

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

## Seehafer Brings Family, Fire, and Fun to Membership

Twelve American Legion departments met or surpassed their membership goal for 2024 – Puerto Rico, Florida, Virginia, Hawaii, Latin America, Idaho, Maryland, Rhode Island, Texas, Colorado, District of Columbia and Arizona. Departments have until the 105th National Convention in New Orleans in August to meet their membership goal for recognition on the national stage.



**NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL J. SEEHAFFER**

“Even if you make 100 percent two days before (national convention), I’m going to bring you up there (on stage),” said Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Matt Jabaut during his remarks at the 61st National Membership Workshop

on Friday, July 26.

American Legion department leadership gathered downtown Indianapolis at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel for the workshop to hear from Legion leadership and attend breakout sessions geared toward membership success.

American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer said in his remarks to workshop attendees that during his travels to departments, he hasn’t pushed or talked about

membership. His message has been about purpose, relevance and the No. 1 for Be the One – the Legion’s suicide

[More on "MEMBERSHIP GOALS" Page 4](#)

## Thurston to Command Maine American Legion

Patricia “Tricia” Thurston was elected the Department of Maine Commander of The American Legion during the 105th Annual State Convention in Brewer, Maine on June 8.

Tricia was born and raised in California. In 1978, she graduated from Bell High School with honors and went on to join the U.S. Navy. Due to being only seventeen at the time of re-enlistment, her mother had to sign for her to join. Tricia turned 18 in boot camp and accepted an A school rating of Cryptologic Technician Receiver (CTR). She reported to NTTC Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida and then graduated from A school. She reported to her first duty station in Edzell, Scot-



**STATE COMMANDER PATRICIA "TRICIA" THURSTON**

land where she received awards for her ability to copy Morse code. While serving in Edzell, Tricia received Sailor of the Quarter. Tricia met her husband Kirk while stationed in Scotland and they have been married for 43 years.

Tricia decided not to re-enlist due to wanting to start a family at the end of her four years of active duty. She did, however,

decide to serve four years in the Reserves. She drilled at Treasure Island, California when Kirk was stationed at Skaggs Island. From there they were sent to Misawa Air Base in Japan. That is where her new life began as a Navy spouse and was blessed with their

[More on "THURSTON BIO" Page 4](#)

## Berwick’s Andy Buckman Named Legionnaire of the Year

Andy Buckman, Berwick’s 2022 Citizen of the Year, now has another “feather” in his cap! This active and involved veteran, and member of Charles S. Hatch Post 79, has been named Legionnaire of the Year in the state of Maine.

Through business contacts with area car dealerships, Andy connected the Post with Tri-City Cars in nearby Somersworth, New Hampshire, and secured Post involvement in the Tri-City 5KRun/Walk, now entering its third year. Andy also helped nurture the Veteran’s Golf Tournament, sponsored by The Links at Outlook Golf Course in South Berwick, also entering its third year.

Back in 2013, Andy had the idea to host a car show. June 2 marks the 11th year that Andy oversees the Berwick Car Show,

[More on "LOTY" Page 5](#)



**Legionnaire Of The Year: Andy Buckman of Berwick Post 79 is named Maine Legionnaire of the Year.**

Photo by Todd Ozburn

**New State Commander Installation:** Internal Affairs Director and Past Dept. Commander/Adjutant Paul L’Heureux installs Patricia “Tricia” Thurston as the 2024-25 Commander of The American Legion, Dept. of Maine during the Annual State Convention held at Jeff’s Catering & Event Center in Brewer on June 8. Showing his support for this great accomplishment is her grandson, Anthony.



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[WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)





## Commander's Comments

My fellow Legionnaires, I am honored and proud to serve this great organization as your Commander for 2024/2025. You are all important to me and I want you to know your service to our country means so much.



**PATRICIA  
"TRICIA"  
THURSTON**

It's hard to believe that the Convention was over eight weeks ago, and I want to give a shout-out to a few people. I want to thank my amazing husband, family, and friends for always being there for me and for supporting

me through this journey. I would also like to thank my installation team, PNC Tony Jordan, PDC Paul L'Heureux, and our NEC Lloyd Woods. I thank you all for doing this for me and I am honored that you were able to do so. Thank you PDC Randy Kluj for presenting my nomination. It was an honor to have you do it and I appreciate you believing in me. I want to thank Past Department Commander Alfred McKay for all his support, guidance, wittiness, and encouragement throughout these past years. You have led by example, and I appreciate you.

Thank you to all who attended the convention and supported Mission Working Dogs by purchasing American Legion Hats. We have more if you are interested!

I want to explain a few things that [More on "CMDR's COMMENTS" Page 3](#)

## Thurston's Commander's Project: Mission Working Dogs

Department Commander Patricia Thurston asks that each Post and Legionnaire support her goal.



### Their MISSION

To improve the lives of their community members who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently despite a physical disability and by providing therapy dogs which will bring mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.

### Their VISION

At Mission Working Dogs, we train purpose-bred dogs to aid individuals with disabilities so that the handler can live a life to the fullest and more independently.

### Their GOAL

Service dogs can assist those with physical disabilities such as mobility impairments by fetching dropped items, opening doors, and turning on and off lights. They can also help individuals with PTSD by learning to recognize an increase in anxiety, carrying medications, and providing deep pressure therapy to calm or redirect the handler. Dogs working as facility dogs are often trained to recognize a patient's affected side in the case of a stroke and to approach on the side the patient is able to pet with or throw the ball. Patients are able to work on fine motor movements in petting or caring for the dog as well as gross motor skills playing fetch with a dog that's able to bring the ball exactly to where the patient needs, such as on a side table or directly into their hand, rather than on the ground or trying to play tug

with it inappropriately.

### Their PLAN

Service dogs are generally trained for approximately two years and undergo a wide range of assessments on their physical health, temperament, and tasks or skills

to make sure they can properly support their handler throughout life.

### Their HOPES & DREAMS

Past service dogs from our trainers are helping their handlers live longer and more independent lives. Therapy dogs from their program work in schools providing emotional support, laughter, or even a listening ear for reading programs. Students in behavioral programs have also benefited from becoming "junior handlers" and working on their own patience and compassion while learning to work with the dogs to help others.

If you would like to support Commander Thurston's project, please mail checks to:

**The American Legion Dept. of Maine  
Attn: Commander's Project  
5 Verti Drive  
Winslow, ME 04901-0727**

Please place in the memo line of the check: *Commander's Project 2024-2025.*

To donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229, scan the QR Code, or visit: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the **DONATE** button and *make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.*



## A 'First' Look

Hello, my fellow Legionnaires.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to continue my service to you all as 1st Vice Commander. While it is a huge honor, I know that not only does it come with a lot of responsibility, but it also comes with a lot of work to get things kickstarted.

Though I was unable to attend, I was told that our Annual Convention was very well attended. I was so happy to hear that the training portion was such a success. I believe that if we provide the training, education, and support, we will be more successful than we have ever been.

I look forward to working with all the newly elected department officers, district officers, and post officers. If we all work together, then we will all succeed together. If we do not work together, then we all risk not meeting our goals. Always remember, if we fail, we should never give up because to F.A.I.L. means FIRST ATTEMPT IN LEARNING. The end is not truly the end; in fact, it means EFFORT NEVER DIES. And if you get the answer NO to



**LEROY  
MCKENZIE**

your question, it simply means NEXT OPPORTUNITY. We simply need to change our mindset and success will follow.

I believe that we must focus on retention. We must reach out to our members to find out how we can help them, how we can benefit them, and how we can support them. Some may just need somebody to talk to while others may need direction. However, if we don't reach out, we will never know. Members want to feel that their membership is not just counted as a number, but they want to feel there is value in their membership. We all need to be making sure that our members know the value of their membership.

With the fall and winter seasons rapidly approaching, let's please make sure we continue to do our buddy checks. Remember that the focus of these calls should be about the member, not on membership.

I am anxious for the Fall Conference at Foster-Carroll Post 72 in South Paris. This is where I will be rolling out our 2024-25 Membership Plan and I hope to see all of your faces there. This year's membership plan will be focused on Operation Outreach, which will be discussed in more detail at the Fall Conference.

In the interim, I ask you all this: does your post have a membership committee? If so, ask yourself how you can help this committee. If your

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

## A 'Second' Look

It is my honor and privilege to be able to serve as your Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander for 2024-25. We have a great leadership team again this year. I am confident that we can accomplish The American Legion mission.

With that being said, we still have some work to do. It is extremely important to ensure that we complete all reports in a timely manner. Most reports, including the Notification of Post Squadron/Commanders & Adjutants Report and Post Officer Report should be submitted as soon as your post holds their annual election, even if there were no changes to your



**JOSEPH "JOE"  
MICHAUD**

post roster. Online submissions for the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) are available at [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) through July 1. The deadline for mailing the CPR to HQ is May 29. All forms except the Annual Post Data Report can be obtained online by going to the [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under Forms/Applications. All members of your post should subscribe to the Leadership Ledger to get the latest updates and information which can also be found on [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

My contact info can be found in the 2024-25 Directory or on the "officers" tab of the Maine Legion website.

Thank you for all that you do for this organization and keep up the great work. We do what we do because we have a passion for helping others. Please stay safe and remember to check up on our comrades as we are all in this together.

For God and Country.



## NEC Update

Hello, Legionnaires.

I hope your summer is going fine and you all are enjoying the nice weather that is over us. I really like the warmth over the cold of winter, but I guess we have to take what we are given.

I would like to, again, congratulate all the newly elected officers of the posts, districts, and department, and am looking forward to working with you all. I am hopeful this coming year will be a great one and a memorable one at that. If I can do anything to assist any of you in anything, please contact me. I promise I will do my best.

We are now preparing to meet again on a National level in New Orleans for the National Convention, which is the 105th convention of our great organization. There will be a number of commissions and committees meeting and the overall department delegates will be meeting to discuss the business of The American Legion. The National Executive Committee will be meeting twice during the convention. One will be a pre-convention meeting and the other will be the post-convention meeting within 24 hours of the conclusion of the general convention. I will prepare



**LLOYD WOODS**

an overview of the convention after we return.

I would like to remind everyone to please submit your officer listing for the post and/or district so that an updated directory can be published for use. It is important to send that information into the department.

Another important point is that we as a department provide the best training possible for the members of the department to avail themselves of. I truly believe we are doing just that with the "Be the One" training and Legion College, just to name two. Another is the training that was provided at our department convention pertaining to officers of the department, districts, and posts. We have some of the most talented members in our department and they prove that whenever they present the training.

There are plans for the visits of the newly elected National Vice Commander, the leading candidate for National Commander, and the National Commander newly elected at the National Convention in New Orleans. The plans and agendas will be published when the final arrangements are made.

Please have a safe and healthy season and whenever you can, check in on the other members of your post even if it is just to say hello. It will be appreciated. As I have stated over the years, "Proud to Serve." May God bless you, our country, and all the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will do for our organization.

## On the Agenda

### SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

- District 5 – Oxford:** Sept. 17 Oxford Post 112, 7:00 p.m., Refreshments after
- District 9 – Kennebec:** Sept. 11 Oakland Post 51, 6:00 p.m.
- District 12 – Hancock:** Sept. 10 Stonington Post 102, Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- District 13 – Penobscot:** Sept. 8 Etna-Carmel Post 107, Noon Lunch, Meeting 2:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Sept. 21 Milo Post 41, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- District 17 – N. Aroostock:** Sept. 7 Stockholm Post 136, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Meeting 1:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER 2024 MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland:** Oct. 13, Windham Post 148, 2:00 p.m., Lunch 1:00 p.m.
- District 5 – Oxford:** Oct. 15 Buckfield Post 58, 7:00 p.m., Pumpkin Pie after
- District 9 – Kennebec:** Oct. 9 Winthrop Post 40, 6:00 p.m.
- District 12 – Hancock:** Oct. 8 Bar Harbor Post 25, Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Oct. 19 Milo Post 41, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- District 15 – Washington:** Oct. 13 Pembroke Post 59, 2:00 p.m. Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Meet & Greet
- District 17 – N. Aroostock:** Oct. 6 Fort Kent Post 133, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Meeting 1:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

- District 5 – Oxford:** Nov. 19 Bethel Post 81, 7:00 p.m., Refreshments after
- District 9 – Kennebec:** Nov. 13 Waterville Post 5, 6:00 p.m.
- District 12 – Hancock:** Nov. 12 SW Harbor Post 69, Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- District 13 – Penobscot:** Nov. 3, E. Corinth Post 115, Noon Lunch, Meeting 2:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Nov. 16 Monson Post 116, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- District 17 – N. Aroostock:** Nov. 3 Frenchville Post 145, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Meeting 1:00 p.m.



**National Executive Committee Report: NEC Lloyd Woods gives an NEC Report update to those in attendance at the Annual State Convention held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer on Fri., June 7.**

### ■ "CMDR's COMMENTS" (Continued from Page 2)

I have learned along the way. I have learned that some veterans do not realize they are veterans. Not only women, but men as well. I know it is hard to believe, but it is true. There are various reasons for this. Some do not believe this, due to only serving one day, four years, not retiring after twenty years, or not serving during wartime or in battle. Why does this happen? I know, for me, after serving four years active and then reserves, I was still not aware that I was considered a "veteran." There was no education around this fact that I was aware of. It was not until I became involved with The American Legion that I did so. So as posts, what are we doing to educate our communities about this fact around veterans? Are you getting the word out about what a veteran is? Do you automatically assume when a female walks into your

post that she is to be directed to the Auxiliary? If you do, you are certainly about to lose a potential member that would be very valuable to your Legion family. Education is key. Not only does it support our membership, but it also supports the veteran and that is what's most important.

The American Legion was founded upon Four Pillars of Service in 1919. Today we continue to pledge ourselves to Our Veterans, Our Youth, a Strong National Defense, and Americanism. These Four Pillars shape our work and what we do for America. I ask you, what are you doing to support these Four Pillars? Please don't become "Postified." Get out into your communities and show them what The American Legion is all about. Remember you can choose one, two, or more pillars to support. Whatever pillar you choose to do, ensure that you do it well. We all need to do our part to give the best we can to our veterans and our

communities, and to be proud of what Maine is doing to make this happen. Check-in with other posts to possibly get ideas and see what they are doing to support.

The American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL have come together to do a combined project this year. Our American Legion Family Project this year is Mission Working Dogs. Christy Gardner is the founder and president of Mission Working Dogs. Christy's passion for dogs has deep, personal roots. Serving as a Sergeant in The United States Army Military Police in a peacekeeping mission in Asia, she sustained an injury as a result of a Line of Duty incident in 2006, sustaining a brain injury, a spinal cord injury, and eventually the amputation of both legs. This led her to eventually accept her golden retriever service dog named Moxie in 2010.

I have outlined the project's details on [Page 2](#). If you can donate towards

this project, please send donations to The American Legion Dept. of Maine Headquarters. Add "Commander's Project" in the memo line. Every dollar makes a difference! With this project, you are not only supporting Mission Working Dogs, but also a fellow Legionnaire and Veteran.

Please reach out to me by email or by phone if you have a special event at your post or district level you would like me to attend; my info is in the directory. I will be setting up a schedule to attend district meetings. Please ensure your district meeting schedule has been submitted to the department and is correct.

Until next time, stay safe and well. Always remember, you matter.

Tricia Thurston  
Department Commander

*Veterans Strengthening America & We Have Strength in Numbers*



**THE MAINE Legionnaire**

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## ■ "NAT'L COMMANDER" (Continued from Page 1)

prevention mission to save the lives of veterans.

"That's the key, brothers and sisters. For the first time in a long time the whole family was laser centered. We have one message and that is Be the One," a message that has been delivered from the entire national Legion Family leadership. "We all brought that phrase ... of how we change lives and save lives. That family is the key. What in the world do we do? It's not about preaching renew. It's talking about what we do. We change lives and we save lives. Bottom line."

Before coming to the workshop, Seehafer had a conversation with other Legionnaires about the absence of Legion posts in the community and the impact it would have on veterans, their families and youth.

"Would your veteran community miss you if you were gone?" he asked Legionnaires. "I would even step it up and ask, 'Would Americanism suffer or be nonexistent if you were gone?' We change lives and we save lives, and we also strengthen the country that we served and continue to love. That comes back to commitment. That comes back to what we do."

Seehafer gave examples of how the Legion strengthens America through its programs and acts of service. While visiting Brussels, Belgium, he spoke to a man from Ohio who attended Buckeye Boys State. The man shared with Seehafer that Boys State "kicked off his career. Changed his life--. You know what he's doing? He's one of the negotiators for the 2% of NATO. Pretty impressive I thought."

He then shared about his visit to the Department of Latin America where

he witnessed how members of Master Sergeant Mario Enrique Gozalez Acker Post 2 in Antigua provide critical support to communities in Guatemala. The story about his visit was featured in the April issue of The American Legion Magazine.

"Talk about a veteran community that changes lives," Seehafer said, adding that what he saw in Guatemala had a "major effect on me. When I'm walking that land, that country seeing what we have compared to what they have." He saw young children's faces light up from a chocolate candy bar or a juice box, and how thankful they were to receive other food necessities. "Talk about strengthening America, that's strengthening our cause and our name. It's not just the states but around the world that we actually change lives and save lives."

Seehafer ended his remarks with music to get Legionnaires motivated for a successful Membership Workshop by reminding them of the three F's of membership – family, fire and fun.

"We will do anything for each other, correct? That's the message that we want to give every veteran out there," he said. "If you're not part of the (Legion) family, you're missing something. But we will do anything and everything for you, whether you're a member or not. That would be a powerful message, wouldn't it? And then have that fire once again. That's why I play 'Eye of the Tiger', that drive, that sense of purpose and relevance. And let's have a little fun.

"Bottom line, family, let's change lives and save lives. One at a time."

Daniel J. Seehafer  
National Commander  
July 26, 2024

[www.legion.org/commander/262287/seehafer-brings-family-fire-and-fun-membership](http://www.legion.org/commander/262287/seehafer-brings-family-fire-and-fun-membership)

## The Adjutant Speaks

I find myself sitting in my office and truly wondering what day it is lately. Department staff and I are looking for days off to enjoy the summer... and realized that summer is almost over. There is always a lot going on to help veterans and contribute to Legion programs.



**JASON HALL**

There are many things I would like to discuss. I need to start with a lot of gratitude to many members who assisted in many events:

State Convention—thanks to all who attended. Attendance has increased consistently for the last 3 years. Thanks to the instructors, the guest speakers, and congratulations to all who were awarded for their honorable deeds and hard work.

DIRIGO State—attendance increased consistently for the last two years and we could not have done this without all the dedication of many posts, units, and squadrons. Also, to our DIRIGO Chair Julie

Flynn, the DIRIGO Committee of the Legion Family, and everyone who commits to these young adults while the program blazes on at Colby College...THANK YOU!!

Legion Baseball—3 tournaments in 3 weeks! Senior States, Junior States, Junior Regionals...and who was there to help? Old Town Post 75 showed up in force, Newport Post 105 sent an army of volunteers, 2nd Vice Commander Joe Michaud spent a week at the ballpark, and 1st Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie spent a weekend helping. Sharon Buck from Bangor Post 12 helped in all three tournaments and was always there to support. District 13 Commander Ryan Simpson brought a crew to assist from Etna-Carmel Post 107, and I was able to meet and spend time with a lot of great friends from Brewer Post 98. PDP Debra Rumery volunteered 3-4 days for the program, and District 2 Commander Gene Connolly came with his better half to support the program. We had Commander Thurston and PDCs McKay and Thurston! Past Assistant DSO Maureen Malley always contributes hours of her time. The big thank you must go to Baseball Chair Scott Bishop, Scott's family, and the baseball committee. Seriously, three incredible tournaments all with minor hiccups thanks

[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 5](#)

## ■ "THURSTON BIO" (Continued from Page 1)

daughter, Lauren. Commander Thurston and Kirk have one grown child, Lauren Weston, her husband Will, and her family, grandsons Anthony, who shares a birthday with The American Legion, and Callum, born on Flag Day. To say these two must be SAL members is an understatement.

Tricia and her husband Kirk moved to Maine after he retired from the Navy. Upon their daughter's graduation from high school is when they became involved in The American Legion. Tricia became a member of both The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. At that time, she became President of Rumford Unit 24 and did so for four years. She then became 1st Vice Commander of Post 24, then Commander, and has held an office at both the Post and Department level for many years.

Tricia has served on many committees

within the Department of Maine, but she is most proud of her work with The American Legion Women Veterans Committee. She started the women's veteran luncheons at Post 24 in Rumford more than 10 years ago. Women veterans from all over the state attend to experience the comradery we all miss. She began these luncheons to ensure others realize that Women Are Veterans Too! Tricia, along with the committee and support of her Unit and Post, continues this tradition of honoring women veterans. More posts and units within the state are now providing these luncheons as well.

Tricia attended National American Legion College in 2019, received Legionnaire of the Year in 2019 and Citizen of the Year in Rumford in 2019. Tricia is a proud member of the Department of Maine American Legion and the Auxiliary. She is a member of Post and Unit 24 in Rumford and serves on their Executive Committee.

Patricia Thurston  
Department Commander

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

post does not have one, don't you think it's time to start one? Membership is not just my responsibility; membership is everyone that is a member of The American Legion's responsibility. What is your post doing to retain the members you have? What information can we pass along to each other to give everyone the best

chance to succeed? Not everything works at each post, but ideas can be formed from others' ideas as well.

Again, I thank you all for your continued support and believe in me. I look forward to seeing you soon. Always remember that if you need to contact me, I am always available, and my info is available from any district commander/adjutant or in the directory at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

Leroy McKenzie  
Department First Vice



## ■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

to Scott's foresight. Scott's family all had roles big and small, and all dedicated three weekends to ensure the success of Maine Legion Baseball.

Thanks to Chaplain Dani Begert and 2nd Vice Commander Joe Michaud for attending fairs, conferences, events, and meetings to promote The American Legion.

The end of this month brings The American Legion National Convention. The Sons, Auxiliary, and Legion have 24 members representing Maine in meetings covering national security, Americanism programs, internal affairs, resolutions, health administration, foreign relations, military benefits, post activities, veteran employment, and more. Team Maine at its best bringing back the latest information to share at conferences and conventions. New Orleans is the site of the 105th American Legion National Convention and is sure to be a wonderful experience.

There has been an influx of posts contacting Department asking for the magic answer to membership. There does not appear to be a "one size fits all" answer. Each post is made of diverse types of members in communities that do not all have the same needs. One post may be the community hub for scouting, another post helps the community by volunteering at the local food pantry.

There seems to be a few common themes on gaining membership though:

1. Offer something appealing that a new member wants to be a part of.

a. Let us be honest. If you offer nothing to the community, you are not the community center.

b. ASK. The common reason no one joins is no one asked them to.

2. Have a membership team led by motivated, knowledgeable "people persons."

a. Friendly, welcoming members that believe in the mission of The American Legion and can clearly communicate why being a member is important to veterans, their families, and the community.

Let me list some other important ideas that could help your post retain and recruit:

1. Hold family friendly events. Attractive to new members.

2. Newsletters are a must to get your message out. Feature member stories in the newsletter as well as upcoming events.

3. Thank members in person, in crowds, in newsletters, and on social media. Have an annual thank you brunch, picnic, BBQ, pool party, etc. to thank members.

4. Hold group volunteer events. There is strength in numbers. Don't feed into cliques—invite new and old members. Once these members are included, they have a "buy in" to being involved in the future.

5. Assign mentors to new members. Someone to check on their wellbeing and encourage them to stay involved.

6. Assign engaged members to a "recruitment role."

7. Host a "bring a friend" meeting, invite potential members to meet the group and see/hear what happens at the post.

8. Personally follow up with all potential members.

9. If you recruit a new member, give them a "welcome packet." Packet should include bylaws, a welcome letter from the post commander, house rules, list of upcoming events, explanation of different volunteer opportunities, list of programs your post supports, etc.

10. Reach out to former members. They would be thrilled that someone cares.

11. Pump up your social media. Make it appealing and informative.

12. Have guest speakers at your meetings. Spice it up!!!

13. Sponsor local events.

14. Be a guest speaker at other organizations and tell them about The American Legion.

15. Have a meeting in the park or at a sports event. Wear caps, be visible!

16. Host low commitment meet and greets. Coffee brings people together.

17. Place flyers at local businesses.

18. BE VISIBLE in the community.

Everyone wants to be part of a winning team. Create an environment of committed members doing positive things for veterans, youth, and the community. New members will come, current members will stay.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference. Enjoy your Summer.

Jason Hall  
Department Adjutant

## MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP IS NOW AVAILABLE

Here are a few things to know about multiyear membership:

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

**RENEW TODAY**  
Take advantage of our online multiyear membership option. Scan the QR code or visit [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



## Judge Advocate

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

I am honored to be your new Judge Advocate for the Department of Maine. The legacy of Judge Advocates is mighty, and I hope to be able to work my way into earning your respect as the others before me have done.

For my first article, I wondered what the best way to approach this opportunity would be.

Have you ever read the book called, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum? Wouldn't it be great if we all read this book and followed the simple rules like play fair, don't take things that aren't yours, don't hit, put things back where you found them, clean up your own mess, say you're sorry when you hurt someone, live a balanced life and learn some.

As children these rules made sense. As adults, we tend to need more specific guidelines. The American Legion has constitutions and by-laws. These documents guide our posts, districts, the department, and national headquarters. They are not as simple as our kindergarten rules, but they do not have to be difficult.

These documents govern our post-management. They provide us with the rules we all agree upon when we join a post. In addition to post constitution and by-laws, there is The American Legion Officer's

## ■ "LOTY" (Continued from Page 1)

now a town-sponsored event with over 180 entrants and dozens of area business sponsors. Together, these three major events generate the revenue that allows Post 79 to assist veterans not only in Berwick, but in surrounding communities.

Andy is also heavily involved in the Post's Direct Aid to Veterans initiative which to date has provided much needed assistance totaling thousands of dollars to local veterans and their families, ranging from food vouchers, to hearing aid purchases, rent/moving assistance, medical supplies, wheelchairs, home repair, and fuel assistance.



Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. If your post has a canteen, you will have house rules as well. There are other documents and publications, but these I mentioned are your basic go-to.

I would like to take my first opportunity to speak to our members by asking, "Are your constitution and by-laws up to date?" If not, do you and your executive board have plans to update them? Without current rules, agreed on by all, and updated often, you might not be properly prepared to deal with post problems. How do you know someone is breaking a rule if those rules are not written down and provided to your members?

When you have an issue or concern at your post, do you have a means to deal with it properly? Let us be honest, it is normally an issue between people, personalities, and differences of opinions. Does your constitution and by-laws do what they need to do, or should you revise them? When was the last time you reviewed and updated your guiding documents?

We are a self-managing entity. We expect issues resolved at the lowest level possible, which means the post. We recognize this might not always be possible and that is why you have the district and department when you need counsel.

I encourage you all to look at the book mentioned above if for no other reason than to remind yourself most problems can be solved by simple solutions. I also encourage you to review your governing documents, get to know them, and update them if they do not serve their purpose.

I look forward to my new role as Judge Advocate and I hope to serve The American Legion with compassion, dignity, and respect for all. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

As if this was not enough, for almost ten years now, Andy and fellow Post Member Ron Vigue have joined forces to construct and present personalized, hand-crafted memorial flag display cases to the families of deceased veterans at no cost to the recipients.

Andy embodies the Legion motto of "Veterans Strengthening America" by his daily devotion to helping our local veterans, their families, the military, and our community. He upholds the Legion's time-honored values and fights to provide needed assistance whenever and wherever possible and is truly deserving of the designation, Maine's 2024 Legionnaire of the Year!

**Legionnaire Of The Year**  
Andrew "Andy" L. Buckman of Berwick, ME and Berwick Post 79, center, is presented the Legionnaire of the Year award by Department Commander Alfred McKay, left.



## Historian's Bunker

Good day, fellow Legionnaires. First off, I thank you for electing me as Department Historian. I look forward to working for you and with you on your post-history submissions going forward.



**JEFF  
SUKEFORTH**

History—it is part and parcel of everything we have done and do in our daily lives. This includes our daily workings in and around our posts and communities. My feeling is perhaps a lot of you do not realize how important it is to capture our history and make it available not only for us now, but for those who come after us.

Department history is being made daily and I am certain that some may not even know what has transpired in just the past month. We held our Department Convention in June where a new slate of officers for the department were elected and sworn in, as were incumbent and new district commanders. I urge you to take a moment and go to [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) click on Officers to view those who will be leading us

into the next Legion year.

Let's not forget about the history-breaking education opportunity your department continues to present concerning "Be the One." This education continues to be available at the department level or through a traveling presentation at your post. Thanks to Past Auxiliary President Deb Rumery, Department Judge Advocate Julie Flynn, and Legionnaire Jennifer Kimble for making this education available to us all. Call the department if your post would like to have the education available at either a post or district meeting.

How about the recent Dirigo State encampment? This was the largest gathering of high school juniors in many years. This event does not go on all by itself, several department officers as well as state Legionnaire volunteers, dedicate many hours of their time to ensure these young men and women receive the best possible experience we can provide them. Does your post have a Legionnaire who volunteered at Dirigo? There is another tidbit for your yearly history report.

Did you know that Maine has an award-winning membership recruiter? Most of us feel pretty good about ourselves and about our posts if we recruit one or two new members. We have a Legionnaire who has gone above and beyond and was recognized by National Commander Daniel Seehafer and the

National Membership Committee for recruiting 17 new members into their post! Legionnaire Michael Pock of Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in So. Portland was recognized for his recruiting efforts.

Comrade Pock was recognized as being a member of the Bronze Brigade, which denotes a Legionnaire who recruits 15-24 new members (transfers do not count), by the May target date. Congratulations, Mike, on a job well done!

I am going out on a limb here to say that most likely every post held some sort of event on July 4th. What an excellent part of your post's history for this year. Whether it was a full-on community event or a small event held at the post, it happened, you were present, and more than likely someone took photos of the events held. Now all someone has to do is choose a few of the best photos and send them into the department for inclusion in the Legionnaire under the district happenings. Just remember all photos submitted must have the names of those pictured going in a left-to-right manner per row if more than one row is pictured.

Let's look at what it entails to be a Post Historian. First off, you do not need a degree in history to be a historian. Being available, having a camera/phone, having the ability to annotate chronologically post events in a notepad and obtaining and being able to summa-

rize and write about events pretty much sums up the duties of a Post Historian.

I know there are members out there who are willing to step up and take on this important role for our posts. If you come right down to it, being a historian is just as important as being the membership chairperson. What a great marketing tool for your post to be able to pull out a binder and show potential members just what the post is involved in internally and within the community.

Another aspect of performing these duties is pride in your post! Every post, no matter how large or small, should be proud of what they do and this pride should be annotated accordingly.

I also know that a person may be put-off by the thought of having to write and submit a history report yearly to the department. I understand and hear you on this subject. I can assure you that I am looking at ways to make that easier for you to accomplish. My goal is to have more posts submit a history compilation every year. I am asking all posts to work with me, and together we can begin in earnest to record our history for future generations of Legion membership.

I am open to any calls or emails with your questions about history recording and reporting and look forward to working with you all moving forward. I can be contacted at 207-691-2270 or [jeffandconnie79@gmail.com](mailto:jeffandconnie79@gmail.com).

## Chaplain's Corner

Hello all, I apologize to you all for not attending The Convention in June. I was involved in an unfortunate hunting accident shortly before the Convention. I'm fine now.



**DANIELLE  
"DANI"  
BEGERT**

I will proudly serve as your Department Chaplain for the 2024-25 term. I am proud and grateful to have been a part of The American Legion for so many years now. I've always been involved in service work, starting with the Sgt.-at-Arms at District Level. I've worked alongside some very committed Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Legion

Family—and still do.

Most recently, I've attended our "Be the One" training, which I highly recommend. You really can change, if not save, someone's life. You can make a difference! Veterans helping Veterans. Be the One.

This brings me to The Commander's Project, Mission Working Dogs, is a vital program for those with disabilities. These dogs improve the lives of their handlers so their handlers can be more independent. By supporting Mission Working Dogs, you will be one who supports those with disabilities. To help, please see The Commander's Project information in The Leadership Ledger as well as on [Page 2](#) of the Aug. issue of The Maine Legionnaire. Thank you!

So yes, I am delighted to be serving as The Department's Chaplain. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve.

For God and Country.

## Americanism Report

Hello fellow Legionnaires, I would like to take a moment to thank you for the honor of serving our great state as your Americanism Officer. While I may be new to this, I am doing my utmost to get out to as many of our posts throughout the state as I can.



**LIAM  
NEDREDD**

I have heard great things coming from all corners of the state, from motorcade funerals, cleaning and upkeep of cemeteries, to escorting the Vietnam Moving Wall and posting guards over it while it stood. This summer has been full of American patriotism, and you can see it reflected in the communities we serve. From the July 4th events and parades throughout the state, River Walk events, and coastal celebrations, you have been there flying the American flag and celebrating the liberty you all

have sworn to preserve. For this, and for so much more, I say, "Thank You."

But the year has just begun, and already Dirigo state has completed and experienced one of the largest turnouts on record. Although it is over for this year, I would highly encourage your posts to think about next year and to elevate more of these wonderful young adults. As I write this, we are full swing into Legion Baseball, celebrating America's most beloved sport, and yet again showing the country how truly awesome Mainers are. I would also like to take this time to encourage your posts to get involved with the Oratorical contest as it is fast approaching. This program not only benefits the students who compete academically with scholarships, but also strengthens the communities that support them through direct involvement.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your great and honorable achievements. I look forward to continuing our good work going forward. So, from my family to yours, I hope you have a wonderful and safe summer.

For America!

**Thank You, Veterans!**  
Veterans Day Nov. 11



# Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

Hello from the Service Office. Many of the conversations I have been having over the last two years are related to the PACT Act. When this bill came out there was a lot of confusion. It seemed the information was coming from all directions. In some cases, the information was incorrect or misleading.

Now we are almost 2 years into

the implementation as I write this. I think it is time to look at what progress the VA has made.

According to a press release on July 23, the VA has surpassed all expectations for delivering compensation and medical care to Veterans. The numbers are a little staggering. The benefits office has granted benefits to 1.1 million veterans and survivors in the fiscal year 2024. That equates to 137 billion dollars in benefits, 127 billion dollars in compensation and pension benefits. To reach this goal, the benefits section processed 2 million claims.

On the health side the VA is on pace to deliver 127 million health care appointments this year. This is due to decreasing wait times, offering more night clinics, weekend clinics, and appointment slots. Since the PACT Act was passed, more than 710,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care.

This is not just an accomplishment for the VA. It takes hard work from the Veteran Service Organizations. All the way from the national level down to the post member. As an organization we must continue to work to assist all veterans in need. To help you, I have a PSO training course scheduled for Sept. 14 at Department Headquarters. The training start time will be 10:00 a.m. It is open to all the Legion family. You do not have to be a PSO, just have a willingness to help.

**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 Facebook

Evidence” to be reopened. It is sometimes futile and frustrating to the veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

## NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

**Sign up for VA Healthcare.** Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature.

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

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. Online at [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)!

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

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

## DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.

We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at [carl.curtis2@va.gov](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov), or [julie.kern@va.gov](mailto:julie.kern@va.gov). We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 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](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov)  
**or call: 207-623-5726**

**To make a seminar reservation!**

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



## Improving Veterans' Access to Healthcare and Small Business Resources, Speaking at Dirigo State

When I spoke at the Legion's Dirigo State program in June, I told the students about how Maine veterans never stop pounding the drum for solutions that can help their friends and fellow service members in need. Today, I want to discuss two bills I've backed this summer that pursue that same mission.

I have long focused on the need to improve health care access for Maine veterans, and transportation to VA health facilities is one of the biggest challenges. In theory, the VA created the Highly Rural Transportation Program to address this: It awards grants to Veteran Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agencies to provide veterans with free transportation.

However, eligibility is limited to counties with fewer than 7 people per square mile. Because of that arbitrarily low limit, in Maine only veterans in Pisqataquis County can access this vital service. This is unacceptable in the oldest, most rural state in the country.

That's why I'm part of the bipartisan coalition trying to pass the *Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act*, which would both expand eligibility and increase the amount of funding available to transport vets in all of our rural communities to VA facilities. I'd challenge anyone in D.C. to tell me Aroostook and Washington counties are too urban for rural assistance. This commonsense bill would solve that oversight and benefit families across Maine.

I have also been using my position on the House Small Business Committee to find new ways to help servicemembers transition to civilian life. One proposal I'm excited to support is the *Contact Our Veterans Act*, which would increase the amount of contracts the Department of Defense awards to veteran-owned businesses.

This approach doubles down on existing practices for disabled veteran-owned businesses, which already provide valuable services for the Department of Defense. Specifically, our proposed bipartisan legislation would set a benchmark requiring that at least 5 percent of federal contracts go to veteran-owned businesses each year. The Legion has thrown their own support behind this bill, and I'm proud to support it too.

As I mentioned earlier, I also spoke at the Legion's Dirigo State program this summer. I am always blown away at how impressively these high school students campaign for local, county, and state office, run their own mock government, and make the connections to set themselves up for promising futures.



CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN

My message to the delegates was simple: Public service is about dedicating your efforts to the common good, and they should look no further for proof than the veterans who spent the past decade successfully advocating for the new VA substance use and mental health treatment center at Togus.

I can't emphasize enough how valuable Dirigo State is for Maine's future leaders, and I encourage every local post who isn't doing so already to send at least one student to this program next year.



**Golden Speaks To Dirigo State Delegates: "I talked about improving substance use and mental health treatment for veterans and answered students' questions when I spoke at Dirigo State this year."**

These are just a few of the ways I've been engaged on topics that matter to veterans. Thanks as always to everyone at the Legion for all you do to fight on behalf of our veterans, including by keeping me informed of your work and how I can help. Your mission is near and dear to my heart, and my staff and I hope you'll continue reaching out on the issues that matter most.

If my office can be of assistance, please reach out at the above number, or directly to one of our offices below:

- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400
- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Washington Office:** 1223 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2943

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

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



## The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

February 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 15, 2025)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the post and district level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the state level \$50 - \$1,500.

At the national level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives \$2,000 scholarship.

Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

### Help Support The Maine American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program by Donating Today!

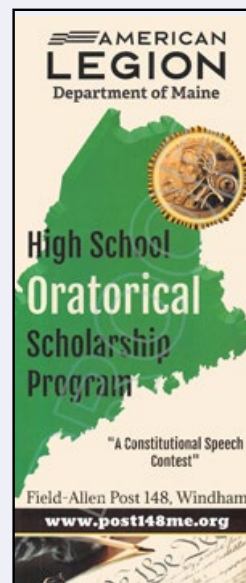
To Donate with Debit or Credit Card visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the DONATE button, or simply scan the QR Code with your phone. Select the Oratorical Contest listed under the "Use this donation for" dropdown menu and select Donate with Debit or Credit Card.



Donations may also be made by check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked "Oratorical Program." Mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

### HS Oratorical Scholarship Banners Available for Purchase



Order Today for Display at Your Upcoming Post and District Competition!

For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000.

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare posts and districts for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December 2024 and all district contests completed by the end of January 2025.

Details on the 2025 National Finals schedule will be announced in the November issue of *The Maine Legionnaire*.

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



## President's Message

Dear American Legion Family,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I introduce myself as the newly elected President of the Department of Maine American Legion Auxiliary. The guidance of incredible mentors has shaped my journey to this role, the unwavering support of my Legion family at Westbrook Memorial American Legion Post 197, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. As I step into this position, I am honored to lead with a focus on transparency, unity, and service.

This year within The American Legion Auxiliary, we will concentrate our efforts on two pivotal areas that form the foundation of our organization: reconnecting our communities with awareness of our mission to support veterans and launching a comprehensive Legion Family project centered around Mission Working Dogs.

This initiative will bring together The American Legion, Auxiliary, and The Sons of the American Legion to improve the lives of veterans and their families, who are living with a disability to help them live more independently and by providing therapy dogs for mental well-being for veterans suffering from PTSD. All donations raised will go towards the training of these service dogs, as well as a facility for our Veterans to stay in to get familiar with their service dogs prior to them bringing them back to their forever homes.



**STASI BRULE**

For our awareness mission, we will embark on quarterly projects designed to address critical needs within our veteran communities:

June to August: Focus on veterans' mental health, including scheduling "BE THE ONE" training sessions.

September to November: Collaborate with local VA homes and hospices to honor veterans in their care.

December to February: Support homeless veterans through partnerships with local non-profits.

March to May: Engage in outreach to veterans and their families, particularly focusing on job fairs and transitional support.

As we begin this new chapter, I encourage each of you to find and nurture the light within our family. Let's work together to ensure that this light—our shared passion for service—burns brightly, guiding us as we make a meaningful impact in the lives of our veterans and communities.

Our work this year will be guided by Pride, Passion, and Purpose.

Together, we can achieve great things. Let's embrace our Pride, Passion, and Purpose and make this year a testament to the enduring spirit of The American Legion Family.

Thank you for your trust and support. In Service,

Stasi Brule  
President, Dept. of Maine,  
The American Legion Auxiliary

## Let's Finish Strong as We Head to Convention

Legion Family, are you ready to celebrate?

As we roll into July and wrap up our Legion Family year, there are numbers out there that are worthy to celebrate. So I hope that everyone is preparing to do just that at National Convention in New Orleans.

Here is a number for you: 390,168 members of the Sons of The American Legion as of July 2! That all-time high is still growing and all of our squadrons across the country are the ones making it happen. I know that the number will be even higher when we get to New Orleans. But can we get to 400,000? I will say this; it would not surprise me. Many times this year I have said a bigger Legion Family is a stronger Legion Family. Comrades, we are getting stronger each day.

We will be celebrating this year all of the work of so many, so I encourage you to plan on being in New Orleans, and let's have some Mardi Gras style fun. Bring some decorations into the Sons convention hall and decorate your de-



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

tachment signs. We are trying to plan some fun that everyone can enjoy and we ask you to be a part of it all. We will of course celebrate hitting the \$10 million mark for Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and want every member there to be a part of it.

As I represent the Sons of The American Legion and my grandfather's service, I can tell you that I was excited to take the office last year and I am still excited to be able to serve this great organization this year. My travels have taken me to see many wonderful works and there is more left to see, so I encourage everyone — don't slow down. Let's continue the roll into New Orleans and celebrate all the work that is happening to spread the word of "Be The One," along with working all the great programs of the American Legion Family.

As Commander Seehafer says, together we "Save Lives and Change Lives." Remember that and you will continue on. It is as easy as remembering your why — just think of who is your why for belonging. That keeps us grounded and working. Keep on getting it done, keep being proud of being a Son!

"Representing More Than Me"

By Don "JR" Hall  
SAL National Commander  
July 8, 2024

[www.legion.org/sons/262044/let's-finish-strong-we-head-convention](http://www.legion.org/sons/262044/let's-finish-strong-we-head-convention)

## 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.



**New Auxiliary President Installed:** Stasi Brule, left, is installed by Past Auxiliary Dept. President Debra Rumery at State Convention on June 8.

Photo by Harry Orcutt



**Installation Ceremony Photo Op:** Auxiliary Dept. President Stasi Brule, left, NECA/National Membership & Post Activities Chair Matthew Jabaut, center, and newly elected

Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, right, at the Annual State Convention Installation Ceremony held June 8 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer.

Photo by Carol Roach, Rumford Unit 24



**Outgoing Auxiliary President Lorena Pat Grant is recognized for her service at State Convention on June 8.**

Photo by Lou Marin

## 2024 Maine Legion College

**Upcoming Legion College Date:**  
**Fri., Oct. 18 - Sun., Oct. 21**

Maine American Legion College takes place in the Training Center at Department Headquarters (5 Verti Drive, Winslow).

Limited space, reserve your spot today by email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)



# MEET THE OFFICERS 2024-2025



**PATRICIA "TRICIA" THURSTON**  
Commander  
Rumford Post 24



**LEROY MCKENZIE**  
1st Vice Cmdr  
Madawaska Post 147



**JOSEPH MICHAUD**  
2nd Vice Cmdr  
Madawaska Post 147



**JASON HALL**  
Adjutant  
Gray Post 86



**MARY T. BROWN**  
Finance Officer  
Topsham Post 202



**LIAM NEDREDD**  
Americansim  
Etna-Carmel Post 107



**JEFF SUKEFORTH**  
Historian  
Camden Post 30



**DANIELLE BEGERT**  
Chaplain  
Lewiston Post 22



**RYAN COFFIN**  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Damariscotta Post 42



**JULIE FLYNN**  
Judge Advocate  
Gray Post 86



**LLOYD WOODS**  
NEC  
Madawaska Post 147



**MATTHEW JABAUT**  
NECA  
Topsham Post 202



**CARL CURTIS**  
Service Officer  
Brunswick Post 20



**Department Officer Installation Ceremony:** Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan performs the Department Officer Installation Ceremony at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on Sat., June 8. Dept. Officers being sworn in, from left to right, Dept. Commander Patricia Thurston, Outgoing Dept. Commander Al McKay, 2nd Vice Joe Michaud, Historian Jeff Sukeforth, Americanism Officer Liam Nedredd, Sgt.-at-Arms Ryan Coffin, and Finance Officer Mary T. Brown. Looking on is NEC Lloyd Woods, seated left. Missing from photo is 1st Vice Leroy McKenzie.



## 2024 Dirigo State Winners

Award	Delegate's Name	Dirigo Town	Maine Town
Boys Nation Delegate #1	Jack Fenton	Muskie	Portland
Boys Nation Delegate #2	Tristen Wing	Muskie	Hartland
Boys Nation Alternate #1	Cole Doherty	Daggett	Dexter
Boys Nation Alternate #2	Michael Chase	Daggett	Rumford
Girls Nation Delegate #1	Dahlia Verrill	Pinkham	Falmouth
Girls Nation Delegate #2	Emma MacMahon	King	Poland
Girls Nation Alternate #1	Penelope Fyfe	Chamberlain	Augusta
Girls Nation Alternate #2	Kate Higgins	Muskie	Orono
The American Legion Scholarship Winner	Arsen Mikaelyan	Daggett	New Castle
The American Legion Scholarship Alternate	James Foss	Muskie	Rollinsford
ALA Scholarship Winner	Naomi Cabana	Chamberlain	Westbrook
ALA Scholarship Alternate	Lilly Rosa	Daggett	New Harbor
Samsung Scholarship - Boy	Jackson Thombs	Chamberlain	Kennebunk
Samsung Scholarship - Girl	Caroline Benson	Pinkham	Scarborough
Governor	Arsen Mikaelyan	Daggett	New Castle
Senate President	Tristen Wing	Muskie	Hartland
Speaker of the House	Jack Fenton	Muskie	Portland
Chief Justice	Dahlia Verrill	Pinkham	Falmouth
Municipal Outstanding Citizens			
Blaine	Wade Desroisers	Blaine	Turner
Blaine	Divina Gomes-Jaque	Blaine	South Portland
Chamberlain	Chase Farnsworth	Chamberlain	Ripley
Chamberlain	Naomi Cabana	Chamberlain	Westbrook
Daggett	Isabel Hayes	Daggett	Lewiston
Daggett	Conner Bowles	Daggett	Morrill
King	Alessandra Williams	King	Bath
King	Sepp Zammuto	King	New Castle
Muskie	George Donahue	Muskie	Mexico
Muskie	Sophie Yates-Paul	Muskie	New Harbor
Pinkham	Albin Darby	Pinkham	Brownfield
Pinkham	Baylee Lord	Pinkham	St. Albans



**Dirigo State Governor Arsen Mikaelyan, and his cabinet at Colby College in Waterville on June 18.**



**Congratulations** to our 2024 Dirigo State Delegates. Left photo, Girls Nation Delegates, Emma MacMahon, left, and Dahlia Verrill, right. Right photo, Boys Nation Delegates, Tristen Wing, left, and Jack Fenton, right.



# State Convention Awards

Brewer, Maine June 7-8 2024

## Convention Awards

**2024 Children & Youth Scholarship** - \$500 scholarships: Abigail Paulding of Parsonsfield; Masyne Atwood of Skowhegan; Emily Easler of Parkman; William Kosoff of Westbrook

**2024 Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship - \$1000 scholarship:** Mallory Kingsbury of Bridgewater

**2024 James V. Day Scholarship - \$500 scholarships:** Noah Gerard Prescott of Dixfield; Hailey Anne Tarbox of Sanford

**2024 Post Americanism & Youth Program Award** to Stewart P. Merrill Post 35, So. Portland; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; Gray Post 86, Gray

**2024 Humanitarian Legionnaire Award** to Kenneth Finley, Philip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111, Turner

**2024 Humanitarian Lifetime Achievement Award** to Ron Morin, George Bunten Post 10, Livermore Falls

**2024 Humanitarian Selfless Samaritan Awards** to Michael Thomas, Stephen W. Manchester Post 62, Westbrook; Ryan Simpson, West Penobscot Post 107, Etna-Carmel

**2024 Humanitarian Citizen Award** to Shannon Glover, Rumford

**2024 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award** to Mark Bennett, Warren

**2024 National Security Award** to Border Patrol Agent Christopher Warren, Calais

**2024 Firefighter of the Year Award** to Chief Bruce W. Poland, Bremen Fire Department

**2024 EMT of the Year** to Captain Kyle Baker, Winthrop

**2024 Educator of the Year** to Kelly Webber, Tenants Harbor

**2024 Outstanding Post Commander** (Tony's Tiger Award) to Jocelyn Mosher-Collins, George Bunten Post 10, Livermore Falls

**2024 Outstanding District Commander** (Roger's Rangers Award) to David Tanguay, District 2

**2024 Adjutant of the Year Award** to Lou Stack, Kenison-Hooper Post 128, Standish

**2024 Legionnaire of the Year Award** to Andrew "Andy" L. Buckman, Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick

**2024 Post Service Officer of the Year Award** to Kathleen Thompson, Kenison-Hooper Post 128, Standish

**2024 Post Narrative Award** to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

**2024 Post History Yearbook Award** to Jeff Sukeforth, War Memorial Post 30, Camden

**2024 Post Newsletters - Medium Category** to War Memorial Post 30, Camden

**2024 Post Newsletters - Large Category** to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

**2024 District Newsletter - First Place** to District 2, Cumberland County

**2024 Post Article - Medium Category** to War Memorial Post 30, Camden

**2024 Post Article - Large Category** to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

**2024 Legion Family Awards:** American Legion Auxiliary to Auxiliary President Lorena Pat Grant;

Sons of The American Legion to SAL Detachment Commander Steve Doyle; **Legion Riders** to Riders Director Ron Wing

**2023 Goal to Grow Awards** to Webber-Lefebvre Post 74, Kennebunk; Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick; Hutchinson-Boulter Post 130, Bar Mills; Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland; Lopeman-Potts Post 67, Bridgton; Lucien T. Libby-Donald B. Mitchell Post 76, Scarborough; Gray Post 86, Gray; Anderson-Mayberry Post 91, Yarmouth; Kenison-Hooper Post 128, Standish; Randall and MacVane Post 142, Peaks Island; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; George Bunten Post 10, Livermore Falls; Kinney-Melquist Post 34, St. George; Brian L. Buker Post 218, Warren; Wells-Hussey Post 42, Damariscotta; Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Post 54, Wiscasset; Alfred W. Maxwell Jr Post 40, Winthrop; Decker-Simmons Post 51, Oakland; Ronco-Goodale Post 126, North Vassalboro; Boynton-Webber Post 179, South China; George Edwin Kirk Post 25, Bar Harbor; Frank E. Whitmore Post 63, Ellsworth; Duffy-Westcott Post 85, Blue Hill; Corinna Post 73, Corinna; Tedd-Lait Post 75, Old Town; Carl Burrill Post 77, Lincoln; Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer; West Penobscot Post 107, Etna-Carmel; Corinth Post 115, East Corinth; Hampden Memorial Post 213, Hampden; Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29, Dover-Foxcroft; Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41, Milo; Ephraim H. Johnson Post 9, Machias; William T. Wren Post 23, Baileyville; Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke; Chester L. Briggs Post 47, Houlton; Levasseur-Farrell Post 49, Van Buren; Smart-Soucie Post 176, Eagle Lake

**2024 Post Excellence Awards** to Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland; Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick

**2023-2024 Recruiter of the Year Award** to Michael Pock, Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland

**Bronze Brigade New Member Recruiter Award** to Michael Pock, Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland

**100% Post Membership by Dec. 31, 2023 - Honor Ribbons** to Burns W. Knowlton, Jr., Post 32, Pittsfield; Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland; Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke; Duffy-Westcott Post 85, Blue Hill; Bernard Jones Post 92, Brownville Junction

**All-Time High Award** to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

**Certificate of Meritorious Service All-Time High Award** to Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke; Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; Hampden Memorial Post 213, Hampden; Brian L. Buker Post 218, Warren

**Outgoing Department Commander** to Alfred McKay, Wells-Hussey Post 42, Damariscotta

**Sweepstakes Winners:** The grand prize winner of \$1,500 is awarded to Iola Ellquist, Winslow Post 178; \$500 to Bonnie Cyr, Fort Kent Post 133; \$300 to Ronald F. Reilly, North Haven Post 33; and \$200 to Ronald Mercier, Westbrook Post 62



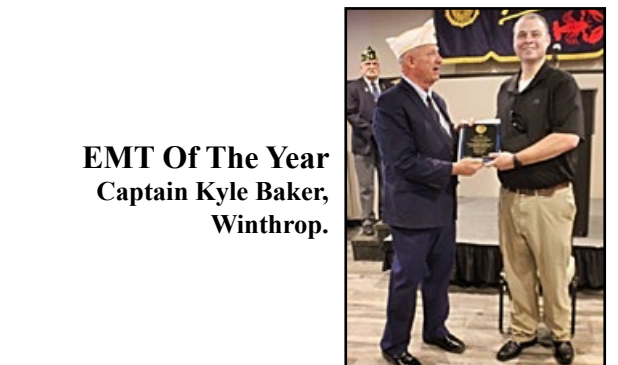
**Border Patrol Agent Of The Year Christopher Warren.**



**Firefighter Of The Year Chief Bruce W. Poland, Bremen Fire Department.**



**Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year Mark Bennett, Warren.**



**EMT Of The Year Captain Kyle Baker, Winthrop.**

*Border Patrol Agent OTY Award Presented by NEC Lloyd Woods. Emergency Awards Presented by Dept. Commander Alfred McKay.*



**Educator Of The Year presented to Kelly Webber, Tenants Harbor, right, by Dept. 2nd Vice Joseph Michaud, left.**

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*2024 Award Recipients!*





**AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
Fall Conference**  
Sept. 28, 2024  
South Paris Post 72  
12 Church St.,  
So. Paris, ME 04281

## 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.



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

and for future generations.

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

To donate with Paypal or Debit/Credit card, scan the QR code on the right or visit [www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php](http://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!



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- Hospital HELP Plan
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- Cancer Care
- Health Insurance
- Accidental Death Protection
- Dental Insurance
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- 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.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
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## If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by  
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.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH  SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# Your Letters

## Grateful Scholarship Recipient

Dear Scholarship Committee,  
I am extremely grateful for being selected as the James V. Day Scholarship recipient. I wish I could have attended, but that was our project graduation weekend we had been fundraising for four years for and I am Student Council President. I am sincerely honored and I will be attending Orono in the fall and the scholarship will be able to help me focus on my studies.

Sincerely,  
Noah Prescott

## Sweepstakes Winner Thanks Department of Maine

Dear Jason,  
Thank you for our check for \$300 in the recent Sweepstakes Raffle of July 10th. Thanks for sending the tickets, always.

Sincerely,  
Ron Reilly, MSG - Retired  
Christine, SFC - Retired

## Maine American Legion Baseball

### Senior State Champions

**Congratulations**  
2024 American Legion  
Department of Maine  
Senior Baseball  
Champions, the  
Hampden Quirk Motor  
City Riverdogs! Team  
photo, front row, left to  
right, Asst. Coach Nick  
Lorenzo, Josh Lorenzo,  
Nykson Moors,  
Keaghan Burger,



Nicholas Llerena, Andrew Cote, Logan Powers, Kade Bartlett, and Rogan Lord.  
Back row, left to right, Coach Frank Peckham, Chase Nash, Jacob Kelley, Zach McLaughlin, Gavin Monyok, Kaysen Wildman, Garrett McLeod, Collin Peckham, Ashton O'Roak, and Asst. Coach/Manager Greg Lord.



**Trophy:** Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston presents the Department of Maine American Legion Baseball Senior Championship trophy to the winning team, the Quirk Motor City Riverdogs on July 31 at Bangor's Mansfield Stadium.

### Junior State Champions

**Congratulations**  
2024 Maine American  
Legion Baseball Junior  
Champions, the Trenton  
Acadians.



## 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

## Shipyard Legionnaires Get Creative

Greetings from the Department of Maine's southernmost district, District 1! Summer is in full swing, and we are dutifully weathering tourist season once again, with the one caveat being that we get to see our summer regulars again as well!

As many know, our district is home to numerous members of The American Legion family who either currently work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard or for a business which is economically impacted by the shipyard's operations and/or the area tourism. Regardless of where our home posts are, we routinely work together to support the military personnel stationed here and in the area during times when transition assistance and veterans' benefits offices have been impacted by staffing challenges. In truth, we are on the front lines of active VSO work nearly every day, but many of us would be considered "inactive" members because reporting and quantifying what we do often seems counterintuitive to our nature as "helpers."

Although multiple examples of the work we have done in the past couple of years could be cited, one of the many unique and largely unknown ways we fulfilled our mission this year was through a biannual "Crop for a Cause" fundraiser, which benefited the shipyard's Thresher Memorial Chapel food pantry. As some already know, this event was largely coordinated by Air Force veteran Beverly Cassady, who joined the Charles S. Hatch Post 79 in Berwick after retiring with 20+ years of service in The United States Air Force and Air National Guard. While Cassady continues her service now as a

civilian employee, she has also enjoyed success as an entrepreneurial-minded instructor, consultant, and distributor for an ever-expanding crafter and artisan community in her area. When her comrades asked if she had any "outside the box" fundraising ideas for a post that doesn't operate a canteen, she proposed what became the first "Crop for a Cause" event. Next month will mark the 11th consecutive (excluding the lockdown period of the COVID-19 pandemic) fundraiser-focused crafting and scrapbooking fair where Cassady and her associates assist Post 79 with sponsoring a local non-profit or community outreach project with donations of supplies or gift cards. Notably, the shipyard food pantry fundraiser sold out and had a waiting list started weeks before the date of the actual event, and Cassady expects a similar showing next month, despite not knowing at the time she was interviewed for this column which organization Post 79 will decide to sponsor.

When asked what seemed to have made the events so popular, she had to hide a smile since her fundraisers simply must be experienced in person. All I'm allowed to say "on the record" is that the vendors and guests genuinely want to help support the cause, and Cassady, her fellow post members, and whomever else she recruits from other organizations or posts to volunteer ensure that the events result in a fun time for all who attend. Don't take my word for it though, stop by the Berwick Town Hall on Aug. 24 (or Mar. 29, 2025) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and see for yourself!

## Berwick Post 79 Nonagenarian Celebrates 96 Years and Counting

Well, what do you know! Young at heart Roger Couture recently celebrated his 96th birthday. But this is just one of many milestones reached by this proud New Englander, a longtime Legionnaire and Army veteran of the Korean War.

An active member of American Legion Post 79 for over 50 years, Roger has quite the resume. As a young man, he started working in the shoe business in Somersworth, New Hampshire where he remained for 20 years before moving on as a foreman for the Alton Shoe Company in Farmington, New

Hampshire for another 22 years.

Roger retired from the shoe business in 1962, but he did not stop working! Teaming up with his wife Ruth, the couple decided to buy three acres of land behind their house and together they built and operated an eighteen hole "Pitch and Putt" golf course that took them two years to complete.

Describing himself as "just a man living his dream," Roger hit the "big leagues" on his 80th birthday. A lifelong fan of the Television Show "The Price is Right," Roger's children got him

[More on "Berwick Post 79" Page 14](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 1 continued**

■ **"BERWICK POST 79"**  
(Continued from Page 13)

tickets to a taping of the show in Los Angeles where, lo and behold, he was chosen as a contestant! Of course, the fact that he wore a white t-shirt with host Drew Carey's face across the front and the words, "Get Ready Because I'm 80" must have had a little something to do with his selection, along with his Maine ball cap!

No, Roger did not win the showcase, but the experience was the thrill of a lifetime, and if you are lucky enough to know Roger, you know that he lives life to the fullest. Very much a "family" man known for his years of dedication in support of his church parish, Roger is truly one in a million! Congratulations Roger. We salute you and wish you and your hip a speedy recovery!



**Happy 96th Birthday: Berwick Post 79 member Roger Couture, seated, and his daughter Carol, celebrating Roger's 96th birthday.**

Photo by Maurice Cote



**Berwick Legion & Auxiliary Park Bench:** Earlier this year, Charles S. Hatch American Legion Post 79 and Berwick Unit 79 jointly purchased a park bench from the town and dedicated it to remembering and honoring veterans. In good news, the park bench has been installed and is located near the bus stop opposite the town hall on Sullivan Street. The plaque states: "In Honor of Those Who Served - All Gave Some, Some Gave All - American Legion Post 79 & Auxiliary Unit 79." The bench is already being utilized by folks enjoying the cooler summer temperatures. Whenever you are downtown or doing business at the town hall, don't forget to look for the bench.

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

**Local American Legion Post Given Several Awards**

Over this past weekend while many of the greatest generation commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Europe, The American Legion Department of Maine held its Annual Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer, Maine.

Maine has 17 districts representing its 16 counties plus one, but of notable interest was District 2, which is home to So. Portland Post 35. Last Veterans Day, Post 35 celebrated 104 years of its existence, for which the Post was given a certificate in 2019 for having been the longest established American Legion post in the state of Maine.

Being one of the oldest posts is just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. To add to the Post's long list of achievements, time, and space will not afford us to delve into that list. At the State Convention, Post 35 was presented with six awards, pertaining mainly to membership. The American Legion encourages growth for the non-profit organization to survive and be there to help our veterans in an ever-changing climate of non-profit, military-oriented organizations.

Following WWI, The American Legion grew to become the largest veterans' organization with a post in almost

every town across the nation. As the years have passed, the organization has suffered, like many others, membership-wise. The Greatest Generation caused a spark in attendance, but Vietnam veterans didn't seem to continue the trend and consequently these posts are dying.

Post 35 in So. Portland has seen good and bad times, and much of its present members are veterans from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. With new conflicts in the Middle East, service organizations are more in need to push for membership.

At the State Convention, Post 35 received three membership-related awards, two recruiting-related awards, and an Americanism Award. Of the awards, the most important in my opinion, is the Americanism Award, which pertains to the young people in our

community, since civics has become an elective in our schools these days. Many people have quoted the phrase, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," and now more than ever, it has become true.

The Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 has doubled in size from 63 members in 2019 to 121 today due in part to good leadership and hard work from the membership committee. We strive to be a strong supporter of our local veterans and an outreach to the community. Because of proximity to a grade school, Post 35 has never had a bar and as such is not always open. However, the Post Adjutant is always available for questions, comments, and maybe a tour. We are located at 413 Broadway in So. Portland and our sign always has something of interest on it.

By Michael R. Pock, Post 35 Adjutant



**Americanism & Youth Program Award** presented to So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock, right, by Dept. Cmdr. Alfred McKay, left.



**Post Excellence Award:** Presented to So. Portland Post 35. Left to right, Post Adjutant Michael Pock, Post Cmdr. Robert Hughes, and Past Post Cmdr. Guy Linscott.



**So. Portland Post 35 Bronze Brigade Award:** Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock is awarded the 2024 Bronze Brigade Membership Award for his efforts in enlisting new members to The American Legion. Left to right, Past Post 35 Cmdr. Wes Spletstoesser, District 2 Cmdr. Gene Connolly, and Michael Pock.



**Recruiter Of The Year:** Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock, right, is awarded the 2024 Department Membership Recruiter of the Year. Congratulating him is District 2 Cmdr. Gene Connolly, left.



**Post 35 Honor Ribbon:** Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 of So. Portland is awarded a Post Honor Ribbon for 100% Membership at State Convention in Brewer. Back at the post, Tony Batchelor, left, and Mike Pock, right, place the 100% Honor Ribbon onto a Legion flagpole for display.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### So. Portland Post 35 Installs New Officers

As the Post year winds down on May 31, So. Portland Post 35 installs a new slate of officers elected at their Apr. 20 monthly meeting. The 2024-2025 officers changed slightly from the previous year. The Post shuffled some officers and brought back Past Commander Guy Linscott as the 1st Vice Commander after a last-minute withdrawal of the elected 1st Vice Commander. The original slate was complete except for the Chaplain. With Guy Linscott as 1st Vice Commander, it left the Chaplain position still open. Outgoing Commander Wes Splettstoesser stepped up to fill the Chaplain role.

New officers, Commander-elect Robert "Bob" Hughes and Sgt.-at-Arms-elect Paul Thibeault are two new faces in the officer positions. The 2024-2025 officers at Post 35 are as follows: Commander Robert "Bob" Hughes, 1st Vice Commander Guy Linscott, 2nd Vice Commander Anthony "Tony" Batchelor, Chaplain Werner "Wes" Splettstoesser, Sgt.-at-Arms Paul Thibeault, Finance Officer Matt Johnson, and Adjutant Michael Pock.

Post 35 is a hub of activity almost every night of the week in So. Portland and is a focal point for many non-profit organizations that use the Post without charge as a

courtesy to the community. Many dance groups rent the Post at a reasonable rate and the income is used to keep the Post functioning. Rental income is the major source of income, as well as returnable bottles that make up a sixth of the overall income. All revenue after expenses goes back to the community in one form or another, be it donations to the food pantry or scouting programs, and of course the veterans.

Post 35 has doubled in size since 2017 when Chaplain Splettstoesser, then Commander, led the team of officers. The building has had major improvements and new ideas for revenue were put in place by Commander Linscott. Both men have been instrumental in the health of the Post. Commander Hughes will have his own ideas but will have Wes and Guy to help out. Long-time Paid-up-for-Life member, 2nd Vice Commander, and former Commander, Batchelor has a wealth of knowledge. Former Finance Officer Ken Marston, the oldest member with 50 plus years, has been around the longest and knows The American Legion inside and out.

Teamwork and mutual respect have held Post 35 together for over 105 years.

By Michael R. Pock, Post 35 Adjutant



**Newly Installed Officers at So. Portland Post 35.** Left to right, Commander Bob Hughes, 1st Vice Commander Guy Linscott, 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor, Chaplain Wes Splettstoesser, Sgt.-at-Arms Paul Thibeault, Finance Officer Matt Johnson, and Adjutant Mike Pock.

### Cabin Boy First Class Remembered

John Edward Anglin, born Oct. 6, 1850, was remembered on Mar. 25, Congressional Medal of Honor Day, by family and friends at his gravesite at Calvary Cemetery in So. Portland.

John Edward Anglin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions aboard the *U.S.S. Pontoosuc* on Jan. 22, 1865 as a cabin boy and power monkey in a battle at Fort Fisher and Wilmington, NC during the U.S. Civil War.

This whole ceremony started with a phone call from Hobbs Funeral Home looking for a military presence at a small family remembrance of the great grandfather of Deborah Anglin Swett. The funeral director was directed to

Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock, who in turn reached out to Lee Humiston at the Maine Military Museum. Between Mike, Lee, and the VFW Commander at the Andrew's Post in Portland, a bugle was procured and the whole event was orchestrated in three days.

Commander Wes Splettstoesser and Adjutant/Bugler Michael Pock were present for a short prayer and the playing of Taps over the grave of John Edward Anglin. Also present at the site were Deborah Anglin Swett and her husband Joe, who drove up from Walpole, MA, and Deborah's cousin Daniel Hall from Portland and Eustis, ME.

John Edward Anglin was a seafaring lad from Portland who enlisted in the U.S. Navy on the Union side during the Civil War at the age of 14. He served as a cabin boy and because of his size, was also a powder monkey who carried powder to the cannons aboard the *U.S.S. Pontoosuc*. John survived the war and returned to Portland where he applied his nautical skills to become a Captain of his own sea going vessel around the Portland harbor until his death on Sept. 6, 1905 at the age of 50.

John Edward Anglin is one of five known Medal of Honor recipients buried in the Greater Portland area and we hope the others are remembered today as John was. Thanks to the family, the local American Legion will be able to identify and decorate this grave and other heroes' graves as time goes by.

By Michael R. Pock, Post 35 Adjutant



**March Gravesite Memorial:** So. Portland Post 35 Commander Wes Splettstoesser, left, and Post Adjutant Michael Pock, right, stand at the gravesite of 1865 Medal of Honor recipient, John Edward Anglin, during a remembrance ceremony.



**Westbrook Post 62 Officer Installation:** Top photo, Officiating Installation Officer from So. Portland Post 35, Michael Pock, left, and Westbrook Post 62 Officiating Sgt.-at-Arms, Susan Graham, right, present Philip Spiller, Jr., center, as 1st Vice Commander and Historian. Middle photo, Westbrook Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Susan Graham, right, presents Edward Symbol, center, as 2nd Vice Commander. Bottom photo, Officiating Sgt.-at-Arms Nelson Graham of Post 62, right, presents Gary York, center, as Post 62 Adjutant.

Photos by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

### Westbrook Post 62 Thanks Local Heroes After Saving Boy, Rescuer, in Presumpscot River

On a Thursday afternoon on May 16, Kimberly Tarbox and Michael Thomas were invited to meet at Riverbank Park, close to where they had both jumped into the 39-degree Presumpscot River back on Sat., Mar. 2, to rescue a boy who had slipped and fell into the river during WinterFest. A third person, who broke an ankle while trying to help rescue the boy, was helped to the riverbank.

Thurs., May 16 was a warm spring day compared to early March. Post 62's Adjutant Gary York and Commander Dennis Marrotte agreed to have Humanitarian Plaques created with The American Legion Logo prominently displayed. The Post and Westbrook's Lions Club members were busy with a BBQ for the WinterFest when attention

suddenly shifted to the park's name.

Michael and Kimberly did not hesitate. Mike is a retired USCG Machinist Technician, with 25 years of service, and is an active member of Post 62, while Kim is a trained EMT. She is currently chair of the volunteer organization, Westbrook Safe Mobility and Access Committee (WSMAC.) Kim was a guest speaker at one of Post 62's board meetings during the Covid pandemic, describing the mission of WSMAC.

Post 62 congratulates Michael and Kimberly for their split-second decisions, saving a local boy and the third rescuer on a snowless, but still winter day.

[More on "WESTBROOK HEROES"](#)  
Page 16



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### "WESTBROOK HEROES"

(Continued from Page 15)



**Plaque:** Westbrook Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, left, attends the Grande Promenade Du Maine Meeting of the Veterans

Organization "40 and 8" in Orono, on Sat., May 18. Michael is presented with a cherry wood plaque recognizing his humanitarian rescue efforts for saving a boy from drowning after a fall into the Presumpscot River at Westbrook's WinterFest on Mar. 2. Presenting the plaque was Post 62 Adjutant Gary York "Le Grand Chef De Gare," right.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



**Westbrook Post 62 Humanitarian Awards:** Trained EMT and WSMAC Chair Kimberly Tarbox, left, and Westbrook Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, right, are presented with Humanitarian Awards by the post after saving a boy and another person attempting to rescue him in the Presumpscot River in March.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



**Post 62 Humanitarian Selfless Samaritan Award:** The Dept. of Maine 2024 Humanitarian Selfless Samaritan Award is presented to Westbrook Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard, Ret. The award presentation was performed on June 19 at Post 62's Officer Installation Ceremony. The award reads, "In recognition of

numerous, selfless acts of empathy which aid all mankind by giving of yourself. You exemplify the meaning of "Humanitarian," not only to your fellow citizens, but to America's veterans as well. We Salute You!" Left to right, District 2 Commander Gene Connolly, Daughter of Debi & Michael Thomas, Kristen Thomas, Debi Thomas, Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms and award recipient Michael Thomas, Post 35 Adjutant, District 2 Finance Officer, and Post 62 Installation Ceremony Officiating Officer Michael Pock, and Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte.

Photo by Christy Moore



**Westbrook Post 62 Commander's Salute:** In an early morning Memorial Day ceremony at Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery, Westbrook Post 197 1st Vice Commander Rod Anderson, left, and Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte, right, salute after placing wreaths at Veterans Rest.

Photo Courtesy Robert Lowell, American Journal [www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/](http://www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/)



**Gravestone:** The Woodlawn Cemetery grave of Stephen W. Manchester, first Westbrook soldier killed in World War I, was decorated in a Memorial Day ceremony.

Photo Courtesy Robert Lowell, American Journal [www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/](http://www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/)



**Taps:** Westbrook High School students Hannah Christensen, left, a junior, and Ashton Kinney, senior, perform "TAPS" at a Memorial Day ceremony in Woodlawn Cemetery on Stroudwater Street.

Photo Courtesy Robert Lowell, American Journal [www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/](http://www.pressherald.com/2024/05/29/memorial-day-2024-westbrook/)



### Post 62 Presents 50-Year Membership Award:

William "Bill" Currier is a World War II U.S. Navy Veteran, serving 1943 - 1946 in the Pacific Theater. Post 62 received Bill's 50-Year Membership Certificate at The American Legion's Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 on Mar. 6, a day before Bill's 98th Birthday! Bill is presented his matted and framed certificate at the May 1 Business Meeting of Westbrook's longtime Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62, in the presence of fellow Post 62 members, his son Glenn, and guest speakers, Honor Flight Maine Chair Matthew Mank, Vice Chair Charles Paul, and Secretary Anita Higgins.

Photo by Glenn Currier



### Westbrook Post 62 Scholarships:

Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 presented two scholarships to a graduating

senior boy and girl at the Westbrook High School Seniors' Night on June 4. Seniors Dathan Tropnas, left photo, and Autumn Wellington, right photo, each receive \$300 scholarships from Post 62 Americanism Officer, Philip Spiller. Dathan will enlist in the U.S. Navy and Autumn will be attending South Portland's Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) in September.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



**Belated Awards At Kennison-Hooper Post 128:** Awards from the 105th State Convention are presented by District 2 Commander Gene Connolly and District 2 Historian David Tanguay at a Standish Post 128 meeting on Thurs., June 27. Recognition included Service Officer of the Year to Kathleen Thompson, Adjutant of the Year to Lou Stack, as well as Dept. of Maine Goal to Grow for 2023, 100% Membership pins for 2024, and a Nation Citation of Achievement to the Commander, Kathleen Thompson. Left photo, Service Officer of the Year Award is presented to Standish Post 128 Service Officer Kathy Thompson, right, by District 2 Commander Gene Connolly, left. Right photo, Adjutant of the Year is presented to Lou Stack, right, of Standish Post 128 by Dept. Adjutant Committee Chair David Tanguay, left.

Photo by Standish Post 128 Historian

### Peaks Island Post 142 Contest

Post 142 once again sponsored a Flag Day essay contest for the Peaks Island School. Fifth grade students wrote about "What the American Flag Means to Me."

Contest winners were given cash prizes at their Farewell Ceremony on Flag Day, June 14. Winners were Emmett O., first place, Arlo M., second place, and Wyatt H., third place.



### Naples Post 155 Certificate Of Appreciation:

James Hathaway, left, is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Historian Ross Graham, right, for outstanding service and assistance to The American Legion programs and activities at the Post's monthly meeting on May 21.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Naples Post 155 Presents 53 Year Certificate:** Post 155 Historian Ross Graham, left, presents Barry Snook, right, with a 53-Year Continuous Membership Certificate at the Post's monthly meeting on May 21.



**Naples Post 155 Members Plan Honor Flight Trip:** Veterans and Post 155 members Ross Graham, center left, and David Woolley, center right, along with their guardians Michael Ruhlin, left, and Charlotte Kelly, right, at Post 155 on July 9. The group plans their trip through Honor Flight Maine to Arlington on Sept. 20-22.

Photo by Tony Campbell, Detachment 155 Adjutant



Dave Barry, right. Right photo, Michael LaPointe, left, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Detachment 155 Commander



**Naples Detachment 155 Certificates Of Appreciation:** Left photo, during the SAL meeting at Post 155 on July 9, Stephen LaPointe, left, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Detachment 155 Commander

Photos by Ross Graham, Post and Detachment 155 Historian

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 Officer Installation:** On May 20, District 3 held their installation for the 2024-2025 term at the Coombs-Mountfort Post 158 in Lisbon. Newly elected and installed District 3 Officers, left to right, Service Officer Jesse Pierce, Adjutant & Finance Officer James Veilleux, Commander Dale Bryant, Chaplain Jim Rancourt, 1st Vice Commander Tracey Rancourt, and Judge Advocate Paul L'Heureux. Missing from the photo are Sgt.-at-Arms Danielle Begert and Americanism Officer Jocelyn Mosher-Collins.

## Lisbon Post 158 and Lisbon Falls Post 66 Memorial Day Remembrance

The Town of Lisbon incorporated a range of Memorial Day activities that allowed our community to pause, reflect, and learn about the history and traditions surrounding Memorial Day. On May 17 and 18, American Legionnaires from Lisbon Falls Post 66 and Lisbon Post 158, along with several youth organizations



**Memorial Day Honor:** Volunteers From Lisbon Post 158 And Lisbon Falls Post 66, along with several community youth organizations and Girl Scout troops, help place flags on gravestones to honor servicemen and women on Memorial Day.

from Lisbon High School (Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Key Club, and Gartley School), and Girl Scouts from Troops 488 and 2080, assisted with placing close to 1,000 American flags next to the gravestones of our brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. This was a great opportunity to teach the youth facts about the significance of Memorial Day.

On Mon., May 27, The American Legion Coombs-Mountfort Post 158 and Nelson-Conley Post 66 sponsored the annual Memorial Day parade, which saw living veterans from multiple eras: Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan War, and Iraq War. This year, combat veterans and service members who represented their eras rode in Jeep Wranglers. Another feature of



**Flags are placed on the gravestones at St. Anne's Cemetery, left photo, and Hillside Cemetery, right photo, on May 17 and 18.**

**Girl Scouts of Maine Troops 488 and 2080 assist with flag placements.**



**Memorial Day Parade:** Left photo, the Lisbon School Music Department marches in the Memorial Day Parade. Right photo, Scouts of America Troops 109 and 2019.



**Parade Bus:** Legionnaires from Post 158, Post 66, and Auxiliary members ride in a bus during the Memorial Day Parade.

[More on "MEMORIAL DAY" Page 18](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 3 continued

### "MEMORIAL DAY" (Continued from Page 17)



**Color Guard:** Left to right, Eric Perkins, Dean Logan Sr., and John Enman at the Lisbon Memorial Day Parade.



**Gold Star Family:** Jim Sullivan, left, and Dolly Sullivan, right, during the Gold Star Family ceremony in honor of their late son Christopher, who bravely served our country in Iraq.



**Lost At Sea:** Jim Veilleux speaks during the Lost at Sea Ceremony.



**Information Booth:** Left to right, Linda Hareld, Paul Hareld, and Eric Cooper.

will be shared photographically as you, the reader, peruse this periodical.

Following Memorial Day, the Post 28 Legion Family participated in the annual Farmington Rotary Fourth of July parade. Our Color Guard led the procession with our sponsored Scouts, as well as public supporters such as University of Maine President Joseph McDonnell, his lovely wife, Carla, and their dog, Cider. The weather was perfect for a parade

celebrating our nation's independence.

Summertime is a favorite time for our Post Color Guard who participates in several community parades in Franklin County. A favorite is the Strong Pierpole Day Parade in July where the town warmly welcomes our Color Guard every year.

Roderick-Crosby Post 28 extends its best wishes to the entire Maine American Legion family for a safe and fun summer.



**Farmington Post 28 Color Guard, Boy Scout Troop 546, Pack 585, and Girl Scout Troop 212 stand beside the Teague WWI Memorial Arch during the Memorial Day events in Farmington.**

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**Vocalist Priscilla Kimble Sings the National Anthem.**

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge

**University of Maine Farmington President Joseph McDonnell delivers remarks.**

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**No Higher Service: Glenn Miller, No Higher Service, speaks at the Memorial Day events.**

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**Farmington Historical Society representative Jane Woodman speaks about the time capsule.**

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge

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 & Events

Spring finally arrived, segueing into warmer and soon hotter days. Despite the unpredictable Maine weather, Post 28 was front and center in several community events in Farmington and the surrounding areas over the past several months.

Post 28's collaboration with the University of Maine at Farmington has strengthened over the course of this year. We are thankful to Post 28 Service Officer Brian Ellis for leading this effort through his position as the Administrative Supervisor at UMF. A highlight of this collaboration was the invitation extended to Commander Stephan Bunker to deliver remarks and plaques on behalf of the Post 28 membership to two UMF graduating seniors who are student veteran leaders. UMF President Joseph McDonnell shared his vision to make UMF a veteran friendly university. We anticipate many opportunities for future collaboration.

Over the past 18 months, Post 28 collaborated with many local civic and non-profit organizations as well as with private citizens to plan the 100th anniversary of the Teague WWI Memorial Arch on Memorial Day, May 27. Post 28 Adjutant Drew Goodridge, supported by Post 28 membership, presented a public program at the Memorial Arch on a drizzly morning that was both well attended and well received. Pictures are worth a multitude of words, so the story



**Memorial Day Remarks:** Adjutant Drew Goodridge delivers opening remarks at the Teague WWI Memorial Arch in Farmington on Memorial Day.

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**Time Capsule:** Farmington Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker, left, and Troop 546 Scouts fold a flag to be placed in the time capsule. The time capsule will be buried on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at the Teague WWI Memorial Arch.

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**Speakers:** Left photo, Farmington Unit 28 member Pamela Poisson delivers remarks. Right photo, Mt. Blue Area Garden Club President Rachel McClellan speaks about the restoration efforts for the Teague Memorial Arch.

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge

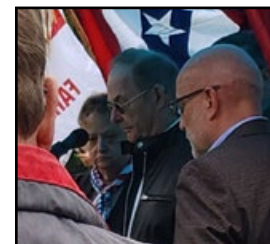


**Farmington Post 28 Color Guard marches at the Fourth of July parade.**

Photo credit: Jennifer Bowser-Kimble

**Legion Car:** Post 28 Chaplain Langdon Adams stands with his vehicle entry for the Farmington Fourth of July Parade.

Photo credit: Jennifer Bowser-Kimble



**Prayer:** Farmington Post 28 Chaplain Langdon Adams offers a prayer.

Photo credit: Becky Goodridge



**July 4th March:** Left to right, Post 28 Service Officer Brian Ellis, Carla McDonnell walking Cider the dog, and UMF President Joseph McDonnell.

Photo credit: Jennifer Bowser-Kimble

**More on "POST 28" Page 19**



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 4 continued

### ■ "POST 28" (Continued from Page 18)



**Change Of Command:** Left to right, incoming Farmington Post 28 Commander Matthew Smith, Past Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston, and Outgoing Post Commander Stephan Bunker.



**Pierpole Day Parade:** Farmington Post 28 Color Guard smiles for a photo at the Pierpole Day Parade in Strong. Left to right, Rick Bowen, Post 1st Vice Stephan Bunker, Post Finance Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, and Joe Paradis.

Photo credit: Jennifer Hardy



**Farmington Post 28 Officer Installation:** Left to right, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston, Post Membership Chair Peter Tracy, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Robert Hallman, Post Service Officer Brian Ellis, Post Americanism Butch Tracy, Post Historian Karl Knight, Post Chaplain Langdon Adams, Post Finance Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, Post 2nd Vice Tom Doak, Post 1st Vice Stephan Bunker, Post Commander Matt Smith (behind flag), and Past Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston presiding.



**Addressing Student Leadership:** Farmington Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker addresses UMF Student Leadership at the university's awards banquet.

Photo credit: Brian Ellis, Post 28 Service Officer

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

### District 5 Installation at Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24 in Rumford

It never gets old. At 18:00 hours, Rumford Post 24 hosted a supper buffet that rivaled the best offering that any restaurant could provide. A combination of generously prepared finger sandwiches in various flavors, potato chips, pickles, cheese, pepperoni, crackers, exceptional salads, and the *piece-de-resistance*—a chocolate/vanilla trifle, with choice of fruits this year in bowls, providing dual options.

Outgoing District 5 Commander James Lowell opened the installation segment with Posting of the Colors, Chaplain, POW/MIA Resolution and Chair Draping, Pledge of Allegiance, and Preamble to Legion Constitution.

He then turned the podium over to the Installing Auxiliary Dept. Historian and Unit 151 member Linda Jack, who conducted the installation of the Rumford Unit 24 Executive Committee and Officers.

Auxiliary Dept. Historian Jack then relinquished the gavel to Legion Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall as Post 24 and District 5 Installing Officer, who was ably assisted by Past Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston, as Sgt.-at-Arms, and the installation proceeded.

The POW/MIA flag was retired and the National Banner was saluted. Dept. Adjutant Hall read the closing Legion Obligation and the Colors were retired.



**District 5 Officer Installation:** Left to right, Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston, 2nd Vice Harold Wilbur of Post 151, Past District 5 Commander James Lowell of Post 58, Finance Officer George Angevine of Post 81, Incoming District 5 Commander Randall Jack of Post 151, Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt of Post 68, and Dept. Adjutant and Installing Officer Jason Hall.



**Unit 24 Officer Installation:** Front row, left to right, Installing Chaplain Doreen Wilbur of West Paris Unit 151, Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Susan M. Vacca of Locke Mills Unit 68, Executive Committee Bertha Kelly of Rumford Unit 24, 2nd Vice

Rowena Nichols of Unit 24, 1st Vice Rose Dyke of Unit 24, Executive Committee Carol Roach of Unit 24, and Treasurer Lynn McAloney of Unit 24. Back row, left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Judy Sanborn of Unit 24, Executive Committee and Department Commander Tricia Thurston of Unit and Post 24, Secretary Kim Sequoia, Installing Officer and Auxiliary Dept. Historian Linda Jack of Unit 151, and Chaplain Leslie Skibitsky of Unit 24.

[More on "POST 24" Page 20](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### ■ "POST 24" (Continued from Page 19)



**Post 24 Officer Installation:** Front row, left to right, Post 24 Adjutant Randal Canwell, Post 24 Historian Louis Marin, Dept. Commander and Post 24 Executive Committee Tricia Thurston, and Post 24 Chaplain Bill McAloney. Back row, left to right, Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston, Rumford Officer and Post 24 Sgt.-at-Arms Eric

Bernier, Post 24 Finance Officer Frank Luther, Post 24 Executive Committee Nick Kelly, and Dept. Adjutant and Installing Officer Jason Hall.

## District 5 Supports Be the One in Brewer

The Posts of Oxford County District 5 sent a full delegation to the Department State Convention held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer. They all showed their unstinting support of the "Be the One" program, which encourages all of us, "To ask veterans in your life how they are doing, to listen when a veteran needs help, to reach out when a veteran is struggling." This message was seen

inscribed on the back of the Legion business card of leading candidate for National Commander 2024-25, James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.

The quilt was created by the Women Veterans of Maine for a raffle. Multiple veterans created squares that were then pieced together. One of them fortuitously created a "Be the One" square.



**A Stunning Quilt** with a "Be the One" square, created by the Women Veterans of Maine, is held by Legionnaires from District 5 at State Convention in Brewer on June 8. Back row, Teresa Drag of South Paris Post 72,

left, and Oxford Post 112 Commander Dale Denbow Sr., right. Front row, left to right, Buckfield Post 58 Commander James Lowell, District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt of Locke Mills Post 68, District 5 Commander Randall Jack of West Paris Post 151, District 5 1st Vice Gloria Hall of Buckfield Post 58, Incoming Dept. Commander Tricia Thurston of Rumford Post 24, Past Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston of Rumford Post 24, and Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Randal Canwell. Not shown was Dept. Historian Louis Marin, Rumford Post 24.



**Be The One Training:** Rumford Post 24 held Be the One training at the Post on July 14. This is the largest attendance so far with 25 people attending. The attendees are made up of Legion family, police, and community members.

## Several District 5 Posts Install New Officers at Locke Mills Post 68

The installation of officers for Buckfield Post 58, Locke Mills Post and Unit 68, and Bethel Post 81 began at 18:00 hours on May 16. The ceremony was preceded with a potluck supper of various entrees, salads, and desserts brought by the participants who were installed. Platters of Italian meats, and cheeses, classic meats and cheeses, as well as sliced bread, condiments, potato chips, and beverages were provided by Post 68.

Adhering to The American Legion protocol, Commander Orcutt, in his last hurrah appearance, opened the meeting with the Posting of the Colors, followed by Chaplain's Benediction, POW/MIA Resolution and Chair Draping, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Preamble to the Legion Constitution. Orcutt then surrendered the podium to the Auxiliary installing team, consisting of Installing Officer Linda Jack, Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Dian Rainey, and Installing Chaplain Dorene Wilbur.

Linda Jack then turned the podium

over to Legion Dept. 1st Vice and Installing Officer Tricia Thurston and Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston. They proceeded to install the post officers who were present in numeric order.

Following the installation ceremonies, a Northeast Bank representative presented a donation check of \$1,500 to newly-installed Post 68 Commander William Bickford. The funds are to be used exclusively to inaugurate, according to a recent article appearing in the Bethel Citizen, National Cornhole Tournaments at Jackson-Silver Post 68. Other area businesses are donating materials and space in which to fabricate the boards. In addition, graphics have been donated. No post funds, with the exception of purchasing victuals and beverages that will be sold at the tournaments, will be utilized. To all concerned, this looks to be a win-win that will introduce the Post facilities to surrounding communities, which may generate further income.



**Locke Mills Unit 68 Officer Installation:** Front row, left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Vice President Deb Brown, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett, and Unit 68 Treasurer Jamie Miller. Back row, left to right, Installing Chaplain

Dorene Wilbur of Unit 151, Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Dian Rainey of Unit 151, Unit 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Marie Bartlett, Unit 68 Historian Ellen DeMaio, Unit 68 Executive Committee Member Alice Deegan, Unit 68 Chaplain Marleen Twitchell, and Auxiliary Dept. Historian and Installing Officer Linda Jack of Unit 151.



**Buckfield Post 58 Officer Installation:** Front Row, left to right, Post 58 Finance Officer Conrad Conant, Post 58 Commander James Lowell, Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall, and Post 58 Chaplain Robert Perry. Back Row, left to right, Dept. 1st Vice and Installing Officer Tricia Thurston and Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston.

[More on "NEW OFFICERS" Page 21](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### "NEW OFFICERS"

(Continued from Page 20)



**Locke Mills Post 68 Officer Installation:** Front row, left to right, Post 68 1st Vice, Historian, and Service Officer Harry G. Orcutt, Post 68 Commander William Bickford, Post 68 Adjutant Sara Pruyne,

and Post 68 Chaplain Tim Twitchell. Back row, left to right, Dept. 1st Vice and Installing Officer Tricia Thurston, Post 68 Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston, and Post 68 Service Officer Kelly Bickford.

### Bethel Post 81 Officer

**Installation:** Front row, left to right, Post 81 Adjutant Bob Everett, Post 81 1st Vice Ira Gibson, and Post 81 Finance Officer Scott Cole. It was reported in numerous places that Ira's brother and Post 81 Chaplain George Gibson, was installed, but it was Ira who was installed. Back row, left to right, Installing Officer and Dept. 1st Vice Tricia Thurston and Past Dept. Commander and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms Kirk Thurston.



**Northeast Bank Donation:** Following the officer installation ceremonies, a representative from Northeast Bank presents a check for \$1,500 to newly-installed Post 68 Commander William Bickford to fund National Cornhole Tournaments at the Post. Seated is Past Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt. Back row, left to right, Post 68 Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston, and Past Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston.

## Memorial Day at Locke Mills Post 68: at Home & on the Road

Following the East Bethel Cemetery Ceremony, Post and Unit 68 participants returned to the Post for a light buffet luncheon. It was a "two-fer" as the meat and cheeses provided at the Post Installation Ceremony, having been refrigerated or frozen, as had been the "loaves and fishes" of a previous notable occasion, were sufficient to satisfy all who partook. The bread was freshly bought,

and punch and coffee were provided. At 12:30 hours, participants loaded up and headed to Bryant Pond.

While participants were enjoying their repast, the Mahoosuc Community Band was playing at the Mundt-Allen Post 81 Memorial Day Ceremonies in Bethel. This cooperative arrangement, of playing first with us and then with Bethel, has been our tradition for the last three years.



**Locke Mills Post 68 Memorial Day Opening Ceremony:** Recently installed Post 68 Commander William Bickford opens the first of three Memorial Day Ceremonies the Post conducted or participated in. At left, Post Chaplain Tim Twitchell awaits being summoned to offer the opening Benediction.

**Essay Contest:** Left photo, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett introduces the winner of the essay contest conducted by the Unit among Bethel area middle school students on the subject: "An American who died in military service to their country and what inspiration that offers to you personally or to future generations." Right photo, contest winner Alexia Indermuehle delivers her essay at the Memorial Day Oration at Locke Mills Post 68.



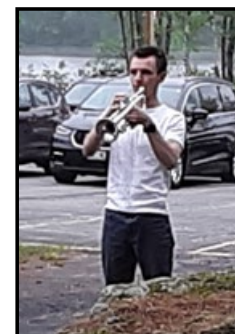
**Band:** The Mahoosuc Community Band plays the National Anthem and Armed Forces Medley, along with other selections at the Post's Memorial Day Ceremonies.



**Locke Mills Unit 68 Poppy Girl Helen DeMaio** broke a Unit record for donations, raising over \$1,000 with the support of her family.



**Post 68 Firing Detail:** Left to right, 1st Vice Harry G. Orcutt in command, Riflemen Don Pruyne, Finance Officer Ray Hakala, Leroy Patten, Richard Wakefield, and Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake.



**Taps:** Mahoosuc Community Band trumpeters Brian Dunham, left photo, Brendan Magill, middle photo, and Ed Lovejoy, right photo, perform echoing Taps.

## Locke Mills Unit 68 Organizes Flag Placement, Essay Contest

Memorial Day was a learning experience for mid-Oxford County children as Locke Mills Unit 68 President Paige Crockett organized a baker's dozen of Bethel-area children to assist Bethel Post 81 and Locke Mills Post 68 with flagging veterans graves in area cemeteries. The children ranged in age from preschoolers to middle school students. The flagging took place over two days, Fri., May 17 in Bethel and Sat., May 18 in Locke Mills. As this is a Jackson-Silver Post 68 article, the following is from that perspective.

The group of children, mostly accompanied by parents or grandparents, first assembled in Post 68's Great Hall, resplendent with martial exhibits gracing the walls, for initial instruction. By agreement with Cemetery Flagging Coordinator and Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al

Lake, the group departed to place flags in the cemeteries along the Greenwood Road (Martin, Hick's, Cummings Plot) and in the largest town cemetery, Mt. Abram. Other Post members would flag the remaining Greenwood cemeteries, some of which can only be reached by all-terrain vehicles. Following the retrieval of last year's flags, and the placement of those in remembrance of Memorial Day 2024, Post 1st Vice Harry G. Orcutt and Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca hosted a pizza party in the Fellowship Hall of the Locke Mills Union Church, next to the Mt. Abram Cemetery.

As the Hicks Cemetery sign is located on the front edge of a rise, it was deemed unsafe to gather around it for a photo.

[More on "UNIT 68 ORGANIZES"](#)  
Page 22



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### ■ "UNIT 68 ORGANIZES" (Continued from Page 21)

Instead, the group stood behind the 1st Vice and Unit 68 Secretary's pre-placed monument. One of the older children commented that there were no end dates on the monument, to which the Unit Secretary replied, "I hope not. We're still here!"

During the Memorial Day luncheon, Jonathan Bowley revealed that he had served a tour of duty in Afghanistan. However, he will not soon be a Legionnaire, as his service was with the Royal Engineers. It appears he has thrown in his lot with the Colonials. Welcome to



**Remembering Our Veterans:** U.S. Naval League Cadet PO1 Teddy Crockett places a flag on a gravestone in Bethel.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President



**Unit 68 organizes flag placement.** Children volunteer to help place flags on veterans' gravestones at Martin Cemetery in Greenwood in honor of Memorial Day. Sixteen flags are placed at the ceremony. Left to right, Silas Coombs, Annie Coombs, Helen DeMaio, Scarlett Carsen, Emma Coombs, Hazel Rivers, Elijah Carsen, Teddy Crockett, Brady Wakefield, Tracen Svendberg, TJ Coombs, Noah Kerns, Foster Crockett, and Jocelyn Crockett.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President



**Hicks Cemetery:** Nineteen flags are placed on gravestones at Hicks Cemetery during the Memorial Day flag placing event organized by Locke Mills Unit 68.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President

America, Mate!

During this same period of organizing the Children's Flagging, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett, assisted by Unit members, conducted a middle-school essay contest on the prompt of: "An American who died in military service to their country and what inspiration that offers to you personally or to future generations." The top 3 contestants were recognized with cash prizes provided by local businesses. The top winner, Alexia Indermuehle, presented her essay as the Oration at the Post 68 Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Paige's overall concept in initiating the essay contest was to introduce middle school children to The American Legion, where they could become immersed in Duty, Honor, and Country, subjects no longer included in school curricula. It is her hope that as the children progress in their education, when they become eligible, they will participate in both the Legion Oration and Dirigo State programs, putting Oxford County back on track in having sufficient candidates for both.

It should be noted that Helen DeMaio, seen in various photos above, served as the 2024 Unit 68 Poppy Girl. She broke a Unit record for donations, raising over \$1,000 with the support of her family, Todd DeMaio and Unit 68 Historian Ellen DeMaio. Ellen was also in attendance during the flagging, but eluded being photographed.



**Flags Are Placed** at the newly restored Cummings Plot where the three Josephs are interred, along with one wife and a toddler. All three Josephs, first settler, son, and grandson were veterans, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War, respectively.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President



**Volunteers organized by Locke Mills Unit 68 gather at Mt. Abram Cemetery in Greenwood to place seventy-three flags on veterans' gravestones in honor of Memorial Day.** Left to right, Paige Crockett, Annie Coombs, Cassandra Rivers, Hazel Rivers, Noah Kerns, TJ Coombs, Scarlett Carsen, Tracen Svenberg, Elijah Carsen, Teddy Crockett, Emma Coombs, Silas Coombs, Jocelyn Crockett, Jonathan Bowley, Foster Crockett, Helen DeMaio, and Brady Wakefield.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President



**Pizza with various toppings arrives at the luncheon.** Additional treats were provided by other

attending Locke Mills Unit 68 members.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President



**Unit 68 hosts a luncheon.** Attendees gather at Locke Mills Union Church Fellowship Hall for Memorial Day Ceremonies, lunch, and to hear essay contest readings from local middle school students.

Photo Courtesy of Paige Crockett, Unit 68 President

## Separated in Death – Remembered with Love. Locke Mills Post 68 Flags and Rifles Participate in Graveside Service

It looked to be another rainy day on Sat., July 13, resembling of the many experienced this Spring, but as cars arrived at the Hick's Cemetery on the Greenwood Road in Greenwood at about 1030 hours, the clouds dissipated and the sun shone forth in what became a very nice day. Despite the Jackson-Silver Post hosting a Craft Fair in their spacious Great Hall, the Post was still able to field both a Flag and Firing Detail in remembrance of their Past Post Commander Richard Melville, who passed some months before, and his wife, Beverly, Past President of Unit 68 Auxiliary. Each of them had spent full and giving lives in service to local organizations. Masonic Brothers of Jefferson Lodge 100 were in attendance, as were members of Locke

Mills Union Church, where Richard taught Sunday School and participated in other programs. It is also where Beverly, as church organist and music teacher, inspired a love of music in many local children, some of whom went on to pursue professional music careers.

"A Poem of Unknown Provenance," was sent to the family by a cousin of Beverly Melville, which appeared in the program: "From the tree of life each leaf must fall, the green, the gold, the great, the small. Each one in God's own time He'll call, with perfect love he gathers all. Those we love won't go away, They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always, loved, always missed, and very dear."



**Post 68 Memorial Service:** Unit 68 member The Reverend Sondra Withey, Pastor of the Locke Mills Union Church, conducts the memorial service for Richard Melville. The flag detail, left to right, Unit 68 Chaplain Marleen Twitchell and Unit 68 members Michele Winslow and Brandy Maddocks.

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary



**Remembering Richard and Beverly Melville.**

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary

**Firing Detail:** Post 68 Commander William Bickford is about to issue the order to "ready - fire" to the Post Firing Detail. Left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Chaplain Tim Twitchell, Richard Wakefield, and Past Post 68 Commander and Post Service Officer Kelly Bickford.

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary



[More on "REMEMBRANCE" Page 23](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9 continued

### "REMEMBRANCE"

(Continued from Page 22)



**Taps:** The Post 68 Firing Detail presents arms while the Navy renders Taps.

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary



**Flag Folding Ceremony:** Beginning with a tri-corn shape, the flag is folded 13 times on the triangles, representing the 13 original colonies that successfully won a war of separation from the British Crown.

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary



**Flag Presentation:** The flag is held reverently after being presented to the Melville's daughter Nancy Snyder. As it is presented, the officer states to Nancy, "On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Navy, and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

Photo by Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Secretary

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



**Festival In The Field:** North Haven Post 33 is alive and well. There were over 250 people during the 3:00-10:00 p.m. schedule of the Festival in the Field held in July. We had three bands during that period and music between sets. The menu featured pulled pork and chicken along with soft and hard drinks for the kids and adults, coleslaw, potato salad, beans, and a couple other items. Bottom photo, left to right, owner of the store and a strong supporter of the Legion David McDougal, Post Adjutant Jeremiah MacDonald, T-Shirt Chair Margaret MacDonald, Executive Director of the North Haven Historical Society and the major person who pushed for the renewal of the Legion Fest Jacqueline Curtis, and Post 33 Commander Jerry White. The group were the major event planners for the festival. With the success of the festival, we will begin planning for next year at about the same time in July.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 7

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

### Damariscotta ALR Chapter 42

**Riders in the Wiscasset Fourth of July Parade.** Left to right, Post 42 Sgt.-at-Arms Gunnar Gunderson, Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms and Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin, and Riders Chapter 42 Sgt.-at-Arms Roger Plourde.



**70 Continuous Years:** Several members of Wiscasset Post 54 recently visited Oscar Cronk to present him with a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership with the Legion. Standing left to right, Post 54 Sgt.-at-Arms John Kennedy, Post Adjutant Cliff Hendricks, Post 2nd Vice Tom Stoner, and Post Judge Advocate General Bob Milligan. Seated in the middle is Oscar Cronk.

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 Welcome Home Event

Brunswick Post 20, in conjunction with Wreaths Across America and the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Program, recently held a Welcome Home Event at the Post. The event was conducted by Post 20 Legion Member Richard Barter and Veteran William P Phillips, both representing Wreaths Across America and

working as volunteers. Wreaths Across America is an authorized partner for the Vietnam War Commemoration group. The Welcome Home Event was held on Fri., Mar. 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Post 20 for all who served during the periods of 1955-1975. This is called out in The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Partner protocol. Past National Commander Tony Jordan of Maine was keynote speaker and the ceremony was conducted by Post 20 Commander W. David Watson. American Legion posts in the district area were invited to attend. Following the event, light refreshments were served along with some casual conversation at the ceremony.



### Recognition Medals



**Brunswick Post 20 Member and Wreaths Across America Representative Richard Barter, right, with Post 20 Treasure Jeff White, left.**



**Discussion:** Brunswick Post 20 Commander Dave Watson, left, and Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, right, discussing the program.



**Recognition:** Post 20 member and Vietnam Veteran Walt Coombs, left, receives recognition.



**Handshake:** Post 20 Members Fred Schwab, left, and Richard Barter, right, shake hands.



**Harpswell Post 171 Past Commander Mike Doyle, left, is recognized.**

**Table For One:** Past Post 29 Commander Joe Donohue recognizes Table for One and reads aloud a list of Maine Vietnam veterans still MIA.





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### Brunswick Post 20 Hosts Women Veterans' Luncheon

George T. Files American Legion Post 20 in Brunswick sponsored the Second Annual Women Veterans' Luncheon on Sat., June 22. The objective of the luncheon was to provide a place for women veterans to come together, make new friends, share stories, and learn more about issues affecting women veterans. The keynote speaker was Adjutant General Brigadier General Dianne Dunn, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management in the State of Maine. Donna Booklin from Quilts of Valor presented General Dunn with a handmade quilt in recognition of her service to our state and country. Other presenters included Chairman of the Maine Honor Flight

Board of Directors Matthew Mank, Joy Asuncion, of the Maine Honor Flight, VA Togus Government and Community Relations Specialist Robert McCann, Women Veterans Program Coordinator of Women's Healthcare Systems Katherine Mueggenborg, Nicole Jordan from the Women Veterans Glamping Program, and Dr. Shannon Kenny, who spoke on women's healthcare issues.

The luncheon was attended by 43 female veterans from 25 Maine towns, the furthest traveling from Houlton, as well as two out of state veterans, one of which traveled here from Florida. The veterans that attended all had an excellent experience and planning is already underway at Post 20 to make next year's luncheon even better.



**Keynote Speaker:** Adjutant General Brigadier General Dianne Dunn gives a keynote address at the Women Veterans' Luncheon held on Sat., June 22 at Brunswick Post 20.



**Quilt:** General Dunn is presented with a homemade quilt by Donna Booklin of Quilts of Valor at the Women Veterans' Luncheon.

### Harpswell Memorial Day Observance



**Ceremony:** Top photo, Ewing Narrows Bridge wreath ceremony commemorating service members lost at sea. Cdr. Doyle is about to toss a wreath into the Narrows. Bottom photo, Cmdr. Doyle's opening remarks. Front row, left to right, 1st Vice John Ott; Rev. Joseph Connolly/Elijah Kellogg Church, who delivered the opening and closing prayers; Civil War Re-enactor Cmdr. Sgt. Major Alpha Williams, 3rd Maine Infantry Company A, one of the featured speakers; Gale Doyle; Dave Hackett, President Harpswell Historical Society, who read the Gettysburg Address; Tracy Williams, event organizer; Dorie Barnes (hidden) sang the National Anthem; and Lynne McGee (hidden) sang God Bless America. Second row, left to right, Adj.



Bill O'Connell, Amy Farrell (US Flag), John Hill (Maine Flag), Matt Maurer (Post Flag), Howard Yanik (POW flag), Chuck Kapela (hidden), and Bill Allen. Not shown is Acting Pastor Max Merrill, West Harpswell Baptist Church, the second featured speaker. Chris Collins, Chuck Collins and Bob Webber fired the rifle volley at the conclusion of the ceremony. Mt. Ararat bugler played Taps. A tape of the parade/ceremony can be viewed at [harpwelltv.org](http://harpwelltv.org) Vimeo section or at <https://vimeo.com/951038422?share=copy>.

Photos by Lily Ott



**Harpswell Post 171 Memorial Day Parade:** First row, Cmdr. Doyle and Tom Guerra. Second row, Chuck Collins, Chris Collins, Bob Webber (hidden). Third row, Chuck Kapela (hidden), Amy Ferrell (hidden) carrying US Flag, John Hill (State of Maine flag), Matt Maurer (Post 171 flag), Howard Yanik (POW flag/not in photo), and Adj. Bill O'Connell.

Screenshot Courtesy Donna Frisoli Video

### Phippsburg Post 216 Has Busy Spring, Summer

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a very busy spring and first part of the summer.

On May 11, members of the Post completed their annual yard cleanup fundraiser at a local business and the next day they spent the morning at the Town's Veterans Park cleaning up the gardens, mulching, planting flowers, and mowing in preparation for Memorial Day.

As Memorial Day approached, the Post members divided up into five groups and placed over 235 U.S. flags on veteran graves in 42 public and private cemeteries.

On June 22, the Post held its annual Flag Day Ceremony at the town office parking lot/Veterans Memorial Park to retire

unserviceable U.S. flags with dignity. Last year this event was rained out, so we had an extra-large number of flags to dispose of this year. Thanks to Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg and Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor's efforts in building a new burn barrel, the process went much quicker.

On July 13, the Post partnered with VFW Post 7738 and held its 9th annual Veterans Appreciation Day. This is a BBQ and recognition ceremony for area veterans and their families where good food and goodwill are shared. Local businesses and individuals donated almost \$4,000 in cash and gift certificates towards this event and in support of veteran programs.

#### May 2024



**Certificate Of Continuous Service:** Comrade Bruce MacMillan, left, receives his 8 Year Continuous Service Certificate from Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, right, at a Post meeting.

Photo by Mike Young, Post 216 Adjutant



**Flag:** Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young places a U.S. flag on a veteran's grave in the John Roger's Farm Ancient Cemetery.

Photo by Comrade Keith Sikora



**Fundraiser:** Left photo, left to right, Phippsburg Post 216 Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, Post Sgt.at-Arms Larry Swizdor and his son Brian, Comrade Bob Belben, and Post Adjutant Mike Young clean up at a local business to raise funds for Veteran Programs in May. Right photo, Comrade Bob Belben, left, and Post 216 Chaplain Richard Spear, right, rake leaves at a local business to raise funds for Veteran Programs.

Left Photo by Chilloa Young. Right Photo by Mike Young, Post 216 Adjutant

[More on "POST 216" Page 25](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### ■ "POST 216" (Continued from Page 24)



**Phippsburg Veterans Memorial Park Clean-Up:** Top left photo, in preparation for Memorial Day celebrations, Chilloa Young, left, and Post Finance Officer Deb Reddinger, right, plant flowers at the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park. Top right photo, post members clean up the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park: left to right, Comrade Keith Sikora, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor, Post Finance Officer Deb Reddinger, Comrade Bob Belben, Comrade Bill Turek, and Post Adjutant Mike Young. Bottom left photo, Commander Ken Kellogg, left, Adjutant Mike Young, center, and Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor, right, shovel mulch at the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park. Bottom right photo, Comrade Bill Turek weeds around the Mariner's Anchor.

Top Right Photo by Chilloa Young, Other Photos by Mike Young, Post 216 Adjutant

### June 2024



**Flag Disposal Ceremony:** Post 216 Members conduct their Annual Flag Disposal Ceremony. Left photo, left to right, Post Financial Officer Deb Reddinger, Comrade Bob Belben, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor, Comrade Rob Martinez, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, and Comrade Bill Nicholson. Middle photo, Commander Kellogg, left, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor, right, tend the burn barrel they built. Right photo, left to right, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor, Post Financial Officer Deb Reddinger, Comrade Jim Wallace, and Comrade Bob Belben sort and fold flags.

Photos by Chilloa Young

### July 2024 Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony & BBQ



**Blue Star Banner:** Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, right, presents a Blue Star Banner to Post 2nd Vice Commander Harvey Munsey, left, who has a grandson in the service. Comrade Munsey has 49 Years of continuous membership in the Legion.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Certificates Of Honor:** Presentation of Certificates of Honor at the Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony. Left to right, Acting Post Sgt.-at-Arms Dave Barnes, MSGT Joan Geisler (USAF), SCPO Joy Asuncion (USN), PO3 Trevor Richardson (USN), and Post Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**BBQ:** Comrade Jim Leverso, left, and his wife Dee, right, cook for veterans at the Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ. Comrade Leverso is one of many Post 216 members who are summer residents or visitors.

Photo by Chilloa Young



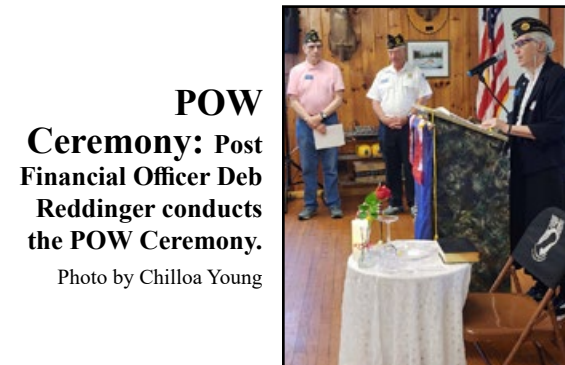
**Speaker:** Joy Asuncion speaks to veterans about the Military Women's Memorial and Honor Flight Maine.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Officiation:** VFW Post 7738 Commander Fred Libby, left, Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, center, and Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young, at the podium, officiate the July Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**POW Ceremony:** Post Financial Officer Deb Reddinger conducts the POW Ceremony.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Reggie Read (USA), LCDR Brian Beckman (USN), and Post Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photo by Chilloa 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



**Augusta Post 2 Veterans Dinner:** On Apr. 17, Augusta Post 2 sponsored a dinner for veterans from Togus and the Maine Veterans Home. A total of 54 veterans participated. Music was provided along with great food items. Chairman Howard Morang was very pleased with the turnout and member participation from the Post, Auxiliary and SAL. Left to right, Director of Life Enrichment at the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta Mona Boucher, Past National

Commander from Maine Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Augusta Unit 2 President Alice Drummond, and Post First Vice and organizer of the event, Howard Morang.

**The Kitchen Crew** at the Augusta Post 2 Veterans Dinner on Apr. 17.

This event really put a smile on all the veterans' faces. Front row, left to right, Unit 2 Second Vice Claudette Poulin, Unit 2 President Alice Drummond, Unit 2 Executive Committee Pam Cooper, Unit 2 Treasurer Sandra Thomas, Unit 2 Secretary Soraya Umphrey, and Unit 2 First Vice Jackie Stevens. Back row, left to right, Post 2 Finance Officer Fred Umphrey, Post 2 Adjutant Lonwood Keller, Past National Commander and "Supervisor" Tony Jordan, and Post 2



Second Vice Todd Meader.



**The Band** entertains veterans with live music at the Augusta Post 2 Veterans Dinner.



**Hallowell Post 6 Officer Installation:**

New officers for Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell were installed by Past Department Commander Debra

Couture, assisted by Carroll Whitman, on May 13. Left to right, Carroll Whitman, 1st Vice William Meehan, Past Department Commander Debra Couture, Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley, Post Finance Officer Phil Lindley, Post Service Officer Tim McGuire, Post Sgt.-at-Arms John Mosher, Post Adjutant Gerald Stuart, Post Chaplain Daniel West, Post Historian Mike Madden, and Post Executive Committee Chair Lewis Gipson.



**Hallowell Post 6 Memorial Day:** Members of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 honor the fallen at a Memorial Day observance in Hallowell on May 27. Featured speaker is State Representative of District 55, Daniel Shagoury.



**Eagle Court Of Honor:** Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell hosts a Boy Scout Court of Honor for two new Troop 647 Eagle Scouts at the Post on May 24 with family and friends attending. Left to right, State Senator District 14 Craig Hickman, Zacharie Claude, State Representative of District 54 Karen Montell, Ryan Glidden, and State Representative District 55 Daniel Shagoury.



**Oakland Post 51 Flag Dedication:** On May 14, members of The American Legion Decker-Simmons Post 51 gather with Legion Riders to dedicate a new flag and pole at Brian Danforth Veterans home on Fairfield Street. The veterans who live there had lost their flag and pole during a wind storm this past winter. The Legion Riders were notified and took action to replace the pole and flag ASAP. Top photo, left to right, Brad Lopes, Mark Spence, Dawn Brasil, John Palmer, Jeffrey Flye, Wally McKenney, Patrick Linehan, and Lee Poulin. Bottom photo, left to right, Patrick Linehan, Mark Spence, John Palmer, Dawn Brasil, Lee Poulin, and Brad Lopes.



**Oakland Post 51 Memorial Day Parade:**

The rain stopped just in time for The American Legion Decker-Simmons Post 51 Oakland Parade to get underway! In a ceremony to honor all who gave the ultimate sacrifice at Lakeview Cemetery, Post 51 Commander Jeffrey



Flye gave a speech that was followed by the Honor Guard performing a rifle salute to the fallen. Left to right, Mark Spencer, Winslow VFW Commander Mike Dumont, Tina Zabierek, John Palmer, Jeff Stevens, Brian King, Colin Clifford, Jeffrey Flye, Patrick Linehan, Winslow VFW Quartermaster Chris Soucy, and Tom Dechaine.

Photo by Wally McKenney



**Parade:** Much loved at the parade were the Kora Temple Clowns and their Trikes performing tricks in the road, and Smokey the Bear was also giving out toys to the children. Much more was to be seen: many military vehicles, the Oakland Middle School Band, antique cars and trucks, a Jeep club, and of course many flashing lights with very loud sirens. Mark your calendar to celebrate with us next year.

Photo by Wally McKenney



**Post 51 Speech:** Oakland Post 51 member Dave Germain gives a speech at Memorial Hall during the Memorial Day Parade.

Photo by Wally McKenney



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 9 continued**

**Salute:** The Memorial Day Parade stopped for a speech and rifle salute in front of Memorial Hall and the Veterans Memorial. David Germain of Oakland Post 51 said, "It's up to us to use the gifts secured by those who made the ultimate sacrifice to do as much good as possible and honor a debt that can never be repaid."

Photo by Wally McKenney



**Oakland Post 51 and Fairfield Post 14 Hold Retiring of Flag Ceremony**

The American Legion Decker-Simmons Post 51 of Oakland, with Grover-Hinckley Post 14 of Fairfield, held a ceremony retiring many U.S. flags. A moment of silence was observed for the 80th anniversary of the 153,000 men who lost their lives on D-Day.

"Let these faded flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by

bright new flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be unhonored and unmarked," said Post 51 Commander Jeffery Flye, after which the Color Guard escorted the flags to be destroyed by fire.

If anyone has a flag that is faded, tattered or torn, the flag can be brought to any American Legion post to be properly taken out of service.



**Flags** are inspected at the Post 51 and Post 14 Retiring of Flags Ceremony.



**Ceremony:** Oakland Post 51 Commander Jeffery Flye destroys a tattered flag.



**Skowhegan Post 16 Color Guard:** Post 16 participates in the town's Memorial Day Parade. The Post's Color Guard is pictured, left to right, Margaret Williams, Terry Knowles, Lee Couturier, and Bob Salisbury.



**Unit 16 President Receives Special Recognition:** Post 16 Commander Tina Richard gives Unit 16 President Ann Spaulding a certificate and a small gift for her dedication for rentals of the Post.



**Flag Disposal:** Greg Shorey properly disposes of a flag at the Skowhegan Post 16 Flag Day Ceremony held on Fri., June 14.



**Skowhegan Post 16 Post LOTY:** At a Post meeting on July 1, Post 16 Commander and Historian Tina Richard, right, presents certificates to two members for Post 16 Legionnaire of the Year awards, Post Chaplain Ira Stoddard, left, and Post Service Officer Lee Couturier, center. Their selfless dedication has made what the Post is today.

**Eagle Scout Recognized at Madison Post 39**

Nick Gower of Anson received his Eagle Scout rank, the highest award in Scouting, during a ceremony held on July 13 at the Garret Schenck School. His Eagle Scout project was a benefit to The American Legion. The Tardiff-Belanger American Legion Post 39 in Madison has a new, custom-made fire pit for the proper retirement of United States flags that have become faded, ripped, or worn. "I am so proud of Nick," said Troop 481 Scoutmaster Darlene Taylor of Starks. "Every challenge that has come your way, you have conquered. Your project has been used to honor our nation's flag. What a worthy project."

"America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend for the most part on the quality of its citizens," said fellow Troop 481 Eagle Scout Devyn Deleonardis who received his Eagle medal last December. "Our country has a great past. You can help make sure it has an even greater future. I charge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader, but lead only towards the best. Lift every task you do and every office you hold to the highest levels of service to God and your fellow man."

Speaking about Nick, Skip Pond, who served as Master of Ceremonies, said, "I have shown the whole world that Scouting is in my heart. I have mastered the knowledge of subjects that will benefit my country and my fellow man."

Nick received congratulatory letters from local and national political officials, and also from leaders of veterans' organizations such as the Marine Corps League and The American Legion. Commander of the Department of Maine American Legion Patricia "Tricia" Thurston attended and presented Nick with a replica Eagle feather and a certificate from the organization.

Nick's mother, Elizabeth Daisey, pinned the Eagle medal on her son's uniform, and he in turn presented her with roses and the Mother's Pin for her support of his Scouting efforts. Nick also presented his father, Dustin Gower, with an Eagle Scout Father's Pin.

Scoutmaster Taylor added, "Nicholas, I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished in Boy Scouts. It was a wonderful experience climbing this mountain with you. Now spread your wings and fly!"

[More on "EAGLE SCOUT" Page 28](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 10**

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



**Skowhegan Post 16 Installation:** On May 6, Skowhegan Post 16 had its installation of officers for 2024-2025. Front row, left to right, Post Finance Officer Margaret Williams, Post Commander and Historian Tina Richard, and Post Adjutant Bob Mercier. Middle

row, left to right, Post Americanism Officer David Daigneault, Post Chaplain Ira Stoddard, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Greg Shorey, Post 1st Vice Commander Terry Knowles, Post 2nd Vice Commander Linda Aguiar, and Post Service Officer Lee Couturier. Back row, left to right, Post Judge Advocate Dave Bucknam and Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 10 continued

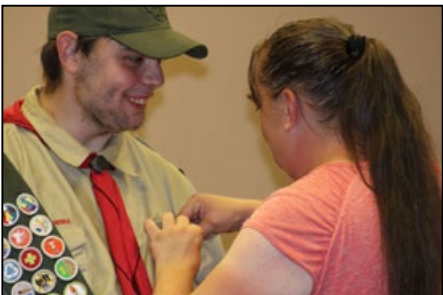
### "EAGLE SCOUT" (Continued from Page 27)



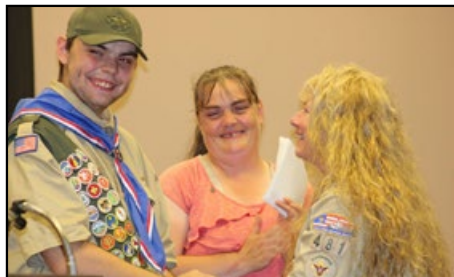
**Post 39 Eagle Scout Recognition:** Commander of The American Legion Department of Maine Patricia "Tricia" Thurston presents Eagle Scout Nick Gower with a special recognition certificate and replica Eagle feather.



**Custom-Made Fire Pit:** Eagle Scout Nick Gower creates and presents a custom-made fire pit for flag burning ceremonies to the Madison American Legion Post 39. The fire pit is Nick's Eagle Scout project.



**Eagle Scout Medal:** Elizabeth Daisey pins the Eagle Scout medal on her son's uniform.



**Troop 481 Scoutmaster Darlene Taylor congratulates Nick on attaining Eagle as his mother Elizabeth looks on.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 12

Bar Harbor Post 25; Ellsworth Post 63; SW Harbor Post 69; Blue Hill Post 85; Bucksport Post 93; Stonington Post 102; Seal Harbor Post 103; Ellsworth Post 207



**Bucksport Post 93 Supports DAR:** A few members of Bucksport Post 93 support the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) who installed a marker for 250 years of independence at the Veterans Memorial.

## American Legion Stonington Post 102 Donation Will Make a Huge Difference

In an effort to improve equipment reliability and bring the most up-to-date emergency medical services to the Island community, Memorial Ambulance Corps — Isle au Haut, Stonington, Deer Isle — has ordered a new ambulance that is scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2025.

On July 4, Stonington Post 102 of The American Legion presented us with a [\\$20,000 check](#) to help defray the cost of the new ambulance.

We are extremely grateful to The American Legion for this wonderful gift. It

will make a huge difference to our efforts to pay for the new ambulance.

We would like to thank the members of The American Legion for their service to the nation and to the island community. They are an inspiration to us all.

*Bill Wiegmann  
President, Board of Trustees  
Memorial Ambulance Corps  
Deer Isle*

Published by Bangor Daily News  
July 16, 2024

[www.bangordailynews.com/2024/07/16/opinion/letters/letter-american-legion-donation-will-make-a-huge-difference](http://www.bangordailynews.com/2024/07/16/opinion/letters/letter-american-legion-donation-will-make-a-huge-difference)

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

### District 13 Officer

**Installation:** Front row, left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Jim Ewing, former District 13 Commander John Neel, and District 13 Adjutant Don Candage. Back row, left to right, District 13 1st Vice Sheldon Harrington, District Chaplain Joe Briggs, District Historian Steve Luzziw, District Commander Ryan Simpson, Past Dept. Commander Alfred McKay, and District 13 2nd Vice Gary Freeman.



### Old Town Post 75 Military Ball:

On Apr. 27, the Coyote Battalion hosted their annual Military Ball at Old Town High School. Cadets Norah Sanborn, left, and Brianna Engstrom, right, receive scholarships for \$1,200 from The American Legion Old Town Post 75. Following the awards and dinner, the Cadets enjoyed an evening of dancing.

Photo by J&J Photos



**Academic Excellence:** Left photo, Cadets Alexis Wesley, left, and Austin Beal, right, receive American Legion Academic Excellence medals from Old Town Post

75 at the Military Ball on Apr. 27. Right photo, Cadet Austin Beal is presented with his Academic Excellence medal and award.



### Etna-Carmel Post 107 Memorial

**Day Ceremony:** Left to right, Post 107 Commander Ryan Simpson, Post Honor Guard Liam Nedredd, Chris Urquhart, Justin Kent, and Post 1st Vice Jim Thorne.



**Salute:** Etna-Carmel Post 107 member shows respect on Memorial Day.

### Hermon High School JROTC

**Awards Banquet:** Left to right, Post 107 1st Vice Jim Thorne, Post Veterans Service Officer Steve Luzzi VSO, Hermon High School's American Legion award recipient Justin Searway, and Post 107 Commander Ryan Simpson.





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 13 continued



**Post 107 Golf Scramble:** Etna-Carmel Post 107 attends the annual House in the Woods Golf Scramble. House in the Woods is a nonprofit organization offering outdoor programs to bring together small groups of active military, veterans, and their family members to relax, share, bond, and deal with the stress, loss, grief, and other emotions which can haunt the grieving soul. The Post 107 team is sponsored by Communications Virtual Services. Left to right, Steve Luzzi, Jim Thorne, Joel House, grandson of Paul House, of House in the Woods, and Roger Keene. Attendees had an awesome day.

**Happy Birthday:** Ansel Zetterman, left, celebrates his 90th birthday at Etna-Carmel Post 107. Commander Ryan Simpson, right, presents Ansel with his Lifetime Membership to The American Legion.



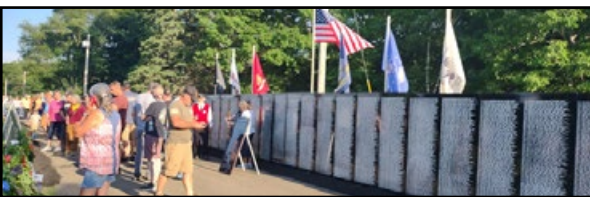
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## 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



**Cleanup Week At Milo Post 41** went exceedingly well. We got more done faster than planned while showering our Post with the respect it deserves and enjoying quality time with our Legion family. Thank you all who helped, Dan Nutter, Dan's great grand-daughter Aubrey Lynn Dean who is 9 years old, Dick Quirk, Steve Quist, and Glen McMannus.



### Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

came to Guilford on July 2-6. Guilford Post 119 and District 14 are listed in the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall brochure as sponsors along with Greenville Post 94 and Dexter Post 53.



### District & Post Memorial Wall Donations:

Two checks were presented to the Town of Guilford to support the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. Guilford Post 119 donated \$500 and District 14 donated \$600 for a total of \$1,100.

Left to right, District 14 Judge Advocate and Guilford Post 119 Adjutant Steven Deane, Post 119 1st Vice Commander Herb Lilly, District 14 Adjutant and Post 119 Commander Brian Knowlton, and Guilford Selectman and Owner of The Red Maple Inn Paul Zimmerman.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15

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

### Pembroke Post 59 Conducts Flag Day Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony

In observation of Flag Day on June 14, American Legion Post 59 of Pembroke conducted a dignified disposal of unserviceable flags ceremony. Hundreds of our nation's flags that had become faded, torn, and tattered were destroyed by fire under the watchful eye of the veterans and patriots that attended the ceremony. Many of the flags had become worn over the graves of departed servicemembers, while

others had succumbed to the wind and sun after being displayed in public places. Each flag was respectfully inspected and placed in the fire to be honorably destroyed. We thank those members of the public and the Legion Post who made the effort to properly dispose of this precious symbol of our great nation.

By Darla George, Pembroke Post 59 Historian



### Lubec Post 65 Officer Installation:

Lubec Post 65 recently held an installation ceremony for newly elected officers. Left to right, District 15 Commander Ike Hubbard, Post 65 Commander Mike Bither, Post 1st Vice Commander Leroy Kelley, Post 2nd Vice Commander George Olson, and Post Adjutant Maureen Ramsey. Not pictured was Post Executive Officer Anthony Wentworth.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

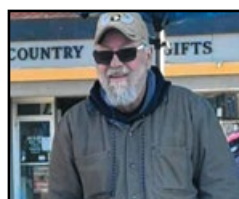
## District 16

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

### Houlton Post 47 Total Solar Eclipse



The American Legion Post 47, Unit 47, and Squadron 47 in Houlton came together on Apr. 7 and 8 for the Solar Eclipse event of a lifetime. In addition to the 6,000 locals, it is estimated that more than 22,000 additional visitors came to town. FOX News, The Weather Channel, and NASA scientists just to name a few, were among the many people arriving in town, where the eclipse would last touch The United States and have the longest totality. Our small international airport was busy with private jets flying in, Interstate 95 was jam packed, and it seemed like all roads led to Houlton.



The Post Commander and a [More on "ECLIPSE" Page 30](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 16 continued

### "ECLIPSE" (Continued from Page 29)

SAL were quick to rally the troops, bringing members from the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary to help supply food to the crowds. As tradition goes in Maine, and especially in Aroostook County, the BBQ grill was shined up and the house special was red hot dogs! This group consisted of individuals who donated a combined 80 hours over the two days to serve the crowd over 640 hot dogs with rolls and water. As a result, our Post attained approximately \$1,200 after expenses, all of which will go

directly back into the local community. Post 47, Unit 47, and Squadron 47 consist of amazing people who volunteer to step up time and time again. We are fortunate to have volunteers who consistently look for an opportunity to serve our Post and support our local veterans and community. Special thanks to the following volunteers for this event: Commander Charlie Clark, Randy and Marlo Farrar, Travis and Christy Bartley, Matt Quint, and Charles Clark, Jr.

For those that came to visit and support our Post, we thank you.

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

### Frenchville Post 145 Memorial Day Ceremonies

The American Legion Cyr-Plourde Post 145 of Frenchville was honored to have 12-year-old Isabella "Bella" Albert join them and play Taps at all of the Memorial Day Ceremonies. The Legionnaires placed beautiful wreaths at each Memorial Monument and in every cemetery, they visited to pay their respects to our deceased veterans with Isabella by their side. The American Legion Auxiliaries followed the Legionnaires and visited four cemeteries: the St. Agatha Upper and Lower Cemeteries, the Sinclair Cemetery, and the St. Luce Cemetery in Frenchville, to place a wreath in each cemetery. They also visited two Memorial Monuments, one in St. Agatha and one in

the Frenchville Community Park to lay wreaths in honor of the deceased veterans. Legionnaires then held a ceremony on the Sinclair Bridge and threw a wreath in the water for the deceased veterans at sea.

We were all so proud of the young lady, Bella Albert. She is a third-generation Auxiliary member of Frenchville Unit 145. Bella is the granddaughter of Post 145 Legionnaire George Albert and Auxiliary member Bernadette. Their daughter Cindy Albert is a Unit 145 Auxiliary member and mother of this young lady, Bella, who is a Junior Auxiliary member at Unit 145. Pictures show the family dressed in their American Legion uniforms.

By Denise Sinclair, Unit 145 Secretary

#### Memorial Day Ceremonies:

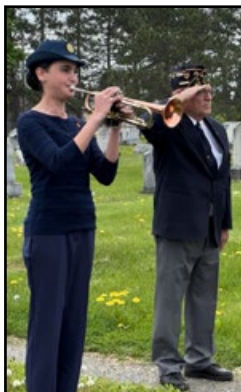
Left to right, Unit 145 member Cindy Albert, Post 145 member George Albert, Junior Auxiliary Unit 145 member Isabella Albert, and Unit 145 member Bernadette Albert.



**Frenchville Post 145 member George Albert and his granddaughter, Junior Auxiliary member of Unit 145, Isabella Albert.**



**Junior member of Frenchville Unit 145 Isabella Albert and her grandmother, Unit 145 member Bernadette Albert.**



**Taps: Isabella Albert plays Taps as George Albert salutes.**

Photos by Cindy Albert



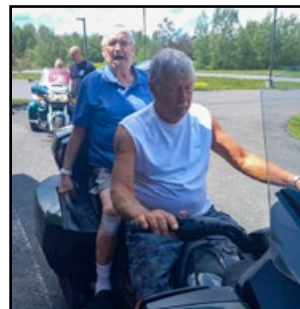
**Post Color Bearer Paul Michaud, and Color Guard Kenneth Lerman and James Chamberland. Color Detail won first prize.**

**Frenchville Post 145 Parade:** On Sun., July 14, Legionnaires of Cyr Plourde Post 145 in Frenchville, participated in the 125th Anniversary Homecoming Parade for the town of St. Agatha. Left to right, Acting Parade Marshal and Commander Roger Gervais, Color Bearer of U.S. Flag Allen Gervais,

### Madawaska ALR Chapter 147 Brings Joy to Local Residents

The American Legion Riders Chapter 147 of Madawaska gave residents at Country Village Estates rides on their motorcycles on Thurs., July 18, at 1:00 p.m. The residents in the local homes love to have a chance to go for a ride. Marie Label is 92 years old and was the first

one to go on the ride. She was waiting for someone to pick her up, but that didn't stop her from going on 3 rides. Marie's niece Adrienne Ouellette was another spry 74 year old. Even the rain didn't stop them from going on a ride.



**Motorcycle Rides:** Top left photo, County Village Estates Activities Director Paula Gendreau, left, rides with Chapter 147 Asst. Director Dave Russell, right. Top right photo, County Village Estates resident Adrienne Ouellette, left, rides with Chapter 147 Director Ed Ellis, right. Middle row, left photo, Albert Pelletier rides with Chapter 147 member Richard Cyr. Middle row, middle photo, Chapter 147 Asst. Director Dave Russell, left, gives Country Village Estates resident Lorraine Nadeau a ride on his bike. Middle row, right photo, Country Village Estates resident Gertrude Boucher, left, rides with Chapter 147 member Jim Cyr, right. Bottom row, left photo, Chapter 147 member Diane Daigle gives her brother Richard Dechene a ride. Bottom row, right photo, Ron Daigle, left, and Chapter 147 member Robert Gagnon.



**Madawaska Chapter 147 Group Photo:** Chapter 147 Legion Riders give motorcycle rides to residents at Country Village Estates on July 18. Left to right, Chapter 147 Director Edward Ellis, Chapter Asst. Director Dave Russell, Jim Cyr, Chapter Secretary Bridget Ellis, Robert Gagnon, Richard Cyr, and Diane Daigle.



# 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	Peter L Ault	Korea	Post 69 – SW Harbor	Philip Frederick	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	George Lamothe	Vietnam	Post 74 – Kennebunk	Charles L Towne	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Roger C Badershall	Korea	Post 76 – Scarborough	Richard W Lane	Korea
Post 02 – Augusta	Reba H Lunney	WWII	Post 76 – Scarborough	David J Redmond Sr	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 02 – Augusta	Robert A Rossignol	Vietnam	Post 79 – Berwick	Michael R Allan	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	David S Jackson Sr	Vietnam	Post 79 – Berwick	Melvin L Willey	Vietnam
Post 05 – Waterville	Cecil B Hall	Korea	Post 79 – Berwick	Marion E Heft	Korea
Post 05 – Waterville	John B. Whitten	Vietnam	Post 79 – Berwick	Stephen W Smith	Vietnam
Post 05 – Waterville	Warren M Poulin	Vietnam	Post 82 – Norway	Elwyn D Millett	Korea
Post 05 – Waterville	John Datsis	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	Regan I Brackett	Vietnam
Post 09 – Machias	Wayne W Williamson	Vietnam	Post 91 – Yarmouth	Carey M Trimble Jr	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Richard F Proulx	WWII	Post 91 – Yarmouth	John H Wibby Jr	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Paul B Bouchard	Vietnam	Post 93 – Bucksport	Edward H. Flannery	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Arnold H Beaulieu Jr	Vietnam	Post 93 – Bucksport	Dale L Keyes	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Robert Blastow	Other	Post 94 – Greenville	Ronald W Boyan	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Daniel Vanidestine	Vietnam	Post 97 – Howland	Edward W Maynard	Korea
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Dennis A Boutaugh	Vietnam	Post 97 – Howland	Paul Michaud	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Larry A Robichaud	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Edgar Lachance Jr	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Thomas Harmon	WWII	Post 98 – Brewer	Roland H Poulin	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Earl V Pack	Korea	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Russell P Treadwell	Korea
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Carl F Philbrook	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Robert R Sibley	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Dale W Midgley	Vietnam	Post 108 – Jonesport	Juan Cajandig	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	William J Bartosch Jr	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Paul Biron	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 19 – Sanford	Mikal R Curran	Vietnam	Post 122 – Jackman	Clifton H Pease	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Albert H Conrad	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Carroll W Hansen	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Theodore L Hargrove	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Wesley M Stacey	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Deryl F Kitchen	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Leona L Wright-Chasse	WWII
Post 20 – Brunswick	James K Gorby	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Robert E Goddard	Korea
Post 22 – Lewiston	R M Goulet	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	David E Storkson Sr	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Urbain C Arsenault Jr	WWII	Post 132 – Richmond	Franklin C Fairservice Jr	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Kenneth W Macfawn	Korea	Post 134 – Alfred	Albert Rogers	Other
Post 26 – Biddeford	Gerald A Farr	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Ronald J Daigle	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Willis L Chick	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Lloyd W Light	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Ernest Steward	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Ronald Jones	Korea
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Niles McBreairty	Unknown	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Martin H Imm	Vietnam
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Robert W Peterson	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Richard Baker	Vietnam
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Douglas Smetak	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Harold F Bubar	Korea
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Frank Howard	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert B Hutchinson	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Cecil E Dennison	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Roger A Aube	Vietnam
Post 36 – Boothbay Harbor	Paul B Adams	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Ivan G Burtis	Vietnam
Post 40 – Winthrop	Arthur H Wells	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Paul R Berube	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Perry A Waltz	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gerald R Langelier	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Allan H Ray	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Raymond S Longtin	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Gerald K Gifford	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gerard R Marin	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Ralph Moxcey	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Ralph L Sylvester	WWII
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Harold J Lewis	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Frank P Welch Sr	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Douglas L Levitt Jr	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert A Starck	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Lucy A Levitt	Korea	Post 158 – Lisbon	Raymond L Clark Jr	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Jeffery J May	Vietnam	Post 165 – Sangerville	Kenneth R Pullyard	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Carl F Kirner	Korea	Post 165 – Sangerville	Joseph W Grant Jr	Korea
Post 48 – Washburn	Ruel Colbath	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	James I Gaudet	Vietnam
Post 51 – Oakland	Lawrence Jenney	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Garry J Buzzell	Vietnam
Post 51 – Oakland	Ben E Conant	Global War on Terror	Post 178 – Winslow	George Thomas Phillips	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Roy E Gould	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Charles Blood	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Gerald A Bodmer	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Karl D Julian	Vietnam
Post 56 – York	Frank Muccio	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Willis C Bean	WWII
Post 57 – Old Orchard	Bruce H Brodeur	Unknown	Post 179 – South China	Joseph J Suga Jr	Vietnam
Post 61 – Kingfield	G Daniel Conrad	Vietnam	Post 186 – Clinton	Roland A Seeley	WWII
Post 62 – Westbrook	Mary D McGuirk	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Carl E Pike	Korea
Post 62 – Westbrook	Elmer T Graffam	WWII	Post 197 – Westbrook	George E Foley	Korea
Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Philip Berry	WWII	Post 200 – Hermon	Ralph H Christie	WWII
Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Vito A Ancona, Jr	Vietnam	Post 208 – Masardis	Clarence Michaud	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Harry J Buswell	Vietnam	Post 210 – Lewiston	Roger U Nadeau	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Julian W Philbrick	Korea	Post 213 – Hampden	Dwight A Packard	Vietnam
Post 69 – SW Harbor	James E Thurston	Vietnam	Post 213 – Hampden	Robert Hynds	Vietnam
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Ernest A Campbell	Vietnam	Post 214 – Lebanon	Richard N Cliché	Korea



## Attention: Next Deadline is Oct. 18

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **November 2024** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **October 18, 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](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)

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Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

To update your address, complete all sections of the above form and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, or register on-line by visiting [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org)



**State Convention Photo Op: Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, left, 2019 Commander's Award Recipient for 65 consecutive years to the Annual State Convention, Allan R. Benner, of Waldoboro and Damariscotta Post 42, center, and Leading Candidate for National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. of Connecticut, right, gather for a photo op before the second session of the 105th Annual State Convention in Brewer**

**on June 8. The American Legion, Department of Maine would like to thank Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Allan Benner, and the leading candidate for National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. for their outstanding support to veterans and remarkable dedication to The American Legion. We Salute You!**

## Recruit to Join Receive a Coin!



**Recruit a veteran to join The American Legion, Department of Maine today and receive one of our most popular challenge coins.**

Simply have the veteran scan the QR code with their phone. Under the "Recruited By" section, make sure they include your name and membership ID number, and we will mail you one of our most popular challenge coins.

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.



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

Deadline for Submission May 9, 2025



Show your support to our Veterans in the state of Maine! Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook as well as one of our most popular centennial coins to add to your collection. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, simply scan the QR code below with your phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button to donate today. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2025 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

Donate \$100 or more and receive a Maine American Legion Convention Year-

book as well as one of our most popular centennial coins to add to your collection. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, simply scan the QR code below with your phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button to donate today. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

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



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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.