American Legion Day:

American Legion officers and members in attendance at Legion Proclamation March 13 declaring March 15th American Legion Day, Left to right, Jim Keenan, Mike Madden, Past National Vice Commander “Chick” Cicotte, Department 2nd Vice Cdr. Ron Rainfrette, Department Commander John Hargreaves, Department Adjutant and NEC Paul L’Heureux, Auburn Post 153 Dan St Pierre, Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, Post 24 Commander Kirk Thurston, and Department Chaplain Patricia Thurston.

Photo by PR Chairman Patrick Eisenhart

2014 Convention Plans Underway in Bangor

The American Legion Department of Maine is proud to announce the 96th Annual Convention in Bangor at the Cross Insurance Center which will open on Fri., June 13, 2014. Department Commander John Hargreaves will call the convention to order promptly at noon time. The Fireside Inn and Suites located on 570 Main Street in Bangor will be the head-quarters 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 Convention.

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 the department area and senior vice commander, district commander, county commander, district commander, department area and senior vice commander, in addition to numerous committee assignments and chairmanships. He was Nebraska’s first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve as Nebraska’s official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

During his service as Chairman of the VA & R Commission, Helm chaired the “System Worth Saving Task Force,” a team of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, providing in-depth and up-to-date analysis of the status of VA Healthcare to Congress and to veteran’s advocates nationwide. He also served as a member of the Veterans Planning and Coordination Committee and of The American Legion Ad Hoc Committee studying the Military and Veteran’s Affairs response to Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress.

Mike was born in McCook, Nebraska. He grew up in the Norfolk, Kansas area where he still lives today. He is a retired USPS rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

At the local and state levels, Helm has served as post adjutant, post commander, county commander, district commander, department area and senior vice commander, in addition to numerous committee assignments and chairmanships. He was Nebraska’s first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve as Nebraska’s official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

Mike’s wife Debbie is active in the Auxiliary having served as District 9 President and as the Department Junior Activities Chairwoman.

They are the parents of five young Legion Family members. Aaron and his wife Robie, both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, are serving with the 69th Air Defense Brigade in Kuwait.

Rebecca and her husband Jason Cox, both graduates of Kansas State University, reside in Manhattan, Kansas.

Jacob is majoring in Aeronautical Engineering and is in his junior year at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Matthew is a first-year student at Kansas State University enrolled in Army ROTC. Timothy is a junior at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin, Kan.

Leading Candidate for National Commander

Vietnam War Veteran Tops List

Michael D. Helm, a veteran of service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, is proudly announced by the Department of Nebraska as a candidate for the high office of national commander of The American Legion. A 42-year continuous member of the American Legion, Helm served the 82nd Airborne Division in Ft. Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab during the winter of 1972.

Mike Helm, Past Department Commander (1987-88) and Part National Vice Commander (2003-04), is serving as the National Commander’s Representative to the National Legislative Commission. He previously served as Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission (2009-2012) and as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission (200-2009).

During his service as Chairman of the VA & R Commission, Helm chaired the “System Worth Saving Task Force,” a team of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, providing in-depth and up-to-date analysis of the status of VA Healthcare to Congress and to veteran’s advocates nationwide. He also served as a member of the Veterans Planning and Coordination Committee and of The American Legion Ad Hoc Committee studying the Military and Veteran’s Affairs response to Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress.

Mike was born in McCook, Nebraska. He grew up in the Norfolk, Kansas area where he still lives today. He is a retired USPS rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

At the local and state levels, Helm has served as post adjutant, post commander, county commander, district commander, department area and senior vice commander.
Northern Luzon Association for the Blind (NLAB) school in the Philippines. JAWS is a computer screen reader program that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen by text-to-speech or by Braille.

The screen reading software was added to the NLAB’s five computers, which China Post 1 also helped purchase through fundraising.

John Keller, commander of China Post 1, said the JAWS software “will allow NLAB children an opportunity to merge into the digital age of communication, education and socialization. I believe that the simple keystroke action of asking another human being thousands of miles away a question of science, culture or friendship can put these children on a track that will rival Helen Keller’s achievements in life.”

Meanwhile, in honor of the Legion’s 95th birthday last month, Paris Post 1 Commander Carl W. Hale led a ceremony celebrating the birth of The American Legion from where it all began at 14 Rue Ernest Picardi. And just like Legionnaires in the states, FODPAL members conduct membership drives, host honor and remembrance events, participate in youth programs and more.

I encourage you to visit the FODPAL web page at http://www.legion.org/fodpal to read more about the Legion’s place and influence outside of the United States. — Dispatch
The Freeport Flag Ladies are pictured here with Cpl Eric Pfeffer who reunited with his son, Landon, on Jan. 14. Members of the Jackson-Silver Post 68 and J. Arthur Post 83 came together to help Cpl Pfeffer reunite with his son after being stationed away from home for a long period of time. Left to right, Carmen Footer, Elaine Greene, Cpl Eric Pfeffer, Landon Pfeffer, Joann Miller.
The Adjutant Speaks

The first 6 months of this position has been very interesting in many ways. In the last issue of the Legionnaire, I talked about change, but little did I know how much change in attitude and action would happen in so little time. Not only because of our new leadership, but most of all because of the new officers at the Department, District and Post level, and the Committees that are being proactive and doing what many have not.

There seems to be a new energy because of change and a willingness to get back on track doing what we are supposed to do, and to make sure we are here for future veterans. The meetings are becoming more productive and not about show but about substance and direction to accomplish each task. We seem to look at things that will not only happen tomorrow or next month, but strive to set long term goals for programs, fundraisers and financial needs. We are starting to also see support both financially and the dedication of time to make sure these programs succeed.

On another note, we have also planned a day for all of you to visit YOUR new State Headquarters. Although some of the work may not be completed due to a time restriction caused by the weather and also because we have applied for a grant to assist us to offset the cost of some of our projects, I think you will find that we have done well considering. Please join us on May 31st starting at 11:00 AM and ending at 3:00 PM for food, presentations, ribbon cutting ceremony and for the camaraderie that we may all enjoy.

When it comes to our awards programs for not only children & youth, but for the American Legion as well, we have seen a great increase in the application process which has caused more involvement by the committee’s to make them successful. I have seen firsthand the pride of these Legionnaires and how it spur’s more interest and energy for others to do well.

Change, it is not always easy to accept, but it seems to move us as an organization to area’s that foster new people and new ideas that allow us to continue with the ideals on which the American Legion was created.

The most important part of this equation is the leadership that must come from the post level. From this level rise the future leaders of this organization, the one’s that will carry us forward, the ones that will make a difference in the days ahead for all veterans.

Thank you all for your patience and helpful information in the first six months on the job. Yes, there have been mistakes, and probably a few more ahead, but the knowledge that I have gained has come from the Blue Hat Legionnaires that continue to be the backbone of the American Legion. Remember to move FORWARD and stay FOCUSED.

A ‘First’ Look

This will be my last Maine Legionnaire article as the First Vice Commander and membership chairman. Presently the Department of Maine membership is 1.7 % higher than this time last year so we have been seeing the loss and starting to gain. The five year Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth is in place to help and guide us to success.

Five priorities were identified and we submitted a plan for the first year which was reviewed and approved by the National Headquarters. Basically The Department of Maine’s plan was organizational change such as creating functional committees with a measurable goal, selecting the right leadership, presenting training.

Priority 1 - Brand Awareness (getting the word out on who we are and what we do.) We have effective Public Relations and membership campaigns. We have a new information to include a face book account, a more aggressive Web site for veterans programs and the Public Relations team are going to serve as the backbone of the American Legion.

Priority 2 - Communications- The Public Relations Team is dealing, with social media, the Department has a comprehensive Web site for veterans programs and information to include a face book account, the weekly Smiley newsletter on line www.maineligion.org and the Maine Legionnaire newspaper. Our communication is becoming top notch, but still you may need to ask your Adjutant Paul L’Heureux and he is waiting to help you.

Priority 3 - Training/Education/Leadership Development. Stressing completion of the American Legion Extension Course Online especially for any member assuming a leadership position and a resolution will be considered to make it mandatory for Future Commanders and Department Officers. Our two conferences presented leadership training and the Public Relations team has continued four conferences. We have supported the legionnaire to the National Legion College in October.

