A “Spectacular” Turnout at Mid-Winter Conference

By PAUL L’HEUREUX, State Adjutant

The American Legion, Department of Maine’s Annual Mid-Winter Conference was conducted at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor, Maine on Jan. 21-22, 2017. The conference was well attended by as many as 170 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and guests combined who thought that the information presented was very good and informative.

This year’s conference was under the direction of Commander Peter Johnson and 2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis. Commander Johnson acted as the lead and M/C of the program.

Special guests included National Legislative Assistant Director/Grassroots Coordinator Jeff Steele and Maine Blind Camp Director Mark Tamecalea. Eastern Division National Auxiliary Vice President Patti Lach was guest speaker at the banquet as well as Maine Humorist Gary Crocker who brought a little added “Downeast” humor to the evening, making this year both a successful and memorable event.

Opening the ceremony was Department Commander Peter Johnson followed by the National Anthem performed by Greenville Post 94 member Gary Nelson. Past National Commander (PNC) Anthony “Tony” Jordan proceeded by welcoming attendees and special guests and complimenting the Department leadership and direction. PNC Jordan was supportive and held words of encouragement for all the younger Legionnaires present.

Guest speaker, National Legislative Assistant Director/Grassroots Coordinator Jeff Steele spoke on Legislative issues pertaining to National and local levels. Department Judge Advocate and Legislative Committee Chairman Matthew Jabaut than gave an update on the Legislative essentials followed by Legislative Committee Advisor William “Chick” Cicotte who made a number of recommendations to the Legislative Committee concerning Vietnam Veterans who served during 1959-1961. Following Mr. Cicotte was U.S. Air Force Col. Roy who presented information pertaining to the Air Guard. Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria continued with a brief overview on the Department Service Office followed by a brief presentation on the Women Veterans Advisory Committee by Dept. Americanism Officer and Chairman Debra Couture and Dept. Sergeant-at-Arms Patricia Thurston. Americanism Officer Debra Couture than gave an update on

More on “MID WINTER”, Page 5

A New Year for Improved Legion Awareness

As The American Legion nears its centennial year, I’m calling on all posts, districts, counties, areas, zones, departments and affiliates of the organization to help build an unparalleled database of memorials and monuments that honor U.S. military service and sacrifice. The database can be found at www.legion.org/materials.

With the Legion’s memorials database project, it is important to assess the conditions of these memorials – whether it’s a plaque in the park listing a country’s war dead or a well-known community statue or plaza. What better way to commemorate the Legion’s centennial than to spruce up, repair and revive awareness to those who served before us, whose memorials and monuments may be showing the effects of age and weather? It’s also the perfect time for communities to re- acquaint themselves with the meaning of their memorials.

The American Legion Memorial Inventory Project is not focused on any one war era. We know that Legion posts care for memorials ranging from the Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism, all around the world. In order to ensure their continued respect and protection, we have to index them and bring attention to their original and intended meaning. The web platform asks for the location of the memorial, a description of it, date of installation if known and a rating of its condition. Uploaders are also strongly encouraged to take photos of the memorial and post them onto the database. We know that in virtually every corner of the country, and beyond our shores, Legion Family members have paid tribute to military service, honor and remembrance by carving out sacred spaces in their communities to ensure that the price paid for freedom is not lost on future generations.

---Digital Dispatch December 6, 2016

Maine American Legion Announces its 70th Annual Boys State Program

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 70th Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program. This year’s program will again be held at Thomas College in Waterville during the week of June 18-22. Every American Legion Post and all subordinate bodies should alert their membership to one of the finest youth programs in the nation.

The American Legion sponsors the Boys State program and we encourage all other groups and organizations to join in promoting the program through sponsorship of candidates to American Legion Dirigo Boys State.

We ask that the officers of your Post contact school principals or guidance counselors for assistance in this program. Make sure that your school officials are knowledgeable of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program. The tuition fee for the 2017 program will be $300 per student. Contact The American Legion Boys State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, Tel: (207) 873-3229, or information online at www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboysstate.com for application materials.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 70th Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.

More on “SCHOLARSHIPS”, Page 2

Legislation: Legislative Committee Advisor William “Chick” Cicotte interjects ideas to the Legislative Committee for the need to pass Legislation regarding a Vietnam Veterans issue during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

Dirigo Boys State

“An Opportunity to Earn Scholarships”

Dirigo Boys State is a great opportunity for high school juniors to earn scholarships for college as well as learn about the functions of our state government. The two $500 scholarships offered through The American Legion, Department of Maine are the LeFleur and Boyle scholarships which are selected by the Boys State staff during the program. The Samsung Scholarship is a national scholarship for high school juniors who are members of The American Legion and its auxiliaries. Students who have served in the military, are active members of a veterans service organization or have a parent who is a veteran are encouraged to apply.

Thank you for your assistance in the 70th Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program A success.

More on “SCHOLARSHIPS”, Page 2

Charles E. Schmidt

National Commander
Commander’s Comments

The American Legion, Department of Maine is fast approaching our 100th Anniversary. The past few months has given me the opportunity to reflect upon our organization, the importance of our work for past and future veterans, their families, the youth of our communities and the defense of our nation.

It was brought home to me by the passing of a good friend and a great legionnaire, Lionel Breau. Lionel was a World War II veteran; he dropped out of High School to help support his large family in Greenville. At the age of 18, he was drafted in the Army and assigned to the 86th Infantry Division (Blackhawk Division).

After the organization of the Division and training in Louisiana and California, the Blackhawk Division embarked from Boston to France in time to participate in the liberation of Europe. Lionel was the 3rd gunner of a mortar squad and participated in five major battles, and several river crossings and was 50 kilometers from Hitler’s “Crown’s Nest” on VE-Day.

The Blackhawk Division was credited with capturing over 50,000 German prisoners. Following the surrender of Germany, the Blackhawk Division was returned to the United States, given 30 days to adjust back to civilian life and especially all volunteers attending a caucus at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on June 16 and 17, 2017 for the 99th Department Convention. It was a miraculous accomplishment with all the returning military adjusting back to civilian life and especially all volunteers attending a caucus at their own expense. What an outstanding Legacy for those early veterans.

I have enormous pride in the achievements of our Department, especially the service office, our youth development programs such as the oratorical contest, legion baseball, boys and girls state and our legislative advocacy for veterans at the state and national level. As we enter the second 100 years of our organization, these and other programs grow in importance. In order to be successful, we will have to attract a greater percentage of veterans to join our organization and we will have to seek new methods to relate to their needs and interests while keeping our values and motives true to those expressed by our founders. I am confident we can live up to the standards set by Lionel and Theresa Breau.

Scholarships

(Continued from Page 1)

scholarship for $750 awarded to the selected winner from each department with the opportunity to earn up to $20,000. Selected individuals attending Boys State can apply for this scholarship by visiting www.legion.org/samsung-scholarshipapplication.

To learn more about these scholarships as well as other available scholarships offered through The American Legion, please visit www.mainelegion.org/pages/programs/scholarships.php or www.legion.org/scholarships

A ‘First’ Look

WHERE IS THE EXCITEMENT?

The American Legion History:

In 1919, The American Legion was evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. As a patriotic wartime veterans organization, their focus was on the need for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. Hundreds of veterans were returning to the United States with war injuries and problems far exceeding any available assistance. The membership swiftly grew to over a million and local posts sprang up all over the country. Today memberships stand at over two million in over 14,000 posts. The posts are organized into 55 departments, one for each of the 50 states, along with District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

The following is some of the significant dates in Legion history.

MARCH 17, 1919

Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first caucus.

MAY 10, 1919

St Louis, Missouri Caucus adopted the official name The American Legion, drafted and approved the preamble and constitution. Primarily they created organization and a National Legislative Committee. It was a miraculous accomplishment with all the returning military adjusting back to civilian life and especially all volunteers attending a caucus at their own expense. What an outstanding Legacy for those early veterans.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1919

United States Congress charters The American Legion. Charters begin to spring up in every post and states across the country.

NOVEMBER 10-11, 1919

The first American Legion Convention convenes in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Opening Ceremony: Department Commander Peter Johnson, right, gets ready to perform the Opening Ceremony for Department of Maine’s Annual Mid-Winter Conference held at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Jan. 21 as National Legislative Assistant Director/Grassroots Coordinator Jeff Steele, left, prepares for his discussion relating to Legislative Issues.
A ‘Second’ Look

Retention: The Key to Membership Growth

Why do veterans join The American Legion and not renew their membership the following year?

Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to find out why they joined in the first place. If their reason for joining is realized during their first membership year, they will probably renew.

When we consider why veterans leave The American Legion, we find what we call the three M’s of retention:

Moved – Mad – Mortality

Moved: When our members report to post everlasting.

Mad: When they realize their first membership year, they will probably renew.

Mortality: We can’t do much about this one when our members report to post everlasting.

Moved: Operation Stay Active follows members from department to department so we might transfer those who move or at least keep them renewed in their current post but follow-up is necessary to assist the member in keeping his/her membership current.

Mad: This is where face-to-face contact is necessary. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” Who or what is the member upset with? The retention/ membership worker must find this out before anything can be resolved. Most “mad” problems can be resolved by discussion and working it out with parties concerned. We must try!

Mortality: We can’t do much about this one when our members report to post everlasting.

The use of the three “M’s” of retention as described here will help prevent many of the situations that cause members to leave our ranks.

I – Initiate: Tell the story of The American Legion.

I – Indoctrinate: Explain individual programs.

I – Involve: Find the interest area and involve the new member.

Many of the things Legionnaires take for granted are not fully understood by the new member. Whether it is a post, district, or department event, the content and importance of the event must be explained to the new Legionnaire before he/she will make a decision to attend. Words which must become action in order to retain members are:

Communication: Let everyone know what is going on.

Activities: Who, where, what, when, why and how must be answered to all possible participants.

Involvement: We must get as many Legionnaires as possible involved in the many and varied programs of The American Legion without burning them out or scaring them off.

What is: a district meeting? a department meeting? a department or national workshop? a department or national convention? All of these are strange words to the prospective Legionnaire. Don’t assume they know what they are – tell them.

The importance of retention at all levels is obvious for solid growth not only in membership but also in programs and overall accomplishment. Just like the military, retention begins when the new member joins. This is accomplished with a good sponsorship program. Assign a sponsor to each new member until the Legionnaire feels knowledgeable and comfortable with membership in The American Legion.

How Important Is Membership Retention? Approximately 11% of Maine Legionnaires do not renew their membership each year. That’s how important it is.

Not for the sake of numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the media tool kits available thru the Department of Maine. There are several workbooks on the Centennial Celebration and media tool kits available thru the American Legion.

Where is the Enthusiasm? We need our Post Commanders and District Commanders to prepare and be ready for this very special 100 YEAR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Let’s Get Excited!

On the Agenda

March Meetings

District 1—York: Mar. 12, Kezar Falls Post 123, 2 p.m.
District 2—Cumberland: Mar 19, Scarborough Post 76, 2 p.m.
District 3—Androscoggin: Mar. 12, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.
District 5—Oxford: May 15, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. mtg. & election of officers. Refreshments.
District 6—Knox: Mar. 25, Camden Post 30, 11 a.m.
District 7—Lincoln: Mar. 8, Waldoboro Post 149, 7 p.m.
District 9—Kennebec: Mar. 8, Waterville Post 5, 7 p.m. Appointment committee.
District 11—Waldo: Mar. 20, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.
District 12—Hancock: Mar. 14, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner. 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 13—Penobscot: Mar. 5, Bangor Post 12 (Old Armory), 2 p.m.
District 14—Piscataquis: Mar. 18, Sangerville Post 165, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 15—Washington: Mar. 8, Cherryfield Post 8, 2 p.m.
District 16—S. Aroostook: Mar. 4, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow. Form nominating committee.

April Meetings

District 2—Cumberland: Apr. 11, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m., Past Commanders and Past Presidents dinner and nomination of officers Legion Dist. 2 and Aux Dist. 1
District 3—Androscoggin: Apr. 9, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.
District 5—Oxford: Apr. 19, Rumford Post 24, 7 p.m. Installation of officers. Light supper, 6 p.m.
District 8—Sagadahoc: Apr. 23, Bath Post 21, 1 p.m.
District 9—Kennebec: Apr. 12, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m. Nomination of officers.
District 11—Waldo: Apr. 17, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12—Hancock: Apr. 10, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 13—Penobscot: Apr. 2, Hampden Post 213, 2 p.m. mtg. at the VFW Hall.
District 14—Piscataquis: Apr. 15, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., election of officers.
District 17—N. Aroostook: Apr. 2, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow, nominations.

May Meetings

District 2—Cumberland: May 14, Westbrook Post 197, 1:30 p.m., Memorial Service and election of officer.
District 3—Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming commander
District 5—Oxford: May 16, West Paris Post 151, 7 p.m., supper 6 p.m.
District 7—Lincoln: May 3, Damariscotta Post 42, 6 p.m.
District 8—Sagadahoc: May 28, Brunswick Post 20, 1 p.m.
District 9—Kennebec: May 10, Maine Vets Home, 7 p.m. election & installation of officers.
District 11—Waldo: May 15, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12—Hancock: May 9, Stonington Post 102, 6:00 p.m. mtg.
District 13—Penobscot: May 7, Howland Post 97, 2 p.m. mtg. at 4 Front St.
District 14—Piscataquis: May 20, Greenville Post 94, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., installation of officers.
District 15—Washington: May 14, Woodland Post 23, 2 p.m.
District 16—S. Aroostook: May 6, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m. dinner followed by mtg. (elections and installation of officers)
District 17—N. Aroostook: May 7, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow.

A ‘First’ Look

(Continued from Page 2)

Whose names are on your first post charter? Who is your post named for? (If anyone, where was the post first located? Any information on your post that would be of interest to your members and Department of Maine. There are several workbooks on the Centennial Celebration and media tool kits available thru the American Legion. Where is the Enthusiasm? We need our Post Commanders and District Commanders to prepare and be ready for this very special 100 YEAR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. Let’s Get Excited!

Membership is KEY!!!

