State Convention Offered Packed Agenda

The 95th Annual Department of Maine Convention was held at the Augusta Civic Center June 14, 15 and 16, 2013 with many events taking place. This year both the Legion and Auxiliary were fortunate to have had the National President of the Auxiliary, Peggy Thomas present as well as having the leading candidate for National Commander Dan Dellinger with us all weekend. The convention started with the Resolutions Committee meeting and public hearing on the eight resolutions submitted for action at the convention. After the public hearing, the committee went into executive session and discussed the various resolutions and what would be recommended to the general convention population on Saturday afternoon.

At 12 noon, Commander Bouchard called the convention to order in proper form. Past National Commander Tony Jordan welcomed the delegates to Augusta and wished each one a good convention. NEC Paul L’Heureux and NECA Brenda Dearborn gave an overview of the NEC May meetings attended by many. The delegates were greeted by City Mayor William Stokes and welcomed to the Augusta area. Baseball Chairman Chuck Berube and Maine Blind Camp Chairman Brian Knowlton both gave an overview of their respective programs. Governor Paul LePage and his wife Ann then greeted the delegates. Department Historian Tommy Adams followed the Governor and presented his History awards. Post History, aka Scrapbook, winners were: 1st Place Robert K. Phelps, New North Berwick, 2nd Place went toDeal Trepanier, Waterville and 3rd Place went to Dave Tanguay, Windham. For the Post History winner, Napoles-Casco-Raymond Memorial Post #155 received an honorable mention. Newsletter winners for Extra Large membership 1st Place went to Bourque-Lanigan Post #5, Waterville, Large Membership 1st Place to Emerson & Lane Post #132, Richmond, Medium Membership 1st Place to Veteran’s Memorial Post #205, Windham. For Membership 1st Place to Field Allen Post #148, Windham. The delegates were then greeted by Maine’s Senior Senator Susan Collins who thanked all those present for their service and for doing what we do every day. She gave the delegates some insight into the workings of what is going on in Washington and of her background coming from Caribou and her father’s service to our country during WWII. She was followed by Jim Doherty of Public Affairs VAMC Togus.

NECA Brenda Dearborn then introduced the Past Department Commanders and Past Legionnaires of the Year and then introduced the selection of the 2013 Legionnaire of the Year winner: Paul R. Lapierre, Berwick's Citizen of the Year in 2011, was selected by the Department of Maine as the 2013 Legionnaire of the Year from the 176 American Legion Posts in the State! This singular honor represents a first in the 91 year history of Charles S. Hatch Post #79, where members recently awarded Paul a 20 year member of the Legion, with an Honorary Life Membership earlier this year. In the nomination cover letter, Mark T. Pilgrim, Commander, Post #79, noted that Paul’s aspirations are to better serve veterans and the community doing so with an unselfish attitude and by dedicating himself to helping others.

Paul is a lifelong resident of Berwick save for his service in Korea where he rose to the rank of Army E-5 in two years. A Berwick Public Works employee for 36 years, Paul is a bonafide hero too for having saved the life of a fellow worker, for which he was cited by the Town of Berwick and Board of Selectmen and presented with a written commendation. Paul and his wife, Brian, who leads Auxiliary Unit #79, are deeply involved in their community and parish. Paul is Chairman of the Post’s Community and Veterans Support Committee, where he is focused on making Post #79 an outstanding contributor to the town of Berwick and area veterans. Paul was selected Berwick’s Citizen of the Year for his continuous efforts in support of the community. His community activities include greeting international departing and returning service personnel flights, directing church suppers and Funeral lunches, collecting and distributing donated food, raising money for local causes, acting as a non-related, court appointed guardian, assisting veterans with claims and making appointments and driving former area prisoners of War to their monthly meetings.

As Post Chaplain, Paul resurrected the Blue Star Banner program, ensuring that banners are presented to parents of local veterans serving worldwide on active duty. He organizes Berwick’s annual flag disposal ceremony and ensures that all 485 veterans gravesites are properly marked and decorated with their country’s flag.

The 150 members of Charles S. Hatch Post #79 nominated Paul as Legionnaire of the Year because: No one among us better exemplifies for God and Country“ better than our comrade, Paul R. Lapierre. This deeply humble and generous man is most deserving of this prestigious honor. Congratulations Paul. We salute you!

Robert K. Place Named Maine’s Top Post Historian

Berwick, Maine's Robert K. Place has done it again, winning 1st Place at the Maine State level for his detailed documentation of the activities of Charles S. Hatch Post #79. This marks the second year in a row that the Department of Maine awarded Bob’s Post history Scrap Book top honors (he also won in 2009). Following last year’s win, Bob’s album was sent to the National level, where he won 2nd Place competing against more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. Compiling this album is truly a labor of love for this talented but modest photographer and Legionnaire, who donates hundreds of hours of his time annually creating this photo-packed history.

Once again, this year’s album is on its way to compete at the national level and if history is any indication, we anticipate that Bob’s winning streak will continue. Congratulations Bob! We salute you!

2013 Legionnaire of the Year recipient Paul Lapierre, center, surrounded by his family at the Department of Maine 2013 State Convention in Augusta on Friday, June 14. In the background, left to right, Dept. Adjutant Lloyd Woods, Dept. Commander Ken Bouchard and far right Second Vice-Cmdr. Richard Graves.

Photo by Tom Adkins

Paul R. LaPierre : Maine’s Legionnaire of the Year

Andy Olson reported that the next two years the convention will be conducted in the Bangor area at the new civic center. Following that, various Legionnaires presented nomination speeches for the candidates running for election to department offices. Candidate Adjutant Lloyd Woods then stated a number of announcements for the delegates’ information with Department Commander Bouchard then recressing the convention until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, June 15, 2013.

At 6:30 Friday evening, there was a Creative Arts Festival conducted at the Civic Center by the Auxiliary and many good and talented artists and musicians presented their wares for all to view and hear. It was a complete success and all enjoyed the talent displayed.

Saturday morning saw the voting booths open at 8:00 a.m. with the candidates for office handing out their gifts and wares to those delegates that were there to vote for their favorite candidate. It was the start of a long day for all and there was one thing learned that will be remembered for the next convention. At 9:00 a.m., Commander Bouchard reconvened the convention with ALR Executive Director Paul L’Heureux (NEC) giving an update of the ALR in the Department of Maine. Following was Maine Adjutant General, Brigadier General James D. Campbell who presented greetings and an overview of Maine’s participation of the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard and other reservists activities on the War on Terror. He also gave the delegates an overview of the Maine Veterans Services and what they can do to assist returning veterans to the State of Maine.

Following General Campbell, the SAL National Vice Commander, Northeast John Waite brought greetings from National
Constitution

Continued from Page 1

Commander of the SAL addressed the attendees. U.S. Representative from the Second District, Michael Michaud brought greetings to the delegates present. Mike brought us up to date on what was going on in D.C. and his fight to bring home for the troops. He then introduced the Department of Maine, American Legion's Trustee meeting held in the past spring in New Orleans and also presented a policy to those who Post Commanders whose Posts participated the most in the active duty in the Legion. He was reappointed as Post Commander Second District Commander. He also wishes to thank all of his fellow Legionnaires and veterans for their dedication and support and end with two things, “It important we do and Serving Veterans First.”

John Hargreaves Elected Department Commander

Newly elected Commander of the Department of Maine, American Legion John W. Hargreaves, Farmington, Maine on January 3, 1949 and grew up in the small Western Maine town of New Vineyard. He spent his early years at Farmington High School in 1966 before being drafted into the United States Army in May of 1968. After spending a total of sixteen weeks in training in Ft. Dix, New Jersey and Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, he was shipped to Viet Nam. While serving in Viet Nam from October of 1968 to December of 1969 he attained the rank of Sergeant E-5 and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Achievement.

He was released from active duty on Christmas Day 1969 to return home to the snow bound state of Maine. On May 2, 1970 he married the love of his life and partner Jennifer in Augusta, Maine. Together they have raised three fine children, Jeremy, Jacey, and Jared while living in a number of small Maine towns. They currently reside in Farmington with their two cats and are enjoying semi-retirement.

While utilizing the G.I. Bill, John earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Maine at Orono in May 1975, majoring in accounting and psychology. He subsequently received his CPA license in June of 1977 while working for Chester M. Kearney & Company in Bangor. He held various accounting positions with several Maine companies until starting his own accounting practice in 1983 which he is still operating on a part time basis. He later gave up his practice to concentrate on taxation and providing affordable service to his clients. He has been active in each of the communities that he has lived in. He has served on the School Committee in Glenburn, then on the Planning Board as well as being President and Treasurer of both the Richmond Days Committee and the Hall-Dale Boosters Club.

 providing the legislative agenda and support and end with two things, “It important work do and Serv ing Veterans First.”

Resolution 02-2013 Changing the Title of Area Representative to Area Commander- Combined with Resolution 06-2013- Approving the Title of State Commander.

Resolution 03-2013 Junior Law Cadet Program-Referred to the Americanism and Law and Order Committee for further action.

Resolution 04-2013 Dues Increase-Approved.

Resolution 05-2013 Balance Budget Removal-Defeated

Resolution 06-2013 Combined with Resolution #2.

Resolution 07-2013 Return to County and District Makeup- Defeated.

Resolution 08-2013 ASDO Appointment Period to 3 years- Approved.

Following Ken’s response, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, William Aliano then read off the results of voting. The following were those results:

Department Commander John Hargreaves

Department First Vice Commander Richard Graves

Department Second Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette

Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins

Department Historian Ronald Caron

Department Americanism Officer Charles Foss

Department Sergeant At Arms Dan Ayotte

Following the elections results, Department Adjutant with the assistance of our National guest, Leading Candidate for National Commander Dan Dollinger drew the sweepstakes winners.

