

THE MAINE Legionnaire



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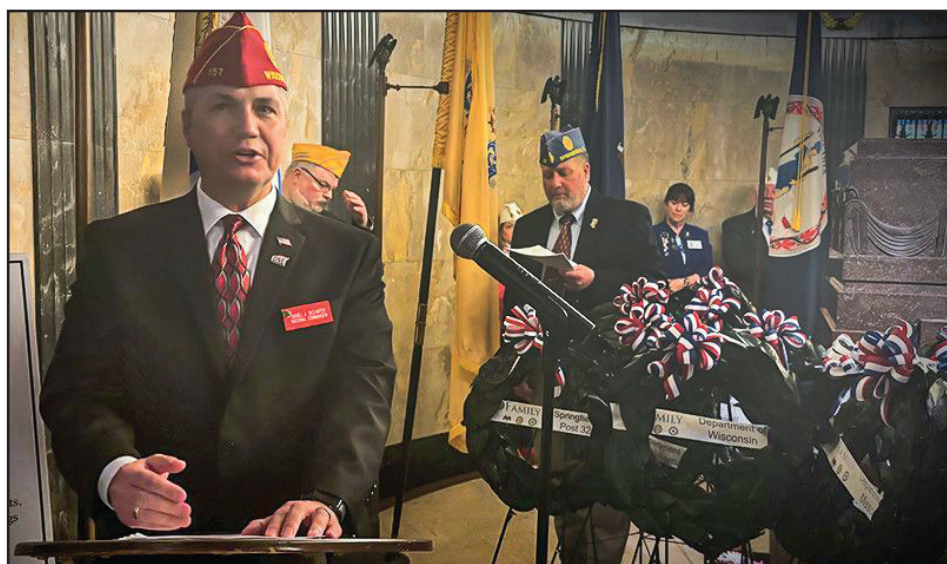
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

Commander Praises Lincoln's 'Moral Clarity'



American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer visits the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln on Monday, Feb. 12.

Photo by John Raughter/The American Legion

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer elaborated on the meaning of right making might during two keynote addresses at the 90th annual American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln Monday.

"President Lincoln had moral clarity, which defined his entire career," Seehafer said during a wreath-laying held on the morning of the 16th president's birthday. "He knew it was right to preserve the Union and emancipate the slaves. His charitable nature would have undoubtedly benefited his most hardened opponents had an assassin's bullet not robbed this nation of his leadership during reconstruction."

During a luncheon that day, Seehafer pointed to Nazi Germany, the Japanese empire and the Soviet Union as examples of military strength without righteous cause.

"They did not have the moral clarity needed to prevail. In fact, they had just the opposite," he said. "Oppression, aggression and genocide were their vices and downfalls."

American Legion Post 32 in Springfield, Ill., has led the longest running annual observance held on Lincoln's birthday since 1935. At least 13 departments were represented at this year's pilgrimage.

"This annual pilgrimage is now an American Legion Family tradition and one that would please President Lincoln were he to join us today. Our family is reunited once again," said Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 Commander James Peters, Jr. "We are honored to host the national officers of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion and members of the American Legion Family from states across the nation to honor President Lincoln, our state's favorite son, America's greatest president and this tradition."

American Legion Auxiliary Past National President Sharon Conatser, an Illinois native, compared Lincoln's commitment to veterans to that of the American Legion Family. "In 1855, he said, 'Always bear in mind that your

[More on "MORAL CLARITY" Page 2](#)

Renew for 2025 with a Multiyear Membership

If you renewed for the 2024 American Legion membership year prior to the new multiyear membership rollout on Dec. 4, you can now take advantage of a three-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.

Visit legion.org/renew for the multiyear membership of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Legionnaires still needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can also lock-in a three-year membership (2024, 2025 and 2026) by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join.

Here is what you need to know

about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website (legion.org/renew and legion.org/join). Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a three-year membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

[More on "Multiyear Membership" Page 4](#)



National Commander's Official Visit To Maine:

National Commander Daniel Seehafer made his official visit to the Department of Maine on Nov. 3-5, 2023, making several stops visiting Legion Posts throughout the state. Commander Seehafer, left, is seen here presenting State Commander Al McKay with a Be The One Coin at Field-Allen Post 148 Post in Windham on Nov. 4, 2023.

QUICKLY & EASILY
RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW



Commander's Comments

Greetings comrades and family members. As my year as our Department Commander is rapidly coming to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support. This year has been one of intense pride and I enjoyed all the visits and ceremonies I was invited to attend. It is the pride that posts show, whether they be a small post or a large post, that makes this organization great.

I have no doubt that we will continue our devotion to mutual helpfulness. Have you been to a Legion meeting recently to remember where that statement came from? If not, you're missing out on making a difference. A post is only as strong and active in



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

the community as ALL the members allow the post to be. You may not be able to march in a parade, but you can ride on a float, in a vehicle or sit beside the parade route wearing your Legion cap. An important task the more experienced Legionnaires can do is mentor new members and make all potential members feel welcome at post meetings and events. The way the post was and/or used to be is just that. We cannot live in the past—WE will never return to the past. WE must embrace the present and especially the future. I do not want to offend some members, but do you remember the old saying, "lead, follow or get out of the way?"

I will be leaving the department in better hands and I hope you all join me in supporting the new slate of Department Officers whom we will elect and install in June during the Annual Convention. And one last thank you to all the Past Department Commanders and Adjutant for your support and guidance and to Rachael and staff for the outstanding assistance.

For God and Country.

Money Matters

Greetings all,
The end of the fiscal year is right around the corner with an audit to follow. It has been a pleasure to help the department again where



**GREG
COUTURE**

needed in getting us through to the State convention.

At the post level, I hope everyone has registered with the Secretary of State in order to keep their non-profit status. If you have a canteen, I would always recommend you have an annual audit. A set of eyes from the outside is a good idea. Finance Officers, ensure your 990 N is submitted and you have a recommended budget for the next fiscal year for your post.

■ "A 'MORAL CLARITY'" (Continued from Page 1)

that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing," Conatser said. "As an American Legion Family, our resolution to succeed in taking care of our country's veterans, military and their families is of the utmost importance. It's been our mission for more than a century, and we will continue to accomplish it. Lincoln believed it when he walked the Earth, and we still believe it and follow that mantra now."

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Don "J.R." Hall also spoke at the wreath laying. "President Lincoln once said, 'The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it,'" Hall said. "Today, the greatest way to honor him is to create a great future as the American Legion

Family."

Seehafer suggested that Americans should think about Lincoln when they vote. "In November, our nation will once again return to the polls to elect a commander-in-chief. We should all be inspired by the man whose birthday we celebrate today. In this room, we have Democrats, Republicans and Independents, yet we are here for a common cause," Seehafer said. "We are here to remember one of American's greatest presidents. In his heart was not an R, D or an I. It was a V, for veteran. It is ironic that the man who led the nation during its most divided period, and the man who famously said, 'A house divided cannot stand,' is today perhaps the most beloved and unifying figure in American history."

By John Raughter
www.legion.org/commander/261102/commander-praises-lincoln-s-'moral-clarity'
Feb. 14.

A 'First' Look

It was great to see so many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference. I hope this finds you all feeling well and warm during our winter months. I have a huge favor to ask. If you have Facebook and use it to share your events, please tag me or share it to my messenger so that I can then share it on our department Facebook page. We try to share all events for post and districts within the state. I have been focusing on posts that show what we do for our veterans, communities and why someone would want to belong! Remember you have to make your post public and shareable for me to post it on our department page. If you do not have Facebook, you can send pictures and information and I can post that as well.

Are you ready to talk about membership!? I sure hope so because without our members we are nothing. Read that again, without our members we are nothing. I will edit the last comment, without our current members and possible new members we are nothing.



**PATRICIA
THURSTON**

This means if we do not continue to make our current members feel there is a reason to belong and give new members a reason to join, we are not going to see our membership continue to climb. There are many reasons to join our amazing organization. It is up to us to educate our veterans on the reasons why.

Here are a few thoughts! Are you engaging your members and reminding them of what your post is doing? Do you reach out to members you have not seen in a while? Do you ensure that members feel welcome when they attend meetings or stop by your post? Do you assign sponsors or "battle buddies" to your new members? Do you invite new members to attend your meetings, department conferences or conventions? Do you recognize your long-time members and ensure they are feeling appreciated? Do you reach out to members who are not renewing and ask "WHY?" Do you engage your members in gaining ideas for the future? Do you inform your community by creating an article for your local newspaper to share the awesome things your post is doing? Have you sent out postcards to remind those who have not renewed for 2024 in hopes they will? Here is a big one!! Would your community miss your post if it ceased to exist!?

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

A 'Second' Look

Thank you to all of you who took the time to brave the weather and attend the 2024 Mid-Winter Conference. We had a great turn-out and we were extremely excited to see so many familiar and new faces. There was a lot of important information provided to everyone, so please make sure you are passing this along to others in your posts and your districts.

There are also many upcoming training opportunities that are on the horizon. With Be The One training, Maine Legion College, and more on the way, the educational tools are being made available to each and every one of us. Together, we can educate ourselves and prepare for the next 100 years of The American Legion. Just remember, what we do now sets the tone for the future. So let's put our work clothes on, our best foot forward and work



**LEROY
MCKENZIE**

together to ensure that The American Legion excels for centuries to come.

Everyone works so hard and please know that it doesn't go unnoticed. If you have or know a shining star in your post or district, in your community or someone deserving of a special award, please visit the yearly award section on mainelegion.org under forms and applications. There you will find the deadlines, requirements, and listings of available awards. If someone is putting the extra effort to shine, make sure you take the time to fill these out.

Each post should be receiving the Annual Post Data Report, the Consolidated Post Report, the Post Officers Form, and the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants Report soon. Please be sure to turn them in to their respective places BEFORE the due date that is located on the forms themselves. If you also remember, for those who attended the Mid-Winter Conference, all of these forms are available on mainelegion.org, except for the Annual Post Data Report. Please be sure to include your new post dues on this report as well

[More on "A 'SECOND' LOOK" Page 4](#)

NEC Update

We just finished the Mid-Winter Conference for our department, and I would like to thank everyone who attended. The weather wasn't cooperative, but we still had very good attendance.



**LLOYD
WOODS**

A copy of a letter was given out to everyone pertaining to donations to the National Commander's campaign for those running for that position. We take up donations each year to support the individuals seeking to be the National Commander and support them just as our own Past National Commander, Tony Jordan, when he sought the position. A copy of the letter will appear in the Leadership Ledger if you were not able to attend the conference. Individual donations as well as post donations will be greatly appreciated and encouraged.

More on the happenings of the National Executive Committee since our last meeting: in December, a virtual meeting of the NEC was held to review and consider a resolution pertaining to individuals and other organizations claiming to represent veterans in filing claims and charging outrageous sums were not accredited by the Veterans Administration through the accreditation process. This resolution came from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and was assigned the number of #1 with the title of "Oppose Claims Filing by Unaccredited Parties." A copy of the whole

resolution is on the Legion's digital archive if you wish to read the complete resolution.

Basically, this resolution affirms that only VA-accredited representatives, properly trained, be authorized to file initial claims. The Legion urges Congress to pass legislation restoring criminal penalties for individuals or companies violating VA rules pertaining to representing or charging veterans fees without VA accreditation. Another point is that VSOs, such as The American Legion, be supported in giving and covering appropriate and accurate representation to veterans. The resolution also urges Congress to fully fund and support VA staffing for the enforcement of criminal penalties against those who violate federal laws or VA rules.

The resolution opposed any legislation allowing unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process. The American Legion encourages the VA Office of Inspector General and the Office of General Counsel to collaborate with pertinent authorities to identify and prosecute unaccredited individual and private companies. The resolution also rescinded and superseded previous resolutions related to predatory claims companies, claims reviews by private companies, fees for appellate services and the accreditation of individual claims agents. There were four previously approved resolutions that were rescinded.

In closing, thank you all for all you do on a daily basis for the veterans and The American Legion, as well as what you will do. Remember we are in a campaign of "BE THE ONE" and conduct as many buddy checks as you can.

PROUD TO SERVE

■ "A 'FIRST' LOOK" (Continued from Page 2)

These questions are asked to support you in gaining information on where to go from here. Remember, it is just as important to gain new members as it is to retain our current members. Current members need to feel they belong. It doesn't matter if it is 1, 2 or 75 years that they have belonged to our organization. The bottom line is that they all feel they belong.

So far our department has met all target goals up to 80% and we are already working towards the 85% goal. I hope we continue this climb to 100%. I know we WILL do this! You have all proven beyond a doubt that you are ready to make the 100% goal ahead of time. The following info was asked at Mid-Winter Conference: are you receiving emails for updates on membership within your district? If not, please reach out to me and I will make sure you get the info.

Have you looked at the 2023-2024 Membership Plan lately for upcoming ideas? Remember to Pay It Forward if you can for those who may be struggling this year. Pay It Forward to those in a nursing home. Call a member or veteran to let them know you care.

I want you all to think about something. Check the department's calendar to ensure you are not scheduling events during conferences or conventions. These events are important for members to attend. If we had at least one or two representatives from each post, we would have an amazing turnout. Some posts are not even represented. We can do better than this. Watch your calendars and plan ahead. We love to see all of you and your Legion family misses you.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to getting updates on your post happenings.

Patricia Thurston
Department 1st Vice Commander

On the Agenda

MARCH 2024 MEETINGS

- District 5 – Oxford:** March 20 Norway Post 82, District 5 Election, 7:00 p.m.
District 7 – Lincoln: March 13 Waldoboro Post 149, Nominations and Vote for 2024/25 District Officers, 6:00 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: March 13 Gardiner Post 4, 7:00 p.m.
District 13 – Penobscot: March 5 Bangor Post 12, 1:00 p.m.
District 14 – Piscataquis: March 16 Brownville Jct. Post 92, Lunch at 12:00 p.m. w/ Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
District 16 – S. Aroostook: March 2 Mars Hill Post 118, Meal + Nominations, 12:00 p.m.

APRIL 2024 MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland:** April 9 Gray Post 86, Annual Past President/Past Commander Dinner and District Officer Elections, 5:00 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: April 17 Rumford Post 24, District 5 Installation, 7:00 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: April 10 Richmond Post 132, 7:00 p.m.
District 12 – Hancock: April 11 Blue Hill Post 85, Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
District 13 – Penobscot: April 7 Lincoln Post 77, 1:00 p.m.
District 14 – Piscataquis: April 20 Dexter Post 53, Lunch at 12:00 p.m. w/ Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
District 17 – N. Aroostook: April 7 St. Francis Post 180, Meal at 12:00 p.m. w/ Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Officer Nominations

MAY 2024 MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland:** May TBD Westbrook Post 197, 1:00 p.m. Legion/ALA Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. w/ Meeting, Post Everlasting, Officer Installation at 2:00 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: May 21 West Paris Post 151, Supper at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
District 7 – Lincoln: May 1 Damariscotta Post 42, Installation 6:00 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: May 8 Clinton Post 186, 7:00 p.m.
District 12 – Hancock: May 13 Bucksport Post 93, Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
District 13 – Penobscot: May 5 Holland Post 97, 2:00 p.m.
District 14 – Piscataquis: May 18 Greenville Post 94, 12:00 p.m. Lunch w/ Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
District 15 – Washington: May 19 Baileyville Post 23, 1:00 p.m. Meet and Greet, Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
District 16 – S. Aroostook: May 4 Mars Hill Post 118, 12:00 p.m. Meal + 4 Elections
District 17 – N. Aroostook: May 5 Madawaska Post 147, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Elections



Local School Makes Cards For Women Veterans: Department 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston attends the morning assembly at Woodstock Elementary School. The students all made beautiful thank you cards along with the cards pictured here with students. They presented them to the 1st Vice Commander to bring to the 10th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford. All in attendance at the luncheon were very grateful for the hard work that went into these cards. Front row, left to right, Arianna, Wyatt, Thea, Ade, and Christopher. Back row, left to right, Brody, Madeline, Delaney, Clio and Isla. Far back, Department 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston.