100% Membership Drawing: Department 1st Vice Commander Randall Kluj, right, places American Legion Post names who attained 100% membership by Dec. 31, 2016 in 3rd Vice Commander Scott Paradis’ Legion cap for a chance to win a $50 Emblem sales gift card during the Mid-Winter Conference at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Jan. 21.
Americanism Report

February is Americanism month. Even though Resolution No. 163 at the 1960 National Convention in Miami established February as Americanism month, we should practice and live our Americanism values and beliefs year round. That is 100% Americanism.

As the National Americanism Committee stated in their January 2017 eBulletin, “No other organization offers such a wide variety of programs designed to enhance the attributes of good citizenship, discipline, community service, education and patriotism as the American Legion”.

The next few months bring many of our Americanism programs to the forefront. February 11, 2017 will be the state level Oratorical Competition at Thomas College. Don Chase and many other volunteers have been working hard to put this program together. There are students from across the State who will be competing for the opportunity to go to Washington, DC to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarship money. These students do a fantastic job and it is well worth seeing if you are able to attend.

The 2017 season for American Legion Baseball is underway. I hope that all Maine Posts will consider putting American Legion Baseball in your budget this year. If you have any questions about the program, Dan St. Pierre, the Baseball Committee Chairperson, can help you. He can be contacted at 576-7366.

Boys State is also on the horizon. There were 206 attendees last year. Commander Johnson would like to see 250 this year. Please contact your high school guidance offices and let them know that we want as many participants as possible. Any junior who is interested in learning about town and state government qualifies for Boys State.

Schools and Posts should give all students at all scholastic levels the opportunity to participate. I have offered a template letter to Post Commanders and Adjutants that could be used as a guide for letters that Posts can write to request sponsorships. If anyone wants a copy, please contact me at naycap-tomi031@gmail.com and I will send it to you. The American Legion, Department of Maine also receives donations in the form of scholarship money for young men who want to attend Boys State. Additionally, if there are not funds available at the local or state level, the parents/family of the student may supply the funding for the student to attend. Funding should not be a reason for turning down a student who wants to attend Boys State.

Patriot’s Day, Memorial Day, and Flag Day are all fast approaching. There are many ways a Post can work with students in their area to help teach our young people about Americanism. We have much to teach.

More on AMERICANISM, Page 5

The Adjutant Speaks

The Department of Maine is experiencing exciting changes over the last several months that are a benefit to our Legionnaires. We are trying to help our officers and members on all levels manage information electronically, and we hope it enables us all to benefit.

Thanks to a generous donation over the summer from an anonymous entity, we received and then issued lap-top computers to each district commander in our 17 districts across the state. In October, we held a special training day at the new History & Professional Development building and since then we are already seeing positive results. For example, our Department Service Officer receives emails continuously from posts and districts asking for information regarding veteran’s services and maintaining better, more efficient communication. While the questions were asked during the meeting the e-mails were sent on the spot with information that the Service Officer could respond on that following Monday.

Some district officers keep all meeting records on their lap-tops and by doing so are actually creating a history of their district. They are now receiving updated information that I receive in the office with the push of a button. There’s a learning curve, but as with all things, they are learning at their own pace and HQ staff is standing by when needed.

Another new idea came up just a few weeks ago. We had just finished one of our meetings when the conversation came up about military books that many veterans have purchased about famous people, places, special equipment, aircrafts etc. During the discussion, we realized that many of us will probably have no one to pass these down to as we all reach that age. We will have family that will have no interest in them and they will be given away to a destination that we will never know. We came to the conclusion that yet again our history continues to disappear and we are standing by doing nothing.

We set a new course because of this discussion. Because we now have our own facility and some storage space that is free of water and any dampness, we have started to collect these books. When we receive them, we stamp the inside cover with the name of the person who donated them, the date and their town. We stamp them with the words: Property of The American Legion, Department of Maine with our address and phone number, and date them again.

Since that process started a few weeks ago, we have had over 45 books donated by individuals. These books will be in a secure area and we will have an inventory with the Title & Author on file. We are asking for hard bound books, paperbacks (in good condition), old military manuals, and posters, etc. If you find that you would rather see that History preserved and know that you were part of that process, please contact the HQ office and we can answer any concerns that you may have. To those who may have other military items, we are currently working on special storage cabinets, display cases and uniformed manikins to preserve our History to God & Country.

I also want to remind everyone that because of our Legislative Committee any Veteran in Maine collecting a Military Retirement starting in the year 2016 WILL NOT pay tax on that income. Make sure you or your tax accountant file correctly.

There is also a sales tax exemption for Veterans organizations. Department has a packet ready for all Posts, and staff completed 80% of the paperwork so you should be able to complete the process in about 25 minutes. Please call or visit HQs and request the information needed. Please remember we are here to help if you should need assistance.

Thank you all for your continued support and for all that you do for the Veterans and your community. Remember to move FORWARD and stay FOCUSED...
“Mid Winter”  
(Continued from Page 1)

Americanism followed by Department Historian Ronald Caron who gave a synopsis on the Scholarship Committee.

After lunch, National Executive Committee man John Hargreaves gave an NEC update to those in attendance followed by Brian Knowlton who reported on Maine Blind Camp as well as introduced guest speaker and Maine Blind Camp Director Mark Tamalaea who gave an overview of Blind Camp and its function. Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins proceeded with a Finance Report update followed by Jason Hall who presented information regarding Legion College.

Subsequently following Mr. Hall’s presentation were brief reports given by the Chairmen of the following Committees: 100th Centennial Celebration Committee given by Chairman and 2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis, Donald Hands and Dept. Historian Ronald Caron. Baseball Committee Chairman Daniel St. Pierre, Boys Scouts Chairman William Benson, Oratorical Committee Chairman Donald Chase, Boys State Committee, Commander Peter Johnson.

Department 1st Vice Commander Randy Kljui and 2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis then reviewed a strategic membership plan as well as membership recruiting and retention. 1st Vice Commander Kljui conducted a special 100% membership presentation for all Posts who achieved 100% membership by December 31, 2016. These Posts were entered into a drawing for a chance to receive a $50 Emblem Sales gift card. The lucky winners of that drawing were: Farmington Post 28, Hermon Post 200, Sangerville Post 165 and Windham Post 148. Congratulations to all Posts that achieved 100% membership.

Following the speakers and 100% membership drawing, candidate announcements were made: Commander: Randy Kljui, Milo Post 41; 1st Vice Commander: Scott Paradis, Corinna Post 73; 2nd Vice Commander: Ronald Caron, Sabattus Post 135 and Matthew Jabaut, Topsham Post 202; Finance Officer: Tommy Adkins, Stockton Springs Post 157; Americanism Officer: Debra Couture, Litchfield Post 181; Historian: Donald Hands, York Post 56; Sergeant-at-Arms: Alfred McKay, Waldoboro Post 149.

At the conclusion of the Mid-Winter Conference the sweepstakes winners were drawn and announced by Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux. The Grand prize winner of $3,500 was Robert Verreault, Auburn Post 153. $1,000 winner was Teresa Breau and $500 winner was John J. Nelligan, Bangor Post 12.

Department Commander Johnson closed the conference in proper form with an announcement that the Dept. Executive Committee would meet Sunday at 9:00 a.m. The evening celebration included a wonderful prepared meal, “Downeast” comedian Gary Crocker, and music provided by DJ and Veteran Terran Stone.

Money Matters

Well here we are starting our budgeting cycle once again. The.forms have gone out (thanks to Rachael, our office manager) requesting that all department officers, committees, chairs and program managers submit their requests for those much-needed funds for the coming fiscal year. Though the budgeting process is never perfect, it does let us know approximately how much revenue will be required and helps to set a cap on our expenditures if we are to maintain or improve our efforts in accomplishing the Legions Four Pillars.

Most Legion Departments do not have the resources to participate in every Legion Program. Budgeting helps to set limits as to what programs and the degree of our participation in those programs.

The difference between achieving our goals or failing is often cash management.

Historical Bulletin

By the time this article appears, it will be that time of year where students are submitting the American Legion Scholarship applications. In regard to the Children and Youth/ Daniel Lambert, and James Day Scholarships, I would like to share some important points I presented recently at the Mid-Winter Conference. There are reminders we should stress when explaining to others the application process. Please remind them to submit ALL required information. Too many times applications are submitted with inadequate information and therefore they cannot be considered. Last year, I received calls where people who were concerned with personal information on their tax return documents. They can blacken out items such as social security numbers, etc. Our biggest concern here is being able to see that the tax document belongs to the parent/guardian of the child, and we can see the income levels. It is also very important that we receive letters of recommendation because many times there is information we get about the student, in the letter, that the student didn’t include elsewhere. For those of you who contact the schools, it is very important to stress to them to make sure they are using current copies. We still receive applications that are outdated and end up being mailed to the wrong address. And, of course, the deadline, all applications need to be postmarked by May 1. Any questions and/or concerns they have, they can call or e-mail me and I will get back to them.

It is also that time of the year where we begin to submit names for various awards given out at convention. Please consider someone from your area for the American Legion Humanitarian Award. Criteria: an American Legion Post must endorse Candidates for the Annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in his/her chosen field of endeavor, but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in his/her field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. A little recognition can go a long way. A few years back we gave one out to a local business, and since this business in return has donated a substantial amount back to many of our Legion programs. As with the scholarships, the form can be found on the Department of Maine website www.mainelegion.org under the FORMS/APPLICATIONS tab.

At the Mid-Winter conference this year, comrade Don Hands from the Ramsdell Rogers Post 56 of York, gave a short presentation of what will be presented at our Convention this year. Don has acquired a large collection of American Legion artifacts that date back to the beginning of the organization as well as some very interesting historical facts that will be very interesting for those attending the convention. More info to follow.

Americanism  
(Continued from Page 4)

them to help them learn about and to carry on our way of life, our freedoms, and to know how this nation achieved those freedoms. Teaching students how to fold our flag, how to properly decorate and honor military graves, and how to properly retire our flag are just a few ways of doing this.

I know you are all very busy and are probably very involved in your communities already. I just ask each of you to spend a few hours over the next few months working with children in our schools to teach them about Americanism. They are our future. Thank you.

100% Americanism: Americanism Officer Debra Couture gives a brief overview on Americanism to those in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 21 touching on the importance of practicing and living the Americanism values year round.
President’s Message

Kudos to the Department of Maine, American Legion Auxiliary. Maine was once again ranked number ONE in Membership in the Nation! The Department has recently held the number ONE spot on four different occasions. Being ranked number ONE nationally in membership, is an Outstanding achievement! Thank you to the leadership of our Department President/Membership Chair Ann Durst and Department Secretary, Michelle McRae (aka Batman and Robin) and most important, to our District and Unit Membership leaders, and members who work diligently in processing membership, together with retaining and recruiting members. Great work by everyone.

Looking ahead, Valentine’s Day is around the corner. Spread love to our veterans in the veterans’ homes, hospitals and those veterans who may be alone at home, simply by sending cards. It will put a smile on their face for certain. March 15 is the 89th birthday of the American Legion. American Legion Posts across the state will celebrate, together as a Legion Family, the longevity and success of the world’s greatest veterans’ service organization. 2017 Girls State applications are in and distribution is underway. April 23 is the ALA Juniors convention. The convention will be held at Jackson-Silver Unit 68, 595 Gore Rd, Locke Mills. All ALA Juniors are welcome and encouraged to attend. I will be attending the Washington D. C. conference Feb. 25-28 with our Maine delegation. Save the date, April 29, 2017. Department Testimonials. Detail information related to the testimonials is included in this issue.

For those not aware, the Department of Maine, American Legion Auxiliary, has a weekly newsletter called “The ALA Chatter”. If you would like to receive the ALA Chatter, it is as simple as calling ALA headquarters (207-465-4966) to provide us with your name and email address. The ALA Chatter is weekly, free, and received by email only for the most up to date all things Auxiliary. Thank you for all you do. Together we aspire. Together we achieve. Together we will make it, if we always Believe!

American Legion Family

Joint Testimonial

A joint testimonial to honor our 2017 American Legion Family Leaders. American Legion Department Commander Peter Johnson, American Legion Auxiliary President Veronica Gurney, and Sons of The American Legion Commander Ron Marr, will be held on April 29, 2017 at Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta.

The evening will begin with social hour from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m., with program to follow.

Post 2 has put together an appetizing menu for the evening, starting with appetizers of fresh vegetables, cheeses, pepperoni, crackers and dips.

Dinner will be a CHOICE of boneless roast turkey with stuffing OR baked stuffed haddock with mashed potatoes and gravy, Green Beans Almandine, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, coffee, tea, and water. Dessert will be strawberry shortcake with whipped cream. A cash bar will be available in banquet hall.

Gluten Free meal option available. Stuffed haddock stuffing and turkey stuffing will be gluten free. Strawberry shortcake biscuits will be gluten free. Gluten free rolls for the gluten free dinners. Gluten free meals will be served baked potatoes.

Cost for the meal will be $15.00 per person. Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 2. Please write the number of turkey or haddock dinners on check, or enclose a note with the check. Write your name on the note. Gluten Free Option – Please state “GF” on check or enclose note with your name.

Mail reservations to: Joyce Thurlow, Secretary, ALA Unit 2, 1 Meadowv lle Dr., Augusta, ME 04330. Deadline for reservations: April 15, 2017. All tickets to be picked up at the door.

For your pleasure, Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 Legion Family cordially invites those attending the testimonial, to join in the Canteen after dinner for entertainment - no cover charge. A ticket will be issued to attendees upon arrival for the testimonial.

VERONICA GURNEY

National Auxiliary V.P.

Joins Maine’s Super Hero Theme: American Legion Eastern Division National Vice President, Patti Lach, of Maryland addressed Maine Auxiliary members at their Mid-Winter Conference held in Bangor in January. Lach joined the Maine girls membership theme by creating her own Super Hero persona, the “Silver Flash”. Auxiliary State President Veronica Gurney is seen at left, listening to Lach’s presentation.

Robert E. Burbank

U.S. COAST GUARD

Robert was born on Nov. 27, 1938 in Weymouth, Massachusetts. He grew up on Nantasket Beach, Hull and graduated from Hingham High School. Robert continued his education at Gorham State College (now part of University of Southern Maine) for four years earning a degree in Bachelor of the Arts and Industrial Arts. His parents are Raymond & Ellen Burbank and he has one sister and two brothers.