$3,500 winner was William Silsby, Jr, Belfast Post 43

$1,000 winner was Richard Wyr, Hargrave Post #171

$500 winner was Edward Zellers, South Portland Post #35

$200 winner was Theresa Rainey, West Paris Post #151

After the sweepstakes were announced, Department Chaplain Gary Purington the conducted the Memorial Service-Post Everlasting for those comrades who answered the final call this past year. Each District Commander then was presented the number of those that answered the final call within their districts and was presented a number in a small basket representing entering the Post Everlasting. Any announcements were then given by Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods, Department Chaplin John Weatherby then retired the colors and the convention was adjourned until installation at 7:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. a banquet honoring the National President of the American Legion began prior to installation at 7:00 p.m. The installation was conducted for the Sons of the American Legion, the Auxiliary and The American Legion. The installation of the post was held at the Knights of Columbus. The installation of the post was held at the Knights of Columbus.

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**Sen. Collins Introduces Bill: a Drug Take-back Program**

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at the 195th Annual Maine American Legion Convention in June. As a senior member of both the Senate Defense Appropriations and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittees, I appreciated the opportunity to update you on my efforts to promote the interests of our nation’s veterans. At the convention, I was proud to announce that I have introduced a bill, The Servicemembers and Veterans Prescription Drug Safety Act of 2013. This bill is intended to curb the troubling rise in suicides among current and former members of our nation’s military and to help meet rising levels of drug abuse. A recent study found that 29 percent of military suicides involve individuals with a history of psychotropic medication use, and many of these deaths can be attributed to prescription drug abuse.

The legislation instructs the Attorney General to establish a drug take-back program so that service members and veterans can conveniently dispose of unused pre-scriptions. By limiting the pervasiveness of these powerful drugs, we can reduce the potential for drug abuse and focus on giving these men and women the help they need and deserve.

The news has been replete in recent months with accounts of the Pentagon’s inability to adequately address the unacceptable high number of sexual assaults or unwanted sexual contact. 26,000 in 2012 alone, that take place within the ranks of our nation’s military. To be certain, the vast majority of our military servicemen and women are honorable and respectful individuals.

It is for their sake that we must act to end this epidemic. That is why I was pleased to cosponsor legislation that would empower military prosecutors to pursue cases of sexual assault and create a culture of zero tolerance towards such heinous actions.

Finally, I would like to share with you the steps I have taken to encourage the Department of Defense to consider northern Maine as a candidate for a proposed missile defense interceptor site. At a recent Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing, I asked Navy Vice Admiral James Syring to clarify the Missile Defense Agency’s possible plan to construct a facility in either Caribou or Limestone. I noted that many in the region would support a military installation of this type, and I urged Vice Admiral Syring to use the local acceptance of the proposed base as one of the criteria when making a final decision.

If the interceptor base is approved, it is expected to generate approximately 160 civilian and 140 military jobs. I would like to remind readers that, if you are having difficulty obtaining medals you earned in service to our country or with any other federal issue, my staff and I would be more than happy to assist you.

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of my six constituent service centers located throughout the state. Find more information at www.collins.senate.gov.

**Many Posts Help Veterans Find Jobs Online**

**By DAN WHEELER**

**National Adjutant**

The act of submitting your resume for a job via snail mail is almost non-existent. The Internet has enabled us to send resumes electronically, job search online, and network through social media. However, many returning servicemembers or veterans do not have immediate access to computers. American Legion Post 81 in Jackson, Ohio, remedied this by setting up a computer kiosk with printing capabilities.

Local veterans can use a computer for job searching, resume writing and email services. The post also offers free Wi-Fi for veterans who have their own computers.

“As Legion members, we looked at our community and decided that the most pressing need that we can offer in assistance to our veteran brothers and sisters was job services and Internet access,” said Post 81 Commander Wendell Brunton. “We hope to expand our services to employer job fairs and employability consulting in the future.”

Along with computer and Internet access, Post 81 offers resume writing tips and career-building services. Veterans can use the post’s computer by calling to make an appointment or stopping by during meeting times.

Post 81’s computer kiosk is a great example of the many ways The American Legion is helping veterans and returning servicemembers achieve long-term employment. We understand that looking for a career requires technical savvy, as well as strong interviewing skills and a marketability plan to attract prospective employers.

That’s why we offer valuable online job resources and sponsor career fairs across the country. Visit www.legion.org/careers to seek job-search advice, find career opportunities and see upcoming career fairs.

Veterans, servicemembers and their families are also encouraged to sign up for The American Legion’s Veterans Career Center Newsletter.

The electronic mailing offers a comprehensive listing of military job fairs around the country, information on career resources, and updates on legislation that affects veterans employment or education benefits. Sign up online: www.legion.org/careers/newsletter

— Digital Dispatch
Commander’s Comments

Here is the first edition for the new Legion year. To begin, I want to thank everyone for the support throughout the past years and ask for that support to continue as we move through this coming year and on into the future. The only sure thing is change and we should embrace that change and use it to further the purposes of the American Legion at every level.

Commitment, dedication, perseverance: Commitment to a worthy cause, dedication to actions and programs that further our worthy cause, and perseverance to see those programs through to a positive conclusion. Well that’s a lot to say right off the bat, but I really don’t mean to be overly profound. We all know that these three concepts are what keep every organization vital and relevant and this is what will keep the American Legion vital and relevant.

As an organization, we need to use all of the resources available to us to further our overall goals. At the Department, we look to the National Organization as well as our own Officers and past Officers for guidance and information.

At the Post and individual level, we should be looking to District and Department, but first we should utilize the talent that we have among us. This may include past Post, District and Department Officers, current members who may have special talents that we may need as well as community members who may be willing to lend a hand.

The important thing is don’t be afraid to ask for assistance or even if someone else may know something about an issue.

We have a wealth of talent within the American Legion and we should be eager to use for the betterment of our programs. Don’t forget that the Legion has existed for nearly 100 years and although every issue we have is unique to us, someone else has encountered some that was at least similar. As we move forward into our second century, we need to include and use all that we have available to move us to our goals of service to veterans, communities, state and nation.

When this issue is in your hands, we should be back from National Convention and be planning for the new National Commanders visit as well as for Midwinter Conference in January.

We will be continuing on the theme of mutual cooperation and communication as the year moves along. With these events, we will be looking to the changes that National is putting forth and implementing our own five year plan as put forward by our own First Vice with some assistance from other Department Officers. These changes will need the support of all of us so we can all be successful.

In closing, I again want to thank everyone for their support and encourage each of you to seek out opportunities to learn and to further the causes of the American Legion.

“Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures, costs nothing and conveys much.”
— Erastus Wiman

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Serving Veterans First
For the Blue Hat Legionnaire

Retiring Maine Department Commander Ken Bouchard, left, receives plaque honoring his service to the Department of Maine for the year 2012-2013 from Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods at the Augusta Civic Center on June 15.

The Adjutant Speaks

As we commence another new year for The American Legion, I would like to start with congratulating all the newly elected and the returning officers of all of the Posts, Districts and Department as we have the newly appointed Area Commanders. (Note the title change?) I look forward to working with all of you and hope that if there is anything that I can do to assist you in any way, way, I will do my utmost best to comply with your requests and will do my very best to assist you all.

Secondly, I would like to thank those officers that just completed a year as whatever position they held previously and thank them for their service to our organization. I would also like to remind you all that in the charge of a retiring commander there is the phrase that your knowledge gained during your tour is important and ask that you relay that knowledge to your successor so that our programs will continue to be active and prosper throughout the Department of Maine.

Next, I would be remiss if I did not thank our outgoing Department Commander Ken Bouchard for a great year. By working together we accomplished much and got many things completed or done so to speak. I look forward to continuing our working together in the future.

I recently got a message from National that upset me and should not have been made by a member of this department to an official at the National level. The individual made an inquiry that had it been made to department or specifically the Department Adjutant, it would have been resolved without getting the National organization involved. It made our department look as though we are not doing our proper job here at the Department Headquarters in processing of the dues paid by our members.

I would like to advise everyone of the procedure utilized here at headquarters in the processing of dues submitted by the posts. Our staff here processes all receipts here on a daily basis and transmits on a weekly basis, every Monday, to National for their processing. There is one exception to this and that is when an established target date as set by National is coming up and we process the dues and transmit them the day before the target date and send them overnight express so that National gets them on the target date. I know how many we have to mail and inform our membership contact at National of how many we are sending in so they can look for them. This process has been in the working mode for many, many years and will remain procedure for some time to come.

I ask each officer at either the post level, district level, area level or even department level if you have a problem or question regarding anything that we as Legionnaires do, please do not hesitate to contact me first and not go directly to National. If you cannot get the problem or question resolved at our level, then I can contact National and attempt to get it resolved to your and our satisfaction. By anyone going directly from the post or district level and bypassing department makes for questioning at National as to what the department is doing and does not render a better image at National as a favorable one. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we are in a somewhat busy time of year in that we are making plans for our Fall Conference in Bath, our National Convention, and the visit from our newly elected National Commander as well as plans for training of our members. Also, mixed in there will be attendance at the National Commander’s testimony at Congress and the National Executive Committee meetings scheduled by National. All of this as well as processing the incoming dues being paid by members of the posts and by those who belong to our holding post, Post #178.

Therefore, I ask each of the individuals in charge of processing membership at your posts to do not hold membership until you have a “bunch” to send in. You might want to consider, and I ask that you send the membership in at least once a week even if you have only one or two dues to process. It would be nice to have a large group of our posts and districts be 100% prior to December 31.

Again, thank you for all that you do, have done and will do for our great organization, The American Legion. It is appreciated by all. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this coming year during my travels throughout the great State of Maine. May God bless you and yours and this great country of ours.
American Legion Baseball

79,272 youths came together to form 4,494 teams playing American Legion Baseball throughout the nation. A record 101,925 spectators attended the five-day, 15 game World Series in Shelby, NC. All games were live on ESPN 3. A total of 450,000 views were live on ESPN 3. A total of 450,000 views of which 100,000 were unique viewers, an increase of 20%. Education $787,656 was donated to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund with $724,524 having been amassed through the 2012-2013 academic scholarships at the national level, total $517,250.

