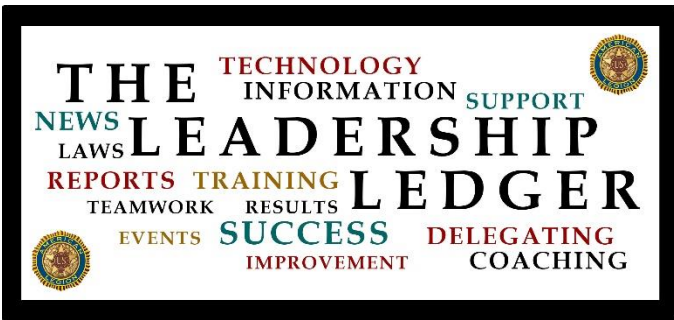




THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



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 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 14, 7 p.m. Richmond Post 132

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

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 11, Madwaska Post 147 1 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. 18 & 19

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.**

Welcome to the 39th 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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

June 11-13, 2021

Jeff's Catering & Event Center
 15 Littlefield Way
 Brewer, Maine 04412

[Member/Guest Registration Form & Elected Post Delegate/Alternate Form](#)

Please see the Member/Guest Registration and Post Delegate/Alternate Registration form. All elected delegates and alternates are to fill out the Post Delegate and Alternate form. If you are not a Delegate/Alternate, please fill out the Member/Guest Registration form.

YOUR NAME SHOULD ONLY APPEAR ON ONE FORM. FEE/PERSON IS \$10.



**THE 2021 AMERICAN
LEGION FAMILY DIRIGO
STATE PROGRAM
CANCELLED FOR 2021**



**POST & SQUADRON
OFFICERS TAKE NOTICE!**

**My Legion.org Update: Membership
Processing**

Each year brings new and exciting challenges related to the experience that we offer to the delegates, but I think it is fair to say that these past thirteen months have been unlike any other in regard to our preparations and planning.

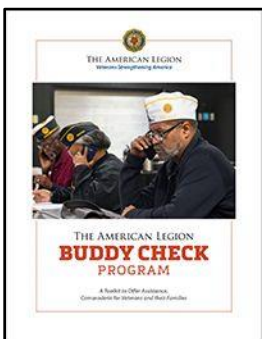
The cancellation of both Dirigo Boys State and Dirigo Girls State last summer, gave The Legion Family an opportunity to enhance the experience for the delegates of Boys and Girls State youth leadership programs. Based on direct student feedback, || Please [click here](#) for more information and cancellation of Dirigo State.

When the new myLegion site goes live, all accounts are MEMBER accounts. This includes Legion and SAL members. The first requirement to access post and squadron data is to create a myLegion member account using the email address on your membership record. The new myLegion Home page will look like the image above. It provides links to your subscriptions, discounts and resources. MY ACCOUNT provides more information about your own membership. Please click [Video Presentation](#), [PowerPoint](#) / [Q&A](#) to learn more.

MILITARY TRIVIA:

Q. What do the various poses of a horse mounted military statue indicate?

Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



**TOOLS FOR
BUDDY CHECK
TEAMS**

**The American Legion's
Buddy Check Program**

Explanation of the program, steps to conduct a successful Buddy Check program,

sample scripts and more are available for use by members and posts. [The American Legion's Buddy Check program \(PDF\)](#)



**NEW
IMPROVEMENTS
FOR
MYLEGION.ORG**

The newly designed website and user interface improvements will provide enhanced membership benefits and tools to American Legion and Sons members, and post, district and department officers who are registered users of MyLegion.org. [Click HERE for details.](#)

MEANING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM

CANDIDATE DEADLINE:
MAY 12

Every part of The American Legion emblem has meaning. The emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun - giver of life, warmth and courage, and foe of the cold, darkness, fear and apprehension. In turn, each of the emblem's parts bears a meaning which no Legionnaire who wears the emblem should take lightly, and which he or she should know from the first moment it is put on. Why does the star signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars are fixed in the heavens. As the stars do not wander, so should The American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes.

Further, the words "The American Legion" demand that the wearer "shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions." There shines the emblem of The American Legion - your badge of pride, distinction, honor and service. Please visit <https://www.legion.org/emblem> for full details of each element of the emblem.



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.

EXCISE TAX VETS EXEMPTION BILL

Hearing will be held before the Tax Committee

April 13, 9 a.m. Visit here: [getPDF.asp \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/getPDF.asp)

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*

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.

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>.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Spring is the time of plans and projects. Some

old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat. Here are some sincere messages to mark the coming of spring.

- **Spring** has sprung! | ● Goodbye, winter! |
- **Wishing you** a bright, warm, and beautiful **Spring!** | ● **Spring** is in the air!
- **Happy First Day of Spring!** | ● Sending you warm **wishes** for a lovely sunny **Spring!** | ● Ring-a-ding-ding, it's the first day of **Spring!** |

DONATIONS

American Legion Department of Maine

General Fund

Joan Adams, Gray Post 86

\$ 20.00



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

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!

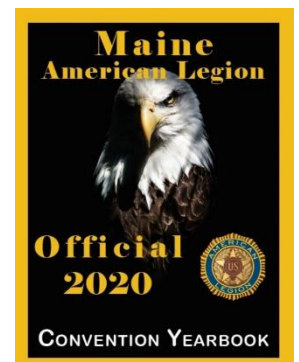
Maine American Legion welcomes all of you to be part of the Official 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook

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!



MILITARY TRIVIA:

A. If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.



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.

3 SIMPLE TIPS FOR USING EMAIL

We all use email, but, sometimes we use it too much or use it inappropriately. To get the most out of email we need to use it carefully and judiciously. These are 3 tips to get the most out of emailing.

1. Use different email accounts for different purposes.

It is good to have separate email accounts for separate purposes. For example, you may have one for business and one for social activities. This means you can check the personal email in the evening without having to think / worry about business. If you see an important message from your boss it could ruin your weekend or evening. At the end of the day you want to be able to get away from work. Don't allow email to make you a slave to work. Some people feel it is inconvenient to check 2 different email accounts. But the relative inconvenience is easily outweighed by the benefits.

2. Email is not always the best Form of contact.

If you have a really important issue or you are upset with someone, emailing is often not the best answer. If necessary speak to the person directly, rather than through an email.

3. Don't say anything you wouldn't say in person.

This advice has certainly been given before. But, it is always worth reminding ourselves about the

importance of being polite and avoiding unnecessary rudeness. We will regret it later. Email makes it easier to use harsh words because it is impersonal. We need to be very careful.

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.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – INFORMATION- For 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](#)