National Commander’s Visit Continues...

**Scarborough Post**

76 Finance Officer Duane Jutting, left, receives Honorary Life Member Certificate from Scarborough Post 75 Commander Philip Ceasar and National Commander Dale Barnett during the National Commander’s visit to the Post on Apr. 3.

**West Paris**

Post 151 gathers many members during the National Commander’s visit to the new Post home on Apr. 2.

**Naples Post 155**

National Commander Dale Barnett, left, and State Commander Ronald Rainfrette prepare to open the National Commander’s Banquet Ceremony held at Naples Post 155 on Apr 2. Looking on is Dept. 1st Vice Commander and M/C for the banquet Peter Johnson.

**Scarborough Post**

National Commander’s Banquet: National Commander Dale Barnett, left, and State Commander Ronald Rainfrette prepare to open the National Commander’s Banquet Ceremony held at Naples Post 155 on Apr 2. Looking on is Dept. 1st Vice Commander and M/C for the banquet Peter Johnson.

**Korean War Veterans & Brothers**

Longtime members of Buckfield Post 58, Korean War Veterans and brothers receive recognition from National Commander Dale Barnett at Buckfield Post 58 during his visit to the Post on Apr. 2. Left to right, Merton Jones, Shirley Jones, National Commander Dale Barnett, back, left to right, Buckfield Post 58 Commander James Lowell and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Peter Johnson.

**Standish Post 128**

Commander Bruce Robuo receives 100% Membership Certificate from National Commander Dale Barnett, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Peter Johnson, right, during the National Commander’s visitation to Standish Post 128 on Apr. 3.

**Naples Post 155**

Naples Post 155: National Commander Dale Barnett presents District 2 Commander and Naples Post 155 Adjutant Curtis Merrill, left, with his National writing pen during the National Commander’s Banquet held at Naples Post 155 on Apr 2.

**Buckfield Post 58**

Women’s Advisory Committee members Barbara Finkbeiner and Gloria Hall receive Appreciation Certificates from WAWVAC Chairwomen Patricia Thurston and National Commander Dale Barnett during the National Commander’s visit to Buckfield Post 58 on Apr. 2. Left to right, Barbara Finkbeiner, Gloria Hall, Patricia Thurston, and National Commander Dale Barnett.

**Buckfield Post 58**

Women’s Advisory Committee members Barbara Finkbeiner and Gloria Hall receive Appreciation Certificates from WAWVAC Chairwomen Patricia Thurston and National Commander Dale Barnett during the National Commander’s visit to Buckfield Post 58 on Apr. 2. Left to right, Barbara Finkbeiner, Gloria Hall, Patricia Thurston, and National Commander Dale Barnett.
**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE OFFICIAL CALL FOR NINETY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the ninety-eighth Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Bangor, Maine, June 17-19, 2016.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 17, 2016, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 18, 2016, at 9 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at the Cross Insurance 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 2016 National Convention to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio; 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 18, 2016. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any 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 Cross Insurance Center on Friday, June 17, 2016, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of the American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following a 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 Cross Insurance Center on Sunday, June 19, 2016. 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 Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, Maine, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2016.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2016 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 18, 2016. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credentialed 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 17, 2016, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms; Department National Executive Committee, and Department National Executive Committee Alternate.

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

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 18, 2016, 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 18, 2016, 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 Cross Insurance Center on Saturday, June 18, 2016. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 18, 2016, 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 2016 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 18, 2016. 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 18, 2016, at 7 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

**RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS**

There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant.

This call will be read in all posts and district organizations and posted upon the bulletin boards of all posts. This call is being sent to the officers on record. If new officers have been elected, please transmit this information to them.