Priority 4 - Post Creation/Development & Revitalization. The revitalization committee has been busy helping Posts with readjustment and organizational problems.

Priority 5 - Membership, Recruitment & Retention. A membership committee was created by name and position. The fall conference training was duties of District Commanders and Area Commanders, plus post operations. The latter was given two extra tasks; insure completion of Consolidated Reports and distribute post evaluation sheets.

The results will be tracked. Most Districts have reached their 100% in membership and the Department has met all percentage goals set by National. A meeting of the committees was not necessary; however, if ever some commanders were personally contacted as needed.

For The Blue Hat Legionnaire: John W. Hargreaves
Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION – DIRIGO BOYS STATE
June 15-19, 2014
Thomas College • Waterville, Maine
Historical Bulletin

As I write this final article, I find it hard to believe that the year has already passed. This year’s leadership within the department has been unbelievable.

To think that within one year, we have gone from renting to owning our own Department office building which also includes land that has all kinds of potential for future growth. To have our service office in Togus running full time and staffed with three experienced people. We now have a more proficient P.R. program that is helping to promote all that the American Legion does for the veterans of Maine and their families.

What a perfect combination to have in the hands of the Department Finance and approved by the Department Adjutant. To Comrade Amedeo John deserves a big salute for all he had to do this year in seeing our department make it through a very unpredictable year. Without a doubt, it took a total team effort to accomplish this large task. By the time of this printing, the deadline will have passed for you to submit your post scrapbooks/histories. For those who haven’t submitted theirs, please consider the upcoming centennial celebration and work on getting your post history posted on the national web site and/or just as important, to keep track of all your current events for the future members of your post.

We must all continue to push on with membership and work hard in continuing to support the growth of our organization. It reaches its full potential in serving our veterans and their families. Just as important, please remember to support celebrity and youth programs. In this time and age it is essential that we remain active in offering programs that will prepare them for the future.

To all members of the American Legion Family I get to meet throughout the state this year, I thank you all for the great hospitality given me when visiting your posts and/or events in your area and for your exceptional friendship. Looking forward to meeting many more of you in the upcoming years. Hope to see as many of you as possible in June at the national convention in Bangor.

“When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.”

— Confucius

Money Matters

Department are making good progress on diversifying our sources of income. And lastly we are looking into ways to set up endowment funding to support the Department of Maine’s long term needs.

Along with the above, the Department has made several recommendations for the “Task Force for the Future” to look into better and more efficient personnel practices and procedures and new and advanced methods of communications throughout the entire Department of Maine. The Department is working actively with the Department Public Relations Committee to find ways to increase the outside recognition of the good works that the American Legion does within this state and to use new technology in our daily operations.

While much remains to be done we are moving in the correct direction to ensure that The American Legion, Department of Maine remains solvent and uses sound business procedures in the years to come.

Please remember no one person or group of people have a lock on all the good ideas. I do believe you have a good idea to make things better, so why not share those ideas with us all by writing or voicing your idea(s) and suggestions to the Department Adjutant. He’ll see that it gets submitted to the proper committee.

A ‘Second’ Look

Winter is finally over, a new birth of spring has sprung.

Our term is about to end, so much to know, so little time to do. We all put on a happy face and do our best.

The new home for the Legion shines, it’s a beacon on the hill. Please come and visit the new Headquarters, we are very proud.

The past is over now the new dawn has begun. Post members statewide asked for the change and Department complied. Together we can work as a family.

This wonderful state should come together wherever we go. The Post Legion are still the foundation.

Our love and effort runs through the veins and warms our hearts.

President’s Message

It’s hard to believe that this year is coming to a close in a couple of months. Our Auxiliary members have worked very hard this year in serving our veterans, our military and their families. OMK Operation Military Kids is part of my president’s project this year. All Legionnaires should be very PROUD of our service to the children. This past month highlighted our Children & Youth program in which we were heard and seen throughout the state of Maine. Our units donated a “truckload” of overflowing backpacks for children, honored their sacrifice with providing opportunities to them for adventure trips, camps, school vacation activities, reconnecting weekends with their parent coming home from military service, and everyday needs.

May is traditionally a busy time for the American Legion Auxiliary members, and one of the many times throughout the year that I feel very blessed and proud to belong to the Legion Family. My heart grows ten times fold when I see our elite membership working side by side with Legionnaires, Sons, Riders and our Juniors working on our founding purposes.

This Memorial Day, as we Honor Your Service, I challenge all auxiliary members to remember why they joined this organization and to share their sentiment with their communities and encourage them to join us in serving our veterans/military who have so selflessly served Our Country for us. We continue to reflect and remember on this day by paying tribute to our fallen heroes, no words can bring back our loved ones who lost their lives in service, and no ceremony can do any justice to their memory. That is why it is so important to let the families and communities who are left behind know that they are not alone, for they also have sacrificed and served us also.

Promoting the Poppy during the month of May is a reflection of the message behind the red flower. Share with your communities as you distribute the Poppies that message. Involve all Legion Family members as a strong front gives a solid foundation in our organization.

Reporting our endeavors through the year gives Congress insight on how much our organization serves our military. That is why it is so important for all units to fill out the report forms. Your service is worth so much more than you think. When we combine our efforts with the entire Legion Family it speaks volumes to Our Country.

With everyone pulling together WE will make a big impact in our mission of service.

Just as with our Poppy activities nationwide, our Juniors have devoted themselves to serving for our veterans and their families. From sending care packages, making homemade cards to send to our troops, making lap blankets and neck pillows, participating in events at the post home, attending welcome home and send-off events, sending blanket tapes to the troops so they may record a storybook or just say hello to their loved ones and more, you can see our juniors have been very busy this year.

As the snow melts away up here at Moosehead Lake, it will be time to say goodbye to 2014. I hope to see many of you attend our American Legion Family Testimonial on Saturday, June 7th on the Kathadin. Commander John, SAL Commander Richard and I are looking forward to a wonderful night aboard the steamboat with our Legion Family.

Plans are underway for our State Convention with a few exciting twists — come join us on June 13-14 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine. Ways and Means will have their tables in the entrance area — stop by to see the many items and take a chance on one of the District Department Vice Presidents’ baskets. On Saturday, June 14th in Honor of Flag Day we have something very special planned.

In parting, I cannot express enough of my gratitude for Your Service to Our Country and to thank our elite Auxiliary members for serving Our Veterans, Our Military and Their Children.
Happy Spring Everyone! As Memorial Day approaches, we must remember to honor all mothers. I recently read that the first attempts to establish “Mother’s Day” was done so in the United States and during the American Civil War. It was accomplished by a group of women serving in Women’s Peace Groups. This was done to support mothers whose sons had fought or died on both sides of the war.

This would be a great time to honor the mothers of servicemen and women of today with the Blue Star Banner program. This could make their day a little bit brighter knowing that there are those of us who care about their sons or daughters who serve our great country.

May is also the time when we remember all those who have died while serving. Take time to plan a memorial service or parade to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I am sure many of you have had the opportunity to serve alongside an extremely talented group of Department Officers. They have really brought forth the true meaning of supporting our veterans to the forefront. The hard work that has been put in to all that has been accomplished is amazing.

With this being the last column I write as your Department Chaplain, I would like to say it has been an honor to serve you within the Department.

Please remember that we continue to have men and women who are in harm’s way. They are serving within our military. They need our prayers to stay safe and come home to their loved ones unharmed. We know all too well that it does not end there for many. Pray that they are comforted mentally as well. Educate them on the importance of contacting our Department Service Officer for any support that is needed.

Thank you for reading, may God bless you all and keep you safe as you travel throughout the state while supporting the American Legion.

The newsletter is emailed out monthly to the Service Office. It is a way to stay in touch with both Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans.

Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send me your full name, Post, telephone number (your phone number will not be released) and email address. The purpose is so that members of your post can contact you for local assistance and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

To sign up for the newsletter, please email amedeo.lauria@va.gov your contact information to amedeo.lauria@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter.

The email will contain active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

We have on hand at the DSO at Togus a limited supply of hard bound books “Korea Reborn — A grateful nation honors veterans for 60 years of growth” that were given to us to recognize and present to those that served in the Korean War. They are a gift from the people of South Korea to those who served.

If you are a veteran who served in Korea during the period June 27, 1950 — Jan 31st 1955 we will be happy to provide you with a copy!

DSO Contact information. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by phone at 207-623-3726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at amedeo.lauria@va.gov, through Friday 07/03 — 1500 hours, closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot’s Day.

You are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office, say hello, and have a cup of coffee and talk about your claim or seek other assistance.

If you are interested in having us speak at your meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date.

We are here to serve YOU our American Legion members!

American Legion members interested in the discounted Paid Up For Life membership can easily online. Once registered, members can either pay in full or pay in 12 monthly installments. Join the other 200,000 Paid Up For Life Legionnaires by visiting: www.legion.org/join/pul

Greetings from NECA Brenda!

First, let’s say this year has been quite a year to say the least. If you get a chance, stop by and see our new Legion HQ Q’s; it is something we all can be proud of. Plus, I know that some of the Dept. wives have been working extremely hard on putting together the archives room which will house The American Legion, Maine History.

Also, we have three awesome new personnel working in Service Office at VA Togus. So stop in and say Hi! All new growth means we are moving forward and looking to the future. Change is never easy but it’s a good thing. We all know we need new blood for our organization to continue.

Believe me, we are not the only ones. All the Departments are struggling to find that magic key/solution to what it takes to draw new membership.

All of us seem to focus on our current military forces. Something to think about, how did that generation? Many are young, have families, still looking for jobs, going to school or have small children.

These are not excuses, it’s life. We should be looking at Vietnam veterans as they’re from the “Baby Boom” era. Some retired, but a lot pushing hard on that retirement age.

Many may be empty nesters looking for something constructive to do with all their free time. What’s the #1 reason people don’t join? Right, they are never asked and that’s our job. Find out what we can do to draw these folks in. We did find one draw, and that was The American Legion Riders, but we still need to figure out what else we can offer that will interest them and other veterans.

This may be an area where our Dept. Public Relations team comes into play. Have you attended their program/class? If not, maybe we all should attend. One of the biggest complaints is no one knows about us or what we do. The American Legion as a whole is really not very good at “self-recognition/promotion”. Hopefully with the talent of our PR team, we will all get better at this. Let’s all keep working on the self-promotion and give some thought to Vietnam Vets idea.

As I’m sitting here in my recliner recovering from 2nd knee surgery, I realize that it is just around the corner. Also, Brenda, what do you do if you ask? DEADLINES!!!!!!! This is late in the game but anyone or Post who is putting in for Awards should get cracking.

May 1st is the cutoff! Another item that needs to be done by Convention is the Closed Post Report.

I cannot stress enough how very important this is. Most of you that know that I have pushed the CPR early, on my way up the chairs. It’s so very vital that the National organization gets this information to prepare for the National Commander to go to Congress and testify on our behalf and all veterans.

We are the largest wartime veteran organization and OUR numbers and information and voices count. So please, as your current NECA, I ask all Posts to turn in to Dept. your CPR. And with that I will close and invite everyone to attend the 2014 State Convention in Bangor. Hope to see you all there.

Thank you for all the support you have given me over the years; I will always work to help my fellow Comrades. Blessed be.

NECA Brenda

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY:

PLEASE VISIT

WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW

LEST WE NOT FORGET
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

OFFICIAL call

NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

2014 RESOLUTIONS INDEX

RESOLUTION 1 — Training and Education (21st Century)
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled at Bangor, Maine June 13-14, 2014, that the current Constitution and By-laws be amended to include a section ‘All current and future Department Officers and members of the Department Executive Committee will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the “American Legion Extension Institute Course” and successfully complete and graduate from the said course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing valid confirmation would be exempted”.

— Submitted by Joseph P. Chaisson
Post 41, Milo

RESOLUTION 2 — Expansion of Periods of War Service for Veterans Benefits
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled at Bangor, Maine, June 13, 14, and 15, 2014, that The American Legion urge the U.S. Congress to enact, to approve, a Veterans Benefits Act to expand the eligibility for “Periods of War” currently is defined Title 38 USC 181-Definitions. Sub-paragraph (11) states, “The term “period of war” means the Spanish-American War; the Mexican border period; World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, the Persian Gulf War, and the period beginning on the date of any future declaration of war by the Congress and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of Congress”.

— Submitted by George T. Files Post 20, Brunswick

RESOLUTION 4 — Establish a Volunteer Firefighter Program within the Department of Maine
RESOLVED, That the delegates to the annual American Legion, Department of Maine, Convention on June 13, 14, and 15 approve the establishment of a Volunteer Firefighter Program within the Law and Order Committee, Department of Maine.

— Submitted by George T. Files Post 20, Brunswick

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 13, 2014, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Adjutant; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms, National Executive Committee and National Executive Committee Alternate.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant prior to May 14, 2014, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed. A candidate declaring after May 14, 2014 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank space will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).
96th Annual State Convention Program

June 13-15, 2014

Cross Insurance Center

First Session

Friday, June 13, 2014

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)
Opening Ceremony
 Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
POW/MIA Table for One
Preamble
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization

Welcome
Greetings
NEC Report
Greetings
Post Excellence Award - Report
Legion Baseball
Greetings
Maine Blind Camp
History Awards
Wreaths Across America
Greetings
Greetings
Togus
Introduction of Past Commanders and Past Legionnaires of the Year
Legionnaire of the Year Award
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Roger Atkinson
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Robert Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commander, Kenneth Bouchard
Past Department Commande Second Session

Saturday, June 14, 2014

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
Maine Veterans Homes
Service Office Update
Greetings
Keynote Speaker
USAA Insurance
Children’s Miracle Network
Americanism Awards
Fifty & Eight Greetings
WWI Recognition
VAVS Awards
Children & Youth Scholarship
Daniel E. Lambert Scholarships
Maine Special Olympics Awards
Eagle Scout of the Year
Boys State
Greetings
Past Commander’s Club
Public Relations Update
ROTC Award & 4th Estate Awards
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)

Recommended Donation

2014 Autism Walk.

–Bits ‘N Pieces–

Old Orchard Beach Post 57

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of $110 to NEPVA, $350 to Special Olympics of Maine, $500 to OOB HS for an assembly, $250 to Cub Scout Pack #350, $500 to the Wounded Heroes Program of Maine, $100 for the

Guilford Post 119

Guilford Post 119 for their donation of $200 to the Autism Society of Maine for the 2014 Autism Walk.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2014

Cross Insurance Center

8:30 a.m. Department Executive Committee Cross Insurance Center, Bangor

Winning . . . with Teamwork
Department Officer Candidates 2014

What a Delegate Should Bring to Convention

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the ninety-sixth annual convention in Bangor, June 13th and 14th. 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.

HAVE A SAFE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

ATTEND LOCAL EVENTS HONORING VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY
**Time to Create a Mt. Rushmore for Maine Legion Baseball**

*My Selections: Philbrick, Damon, Berube and Livingston*

By DAN WARREN  
Special To The Maine Legioneer

A national radio show host has been conducting a "poll" of his in-studio guests this year to see whom they think would be good subjects for a national "Mt. Rushmore" in the U.S. music field. The poll has been a lot of fun. The announcer's four choices for visages of pioneers include Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and the Beatles. His fourth choice seems to change week to week—which is also fun.

As Libby-Mitchell Post 76 of Scarborough heads into its 15th season, "public-on-the-uniform-chest-sponsor" of an American Legion baseball team perhaps now is a good time to give thought to such a form of tribute for Maine American Legion baseball.

What qualities or goals or accomplishments should we be seeking to reward, and that is good because it sends the message that this is not yet another that sponsor teams, and that is good because it means should we be seeking to reward, and that is good because it sends the message that this is not yet another commercial enterprise in youth sports.

2) GOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Rules are good. But enforcing them, and doing so fairly, is key. A kid moves to a town after the school year, and wants to play on a Senior Legion team. You need a central command structure that says, no, if we allow kids to basically to move to "summer homes," Legion baseball will fall. You need a central command structure that says, no, this is not what we are looking for with kids.

3) DAY TO DAY GUIDANCE, LOVE OF THE GAME—AL LIVINGSTON  
Rules are great. Enforcement is important. But you need people in the trenches to help kids, support teams, and know that I am on your side. That means not only saying, no, you cannot use a type of cheap baseball in the games, but, hey, I can help you find a place with the best price. Or you need to make that rained out game to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership—coach, team organizer, Legion official, and state arbitrator. He has done all of them well, and with enthusiasm.

Perhaps the most important role has been that of annual meeting "rules summarizer." He stands up at the front of the auditorium in Togus filled with sleep-deprived coaches and GMs from all of Maine's 16 counties at the annual meeting each April, hands out the new slick glossy national rule books, and personally typed and prepared "local" Maine rules, and then goes thru the rules step by step, page by page, paragraph by paragraph.

This is important for two reasons.

One is most of us need help on the details of the game—the new balk rule, the process for appealing a game and an umpire decision, and when you can use the DH or not. Jefferson must have been a Legion baseball official.

Dennis Damon has helped set a good and serious tone for the game and the league for three decades.

**ADMINISTRATION—CHUCK BERUBE**  
Chuck for 20 years has been the "designated bad guy." What that means is, if there is a problem, Chuck is often the one who has to deliver the news to the teams or to the league.

Your team missed a deadline. Your player please ... The nominees for a Maine American Legion Mt. Rushmore:

- **STRUCTURE—DENNIS DAMON**
- **CREATIVITY, PROBLEM SOLVING, VISION—AL LIVINGSTON**
- **ADMINISTRATION—CHUCK BERUBE**
- **VISION AND LEADERSHIP—AL LIV-INGSTON**

LEGION BASEBALL Mt. Rushmore: Philbrick, Damon, Berube and Livingston. Who are your choices?

Don't run into Al at Hannaford some night unless you have an extra 45 minutes to talk baseball.

He is biologically incapable of walking by a baseball coach or official he knows without saying, e.g. "Hey I talked with Mac Herrick, we have a chance to get some new game scheduling software. I think it will be great for the league." Or "I talked with Harry McGillicuddy upstate; I think we are going to get 5 or 6 more teams that want to play this summer. More games. Better tournaments. This will be a good addition for the league." Or "The college has agreed to host the tournament. This will get the kids onto a college campus. Get them thinking about after high school. The coach has agreed to put on a skills clinic with his players. And our parents get to think their boys will be playing in a college program!"

At least brainchild—the wildly popular Junior Legion program. Ten years ago, Al saw what we all saw—decreasing quality of play in Senior Legion. Then he went a step further as he always does—and offered a diagnosis; he saw too many freshmen and sophomores in Senior Legion. Kids who weren't ready to play at that level.

His solution? Compete and win? Nope. Let's start a new level of Legion baseball—Junior Legion. Give the younger kids a competitive place to play, allow Senior Legion teams just to have seniors and juniors and even returning college freshmen playing.

And if the schools and teams don't have enough players to fully roster a Senior team? Go back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

**SUMMARY**

Those who spend much time with him, and become familiar with his current work and his past, will say: "Why would a recruit stay involved with Legion ball six decades?" Answer: "Nice try!" Those who spend much time with him, and become familiar with his current work and his past, will say: "Why would a recruit stay involved with Legion ball six decades?" Answer: "Nice try!"

Al's latest brainchild—the wildly popular Junior Legion program. Ten years ago, Al saw what we all saw—decreasing quality of play in Senior Legion. Then he went a step further as he always does—and offered a diagnosis; he saw too many freshmen and sophomores in Senior Legion. Kids who weren't ready to play at that level.

His solution? Compete and win? Nope. Let's start a new level of Legion baseball—Junior Legion. Give the younger kids a competitive place to play, allow Senior Legion teams just to have seniors and juniors and even returning college freshmen playing.

And if the schools and teams don't have enough players to fully roster a Senior team? Go back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.

Good ideas-plus unlimited drive and energy, and dogged determination have allowed Al to be a Portland Headlight type beacon of leadership for all of us in Legion ball. And he's not done. As his Junior Legion baby gets bigger and bigger, he is putting some of his efforts now back to the great l970s-80s model—have several towns team up to form one team that can compete to win against the bigger schools.
Maine Veterans Bring Their Messages to D.C.

In March, I had the pleasure of meeting with members of the American Legion of Maine in my Washington, D.C. office. As a member of both the Senate Defense Appropriations and the Military Construction Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittees, I always appreciate the opportunity to hear from our Veterans about issues of importance and to update you on my efforts to promote the interests of our nation's Veterans. I recently joined Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo) and a group of 56 additional Senators in introducing the Hire More Heroes Act (S. 2190), which encourages American small businesses to hire Veterans. As those who have served themselves in harm's way leave the service, it is crucial that we do everything that we can to ensure that there are good jobs for these men and women right here at home.

Through their military service, many Veterans have acquired a vast array of skills and qualities that are valuable to prospective employers, and reducing any barriers to employment benefits both the Veteran and the employer. It is also critically important that all of our Veterans have access to high-quality healthcare, including our rural Veterans. During a recent committee hearing, I questioned Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki on the implementation of ARCH in Maine. This program has been operating for three years out of the Cary Medical Center in Caribou and has been successful in expanding opportunities throughout the nation.

The implementation of ARCH in Maine is a model for the VA to replicate. I have introduced legislation that would extend and improve the ARCH program in an ongoing effort to make certain that these valuable services continue.

On another note, the VA recently announced that it is issuing redesigned Veteran Health Identification Cards (VHIC) to provide enhanced security features to protect the personal information of Veterans. The new cards will not contain Veterans’ Social Security numbers or dates of birth on the magnetic stripe or barcode unlike previous versions of the VA’s health ID cards. Instead, the VHIC contains information similar to that found on a typical health insurance card, including a Veteran’s Member ID, a unique identifier, and a Plan ID.

The VHIC will also display the emblem of each card holder’s respective service branch. In light of several recent, high-profile incidents of identity theft, it is evident that much still needs to be done to ensure adequate protection of consumers’ identities. I am pleased that the VA has taken this step to safeguard Veterans’ personal information while at the same time preserving efficient access to care. It also may be of interest to you that the VA has launched an online GI Bill Comparison Tool to make it easier for Veterans, service members, and dependents of service members to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about colleges, universities, and many other education and job training opportunities throughout the nation.

This announcement follows a report that the VA has reduced the amount of time it takes to process requests for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for returning students by nearly 50 percent compared to the same period in 2012. I am pleased with the progress made by the VA in facilitating greater access to education and training opportunities.

Unemployment among Post-9/11 Veterans is higher than the unemployment rate of Veterans for all other eras, and these opportunities can help ease the transition from military service to life as a civilian. 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.

Legionnaires Needed to Help Fight to Keep Hard-Earned Veterans’ Benefits

To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion family members in the Department of Maine: Once again, the hard-earned benefits of America’s military veterans are under attack. Whether it’s proposed cuts to commissions or increases in out-of-pocket TRICARE costs, both Congress and the Executive branch seem intent to balance the budget on the backs of veterans. They need to be reminded that military life is far more challenging than careers in the private sector and that America owes a debt to veterans that can never be fully repaid. This is where The American Legion steps in.

The American Legion recently won a great victory by persuading Congress and the White House to correct a legislative provision which would have lowered the COLAs made to military retirees under age 62. Unfortunately, more work needs to be done to protect the pensions for new veterans who joined the military in 2014. The American Legion does not believe that the veterans of tomorrow will be any less deserving of their compensation than those who came before them.

From immigration issues to the VA claims backlog, I need the help of every member of your department to help me deliver on my promise to “build for tomorrow — today.” Only with a strong and unified American Legion family can we get the leaders in Washington and our local communities to help fix the very serious problems facing our great nation.

Moreover, I set a goal as National Commander to raise $1,000,000 for the American Legion National Emergency Fund. With your help, we can provide instant assistance to our comrades that have been affected by natural disaster.

I thank you for your service as military veterans and American Legion family members. The American Legion cannot operate a single program or influence any public policy without the support and hard work of its membership. Have a great Department Convention.

For God and Country,
Daniel M. Dellinger
National Commander

The American Legion, Department of Maine officers meet with Senator Susan Collins in Washington DC during the Washington Conference in March, 2104. Left to right, Department Judge Advocate Lester Dearborn, Department Commander John Hargreaves, Senator Susan Collins, Department Adjutant/NEC Paul L’Heureux, Department 1st Vice Commander Richard Graves, and Past Department Commander Andy Olson.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT ...

District 1

Sanford Post 19 member Ray Fortier shares a laugh with Maine Second District Congressman Mike Michaud at the American Legion Post in Sanford February, 2014. Michaud was a guest on a taping of the latest episode of “Sanford Veterans”.

Six Past Commanders of Berwick’s Charles S. Hatch Post #79 were presented with jackets in recognition of their service to the Legion. Left to right, Anthony J. Cincotta Jr., Maurice D. Butler, Richard J. Beamish Sr., Kenneth W. Poirier, Ronald L. Vigue and Robert L. Stillings with present commander Mark T. Pilgrim.
District 2:
Department Commander John Hargreaves, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to District Commander Gary York at the District 2 meeting held at Scarborough Post 76 on March 9.

Post 91:
Anderson Mayberry Legion Post 91, Yarmouth held a Blue Star Ceremony on Feb. 4th. Sandy Burnell is seen here receiving a Blue Star Banner from Department Commander Hargreaves, right, and Post 91 Commander Kendall along with a certificate from the first lady, Ann LePage. The Blue Star Banners were made by Auxiliary 91 President Beverly True. Cake and coffee was served after the ceremony.

District 3:
William J. Rogers Post 153 Commander Paul R. Bernard presented Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards at the 25th Air Force JROTC Anniversary Military Ball on Apr. 11, 2014 to Cadet Ethan Witham (Gold), Cadet Kaitlyn Lemay, (Silver), and Cadet Jared Rubin, (Bronze). The medals and ribbon bars have been approved for wear by the Department of Defense and Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Also, criteria for these decorations have been officially approved and are published in each of the Service regulations. Left to right, William J. Rogers Post 153, Auburn, Commander Paul R. Bernard, Cadet Ethan Witham, Cadet Kaitlyn Lemay, and Cadet Jared Rubin.

100% Membership: Department Commander John Hargreaves presents the 100% membership award to Lewiston Post 22 at the April 3rd District meeting held at Lewiston Post 22. Left to right, Dept. Commander Hargreaves, Post 22 Commander Jerry DeWitt, Post Adjutant Jerry DerBoghosian and Membership Chairman Norm Bussiere.
Legionnaire Roland Marcotte received his 60-Year Legion Membership Certificate on Mar. 20 at the Lewiston Post 22 monthly meeting. Left to right, Norm Cote, Arthur Paradis, Don Martin, Post Commander Jerry DeWitt, Roland Marcotte, Post Adjutant Jerry DerBoghosian, Joseph Paradis, Donald Dube, Alfred Croteau and Norm Bussiere.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT ...

District 3 continued

District 3: Commander John Hargreaves, left, presents 3rd District Commander Jim Veilleux of Lisbon Post 158 the 100% membership award at the April 3rd District meeting held at Lewiston Post 22.

VA Announces Rollout of Secure VA Health ID Cards

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards. The new cards are distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel. In addition to being more secure, the card has been transformed into a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran’s Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran’s enrollment in VA health care. “VA is committed to providing high quality health care while ensuring the protection of veterans’ personal information,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Legionnaire Roland Marcotte received his 60-Year Legion Membership Certificate on Mar. 20 at the Lewiston Post 22 monthly meeting. Left to right, Norm Cote, Arthur Paradis, Don Martin, Post Commander Jerry DeWitt, Roland Marcotte, Post Adjutant Jerry DerBoghosian, Joseph Paradis, Donald Dube, Alfred Croteau and Norm Bussiere.


50 Years of Service: At a recent general membership meeting of the William J. Rogers Post 153, American Legion, Commander Paul R. Bernard was honored in presenting Dana Brooks, Past Commander of the William J. Rogers Post 153 from 1974-1975 and 1976-1977. Bernard presented Brooks with a 50 year certificate from John Hargreaves, Commander of the American Legion Department of Maine and from Daniel M. Dellinger, National Commander of the American Legion. Mr. Brooks has been an asset to the American Legion for 50 years serving the community, State and Nation and has been committed and dedicated to the work of the American Legion stated Bernard. A beautiful cake was made with the American Flag made from frosting along with Dana’s name on the cake. The cake was specially designed by Dyen Brooks who is the daughter in law to Brooks. Anyone wishing to send Dana Brooks a thank you card can mail it to the American Legion, 71 South Main Street, Auburn. Left to right, Post 153 Past Commander Dana Brooks and Commander of the William J. Rogers Post 153 Paul R. Bernard.
Money Clip Surprise at Post 153: Members of the American Legion William J. Rogers Post 153 surprised fellow veterans and police officers on Tuesday morning, January 4th. American Legion Commander Paul R. Bernard, Colby Dill and Ed Desgosseliers presented money clips bearing the Auburn Police Department logo to Chief Phillip Crowell, Jr., Lieutenant Richard Coron, Sergeant Benjamin Quinnell, Detective Jason Moore, Patrol Officers, Bernice Westleigh, Paul Cauette, Nicholas Gagnon, Donald Cousins, James Phillips, Shawn Carl, Gregory Pealatera, Steven Hammerton, John Chamberlain, Bryan Parker, Richard Mercier, Eric Bell, Assistant City Manager Eric Bell, Officer Scott Laliberte currently deployed in Afghanistan. Also, members of the William J. Rogers Post 153 added supplies to be sent to Afghanistan along with supplies already gathered by the Police Department. A special belt buckle bearing the department’s logo was also presented for Officer Scott Laliberte in Afghanistan and to Chief Phillip Crowell, Jr., Lieutenant Richard Coron, Sergeant Benjamin Quinnell, Jason Moore, back row: School Resource Officer Shawn Carl, Lt. Richard Coron, last row: Chief Phillip Crowell Jr., School Resource Officer Donald Cousins, Detective Terrence McCormick, not pictured were: Paul Caouette, Nicholas Gagnon, James Phillips, Shawn Carl, Gregory Pealatera, Assistant City Manager Howard Kroll & Scott Laliberte who is serving in Afghanistan.

VA Health Cards

Continued from Page 14

“Those new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation’s heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes.” The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the Veteran’s branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use, such as the addition of “VA” in Braille to help visually impaired Veterans, and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions on the cards.

The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders.

VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. While not required to receive VA health care, all enrolled Veterans are encouraged to get a VHIC. Enrolled Veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator or the website: www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic ... or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility. Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply for enrollment at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Presidential Memorial Certificate

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is a gold-embossed paper certificate bearing the official signature of the current President of the United States, to honor the memory of deceased honorably discharged Veterans. For eligibility or application information go to: http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefits-details/583?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dr214

VA Headstones, Markers and Medalions for Placement in Private Cemeteries

For eligibility and application details go to: http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/276?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dr214

Saint Patrick’s Day breakfast: The William J. Rogers Post 153 hosted a Saint Patrick’s Day breakfast on March 16. After the breakfast there was no visit from a Leprechaun with a pot of gold, but there was a visit from Audrey L’Heureux, President of the Women’s Auxiliary Unit 153 who presented the incoming 2014-2015 Commander Dan St. Pierre a donation of $1,000 to help with the heating cost and other monthly expenses. Left to right, front row: Mike Bellemare, representing the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 153; Tibby Dupuis, Legion Finance Officer; Don Beaulieu, Sergeant-at-Arms. Back row, Hugh Brown, 1st Vice Commander; Carl Douglas, Trustee; Kathie Davis, Executive Committee Member for the Women’s Auxiliary; Audrey L’Heureux, Auxiliary President; Dan St. Pierre, Legion Baseball Liaison; Roger Roy, Historian and Denis Beaulieu, Chaplain.

Post 135 Chaplain Serving in Afghanistan:

Post 135 Commander Tracy Rancourt with her husband Post 135 Chaplain James Rancourt. Jim is a Master Sergeant with the 133rd Engineer Battalion HHC. He currently has 29 years of service and is stationed at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. He has been there since August of 2013 and is due to return in July. Tracy, Post 135 Commander is the first female veteran to serve as Commander at the Sabattus Post. 

Photo by Ron Caron
**Navy:** Rumford Post 24 Female Veterans Luncheon, Nov. 2013. Left to right, front row, Navy veterans: Chick Fitzmorris, Jayne Hendricks, and Cindy Theriault; left to right, back row, Tricia Thurston and Melissa Theriault.

**Rumford Post 24** held a Female Veterans Luncheon to honor all female veterans in November. Veterans were treated to a day of pampering along with lunch to honor their service. Ann LePage, Department of Maine Commander John Hargreaves, NEC Brenda Dearborn and Past National Auxiliary Chaplain Jeri Greenwell attended and provided inspirational speeches to our veterans. These veterans were able to make connections with others who have served. It was a very meaningful day enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to do this again sometime in the fall. Left to right, First Lady Ann LePage, Department Commander John Hargreaves, Department Chaplain and Post Commander Patricia Thurston, Jeri Greenwell, and Department NECA Brenda Dearborn.

**Army:** Rumford Post 24 Female Veterans Luncheon, Nov. 2013. Front row, left to right, Army veterans Monique Eldridge, Louise Mangarelli, Florence Merrill, Gerry Shimanmura, Gloria Hall, and Barbara Kasiola; middle row, left to right, Isabel Raber, Donna Gallant, Debbie Arsenault, Lisa Sinclair, Charlotte Forest, and Helen Waldron; back row, left to right, Trena Magoon and Joyce Fleming.

**Marines:** Rumford Post 24 Female Veterans Luncheon, Nov. 2013. From left to right, Marine veterans Dottie McPherson, Joy Bordeau, Barbara Finkbeiner and Tina Handley.

**Air Force:** Female Veterans Luncheon, Nov. 2013. Above, front row, left to right, Air Force veterans Randy Clatchey, LaRhonda Harris and Joelle Parsons; back row, left to right, Cathy Merrill, Brenda Dearborn, Tammy Lane, Donna Alexander, Kim Crawford and Marjorie Richard.

**Photo by Heidi Steele**
60 Years:
Rumford Post 24 member Reginald Arsenault, left, receives his 60 Year Continuous Service Certificate from Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Dane Curato at Post 24’s Annual Continuous Membership and Volunteer Awards Ceremony held on March 15.

Happy Birthday: Rumford Post 24 celebrates the American Legion’s Birthday on Mar. 16. Left to right, Marcel Martineau, Fred Milligan, Ralph Arsenault, Edward J. Roach Jr., Lester Prue, Freddie Drapeau, Kirk Thurston, Dane Curato, Ed Perry and Tricia Thurston.

Post 24 officers were installed during the District 5 meeting held at the Post home on Apr. 16. Front row, left to right, District 3 Service Officer Jesse Pierce, Post Executive Committee member Lester Prue, 1st Vice Commander Marcel Martineau, Commander Tricia Thurston, 2nd Vice Commander Mike Mann. Back row, left to right, Department of Maine Commander John Hargreaves, Post Service Officer Edward J. Roach Jr., SgT At Arms Benny Bradley, Post Executive Committee member Urbain “Joe” Arsenault, and NEC/Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L’Heureux.

50 Years:
Rumford Post 24 Executive Board Member Urbain “Joe” Arsenault, center, receives his 50 Year Continuous Service Certificate at Rumford Post 24’s Annual Continuous Membership and Volunteer Awards Ceremony on March 15. Presenting him the certificate are District 5 Chaplain and Rumford Post 24 1st Vice Cmdr. Marcel Martineau, left, and Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Dane Curato, right.

50 Years:
Past State Commander1982-83 Edward Roach Jr., left, receives his 50 Year Continuous Service Certificate at Rumford Post 24’s Annual Continuous Membership and Volunteer Awards Ceremony on March 15. Left to right, Past Dept. Commander Edward Roach Jr., District Chaplain and Rumford Post 24 1st Vice Cmdr. Marcel Martineau, and Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Dane Curato.

60 Years:
Rumford Post 24 member Joseph “Ernie” McPhee, left, receives his 60 Year Continuous Service Certificate from Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Dane Curato at Post 24’s Annual Continuous Membership and Volunteer Awards Ceremony held on March 15.
District 5 continued

Dixfield Post 100
Commander Edward J. Ellis, right presents a plaque to Leland Merchant for his 60 years of dedicated service to the American Legion. “The experience of presenting this to him was my honor, said Ellis. Leland’s faith and loyalty to the Dixfield Post 100 and The American Legion is still as strong today as it was when he joined. Thank You.”

A True Legion Family:
Department Chaplain Tricia Thurston and her husband, District 5 Commander Kirk, with their new grandson Anthony Weston. Anthony was born on April 15th, the 95th birthday of the American Legion and is also the newest member of Rumford Sons Squadron #24.

Recognized:

Dixfield Post 100
Finance Officer, Edward J. Ellis, right, presents Cpl Malcolm A. Priest with his Silver Star medal and certificates at his home. The ceremony was held at Dixfield Post 100 on March 30, 2014.

The Torrey Family: Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Vietnam War Remembrance Day held at the Dixfield Post 100 on March 29. Lt. Rupert Torrey’s Family receives the Gold Star Medal. Jason Torrey (center) still in active military. Lt. Rupert Torrey was killed in action WWII May 7, 1943. American Legion Post 100 in Dixfield, is named Swasey-Torrey.

Post 100:
Swasey-Torrey Post and Unit 100 recognized the Fire Chiefs during their supper on March 29. Fire Chiefs recognized were Gary Wenztel, Mexico, Scott Dennett, Dixfield, Randy Hall, East Dixfield, and William Hussey, Peru. The dinner was to show appreciation for their Community Service. Mexico and Peru were unable to attend. Left to right, Dixfield Fire Chief Scott Dennett, and Commander Randy Canwell.

Appreciation:
East Dixfield Fire Chief Randy Hall, left, and Commander Randy Canwell presenting him with a plaque of appreciation.
Back in April of this year, a news article in the local paper caught my eye. It was about the science team at Medomak Middle School that had placed first in the state at Orono in a science competition. The story was about a group of seventh graders, what they had done and the fact they were trying to raise money to get them to Dayton, Ohio for a national event in science.

One of the names of the kids caught my eye. I spoke to her dad about what was going on and received a paper from him that described what they had done and what they were trying to do to get to Dayton.

Thru the efforts of the Legion Riders, the post itself, SAL, and a contribution by an Auxiliary member we raised $1900 to present to the group.

This helped them greatly. Although they didn't place very high in the national competition, the experience of going to Wright University in Dayton, the flight, and meeting new people was a very gratifying experience.

One night after the return back from Ohio, they put on an informal thank you lunch, demos of some of their projects and a short video of pictures taken of the trip. A huge experience for 12 year olds and I'm very glad that we could help them.

— Darryl Leavitt, Riders Director, Rockland Post 1

Making a Difference

Welcome Home! Members of the Jackson-Silver Post 68 and J. Arthur Stowell Post 83 came together to help returning Army Cpl Eric Pfeffer reunite with his son Landon on Jan. 14 after being stationed away from home for four years. Landon is currently attending kindergarten at Woodstock Elementary School in Bryant Pond. With the help of the Freeport Flag Ladies and Mrs. Wilkey, Landon's teacher, CPL Pfeffer was able to enter the classroom unseen and surprise his son. Back row, Freeport Post 83 Commander Joyce Veilleux; Front row, left to right, Locke Mills Post 68 Past Commander Richard Melville, Area 2 Commander and Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Wayne Hakala, Locke Mills Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Albert Lake, and Locke Mills Post 68 Finance Officer Kenneth Hoyt.

New D.O.T. signs for Rockland Post 1: After months of working with the State of Maine D.O.T. office, four road signs will be installed showing the way to the post home. Signs will be located at: Route 1, Route 17 and at each end of the Old Country Road. Showing the new sign, left to right, is Steve Pomakis, Commander Darrell Leavitt, and John Weatherby.
District 6 continued


Lt. Col. Peter Ogden ME ARNG (Ret), Director of ME Bureau of Veterans’ Services, right, presents WWII service certificates to Post 171 member Dick Parks USN on March 16 at the American Legion 95th birthday celebration, organized by Brunswick Post 20 and held at Topsham Post 202. Many area WWII veterans were honored at the dinner and received State of Maine certificates.


District 8

Public Relations workshop:
Public Relations Chairman Pat Eisenhart, right photo, opens the Public Relations workshop on April 12 at Rockland Post 1. During the second half of the workshop, Department Service Officer and Public Relations Committee member Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, left photo, educates those in attendance.

Mid-Coast Veterans Council members Steve Jarrett, left, Jorge Maderal, center, and Roger Dumont at Brunswick Landing. Since September 2013, the Council has run a Veterans Resource Center out of space rented at the former base.

Veterans Center Provides Connections

Brunswick — When Walter Coombs recently noticed problems with his breathing and problems in his legs, he began to wonder if it was due to exposure to Agent Orange used by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

Coombs, who was stationed with the Navy in Da Nang in South Vietnam in the late 1960s, was worried that he was exposed to the defoliant and he wanted answers. So he attended a seminar by the Vietnam Veterans of America at the Mid-Coast Veterans Council’s Mid-coast Veterans Resource Center. “With what I learned at the veteran’s council, now I can go to Togus with more questions,” Coombs said, referring to the Augusta veteran’s center. “I have more knowledge about (Agent Orange), what the effects are.”

Coombs is one of more than 200 who have sought help for a variety of veterans’ issues through their source center that connects veterans with local, state and national programs that can provide assistance.

The center’s goal is to ensure all mid-coast veterans receive all due entitlements, are assisted with financial hardships and with higher education, according to the Council. The center looks to help “one veteran at a time,” said Roger Dumont, Chairman of the Mid-Coast Veteran’s Council. The Council has helped 240 veterans and their families since the resource center opened in September 2013, according to council members. “When a veteran walks through that door, he or she is the most important person in the room,” Dumont said. The Center is aided by 16 volunteers that run day-to-day operations.

Dumont said the Council looks to have its own conference room, the cost of which Howard is also paying, said Council members. The new space will help Council members hold seminars for veterans on topics that will help them succeed in civilian life, including computer training, and resume building, in addition to topics such as post traumatic stress disorder and the effects of Agent Orange.

It’s a long way from where the Council used to meet since its incorporation as a nonprofit in 2012. “Our office space used to
Phippsburg Post 216 honored Alice Kolczynski, Debra Reddinger, and Faye Wells for their military service at a ceremony held at the Phippsburg Post on Feb. 20. Left to right, Legionnaire Alice Kolczynski, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, Legionnaire Debra Reddinger, and State Senator Eloise Vitelli. Army Veteran Faye Wells was unable to attend the ceremony.

The Post honored Alice Kolczynski, Debra Reddinger, and Faye Wells for their military service at a ceremony held at the Phippsburg Post on Feb. 20. Left to right, Legionnaire Alice Kolczynski, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, Legionnaire Debra Reddinger, and State Senator Eloise Vitelli. Army Veteran Faye Wells was unable to attend the ceremony.

Phippsburg Post 216 Honored Its Three Women Members

At their Feb. 20 meeting Phippsburg American Legion Post 216 honored their three women members for their military service. State Senator Eloise Vitelli was in attendance to present the Maine Women Veteran’s Silver Commemorative Coin to Air Force veteran Alice Kolczynski and Navy Veteran Debra Reddinger. A third Post member, Army Veteran Faye Wells, was unable to make the ceremony.

Veteran Alice Kolczynski entered the Air Force in August of 1962 and received an honorable discharge in September 1963. She attained the rank of Airman Third Class. She attended Lackland Air Force base in Texas for her basic training and then was stationed at Barksdale Air Force base in Louisiana as a nurse.

Veteran Debra Reddinger entered the Navy in July 1976 and retired in July 1996 with 20 years of service. She retired as an AG1 (First Class Petty Officer) who specialized as a Meteorological & Oceanographic Analyst and Forecaster and served as the only woman sailor on board her first ship.

She received Five Good Conduct Awards, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, seven Overseas Ribbons, a Letter of Commendation - CNOC, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, and an Armed Forces Service Medal.

Veteran Faye Wells entered the Army in February 1951 and was honorably discharged in December 1953. She served in Japan during the Korean War as a cryptographer. She was discharged as a Private First Class.

She received the Army Occupational Medal (Japan), Korean Service Medal, National Defense Medal, and United Nations Medal.

On Friday, February 18, 2011, the women veterans’ plaque was dedicated in the State House Hall of Flags in honor of Maine’s women veterans.

The fund-raising process began in July 2010 to raise the necessary funds for purchasing the plaque and also to purchase silver commemorative coins in the likeness of the plaque to present to Maine’s women veterans.

The State Bureau of Maine Veterans’ Services was able to raise the funds to purchase the plaque and as well as silver commemorative coins for the State’s women veterans.

Connections

Continued from Page 20

be McDonald’s on Pleasant Street and Tim Horton’s in Topsham for a solid year,” said Dumont.

Neither the center nor the Council is associated with the Veterans Administration, and Council members pride themselves on independence. “We’re not beholden to any particular entity,” said Maderal. No one is paid a salary for work at the center. “Everyone you see here is a volunteer,” said Maderal.

The Council and the center also provide for educational and learning opportunities on veterans issues, such as the recent session on Agent Orange. “We’re trying to tie the community and veterans together,” said Maderal. For example, Habitat for Humanity? Rivers has recently partnered with the Council to screen applicants for a new home in Brunswick to be designated for a veteran.

The Council is also holding a Fallen Warrior Ceremony on May 24 at the center in memory of Brunswick soldiers who were killed or are missing in action. Gov. Paul LePage is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

Past American Legion Post 205 Commander Weldon Bean carried on the tradition of service and the leadership of his father Past Post 205 Commander George Bean on the far right. Pictured here with his wife (left), mother (right), and dad at Past Commander Bean’s recent retirement after 33 years of service including Afghanistan deployment with Maine National Guard.

Hallowell: Members of the American Legion Post 6 in Hallowell and Cub Scout Pack 647 are pictured here after the Veterans Day Breakfast that the Pack puts on for the Post each year. Post 6 members attended the Pack’s Pine wood Derby Race which took place on Mar. 29. Legion members are honored guests and act as part of the judging panel for the Pine wood Derby. The Cub Scout cars are judged by Post 6 members for trophies in the following categories: Best in Show, Most Original, Sportiest, and Scoutiest. Post 6 members attending this year included, Dana Parker, Larry Auger, Mike Madden, and Glen Gilidden.
Naval Sea Cadets Complete Advanced Training

Madison — Twenty-one select US Naval Sea Cadet Corps members from ME, NH & MA graduated from a six day advanced training course in Small Arms/Squad Tactics. Classroom course work included instruction in Basic Combat Field Medic lifesaving skills, land navigation and small squad tactics for patrolling through hostile territory and was presented by SFC Bruce Roscoe at the Skowhegan ME Army National Guard facility.

Classroom learning was then put to practical application with a field exercise in the area around the ME Army National Guard’s armory in Skowhegan that included patrolling through “hostile” territory; simulated emergency field medical applications for injuries, litter carry, calling for airlift support and perimeter defense. ME House District 88 Representative Larry Dunphy, a former Navy Corpsman, attended the class in Basic Combat Field Medic procedures.

Classes were also held at the American Legion Hall in Madison covering rifle and pistol safety and usage. Rifle skills, taught by SFC Bruce Roscoe, MEANG, were then honed through the use of an AR-15 equipped with a Laser Marksmanship Training System. 1st Sgt John Bernard, USMC (Ret) taught the pistol skills. Both instructors have many accolades for their small arms skills.

Live fire of small arms was included in the week’s training.

Pistol shooting was held at the range on Thursday, April 22nd. Friday, April 23th was a full day at the range with live fire shooting the US Army’s Qualification Course with targets ranging from 50 – 300 meters away. At the end of this live fire, 5 cadets qualified as Expert, 8 qualified as Sharpshooter and 7 qualified as Marksman.

Saturday, April 24th was the “Big Day” for the cadets. Instruction was given on safety and the use of machine guns and then each cadet was allowed, under the close supervision of qualified instructors, to fire an MP5 and an M16 on full automatic.