Junior Shooting Sports 1,919 individual athletes entered the Pistol Round Competition, an increase of 283 from last year. 313 four person teams entered the Pistol Round Competition.

Boys State 19,909 participants in 49 states, an increase of 348 from previous year.

Boy Scouts 3,000 youths were recognized with a certificate earning the rank of Eagle Scout. 2,564 scouting units were chartered by Legion posts across the country involving 68,290 young people.

In the following months, I will do my best to continue moving forward with the same enthusiasm and momentum our recent Department Historians have brought to this office. With a new Legion year beginning, it is now time for all of us to again focus on preserving our post and district accomplishments by documenting our events. As you begin organizing your history and yearbook, remember that it’s not only to capture what the post has achieved within itself, but to also include what the legion has contributed to the community as well.

It is very important to our organization that everyone share that the many contributions we make affect so many others around us. In a few more years, national will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the American Legion, we are fortunate to be the legionnaires who will be around to witness these contributions we make affect so many others around us.
**Money Matters**

As I begin my first of two years in this position, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and I want to thank our Past Department Finance Officer Larry Mitchell for all the time and effort he put into getting me ready for this position over these past few months. It made a great difference between what my understanding of what it would be and what it could have been when I opened up that financial software to begin my morning efforts. Thank You All and Thank You Larry!

My immediate challenges are:

* What do I do with a very large CD, which matures almost immediately and the best prevailing interest rates are 1.2% to 1.5% for an investment period of five to seven years.

What procedures do I need to put in place to allocate and report on the funds to be distributed by the State of Maine through The Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund?

* Determine and recommend investment alternatives that have the safety of a CD, but might provide better returns on our investment and then gain approval for those alternatives.

* Review our investments with a view of how can we use some of the return on investment to better support our ongoing programs.

* Determine what procedures and processes need to be in place to accommodate the future approved Dues increases. Determine how the dues increase will impact membership numbers and how will this affect the budgeting process.

* And then of course, there is the fact that I need to pay the bills and report to you all on how we are doing in maintaining the 2013-2014 budget.

As always any and all help is appreciated, the key word here is Help, because problems I already have, but a heads-up is always appreciated.

You can contact me by phone or e-mail as both addresses are on the Mainelegion.org web site.

Lastly, I am handling your money and I expect that you will take an interest. So ask those questions that you are concerned, about you deserve to know the answer(s).

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**Special Award:**

Charles Foss receives a Special Award for “Dedication and Continued Support of Maine Special Olympics” by the Maine Special Olympics Committee at the Department of Maine Annual State Convention at the Augusta Civic Center on June 15. Charlie has supported this program for many years and is always deserving of this award.

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**Chaplain’s Corner**

I was honored when asked to take the position of Chaplain for the Department of Maine. As I become familiar with my new position, please know that I am available to support if needed.

I am a proud Navy Veteran. I served my four years on active duty and after a Cryptologic Tech and continued in the active reserves for four more years. I am married to Kirk who is a retired Navy Veteran also in the Crypto field. After leaving the Navy, I continued my years as a military spouse. This has helped me be aware of both sides of life in military. As you all know many of our servicemen and women are still in harm’s way. They need your continued prayers and support for a safe return home.

We as legionnaires know the importance of supporting them after they are home. Continue educating others on the need for their support and understanding as well. Doing this will hopefully help the public to continue their support.

Until next time, may God Bless You All and may we keep our troops safe from harm.

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**Service Office Update**

July has turned out to be one to be remembered. Red Sox on a winning streak. Office computers acting like office computers go down, up, down again, all due to programs malfunctioning. When our computers stop working we cannot assist veterans, shame on us. We must be more compatible with the core.

The veterans have adjusted to our new office times which are Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 7:00 a.m. — 11:45 a.m. and Tues. & Thurs from 7:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

The new e-mail system appears to be working out ok. Claims are going out and coming in at a somewhat regular rate. Veterans, please be reminded the appeals process is not the way to go if the information needed to be successful is provided then this same information can be used successfully at the Regional Office, meaning Togus. To those too late and are already in the appellate process, please be reminded of the Court of Appeals for Veterans claims; if denied by the BVA, you have one year to file with the Court. We can do this for you.

DIC recipients are still waiting; much too long for award, money getting short, house payments, taxes, credit cards etc. making it hard to make ends meet. So ... you see things are really not that better. Take care and let’s enjoy what summer we have left.

Do your claim through the office and enjoy a speedier claim and more than likely a win.

We have submitted new information regarding N. Korea DMZ to the Regional Office thankfully given to us by another N. Maine advocate Mike Daigel of the Frenchville Post, great advocates all in the county.

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**President’s Message**

The American Legion Auxiliary demonstrates service to veterans through their involvement with programs such as Veterans' Creative Arts Festival.

Our state convention was very exciting this past June as we celebrated hosting the very first Maine Veterans’ Creative Arts Festival. If you were not able to be there, you will be able to attend the next one on February 15, 2014 at Togus.

The committee has been working very diligently on this endeavor since June. The festival is looking for visual and performing artists to participate this coming February during “Salute to Veterans” week. For more details contact Liz Marrone at Elizabeth.marrone@va.gov or our VISTA Volunteer, Sierra Lubahn at project coordinator@mainalega.org or at (207) 645-4966 ext. 2.

Our resolutions that did pass included the name changing of the district presidents to District Department Vice President and her alternate will be Alternate District Department Vice President. We also passed the resolution regarding Cavalcade of Memories: Collection Management Policy. The last one passed was County Organization. Our department now recognizes counties as a separate entity — our counties now may be chartered. This is added to our Dept. of ME C&I Article IX — County Organization.

As we embark into 2014, our 95th anniversary year, we begin to align with ourselves our mission and vision to serve our veterans, military and their families. “Pass It On” is the National President’s theme as we “Walk, Run and Roll” into our communities to embrace our commitment to our veterans and Military and their Families. Our national goal is to reach One Million Members by 2040. Our 100th Anniversary was in 2014. We are on our way as we continue to renew, recruit and rejoin members.

As we prepare this month to Honor Their Service with Leadership, we will be on this journey to inspire our juniors and new recruits, become more competent that we will achieve our goals, and move forward with mission and vision for our organization. We will continue to be dedicated to our Veterans and Military to our children and to our communities. By doing so, our Public Awareness will grow for the betterment of our future.

In the Spirit of Service not Self for Veterans, God and Country,

Georgine Butman, 2013-2014 Department President, Box 74, Greenville Junction, ME 04442

207-695-2806
207-931-5369
moosharpe@myotmail.com

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**Historian**

Continued from Page 5

...ing sure all our posts and districts have a historian in place so we can be prepared to begin working together to capture and document the many events that will be taking place throughout The Department of Maine coming year. To familiarize yourself with the duties of the post historian, please go to page 18 in the 2013 Post Officer’s Guide as this is also an example of a one year post narrative history and year book found on pages 144-151.

Our historian literally started out with a bang. I attended the Annual Firing of the “Kings Arm” Musket sponsored by the Buckfield Post 58 on July 4th. It was impressive to see a rifle that was used in the French and Indian War that had also had been fired on July 4, 1776 and on July 4th every year since.

The legionnaires also gave me the privilege of firing off a small cannon, which I have to admit left my ears ringing for some time, but I am happy honored they allowed me to be part of the ceremony. Following, we participated in the Fourth of July parade in Turner hosted by Turner Post 111.

A truly remarkable parade, where so many adults and children both, cheered and applauded the veterans as we passed by, a very rewarding experience. Events such as these are not only to be historically noted, but exemplify the true meaning of what I am working with community is all about. Please remember to submit your events in the Smile so all of us are updated and informed of what’s happening. My goal as your Department Historian is to not only provide guidance, but to participate in events whenever possible.

Remember that the word History means saying Hi to the future with a story from the past.
Knights of Columbus Recognize Dedication

Mr. Simonsen, Thank you on behalf of the Knights of Columbus for all the service and dedication you show to the Veterans of Maine. Many of our members are veterans as well and we wish to include my personal “Thank You” from a Navy veteran.

Norman A. Gay, State Treasurer
Maine Knights of Columbus

Boys State ThankYou

Thank you for choosing me to be a participant in the 2013 Dirigo Boys State program. I am beyond excited for this once in a lifetime experience. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Lucas Preble

Grateful Student...

Dear Mr. Woods, I was very pleased and excited to be chosen as a recipient of the American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship for 2013. After I complete my first semester, I will be sure to send you a copy of my transcript. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Emily K. Pinette

...And, Another One

Dear American Legion,
Thank you for allowing me to receive the Maine Children & Youth Scholarship. This will be a great help in funding my education.

Sincerely,
Mariah Damon

High Praise for Post 80’s Help

On Saturday morning, 18 May, my wife and I left Berwick for a two day whirlwind tour of the north Maine woods looking for moose, deer, and whatever. Way into the woods and on the other side of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, we experienced a vehicle problem that necessitated we return to the closest town for repair, if we could make it.

After several stressed filled hours, we arrived in Millinocket and checked into a motel to make some sort of plan. Motel staff said that the town was pretty much shut down on weekends and our best chance of repair would come on Monday. I told my wife that I had seen a dealership down the road and that we should take a walk. It was closed until Monday.

Returning back to the motel, I looked across the street and saw salvation. I told my wife, we can get answers there. It was Donald V. Henry American Legion Post 80. We entered and I introduced my wife and myself and explained our situation. Within a few minutes three members were on their cell phones making calls while other members were looking through the phone book. In 30 minutes, I was talking to a mechanic who would open his shop Sunday morning to fix my vehicle. In 45 minutes I was in a mechanic’s vehicle heading to the shop so that I could make a direct shot to it the next morning.

