Welcome to the 4th 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. All events will be posted on Department’s website by visiting www.mainelegion.org or by pressing the POST EVENTS image. All events will also be uploaded on the 1st and 3rd week of each month and must be forwarded to Department HQ via email at legionme@mainelegion.org.

HOLIDAY REMINDER
The Department Headquarters Office and Service Office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 27 and will remain closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

DISTRICT MEETINGS
Be Connected – Be Heard – Be Informed

District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 8, Yarmouth Post 91, 2 p.m. Annual holiday party/gift exchange
District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 17, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m., appoint nominating committee. District Christmas party
District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21, South Paris Post 72, 7 p.m. Oratorical contest, refreshments after.
District 6 – Knox: Nov. 23, Thomaston Post 37, 10 am
District 7 – Lincoln: Jan. 6, Boothbay Harbor Post 36, 5:30 p.m.
District 8 – Sagadahoc: Nov. 24, Harpswell Post 171, 1 pm, annual workshop
District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 11, Augusta Post 205, 7 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 8, South China Post 179, 7 p.m.
District 11 – Waldo: Jan. 19, Belfast Post 43, 2 p.m.
District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 12, Northeast Harbor Post 103, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

DISTRICT 1, 3, and 4, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DISTRICT CALENDARS ASAP. THANKS
THE AMERICAN LEGION WELCOMES PRESIDENT’S SIGNING OF POW/MIA FLAG ACT

The head of the nation’s largest Veterans organization thanked President Trump for signing a bipartisan act which will require certain prominent federal properties to display the POW/MIA Flag every day with the U.S. Flag.

“Yesterday I was humbled to stand with my fellow veterans inside the Oval Office and watch the president of the United States sign this symbolic but important legislation,” said American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford. “It is important that Americans never forget that there are still more than 82,000 men and women who were taken prisoner or never had a full accounting. The American Legion reveres their memory and will continue to honor them at all of our meetings. I plan to visit the headquarters of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency later this month to observe their work firsthand. DPAA does a remarkable job of identifying and repatriating so many heroes who paid the ultimate price for freedom. The American Legion is eager to explore additional ways to lend our support.”

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, Veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America’s veterans. The American Legion, www.legion.org, will be celebrating its centennial through Veterans Day.

Submitted by: National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford
(WASHINGTON, November 8, 2019)

LEADERSHIP-BUDGET-TEAMWORK

Holiday Baskets: Every year for Thanksgiving and Christmas the members of Post 35 in South Portland get together to pack baskets, banana boxes actually.

Each “basket” contains enough ingredients for a full holiday meat for a family. The full meal would consist of a Turkey with stuffing, Yams, Fresh and canned Vegetables, Puddings and Cake mixes with frosting, Flour, Sugar and fresh fruit.

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary at Post 35 has been packing baskets for the past 20 years. They started with 4 baskets and five years ago jumped to 20 baskets per Holiday. With the support of donations and now a budget Item from the Post, the process is running a lot smoother. On Monday, Dec. 23, there will be a collection of Legion and Auxiliary members going down the rows of tables adding this and that to each basket. The final item is of course the Turkey. The Post buys 48 turkeys and sends out 20 per Holiday. The remaining 4 are saved for future Suppers and emergencies. Purchasing in bulk get a lower per pound cost and aids in delivery. After the boxes are packed they will go to three locations for delivery to selected Vets. We work with the Maine Air National Guard, Northeast Sector Coast Guard and the Vets Center in Portland. These three organizations select who the baskets go to.

The experience of packing and shipping each basket is one of the reason we are in The American Legion
and it is part of our Preamble. “To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness”.

By South Portland Post 35 Adjutant
Michael R. Pock

FIRE PIT RAFFLE WINNER

Warren Post 218 held their Fire Pit drawing at the Maine State Prison on Nov. 15. The winner of the drawing was David Gray of Farmington, Maine. CONGRATULATIONS DAVID!

2020 MID WINTER CONFERENCE

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 18-19, 2020 at Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412. The conference will be hosted by Commander Matthew Jabaut and 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston. Hotel Reservations can be made at the following: Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101 Website: www.holidayinn.com, Room Rate: $93.00 (includes breakfast). Quality Inn: 250 Odlin Rd., Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-942-8272, Room Rate: $89.00. Fairfield Inn: 300 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-990-0001, Room Rate: $89.00. Please state “Legion” when calling for reservations. Please see attached files for more information and banquet reservations.