In addition to the formal training, cadets did 30 minutes of warm-up PT and then ran a measured mile every morning. Evenings consisted of team building activities, challenges and competitions such as chain sit-ups, chain push-ups, 4-person square push-ups, stacked push-ups and last person capable push-ups. Instruction for the formal POW-MIA Table for One was provided for the entire cadre. Additionally, the formal Colors presentation opened and closed each duty day.

Photos of all of the activities can be seen through our Facebook page group: Facebook.com/groups/NCh9BN

Please visit our website: ncb39bn.sharepoint.com

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE:
PLEASE “LIKE US” at
https://www.facebook.com/maineamericanlegion

District 10 installation of officers at Post 39 in Madison on April 14. Front row, left to right: (Chaplain) Leo Hines, (2nd Vice Commander) Brian Folsom, (Adjutant) Richard Robinson, (Finance Officer) Gary Bulger and (Service Officer) Gene Coombs. Back row, left to right: (Department 1st Vice) Dick Graves, (Commander) Gary Jordan, (Americanism) Image Moore, (Sergeant-at-Arms) Fred Allen, (1st Vice Commander and Historian) Tina Richard, (Sergeant-at-Arms) Leroy Welch and (Chaplain) Gil Ormsby. Leroy, Gill and Dick was helping Chick do the installation of officers.


Madison Post 39 Installation, April 11. Legion Riders, left to right, Gene Dube, John Doucette, Bob Washburn, State Director Kaye Bouchard, John Ziacoma & Executive Director Paul L’Heureux.
Taps Column

Post 1 — Rockland  George R. Robishaw  WWII
Post 1 — Rockland  James W. Caven  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Walter Simcock  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  George Patrick  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Gerald Vigue  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Daniel J. DeRoch Jr.  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Fred J. Newhard Jr.  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  George R. Andrews  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Joseph N. Lessard  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Robert J. Rodrigue  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Carroll J. Plourde  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Nathaniel T. Cobb  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Richard R. Bolduc  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Richard V. Delaware  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Roland J. Foster  Korea
Post 5 — Waterville  Joseph V. Theriault  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Cyson A. Hardy  Vietnam
Post 5 — Waterville  Rodney R. Hallie  Vietnam
Post 5 — Waterville  Walter W. Greenwood  Vietnam
Post 5 — Waterville  Dorian N. Begin  WWII
Post 5 — Waterville  Harland A. Shirley  Korea
Post 13 — East Millinocket  Willis L. Doo  WWII
Post 14 — Fairfield  Alton L. Breault  Korea
Post 22 — Lewiston  Roland O. Martel  Korea
Post 22 — Lewiston  Norman O. Ricker  WWII/Korea/Vietnam
Post 22 — Lewiston  Florian J. Roy  WWII
Post 22 — Lewiston  George L. Hopkins  WWII
Post 22 — Lewiston  Richard J. Langelier  WWII
Post 22 — Lewiston  Emilie A. Paissin  WWII
Post 28 — Farmington  Kenneth L. Cook  WWII
Post 28 — Farmington  Robert H. Flick  Korea
Post 28 — Farmington  Robert J. Fackucki  Vietnam
Post 28 — Farmington  Robert B. Stevens  WWII
Post 30 — Camden  Robert F. Harper  Korea
Post 30 — Camden  Fred Marchant  WWII
Post 30 — Camden  Kenneth A. Brown  WWII
Post 43 — Belfast  William A. Hammond Jr.  Vietnam
Post 43 — Belfast  Ralph J. Dunsford  WWII
Post 49 — Van Buren  James R. Moore  Vietnam
Post 49 — Van Buren  Elmer Corbin  WWII
Post 50 — Unity  Gary A. Chamberlain  Vietnam
Post 50 — Unity  Chesley R. Wooldridge  Vietnam
Post 52 — Oakfield  Joseph J. Mitchell  WWII
Post 53 — Dexter  James Rattigan  Korea
Post 56 — Y ork  George Restuccia
Post 58 — Buckfield  Dewey Vines  Vietnam
Post 58 — Buckfield  Vernal Andrews  WWII
Post 65 — Lubec  Raymond Newman Jr.  Vietnam
Post 65 — Lubec  Robert Mahlman  Vietnam
Post 66 — Lisbon Falls  Elwyn Hutchins  Vietnam
Post 66 — Lisbon Falls  Forrest Jordan  Korea
Post 66 — Lisbon Falls  Rufus E. Ham  Korea
Post 68 — Locke Mills  Rodney H. McAllister  Korea
Post 69 — Southwest Harbor  Danny Jacobs  Vietnam
Post 69 — Southwest Harbor  Clair E. Cunningham Jr.  Korea
Post 69 — Southwest Harbor  George L. Gascon  WWII
Post 72 — South Paris  Walter L. Heikinen  WWII
Post 72 — South Paris  Joseph F. Lomonte  WWII
Post 77 — Lincoln  Wallace M. Alexander  WWII
Post 77 — Lincoln  Maurice Libby  WWII
Post 79 — Berwick  Philip C. Lawrence  WWII
Post 79 — Berwick  Earnest J. Normand  Korea
Post 79 — Berwick  Kenneth I. Tibbetts  Korea
Post 81 — Bethel  Ruel E. Swain  WWII
Post 91 — Yarmouth  Carroll V. Aubens  Korea
Post 91 — Yarmouth  Guy W. Savage  WWII
Post 98 — Brewer  Winfield C. Jordan  WWII
Post 99 — Bingham  Wesley Baker  WWII
Post 118 — Mars Hill  George R. Taylor  WWII
Post 123 — Kennebunk Falls  Donald E. Melcalf  Korea
Post 123 — Kennebunk Falls  Eridan A. Tourlelotte, Jr.  WWII
Post 133 — Fort Kent  Irvin N. Roy  Korea
Post 145 — Frenchville  Clifford F. Chamberland  Korea
Post 147 — Madawaska  John S. Arndly  Vietnam
Post 147 — Madawaska  Elmer Dube  Korea
Post 149 — Waldoboro  Waite W. Weston  Vietnam
Post 155 — Naples  Joseph E. Mulvey  Vietnam
Post 155 — Naples  Clarence Hunt  WWII
Post 164 — Falmouth  Robert J. Harris  WWII
Post 178 — Waterville  Robert Giamotti  WWII
Post 178 — Waterville  Clair E. Cunningham  Korea
Post 188 — Eliot  Walter G. Hoyt  WWII
Post 200 — Hermon  Raymond E. Darke  WWII
Post 200 — Hermon  Frank A. McGillicuddy  Vietnam

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT ...

District 11

Grant Staples Post 183:
Department First Vice Commander Richard Graves presents Grant Staples Post 183 Commander Richard Rote with pins and a certificate for achieving 100% membership. The presentation was at the March 2014 District 11 meeting held in Stockton Springs, ME. District 11 Commander Clayton York is in the background looking on.

Photo by Tom Adkins

Jerry Dobbins Post 157:
When not busy being Christmas Elves the members of Jerry Dobbins Post 157 (Stockton Springs) are busy being Easter Bunnies. These bunnies hide over 240 Easter eggs for the children of Searsport, Stockton Springs and Prospect Maine on April 19th in what is hoped to be an annual Easter egg hunt for the children of the area. Pictured here left to right are Fred DeRedin, Hollis and Mrs. Bagley, Karl Mallett in the back, Tom Adkins, Clarence Elden, Post Commander Ernest Kainamian and at the end Lee and Mrs. Snyder. All were in agreement the joy of seeing the little ones hunting those eggs more than made up for all the effort over the past couple of day's preparation.

One of the children with his father who attended the Easter egg hunt at Ft. Point Lighthouse (Stockton Springs, ME) that was put on by the members of the Jerry Dobbins American Legion Post 157 on April 19th. The post members hide over 280 eggs for the children of the surrounding communities. The joy for the post members was watching the young- sters hunt for and finding the eggs.

Photo by Chris Adkins
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2014 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be July 25, 2014.

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.

Have You Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2014!

Lubec Post 65: Dept. Commander John Hargreaves and Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette presents 100% Membership Award to the Stuart-Greene Post 65 in Lubec during a meeting held at the Post home on April 23. Left to right, Post Historian Craig Ashby, Post Adjutant Mike Sawtelle, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette, Post 65 Commander George Eaton and Dept. Commander John Hargreaves.