Robert enlisted in the Coast Guard in October 1956, and served over 20 years. He was stationed in Cape May, New Jersey; Ketchikan, Alaska; Seattle, Washington; and Baffin Island, Northwest Canada. He made a trip to the South Pole in 1958 and also did four trips to the North Pole.

Robert worked for Southworth Machine Company in Portland, Maine for four years during the summer and also at W.H. Nichols Machine Shop during the summer months and then worked full time for two years.

Robert earned numerous medals, including the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (2), the Antarctic Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2) and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba).

After retirement Robert went into teaching, taking a job at the South Portland High School. He was married in 1963, and was married for 39 years. Robert adopted 4 children; boys Michael and Douglass and girls from Korea, Christina and Leanna. He has 3 grand-children and 1 great-grandchild.

Robert was involved in the VFW in Auburn, the Lions Club for 22 years in South Portland, Auburn, Lewiston, and Gray where he was the District Officer. He was also involved in the Baptist Church in Lewiston, Maine, Bailey Island Church, and the Gray Congregational Church.

Robert came to the Maine Veteran’s Home in 2016 and enjoys listening to the music, taking walks outside, snowshoeing & woodworking.

Thank You Robert for your service.
Ensuring Our Veterans Have Access to Quality Health Care

Last fall, I took part in a wonderful ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of the very first national hospital for veterans: Togus, right here in Maine, which opened its doors in November of 1866.

Barely six months earlier, on March 4, 1865, with victory in the Civil War close at hand, President Abraham Lincoln ended his second inaugural address with a commitment “to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”

The day before, President Lincoln had taken action to care for those who had borne the battle by signing into law a bill establishing a national network of hospitals for veterans. As more than 80,000 of those Civil War veterans were from Maine, it was fitting that the very first of those hospitals opened its doors in a state that had sacrificed so much.

Today, Maine is home to more than 129,000 veterans. To put that in perspective, Maine has more veterans per capita than all but two other states in the country. We are proud of our State’s contributions to protecting our nation.

We are also proud that Maine continues to lead the way in caring for our veterans, not only here at Togus but also in clinics around the State. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the VA’s first Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Caribou. In 2014, we celebrated the opening of the Women’s Clinic at Togus in recognition of the fact that more and more women serve our country in uniform.

Veterans deserve convenient access to the high-quality health care they have earned through their service. That is why I led a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing legislation to authorize vital medical facilities leases across the country. These facilities, such as the proposed CBOC in Portland, will allow veterans to receive outpatient care without the stress and difficulty of traveling to larger VA medical centers, which may be located far away from their homes.

This legislation, The Providing Veterans Overdue Care Act, would authorize pending leases for 24 Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities located in 15 states. The bill would allow VA to open needed health care facilities for which the Department has been seeking congressional approval for more than a year.

Under law, VA must receive specific legislative authorization to lease medical facilities with average annual rental payments in excess of $1 million. However, since 2012, Congress has not, through a regular process, authorized any major VA medical facility leases, hampering the ability of the Department to provide much-needed health care and services to veterans around the country. The 24 leases pending before Congress are located in states with a total of approximately 11 million veterans.

One reason for the delay in congressional authorization has been a 2012 change in the way that the Congressional Budget Office scores the budgetary impact of these leases. Under congressional rules, all legislation with budgetary impacts must be offset. Prior to 2012, the major medical facility leases were scored on an annual basis, but that year, CBO determined that budget authority for these leases, many of which cover a 20-year period, should be recorded up front when the leases are initiated. As such, scoring for legislation that authorized these leases appeared to increase significantly, even though actual spending would not increase and the leases are ultimately subject to annual appropriations. I have worked hard to keep this scorekeeping issue from impacting care for our veterans.

When the men and women of our armed forces return home from war, we have an obligation to care for those who have “borne the battle” and welcome them all the way home. The Maine Troop Greeters, the scores of volunteers from Honor Flight, the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, and many other individuals and organizations are proof that the people of our great State honor the courage and sacrifices of those who serve, not just with words, but also with actions—just as President Lincoln did when he established the first VA hospital 150 years ago. As a Senator and the grateful daughter of a veteran, I am committed to ensuring that the government keeps that sacred obligation.

Legion Seeks Eagle Scout

The American Legion, Department of Maine is seeking nominations for the 2017 Eagle Scout of the Year. The state winner will receive a $500 scholarship and is automatically entered in the national competition.

Scouts applying must be an Eagle Scout, who will be at least 15 years of age and enrolled in high school. Applicants must also be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, chartered to an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or SAL Squadron; or be the son or grandson of a Legionnaire 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, 2017. 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.

Law & Order

My name is Kirk Thurston, Chairman of the Department Law and Order Committee. This years’ committee members are Gil Ormsby from Harpswell, Roderick Collins from Bridgewater, Shawn Coffin from West Paris, Kevin Bishop from Orneville Twp, Randall Kluj from Orneville, Don Chase Jr. from Winthrop and Curtis Merrill from Naples.

The time has come for all Legionnaires to press our local area First Responder organizations, i.e. Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs and Game Wardens, for information regarding the outstanding heroes in our communities. Contact the leadership of these groups and ask how you can help them honor their people.

The forms are simple and easy to prepare. Add a few newspaper articles on an individual and a supervisor’s letter of recommendation and you have a package for submittal.

I am willing to assist any Post in the preparation of their applications. Remember, May 1st is the deadline for packages to be at Department Headquarters. The forms can be found on the Department of Maine, American Legion’s web-site by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

If you have any questions on the form or content of the applications, packages or other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at 369-0831, e-mail fuzzzyt3@roaderunner.com or call upon any of the committee members in your area. Refer to this year’s Department State Directory for their phone numbers or check with Department for the information.

Last year’s number of entries can be greatly improved, so let’s get out there and get some deserving people recommended and recognized.

Thank you in advance.

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 04901-0727, email: legion-mc@maineligion.org, or Tel: (207) 873-3229.
Happy New Year to all members of the American Legion Department of Maine!

Farewell to Legionnaire David Kern!

Just to let you know, Dave Kern, our ADSO has been hired away by the VA to work veteran’s claims. We wish him the best and know he now has a deeper understanding of the veterans he will be serving from his experience in the service office. Many of you were assisted by Dave and we are all sorry to see him go. If you have any concerns about the status of your claim, just call us for an update. The DSO will be handling your claims until our new ADSO is up and running!

We Welcome our new Assistant Service Officer! Our new ADSO is Maureen Malley from Augusta, Maine.

Meet our new Assistant Service Officer, Maureen Malley, USAF, Retired. Maureen retired from the United States Air Force at Hill AFB, Utah, prior to that she served as a Law Enforcement Specialist, stationed at Lackland AFB, Texas. She has an Associate’s Degree in Science of the Family and Human Studies, and Certificates in Business Administration, and Accounting Clerk. She arrived in Maine in November of 2015. She is a member of American Legion Post 6 in Hallowell, Maine.

She looks forward to getting trained up and starting to assist our membership and veterans in Maine and across the US.

Post Service Officer of the Year Nominations due by May 1st, 2017!

Commander’s, now is the time to start thinking about nominating your outstanding service officer for American Legion Department of Maine Service Officer of the Year. The nominations must be type written single spaced and sent to the Department Service Officer no later than close of business on May 1st, 2017. You can either mail your nomination to: American Legion, PO Box 3411, Augusta, ME 04330 or submit email to amedeo.lauria@va.gov.

Nominations received after May 1st will not be considered. PSOs make sure your efforts are included in the Post Consolidation Report as well; see your Post Adjutant for more information.

Membership is Important to Support our Four Pillars! Remember, it is your membership dollars that keep the Department Service Office open and running! Encourage eligible veterans in your city or town to join the American Legion!

Service to Veterans: If you have previously filed a claim, you may be able to file your claim with us by making a telephonic appointment, this works especially well with those veterans who receive their entire healthcare at Togus or a Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Telephone Calls to the DSO. We ask for your help in better serving you when you call the office. When you call please state the following clearly: full name, telephone number, your service officer, and a short reason for your call i.e., check on claim status, make an appointment, etc. We cannot share VA information with a third party without a formal release. Also, It is best to make an appointment to discuss complicated cases.

Financial Assistance. Keep in mind that requests for financial needs should be directed to your town/city for general assistance (GA), and either a local Legion post for a possible fundraiser or the American Legion Department Headquarters. In addition, we can make referrals to other service organizations, but we do not have the funds to pay rent, mortgage, credit card bills or other ongoing bills. If you have children, mention TFA to the Department Adjutant when you call to see if you are eligible to apply.

PSO Training Seminar. The next PSO Training Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th 2017 at the Department HQ, in Winslow, Maine. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for March 28th, 2017, at the same location. You may make reservations for the February and future classes now by emailing the DSO at amedeo.lauria@va.gov.

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. Dress is casual with Legion Cap for the photo. Don’t miss out on this valuable offering; talk to anyone who has attended and they will convince you to sign up and attend!

To those Posts and Districts that do not have Service Officers, I recommend you encourage your officers/members to step up. It can be very rewarding to assist our members, their survivors and dependents obtain their well-earned benefits.

Also, if you are a Post Service officer, who is unable to attend, contact the DSO, we will put you on our email list to receive the Department Service Office Newsletter. We have trained almost 100 Legionnaires, Congressional Staffers, and leadership of Military Service Organizations.

Remember if you have a change of Post Service Officer, please ask your newly elected Post Service Officers to sign up and attend the PSO seminar. Also, I will add them to the DSO newsletter until they can attend.

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 and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

DSO 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.

Benefits (Check www.va.gov for more information)

VA Insurance – S-DVI. When you are initially service connected for an illness or injury, you are entitled, if eligible, for VA Life Insurance in the amount of $10,000. You must apply for this insurance within two years of “initial” service connection to receive it, to include subsequent grants of service connection. If you are under age 65 you may be eligible to purchase an additional $30,000 of VA Life Insurance (S-DVI). If you are 100% disabled, when you apply, and under the age of 65, you can request a waiver of the premiums on the first $10,000. You normally get a letter with a blue pamphlet and application in it; read it carefully. Far too many veterans die with no insurance leaving their survivor to try to find monetary resources for burial. Don’t be one of those veterans. You can find more information regarding VA Insurance on www.va.gov. In addition, the American Legion has various policies to help you avoid large medical and burial expenses. You can find more information at www.theilt.com.

The VA Burial Benefits, while a nice benefit, are not near the $10,000 you can purchase or can possibly get for free, if eligible. Think about your family before you toss the little blue insurance pamphlet and elect not to sign up.

Not all veterans receive a death benefit from the VA. Contact our office to find out your eligibility.

Camp Lejeune Update! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 13, 2017

VA’s Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune.

VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases.

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

• Multiple myeloma
• Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
• Bladder cancer
• Kidney cancer
• Liver cancer
• Multiple myeloma
• Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
• Parkinson’s disease

We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

Environmental health experts in VA’s Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International
Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Academy of Sciences.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethene (TCE), a metabolic degreaser, and perchloroethene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985. The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which has already occurred, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

VA is reimbursing certain veterans’ family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at: https://www cfaffamilymembers.fsc.va.gov

C123 AIRCRAFT AND AGENT ORANGE—Under certain circumstances and eligibility veterans who were involved with C-123 Aircraft, the aircraft used to spray Agent Orange, may be entitled to presumptive service connection. This would also apply to survivors benefits claimants who were turned down in the past. Contact the DSO for the eligibility requirements. Benefits will, according to the VA, only go back one year from the date the claim is filed.  

Should I file a compensation claim? The decision to file a claim is a personal one. It is your claim; not the DSO’s claim. Also filing a claim is a team effort, the veteran, DSO, VA, and private health care provider. You must be an active participant in the claims process. In general terms ask yourself these questions:

1. Did this disability start/occur while you were on Active Duty/AD/UTRA or IDUTRA?
2. Is it documented in your medical treatment record? Line of Duty? Performance file?
3. Is it Chronic? i.e. have you been seeing a doctor since service for the disability?
4. Do you have a current medical diagnosis?
5. Is it your claim; not the DSO’s claim. The decision to file a claim is a personal one.

This is a very general list, but can help you in deciding whether or not to file. The best course of action is to always contact the DSO and make an appointment. Do not request copies of your service records as the VA is responsible to get your military performance and medical records from the records holding agency. In addition, they will obtain your VA treatment records as well. Also, if you elect to do so; they can request, with your authorization in writing, your private treatment medical records as well. 

Also keep in mind that service connected disabilities may have a direct impact on benefits for your survivors. Don’t delay as time can make it more difficult to develop a claim for benefits.

COMPENSATION AND PENSION EXAMS (Also called rating exams). You must make every effort to attend your compensation and pension exams, so that we can review the reasons for denial and to see if we have sufficient evidence to appeal the decision. While, depending on the claim we may request immediate reconsideration of denial, we will not automatically submit Notice of Disagreements (NODs) or a VAF 9, Appeals to the Board of Veteran’s Appeals without talking with you and review your file. If you receive your claim is a VAF 9, or any VA correspondence for that matter, notify the DSO immediately so we can assist you otherwise you may lose your ability to have your claim heard by the Board of Veteran’s Appeals in Washington D.C. Keep in mind that you can have a hearing locally by a Togus Decision Review Officer and then, if not successful in your appeal, a hearing with the Board of Veterans Appeal in Washington D.C. by video teleconference. You must notify us immediately upon receipt of a Statement of Case or a Supplemental Statement of Case as there are 60 and 30 day time limits on filing for appeal respectively. IMPORTANT: Even if you are a citizen of Veteran’s America, we DO NOT get a paper copy. It just means that it is in the VA electronic file so we can access it. Call us if you want to appeal your decision so we can discuss it.

NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE (NME) are VA claims that are denied and have not been appealed within the appropriate time frame to the Board of Veterans Appeals (VA). This is some-times futile and frustrating to the veteran as they are not kept resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

The definition of “New and Material Evidence” is: New evidence is evidence not previously of record, and is neither cumulative nor redundant. Material evidence is relevant and relates to an unestablished fact necessary to substantiate the claim; has a legitimate influence or bearing on the decision in the case, and is neither cumulative nor redundant. You can discuss this with your service officer to see if your evidence meets the criteria and your claim may be reopened.

