date the bill was signed, reducing the burden on veterans or their survivors to prove that certain diseases were caused by service-related exposure to toxins and burn pits.

Jacobs said the decision should deliver more benefits to veterans faster, rather than a phased-in approach.

"It would make it harder for us to do the work that we need to for other veterans and it would be, most importantly, very frustrating for veterans who had to wait," he said.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Tuesday at the agency's monthly news conference that it will begin toxic screenings on Nov. 8 for all veterans now enrolled in the VA system. The screening will consist of a questionnaire that would take five minutes.

McDonough also said more than 15,000 veterans have been screened for toxic exposure at seven different VA sites so far.

"The best thing for vets to do is to be in touch with their primary care provider and make sure that they're getting in to be seen, and in the process of being seen, that they can make sure that they get this toxic exposure screening," McDonough said.

The law is named for Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, who was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder and lung cancer after serving with the Army National Guard in Kosovo and Iraq, where he experienced prolonged exposure to burn pits. He died in 2020.

"We want them to know what's in the law, and we want them to know we're excited for them to come in, get the benefits that they've earned, get the health care that they earned, and ultimately feel a sense of pride that we as a country are finally able to take care of them and recognize them for the service," Jacobs said.

By Sara Samora/Stars and Stripes  
OCT 27, 2022





## 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 120; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120



**York Post 56 Receives POW/MIA Chair:** York Post 56 Commander Paul Klebaaur, left photo, left, accepts a new POW/MIA chair from District 1 Service Officer Lynn Rendall, right. The donation took place in July and was donated by Hussey Seating of North Berwick, Maine. Right photo, POW/MIA Table Setting at York Post 56.

## York Post 56 Supports Town Event

The York Town Parks and Recreation Department held its York Days Festival in the York Beach Ball Park on August 6th and 7th. This post-pandemic restrictions event was a highlight of the summer and Post 56 was there to make sure the public was well fed and the veterans well informed.

Under a trio of red, white, and blue tents, the Post 56 Sons of the American Legion food truck prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the attendees. Even with the heat, the food service was great and drew in a continuous crowd all day. Thanks go out to the fol-

lowing Sons of the American Legion volunteers: Bill Ferrin, Marty Feuer, Joe Silvio, Bill Keenan, and Dana Moulton.

The Post also had an information and recruitment booth there for veterans and their families. Potential members and Sons of the American Legion came by and were provided the necessary information for follow-up. Thanks for a successful booth effort goes to the Post 56 members, Bob Marlowe, Michael Morgillo Wade Fox, and Robert Browning.

By York Post 56 Wade Fox



**York Post 56 Festival Set Up,** top photo. Food Prep, middle photo, The Sons of the American Legion prepare the food area. Left to right, Bill Ferrin, Marty Feuer and Joe Silvio. Post 56 Information Booth; bottom photo, Veterans man the information booth at the York Days Festival. Left to right, Michael Morgillo and Bob Marlowe.

Photos by York Post 56 Wade Fox



**Kennebunk Post 74 & Local Scouts Flag Retirement Ceremony:** Recently Boy Scout Troop 304 and American Legion Webber-Lefebvre Post 74, both of Kennebunk, held a joint US Flag Retirement Service on the Post grounds. When U.S. flags become unfit for further use, they are retired. Three members of the Scout Troop participated in an opening ceremony dedicated to our flag followed by a prayer offered by the Post Chaplain. After the retirement of the flags a closing prayer was recited, and taps was played by the Troop's bugler. A luncheon was held at the post headquarters for all the participants and those in attendance after the activity. Boy Scout Troop 304 has a very active schedule and members enjoy indoor and out of doors activities and is always open to new participants interested in the Scouting journey. Post 74, active in many veteran situations and local activities, encourages participation open to all veterans.

## West-Day Post 123 Chair Presentation Letter of Appreciation

Mr. Jeff Saucier  
Territory Sales Manager  
Hussey Seating  
38 Dyer Street Ext.  
North Berwick, Maine 03906

markable POW Chair given to our Post.

Our State, Community and especially our Veterans are truly blessed to have people and businesses like you who sincerely care and make it possible that we should never forget the sacrifices given in honor and courage for our Country. Thank you for this from each one of us.

For God and Country,  
Roger K. Berube, Post Adjutant



**Attendees:** Members present at the Kezar Falls Post 123 POW/MIA chair presentation, left to right, Comrade David Randall, Adjutant Roger Berube, Sgt-At-Arms Wesley Stacey, Comrade Lynn Rendell, Commander Larry Stevenson, Comrade Lee Wadsworth, Comrade Barry Hadlock, and Chief Finance Officer Dan Lemeieux.

## 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; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

## So. Portland Post 35 Bottle Drive

On June 1, 2021, Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 started a Bottle Drive to collect funds to suspend the ceiling in the main meeting room of the Post. Fast Forward to 9/17/2022 and some 200,000 bottles and cans later, the ceiling job is done, walls painted, and floor refinished, and completely paid for from "Bottle Money". 200,000 bot-

tles at 5 cents apiece come to roughly \$10,000. Coupled with renting of the building, Post 35 is slowly rebuilding their Post one room at a time. Stewart P. Morrill Post is in a building that is over 100 years old and has housed the American Legion since 1932. Over the 102 years, there have been 70 plus Com-

[More on "BOTTLE DRIVE" Page 12](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### ■ "BOTTLE DRIVE" (Continued from Page 11)

manders, and all have left their mark.

Commander Linscott has pulled the Post off the auction block and turned it into one of the most productive posts

in the district, if not the Department. Linscott, a former salesman, can get things done and people motivated. The bottle drive is now looking for another project, as well as local causes to build the Legion and the community.

So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock

**Bottle Drive:** Left to right, So. Portland Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, Post 35 member Bob Hughes, and So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock.



## Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 3rd Annual Lobster Roll Lunch

On Saturday, September 3, the members of Post 35 in South Portland held their 3rd Annual Lobster Roll Lunch. The Post located on the Portland waterfront made a wonderful backdrop for a nice, warm, and refreshing outdoor event.

The Post purchased picked lobster meat from a local restaurant at a very reasonable price and the "Cooks" Ken Marston, Skip Farr, Paul Thibault and Ed Seymourian mixed the meat and stuffed the buns. Carmine Farr and

Mannie Janosik pre-packed the bags with chips and a cookie that went with the roll, cole slaw and a soda. The "Bargain Price" was \$15.00 that was gladly collected by Mary Neal. Commander Linscott "worked the crowd" and Adjutant Pock was the "Gopher". Don Warming, Bob Hughes, John Janosik, Tony Batchelor and Joe Tuffs were in charge of keeping things moving in the eating area.

