Maine American Legion Now Accepting Registration for the 2016 Dirigo Boys State Program

Dirigo Boys State, an educational program for high school juniors to learn about the functions of our state government will take place at Thomas College in Waterville on June 19-23, 2016. In this program, young men role-play as they learn to campaign for local, county and state offices and then organize and carry out the functions of the state government. Boys State is a program that focuses on leadership, participation, and personal experience. It’s also an opportunity to earn scholarships. This year, there will be three scholarships offered. Two of the scholarships are for $500 and the third, the Samsung Scholarship, is $1,000.

The Dirigo Boys State Program in Maine was started by Alexander A. LaFleur, the Department Commander, and James L. Boyle, then State Adjutant of the American Legion. On July 11, 1947, the first session of Dirigo Boys State began at the University of Maine. Many local, state and national figures attend Boys State. Some of them include Neil Armstrong, Tom Brokow, Bill Clinton, Dick Cheney, Michael Jordan, and Angus King.

If you know of a young man who is currently a Maine high school junior, and think they may be interested in participating in this educational program, please provide them with the following information to help them get started.

Information about Dirigo Boys State and application material needed to register is available by visiting www.mainelegion.org. Here, high school juniors will have the opportunity to fill in the required information needed to register, download copies of application material and submit completed applications to their guidance counselor, principal or superintendent for review and selection process. More information is also available by visiting http://www.facebook.com/dirigoboysstate, and https://www.youtube.com/user/DirigoBoysState.

All Maine high schools as well as 174 Maine American Legion Posts, Districts, and committee members have also sent Dirigo Boys State information and applications to assist those who are interested. Tuition for this year’s Boys State Program is $300. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a delegate to attend Dirigo Boys State this year, please contact your local Post, school, or The American Legion, State Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Donations are also being accepted and applied to those delegates in need of a sponsor. For those interested in donating, please make check payable to The American Legion, Dirigo Boys State and mail check to The American Legion, Dirigo Boys State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

Samsung, Legion Allies in Korean War Legacy

One of the highlights of my American Legion career was when, as department commander of Georgia, I was able to participate in the dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway in 2008. It was special because it was not just about the naming of a stretch of pavement on U.S. 80. It was about remembering the heroes of a war that claimed more than 34,000 Americans and 415,000 South Koreans. This is why I am so proud of The American Legion’s relationship with Samsung Corp. Recently, the electronics giant donated $1 million to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation’s maintenance fund. But this is hardly surprising to us. In 1995, Samsung bestowed a $5 million endowment to the Legion for the establishment of a scholarship fund for family members of U.S. citizens who are war veterans. Since then, the fund has enabled nearly 2,000 students to pursue educations through $5.5 million in awarded scholarships. These bright young men and women understand the importance of good citizenship and respect for those who have fought for freedom.

It is a fight that continues today, as thousands of U.S. troops stand prepared with our South Korean allies to face provocation or even invasion by a militarized and tyrannical regime from the north. This month I will personally convey The American Legion’s gratitude to our troops and our South Korean allies when I visit Seoul and the demilitarized zone. I will tell them that although the cease-fire has been in effect for 62 years, we are well aware that the region is just one incident away from another devastating war. The Samsung scholarships remind us that out of the ashes of war can come great legacies. One is the story of Rachel Forbes. A recipient of an original 1996 Samsung scholarship, she is now a kidney and pancreas transplant surgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Nashville VA Medical Center, where she says she’s grateful to have the opportunity to care for veterans on an almost daily basis.

At an American Legion luncheon last year, Austin Owen of Vestavia Hills, Va., recalled his grandfather’s service as a tank commander during the Korean War. “He was really proud of me when I received the scholarship, and it opened the door for him to share his war experience with me,” Owen says. “We are all appreciative.” In addition to investing in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in more than 500 U.S. public
served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or “early out,” or those who served prior to Sept. 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all veterans to apply to determine enrollment eligibility. Certain veterans may be afforded enhanced eligibility status when applying and enrolling in the VA health-care system. Those are veterans who:

- Are former prisoners of war.
- Were awarded the Purple Heart.
- Were awarded the Medal of Honor.
- Have a service-connected disability of 10 percent or more.
- Have a VA pension.
- Were discharged from the military because of a disability (not pre-existing), early out or hardship.
- Served in a theater of operations for five years post discharge.
- Served on a U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ship associated with military service in Vietnam.
- Were stationed or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987.
- Are found by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

By Cajun Comeau, North Carolina department service officer Nov. 3, 2015
— www.legion.org/dispdispatch

About Boys Nation

Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government. The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946. The 1946 American Legion National Convention adopted the event as an official youth activity. Three years later, it became American Legion Boys Nation.

At the event, each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. The young lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, then organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by program delegates. Senators learn the proper method of handling bills, according to U.S. Senate rules. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including organization of party conventions and nominating and electing a president and vice president.

The week of government training also includes lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, national shrines, institutions, memorials and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

For more information:
The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
— www.legion.org/boysnation/about

Boys Nation 2015 Election: The 2015 Boys Nation vice-presidential candidates, Maine Federalist Peter Hewitt Spectre (shown here) and New Hampshire Nationalist Diab Tony Eid debate on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. After coming down to a 49-49 tie, Maine Federalist Peter Hewitt Spectre was elected vice-president at the result of a coin-toss on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. To watch the 2015 Boys Nation Election, please visit http://www.legion.org/legiontv/PL210C5208673EF1E2/s0UfeQKVRfk

Photo by Lucas Carter

Do you know of a Veteran interested in joining The American Legion but not sure which Maine Post to join?

Please have them contact Maine State Headquarters at 207-873-3229 or have them visit our website at www.mainelegion.org for Post location, contact information, benefits, and more.
February is the month the Department of Maine sends its delegation to Washington D.C. to visit with Maines Congressional Representatives and attend several American Legion National Committee meetings with the Nation’s Washington staff and other Departments. The subject of these meetings will likely be Veterans Care and Rehabilitation, National Defense and Children and Youth and the American Legion’s legislative priorities.

Your Department is well positioned to represent Maine veterans by virtue of the work of our Legislative Committee led by Chairman William “Chick” Cicciato from the Brunswick Post and Secretary David Patch of the Boothbay Post. This committee has been relentless in identifying legislation that should be initiated and supported by the Legion at the state and national level. Also this year, for the first time that I can remember, National Commander Dale Barnette published a list of the Legions legislative priorities well in advance of the Washington Conference.

