



THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 38th Edition of The Leadership Ledger. It includes Post, Dept. and Nat'l reports, leadership training events, upcoming conferences/conventions as well as rules and regulations pertaining to local, state and national laws. The Ledger is available by visiting the Department's website at www.mainelegion.org under "News & Events" or on the home page. If you have any information to be published in The Leadership Ledger, please forward to Department HQ via email at legionme@mainelegion.org.

MILITARY TRIVIA:

Q. Of the 116,000 servicemen who died in WWI, what the greatest cause of death?

Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

VETERAN'S EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEFAP)

Do you know of a veteran in your community in need of assistance? Someone who during these challenging times just needs a little help to keep them going? Maybe a veteran that is homeless? Or worst of all, a homeless veteran with children? If so, we want to remind you that The American Legion, Department of Maine can assist you to help these

veterans during their difficult and troubling times. You can call us at 207-873-3229 Ext. 3 or visit our website: <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/resources/va-resources.php>

We will contact you as soon as possible and we hope to enable you to help veterans in need.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected – Be Heard – Be Informed

Upcoming District Meetings

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 13, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m. PC and PP dinner, nomination of Officers.

District 12 – Hancock: Apr. 11, Ellsworth Post 63, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg. (2nd Monday Mtg. held at VFW Post 109)

District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 20, Brownville Jct. Post 92, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 17, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 11, Frenchville Post 145, refreshments 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Nominations.

MAINE LEGION COLLEGE CLASS FOR 2021

We are currently working on the next Maine Legion College Classes for the 2021 year. As in the past, you have to make a commitment but we know that you will gain much from these classes and from other Legionnaires from all over the State of Maine.

ONLY 9 MORE SPOTS AVAILABLE. This is the schedule we will follow:

Classes start at 8:30 a.m. each day

Phase 1: April 24 & 25

Phase 2: July 24 & 25

Phase 3: Sept. 25 & 26

To attend these classes, you must first go online at: www.legion.org/alei and complete the Basic Training Course. After completion, please forward a copy of the Certificate to us at State HQ. You may scan the document and send it by email to paul@mainelegion.org along with your **Name, Post No., and Cell Phone No.**

MYLEGION RELEASE APRIL 2021

Beginning April 1, American Legion members and Sons of the American Legion members can access their membership information online through myLegion. One account includes all areas of membership. Documentation and training information is in the final approval stages. An introduction to myLegion for members and officers will be given on Tuesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. Eastern.

This presentation will be recorded, and supporting documentation will also be provided to use at your conferences and conventions. Communication to current myLegion users will begin next week. The new myLegion site allows Legion and SAL members to view and manage their membership, print membership cards and provide additional information not required when joining.

Through their myLegion account they can also provide emergency contact information and save credit card information for online giving or subscriptions. Dual members have one account detailing both memberships. Officers who currently use myLegion for membership management and payment processing will access their group information through their member account. Adjutants and commanders will register myLegion accounts as members and are granted addition access to membership tools in an area called MY Groups. Non-members can also create myLegion accounts with their email addresses. This allows a non-member of TAL or SAL to assist your post with membership tools. An account can be set up and permissions to post or squadron information by the administrative office.

CANDIDATE DEADLINE: MAY 12

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 12, 2021 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June.

If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 23, 2021. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the "Basic Training Course" previously named the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course.

Please visit <https://www.legion.org/alei> to complete the course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

ELECTION GUIDANCE 2021

The goals of this Election Guidance are to conduct efficient, forthright elections at the Post level while maintaining protection of people attending and working the ballot box.

Each American Legion Post is autonomous and should make every effort to follow individual Post constitution and bylaws while making efforts to follow pandemic safety protocols according to state guidance.

Things to consider:

Crowd density- if you have a Post that historically has a high voting population consider having one entrance and one exit, consider drive-thru voting, etc.

Offer hand sanitizer and clean pens.

Always wear masks and maintain 6' distances.

Limit duration of event.

Each Post is set up differently and there are many variables to consider.

Designate an area of your Post for voting separate from other rooms with activity that day.

Minimize crowding, keep the flow of voters spaced while in line and while sitting/waiting.

Attempt to have in-person elections to keep members involved. Most Posts are big enough to accommodate, or have drive thru capacity, to make elections as transparent as possible. Limit email voting if possible.

Avoid creating new processes that are not covered by your bylaws, utilize the Post Executive Committee to make decisions that are in gray areas and feel free to contact me with any questions or guidance (Jason.T.Hall@maine.gov).

We understand these are challenging times and changes to our norm. Do your best to maintain a legal, safe election.

Again, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, curve balls.

*For God and Country,
Jason T. Hall,
Department of Maine Judge Advocate
Jason.T.Hall@Maine.Gov
207-522-5471*

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the American Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state and local levels. In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth. Follow this link to get more information

<https://www.legion.org/publications/160931/april-children-youth-month>.