SURVIVING SPOUSES. We offer veterans the service of sitting down, along with your spouse, to fill out the documentation required to apply for Survivor Benefits; Accrual, Widow’s Pension and Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC). How does this assist you? We do a preliminary review of your Service Connected disabilities and attempt to determine if an entitlement may result at the passing of the veteran. We scan in the required documents and create a “draft” claim. At the time of the passing of the veteran, the spouse would come to the office with a copy of the Official Death Certificate, he or she would review and sign the documents for submission to the VA in Philadelphia. While it is something we don’t like to think about, it helps you as you look at your financial situation after the veteran passed. Keep in mind that with few exceptions the veteran’s compensation ceases at the demise of the veteran. The last paycheck must be held for disposition instructions from the VA, or you may incur a debt to the government.

ATTENTION POST SERVICE OFFICERS

We Want You, at your next Post Service Officers Training Seminar!
For More Information Or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office
at amedeo.lauria@va.gov
or call: 207-623-5740
to make a seminar reservation!

Department Service Office Update: Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Laura, left, gives an update on the Department Service Office during Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 21. Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan, right, focuses on the information delivered by Mr. Laura.

Department Service Office Update: Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, left, gives an update on the Department Service Office during Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 21. Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan, right, focuses on the information delivered by Mr. Lauria.

Remarkably, the Department of Veteran Affairs is making strides in the realm of service-connected disabilities. The recently enacted law has expanded benefits for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during their military service. The rule, effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, outlines the criteria for eligibility. 

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, specifically TCE and PCE, were discovered in water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells were shut down in February 1985. The presumption area includes all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, as well as satellite camps and housing areas.

To determine eligibility, there are a few key questions to consider:

1. Did the disability start or occur while you were on active duty?
2. Is it documented in your medical treatment record?
3. Is it Chronic? Have you been seeing a doctor since service?
4. Do you have a current medical diagnosis?

The rule requires a 60-day notice period, which can be extended to 150 days in special circumstances. Veterans should contact the DSO immediately to submit their claim.

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is working to process claims more efficiently. The recent decision to file a claim is a personal one. It is your claim, not the DSO’s claim. The decision to file a claim is a personal one.

To file a claim:

1. Contact the DSO for eligibility requirements.
2. Submit a claim to the Board of Veteran’s Appeals.
3. If your claim is denied, you may appeal.

The VA is dedicated to ensuring that veterans receive the benefits they have earned. To learn more about eligibility and the filing process, visit the VA website or contact your local VA office.
Service Office Update
(Continued from Page 9)

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 consults
recommended by outside providers; always
notify the VA if the 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 care choices.
Those decisions should be made in consulta-
tion with appropriate VA or private health
benefits advisors.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper
signature requirements for Veterans wishing
to enroll in VA health care. Effective imme-
diately, VA has amended its enrollment reg-
ulations to allow Veterans to complete en-
rollment applications for enrollment in VA
health care by telephone without the need for
a paper signature.

By adding this telephone application
option to VA’s regulations with this amend-
ment, VA will now offer three ways to en-
roll. This option provides Veterans a conven-
ient third enrollment option.

Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
Call 1-877-222-VETS (8837), Mon-Fri
between 8 am and 8 pm, EST. On-Line at
www.vets.gov.

TOGUS VA WOMEN’S CLINIC.
If you haven’t already heard, there is a Women’s Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in
women’s health issues. Please keep in
mind that there are medical conditions that
may be claimable for the children of women
Veterans who served in certain areas and/or
on certain ships that are presumptive for
Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran it
is a good idea to give us a call or look for
more information on www.va.gov.

Other Important Information

SEPARATION DOCUMENTS. I just
remind you that most of your benefits start
with a Separation Document (DD Form 214
or NGB Form 22). Always good to safe-
guard those documents and make sure your
spouse and family know where they are;
stored at your bank, credit union or lockbox
at home. If you have lost yours, please con-
tact us and we can tell you how to obtain
a replacement. It is a very important docu-
ment for obtaining VA benefits.

KOREA REBORN BOOK. We still
have a limited number of books available.
To order a book that will answer your ques-
tions about the Korean War, please contact:

Andrew Haas
National Korean War Veterans Memorial
19770 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Ask for the Honorable Andrew Haas
about the book—Korea Reborn—A
Grateful Nation Honors Veterans for
60 years of Growth.”

Helpful Hints!

• We encourage membership to use
“E-Benefits” and “MyHealthVet!”
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.
• Veterans or Widow on a PENSION,
(NOT COMPENSATION or DIC)
MUST notify the VA, in writing, through the
VSO if possible, about ANY income 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 under-
stand 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 De-
partment Service Office no longer gets cop-
ies of all correspondence going to veterans
in regards to claims. You MUST call us when
you receive any paperwork from the VA or
ensure the best service.
• Remind your post mem-
bers that it is always best to
make an appointment
to talk with a Service Officer
at the DSO.
• While we will
try to take walk-
ins on a space
available basis;
appointments
always have first
priority for
service.
• If we as-
sist you as a
walk-in service
will terminate if
the veteran with
an
appointment
arrives; we will reschedule you to see us to
complete your claim. If you have filed and
completed a claim in the past, you do not
need to come to Togus, in many cases, to file
a claim. Call first to find out if you need to
come in!
• Stay up to date, by checking
www.VA.gov on a regular basis.
• Always call us eight (8)
days working days after you file a claim to make
sure the VA accepted it. If you have filed a
claim, and have not received a response from
the VA about their claim within 30
days, call us immediately to check on
the status of their claim!
• If you filed a claim in the
DSO office within the last 120
days, you have heard nothing, check with the DSO for
the status. Follow up on claims/appeals with a
quarterly phone call.
• Your PSOs are not accredited by
the American Legion or VA; Veterans
depend on the validity and substance of your
claims please contact the DSO for assistance.
However, your PSO can assist you with
filing an “Appointment of VSO” and “Intent to
File” pending an appointment with the DSO.

TOGUS VA WOMEN’S CLINIC.
If you haven’t already heard, there is a Women’s Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in
women’s health issues. Please keep in
mind that there are medical conditions that
may be claimable for the children of women
Veterans who served in certain areas and/or
on certain ships that are presumptive for
Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran it
is a good idea to give us a call or look for
more information on www.va.gov.

MWC Service Office Staff

Attendees: Recently hired Department
Service Office Assistant Maureen Malley,
left, and Service Office Administrative
Assistant Eileen Krawczyk in attendance
at the Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21
at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

MWC Service Office Staff

Attendees: Recently hired Department
Service Office Assistant Maureen Malley,
left, and Service Office Administrative
Assistant Eileen Krawczyk in attendance
at the Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21
at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.
2017 Legion Baseball Registration Now Open

Registration for the 2017 American Legion Baseball season is available at www.baseball.legion.org.

More than 3,700 teams participated in the 2016 Legion Baseball season, which resulted in eight teams punching their tickets to Shelby, N.C., for the 90th American Legion World Series.

The 2017 season will feature a new group of regional tournament sites as teams vie for a trip to Shelby. Hosting the tournaments from Aug. 2-6 will be The American Legion Departments of Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Ohio, North Dakota, Montana and Colorado. The American Legion World Series will take place Aug. 10-15 with games broadcast on ESPN3 and ESPNU.

Also new for 2017 is a pitch count rule aimed at increasing arm safety for pitchers. This is a switch from pitchers being limited by innings pitched, as pitch counts have been found to be a better way to track usage.

For more information on Legion Baseball, visit www.legion.org/baseball.

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

In 2016, The American Legion awarded $22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

For a copy of the application, please visit: https://www.legion.org/documents/baseball/baseball_scholarship.pdf or http://www.mainel legion.org/pages/programs/baseball.php

Legion Baseball Update: Athletic “Baseball” Committee Chairman Daniel St. Pierre reports on Legion Baseball and the new Legion Website that National is currently developing as an option for Legion Departments and coaches to utilize during the Legion Baseball season. His presentation took place during MWC held Jan. 21 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

— Bits ’N Pieces —

Gardiner Post 4

Barbara has sent roughly $17,000 worth of coupons to Lakenheath Air Force Base in the UK.

ALR’s donated $250 to the cost of bringing Pvt. Albert Wiley home to Maine and $410 to the patients at Togus for coupon books.

Squadron 6 donations include $100 to Veterans Christmas and $100 to Wreaths Across America.

Caribou Post 15

Unit 15 held a coat and winter clothing giveaway that was held in October and 2,239 items were given away and everyone who was at the drive got new hats and gloves. Thank you to all who donated and thank the United Way and Caribou Family Dollar Tree for their help.

Sanford Post 19

Sanford Post 19 held a Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony for 26 members - 23 Legionnaires and 3 Auxiliary members who have been members of Post 19 for more than 40 years. The Continuous Membership Certificates ranged from 40 years to 70 years. Raymond Fortier a 72 year member of the Post, a Past Commander, Chaplain and current Executive Board Member was presented the American Legion Meritorious Medal Award for his dedication and service. A special video presentation of Ray’s military service and contributions to the community and the Legion was also presented. A special thank you to all who made the ceremony such a success.

Sanford Post 19 is supporting Sanford Maine Boy Scout Troop 324 for an Eagle Scout Project to rehabilitate and redo the Carpenter Park Ballfield with a new diamond, benches and fences to protect ball players in the two dugouts. This field was in disrepair and needed a rehab. Recently, Boy Scout Troop 324 did a Flag Retirement Ceremony and American Legion Post 19 provided assistance & the flags for the retirement of worn, soiled and torn flags. Troop 324 conducted an impressive ceremony on Oct. 26, 2016 in front of Legion and Auxiliary members, parents and the public. Our Boy Scout Activity coordinator is Paul Robie, Executive Board member and Americanism Committee chairperson.

Sanford Post 19 for their donation of $500 to the Sanford/Springvale Youth Girls Basketball League, $1,000 donation to “Toys for Tots” in York County and provided the funds to send two (2) Boy Scouts from Troop 324 to summer camp this previous summer, $1,000 to the Boston Shriners’ Hospital for the treatment and care of children, $572 to the Sanford Salvation Army Christmas & Holiday Dinner Food Voucher Drive for needy families, $1,500 to Wreaths Across America to purchase 100 wreaths for the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale for the Wreaths Across American Ceremony that was held on December 17.

Also Post 19 purchased $500 worth of food for the “Veterans Food Pantry” at the Vet Center in Springvale, Maine.

— Bits ’N Pieces —

Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 donated $100 to VAVS, $200 to Bread of Life Ministries for their Homeless Vets project, $50 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner, $200 to VAVS at Togus, $182.80 from the Legislative breakfast to the Family Violence House of Madison, $200 to Wreaths Across America and $200 to a local veteran’s family for travel expenses.

Unit 39 donated $150 to Angel Flight, $15 Bingo package to the Grange’s Luck of the Draw, $50 to Maplecrest for Children’s Halloween Walk, $200 to VAVS for comfort items, $10 to Madison Trunk or Treat and $70.05 to the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps-NCB39 BN from bottle and can returns, $100 to the Skowhegan Giving Tree, $25 to the Department President’s Lobster Dip, $300 to Maine Veterans Home, $50 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner, $50 to the Somerset Residential Activity Fund, $25 to the Creative Arts Festival and $20 for the Veterans Christmas Bag.

Approximately $73,924.35 worth of coupons have been mailed out.

Wiscasset Post 54

Wiscasset Post 54 for their donation of $100 to Wreaths Across America.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick Post 79 for their donation of $500 to the Berwick ME Fuel Emergency Fund, $200 to the Table of Plenty, $200 to Somersworth, NH/Berwick ME Food Pantry, $130 to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, $150 to North Berwick ME Christmas Project, $50 to the Rollinsford NH Police Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets, and $100 to the Lebanon ME Union Free Will Baptist Church Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets.

Guilford Post 119

Guilford Post 119 for their donations of $500 to Ahnner Wade Masonic Lodge for Project Santa, $500 to Honor Flight Maine and $150 to Wreaths Across America.

District 7

District 7 for their donation of $100 to Wreaths Across America.

The Maine Legionnaire, February 2017

11
Fourth Annual Women Veteran’s Luncheon
Attracts Women from all Over the State

The 4th Annual Women Veteran’s Luncheon was held on Sat., Nov. 19. It was once again a huge success. Women from all over the state of Maine gathered at Rumford Post 24. Women veterans were pampered by professionals who graciously gave their time. Post 24 volunteers gave all they had to ensure these women had a fabulous day. During the morning, veterans had the opportunity to enjoy coffee, doughnuts, and munchies as well as being pampered with massages, Reiki, haircuts, and manicures. They were served a sit down meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread and cake for dessert.

The local area girl scouts/brownies along with their leaders Jana Richardson and Sara Searles performed the National Anthem, You’re A Grand Old Flag, Make New Friends, gave homemade cards to our veterans and helped serve lunch. Senator Elect Lisa Keim with a very short notice stepped up to be our guest speaker and gave a very motivating speech to our veterans.

Thank you to the following who year after year have given so much to this event. Without you this event could not be accomplished thanks to Heather M. Richambault, Kelly Ann Lynne Dickson Steele, Frieda, Tina Erwin, Sally Daigle, Melanie Dickson Caldew, Michele Arsenault, Dawn Arsenault, Shelly Bronish, Heidi Merrill, Susan Richard, Pam Marcello, Rena Nichols, Donna Wotton, Kathy Gaul Richard, Raven Young-Suk Parise, Jo Gaudet, Carol Roach, Heidi Steele, Joy Bordeaux and family, Gloria Hall, Amedeo Lauria, Wayne Gallant, and Arlene Thibeau.

Thank you goes to the following businesses for supporting this event Dunkin Donuts, Hannaford, Walmart, Advanced Auto, Barclay Cards, Carlisle’s, House of Beauty, Hair Designs, Fred’s Coffee and the American Legion Department of Maine. Others at the event include Bruce Poliquin’s Office, Senator King’s Office, and TOGUS. I am so grateful for all you have done and continue to do for this event year after year.

Patricia Thurston
Women’s Advisory/WVAC
Resolutions to be Presented by May 1

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 the sponsoring committee. Resolutions may be presented by two-thirds majority of the Resolutions Committee meeting at the convention.