By doing this, the National Commander has focused the effort and allowed the vetting of the issues so that each Department can be more effective in presenting the issues to our Senators and Congressmen. 

A ‘First’ Look

February is the month of your post. The commander must maintain an atmosphere which motivates its officers and its membership with interesting and new ideas.

The post level is the heart of our organization. This is where the “Blue Hat” Legionnaires are found in mass. As a result, it is paramount that your post level be sound in its leadership. The officers should provide the membership with the knowledge and leadership to be successful in their post programs.

As you know, training has been a focus here at the Department of Maine. You are encouraged to take advantage of these available Legion courses; American Legion Extension Institute course (See Page 6 for more information), the Post Service Officer’s Training, and the LEAD Program to name a few. If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact State Headquarters at 207-873-3229.

Remember, you are voting for the success of your American Legion Post.

With Respect,
Randall Kluj
Dept. 2nd Vice Commander

On the Agenda

District 2 — Cumberland: Mar. 13, Portland Post 161, 11 a.m., Legion Dist. 2 & Aux Dist. 1
District 3 — Androscoggin: Mar. 13, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.
District 5 — Oxford: Mar. 16, Norway Post 82, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. mtg.
District 9 — Kennebec: Mar. 9, Waterville Post 5, 7 p.m.
District 11 — Waldo: Mar. 20, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.
District 12 — Hancock: Mar. 8, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow
District 13 — Penobscot: Mar. 6, Millinocket Post 80, 2 p.m., mtg. at 970 Central St.
District 14 — Piscataquis: Mar. 19, Sangerville Post 165, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 16 — S. Aroostook: Mar. 5, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m. dinner followed by mtg. (nominations committee).

April Meetings

District 2 — Cumberland: Apr. 12, Gray Post 36, 5 p.m., Past Commanders and Past Presidents dinner and nomination of officers Legion Dist. 2 and Aux Dist. 1
District 3 — Androscoggin: Apr. 10, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.
District 5 — Oxford: Apr. 20, Rumford Post 24, installation of officers, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. mtg.
District 9 — Kennebec: Apr. 13, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.
District 11 — Waldo: Apr. 17, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12 — Hancock: Apr. 11, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow
District 13 — Penobscot: Apr. 3, Hampden Post 213, 2 p.m. mtg. at the VFW Hall
District 14 — Piscataquis: Apr. 16, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., election of officers
District 17 — N. Aroostook: Apr. 10, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow, nominations.

May Meetings

District 2 — Cumberland: May 15, Westbrook Post 62, 1:30 p.m., Memorial Service and election of officers
District 3 — Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming commander
District 5 — Oxford: May 17, West Paris Post 151, 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. mtg. and speaker
District 11 — Waldo: May 15, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12 — Hancock: May 10, Stonington Post 102, 6 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow
District 13 — Penobscot: May 1, Houlton Post 97, 2 p.m. mtg. at 4 Front St.
District 14 — Piscataquis: May 21, Greenville Post 94, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., installation of officers.
District 16 — S. Aroostook: May 7, Oakfield Post 52, 1 p.m. dinner followed by mtg. (elections and installation of officers)
District 17 — N. Aroostook: May 15, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow, elections/installation.

A ‘Second’ Look

Very soon, we, at the Department of Maine American Legion, will be nominating members for various Post and District officers. Please take into consideration the value of good leadership in your decision. Your post’s success will depend on who you elect to lead your post forward.

Leadership

Leadership as defined in the dictionary includes the following qualities: direction, guidance, control, management, supervision and rule. The success of any organization has a great deal to do with good leadership. Electing great leaders is vital to the success of your post. The commander must maintain an atmosphere which motivates your post to follow, elections/installation.

WWII Veteran Presented with Long-Overdue Service Medals

Our veterans have put everything on the line for this country, and they deserve to be recognized for their service and sacrifice. One such veteran is Joseph G. Hoehl of Westport Island, who earned several medals for his service in the Army during World War II but, for various reasons, never received them. That changed in January, when I had the honor of presenting him the Bronze Star Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge during a ceremony in

More on KING, Page 6
The Adjutant Speaks

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and are preparing for a great year. As of this writing, we are nearing the completion of the Department of Maine’s new training/historical building. The department Service Officer will soon have a larger classroom for holding classes & workshops, as well as meeting and training space for Post Finance Officers, Post Adjutants, Membership, Public Relations, and Americanism committees, to name a few. The current Boys State Committee has been meeting at the new department headquarters, as well as the Baseball Committee. They have enjoyed the feeling of being part of the new team and the forward-focused direction of the entire department. Those and other committees will be utilizing this building and the staff to support them.

The other project that will be nearing completion is the new building which is now being occupied by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine. They moved in at the end of January, and are currently open for business even while still unpacking and organizing their new facility.

Not to be left out, the Sons of The American Legion are in the process of moving in as well. They are currently purchasing new office furniture and equipment and supplies that we currently own. This is only the beginning as we move forward.

For the first time in the History of The American Legion in Maine, we will be hosting many events at “The Compound” (HQ). The Department Testimonial will be held on May 14th and will have the makings of a huge BBQ and other planned events. The Auxiliary will be having an Open House on April 9th with the National President Sharon Conaster attending. These and other events will be positive changes in the way The Legion Family in The Department of Maine envision progress in the future. Yes, there will be bumps in the road, but with the right attitude, determination, and most of all, new ideas coming from our new officers and younger leadership, we all will make a difference.

In closing, I want to thank all the people that have not only attended meetings at the new Headquarters but stop by every day, becoming part of that energy and excitement! Watching you all walk around knowing that this is home to all members of The American Legion Family is a very proud moment each and every time...

FORWARD & FOCUSED

Testimonial Dinner Planned for May 14 at The American Legion State Headquarters in Winslow

The Department Testimonial for Department Commander Ronald Rainfrette, Department President Debra-Ann Marr, and SAL Detachment Commander Scott Morton will be held Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the Department of Maine State Headquarters, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. More information on meal arrangements and hotel information will be made available soon and will be published on www.mainelegion.org and in our department newsletter or Smile. Hotel reservations will be your own responsibility.

Money Matters

The end of January begins a new budget cycle. All Department Officers and Committee Chairmen have received a copy of their last year budget and a copy of their income and expenditures as of January 26, 2016. All budget submissions are due back to the Department Finance Officer NLT February 24, 2016.