DENTAL CLINIC FOR MAINE VETERANS

University of New England Westbrook College of Health Professions, Department of Dental Hygiene is offering \$15 teeth cleanings for Maine Veterans To Honor our Veterans. The University of New England's Dental Hygiene Clinic in Portland will offer Veterans discounted teeth cleanings for \$15, along with free dental exams and fluoride varnish and 50% off all other services from March 2nd until April 9th, 2021. Veterans must have a valid VALID card, Maine driver's license/state ID with a military service designation or a DD-214. To book your appointment, please call the University of New England at 207-221-4900. UNE is a teaching clinic and educational environment, so appointments will require more time than a typical visit. Please note that X-rays are an additional cost and fillings are not available at this clinic. For Additional Information about the UNE clinic, please visit <https://www.une.edu/wchp/dental/patient-info>.

Due to COVID-19, patients must be able to wear a mask while on campus and in the clinic lobby. If you cannot comply, we would be happy to see you when the pandemic is over. Thank you in advance for keeping our community healthy. The University of New England Dental Hygiene Clinic is located at: The Coleman Dental Hygiene Building, behind the UNE College of Pharmacy building 716 Stevens Ave, Portland, ME 04103 or use 684 Stevens Ave, Portland Maine in your mapping software.



WHAT VETERANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING VACCINE FROM VA

As an influx of veterans seek the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available at Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, many want clarity on when and where they will be able to get their vaccines. Under a plan developed by VA in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and federal guidelines, VA is disseminating the vaccine through a phased plan.

According to VA, the phased plan will enable it “to do the most good for the most people” during this time.

Under the current plan, VA health-care personnel, veterans living in VA long-term care facilities and veterans who are at higher risk for serious complications or death due to COVID-19 are able to get their vaccines now. These high-risk veterans include those with chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, in-patient spinal cord injuries and disorders, and those with comorbidities. Additionally, family caregivers who are enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers are eligible for vaccination when the veteran they care for becomes eligible, according to VA.

For more information and to determine if you’re eligible to receive your COVID-19 vaccine from VA, [visit this web page](#). Additionally, veterans can find their local VA health facility and its current plan by [visiting this VA page](#).

Due to a larger percentage of high-risk patients within the VA health-care system compared to the general public, it may take longer for veterans not at an increased risk to receive their vaccine. In some instances, it may be faster for a veteran to receive a vaccine through their state rather than through VA. You can find information on [your state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan here](#).

“The American Legion has the utmost confidence in VA to balance the vaccine rollout, while prioritizing the most vulnerable veterans and health-care providers,” said Mario Marquez, director of The American Legion’s Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. “VA has assured us they will provide this balance with site-specific resources, needs, availability and local status of the pandemic.”

In order to be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through VA, a veteran must be enrolled in

the VA health-care system. However, veterans attempting to enroll in VA health care for the first time who fall into category 8g, will not be eligible for the vaccine as they are also not currently eligible for VA health care. This is due to a VA change in policy from 2003 which removed 8g eligibility as these veterans do not have a service-connected disability and their income exceeds the allotted amount to qualify for VA coverage.

The American Legion supports 8g reintegration into VA health care. At the 2016 National Convention, the [National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 2](#) that called for the reinstatement by VA.

“The American Legion stands behind providing access to VA health care to veterans regardless of their economic status,” Jeff Steele, an associate in the National Legislative Division, told the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Dec. 2, 2020.

The American Legion is also on record in recent testimony, supporting legislation that calls for standing up a bipartisan commission on veterans health-care eligibility and benefits design.

As more vaccines become available, VA plans to offer free COVID-19 vaccines to all veterans receiving VA health care who want one. If you are a veteran who is not currently enrolled or receiving health care through VA, [visit this web page to apply](#).

For additional information, contact an American Legion service officer who is specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. To find a service officer near you [click here](#).

*The American Legion
February 3, 2021*



DONATIONS

American Legion Department of Maine Foundation

Gary Dolloff, Rumford Post 24 \$ 25.00
Dani & Jim Berget \$150.00

American Legion Department of Maine

General Fund

Donald Bishop, Headquarters Post 178 \$ 20.00
Richard O'Donnell, Westbrook Post 197 \$ 10.00



FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE

Now Available in Digital and PDF format!

[Check out the Digital Version by clicking here!](#)
[Check out the PDF Version by clicking here!](#)

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

If you are a Past Post Commander of The American Legion, Department of Maine and have not yet paid your annual dues to the Past Commander Club in support of the James V. Day Scholarship, please do so as soon as possible.

