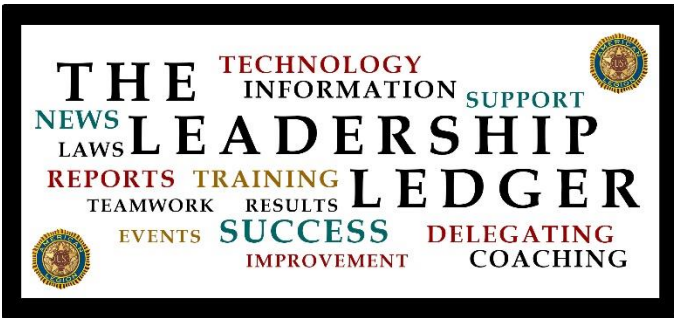




THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 14th 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.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – INFORMATION

The American Legion Department of Maine wants to let you know that **we are here for you** during these uncertain times. Our staff and department officers are working diligently to keep our organization running smoothly and support you with any issues that arise. We are also working to keep you up-to-date on any important information regarding the current Coronavirus pandemic and how it affects you as a member, our Posts and our Department.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS:
Department of Maine Headquarters Office will be closed, but some of our staff will be working remotely until further notice or when it is safe to

reopen. Voicemail messages relating to Department, Post or District should be left by calling 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 and messages relating to Veterans Assistance should call 207-754-6044. All emails should be sent to legionme@mainelegion.org. During this time all Posts are encouraged to process their membership using the **MyLegion.org** website. However, for those Posts that do not use MyLegion.org, please continue to process membership manually and mail to Department Headquarters where staff will process as soon as they can. Please visit www.mainelegion.org for more up-to-date information and resources.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Please refer to current up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 by visiting www.mainelegion.org or by clicking on the following link [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#)
Please note: all information pertaining to COVID-19 doesn't always refer to your Post. Thank you.

Election of Officers: If your Post or District was scheduled to have a meeting for the purpose of election of officers and was cancelled due to the COVID-19, Posts and Districts are to continue with the current officers until the election of new officers takes place. Further information to follow after DEC Meeting on April 11.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Be Connected – Be Heard – Be Informed

Due to COVID-19 ALL District Meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO COVID-19

Please visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#) for cancellations and rescheduled events.

BUDDY CHECKS MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING PANDEMIC

Please click on the following link [Buddy Checks Making a Difference During Pandemic](#) which includes [Your guide to starting and making Buddy Checks](#) and [Toolkit can help posts conduct Buddy Checks during the pandemic](#)

BUDDY CHECK: WELLNESS CHECK-INS WITH VETERANS

As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities.

The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.



**** Most American Legion Post Adjutants have received a packet of expired members to possibly renew their membership. Please use these in conjunction of the Buddy Check Program to help increase membership at your Post and the Department of Maine. ****

How do I organize a Buddy Check?

1. **Gather up a team** if possible to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 contacts just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
2. If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, **visit [myLegion.org](#) and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.**
3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. **Print several copies of the lists.**
4. **Divide up the call list among your team members.** Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
5. **Start making connections** – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing,

ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.

6. Make sure you **thank the member or former member** in the beginning and at the end of your call.

7. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to **have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips**, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).

8. **Leave contact information** in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

Sample Scripts

Using scripts makes it easy for your team to make buddy checks on members and former members. Use these scripts, modify them or draft your own before reaching out. Remember, the most important part of the call is to see if the veteran and family are OK, if the Legion can help and to invite them to celebrate any planned centennial events or activities.

DOWNLOAD SAMPLE SCRIPTS WORKSHEET

Answers to FAQs

When you speak to an expired member or a veteran eligible for membership, they may ask the question: "What does the Legion do?" You can be prepared with quick answers that apply at the national, department and local level using this worksheet:

DOWNLOAD FAQs WORKSHEET

Reports

To assist you in your efforts, expired members lists can be easily retrieved from the **Report Server** on myLegion.org

Step 1:

Select "Reports/Labels" on the left-hand menu.

Step 2:

Posts - Open Post Reports folder, click on Revitalization folder to see: Un_Renewed Letters, Un_Renewed_Labels, and Un_Renewed Roster
Districts – Open District Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing
Counties – Open County Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing

https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck?utm_source=delivra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=031920_ALOU&utm_id=39261980

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[Agricultural Resource Development Division](#)

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry (DACF) to provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, mostly food pantries and soup kitchens, which in turn distribute the food directly serve the public. DACF currently collaborates with over 250 participating organizations to combat food insecurity in Maine.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/index.shtml>



FIGHTING TO THE FINISH LINE, FOR THE FOUNDATION



TEAM FUNDRAISER

Matthew Jabaut and Caroline Yarmala are organizing



this fundraiser on behalf of American Legion Department of Maine Foundation. Donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please join Team Caroline as she fights to the finish line of the Boston Marathon to benefit the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation by clicking here or visit



<http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/fundraising-events.php> to place your contribution today to a cause that means so much!

MARATHON- Why I Run:

I run to feel the Music
I run to feel the fresh Air
I run to forget the Rage
I run to forget the Anxiety
I run to embrace the Time
I run to embrace the Honor
I run to remember the Oath
I run to remember the Need
I run this **MARATHON** for the future of the Maine American Legion
~ Caroline Yarmala

A unique opportunity and the bonds of family and friends give way to a hope for the future.

If you would prefer to donate by check, please make payable to **American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** earmarked "marathon run" and mail to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901.

BOSTON MARATHON POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2020

DONATIONS

Peter Johnson-\$100; Ronda Lecompte-\$25; Sherree Paradis-\$100; Julie Dussinger-\$100; Peter Jabaut-\$100 Denise Tepler-\$50; David Tanguay-\$500; Joanne Ottman-\$50; Russell Jabaut-\$100; Joseph Yarmala-\$100; Nicolas Hamlin-\$1,000; Nancy Laffin-\$30; Jonathan Robertson-\$20; Tracy Grieves-\$40; Paul L'Heureux-\$500; Patricia Thurston-\$100; Jason Hall-\$50, Penobscot County District 13-\$48, Sherman Lahaie Jr.-\$100; John Perrino-\$100

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 by filling out the attached form or visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplication.s.php> and click on the Past Commanders Club (Fillable) form. 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!

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB DUES

Thank you to the following posts who sent in their dues to sponsor James V. Day Scholarship:

Post 20 - Brunswick
Post 34 - Tenants Harbor
Post 41- Milo
Post 50 - Unity
Post 59 - Pembroke
Post 94 - Greenville
Post 132 - Richmond
Post 148 - Windham
Post 197 - Westbrook

Post 24 - Rumford
Post 40 - Winthrop
Post 49 - Van Buren
Post 58 - Buckfield
Post 72 - So. Paris
Post 181 - Litchfield
Post 147 - Madawaska
Post 153 - Auburn
Post 216 - Phippsburg

THE DETACHMENT COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICHARD L. HUNTLEY NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Eastern Region of the Sons of The American Legion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to introduce to you our newest Candidate for high office of the Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander. He has served as Squadron Commander, District Commander, many of Detachment offices including Detachment Commander. Currently he serves as our National Executive Committeeman, our own Richard “Dickie” Huntley.

I am recalling my own campaign for National Vice Commander and can tell you that it requires quite a bit of funds to pursue this high office in the Sons of The American Legion. It took \$10,000.00 to successfully achieve that goal. It remains the going rate and obviously he won’t be able to do this alone and will need some help from the entire Department Maine American Legion Family.

I am asking that all squadrons send a donation to Dickie or if your Squadron can run a fundraiser or raffle on his behalf. If all Squadrons, or even perhaps Units or even Posts could assist in any way it would be greatly appreciated. You will see some fundraisers being advertised from our committee from time to time and would appreciate your involvement in that. Please send all funds to Richard Huntley at 38 Whale Cove Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655.

As a matter of fact, we have T- Shirts available.



Attached you will see them front and back. They are available in Forest Green and Navy Blue and cost \$20.00 apiece. Get every color. I think in

the future there will be polo shirts in those colors but are not available yet.

I am very pleased to be able to give you this news and hope for your support for this candidate. It is not often that we, in the State of Maine, have the opportunity to assist one of our own to aspire to this lofty goal. I am positive that he will perform well and with our support he should represent this Detachment in an admirable way. If you should have a fundraising event or would like a visit from Dickie or myself, feel free to contact him or me Don Allisot, P O Box 438, Woolwich, ME. 04579, Phone (207) 751-2109.
Yours in Srvice,

*Don Allisot
Chairman, Committee to Elect Dickie Huntley*

SAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Reminder: Due to covid-19 the SAL membership target dates below have been changed:

90% - **May 13, 2020**

100% - **June 17, 2020**

Sal delegate strength target date – July 29, 2020 (*no change from previous*)

The 3rd (final) 2020 SAL renewal notice will be mailed out on April 24, 2020

*The American Legion National Headquarters will be closed on April 10th in observance of Good Friday.



SUPPORT VETERANS IN THE STATE OF MAINE BY PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS WITH MAINE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion, Department of Maine will be taking a new direction this year to improve our Annual State Convention Yearbook. Various changes will take place including the format of the publication as well as a digital copy which will be made available online at www.mainelegion.org. To submit your sponsorship ad and payment, click on the above image of the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form. A fillable form is also available for printing by clicking on the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form-Fillable.

**ATTENTION
ALL LEGIONNAIRES!!!**

Please **HELP** spread the word in promoting the Yearbook Program in support of Maine Veterans especially during this time of crisis to local businesses in and around your area. The Department of Maine is requesting all the support it can get to help make this program a success this year.

DONATIONS WELCOMED!!!

No time to create an ad! We also welcome individual and business donations!

Please consider donating today to make a difference in support of our Maine Veterans by clicking on the DONATIONS CONVENTION YEARBOOK BUTTON below.



*****All contributions will be listed in our Annual State Convention Yearbook which will be made available online at www.mainelegion.org.*****

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

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MAINE LEGION COLLEGE CLASS FOR 2020

We are currently working on the next Maine Legion College Classes for the 2020 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.