The new Conference Center is almost complete and is expected to be done by the end of this month. We now will have a facility, so next, we need to furnish the conference room and that may take some fund raising, so stay tuned.

Speaking of things done, the Headquarters Building for The American Legion Auxiliary is ready to be occupied and the ladies have already started the process. From what I have heard so far, the opinion is that this facility will do fine giving the Auxiliary much more needed space. My personal hope is that the Legion family will be better able to function as a Legion Family now that we will soon all be in our new Legion Compound.

Issues to be faced in this coming year are the decline in Maine Department membership, decreasing returns on our fund raising projects, capital budgeting for the coming year. Additionally, we need to address the need for Department Committee participation and oversight in our programs. When I joined TAL, I was told the more I put into this organization, the more I would get out of it. So far, I have found that to be true. Let me encourage you to participate in our programs, show up at American Legion events, cheer on our youth and get and stay active in your communities. As they say, “You may be the change in this world that you have wanted.”
Candidates Deadline: May 18

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for the American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office on or before May 18, 2016 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 22, 2016. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the “American Legion Extension Institute Course” and successfully complete said course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

Resolutions to be Presented by May 1st!

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before May 1 of the subject year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be presented to the Department Adjutant’s office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee. Resolutions may be presented by two-thirds majority of the Resolutions Committee meeting at the convention.

President’s Message

Greetings from Department of Maine ALA.

As I write this article, I do so with much excitement! As of yesterday the Maine ALA has joined the American Legion at Department Headquarters in Winslow, Maine! Soon to join the “Legion Family” compound will be the SAL. At last we are all together and our futures only soar upwards from here.

More than halfway through my term as Department President, I am pleased with what the Auxiliary has accomplished so far this year. Mid-Winter Conference is over and despite Old Man Winter, we had a good turnout. The Spectacular Event Center seemed a good location and plenty of room for the whole Legion Family. Kudos to the Legion for arranging this event. The proceeds from the raffle of the Tom Brady Autographed football exceeded $4,500,000!! All this money will be disbursed among our Veterans’ Programs here in Maine. I thank everyone who participated in this. In the middle of winter, I urge everyone to take a moment and check on our Veterans and their families to be sure they are safe and warm! I thank every Veteran for their service. God Bless you all.

Yours in Service,
Debra-Anne Marr, Department President

The American Legion Family Working Together To Support Our Veterans: Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, left, Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, center, and Dept. Commander Ronald Rainfrette stand in front of the new State Headquarters for Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion now located on the premises of The American Legion State Headquarters in Winslow.

Americanism Report

As mentioned in the last Maine Legionnaire, February has been established as Americanism Month. I received the Americanism Commission Newsletter this week and the following is an excerpt from it. During this observance, we should reflect on what it means to be an American and re dedicate ourselves and our Posts to taking action that will uphold the principle of “100 percent Americanism.” Americanism, one of the Legion’s four pillars, is simply the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations. To safeguard our nation’s continuing prosperity, it is vital that we ensure that our youth understand and cherish our ideals and traditions. Of course this is something that rings true at any time of the year, not just the month of February. The legacy of Americanism is a legacy worth imparting on our youth, to not only honor those men and women who have served and laid down their lives to secure our freedom, but to ensure that our freedoms and way of life are secured for generations to come.

February also marked the 73rd anniversary of the heroism and faith displayed by The Four Chaplains. Throughout the month many Posts held services in honor of these brave men of faith. Hopefully they were well attended.

By now the Department held its Oratorical Contest under the guidance of Chairman Donald Chase and was once again a huge success. The National Oratorical Contest will be held April 16-17, 2016 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. This special event showcases 54 of our country’s best and brightest youth as they present their thoughts on one of our country’s most important documents in our nation’s history, the Constitution of the United States of America!

Another presidential election year is upon us and many Posts will be ramping up their Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts. Participation in a presidential election is important but we should all be reminded that registering and voting in all elections at all levels is a vital expression and exercise of a free people. REMEMBER the American Legion is non partisan and cannot be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of any candidate. Failure to follow these rules jeopardizes the Post’s nonprofit status. The rules do not apply to individuals; however, Legionnaires engaged in partisan activities should do so without wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire. Furthermore, when Posts are using their facilities to host candidates, they should remove the Legion Emblem and Legion flag to avoid the impression of endorsement.

Registration has opened for the 90th season of American Legion Baseball for those Posts that have teams. Now is also the time for Posts to prepare for the 69th annual Dirigo Boys State, which will be held June 19-23, 2016 at Thomas College. Registration will be 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19. This year the cost of a delegate will be $300.00. Sponsorship does not have to rest solely on the Post. Send out solicitation letters to veteran service organizations, financial institutions, local businesses, patriotic, civic, fraternal, labor, student, parent, teacher or religious groups. It is acceptable of a Boy Scout troop to be sponsored by more than one sponsor. Last year 200 high school juniors attended and we are attempting to expand that number this year. Whatever you can do to assist in this effort will be greatly appreciated. There is no limit to the number of boys a school can send. Good Luck and get out there!

A ‘First’ Look
(Continued from Page 3)

on the streets. It is essential to continue the funding that Congress pledged to eradicate
• Protect the American Flag. The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory, and continues to support legislation that safeguards our nation’s flag from physical desecration. “I encourage you to communicate our priorities to your representatives and senators, write a letter to your local newspaper and share these priorities on your social media feeds. Let’s let the voices of 2.2 million members usher in necessary changes that benefit veterans of yester-

day, today and tomorrow.” – Dale Barnett

Legislative advocacy by the American Legion has had success at both the State and National Level recently. In Maine, the Legion was the first veteran’s service organization to call for a change in the leadership of the VA and the removal of the Director of VA Benefits. As the competition for resources becomes more intense and the number of veterans shrinks, the American Legions role of watchdog and advocate grows exponentially.
Judge Advocate

Most of our Legion meetings and Conventions are run in accordance to Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Yet, I am surprised at how many of us know very little about them. And when you look at the Roberts Rules book with over 700 pages, it can be understandably intimidation. So in an effort to make it a little less painful, below is a very basic summary of the rules.

Thank you for your service.

Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

What Is Parliamentary Procedure?
It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion.

Why is Parliamentary Procedure Important?
Because it's a time tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Today, Robert's Rules of Order newly revised is the basic handbook of operation for most clubs, organizations and other groups. So it's important that everyone know these basic rules!