Candidates Deadline: May 17

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 17, 2017 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legioneer, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 28, 2017. 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.

American Legion Extension Institute Course

The American Legion’s official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation’s largest veterans service organization is available online at https://www.legion.org/alei

Humanitarian Sought

The Humanitarian Award Committee is again seeking nominations for the annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award, considered one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by The American Legion, is presented annually at our State Convention.

An American Legion Post must endorse applicants for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in their chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in their field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2017. Nominations form can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org or on the web at www.maineligion.org.

MWC Lunch

Sign-up Sheet: Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan signs up to place his order for a boxed lunch provided by Spectacular Event Center at Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21.

Time To Do It! Pay Your Legion Dues Today!!!

Legion membership is annual, the Legion year running from Jan 1 to Dec. 31. If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by Feb. 1, the member is suspended, and is not in good standing, and is not eligible for transfer.

The only method of transferring from one post to another so the continuity of the membership in the Legion is not broken is by formal transfer, which is available only to members in good standing.

If you do not have a membership card that reads “2017” then you are now a delinquent member. Your post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1, so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage.

If you don’t have a “2017” card, please contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

Legionnaire of the Year Sought

Is that exceptional Legioneer, the one with unquestionable leadership ability, a member of your Post? Do you have that member within your post that seems to stand above the rest in all phases of your post activities? Does he or she aspire to higher positions within the American Legion?

If your post has that member who would qualify for the honor and prestige for the Past Department Commanders Award, why not submit their name and resume? Being chosen for this award is indeed a great honor. When in doubt, ask those who were previously chosen. It is a title you will be known for during your entire Legion career.

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year’s winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2017. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at www.maineligion.org.

Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Historical Contest 2016-2017

By: Ronald H. Caron, Department Historian

Awards and Rules

DISTRICT NEWS LETTER

These newsletters will be judged in three categories: Posts with a membership of less than 100, Posts with a membership of 100-250, and Posts with a membership greater than 250. The newsletters will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. Contest ends April 30th and entry must be in NLT May 1st, 2017. The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

POST NEWS LETTER

These newsletters will be judged in three categories: Posts with a membership of less than 100, Posts with a membership of 100-250, and Posts with a membership greater than 250. The newsletters will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. Contest ends April 30th and entry must be in NLT May 1st, 2017. The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

POST HISTORY BOOK

These will be judged according to the 2016 Officers Guide score sheets. The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1st, 2017. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2017.

REMEMBER: PATRIOT’S DAY

APRIL 17TH
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL
FOR
NINETY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the ninety-ninth Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Bangor, Maine, June 16-18, 2017.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 16, 2017, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 17, 2017, at 9 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor, Maine.

PURPOSE
The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2017 National Convention to be held in Reno, Nevada; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION
Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 17, 2017. A post with less than 15 members is entitled to no delegates.

All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

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

MEETINGS
The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at the Spectacular Event Center on Friday, June 16, 2017, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at the Spectacular Event Center on Sunday, June 18, 2017. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS
Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates’ registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor, Maine, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2017 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 17, 2017. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credentail reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors. If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of $5 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS
At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 16, 2017, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Finance Officer; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

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 17, 2017, 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 for office. Any candidate declaring after May 17, 2017 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

VOTING
Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at the Spectacular Event Center on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 17, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate’s card, badge, convention registration and your 2017 membership card must be displayed during voting.

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

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 17, 2017. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

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

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 17, 2017, at 7 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS
There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant. This call will be read in all posts and district organizations and posted upon the bulletin boards of all posts. This call is being sent to the officers on record. If new officers have been elected, please transmit this information to them.

Paul L’Heureux
Department Adjutant
Peter Johnson
Department Commander
Sign up for Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance

The LIT AD&D has changed its policy on expiration dates. If you signed up after 1 Jan 2015, the expiration date is indefinite. Can’t remember when you signed up? Go ahead and sign up again. Then you won’t have to worry about it forever. Do be sure to put something in your private papers so someone will know you have coverage. Remember it is worth $1000 in the event of an accidental death. It is worth $5000 if you were involved with some type of Legion activity, i.e. returning from a meeting, picnic, convention, etc.

We would like to sign up more members for this free insurance. It is not a difficult process. One way is to include the LIT sign up card with membership as it is processed to the member. Another way is for the Post Adjutant to find out the members dates of birth and go on-line to www.thelit.com and enter the info right on the spot.

For those of you who lack internet access, please fill out and mail the LIT form below to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

You can also email to legionme@mainelegion.org. By you signing up for the AD&D, the Department of Maine receives much needed funding to run our programs. Don’t forget that the Auxiliary and SAL can also sign up.

Thanks for your efforts on this valuable program for the Maine American Legion Family.
Legion Family & Guests Gather for Statewide Conference
(Jan. 21, 2017 at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor)

Welcome Attendees & Guests: Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan gives his welcoming speech and introduction of guests to those in attendance at the 2017 Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 21.

Finance Report:
Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins reports on The American Legion, Department of Maine current finances.

Oratorical:
Dept. Oratorical Committee Chairman Donald Chase gives an update on happenings at the Post and District level for Oratorical competitions as well as the State Oratorical contest due to take place Feb. 11 at Thomas College in Waterville.

Boy Scouts:
Chairman William Benson reports on American Legion Boys Scouts.

National Anthem:
2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis, left, is seen here with Greenville Post 94 member Gary Nelson who performed the National Anthem at the Opening Ceremony for Mid-Winter.

Air Guard:
Col. Roy, U.S. Air Force presents information pertaining to the Air Guard.

Legislative Issues:
Guest Speaker, National Legislative Assistant Dir./Grassroots Coordinator Jeff Steele addresses those in attendance enforcing the importance of our Legion Legislative Committee members and all the work that they do at the state and national level.

SAL:
Sons of The American Legion Adjutant Bruce Pierce, right, welcomes Bath Squadron 21 Detachment Historian James Hughes to the conference.

Maine Blind Camp:
Guest speaker, Maine Camp Director Mark Tamaleaa gives a brief overview to those in attendance on Maine Blind Camp and its function.

Legion Attendees!

Auxiliary Past State Presidents Attend MWC:
Maine American Legion Auxiliary Past State Presidents were out in force at the Auxiliary’s Mid-Winter Conference held in Bangor recently. Shown seated, from left to right, are Betty Seeley, Terry Owen, Debbie Raymond, Jeri Greenwell and Charlotte Hagan. Standing, left to right, are Nancy Ronco, Mary Jane McLoon, Nancy True, Lois Hubbard, Charlotte “Kitty” Doyle, Brenda King and Debbie Marr. The oldest Past President, Madeline “Mandy” Sweet, stopped by for lunch to visit with everyone.
More Activities At…

Mid-Winter Conference

Winter Sweepstakes: Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, left, reads the names of the winners drawn for the winter sweepstakes assisted by Department 2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21. Department Commander Peter Johnson, right, gives a round of applause to the lucky winners.

Sweepstakes Winners Announced

Winter Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 21, 2017 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor with our sweepstakes drawing, which saw three of our Legionnaires win the following amounts: The Grand prize winner of $3,500 was Robert Verreault, Auburn Post 153. Other winners were $1,000 – Teresa Breau and $500 – John J. Nelligan, Bangor Post 12.

A Little Added “Downeast” Humor:

Maine Humorist Gary Crocker brings some “Downeast” humor to those in attendance at the banquet held during Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 21.

MWC Registration: Department Sergeant-at-Arms Patricia Thurston, right, and Audrey L’Heureux, wife of State Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, help man the registration table during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 21. The conference brought a high turnout contributing to over 170 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and guests.

Batman’s Grand Entrance:

American Legion Auxiliary Department Vice President Ann Durost, aka, “Batman” makes her grand entrance to the Winter Conference in Bangor Jan. 21. The Auxiliary’s theme this year was Super Heroes.

Oratorical Contest:

The 2017 American Legion State Oratorical Competition was held Nov. 11 at Thomas College in Waterville. Oratorical contestants, left to right, State Oratorical winner representing District 1 Marina Long; Rep. District 15 Dexter Wright; Rep. District 14 Keegan Cannell; Rep. District 2 Lucas Wright; Rep. District 10 Isabelle Mehrhoff; and Rep. District 7 Ciara Pitcher.

Oratorical Greetings: Oratorical Chairman Donald Chase, left, and John Stewart get ready for the arrival of Oratorical contestants, Legionnaires, staff and guests for the State Oratorical Contest held Nov. 11 at Thomas College in Waterville.

Oratorical Gathering: Legionnaires, left to right, Augusta Post 2 member James Palmer, S.O. Admin. Ass’t Eileen Krawczyk, Ass’t Service Officer Maureen Malley, Dept. Chaplain Greg Couture, and Dept. Oratorical Committee member/Sanford Post 19 Commander Dale Midgley talk “Oratorical” before the start of the competition Nov. 11.

Oratorical Preparation:

Department Finance Office Tommy Adkins, left, gathers information from Department Office Manager Rachael Currie, center, before the start of the State Oratorical competition. Alyssa Currie, right, volunteered her assistance during the program.
The American Legion Post Challenge

Do You Know The History (Round 2)

By PAUL L’HEUREUX, State Adjutant
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

The first of our Post History articles have arrived. Please take the time to see what a great job some of our Legionnaires have done to show what they are about. As you read each article you can start to see what an impact we have made in our history here in Maine. Not only have we honored Veterans by naming a Post after them and letting others know that they paid the ultimate price in doing so. Thank you to the 3 Posts that have made this happen. To the one Post that has not submitted, it is never too late to step up to the plate and share your history.

Now we are challenging 3 more Posts pictured below. Do you know the history of any of these Posts and how they were formed. For example, do you know the dates, names, location, if the Post was moved, was there a history to the building, an addition added to the building, how did the Post get its name, and any other information you can provide. Again, I have a challenge for these 3 Posts and its members, and expect a full story for the next edition of The Maine Legionnaire newspaper. In the meantime, other Posts need to start researching its history; for you may be next! So do you care about your Post history? I guess we will find out!!!

Westbrook Post 62
Alfred Post 134
Stonington Post 102

Bar Harbor Post 25 - Captain George E. Kirk
‘THE ISLANDER’

Capt. George E. Kirk
Source: Bar Harbor newspaper, 1918

The first golden star was placed upon our school service flag this winter for Capt. George E. Kirk who died in France Nov. 20, 1918. Capt. Kirk was a graduate of our High School in the year 1912. While in this school, his record was of the best and he was a poplar and well beloved student.

The next year, he entered the University of Maine where he also won great popularity and became one of the foremost students. He was a great athlete, being a star football and basketball player. He was president of his class in his sophomore year. He attended Maine three years then went to the Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, where also he was a member of the football and basketball teams.

He would have been graduated from the University in June, 1917, but as soon as our Country declared war he left college and entered the service. He went to the Officers’ Training Camp at Fort Niagara, May 12, 1917, and was graduated Aug. 15, 1917, with a second lieutenant’s commission. From September to December he trained at Gettysburg. He sailed Dec. 23 for France. He was very anxious to reach the land of war. He felt that his place was in the front line. He had a way of being in the front line in all that he undertook.

He was made first lieutenant Jan. 15, 1918. In a letter home written soon after his arrival in France, Capt. Kirk said, “I like my work and am glad to be here. I wouldn’t swap places with anyone in the U.S.A.”.

Capt. Kirk took part in all the severe fighting of the summer. He was in the battle of St. Mihiel, where he was recommended for captaincy and came through without a scratch. In a letter written home just after the battle he said, “I thank God that I was in it and also for His protection and guidance during the great battle”.

He was very enthusiastic in regard to our boys and all through the war seemed confident that we would win. In another passage in the same letter he said, “The Germans are licked puppies! It will take some time to finish them but finished they will be. The Kaiser started to make a Hell on earth and that very Hell will devour him. Individually one of our men is a

Have You Asked a Veteran
TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2017!

Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41
Milo, Maine

Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41, in Milo, Maine was chartered Aug. 1, 1920 with 50 members. Commander Roy Deck-er (1919-1920)

On Jan. 14, 1937, the Boston Excelsor Company deeded over the land and building to The American Legion. The original building had amazing woodwork, two mantel fireplaces, and a full basement. A single story addition was added in the late 1950’s to include a kitchen, seating for seventy- five people, and a separate heating system. The addition was used for community functions, bingo fund raising and hall rental. The original building main room was used by The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 and Saturday night dances during the 1960’s. The basement level housed a pool table, bar and lounging area. In 2001, a handicap ramp with an open front deck was added, the basketball court upgraded and lighting provided with access for the community. Memorial Day parade originates from the post home parking lot and a meal is provided for the participants after the cemetery services.

By Richard L. Graves Sr.,
Post 41 Historian

More on “THE ISLANDER”, Page 19
**"The Islander"**  
(Continued from Page 18)

match for any five Huns. It is not a boast for we have seen all it. They are yellow when they face the big test and can’t die like men. Why? Simply because they know they are wrong and must suffer. They can’t face the great unknown with a clear conscience and a smile on their faces like our boys. God help the Kaiser when we have 2,000,000 in line”.

He received his Captain’s commission Sept. 18 and was sent to the Army Machine Gun School. This was quite a privilege for a young officer. Only nine were chosen from this whole division.

After leaving this school he returned to his battalion but was taken sick with influenza soon afterward.

On Nov. 1, so great was his desire to march into Germany with his men, that although only partially recovered he left the hospital and started with his company. But he could not keep up and Nov. 16 was forced to retire to a field hospital where he died Nov. 20 of pneumonia.

Although he died at the early age of 24 years, he died knowing that the great work for which he had given so much had been brought to a finish and to a victorious finish. That was his aim, to see it through. This is shown by his reply when asked why he did not accept an offer given him to remain at Headquarters as a Supply Officer, he said, “I couldn’t. My mask would spoil and my hat would rust. I must go back and help finish this war.”

And he went back and in so doing gave his life for his country.

“We all miss him very much,” wrote his commanding officer Major A.D. Bruce. “I considered him to be one of the most efficient, gallant and true officers that ever served under me”.

It seems sad and strange to us all that after going through all the battles unharmed that he should be taken just when the height of his ambition had been reached.