Total Revenue from Lobster Roll Lunch \$1,195.74



**Lobster Lunch Crew,** left to right, Skip Farr, Carmine Farr, Ed Seymourian, Don Warming, John Janosik, Paul Thibault, Joe Tuff, Mannie Janosik, Mike Pock, Mary Neal Guy Linscott, Tony Batchelor, Ken Marston and Bob Hughes.

## Westbrook Post 62 Revives Its Monthly "First Wednesday" Post Meeting After a 2-Year Hiatus Due to COVID-19

Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 revived its traditional monthly "First Wednesday" Post Meeting on Sept 7. A Board of Directors Meeting was held at 4 PM, followed by a catered dinner from Profenno's at 6 PM.

Our first Guest Speaker since Feb 2020, was Joseph R. Wax, U.S. Navy Physician, Ret. His presentation was an unusual PowerPoint history of a SAC (Strategic Air Command) USAF

B-52 Stratofortress, based at Westover AFB in MA. With an augmented Crew of 9, the 8 Engine Jet Aircraft departed on January 24, 1963, for a new training mission along the northwestern Maine mountains at low elevations. Severe turbulence near Greenville separated the vertical stabilizer from the fuselage, resulting in an emergency bailout of the crew. Only 2 survived in -30°F temperatures and waist-deep snow.

Submitted by Westbrook Post 62  
Commander Dennis Marrotte



**Westbrook Post 62 Meeting Attendees:** Left to right, Post 62 Treasurer Gerry Doyon, Chaplain Phil LeClerc, Service Officer Harry Gorham, US Navy Ret. and guest speaker Joseph Wax, Post 62 Immediate Past Commander Roger Barr, Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr, and Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Wax Armstrong

## Westbrook's Veterans Appreciation Day

Saturday's BBQ was held at Westbrook's American Legion Post 62, for Westbrook's Veterans Appreciation Day. The cookout food and grille were provided by the Maine Community

Bank. Picnic tables and tents were provided by Westbrook Public Services, and Operations Director/Veterans Services Director, Arty Ledoux.

**At The Grill,** left to right, USAF Ret Clay McLaughlin and Joe Nelson, both Maine Community Bank officials. In the BBQ line, with the blue USMC Cap, is Arty Ledoux and his granddaughter.



**Maine Community Bank Officials,** USAF Ret. Clay McLaughlin, left, & Joe Nelson, right, did the grilling and toasting of the burger and hot dog rolls. Westbrook Mayor Michael T. Foley, with a plate and blue jacket, and his son. On the far right, with a blue USMC Cap, is Arty Ledoux.



**At The Picnic Table,** enjoying lunch, left to right, Mary and USMC Ret. Veteran Phil Leclerc, both Post 62 members, and Eleanor Mavadones. Directly in the back are members of Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder, Richard & Debbie Willoughby, Andrew Kelliher and several other Chapter 2 members. Under the blue EZY-UP Tent in the background are Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mahon. Tom is a US ARMY, Ret. and a new Post 62 member. Gary: US ARMY, Ret. and Roxanna York, both Post 62 members are seated facing the Mahons. Standing in the sunlight talking with Roxanna, is Lin Tanguay, wife of David Tanguay, 2nd District Adjutant, and a member of Windham Post 148. They both surprised us coming down to support the BBQ and Westbrook Veterans.

All photos by Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte

## Westbrook PD Discusses Issues With Post 62

**Members:** 15 Year Veteran of the Westbrook PD, Captain Steve Goldberg was our Guest Speaker, Wed. Oct. 5th. He discussed a variety of issues to Post members, along with



answering questions, following a lasagna dinner from Profenno's. A growing city, Westbrook's Police Department is working with Traffic and Construction issues - Drugs - Homeless People - Young People - Immigrant Families. Captain Goldberg is a native of the Greater Boston Area and a 2007 Graduate of Saint Joseph's College in Standish. He has worked in many different areas and departments within the Westbrook Police Department, along with working with us on both Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies and this year's Memorial Day Parade, the first one since 2019. Left to right, Post 62 Chaplain Richard Galipeau, Captain Steve Goldberg, and Post 62 Adjutant Gary York.

Photo courtesy of Westbrook Post 62 Dennis Marrotte



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



## Saber Presentations From Past &amp; Present Harrison Post 139

**Commanders:** Left photo: Post 139 Past Commander Stephen Wentworth presents a Saber to Cadet Andrew Lozzato. The saber is in Memory of a long-time Norwich Professor William "Pop" Bryan. Middle photo: Commander of Post 139 Jeremy Wentworth presents a saber to Cadet Luke Joyce. The Saber is in memory of SGT Dominick Pilla, who was killed in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 3, 1993. Right photo: Together Stephen and Jeremy Wentworth present a Saber to Cadet Clayton Mercer. The Saber is in Memory of SGT Thomas "Tommie" Field, a Maine Native, who was also killed in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 3, 1993. This is the 5th time the Wentworth's have presented sabers, together they have donated 9 sabers. The two were commended by the current President of Norwich University Major General Mark Anarumo and the past University President, Major General Richard W. Schneider.



Submitted by Harrison Post 139  
Commander Jeremy Wentworth

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 3

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



## Auburn Squadron 153 Receive 100% Membership Award:

Unable to attend the Annual State Convention in June, the Sons of The American Legion William J Rogers Squadron 153, Auburn, receive their 100% Membership Award at the Post home on July 20. Left to right, 1st Vice Commander Robert Farrington, Commander Denis Dubois, and State Adjutant of The American Legion, Paul L'Heureux.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 4

Farmington Post 28; Kingfield Post 61; Phillips Post 64; Strong Post 78; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120

## Freedom Is Not Free, It's Bought By Veterans

This is the day we honor vets, but we should honor them any chance we get. EVERY DAY SHOULD BE VETERAN'S DAY! – here's why.

What is a veteran? Many definitions by agency. Any person who serves on active duty and receives other than a dishonorable discharge.

Simpler for me – any person who takes the oath and serves honorably,

in peace or war, in combat or support. Remember it takes 7-10 rear-echelon personnel to support the front-line personnel. Here's why we should honor vets anytime we can.

As of 2018, since 1776, there are an estimated 41 MILLION Veterans! In 2018, 18 million are still with us. 1.4 million are on active duty. 1.3 million Veterans have died on active duty. My

first impulse is to say we are fortunate. But I think of the families and friends of these 1.3 million, and think; Not SO.

What war had the most KIA? Civil War about 660,000. 2nd most? WW2 about 500,000. BTW: we had about 16 million Americans in uniform during WW2. Also, total casualties on active duty; dead, wounded, MIA, is about 3.1 million. 1.8 million Purple Hearts. Much more pain and suffering.