Organizations using parliamentary procedure usually follow a fixed order of business. Below is a typical example:
1. Call to order.
2. Roll call of members present.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Officer’s reports.
5. Committee reports.
6. Special orders -- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.
7. Unfinished business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

The method used by members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue. Individual members can:
1. Call to order.
2. Second motions.
3. Debate motions.
4. Vote on motions.

There are four Basic Types of Motions:
1. Main Motions: The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.
2. Subsidiary Motions: Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.
3. Privileged Motions: Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.
4. Incidental Motions: Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

How are Motions Presented?
1. Obtaining the floor
   a. Wait until the last speaker has finished.
   b. Rise and address the Chairman by saying, "Mr. Chairman, or Mr. President."
   c. Wait until the Chairman recognizes you.
2. Make Your Motion
   a. Speak in a clear and concise manner.
   b. Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ..."
   c. Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.
3. Wait for Someone to Second Your Motion
4. Another member will second your motion or the Chairman will call for a second.
5. If there is no second to your motion it is lost.
6. The Chairman States Your Motion
   a. The Chairman will say, "It has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action.
   b. The membership then either debates your motion, or may move directly to a vote.
   c. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the chairman it becomes "assembly property", and cannot be changed by you without the consent of the members.
7. Expanding on Your Motion
   a. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it.
   b. The mover is always allowed to speak first.
   c. All comments and debate must be directed to the chairman.
   d. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established.
   e. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Chairman.
8. Putting the Question to the Membership

More on JUDGE ADVOCATE, Page 9

- King
(Continued from Page 3)

After his service in Europe, Joe’s regiment received a memo from an Army officer outlining the awards and decorations for which they may be eligible. However, due to several factors, including that his former commanding officer had been hospitalized with tuberculosis, Joe never received his decorations. Last fall, he reached out to my office to request assistance in securing the awards, and over the course of several months, my staff worked with the Department of the Army to secure them. I’m pleased to say Joe now has the medals he rightfully earned.

And today, at 93 years old, Joe Hoerth continues to serve his community, volunteering at the office of the Maine Attorney General in Augusta. His courage, his character, and his commitment to Maine and the nation are an inspiring example for us all. Like every Maine veteran, he has done so much for us, and I will always work hard to honor that service and sacrifice.
Service Office Update

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he DSO continues to be a very busy place, a special thanks to our Post Service Officers and membership who are bringing veterans and their survivors to our office for assistance. Through your direct efforts we have made over 6,600 veteran contacts since the start of our fiscal year in May 2015. We also provide service to Legion members nationwide due to the VA’s national workload initiative that sends claims to locations where they can be worked faster. You can be proud that your efforts, working with the DSO, have assisted our membership and veterans in obtaining critical compensation, pension, educational, and survivor’s benefits.

We have built and are maintaining an excellent working relationship with our fellow DSOs from other Veterans Service Organizations as well as our local Congressional Staffers. In addition, we have connected with many military service organizations, both local and national to provide valuable educational and financial resources for our veterans.

If you have a VA “Veterans Choice” card you still must coordinate your care through the VA and HealthNet; the provider. Please note Veterans Choice bills are handled by HealthNet, not the VA. Emergency Care outside the VA will only be covered by the VA if you follow the correct steps; and it MUST be an EMERGENCY as specified in law, if not directed by the VA. Also, if you contact the VA and they send an ambulance to get you, and you turn it down, you may be held responsible for hundreds or thousands of dollars in bills. ALWAYS CONTACT THE VA first! Be careful about consents recommended by outside providers; always notify the VA if the private provider wants to send you to another provider; not approved by the VA in advance.

The DSO can assist you in the appeal process if the VA will not pay the provider. Some billing issues are very easy to fix and some are not! Do not sit on the bills as there are time frames you must meet to ensure proper resolution. Also, the DSO cannot advise you on your health insurance or health choices. Those decisions should be made in consultation with appropriate VA or private health benefits advisors.

Here is a listing of those Post Service Officers who are responsible for the DSO for the Newsletter; many of them have also attended the PSO training seminar at the Department Headquarters. We have over 170 posts, so there are many we would like to get listed and see at training; if possible.

Some PSO training seminars are being rescheduled to fit Post Service Officers who work full-time. We will post them on our email list to the Department Service Office Newsletter. We have trained over 70 Legionnaires, Congressional Staffers, and leadership of Military Service Organizations. The response has been extremely positive. You can request a reservation for the seminar by emailing the DSO at amedeo.lauria@va.gov; email sooner than later as we only have 6 students per class. The classes are conducted at the Department Headquarters, 1000 hours to 1400 hours with a light breakfast and lunch included. There is no cost to attend.

As your hold Post and District elections, please ask your newly elected Post Service Officers to sign up and attend the seminar and I will add them to the DSO newsletter. Don’t miss out on this valuable offering; talk to anyone who has attended and they will convince you to sign up and attend.

Please encourage your Service Officers to attend one of the monthly Post Service Officer Seminars at the Department Headquarters. The February class is full, however, the next two classes are February 20, 2016 and March 19, 2016. The classes may be moving into our brand new training facility at the Department Headquarters in Winslow, Maine.

PSO CONTACT INFORMATION. Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send us 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 also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

PSO NEWSLETTER. To sign up for the newsletter, please email 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 newsletter is emailed out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains 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.

Helpful Hints:

• Veterans or Widow on a PENSION, (NOT COMPENSATION or DIC) MUST notify the VA, in writing, through the VSO if possible, about ANY income or changes from other sources, to include Social Security, or they risk incurring a debt to the Government. We are seeing more and more of this and the debt can be SUBSTANTIAL!! Call if you have any questions! Ensure you understand the rules of compensation and pension; and for what you are being compensated for; disability, spouse, children. Failure to understand the “why” may result in overpayments and a debt to the government, resulting in a financial hardship for you and your family.

• It is important to note that the VA has pretty much gone paperless, so the Department Service Office no longer gets copies of all correspondence going to veterans in regards to claims. You MUST call when receive any paperwork from the VA to ensure the best service.

• Remind your post members that it is always best to make an appointment to talk with a Service Officer at the DSO. While we always take walk-ins; appointments have first priority for service.

• Stay up to date, by checking VA.gov on a regular basis.

• Please do not make promises to veterans or their survivors regarding compensation or survivor benefits.

• Encourage the use of “E-Benefits” and “MyHealthVet” see hyperlinks on the left! These systems allow you to check on your claim status, and healthcare from the privacy of your own home 24/7!! If you run into problems call the DSO we can walk you through sign-up or answer questions.