“But this we know:--All’s well, With the man who has done his best And whether he live or whether he die, He is sacred high in our memory, And to God we can leave the rest”.

M.D.W.’99.

George Edwin Kirk with the 4th Machine Gun Btry, part of the 2nd Division, spent 57 days in the field at the Battle of Thierry and was promoted from 1st Lt. to Captain. He also was in the Battle at Mihiel.

Bar Harbor newspaper, 1918

---

**Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell**

In June of 1919, a group of veterans met on the corner of Winthrop and Water Streets in front of the bank building to discuss forming an American Legion post in Hallowell. On June 24, 1919 a group of 19 members met at the Bombahouck Club and a charter was applied for by the first group of officers.

The Post was named after Captain Frank E. Goodrich, a Hallowell man who enlisted in the Canadian Army’s 48th Highland Regiment which deployed to France where he was wounded in action. After recovering from his wounds, he attended a private flying school and became a pilot. He reenlisted in the service joining the Royal Flying Corps. Captain Goodrich was killed in action September 12, 1916 in France.

Frank E. Goodrich Post No. 6, American Legion, Department of Maine was granted a charter for formation of a Post of the American Legion at Hallowell, Maine on June 28, 1919. This charter was superseded by a permanent official charter after November 11, 1919. The American Legion Auxiliary was formed July 1, 1922.

The post moved from one place to another frequently. The first club rooms were located at Society Hall. The post also met for some time in the General Tilden GAR Hall Subsequently, they began meeting in the smoking room at the Hotel Worster and then later at City Hall. In 1935 meetings were held in the vestry of the Universalist Church. In 1938, the current building, which was the vestry, was sold to the post for $1,000.00 by the Universalist Church.

In 1946 an initiation service was performed for 85 new members of Post 6.

After World War II, on July 7, 1947, a new name was chosen - Goodrich-Caldwell Post No. 6 - to include three brothers from Hallowell who were killed in action, and a new charter was received. Captain Cecil R. Caldwell and his brother PFC Maurice H. Caldwell were killed in action the same day with the 103rd Inf Regiment 43rd Div. on Vangunu Island in the Solomon Islands, South Pacific. A brother, Sergeant Frank H. Caldwell, 311th Inf Regiment, 78th Div. was killed in action in Germany. A fourth brother George, was wounded in Germany. The three brothers are buried in Palmyra, Maine.

In 1988 John Babbitt, Joe Collins, and Richard Hawkins installed the first flag pole purchased from Sears. A plaque in memory of John Babbitt, Post Commander, was donated by his wife, Gerda.

Major renovations to the current building began in 1991.

In 1993 a new wooden HONOR ROLL monument in memory of WWII veterans was installed on the northeast lawn of the Hallowell Post Office.

In 1994 the roof was replaced under the guidance of comrade Ernie DeRaps and comrade Ernie McPherson. Total cost was $2,875.00.

In 1997 shrubbery and landscaping was installed by Frank Wingate through funds donated in memory of O. Maxwell Johnson, Post Commander in 1956, by his wife Wilburta B. Johnson and family. The holes in the inside walls were plastered and painted. Money was donated by Row House to repair the furnace. The current kitchen stove was also donated by Carolyn M. Tibbetts from her old apartment.

In 1999 the current American Legion sign on the front of the building was donated by Gerta Babbitt. Comrades Don Nichols, Dick Hawkins, and Ernie McPherson installed a new overhead kitchen fan which the ladies love during the Shortcake Luncheon.

New hot-walk was installed on September 1, 1999 by B & S Paving of Manchester.

In 1999 new flooring was installed in the bathroom, foyer and kitchen. A new section of wainscoting was installed in the foyer by Dick Hawkins and Phil Leach. The old plaster wall was rebuilt with several coats of patching compound. Also assisting in the project were Ernie McPherson and Arthur Moore.

Late in 1999 a new rear exit, entrance, steps and landing were completed by several loyal members of the post.

On July 4, 2000 a new PA system and post improvements were given in memory of John L. Woodside, post commander in 1953, by his wife Norma Woodside and family.

---

**The Vestry: Hallowell Post 6 meetings were held in the vestry of the Universalist Church in 1935. The Universalist church sold the vestry to the Post in 1938 for $1.00.**

**Hallowell Post 6 Building in 1983.**

**Bar Harbor newspaper, 1918**

---

More on HALLOWELL POST 6, Page 20
Hallowell Post 6
(Continued from Page 19)

In 2001 new siding, new blinds, and a new roof for our legion home was given with funds from Cynthia A. Bean in memory of her husband Ralph L. Bean & B. Construction of Pittsfield was selected to do the roofing with a low bid or $4,400. A new side porch and roof were installed to provide a rear exit from the post. In 2003 a new lawn was built by Wingate Landscape Co. and Frank Wingate. Also completed were a new stairway to the Post cellar with comrades Don Nichols, Dick Hawkins, and Reverend Dave Sivret.

In 2004 the Armed Forces and American Legion Emblems were donated by comrades Leo A. Latipit. On September 24th a new BILOCO door was installed with the assistance of comrade Burt Truman and others.

In the Spring of 2010 Post 6 received a check in the amount of $10,000 from the Estate of Gene Lockyer a long time member of Post 6. Comrade Lockyer was very active in post activities and an active member of Old South Congregations Church in Hallowell. Comrade Arthur Moore moved to offer an amount of $5,000 which was to be used in conjunction with the $10,000 gift from Comrade Lockyer to build a granite memorial in the Hallowell cemetery. This motion was seconded by Comrade Dick Hawkins who also pledged a considerable amount of money for the new memorial. This was the beginning of a massive fundraising campaign which raised a total of over $35,000.

In July of 2010, after having placed American Flags on known veterans graves in the Hallowell cemetery for Memorial Day, it was decided that we should take a census and actually count the veterans and make note of their location in the Cemetery, and mark their grave stones with a sticker indicating that this was a U.S. Veteran. Many members of the post began this count on July 21, 2010. The census count sheets were then placed into a database by Judy Madden, wife of Commander Michael Madden. Arthur Moore along with his wife Florence Moore and Adjutant Larry Auger served as Co-Chairmen of a newly appointed Veterans Memorial Committee with the goal of replacing the old wooden Honor Roll at the Post Office lawn with a concrete memorial in the Legion park section of the Hallowell cemetery. The Veterans Memorial Committee was composed of community members as well as legionnaires of Post 6. Including Nancy McGiniss, Phil Lindley, Arthur Moore, Florence Moore, Janis Cross, Dick Hawkins, Larry Auger, Sam Webber, Deanna Hallett, Dana Parker, and Mike Madden. The data from the census was placed on a computer CD and a copy given to the Hubbard Library and one to the Hallowell City Clerk's office to aid in genealogical research. There was much fundraising under the watchful eye of Arthur Moore, Larry Auger and Commander Madden who double and triple-checked the spelling of veterans names. Announcements about the new memorial asked veterans who joined the U.S. Armed Forces while a Hallowell resident at the time of joining to contact the Post as to provide a rear exit from the post.

In 2013 a new refrigerator was made possible through fundraising efforts of member ladies of Post 6.

In September 2013 Post 6 provided funds to purchase a new fiberglass insulated front door which was installed with the assistance of Past Commander Peter DeRaps and Comrade Burt Truman. In December of 2016 the post received a donation from the Estate of Ella Andrews, a widow of lifetime Post 6 member Hugh “Bucky” Andrews. The family of Ella Andrews, which includes Comrade Thomas Andrews and Comrade Larry and Carol Auger, asked that the donation be used for inside improvements to Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6. The members of Post 6 are “rip and roaring” to begin these improvements in 2017.

What’s Happening in your District...

District 1

Ramsdell Rogers Post 56 Visits Veterans at Sentry Hill in York

Post 56 believes when veterans can’t come to the post, the post needs to go to the veterans. On Veterans Day, Post Commander Peter Doe, 1st Vice Commander Greene, Post Chaplain James Fitzpatrick, Post Historian Donald G. Hands and Facilities Manager Kandice Minihane visited Sentry Hill in York, Maine. A group of about 30 or more residents gathered in the atrium for the ceremony. The ceremony was opened with a prayer and salute to the flag. Post Commander Peter Doe then acknowledged veterans and what branch of service they were in. In some cases, he acknowledged the spouses of the veterans. 1st Vice Commander Greene then offered the veterans and spouses a small national ensign with the appreciation of the American legion and country for their service and sacrifice. This made for some very emotional moments. All the armed forces were represented. Commander Doe also acknowledged a U.S. Merchant Mariner who had survived 2 enemy attacks. In addition, there was a past member of the RAF present.

Veterans Day Visit: Post 56 Commander Doe and Post Chaplain Fitzpatrick look on while 1st Vice Commander Greene offers an American Flag to a veteran.

Honoring a Maine Hero

B ack in the 1700’s, it was stated that “in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes” (or “Tis impossible to be sure of anything but Death and Taxes”). This quote is usually attributed to Benjamin Franklin from a letter he penned in 1789 although the Yale Book of Quotations cites as the author Christopher Bullock, in The Cobbler of Preston (1716).

Regardless of the source, true words were never spoken. While we know that the day will come for each one of us to heed the call of The Great Commander, we deeply feel the loss of our fellow comrades in arms when that day dawns. Such was the case last year, when our Post lost a great friend, mentor and one of our past commanders, Mark Taylor Pilgrim. Mark Pilgrim was an Army veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, retired from active service as a Lieutenant Colonel, and went on to a second career developing training programs for the nuclear power industry. Mark was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and served as Commander of Berwick’s Charles S. Hatch Post 79 from 2012 to 2015. Mark was also actively involved with the famous Pease Greeters and the Berwick Winter Farmer’s Market Committee.

Following Mark’s interment at Arlington National Cemetery, the Post
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Maine Hero
(Continued from Page 20)

sought to find a way to honor his memory and service. The opportunity presented itself early in 2017, when Post 79 hosted Pam Payeur. Pam founded the Wounded Heroes Program of Maine in 2008 due to the experience she and her son, Mike, had when he returned stateside from war as a wounded veteran. Pam talked about this amazing program that helps hundreds of Maine’s wounded veterans and their families with financial support and guidance.

The Wounded Heroes Program of Maine is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization established to support our wounded veterans when they return home after being injured in the line of duty. As a 100% volunteer run organization an average of over 90% of funds raised go directly to supporting our wounded veterans by helping to pay rent, mortgage, utilities, phone bills, heating fuel payments and more while they are waiting for their disability claim to be processed. We could simply not think of a more fitting tribute to Mark’s memory than to make a $500 donation in Mark’s name to The Wounded Heroes Program of Maine. This native son, raised in Kittery, is and always will be a hero to those of us who had the honor of knowing him. We truly believe he would have approved.

By Rosanne Martin, Public Relations Officer, Berwick’s Charles S. Hatch Post 79.

PAST POST 79 COMMANDER MARK PILGRIM

Kennebunkport
Post 159 members discuss the progress of the 2016 Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude Craft Fair held annually at Post 159. Left to right, Kennebunkport Post 159 2nd Vice Commander David Lougee, Post 159 member Clifford Campbell and Post 159 Past Commander John Leach.

Annual Craft Fair: Kennebunkport Post 159 Chaplin Linda Casey solicits donations for various raffle items at the 2016 Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude Craft Fair held annually at Post 159.

Crafters setting up their displays in Kennebunkport Post 159 main hall for 2016 Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude Craft Fair held annually at Post 159.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Congratulations!!!
District 2

For providing the most number of pictures & articles for publication in The Maine Legionnaire.

National Legion Recognition: District 2 Commander Jason White, right, presents Windham Post 148 Service Officer Chuck Whynot with a National Legion Recognition award certificate for recruiting 3 or more new Legion Post members for 2017. Awards were also presented to: Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay and Post Member Walter Braley.

Photo by Bob Christie.

Gray Post 86 to Host
A New Veteran Support Group

Gray Post 86 will be hosting a new group called ALPS, American Legion Peer Support Group. It is a veteran support group allowing a safe environment to discuss the impact of military and combat related traumatic events on their quality of life, their families, and efforts to reintegrate into their community, colleges, and employment.

This is a peer to peer, veteran led, non-clinical, non-denominational support group aimed at reducing the stigma of PTSD and depression in our communities. We aim at providing a confidential outlet as well as an opportunity to strengthen your social network. This is an opportunity to learn from others’ experiences.

We have a few people already interested in attending from Augusta and Standish, this is open to all veterans in any community. Does not matter if you are a Legion member or not.

Please feel free to join us the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. There will be guest speakers from time to time. More importantly this is a safe place to learn coping skills from others who have the experience.

Please feel free to pass on information to others that could use it. Also, you can always call my cell for more information. Regards, Jason T. Hall, Post Adjutant, Cell 522-5471
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

50 Years: Yarmouth Post 91 Post Commander Jen Tyll, left, presents Longevity Award to Past Commander David True for 50 years.

20 Years: Yarmouth Post 91 Post Commander Jen Tyll presents Longevity Award to Past Commander Bob Wood for 20 years.

10 Years: Yarmouth Post 91 Post Commander Jen Tyll presents Longevity Award to Past Commander Al Gagnon for 10 years.

Not present at the ceremony were Past Cumberland County Commander L.E. Hawkes for 65 years and Roy Cogswell for 5 years were not present at the ceremony.

Windham Post 148 Member Recognition Dinner

Field-Allen Windham Post 148 hosted a Membership Recognition Dinner at the WVC on Dec. 7. The dinner provided by Post members included 30 lbs. of baked ham, potato casserole, string bean casserole, a large pot of beans and variety of desserts for 35 attendees.

After a formal opening, new member recognition certificates were presented to Post members that included: Harley Clark, Richard Buxton, Bill Cassidy, Jeff Cook, Norm Devonshire, Norm Sear, John Kepple, Larry Spires, Richard Graves, Keri Karsten, Ralph Miele, and David Donn. Five additional members were not available the evening’s events. The above 2016-17 new membership group is the largest the Post has had the pleasure of receiving in the Post’s history. The recognition ceremony continued with certificates of longevity and Post support with the following members receiving awards: Rod Voisine, 20 years continuous service; William Johnson, 31 years of service; Roger Timmons, 37 years of service; and WWII vet, Don Rogers, 58 years of service. Don Rogers, is a multiple time Past Commander of the Post. Not in attendance but recognized were: Ed Ovington (20 Years), William Chipman (20 years), Charlie Cragin (25 years) and John Boyden (37 years). The evening events were well received, plans to make this an annual event.