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

as the effective date. Districts are also asked not to forget to send in their District Officers Form as soon as they are completed. If you require any assistance, please reach out in advance so that you can be assisted before the deadlines come and go. These forms are extremely important to get completed and returned to the department and national. They do not take very much time at all.

Districts and posts can expect to start receiving reminder emails and updated information regarding these forms, which forms have been turned in and which ones have not been turned in, as soon as the due dates start to get closer. If we all work together, there is

no reason why we cannot get them all turned in. Let's make it each and every one of our goals to ensure we turn in 100% of the forms before the forms due date. We are here to help, we are another tool in your resource box, so all you have to do is ask.

With that said, I want to thank each and every one of you for everything you do for each other, our communities, this great nation, and The American Legion Family! If you would like a visit by Department Officers to your posts, we can try to accommodate your needs. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Dept of Maine 2nd Vice Commander! I'm looking forward to seeing you at your posts and the upcoming State Convention in June. See you soon and keep up the great work!

Leroy McKenzie
Department 2nd Vice Commander



District 17 Welcomes Veterans Day Attendees: Department 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie welcomes all those in attendance to celebrate Veterans Day 2023 at Fort Kent Elementary School. Standing right is Department Commander Alfred McKay and Congressman Jared Golden.

The Adjutant Speaks

Lots of items to talk about—first it's time for American Legion Family members to strategize about conducting Buddy Checks, an initiative calling on posts to re-connect with veterans in their communities.



**JASON
HALL**

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019, which calls for the twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, Mar. 16, and Veterans Day. During the inaugural Buddy Checks in March of this year, posts across the United States reach out to veterans to see how they are doing. We all like to know that somebody is thinking about us. You know, that's a natural need that I think we all have. We want to know somebody cares. National has made a kit available to help guide posts on Buddy Checks. The online resource contains information on Buddy Checks, tips, answers to FAQs and downloadable resources such as a flyer, scripts and more.

American Legion multiyear membership is now available. Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join. You can also call Department headquarters if you need assistance.

The Department of Maine's Oratorical contest was held on Feb. 10th at

Thomas College. We had some amazing contestants with the winner being Kylie Thibodeau from Gray-New Gloucester High School, sponsored by American Legion Post 86 in Gray. Kylie will represent the state at the National Oratorical Contest held in Michigan.

Regarding DIRIGO State, it's time to fundraise, time to contact schools, time to keep an eye on your post mailbox for the information packets. The cost is \$400 per student and the location will be at Colby College. The program starts on Sunday, June 16 at noon and graduation is Friday, June 21 at 3:00 p.m. Applications can also be found at mainelegion.org under Programs: Dirigo State. This is an amazing opportunity for high school juniors that live in your community and across the state.

I personally am excited for Maine American Legion Baseball...let the snow melt. We have all the teams returning and a few new teams on board. The state championship tournaments are already booked:

- Senior League State Championship: July 27-30, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor
- Junior League State Championship: Aug. 3-6, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor

Also, exciting news: The Department of Maine will be hosting the Junior Regional Championships on Aug. 9-11, at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor. Representing teams will be from CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT.

We will need many hands on-deck, so if you want to hang out at the ball fields in the warmer months, let me know.

Lastly, we are very excited about the 2024 Department of Maine Annual State Convention. We have quite a lineup of information, awards, and speakers so far; we also have several contested positions for elections. SAVE THE DATES: June 7-8 in Brewer at Jeff's Catering & Event Center.

■ "Multiyear Membership" (Continued from Page 1)

- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Please note that the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. For example, if a member renews today (before national per-capita \$5 dues increase come July 1, 2024), National will receive \$18.50 for the next three years. For example, if a department's per capita is currently

\$10 and is going to be raised to \$15 on July 1, 2024, then the department will receive the \$10 for the next three years. Once the member renews after the three-year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.

A multiyear membership was approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during the organization's Spring Meetings last May. Resolution 1: Purchase of Multiple Years of Membership approves "a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate."

www.legion.org/dispatch/260957/renew-2025-multiyear-membership
Jan. 23

Judge Advocate

Let's discuss a topic of paramount importance in the realm of non-profit organizations, of which we are, and that is having a well-structured constitution and bylaws. It is a new year and an excellent opportunity to at least review your current documents. If your constitution and/or bylaws address post membership dues, it is critical to remember that National and Department are increasing their respective dues effective July 1. Always remember to send your most current constitution and bylaws to the Department Adjutant for recordkeeping.



HAROLD "DREW" GOODRIDGE

Firstly, let us understand the essence of a constitution for a non-profit organization. Much like the constitution of our nation, it provides the fundamental principles that govern the organization. It outlines its mission, vision, and values, encapsulating the very essence of why the organization exists and the change it aspires to bring about. I dare say most posts use the constitution framework guidance outlined by National. That is fantastic, but because the language can be seen as boilerplate, members may not necessarily take the time to think about what it really means. Are we working within the Four Pillars? Are we a Legion post with a bar, or are we a bar with a Legion post? Are we seen as a veteran service organization first and foremost? A well-crafted constitution acts as a compass, guiding your post through challenges and ensuring it stays true to its founding principles.

Equally crucial are the bylaws, the detailed operational framework that outlines the rules and procedures governing the post's day-to-day activities. These bylaws provide the necessary structure for decision-making processes, the roles, and responsibilities of board members, who are your post officers, and the procedures for elections and meetings to highlight a few concepts.

To deviate slightly from the main discussion, consider the importance of your post officers and why it is essential to have the right people in the right position at the right time. In a non-profit corporate structure, the post officers are the board of directors who have fiduciary responsibilities to the

corporation, i.e. your posts. It is imperative that elected officers and the entire membership understand that these fiduciary responsibilities are not burdens but commitments to the organization.

At the heart of a post officer's fiduciary responsibilities lies the duty of **loyalty**. This duty compels officers to act in the best interests of the post and its mission, prioritizing post goals over personal interests or external influences. It's a solemn commitment to the cause, a dedication that demands unwavering allegiance to the American Legion's purpose and the community served.

Simultaneously, the duty of **care** underscores the obligation for post officers to exercise diligence, prudence, and sound judgment in their decision-making. Whether it involves financial matters, programmatic initiatives, or strategic planning, post officers must engage with a level of expertise and attentiveness that ensures the post's resources are utilized effectively and responsibly.

The third primary fiduciary responsibility is **obedience**. This duty requires post officers to ensure that the organization operates in accordance with its stated mission, adheres to applicable laws and regulations, and remains true to its charitable purpose.

Strong post officers and bylaws act as the organizational GPS, ensuring that everyone involved is on the same path toward the common goal. That goal or goals which are the crux of your post's constitution.

One of the key benefits of having a constitution and bylaws is the assurance of transparency and accountability. These documents clearly delineate the distribution of authority, the decision-making process, and the responsibilities of the membership. This transparency not only fosters trust among stakeholders but also attracts donors and supporters who want to ensure their contributions are being utilized effectively and ethically.

Furthermore, a well-defined constitution and bylaws offer protection to the organization and its members. They create a legal framework that helps safeguard against potential conflicts, internal disputes, and external challenges.

In essence, post constitution and bylaws are the cornerstones of organizational integrity and sustainability. They provide the roadmap for post success, the guidelines for ethical conduct, and the safeguards against turbulence both internally and externally. Do not underestimate the power of a well-structured foundation...the bedrock of your post.

Americanism Report

Good morning from northern Maine.

The snow has finally arrived in full force, I guess I brought it back with me when I returned from my vacation.

It is that time of year again when we get really involved with our Legion programs. Please try to visit your local school's guidance counselors and remind them of the scholarships available to the seniors going on to college. Students may apply for the Children and Youth Scholarship, The Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship, or the James V.



JOSEPH "JOE" MICHAUD

Day Scholarship from The Department of Maine and any post, Auxiliary, or Legion Rider Scholarships that are also available. Applications for The Department of Maine scholarships need to be received at the department by May 1. Forms are available at mainelegion.org.

The high school Oratorical Scholarship Program was held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 10 at 9:00 a.m. and was a great success.

Dirigo State is a new program which includes both Boys State and Girls State. This program is traditionally sponsored by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, businesses and civic, faith-based groups, or fraternal groups. The cost per student is \$400. Dirigo State will be held at Colby College in Waterville again this year. The dates are June 16-21 and registration is noon on June 16.

For God and Country.

Sgt-At-Arms View



DANIELLE BEGERT

I am honored to be your Sergeant-At-Arms this year. As you know, our American Flag has three colors: Red, White, and Blue. Do you know what each color stands for?

The Sergeant-At-Arms is bestowed with great responsibility, not just merely calling the salute to our flag. Such other duties are, but not limited to, how to properly present our flag for retirement, following the rules for proper flag disposal, disseminating printed information at conferences and conventions and escorting guests at events. At the post level, the Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for greeting guests and new members. One duty, for example, is a

ceremony to properly retire The American Flag, without disposing of it. This is a ceremony of colors that have become unserviceable. During this ceremony, the Sergeant-At-Arms has the color guard advance and present the colors for final inspection. Members of the inspection team will examine the colors. The two inspectors can be post officers. The Sergeant-At-Arms prepares the colors for retirement. The Chaplain then offers prayer. The Commander then has the Sergeant-At-Arms retire the colors. Most posts keep old colors in a trophy case or other location where they can be properly displayed or stored.

Back to the colors of The American Flag. The red stands for hardiness and valor. Also, courage and readiness to sacrifice. The white stands for innocence and purity. Finally, the blue stands for justice for all. Also, vigilance and perseverance.

Thank you for the privilege to be your Sergerant-At-Arms.



Together For Mid-Winter Conference: Left to right, Department Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods and National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut attend the annual Mid-Winter Conference held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer on Jan. 13.

Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

Hello from the Service Office. I had a great time at the Mid-Winter Conference. While I was there, I was asked a question. I will go over the information here because I think it is important for all to hear, not just those who attended.

We talked about the ability to assist veteran who want to

file claims. I want to let everyone know that there are only three members of the American Legion Department of Maine that are accredited to assist veterans filing a claim. According to the 38 C.F.R. section 14.629(b) "No Individual may assist claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits as an agent or attorney unless he or she has first been accredited by the VA for such purpose". If you find yourself in a situation, where you are asked by a veteran to assist them file a claim, please protect yourself and the American Legion and refer them to my office. If it is discovered that a member of the American Legion Department of Maine is assisting veterans file a claim without being accredited, that individual will be brought before the Department Executive Committee.

As you may know the Fisher House has been closed. There have been foundation problems since it opened. The VA staff are working with the Fisher House Foundation to determine the best way to move forward. More to come as they work through the problem, but I want to ensure that the family of veterans getting medical treatment here at Togus can get the services that the Fisher House provides.

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 attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference. The next PSO training will be in either April or May. Please be on the lookout for its listing on the department

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. Online at www.vets.gov!

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

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., on Friday the hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 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.

**Attention
Post Service Officers**



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

**For More Information
or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office
at
carl.curtis2@va.gov
or call: 207-623-5726
To make a seminar reservation!**

Facebook page or the Leadership Ledger.

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





Sabattus Post 135 Legion Family Birthday Celebration Kick-off Event: Sabattus Post 135 kicked off the start of its 100th birthday celebration this past December at the post home where many Legion family members and guests gathered to celebrate. The post will celebrate an event every month until its 100th birthday. Left to right, American Legion Department Historian Lou Marin, Detachment District 2 Commander Alan Brule, Department Commander Alfred McKay, ALA NECA Debra Rumery, ALA Department Vice President Stasi Brule, Sabattus Post 135 1st Vice Commander Ron Caron, Department Adjutant Jason Hall, Sgt-At-Arms Danielle Begert, District 3 Commander Dale Bryant (Turner), and Department Judge Advocate Andrew "Drew" Goodridge. Commander Michael Tardiff.

Make Your Squadron a National Four Pillars Squadron

Happy New Year

American Legion Family,

I hope everyone has had a safe holiday season and now is ready to get rolling in 2024.



DONALD L "JR" HALL, JR. (MD)

While 2023 saw the Sons reach a new all-time high in membership, we cannot spend too much time celebrating that. We need to use that as fuel to keep doing what we are and getting even better. I know by the commitment that we see from all of our members that this year can be better!! Thanks to everyone that is still working membership and knows how important it is to our organization.

Has your Squadron made plans to support the Four Pillars Challenge? If not, now is the time to do so; as you get rolling in 2024, make your Squadron a "National Four Pillars Squadron." Taking part in this challenge is truly doing exactly what we should all be doing, supporting the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Just a dollar a member based on 2023 ending membership to Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) your

department's Boys State program (Americanism) and have or support a blood drive for National Security. You can do it!! Let's do it together and raise money and awareness of our programs of The American Legion Family. We have Squadrons that have completed the challenge and we say, "thank you." It's time we all "Step Up to The Challenge" to support The American Legion. We will make the effort to award Squadrons as the year goes on when leadership travels to your departments.

Washington Conference is just around the corner, and if you watch the news, you can see that in these times it is important that we stand up and fight for the rights of our veterans. Many say, "I will do anything to support our veterans," yet they don't get on the legislative bus and ride it. We need to make sure our elected officials know that we are part of the Legion Family, and we support the American Legion's agenda. "Representing More Than Me" is just that — your opportunity to help the members of your family and our veterans get what they deserve from our government. I look forward to seeing everyone in D.C. as we continue to work to make our organization strong.

Representing More Than Me,

By Don "JR" Hall
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

www.legion.org/sons/260939/make-your-squadron-national-four-pillars-squadron

Jan. 18, 2024

WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VA Benefits Assistance

Accredited American Legion service officers are

specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. Your membership also helps support American Legion Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military healthcare benefits through the VA.

A Voice in Our Nation's Capital

The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medi-



cal system can properly care for veterans.

Monthly Magazine (a \$30 value)

Our nation's

leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The American Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists and world leaders.

Family, Camaraderie and Continuing Service Through Community Support

Financial grants are among the ways The American Legion supports its members and families of military service members during times of financial hardship and natural disasters.