Official:
Paul L’Heureux
Department Adjutant

Ronald Rainfrette
Department Commander
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
98th Annual State Convention Program
June 17-19, 2016
Cross Insurance Center
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 17, 2016
Resolutions Committee (9 a.m.)
Cross Insurance Center, Bangor – Open hearing

First Session
Friday, June 17, 2016

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)
Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of Colors
Invocation
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance
POW/MIA Table
TAPS
Preamble
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules & Organization
Welcome
Greetings
Legion Baseball Update
Maine Blind Camp Update
History Awards
Greetings
American Legion Riders Update
American Legion Auxiliary
Past Commander’s Club
Employer of Veterans Award
Introduction of Past Commanders
& Past Legioneers of the Year
Legionnaires of the Year Award
Beals House
VAVS Update & VAVS Awards
Greetings
Convention Site Report
Department Finance Update
Nomination of Dept. Officers
Announcements
3:30 p.m. Past Dept. Cmdrs. Club Meeting
5:00 p.m. Past Dept. Cmdrs. Club Dinner

Second Session
Saturday, June 18, 2016

Greetings
Greetings
Greetings
Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)
Presentation of Colors
Greetings
Department Commander, Ronald Rainfrette
Department SGT.-AT-ARMS, Patricia Thurston
Governor, Hon. Paul LePage & First Lady, Ann LePage
Greetings
Maine Adjutant Gen., Brigadier General
Douglas A. Farnham

Second Session continued:
Saturday, June 18, 2016

Greetings
Greetings
Post 911 Vet. Advisory Committee Update
Emergency People of the Year Awards
Togus
Humanitarian Award
Oratorical Winner of Maine
Legionnaire Insurance Trust
Red Cross Presentation
Service Office Update & P&O Award
Greetings
Update on National Security
Americanism Awards
Women’s Advisory Committee Update
Canadian Friendship Award
Greetings
Maine Veteran Honor Flight
Department Finance Update
Children & Youth & DEL Scholarships
Maine Special Olympics
Eagle Scout of the Year
Boys State Update
Public Relations Update
4th Estate Awards
Presentation of Television/Radio Awards
Roger’s Rangers & Tony’s Tigers Awards
Legislative Update/Awards
Membership Awards
Department Officer Awards
Report of Committee on Resolutions
Greetings
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.
Response
Report of Credentials Committee
Greetings
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting
Announcements
Benediction
Retirement of Colors
Adjournment (Sine Die)
7 p.m. Installation of Legion, Auxiliary, SAL

Sunday, June 19, 2016
Cross Insurance Center

8:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee
Cross Insurance Center, Bangor
Department Officer Candidates 2016

PETER JOHNSON
Commander
Greenville Post 94

RANDALL KLUJ
1st Vice Commander
Milo Post 41

SCOTT PARADIS
2nd Vice Commander
Corinna Post 73

RONALD CARON
Historian
Sabattus Post 135

DEBRA COUTURE
Americanism
Litchfield Post 181

PATRICIA THURSTON
Sergeant-At-Arms
Rumford Post 24

RAMONA NARAGON
NEC
Lisbon Post 158

RONALD RAINFRETTE
NECA
Rockland Post 1

2016 Resolution Index

Resolution 1 Change in Eligibility of Membership in the America Legion
RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 17-19, 2016, that the American Legion should remove all dates of service as a condition for membership
Submitted by Hampden Memorial Post 213

Resolution 2 Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) Conducted by the Military Services be Provided to Military Members Thirteen (13) Months Prior to Separation to Ensure Separation Individuals Meet Career Readiness Standards (CRS).
RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 17-19, 2016, that those commanders or designees working within Capstone clearly understand the DOD’s expectations and their commitment to transitioning Service members and the importance of their role in the CRS portion of the TAP; and it be further
RESOLVED, that the DOD will provide those Service members required to attend TAP sessions adequate time to thoroughly research and make those pivotal life choices that include exercising their GI Bill benefit, reenlistment or joining the civilian workforce with the confidence and they have researched and do understand the significance the TAP session; and it be further
RESOLVED, that the CRS portion is presented so as to create sufficient anxiety that Service members put sufficient effort into their individual choices; and it be further
RESOLVED, that during the CRS portion of the TAP for comparison purposes that Service members are provided with civilian pay necessities that would be equivalent to replace their Military salary and benefit package, and it be further
RESOLVED, that the CRS portion of TAP be mandatory and held thirteen months prior to projected separation; and it be further
RESOLVED, that this proposed change to the TAP process be made within six months, and be it further
RESOLVED, being that the DOD is aware that there are as many organizations offering assistance for transitioning Service members but that the CRS will include only vetted and a manageable number of resources to begin researching and refining their choices; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the DOL, Veterans Administration and various State specific agencies are partners in this effort, and be it further
RESOLVED, that included within the vetted resources will be access to State specific Bureau of Veteran Services, State specific DOL’s a link to vets.gov, links to cost of living index websites, and links to “hot job market” websites; and be it finally
RESOLVED, that those Service members who will be retiring would not be required to attend the early CRS portion of TAP.
Submitted by John Bates

