State Convention Plans Underway for Augusta

The American Legion Department of Maine is proud to announce the 95th Annual Convention in Augusta, which will open on Fri., June 14, 2013. Department Commander Kenneth Bouchard will call the convention to order promptly at noon time. The Best Western Plus Civic Center Inn on 110 Community Drive in Augusta will be the headquarters hotel. This promises to be an exciting and eventful convention for all of the Legion family members and their friends.

Even before the convention opens, there will have been many activities taking place. The Resolutions Committee will be meeting at 9 a.m. to consider resolutions that will affect our organization. This committee meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend either to just listen or provide input on the pending resolutions to be put before the Department Conventions.

Candidates for Department Office will be scurrying about and putting up their posters and other signs to let you know they are “the best candidate” for a particular office. As well, there will be a seemingly endless stream of legionnaires, auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion arriving at the various hotels in Augusta.

Past National Commander Tony Jordan will be on hand to welcome all delegates to the convention. There will be many awards and presentations to outstanding individuals both from within as well as outside our organization. Post awards will also be presented. One of the individual awards will be to the Department Legionnaire of the Year. This, along with the Humanitarian of the Year award, is truly a prestigious award. We will have two Past National Commanders’ Leadership Awards to be presented; one for the outstanding District Commander, which will be the Past National Commander William J. Rogers Award, and the other to the outstanding Post Commander, which will be the Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan Award. The last order of business for Friday’s meeting will be to hear the nominations of those aspiring to depart-

-ment level offices. Those being nominated will potentially be leading the Department of Maine for the coming year and it is important for all delegates to carefully consider their individual votes. Friday evening there will be a hospitality room hosted by those who are seeking office within the department.

- This is your opportunity to get to know the candidates better and to ask any questions you may have about their views and ideas to help you decide your vote for the following morning. Please do your best to select the candidate who will do the job for our organization rather than those who just have the best smile or catch phrase. This is also an opportunity to enjoy the refreshments offered by the candidates and to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances.

- Also, a Creative Arts Festival will be held at the Augusta Civic Center at 6 p.m. The Credentials Committee will open the voting area at 8 a.m. on Sat. for your opportunity to decide who will lead the Department of Maine for the coming year. Polls will close promptly at 10 a.m.; however those in the voting line at that time will be allowed to cast their ballot.

- Commander Bouchard will reconvene the convention on Sat. morning at 9 a.m. and there will be many awards and other presentations during this session. We have invited Senators Angus King and Susan Collins, Representatives Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree as well as Governor Paul LePage.

- Hopefully, they will all think The American Legion important enough to make an appearance to let us know what they have done on veteran’s and other issues that are high on our priority list. We will be paying tribute to out-going Department Commander Ken Bouchard who has led the Department of Maine this year in an exceptional manner.

- Resolutions Committee Chairman William Cicotte will then give a report of the commit-

- tee’s recommendations on this year’s resolutions. The final and most anticipated event is the announcement of the voting results from the Credentials Committee. A tally will be given out to all of us who have voted, and the newly elected Department officers will be announced.

More on CONVENTION, Page 2

2013-2014 Leading Candidate for National Commander

Dan Dellinger of Vienna, VA.

After obtaining a degree in criminology from Indiana University of PA, Dan earned his eligibility in the American Legion through his service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as an Infantry officer. He served the majority of his service assigned to the 80th Division, USAR, separating at the rank of Captain.

Dan has been a member of the American Legion since 1982 and has spent the last 30 years serving Post 180 in Vienna, Virginia at all levels and remains active today; serving as the Post Judge Advocate and taking part in many fund-raising events.

His hard work and dedication to the American Legion was rewarded when in 1999, Post 180 honored him with a Life Membership; and then in 1998 when the Department of Virginia presented him with a PUPL membership.

Dan owned and operated a construction management/general contracting firm for twenty years specializing in commercial, institutional and industrial construction and renovations. In addition, he owned a retail gift and antique store for ten years.

Dan currently works for a general contracting firm in Falls Church, Virginia, as a Senior Project Manager specializing in church construction and renovation.

Dan and his wife, Margaret, reside in Vienna, Virginia. The Delligers are truly an active American Legion Family with wife, Margaret, having served as Unit 180 President for four years, Seventeenth District President, Department President (2003-2004), National Executive Committee Woman (2004-2005), and at the National Level as National Vice-Chairman in Children and Youth, Legislative and National Security; daughter, Anne, is a 23-year member of Unit 180 and served the Department of Virginia’s juniors as Sergeant-at-Arms; and Dan’s son, Scott, is a 28-year member of Squadron 180 who, in addition to serving the Squadron, also served the Detachment of Virginia as Vice-Commander, Chaplain, and Sergeant-at-Arms.

2012 Flag Program at Mount Vernon Ave. Cemetery

“A veteran - whether active duty, retired, National Guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America”, for an amount “up to, and including my life”. That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”

— Author unknown
It’s Membership Renewal Time

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st. When a member pays his 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 the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, January, March and May.

When a member renews, they are removed from future renewal notices for that year. There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. Since 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.

To renew your membership online, please visit http://www.legion.org/renew.

— legion.org

Reminder: Every Day Is Veterans Day

To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion family members in the Department of Maine.

I like to remind people that Every Day is Veterans Day because that is why The American Legion exists — to advocate for veterans 365 days a year. We must break the back of the VA backlog, which today consists of about 1 million veterans waiting to have their disability claims processed. We must ensure that veterans have access to a system of high quality health care that addresses their unique needs.

I am proud of the advocacy, programs and services that we offer at The American Legion. The recently enacted VOW to Hire Heroes Act and Veterans Skills to Jobs Act will make an important difference as our newest generation of veterans transition from the military into civilian society.

Upon my election as National Commander, I set a goal to raise $500,000 for The American Legion’s Operation Comfort Warriors. Thanks to your donations, thousands of wounded, injured and ill military personnel and veterans will know that their service and sacrifice are appreciated by their friends in The American Legion.

Whether it’s educating the public about the virtues of Americanism or offering the best youth programs in the country, none of these activities would be possible without the hard work performed by our American Legion family members in communities across the country every day.

I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion family. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable Department Convention.

For God and Country,
James E. Koutz
National Commander

Convention

Continued from Page 1

for the coming year. There will be both joy and disappointment, but each and every candidate is a winner to those who know how much effort goes into running for a department office. Every candidate will have done all he or she can do to promote our organization and its programs. Please take a minute to thank all the candidates, not just the winners, for they have played an important role in supporting The American Legion.

Department Chaplain Gary Purington will conduct a Memorial Service Saturday at the Civic Center just prior to recessing of the convention. Saturday evening will start with a banquet in honor of National President Auxiliary Peggy Thomas with the installation of all Department Officers, District Commanders and Area Reps., along with the Department Auxiliary and Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion to follow.

The Department Executive Committee meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the Civic Center. This will conclude the events of our 93rd Annual Department Convention. Hope to see you there.

Very Generous Donation: Donald Simoneau and Department Commander Kenneth Bouchard present a Certificate of Appreciation to Howie’s Welding and Fabrication located in Jay, Me. on March 23, to thank them for their generous donation of 225 tools to use at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemeteries to place the Grave Flags. Receiving the certificate is the President of Howie’s Welding and Fabrication Mary Howes and Operations Manager Timothy DeMillo. Left to right, Don Simoneau, Mary Howes, Timothy DeMillo, and Ken Bouchard.