• If you have filed a claim, and have not received any correspondence from the VA in the past 30 days, call us immediately to check on the status of your claim! Also, contact the DSO 10 days after you file to ensure the VA is working your claim.

• If you filed a claim in the DSO office within the last 120 days, and have heard nothing, check with the DSO for the status. Follow up on appeals with a quarterly phone call.

• If you are not accredited by the American Legion or VA to counsel veterans on the validity and substance of their claims, please contact the DSO for assistance. Whenever possible, please make an appointment for better service.

• Help get the word out to your Post Service Officers to sign-up for this newsletter and PSO training.

• Reminder to file for travel reimbursement, if eligible, within 30 days of your visit to the VA or you may lose out! You should file, if eligible before you leave Togus or the VA Community Clinic. Don’t forget to file for eligible trips to VA referred health care providers.

• PLEASE USE THE DSO TO TRANSMIT YOUR CLAIMS/EVIDENCE TO THE VA THIS ENHANCES A PAPER TRAIL AND EVIDENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED! You can either mail it or drop it off in the office.

• DSO APPOINTMENTS. If you are thinking of filing a claim, plan ahead! Appointments are always welcome! We don’t turn veterans away, but you may have to wait until those appointments are taken care of by the service officers; the best course of action is an appointment.

More SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, Page 8
Service Office Update
(Continued from Page 7)
will be glad to make an appointment for you; just ask! (207-623-5726) If you have trouble getting in by phone just email her at eileen.krawczyk@va.gov.

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.
We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at amedeo.lauria@va.gov , david.kern@va.gov or eileen.krawczyk@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Friday, 0730 – 1500 hours, closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot’s Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office, say hello, and have a cup of coffee. You are always welcome to stop in the DSO office, say hello, and have a cup of coffee; just ask! (207-623-5726) If you have trouble getting in by phone just email her at eileen.krawczyk@va.gov.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT.
If you are interested in having us speak at your area or district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve status; subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least 30 minutes of your agenda for the presentation.

Upcoming PSO/DSO Presentations and other dates!
- February 23, 2016 - Tuesday, Post Service Officer Seminar, Department Headquarters, Winslow, ME. Time: 1000-1400 hours. Dress: Casual with Legion Cap.
- February 27th, 2016 - Saturday, Veteran's Outreach, Vinalhaven, ME. High School Gym. Time, TBA

Did you know you may be eligible for this award?

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Description
A Gold color medal, 1 3/8 inches in width, consisting of a wreath superimposed by two crossed scimitars saltirewise and a Maltese cross. In the center of the Maltese cross a disc with an outline of the country of Vietnam between two palm sprigs joined at the bottom and a scroll overall inscribed "QUOC GIA LAO-TUONG" (Reward of the State).

Ribbon
The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 3/8 inch Old Glory Red, 5/8 inch Golden Yellow, 16 strands of Old Glory Red, and 3/8 inch Old Glory Red.

Criteria
U.S. Military units were individually cited for award of the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Gallantry Cross; however, the Vietnamese Government issued the award to all units subordinate to Military Assistance Command (MACV) during the period 8 February 1962 and 28 March 1973 and to U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units for the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973. This permits all personnel who served in Vietnam to wear the RVN Gallantry Cross unit citation.

The medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level.

Components
The following are authorized components of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross:
- d. Streamers: Awarded to cited units. Inscription is as indicated on the unit's lineage and honors. Requisition in accordance with Chapter 9, Army Regulation (AR) 840-10.
- e. Unit Award: Commercially available.

Background
The RVN Gallantry Cross was established by the Vietnam Government by Decree No. 74-b/Qt, dated 15 August 1950 and Decree No. 96/DQT/HC, dated 2 May 1952. Authorization for all U.S. Army personnel was confirmed in HDQA General Orders No. 8, dated 19 March 1974.

Only one emblem (with palm) will be worn regardless of the number of times the unit was awarded the RVN Gallantry Cross. The Army initially authorized the wear of a fourragere by letter AGPB-F, dated 11 February 1969, for units which had been awarded the RVN Gallantry Cross with palm on two or more occasions. Department of the Army message 111030Z April 1974, established the policy that only one emblem was authorized, thus precluding the wear of the Vietnamese fourrageres which represented multiple awards.

We are here to serve YOU our American Legion members!

More Ships Added to Agent Orange List
The Agent Orange Ship list has just been updated and MORE ships have been added as of November 30, 2015! Please have your post members (Navy), who may have been turned down before, check the list to see if their ship shows up on the new list. http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp

Please pass this on to your Legionnaire friends throughout Maine and have them call us if they need assistance in filing an Agent Orange claim for disabilities.

Attention Post Service Officers

We Want You...
at our next Post Service Officer's Training Seminar
For More Information Or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office at amedeo.lauria@va.gov
Or call: 207-623-5726
to make a seminar reservation!

POST-9/11 VET NEWSLETTER
Information for Veterans who served in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn
Please visit WWW.PUBLICHEALTH.VA.GOV
You can find out more about the organization's policies and procedures by contacting your local Legion office. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to them. They are here to help you and your organization.
Legion Riders of Maine
The Untold Stories of “What We Do and What We are About”

The American Legion Riders of Post 147, Madawaska, Maine have gone above and beyond when it comes to volunteerism and community involvement. According to the by-laws of the American Legion Riders, the purpose of what we do is “to use association to promote and support programs of the American Legion, the community, and to veterans, veteran’s homes and hospitals.” The American Legion Riders of Post 147 have fulfilled all of these requirements with their many successful projects and the list of what they do just keeps on growing.

One of the best ways they reach out to the community is through their scholarship program. For seven consecutive years, the American Legion Riders have offered 5 scholarships to graduating seniors. These scholarships are awarded to seniors in Madawaska, Van Buren, Fort Kent, Saint Agatha, and to grandchildren of any active ALR member who are attending any post-secondary education program. They award the scholarships based on a written essay, GPA, academic status, and volunteerism at a club or community activity. One of the other scholarships they fund is the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. This scholarship, which has been awarded for 8 consecutive years, goes to children who have lost a parent while on duty since September 11, 2001. The work the American Legion Riders do with and for the veterans is the pride and joy of their post. These projects include “Our Citizen Soldier Appreciation Day,” “Christmas for Veterans,” “Maine Veterans Cemetery of Caribou,” and their “Welcome Home” and the list continues to grow. The Our Citizen Soldier Appreciation day has been going on for 4 consecutive years for 185th Engineer Company of Caribou. During this program, the ALR take over KP duties (kitchen police duties) and serve up a full barbecue meal with all the fixings. The ALR presents thank you to the soldiers along with gifts for their families. For 8 consecutive years, the ALR visit 9 rehab/nursing facilities in the Saint John Valley with their Christmas for Veterans project. The ALR presents each of the 65 veterans they visit over the course of 3 days with a gift and a sincere “thank you for your service.” During the Veterans’ and Memorial Day holidays or any commencement or dedication ceremony, the ALR provides a 21 gun salute. Finally, the Welcome Home program the ALR is a service they do for returning military personnel when returning home after their overseas duties. The ALR will provide an escort service to their homes and will also provide an Honor Guard or attend funeral services for the veterans. The work done by the American Legion Riders of Post 147 is truly inspirational. The members go above and beyond their requirement to ensure a sense of unity between community, service members, and veterans. Post 147 hosted 2nd and 5th Maine American Legion Riders Rally in 2009 and 2012. The untold stories of what they do are completely selfless and everyone could afford to take a page out of their book. According to 4 term Director Jenn Daigle.

SUBMITTED BY: Dan Bruno, Secretary

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Legionnaires or Auxiliary member.
Applications are available through the American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, by calling (207) 873-3229 or on-line at www.mainelegion.org. Applications must be received at Department Headquarters by March 1, 2016. For further information, contact Headquarters. The national winner receives a $10,000 scholarship. Three-second place scholarship awards of $2,500 are also awarded at the national level.

To All Maine Legionnaires
Re: National HQ Fundraising Suggestion

As our National Organization continues to solicit donations from our members here in Maine, we continue to receive phone calls on this issue. The most asked questions are: Does the donation stay in Maine to help Maine Veterans? The answer is “NO”. Does this effect our Programs? The answer is “YES”. What can we do? The answer is send all the donations to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me. 04901-0727. Make check payable to: The American Legion, Department of Maine and earmark it to a Veterans Program or Children and Youth Program! If you should have any questions, please call our Department of Maine State HQ 207-873-3229.

The American Legion, Department of Maine thanks you for your continued support.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH - JANUARY
FREDERICK E. VOSE JR.
So. Paris Veterans Home

FREDERICK E. VOSE JR. STAFF SERGEANT

Fred was born on June 18, 1931 in Marshfield, Maine. He grew up in East Machias, Maine and graduated from Washington Academy.

Fred joined the U.S. Air Force in September 1950. He was stationed in many places throughout his enlistment, including South Carolina, Turkey, Alaska, New Jersey, California, Cape Cod, Texas, and Florida. Fred served Stateside during the Korean War.

After basic training Fred attended Air Police school in Florida. Upon completion, he was assigned to Donaldson Air Force Base in South Carolina as a member of the Air Force Police Squadron. While stationed in Texas he was transferred into the Commissary Field as a Procurement Specialist.

While Fred was at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey he was chosen NCO of the week. Fred was discharged in October 1970 and had earned the Good Conduct Medal. Fred worked in the office at a textile mill in Lowell, Massachusetts and also worked in many clerical positions at Bath Iron Works. One of Fred’s greatest enjoyments is baseball; he enjoys watching the Red Sox. While Fred was stationed at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey he met the famous baseball player Joe Di Maggio. Fred also enjoys listening to Red Sox games on the radio in his room. He also enjoyed playing bingo when he lived on the C unit. Now Fred is on our B unit and loves to be taken care of by Dana. Fred came to the Maine Veterans’ Home in April 2013.

Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, Individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to www.mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us by mail at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me 04903-0900, email: legionsme@mainelegon.org, or Tel: (207) 873-3229.
Bob Philbrick, Longtime Maine Legion Baseball Zone Commissioner Dies at Age 82

By DAN WARREN
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Bob Philbrick, the most remarkable “average person” I have ever met, died recently at age 82. He was the only person in my life (non-President, non-Governor, non-Hollywood super-star) whom I routinely welcomed with this greeting: “You know you are full of crap, right?” Then, we would both laugh.

Bob was a fixture in Gorham. Lived on Narragansett Street. Raised 9 kids there with wife, Mary. Former teacher and coach in South Portland, he made perhaps his greatest mark on the state of Maine with involvement in American Legion baseball the past nearly 70 years.

In Legion baseball, his resume is both voluminous and fascinating: player, coach, umpire, league official.

The most impressive thing he did as far as I was concerned?

Bob, a true dinosaur decided he was going to approach this young generation of “20-something coaches” and be nicer, kinder, humbler, and more delicate than he had to be—and offer them the benefit of his 50+ years of Legion baseball experience.

In 1980, Dolloff, Scarborough native and D-Day veteran once said, “In my generation, everybody wanted to serve in the military—that is how we defined ourselves, and how society identified us. Today? Young men want to coach sports teams. That is the biggest thing in their world.”

Bob Philbrick agreed.

He would approach a young coach who was having trouble with any number of things---

--supplying umpires with enough baseballs during a game
--scheduling games sufficiently in advance to allow the team to attract adequate players to each game or
--vocal parents either hollering at players and “coaching” them, and/or either lingering too near the dugout, or even entering the dugout.

He would approach the coach at some point and kind of, as my later mother would say, “play dumb,” and stumble thru some discussion points with the coach, designed to help the coach, in a humble, understated way.

In later years, he branched out and developed what we called his “Columbo approach.” Play dumb, tip toe your way up to the coach, and always say, “Now I don’t know much about this stuff, or about baseball really, but I was thinking, gee, you maybe, might want to try…” this method or strategy, or that…

I soon saw him doing this with many young people--always in a non-threatening manner, but almost always effectively.

He was also world-class disingenuous about it, however! I decided to have some fun with him one day, and call him on it.

“Bob,” I said to him in the dugout, “you DO know you are full of crap, right?”

He then started to play dumb with me—until he saw that I had moved my face to within about 18 inches of his, and was prepared for a smiling-face “stare down.”

He then would giggle, and say, “Well, I was just trying to help the fellow with the umpires, you know…”

Rest in peace, Bob. An old saying goes: “A giant never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child.” That was you.

You had a ton of knowledge—and were still dispensing it on your death bed.

In a kind, gentle, understated way often.

Even if you sometimes were pulling the wool over America’s eyes—in a good way….

Yuppies—You Just Lost A Newbie-Friendly Townie...

There was a movie years ago about a small town in Indiana, and the tension there between college students, and townies. Resentments, insecurities, yearnings to bond, feelings of inadequacy, mutual quest for respect and love. Great stuff.

That is Scarborough today.

We’ve gone from 6,500 people the past few decades to 22,000. We used to be fishermen, dairy farmers, carpenters, shoe workers, and lobstermen. Now, we drink Cappacino, eat brix, drink white wine (slightly chilled), and don’t worry about arriving tardy for work because UNUM is on “flex time.” Tra la tra la.

Bob Philbrick helped forge a peace between the old and new the past 25 years. He is dead now, though. Yuppies have lost an ally among the crusty dinosaurs that still roam the earth in the Land of 04074.

Bob Philbrick was involved in American Legion baseball in Scarborough, and his home town of Gorham—but in oh so much more in the community.

He ended up being the Henry Kissinger of “town vs. gown” and other bubbling-over kettles in 04074, and nearby.

Darwinism is a great concept. It has manifested itself in Scarborough the past 20 years most vibrantly in youth sports. Meetings to decide who will manage Little League All Star teams can be rag-rut-like affairs.

It is easy for polite, genteel locals to resent the changes (which are not always successful, nor community-minded BTW. Remind me to tell you the one about the February clinic featuring Major League Ryan Flaherty that was boycotted by Hartford and Harvard transplant Dads because they would not be “helping…”).

Bob Philbrick was like Joshua Chamberlain at Appomattox Courthouse to end the Civil War. “Chill, boys… I’ve got this.”

How? Here’s my favorite Bob Philbrick story:

A trend emerged in the late 1990s. New coaches would find, e.g., that Johnny Smith was not available to play Wednesday night if a rained-out game was rescheduled for then.

Their “creative” solution? Tell Zone Commissioner Philbrick: “Bob, there is no field available.” Bob’s response? Tell them he knew what they were doing, lecture them that they are turning kids into their pawns in an ego-driven coaching mania? Nope.

Register Now For 2016 Legion Baseball Season

Team registration for the 2016 American Legion Baseball season is available online at www.baseball.legion.org. Any team that fails to register by May 15 shall pay an additional $200 to their respective American Legion department. And any team that fails to register by June 1 will not be permitted to play during the season.

Coaches can use the same username and password from last year, and they can locate and renew teams and players from previous seasons. The registration site also meets the Legion’s policy for background screening checks.

Background screening checks will be conducted annually each season prior to any meetings, events, practices or games that involve youth participants. During the annual online Legion Baseball registration process, an acknowledgement will be required that each coach, manager and volunteer staff of an American Legion Baseball team has been verified as having passed the mandated background check screening requirements for that upcoming season. This is required before managers and coaches can purchase insurance and enter their team roster on the baseball registration website.

For questions or concerns, please email baseball@legion.org.

More on TOWNIE, Page 12

USAA is The American Legion’s preferred provider of financial services. Offering a range of top-rated financial and insurance products and services. USAA welcomes honorably discharged U.S. military veterans, active-duty troops and qualified family members and descendants of those who have served. USAA contributes funds to American Legion programs when members join through a dedicated channel: For more information, please visit: https://www.usaa.com/inet/pages/auto_insurance_main?

Share your USAA legacy.

More on TOWNIE, Page 12

Have a Question? A USAA representative is ready to talk to you. 1-800-531-8722
Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 for their donations of $100 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner at MAMHS, $80 to Senior Citizens, $100 to a member in need, $100 for the Blue Star Highway marker, $100 to the Togus Maniacs Golden Age Games team and $22.50 toward the Carrabec HS Yearbook ad.

SAL Squadron 39 for their donations of $400 to the Home of the Little Wanderers Christmas Fund, $200 to Special Olympics, $100 to a family in need, $100 to a member in need, $250 to the Veterans Golden Age Games at Togus, $500 to the Travis Mills House and $100 to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, $100 to Worcester, VAVS for comfort items and $250 toward the Veterans Christmas Fund, $200 to Special Activity Fund, $100 gas card to a veteran for 70 years of membership at Madison Post 39.

Berwick Post 79

Under the leadership of Paul R. Lapierre, Chaplain for Charles S. Hatch Post 79, and with the assistance of Mark Pilgrim, Ronald Vigue and Andy Buckman, twenty four Christmas letters were sent out to active duty personnel from Berwick, Maine. Seventeen service members with the rank of E-6 or below also received a $50 check from the Post, for a total of $850. To make their holidays a bit brighter, Unit 79 sent care packages to eleven service personnel stationed overseas.

Lisbon Post 158

Lisbon Post 158 for holding a two day yard sale in an effort to raise money for a local man who needed major surgery. Also a spaghetti dinner with several raffles was held. Many thanks to Lori Adamson, Anne LaChance, Theresa Brissete, and Marty and Donna Watson. Thanks to all the businesses who donated to help with the benefit. Some who donated were Arby’s in Topsham, Riverside Wood Creations, Sam’s, Millers Store, Lisbon House of Pizza, Angelo’, Dunkin’ Donuts, Al’s Gulf Station, Bootleggers and Lisbon Floor Systems of all of Lisbon and Lisbon Falls. Also the Ramada Inn of Lewiston.

District 7

For their donation of $100 to Wreaths Across America.

Legionnaires Insurance Trust

Nearly 1000 members of the American Legion Family in forms for sign-up for the free AD&D since fall. Great work on everyone’s part. Some posts have sent in lists with their members’ names, dates of birth and pertinent data. Others gather the info on their families and friends and mail in. It doesn’t matter who compiles the information. Each entry counts to help families in the event of accidental death and counts again to raise money for the Department of Maine. Thank-you and thank-you again.

Let’s remember the SAL and Auxiliary. Of special note, in going forward, when you sign up a new member, enroll them for the insurance. It’s easier to remember who is signed up and who isn’t by making the enrollment right off the bat. Send their information in and we will enter it for the free AD&D. Remember it is worth $1000 in the event of an accidental death and $5000 if traveling on official Legion business. Or, registration can be done on-line at www.thelit.com.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Form

Free Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Mailing Address:

(Street or P.O. Box) (Town) (State) (Zip Code)

Date of Birth:

(Month Day Year)

Legion Membership Number:

Email Address:

Gender (Male or Female):

Please Mail Form to:

The American Legion, Department of Maine

Attn: Mona Naragon

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727
Maine is one of the most generous departments. Although we like to benefit our own internal programs, we don’t want to lose sight of helping our fellow veterans. Many of our own members, friends and relatives live in other states so it isn’t like we aren’t helping our own. The NEF helps everyone. Would you please consider sending in a donation to the Department of Maine, with a memo for NEF? It will be greatly appreciated by veterans who might otherwise face complete losses. On another note and a shift in topics, it is also time to be thinking about our future leadership. Running for any office can be expensive. Our own National Vice Commander John Hargreaves can attest to that. Yes, it is indeed a treasurable honor to be selected for higher positions. However, the consideration of funding can derail the best of intentions. Do many of you remember when Past National Commander Tony Jordan ran? In order to run, the potential candidate’s home state must raise enormous amounts of money first. The state unified and Posts hosted bean suppers, bingos, raffles, and whatever else they could drum up. The funds donated to the National Commander’s campaign are dedicated to helping that position.

As your representative to the National Executive Committee, I would ask you for your financial help in supporting the leading candidate for National Commander and the NEF. Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to Department Headquarters with the appropriate memo for the National Commander’s campaign and/or NEF. Let’s make Maine proud!

Sweepstakes Winners Announced

Mid-Winter Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, 2016 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor with our sweepstakes drawing, which saw eleven of our Legionnaires win the following amounts: The lucky winner of the top prize of $3,500 was Clifford A. Raye, Pittsfield Post 32. Other winners were $1,000 – Donald R. Green, Portland Post 17; $500 – Joel Voisine, Madawaska Post 147; $200 – George R. Graham, Standish Post 128, David Suchy, Dexter Post 53, Bruce P. Leavitt, Millinocket Post 80, Richard F. DeBoris, Naples Post 155, Ryan Worces- ter, Sangerville Post 165; John R. Guet- lette, Caribou Post 15; George H. Taylor, Westbrook Post 197 and Charles Wilcoxon, Waterville Post 178.

2016 Mid-Winter Conference
Wartime Veterans Caucus for Vets, Kids, and Country

Icy roads, wind, and a driving snowstorm could not keep members of the American Legion from as far away as Washington, DC from attending the Department of Maine American Legion Mid-Winter Conference held this past weekend at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. The topics presented included reports on Maine legislative issues affecting veterans, Legion services housed at Togus VA hospital, Boys State, Legion baseball, Children and Youth scholarships, Women Veterans’ issues, high school oratorical contest, state licensing, membership and upcoming Legion centennial celebration, and American Legion legislative actions in Washington, DC.

Among the challenges that were presented was the aging of Maine’s Veteran population and declining numbers of wartime Veterans. Figures presented by Maine Legion First Vice Pete Johnson suggested that there were 127,234 total veterans in Maine of which 94,604 were wartime veterans and 60,000 were over the age of 65. Maine has a higher number of American Legion members at 22.12% market penetration as compared to the national average of 13.14%.

Department Service Officer Amedeo Lauria reported that his three-member staff at Togus were seeing 826 veterans per month and fielding 414 phone calls from Veterans and family members seeking assistance with disability or death benefit claims.

First Vice Commander Johnson, filling in for the state Americanism officer, reported that 1225 boys and 200 coaches participated in 421 American Legion Baseball games last year. Registration for the 2016 baseball season will begin on January first. The State tournament to be held July 27 through August 1st in Augusta. He also reported that there will be opening for 230 high school junior boys for the Boys State program to be held June 19 through June 25 at the Boys State Camp, Waterville. Last year, the boys participating said they learned a lot about government, had fun doing it, and made new friends. In the past, Boys State Alumni include well-known national figures such as former President Clinton, Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Newsman Tom Brokaw, basketball star Michael Jordan and several Maine state figures such as Maine Senator King and such state Senator Roger Katz.

National Vice Commander John Hargreaves introduced the keynote speaker from the American Legion National Legislative Commission in Washington, D.C., Jeffrey C. Steele. Key points in Mr. Steele’s address were that the American Legion motto “For God and Country” is better understood as intimately linked and inseparable. He said God is honored through our patriotism and gratitude for His blessings on our country.

In Washington, Steele reported the passage of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 was a step along the road to reducing veterans’ wait times for health care services. He authorized $10 billion in emergency spending to allow some of the more than 9 million veterans enrolled to seek care from private providers and another $5 billion for the VA to hire more doctors, nurses, and other providers. He went on to report the American Legion is opposed to privatizing veteran health for fear of an insufficient focus on patient outcomes versus efficiency and cost savings. He reported that Republican leaders in Congress, and ying for the presidency in 2016 have publicly stated their support for privatization. On the Democratic side are calling for continued reform and oversight of VA healthcare as opposed to further privatization. The options are being studied by a 15-member Commission on Care. A final report is due in late spring.

Mr. Steele also reported the American Legion is continuing its advocacy in Washington for strong defense; pay and benefits for service members and veterans; better mental health services; prevent veteran homelessness; employment opportunities; VA care; and prevention of the desecration of the American flag. He concluded his remarks by saying the American Legion family owes its success to the passionate and dedicated advocates who work for causes greater than themselves.

Patrick Eisenhart, PR Chairman
207-632-3807
Mid-Winter Conference a Success in Spite of Stormy Weather
(Jan. 17, 2016 at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor)

Let The Banquet Begin: Dept. Officers arrive to enjoy the banquet held during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Jan. 17. Left to right, Dept. Sgt. At Arms Patricia Thurston, Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, and Dept. 2nd Vice Commander and Master of Ceremonies Randall Kluj.

Attendance Good In Spite Of Weather: Many Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and guests in attendance during the banquet at Mid-Winter Conference.

MWC Guest Speaker: Dept. 1st Vice Commander Peter Johnson, left, with Guest Speaker and State Legislature from Lewiston Jared Golden.

Introductory Speech: Dept. Commander Ronald Rainfrette introduces Department Officers and guest speakers at Mid-Winter Conference during the banquet held Jan. 17 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. Seated, left to right, 1st Vice Commander Peter Johnson, and 2nd Vice Commander Randall Kluj.

Mid-Winter Conference Guest Speaker: American Legion Assistant Legislative Director and guest speaker Jeff Steele discusses Legislative issues at Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 17. Left to right, Dept. Chaplain Matthew Jabaut, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Peter Johnson, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Randall Kluj, Assistant Legislative and National Vice Commander John Hargreaves.

A Dance To Remember: Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Randall Kluj and his wife Janet take the dance floor and waltz to the music played by Terran Stone, Owner/Event DJ of Norcast Entertainment.