Press Release & Photos By Bob Christie

Longevity Award For 58 Years: Past Commander Don Rogers, left, receives a longevity award for 58 years of service to the American Legion Post 148 by Commander Mel Greenier.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance was held on Dec 7 which marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Each year for the past 12 years, membership of American Legion Field-Allen Windham Post 148 has honored our fallen veterans by placing wreaths on the Veteran’s Memorials in the Town of Windham. For 2016, at 10:00 am, a wreath was placed on the Veteran’s Memorial in the Veteran’s Memorial Garden, WVC, as well as one on the newly dedicated 50th Anniversary Vietnam Memorial at the Vet Center by members of the Posts Honor Guard. This dedication was followed at 2:00 pm by the placement of a large wreath by Post 148 Honor Guard members on the Veteran’s Memorial that stands in front of the Windham High School.

Wreath placement on the Vietnam Memorial by Windham Post 148 Honor Guard members Chuck Whynot, Larry DeHof and David Horne.

Photo by Bob Christie
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Wreaths Across America Visit Windham Post 148

Wreaths Across America visited American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham on Dec. 19 at the Windham Veterans Center Memorial Garden. A caravan of eight Chevy SUV’s wrapped in the colors of Wreaths Across America visited Windham on their return trip from Arlington National Cemetery. The drivers stopped at Chutes for breakfast before heading over to the Windham Veterans Center Memorial Garden to donate seven ceremonial wreaths to the Field-Allen Post. Each wreath was decorated with a U.S. Flag and a flag from each of the military services. A large contingent of vets and Post members led by Post Commander Mel Greenier was on hand to greet the Caravan headed by Jim Johnston also of Windham. Each wreath was given to a Legion member from their respective service who then placed the wreaths in the appropriate location in the Memorial Garden. An MIA wreath was placed as well.

Ceremonial Wreaths Presented:
Veterans and Post members receive ceremonial wreaths from the Wreaths Across America project, each designated by a flag for a military service at the Windham Vet Center on Dec. 19. Left to right, Harley Clark, Dave Tanguay, Jerry Black, Bob Beane, Walter Braley, Chuck Whynot, Willie Goodman, Clarence Cummings, Stan Burk, Roger Timmons, Allie Davis, Commander Mel Greenier, and Dennis Marshal.

Korean War vet Jerry Black places the POW/MIA Wreath.


Greetings: Windham Post 148 Post members Roger Timmons and Walter Braley exchanging greetings with the Caravan Drivers.

Casco Recreation Department volunteers put on an outstanding breakfast for veterans in celebration of Veterans Day.

Naples Post 155:
Naples Chapter 155 Legion Riders in attendance at the Veterans Community breakfast held at the Casco Recreation Center on Nov. 11. Left to right, American Legion Riders Bob Ellis, Vinny Yedynak, John Leisenring, Donald Mulcahy, Line Mulcahy.

Memories: Naples Post 155 Air Force Veteran Jim Proctor remembers his uncle LaForest Proctor, WWII Army Infantry.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Riders Visit

WWII Veteran:
American Legion Riders Chapter 155, Naples paid WWII US Navy Seabee Russell Olsen a visit on Veterans Day. Russell Olsen was one of the original fighting Seabees in 1942. It was both an honor and pleasure to spend time with this gentleman. Left to right, Bill O’Neil, Army Recruiter Sgt. Pratt, Donald Mulcahy, Kelly Mulcahy, and Vinny Yedynak.

Veterans Day Celebration: Naples Chapter 155 Legion Riders attend a celebration for Veterans Day at Lake Region High School. Left to right, Bill O’Neil, Army Recruiter Sgt. Pratt, Donald Mulcahy, Kelly Mulcahy, and Vinny Yedynak.

Naples Chapter 155 Legion Riders Visit So. Paris Veterans Home for Christmas

Christmas Spent With Veterans:
Naples American Legion Riders Chapter 155 had the honor of spending time at the Veterans Home in So. Paris for Christmas. Legion Riders, left to right, Line Mulcahy, Don Mulcahy, Vinny Yedynak, Kelly Mulcahy, Scott Burnham, Santa (Richard Cerone), Bob Ellis, and John Leisenring.

Legion Riders and Santa Clause visit to So. Paris Veterans Home.

More on So. Paris Veterans Home Visit

Veterans Home Visit:
So. Paris Veteran Home receive a visit from American Legion Riders Chapter 155 Jim Procter, back, left, and Bob Ellis, right with Santa for Christmas.

Goodies From Santa:
Thank you Santa!

Enjoying Some Story Telling!

Is This Really Santa?

A Few Of Our Honored Women Veterans.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

Auburn Post 31: State Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, center, presents Auburn Post 31 1st Vice Commander Pauline St. Pierre, left, and Post 31 Commander Paul Beaucage, right, with a membership award for most new members for a Post with membership under 100 at the Post home on Nov. 8.

District 3 Commander Jerry DeWitt, right, presents certificate recognizing Lisbon Post 158 donation to VAVS at Togus to Jim Veilleux during the District 3 meeting held at Lisbon Post 158 on Nov. 13.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

Rumford Post 24 along with community and member support, collected funds and winter wear to support children at the Chisholm Head Start. Left to right, Jana Richardson, Lisa Godbois, Commander William Petrie, 1st Vice Commander Urbain (Joe) Arsenault and Tricia Thurston.

Santa’s Helpers: Rumford Post 24 along with community and member support collected funds to support Santa’s Helpers. Post Commander William Petrie presented a check and warm winter clothing items to Margaret McNeil.

Rumford Post 24 Boys & Girls State Recognition Supper: Rumford Post 24 held a recognition supper on Nov. 6 at the Post home for delegates who attended the Dirigo Boys and Girls State Program this past June. Back row, left to right, Jesse Pelletier, John Pepin, Andrew Arsenault and Jacob Beauchesne. Front Row, left to right, Julia Perry and Abby Mazza.

Recognition Supper held at Rumford Post 24 for Dirigo Boys and Girls State delegates. Left to right, 2nd District Department President Stefanie Wilson, Abby Mazza, Julia Perry and Unit 24 President Joanne Gaudet.

Locke Mills Post 68 Christmas Party/Benefit Dinner

Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills held its Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 17.

From 11:30 to 3:00, the Post 68 Christmas Party was attended by three Post Officers, numerous Auxiliary, and a passel of eager children that Santa Claus did not disappoint. It was a moderate Maine Dec. day, -4°, wind 20 to 25 mph, and only 5 inches of snow accumulation on the cars in the parking area during the tenure of the party. After Santa provided a gift to each child attending (thanks to Mrs. Claus, aka Jamie Hastings, Auxiliary Treasurer, checking the list twice, and then wrapping the selected appropriate presents), the Auxiliary 1st VP and Historian Hazel Cole, read the list of individuals who had purchased memorial lights for the Post Outdoor Christmas Trees display for loved ones they wished to honor. The scheduled Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, however, was put off to another occasion, as those at the Party declined to venture out and be transformed into icicles.

Members attending were Post Commander and Service Officer Delwin Wilson, Adjutant Harry Orcutt and Chaplain Dan Grover, (aka as “Old St. Nick”).

Later that evening, from 19:00 to 22:00 hours, the renowned musical ensemble, The Shadagoo Ramblers sponsored a Benefit Performance Dance in the Post hall to raise funds for Auxiliary Unit 68 President, Anita Hakala, who had been badly injured in a fall down her stairway while attempting to egress her house to attend the October District 5 and Oxford County Council meeting. The funds are intended to defray a portion of the costs of installing a chair lift in her residence, on the stairway on which her fall occurred. The Greenwood Firefighters Association put the fund raising effort beyond expectation with their donation of one thousand ($1000) dollars. Altogether, about $1300 was raised toward the $4000 anticipated expense of purchasing and installing the chair.

Harry G. Orcutt, Post 69 Adjutant


Photo by Post 68 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt
District 7

Schooner Cove Ceremony Honors Veterans

Schooner Cove, an independent living facility on Lincoln Health’s Miles Campus in Damariscotta, held a ceremony honoring veterans for their dedication and sacrifice the morning of Veterans Day, Fri., Nov. 11.

Schooner Cove honors veterans with a service on Veterans Day almost every year, according to Resident Service Coordinator Mary Beth Bonang.

After a flag-raising, the veterans and their families went inside for a lunch, where speakers thanked them for their service.

“We are all here because of what you’ve done in the past, and we thank you,” Bonang said.

Schooner Cove resident Joe Gray, a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in World War II, spoke about the more than half a billion men and women who have given their lives in the service and the importance of honoring their memory.

“We must remember those who died and their sacrifice,” Gray said.

John Hargreaves, the National Executive Committeeman for the American Legion Department of Maine and former National Vice Commander of the American Legion talked about the willingness of veterans to lay down their lives.

“They do not take the oath because they are violent or macho; they do not do it for fame or fortune,” Hargreaves said. “They do it because they are the most loving, giving souls in our midst. They risk life and limb every day so that we can be free.”

By Maia Zewert, The Lincoln County News, Nov. 17, 2016

District 6

American Legion Post 30 Receives West Bay Rotary Grant

Two Camden civic organizations came together on Jan. 19. Both to share a nice breakfast, but one to share their generosity and the other to share a story and to say thank you, left to right, Camden Post 30 Jeff Sukeforth, Mik Mikkelson of West Bay Rotary, Sandy Delano, Ray Lewis, and Frank Carr of Camden Post 30.

West Bay Rotary presented a $2,000 grant to American Legion Camden Post 30 members which will be set aside to repair the roof of the Legion Hall on Pearl Street.

Rotary member Mik Mikkelson made the presentation to Jeff Sukeforth, Frank Carr, Sandy Delano, and Ray Lewis. When accepting the check, Jeff remarked this very generous donation will be put to good use explaining the post is just now getting back to normal after a burst pipe in 2014 left the bottom floor of the post looking like an indoor pool. Through work bees and volunteers help, the post is now back to normal and ready for business; however, the roof has now set the post back some as it also needs to be replaced due to some small leaks.

Sukeforth said it was the generosity of civic minded organizations such as West Bay Rotary that make this town what it is thanking the group for the grant.

By Jeff Sukeforth | Jan. 30, 2017

Rockland Post 1 Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Thanksgiving Day dinner was held on Nov. 24 at District 6, Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt Post 1 in Rockland. Pictures were submitted by Dane Winslow (Post 2nd Vice Commander).

In attendance were Post 1 officers & members, Auxiliary officers & members, NECA Ron Rainfrette, great volunteers and local area veteran visitors & family. More pictures are on our website http://www.winslowholbrookmerrittpost1.org.

Rockland Post 1 kitchen staff at work during Thanksgiving Day Dinner held at the Post home on Nov. 24.
District 7 continued

Schooner Cove Ceremony: World War II Veteran Joe Gray of Damariscotta talks about the sacrifices of Veterans during a ceremony at Schooner Cove the morning of Veterans Day, Fri., Nov. 11.

Photo by Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News | Nov. 17, 2016

Guest Speaker: American Legion Department of Maine National Executive Committeeman John Hargreaves (right photo) speaks during a ceremony at Schooner Cove in Damariscotta the morning of Veterans Day, Fri., Nov. 11.

Photo by Maia Zewert
The Lincoln County News | Nov. 17, 2016

Renovations Breathe New Life Into American Legion Facility

A building that used to play home to the Waldoboro Fire Station and Town Office is undergoing some renovations, thanks to a grant from the Home Depot Foundation.

Home to the Charles C. Lilly American Legion Post 149 since the early 1960s, the facility on Jefferson Street has hosted numerous activities over the years and the wear and tear is showing.

Finance Officer Dawn Wright applied for the grant and found out in August that the project was a go -- the post received $12,000 for renovations.

When the upper floor had its rug ripped up a few weeks ago, it revealed the painted outline of two bays where firetrucks formerly parked.

"It was quite a landmark for the town when it was the fire station," the Rev. Wayne Woodman, commander of the American Legion, said during the pre-renovation tour.

Along with the grant, the legion also had 25 gallons of paint donated by Behr Paint.

More than 20 volunteers from HomeDepots across the state were on the scene Nov. 9 and 10 to begin the renovation process -- just in time to honor the more than 105 living members who served in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War.

"This will be a great start," Woodman said, adding he hopes to stretch the money as far as it can go.

Renovations included a new rug upstairs in the legion meeting area, a widened double-door entrance and two single doors replaced, seven new toilets and grab bars, new ceiling tiles and a paint job in the downstairs area, and security lighting.

Wright noted that Achorn's Electric of Warren installed updated lighting two years ago.

Sharon Stone, captain of Team Depot of Rockland, said the Home Depot Foundation was started in 1999 to help fund various projects before the corporate office decided to make some changes in what was being sponsored and shifted the program more toward veterans.

The timing of the project coincided with the legion's Veteran's Day supper Nov. 9, in celebration of Veterans Day. There were about 35 people in attendance for the dinner and Award Presentation in which 20 Continuous Membership certificates were handed out.

Adjutant Alfred McKay, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Randall Kluj, Dept. NECA Ronald Rainfrette, and Waldoboro Post 149 Commander Wayne Woodman.

Veterans Day Dinner Attendees:
Some of those in attendance at the Veterans Dinner and Award Presentation Ceremony held at Waldoboro Post 149 on Nov. 9.
District 8

Harpswell Post 171 Veterans Day Ceremony: Commander Mike Doyle USA (at podium) opened the Ceremony. Donna Frisoli, far left, taped the ceremony for later broadcast on Harpswell TV. Back row, Bill Sabrowski USAF, Bill O’Connell USAF, Commander Mike Doyle USA, Bill Allen USCG, and, far left, Bob Webber USAF. The Ceremony ended with everyone singing God Bless America.

Photo by Else Boland

Raising Funds For Veterans: Mt. Ararat High School seniors Cameron Meier, left, and Eagan Eldridge talk to Topsham Post 202 Commander Matt Jabaut Tuesday about the 5K they held on Veterans Day, raising $2,400 for the Legion to help Veterans.