Every Veteran who serves signs a "blank check". The amount is up to and including "life and limb". Every veteran who takes the oath and stands duty fills out this check, some get cashed, fortunately, most don't.



I also want to mention Firefighters and Law Officers too, have a similar "blank check"!

Our brave military men and women stand guard 24 - 7 - 365 around the

world, so we can pursue our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness in safety. Their peacetime training is dangerous; aircraft crashes, injuries, equipment failures, terrorists, etc. What about the enemy with the loaded rifle across the DMZ?

An old familiar, but so true poem. It's the veteran:

- Not the reporter who gives us freedom of press.

- Not the Government Official who gives us free speech

- Not the activist who gives us freedom to assemble

- Not the clergyman who gives us freedom of religion

- Not the government who ensures our right to bare arms

- Not the politician who ensures our right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness

This is why EVERYDAY SHOULD BE VETERAN'S DAY Thank you - salute: "present arms - order arms". Pete Tracy – Retired: Forester, Logger, Sapper Major - Maine Army National Guard. American Legion Post 28 – Farmington.

## Farmington Post 28 Happenings &amp; Events

The summer months were filled with activities at the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 in Farmington with headlining fundraisers, community events and post improvement projects. The August dog days of summer were greeted with a car wash fundraiser, the second of two held each year. Patrons lined up for a new coat of clean on cars, trucks and even a big rig. Several customers returned home to bring another vehicle in for a sparkling hand wash by exuberant Legionnaires. Many patrons were offered an interior spray wash if they left their windows rolled down and surprisingly not one accepted the offer.

Following on the heels of the car



**Farmington Post 28 August Car Wash fundraiser held Aug 6.** Left to right, Post 28 Bob Hallman, Post 28 Alton McCleery on truck tire, and Post 28 Paul Dalrymple.

wash, the annual community lobster feed was held at the Legion Hall for dine-in or take-out. This collaborative fundraising effort by Post 28 Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 and Unit 28 American Legion Auxiliary members proved fruitful with over 150 patrons served. Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 Commander Steve Cutler famously quipped throughout the event that "teamwork makes the dream work."

Like many Posts across Maine, the concern regarding the rising costs of heating oil sparked serious conversations at Post 28. A collective decision was made to replace an aging oil boiler with a new, energy efficient propane boiler to better serve the Post during the winter months. To help supplement the new heating system and provide cooling during the summer months, new mini-splits were installed in the main level of the Legion Hall. The fundraising effort for the mini-split system centered on weekly Friday Night Dinners at the Post for members, guests and area veterans, as well as individual donations. This highly successful and ongoing event truly sparked a spirit of Legion family togetherness with Legionnaires and Auxiliary members sharing in the home cooking duty each week.

Speaking of cooking, Post 28 scrambled to replace an aging commercial propane range just before the commu-

[More on "POST 28 EVENTS", Page 14](#)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 4 continued

■ **"POST 28 EVENTS"**  
(Continued from Page 13)

nity lobster feed. A gas leak deadlined the old range and through a miraculous effort by Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker a gently used commercial range was found and installed. To further freshen up the kitchen, the walls were painted in addition to the walk-in cooler door.

September showcases the annual Farmington Fair and highlights Post 28 presence in the community. In another collaborative fundraising effort

between Post 28 and Unit 28, a games booth and food booth were staffed during a rainy fair week to raise awareness of the American Legion and Auxiliary support to the local veteran community. Directly after fair week, Post 28 hosted its first Coffee and Checkers with Vets, which is planned to be a monthly event.

Riding the summer momentum, Post 28 has an ambitious slate of events scheduled for the fall and early winter to round out the year.

Submitted by Farmington Post 28  
Adjutant Drew Goodridge



**Lobster Feed Fundraiser** held Aug 20 for Farmington Post 28. Left photo depicts the dining set up in the basement level of the Post. Right photo, Head Lobster Cook, Farmington Post 28 Legionnaire Paul Dalrymple.

## 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

## Anchors Aweigh!

Jackson-Silver Post 68 was gifted eight of sixteen vintage US Navy Recruiting Posters by navy veteran Sara Pruyne. Commander Orcutt took the remaining eight posters to the annual Department Convention in Brewer. Three were selected by Napoleon Ouellette Post 24 Treasurer Tricia Thurston, aka, the newly elected Department 2nd Vice, three were selected by Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux for Headquarters, one by a District Commander who sat in front of the District 5 Delegation, and the last by some lucky Post who found it at the Free Table in the lobby.

Post 68's posters were framed in pairs. Two framed pairs hang on the Post Honor Wall in the Great Hall. The remaining two pairs are in the Post Executive Committee office, along with a framed image of Mt Rushmore, and George Washington. Though General Washington, later 1st US President, is best known as the Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolution, he was also the founder of the Continental Navy. Strangely, not one of the sixteen posters said anything about the US Marines who are indeed part of the Navy Department. Below is how they all look:



**Donated Vintage Navy Posters:** New member Sara Pruyne, in front of her donated US Navy Posters.



**Post 68 Executive Room Posters:** Posters in the Executive Committee Room, left. Number One, right photo, above the Executive Committee Room Inside Entry.

Texas Hold'em at Post 68  
Yippee Yi Yo Kayah!

Of late, a Texas Hold'em Tournament is held at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills on the first Saturday of every month. A varying menu of delicious meals is prepared by Unit 68 Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell, and the fare is available at reasonable prices. Also available at the Post 68 Canteen, as the playing guests work up a well-earned appetite from 13:00 to, usually, 18:00 hours, are snacks, desserts, and non-alcoholic drinks.

To make the events more festive and interesting, Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, who issues the playing chips, computes the payouts depending on the number of guests playing, and pays out the winnings, strives to live up to his politically earned moniker "Hats" by wearing a different chapeau at each event. Some guests have stated that they regularly attend to find out what headgear the Commander has come up with this time.



**Man of Many Hats:** Left photo, Harry Orcutt New Years Day 2022, right photo, Harry Orcutt in September. "September was the end of summer, but it was still Hot Tamales".

## Recent Member On-Board for Post Adjutant

Once again answering the call of "All Hands on Deck", recent Post 68 member Sara Pruyne, who had already volunteered her talents as Post IT/PR Chairman, stepped up to fill the critically needed office of Adjutant which had become vacant. Installing Sara at the Post August 18th General Meeting was Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, who, upon opening the meeting, surrendered the podium to the Adjutant of

District 5 (himself) by stepping completely around it. He was assisted by Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake.

The Installation was performed following the 103rd Jackson-Silver Post Anniversary Potluck Supper, attended by 18 members and guests. Left photo, Appointment Warrant for Adjutant in hand; right photo, Sara signing her first membership card for a member present in the audience.