Visit the Maine Legion website <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication.s.php> and click on the **Past Commanders Club (Fillable)** form under Membership/Post Forms & Manuals. Mail form along with \$2.00 per member to The American Legion, Past Commanders Club, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

It is because of you, and the members and officers of your Post that The American Legion, Department of Maine can authorized 2 students to

receive a \$500 scholarship each year. Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORTS

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on <https://www.legion.org/membership/impact> provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities.

American Legion Posts can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities by [submitting consolidated post reports online](#). To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit <https://www.legion.org/bythenumbers>

<https://www.legion.org/membership/impact>.



MISSION BLUE POST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, Resolution #36, Subject: Mission Blue Post Assistance Program was approved. Posts impacted by a government's public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to \$1,000. Posts must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A post must have a current consolidated post report on file.
- A post must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
- A post must have filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the departments.
- A post must have actively participated in one or more The American Legion(s) within the last 18 months.
- A post must have a financial need.
- A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American National Headquarters as an

additional insured (copy of insurance declaration will be attached to application).

- A post must provide documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated. The funds from this grant program shall be used exclusively for the following: Current and past due mortgage principal and interest or Current and past due real estate rents or Current and past due insurance premiums or Current and past due utilities.

The American Legion posts receiving this grant are required to submit a true and accurate report outlining how the funds were used, signed by the post finance officer, and certified by the post commander or post adjutant within six-months of receipt of the grant funds or no later than February 22, 2022. Whichever comes first.

To access instructions and application [Click Here](#) or visit

[https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission Blue PAP Application 1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission%20Blue%20PAP%20Application%201.pdf)

Mission Blue Post Assistance Program Grant App is also available by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php> under Membership/Post Forms & Manuals. Also made available is the MISSION BLUE CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INS – EXAMPLE which is required when submitting the Mission Blue App.

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TAKE NOTICE!

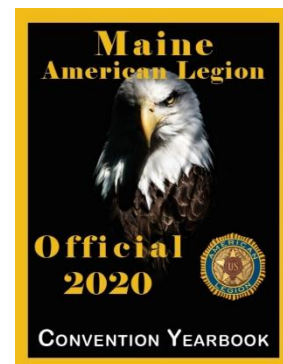
Maine American Legion welcomes all of you to be part of the Official 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook

Showcase your Post, District, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter by sponsoring ad space in the 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook. Individual donations are also welcomed and appreciated with all individual and business names listed in the “Business & Individual Donors” page of the yearbook.

To donate or sponsor ad space in the 2021 Convention Yearbook in support of Maine Veterans, please [click here](#) to download a copy of the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form and follow specifications & submission instructions. You may also visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the image of Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Request Form.

For questions or assistance in submitting your ad, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

Click on the image below or visit www.mainelegion.org and check out the **Digital Version** of the Maine American Legion 2020 Convention Yearbook!



COMPUTER 101



Computer 101 is a resource aiming to help those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today's world. Increased proficiency with computers and the Internet has positive outcome across all fronts, both personally and professionally.

What does BCC mean & what is it for when sending Email Messages?

BCC stands for Blind Carbon Copy. It is best to use the **BCC** feature for security and privacy reasons when *sending an email* message to a large number of people. When you place *email* addresses in the ***BCC*** field of a message, those addresses are invisible to the recipients of the *email*. Conversely, any email addresses that you place in the To field or the CC field are visible to everyone who receives the message.

MILITARY TRIVIA:

A. ...the Flu killed more military personnel than combat, plus they brought it home to Kansas, where it wreaked havoc throughout the country when it escaped the base & killed more than 195,000 Americans in October, 1918 alone.

Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!



Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, or by check/money order in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 S/H. Make check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased. Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. All proceeds go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion. For questions, please call State HQ at 207-873-3229.

SPRING EQUINOX FAQs

Q: DOES SPRING BEGIN ON MARCH 1 OR ON THE EQUINOX?

A: Well, both. The answer depends on your definition of “spring.” Both dates are accurate; they’re just from different perspectives. We’ll explain ...

Astronomically speaking, the first day of spring is marked by the spring equinox, which falls on **March 19, 20, or 21** every year. The equinox happens at the same moment worldwide, though our clock times reflect a different time zone. And, as mentioned above, this date only signals spring’s beginning in the Northern Hemisphere; it announces fall’s arrival in the Southern Hemisphere. For more interesting information about the Spring Equinox, follow this link at The Old Farmer’s Almanac: <https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-spring-vernal-equinox>



WHEN IS THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING?

In 2021, the March equinox happens on **Saturday, March 20, at 5:37 A.M. EDT**. In the Northern Hemisphere, this date marks the start of the spring season.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – INFORMATION- F or a complete listing of up-to-date information, cancellations and rescheduled events, please visit www.mainelegion.org or click the following link: [CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) – INFORMATION Including Cancellations & Rescheduled Events](#)