Legion.org/RENEW

Join Sons of The American Legion

Eligibility Requirements

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons



of The American Legion.

Print an application by visiting <https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/salapplication.pdf>

* Membership applications can be delivered to an American Legion Post near you.

There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron. If not, someone at the Post should be able to tell you where to find a Squadron near you. You can always contact SAL National Headquarters for information about finding a nearby Squadron.



Be The One a Focus for Maine Legion Family

As Maine American Legion Auxiliary president from 2022 to 2023, Debra Rumery’s project was “You Will Never Walk Alone,” a veteran suicide prevention and suicide awareness program. The project raised more than \$60,000 for the psychiatric ward and suicide prevention outreach program at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta, Maine.

After her tenure ended, Rumery saw the current American Legion Family national leadership – National Commander Daniel Seehafer, Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Donald L. "JR" Hall – were continuing to make the Legion’s [Be The One](#) veteran suicide prevention program their top priority. And she

wanted to make sure that continued in her state as well.

“I just knew our members needed to know that this wasn’t something that I was only going to talk about for one year,” said Rumery, who now serves as Maine’s Alternate National Executive Committeeman and is a member of Unit 86 in Gray. “I was not going to stop talking about it. It was important for the whole (Legion Family) to know there is training out there, and I’d be willing to do the training for them.”

That led Rumery to collaborate with Maine Legion Family leadership for a free Be The One training session on Jan. 27 at department headquarters. The session also [included VA S.A.V.E. Training](#), which Rumery already had taken. Rumery provided the training

alongside Maine Legionnaires Julie Flynn (Post 86) and Jennifer Kimble (Roderick-Crosby Post 28 in Farmington).

The trio delivered the S.A.V.E. Training, but Rumery said they wanted to offer more to those who braved the weather to attend the session. “We didn’t want our members to travel all the way to department headquarters, which is a long way for a lot of people, for just 17 minutes (of training),” she said. “So, we elaborated on the VA S.A.V.E. We talked about the

mission of Dan, Lisa and Don, and how The American Legion is going to have this mission to help destigmatize our veterans asking for mental health support.

“We also added empathetic listening. I really believe that that was a huge part of this training: giving our members the tools to actually listen to a veteran when

have been as transparent as they were. It worked out really, really great.”

Three similar training sessions at department headquarters are planned, while Rumery said requests are being taken to travel to posts and deliver the training in person. She added that as Be the One has continued to grow since its inception in 2022, “People really



Legion Family Be The One Training held Jan. 27 at the Maine State HQ Training facility in Winslow.

they’re in mental health crisis. Not to dismiss them. The right things to say to them. Make sure that the empathetic listening feels like (the veteran) is being listened to, which I think, a lot of times, veterans don’t feel that way.”

Rumery said 18 Legion Family members attended the training. “It was the perfect amount of people because I felt like they felt comfortable being able to share their own experiences and feel safe in that environment,” she said. “I’m not quite sure if they were in a larger environment ... if they would

started wanting more information. ‘What can we do to help?’ ‘How can we learn more?’ At the end of the training, we gave out resource packets to every single person that came, so they can go back to their post/unit/squadron/riders chapter, whatever the case may be, so they can share the information.

“We didn’t want this to just be the 18 people that were there. We wanted them to share this mission as well.”

www.legion.org/betheone/261017/be-one-focus-maine-legion-family
Jan. 31, 2024



Be The One: Legionnaire Julie Flynn, American Legion Auxiliary member Debra Rumery and Legionnaire Jennifer Kimble recently provided Be The One and VA S.A.V.E. Training to fellow Maine Legion Family members. (Facebook photo)

Be The One Training 2024



American Legion Be The One Campaign

Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, 17 veterans still die by suicide each day, or more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide.

The Be The One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need; Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

The American Legion Department of Maine is announcing training dates for the BE THE ONE initiative, a campaign aimed at reducing the rate of veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — “Be The One”— to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated at between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated Be The One to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This training intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.



Training Location:

Department of Maine Training Room
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

Upcoming Training Dates:

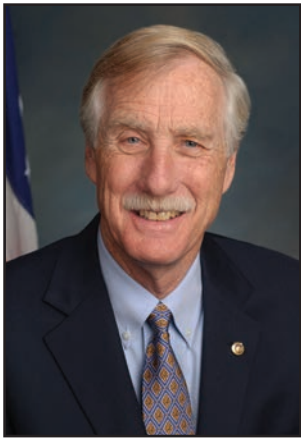
March 30th
May 25th
July 27th
September 28th
November 30th

For more details on the Be The One campaign, visit: betheone.org

To Reserve Your Spot, Email:
jason@mainelegion.org

Ensuring Maine's Veterans Receive the Benefits They Earned

Maine proudly boasts one of the largest populations of veterans in the country — our friends, family members, and neighbors are the true embodiment of “Dirigo” and what it means to



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

lead others in a life of service. It is a privilege to serve on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee working on behalf of veterans here in Maine, and across the nation, to ensure they can access the benefits they have rightly earned.

To kick off the year, I requested that the Committee hold a field hearing at the University of Maine Augusta to listen directly to the challenges facing our veterans. Half of the Maine veterans enrolled in VA are over 65, with a significant increase projected over the next decade. We are also facing a serious workforce shortage at the VA, which is limiting access to critical long term care services. We need to address this shortage for our veterans — whether it's through expanding nursing programs, filling gaps with technology or other solutions to ensure our veterans are able to receive timely and adequate care right here at home. I always want to ensure veteran voices are being heard both in Maine and in Washington, D.C.

Beyond that field hearing, I've also been working with my committee colleagues to help smooth the transition for the nearly 200,000 Americans nationwide who shift from military service to civilian life. In addition to helping them more easily join the workforce, we also need to make sure we are removing barriers to veterans' care. To kick off the year, I introduced legislation to give combat veterans the option to enroll in their health care benefits program before they officially transition out of active duty. Currently, transitioning servicemembers must wait until they have left the service and receive their official separation paperwork — which

can take months — to apply for health care and other services. My bipartisan [Combat Veterans Pre-Enrollment Act](#) would help cut any gaps in care by creating an opt-in program allowing veterans to access VA services starting day one as a civilian.

In fact, studies have shown the first year of a servicemember's transition to civilian life is the most difficult and a time when they are at a higher risk to commit suicide. By allowing servicemembers who have served in combat to pre-enroll in VA care, the goal is to provide them access to the mental and physical care they deserve immediately after separation. With veterans facing so many challenges in their return home, my hope is this bill will be another step forward in making their transition less daunting than it needs to be.

We also need to provide our low-income veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities the reimbursements for travel to and from VA medical appointments that they are entitled. Unfortunately, the VA's current reimbursement program has left too many veterans in the lurch — sometimes waiting months with hundreds of dollars in claims at any one time. So, with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, I [wrote a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and VA Secretary Denis McDonough urging them to address the issues with the reimbursement system. Reimbursement rates for nursing homes and at-home care have also not kept up with rising costs, which has led to the closure of 17 nursing facilities and many home-health agencies. This is unacceptable — we owe our veterans the very best in return for the many sacrifices they have made in service to our country.

From cutting bureaucratic tape to better ensuring VA accessibility and working together to expand our direct care workforce, it is clear we have a lot of work to do to support our veterans. Just as they served us during their career, we have an obligation to return that favor.

Servicemembers and veterans may [contact my office](#) in Maine or Washington, D.C. to receive help accessing their well-deserved benefits. www.king.senate.gov/contact-home

Advocating for Veterans and Their Families

The American Legion is one of the world's great service organizations. You continue to serve long after your days in uniform are over as a powerful and informed voice for veterans' rights.

Maine is home to more than 109,000 veterans, which is more veterans per capita

than all but three of the other states in the country. We are proud of our State's commitment to protecting our nation.

For years, I have served on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where I have advocated for our veterans and their families. In my current role as Vice Chairman of that Committee I will continue to champion the heroes who have made such great sacrifices for our nation and for our world.

Among my priorities is advancing the *Major Richard Star Act*, legislation to provide combat-injured veterans with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits. Currently, military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service. These retirees also qualify for disability compensation for injuries acquired in combat.

For retired veterans with less than 20 years of service, however, their disability pay is deducted from their retirement pay. That's roughly 42,000 patriots who put their lives on the line to defend our freedom yet who are denied their full benefits. The *Major Richard Star Act* would repeal this unfair offset, allowing this group of disabled veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation. The bill is named in honor of U.S. Army Major Richard A. Star—a father, husband, and decorated war veteran who, because of his combat-related injuries, was medically retired. Major Star sadly lost his battle with cancer three years ago.

We owe it to our veterans to provide



SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

them with the benefits they have earned through their service. This bipartisan bill would address an unfair provision in current law that has enormous financial implications for many veterans and their families. By ensuring that disabled combat veterans are eligible to receive disability benefits and retirement benefits concurrently, we can continue to make progress toward fulfilling our obligation to veterans in Maine and throughout the country who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

The brave men and women who have served in our military put themselves in harm's way to defend our nation, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the highest quality health care for any illnesses linked to their military service. For far too long, veterans exposed to toxic substances during their deployments have not received the recognition or resources they needed. In the last Congress, with strong support from the American Legion, we passed the *PACT Act* to ensure that all generations of veterans exposed to and made ill by toxins receive the health care and benefits they have earned through their service.

Since enactment of the *PACT Act*, some out-of-state trial lawyers have targeted veterans across the country with television ads advertising their legal services but charging veterans an exorbitant amount for their services -- sometimes as much as 60 percent of the money a veteran is awarded in a suit. That is why I have co-sponsored the *Protect Camp Lejeune VETS Act*, which caps the fees lawyers can charge veterans filing a lawsuit under the *PACT Act*.

I am also working to provide our men and women in uniform today with the resources required to meet today's challenges to our national security. I will continue to be a champion for the heroes who have made such great sacrifices for our nation and for our world. Thank you for your service to our country. It is an honor to serve you in the Senate.



USAA is proud to be the Preferred provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654.

HELP WANTED!

Department Finance Officer

The American Legion Department of Maine

Job Description:

The primary mission of the Department Finance Officer is twofold.

First is the preservation of the assets of The American Legion, Department of Maine. This includes but is not limited to, assuring that all assets are identified and secured and that they are updated in a timely and economical manner.

The second is to ensure that The American Legion, Department of Maine has the financial ability to complete its mission. That mission, in general, is embodied in the Four Founding Pillars of The American Legion. These Four Pillars are, briefly stated:

1. Support and advocate for all Veterans, their families, and dependents.
2. Support and advocate for a strong and efficient National Defense.
3. Support 100% Americanism.
4. Provide a safe environment and adequate education for all children and youth.

This requires the creation and monitoring of current budgets as well as the creation, with the aid of The American Legion Department of Maine leadership of long-term financial and operational plans.

To accomplish these missions the Department Finance Officer should possess the following skills and abilities.

1. The ability to maintain and/or monitor an automated financial and operational record-keeping system.
2. Ability to use QuickBooks and prepare a limited budget.
3. The ability to work and collaborate

with the leadership team for The American Legion, Department of Maine to assure an efficient and effective economic environment for The American Legion, Department of Maine, both currently and for the future.

4. The ability to communicate to both the membership and the leadership of The American Legion, Department of Maine the financial and operational needs, both current and future, for The American Legion, Department of Maine as well as the current financial position for The American Legion, Department of Maine.
5. The ability to coordinate and facilitate the annual audit for the Department of Maine.
6. The ability to collaborate and facilitate relationships with outside financial organizations including banks, tax advisors, taxing authorities, and others as necessary.
7. The ability to keep informed on financial and record-keeping technology and issues and how they apply to The American Legion, Department of Maine, and its subsidiaries.
8. Must be a Veteran.
9. Must be willing to work one day a week and three possible weekends per year.

This job description is intended to be a minimum guide and should be reviewed and updated at least biannually before each election for the Department Finance Officer.

Interested applicants are to contact Department Adjutant Jason Hall at 207-873-3229 or jason@mainelegion.org.



Mid-Winter Conference: Department Officers, left to right, Second Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie, First Vice Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston and Commander Alfred McKay at the 2024 Mid-Winter Conference held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer on Jan. 13.

COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023



Department Commander Al McKay asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal.

The American Legion, Department of Maine has a long history with the Maine Veterans' Cemeteries across the State. In 1960, The American Legion learned of a plan for joint State-Federal cemeteries, by State Convention in 1962 (in Old Orchard Beach), a resolution was passed attested by Department Adjutant Nathaniel Cobb. The resolution was to establish a Legion committee at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta since the burial space at Togus was closed. The Committee was tasked with finding land, deciding on building designs, placing flag poles, deciding on marker types, and working on getting legislation passed to support this massive project.

Fast forward to 2023 - A chapel that had stood at the well-established cemetery fell into disrepair and was torn down years ago. The committal building that replaced it is heavily utilized and in need of some massive structural renovations. The committal building is

an essential tool needed to conduct an interment Service for our fallen comrades.

Commander McKay states "This is a very much-needed building to provide a dignified space for our veterans, their spouses, and their families. The building renovations will allow protection from the elements year-round and ensure The American Legion, continuing with their Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery history, remains a front-runner in honoring all veterans who enter Post Everlasting".

If you would like to support Commander McKay's project in renovating this necessary building, mail checks to:

**The American Legion Dept. of
Maine Attn: Committal Building
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727**

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the **DONATE** button.

Make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.

WINTER SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Congratulations to the Following Sweepstakes Winners!



Winners of the Winter Sweepstakes Raffle drawn January 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer. Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to James Farragher, Falmouth Post 164; \$500 to Wayne G Thibodeau, Brunswick Post 20; \$300

to Raymond E Vance, Westbrook Post 197; and \$200 to Yvan D Gagne, Greenville Post 94.

100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball

The 100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball will be recognized during the 2025 season. Every post in the state is invited to do something special and now is the time to brainstorm any ideas! For more information, please contact:

The American Legion State Adjutant Jason Hall 207-873-3229 | 207-522-5471 or via email at jason@mainelegion.org.



Legion Baseball Team Registration is Open

Registration for the 2024 American Legion Baseball season is open at baseball.legion.org.

Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, contact your department chairmen at www.legion.org/baseball/contacts/maine.

As part of NEC Resolution No. 17 October 2023, and the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all adult participants (coaches, managers, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) must complete the Abuse

Awareness course either through Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All adult participants (coaches, managers, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) must also have a completed and passed background check. Visit www.legion.org/publications/212564/risk-management-guide-baseball to download the American Legion Baseball Risk Management Guidebook.

www.legion.org/baseball/261014/registration-open-2024-american-legion-baseball-season
Jan. 31, 2024



The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

The American Legion awards between \$22,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships to deserving baseball players each year. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from its department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships each year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Award Amounts
Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive \$500.

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

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive

an additional \$2,500 scholarship.

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

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

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

Print the application by visiting www.legion.org/documents/baseball/Baseball_Scholarship_Form.pdf

Learn more about American Legion Baseball, visit www.legion.org/baseball.



Your Letters



Thank You For Your Service

In light of the recent tragedy I've found myself needing to help and unsure of how. Such an event creates such a hopeless and useless feeling in the hearts of so many when seeking a solution to such a complex problem. This act of violence and so many others before it have left immeasurable pain in the hearts and homes of too many. An inconceivable amount of these events are sparked when someone desperately needing or even actively seeking mental health support are turned away, ignored, or offered a short-term and deficient solution to their ailments. Of course daily life is just hard, however, it can become impossible to those who do not have or do not ask for help. Please, please, please help me spread awareness and offer a small beacon of hope as the lack of mental healthcare spreads rampantly. The phone number listed is that of the Maine Crisis Line. It is free, confidential and

available 24/7. It's an extended helping hand for those searching for one. Please display the flyer in your business somewhere accessible to the public.

Please practice self-care in these times.

Mental Health Matters

There IS hope + help for you.

Maine Crisis Line: 1-888-568-1112

Love,
Fellow Mainer

Hospitality Extended

Dear Department of Maine,

Thank you so much for the L.L.Bean gift card during my recent visit. I really appreciate you thinking of me in this special way. Thank you, too, for the hospitality extended to me during my recent visit to the Department of Maine.

My theme for the year is "Be The One" the Legion's veteran suicide prevention initiative. While the Legion continues to celebrate its past, it does so while also marching toward an evolving future, discovering ways to stay relevant and add even greater value to the lives of younger veterans.

For God and Country,
Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
2023-2024

Highlights From National Commander Seehafer's Visit to The Department of Maine



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

OFFICIAL CALL FOR

ONE HUNDRED & FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the One Hundred and Fifth Annual State Convention is hereby called to convene in Brewer, Maine, June 7-8, 2024.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. daylight savings time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 7, 2024, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2024 National Convention to be held in Charlotte, NC; to receive reports of all department officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 8, 2024. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, and past department commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and past department commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

RULES OF ORDER

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

MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday,

June 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into an executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. All department officers, district commanders, and past department commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential

paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 or by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of the Department Convention on Friday, June 7, 2024, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander, Department Adjutant, Department First Vice Commander, Department Second Vice Commander, Department Finance Officer, Department Historian, Department Americanism Officer, and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to repre-

will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration, and your 2024 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 9:15 a.m.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The department chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to the conclusion of the Saturday session, June 8, 2024. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include the name of deceased comrades and conflicts served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER

Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the department sergeant-at-arms and his/her assistants. Delegates, alternates, and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

PRESS

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

Official:

Jason Hall, Department Adjutant
Al McKay, Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION

105TH ANNUAL

STATE CONVENTION

June 7-8, 2024

Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

blank submitted by the department adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

The department adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to the convention, a statement of the number of 2024 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 8, 2024. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed for each post.

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

If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). A registration fee of \$10 for each delegate and alternate may be

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

All candidates for elective department office must file with the department adjutant, prior to May 8, 2024, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 8, 2024, or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 8, 2024. The Credentials Committee will be in session for one hour on Saturday morning, June 8, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 9:00 a.m. Delegates

Resolutions to Be Presented by May 1

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

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

Candidates Deadline: May 8

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 8, 2024 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 19, 2024. Also be advised that

the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the Annual Department Convention, take the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

What a Delegate Should Bring to the Annual State Convention

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 105th Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 7th and 8th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go

to the registration table immediately upon arrival to pick up your delegate or alternate name tag. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.



Print 2024 Membership Cards in MyLegion.org

American Legion post and Squadron group leadership can print a current membership card for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

To start:

1. Go to your My Account page in www.mylegion.org.
2. Enter My Groups to access Group

Profile.

3. Click on "View Members."

4. Search the member and click on their name from the list to view Member Profile.

5. Click "Membership Cards" and click on the link to view and print card image.

Humanitarian Sought

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

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

Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2024. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: 207-873-3229; e-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org or on the web at www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Applications.

Legionnaire of the Year Sought

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

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

Maybe your post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year's winner.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2024. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or online at www.mainelegion.org.

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

Scholarships Available

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



Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants

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

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.



If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



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Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH ☒ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Cut it out

Have you filled out all the above information?

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

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

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

Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

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- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service



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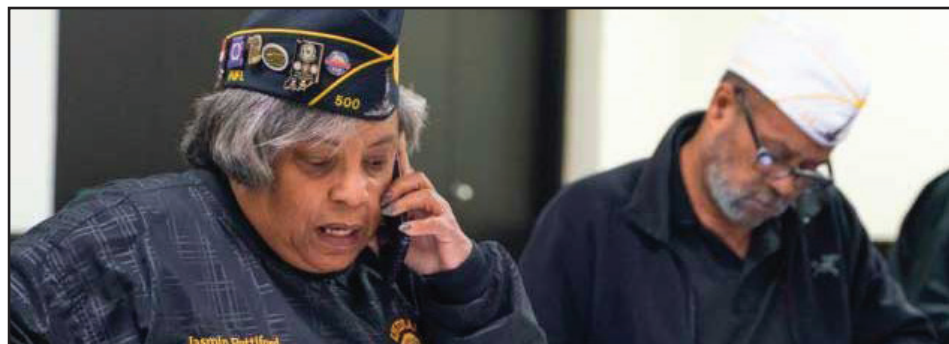
- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available; (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
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- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

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*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to review plan details.

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Membership Management in MyLegion.org



MyLegion.org is a one-stop-shop for managing your American Legion membership.

Within the [My Account](#) section, members can easily manage their subscriptions to e-newsletters and The American Legion Magazine. There are a variety of e-newsletters to subscribe to such as the Dispatch, American Legion Online Update, Flag Alert, Legion Riders and more. Members also can renew their

membership, print a current membership card, view member-only discounts, manage their personal profile and receive information on giving opportunities. Overall, [MyLegion.org](#) provides a hassle-free way for members to stay informed on matters related to their American Legion membership, with options tailored to their preferences and needs.

www.MyLegion.org

Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine

The American Legion Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

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



To donate with PayPal or Debit/Credit card, scan the QR code on the right or visit www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php and click the DONATE button then select the designated fund of choice. Donations can also be by made by using the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation Brochure.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!



The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to programs and services of The American Legion, Department of Maine

that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today

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Maine Legionnaire newspaper by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>

Carrier Crewmen Have Rugged, Vital Job

The aircraft carrier trembles as she turns into the wind, from one of her halyards streams the Fox flag, a white flag with a red diamond indicating to the ships around her that she is about to turn into the wind to launch her aircraft. On the flight deck, ready and waiting, are the planes, with the flight deck crews in their colored shirts and matching helmets, yellow, blue, red, brown, green and white.



Dawn Attack: Moving shadows in the morning light, plane pushers on board *Boxer* (CV 21) 'spot' an F9F Panther for day's mission against enemy.

Photo credit: ALL HANDS Magazine
Nov. 1951

Yellow are plane directors; blue are handlers. Without the red shirts there would be no fuel, without the white shirts there would be no bombs or bul-

wind and the helmsman has steadied on his new course, a destroyer will act as a plane guard, and is in position behind and to the right of the carrier ready to pick up a pilot if one crashes into the sea.

"PILOTS MAN YOUR PLANES" the order goes over the bullhorn, shattering the morning stillness. The red, green and white shirts leave the flight deck to the catwalks on both sides of the flight deck. The brown shirt plane captains have been busy giving their plane its preflight check and climb out of the cockpit to greet the pilot coming from the ready room where he received his orders and is trotting toward the plane, where the plane captain helps with the seatbelts.

"Now clear the decks, remove all chocks and tie-downs." At this word, the blue shirt plane pushers run to the plane assigned and remove the tie-down and chocks. The pilots, by this time, are satisfied with the condition of the plane, and the blue shirts head for the catwalks.

"Stand clear of propellers... start your engines" comes over the bullhorn, and the planes cough and roar to life. Soon another and another, making the flight deck throb with the sound of many airplane engines, rendering it impossible to make yourself heard.

Two men in blue shirts yank the chocks from the wheels, another man



Teamwork by a flight deck crew is shown in this panorama of a catapult launching on board *USS Midway* (CVB 41.)

Photo credit: ALL HANDS Magazine
Nov. 1951

lets, without the brown shirt plane captains the aircraft would be in no shape to fly, without the green to catapult, the planes could not be launched, and the arresting gear would not catch and stop the planes when landing.

The hanger deck crewmen are very important and are needed to keep the planes in flying condition from the time problems are detected, and work all night if needed to have the planes ready for the morning flight, and are responsible for bringing the flyable planes to the flight deck from the carriers' garage below in the hanger deck.

Now the carrier has nosed into the

flips off the last tie down gripping the plane to the deck, and gives the yellow shirt plane director a thumbs-up signal, signifying that the plane is free from the deck.

The plane director takes his station in front of and to the right of the aircraft where the pilot can easily see him. He motions to the pilot to taxi his plane forward and spread his wings. Two blue shirts run beneath the wings and check the wing locks and flaps.

The plane director points up the deck to the next plane director and the plane rolls forward to be catapulted. Slowing down, the pilot turns his plane toward



Helping Hand: Corsair pilot LTJG John White, Jr. of *Boxer* is strapped into his cockpit harness before a mission by Felix Norris, AN, the plane captain.

Photo credit: ALL HANDS Magazine
Nov. 1951

another yellow shirt plane director who stands near the port catapult. This plane director coaxes him into position. That is my job, as the petty officer in charge of the plane directors on the flight deck.

The catapult crew spring into action, one green shirt connects the hold-back release to the plane, as two others slither under the plane, very close to the spinning propeller, to attach the catapult "bridle," a noose-like length of strong wire rope which will throw the plane into the air. The pilot releases his brakes on the catapult and the plane moves a little forward, making the cable secure in the catapult.

The flight deck officer signals the pilot to move his head back against the head rest and apply maximum power, then the officer makes a circular motion with his hand for the pilot to increase his throttle to full power and with his outstretched arm points go, and the plane is shot into the air. When all the planes leave on that mission, the flight deck is usually then cleared for any emergency landings as the ship slowly turns back to its original course, also making sure all the ships around them turn at the same time.



Trio Of Jets, back from a Korean strike, circle *USS Boxer* as men below prepare the flight deck to take them aboard.

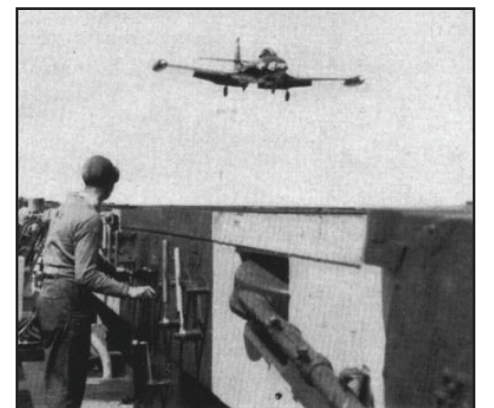
Photo credit: ALL HANDS Magazine
Nov. 1951

This operation is repeated throughout the day, launching the next flight and clearing the deck for the returning planes landing with the aid of a landing signal officer guiding them to a safe landing. The plane has a tail hook which the pilot manually extends and catches one of the four cables stretched across the deck.

Two green shirts run out to make sure the hook is clear of the cable and the plane director motions to the pilot, who retracts the hook, closes the flaps, and is directed to taxi forward of the barrier so the barrier can go up and the deck is cleared for the next plane to land.

Another plane director will direct the pilot and blue shirts to fold the wings and park the plane, lock the tailwheel and chock the wheels. The fire crew are ready for every landing, in case of a crash, fire or fuel spilled on the deck.

On the TULAGI I made a few changes: first, the method of positioning the plane on the catapult. Second, I had the carpenter shop make a Ouija (pronounced "wigi") board (a scale model



Varied Jobs are the rule here. Preparing to retract an arresting gear wire.

Photo credit: ALL HANDS Magazine
Nov. 1951

of the flight deck and flat scale models of each plane with the wings folded,) which I used to plan parking the planes forward of the barrier.

I also removed the chain across the forward edge of the flight deck used to keep anyone from falling. Doing this, I was able to park more planes forward of the barrier and would not have to send any down on the elevator, stopping the planes from landing. By making the change to the catapult during the invasion of Southern France, we broke the fleet record in the time it takes to send each plane into the air.

The shirt colors have changed a little after WWII. I think the plane handlers wore brown on the Tulagi...

Adopted for CVEs by Bob Miller,
Millinocket Post 80

Originally published by ALL HANDS Magazine,
Nov. 1951

www.hullnumber.com/ALL-HANDS/carrier-crew-men-have-rugged-vital-role

DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM

Colby College, Waterville
June 16-21, 2024



Please visit www.mainelegion.org for more information.
or contact Jason Hall at 207-873-3229 or 207-522-5471
Email: jason@mainelegion.org

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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

Sanford Post 19 Celebrates Military Appreciation Day

On Jul. 5, 2023, The Sanford Mainers of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) hosted veterans and military service members of York County at the annual Military Appreciation Day at Goodall Ballpark in Sanford. The American Legion Post 19, assisted by the Amvets & VFW, organized and coordinated the event.

On a beautiful summer evening, the Color Guards of the Civil Air Patrol #078 and Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol, Sanford Composite Squadron



Standing Ovation: US Navy Veteran, Jim Fortier, left and US Marines Veteran John Sigouim, right.

Photo by Madison Giltner
Special Social Media Manager / Official Team
Photographer Sanford Mainers

escorted veterans from the US Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard onto Goodall Field for a Special Ceremony honoring veterans and mili-

tary personnel from all branches of the US Military.

Master of Ceremonies and US Navy and Vietnam Veteran, Jim Bachelder, introduced each veteran representing the numerous services: Jessica Johnson - US Army, John Sigouim - Marines, Jim Fortier - Navy, Kristine Stanley - Air Force and Paul Lunetta - Coast Guard. Each received a standing ovation from the over six hundred in attendance.

A special recognition ceremony was given to WWII Navy Veteran Edgar Giroux. Edgar was born on Feb. 2, 1926 and enlisted in the Navy when he was 18 years old. He served in the Navy from June 2, 1944 to May 1, 1946 and held the rank of Coxswain. He helped establish a communication site for Utah Beach shortly after D Day. On Dec. 17, 1944, he was assigned as Aide de Camp to Commodore H.M. McManes aboard the *USS Savannah*. His fluency in French allowed him to spend the remainder of the war in France escorting dignitaries and VIPs around Paris. He has been married to his wife Teresa for 72 years. Edgar is currently at the VA Soldiers home in Scarborough. He received a special citation and standing ovation from the audience when he was introduced.

All veterans and military personnel in attendance were applauded as they stood when their military anthem



Post 19 Recognizes Servicemember: Edgar Giroux, middle, holds a certificate of appreciation, with Joe Dorion, left, and Jim Bachelder, right.

Photo by Madison Giltner
Special Social Media Manager / Official
Team Photographer, Sanford Mainers

was played. As a special highlight, all members of the Sanford Mainers shook the hands of the veterans on the field, and each received a baseball from the Mainers. The National Guard Unit of Sanford gave out National Guard cushioned seats and Nerf balls for those in attendance.