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

## Craft/Vendors Flea Market at Post 68

Former Greenwood Selectwoman and Unit 68 member Marie Bartlett has returned to organizing merchandising events for Post 68, after an eighteen-month hiatus caused by the Wuhan Virus Pandemic. The latest iteration was the August 27th Craft/Vendors – Flea Market Fair, which was enormously successful. Besides the tables for Post guests, priced reasonably for \$20 apiece, both the Auxiliary and Post had sale tables with donated items. Included with the Auxiliary monetary total were proceeds from the Unit 68 Canteen. At the end of the day, the Auxiliary realized \$380 which was donated to the Auxiliary Department President's Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention project. The Post table included camping and US Armed Forces clothing suitable for hunting and the outdoors donated by Adrian Vielhauer of Rumford. Those items continue to be sold at almost every Post event on a "make-an-offer" basis.

On Saturday, November 12th, Marie will reprise her organizing specialty

with a Christmas Craft/Vendor Fair, where crafted items suitable for unique Christmas gifts, and festive food items will be available for sale. Unit 68 Auxiliary will once again staff its Canteen where meals, snacks, desserts, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available to dedicated shoppers.

Of special note, on December 9th, 10th, and 11th, Jackson-Silver Post will co-sponsor with the Oxford County Kora Shrine Club, the Oxford County version of Kora Shrine's Festival of Trees. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance, and there will be a children's craft table. Multiple decorated trees sponsored by area businesses, with products under the trees or valuable coupons affixed to the branches, will be raffled on the last day of the event. The Post was selected because of its central Oxford County location, its ease of winter access, the internal spaciousness of its Great Hall, and its ample promptly plowed parking lot.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68  
Commander Harry G Orcutt



**The Great Hall,** above photo, was fully utilized. Unit 68 Canteen at left. Left photo, Locke Mills Union Church tables (foreground); Auxiliary Unit 68 tables (background).

## Adding to Post 68's Ambiance

The Patch Blanket, as previously reported, was secured to the inside front wall of the Great Hall at Jackson-Silver Post 68, Locke's Mills, by the Commander and Sgt-at-Arms. The Sgt-at-Arms had provided the CO with the measurements between two of the Hall windows. The CO cut the bracket to that exact length. When the bracket containing the blanket was put up, it was discovered that it was ½ inch too long. As it happened, that allowed for a ¼ inch overlap on each window frame, thus giving sufficient support as the CO precariously held it in place on one ladder, while the Sgt-at-Arms secured

it to studs with drywall screws. So, of course, upon reflection, we planned it that way. As Richard Grover, our beloved comrade of Post 81 would say,



**Post 68 Honor Wall Plaque Display**

"That's my story and I'm sticking to it!"

At the 2021 Department Annual Convention in Brewer, Post 68 acquired five US Armed Forces carved Service Plaques. A Plaque for the US Space Force was not available at that time. We set up our five plaques so that when one for the Space Force became available, it would be atop all the others -- not, as the others had been, in the sequence in which the Services were first organized. Fast forward one year to the 2022 Convention. Ralph Col-

ins originalhideawayboxman@gmail.com of Corinth, Maine was able to fill our need. As it turned out, it's a good thing that we set our plaques up in a delta wing, as Ralph also had an awesome "Don't Tread on Me – Ready to Strike" plaque that neatly fit into the middle of our display. Visitors to the Post have commented that our plaques are the first thing they see on our Honor Wall when they enter our Great Hall. We think it was well worth the \$300.00 or so spent on these enhancements to our Post.



### Post 68 Patch Blanket Display:

Left to right, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, his wife, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, who sewed the patches, and Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, who secured the blanket bracket to the wall.

## 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; Warren Post 218



**Tenants Harbor Post 34 Parade Walk:** Attending St. George's Days and walking the parade, left to right, Post 34 member Dave Percival, Post 34 Finance & Service Officer Jan Gaudio, Post 34 Historian Ray Emerson, and Post 34 2nd Vice Commander Dale Griffin.

**Tenants Harbor Post 34 Funeral Honors** for Corporal Lionel Heal. Left to right, Post 34 2nd Vice Commander Dale Griffin, Post 34 Historian Ray Emerson, Post 34 PUFL Member Bob Sorg, Post 34 Adjutant Steve Pomakis.



**Post 34 Funeral Honors** for Jay Balano. Left to right, Tenants Harbor Post 34 Historian Ray Emerson, 1st Vice Commander Thornton Batty, and Adjutant Steve Pomakis.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 7

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



**Complaint Department:** After hearing the Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, right, talk about running the complaint department at State HQ, District 7 Commander Zakia Thiesen, left, decided that he should have a sign for his office. When Adjutant L'Heureux finished his visit at Damariscotta Post 42 on Sept. 7, Zakia presented him the sign so it would be official that he does run the "Complaint Department".

Photo by Damariscotta Post 42 member Kassidy Gilbert

## Damariscotta Post 42

## Toll Booth Fundraiser:

Damariscotta Post 42 held a fundraiser in front of their Post. They set-up a "Toll Booth" on Main Street to collect donations to support suicide prevention. Members from the Auxiliary, Sons, and the Legion were there to participate, and it was a successful event. Left photo, front to back, Aaron Bond and SAL member Kevin Brewer collecting tolls. Middle photo, left to right, SAL Commander Gunnar Gunderson and Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin. Right photo, under the tent, left to right, Retired Air Force Vet Mark Leeman, Veteran Mike Johnson, Retired USMC Ralph Eugley, and WWII Veteran Ralph Moxie.

All photos by Damariscotta Post 42 Service Officer Mike Brewer



## Post 54 Aids WES Teacher's Family With Costs Related to Daughter's Stroke

Samantha Crawford said via email Sept. 22, she continues to be "speechless and very blessed" by the support people are showing as daughter Angelina, 12, works to recover from the June stroke that paralyzed her from the neck down. Wiscasset Newspaper contacted the Wiscasset Elementary School pre-K teacher again after American Legion Post 54 of Wiscasset do-

nated \$1,000 to help the family with costs related to Angelina's care.

The post's adjutant, Cliff Hendricks, said in a phone interview Sept. 22, members read the [recent Wiscasset Newspaper article](#) on all the family has been facing. Members wanted to help because that is why the post raises money – "to help people in need where we can in the community." The post do-

nates to food banks and helps in other ways, like the \$1,000 check for Crawford's family, Hendricks explained.

Sept. 21, Hendricks, Post Cmdr. William Cossette Jr. and fellow members Neil Page, Bob Milligan and John Kennedy presented the check to WES Principal Kathleen Pastore and educational technician Patricia Hanley. Pastore explained Hanley "has stepped up to the role of teacher in Ms. Crawford's absence."