Photo by Darcie Moore/The Times Record

Harpswell Post 171 Xmas Party: On Dec. 16 Harpswell Post 171 celebrated its tenth annual Christmas party for Togus VA, long-term care patients. Active Duty Members of the Navy, currently serving at BIW, Coast Guard (South Portland), Marine Corps (Brunswick), and Army National Guard (Augusta) assisted patients at the pizza & lobster roll lunch and with opening individual gifts. The lobster rolls were provided by Roy Knight, aka Santa. The major gift, an UHD TV for the community room, purchased from and installed by Best Buy South Portland, was donated by Post 171 to the Togus Veterans Village. In the left foreground of the photo is VA Recreation Therapist Liz Marrone (wearing Santa hat). In the middle of the photo, left to right, Post 171 Commander Mike Doyle, Post 171 Finance Officer Bill O’Connell, Past Post 171 Commander Roger Dumont, Nurse Manager Veterans Village Amy Mitchell. Photo by Dave Sosnowski.

Photo by Dave Sosnowski

Topsham Post 202: Mt. Ararat High School seniors Eagan Eldridge and Cameron Meir present a check to members of the Corey E. Garver American Legion Post 202 in Topsham on Dec. 13. The students organized the Highland Green Flashlight 5K on Veterans Day which 70 people ran in, raising $2,400 to directly help veterans. Left to right are Chuck Stanley, Andrew Dean, Eagan Eldridge, Cameron Meir, Topsham Post 202 Commander Matt Jabaut at the presentation of check from Flashlight 5K.

Photo by Darcie Moore/The Times Record

Phippsburg Post 216 Potluck: The annual Christmas Post Potluck was held in December at the Small Point Baptist Church. Post 216 members are seen here enjoying the comradeship.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Public Affairs Officer Mike Young

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

Bath Post 21 Commander Chris Gillespie, center, and Finance Officer Jim Hughes, right, give 80 presents to the Bath Salvation Army donated by the Legionnaires.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

Phippsburg Post 216 annual Christmas Post Potluck. Comrade Rick Alberston, left, and his son Leif enjoy the comradeship.

An Anchor For Christmas: Comrades John Libby, left, Bruce MacMillan, center, along with Commander Ken Kellogg decorate an anchor for Christmas at the Veterans and Mariners Memorial Park. Each year Phippsburg Post 216 members decorate the Park, which was built through volunteer labor and donations in 1999. The Park has memorial stones and plaques listing the names of those veterans from Phippsburg who served in the Revolutionary, Civil, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam Wars. Post 216 members are the “caretakers” for the Town’s Park.

Christmas Tree Decorating: Comrade Bruce MacMillan, Financial Officer Debra Reddinger, Pauline Flemings and Chil-loa Young, left to right, finish decorating the Town Hall Christmas Tree. Each year Phippsburg Post 216 members help the Town prepare for its “Holiday Open House” where Santa and his Elf arrive by fire truck to visit with the local children.

Phippsburg Post 216 raises funds for local veterans: Phippsburg Post 216 raises funds each year in support of local veterans by holding a raffle. Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Barnes, left, and Comrade Fred Elwell manned the raffle table at the Phippsburg School during their Christmas Fair in November. Eleven Post members donated $50 each for the prizes and Comrade Michael Rae, from a Massachusetts Legion Post, donated $200 of his $400 first prize back to the Post. The drawing was held in December with almost $1,600 raised.

District 9

District 9 meeting was held at the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on Jan. 11, 2017. Left to right, Mike Albert and Donnie Riggs present information about “House In the Woods”, a Military & Family Retreat located in Lee, Maine.

Veteran’s Appreciation: Don Campbell and his band performed a Veteran’s Appreciation Concert at Jewett Hall, UMA on Nov. 6. Pictured here is Don Campbell with 4 members of the Kennebec County Veterans Honor Guard who paraded the colors at the beginning of the concert. They are Roger Line, Litchfield Post 181; Don Campbell; Normand Bernier, Post 181; Carlton Tripp, Post 181; and Herbert Mann, Jr., Augusta Post 205. It was a great concert!

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: The Kennebec Valley Veterans Honor Guard which includes Legionnaires from Augusta Post 2, Hallowell Post 6, Winthrop Post 40 and Augusta Post 205 and the U.S. Army providing Pearl Harbor remembrance services at the Riverfront Park in Gardiner on Dec. 7.

District 9 Christmas Party was held at Augusta Post 205 on Dec. 14. Left to right, Cecile Eisenhart, wife of District 9 Past Commander Pat Eisenhart, Augusta Post 2 Commander Howard Betts, Augusta Post 205 Commander George Bean, District 9 1st Vice Commander Pat Eisenhart, District 9 Commander Don Chase and wife Donna Chase.

District 9 Christmas Party: Left to right, Augusta Unit 2 Auxiliary President Myrtle Brown, District 9 Adjutant Eileen Krawczyk, District 9 Sgt.-at-Arms James Palmer, Judy Madden wife of District 9 Historian Mike Madden, Litchfield Post 181 member Norm Bernier and wife Jeannine, and Gail Parker wife of District 9 Finance Officer Dana Parker.
### District 9 continued

**Eagle Scout Donation:** Eagle Scout Troop 603 Caleb Richard, center, accepts donations from Augusta Post 2 Commander Howard Betts, left, and President Ladies Auxiliary Unit 2 Myrtle Brown, right.

**Hallowell Post 6**

Wreaths Across America Celebration at Hallowell Cemetery on Sat., Dec 17, with comrades left to right, Larry Auger, Lewis Gypson, Maureen Malley, Robert McKenna, Donnie Garrison, Peter DeRaps, and Commander Gerald Stuart.

**Augusta Post 205:**

Augusta Veteran’s Memorial Post 205, sponsors of Boy Scout Troop 603, awarded certificates of participation in the Wreath Across America at all three cemeteries in Augusta on Dec. 17. Front row, left to right, Scout Eric McDonnell and Scout Michael Awley. Back row, left to right, Scoutmaster Stephen Richardson, Scout Michael Fortin, Scout Joshua Hoffman, Scout Caleb Richardsson and Post 205 Adjutant Don Demers.

### District 10

**Veterans Day:** Senator Susan Collins, left, and District 10 1st Vice Commander & Historian Tina Richard at the Saluting Our Veterans, Veterans Day Tribute at Messalonskee High School put on by the Messalonskee Middle School students on Nov. 4.

**Skowhegan Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony:** Ann and Steve Spaulding give an award to Tom McCarthy and Jodi Michaud for their hard work done at the park during the 10th Anniversary of the Skowhegan Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony on Nov. 12.

### District 14

**District 14 & Greenville Post 94 Oratorical contestants are shown with District Commander John Guerin. All contestants were sponsored by the Cecil R. Cole Post 94 from Greenville. Left to right, Owen Cannell (2nd Place), Anthony Mason (4th Place), Commander Guerin, Connor DiAngelo (3rd Place) and Keegan Cannell (1st Place).**

**Wreaths Across America:** American Legion Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean with Karen Worcester at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony held at Washington Community College (WCCC) on Dec. 10.

### District 15

**Presenting The “Colors”:** The Veterans Honor Guard presents the "Colors" for the Veterans Day Ceremony held on Thursday, Nov. 10, at Calais High School. Thanks goes out to Lori Ellis and the AP English Students for their great presentation. A Great Tribute for our Veterans and their Families, left to right, Historian Pete Trouant, Service Officer Ralph Flood and Commander Mike McLean.

**Wreaths Across America:** American Legion Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean with Karen Worcester at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony held at Washington Community College (WCCC) on Dec. 10.

**Calais Post 3 Commander Michael Mclean and current National President of Gold Star Mothers Candy Martin attend Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Washington County Community College (WCCC) on Sat., Dec. 10.**
### Taps Column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CONFLICT</th>
<th>POST</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CONFLICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post 4 – Gardiner</td>
<td>Pauline B. Cottle</td>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Post 94 – Greenville</td>
<td>Lionel J. Breau</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 4 – Gardiner</td>
<td>Clarence F. McKay Sr.</td>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Post 107 – Etna-Carmel</td>
<td>Leonard C. Harlow</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 10 – Livermore Falls</td>
<td>Lawrence W. Bryant</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 116 – Monson</td>
<td>Kermit H. Kronholz</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 10 – Livermore Falls</td>
<td>Wallace Williams</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 120 – Rangeley</td>
<td>Edwin H. Inness</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 10 – Livermore Falls</td>
<td>Roland Samson</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 120 – Rangeley</td>
<td>Harold H. Spiller Jr.</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 15 – Caribou</td>
<td>Everett L. Cole</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Patrick P. Albert</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 15 – Caribou</td>
<td>Edgar H. Gagnon</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Robert P. Ouellette</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 20 – Brunswick</td>
<td>John Tolbert</td>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Bernette Albert</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 24 – Rumford</td>
<td>Donald J. Albert</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Reginald Boucher</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 24 – Rumford</td>
<td>John A. Capponi</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Dana Gendreau</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 28 – Farmington</td>
<td>E. Monroe Hawkins</td>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Post 147 – Madison</td>
<td>Jean P. Martin</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 30 – Camden</td>
<td>Faughn W. Marston Sr.</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 148 – Windham</td>
<td>Ralph Miele</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 36 – Boothbay Harbor</td>
<td>Brian McKenna</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 153 – Auburn</td>
<td>Normand F. L’Heureux</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 58 – Buckfield</td>
<td>Frank W. Brown</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 157 – Stockton Springs</td>
<td>Everett M. Young</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 58 – Buckfield</td>
<td>Walter R. Enman</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 157 – Stockton Springs</td>
<td>Robert D. Mushrall</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 73 – Corinna</td>
<td>Donn C. Fendler</td>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Post 164 – Falmouth</td>
<td>Donald K. Farr</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 75 – Old Town</td>
<td>Eugene R. Spencer</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 171 – Harpswell</td>
<td>Charles A. Bibber</td>
<td>WWII/Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 77 – Lincoln</td>
<td>Wayne A. Carney</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 171 – Harpswell</td>
<td>David P. Leland</td>
<td>Korea/Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 79 – Berwick</td>
<td>Mark T. Pilgrim</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Post 181 – Litchfield</td>
<td>G. David Byras Sr.</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 90 – Togus</td>
<td>Lawrence Binette</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 207 – Trenton</td>
<td>Howard B. Clement</td>
<td>WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 90 – Togus</td>
<td>Lawrence Binette</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Post 207 – Trenton</td>
<td>Edric Morin</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

#### District 17

**Veterans Day Celebration:** Members of the Honor Guard and Van Buren Post 49 Members & Auxiliary Officers attended a celebration for Veterans Day at the Van Buren District Secondary/Elementary School. Left to right, Percy Rossignol, Harold Lausier, Joe Cyr, Roy Doucette, Joe Michaud, Camille Lausier, Alphy Durette, Albertine Mazerolle, Barbara Bossie.

**Recognition Night:** Van Buren Post 49/Unit 49 Officers at Recognition Night with Dept. Officers, left to right, Post 1st Vice Commander Alphy Durette, Jackie Durette, Post Adjutant Roy Doucette, District 7 Department Vice President Joan Doucette, Unit President Barbara Bosse, Unit Vice-President Joyce Michaud, Post Commander Joe Michaud, State 1st Vice Commander, Randolph Kluj, Auxiliary Department President Veronica Gurney, Auxiliary Department Historian Virginia Chaput, and for the evening, Soloist Janice Lapointe.

**2016 Legionnaire of the Year:** Van Buren Post 49 Chaplain Fr. David Cote was elected Legionnaire of the Year 2016 and was presented a Post #49 jacket.

### A Wonderful Meal At District 17 Meeting:

A wonderful meal was given to those in attendance at the District 17 meeting held at Frenchville Post 145 on Nov. 6. The meal at $10 per plate was chicken cordon-bleu and trimmings. Some of those in attendance are pictured here: standing, District 17 Sgt-At-Arms Eugene Michaud, seated, right, District 17 Commander Sheri Drake, and near the wall is Auxiliary member Carmen Guerrette.

### Frenchville Post 145 Hosts District 17 Meeting:

District 17 meeting held at Frenchville Post 145 on Nov. 6. Left to right, Frenchville Post 145 Commander Bob Sinclair, District 17 Adjutant Lloyd Woods, District 17 Commander Sheri Drake, Chaplain Roger Bosse, and Frenchville Post 145 President of Auxiliary Jackie Michaud. Photo by District 17 Sgt.-At-Arms Eugene Michaud.

### Frenchville Post 145 Ladies Auxiliary Puts On A Great Meal For District:

Auxiliary members did a great job on the meal at the District 17 meeting held at Frenchville Post 145 on Nov. 6. Left to right, Bern Albert, Denise Sinclair, Claudette Thibeault, Stella Ouellette, Vic Bosse, and seated is Cleo Ouellette selling tickets.
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2017 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 28, 2017.

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 to 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
or via email at:

legionme@mainelegion.org.

Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 28

Recognition Supper: Dirigo Boys and Girls State recognition supper was held at Rumford Post 24 on Nov. 6. Boys State delegates are pictured here with Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston and Rumford Post 24 Commander Bill Petrie. Left to right, Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, Jacob Beauchesne, John Pepin, Jesse Pelletier, Andrew Arsenault and Rumford Post 24 Commander Bill Petrie.

Legion & Auxiliary Exchange Words: Eastern Division National Auxiliary V.P. Patti Lach of Maryland, right, Past Department President Mary Jane McLoon, left, and back, left to right, Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley and Service Office Administrative Assistant Eileen Krawczyk exchange words during the MWC banquet held at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Jan. 21.

2017 American Legion State Oratorical Winner: Marina Long, a Freshman at Sanford Christian Academy representing District 1 at the 2017 State Oratorical Contest placed first in the constitutional speech contest with her award winning speech performed Feb. 11 at Thomas College in Waterville. State Commander Peter Johnson, left, awards Miss Long with a check in the amount of $1,500, a medal and Certificate of Achievement for her accomplishment. Miss Long will compete at the National level in April for a chance to win up to $18,000 in scholarships. State Adjutant Paul L’Heureux is seen here on right.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY:

PLEASE VISIT
WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW