

THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2024

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

A Message From National Commander Seehafer

To my fellow Legionnaires in Maine,

The Department of Veterans Affairs conducted its first annual Buddy Check week Oct. 16-20, 2023. This needed outreach was intended to enhance mental wellness and, most importantly, assist veterans in crisis. It was inspired by The American Legion, and we expect it to continue for many more years.

"What the Legion has shown us here is that from Buddy Check, there are going to be certain organic connections that continue no matter what. Because what we've seen with The American Legion doing it the last several years is that rekindles connections, and those connections are very meaningful for our vets," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said.

Establishing meaningful connections is something American Legion Family members do every day. From the services that you provide in your communities to the programs conducted by your department, veterans and families in your towns and cities are blessed by your efforts. The American Legion changes lives and The American Legion saves lives through our youth programs, public advocacy



DANIEL J
SEEHAFFER

and veteran service work.

When a veteran takes his or her own life it is a national tragedy. The loved ones left behind are often saddled with guilt, wondering if more could have been done. This is why we, in The American Legion, have made it our mission to Be the One to do everything possible to save veterans from making this horrific choice.

The year 2024 will be significant not just for The American Legion but our entire nation. Americans will go to the polls and elect the next leader of the free world. We will also decide who should represent us in the U.S. Congress and in local offices across the nation. The American Legion is nonpartisan and we make no endorsements. But we do encourage all Americans to vote. We also hope that you make an informed decision based on the issues that are important to veterans, active military and their families. These are the very issues that are addressed every year at American Legion department conventions. Issues that save lives and change lives.

I hope that you have a productive and enjoyable convention.

For God and Country,

Daniel J. Seehafer
The American Legion National Commander

VA Expands Access to Care, Benefits for Some Former Servicemembers Who Did Not Receive an Honorable or General Discharge



On Apr. 26, the Department of Veterans Affairs [posted a final rule](#) amending its regulations regarding [character of discharge](#) determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under

other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial.

When former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at

[More on "VA EXPANDS"](#)
[Page 13](#)

2024 Membership Goals

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

If the trend continues, the 2024 membership year can be a special one for The American Legion. Departments and posts have recruited and renewed about 15,000 more members than we had at this time last year. While our direct mail efforts have been less successful, this only demonstrates the proven success of personal contact, even if it's by phone.

A larger American Legion benefits all Americans. This means more Legionnaires to engage in Buddy Checks, as we commit to "Be the One" to stop veteran suicide. It means more Legionnaires to operate great programs such as Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, oratorical contests

and American Legion Baseball.

Trends can be deceiving, however. In the past, we have started the membership year strong only to lose momentum in the final stretch. "Wait till next year," has been the battle cry for many losing teams. I reject that mentality. There is no time like the present and our membership year runs through Jun. 30.

"Rocky" fans of a certain age are familiar with the song "Eye of the Tiger." The chorus is meant to channel the passion and commitment it takes to win. Generations ago, it took Eye-of-the-Tiger dedication to make The American Legion the largest and greatest veterans organization in the

[More on "MEMBERSHIP GOALS"](#)
[Page 2](#)

QUICKLY & EASILY
RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW



Commander's Comments

Greetings Comrades and all family members, it has been my extreme pleasure and honor to represent you and The Department of Maine as your Commander. It is with bitter-sweet feelings that the year has come to the close of my term. With that said, it has been fun, trying, and at times a stressful experience. And an experience that I think all Legionnaires should strive to



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

accomplish, maybe not department, but at least post or district level.

I want to again thank all the past and current state and national officers for their guidance and advice. And to the incoming slate of officers, I wish for a great year. I have no doubt comrades, with OUR help and support, the incoming commander will do great things for this department. I would also again like to thank the office staff both past and present for your understanding and assistance, past and present commanders of the Sons and past and present presidents of the Auxiliary, THANK YOU ALL and God bless.

For God and Country,

Alfred McKay
Department Commander

■ "MEMBERSHIP GOALS" (Continued from Page 1)

country. We still are.

My predecessor set a goal to recruit 75,000 new members during the 2023 membership year. We surpassed that. The goal for 2024 is 78,000 new members and it is perfectly achievable.

Any Legionnaire who recruits two new members to our organization will receive a "Be the One" dog tag coin from me.

If you are not a current member, you can join simply by [clicking here](#) or visiting www.legion.org/join [Maine veterans can scan the QR code or visit www.mainelegion.org and click on JOIN]. You can renew just as easily at www.legion.org/renew. If you want to beat inflationary dues increases, consider a [Paid Up for Life membership](#). You



could also join more than 10,000 other Legionnaires and try our new [three year membership option](#).

As I said earlier, personal contact matters. Legionnaires who are welcomed by active and engaged posts in their communities are more likely to stay Legion. One of the highlights of my time in The American Legion was when my post, 157 in Horicon, Wis., was recognized for "100 percent" and "All Time High" membership awards during years that I served as its commander and adjutant. It was never about "me." It was always about "we."

As The American Legion observes its 105th birthday, I can think of no better manner of celebrating than to put our organization on the path for growth. With your help, I know that we can do just that.

Daniel J. Seehafer
The American Legion National Commander



Washington Conference: The Department of Maine visits Washington, DC for the annual Washington Conference on Feb. 25-27. Left to right, Dept. National Executive Committeeman Alternate (NECA) Matthew Jabaut, ALA Vice President Stasi Brule, Dept. Second Vice Leroy McKenzie, Maine Senator Susan Collins, Dept. Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge, ALA NECA Debra Rumery, Dept. First Vice Patricia Thurston and Dept. Legislative Chairman Richard Flynn.

A 'First' Look

To my fellow Legionnaires,

It has been my pleasure to work with you all as the 1st Vice Commander and Membership Chair this year. We were able to reach all target goals until our 95% target goal for 4/10/24. I don't know about you, but I was extremely frustrated with the fact we did not reach this goal.

For all posts who have reached these goals and have gone beyond the target goals, I thank you! I think it's important for you to share with all others in your districts how you are doing this! Are you completing "Buddy Checks" on your membership? Are you recruiting out in your community? Are you working Legion programs within your posts and community? Are you promot-



**PATRICIA
THURSTON**

ing and advertising what your post does for your community, veterans and their families? Are you doing things at your post that makes our members want to continue to belong? If you are not doing these things, these may be the reasons why we were unable to meet our last goal. For those of you who have tried, I appreciate you! Remember to never give up the fight for our great organization. Some of you have been around for a long time and some of you are just coming on board. Either way, we are in this together.

We still have another chance to reach our 100% goal by 5/15/24. Time will tell whether this happened by the time this Maine Legionnaire is printed. I will continue to send out emails to all districts and expect that they be forwarded to all posts in your district. In sending out updates to individual posts, I found that some posts had never received updates from their district. If you are not forwarding these emails, you are defeating the purpose for your posts to know their numbers and reach

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

A 'Second' Look

Warmest greetings everyone,

It is so hard to believe that in just a hop, skip and a jump away, we will be attending our 105th State Convention in Brewer on Jun. 7-8.

That is crazy to even write out. Think of that for a moment, 105 years. That is just amazing to think of all the lives that those who came before us and those of us now, have touched. I hope that everyone is doing well, staying busy and staying healthy. A humongous thank you to each and every one of you for everything you do and everything you have done. If it wasn't for everyone working together, we wouldn't be able to do the great things we do!

As the post/district election season is upon us, remember to get the new Officers Form into department headquarters as soon as possible after the Post or District Installation is complete. The forms that you must ensure are turned in are as follows:

Annual Post Data Report – This form depicts all post information currently on file at national and department HQ. Review and make any necessary chang-



**LEROY
MCKENZIE**

es or corrections and submit to department HQ. This form is not available online. This form had a deadline of being turned into Dept. by Apr. 15, so if you STILL haven't turned it in by now, you are EXTREMELY late.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) – You have two reporting options with this report. Online using MyLegion.org or by mail using the paper form which can be found on the department website. This report is due at national Jul. 1, if mailed; it is due to department by May 29.

Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants Form – Due as soon as new officers are elected for the current year of no later than Jul. 1. The post adjutant is to complete the form and submit it to the department even if the post does not have a squadron.

Post Officers Form – This form must be filled out even if there are no changes from previous year. The form is due to department by Jul. 1.

The District Officers Form is to be filled out by the district adjutant and submitted even if there are no changes from the previous year. This form is also due to department by Jul. 1. The last three report forms can be found on the department's website under the FORMS/APPLICATIONS button. All forms were mailed out to each post on

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

NEC Update

As we begin one of the most important times of our year, nominations and elections of our post and district officers, we should keep some very important things in



**LLOYD
WOODS**

mind. The individuals so nominated and elected must be willing to do what the position requires of them. Whether it is to travel, attend any training that is offered by department, such as that being offered at our department convention this year, or anything else that may come up. Being an officer of the post or district or department should be considered a great privilege and honor that the membership can give any candidate. They believe the individual is the best candidate to fill that position and can fulfill any required job necessary.

On the other hand, the individual nominated or elected should have the knowledge and background in The American Legion to carry-out those requirements. They should not just want to wear the "hat" or be in the position. Each officer position is very important to the Post's, District's or Department's success in that year. That success will also show up in our community's knowledge of just what we do. Being successful in this area is especially important as well as what we do for our brothers and sisters in arms who need our assistance. Every officer position carries with it responsibilities that

should be known to the individual filling the position.

Training is the backbone to our success whether at the post level or the district level and even at the department level. As members of the world's greatest and largest veterans' service organization, it is our responsibility to see this through to completion. We all are important in this success.

A copy of a letter was given out to everyone pertaining to donations to the National Commander's campaign for those running for that position and has been listed in the Leadership Ledger a number of times now. We take up donations each year to support the individuals seeking to be the National Commander and support them just as our own Past National Commander Tony Jordan was when he sought the position. Individual donations as well as post donations will be greatly appreciated and encouraged. It is important that we as a department complete this task. Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated both by the individual seeking the position and the department as a whole. Those who donate receive a recognition letter from the candidate so receiving. Please consider making a donation, individuals or posts, no matter how big or small and sending it to Department headquarters with the notation "National Commander Campaign."

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

Lloyd Woods
Department NEC

On the Agenda

JUNE 2024 MEETINGS

District 12 – Hancock: May 13 Bucksport Post 93, Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

JULY 2024 MEETINGS

AUGUST 2024 MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

District 5 – Oxford: Sept. 17 Oxford Post 112, 7:00 p.m. Refreshments After

Women Have Served in the Military Throughout U.S. History

Civil War: 400 women

World War I: 35,000 women

World War II: 350,000 women

Korean War: 120,000 women

Vietnam War: 265,000 women



June 12, 1948 – President Harry S. Truman signs the Women Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as regular members of the military.

Women Veterans Day is not officially observed in every state. It is currently a state-recognized commemoration in 14 states.

Source U.S.
Department of
Veterans Affairs

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

these goals. Remember we are in this together. Membership is everyone's responsibility.

Again, I thank you for all you have done for membership this year. I thank you for doing what you do as a volunteer working long hours for our organization. Without people like you, we would be unable to support our veter-

ans, our programs and our community.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Convention Jun. 7-8, and at Dirigo State Jun. 16-21. Remember to volunteer for our American Legion Baseball Jul. 27 -31. Mark your calendars and come out to support our Convention and programs. All information can be found on mainelegion.org.

Patricia Thurston
Department First Vice President

Service to Country, Service to the ALA. Our Women Veterans Share Their Unique Stories, Perspectives

Tricia Thurston enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17.

"I remember my mother having to sign for me due to being underage. I turned 18 years old in boot camp," said Thurston. "I went into the Navy without a guaranteed A school [training program]. It's crazy to realize how brave I was to do this."

Her first duty station was in Scotland, where she met her future husband, Kirk. Following marriage, the couple moved to California, where she served in the Navy Reserve, until their move to Japan.

Thurston first learned of The American Legion Family when her husband joined The American Legion through the mail, before ever visiting a post. Soon after he joined, they attended a local event and discovered his post was being revitalized and seeking new officers. To their surprise, he was nominated for 2nd vice commander of the post. Shortly after he took office, he encouraged Thurston to check out the Legion and join.

"He said, 'You know you can join as well.' I answered, 'I don't think so, I am not a veteran. I didn't go to war or retire after 20 years.' He shared, 'Yes, you are. You served,'" said Thurston. "For some reason, I never thought of myself as a veteran. I was never told I was a veteran or was looked at as a veteran." This moment changed her thoughts on what a veteran is.

"It was then and the fact that I joined The American Legion in 2006 that I could stand taller as a woman veteran and also fight for others who also do not realize they are a veteran or considered a veteran by others," she said.

Thurston also joined the ALA at the same time she became a Legionnaire.

"With my husband becoming involved with the Legion, I decided to join both the Legion and the Auxiliary," said Thurston. "He served for 20 years. I was a Navy spouse longer than I served our great country."

[More on "WOMEN VETERANS" Page 9](#)



Veteran & Military Spouse: (Top) Tricia Thurston met her husband, Kirk, while serving in Scotland; bottom left to right, Thurston with her family; serving in the U.S. Navy; Thurston pictured with her husband and their friend, Walter Fightmaster.

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

Mar. 6. If you have not received them by now, I would hope you would have reached out to either myself or the department.

These forms are all uniquely important to the success of everything we do. Please ensure that your posts and districts are doing their part to get these turned in. If WE all can work together, we can all get them turned in. If you need help, please reach out and I am sure we can help.