Agent Orange Exposure in Korea

The Department of Defense (DoD) has estimated that over 12,000 American military personnel were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Korea during the Vietnam era. An area 151 miles long and up to 350 yards wide along the south edge of the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) and north of the civilian control line was hand sprayed with Agent Orange and similar herbicides between April 1968 and July 1969. Effective Feb. 24, 2011, the VA extended the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971, in a unit that, as determined by the Department of Defense, operated in or near the Korean DMZ in an area in which herbicides are known to have been applied during that period. Prior to February 24, 2011, if the VA determined that a veteran served along the Korean DMZ between April 1, 1968 and July 1969, it would concede that the veteran was actually exposed to Agent Orange.

As of the date of publication of the 2012 edition of this Manual, the DoD has identified the following US military units as having operated along the Korean DMZ between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971:

- 3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division:
  - 1st Battalion 72nd Armor
  - 12th Artillery
  - 15th Artillery
  - 9th Infantry, 23rd Infantry
- 38th Infantry:
  - 2nd Battalion 72nd Armor, 9th Infantry
  - 23rd Infantry, 31st Infantry, 38th Infantry
  - 3rd Battalion 23rd Infantry, 32nd Infantry
- 5th Battalion 38th Artillery
- 7th Battalion 37th Artillery
- 17th Battalion 17th Artillery
- 3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division:
  - 1st Battalion 72nd Armor, 17th Infantry
  - 31st Infantry, 32nd Infantry
- 2nd Battalion 17th Infantry, 31st Infantry, 32nd Infantry

3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry
2nd Squadron 10th Cavalry
Division Reaction Force:
4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry
Counter Army Group
2nd Military Police Company
2nd Infantry Division
15th Engineer Combat Battalion

Crew of the USS Pueblo.
Above and beyond:
Don Simoneau, Chairman of the Department of Maine Legislative Committee, gave a very impassionate speech before the State Taxation Committee on the adverse effects of bill Ld. 562, an “Act Related to Service Charges in Lieu of Property Taxes on Tax-exempt Property.” Don, who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer left the hospital so that he could address the committee on this critical issue at great risk to his personal health. At the end, he was tired and frail, but he did all non-profits proud. The Legislative Session was held on April 1, 2013 at the State Capitol Building.

On the Agenda

MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 2 — Cumberland: May 19, Westbrook Post 197, lunch 12 p.m., memorial service 1 p.m., mtg. and election of officers, 2 p.m.
District 3 — Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming commander
District 5 — Oxford: May 21, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m.
District 6 — Knox: May 15, St. George Post 34, 6 p.m., potluck supper and installation of officers.
District 8 — Sagadahoc: May 14, Harpswell Post 171 at Merriconeag Grange, 7 p.m.
District 9 — Kennebec: May 8, Waterville Post 5, 7 p.m. Election & installation of officers. Light lunch to follow.
District 10 — Somerset: May 13, Fairfield Post 14, social hour 5:30 — 6:30 p.m., mtg. to follow. Second nomination of officers, election & installation.
District 11 — Waldo: May 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12 — Hancock: May 14, Stonington Post 102, 6 p.m. dinner at Harbor Café, mtg. to follow.
District 13 — Penobscot: May 5, Howland Post 97, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., installation of Officers.
District 14 — Piscataquis: May 18, Greenville Post 94, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 15 — Washington: May 19, Woodland Post 23, 2 p.m.
District 16 — S. Aroostook: May 18, Greenville Post 94, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 17 — N. Aroostook: May 5, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg., district elections.

JUNE DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 3 — Androscoggin: June 9, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.
District 12 — Hancock: June 11, SW Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinne., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

ALA Valentines ready to share smiles with Togus patients. Left to right, Terry Owen, Unit 202 President; Dawn Dreyer, Unit 21 VAVS Representative; Virginia Chaput, Unit 21 President; Kenda Simmons, Unit 205 Beal House Chair. Area 3 Representative/Post 171 Adj. Dan Boland accompanied them on Feb. 14.
Military Spouse Survivor Benefit Payments Reviewed

The SBP is a Department of Defense program that allows uniformed service retirees to elect to receive military spouse survivor benefits in the event of the retiree’s death. Under current law, if a spouse is receiving DIC and SBP payments concurrently, the SBP payment is reduced by a dollar for each dollar of DIC received. It is estimated that 55,000 widows are denied the full benefit of the Defense Department’s survivor benefit plan. All Americans owe so much to the brave men and women who defended us in the past and continue to defend our freedom today.

Protecting veterans’ interests and those of their families is one way we can honor our veterans who have sacrificed so much.

Americanism Corner

As I write this column, this year has gone so fast. I have mentioned all the American Legion programs as they have occurred. I am sure each post in the Department has tried to do their best, and I applaud you for trying. Boys State is coming right up, and I hope we do better this year. I am a bit afraid to ask your merchants for help; it not only helps the American Legion, it also helps them.

LIT Programs Services & Products Continually Reviewed, Updated

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 the 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 the Department of Maine’s programs with the other LIT participating Departments, you can benefit from 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 Legisforce’s $5000 if a covered accident occurs while on Official Legion Business or $1,000 for all other covered accidents) to the best possible coverage when you buy through your Department.

More on LIT PROGRAMS, Page 5

Commander’s Comments

As I started writing this article for the Maine Legionnaire, I realized this will be my last article as your Department Commander. Being your Commander has been a great honor that I did not take lightly. I could not do this job without the support of the Department Officers and the Blue Hat Legionnaires.

This year is not done yet, and we have more work to do. When you read this issue, we should have about a month left before State Convention. In May, there is still work to be done, like bringing in more membership, and filing our Consolidated Post Reports with department.

The Posts and Districts will be electing new officers for the upcoming year and installing them. Make sure to mail the Officer’s Form to the Department for their records.

After you elect those officers, make sure you support them throughout the year. That will allow them to do a better job.

Let’s not forget to support our two big programs in this state, Legion baseball and Dirigo Boys State. These programs are going to be in full swing in the month of June. The only way these programs will survive is with the support of the Legionnaires of this great department.

I want to thank everyone who supported my Commander’s project this year. Most of the money raised has already been used to support veterans in need.

I can tell you that these veterans that received help from your donations were very grateful.

In closing, I want to thank everybody for the support I received while I was going through my operation for lung cancer.

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and well wishes. That was great and it helped a great deal. Thank you.

“VETERANS HELPING VETERANS”

Service Office Update

Spring has finally sprung and along with it, some crazy stuff from the VA; new forms, procedures, etc. They’re thinking that all veterans have computers and access. This is not so; however, we can pick up the slack in filing claims, power of attorneys, etc.

New claims must be filed using the new S26ez, as all claims even for increases must be upon the S26ez.

Philadelphia continues to be a headache, no correspondence from them regarding NSC pensions, DIC claims and it goes on and on.

Your new assistant service officer is a going unit, on top of the system doing quite well, she be a great asset to the Department.

See you all at convention, enjoy the spring weather, keep smiling and you know why...
The Adjutant Speaks

I have been trying to think of what to write about for this issue of The Maine Legi...
Finance Report

A ‘First’ Look

Here we are, nearing the end of our year. Posts and Districts are electing new officers and programs are about to start up again with new leadership. As we enter our new year, we need to look to the long term good of our organization. The things that we have accomplished within the past year and within the past ninety-five years are staggering. As we move forward into our second century, we need to remember those things that got us to where we are. We are an organization of free men and women who associate themselves together freely to further the goals of the American Legion.

Those goals, simply put are our Four Pillars (VDAY).

Service to Veterans; the care of our aged and infirm veterans as well as service to recently returning service men and women who are experiencing physical, mental, and economic hardships.

Defense of our Nation and Way of life; support a strong and efficient national defense, promote positive relations with all foreign countries, encourage the full accounting for all POW/MIA’s among other issues.

Americanism; promotion and teaching of the rewards and responsibilities of good citizenship to include Boys State, Girls State, Oratorical programs, get out the vote, flag protection and many others.