Crawford said sharing Angelina's story has resulted in the additional fundraising that has been "a blessing to our family and all the expenses, but it is also helping to get her story out. Pediatric strokes are very rare. I never heard of them before and her story is helping bring awareness for others. The journey is not always easy, but there is hope and the blessing of the community support is uplifting during this difficult time," she added.

Her daughter is continuing to work hard and is now weaned off the ventilator, Crawford said. "The process was not easy but she continues to improve and we hope that her body continues to get stronger in breathing independently. She got medically cleared on Monday (Sept. 19) to leave for her first outing from the hospital ... She was able to go to Starbucks with her occupational therapists and a peer. It was a very exciting and positive experience for her. While out, she got a gift for her younger sister's (Rosaria) upcoming (11th) birthday which brought her even more joy.

"She is missing home, but keeps that

motivation to drive her efforts to get stronger," Crawford shared. "There are many unknowns of how much long term impact the stroke will have for her health and physical abilities, but we know that she won't give up. She is excited to get back to seeing her friends, being with horses and hopefully riding again, and being outside in familiar and favored places, in hopes for accessibility for her to continue to enjoy."

Hendricks said, like other help Post 54 provides in the community, what the Legion post did was the easy part. The real work is what Angelina and her family are going through, he said.

He added, the post is part of the community, with many ties to it and its schools. He noted Cossette's son Warren is Wiscasset Middle High School's assistant principal, and Milligan's wife Lori Cronk drives a bus for the school department. When Post members were at WES for the presentation, around Wednesday's early release time, Cronk was there picking up students, Hendricks said.

Friday night, Sept. 23 at Wiscasset's "Dancing on the Dock" end of season celebration, more than \$1,000 was raised for Angelina's medical costs, Selectman Terry Heller said Sept. 24.

The GoFundMe campaign benefiting Angelina's medical costs and any other family costs around her treatment is at <https://gofund.me/261eabf5> <https://www.wiscassetnewspaper.com/article/post-54-aids-wes-teacher-s-family-costs-related-daughter-s-stroke/165694>

By Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper, 09/23/2022

## At Wiscasset Elementary

School, Sept 21, American Legion Post 54 of Wiscasset Commander William Cossette Jr. presents Principal Kathleen Pastore with the post's \$1000 donation to aid pre-K teacher Samantha Crawford's family. Also pictured are, front right, educational technician Patricia Hanley, and back, starting second from left, Post 54 members John Kennedy, Neil Page, Bob Milligan, and Cliff Hendricks.

Courtesy Photo

## Post 54 & Post 42 Team Up for Parade: This

past July 4th parade, held in Wiscasset, members of American Legion Damariscotta Post 42 and Wiscasset Post 54 were the honor guard for the parade. Left to right, Sean Pucket, Jim Hazel, Tom Stoner, John Kennedy and Bruce Poland. A special thanks to Water Lily Flowers and Gifts of Wiscasset who

donated three carnation wreaths and 300 carnations which were handed out by American Legion District 7 Commander Zakia Thiesen and new Post 54 member Kate Myers. Teresa Fogg of Fogg's Framing and Art of Wiscasset, graciously donated her time in helping to paint and decorate the float.

Photo by Mary Hendricks





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8

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



**Maine Army National Guard Band** plays at the Veterans Plaza for the community on July 6. This was a joint project hosted by the Brunswick Recreation Department and Post 20 (working for and with the community).



**Harpswell Post 171 Officers** arrive at The Grange for their installation. Left to right, 1st Vice John Ott, Executive Committeeman Bill Sabrowski, Historian Minerva Vazquez, Asst. Sgt-At-Arms Scott MacInnes, Asst. Americanism/Service Officer Bill Allen.

Photo by Lili Ott



**Installation Of 2023 Harpswell Post 171 Officers** was held at The Grange on Sat, July 23. Being installed, left to right, Commander Mike Doyle, 1st Vice John Ott, Chaplain Matt Maurer, Finance Officer Bill O'Connell. Historian Minerva Vazquez. Installing Officer Past District 8 Commander/Post 171 Adjutant Bob Webber is at left. Also installed, but not shown were Asst. Service/Americanism Officer Bill Allen, Sgt-At-Arms Joe Civita, Asst. Sgt-At-Arms Scott MacInnes, Executive Committeeman Bill Sabrowski.

Photo by Lili Ott

## Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings &amp; Events

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a very busy summer which started with their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in June at the Town Hall Parking Lot.

In July we held our 7th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day. This is a "BBQ and Recognition Ceremony" for area veterans and their families. This year it was a joint effort between Legion Post 216 and VFW Post 7738. Post Commander Ken Kellogg and VFW Post Commander Fred Libby gave opening remarks followed by the acknowledgment of service in which each veteran was asked to stand as their service hymn was played. Attending veterans received Honor Certificates for their Military Service and Vietnam Commemoration certificates and pins. Blue Star Banners were presented to families with loved ones serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. After the POW/MIA "Table for One" ceremony, those in attendance were served a BBQ lunch. The VA Mobile Veterans Center was present to assist veterans. Post member and Vietnam Veteran Harald Zinke had recently returned from his Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. and spoke to attendees about his experiences, and Veteran Ronald Flink was presented with the book "Korea Reborn – A Grateful Nation" for his service during the Korean War.

In August we conducted a Post Everlasting service for Comrade Richard Albertson (Captain, USN Retired).

Many of "Uncle Rick's" family members were present. Comrade Albertson joined Post 216 in 2011, the year after the Post was chartered. Comrade Albertson passed at the age of 91 and full military honors were conducted at graveside. Also, in August we held our annual Legion Family Lobster and Clam Bake at the Riddleys Landing dock in Sebasco. Comrade Albertson started hosting this event in 2011 (his children intend to continue hosting this event in his honor). The last event in August was the Post providing an Honor Guard to lead the annual Popham Parade. The parade and "bonfire and flare night" that followed is held to recognize the founding of the Popham Colony in 1607.

At the September Post Meeting attendees conducted a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. During September Post members also removed Veteran grave marker flags throughout the 42 public and private cemeteries in Town.

Also, this summer Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg participated in the Legion "100 Miles for Hope" fundraiser, accumulating 101 miles and raising \$475.00 for a great cause.

Things will start to quiet down as we enter the fall and winter. Planned events include the decorating of the Phippsburg Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Park for Christmas and the Post's annual Christmas Potluck supper.

Phippsburg Post 216  
Adjutant & Public Affairs Officer Mike Young

100 Miles For Hope

**Phippsburg Post 216** Commander Ken Kellogg participates in the Legion "100 Miles for Hope" fundraiser, accumulating 101 miles and raising \$475.00 for a great cause.

Photos by Phippsburg Post  
216 Finance Officer  
Debra Reddinger

Veteran's Appreciation Day**Honor Certificate:**

Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, left, and VFW Post 7738 Commander Fred Libby, right, present an "Honor Certificate" to Army Veteran Cynthia Brown, middle, at the "Veterans Appreciation Day".

Photo by Chilloa Young

[More on "EVENTS" Page 18](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### “EVENTS”

(Continued from Page 17)

#### Food Prep:

Chilloa Young prepares the food line-up at the “Veterans Appreciation Day”.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Pins & Certificates:** Attendees at the “Veterans Appreciation Day” are presented with Vietnam Commemoration certificates and pins by Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, end right, and VFW Post 7738 Commander Fred Libby, right, second from end.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Comrade Jim Leverso** from Cape Cod, Ma. at the “Veterans Appreciation Day”.



**Honor Certificates:** Holding their certificates, left to right, Army Veterans Ron Flink, Tiffany Brown and Gerald Kincaid receive “Honor Certificates” for their military service at the “Veterans Appreciation Day”.

**Blue Star Banner:** Army Veteran Ron Flink receives a Blue Star Banner at the “Veterans Appreciation Day”. Left to right, Acting Sgt-At-Arms Dave Barnes, Veteran Ron Flink, VFW Post 7738 Commander Fred Libby, and Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photos by Chilloa Young



## Popham Parade



**Popham Parade Leaders:** Left to right, Adjutant Mike Young, Commander Ken Kellogg, FO Deb Reddinger and Comrade Larry Swizdor lead the Popham Parade.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Relaxing After The Parade:** Left to right, back row, Comrade Larry Swizdor, Commander Ken Kellogg, Adjutant Mike Young, and, front, Finance Officer Deb Reddinger relax as the sun sets after the Popham Parade.

Photo by Chilloa Young

## Post Everlasting



**Post Everlasting:** Chaplain Richard Spear transfers Comrade Rick Albertson's records to Post Everlasting at his Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Reminiscing:** Commander Ken Kellogg reminisces with Rick Albertson's son, Leif, about “Uncle Rick” as he was affectionately known by Post members at his Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Photo Board:** Comrade Albertson's grand-nephew, Nick Wells, reviews the photo board of “Uncle Rick's” post career at his Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young

## Flag Retirement Ceremony



**Carrying Tattered US Flags** to be retired at the Post's Flag Retirement Ceremony. In the front is Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, back left to right, Comrade Tiffany Brown and Tiffany's daughter, Kiara.

Photo by Chilloa Young

More on “FLAG CEREMONY” Page 19



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### ■ "FLAG CEREMONY" (Continued from Page 18)



Honor Guard Officers, left to right, Comrade Larry Swizdor, Chaplain Richard Spear, Commander Ken Kellogg, and Comrade Roger Howard head up the Post's Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young

**Retiring of  
Flags:** Left to right,  
Vice Commander  
Scott Miller, Adjutant  
Mike Young and  
Comrade Bob Belben  
retire the remaining  
flags after the Post's  
Flag Retirement  
Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young



## Lobster & Clam Bake



**POW/MIA Set-Up/Lobster & Clam Bake:** Finance Officer Deb Reddinger finishes setting the POW/MIA table as Post members and their families gather at the Lobster and Clam Bake.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young



**Enjoying the Lobster & Clam Bake:** Left photo, left to right, Comrade Richard Spear, Shyla Spear, Ken Reddinger, and Gayle Kopansky enjoy the Lobster and Clam Bake. Right photo, Comrade Dick Soule, right rear, his wife Carol, right front, son Danny, left front, and his wife Terri, left rear.

Photos by Phippsburg Post 216 Finance Officer Deb Reddinger



**Paying Respect:**  
Comrades Tim Williams,  
left, and Larry Swizdor,  
right, pay their respects  
to our POW/MIA's as  
they approach the Riddleys  
Landing Dock for the Post  
Lobster and Clam Bake.

Photo by  
Phippsburg Post 216  
Finance Officer  
Deb Reddinger

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 13

Bangor Post 12; E Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 75; Lincoln Post 77;  
Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107;  
Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Herman Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213



**Howland Post 97 Member Recognition:** American Legion Post 97 in Howland presents 50-year member Philip E McPhail with a "Certificate of Continuous Membership" from National Commander Paul Dillard, and a "Certificate of Appreciation from the Citizens of Maine" signed by Janet Mills, Governor of Maine. The Certificate of Appreciation was in recognition of his honorable service during the Korean War in the Armed Forces of our country. Left to right, Post 97 Commander Joe Briggs, Philip E. McPhail, District 13 Commander John Neel, and Post 97 Americanism Officer James Hatch.



**Brewer Post 98 Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon:** On August 26th, Brewer Post 98 served a thank you BBQ lunch to Brewer Police and Fire departments for their service to the community.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 14

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



**Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Bingo Nights:** Post 29 in Dover Foxcroft has started hosting Bingo again on Thursday nights. Our longtime Bingo Chairman has decided to retire. We would like to thank Bart for his years of service as the Bingo Chairman; his shoes will be hard to fill. We are very lucky to have most of the members who used to help come back. Thank you to all who help make this possible and hopefully some more members are able to help out. Left to right, Floyd Mooney, Andy Johnston, Mike Henderson, Luis Ayala, Matt Smith, and Lliam Perkins Thursday Night Bingo, Post 29 Dover Foxcroft Photo by Bill Siemerling.



**Post 29 "Team Ball Of Duty":** Dover Foxcroft American Legion Post 29 "Team Ball of Duty" along with members from Greenville American Legion Post 94 participated in their first softball season as a part of the Piscataquis Regional YMCA Coed Softball league this past summer. It was an exciting time and amazing memories were shared with our team; we cannot wait for next season!!

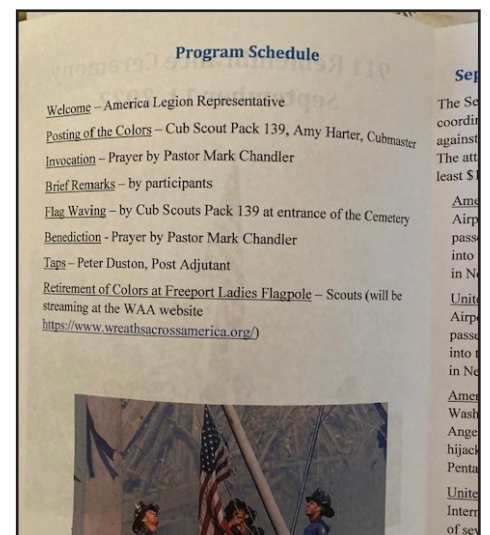
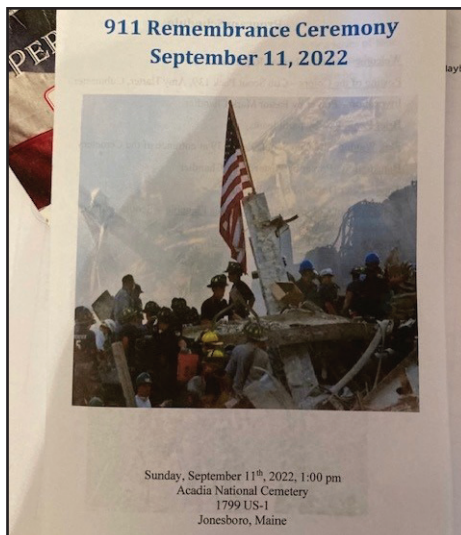
## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15