This is the schedule we will follow:
Classes start at 8:30 a.m. each day

- Phase 1: July 18 & 19
- Phase 2: Sept. 19 & 20
- Phase 3: TBD

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.** From that point, you will be included in the class starting on July 18 and we will communicate by email with any information we need to pass on.

CURRENT CPR SUBMISSIONS

Department Leadership,

As you are aware, another goal of National Commander Oxford is for 100% Posts reporting of the Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). For years there has been no reporting more significant than 70%.

The CPR is a record of accomplishments over the entire Legion year; many posts have already submitted. As of today, we have received and recorded **1,009 CPRs** from our **12,632** American Legion posts for a completion rate of **8%**. Each week Commander Oxford gets an update on membership and programs. Starting next week, he will also receive the update of the CPR numbers.

I would ask you to remind the posts that while many of us are at a standstill, now would be a great time to get the CPR reports submitted online via myLegion.org.

#Staysafe. Thank you, “**Veterans Strengthening America**”

*Kevin Mook
Member Engagement Coordinator
Internal Affairs & Membership Division*

MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT - FEBRUARY

Refer to the attached February Membership Impact Report.

CHALLENGING TIMES DURING COVID-19

What is your Post doing during these challenging times? Please forward unique stories to Department HQ for publication in the Maine Legionnaire newspaper as well as a possible story for National Headquarters.

LEGION MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

Due to covid-19 and the struggles we have all been facing, the remaining target dates have changed to the following:

95% - MAY 13, 2020

100% - JUNE 17, 2020

DELEGATE STRENGTH – JULY 24, 2020

The 6th and final renewal notice will still be extracted as scheduled so please continue to send in the membership dues that you have received.

The American Legion National Headquarters will be closed on April 10th in observance of Good Friday.

UPDATE - VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

New Procedures at VA National Cemeteries due to COVID-19

Dear Partners:

NCA will only conduct committal services for groups of 10 or fewer people. As of Monday, March 23, Committal Services (including honors) will not be conducted until further notice. Both of these announcements, especially the latter, will impact Military Honors. Additionally volunteer honors are discontinued (i.e. American Legion, VFW, etc).

NCA cemeteries are open for visitation, and families CAN choose to have a burial and witness it from a distance (the ten or fewer people rule applying) but without honors and without a committal service. Families CAN also have a committal service at a future time if they choose to go with immediate burial at an NCA cemetery.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, thank you for your steadfast support of America’s Veterans and their families. Together we will come out of this trying time stronger and better.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Provost
Outreach Officer/Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Liaison-Public Affairs
and Outreach
Office of Engagement and Memorial Innovations (OEMI)
National Cemetery Administration (NCA)
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
lawrence.provost@va.gov, 202-632-7212 (o)

2020 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL - UPDATE

American Legion Regional Tournaments & American Legion World Series Cancelled Awarding American Legion Baseball & Samsung American Legion Scholarships Suspended

With the unpredictability of the current worldwide COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the manner in which the virus spreads, its duration and the resulting public health regulations and restrictions across the nation, The American Legion is facing an improbable situation. The Americanism Commission, in consultation with National Commander James William “Bill” Oxford, announces cancellation of all 2020 American Legion Baseball national tournaments, inclusive of all eight 2020 Regional Tournaments and the 2020 American Legion World Series. The awarding of American Legion Baseball scholarships and Samsung American Legion Scholarships for 2020 have also been completely suspended (Samsung American Legion Scholarships awarded in years prior to 2020 will continue to be paid out to students upon their requests to receive their funds).

Many baseball coaches are unable to complete prerequisite league play scheduled between May and July due to the closure of schools and playing facilities across the nation. In August, more than 500 players, coaches and volunteer staff are scheduled to travel and participate in eight regional tournaments and the American Legion World Series, collectively attracting thousands of fans and spectators. Many of these individuals are of a high-risk demographic.

Currently, there are 32 American Legion Boys State and 9 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs who have found it necessary to cancel their 2020 programs due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, with several more having indicated that cancellation is probable. It is through the Boys State and Girls State programs that youth are afforded eligibility to

apply for Samsung American Legion Scholarships. Many, many Boys State and Girl State delegates did not pursue their applications for 2020 Samsung American Legion Scholarships as a result of the scores of Boys State and Girls State program cancellations.

The decision to cancel was extremely difficult but deemed necessary, first and foremost in the interest of health and safety, and in the face of uncertainty. As Americanism Commission Richard Anderson noted, “These times are unparalleled. And while it is distressing to think of all those youth across the nation who are disappointed to learn of the cancellation of American Legion programs this year, it would be a much, much greater tragedy if even just one of those youth were to fall ill during a program. The Americanism Commission feels this is the right thing to do.”

All questions concerning this, should be directed to Americanism Director Jill Druskis at jdruskis@legion.org.

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

Follow this link to read the Newsletter. [American Legion Training Newsletter March/April 2020](#)

STATE DIRECTORY

The image below contains the link to The American Legion, Department of Maine State Directory. To follow the link just click on the image or visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/directory.php>