Not having anything to do upon my return to the post, my wife and I stayed at the post until midnight talking to various people and listened to karaoke, a wonderful evening after a distressful afternoon. On Sunday morning at the time I was to head to the auto repair shop two members showed up.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cooney, Chairman

Talking Miracles at Convention

Lloyd,
Thank you again for the opportunity to speak at the State Convention. It was a great experience and I look forward to following up with some of the folks that I met. Have a great summer and we look forward to teaming up with the posts to raise money for the kids!

Sincerely,
Kate Richardson,
The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital,
Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals

Donation to Beals House

I would like to thank Pittsfield Post 32 for inviting Post 14 to participate in the Pittsfield parade and thank you to Oakland Post 51 for helping at the Flag Disposal Ceremony. Also, thanks to the Auxiliary for the food and a special thanks to our Legion Riders for helping out with the ceremony.

Commander Gene Coombs,
Fairfield Post 14

Bill of Interest to Legionnaires

Dear Lloyd,
I wanted to bring your attention to a bill that recently passed the House of Representatives that your organization may find of interest.

On July 9, the House overwhelmingly voted to approve the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service (FOR VETS) Act of 2013. The bill would allow recognized veterans service organizations to claim a percentage of the proceeds of government programs that require or encourage public and private entities to use them to provide services to veterans. For example, if a program has a specific list of service organizations to use, then one can claim a portion of the proceeds for a particular service program. While the bill would be good for the House of Representatives, it is also worth noting that it may not be good for veterans service organizations. Therefore, there may be a need to develop a service program that is more aligned with the objectives of the former service organizations. This means that the bill may need to be revised to ensure that the service organizations have the opportunity to claim a portion of the proceeds. Your organization may want to consider this issue further.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Emily K. Pinette

The Maine Legendnaire, August 2013

 NEC Report: One Extremely Busy Year

As I end my first year as one of the new NEC Officers from around the country, it has been a busy year to try to keep up with all that is going on around the State of Maine and at our meetings at our National Office.

During this period, there have been many questions that I have had to research and follow up on the one question asked most frequently, what is The American Legion doing about the backlog of claims at the VA? Well I would like to share with you the response from The American Legion at this point in time.

The American Legion has several resolutions that address the VA disability claims backlog, and our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division has been intimately involved with every step of the process. Through our resolutions, our national network of veteran service officers, and the site inspections conducted through our System Worth Saving initiative, The American Legion is actually helping the VA to reduce the backlog.

The reason that the backlog became so unwieldy is complicated, and a variety of factors helped contribute to the excessive number of claims that remain unprocessed in a timely manner. Some of those factors include the growing complexity of the average claim. More and more claims are introduced due to the recently approved illness categories that automatically recognize a service connecting to Agent Orange exposure. Also a lack of cooperation between VA and DoD, especially in developing an integrated electronic health record system. Another factor is that VA is still processing a paper-based claim which in turn creates a high rejection rate due to claims that are missing documentation.

There are certainly other contributing factors, but these are the major reasons that claims are taking so long to process. The good news is that the backlog is shrinking. Following an all-time high of over 600,000 claims in March, the backlog has dropped below 540,000 and Secretary Shinseki announced that he is confident that his agency will reach their goal of having the backlog under control by 2015.

The American Legion has formally supported several pieces of legislation to address the backlog, has testified before congress on several occasions since January, providing suggestions, updates, and detailed plans for addressing the problem.

The American Legion is also partially responsible for contributing to the backlog by effectively lobbying for VA determinations that sought to properly compensate veterans of the Vietnam War exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides, who developed life threatening illnesses that have been proven to stem from such exposure. That effort alone resulted in nearly 300,000 claims being filed retroactively, most of which have all been processed.

One of the most frustrating problems the American Legion deals with is the complete lack of cooperation, and waste of hundreds of millions of dollars between VA and DoD. The VA and DoD need to come together on a comprehensive and meaningful solution to address their inability to seamlessly communicate electronically when it comes to the health records of veterans and service members.

As our nation “goes green” VA is also trying to become more efficient by digitizing their claims process.

Last month the VA launched the Veterans Benefits management System (VBMS) in every region in the country. The VBMS system can take all types of electronic documents and compile them into an electronic portfolio that is searchable, editable and tractable, and will greatly expedite the review and adjudication process. The American Legion lobbied for these advancements and the money to fund them.

Claims rejected due to missing documents or clerical errors account for a large number of claims. The American Legion has taken the lead in working with VA on its new Fully Developed Claims (FDC) program.

So as you can see, The American Legion is fully vested in helping to eliminate the claims backlog, and through our lobbying efforts, programs, and site visits to VA regional offices, we are holding VA accountable for their work, and also trying to be part of the solution, not just a critic.

Yes, The American Legion will be involved in these issues when it concerns the veterans of this country. As more information is available, I will follow up on future articles. Remember to stay FOCUSED and move FORWARD.

Paul L’Heureux

 graphql-processed
Convention Awards 2013

Legionnaire of the Year Award Paul R. LaPierre, Berwick
Humanitarian Award to Kevin Frost, Farmington
Educator of the Year Award to Shawn Chabot, Lewiston Middle School Principal
Firefighter of the Year Award to Chief Dennis R. Plante, Berwick
EMT/Paramedic of the Year Award to Tyler Prosser, Standish
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year to Kennebec County Sheriff Randall A. Liberty, Benton
Game Warden of the Year to Warden Daniel Carroll, Sebec
Eagle Scout of the Year Award to Maxwell W. Negley, Bowdoin
Outstanding District Commander (Roger’s Rangers Award) Kirk Thurston, Rumford
Outstanding Post Commander (Tony Tiger Award) to Sarah Glynn, So. Paris
$450 donation to the Beals House
$2975 donation to Maine Special Olympics
First Place Post Yearbook (a.k.a. Scrapbook) Charles W. Hatch Post 79 Historian Robert K. Place, Berwick
Second Place Post Yearbook Real B. Trepanier, Waterville Post 5
Third Place Post Yearbook David Tanguay, Windham Post 148
Honorable Mention Napels-Casco-Raymond Memorial Post 155
First Place Post Newsletter — Extra Large Membership Category to Bourque-Lanigan Post 5, Waterville
First Place Post Newsletter — Large Membership Category to Emerson & Lane Post 132, Richmond
First Place Post Newsletter — Medium Membership Category to Veteran’s Memorial Post 205, Augusta
First Place Post Newsletter — Small Membership Category to Field Allen Post 148, Windham
Department Recruiter of the Year Award to Eugene Coombs, Fairfield Post 14
Department Recruiter of the Year — 2nd Place to Daniel Boland, Harpswell Post 171
Department Recruiter of the Year — 3rd Place to David Tanguay, Windham Post 148
James V. Day Scholarship — $500 scholarship to Sara Lyons, Ellsworth (North) and Kara R. Rowley, Monmouth (South)
Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship — $1000 scholarship to Idella P. Thompson, Caribou and Adam P. Strang, Orrington
Children & Youth Scholarship: Emily Pinette, Old Orchard Beach; Dakota Warren, Buckfield; Caroline Carrigan, Topsham; Mariah Damon, West Gardiner; Sierra Colson, Mt. Desert; Matthew Plaisted, Jonesboro; Melanie Saucier, Fort Kent.
Distinguished Service Award to Department President Mary Jane McLoon, Walpole
Distinguished Service Award to Department Commander Kenneth Bouchard, Jay
Distinguished Service Award to Department First Vice Commander John Hargreaves, Farmingdale
Distinguished Service Award to Department Second Vice Commander Richard Graves, Milo
Distinguished Service Award to Department Historian Tommy Atkins, Orland
Distinguished Service Award to SAL Detachment Commander Richard Huntley, Machiasport

Letters

Continued from Page 7
organizations (YSOs) to obtain surplus federal property at no cost. Currently, this opportunity is only available to a small number of veterans groups that provide health or education services. If enacted, the bill would expand the program to give YSOs access to items such as furniture, office supplies, and motor vehicles free of charge.

I hope that the Senate will quickly pass this bill and send it to the President for a signature. To find out if your organization is eligible for opportunities under current law, contact the Maine State Agency for Surplus Property at (207) 287-2923.

Thank you for all that you do for veterans! With warmest regards,

Michael H. Michaud,
Member of Congress

Generous Contribution
Thank you for your generous contribution toward the furtherance of my education and scholastic aspirations. I am sincerely grateful to be receiving the James V. Day Scholarship. Best wishes and Happy Independence Day.

Sara Lyons

Big Thanks for Dept. of Maine
To The American Legion Office,
Just a little note to say thank you for all you do for our veterans, military and families.

For God and Country,
Georgine Butnam

Boys State: ‘Well Done!’
Hello Jim,
Sorry for the tardiness, but I just want to thank you and The Legion for putting on such an amazing program (Boys State) this past June. Our son, Colin Gaynor, got so much out of it that I am certain he will carry on the memories forever. Well done!

Bill Gaynor

Game Warden of the Year:
The 2013 American Legion Game Warden of the Year Daniel Carroll of Sebec, left, receives his award from Law & Order Chairman Kirk Thurston at the 2013 Annual Department of Maine Convention at the Augusta Civic Center on June 15.

Boys State Winners

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<td>Boys Nation Delegate #1</td>
<td>Kyle Hietala</td>
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<td>James Boyle Winner</td>
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2013 Fall Conference
September 20-22, 2013

Bath Post 21
Bath, Maine

HOUSING: Holiday Inn, 139 Richardson Street, Bath, Maine 04530
PHONE: Reservations to be made by the attendee directly by calling 443-9741

RATE: $109.00 plus tax. After Aug. 18, rates will be $129.00. Please note the closing date of Aug. 18 to get the $109 plus tax rate. There are a total of 80 rooms blocked off so you might want to make the reservations as soon as possible to make sure you get the $109 rate.

MEAL PACKAGE: Meal package is $20.00 per person which covers lunch and banquet. Lunch will be corn chowder, finger rolls, chips and beverage. Banquet will be baked ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Reservations for the meal package are to be made to Charlotte Doyle, 111 Ridge Road, Bath 04530. Closing date for the meal package is Sept. 6.

VA’s Backlog, Lost War Records and More ...

I t’s been a busy few weeks since my last update. As I have mentioned previously, I joined with members of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee to introduce a package of 10 bills designed to reduce the VA’s backlog of disability claims. This legislation represents a coordinated effort to put forth a pragmatic approach to addressing the claims backlog.

A number of these initiatives enjoy strong bipartisan support and are backed by veteran advocates. The bills, which now have all been introduced, would:

* Greatly reduce the time that VA and veterans spend waiting for Department of Defense (DoD) to provide information to substantiate a claim by requiring DoD to provide certified, complete, and electronic records to VA more quickly.

* Get payments to veterans faster, by providing partial payments as medical conditions are adjudicated. Veterans currently have to wait until all medical conditions within a claim are fully adjudicated to receive payment.

* Enable quicker, more accurate rating decisions by requiring VA to maximize the use of private medical evidence. Instead of requiring a VA medical examination, veterans would be allowed to supply medical evidence from their non-VA doctor. This would also conserve VA resources which could be applied to other claims processing areas.

* Reduce the time it takes to adjudicate complex and time consuming medical conditions by establishing “Centers of Excellence” that focus the best performing regional offices on the most difficult claims.

Some of these bills would have an immediate, positive impact. Others will have an impact over the next two years. And still others are designed to be long-term approaches to prevent future backlogs. This issue is one our committee is committed to seeing through.

In addition to addressing the VA’s backlog, our committee has been focusing on a number of other issues facing veterans.

In July, the Army responded to a detailed letter of inquiry that Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) and I sent to the Department of Defense following a ProPublica and Seattle Times investigation that revealed Army and National Guard units had lost or failed to keep field records from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In their letter back to us, the Army admitted that massive amounts of records were lost and that they have issued new world-wide orders to find them.

However, offering an admission that there are massive amounts of lost records is only the first step. I appreciate the Army issuing orders to address this serious problem, but I’m concerned that it took a letter from Congress to make it happen. As we move forward, I’m hopeful that Congress will receive a progress report as these orders are instituted in the coming months, and I’ll be working with my colleagues to ensure proper oversight is exercised. Our veterans have given up so much for our country, and they deserve a complete record of their service so the sake history as well as potential disability claims down the road.

Later in July, I introduced the “Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2013,” a bill I wrote to require the VA to institute a forward-looking strategy with goals and objectives, and a five-year program with expected outcomes, milestones and resources. The bill also designates a Chief Strategy Officer to ensure that the planning and programming phases of the process are fully considered and implemented. The bill was considered during a legislative hearing the committee held on July 17th.

I believe a five-year plan is necessary because it would look beyond a single year’s budget and next year’s forecast. It would force the VA to accurately and fully account for the taxpayer dollars provided to it. I look forward to working with members of the committee and our veterans to make sure that the VA’s financial management process is not the result of budgeting-by-crisis. The VA needs a financial system that is equal to the task of running the second-largest federal agency. This system must also be capable of meeting the needs of veterans now and into the future.

At the same hearing on July 17th, our committee also considered the “Putting Veterans First Act of 2013” (H.R. 813). I introduced this bill with Chairman Miller to require Congress to fully fund the VA’s discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, ensuring that all VA services will have timely, predictable funding. Advance funding works well for VA’s health care programs and I believe we should expand the same certainty to the rest of its budget as well.

These issues are just a few that were covered in the past few weeks, and I look forward to a productive fall coming up. As always, please contact my office if I may ever be of assistance to you.
Representative the Honorable Mike Michaud, center, addresses the 2013 Department of Maine American Legion Delegates at the Augusta Civic Center, June 15. U.S. Representative Michaud has been a great supporter of veteran’s rights and benefits over the years and his comments were well received by our delegates. On the left is our Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods and to the right is Department Commander Ken Bouchard.

Department of Maine Finance Officer Larry Mitchell delivers a financial update to the delegates at the 95th Annual State Convention on June 14. Looking on from the left is Department Ken Bouchard and reviewing the financial notes handout is 1st Vice-Commander John Hargreaves.

Governor Paul LePage and Mrs. LePage receive a warm reception from the American Legion Department of Maine convention members at the start of the 95th Annual State Convention at the Augusta Civic Center on June 14. Each addressed the convention and were well received with Mrs. LePage once again committing to go on Wreaths Across America Run.

Maine’s Adjutant General, Brigadier General James D. Campbell addressed the 2013 Department of Maine American Legion delegates at the 95th Annual State Convention in Augusta on June 15. His comments were insightful and well received, giving information on many state programs that are vital to our State’s veterans.

Robert K Place, Historian of Charles S. Hatch Post #79, Berwick, left, receives 1st place for best yearbook (a.k.a. scrapbook) from Department Historian Tommy Adkins with Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods looking on at the Annual State Convention in Augusta on June 14.

This year’s 2013 Eagle Scout of the Year Maxwell W. Negley accepts his award at the Annual State Convention on June 15th from Boy Scout Chairman Ray Lemieux while his family (to the left) looks on with a great deal of pride. The Department Officers in the background, left to right, Chaplain Gary Purington, Finance Officer Larry Mitchell and Judge Advocate Steve Page.
Spring/Summer Events

May is a month of remembrance for most Americans; a time to honor America’s Fallen Heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom on battlefields, both near and far. This May, Boy Scouts from Oxford teamed up with American Legion Anderson-Staples Post 112, Oxford, to make sure all veterans’ graves were decorated with an American flag in their town. The American Legion Post 112 and Boy Scout Troop 196 take on this project for the town. We, who inherit the Fruits of Freedom through the sacrifices of fellow Patriots, owe these brave warriors, honor, respect and gratitude. Front, left to right, Bob Hartford, Al Lewis, Tom Leeman, Ben Dill, Dan Lewis, and Jacob Leeman.

A plaque indicating the dedication of the Memorial Garden to honor long-time Falmouth Legionnaire Arthur Frederiksen. “AS COMMANDER OF THE FALMOUTH AMERICAN LEGION POST 164 HIS UNENDING EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IT A COMMUNITY SUCCESS.” MAY 1, 2013

Pittsfield Post 32 Commander Harold Goodridge and longtime member Ed prepare Egg Festival Parade. Commander Goodridge made a sign to let towns people know that Post 32 is alive and contributing. Many Legion members participated including Dept. of Maine Adjutant Lloyd Woods who represented the Dept. of Maine. Also participating were members of District 10 and a large group of Legion Riders.

A Silent Prayer at Silent Memorial:
Ray Reiser, laying a wreath for The American Legion on July 4th in recognition of the tragic Arrow Air disaster which happened Dec. 12, 1985 near Gander, Newfoundland, where 248 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division of Kentucky perished.

Department Executive Committee meeting held Sunday, June 16 at the Augusta Civic Center. Left to right, Commander John Hargreaves, Adjutant Lloyd Woods, Second Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette, Judge Advocate Lester Dearborn, and Office Assistant Charlene Houle.

Committee members at the Department Executive Committee meeting held Sunday, June 16 at the Augusta Civic Center.
Wreath-Laying Ceremony in Alfred

GOOD MORNING AMERICA!

And it is a fine sunny spring morning in Alfred, Maine. My name is Tom Collins, and as Commander of the American Legion Post 154 of Alfred and Waterboro, Maine, I welcome you to this Memorial Day ceremony.

Now we will have the wreath-laying at the Monument. To do the honors, we have Cheryl Main.

Next, we will have our Chaplain, Bob Liberty offer a prayer, followed by the Firing Squad, and then Mr. Norton will sound TAPS.

Before we hear the music selections from the Massabesic High School Band, Bob Liberty and I want to acknowledge a fine soldier who is with us today. That soldier is ROY NORTON. You recently heard him sound TAPS...for us...and for HIS FALL-EN COMRADES.

I don’t know what my Father was doing on June 6, 1944, and most of you don’t know what your father or grandfather or great grandfather was doing on D-DAY either...

But I want you to know what Private First Class Roy Norton was doing that day.

Around noon time, he was hitting OMAHA BEACH with the 29th Division, United States Army, under the command of Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery. When the prow opened as the Higgins boat landed on Omaha Beach, Roy was the first one into the waist-deep water carrying a machine gun tripod weighing 40 pounds. Immediately behind him was the soldier carrying the machine gun barrel, and then came the men carrying the ammunition.

Roy survived that LONGEST DAY and the anxious days that followed.

Sometime later, after a battlefield injury, he found himself in a body cast in a hospital in England, and he doesn’t remember how he got there. He returned home to America nine months later, as a Purple Heart Recipient.

When the War was over, Roy returned to New England, where he drove trucks, BIG TRUCKS, all over the cities, towns and countryside of his beloved New England. He married his Peggy in West Peru, Maine, in 1947 and had children. His son Bruce is with us today along with his lovely wife Wendy. Roy and Peggy moved to Alfred Maine in 1978.

Roy did good for Alfred. He served on the town Budget Committee. Good thing he was battle-tested at Normandy. Roy was a Charter Member of the Alfred Rescue when it commenced operations on January 1, 1980.

He served as Rescue Chief for its first 5 years, and as an EMT for 15 years. Just this past Saturday, George Donovan, a Selectman of the town of Alfred, informed me in no uncertain terms that the Alfred Rescue would not be the proud unit it is today without the tireless efforts of Roy Norton back there in those early, formative years.

And for those of us who delight in coming to this “square”,...this Alfred GREEN, ... on the third Saturday in July every year to take part in the Alfred Festival...well...that Festival didn’t “just happen.” It was started 31 years ago by Roy Norton and another proud Legionnaire.

So this morning Roy, we salute you for your service to your COUNTRY, your New England, and your Town of Alfred. We THANK YOU for a job well-done, and we ADMIRE YOU for a life well-lived.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust May Be Just What You Need — Look Into It Now

The Legion families in this Department are very fortunate to be part of something that has been around almost half a century - the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT). The Department of Maine joined with the other forty-seven (47) Departments that make up the LIT in 1969.

The LIT became this Department’s sponsored insurance program and remains so today. Make no mistake, the broad range of insurance products and services found under the LIT umbrella are your products and services. These products and services are not available to just anyone - other veterans included - but only to members of this Department’s “Legion family”.

By combining this Department of Maine’s programs with the other LIT participating Departments, we can be assured our products and services are continually reviewed and updated. With new programs always added so that you have access to the best selection possible.

The oversight of the programs of the LIT is done by a Board of Directors. Legionnaire Director from each participating Department. Like most Legion “jobs”, it is an unpaid appointment so the Director is serving on your behalf and not his; which is one more way to make sure you are getting the best possible coverage when you buy through your Department.

Again, this Department sponsors a broad range of insurance products and services - ranging from the “no-cost” AD&D coverage offers to the $500 if a covered accident occurs while on Official Legion Business or $1000 for all other covered accidents at NO COST TO YOU until it expires on Aug. 31, 2016 to HOSPITAL HELP to CANCER CARE to Emergency Assistance (EA+). Supplement to Auto/homeowners and more - so one or more will likely fill a need or void in your family’s insurance portfolio.

But, lets’ talk a bit about buying insurance - the best buy to buy is to shop, compare, and then purchase the coverage from a source you trust.

We invite you to compare this Department’s endorsed products with any on the market and then you can buy with the confidence of forty-five (45) years of continuous service to Legion families behind the LIT.

(By the way, buying through the LIT also helps the Department underwrite its ability to serve our veterans and the communities.)

To learn more about your Department’s insurance products and services please call 1-855-837-2639 or visit theLIT.com/Legioncare12.

Either way, there will be no hard-sell or obligation to buy when you do.

Membership Is KEY!!!
National Commander Urges
Push in Membership

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

What if The American Legion simply ceased to exist?

What if there were no Legionnaires to volunteer time, donate goods or raise funds in their local communities?

What if there were no Legionnaires fighting for the rights of all veterans on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures?

Imagine a world where Legionnaires are not there to honor the fallen at military and veteran funerals, or to lead patriotic services during local Memorial Day, Veterans Day or Flag Day ceremonies, or to mentor young people looking for adult leadership.

Such a scenario would be disastrous for nearly 14,000 communities where local posts make major differences every day.

That’s why I am reaching out to you to encourage your participation in the Legion’s push to reach an all-time high in membership by our 100th anniversary in 2019. A new five-year strategic plan, outlined during the Spring Meetings, is thoughtful and comprehensive. My thanks go out to the National Membership & Post Activities Committee members on their fine work so far.

In the coming weeks and months, department commanders will outline specifics about how they will begin to implement their plans in five key areas: Brand Awareness; Communication; Training, Education and Leadership Development; Post Creation, Development and Revitalization; and Membership Recruiting and Retention.

I’m sure that you have some good ideas on how to achieve this goal. Please contact your department commander with your suggestions.

As M&PA Committee Chairman Denise Rohan said, “We want to encourage all members, all members all the way to the post level, to be a part of this plan. It needs to be a grass-roots effort. We have to tell The American Legion story to our nation’s military and emphasize to them that they are veterans, even though they are still wearing the uniform. They are eligible to be members of The American Legion.

This is our road map for a bright future and an American Legion that will continue to be the nation’s staunchest advocate for veterans, servicemen and women, their families, America’s children, and our communities.

Thank you for your participation in this effort, and for what you do every day.

For God and Country,

James E. Koutz
National Commander

The Legion Family at the Napoleon Ouellette American Legion Post 24 in Rumford recently held a two day fundraiser event. These events brought in enough funds to present a check for $1,145 to the Western Maine Veteran’s Advisory Committee (WMVAC). This donation will go to support activities for our aging veterans at the South Paris Veteran’s Home. Left to right, Auxiliary President Erika Bickford, SAL (Sons of the American Legion) Squadron Commander Keith Bickford, Rumford Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston and WMVAC Chairman Joe Cooney.

Brewer Post 98 Commander Ronald Hanson and the Post’s annual scholarship recipients Brian Jones and Kassidy Giggy. Brian and Kassidy, both Brewer High School seniors, were selected based on their outstanding academic achievement and community involvement.

Post 133: Phil Bosse (Regional Representative for U.S. Senator Susan Collins) presents a U.S. Flag flown over the U.S. Capital on Flag Day in honor of the 90th Anniversary of Martin-Klein American Legion Post 133. Seated, left to right, WWII Vet Hugo J. Wilms, Rosaline Soucy Babin, Joan Dumas, Janet Charette, Delores Chasse, and Hennelle Pelletier. 2nd row, left to right, Clarence Levesque, Roger Belanger, Ernest Berube, Phil Bosse, Phil Boucher, Post 133 Commander Duane Belanger, James Palmer, and Clifford Pelletier. Back row, left to right, Donald Pelletier, Robert Sirioso, Normand Albert, Reggje Deschaine, Pierre Plourde, Irvin Roy, Bill Gallagher, Roland Bouthot, and Dept. Adjutant Lloyd Woods.

Winning . . . with Teamwork

Five-year Strategic Plan Outline to Help Increase Legion Numbers

1. Brand awareness

* Create and promote a tagline that best describes the Legion.
* Develop a comprehensive marketing plan to increase clarity of brand awareness of the Legion as the premiere veterans service organization.
* Encourage new corporate partnerships with veteran friendly organizations that have the same values as the Legion, all in an effort to increase the benefits of being a member.

2. Communication

* Develop a media relations team within each department.
  * Communicate the Legion’s story to the nation’s military components, with emphasis on eligibility.
  * Collect all members’ email addresses to disseminate information on any calls to action.
  * Increase public service announcements in local media channels.
* Increase presence in social media.

3. Training, education and leadership development

* Develop membership training teams and long-term plans for membership growth.
  * Encourage growth of the Leadership Education and Development program, The American Legion Extension Institute and department Legion colleges.

4. Post creation, development and revitalization

* Conduct post evaluations to identify areas that may need post revitalization, consolidation or new post development.
  * Improve community awareness of posts by being active in the community.
  * Welcome all members and guests.
  * Use the proper membership tools at all levels to achieve growth, like “Why You Should Belong” and “How We Help” brochures, Post Officer Guide and Public Relations Toolkit.

5. Membership recruiting and retention

* Establish membership teams at all levels; retention must be the first priority.
  * Develop and implement a strategy for transferring members from the department headquarters’ post into traditional posts.
  * Evaluate current reward and incentive programs at all levels and make recommendations for change if necessary.
  * Develop a working relationship with military senior leaders to offer an opportunity to join the Legion to all eligible members of the active military, National Guard and reserve. “Don’t just walk in the door and start recruiting,” Rohan said. “Walk in the doors and find out how we can help them and once they see what we are doing, they will want to join.”
  * Make all new members feel welcome.
  * Offer participants in the Legion programs, and their families, the opportunity to support such programs through membership in The American Legion family, if eligible.
This is No Longer Your Father’s ‘Legion Ball’

By DAN WARREN
Special to The Maine Legioneer

The headline in the Banger Daily News hit me like a ton of bricks: “CALAIS LEGION TEAM FALLS Loss of Players Forces Season.”

For those people who have been involved in American Legion baseball in Maine for decades, this was a shock, disheartening announcement. It not only was a further indication of a malignancy we all fear. But it also was — for those of us who try to be honest with ourselves — a development that hit close to home for most any team or Post in the state of Maine, the feeling in the pit of the stomach, reading that story in the BDN is — “That could have been us.”

American Legion baseball in Maine is dead. Or at least it is dying in many areas.

Or perhaps more accurately, it is not what it used to be.

The good news is the reasons why are fairly easy to diagnose. The bad news is it is not clear there is the leadership to make the changes that ought to be made.

There is a look at The Top 10 Reasons American Legion Baseball is No Longer Your Father’s “Legion Ball” — and Some Suggestions About What to Do to Fix It.

How did this happen? Earnest young high school coaches decided that American Legion baseball would be a GREAT way to develop a “feeder” program for their high school team the way some use summer baseball as a training ground for players, said coaches.

Others (such as me) will tell you the performances of these new “inwardly focused” teams has been often horrendous.

One team has been single-school for closer to 15 years. It is not only single-school, but it is so high-school-directed that the coach has routinely told kids who graduated in June not to play that summer: “Go to the beach,” he would say, laughing, but also dead serious. “We are not interested in you playing this summer” since you will still be in the fall, not enrolled in our high school.

Another couple coaches on multi-town teams would even object to kids self-identifying as保留 the good roles on the team for kids who attend the high school where they coached, and mostly ignoring the kids on the multi-town team who attended separate schools.

Another well-known school in southern Maine saw that it had a couple age groups of outstanding players, arranged to have their own single-school Legion team, did so for a year; had great success, and, then, when those talented kids finally graduated, suffered a miserable summer of bad players, and often no players (forfeits) and folded.

You get the message.

2) YOU REALLY WANT WHAT DID YOU TO WHERE YOU HAD BEEN?

In the 1960s and 70s, Legion baseball was “all-star” baseball.

School towns in central and southern Maine would routinely combine with two or three other towns to make up “combined” Legion teams that could compete with, e.g., Bangor, Lewiston, Deering, Portland, etc.

The best teams for Scarborough kids, ever, in my opinion, were when this model was adopted again in the 1990s, and Scarborough teamed up with Saco and Gorham for some great teams. These Libby-Mitchell-Post-sponsored teams were able to compete with the “big boys” and make it out of our Zone competition to the state tournament.

That approach was classic Darwinism.

If you had three teams combining to form a Legion team, you only needed, on average, 5 or 6 kids from each of the three schools.

That made sense, and worked well. Why?

Because — as the theory goes — if you played spring ball for your high school team, and you batted in the top six spots in the batting order, you probably were a good player; and probably had an enjoyable spring season. Both factors — theory goes near to another more interested in playing “serious” baseball in the summer with an American Legion team (Legion baseball is a minimum four-game season during an intense five to six week season; games are Tuesday nights, Thursday nights, and Saturday doubleheaders, usually under the lights); the playoffs that may bring with them 3 or 4 games, followed by state playoffs involving ten teams from throughout the state, and that is a lot of baseball. You had to add some more. If it is a kid it pitches well for his high school team, that fact alone may make him interested in playing in the summer pitching in tryouts. The problem is you need to get 9 to the field and avoid for-fieoffs.

This we need-six-players-from-all-three-member-towns approach works well.

What happens if you only have two schools making up a Legion baseball team?

Or — gulp! — one? Yikes.

3) OUR LEMONADE STAND IS RUNNING OUT OF LEMONADE, LET’S CUT IT WITH WATER, HOPEFULLY THE CUSTOMERS WON’T KNOW.

A close look at some of the problems.

If you try to put together an American Legion baseball team using just players from two high schools, you need to have a full roster of 18 (why 18 players on a team roster)? Because they won’t let us have 35! During the dog days of summer, as the Calais team can well attest, kids are busy with vacations; jobs; girlfriends; Aunt Matilda coming to town; family BBQs; college visits; football camps; basketball camps; summer soccer games etc., etc. Even with 18 players to draw from, it is often a challenge to get 9 to the field and avoid forfeits.

What is wrong with having 9 players from the same high school on a Legion team?

One problem is, candidly, there are rarely 9 players at one school good enough to play serious summer baseball against serious teams.

Another, related, problem is you do not generally have 9 playersINTERESTED enough in playing summer ball from one high school to make up a summer team.

You might have 2 or 3 players — and they per-suade one or two of their buddies who want to play; basically, for social reasons; they might show up; but they may not play very well.

This hurts team quality.

This lowers the level of league play.

Former UMO coach Paul Kostacopoulos, who coached the Bluejays of Biddeford, said the problem is that single-school Legion teams, mostly, used to attend Legion games as a scouting exercise. He bemoaned the trend toward single-school town teams, which makes it difficult for players to move from one school to another and access the many good Legion baseball programs, and also to the Libby-Mitchell team, that contain the Pledge of Allegiance, the oath of Legion baseball etc.

But there is one thing that Libby-Mitchell Post 76 in Scarborough finally decided was NOT a good idea for those Legion kids to miss a game — having to attend some OTHER baseball game of a team they are on.

You want to play baseball? Play on our team. Period. Yes, we lose a couple kids a year who won’t try out for Libby-Mitchell baseball because they want to play on two or three or four summer teams at the same time. We lose some kids.

But we gain more team-oriented, committed kids. We also do a better job training kids to be loyal to their team and avoid forfeits.

4) IS THE GRASS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE?

Want your high school Legion baseball league to miss some kids to AAU baseball is due to quality and also a sense that one must play out of state to be “seen” by college coaches, and pro scouts. Out of state AAU baseball is well-suited for kids who are headed to the highest college levels (too bad, now that college baseball is at higher levels of competition in different leagues.

For most kids, however, e.g., kids who want to play Legion baseball as high school kids, they could stay and play summer Legion ball in Maine and serve themselves well — if only Legion ball were better quality. To get there, we need to go back to multi-town, multi-school teams, and get away from single-school teams.

5) OUR RESTAURANT DOESN’T HAVE MUCH LEFT TO OFFER, BUT WE STILL HOPE YOU WILL EAT HERE

Legion baseball no longer has a lot of coaches who teach skills, and physical fundamentals. They need to get some.

Kids today pay $50 or more an hour to take hitting or pitcher lessons at private baseball facilities.

Legion baseball could increase in popularity if it added more substance to the experience.

That is why Legion baseball members voted on Saturday to allow teams to PLAY ON FOUR DIFFERENT BASEBALL TEAMS THIS SUMMER! SERIOUSLY, DUDE?

The local newspapers are still pretty good source of “where are they now” information?

Call me corny, but I still think American Legion baseball and its patriotic themes. It is the National Anthem and the National Anthem committee, and some “DjaplayLegionball” (translation — “Did you play Legion ball?”)

It was shorthand for — were you any good, and were you serious about baseball?

It’s why young Legion team members make Senior Legion ball a good “brand” again.

9) MY GRANDMOTHER ATE QUAKER OATMEAL BECAUSE WILFRED BRIMLEY DID

Thousands and thousands of Major League players played American Legion baseball as high school kids. A high percentage of members of the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame played Legion ball. We need to promote both. How about a state American Legion baseball book with photos of past great players, photos, historical action shots, team and biographical information, and some “golden oldies” information?

It would be a great sales brochure!

10) IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST BUT DONT MAKE A SOUND, DID IT REALLY FALL?

Legion baseball has a sound historical structure. If we can improve quality, the ingredients are there for a bright future.

But we could do more to publicize it.

The local newspapers are still pretty good about printing game stories, box scores, and standings (if we could get our coaches to call in results after each game — arrrgh!!).

And how about modern technology?

How hard would it be for web sites for each team, and each Zone?

How about keeping statistics, and photos, and video, so those interested from outside the leagues could learn about teams and players (Yes — I mean college coaches!!) and pro scouts.

We are missing out on a great chance for some PR. Anybody out there?

Any thoughts on these messages?

Anybody with the courage to take back Legion baseball for the American Legion and its participants — and make clear that we are not here just to benefit some well-intentioned but misguided high school coaches?

Respond now. While we still have time.

1994 From the Editor: The points contained in this article are in no way the belief of The American Legion and its many posts throughout the Department of Maine as well as the leadership of the American Legion baseball program. They belong to the author alone.” — Lloyd Woods, Dept. Adjutant
Meet the Officers for 2013

JOHN HARGREAVES
Commander

RICHARD GRAVES
First Vice Commander

RONALD RAINFRETTE
Second Vice Commander

LLOYD WOODS
Adjutant

TOMMY ADKINS
Finance Officer

RONALD CARON
Historian

CHARLES FOSS
Americanism

PATRICIA THURSTON
Chaplain

DANIEL AYOTTE
Sergeant-At-Arms

LESTER DEARBORN
Judge Advocate

ROBERT OWEN
Service Officer

PAUL L’HEUREUX
NEC

BRENDA DEARBORN
NECA
Paying It Forward
in Oak Hill Middle School

By AIMEE N. LANTEIGNE
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Celebrating Memorial Day and our veterans has grown into somewhat of a tradition at Oak Hill Middle School in Sabattus. Every year on the Friday afternoon before Memorial Day, eighth grade students honor their loved ones who served in the military with a moving ceremony in the gym recognizing their contributions and sacrifices to our country. In the morning, our entire middle school participates in Advisory Day where small groups of students and their advisors do something fun together for the whole morning that is also considered a form of community service.

This year, seventh and eighth grade social studies teachers, Aimee Lanteigne and Darryl Ellis, combined their advisory groups and took them to the Plains Cemetery in Litchfield and the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Sabattus to place flags on the graves of veterans. Before heading out to the cemeteries, we took our twenty students to Rt. 107 Diner in Litchfield for breakfast. Service was prompt and the food was yummy and filling. When the waitress brought us the bill, all the kids’ orders were combined together and a grand total of $139.61 had to somehow be divided amongst the 22 of us based on what we each ordered. As Darryl and I were trying to figure out how to best tackle that, another customer came over to our table and grabbed the check out of my hand. “I got that,” he said. “What? Are you serious?” I asked jokingly. “Yeah, I’m serious. I’ve got it.” After Darryl and I exchanged dumbfounded looks with one another, we shook our head in disbelief. “Unbelievable,” Darryl said quietly.

Turns out this customer was Larry Gowell, a lifelong resident of Litchfield who went to Litchfield Schools and graduated from Monmouth Academy. Darryl actually had Larry as a student in the 70’s. He is a former Deputy Chief in the Litchfield Fire Department. Larry is a co-head bus driver for RSU #4, and he owns and operates G & G Cash Fuel and G & G Bottled Gas. Larry and his wife, Lisa, had a son, Larry Jr. who was wounded in Iraq and died here at home from blood clots associated with his combat wounds. Lisa and Larry and their daughter, Amanda, sat in a booth next to the window that morning, and after Larry grabbed the check from us, Lisa explained that they had a son buried in the Plains Cemetery and they were so thankful that we were remembering the veterans by placing flags on their graves. Darryl stood up and announced to the entire restaurant what had just transpired and everyone erupted into applause. All the kids went and shook Larry’s hand before heading back out to the bus. What a way to start the day.

Rallied by Norman Bernier and Ron Caron, members of the American Legion William R. Bold Post No. 181 in Litchfield and American Legion Post No. 135 in Sabattus met us at the cemeteries and went over how to carefully and respectfully remove tattered flags, re-adjust the place holders, insert the new flags, and salute at the foot of the grave while verbally expressing our thanks for the service of those buried below us.

The Legionnaires presence added a vivid and tangible reminder of just exactly whom we were honoring, our communities’ fallen heroes now slumbering in their eternal resting place. The veterans who showed up at the cemeteries to help the students all commented on how great a thing they did and everyone involved, Legionnaires, teachers, and students alike, all hope to continue this wonderful tradition year after year. As Larry Gowell so generously showed, this is our way of paying it forward.

Sabattus Post 135 installation of officers for 2013-2014 was held at the Sabattus Post on June 16, 2013. Left to right, Americanism Officer Amedeo Lauria, 1st Vice Commander Dominic Santomongo, Post Historian Gordon Smith, 2nd Vice Commander James Caron, Post Commander Tracey Rancourt (first women to command the post since it was established in 1924), Chaplain James Rancourt, Finance Officer Joseph Michaud, and Adjutant Steve Caron. Not pictured: Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Gosselin and Anthony Culpovich.

Winning Wheels: Scott Crawford of Palermo wins the 2013 Car Raffle held by the Palermo American Legion and the Palermo Volunteer Fire Department. He was presented a check for the car on Saturday, June 1, at Central Maine Motors in Waterville. Left to right, Robert Hendrick of Central Maine Motors, Lee Jackson of the Palermo Fire Department, Scott Crawford of Palermo, Randy Stadelbauer, 1st Vice of the Palermo American Legion, Post 163, and Chris Gaunce of Central Maine Motors.

Golf Tournament for Veterans Features Many Prizes

$1,000,000 Hole-in-One Try, Chance to Win a Car, and More!

SOUTH PARIS — The Western Maine Veterans’ Advisory Committee is pleased to announce that a number of local sponsors are providing huge prizes for its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on Aug. 24 at Fairlawn Golf Course in Poland to benefit the residents at Maine Veterans’ Home in South Paris.

WMVAC is still accepting players and sponsors, but please hurry as last year’s tournament is filling up fast. The tournament players and that is a nice consolation prize, if you don’t win one of our prizes.”

All golfers will be entered into a drawing for one try at a $1,000,000 hole-in-one shot. There is also a hole-in-one prize of a new car sponsored by Goodwin’s Chevrolet. Raffle tickets are currently being sold for $5 for a 50” flat screen TV and the winning ticket will be drawn at the tournament and you do not have to be present to win. Aaron’s in Oxford has also donated a recliner for a prize, for the third year.

“We are so thankful to WMVAC and the sponsors to pull together a number of great prizes and opportunities,” said Joel Dutton, MVH-South Paris Administrator. “It just goes to show you how important our veterans are, and we thank all of the sponsors and players for taking part.”

To register or sponsor the tournament please call Ron Snow at (207) 744-9156 or email golferbowler2001@yahoo.com.

The $75 registration goes a long way toward supporting veterans at the Maine Veterans’ Home, but is also your ticket to a fun event.
Sinise Foundation Committed to Supporting Nation’s Defenders

The Gary Sinise Foundation is committed to supporting our nation’s defenders, especially as they enter the civilian work force. While this transition can sometimes be difficult, they’re doing their best to ensure our defenders are adequately equipped to meet those challenges head-on. One essential component to confidence in the workplace is a professional wardrobe, which is why together with their friends at Jos. A. Bank, they’re proud to provide a free suit to qualifying veterans and their friends at Jos. A. Bank, they’re proud to provide a free suit to qualifying veterans and their friends at Jos. A. Bank.

In order to qualify for a Jos. A. Bank free suit, you must provide the proper documentation. Please fax or email a DD214 form, a statement of service if you are still active duty or you can also make a copy of the front and back of your military ID. Additionaly, please include your full name as it appears on your identification, your address, city, state, and zip code along with your best contact phone number and email address. That way, if they have any questions, they will be able to reach you. If you have any additional questions, please email: contact@garysinisefoundation.org.

Please share this with the veterans you work with that are job searching. A new suit can help them to make a great first impression during interviews!

Legion Education Week Nov. 17-23

The American Legion has a long-standing interest and commitment to American education. The American Legion believes a strong education program is important and significant in maintaining American traditions and instilling in our young people a sense of personal obligation and responsibility.

American Education Week
What? Recognize the contributions made by schools, school boards, administrators and teachers to our cherished American way of life.
Where? In public and private schools in every community.
Who? By all citizens interested in the education of their children and grandchildren and who continue with their involvement in today’s schools.
How? By visiting their child’s school and talking with their teachers and/or observing classes or activities.
When? The specific days will vary from community to community but the national observance will be during the week of November 17-23, 2013.

Membership Renewals - Take Note

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine.

The renewal process begins in July for their membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine.

There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice.

If this occurs, please check with your local post to ensure they have received your dues.

More Benefits for Members

Information recently received from National shows that Emblem Sales will now accept American Express among other credit cards for orders of merchandise from our members.

Also, added to the authorized provider for The American Legion members and SAL members is Motel 6. Motel 6 provides all American Legion and SAL members a 13% discount at any of the 1,000+ pet-friendly locations in the U.S. and Canada. Call 800-4MOTEL6 or visit motel6.com. In order to receive the discount use code CPS65474.

Another new licensee is known as “ClassB” who is an official approved licensee of The American Legion for custom printed t-shirts. To view products available from them you can go to www.classb.com/legion/ to see some of the products available.

— Lloyd Woods
Dept. Adjutant
Jay War Memorial, May 13, 2013
— one of the places that was cleaned in May, 2013.
Left to right, Don Simoneau, Ken Bouchard, Rene Couture, Andy Gerrier, Les Gatchell, and Charlie Bennett.

Lewiston Post 22 installation of officers for 2013-2014 was held June 26, 2013 with District 3 State of Maine District Officers. Seated, left to right, Post 22 Adjutant Jerry DerBoghosian; Post 22 Commander Jerry DeWitt; District 3 Installing Officer, Mechanic Falls Charles Berube; District 3 Installing Officer, Sabattus Post 135 Ron Caron. Standing, left to right, Post 22 1st Vice Commander Norman Bussiere; Post 22 Chaplain Donald Dube; Post 22 Service Officer Joseph Paradis; Post 22 Sgt-At-Arms Arthur Paradis; Post 22 2nd Vice Commander Bertrand Mathieu; District 3 Installing Officer, Mechanic Falls Post 150 Raymond Lemieux.

Post 171: Flag Day Ceremony held June 14 by Harpswell’s John Leo Murray Jr. Post 171 and Girl Scout Junior Troop 3808 at the Merriconeag Grange. Unserviceable US flags were collected from Harpswell’s 3 post offices, 2 libraries and the Recycling Center for dignified disposal. Front row, L-R: Scouts Emily, Gracie, Ema, and Brooke. 2nd row: Historian Minerva Vazquez USA (Ret) and Asst. Sgt. at Arms Jim Swol USMC; back row, L-R: Dick Parks USN, Sgt. at Arms Steve Collins USA, Cdr. Mike Doyle USA, Adjutant Bob Webber USAF, 2nd Vice Cdr./Chaplain Rollie Weeman USAF, Exec. Committeeman Andy Paulhus USN, and 1st Vice Cdr. Dan Boland USMC.

Post 216: Dept. of Maine Commander John Hargreaves presents gavel to newly installed Commander Ken Kellogg, right, at Phippsburg Post 216. Commander Hargreaves was assisted by Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Ron Rainfrette as Sgt.-At-Arms and N.E.C.A. Brenda Dearborn.

Post 181 Honors WWII Veterans

Raymond Young  Nunnio Biondello  Mary Stoildard
Harold Blen  Eldon Harvey  Bill Quuckenbush  Malcolm Harvey

William Bold Post 181 in Litchfield, ME held a pot luck dinner in honor of those men and women who went on the “Honor Flight New England” to Washington D.C. An evening of music and celebration occurred on May 4, 2013 at the Post Hall to honor Malcolm Harvey, William Quuckenbush, Raymond Young, Harold Blen, Mary Stoildard, Eldon Harvey, & Nunnio Biondello for their service in WWII. Each had an opportunity to thank the Post for sending them and share their experience on the trip. Music was provided by the “Back Porch Blue Grass Band”.

A donation of $660 was made to “Honor Flight New England and was accepted by Mr. Joe Byron, Director of Honor Flight New England who have sent over 600 veterans to Washington D.C. to see the World War II memorial and other sites.
The Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine on February 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 22, 2014.

The main purpose of The High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of 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 and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

This contest is for students who welcome an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship monies. The American Legion’s High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn valuable information about our country’s Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for the past 76 years. National Finals: The 2014 National Finals is April 4-6 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Quarterly and semi-final contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 5, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 6. Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 10, 2014.

More Information
For more information about the Oratorical Committee or to participate, please contact the Department Chairman Tommy Adkins at tomadkins@myfairpoint.net or check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests of the American Legion’s Web site.
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the November 2013 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be Oct. 25, 2013.

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

Ineligible 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 for you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

Photos should be clearly marked as to who’s who in the picture as well as who took the picture. Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at (207) 873-3229.

Attention: Next Deadline Is Oct. 25

The Bureau of Veterans Services
MVMC
163 Mt. Vernon Road
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 287-3481

MAINE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION
Complete the items listed below and return so that eligibility may be determined:

1. Name of Veteran_________________________  Tele. # __________________
2. Address________________________________________________________________________
3. Date of Birth______________________________
4. Service/Serial Number________________________________________________________
5. Social Security Number________________  County __________________________
6. Please submit this application along with a copy of your Military Service Discharge
   (Form DD214). * If more than one period of service, please submit a copy of each DD214 you were issued.
7. Signature allowing the Veterans Administration to release verification of service information

To update your address:

Certificate of Appreciation for Military Service: Joe Gray, seated, receives a Certificate of Appreciation for his military service in the U.S. Army, WWII. Peter Ogden, Director for Veteran Services presented certificates to 6 other Veterans at the Chase Pt. Assisted Living Facility on the campus of Miles Memorial Hospital in Damariscotta. Legionnaire Jerry Miller, Post 42 in Damariscotta has a monthly get-together with local veterans. Many topics of interest to veterans are presented also lots of camaraderie.

Proclamation Ceremony: Decorated Korean War Veteran Gilbert Ormsby, center, and Brunswick Post 20 Korean War Veteran Juanita McCauley, left, are pictured here with Governor Paul LePage at a Proclamation Ceremony held July 27. Ormsby and McCauley were present for the Governor’s signing of a Proclamation declaring July 27 Korean War Veterans Day. July 27 was the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice signing.

Harpswell Post 171
Adjutant Dan Boland, right, receives award for his membership recruitment efforts at the 95th Annual State Convention held in Augusta June 14-16, 2013. Presenting the award is 2012-13 Dept. of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Richard Graves.

Photo by William Cicciotte