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

### Cherryfield Post 8 Bottle Redemption Trailer

**Helps Local Scout Units:** Cherryfield Post 8 allows Troop and Pack 139 of West Washington County to park their bottle redemption trailer next to the Legion Hall. Since it's a central location, it's obvious to local townspeople and helps provide a steady income to the units that is vital to their survival and continued support to youth. The modern version of the "Bottle Drive" works nicely, keeping the young scouts out of questionable situations if they went door to door. With this arrangement, the redemption center makes weekly pickups and sends a monthly check to the Scouts - great arrangement! Note to other Posts: consider trying this creative approach to helping your local scout units!



**Cherryfield Post 8 Memorial Day Ceremony:** Cherryfield Post 8 and West Washington County Cub Pack 139 co-hosted this year's 9/12 Memorial Program for the Acadia National Cemetery in Jonesboro. Posting of the Color's was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Scout Emery Merchant. Military family member Pastor Mark Chandler led the group in prayer. Taps was played by Post 8 Adjutant and Department Scouting Chair Peter Duston. Following the short program, the Scouts waved flags to passing cars on Rt 1 outside the Cemetery gates and retired Color's at the nearby Freeport Flag Ladies Memorial Flag Monument with Taps closing the ceremony. The Color Guard consisted of Scouts Emery Merchant and Julianna Harter. Cooperating with local scouts in memorial programs is a great way for posts to teach our youth about duty, service and sacrifice!!!



### Cherryfield Post 8 WWII Vet Shows Off His Coin From The National

**Commander:** Orlando King is a resident of the Maine Veterans Home and was presented the challenge coin by Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston at the facility. King served in the US Navy during WWII. He appeared quite pleased with this token of his service.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued



## Cherryfield Post 8 Helps Scouts Fundraise For Summer Camp:

SSgt Savage Bloomer, a jet mechanic with the Maine Air National Guard and Post 8 member in Cherryfield, shows 10-year-old Cub Scout Shuichi Ishii how easy the turbine of a Refueling Tanker works. Bloomer is an Eagle Scout and a recent graduate of the aviation science program at the University of Maine Augusta. Post 8 works closely with Cub Pack 139 and Troops 139; assisting these units with fundraising for summer camp. Shuichi was here as an exchange scout from Japan, attending Camp

Roosevelt in Eddington, at the invitation of Post 8 Adjutant and Department Scouting Chair Peter Duston, who urges all Posts to get more active in Scouting if they aren't already.

## 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 176; St. Francis Post 180



**Van Buren Post 49 Free Supper:** On Sept 15, the American Legion Post 49 Officers and an Auxiliary volunteer put on a free supper for all volunteers in the Van Buren area, which served 100 people, volunteers and their spouses. This event was for all organizations who gave of their time in our community. It was very much appreciated by all; therefore, the American Legion Post 49 will be making this a yearly event. Front row, left to right, Joan Doucette, Alphy Durette, Gene Levesque. Back row, left to right, Roy Doucette, Bob Lapierre, Reynold Pelletier, Bob Rossignol and not pictured Harvey Beaulieu who worked the kitchen and was tending Bar.

## Westbrook Mission a Thumbs-up for Veterans Day

Work on improvements and upgrades at Veterans Rest in Woodlawn Cemetery is complete and will be the site of the city's Veterans Day ceremony next week.



Veterans Rest in Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery has a new look for this year's Veterans

Day commemoration and veterans are pleased with the result. From left, are American Legion Post 62 Past Commander Roger Barr, Westbrook Veterans Services Office Director Arty Ledoux, and Legion Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte.

Robert Lowell / American Journal

Westbrook's annual Veterans Day ceremony is moving this year from its usual setting at the soldiers monument in Riverbank Park to the newly made-



Veterans Rest features a solar-powered light on the flagpole and new pavement.

Robert Lowell / American Journal

over Veterans Rest at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The traditional commemoration and ceremony is set for 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11.

Woodlawn's 72-year-old Veterans Rest section is now decked out with a solar-lit flag pole, new pavers, granite curbing, freshly seeded grass and new pavement, along with cleaned and straightened gravestones.

The \$38,000 makeover came in \$7,000 under the City Council's \$45,000 budget for the project, according to Arty Ledoux, director of Westbrook Veterans Service Office, who managed the project.

"It was my baby," Ledoux, a Marine Corps veteran, said Monday, and he is pleased with the results. "It brought dignity and respect."

The majority of the work was contracted out with some performed by Westbrook Public Services.

Veterans Day was first commemorated as Armistice Day in 1919 following the end of World War I. Hostilities had ceased on the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month in 1918. The observance was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all American veterans of all wars and is a federal holiday.

The Veterans Rest project "had to be completed by September so we could grow grass" in time for the observance, Ledoux said.

Paul DiMatteo of Maine Memorial

Co. of South Portland installed the final piece of the project Tuesday, a granite monument bearing the site's original bronze plaque.



Paul DiMatteo of Maine Memorial Co. in South Portland, left, and assistant Bryan Gower install a granite memorial Tuesday at Veterans Rest in Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Robert Lowell / American Journal

Veterans Rest contains 39 graves of those who served in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

American Legion Memorial Post 197 donated the POW/MIA flag.

Legionnaires praised the upgrade Monday.

"This looks great – marvelous job," said Roger Barr, past commander of the Legion's Stephen W. Manchester Post 62.

Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte called the upgrade "very nice."

Veterans Rest will be shipshape for next week's ceremony with Fire Chief Stephen Sloan and Police Chief Sean

Lally posting the colors after a bell rings 11 times. Girl Scouts of Maine will decorate graves with U.S. flags.

Ledoux will serve as master of ceremonies and Mayor Michael Foley will deliver a proclamation after Legion Post 197 Commander Jim Grant and Marrotte lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Richard Galipeau of Post 62 delivers the invocation.

Phil Leclerc of Post 62 and former Mayor Mike Sanphy will recite poems. Jim Gallant and Junie Dugas will perform patriotic songs.