Let's also not forget The American Legion Family Dirigo State Program. This year, it will be held at Colby College from Jun. 16-21. Completed forms (Dirigo State Application, Parental Consent, Medical Authorization and Performing Arts if participating) should be mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine along with a check in the amount of \$400 per student.

I want to remind you all that our work is not done yet. Keep making those buddy checks, not just for membership alone, but to also let our brothers and sisters know we are here for each other and that we care. Ask how families are doing and how we can help each other. Remember, when we show others we care, good things come in return.

I want to share something that a veteran told me about 8 years ago. He told me, "I need to take the time to listen to the older veterans. Ask them questions, but most importantly, let them speak. We all have a story to tell and if nobody asks to hear our story or listens to our story, then that story dies when we do."

So, I ask this of all of you, make sure we are all asking and listening to each other's stories. Let each other's stories inspire and empower us to be great and continue the great legacy that we have made in The American Legion for 105 years!

Leroy McKenzie
Department Second Vice President



The Adjutant Speaks

I have been fortunate to witness the membership effort across our state, from department vice commanders to post adjutants, post commanders, membership chairs, and post vice commanders.



**JASON
HALL**

It's meaningful work.

It always reminds me of the saying, "10% of a group do 100% of the work." I think we can change that percentage. Through personal observations and first-hand experience, I truly believe we can increase participation and grow membership.

First, let's look at the reason(s) that one might have decided to become a member of The American Legion. This is simply answered if we ask ourselves and our membership, "What's your why?"

For me, I have always been involved volunteering somewhere since I was 8 years old. I lived in Buffalo and volunteered at the Western NY Ronald McDonald House. Upon returning to Maine, I volunteered at the Good Shepherd Food Bank (and eventually became one of the Directors.)

The American Legion, to me, is something that not only supports other veterans, but it strengthens communities through good deeds. We are the world's largest veteran service organization, congressionally chartered, with a mission to protect, advance and improve the benefits of all veterans. Observing what posts were doing in Maine, I wanted to be a part of that team...a winning team. That meant that I would need to roll up my sleeves and get work done, whether I was serving food at fundraisers, supporting post programs or in the community supporting whatever efforts were needed to keep the organization current, visible and relevant.

With that said, we must continue to ask why we joined The American Legion. We should regularly ask our members the same question just to help them remember and remind them that their participation and involvement is needed and encouraged to be a successful, cohesive and productive group that serves our community and its veteran population.

The real question, "Is our post doing the things that made me want to join it?" "Are we still doing the programs, events and functions that made us want to be a part of it?" This question always

lingers, "if the post was gone from the community...would anyone notice?" Are we doing the right things for veterans and the community to make a difference?

Member engagement is a crucial part of member participation and attendance. Why would anyone pay annual dues to do nothing each month? Why would anyone pay dues to be ignored or forgotten? While there are those who pay just to be a part of the "voice" that speaks to congress, we still have an obligation to stay connected with our valued members.

Think about this. There are as many as 31 days in a month. Our meetings are once a month for just a couple of hours. We have jobs, families, and life in general. Without reminders, our mission gets forgotten. By using emails, texts, newsletters, posters, social media, etc. we can connect and remind our members of our meetings, events, programs and needs. The American Legion has a program called "Buddy Checks." This is a great way to stay engaged with our members. Speaking with a Post in District 2 recently, a team of dedicated members performed over 200 buddy calls in a 30-day period. The result? An increase in attendance at meetings, a significant increase in membership retention (from a regular 80% of the set goal, to above 100%) and an increase in volunteers. It was infectious, the Squadron followed suit also having an increase in participation at meetings and at fundraisers.

Continuing to remind our members we make a bigger impact together and they are valued, keeps them interested and they will want to continue to be a part of something that realizes they are more than a number, more than a name on a piece of paper (roster) and more than someone who provides \$\$\$ to our causes. Involvement becomes "buy in", meaning they truly feel they are a part of the pack.

We should follow membership engagement with community engagement. What valuable resources are available in your community that could provide publicity and awareness of your organization and the services you have to offer? Visibility is a big part of that; be at the patriotic events at the school, participate in the parades, attend flag retirement functions, show up at The Legion baseball game, have a Legion team volunteer at the local food pantry.

Are The American Legion programs our Post has chosen to be involved in, being run and performed effectively? Programs such as DIRIGO State, Oratorical Competition, American Legion Baseball, etc. are valuable tools to our members as well as our community.

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

Judge Advocate

In a world often driven by profit margins and bottom lines, non-profit organizations stand out as beacons of altruism and social responsibility. The American Legion is no different given our principles of serving veterans and the military, championing veteran benefits and effecting positive change in our communities. However, amidst our noble mission, it's imperative to recognize the paramount importance of ethics within our organization.

Ethics serve as the moral compass guiding the actions, decisions and behaviors of individuals and organizations. Despite the undeniable importance of ethics, Legionnaires may face ethical dilemmas and challenges in their day-to-day operations. Limited resources, competing priorities, and external pressures can strain ethical decision-making processes. However, it is precisely during such moments that ethical principles must guide actions and choices, even if they entail difficult sacrifices or compromises.



HAROLD "DREW" GOODRIDGE

Our organization requires trust and credibility from those we serve as well as our members. We are all stakeholders in our post, which means we must have the trust and confidence in our officers, in our department and at the national organizational level. It is not just our board that bears the responsibility of fiduciary duty. Members must acknowledge their own responsibilities when nominating and electing officers, keeping abreast of the financial solvency of their post, and keeping true to our purpose.

In a time when resources are scarce and money is tight, all members should take exceptional interest in the financial happenings of their post. Financial mismanagement poses a significant threat to the stability and credibility of a post, potentially undermining its ability to fulfill the mission and serve its beneficiaries effectively. Mis-allocation of funds, embezzlement or fraudulent activities can erode donor trust and tarnish the post's reputation. Moreover, financial mismanagement may result in regulatory violations, legal consequences and loss of funding opportunities. Scarce resources intended for programmatic activities may be diverted to cover financial losses or liabilities, compromising the post's impact and sustainability. Additionally, a lack of transparency and accountability in fi-

[More on "JUDGE ADVOCATE" Page 6](#)



Attention Snowbirds & Travelers!

Did you know you can manage your address changes throughout the year at MyLegion.org? If you plan on living at more than one address this year, your preferred mailing address can be changed at any time by visiting MyLegion.org and following the steps below.

How to add and manage multiple addresses:

- Visit www.MyLegion.org and click "Login" (or click "Register" to create an account if this is your first time using MyLegion)
- Click on the red "My Account" button
- On the left-hand side in the navigation pane, click on "Addresses"
- Click "Add Address" to create your secondary address
- Enter your secondary address information
 - Keep "Address Type" set as Home
 - Click the box to "Make this my Main Address" and click "Save"
- You will now see a Main Address (Home) and Additional Address (Home)
- You can switch your address at any time by clicking "Edit" and selecting or unselecting the "Make this my Main Address" box.
- Be sure to always have an address set as your Main Address!

Members can also manage email addresses and phone numbers in MyLegion.org to stay on top of news and communications from The American Legion!

■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

Imagine the impact that getting into our schools might have by providing scholarship information and opportunities to our youth. With the proper information given to the school administrators and counselors, they can pass down the opportunity for "free" (scholarships) money to interested students. Think about how we could impact our youth with flag education and etiquette programs. What could our community see about us by forming a competitive baseball team that just might compete for a regional and/or national championship?

We need these programs to infuse our posts and communities with energy and pride and respect for the veterans that continue to serve AFTER their service commitment.

This is a huge issue. I have heard it at almost every post I have ever visited. "Why do new members come once and then we never see them again?"

The most obvious answer that I observe is that, once they have signed up and paid their initial dues, they are ignored! Do you have a welcome kit for new members? Did you give them a tour and history of your post? Did you get them a copy of bylaws? Did you share with them the programs run at the post or upcoming events? Give them a reason to be part of that winning team. Do follow up calls to check on them. Did you introduce them to the service officer or explain any benefits available?

So many times, I have noticed that there isn't any form of recognition for them. There is not an initiation ceremony. They are not welcomed or noticed by members in attendance. And they are left to fend for themselves. There is no attempt to welcome, mentor, train or assign someone to help them acclimate to your group. They do not feel valued, important, needed, included or noticed from the start. They feel as if they are nothing more than a donor, a shadow, a non-entity.

When we do recognize their membership, we then immediately say, "Have we got a job for you!" In both cases, they will run like scared rabbits. You will, most likely, never hear from them again.

Why are we not providing them with a mentor? A person they can relate with who will help them acclimate and learn about your group, your organization and its programs, services and needs.

We should allow them time to discover how they fit into your post. Allow time to provide them with information and have someone guide them through some training (start with The American Legion Basic Training, it's free online).

As they become familiar with your group, take time to assess their strengths

and weaknesses. See how they might fit into a role of future leadership or how they could provide value and energy with new and fresh ideas that benefit or upgrade your programs and post.

Once they do find their place and you assess their qualities, ask them if they might be interested in whatever it is. Once you have asked, then they have the choice to accept or decline. If they decline, move on. Maybe they will be interested in something else. If they accept, then give them the expectations and then let them move forward and assist them when they ask. Follow up with them regularly.

When and if they choose to take on leadership, or if they just have ideas or suggestions, don't discourage them by rejecting them. Take time to discover how they think it works, give them the opportunity to work out the idea by fleshing out the plan and then have them present it in full form. When this happens, acknowledge all they have done.

When we continue to resist change, new ideas, new energy and vitality that the younger, new members bring, we discourage future leaders from stepping up and taking the reins as we get older and become less able to be involved as much as we once were.

We must remember that these young veterans are the future of our organization and without them and their commitment, involvement and encouragement from us The American Legion will continue to decrease in members and our voice to congress. They will eventually lose benefits that they deserve.

Lastly, it is EVERY Legionnaires responsibility to bring in new members. You don't have to be a salesperson to do it. We can all recognize a veteran. The way they walk, the way they talk, the shirt they wear or the hat they wear. These all help identify a potential member.

The number one reason veterans do not join The American Legion...NO ONE EVER ASKED THEM.

Ask if they know about The American Legion. Invite them for a post tour, to attend the next meeting, or an event at the post. You just opened the door to give them a quick pitch on the post mission, who we are and what we do while offering them an application and asking if they would consider joining our ranks to advocate daily for benefits for veterans.

Improve how we invite, accept and give value to our members, and it will improve retention and recruiting efforts. If we increase our membership and participation in the programs of The American Legion, we will be on course for another 100+ years.

Jason Hall
Department Adjutant

WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VA Benefits Assistance

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

A Voice in Our Nation's Capital

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



Monthly Magazine (a \$30 value)

Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens

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

Family, Camaraderie and Continuing Service Through Community Support

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

Legion.org/RENEW

COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023

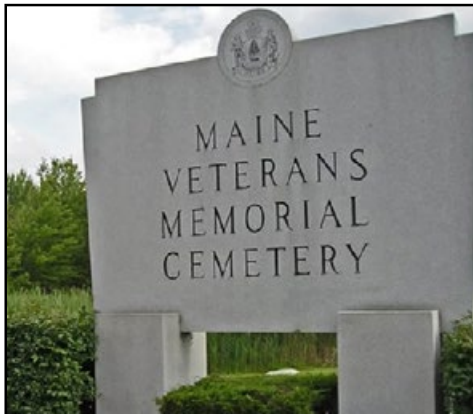
Department Commander Al McKay asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal.

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

Fast forward to 2023 - A chapel that had stood at the well-established cemetery fell into disrepair and was torn down years ago. The committal building that replaced it is heavily utilized and in need of some massive structural renovations. The committal building is an essential tool needed to conduct an interment Service for our fallen comrades.

Commander McKay states "This is a very much-needed building to provide a dignified space for our veterans, their

spouses, and their families. The building renovations will allow protection from the elements year-round and ensure The American Legion, continuing with their Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery history, remains a front-runner in honoring all veterans who enter Post Everlasting".



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

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

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

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

Americanism Report

Good afternoon, Well spring has sprung but as I look outside it is still snowing. I guess we still have a few more weeks until we really welcome Spring. Baseball season will soon be upon us so we should support our American Legion Baseball program, and if you haven't been in touch with the Department to sign up your team, do it now.



JOSEPH "JOE" MICHAUD

On another note, I would like to personally thank the three participants for the State Oratorical Contest held Feb. 10 at Thomas College in Waterville. Congratulations to Kylie Thibodeau of Gray, Maine who will be on her way to Michigan in May for the National competition. Good Luck and may you bring the championship to Maine.

I keep repeating this, but honestly folks, we need to push scholarships. College is expensive and these scholarships help with tuition and books. So please get to the high schools in your area and talk to the guidance counselors, they are willing to help the students get the applications sent to the department.

Dirigo State is coming up June 16 – 21. Again, visit the high school guidance counselors and have a short informative presentation for the juniors and sophomores because they will be your next candidates for Dirigo State. Remember, every high school junior is eligible to attend. If your post has a candidate but does not have the funds to send the student, make the department aware as we have posts in the state that have the funds but no students who wish to attend. Let us have a great showing this year. Dirigo State will be at Colby College in Waterville, June 16, with registration before 12:00 p.m. Graduation will be held on June 21 at 3:00 p.m.