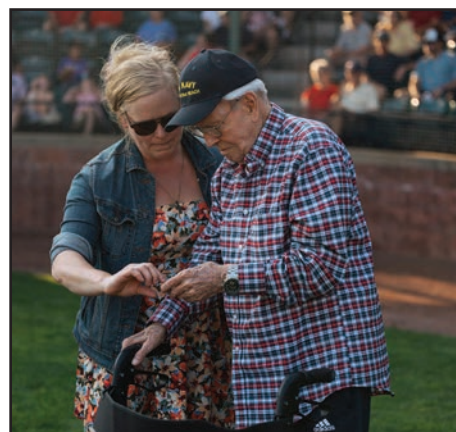
The event was sponsored by Partners Bank and Director of Public Relations Kim Weaver coordinated the booth and had lots of handouts and gifts for those in attendance. Arthur Rocray threw out the first pitch to the catcher prior to the

start of the regular schedule game.

This was the seventh year that the event has been held, excluding 2020 due to Covid cancellation. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the Military Appreciation Day event and all service members in attendance look forward to the 2024 event.

A big **Thank You** to the Sanford Mainers Baseball Organization for a truly memorable evening.

Submitted By Dale Midgley,
Sanford Post 19 Adjutant



Military Appreciation: US Air Force Veteran Kristine Stanley, left, and Edgar Giroux, right.

Photo by Madison Giltner
Special Social Media Manager / Official Team
Photographer Sanford Mainers



Certificate Of Appreciation: Edgar Giroux with certificate.

Photo by Madison Giltner
Special Social Media Manager / Official Team
Photographer Sanford Mainers

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Berwick Post 79 Honor Guard Reaches New Milestone

The eleven members of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Honor Guard just completed their fourth year of service, performing in thirty-six events during the calendar year of 2023. Collectively, they logged 380.5 hours of service, traveling up to fifty miles to render honors at funerals.

Additionally, Honor Guard members participated in Berwick's Memorial Day and Christmas Parades and supported the post's National Vietnam Veterans Day, Flag Day, and Veterans Day observances.

They do this and ask for no monetary support for travel and at no cost to the families because it is important to every member of the honor guard that all veterans who have served his or her great country of ours is due respect and final honors when they pass.

With the full support of the post and with accolades from many of the full time Air Force, Army and Navy Honor Guards, this elite group looks forward to another banner year of service – for God and country.

By Forrest Davis, Post 79 Honor Guard Captain



Berwick Post 79 Honor Guard performs a ceremonial service.

Photo by Joelle McIntyr

Eliot Post 188: Poised to Grow and Growing

The past decade or so has been very difficult on the Eliot/Kittery Memorial Post 188. Many people in the Eliot area probably pass by the post's home at 2 Cross St., near Norton's garage, not realizing the post is even there. In addition, the Wallingford/Harris American Legion post in Kittery closed in the early 1970s. Declining membership, covid, and other considerations compelled post leadership to turn in the post charter about two years ago.

Legionnaire and Past Post Commander Dana Norton heard of this and reclaimed the charter. He and a handful of faithful veteran supporters ensured Eliot veterans' graves were decorated and that Eliot, ME had appropriate Memorial Day and Veterans Day services. The post also worked alongside VFW Post 9394 in Kittery to ensure Kittery's community was served.

He assembled a new leadership team, and as a man of vision started the rebirth of post 188. He recruited myself to serve as 1st. Vice Commander and then as Commander of the post.

In the past two years, the post has:

- Sponsored two community dances.
- Held a bicycle rodeo.
- Worked along with Missions in the Rain (provides coats, boots, etc. to veterans.)



Opening Salute: Eliot Post 188 Commander Donald G. Hands leads fellow legionnaires in a salute to open a membership meeting.

- Worked along with Wreaths Across America to honor veterans.
 - Held a very successful community Chili Cook-off.
 - Sponsored a Traip High School student in the American Legion Oratorical Contest.
 - Donated and continues to donate money to worthy causes.
- Membership has risen too.

Most recently the post kitchen, which has been inactive for more than 10 years, has been refurbished. A family

in the Eliot community donated a gas stove, refrigerator and microwave. Considerable sweat equity and post finances were involved in repiping the kitchen, removing the old appliances, cleaning the area, and buying essentials for the kitchen.

The bathroom now has a pedestal sink that was donated by a household in Kittery. The original sink was leaking and the pipe under it collapsed to the touch.

Even brighter days are coming for Post 188. I encourage veterans to reach out to the post with their needs as we are reaching out to veterans in the communities. Now is a great time to become involved and make a difference

for other veterans and yourself.

The American Legion has an Auxiliary group, a Sons of The American Legion group, and a motorcycle group called the American Legion Riders.

Feel free to attend a post meeting held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 2 Cross St. The building is on the corner of Main and Cross St. in Eliot where you will see our national flag and the POW flag flying.

As the post commander, I look forward to meeting you. I can be reached at 207-703-2727 or call the post at 207-439-3299. Post 188 is poised to continue its growth and we invite you to be a part of it.

Submitted By Donald G. Hands
Post 188 Commander



Eliot Post 188 Re-Opens Cozy Kitchen: After more than a decade of inactivity, the "cozy kitchen" at American Legion Memorial Post 188 is operational to serve the Eliot and Kittery Communities. Join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 455 Main St., Eliot. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.



Coffee With Post 188 Commander: Eliot Post 188 hosted "Coffee with the Commander" on Thursdays in Jan. and Feb. This was a free and informal time for anyone to meet with post leadership at 455 Main St., Eliot.

Quinn Weeks Receives Eliot, ME Citation at Post 188

On Jan. 20, over 30 friends, family and dignitaries held a luncheon at The American Legion Eliot/Kittery Memorial Post 188 to honor Eliot resident Quinn Weeks for his commitment to enlist in the U. S. Army. He reports to Fort Sill, OK on Jan. 23.

Post Com. Donald G. Hands opened the event, welcoming the attendees and conducting the pledge of allegiance. Quinn's father, Steven Weeks, introduced Quinn saying how "proud he was of his son becoming a young man and making significant life decisions." Steven is a veteran of the U. S. Navy.

Com. Hands played a recording of the "Navy has the gravy but the Army has the beans" song. A moment of grace was held by Post Chaplain John Richardson. Then, the attendees enjoyed a bean and cornbread meal prepared by U. S. Navy veteran Mark Avery, who served as a mess management specialist.

Sgt. D. Pacheco of the U. S. Army



Dover Recruiting station praised the commitment Quinn had to serve his country calling it a "noble path." He noted that, "While the path may be full of challenges, remember the reason why you joined and the importance of serving."

Com. Hands read a proclamation that was provided by Eliot Town Manager

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

■ "CITATION"
(Continued from Page 17)

Mike Sullivan and signed by the Eliot Select Board designating Jan. 20 as "Quinn Weeks Day." The attendees applauded.

American Legion 1st District of Maine Commander Paul Moessner quipped, "Get used to your loss of hair – but don't worry it will grow back." He further noted that currently just under two percent of people join the military and that makes Quinn part of the greatest fraternity ever known.

Quinn, who is a member of The Sons of the American Legion (SAL), was

honored by Maine SAL Commander Steve Doyle who noted that Quinn would have to take a break from his hobbies but that it would ultimately be worth it.

The Dept. of Maine American Legion Commander Alfred McKay noted, "You will be challenged beyond what you thought you could do, but you will do fine." He also looked forward to Quinn joining as a Legionnaire in the future.

Several attendees spoke of how willing Quinn was to help the post, how much he would be missed, and wished him the best for his future. The post chaplain provided a closing prayer.

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

District 2 Meeting at the
Maine Military Museum

Director/Curator of the Maine Military Museum, Lee Humiston, hosted the American Legion Department of Maine 2nd District December meeting. Commander Dave Tanguay orchestrated a short and informative program with Lee opening with a warm welcome and a brief comment about the museum and a short history. Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock presented Lee with a sizable donation for the running of the museum.

Jim "Doc" Martel, representing Operation Ray of Light, spoke about his organization and their role in helping veterans cope with returning to civilian life and dealing with some of the problems through programs that get

veterans out of the house and finding calming recreation as an aid to deal with PTSD and other military related issues. Programs are also open to dependents as well as the service person. Jim was followed up by licensed Clinical Social Worker, Catherine Cooper, with the VA Maine Suicide Prevention Coordinator. Catherine and Jim's main point that I took away was "Be The One" who is there to talk to a fellow vet, listen and share your experiences with them.

The program and meeting were well attended with the District 1 Auxiliary meeting at the same time. Attendees ate a light lunch provided by Post 35 and after the refreshments, adjourned to separate rooms for their respective meetings.

Post 197 from Westbrook had a table available for Christmas gifts for children in the Westbrook community and were taken to their Post to be wrapped and given out later.

The District 2 meeting was well attended with 8 out of 14 operating posts represented. The highlight of the meeting was the establishment of the Curtis Merrill Scholarship fund and the \$1,050 raised to date.

Special thanks again to Lee Humiston and Past Commander of Post 35, Peter Kane, who were great tour guides before the lunch and meetings.

By Michael R. Pock, Post 35 Adjutant



District 2 Donates To Maine Military Museum: Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock, right, presents a donation to Director/Curator of the Maine Military Museum, Lee Humiston, left.

So. Portland Post 35 Oratorical Contest

On a Wednesday night, at 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 13, the Stewart P. Morrill Post held their annual Post Oratorical Contest for 2024. The contest originally had four applicants to compete for the post title but due to sickness and other obligations, the field was whittled down to two.

Commander Wes Splettstoesser and the Americanism Committee pulled together a last-minute contest with the remaining contestants. Our candidates this year were Theresa and Caroline Straw from Cape Elizabeth High School.



Post 35 Oratorical Contest: Left to right, Commander Wes Splettstoesser, Post 35 Oratorical Candidate Caroline Straw, Americanism Committee Member Mike Pock, and Post 35 Oratorical Contest Winner Theresa Straw.

The contestants are sisters, and despite the urge for sibling rivalry, they both performed very well. The first round got off to a good start with Theresa leading off, but Caroline held her own. The second round was even better as the sisters took an interesting and different approach to the same topic.

This year's topic at the post level was Amendment XXV, Sec. 3, as I would call it the "accession of powers amendment." Amendment XXV, Sec. 3 allows the President to pass the power of the office down to the Vice President through a written agreement when he or she is unable to perform their duties, and until written authorization to the contrary is provided, the Vice President becomes the Acting President. Both young ladies presented a very good and informative view of the topic, but in the end with the scores tabulated, Theresa was declared the post winner and will move on to the district contest.

By Michael R. Pock,
Americanism Committee Member

So. Portland Post 35 Packs
Thanksgiving Baskets

The "Happy Packers of Post 35" were busy again this year putting together 20 baskets (banana boxes) for veterans in need in the Portland area. The crew of ten laid out 20 banana boxes on four long tables and proceeded to pack them with food supplies for a Thanksgiving dinner. Past Commander and Finance Officer Ken Marston has been collecting food items for 40 baskets to be given out for Thanksgiving and Christmas with enough food to feed a medium sized family for a week.

Each "Basket" contains canned vegetables, cake mix, frosting, pudding, Jello™, 5 lbs. of sugar and flour, Stovetop™ stuffing, gravy, cranberries, canned yams and soup. On top of the canned goods are added apples, oranges, bananas, celery, onions, carrots, potatoes and a 10-12 lb. frozen turkey.

The Northern New England Coast Guard Sector were given first bids on the baskets and the remaining baskets

go to the Veterans Service Center in Portland. This year, because of logistical problems, the balance of the baskets not given to the Coast Guard were delivered to the VA Clinic in Portland. The packing team met again a couple days before Christmas to repeat the process with the remainder of the canned goods and a fresh selection of produce plus candy canes.

A special thanks to Ken Marston, Wes and Betty Splettstoesser, Mary Neal, Bob Bradbury, Paul Thibeault, Tony Batchelor, Guy Linscott, Ed Seymourian and Michael Pock.

Michael Pock and Tony Batchelor delivered 18 baskets to the VA Clinic in Portland and were assisted by Laurie Raymond, Sara Nimitz and Nathan Pineau from the clinic to help unload the fully-loaded trailer of baskets and turkeys. The VA staff were more than happy to receive the baskets from Post 35.

By Michael R. Pock, Post 35 Adjutant



Post 35 Thanksgiving Basket Volunteers: Standing left to right, Wes Splettstoesser, Ken Marston, Tony Batchelor, Ed Seymourian, Paul Thibeault, Guy Linscott and Bob Bradbury. Seated, left to right, Betty Splettstoesser and Mary Neal.

[More on "THANKSGIVING" Page 19](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ "THANKSGIVING"

(Continued from Page 18)



Post 35 Loading Turkeys & Baskets: A truckload of turkey and food baskets for Thanksgiving meals are loaded for delivery.



Post 35 & VA Staff Unload Baskets: Left to right, Laurie Raymond, Sara Nemitz, Tony Batchelor and Nathan Pineau.



Post 62 Prepares Craft Fair: Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 holds a Christmas Craft Fair in Westbrook on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.



Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023. Absent from the photo is daughter/granddaughter Kalina Koutsas, who was the POW MIA Wreath Presenter at the Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery's Veterans Rest. Enough proceeds, donations and help from the Salvation Army, along with the setup of tables by Post 62 members Harry Gorham, Michael Thomas, Tom Mahon, and Dennis Marrotte. A tremendous organizing effort was made by House Manager Kelly Bernier with The Westbrook Lions Club which provided lunch for hungry vendors, customers and Post 62 members and resulted in a Merry Christmas for forty Westbrook children. Thanks to everyone!

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

Westbrook Post 62 Wreath

Placement: Grace Gauvin of Westbrook High School performs "TAPS" following the placing of wreaths at Woodlawn Cemetery's Veterans Rest by volunteers and members of Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder and Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 of Westbrook. Chapter 2, R/T, the Westbrook Veterans Advisory Committee, and Post 62 assisted. Speakers were Emcee Deborah Willoughby, Chapter 2 R/T, Rebecca Boaz, Westbrook VAC, and Mayor of Westbrook, Maine Michael T. Foley. A correction from last week's "American Journal:" Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder was the hosting organization at Woodlawn Cemetery's Veterans Rest, with assistance from The Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 and the Westbrook VAC. All three organizations also placed wreaths at memorials around Veterans Circle at Riverbank Park in Westbrook.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

**Westbrook Post 62 Wreaths Across America:**

Westbrook's Wreaths Across America ceremony joins a quilt of volunteers from grownups to children and relatives of veterans. Pictured is volunteer Jason Martin and his two daughters, 4-year-old Penelope and 2-year-old Chloe, who carefully places a wreath for the U. S. Coast Guard on a shepherd's hook before saluting.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

Windham Post 148 Community Event:

With a crowd of approximately 200, The Windham Veterans Center (VFW and Legion) hosts a ceremony, speaker and luncheon for the Windham community. USAF Colonel (retired) Robert Chapin, a member of American Legion Post 148, provides historic



examples of why ordinary people setup to become veterans and do extraordinary things. He also touched upon the BE THE ONE Program.

Photo by David Tanguay

**Windham Post 148 Holds Cyber Security Forum:**

Field-Allen Post 148 attends a Senior Cyber Security Forum at the Windham Veterans Center (WVC) Veterans Coffee on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. The forum was led by Univ. of Southern Maine Department of Technology Assistant Professor of Technology and Cyber Security and Post 148 member, Lori Sussman. Lori

is a retired U.S. Army Signal Security Specialist and now teaches at the university. Lori and one of her graduate students spent about 45 minutes going over a presentation and Q&A on issues related to those who prey on our seniors and senior veterans on cell phones and their computers. The presentation at the coffee was well received. There are so many scams out there and so many ways to lose your money to scammers. I would recommend a briefing by Lori at several levels. Lori is available for smaller workshop sessions with her grad students to cover specific concerns relating to phone and computer security.



Post 148 Veterans Day Ceremony: In the Veterans Memorial Garden, Windham Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard renders final honors after a floral wreath ceremony. Left to right, Honor Guard OIC Arn Heggers, Bugler Linwood Bailey, Rifle Squad: Larry DeHof, Dick Graves, John Facella, Craig Pride and David Horne (not pictured.)

Photo by Ed Pierce



Veterans Memorial Wreath: Legion Post 148 Commander Tom Theriault, left, and VFW Post Commander Willie Goodman, right, place a wreath on the Veterans Memorial Stone in the Memorial Garden on Veterans Day.

Photo by Ed Pierce

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Windham Post 148 Color Guard Veterans Day Ceremony

The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Color Guard participates in a Veterans Day remembrance at the Royal Ridge House of God in Scarborough. Attendees experience a beautiful ceremony with singers from Kennebeck Valley and a great story by Richard Kepler about his father who coached professional baseball players playing for the Navy to promote war bonds during WWII. That team beat the NY Yankees. The story is in the book "Cloudburst Nine" by Anne Keene and goes into detail about the Navy Pilot program where many of these baseball legends were trained and then flew

fighter missions during WWII.

Over 30 veterans were recognized with a certificate and wrapped in a Quilt of Valor. Lunch was served and door prizes were given out. The church plans to make this an annual event. The state Legion historian took many pictures and told the attendees about the "Be The One" initiative. The Color Guard also spread the word about Field Allen Post 148 holding a weekly Coffee for Veterans with a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) attending most days to help veterans learn about their benefits.



Quilt Of Valor: Honor Guard Member Craig Pride receives a Quilt of Valor at the Post 148 Veterans Day Ceremony.



Post 148 At Royal Ridge House Of God: Left to right, Officer in Charge Arn Hegggers, David Rendall, Craig Pride and John Facella.

Remembering Pearl Harbor: On the 82nd anniversary of Dec. 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor, Field-Allen Post 148 members and honor guard assembles in the Veterans Center Memorial Garden to place a wreath on the Veterans Memorial



Stone. Past Post Commander and WWII Veteran Carroll McDonald complete the ceremonial honors assisted by Honor Guard member John Facella, with the remaining honor guard members parading on either side of the memorial. Honor guard members included: David Rendall, Tim Snyder, Craig Pride, Roger Timmons and Dick Graves. Approximately two-dozen post members came out in sub-freezing weather for the ceremony. A second wreath is placed at the Town of Windham Veterans Memorial by the honor guard.

Photo by David Tanguay

Windham Post 148 Awards & Dinner

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham held its 10th annual Awards Night and Legion Family Dinner on Dec. 6. Assisting Post Commander Tom Theriault with presentations this year is Department

Adjutant Jason Hall and Unit President Pam Whynot, who was assisted by Past Department President Debra Rumery. Following the spaghetti dinner, awards and recognition were presented to over fifty post and unit members in

the following categories: RED CROSS staffing for blood drives, Poppy Program support, multi-year Certificates with lapel pins for 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service, certificates of appreciation, meritorious awards, and two special awards: Past Post Commander Don Rogers Service Award and the Post Legionnaire of the Year Award.

There are too many recipients to list all below, but the post would like to recognize the Post Commander Don Rogers Service Award presented to the Post 2nd Vice Commander, Yvonne Johnson. Yvonne has been with the post

for a little over a year and has become immersed in a variety of post programs, including Honor Guard, Poppy Program, Wreath Program, Red Cross Blood Drives and so much more. The 2023 Legionnaire of the Year is Post Americanism Officer John Facella, who has made the Americanism and Youth Programs his own. John is also heavily involved in the post Honor Guard and other post activities. The Field-Allen Legion Family is truly blessed to have so many volunteers.

Congratulations to all! And thank you to Jason and Debra!



Post 148 Service Awards: Top photo, Post 148 2nd Vice Commander, Yvonne Johnson, center, is awarded the Post Commander Don Rogers Service Award by Post Commander Tom Theriault, left, and Department Adjutant Jason Hall, right. Bottom photo, Post 148 Americanism Officer John Facella, center, is awarded Legionnaire of the Year by Post Commander Tom Theriault, left, and Department Adjutant Jason Hall, right.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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



District 3 Meets In Mechanic Falls: Left to right, Post 135 Commander Tim Robinson, Post 135 Adjutant Jim Rancourt, Adjutant and Finance Officer Jim Veilleux, Post 111 Adjutant Dale Bryant, Judge Advocate Paul L'Heureux and Post

66 Commander John Enman receive certificates for achieving 2022 goals and objectives.

Local Woman Honored by American Legion Brass

Lewiston resident, former physician, and former legislator, Heidi Brooks, was presented a distinguished service award of excellence by National American Legion Commander Daniel J. Seehafer. The presentation occurred on the national commander's recent visit to the William J. Rogers Post 153

in Auburn. Ms. Brooks was introduced by Retired Coast Guard Commander Patrick Eisenhart, pictured to the right of Ms. Brooks, who worked with Ms. Brooks, who fought relentlessly to better the lives of disabled veterans.

[More on "HONORED" Page 21](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3 continued

■ **"HONORED"**
(Continued from Page 20)

Ms. Brooks was cited by Commander Seehafer for serving as lead sponsor of a successful legislative bill which freed totally

disabled active-duty veterans injured in the line of duty from paying state motor vehicle excise taxes.

Ms. Brook served 4 terms in the Maine State Legislature.

Submitted by Patrick Eisenhart



Auburn Post 153 Service Award Of Excellence: American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer presents Heidi Brooks a distinguished Service Award of Excellence at Auburn Post 153 during his official visit to the Department of Maine. Left to right, Maine State

Department Commander Al McKay, National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, Heidi Brooks, Retired Coast Guard Commander Patrick Eisenhart, and Auburn Post 153 Commander Michael Tardiff.

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

Farmington Post 28
Happenings and Events

Roderick-Crosby Post 28 Legionnaires participated in numerous Veterans Day activities over several days leading to the annual Farmington public observance. On Nov. 9, 2023, many members attended a veteran's luncheon hosted by the president of the University of Maine at Farmington. Numerous UMF veteran faculty, staff and students were present. Department Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge, who also serves as the Post 28 Adjutant, delivered prepared

remarks to the lunch guests thanking them for their service and highlighting the upcoming Veterans Day events planned by Post 28.

The following day, Post 28 Legionnaires conducted their first annual voluntary toll booth at a major intersection leading in and out of downtown Farmington.

Over two thousand dollars was collected during the two-hour afternoon period which will be used towards the post's veteran support programs. The collection team

was led by Commander Stephan Bunker, Past Commander Tim Callahan, Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, Judge Advocate Ed David, and Department Judge Advocate Goodridge.

On Veterans Day, Post 28 hosted



Voluntary Toll Booth: Post 28 Judge Advocate Ed David collects roadside donations on Nov. 10, 2023.

Photo by Drew Goodridge



Farmington Post 28 Attends Veterans Day Event: Left to right, District 4 Adjutant Jennifer Bowser-Kimble and Dept. Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge represent The American Legion at the WGME 13/ FOX 23 Veterans Thank You event.

Photo by Post 86 Adjutant Richard Flynn



Color Guard: Left to right, Commander Stephan Bunker, Legionnaire Rick Bowen and Legionnaire Joe Paradis.

Photo by Becky Goodridge

two public observance ceremonies at the Teague WWI Memorial Arch and at Meetinghouse Park, respectively. Farmington Police Chief Kenneth Charles, the newest member of Post 28, was the keynote speaker at the Memorial Arch. Commander Bunker delivered an



Veterans Day Address: Farmington Post 28 Commander Bunker delivers a Veterans Day address at Meetinghouse Park. Dept Judge Advocate Goodridge holds microphone on a windy day.

Photo by Jennifer Bowser-Kimble

address at Meetinghouse Park. Wreaths were laid by Legionnaires and scouts from Troop 546 and Pack 585 at the memorials in both locations.

At the Legion Hall, Roderick-Crosby Unit 28 hosted a free lunch for veterans and their families. Homemade beef stew and the fixings were on the menu. A wonderful gathering with good food, good company and community support.

In collaboration with Farmington author Glenn Miller and the Farmington



Judge Advocate Speaks: Department Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge delivers opening remarks at the public presentation of *No Higher Service: Franklin County Maine's Fallen Soldiers of WWI*.

Photo by Becky Goodridge

Historical Society, Post 28 hosted a public presentation of Mr. Miller's work, *No Higher Service: Franklin County Maine's Fallen Soldiers of WWI*. The two-hour presentation, held at the Old North Church, was a moving tribute to the thirty-three fallen Franklin County soldiers of WWI. Over 60



Local Author Commemorates Soldiers: Farmington author Glenn Miller gives a moving tribute during the public presentation of *No Higher Service: Franklin County Maine's Fallen Soldiers of WWI*.

Photo by Becky Goodridge

people listened to Mr. Miller speak to the individual stories of each soldier gathered from his extensive research over the past year. The presentation was produced in part for the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Teague WWI Memorial Arch which falls on



Farmington Unit 28 Hosts Veterans Day Lunch: Unit 28 hosted a free lunch for veterans and their families at the Legion Hall.

Photo by Drew Goodridge



Color Guard At Chester Greenwood Day: Farmington Post 28 Color Guard represents The American Legion at the Chester Greenwood Day parade. Left to right, Dept Judge Advocate Goodridge, Commander Bunker, Legionnaire Rick Bowen, District 4 Adjutant Bowser-Kimble.

Photo by Parade Bystander

[More on "POST 28" Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 4 continued

■ "POST 28"

(Continued from Page 21)

Memorial Day 2024.

The month of December was filled with holiday gatherings and severe weather with serious flooding and consequences in the greater Farmington area. First, on the cheerful side of things, Roderick-Crosby Unit 28 held their



Lions Club Christmas Dinner: Farmington Post 28 hosts the annual Farmington Lions Club Christmas dinner at the Legion Hall on Dec. 13, 2023. Left to right, Legionnaire Roger Ryder, Lions Club Secretary Jeff Wright, Commander Bunker, Legionnaire Paul Dalrymple.

Photo by Drew Goodridge



Christmas Gathering: Farmington Post 28 holds its annual Legion Family Christmas Gathering on Dec. 16, 2023. Left to right, Unit 28 Katie Hallman, Legionnaire Bob Hallman, Commander Bunker, Cheryl Bunker, Legionnaire James Wilson, Unit 28 Jayne Wilcox, Legionnaire Oman Wilcox.

Photo by Chaplain Langdon Adams



Farmington Legion Family Enjoys Christmas Dinner: Left to right, Unit 28 Terrie Wilson, Unit 28 Arlene Dalrymple, Membership Chair Peter Tracy, Past Commander Les Gatchell, Unit 28 Betty Gatchell, Unit 28 Marion Durrell.

Photo by Chaplain Langdon Adams

annual Christmas craft fair on Chester Greenwood Day. The Legion Hall was filled with creative artisans, crafters, vendors, and shoppers looking for unique handcrafted gifts. The kitchen was busy serving food throughout the event. The Post 28 Color Guard with members of Troop 546 and Pack 585 headed the Chester Greenwood Day parade procession route lined with onlookers in downtown Farmington.

Post 28 hosted the annual Christmas dinners of the Farmington Lions Club and Firefighters, respectively. The Legion Family catering team provided exceptional dining and service. The Legion Hall meeting room was festively decorated and filled with holiday joy. The annual Post 28 Christmas gathering followed with a potluck dinner and traditional Yankee Swap.

The week prior to Christmas proved challenging when severe rainstorms caused widespread flooding, road closures and long-term electrical outages. Recovery efforts required assistance from contractors who needed food and housing. Commander Bunker, who also serves as a Selectman and Firefighter, was called into action as Farmington town leaders were organizing support systems for inbound Canadian electrical contractors. Post 28 was asked to feed up to 155 Canadian line crews for two nights. Adjutant Goodridge organized the volunteer and logistical needs to feed hungry line crews. Food donations from various community partners arrived, volunteers from Kingfield Post 61 helped during the first evening, and Governor Janet Mills popped in for a visit to thank the line crews and Post 28 for their efforts. The line crews were appreciative of the homecooked meals, being treated like family, and no one left hungry. Adjutant Goodridge was quoted in The Franklin Journal, "Feeding hungry workers is a small act with a large impact." American Legion Posts should be seen as collaborators in their communities bringing vital resources to bear when



Line Crews Enjoy A Hot Meal: Post 28 Legion family members busy hosting and feeding hungry Canadian contract line crews.

Photo by Drew Goodridge

needed.

On Jan. 19, Post 28 participated in a Veteran Employment and Resource Fair held at the University of Maine at Farmington. Borrowing display materials from the Department, the Post 28 Legion Family showcased various programs and initiatives like Be The One and Dirigo State. Veterans dropped by the table to talk about The American Legion and learn more of what Post 28 contributes to the community. The Post 28 Legion Family was represented by Commander Bunker, Unit 28 President Rita Smith, District 4 Adjutant Bowser-Kimble, and Department Judge Advocate Goodridge. The event proved to be a terrific first-time experience for the Post 28 Legion Family and new friends were made.



Veterans Resource Fair: Farmington Post 28 represents The American Legion and its programs at the University of Maine Farmington Veterans Resource Fair on Jan. 19. Unit 28 President Rita Smith, left, and Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker, right.

Photo by Drew Goodridge



Legion Family Volunteers help feed line crews working to restore power to the community. Left to right, Legionnaires Roger Ryder, Bob Hallman, Paul Dalrymple, Lydia Daigle, District 4 Adjutant Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, 1st Vice Matt Smith, Unit 28 Caroleene (seated), Judge Advocate Ed David, Commander Stephan Bunker, Squadron 28 Commander Steve Cutler, Historian Karl Knight, Cheryl Bunker, Dept. Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge. Not pictured, Legionnaire Philip Ripa and Unit 28 Pamela Poisson.

Photo by Philip Ripa

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

Rumford Post 24 Holds Annual Women Veterans Luncheon

The American Legion Post 24 in Rumford held their 10th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon on Nov. 18, 2023. It was a fantastic day with so many veterans attending and all the volunteers it takes to make this day happen. We had a total of 61 women veterans attend. These veterans came from all over the state—one as far away as Van Buren! The day could not have been more perfect. Our entire American Legion post family was represented with Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members giving their all for this day. We were all exhausted but it feels good to give so much for this luncheon and knowing the reasons we do it.

Nov. 18 was spent seeing those we have made friends with over the years and making new friends. There are no strangers among us. From beginning to end we laughed, cried, applauded

each other, showed respect to our flag and country, remembered our comrades who have gone before us, supported each other, watched some outstanding performances, ate amazing food and definitely had a fabulous day!

We began creating a quilt that will become a traveling quilt to support future luncheons. Each attendee had the opportunity to create a unique square that will be a part of this unique quilt. It will become a wonderful memory of our 10th Annual Luncheon.

There are so many to thank and I hope I do not forget anyone! Keith Bickford, Randy DeRoche, Kirk Thurston, Kelly DeRoche, Carol Roach, Valerie Scott, Rena Nichols, Linda Holman, Brenda James, Jo Chapman, Gloria Morton, Sharon Sinclair, Birdie Rocray, Tori Rocray, Barbara Arsenault, Bonnie Chassie, Lynn McAloney, Bill

More on "VETERANS LUNCHEON" Page 23

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ **"VETERANS LUNCHEON"**
(Continued from Page 22)

McAloney, Don Roach, Louie Marin, Charlene Mann, Mike Malak, Kurt Pitts, Batman (Gary Dolloff), Bat Woman (Tammy Dolloff), Captain American (Dawson Walton), Tammy Schmursal Burgess, Mitzi Sequoia, Scout Troop 910 and their leaders Jana Richardson and Sara Searles, Mary Brune, Caroline Yarmala, Larhonda Harris, Joy Asuncion, Lauren Curtis, Maureen Malley, and Woodstock Elementary (for the beautiful cards.) I have thanked many for their donations on Facebook and I also want to thank any others who brought items for raffles, provided items for breakfast, Dunkin Donuts for the coffee, and Hannaford for the beautiful cake. Thank you Department of Maine President Pat Grant and Sgt.-at-Arms Kitty Wing for being there and for all your state project did for

the luncheon. Michelle McRae thank you for all you did to ensure there were raffle items for the luncheon. Thank you to the Department for all those who donated either personally or through the President's project. Thank you to JoAnn Maynard and Teresa Drag for presenting Quilts of Valor. Thank you Western Maine Witches on the Water for your performance! Thank you to all who brought toilet paper for the Sister In Arms house. You know the old saying "it takes a village" it truly does and 11/18 shows the many people who year after year support this event. My heart is very full right now with beautiful memories of our 10th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon these memories will last a lifetime! I look forward to our upcoming 11th year celebrating women veterans.

By Patricia Thurston, Dept. First Vice Commander



Women Veterans Luncheon Draws Crowd: The group attending the Women Veterans Luncheon at Rumford Post 24 show support for the "Be The One" program.

Unit 68 Christmas Delivery to Shut-ins

Jackson-Silver Post Auxiliary Unit 68 continued its annual tradition of bringing Christmas cheer to members of the Post and Auxiliary who are either in assisted living, at home or residents of veterans/health and rehab care facilities. On Dec. 17, 2023, Santa's helpers traversed from Auburn, Canton, Albany and beyond to deliver Christmas parcels prepared by the unit. About ten such deliveries were made.



Spreading Christmas Spirit: Auxiliary Member Beverly Melville with gift throw.

Locke Mills Post 68 Pre-Christmas Country Craft Fair

Unit 68 Sgt-at-Arms Marie Bartlett again conducted a successful pre-Christmas Craft Fair in the Great Hall, the weekend of Oct. 28 and 29, 2023. 37 tables had been reserved, but due to the tragic killing of 18 citizens in Lewiston

that week, eight vendors cancelled. With the shooter being associated with the Army National Guard, and the post being a military-based community organization, they expressed concern for their safety. Despite this, Saturday went well, although Sunday was off



from previous fairs. Still, the shoppers who were there enjoyed a wide assortment of hand-made, reasonably priced, holiday gift items, and they, along with the vendors, were quite happy with how the day went.



Craft Fair Canteen: Top photo, Unit 68 Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell, Secretary Susan Vacca and Post 68 Historian Al Lake man the Unit 68 Post Canteen.

Veterans Day 2023 at Jackson-Silver Post 68

The Post 68 Veterans Day ceremonies were well attended and many attending expressed their appreciation. Meritorious Service Certificates were presented to 1st Vice William Bickford,

The post commander delivered the oration titled: Last Mission to Tokyo, which detailed the POW treatment meted out to his uncle, whose B-29 Bomber "Tokyo Trolley", was shot down on May 25, 1945, on the last bombing raid on the capital of Japan.



Oration: Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry Orcutt conducts the Veterans Day ceremonies.



Taps: Mahoosuc Community Band members Julie Schubert, left, and Brian Dunham, right, play echoing Taps ceremonies.

Sgt.-at-Arms Timothy Twitchell, Historian Al Lake, and Firing Detail members Leroy Patten and Richard Wakefield. A Certificate for Chaplain Dan Grover, who was not in attendance, will be presented at a later date. All have demonstrated many years of reliable participation in the functioning and activities of the post.



Firing Detail Firing Salute



Meritorious Service Certificates: Top left photo, Leroy Patten and Richard Wakefield receive Meritorious Service Certificates. Bottom left photo, Tim Twitchell receives a Meritorious Service Certificate. Top right photo, Bill Bickford and Al Lake receive Meritorious Service Certificates.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

FEZtival of Trees at Locke Mills Post 68

Jackson-Silver Post 68 held an enormously successful event from Dec. 8-10, 2023 as a co-sponsor of Kora Shrine's Oxford County Shrine Club FEZtival of Trees. For the club, it is the fourth annual event and for the post, the second. The club announced that, as was the case last year, this year's event was "the best ever." Hundreds of families, many with children, attended and participated in the raffle of 25 trees that were fully decorated and loaded with lots of goodies. The Great Hall was transformed into a famously magic North Pole children's toy workshop, the proprietor being a jolly, old, red-clad fellow and his wife.

Santa was available for cookies and hot chocolate with children on Saturday morning for \$2 and for



A FEZtival Entrance: Post 68 decorates its entrance to welcome all to the fourth annual FEZtival of Trees.

selfies throughout the event. A special children's craft activity area, which was to have cost \$2 per child on the second day, was free because of a generous donation. There was also a 50/50. Food by the post Auxiliary brought in twice the proceeds of last year, with hot dogs at one point needing a quick resupply.

Following the event, the post commander reported to the executive committee an overview of the substantial proposed donations that the club intended to make to the Springfield and Boston Shriners Hospital's Child Life Programs, all of which were made possible by the events being centrally located at our post. Further, that the club would make another donation in the post's name to the Shriners \$100 Million Dollar Club.



Post 68 Donates To Shriners Million Dollar Fund: Left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Kora Funster Director Adam Tanguay, Post 68 Historian Al Lake, Post 68 Sgt-at-Arms Tim Twitchell and Unit 68 Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell are presented an updated Shriners 100 Million Dollar Fund plaque.



Post 68 Transforms Into A Christmas Tree Forest



Santa And Friends: Front row, left to right, Post 68 Sgt-at-Arms Timothy Twitchell, Unit 68 Member Deb Brown, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell and Unit 68 Sgt-at-Arms Marie Bartlett. Back row, left to right, a Kora Shriner, Mrs. Claus, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Santa (Past Kora Potentate, 2022 Robbie McKinley), Unit 68 Treasurer Jamie Miller, and Post 68 Historian Al Lake.

On The Nice List: Unit 68 Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell making her Christmas wish list known.



Kora Shrine Members and their lady volunteers.

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



Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, right, receives a certificate for the National Post History Contest from Department Commander Alfred McKay, left, on Dec. 10, 2023.

Photo by Toby McKay



St. George Post 34 Wreaths Across America Ceremony: Post 34 Hosts Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Dec. 16, 2023. Left photo, Commander Thornton Batty, middle photo, Dave Percival, and right photo, Steve Jarrett.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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



Accessibility Ramp built by Sons of The American Legion Post 42 at Kendrick Wilson's house.

Photo by Mike Brewer, Post 42 Service Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7 continued



Damariscotta Post 42 Builds Handicap Ramp: American Legion Post 42 members, Post Commander Ryan Coffin, 1st Vice Rick Cash, Chaplain David Gore and Auxiliary President Kassidi Gilbert construct a handicap ramp for a disabled veteran in their area.

Post 42 Veterans Day Ceremony: Veterans and friends attend an Over Shadowing Ceremony at Veterans Day River Walk in Bristol.

Photo by Mike Brewer, Post 42 Service Officer



Damariscotta Post 42 Wreath Laying Ceremony: Top left photo, Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin and Post 42 members participate in the wreath laying ceremony. Marine Veteran Pete Sousa, bottom left photo, and Dept. Commander and Air Force Veteran Al McKay, bottom right photo, lay wreaths.



Wiscasset's Veterans Day Service Pays Tribute to POW and MIA

Led by Cmdr. William Cossette, Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post 54 hosted Wiscasset's annual Veterans Day service at the town's Veterans Honor Monument on Saturday, Nov. 11.



Memorial Wall: Veterans and guests salute during the playing of Taps at the Veterans Day ceremony in Wiscasset on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Photo by Charlotte Boynton, The Lincoln County News

Delivering his prepared opening remarks, Cossette paid tribute to American prisoners of war and those servicemen and women still unaccounted for and listed as missing in action.

"Those who have served and those currently serving in the uniformed service of the United States are ever mindful the sweetness of enduring peace has been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice," Cossette said. "We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are those who have endured and may still be enduring the agony of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment."

Before the traditional laying of wreaths, the honor gun salute, and the paying of taps, Cossette explained the ceremony for POWs and those missing in action held at the beginning of American Legion meetings and other American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary events.

A small table and chair is set for one and placed in the meeting room. The table is covered with a white table cloth. A single rose is placed in a vase, adorned with a red ribbon. A slice of lemon is placed on a dish and salt is sprinkled on the dish. A glass is inverted, and a candle and an American flag is placed on the table.

Cossette said the table is small and set for one to symbolize the fact a member of the Armed Forces is missing from the ranks.

The tablecloth is white symbolizing the purity of the service member's intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood they may have shed to ensure the freedom of the United States of America. The rose is also a reminder of the family and friends of the POWs and MIA servicemen and women.

The red ribbon around the vase represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of the POWs and those missing in action. The slice of lemon on the plate is a reminder of their bitter fate.

The sprinkled salt on the dish recalls the countless, fallen tears shed by the families that wait. The inverted glass signifies the unaccounted for service member cannot toast at this time.

The chair is empty because the service member is not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope. The American flag reminds everyone many of the missing may never return and have paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure America's freedoms, Cossette said.

Cossette also recognized the town of Wiscasset for the work done on the Veterans Honor Monument grounds within the past month. The work included replacing chimney bricks with paving bricks to create a walking path completely around the monument.

The work was accomplished by the town's public works crew and contractor Mark Rego. The upgrade was funded by a carryover from the public works budget last year. The funding source was suggested by Public Works Director Ted Snowton, recommended by Town Manager Dennis Simmons, and approved by the Wiscasset Select Board.

"We had some money left over in the budget, and are happy we were able to get the maintenance at the site done," Snowton said in a brief late telephone interview.

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By Charlotte Boynton
Nov. 16 2023



Tribute To POW MIA: Wiscasset American Legion Cmdr. William Cossette pays tribute to service members missing in action and prisoners of war during a Veterans Day service in Wiscasset on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Photo by Charlotte Boynton, The Lincoln County News



Salute & Taps: The Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post 54 Honor Guard and bugler prepare to perform a gun salute and Taps during Wiscasset Veterans Day service on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Photo by Charlotte Boynton, The Lincoln County News

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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



Brunswick Post 20 Members Visit Retirement Homes: Members of Brunswick Post 20 went to three retirement homes in the Brunswick Community on Dec. 19 and 21. Those who were able to go were Joe Donahue, Marty Diller, Amanda Brilliant, Jeff White, and Tom Creehan. While visiting the homes, they met with 36 veterans.

Brunswick Post 20 Hosts Wreaths Across America Event at State House Complex

Once again Brunswick Post 20 hosted the annual State of Maine Wreaths Across America Day at the state house complex in honor of those in the military that have served our great country. This event takes place in all fifty states on the first Monday of the annual WAA trek to Arlington (our nation's cemetery.) This year's date was Dec. 11, 2023. This trek is also known as the largest veterans' parade in America. Ceremonies took place in the Hall of Flags state capitol building and were arranged by Wreaths Across America State House Coordinator for Maine, Richard Barter, and a member of Post 20. Ceremonies were conducted by Post 20 Commander W. David Watson.

Also in attendance were American Legion State of Maine Commander Alfred McKay, Maine State Regent DAR Services of Maine Elizabeth Calhoun, Director Maine Bureau Veterans Services David Richmond, and American Legion State of Maine First Vice Commander Patricia Thurston.

Also in attendance were representatives from Bath Iron Works Local 6 Veterans Committee, headed up by Veteran

and Committee Chairperson Brandt McCollett.

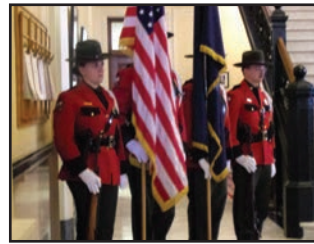
A special thank you goes out to the State of Maine's Warden Service Honor Guard for posting the colors for this event. High professionalism was displayed by this group headed up by Sgt. Justin Fowlie, Wardens Tim Corners, Joe Bailey and Julia Horst.



Post 20 Commander David Watson and Dept. of Maine Commander Al McKay.



Wreaths Across America info table.



Warden Service Honor Guard.



David Watson speaks at State House Complex.



Guest Speakers:

Left photo, Director, Veteran Services of Maine, Dave Richmond. Right photo, State Regent DAR Services of Maine, Elizabeth Calhoun.



Bath Post 21 Remembers Member: WWII Veteran

Segundo Dumas passed peacefully on Dec. 30, 2023. The photo is from his induction to the Bath Century Club. Post 21 gave him a membership that night. His daughter, Rose, pictured right and Glenn Gilbert, left.

Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings & Events

As fall arrived and the holiday season started, Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 continued to stay busy.

In November, members of Post 216 went to the Plant Memorial Home in Bath and visited with veteran residents for Veterans Day. Also, Long Island School and Phippsburg Elementary School sent cards to post members thanking them for their service.

Members gathered on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 to decorate the inside and outside of the Town Hall and also the Veterans

Memorial Park. Post 216 members assisted the town in preparation of its annual Town Hall open house when Santa arrives by fire truck to visit with the local children.

In December, the post also held its annual Christmas Dinner for members and their families at the Small Point Baptist Church. Donations were also made to Post 20 to help provide Christmas boxes to active-duty members serving abroad and to the Bath Senior Citizens' "Willy Knitters" who knit afghans for veterans at Togus.



Post 216 Members Visit Plant Memorial Home: Left to right, Comrade Alice Kolczynski, First Officer Deb Reddinger, and Comrade Chet Kolczynski visit with veterans at the Plant Memorial Home.

Photo by CDR Ken Kellogg



Veterans Ceremony: Comrade Chet Kolczynski, left, takes part in a Veterans Ceremony at the Plant Memorial Home.

Photo by CDR Ken Kellogg



Lunch With Veterans: Comrade Keith Sikora, left, and Comrade Dick Soule, back, enjoy lunch with other veterans at the Plant Memorial Home.

Photo by CDR Ken Kellogg

[More on "POST 216 HAPPENINGS" Page 27](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "POST 216 HAPPENINGS"

(Continued from Page 26)

Deck The Halls: Phippsburg Post 216 Decorates Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Site for Christmas.

Left to right, Comrade Bob Belben, Commander Ken Kellogg, and Chaplain Richard Spear decorate the Town Hall for Christmas.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young

**Phippsburg Post 216 Hosts Christmas Dinner****Together For The Holidays:**

Members of Phippsburg Post 216 and their families enjoy fellowship at the potluck Christmas dinner held at the Small Point Baptist Church.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



Potluck Dinner: Comrade Dave Barnes, middle, his wife Gloria, left, and Comrade Chuck Mainville, right, make tough choices at the Christmas potluck dinner.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



Enjoying The Meal: Judge Advocate Fred Libby and his wife Evie enjoy the Christmas potluck dinner. Fred is also the Commander of VFW Post 7738.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



Families Together: First Vice Commander Tim Williams and his wife Lisa enjoy the Christmas potluck dinner.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



All Smiles: First Officer Debra Reddinger and her husband, Commander Ken Kellogg, enjoy a good laugh at the Christmas potluck dinner.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



Second Vice Commander Sworn In At Phippsburg Post 216: Comrade Harvey Munsey is sworn in as the Post 216 Second Vice Commander at the first meeting of 2024. Left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizzdor, Second Vice Commander Harvey and Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205

Richmond ALA Unit 132 Hosts Tea Event

The first annual Female Veterans Tea offered by ALA Unit 132 in Richmond was held on Sept. 10, 2023. It was a gathering of female veterans and their service animals where there was fellowship, a delicious tea, activities and information about available benefits and services.

Thirty veterans enjoyed some pampering activities such as nail services, mini Mary Kay sessions and chair massages. They also were able to bring out their creativity while making greeting cards.

One and all enjoyed tea and coffee



alongside tea sandwiches, salads and many delicious desserts.

The Unit 132 members put their hearts into offering an afternoon the attendees still talk about months later and are already planning the 2024 Tea.

By Stella Jewett Trahan and
Lauren Jandik Curtis



Hallowell Post 6 Upgrades Safety with a newly-installed railing leading downstairs. The work was led and provided by Commander William Meehan, left, and First Vice Commander John Mosher, right.



Winthrop Post 40 Legion History Celebration: Winthrop Post 40 celebrates Legion History Day at the Post on Nov. 9, 2023. Left to right, Winthrop Post 40 Finance Officer David Glidden, Post Historian Robert Dawson and Department Adjutant Jason Hall.



Talking History: Left to right, Post 40 Finance Officer David Glidden, Department Adjutant Jason Hall, Post 40 Historian Robert Dawson and Post Commander Colin Hewett talk Legion history at Winthrop Post 40 on Nov. 9.



Winthrop Post 40 History Display

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12 continued



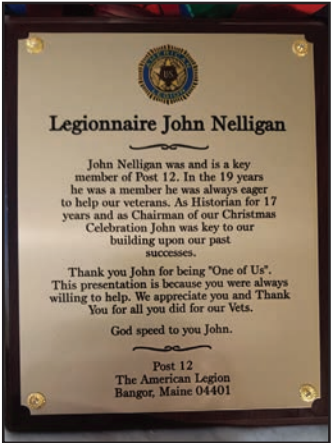
Bar Harbor Post 25 Celebrates Veterans Day: On Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, the George Edwin Kirk Post 25 in Bar Harbor held a special ceremony to commemorate the service of veterans in all wars.

Left to right, Commander Jeff Hansom, Auxiliary Unit 25 Member Tracy Pelletier, 1st Vice Commander Paul Maristany, Chaplain Barbara MacPike and District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone.

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



Bangor Post 12 Recognizes Member: Key member of Bangor Post 12, John Nelligan, receives recognition.



Post 107 Veterans Day Parade: Etna-Carmel Post 107 Commander Ryan Simpson, Master-At-Arms Liam Nedredd, Vice Service Officer Steve Luzzi, Matt Straniero and John Skidgel represent The American Legion at the Veterans Day Parade.

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



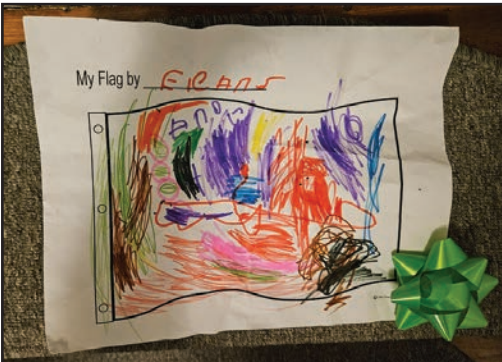
Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Builds Flag Collection Box: Post 29 repurposed an old podium to create an American Flag collection box which the local library graciously allowed to be placed in their foyer.

Photo by Bill Siemerling, Post 29 Adjutant



Post 29 Helps Local Veteran After Fire: A local veteran's home burned to the ground and the community wanted to donate items, but there was no place to store them. Our member, Dolly Perkins, coordinated the use of our member's pool room to house the donations to give the family time to sort through all the items. Whatever was left was donated to the Cambridge Baptist Church.

Photo by Bill Siemerling, Post 29 Adjutant



To All The American Legion, Love Ellie: Eleanor is five years old and the granddaughter of a Milo Post 41 member. She spent some time at the Post last summer helping out. She drew this picture for "ALL The American Legion."

When she talks to her Grammie on the phone, the first thing she says is, "By the way, how's things at The American Legion?"



Milo Post 41 Fire & Ice Raffle: Post 41 is holding a "Fire and Ice" raffle until fishing derby time. The winner will get a loaded fishing basket and 100 gallons of heating fuel.

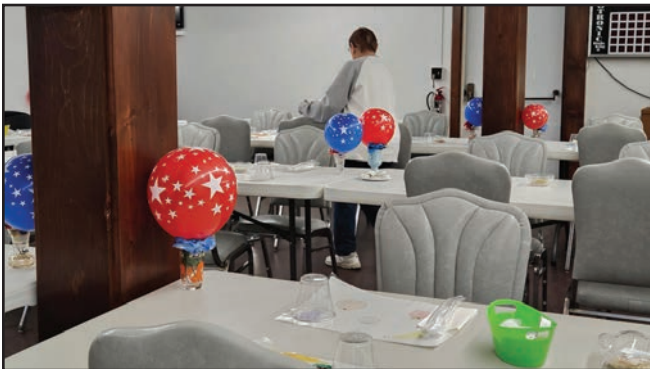
Food Box Donations For District 14:

Wilderness Walk For Warriors generously distribute almost 100 food boxes to veterans in District 14. It was great to get out and see some of our local vets.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14 continued



Eastern Agency On Aging Partners With Milo Post 41: Eastern Agency on Aging continues to outdo themselves every Thursday serving lunches to the community. We are proud to be recognized as a community partner.

Dexter Post 53 Hosts Weekly Community Event: Poulliot-Seavey American Legion Post 53 holds a weekly community acoustic jam on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m. for members of the community near and far. Musicians come to the Dexter Post from as far away as Beaver Cove, the Belfast area and all points in between.



Honoring Veterans: Many gather at Fort Kent Elementary School on Veterans Day in honor of those who served.



Thanking The Community: National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods gives thanks to the community, members and guests who joined together in celebration of Veterans Day in Fort Kent. **Flag Raising Ceremony**

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



Maine Congressman Attends District 17 Event: Congressman Jared Golden, left, and Department 2nd Vice Commander, Leroy McKenzie, right, attend a Veterans Day celebration at Fort Kent Elementary School in Fort Kent.



Wreath Laying: Department Commander Alfred McKay, left, and Congressman Jared Golden, right, perform a wreath laying ceremony at the Fort Kent Elementary school on Veterans Day in honor of those who served.

Commander Delivers Speech: Department Commander Alfred McKay takes the podium at Fort Kent Elementary School to deliver a Veterans Day Speech to all those in attendance in honor of Veterans Day.



T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 02 – Augusta	David S Campbell	Vietnam	Post 67 – Bridgton	Richard Cerone	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Ronald O Atwood	Korea	Post 68 – Locke Mills	Richard F Melville	Korea
Post 02 – Augusta	Ralph A Hopper	Korea	Post 74 – Kennebunk	Karl S Hooper	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Michael D Smith	Vietnam	Post 77 – Lincoln	Ronald W Porter	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Paul Busque	Vietnam	Post 77 – Lincoln	Robert L Hamm	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	William H Sawyer	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	Albert L Sumner Jr	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Norman C Bourget	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	George E Thibodeau	WWII
Post 02 – Augusta	Henry Breton	WWII	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Alden E Gile	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Carl L Knox	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Larry S Plissey	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Albert Charette	WWII	Post 91 – Yarmouth	Harry Storer	Korea
Post 04 – Gardiner	Barbara J Kasiola	Vietnam	Post 92 – Brownville Jct.	Louis F Brown	Korea
Post 05 – Waterville	Ronald J Rossignol	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Charles C Hackney	Vietnam
Post 05 – Waterville	Robert J Roux	WWII/Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Floyd E Gowan	Korea
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Mariner S Burgess Jr	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Loren Ritchie	Korea
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Jane E Perry	Cold War	Post 94 – Greenville	Mahlon W Ryder	Vietnam
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Michael W Plummer	Vietnam	Post 99 – Bingham	Clayton E Andrews Jr	Korea
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Joseph Tibbetts	Vietnam	Post 100 – Dixfield	Abraham Saphier	WWII
Post 09 – Machias	Wayne A Peters	Vietnam	Post 100 – Dixfield	Lee Roy J Leblanc	Vietnam
Post 11 – Eastport	Sheldon D Bishop	Vietnam	Post 112 – Oxford	Philip I Perkins Sr	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Joel L Gopan	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Florence M Kinney	WWII
Post 12 – Bangor	William M Beutel	USAF - Other	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Robert D Ward	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Stephen M Atkinson	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Wes Rankin	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Charles J Birkel	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Wesley M Stacey	Vietnam
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Donald R Elliott	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Brian K Curtis	Vietnam
Post 14 – Fairfield	Dana M Holt	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Elray J Oakes	Vietnam
Post 14 – Fairfield	Gary Bulger	Vietnam	Post 134 – Alfred	Alden E Gile	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Bob Malenfant	Vietnam	Post 142 – Peaks Island	Richard E Swarts	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Ivan V Aumick	Vietnam	Post 142 – Peaks Island	Barry L Harris	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Richard F Fortin	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Larry A Bouchard	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Eugene T Smith	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Mike P Ouellette	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Robert E Buck	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Jean P Cyr	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	Norman E Richard	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Joel Voisine	Unknown
Post 24 – Rumford	Ernest Boudreau	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Wayne L Frankhauser	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Dale Madison	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gerald Dugal	Other
Post 24 – Rumford	Theodore J Daigle	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Ed C Burns	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Leonard P Greaney	Korea	Post 158 – Lisbon	Roland Grondin	Vietnam
Post 25 – Bar Harbor	James P Leatherman	Vietnam	Post 158 – Lisbon	Vernon L Foxe	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Dennis C Pike	Vietnam	Post 158 – Lisbon	Rene Lagace	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Ronald L Smith	Vietnam	Post 159 – Kennebunkport	Ralph G Smith	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	Warren Alderson	Vietnam	Post 164 – Falmouth	Lloyd L Reynolds Sr	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Thomas W Christie	Korea	Post 164 – Falmouth	James A Vollkommer	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Henry C Balsley	Korea	Post 171 – Harpswell	Kenneth C Graybill Jr	Korea
Post 35 – So. Portland	John M Morgan	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Paul A Standridge	Vietnam
Post 35 – So. Portland	Ernest C Murphy	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Stephen Ambrose	Korea & Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	Melvin B Wallace	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	David Wallace	Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	Dawn E Wright	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 178 – Winslow	Joseph A Bourque Sr	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	Vaughn Mercier	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	George J Fournier	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Kenneth Franzose	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Fred A Glatzer Jr	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Aaron S Rollins	GW Terrorism	Post 178 – Winslow	Douglas E Clark	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Jay T Allen	GW Terrorism	Post 178 – Winslow	Warren R Crouse	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Neiland N Campbell	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Kenneth K Ellquist	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Bernhart W Nelson	Korea	Post 179 – South China	Millard E Nickerson III	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Clifton W Drake	Vietnam	Post 179 – South China	Gordon L Dupont	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Daniel N Madore	Korea	Post 179 – South China	Ivan P Wentworth	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Daniel Dube	Vietnam	Post 180 – St. Francis	Clayton Soucy	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Philip E Dumais	Vietnam	Post 183 – Brooks	Francis K Curtis	WWII
Post 49 – Van Buren	Roland St Pierre	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Frederick Doherty	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Gary A Glidden	Vietnam	Post 188 – Eliot	John H Rodgers	WWII
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Norman Legg	Vietnam	Post 195 – China	Samuel N Goddard	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Isabel D Raber	Vietnam	Post 200 – Hermon	Mylon W Frith Jr	Korea
Post 58 – Buckfield	Lionell J Jacobs	Vietnam	Post 210 – Lewiston	Hollis K Bates	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	Kevin E Mautte	Vietnam	Post 213 – Hampden	Thomas J Valley	Korea

Attention: Next Deadline is April 12

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **May 2024** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **April 12, 2024**.

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. **Please note: blurry or pixelated photos will not be accepted.**

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 or

rachael@mainelegion.org

Department of Maine
American Legion
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727

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AMERICAN LEGION



State Oratorical Winner Kylie Thibodeau of Gray, Maine, and a Junior at Gray New Gloucester High School, receives her awards from State Commander Al McKay, left, and State Adjutant Jason Hall, right. Kylie represented District 2 and Gray Post 86 at the state competition held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 10 winning \$1,500. In April, Kylie will travel to Michigan for a chance to win up to \$25,000. Congratulations Kylie!

The Department of Maine would also like to congratulate Gloria Hoskins - 2nd place, representing District 13 and Brewer Post 98 - \$500 and Colin Patrick - 3rd place, representing District 10 and Hartland Post 141 - \$300.

DISCLAIMER

Neither The Maine Legionnaire editorial director, nor managing editor is responsible for misinformation, discrepancies, or embellishments, intentional or unintentional that may be contained in communications in any form that appear in The Maine Legionnaire.

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.