Following the Veterans Day commemoration, Foley will rededicate the refurbished Veterans Rest in a separate ceremony.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2022/11/02/westbrook-mission-a-thumbs-up-for-veterans-day/>

By Robert Lowell,  
American Journal,  
Nov 2, 2022



Arty Ledoux places a flag at Veterans Rest in Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Robert Lowell / American Journal



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Feb. 8, 2022



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Cut it out



T a p s   C o l u m n

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 2 – Augusta	Peter J Ezzy	Vietnam	Post 74 – Kennebunk	John R Laflamme	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Vance A Cayford, Jr	Persian_Gulf	Post 77 – Lincoln	Lester O Delano	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Eugene E Couture	Korea	Post 77 – Lincoln	James S Tash	Panama
Post 5 – Waterville	Roy D Gross	WWII	Post 80 – Millinocket	Walter V Goodine	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Charles F Shoudy, Jr	Vietnam	Post 80 – Millinocket	Wilbur S Stewart	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Leonel F Veilleux	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	Lawrence W Winslow	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Richard K Ireland	Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	David J Dekanich	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Theodore G Bombardier	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Clarence W Bell Jr	Korea
Post 22 – Augusta	Daniel A Kirouac	Vietnam	Post 92 – Brownville Jct	Richard Melanson	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert I Arsenault	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Robert C Gaff	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert L Bates	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	John W. McDonald	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Clifford R Haynes	Vietnam	Post 102 – Stonington	James E Bray	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Norman Voter	Vietnam	Post 105 – Newport	Stanley S Fowler	WWII
Post 28 – Farmington	Charles G Davis Jr	Vietnam	Post 105 – Newport	Robert W Gipson	WWII
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Desmond A Coy	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Jenner Brown	Vietnam
Post 35 – So. Portland	Charles Boivin	Korea	Post 111 – Turner	Paul Comeau	Vietnam
Post 35 – So. Portland	John Galt	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Gordon A Reed	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Nunzio Biondello	WWII	Post 119 – Guilford	Norman L Fraser	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	David R Gubbins	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Edward A Spiller	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Glenn Hartley		Post 136 – Stockholm	Ronnie Ouellette	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Ronald J Page	Vietnam	Post 136 – Stockholm	Norman StPierre	WWII
Post 39 – Madison	Gene D Tweedie	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Gerald R Chamberlain	
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Gary L Clifford	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Robert J Hebert	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Malcom Oliver	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Normand Nadeau	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Donald O Smith	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Louis G Roy	Korea
Post 45 – Danforth	Winston P Bartlett	WWII	Post 148 – Windham	Richard Daigle	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Roger C Marley	WWII	Post 171 – Harpswell	Robert M Bibber	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Gary R Tingley	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Lee E Chapman	WWII
Post 50 – Unity	Lloyd E Carter	WWII	Post 171 – Harpswell	Philip E Sumner	WWII
Post 67 – Bridgton	Robert Mawhinney	Vietnam	Post 173 – N. New Portland	Francis L Chane	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	Frank J McGee	Vietnam	Post 173 – N. New Portland	Ronald M Coffin	Korea
Post 69 – Southwest Harbor	Wesley W Corson	Vietnam	Post 180 – St. Francis	Doyle Jandreau	Vietnam
Post 69 – Southwest Harbor	Harold N Hall	Korea	Post 180 – St. Francis	Joel N Jandreau	Vietnam
Post 72 – South Paris	C. Walther Brown		Post 188 – Eliot	Philip Lytle	Vietnam
Post 72 – South Paris	Richard R Cylik	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Elmer L Folsom	WWII
Post 72 – South Paris	Ronald S Estes	Korea	Post 200 – Hermon	William O Benson	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Willard W Hart Jr		Post 204 – Monmouth	Charles M Shaw Jr	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Robert Sundberg		CN09 – Canada	Leo J Weist	Vietnam

The American Legion, Department of Maine  
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program  
Thomas College, Waterville | February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.  
(Snow Date: Feb. 18, 2023)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

The main purpose of The American Legion Oratorical Contest “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the State level \$50

- \$1500. At the National level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest’s 1st round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with the District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2022 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2023.

The 2023 **National Finals is April 21-23** in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham

Indianapolis West Hotel. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 22, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 23.

**Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 13, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. EDT.** Failure to meet this deadline WILL result in disqualification of the contestant.

For additional questions and/or information pertaining to the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairperson Maureen Malley at [maureenmalley.66@gmail.com](mailto:maureenmalley.66@gmail.com). More information can also be obtained by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org), your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the State and Local Oratorical contests by visiting National’s website at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).

SWEEPSTAKES  
WINNERS

Winners of the Fall Sweepstakes Raffle drawn at the Fall Convention at the Millinocket Elks Lodge in Millinocket on October 1.

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Raymond Vance, Westbrook Post 197; \$500 to Morris Wright, Windham Post 148; \$300 to Mary Lee, Milo Auxiliary Unit 41, and \$200 to Chet Abbott, Rumford Post 24.

CONGRATULATIONS!





## Attention: Next Deadline is January 20

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **February 2023** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **January 20, 2023**.

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

Illegible 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.

Photo(s) should include the following: who is in the photo (left to right), what the photo is about, where the event took place, and who took the picture (optional). All photos will be returned for clarification and submission of the required information if the above mentioned is not provided.

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](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)

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Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

To update your address, complete all sections of the above form and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.



**Frenchville Post 145 Certificate Of Appreciation:** National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, center, and State Commander Kirk Thurston, right, present Frenchville Post 145 Commander Percy Thibeault, left, with a Certificate of Appreciation during the National Commander's visit to the Department of Maine. The presentation took place at Frenchville Post 145 on Oct. 20.

### Show Your Support to Maine Veterans & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

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For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)



Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2023 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).



**Recognition Awarded To Legion Rider Secretary:** American Legion Riders State and Chapter 147 Secretary Bridget Ellis, center, is awarded with an Appreciation Certificate from National Commander Troiola, right, and State Commander Kirk Thurston, left, during the National Commander's visit to Madawaska Post 147 on Oct. 21.

To view more photos of the National Commander's visit, please [click here](https://www.legion.org/commander/photos/257346/national-commander-troiola-visits-department-maine), or visit <https://www.legion.org/commander/photos/257346/national-commander-troiola-visits-department-maine>



**National Commander Visits Eagle Lake Post 176:** During National Commander Troiola's official visit to Maine Oct. 19 - Oct. 23, one of many Legion Posts visited in the north was Eagle Lake Post 176 on Oct. 22. National Commander Troiola, right, is seen here presenting Department Sgt.-At-Arms and Eagle Lake Post 176 Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, with a National Commander's photo for the Post home and a Be the One license plate.

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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.