For God and Country,

Joseph Michaud
Department Americanism Officer

■ "JUDGE ADVOCATE" (Continued from Page 5)

financial practices can lead to decreased stakeholder confidence and reluctance among donors to contribute, exacerbating financial challenges and hindering the post's ability to achieve its goals.

Every post should have an active financial review committee (FRC) that oversees post's finances above and beyond the finance officer or hired accountant/bookkeeper. The FRC should meet at least quarterly to review and reconcile accounts. For posts with active, profitable lounges and gaming, the FRC should meet bi-monthly. The FRC will ensure accountability of volunteer/hired staff, review invoices, question expenditures, confirm the right people have access to bank accounts at the right time to name a few items for review. The FRC should review employee payroll and ensure said payroll complies with state and federal tax authorities and reported annually during tax season. Under the table payments to employees can jeopardize both the post and employee.

Post members should be engaged during meetings when financial decisions are made. Understand precisely

what the post is paying for particularly if said payment is benefiting a Legion Family member. Know the details of the proposed motion, actively discuss and question, make an informed decision prior to voting.

Ethical behavior often goes hand in hand with legal compliance. We operate within a complex regulatory landscape, and adherence to ethical standards helps us navigate legal requirements effectively. By avoiding unethical practices such as fraud, embezzlement or conflicts of interest, we mitigate the risk of legal repercussions that could jeopardize our operations and tarnish our reputation.

Ethics are integral to the long-term sustainability of the post. By upholding standards, we ensure continued support from members, volunteers, and donors. Moreover, ethical behavior inspires loyalty and commitment among members and staff, reducing turnover and maintaining institutional knowledge and expertise over time. Sustainable growth and impact are achievable only when a post operates ethically and responsibly.

Harold "Drew" Goodridge
Department Judge Advocate



Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

gearing up for the convention in the beginning of June. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The benefits office is still conducting outreach and the next one will be in Caribou the same weekend as the convention, so this office will not be there. I will put the dates and location for the next one as soon as it is confirmed.

I am still finding veterans that could not make it to the scheduled exams for whatever reason and their claims were denied. If you know of a veteran whom this has happened to, please refer them to the office so we can assist them. The companies are not going to work with the veteran in most cases. They have a limited time to conduct the exams and to make matters worse, limited examiners in their network to conduct the exams. They are also still trying to have the veteran leave the state for the exams

**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 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

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

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

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

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.

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

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax

at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., on Friday the hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We are closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot's Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT. If you are interested in having us speak at your area, district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve status, subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least **30 minutes** of your agenda for the presentation.

Attention Post Service Officers



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

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

post that needs assistance.

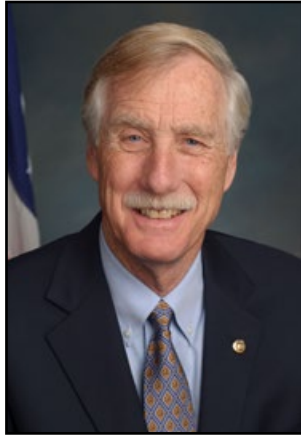
INTENT TO FILE. Some veterans are not ready to file a claim or are looking for additional information. In that case, you can execute an Intent to File with our office. That is NOT a claim for benefits. You have 1 year to file your claim; one year period! Failure to file in one year starts the clock on your claim from the day you file. **DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW UP AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!**

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

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Message From Maine Senator Angus King

Maine proudly boasts one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the country — our friends, family members, and neighbors are the true embodiment of “Dirigo” and what it means to lead others in a life of service. Our veterans and servicemembers have made many sacrifices over the course of their careers. It’s our patriotic duty to return to them the same service they gave to us.



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

This month, coming off the recent [ruling in the Alabama Supreme Court](#) that could have outlawed in vitro fertilization (IVF), I worked with my colleagues to introduce the bipartisan [Veterans and Families Health Services Act](#). Beyond their selfless dedication and service, America’s servicemembers should never sacrifice when it comes to starting or expanding their family. This pro-family bill would permanently authorize fertility treatments and counseling from the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and allow servicemembers to cryopreserve embryos and reproductive cells prior to deployment to a combat zone or hazardous duty zone. With recent war veterans experiencing [infertility at higher rates](#) than the general public due to service related injuries and disabilities, IVF and other fertility treatments provide important hope.

And while we need to ensure the brave men and women who answered the call to serve are able to make their own family planning decisions, we also need to ensure that we care for women veterans who

have experienced sexual trauma. That’s why I led a bipartisan group of my colleagues in [writing to the VA](#) urging the agency to make it easier for women veterans who experienced sexual trauma to access physical and mental health care. This care is so necessary, with statistics showing that about 1 in 3 women experience sexual trauma during their time in service. Yet, right now, only half of the VA’s services are utilized to help these survivors. We are calling on the VA to build trust and open doors so more women veterans can get the critical care they need to start recovering.

I also joined the Maine Congressional Delegation in [writing to the VA](#) to finally have Maine Veterans’ Homes (MVH) fully reimbursed for domiciliary care, as Congress authorized in 2020. The delay in getting this rule changed is causing significant financial harm to veterans, their families and MVH’s finances. As it stands, there are families in Maine unnecessarily paying over \$1,500 per month to ensure their veteran gets care, and MVH is expected to lose \$3.9 million by the end of the fiscal year if nothing is changed. That is unacceptable. I’m going to continue pressing the VA until we get this rule finalized and remove financial burdens that are causing undue stress both to our veterans and those that care for them.

With so many of our veterans choosing to live outside of the bigger cities and towns, my friend Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and I also introduced [bipartisan legislation](#) that would assess the VA’s ability to meet needs of elderly veterans in delivering rural long term care (LTC). Last year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a minimum staffing rule for LTC facilities. However, while policy sometimes looks good on paper, it is not always good in practice. This one-size-fits-all solution has the potential to shut down rural care facilities that might not

be able to meet the same staffing thresholds as larger communities, depriving veterans of the care they earned and deserve.

Lastly, I spent time with my colleague Jerry Moran (R-KS) in [introducing a bill](#) that would streamline how veterans can have their disability claims processed. Specifically, it would make permanent a pilot program that was created by Congress in 2020 to permanently allow licensed medical professionals to provide medical disability examinations across state lines for the VA. Prior to the pilot program, the Veterans Health Administration was the sole gateway for veterans to get disability claims. By allowing veterans to use any VA-approved, licensed medical professional to perform their benefits exam — rather than force everyone into an overwhelmed local bottleneck — we can help alleviate the backlog and ensure our veterans receive the benefits they’ve earned in a timely manner. This bipartisan bill is yet another way we can express our gratitude to the brave men and women who’ve served.

Sorry if this is a little bit longer than usual, but it’s been a busy few months! Whether we are protecting family planning for our veterans or highlighting challenges of our rural LTC facilities, we have a solemn obligation to give back to those who gave so much for our country.

To read more about the importance of sexual trauma care or to find out where to access these services, visit: www.va.gov/health-care/health-needs-conditions/military-sexual-trauma

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



Team Maine Visits Washington, DC Feb. 25-27 for the annual Washington Conference. The Washington Conference gives our organization’s leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference. Left to right, Dept. Legislative Chairman Richard Flynn, ALA Vice President Stasi Brule, Dept. Second Vice Leroy McKenzie, Dept. First Vice Patricia Thurston, Maine Senator Angus King, ALA NECA Debra Rumery, Dept. Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge and Dept. NECA Matthew Jabaut.

You're Invited! **The American Legion Department Testimonial**

**Join us on Sat., May 25 as we honor our
2023-2024 Leadership.**

**TAL Department Commander Al McKay
ALA President Pat Grant
SAL Commander Steve Doyle**

Location: American Legion, Smith-Tobey Post 21,
200 Congress Street, Bath

Time: 4 p.m. Social Hour, 5 p.m. Dinner, followed by Karaoke

Menu: Family BBQ - 2 Burgers or 2 Hotdogs with Potato and
Macaroni Salads and Dessert for \$10 per person.

Mail Reservations to: American Legion Smith-Tobey Post 21,
Attn: TESTIMONIAL, 200 Congress St., Bath, ME 04530 (make
checks payable to American Legion Post 21)

*This testimonial will be a relaxed, informal Legion Family gathering.
Departmented Leadership wanted to enjoy food and time with the
members that do so much magnificent work across our state.*

Local Hotels:

Residence by Marriott 443-9741
Best Western Brunswick 725-5251

Hampton Inn 386-1310
Days Inn Brunswick 725-8883

President's Message

It has been an awesome year so far. I have been to several units, meeting great people and spreading the President's Project, which benefits the Sisters in Arms Center in Augusta.



PATRICIA GRANT

Sisters in Arms Center is a safe, supportive environment for all female veterans and their children. The Center not only addresses the immediate needs of these brave women, but also empowers them to regain their independence and thrive in civilian life.

I would also like to get the recognition for female veterans that they truly deserve by having a Tea or Luncheon for them. We have had a Tea at Richmond Unit 132 and a Luncheon at Rumford Unit 24. At the Luncheons, female veterans are pampered with Reiki, Mary Kay, cup painting, quilt making, a big bag of goodies to take with them and a delicious dinner.

In conclusion, let us embark on this important journey together and thank our female veterans for their courage, resilience and unwavering service to our country.

It is an honor for me to be working with these courageous women, thank you all for your service.

Yours in Service,

Lorena Pat Grant
American Legion Auxiliary, Department President

"WOMEN VETERANS" (Continued from Page 3)

My comfort level at this time was with other spouses and those who were eligible through their family's service."

"I feel that I bring experiences of being both a veteran and a spouse of a veteran. As a veteran, I bring education that women are veterans too," said Thurston.

She urges members to not make assumptions that someone is or is not a veteran based on their sex. Women veterans have unique experiences and it's important for them to share ideas and information with fellow members to provide support in their communities.

Thurston's post home offers unique activities for women veterans. One of those is the Annual Women Veterans Luncheon, which they have hosted for 10 years. "We provide service officers, VA representatives, etc.," said Thurston.

"We have provided a safe place year after year for women veterans to come to and know they can come back and experience the camaraderie we are all used to." She said they have women veterans

who return each year and those who attend for the first time.

"There are no strangers among us. From beginning to end, we laugh, cry, applaud each other, show respect to our flag and country, remember our comrades who have gone before us, support each other, watch some outstanding performances, eat amazing food, and have a fabulous day," said Thurston. "And we cannot do this without the support that our amazing unit members give. These members give 100% support to these luncheons, along with our Sons of The American Legion and Legionnaires. It is truly a Legion Family event."

I am very proud of my service, said Thurston.

"I credit the Legion and the Auxiliary for this," she said. "Before the experiences with this organization, I did not really think about that fact that I was a veteran. I learned how to be on my own and gain the confidence to do so."

By Jennifer Donovan
American Legion Auxiliary Magazine
May 2024 issue

www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Magazine/AuxiliaryMagazine_2024-05-lp.pdf



American Legion Riders Rally 2024: The American Legion Riders, Department of Maine, held their Winter Rally at Bath Post 21 on Mar. 2-3. Congratulations to the new Department Officers. Left to right, Secretary Bridget Ellis Chapter 147 Madawaska, Sgt-At-Arms Erik Robinson Chapter 21 Bath, Director Thomas Kuespert Chapter 105 Newport, Asst. Director Joshua Sinclair Chapter 14 Fairfield. Absent from the photo are the following: Road Captain Barry Breton Chapter 67

Bridgton, Chaplain appointed is Jimmy Wilroy Chapter 86 Gray. Congratulations to all! Big thank you to all who attended and to Post 21 for hosting.

In a Busy Month, Don't Lose Sight of Our Goals

Hello again, American Legion Family,

As we get going in April, we are excited to get spring underway. Let's remember that April is Children & Youth Month



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

and we need to make sure we are working and supporting our youth programs. Many of our youth are gearing up for the Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting, American Legion Baseball and Boys and Girls State. We need to support all those involved in these programs. I feel every participant is indeed a winner. So get out to watch these events and show our future we care about them today.

April is also a busy month as most are headed into the last days of our year for reports. Let's run to the finish line and cross it going hard. Then make sure you fill out the reports and get them all turned in. The work we all do is great,

let's finish the job by reporting so the numbers continue to work for the Legion Family.

As April starts off, I have heard of many post families planning for American Legion Family Day, April 27. That is exciting. I look forward to hearing all the stories and seeing pictures on Legiontown.org and social media; make sure you share your post story.

Thanks to all the squadrons that have completed the National Commander's Four Pillars Challenge and filled out the paperwork. I have been fortunate enough to be able to hand out some of the certificates to squadrons that have completed the challenge in my travels. It's not too late for any squadron to complete the challenge and get the paperwork turned in. Thank you all for supporting the Four Pillars.

Please remember our veterans and active military, and [prepare yourself](http://prepareyourself) to always "Be The One."

Representing More Than Me,

By Don "JR" Hall
Sons of The American Legion
National Commander
Apr. 8, 2024

www.legion.org/sons/261468/sal-commander-hall-busy-month-dont-lose-sight-our-goals



Officer Installation: New officers for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons are installed at Bath Post 21 on Sat., Apr. 13. Sailors of the *USS John Basilone* (DDG 122) were also recognized during this event for assisting with the clean out of the building's basement. Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, left, performs the officer installation ceremony for The American Legion, Sons, and Riders.

Photo by Photo Opps Photography LLC

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 Ameri-



can Legion.

[Print an application](http://Printanapplication) 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.

DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATES 2024



PATRICIA "TRICIA" THURSTON
Commander
Rumford Post 24



LEROY MCKENZIE
1st Vice Cmdr
Madawaska Post 147



JOSEPH MICHAUD
2nd Vice Cmdr
Madawaska Post 147



LIAM NEDREDD
Americanism
Etna-Carmel Post 107



JEFF SUKEFORTH
Historian
Camden Post 30



LOUIS MARIN
Historian
Rumford Post 24



RYAN COFFIN
Sergeant-At-Arms
Damariscotta Post 42



MARY T BROWN
Finance Officer
Topsham Post 202

2024 105th National Convention New Orleans, LA August 23 – August 29, 2024

This year's National Convention will be held in New Orleans, LA Aug. 23 - Aug. 29, 2024. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be Hyatt Place New Orleans Convention Center, 881 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130.

The hotel room rate is \$149.00, plus a tax rate of 16.20% + \$1.00 per room/night (subject to change) for one King bed or two Queen beds; Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20.00 (Triple/Quad); Roll-

away Rate per Day – N/A; Parking Rate per Day – \$39.55 Valet Only.

If you are thinking about going to National Convention, please let the American Legion, Department of Maine know by calling 207-873-3229, or email jason@mainelegion.org and we will be sure to put you on the mailing list for the information.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org/convention/resources.

What a Delegate Should Bring to the Annual State Convention

This is a short reminder to all Only registered delegates are al-
legionnaires attending the lowed to vote or address the con-
105th Annual State Convention in vention. The official uniform of
Brewer, June 7th and 8th. If you The American Legion is the Le-
are a delegate or alternate to this gion cap.
year's convention,
please remember to
bring your current
American Legion
membership card
or PUFL card. At-
tendees should go
to the registration
table immediately
upon arrival to pick
up your delegate or
alternate name tag.



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

OFFICIAL CALL FOR

ONE HUNDRED & FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

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

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

PURPOSE

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

REPRESENTATION

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

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

RULES OF ORDER

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

MEETINGS

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

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

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

CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential

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

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

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

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by

card, badge, convention registration, and your 2024 membership card must be displayed during voting.

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

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

LAW AND ORDER

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

PRESS

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

Official:

Jason Hall, Department Adjutant
Al McKay, Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION

105TH ANNUAL

STATE CONVENTION

June 7-8, 2024

Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VOTING

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

105th Annual State Convention Program

June 7-8, 2024

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 7, 2024

Resolutions Committee (9:00 a.m.)	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
	Open Hearing, Committee Chairman,
	Lloyd Woods
New Officer Training (9:00 a.m.)	Instructors, Joe Michaud, Leroy McKenzie
	and Ethan McKenney

First Session

Friday, June 7, 2024

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Opening Ceremonies	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Presentation of the Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Danielle Begert
Invocation	Department Chaplain, Catherine Merrill
National Anthem	ALL
Pledge of Allegiance	ALL
Preamble	ALL
Report of the Committee on	
Permanent Rules and Organization	District 2 Adjutant, Julie Flynn
Welcome	Past Nat'l Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
Greetings	Brewer City Mayor, Jenn Morin
NEC Report	NEC, Lloyd Woods
Post Excellence Awards	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Greetings	U.S. Congresswoman, Hon. Chellie Pingree
Maine Blind Camp Update	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
History Awards	Department Historian, Louis J. Marin
Department Finance Update	Department Finance Officer, Greg Couture
Children & Youth/DEL Scholarships	2nd Vice Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Past Commander's Club	
(James V. Day Scholarships)	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Oratorical Update	Oratorical Committee Chair, Maureen
	Malley
Introduction of Past Dept Commanders	
& Past Legionnaires of the Year	Past Dept. Commander, Kirk Thurston
Nomination of Department Officers	Selected Legionnaires
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Jason Hall
3:00 p.m. Recess	

Reminder: Voting will be on Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Second Session

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Presentation of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Danielle Begert
Public Service Awards	Law & Order Advisor, Kirk Thurston
Humanitarian Award	2nd Vice Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Border Patrol Award	NEC, Lloyd Woods
Dirigo State Presentation	Co-Chair, Julie Flynn
Legionnaire of the Year Award	Past Dept. Commander, Kirk Thurston
Service Office Update/Award	Department Service Officer, Carl Curtis
Nat'l Leadership Update/Award	NECA, Matthew Jabaut
Jr Shooting Sports Program Update	Committee Member, David Watson
Americanism Awards	Dept. Americanism Officer, Joseph
	Michaud & Dept. Commander,
	Alfred McKay

Second Session (Cont.)

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Greetings	WellCare - Strategic Partners, Michael
	Perillo & James M. Ball
Women Veterans Advisory Cmte Update	Co-Chairs, Mary Brune & Caroline Yarmala
Honor Flight Maine	Board Chairperson, Matthew Mank &
	Advisory Chairperson, Brian Knowlton
Adjutant of the Year Award	Committee Chair David Tanguay &
	Members Jeff Sukeforth & Mike Pock
Greetings	American Red Cross, Northern New
	England Int'l Services Prog. Dir., Celeste
	Stimpson & Exec. Dir. N. & Eastern ME,
	Caroline King
Greetings	Bangor Savings Bank Branch Manager,
	Kelly L. Marble
Auxiliary, SAL & Legion Riders (Awards)	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Greetings	SAL Detachment Commander, Steve Doyle
Greetings	Legion Riders Director, Ron Wing
Greetings	Auxiliary President, Patricia Grant
Legion Baseball Update	Director, Scott Bishop &
	State Champion, Coach Brad Smith
12:00 p.m. Lunch	
Guest Speaker	Scarborough Police Chief, Mark Holmquist
Roger's Rangers & Tony's Tigers Awards	PNC, Anthony "Tony" Jordan & Vice
	Cmdrs, Patricia Thurston & Leroy McKenzie
Membership Awards	Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr., Patricia Thurston
	& 2nd Vice Cmdr., Leroy McKenzie
Goal to Grow Awards 2023	Dept. Commander, Alfred McKay
Greetings	NEC Lloyd Woods to introduce Leading
	Candidate for Nat'l Cmdr, James Lacoursiere
Greetings	Vice Commandant, Benjamin Redmond, Jr.
Legislative Update	Chairperson, Richard Flynn
Report of Credentials Committee	Credentials Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Report of Committee Resolutions	Committee Chairman, Lloyd Woods
Greetings	U.S. Senator, Hon. Angus King
Commander's Project Internment Building	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.	Department Adjutant, Jason Hall
Response	Department Commander, Alfred McKay
Sweepstakes Drawing	
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Danielle Begert
	& Department Chaplain, Catherine Merrill
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Jason Hall
Benediction	Department Chaplain, Catherine Merrill
Retirement of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Danielle Begert
Adjournment	(Sine Die)
3:30 p.m. State Convention Installation for	
Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL Officers	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

Sunday, June 9, 2024

9:00 a.m. Dept. Executive Committee	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
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Lunch will be available for purchase both

Friday & Saturday from Jeff's Catering.

■ "VA EXPANDS" (Continued from Page 1)



special court-martial) apply for VA benefits and services, we carefully review their records to determine if we can provide them the requested care and benefits. This process helps ensure that VA can provide services to deserving former service members – including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military.

VA's new regulation will expand access to care and benefits for certain former service members by:

- **Eliminating the regulatory bar for "homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty" as a bar to benefits.** While VA had already [taken steps to ensure full and fair access to benefits](#) for former service members discharged based on homosexual conduct, gender identity, or HIV status, this move further solidifies VA's commitment to reducing disparity for these groups in the adjudication process.

- **Creating a "compelling circumstances exception" for certain former service members:** For certain former service members discharged for "willful and persistent misconduct" or an "offense involving moral turpitude," VA will now consider and determine if a compelling circumstances exception will permit VA to nonetheless provide care and services. Under this exception, VA will consider the former service member's length and character of service, mental and cognitive impairment, physical health, combat-related hardship, whether the person was the survivor of sexual abuse/assault or discrimination, and more. This new exception creates a new path for VA to provide benefits and services to deserving former service members.

- **Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply:** Because of these changes, former service members previously found ineligible for VA services may now be eligible for benefits and are encouraged to re-apply.

"We encourage former service members with other than honorable discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "Although VA cannot change your discharge status, we want to provide you with any health care or benefits we can – and we will work with you every step of the way to do exactly that."

VA has conducted extensive outreach to service members with other than honorable and bad conduct discharges adjudged at special court-martial in

recent years, increasing the number who applied for VA care or benefits from approximately 1,700 in 2012 to more than 10,000 in 2023.

The VA character of discharge determination does not change the Armed Forces' characterization of service and has no effect on the former Service member's military discharge status. VA's determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility purposes only.

Any discharge characterized as "honorable" or "general – under honorable conditions" satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility for most VA benefits. Former service members who did not receive those discharges are not automatically disqualified from receiving VA care or benefits. However, barring a ruling of insanity, VA does not provide benefits to service members who are discharged with a "dishonorable discharge;" service members who were discharged for desertion, mutiny, going AWOL for 180 continuous days, or espionage; or service members discharged by sentence of a general court martial, discharged in lieu of trial, discharged as a "resignation by an officer for the good of the service," or discharged as a conscientious objector. VA does apply a compelling circumstances exception for AWOL when appropriate.

Learn more about former service members [applying](#) for benefits and character of discharge.

<https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/261568/va-expands-access-care-benefits-some-former-servicemembers-who-did-not>
Legion.org
Apr. 25

DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM

Colby College, Waterville
June 16-21, 2024



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

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

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

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Have you filled out *all* the above information?

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

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

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

Legionnaire Benefits

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- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
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- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service



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DEPARTMENT



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

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Membership Management in MyLegion.org



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

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

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

www.MyLegion.org

Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine

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

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



and click the DONATE button then select the designated fund of choice. Donations can also be by made by using the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation Brochure.

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

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!



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

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

Your Letters

"Thank You"

Topsham Post 202 and Damariscotta Post 42

On behalf of Maine Veterans In Need (MVN), I want to thank The American Legion Topsham Post 202 and Damariscotta Post 42 for their Winter Classic Softball Games fundraisers for MVN on Sat., Feb. 17. Each year, the event grows with players coming from all over the state. Whoever thought playing softball in the snow would be so much fun and would draw such a crowd? And the players, while having fun, were really competitive! At last count, the two posts raised over \$24,000 for MVN. Most knew that this fundraiser was for homeless veterans but didn't really know what MVN as an organization is all about. I hope to change that by visiting as many American Legion Posts as possible over the next year. Briefly, MVN is an all-volunteer organization that does not take government money, operates 24/7 and can provide IMMEDIATE help for veterans in need when all government funded programs can't. Most programs require a process and that takes time. Some have rules, such as how long you served, where you served, character of discharge, have a DD 214, and so forth. MVN only requires that they be

a veteran.

Perhaps more importantly, while we meet the immediate need, we connect the veteran with the other resources that can provide more substantial relief going forward. Since we are 24/7, many of our calls come on Fridays or over the weekends when no one else is available. So clearly, without The American Legion and the Winter Classic, we would not be able to help those veterans in emergency situations immediately when they happen. And, of course, working with The American Legion's Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP) often allows the more substantial funding required to help in the long term.



So thank you again American Legion Department of Maine, and specifically Posts 202 and 42.

David Patch
President, MVN

Maine Legion College

The Maine American Legion College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization. The coursework prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting The American Legion.

The curriculum is administered by graduate facilitators of the National

American Legion College. It is designed for students to dedicate 3 weekends over the course of the year to learn about Legion history, leadership traits, putting good practice to use, and active participation in practice ceremonies and hands on exercises. Topics include public outreach, fundraising strategies, community relations, and a bonus is the network created with fellow students.

The course work makes students more valuable to their posts and departments, increasing effectiveness and productivity.



2024 Legion College Dates:

July 20-21

September 21-22

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

For more information, or to reserve your spot, email: jason@mainelegion.org today!

Be The One Training 2024



American Legion Be The One Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

BE THE ONE

Training Location:

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

Upcoming Training Dates:

May 25th

September 28th

November 30th

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

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

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

Berwick Post 79 Legionnaire Achieves Continuous Membership Milestone

Maine resident and longtime Legionnaire Ron Vigue usually does his best to avoid the spotlight, but this time, the spotlight found Ron! A past Post Commander and Berwick Citizen of the Year, Ron was recently recognized for being a member of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 in good standing continuously for 50 years. Post 79 Commander Bryan English presented Ron's Continuous Membership Certificate, signed by National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer and National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler.



Berwick Post 79 Continuous Membership: Post Commander Bryan English, left, presents a Continuous Membership Certificate to Ron Vigue, right.

Photo by Todd Ozbun
Post 79 Historian

Throughout the years Ron has been involved in every aspect of post activities and currently serves on multiple committees, including the Veterans Assistance Fund, Budget, and Citizenship committees. For almost ten years now, Ron and fellow Post Member Andy Buckman have joined forces to construct and present personalized, hand-crafted memorial flag display cases to the families of comrades who heeded the call of the Great Commander at no cost to the recipients. A talented craftsman, Ron also donates his time and talent to build benches, stools, birdhouses and cutting boards that he gives to organizations such as the Post Auxiliary for fundraising raffles.

A particular point of pride for Ron is his support and involvement in the post's Direct Aid to Veteran's initiative, which to date has provided much needed assistance totaling thousands of dollars to local veterans and their families, ranging the gamut from food vouchers, to hearing aid purchases, rent/moving assistance, medical supplies, wheelchairs, home repair and fuel assistance. Ron is, without a doubt, one of the reasons the people of Berwick hold The American Legion in such high regard and his contributions to post events and community activities continue to reflect a dedication to the good of The American Legion and service well beyond the call.

West-Day Post 123 POW/MIA Stadium Chair Presentation

District 1 Service Officer Lynn Rendell presents Kezar Falls Post 123 with a POW/MIA stadium chair, courtesy of Hussey Seating, for the POW/

MIA table. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123 conducts a POW/MIA table ceremony annually in September for the Post.



Maine Department Treasurer/guest Nancy True, Maryagnes Gillman, Sue Stacey and Jana Mayotte.

Auxiliary Unit 123: Front row, left to right, Paula Jordan, Debra Rendell, Claire Trueworthy, Carole Hadlock, Unit 123 President Cynthia Berube, Nancy Anderson and Sandra Locke. Back row, left to right, Maine DDVP District 1 guest Jaimy Friedrich, former

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

Portland Post 17 Happenings

The Harold T. Andrews Post 17 has been quite busy this fall. The Veteran's Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2023 had Mayor Mark Dion as the main speaker. The Post was very happy to see many public officials present. It was a cool day and following the parade, Post 17 hosted a clam and fish chowder lunch.

Later in the month of Nov., the veterans of Post 17 were invited to give a flag education class for Scarborough Elementary School. Everyone had a wonderful time. Bob Jensen, Bob Lalibert, Steve Caulder and Auxiliary Member Theresa McDonough presented the school children with flags, coloring books with crayons and of course poppies. The children were very happy to see the veterans. The children's questions were quite interesting!

In Nov., we also had a benefit for Randell Phillips, the former command-

er of the Paul Malia Post. Randell is having some serious medical issues. There was a warm turnout for the Randall's benefit. About \$3,000 was raised to help Randell in this difficult time.

A Christmas party was held for all Post 17 members on Dec. 16, 2023. Everyone enjoyed good food, music, gift exchanges and dancing for all. Let's not forget the fruit punch! And what a meal!

This year a donation was made to "Lewiston Strong." The post, along with the Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary members donated \$500. As we all meet the new year, we are hoping memberships are strong and that members don't feel intimidated, speak up and engage more fully in the mission of Post 17.

By Theresa McDonough
Portland Unit 17



Flag Education Class: Members of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 and Portland Unit 17 visit Scarborough elementary school students in Nov. The students hold their American flags and poppies, given by Legion family members.



Westbook Post 62 WinterFest Draws Great Turnout: Westbrook's Lions Club and American Legion Post 62 came together for a busy BBQ at the 2024 WinterFest event on Saturday, March 2. The event was held at Riverbank Park. Left to right, Kolby & Destiny Miller, Roger Vallaincourt and Curtis Jodrie (with bright-colored winter hat,) all Lions Club members.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



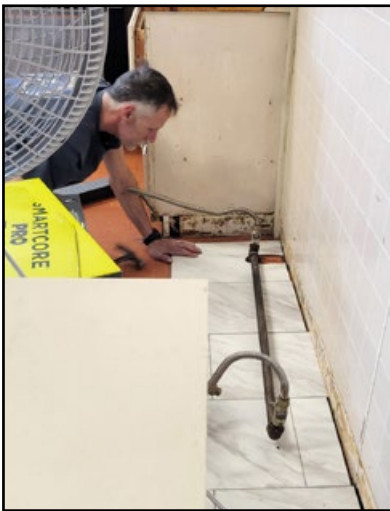
S'Mores: Kids and young-at-heart grownups toast marshmallows for s'mores at Westbrook Post 62 WinterFest.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



BBQ Served: Left to right, Roger Vallaincourt, Destiny Miller and Kolby Miller serve meals during WinterFest at the grill, with hungry Donald Larouche.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



Westbrook Post 62 Kitchen Makeover: A long-anticipated project at Westbrook Post 62 was completed on Mar. 26. Prior to Covid, the former kitchen floor was tested and found to be of non-asbestos materials with the underfloor structure in good shape. The ovens and range burners were shut off, disconnected and rolled out. Left photo, Edward "Pete" Ringquette installs the new tile floor in one day! First, he installed new floor tiles where the ovens will be placed onto small tile supports and then installed the rest of the new floor tiles.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

Preble Street Advocate for Homeless Veterans: Rebecca Boaz with Preble Street speaks at Westbrook Post 62 on Mar. 6. The mission of Preble Street is to provide accessible barrier-free services to empower people experiencing problems with homelessness, housing, hunger, and poverty, and to advocate for solutions to these problems. Front row, left to right, Post 62 Cmdr. Dennis Marrotte, Preble Street Guest Speaker and Westbrook VAC Member Rebecca Boaz and Post 62 Adjutant Gary York. Back row, left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, Service Officer Harry Gorham and Chaplain Phil LeClerc.



Photo Courtesy Post 62



Windham Post 148 Veterans Coffee 8th Anniversary: The American Legion Field-Allen Post celebrated its 8th anniversary providing a weekly social setting for local Windham veterans to gather over coffee and donuts, tell a few lies, and in general have a good time. Left photo, Post Commander Tom Theriault, left, with Post Member and Chief Cook Leon Davies, right, cutting the cake. Leon has set up coffee every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. for the life of the coffee. From all of us who enjoy the coffee every week—Leon, thank you!



Windham Post 148 Celebrates Anniversaries: Happy 105th Legion Anniversary! Cake is served at the Field-Allen Post 148 annual St. Paddy's Day dinner to celebrate the 86th anniversary of Post 148 and the 105th anniversary of The American Legion. Also, a GREAT Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner fed over 100 from the community. Ceremonial cake cutting honors are conducted by the oldest veteran present, Jerry Black, left, and the youngest, Alex Jordan, right, both Post 148 members. Jerry was a post WWII and Korea Navy man, and Alex recently completed his time from the Maine National Guard after a tour in Africa.

WWII and Korea Navy man, and Alex recently completed his time from the Maine National Guard after a tour in Africa.

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



Squadron 158 Donates To Local Scholarship Fund: Wayne Wing, left, of Lisbon SAL Squadron 158 presents a check to Mark Stevens, director of Lisbon Parks & Recreation on Feb. 29. \$412 was given to the Lisbon Rec Scholarship Fund, helping local kids go to summer camp. Great job, SAL!

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 120Farmington Post 28 Happenings
and Events

Winter was mixed with several false springs ending with a wintry Nor'Easter at the time of this writing. Farmington Post 28 is ready for summer and our fundraising season. Before that gets underway, let's share some of our recent happenings and events. We opened Feb. activities with our second annual Valentine's dance. Actually, we held two Valentine's dances with the second dance hosted by the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area at our Legion Hall. Great fun was had on both evenings.

At the end of Feb., our Post Adjutant Drew Goodridge traveled with Team Maine to Washington, DC to meet with available members of our congressional delegation. Team Maine attended numerous American Legion commission sessions followed by award presentations attended by administration officials and national political leaders. The next day, Team Maine visited Capitol Hill to advocate for American Legion national priorities. Adjutant Goodridge described the experience, "As a worthwhile endeavor to showcase American Legion strength, relevance and advocacy."



Team Maine Heads To DC: The American Legion Department of Maine "TEAM MAINE" members with US Senator Angus King in Washington, DC at the end of Feb.

On Leap Year evening, Commander Stephan Bunker worked his immense firefighter network to assist a veteran with a suspect chimney. The Chesterville Volunteer Fire Department responded to Commander Bunker's request for assistance. The chimney was assessed and the veteran was very appreciative of the coordinated response. Post 28 is grateful to the many community partners willing to help veterans in need.

The American Legion's 105th



Thank You Chesterville Fire Department: Members of the Chesterville Volunteer Fire Department assess the chimney of a local veteran in need.

Photo by Stephan Bunker
Post 28 Commander

birthday was celebrated in March. Leading up to the Friday birthday celebration, a special interest event happened on Wednesday, Mar. 13 at the home of Dennis and Janet O'Neil in Farmington. The O'Neil's own a player piano and graciously allowed Post Adjutant Goodridge to play a music paper roll titled "The American Legion Song," published in Nov. 1919. As background, Adjutant Goodridge attended the National Convention, which was held in Charlotte, North Carolina last August. As a graduate of the National American Legion College (NALC), Goodridge attended a special fundraising gathering and auction of NALC alumni to raise money for American Legion programs. Adjutant Goodridge purchased several American Legion memorabilia items at the fundraiser auction to include a near pristine player piano music roll. Adjutant Goodridge immediately recognized an opportunity to incorporate the music roll into this year's birthday celebration, albeit the primary challenge was finding a working player piano.

A social media search on a local Farmington forum connected Adjutant Goodridge with the O'Neil family, whose music roll collection numbers approximately one hundred. A player piano blows air using foot pedals through the perforated music paper roll.

The American Legion Song (March and One-Step) is credited to James L. Shearer, a World War I veteran who composed the song while recovering in France from an injury. Upon return



The American Legion Song: Playing the music paper roll "The American Legion Song" by James Shearer at the residence of Janet and Dennis O'Neil. Left to right, Judge Advocate Drew Goodridge, Janet O'Neil and Dennis O'Neil.

Photo by Becky Goodridge

to the States, Mr. Shearer aggressively marketed his music to The American Legion national organization and to posts across the country. Mr. Shearer successfully marketed his song to several player piano companies. Several other composers and musicians were contemporaneously marketing their own American Legion songs in recognition of this newly emerging veteran service organization. Mr. Shearer's version is widely regarded as one of the most recognized versions at the time. Adjutant Goodridge obtained this music roll published by QRS Music Company with an original price labeled at \$1.25.

Post 28 celebrated The American Legion birthday during a very well-attended Friday Night Dinner hosted by The American Legion Auxiliary Roderick-Crosby Unit 28. Commander Bunker joined the party remotely via video-teleconference to deliver remarks highlighting the importance of our beloved organization and post. After District Four Commander Patrick Mitchell's remarks, a cake cutting ceremony was held with Legionnaire Lloyd Leeman and District Four Adjutant Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, representing the eldest and youngest Legionnaires in attendance, cutting the first slice.

April is gearing up with planning for our summer happenings and event schedule. Our sponsored Cub Scout Pack 585 is holding its annual cake auction at the post in mid-April. Post 28 is preparing for the 100th anniversary of the Teague WWI Memorial Arch on Memorial Day. Roderick-Crosby Unit 28 is hosting a paint party fundraiser near the end of April.

We are looking forward to warmer days and exciting Legion Family activities ahead.

By Drew Goodridge
Department Judge Advocate and Post 28 Adjutant



Celebrating 105 Years: Post 28 American Legion Birthday cake cutting ceremony. Left to right, Legionnaire Lloyd Leeman, District Four Adjutant Jennifer Bowser Kimble and Post 28 Cmdr. Stephan Bunker joins via video-teleconference.

Photo by Drew Goodridge
Post 28 Adjutant

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

Department Post Retention Membership
2021 – 2022 Recognized at District 5

At the District 5 meeting at John D. Long Post 58 in Buckfield on Feb. 20, District Commander James Lowell presented Department Goal to Grow Certificates to District Adjutant/Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt and District 2nd Vice/Post 151 Commander

Harold Wilbur for their posts having attained 100% or more membership retention in the 2021- 2022 Legion year. Observing the presentation was Past-Department Commander Kirk

[More on "POST RETENTION" Page 19](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "POST RETENTION" (Continued from Page 18)

Thurston. In that year, Post 68 lead the district with 104.65% retentions and new members.

On Mar. 2, before the Post 68



District 5 Posts Meet Membership Goals: Left photo, left to right, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, Post 151 Commander Harold Wilbur and District 5 Commander James Lowell with Goal to Grow Certificates. Right photo, left to right, Post 68 Membership Chair Ray Hakala, District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt, Post 68 1st Vice William Bickford and Post 68 Historian Timothy Twitchell.

Texas Hold'em Tournament, wearing his District 5 Adjutant hat, Post Commander Orcutt presented the Department Goal to Grow Certificate to 1st Vice William Bickford, Historian Timothy Twitchell and Membership Chair Ray Hakala.



Rumford Post 24 Four Chaplains Day

Carl Sandburg once said, "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

Every year, the first Sunday in February is set as the day to remember and honor the sacrifices of the four chaplains. It is celebrated to varying degrees by military and civilian groups in many places across The United States and overseas.

Who are the four chaplains? They were four United States Army Chaplains: Methodist Minister Reverend George L. Fox, Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Catholic Priest Father Washington, and a Reformed

From the opening welcome from Post Commander Ed Perry, through the invocation by Post Chaplain Bill McAloney, and stunning tributes by local clergy, the stories of the incredible chaplains were well told.

These four men were assigned to a ship called the *SS Dorchester*. Again, it wasn't an accident that they were of these different denominations. During World War II, there were men enlisting from all over the country of different backgrounds. *The Dorchester* was a passenger ship. It had been requisitioned by The Army and it was transporting 900 plus troops to Greenland as part of a convoy with a couple of other troop ships and some Coast Guard escorts.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 3, 1943, the *U.S.A.T. Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. *The Dorchester*, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escañaba* and *Comanche*.

The men on *The Dorchester* sailed together for 11 days in very close quarters, so they would see the clergymen together setting up

for their respective services. They would also have show nights where they played the piano and all four chaplains could sing. Later, surviving soldiers would comment on how well the representatives of various denominations got along and that when they preached, they seemed to be in most ways more united in faith than separated.

During the early morning hours of Feb. 3, 1943 at 12:55 a.m., The *SS Dorchester* was torpedoed by German submarine *U-223*. The damage was severe, boiler power was lost and there was inadequate steam to sound the full 6-whistle signal to abandon ship. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army Chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. Though they were four chaplains of different faith denominations, they are remembered for their acts of bravery and heroism. These four men met each other where they received their Army Chaplain training at the Army Chaplain School at Harvard University.

When most of the men were topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that a crewmember witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

The chaplains helped organize the abandoning-ship effort. They distributed lifejackets and got as many men as they could into lifeboats. When all available lifejackets ran out, they

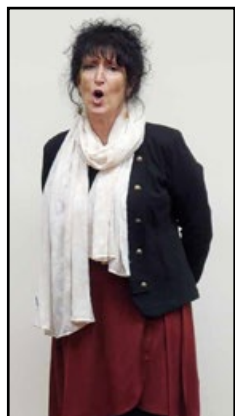
each gave up their life jackets to enlisted men, and urged and helped men get into the water. One survivor recounts seeing one of the chaplains putting a lifejacket on a man who was frozen with fear and pushing him into the water because they knew the ship was going down. Then the chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the *U.S.A.T. Dorchester*, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors.

Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously on Dec. 19, 1944 to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A one-time-only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on Jan. 18, 1961. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

After the reading of each eulogy, a member of the Auxiliary placed a black sash over the crosses and Star of David denoting each clergy member and lay a rose at its base, followed by the lighting of a candle for everyone who was eulogized by their honorer.

Leslie Skibitsky, American Legion Post 24 Auxiliary Chaplain finished the stirring ceremony with a prayer and reminder that some people go far beyond the ordinary effort to put others and their faith first.



National Anthem:
Tammy Schmearsal sings The National Anthem.

Church in America Minister Reverend Clark Poling.

On Feb. 4, approximately fifty-seven American Legion and community members gathered at Legion Post 24 in Rumford to honor the "Four Chaplains."



Eulogy: Left photo, Leonard Bromberg performs a Eulogy for Chaplain Alexander D. Goode. Right photo, Pastor Justin Thacker performs a Eulogy for Chaplain Clark V. Poling.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued**Locke Mills Post 68
Four Chaplains Ceremony**

At the Locke Mills Union Church on Sunday, Feb. 4, Jackson-Silver Post 68 of Locke Mills again conducted its Four Chaplains Ceremony. Once again, the post honored the sacrifice of Coastguard Stewarts 1st, Charles W. Davis, Jr., who repeatedly dove into the frigid waters to save lives and surrendered his own as he died of pneumonia in the hospital some days after the tragic event. The additional

script was created in the same tone as that provided for the Four Chaplains in honoring Davis's like sacrifice.

The ceremony was well attended by parishioners and was conducted by Post/Unit 68 members. Pastor Sondra Withey records the church service and ceremony on her cell phone and posts it to the church's Facebook account, where it is accessed by more than one hundred viewers.



Four Chaplains Ceremony At Locke Mills Post 68: Left to right, Unit 68 Member Debbie Brown, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt and Unit 68 Member Pastor Sondra Withey.

**Remembering Two Legion Family
Members at Locke Mills Post 68**

His photo at a Jackson-Silver Post 68 event in his Firing Detail uniform says it all: always cheerful, always willing to give his time in support of the post, which was one of many Greenwood organizations he supported. Richard Francis Melville will be long and lovingly remembered by all who had the honor of his acquaintance. He possessed the gift of making anyone within his sphere for even a few minutes feel that they had known him as a friend forever. For years he worked his magic, despite requiring daily dialysis, which became longer in duration over time. He was presented with Maine's prestigious Spirit of America Award for his lifelong involvement in various groups within the Greenwood community. About the only time he was away from the town in which he grew up was during his enlistment in the United States Navy.

Richard was especially proud to be the grandson of Sockalexis Newell (1878 – 1952), of the Penobscot Nation, who resided in Greenwood in a large tepee, and whose traditional



Post 68 Remembers Richard Melville.

indigenous crafts, and furniture are displayed in the Greenwood Historical Society, or prized in the possession of local residents.

Richard's wife, Beverly (Lurvey) Melville, whose Unit 68 participation will be 71 years on Jun. 1, was the Locke Mills Union Church's organist for many years. She provided musical instruction to area children, many of whom have since enjoyed careers and

life-long avocations in music. One of her favorite uncles was WWI veteran Harold A. Lurvey, a Charter Member of Jackson-Silver Post in 1919, and that of Mundt-Allen Post 81 in Bethel when it was organized in 1951. Lurvey's WWI photo album, donated by the Melvilles was the basis of an exhibit for appreciative viewers at Jackson-Silver Post 68 and at the Hall of Flags at the Maine State Capitol. The exhibit, that tells the story of the war from its beginning in 1914 to the occupation of Germany in 1919, is need of a permanent home.



Memorial: The memorial of Richard Melville at Greenwood Town Hick's Cemetery.

Though Richard has not yet been interred, he and Beverly have placed their memorial in the Greenwood Town Hick's Cemetery. A Christmas wreath and Veterans Flag holder were placed there in his memory.

Yet another member of Unit 68, with 58 years in support of the post, who recently passed into the realm from which there is no return is Irene (Heikkinen) Redman, who was 93 years old at the time of her demise in



In Memory of Unit 68 Member, Irene Redman.

Woodstock. Her husband, Samuel A. Redman, a WWII US Navy veteran, who predeceased her in 2004, was a member of Jackson-Silver Post. In addition, both were members of Finnish American Society of West Paris. Irene participated in Unit 68 up to three years ago, and was ever present at Post Supper Dances, where she loaded the dessert cart with generous helpings of pies and cakes.

Both Richard and Irene exemplify the sentiment expressed in 1790 by George Washington in his letter to the Hebrew Congregation at Newport: *"May the Father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way, and everlastingly happy."*

**Last Mission to Tokyo: Locke Mills
Post 68 Veterans Day Address**

Welcome to Jackson-Silver Post 68. On this day, Veterans Day 2023, we are commemorating the service of veterans of all wars. It is a time when families throughout the nation should reflect on the service of their family members, present and past.

As an aside, in two weeks I shall have attained my 81st year of existence upon this planet. Believing it is nearing my time to step down from my present duties in the Post, this will likely be my last Veterans Day address as Commander, and so I wish to speak about a member of my own family who served, suffered imprisonment, and sacrificed much of his own future to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy.

The individual of whom I speak is one of my namesake uncles, my mother's youngest brother, Harry Donald Magnuson, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. His story was one of those presented in Thomas Saylor's book: Long Hard

Road American POW's During World War II, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, in 2007. It's a good thing we have a record of the treatment my uncle suffered at the hands of his Japanese captors, as in July, 2009, amongst his fellow soldiers, sailors, and airmen residing at the Fort Snelling Soldiers Home, he at last entered into the Post from which there is no return.

Harry Magnuson was the fifth child of Swedish immigrants Carl and Alma Magnuson. He had two older sisters, the younger of whom was my mother, and two older brothers. Both of his brothers also served in WWII. His oldest brother, Alfred, was commissioned an Army Lieutenant, but remained stateside; his other brother, Bertil, was an Army Tech 4, assigned to clerical duties in the

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "LAST MISSION" (Continued from Page 20)

Pacific Theater. Receiving his training in Hawaii, he went ashore in the Adjutant General Corps on day one of the invasion of Saipan. Following the war, both brothers rose to become vice-presidents of the corporations at which they were employed, Al at Wheeling Pittsburg Steel Company, and Bert at Vern Donnay Homes.

After his recovery and honorable discharge, Harry was a salesman in the exclusive Liemandt's Men's Furnishing store in downtown Minneapolis, where he remained for many years until he was lured away by his second oldest brother to sell homes for Donnay, from which he retired. Donnay Homes is a big deal in Minnesota, having developed tracts containing 16,000 homes of various affordable models, from 1941 to date.

Harry and I shared something more than just a first name. Just after he was inducted in March 1943, home on a pass, he and I were baptized together on the same day in the Calvary Lutheran Church a few months after my birth. His mother had passed when he was



Armor School: Harry D. Magnuson in Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

about six years old, and for some reason, his baptism had not previously taken place.

After induction, and Basic Training, he was posted to the Armor School to learn the skills of a tank machine gunner. Upon graduation in June, 1944, he apparently was given leave at which time he married Elizabeth "Betty" Allen. He must have been fairly proficient as a gunner, as when the opportunity arose, he was transferred into the United States Army Air Corps,

to receive additional training as a heavy bomber machine gunner at Pyote Army Air Force Base in Texas. There he and Betty shared with two other enlisted married personnel, on-base housing, with one room per couple. He was trained in both B17 waist and turret, and B29 blister remote gunnery. He preferred the latter, as B29's had pressurized crew compartments, while B17 waist gunners were subjected to over 200 mph winds in open air stations.

When Harry completed his training, Betty returned to Minneapolis, pregnant with their daughter, and Harry was transferred to the Pacific Theater in March, 1945. Arriving on Tinian Island, in the Marianas Chain on March 14, 1945, he was assigned as a replacement on the 11-man crew of the B29 "Tokyo Trolley" bomber. His assigned Wing, the 313th Circle "R", though he knew it not at the time, was the Wing that won the war against the Japanese.

It is rather amazing how much information is available concerning the individual bombers and crews that comprised the 20th United States Heavy Bomber Air Force that flew from the Marianas group of Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. For instance, each heavy bomber squadron, their Group, and Wing has its own history online, which includes a link by serial number to the contract of each bomber manufactured during the war. For instance, the "Tokyo Trolley" was built in the 2nd Contract (B29-30), to the Bell Aircraft Company, of Marietta, Georgia. Its serial number of 42-63553, indicated that it was the 2nd aircraft manufactured under that contract. The "Trolley" was subsequently assigned to 39th Very Heavy Bombardment "Pirates Cove" Squadron, of the 6th Bombardment Group, in the 313th Wing, stationed on North Field, Tinian.

Harry and Betty's daughter, my first cousin, Mary Elizabeth, sent me original copies of her father's service record, which included all the flight dates he made in both training and combat. On the 39th online site, all the missions the Squadron flew from Tinian, are listed by date, target designation, altitude flown, hours of the mission, ordinance carried (incendiary, mine, GP bombs by radar), and whether it was...

Continue reading the full story here: www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/POST68_LAST_MISSION_TOKYO.pdf

Oxford's John Crumpton, Jr. Accepts the Boston Post Cane

After years of denying his eligibility, 99-year-old John Crumpton, Jr. has finally accepted the Boston Post Cane, along with the fact that he is indeed Oxford's oldest citizen.

Crumpton was awarded the cane Feb. 15 during Oxford's Board of Selectmen's meeting, with more than 20 well wishers in attendance.

Considered a town father and honored in 2019 with the dedication of Oxford's annual town report, Crumpton has lived in Oxford since the early 1980s. His Gorham-born wife Eva, who he married in 1950, informed him she was going to move home to Maine.

As he explained to the *Sun Journal* a few years ago, after his long career in the Navy, eight ships, three wars and 20 addresses shared between the couple, she resolved: "I'm going home now. Are you coming with me?"

"The answer, of course, was 'yes ma'am,'" he quipped.

Crumpton was born Oct. 24, 1924 in Craig Springs, Mississippi, a village so small it could not be found on a map. During his youth the town was comprised of about a half dozen houses, a school, Lutheran church and cemetery, and a crossroads.



Boston Post Cane Award Recipient: John Crumpton, Jr. celebrates with his Boston Post Cane Feb. 15 at Oxford Town Office.

Photo Courtesy Patricia Larrivee

His world expanded the same way as countless others of his generation – Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and the United States' entry to World War II. Then 17, Crumpton and



Oxford Post 112 Member Receives Boston Post Cane Award: John Crumpton, Jr. (second from right) receives the Boston Post Cane Award from the Town of Oxford. Pictured from left is Oxford's Select Board: Chair Dana Dillingham, Vice-Chair Scott Hunter, Sharon Jackson, Caldwell Jackson and Floyd Thayer.

Photo Courtesy Patricia Larrivee

his best friend Ray Bock determined to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

His father opposed Crumpton's plan, refusing to sign his enlistment papers. But when the son promised to defy his wishes and find someone on a street corner who would sign them instead, his father relented and gave his approval.

In 1943, while he served on the USS Memphis along the West African coast, the ship served as a stop-over for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was on route to the Casablanca Conference with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Crumpton was in the group of sailors escorting Roosevelt aboard the ship and then was chosen to stand guard while the president fished with another sailor on the Gambia River.

He later met President Harry Truman who was inspecting troops during a brigade parade, and met with President-elect Richard Nixon at the White House in 1969 as he led a briefing on the Navy's shipbuilding program and budget.

Crumpton attended the U.S. Naval Academy starting in 1948, graduating four years later. From there he continued his 33-year career in the Navy, serving in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He retired in 1975 with the rank of Captain and Commanding Officer of the USS Drake.

It was then Crumpton stopped giving orders to sailors and followed Eva's instead. The two eventually made their way to Oxford, moving to the Robinson Family Homestead where he still resides today. After 61 years of

[More on "BOSTON POST CANE"](#)
Page 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ **"BOSTON POST CANE"**
(Continued from Page 21)

marriage Eva passed away in 2011.

As a resident of Oxford since 1981, Crumpton has served with several town committees and local organizations. He continues to be an active member of the Oxford Historical Society, the Anderson Staples Legion Post 112, the Twin Town Nature Club, and to follow his favorite sport, ice hockey.

In addition to his most recent honor as recipient of the Boston Post Cane, Crumpton has received awards for Legion of Merit, Navy & Marine Corps Medal, Joint Services Commendation, Navy Commendation with Combat V, Gold Star, Korean Service Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam).

Reflecting on almost a century of life, Crumpton says his most cherished

accomplishment is his service to God and his church. After moving to Oxford, he and Eva became active members of the Oxford Congregational Church as its long-term Trustee, as the Church Moderator, and where he faithfully attends every Sunday.

Article written by Nicole Carter
Originally published by The Advertiser Democrat
February 21
www.sunjournal.com/2024/02/21/oxfords-john-crumpton-jr-accepts-the-boston-post-cane



Navy Veteran John Crumpton Jr., 99, has been awarded the Boston Post Cane by the town of Oxford. Crumpton was born in Mississippi in 1924 and spent 33 years in the Navy, serving overseas during the Second World War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



New Member Initiations: Left photo, new member initiation ceremony Held At Camden Post 30 on Jan. 4. Left to right, Scott Bergey, Commander Norm Carver and Brent Wucher. Right photo, Commander Norm Carver, left, and Bill Brown, right, at a second new member initiation ceremony on Feb. 1.

Photos by Jeff Sukeforth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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

Wiscasset Post 54 Donates to
Two Local Organizations

Post 54 Commander William Cossette presented a check for \$1,000 to Team Willow representative Beth Bluteau. Ten-year-old Willow Orr was diagnosed with ANCA Vasculitis and was hospitalized in Jan. of this year. ANCA Vasculitis is an auto-immune disease which attacked Orr's kidneys, causing renal failure. The disease is now in remission from chemotherapy, but Willow still requires dialysis three times a week while waiting for a kidney transplant. Team Willow was formed to help raise money for the family, as mother Michele has been unable to work since Willow has taken ill.

Commander Cossette also gave a check for \$400 to Cooper-DiPerri

Scholarship Fund committee members Vickie Hersom and Sheila Sawyer. The Fund was established in 2000 to help provide low-income families access to the programs of the Wiscasset Community Center (WCC). It has helped numerous children attend the after-school and summer programs that the WCC conducts, as well as other programs for children and senior citizens.

Post 54 thanks the many people who donate their cans and bottles at the post's drop-off points located around town. Your efforts allow us to raise money for community causes such as these, and to support our veterans in need.

**Team Willow:**

Wiscasset Post 54 1st Vice Mike Barnes, Beth Bluteau, sister Bella Orr, Willow Orr, mother Michele Colson, Post 54 Commander Bill Cossette, and Post 54 Sgt-at-Arms John Kennedy.

Photo by Cliff Hendricks
Post 54 Adjutant

**Wiscasset Post 54
Check Presentation:**

Left to right, Post 54 1st Vice Mike Barnes, Bob Hersom, Cooper DiPerri Scholarship Fund Committee Members Sheila Sawyer and Vickie Hersom, Post 54 Commander Bill Cossette, and Post 54 Adjutant Cliff Hendricks present a check to the Cooper DiPerri Scholarship Fund.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34; Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110; Warren Post 218



Camden Post 30 Military Child Ceremony: Post 30 Americanism Officer Scott Bergey, front, recites the ceremony of the Military Child at the Post's monthly meeting in Apr. Post 30 performs this ceremony every year in Apr. Behind Scott, left to right, Post Chaplain Rev. Dave Franclemont, Post Commander Norm Carver and Post 1st Vice Horace Benner.



Camden Post 30 Four Chaplains Ceremony: Post 30 hosts a Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony on Feb 3. Seated left to right, Sandy Delano, Scott Bergey, Horace Benner and Skip Pierce. Standing back row left to right, Norm Carver, Jeff Sukeforth, Rev. Dave Franclemont, Sandy Lyle and Dept. Commander Al McKay.

Photo by Heather Bergey

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Phippsburg Post 216 Remembers
Comrade, Member

Phippsburg Legion Post 216 had a very quiet winter and members are looking forward to an activity-packed spring and summer.

Since the post's establishment in 2011, we have unfortunately transferred eighteen members of our post to "Post Everlasting." This includes Comrade Thomas Charles Totman, Second Class Petty Officer, United States Navy, who passed away on Tues., Feb. 27. A celebration of his life was held on Wed., Mar. 6 at the Phippsburg Congregational Church with Military Honors. Nine post members were present to honor Tommy and his service to his nation and town.

Comrade Totman began his distinguished military career on Dec. 28, 1961 when he enlisted in the United States Navy. He served 3 years as a Culinary Specialist Second Class on board the *USS Conyngham* (DDG-17)

during the Vietnam War. He was part of the ship's original crew and as such became a "plank owner."

Comrade Totman joined The American Legion on Aug. 8, 2016 as a member of Phippsburg Memorial Post 216 and received his 5-Year Service pin in 2021. He attended many of our meetings and participated in our events when he had time in his busy schedule, especially enjoying the annual Veteran's Appreciation Day/BBQ and our Christmas Potluck Dinner with his wife Bette. He was a very giving person and always had a smile and kind words for everyone.

Post 216 held "Draping of the Charter" and "Post Everlasting" Ceremonies in honor of Comrade Totman at their meeting on Mar. 14. Comrade Totman was a very special member of our post and will be missed by us all.



Fond Memories: Comrade Tommy Totman, left, with his family at a past Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ at Phippsburg Post 216.

Photo by Chilloa Young

Post Everlasting Ceremony: Comrade Tommy Totman's Family attending his Post Everlasting Ceremony on Mar. 14.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Post Officers Officiating The Post Everlasting Ceremony for Comrade Tommy Totman. Left to right, Adjutant Mike Young, Commander Ken Kellogg and Chaplain Richard Spear.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Post Charter Draping: Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, left, and First Vice Commander Tim Williams, right, drape the Post Charter in honor of Comrade Tommy Totman.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Legion Cap: Adjutant Mike Young places Comrade Totman's Legion Cap on the Brazier.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Navy Uniform: Comrade Tommy Totman's Navy Uniform.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Ceremonial Transfer To
Post Everlasting:** Chaplain Richard Spear burns the history and orders, transferring Comrade Tommy Totman to Post Everlasting.

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

Eagle Court of Honor at
Winthrop Post 40

As with most American Legion posts, Winthrop Post 40 sponsors and hosts Scouts of America Winthrop Troop 604. On Sat., Feb. 10, an Eagle Court of Honor (ECOH) was held promoting two well deserving scouts into an elite group of young American citizens: the top rank of scouting, that of Eagle Scout. Following the Posting of the Colors, the ECOH convened at 1:00 p.m., lasting almost four hours, and was well-attended by families and friends of the honorees. The special guest of honor and guest speaker was District Chair for Kennebec Valley District, Chuck Mahaleris. The Scouts being honored, achieving the rank of Eagle, were Christopher James Kirby and Macgyver Jai Blundon.

Christopher and Macgyver are stepbrothers and sons of Mr. & Mrs.

Robert Blundon. Throughout their scouting careers, Christopher earned 41 Merit Badges and Macgyver earned 28 Merit Badges.

Both Eagle Scouts presented a dozen red roses to each parent for their guidance and support throughout their personal scouting journey, each rose signifying a step in their scouting journey.

Post 40 Commander Colin Hewett, assisted by the Post Adjutant Dawson and Comrade Dave Glidden, presented both Eagle Scouts with framed Eagle Scout Certificates. The colors were retired in due form.

By Dave Glidden
Charter Troop Representative Comrade

[More on "WINTHROP SCOUTS"](#)
Page 24

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

■ "WINTHROP SCOUTS" (Continued from Page 23)



Eagle Scout Certificate: Front row, left to right, Winthrop Post 40 Adjutant Robert Dawson, Eagle Scout Christopher James Kirby, Eagle Scout Macgyver Jai Blundon and Post 40 Commander Colin Hewett. Back row, Charter Representative Dave Glidden.

Photo by Billy Remington
Asst. Troop Leader



Winthrop Post 40 Eagle Court Of Honor: Troop Scoutmaster Samantha Remington and Comrade Dave Glidden.

Photo by Billy Remington
Asst. Troop Leader

Winthrop Post 40 Hosts Events for Local Scouts

On Mar. 9, American Legion Post 40 hosted the Winthrop Troop 604 in the annual springtime Pinewood Derby race in conjunction with a Blue and Gold and a Cross-Over Ceremony. The special guest of honor was Kasie Kolbe, a professional race car driver. Kasie currently is part of the Ladies Acceleration Tour this year.

The day started with the Best in Show judging, won by Tiger Cub Jett Jordan. There was a total of 11 individual racers with each racer completing 4 laps. The top three overall winners were: Lion Scout Violet LeBlanc, winning 1st place, Bear Scout Christopher Palmer, winning 2nd place and Lion Scout Cedar Heidrich, winning 3rd place.

Sandwiched between the racing heats, there was a short Blue and Gold Scouting Birthday Celebration to commemorate the founding of Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910. Following the B&G celebration, the Crossing Over Ceremony was held. Cub Scout James Knight, assisted by Webelos Den Leaders Billy Remington and Dave Glidden, crossed from Cub Scouting into Troop 604 Boy Scouts.

The 2nd heat of racing ensued after

the Crossing Over Ceremony, followed by a friends and parents racing heat where all scouts were given the opportunity to race against Kasie, combined with a Q&A period. Lots of great questions were asked of Kasie by scouts and family alike.

By Comrade Dave Glidden
Troop 604 Charter Representative

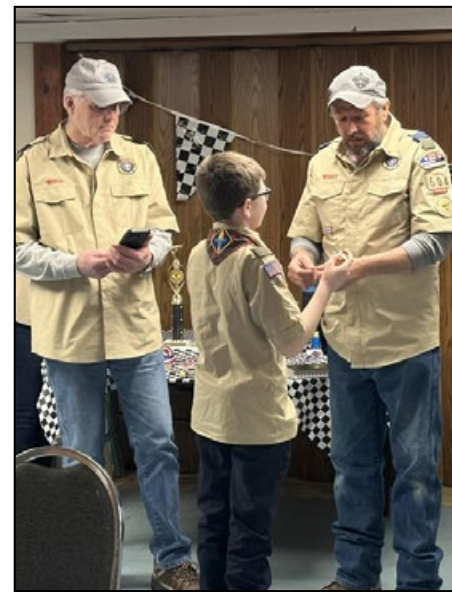


Pinewood Derby: Bear Scout Jett Jordan wins Best in Show judging at the annual Winthrop Troop 604 Pinewood Derby Race, hosted by Winthrop Post 40 on Mar. 9.

Photo by Sam Remington
Scoutmaster

Crossing Over Ceremony: Cub Scout James Knight is welcomed into Boy Scouts Troop 604 during the Crossing Over Ceremony. Left to right, Den Leader Dave Glidden, Scout James Knight and Den Leader Billy Remington.

Photo by Sam Remington
Scoutmaster



Group Photo: Troop 604 takes a photo with family and friends. Seated in the front row is professional racecar driver and guest of honor, Kasie Kolbe.

Photo by Sam Remington
Scoutmaster

Oakland ALR Chapter 51 Takes on the Polar Plunge

On Mar. 16, The American Legion Riders of Decker-Simmons Post 51 in Oakland, along with other groups from the area, gathered at the Oakland boat launch for the 31st annual Polar Plunge. The event raises money to help fight food insecurity at the Alford Youth & Community Center. ALR Chapter 51 raised \$1,986, contributing to over \$30,000 raised for the cause.

"Motorcyclists sometimes, we don't get a good reputation. So we're here for the community," says ALR Chapter 51 Director Lynn Woodard. "Our group, we're not like a motorcycle club, we're just riders, we represent The American Legion. A lot of our activity is just for the veterans, but today it was for the children."

"That's what life's all about, helping everybody else," said ALR Chapter 51 Assistant Director Mark Spence.



Ready To Plunge: Left to right, ALR Chapter 51 Director Lynn Woodard, Megan Bragdon, Road Captain Nick Leavitt, Treasurer Dawn Brasil, Brad Wing and Asst. Director Mark Spence take a picture at the boat dock in Oakland before the Polar Plunge.

Photo by Sharon Roode
Secretary, ALR Chapter 51

[More on "POLAR PLUNGE" Page 25](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

"POLAR PLUNGE"
(Continued from Page 24)

Polar Plunge: Lifeguards watch as ALR Chapter 51 Riders and participants leap into the cold water at the Alford Youth and Community Center's 31st annual Polar Plunge in Oakland to raise money for the Kids Kitchen program.

Photo by Sharon Roode
Secretary, ALR Chapter 51



Getting Cold For A Good Cause: Left to right, ALR Chapter 51 Asst. Director Mark Spence, Director Lynn Woodard and Treasurer Dawn Brasil exit the water after jumping into the frigid water during the Alford Youth & Community Center's 31st annual Polar Plunge.

Photo by Sharon Roode
Secretary, ALR Chapter 51



Happy To Help The Community: ALR Chapter 51 Asst. Director Mark Spence is all smiles as he exits the water at the 31st annual Polar Plunge. The Alford Youth and Community Center reaches their goal of \$30,000 thanks to all the generous participants and donors.

Photo by Sharon Roode
Secretary, ALR Chapter 51

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



Madison Post 39 Presents 50-Year Certificates: Joseph "Joe Pete" Labun, left, and Joseph Savoy, right, were presented their 50 Year Membership Certificates by Madison Post 39 Commander Bob Washburn, middle, at the Post's general membership meeting on Apr. 1.

Hartland Post 141
Flag Memorial Detail
Honors Veterans:

Nokomis High School JROTC members in uniform standing alongside veterans in the middle, left to right, Korean War Navy Veteran Clyde Emery, Post 141 Commander Russell Wilson and WWII Army Veteran Harlan Emery.

Submitted by Bob Hodgkins
Post 141 Adjutant



Hartland Post 141 Fundraising Raffle: Post 141 members gather at Mammies Grill for breakfast and to draw winners of the Post's fundraising raffle. Left to right, Post Member Terry Hughes, Fundraising Chair Ron Holmes and Post 141 Commander Russell Wilson.

Submitted by Bob Hodgkins
Post 141 Adjutant



Selecting A Winner: Laurie Holmbom and Fundraising Chair Ron Holmes draw tickets for raffle winners at Mammies Grill.

Submitted by Bob Hodgkins
Post 141 Adjutant

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

Corinna Post 73 Hosts Weekly Events

American Legion Corinna Post 73 offers our elderly folks a free senior meal on the first Tuesday of the month during the winter. Local businesses are actively involved by sponsoring most of the meals. The meal starts at 11:30 a.m. and usually lasts for about an hour. Our senior friends enjoy these meals not just for the meal itself, but for fellowship and socializing with each other. This month, the local Hannaford has donated a party platter for all to enjoy.

Post 73 also hosts weekly Bingo Games, which are open to the public. We average between 60 - 75 players each Saturday night. We offer a 50/50 raffle, drawings for a free Bingo game

and a gift certificate to our local restaurant, The Farmers Table. The Legion Hall opens at 4:00 p.m., with Bingo game cards being sold at 4:30 p.m. and we start calling Bingo at 6:00 p.m. Treats and fresh cooked food are available for purchase.



Enjoying Lunch: Seniors at Corinna Post 73 come together for a free meal donated by a local business every month during the winter.



Corinna Post 73 Hosts Free, Monthly Lunches: The Corinna American Legion Post 73 has operated a free senior/veteran meal program once a month over an eight-month period. Legion members and outside volunteers purchase, prepare and serve the meals monthly beginning in Sept. and ending in Apr. The meal schedule for Sept. 2024 through Apr. 2025 will be: Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, and ends on Apr. 8. Meals are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (to-go orders will be fulfilled after 12:30 p.m., providing there is food leftover.) Anyone can sponsor a meal for a \$200 donation. Meals are available for seniors aged 60+, veterans, and any disabled persons from any surrounding communities. Advertising will run in the Dexter Gazette (Compass) and the Rolling Thunder each month. Meal efforts are being led by Vinal Teague and his committee from The American Legion. Volunteers can be any Legion or Auxiliary member or anyone from outside of The Legion who wants to lend a helping hand. Any questions may be directed to Commander Bolstridge (207-355-5651) or Adjutant Buckland at (207-341-3342.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

Grateful: Newport, ME Hannaford staff presents a meal platter to Commander Dave Bolstridge, back right, and Adjutant Vic Buckland, far right, for the Corinna Post 73 free senior meal.



Brewer Post 98 Oratorical Contest: Brewer Post 98 held its Post Oratorical Contest on Jan. 20. Winner Gloria Hoskins of Brewer went on to represent the Post and District 13 at the State Contest in Feb. at Thomas College. Left to right, Ray Curran, Ellen Murphy, Kevin O'Connell, George Maximic, Sheri Clark, Post 98 Oratorical Winner Gloria Hoskins, Tom Copeland, Gary Freeman, Kris Clark, Mike Libby, Paul Miller, Dana Tardif and Sonny Wirta.



Newport Post 105 Back In Full Force after a brief winter hiatus. Post 105 celebrates The American Legion's 105th birthday with its Legion Family during the March meeting. Dinner is held quarterly before the regular meeting.



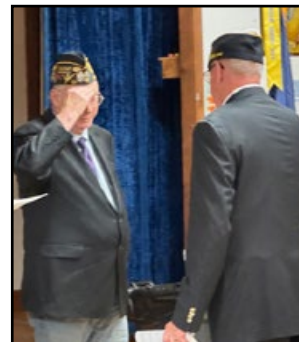
Newport Post 105 Holds Its First CPR Class: Thank you to Post 105 Service Officer Don Mitchell for getting this all together, the Newport Fire Department for conducting the CPR class, HeartBrothers and From the Heart for donating the AED and wall mount for the post.



Etna-Carmel Post 107 Officers Installation led by Post Adjutant Don Candage. Left to right, Post 107 Commander Ryan Simpson, First Vice Jim Thorne, Second Vice Pat Hoff, Chaplain Roger Keene, Judge Advocate Julia Pike, Historian Chris Urquhart, Service Officer Steve Luzzi and Sgt. at Arms Liam Nedredd.



Honoring: Etna-Carmel Post 107 sets up POW MIA table to honor our comrades.



Installation: Etna-Carmel Post 107 Commander Ryan Simpson installs Post Adjutant Don Candage.



Donation: Founder of House in the Woods, Paul House, accepts a donation from Etna-Carmel Post 107 after speaking about his program.

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

Kid's Bingo at Dover-Foxcroft Post 29

Over 80 kids attended the Kid's Bingo at Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 on Feb 24. The Post would like to thank all of the parents, grandparents, etc. who brought the kids out and all the very generous donors who donated the prizes.

Most of all we would like to thank the kids - they were all very well behaved and showed great sportsmanship, clapping for the other kids as they won. It was a pleasure to host them as our guests!

By Chad Perkins



Bustling Bingo Hall: Families enjoy the Kid's Bingo event at Post 29 on Feb 24.

Photo by Dolly Perkins



Lucky Winners: A Kid's Bingo winner poses with exciting prizes: a Nintendo Switch and Kirby game.

Photo by Dolly Perkins



Milo Post 41 - A Phenomenal Accomplishment: Past Department Commander Randy Kluj, at the podium, and Milo Post 41 Commander Daniel Nutter, right, present Milo Post 41 Judge Advocate Jeff Barnes, left, with a 50-year Certificate of Continuous Membership during a recent meeting held at Milo Post 41. Congratulations, Jeff!



Monson Post 116 50 Year Certificate Presentation: Post 116 Commander Jim Greenleaf, left, presents Carl Ponkala, right, with a 50 Year Continuous Service Certificate at the post's monthly meeting on Apr. 1. Carl is one of four members from the post with 50 years of service.

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 01 – Rockland	Milton F Eaton	Korea	Post 78 – Strong	Harry Tiffany	Korea
Post 01 – Rockland	David W Chase	Korea	Post 79 – Berwick	Barry D Hall	Vietnam
Post 02 – Augusta	Paul R Bonenfant	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	William C Thurston	Korea
Post 03 – Calais	Richard C Glidden	Korea	Post 82 – Norway	Royal Earle	Other
Post 03 – Calais	Paul Redding	Korea	Post 82 – Norway	Fred K Burbank	Vietnam
Post 05 - Waterville	Daniel R Ayotte Sr	Vietnam	Post 83 – Freeport	Bertrand R Langelier	Vietnam
Post 05 – Waterville	Edward N Tansey	Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	Thomas E Murphy	Vietnam
Post 06 – Hallowell	Charles N Wilcox	Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	George E Thibodeau	WWII
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	Donald A Simoneau	Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	Regan I Brackett	Vietnam
Post 11 – Eastport	William S Barnes	Vietnam	Post 87 – North Berwick	Edward Phelan	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Richard A Inman	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Charles A Runnels	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	William M Beutel	Other	Post 94 – Greenville	Ewan McPherson	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Michael D Vittum	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Paul J Mlodzianoski	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Raymond M White	Korea	Post 96 – Saco	David J Walker	Vietnam
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Lowell Davis	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Mark A Proulx	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Douglas C Hallett	Korea	Post 98 – Brewer	Marlan J Bloom	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Gerald A Drake	WWII	Post 105 – Newport	Kenneth R Blisard	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Norman C Dickey	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Karl Windischhofer	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Victor L Rusecky	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Jon D Turner	Panama
Post 19 – Sanford	Anthony Paine	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Kevin P Mitchell	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 19 – Sanford	Truxton R Chase	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Karen J Noschese	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Roland Varney	Korea	Post 119 – Guilford	Robert E Johnson	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Paul J Cloutier	Korea	Post 119 – Guilford	Mark W Melia	Persian Gulf
Post 19 – Sanford	Laurier F Tremblay	WWII	Post 120 – Rangeley	Leon J Corl	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Raymond M Parent	Other	Post 120 – Rangeley	Brian Ellis	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Robert E Buck	Korea	Post 122 – Jackman	James D Murtha	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Frank W Broadbent Sr	Korea	Post 127 – Limestone	Wilfred E Berube	WWII
Post 21 – Bath	Richard Kingsbury	Korea	Post 128 – Standish	Willard T Boothby	Korea
Post 23 – Baileyville	Norman E Richard	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Mark A Dearborn	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 23 – Baileyville	Donald L Moore	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Ellery R Labbe	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	Francis W Pike	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Joseph J Charette	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert J Marcellino	Korea	Post 139 – Harrison	Philip H Denison	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert H Worthley	WWII	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Ronald L Benner	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	James H Adams	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Lowell B Wallace	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Gerard T Hamner	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Maynard A Nash	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Owen E Morton	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Richard T Stretton	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Leslie B Knapp	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Ralph L Sylvester	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard W Kreis	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Roger Doiron	Other
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Frank Howard	Vietnam	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Clarence Littlefield	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	Robert E Hoppe	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Rexford I Kelley	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Roger F Blake	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Ed C Burns	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	James A Black	Vietnam	Post 158 – Lisbon	Kenneth M Chase	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Grant W Ward Sr	Korea	Post 161 – Portland	Michael Montecalvo	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Galen A Howe	Vietnam	Post 161 – Portland	Stan Sanborn (passed in 2022)	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Carl F Kirner	Korea	Post 171 – Harpswell	Gareth S Anderson	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	John E Folsom	Vietnam	Post 176 – Eagle Lake	Ronald A Albert	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Samuel J Perry Jr	Vietnam	Post 176 – Eagle Lake	Wes Rankin	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Darrell E Ward	Vietnam	Post 177 – Dayton	Ronald E Stewart	Vietnam
Post 51 – Oakland	Raymond W Poulin	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Max L Hewett	Korea
Post 52 – Oakfield	Peter L Gerow	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Shubial L Kelley	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Robert C Fairfield	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Philip M Rhinelander	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Dana L Martin	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Donald D Wallace	Korea
Post 55 – Limerick	David L Snyder	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Aussie Munn	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Jack Meader	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Paul L Parker Sr	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Charles V Williams	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Walter K Cragin	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Raymond A Booker	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	William Tsonis	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Thomas R Caron	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Ralph I Danis	Korea
Post 62 – Westbrook	Robert E Barton	Korea	Post 180 – St. Francis	Ervin Ouellette	Korea
Post 63 – Ellsworth	James W Thibodeau	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Michael M Kilmartin	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	William H O’Neil (Bill)	Vietnam	Post 199 – Peru	Mark E Palmer	Vietnam
Post 75 – Old Town	James H Robertson	Vietnam/Panama/Lebanon/Grenada	Post 202 – Topsham	James Lewis	Vietnam
Post 75 – Old Town	Arnold V Stanwood	Korea	Post 207 – Trenton	Thomas H Jordan	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Donald E Whitley	Vietnam	Post 214 – Lebanon	Carl Lee Chapman	Vietnam

Attention: Next Deadline is July 19

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **August 2024** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **July 19, 2024**.

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

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

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

We are once again asking for input from all posts, auxiliary units, S.A.L. squadrons, individuals, etc. To make this paper

informative to you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

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

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at: (207) 873-3229 or via email at: legionme@mainelegion.org or rachael@mainelegion.org

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American Legion
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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

Annual State Convention
June 7-8, 2024 | Brewer, ME
Preregistration required!

Plan now to join us at our Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer, June 7-8. The American Legion, Department of Maine Commander Alfred McKay will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 7.

Presentation awards to the 2023-24 award recipients will be formally acknowledged and special guests, including Maine's Congressional Delegation have been invited to address this year's convention on behalf of The American Legion. (See page 12 for the tentative agenda).

The convention's main focus will be for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year, to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

Preregistration is required for all delegates, alternates, members, and guests. The registration fee is \$10/person which covers both sessions to be held June 7-8. To preregister, please visit <https://mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/state-convention.php> or scan the QR code. Please note, that special guests and award recipients DO NOT have to register.

If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to wear your Legion cap, and bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card.

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



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St. John's Post CN09 Visit: Post CN09 in St. John's, NL Canada had a visit by the Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate, Halifax NS on Apr. 4. He brought information related to voting from out of country, how to access VA benefits in Canada, and passport renewal. He also brought worn U.S. flags from the Consulate for the Post to properly dispose of. While here, the Consular Chief also presented Richard Meese's 50 Year Membership Certificate. Front row, left to right, Terry Clower, Robert Cobb, U.S. Consular Chief Daniel Bingham-Pankratz, Richard Meese and Ray Reiser. Back row, left to right, George Walter and John Walther.

DISCLAIMER

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

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