Youth; to promote the proper upbringing and provide a safe environment for our young people through programs to combat drug abuse, child pornography, and child exploitation as well encouraging immunization, education, and family integrity along with many more.

These are our great goals, and to accomplish them, we must always keep a spirit of cooperation foremost in our minds, but must never give up that freedom of thought that keeps us vital and effective. New ideas will only make us more effective, but we must never leave any of our comrades behind.

So how do we keep the faith with our fathers and mothers? By training and mentoring our newer members. Teach them of our great goals and of the great things we have accomplished. Provide them with the tools to lead us into our next century. Show them the ways and means of our organization and promote an openness that can only enhance our effectiveness.

Now, as we move into our new year with new leadership, we must remember to follow as well as lead. One of our greatest accomplishments should be to make certain that there is someone to take our position as we move on, not only tomorrow, not only next week, but also next year and on into the next century. And we must also recognize that sometimes we must step forward to assume some responsibility for the continuation of our great organization and the forwarding of our great goals. If not me, then who else will?

I will close by saying this. Come to Augusta in June for our Convention and for that great comradeship that is one of those things that make my job so rewarding. And finally the usual quote and I do believe that Harry had it right.

“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”

— John W. Hargreaves

The American Legion

Veterans Serving Veterans

First

For the Blue Hat Legionnaire

Historical Bulletin

This is my May-June article and the 2012-2013 Legion year is nearly over. It is very hard to believe that time can pass so quickly. I have been to over 70 posts and many district meetings over these few months.

I have taken approximately 2563 pictures, written a few articles and shared with many of you my views on why we are all historians of our great works. I’ve stressed our need to document that which we have accomplished or attempted.

At this point, I do not know how many of your Posts and Districts will submit a unit history to be judge, but for those that do not I still encourage you to gather your documentation and preserve that part of your history for those that will follow.

As a Department Officer, I traveled quite a bit this year and the Lord only knows how many great meals I’ve eaten at Post and District meetings. It has been a great time and I’ve learned a lot from you as I’ve traveled around the state.

The time for our consolidated reports is upon us, as a historian each of us has something to share about this year and our efforts. Please take the time to get with your Adjutant and report your hours and donations for the various programs you’ve worked on this year.

— Thank You, Tom
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL
FOR
NINETY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

I n accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the ninety-fifth Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Augusta, Maine, June 14-16, 2013.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 14, 2013, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 15, 2013, at 9 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine.

PURPOSE
The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2013 National Convention to be held in Houston, Texas; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION
Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 15, 2013. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area representatives and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

Alternate delegates are entitled to a seat in the convention but will have the right to vote only in the absence of the duly elected delegates. The decision of the selection of alternate delegates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective delegations. All Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion and guests are invited to attend convention as guests, but have no voice or vote unless delegates.

RULES OF ORDER
The rules of procedure at the Department Convention shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

MEETINGS
The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at the Augusta Civic Center on Friday, June 14, 2013, at 9 a.m.

All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion who have been duly elected by the respective delegations to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at the Augusta Civic Center on Sunday, June 16, 2013. All department officers, district commanders, area representatives and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS
Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid. All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at the Augusta Civic Center; Augusta, Maine, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2013.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 15, 2013. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Creditable reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors. If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1973 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of $5 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04985-0900.

VOTING
Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at the Augusta Civic Center and Convention Center on Saturday, June 15, 2013. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 15, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates cast ballots immediately.

Delegate's card, badge, convention registration and your 2013 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 10:15 a.m.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY
Uniform of the day during the convention sessions will be The American Legion cap. Only the official representative of another veterans group may wear the cap of that organization in the convention hall.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 15, 2013.

Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER
Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the Department Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants. Delegates, alternates and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

PRESS
The Department Adjutant's staff will maintain press facilities during Convention sessions. The Department Adjutant must approve all communications from the Department Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 15, 2013, at 7 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS
There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant. This call will be read in all posts and district organizations and posted upon the bulletin boards of all posts.

This call is being sent to the officers on record. If new officers have been elected, please transmit this information to them.

OFFICIAL:
Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant
Kenneth Bouchard
Department Commander

Legion Unveils Web Page
Dedicated to Military Honor

INDIANAPOLIS (April 17, 2013) — Throughout the United States and around the world, honor for our nation's military heroes can be found guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, at museums, cemeteries and memorial sites dedicated to the great wars, in monuments recognizing any local community's wartime sacrifices, and in the obituaries of veterans.

These are just some of the ways in which our U.S. military personnel and veterans are remembered. The American Legion — the nation's largest veterans service organization — now provides a way for anyone to visit these sacred sites and keep the memories of military sacrifice alive. A new American Legion web page packed with stories, photos and videos, along with the ability for visitors to add their own words and images, is now available at www.legion.org/honor

“Legionnaires are encouraged to share stories of their time in uniform, their family's military legacy and what their posts are doing to recognize the servicemen and women, past and present, who keep America safe,” said James Hall of New Jersey, chairman of The American Legion Magazine Commission, which oversees the organization’s website.

Already, dozens of stories have been submitted for publication and many of those have already been posted. Those wanting to share their stories can go to www.legion-town.org to submit text and photos online. Once approved by an administrator, those stories will be made available on The American Legion web page.
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
95th Annual State Convention Program
June 14-16, 2013
Augusta Civic Center

Friday, June 14, 2013
Resolutions Committee (9 a.m.)
Augusta Civic Center — Open hearing
William Cicciotte, Chairman

First Session
Friday, June 14, 2013
Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)
Opening Ceremony
Presentation of colors
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
POW/MIA Table for One
Preamble
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization
Welcome
NEC Report
Greetings
Post Excellence Award - Report
Legion Baseball
Greetings
Maine Blind Camp
History Awards
Wreaths Across America
Greetings
Maine Veterans Homes
Togus
Introduction of Past Commanders and Past Legionnaires of the Year
Legionnaire of the Year Award
Beals House
VAVS Update
Greetings
Greetings
Department Finance Update
Convention Site Report
Nomination of Department Officers
Announcements
3:20 p.m. Recess
3:30 p.m. Past Dept. Cmdrs.
Club Meeting
5:00 p.m. Past Dept. Cmdr. Club Dinner
6:00 p.m. Creative Arts Festival

Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, M. John Weatherby
Department Chaplain, Gary Purington
ALL

ALL
Department Judge Advocate, Steve Page
Past National Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
NEC, Paul L’Heureux
Augusta City Mayor, William Stokes
Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Athletic Chairman, Charles Berube
Governor, Hon. Paul LePage
Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Department Historian, Tommy Adkins
Ambassador Program Mgr., Kathy Hall
U.S. Senator, Hon. Susan Collins
PR/Marketing Director, Jeffrey Roosevelt
VA Center — Ryan Lilly
Past Department Commander, Brenda Dearborn
Past Department Commander, Brenda Dearborn
Chairman, Robert Emery
VAVS Director, Lorna Hatch & Chairman, Lu Lamoreau
American Legion Auxiliary
Department President, Mary Jane McLoon
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment Commander, Richard Huntsley
Department Finance Officer, Larry Mitchell
Chairman, Andy Olson
Selected Legionnaires
Department Adjutant, Lloyd Woods
Augusta Civic Center
Brenda Dearborn, President
Rooster’s Restaurant
Augusta Civic Center

Second Session
Saturday, June 15, 2013
Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)
Presentation of Colors
American Legion Riders Update
Greetings
Greetings
Law/Firefighter/Game Warden/EMT/Paramedic
Humanitarian Award
Oratorical Winner of Maine Legionnaire Insurance Trust
Service Office Update
Greetings
Keynote Speaker
Children’s Miracle Network
Americanism Awards
Forty & Eight Greetings
Greetings
VAVS Awards
Scholarships Children & Youth
Maine Special Olympics Awards
Eagle Scout of the Year
Boys State
Past Commander’s Club
Daniel E. Lambert Scholarships
Roger’s Rangers & Tony’s Tigers Awards
Membership Awards
Awards
Greetings
Report of Committee on Resolutions
Honors for Outgoing Department Commander
Response
Report of Credentials Committee
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle
Memorial Service — Post Everlasting
Announcements
Benediction
Retirement of Colors
Adjournment (Sine Die)
7 p.m. Installation: Legion, Auxiliary, SAL
Augusta Civic Center

Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Department Sgt.-at-Arms, M. John Weatherby
Executive Director, Paul L’Heureux
Maine Adjutant General, James D. Campbell
U.S. Representative, Hon. Mike Michaud
Law & Order, Chairman, Kirk Thurston
Chairman, Mike Frelik
Chairman, Tommy Adkins
Director, Ernie Paradis
Department Service Officer, Robert Owen
U.S. Congresswomen, Hon. Chellie Pingree
Lead Candidate for National Cmdr., Daniel Dellinger
Development Coordinator, Kate Richardson
Department Americanism Officer, Charles Foss
& Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Grand Chef de Gare 2013-2014
Maine Senate President, Justin Alfond
Chairman, Lu Lamoreau
Educ. & Scholarship Chairman, John Schlaack
CEO, Phil Geelhoed, Chairman, Gary Purington,
Vaughn Mercier & Geoff Ragsdale
Boy Scout Chairman, Ray Lemieux
Chairman, Gary Purington
President, Lester Dearborn
Secretary, Paul L’Heureux
Chairman, Ron Caron
PNC Tony Jordan, 1st Vice John Hargreaves & 2nd Vice Richard Graves
2nd Vice Richard Graves & 2nd Vice Cmdr. Graves
Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap
Chairman, William Cicciotte
Department Adjutant, Lloyd Woods
Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Chairman, William Alaimo
Chaplain, Gary Purington
Department Adjutant, Lloyd Woods
Department Commander, Gary Purington
Department Sgt.-at-Arms, M. John Weatherby

Sunday, June 16, 2013
8:30 a.m. Department Executive Committee
Augusta Civic Center

Have You
 Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2013!
Department Officer Candidates for 2013

JOHN HARGREAVES
Commander
Richmond Post 132

RICHARD GRAVES
First Vice Commander
Milo Post 41

RONALD RAINFRETTE
Second Vice Commander
Camden Post 30

TOMMY ADKINS
Finance Officer
Stockton Springs Post 157

RONALD CARON
Historian
Sabattus Post 135

CHARLES FOSS
Americanism
Dover-Foxcroft Post 29

DANIEL AYOTTE
Sergeant-At-Arms
Waterville Post 5

Bits ‘N Pieces

Calais Post 3
Washington County Community College Veterans donated an American and a POW/MIA flag to Calais Post 3 for our Veterans Cemetery. As always, the Calais Boy Scouts, parents and volunteers have placed over 1000 flags on our veteran’s graves!

Livermore Falls Post 10
We have a huge American Legion thank you to Howie’s Welding & Fabrication Inc., 1148 Main Street, Jay 04239. The business gave us 225 tools to use at the cemetery to place the grave flags. Great day for the MVMC Grave Flag Program.

PDC Don Simoneau

Old Orchard Beach Post 557
Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of $350 to Cub Scout Pack #350, $2,823 to Bob Moody, Zone 5 Commissioner for The American Legion Baseball team, $2,000 to the City of Old Orchard Beach for the Memorial Day Parade, $1,500 to support the Captain Christopher S. Cash Memorial Scholarship Fund, $2,000 to Kieve Veterans Camp, $100 to NEPVA, $1,000 to the Old Orchard Beach Food Pantry, $595 to Loranger Middle School to support summer music camp, $300 to MAPS Scholarship Foundation and $200 to Junior Achievement of Maine.

Guilford Post 119
Guilford Post 119 has donated $200 to the Autism Society of Maine and $90 to the Abaris Club of Guilford.

Clinton Post 186
Clinton Post 186 donated $50 to the Waterville Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol and $50 to the State of Maine Veterans Services for the Veteran’s Plaque to be placed in the Hall of Flags. They also gave out three Blue Star Banners last fall and are expecting to award more.

What a Delegate Should Bring To Convention

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the ninety-fifth annual convention in Augusta, June 14th and 15th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year’s convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival and pick up your delegate or alternate package. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.
Doing Great Things

WWII and Korean Veterans Appreciation Day!
Fort Kent Post 133 Cmdr. Duane Belanger opened the ceremony honoring WWII and Korean War Veterans at the Martin Klein American Legion Post 133 on Apr. 20. Also attending were Peter Ogden, Maine Veterans’ Services and Barbara Hayslett, district representative for U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud. Members honored by Peter Ogden were WWII Veterans Rosaire Cyr, Alban Bouchard, Claude Dumond, Edmond Theriault, and Roland Dumond. Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony.

Kennebunk Post 74 presents a Blue Star award to Tracy and Russell French, Sr. in honor of their son Russell French, Jr., currently stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas at a recently held meeting at their post. The star will be displayed in the front window of the family home depicting a family member serving on active duty. Left to right, Post 74 Cmdr. Denis Lamontagne, Tracy French and Russell French.

Augusta Post 205 presented an Award for Outstanding Public Service benefiting community, state, and nation to Kennebec County Sheriff Randall Liberty at his office on Apr. 18. The award cites his combat service as Command Sergeant Major (ret) where he earned a bronze star and many other medals and awards after service in Iraq, Korea, and Italy along with numerous civilian awards. Along with the Post 205 commendation comes a nomination for the American Legion Department of Maine statewide award for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. In addition to serving in his present law enforcement capacity, Sheriff Liberty chairs or serves as a trustee on a number of boards, including Waterville Rape Crisis, Police Athletic League, Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Children’s Center, and the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Initiative. He resides in Albion with his wife, Jodi, and their children. Left to right, Pat Eisenhart, Dean Shelton, Bob Emery, Sheriff Liberty, Helen Wyman, George Bean, Lu Lamoreau, and Bob Demers.


Damariscotta
Post 42 Cmdr. Roy Benner, left, presents World War II veteran Joseph F. Gray a Certificate of Continuous Membership of 70 Years at Post 42’s monthly meeting held on April 3rd.
State Commander Ken Bouchard speaks to those attending the Annual Cumberland County Past Commander, Past Presidents Banquet held at Gray Post 86 on Apr. 9. Commander Bouchard thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work for the good of the Legion.

District 5:
N.E.C.A. Brenda Dearborn talks Women's Veteran Issues to District 5 members on March 20 at Norway Post 82.

District 5 (Oxford County)
Kirk Thurston, Rumford about to open the District meeting at Norway Post 82 on March 20. Left to right, Kirk Thurston, District 5 Chaplain Michael Curato, and District 5 Adjutant Lester Prue.

Past Cumberland County Commander (1967) Iona Osnoe received a picture of her presentation of the State of Maine Legislative Sentiment at the Cumberland County Past Commanders, Past Presidents Celebration held at Gray Post 86 on April 9. Presenting the picture was N.E.C. Paul L’Heureux.

Membership Award:
Deputy 1st Vice Cmdr. John Hargreaves, right, presents Berwick Post 79 Cmdr. Mark Pilgrim with 2012-13 Membership Award at the 1st District meeting held at Kezar Falls Post 123 on March 24. Guests included N.E.C. Paul L’Heureux and long-time Law and Order Committee member Gil Ormsby.

At left, is one of the two oak racks I have built to hold the cemetery tools. The issue is, with that many tools on the 3 foot rack, it is heavy to handle. It will work great, but not a one person job to move. The one rack in the picture is holding the 50 upright stone tools and 96 regular flat stone tools, leaving 17 of the new tools to go onto the second rack plus the tools already at the cemetery from past years. So there will be enough racks. I am thinking of getting some more oak to make the two racks into four racks for easier lifting with two people. Your opinions would be appreciated. The oak is all screwed and glued and is nice wood from a saw mill in East Livermore that I picked up rough sawn and ran it through my thickness planner, so should hold up.

Photo and Article by Don Simoneau
Legion Leader Says: For Once and For All, Say No to TRICARE Increases!

WASHINGTON (April 11, 2013) — The American Legion has reiterated its organization’s strong opposition to any increases in the premiums paid by military retirees for their TRICARE for Life medical insurance coverage.

TRICARE for Life is the Department of Defense-administered medical insurance plan for retired career service members over the age of 65. The DoD’s just released budget plan for fiscal year 2014 includes marginal raises in TRICARE for Life co-pays and an overall fee increase to 2 percent of gross retired pay within five years.

“That is egregious enough,” said James E. Koutz, national commander of the 2.4 million member Legion, the nation’s largest veterans service organization, “but the Pentagon budget also includes proposals to raise fees and premiums for working age enrollees in the TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Extra plans.

Those raises may start out slowly at first, but escalate rapidly over the next several years. So again — and more loudly than ever — we say no to the idea of placing more and increasingly significant financial burdens on those who have dedicated their working lives to serving our country. These periodically resurrected proposals remain absolutely unacceptable.

We said it last year. We say it this year and, if necessary, we’ll say it next year and the next and the next. Raising TRICARE fees is a bad idea that effectively punishes loyal citizens who have already sacrificed quite enough on behalf of all of us.

“Even the Pentagon itself must suspect as much,” continued Koutz, “given that the happily titled “People Are Central” section of their just issued “Summary of the DoD Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal” makes absolutely no mention of the TRICARE fee increase proposal.

That, in itself, should tell Congress all it needs to know. We hope that our senators and congressmen will do the right thing and say, for once and for all, NO to TRICARE fee increases.”

The American Legion has traditionally resisted proposals to increase TRICARE premiums and fees. Its formal opposition was most recently articulated in a resolution passed unanimously by Legion leadership at their annual convention in August 2012.

Legion Riders — Winter Meeting Well Attended

Well, you would think that the Riders would not care about the winter weather because we don’t ride. Well, we don’t but our meeting was scheduled for February 9th at the Smith-Tobey Post 21 in Bath, but the weather decided that we should meet on March 1st instead. We had to use our communication skills and planning committee in Bath to overcome that issue.

All the Riders who attended had nothing but praise for the post in Bath to make it happen. Everything went according to plan, starting with a meet and greet social time followed by a prepared lunch by the Auxiliary Unit 21.

In attendance were 19 Chapters with around 90 to 95 riders present. We had Chapters from as far south as Berwick to as far North as Madawaska. Opening with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Riders Creed, we were welcomed by Mike Freilk, Legionnaire representing Post-21 Commander. As we were ready to conduct our business, we were approached by the Ladies Auxiliary who asked to speak to the Riders.

It seemed that they were not going to charge us for the meal. The Riders were against this idea, so the Riders put a donation basket out so they could thank the Auxiliary for their support. Well the Auxiliary thanked the Riders and turned around and gave us the money back for a donation to the Homeless Veterans. You have to love it!!!

We started the meeting with a big thank you to Madawaska for the Summer Rally last year. We then shared information to all present and then gave the opportunity for each chapter to introduce themselves and informed everyone what they were planning for events and what they have been doing at each post.

Many had already been working on ride schedules for this summer which we will be sharing with all chapters. Under new business, we discussed and voted on that we again support The Legacy Run Nationally, and the Homeless Veterans program in Maine. Everyone present applauded when we again announced the $15,000 given to Homeless Veterans in Maine.

Next, we welcomed new Riders from the Berwick Post-79 and one of our newest Chapter Old Town Post-75. We have also been in contact with the Gray Post-86 and the Newport Post-105. Yes, we have been busy, even during the winter.

We then heard from the Chadbourn-Merrill Post-29 in Dover-Foxcroft with the announcement that they would like to host the Summer Rally for 2013. More details will follow in the next news article.

In closing, the State Director Kaye Bouchard, all the current officers and myself would like again to thank the Bath Post, the Riders from Chapter-21 and everyone who attended that helped to make this years Winter Meeting another success.

Loud & Proud
Paul L’Heureux
Executive Director
Baseball, the American Flag, Mom & Apple Pie

Spring Is Here — It’s Time to Take to the Diamonds Again in Maine

By DAN WARREN
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Baseball is a good pal. It helps bring us out of the winter; cabin-fever doldrums. It helps melt the February snow, and dry up the March slush, and escorts us to a big belly flop thru April mud puddles into summer!

And summer—it is made for sitting on the front porch of the camp by the lake, radio on in the background, and your team’s announcer holling you to sleep on a July day with: “....and the windup....and the pitch...strike out one....Bailey didn’t like the pitch...strike out two.....and the strike out three....”

Aaaahh, summer....

Let’s go “around the horn,” as Pacy McFarland used to say, holding his wooden bat on his shoulder; pre-game, in the old spare the field where Libby-Mitchell Post 76 played its games was christened Edward J. McFarland Sr. Field. Some quick hits today for your consideration:

“Baseball is chess. Football is checkers. If one...and the other...and the other...Bailey didn’t like the pitch...strike out two.....and the strike out three....”

“The two most important abilities a baseball player at any level can have for a tryout are: 1) a strong throwing arm; and 2) great foot speed. Both catch coaches’ attention. And both can be improved if a player wants;”

“...and the windup....and the pitch...strike out one....Bailey didn’t like the pitch...strike out two.....and the strike out three....”

“...and the windup....and the pitch...strike out one....Bailey didn’t like the pitch...strike out two.....and the strike out three....”

“Baseball is boring, Packy,” Wolfgram said.

“Yes, Packy,” Pacy would respond, “Baseball is a boring game—if you have a boring mind.” They had fun sparring.

“Baseball is a boring game—-if you have a boring mind.” They had fun sparring.

“A fly ball hitter hits .100. A line drive hitter hits .300.” In a college Philosophy class, I had a test that asked for a “definition of existentialism.” It was a take-home exam. It got to be 2:00 am. I panicked and wrote down the words of Coach Martin above. The professor wrote in the margin: “Well said!” I got a B. Huh?

“All for now. — Play ball!”

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**Maine American Legion Baseball 2013 State Tournament**

**Wednesday, July 31 – Sunday, Aug 4**

**Augusta**

**DATE** | **GAME** | **TEAMS** | **TIMES**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sat. Jul 27 | Play-in Games | Z3R vs Z2R | 11:00 AM – August
Game #1 | Z2W vs Z3W | 10:00 AM
Game #2 | Z5W vs (1R or 4R)* | 11:00 AM
Game #3 | Z4W vs (2R or 3R)* | 2:00 PM
Game #4 | Z1W vs 5R* | 4:00 PM
Game #5 | Loser G1 vs Loser G2 | 10:00 AM
Game #6 | Loser G3 vs Loser G4 | 11:00 AM
Game #7 | Winner G1 vs Winner G2 | 2:00 PM
Game #8 | Winner G3 vs Winner G4 | 4:00 PM
Game #9 | Winner G6 vs Loser G7 | 11:00 AM
Game #10 | Winner G5 vs Loser G8 | 1:00 PM
Game #11 | Winner G7 vs Winner G8 | 3:30 PM
Sat. Aug 3 | Game #12 | Loser G11 vs Winner G9 (Note 1) | 11:00 AM
Game #13 | Winner G11 vs Winner G10 | 3:30 PM
Sun. Aug 4 | Game #14 | Winner G12 vs Winner G13 (Note 2) | 12:00 NOON
Game #15 | Winner G12 vs Winner G13 (if necessary) | 3:30 PM

*Pairings for first round games will not match 2 teams from the same zone until 3rd (the round) day.
*Pairings will be made after play-in games on July 24th

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**Regional Sites**

- Middletown, CT – August 8-12
- World Series – Shelby, NC – August 16-20

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**Notes**

1. Pairings for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents unless absolutely necessary.
2. If three teams remain after G13 the Winner of Game 11 will receive the bye in Game 14.
A Plan to Help VA Reduce Claims' Backlog

S
ince my last update, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been quite active. We've held hearings on President Obama’s budget request for the VA, patient wait times, employment challenges facing members of the National Guard and Reserves, and the Department of Defense and VA efforts on creating an integrated electronic health record. In addition to the hearings, there has been substantial progress on moving forward with bipartisan legislation.

On February 26th, Chairman Jeff Miller and I introduced H.R. 813, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act. The bill would require Congress to fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs’ discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, ensuring that all the VA services will have timely, predictable funding in an era where continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are all too frequent.

Our goal is to ensure that the VA is able to provide the medical care portion — roughly 86 percent of the VA’s discretionary budget — at the beginning of each fiscal year. Providing the remainder of the discretionary budget — roughly two-thirds of the VA’s budget — one month after the start of the fiscal year will not help the VA maintain its level of patient care.

It would also give Congress a greater level of oversight on multi-year funding proposals, with one year building off of the next. During the 112th Congress, members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee fought to ensure that the VA’s claims and compensation settled faster.

The goals of the legislative package include:

* ensuring the VA has the needed information to accurately process claims;

* strengthening accountability by requiring the VA to track information in a more efficient and effective way that is provided to the public;

* encouraging the VA to look at better ways to process claims in an electronic system, and

* strengthening accountability by requiring the VA to track information in a more efficient and effective way that is provided to the public.

I encourage you to visit the Committee’s website (http://democrats.veterans.house.gov) in order to learn more about this plan. In the coming weeks we will be fine-tuning some of the details and we welcome your input. We have a lot of issues to address moving forward, but one priority will remain: addressing the unacceptable backlog of claims in order to get veterans the benefits they’ve earned faster.

As you can see, there’s a lot going on with our veterans. In addition to the legislation, there are a number of other efforts to address the growing backlog of claims. The VA has set an aggressive goal of ending the backlog by 2015, and my efforts on the Committee are focused on helping them accomplish it.

The bills that were announced represent a coordinated effort to put forth a pragmatic, solutions-oriented approach. Overall, the legislative package seeks to bolster the VA’s current efforts to modernize and foster better interagency collaboration between the VA and entities such as the DoD.

Tony Cincotta Selected as Town of Berwick’s Citizen of the Year

By ROSANNE MARTIN
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

O
n Saturday, April 27th, the citizens of Berwick, Maine came together to recognize the members of their community who have dedicated themselves to the service of others. The town's highest honor was given to Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Anthony J. Cincotta, Berwick's Citizen of the Year for 2013.

Tony, as he is better known, enlisted in the Army shortly after graduation. While in the Army, Tony was a master parachutist, a ranger, served 2 tours in Vietnam, received the Combat Infantryman’s badge, the Legion of Merit and 2 bronze medals and became one of the youngest non-commissioned officers to attain the rank of command sergeant-major.

Upon retiring from the army, Tony, his wife Rita and 4 children returned to Berwick. He soon became employed by the post office in Somersworth where he worked for over 40 years. A true leader and veteran advocate, Tony assisted the Berwick American Legion Post which was in disarray at the time.

He spent countless hours recruiting, persuading members to become active and holding regular monthly meetings. This was in the 1970’s, when getting veterans, especially Vietnam vets, to join was a challenge. Tony never wavered from his vision and the post grew and became increasingly active in the community.

As Post commander for several years, Tony started the Memorial Day parade, getting the local school bands and Scout troops to participate, and the parade grew to be a major event.

Tony Cincotta Selected as Town of Berwick’s Citizen of the Year

Tony Cincotta Selected as Town of Berwick’s Citizen of the Year

I
nto the post #79 maintained its neutrality. Tony initiated a Cadets’ Night providing an opportunity for residents to have a forum to meet and engage local political candidates.

Tony has made service before self his personal motto and sets an example on a daily basis. Whether helping widows obtain benefits, arranging military honors at burials, transporting local vets to VA hospitals all over Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts to get necessary medical care — all at his expense — or ensuring that local vets received much deserved and overdue awards for their service, Tony was and still is, front and center seeing to the care of local veterans and their families.

Tony was also honored recently by the Department of Maine, American Legion First District, and presented with a hand carved Eagle cane for his many years of selfless service.

Tony’s community involvement also includes helping Our Lady of Peace Church with their annual Penny Sale for many years, serving as the announcer at Noble High School wrestling meets; and serving on Ad Hoc committees for the town. No one is more deserving of this much overdue recognition. Tony — congratulations on your selection at Berwick’s Citizen of the Year for 2013. We salute you!!
Injured Veterans Very Grateful for Donations

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends:

During my trip to South Carolina last month, I had the pleasure of meeting some of our wounded warriors. Spc. Ashley Durham, a young man who survived a suicide bomber’s attack that killed three of his comrades last year, embodies the spirit of the American soldier. Spc. Durham is a respectful young man, working hard to rehab his injuries. In fact, Ashley told me, he is “recovering ridiculously fast.” Like so many of our injured warriors, he wouldn’t dream of asking for assistance. But when a group like The American Legion presents a donation, the expressions of gratitude are real and heartfelt. Often, the gifts are received with a happy “thank you” or a tear of joy.

I recall such repercussions during the Operation Comfort Warriors stop at Fort Jackson, where we presented the Warrior Transition Unit with $50,000 worth of sports equipment. That’s part of the nearly $60,000 worth of goods that the Legion’s OCW program has provided to 10 different WTUs in the first three months of this year. At Fort Jackson, donations were used to purchase baseball, basketball, golf and archery equipment for the adaptive sports therapy program.

Earlier this year, donors helped provide Segways so that those with leg and other injuries at Fort Knox could more easily make their way to appointments and elsewhere on the base. And, at Fort Gordon’s Warrior Transition Battalion, musical instruments such as an electric drum set, guitars and a piano were donated to aid in the healing process.

In the coming months, Legioneers and National Headquarters staff will deliver more comfort items to our wounded service members at Fort Carson, Fort Drum and Fort Riley, among others.

But we can do more to help our brave men and women who are recovering in WTUs and military hospitals around the nation. If you have already donated, I thank you and ask that you consider another donation. If you have not already donated, I ask you to consider making a contribution. Every dollar helps.

All your generous gifts do add up in so many ways. As Ashley told me, “We do appreciate everything we receive. There are no words to say how thankful we are.”

Thank you for what you do every day — for veterans, their families and our current servicemembers.

For God and Country,

James E. Koutz
National Commander

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2013 Resolutions Index for Convention

Resolution 1 — Subject Expansion of periods of wartime service for Veterans benefits

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled at Augusta, Maine June 14, 15, 16, 2013, That the American Legion urge the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to designate all Servicemen that earned the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Action ribbon or were Prisoners of War or Missing In Action as having served in a Period of War.

— Submitted by American Legion Post 41

Resolution 2 — Area Commander

RESOLVED, by the 95th Department of Maine Convention, assembled in Augusta, Maine, June 14, 15, and 16, 2013, that the title Area Representative be changed to read Area Commander; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Area Commanders will be appointed by the District Commanders within their respective areas prior to the Department Convention in June and will be installed at the Department Convention and be identified with their respective Area Commander and the Area number in white letters and/or numbers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these changes be effective the close of the Department Convention, June 15, 2013; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the Department of Maine Constitution and By-Laws, pages 4, 5, 6, and 7, Article IV, Department Organization, be amended to read as follows where reference to Area Representatives be changed to read Area Commanders:

Section 2, page 4, line 7, “... and Area Commanders”...

Section 5, page 4, paragraph 1, line 2 “... composed of seven Area Commanders...”

Section 5, page 5, paragraph 1, line 4 “... Members of the Department Executive Committee shall be:... Seven Area Commanders...”

Section 5, page 5, paragraph 4, line 3 “... Annual Department Convention. Area Commanders will be chosen...”

All Past Department Commanders, Department Officers, Area Commanders and District Commanders”...

Section 5, page 6, paragraph 1, line 1 “One Area Commander,...”

Section 5, page 6, paragraph 4, line 1 “The term of office for all Area Commanders and District Officers...”

Section 5, page 6, paragraph 6, line 1 “In the absence of the Area Commander,...”

Section 5, page 6, paragraph 6, line 2 “... the Area Commander has...”

Sub Section (a) (3), page 7, line 5, “... and Area Commanders must file...”

— Submitted by Task Force for the Future and Constitution and By-Laws Committees

Resolution 3 — Re-establish Junior Law Cadet Program

RESOLVED, by the George T. Files Post #20, Brunswick, ME, Department of Maine, that the Law and order Committee of the Department of Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Law and order Committee, after a Comprehensive Feasibility Study, adopt the concept of this program as an annual Program of the Department of Maine; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Junior Law Cadet “Law and Order” Program be brought before the Department of Maine Executive Committee at the annual Fall Conference for Approval and Implementation for 2014.

— Submitted by George T. Files Post #20, Brunswick, ME, Department of Maine

Resolution 4 — Dues Increase

RESOLVED, by the Department of Maine, The American Legion assembled in Annual State Convention in Augusta, Maine June 14, 15, and 16, 2013 that the Department of Maine increase dues by .25 (twenty-five) cents a month or equaling a total of three dollars ($3.00); and be it finally

RESOLVED, the increase be effective with the 2015 dues year.

— Submitted by Department Finance Committee

Resolution 5 — Amendment to By-Laws Article IV

RESOLVED, by the Department of Maine assembled in Annual Convention in Augusta, Maine June 14, 15, and 16, 2013 amend ARTICLE IV, BY-LAWS, p. 16, to delete all references to “balanced budget” in lines 6 thru 18, beginning with “The Finance Officer will submit a proposed balanced...” and ending with “... previously approved development funds (Res. 1-2008)” and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this amendment be effective at the conclusion of this, 95th Annual State Convention.

— Submitted by Department Finance Committee

Resolution 6 — Include the Area Representative to By-Laws Article II

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled at Augusta, Maine June 14, 15, 16, 2013 that the By-Law Article II, Section 1 include the Area Representative and read as follows Section 1. The Department Vice Commanders, District Commanders and Area Representatives shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the Department Commander.

— Submitted by Milo Post 41

Resolution 7 — Changing Districts back to Counties and reinstate the 7 Districts

RESOLVED, by The American Legion Convention assembled in Augusta, Maine on June 14-15-16, 2013, that The American Legion Districts be returned to Counties; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion return to 7 Districts; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Area Representatives position be dissolved and new District Commanders be elected by the members of each District.

— Submitted by Bucksport Post 93

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Veteran Appreciated:

Maine Adjutant General
James Campbell presents Past Dept. President Jerry Greenwell of Bethel a Certificate of Appreciation on March 30 at Rumford Post 24 in honor of her deceased husband, Jerry Greenwell, who served in the Vietnam Conflict.
Maine Aroostook County American Legion Posts
Join Force for a Meaningful Cause

Within Aroostook County located in Northern Maine, the American Legion Posts from the 16th and 17th districts have joined forces through various fundraisers and activities to raise over $10,000 for Angel Flight Northeast (AFNE), a nonprofit organization that supports their communities. AFNE provides countless amounts of time and energy, coordinating with private pilots, using their aircrafts, to provide individuals who are in need with free transportation to and from major hospitals where specialists and state-of-the-art medical equipment are made available to them.

On Saturday, April 20th, representatives from AFNE along with Lloyd Woods, Adjutant of the American Legion Department of Maine, and Madawaska American Legion Post 147’s members Roger Corbin and Herb Albert, Chairman of the Board for Post 147, visited several American Legion Posts throughout Aroostook County that were holding numerous benefit events and activities in honor of AFNE. They were also joined by Barbara Haylett, District Representative for Congressman Mike Michaud and Peter W. Ogden, Director of the Bureau of Veterans’ Services in Maine.

The day began with a benefit luncheon held at the American Legion Post 15 Caribou, ME. From there, the team traveled to the Martin-Klein American Legion Post 13 in Fort Kent and then to the American Legion Post 145 in Frenchville. The day concluded with a BBQ Chicken Benefit Dinner at the Madawaska American Legion Post 147 followed by a benefit dance. Many of the American Legions also held 50/50 raffles and sold raffle tickets for various donated items along with a handmade quilt that raised $600 that Stanley Pelletier of the Andreau & Conners Post-180 located in St. Francis, Maine presented to Jim Cear, AFNE Chairman of the Board.

Angel Flight Northeast has been providing its services to the residents of Maine since the organization’s founding in 1996. Based in Massachusetts, Angel Flight Northeast is a nonprofit that provides free air transportation to patients and families members so they can access life-saving medical care that is not readily available to them due to their geographic location. Since AFNE’s founding, it has coordinated more than 65,000 missions for people in need throughout the Northeast. Annually, AFNE provides approximately 54% of its services to the residents of Maine with the majority residing in Aroostook County.

Angel Flight Northeast representatives and those individuals who worked so hard and put out so much worthy effort for these fundraisers, know very well that the success of these events are due to the support of the public. We thank each and every individual who organized these events along with their volunteers who help make it such a success and especially to residents from each respective region that came and supported Angel Flight Northeast’s respective fundraiser.

if you or someone you know needs assistance with air transportation to access medical care, feel free to contact Angel Flight Northeast at 800-549-9980 or 978-794-6868. Visit their website at www.angelflightne.org and like their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/angelflightnortheast.

More events at other American Legions are scheduled in the near future to benefit AFNE. Please be sure to keep watching your local newspaper and look out for event posters being displayed for future fundraising events.

Lawrence Municipal Airport  →  492 Satterwhite Drive, North Andover, MA 01845  →  Phone: 978.794.6868 →  Fax: 978.794.6779
WWW.ANGELFLIGHTNE.ORG

MaineGeneral Seeks Volunteers to Help Veterans, Military Families

MaineGeneral’s Retired Senior & Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for a few good men and women to work with veterans and military families. Volunteers will help veterans and military families access benefits, provide training to use a website portal specially designed to help them navigate and track their personal health care, and provide transportation to Togus VA hospital in Augusta, according to Ruth Saint Amand, RSVP coordinator.

“We’re very pleased to be involved with this program that gives back to our nation’s service men and women,” Saint Amand said.

Funding for the program comes from a grant RSVP was awarded from the Corporation for National and Community Service. RSVP links people age 55 and older with volunteer opportunities in a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. The veterans program is RSVP’s newest signature program.

Volunteers can choose one of three ways to help:
* Connect veterans and families who are eligible but are not currently receiving benefits take the necessary steps to sign up for benefits;
* Train individuals to use My HealtheVet, a website that allows veterans and family members access their health care information, get prescription refills, access and track personal health information, track doctors appoints and all military health information;
* Provide transportation to the VA hospital in Augusta and receive gas mileage reimbursement.

For more information about the program or to volunteer, please call Ellen McGuire at 861-3476.
Legionnaires Are On the Go!

History Lesson:
Dept. Historian Tommy Adkins talks Post History to District 7 members at their District meeting held at the Waldoboro Post 149 on March 13.

Post 73 Help with Middle School Flag Ceremony
Members of Corinna Post 73 helped with the Sebasticook Valley Middle School Pocket Flag Ceremony held Thurs., Apr. 11 in Newport, ME by performing the ceremony for the Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags. Performing the ceremony are left to right, Bob Howell, William Digby, Dave Bolstridge, Norman Partridge, Post 73 Cmdr. David Nichols and Service Officer Stephen Colbath.

Kitty Mitchell, a School Counselor at Sebasticook Valley Middle School and wife of longtime Legionnaire Ben Mitchell of Winterport, ME has directed this outstanding program for many years in honor of our American Vets. The program is very touching and memorable though not always well attended by our veterans’ groups, which is a shame because the program is well-organized and provides an excellent opportunity for our vets to interface with in excess of 400 impressionable middle school-aged children.

Having observed first hand this program for the last two years, it certainly is a prototype program. I would like to see it or one like it in every school in Maine. Hopefully, our Americanism Officer will follow up on this program and next year we should all plan on attending. I believe you will be as impressed as I’ve been these past two years. This is truly a remarkable and exciting program, and we should all be grateful to Mrs. Kitty Mitchell and the staff and faculty at the Sebasticook Valley Middle School of Newport, ME for their concern and support of our Vets.

Membership chat: Dept. Americanism Officer Charlie Foss talks about membership programs to District 14 members at their meeting in Sangerville Post 165 on March 16.
Ride on: 2013 State Officers for Legion Riders. Left to right, Road Captain George Draper, Safety Officer Jeff Drew, Assistant Director Don Duplessis, State Director Kaye Bouchard, Secretary Paula Cummins, Executive Director, Paul L’Heureux, and Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Haines. Missing from the photo is Chaplain Dan St. Pierre.

Membership Reward:
Dept. Adjutant Lloyd Woods, right, presents check for $150 to the 8th District Cmdr. Bill O’Connell for exceeding the 2012 membership percentage at the 8th District meeting held at Topsham Post 202 on April 10.

65-year Member: State Senator Seth Goodall, Richmond, presents Post 202 member Iona Oano with a State of Maine Legislative Sentiment recognizing her for 65 years in the American Legion at Topsham Memorial Post 202 on March 15. He also recognized her 92 year birthday. Looking on is Brunswick Post 20 Cmdr. Dan Lindsley. Brunswick Post 20, Harpswell Post 171 and Topsham Post 202 held a joint birthday celebration. Many members were recognized for their continuous membership in the Legion including Dan Boland, Harpswell, 46 years, Gil Ormsby, Harpswell, 45 years, and Chick Cicciotte, 43 years.

Rumford Post 24 held a supper March 24 to recognize continuous service members and volunteers. They were pleased to present certificates to, left to right, J.R. Shea 60 years, Joseph Buccina 65 years, Ivan Arsenaui 55 years, Urbain Arsenaui 60 years and Nicholas Diconzo 60 years for their continuous years of service to the American Legion. It was a wonderful turnout and over 50 certificates were presented to the amazing volunteers.

District 8 All-time High: Dept. Adjutant Lloyd Woods, right, presents All-Time High Membership Certificate to Harpswell Post 171 Cmdr. Bob Webber at the 8th District meeting held at Topsham Post 202 on Apr. 10.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION
June 14 - 16, 2013
Augusta Civic Center
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
## Taps Column

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### NCB 39 Battalion at their best:

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps — NCB 39 Battalion located in Madison, ME — put their best foot forward when they excelled in the Open Ranks portion of their Annual Inspection on March 3rd. The cadets, who orchestrated an impressive military drill demonstration as a preliminary to the Open Ranks, were inspected by LCDR David Hull, Regional Director, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps and then exited the inspection area with another military drill demonstration.

Their Commanding Officer, Major Robert E. Demchak, USAF (Ret), was honored at the ceremony as the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Instructor of the Year—the best in the United States for 2012 — with the awarding of the prestigious Judge Robert T.S. Colby Award. This award was established to recognize a currently enrolled volunteer in an “Instructor” position who has excelled in supporting the training, administration and other needs of his/her Naval Sea Cadet Corps/Navy League Cadet Corps unit during the immediate past full calendar year.

A large gathering of friends and family watched the event and included Mr. Larry Dunphy, District 88, Maine State Representative, Mr. H. Ralph Withee, Commander, American Legion Post 39 and Sgt. Gene Dube, USA (Ret). Please visit our website: [http://ncb39bn.sharepoint.com](http://ncb39bn.sharepoint.com)

Left to right, Larry Dunphy, District 88 State Representative, Major Robert E. Demchak, USAF (Ret), LCDR David Hull, Regional Director, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

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### Your Letters

#### Senator King Likes His New Gavels

Dear Lloyd,

Thank you for both gavels with the numerical markings of the 113th United States Congress. The Ambrosia Maple pocket gavel is certainly attractive. Now they should put me in charge!

Please let Donald Simoneau know how much I appreciate the thoughtfulness of your group. Thank you again for meeting with me.

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr.,
United States Senator

#### Social Studies Teacher Appreciated His Time at Boys State

The following letter was sent to PDC Don Simoneau:

My name is Jason Long and I am a Social Studies teacher at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. We ran into each other at the Augusta State House on 3/27/2013.

I was chaperoning my Civics students as they conducted interviews for their public policy projects. It was an exciting reason to be in Augusta, and all too fitting that I would run into a member of the American Legion during my time there.

I approached you to shake your hand and say thank you, not only for your military service but for your work with the American Legion. I am a Boys State and Boys Nation delegate from the year 2000, and a former counselor of the Boys State program as well. My experience at Boys State, both as a delegate and then as a counselor, shaped me as an educator.

Today, I am in my eighth year as a Social Studies teacher and my time at Boys State still stands front and center in the way I approach my work.

I enthusiastically enjoy sharing American history and citizenship with my students, and I am forever indebted to the American Legion’s Boys State program for shaping and encouraging my passion for the subject and our nation’s principles. Additionally, the experience-based learning approach of Boys State has influenced my teaching style as well.

Thank you for your service to our country, both abroad and at home.

Sincerely,

Jason Long
Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August, 2013 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be July 26, 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 July 26

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_________________________________Tel. # ______________
2. Address____________________________________________________________
3. Date of Birth_________________________________________________________
4. Service/Serial Number_________________________________________________
5. Social Security Number_____________________/ County __________________

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.

Signature allowing the Veterans Administration to release verification of service information_________________________________________________________

To update your address: Complete all sections of the above form and mail it to The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04903-0900.

District 8’s Favorite Officer
Phippsburg Patrol Officer Andy Anderson receives the 8th District “Commendation for Outstanding Public Service” Award at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast hosted by Topsham Post 202 in April, 2013. Left to right, Post 216 Sgt-At-Arms Dave Barnes, District 8 Cmdr. Bill O’Connell, Patrol Officer Andy Anderson, First Lady Ann LePage, and U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud.

Photo by Mike Young

Meritorious Service Certificate: Dept. Adjutant Lloyd Woods presents Meritorious Service Certificate to Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, left, at the 8th District meeting held at Topsham Post 202 on April 10.

Photo by William Cicciotto

REMINDER: The American Legion
Dirigo Boys State
JUNE 16-20, 2013
Thomas College • Waterville, Maine