2020 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 8, 2020 at 9 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 10, 2020 at 9 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, the scholarships offered range from $50 - $1000, and at the State level $50 - $1500. At the national level, each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contests 1st round receives $2000 and those who advance through the 1st round get an additional $2000. The overall national contest winner gets a $20,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $17,000, and third gets $15,000.

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with both Area and District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2020 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2020.

The 2020 National Finals is April 17-19 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 19. Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 16, 2020.

For more information about the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairman Dale Midgley at 207-590-3532 | e-mail: midgleyd@earthlink.net. More information can be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org, your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the state and local Oratorical Contests by visiting National’s website at www.legion.org/oratorical.
THE MAINE LEGIONNAIRE SUBMISSIONS

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

As we continue to receive an overabundance of photos for publishing, we must have guidelines to follow. In order to publish any photo(s) received, effective immediately, the submitter must include the following: Who are the individuals in the photo (left to right), what the photo is about, and when and where the event took place. If the above mentioned is not provided, the photo will be returned to the submitter for clarification and submission of the required information.

Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or a photo please send via email to legionme@mainelegion.org or rachael@mainelegion.org or mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

MILITARY TRIVIA:
Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

During the peak of WWII, Bath Iron Works was able to build destroyers for the Navy at an incredible speed….what was their rate of output?

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

**U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

What are the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion?
Thanks to the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act), Congress expanded the current eligibility period to cover Dec. 7, 1941, to the present, and includes the current war campaigns. Previously, there were seven declared war periods. Now there are two, the current war period dating back to World War II and another war era covering World War I. No other restrictions to American Legion membership changed.

I'm currently on active duty. Am I eligible?
Yes, you are a veteran. All current active duty military are eligible for membership.

I didn’t retire from the military, but was on active duty during one of the qualifying time periods. Am I eligible?
Yes, you are a veteran. As long as you have served at least one day of federal active duty during any qualifying period, you are eligible for membership.

I served during one of the qualifying periods, but was never in a combat zone. Am I eligible?
Yes, you are a veteran. Location of active duty service is not a consideration for membership.

I'm currently in the National Guard/Reserve. My unit was activated under Title 10 orders during a qualifying time period. Am I eligible?
Yes, you are a veteran. Title 10 orders are issued by the Secretary of Defense and therefore are federal orders.

My National Guard unit was activated for crowd control under Title 32 orders during one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?
No. Title 32 orders are issued under a governor's authority, whereas Title 10 orders are issued from the Secretary of Defense.

**I'm currently a cadet at one of the U.S. Military Academies. Am I eligible?**
Yes, you are a veteran. The American Legion has considered service in the military academies as eligible for membership since WWI.

**Can I be an honorary or social member of The American Legion?**
No. Per National Constitution and By-laws, no form or class of membership is authorized except regular active or paid up for life.

**I served my entire military career in the National Guard/Reserves, and only have a DD214 from my Active Duty for Training that I was in during one of the qualifying dates. Am I eligible?**
Yes, you are a veteran. In the mid-60s all basic training and occupational training schools were considered federal active duty service.

**I served active duty as a SPAR, WAC, WASP, or WAVES during the one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**
Yes, you are a veteran. Even though women served separately than men, their service is equal.

**I served with allied military forces during one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**
Yes, you are a veteran, only if you were a U.S. citizen at the time of entry.

**I served with the Civil Air Patrol/Civilian Technical Corps/USPHS as a civilian during two qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**
No. Eligible members must have federal military service during a qualifying period and received an honorable discharge or discharge under honorable conditions.

**I enlisted and went to basic training, but received an uncharacterized discharge due to a medical condition. Am I eligible?**
Yes, you are a veteran. Uncharacterized discharges for medical discharges are assumed to be under honorable conditions unless specifically stated otherwise. There are other categories of uncharacterized discharges and before they are determined eligible for membership the discharge should be sent to National for determination and a record will be maintained at National on final determination.

**I'm eligible for The American Legion, but do not have a copy of my DD214 to show as proof of eligibility. How can I get one?**
You can go to [archives.gov/veterans](http://archives.gov/veterans) to request another copy of your discharge papers. A copy of orders putting you on federal active duty can be used as proof of eligibility as well.

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**Answer to Military Trivia: They could build a destroyer every 17 days.**

**Best Wishes to the Legion Family,**

Paul L’Heureux
Department Adjutant

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](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/directory.php)