Resolution 3 Area Commanders Cap
RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 17-19, 2016, that the Area Commanders Cap be changed from the old County cap, the solid blue cap with white piping, to the District cap, the blue cap with the white crown.

BALLOT

Anyone wishing to run for Department Office and be on the printed ballet must submit a letter of intent and a copy of their discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office prior to May 18, 2016
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Kennebunk Post 74 held a ceremony to honor Harry Ambrose, left, with a 50 year certificate on Apr. 6. The certificate was presented by Kennebunk Post 74 Commander Dennis Lamontange during a Post meeting attended by Ambrose’s friends and colleagues.

District 2

“A Blast From The Past”


Anyone with historical photos or information that depict what The American Legion of Maine has provided for the past 98 years and would enjoy sharing for publication in an ongoing section of The Maine Legionnaire called “A Blast From the Past”, please mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me. 04901-0727.

District 3

District 5 Award: New 5th District Commanders Award given to Buckfield Post 58 on Apr. 20. New traveling award that will be presented to the Post with the highest members in attendance at the district meetings. Left to right, Incoming District 5 Commander Shawn Coffin, Buckfield Post 58 Commander, James Lowell, and Buckfield Post 58 members Merton Jones and Ralph Hart.

Auburn Post 153 Installation: American Legion, William J. Rogers, Post 153, held its installation of officers on Apr. 15. Front row, left to right, Adjutant Ken Winter, Finance Tibby Dupuis, Post Commander Dan St. Pierre, Service Officer Keith Davis, and 2nd Vice Commander Steve Simard. Back row, left to right, National Committee Officer Romona Naragon, Trustee Fern Labbe, Trustee Hugh Brown Jr., and Judge Advocate Paul L’Heureux, Judge Advocate. Missing from Photo, 1st Vice Commander David Jacobs Pratt, Chaplain Claire Poirier, Sgt. At-Arms Bud Caouette, Trustee Ben Watson.

District 5

Standish Post 128: Bonny Eagle High School (BEHS) students Ronahn Clarke, Wyatt Fowler, Trevor Hustus, Graham Munro-Ludders, and Noah Oja have been selected by Standish Memorial Post 128 to attend the 69th annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program to be held this year at Thomas College in Waterville during the week of June 19-23. The students were nominated by the faculty at BEHS and selected by Post 128 because they have demonstrated above their peers the desired qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty, and service to their school and community. A special note of thanks to Brian McManus for contributing this year, and to the Standish Kiwanis, Norway Savings Bank, and Past Commander and 1st Vice Commander Lou Stack for again contributing funds to sponsor these deserving young men. Left to right, Standish Post 128 1st Vice Commander Lou Stack, Ronahn Clarke, Wyatt Fowler, Trevor Hustus, and Graham Munro-Ladder. Noah Oja not pictured.
District 5 continued

Area Veterans Outreach Program

Anderson Staples Post 112 reached out to area veterans and families through a Veterans Benefit Information Seminar on March 5th at the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. The event was extremely well attended considering the Republican caucuses were going on at the same time. Fifty Five veterans were given current copies of federal and state benefit books, along with updated information on the Camp Lejeune water contamination, the addition of naval ships added to the exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam, burn pit registry contact information, Veterans Choice Program and other handouts. Additionally, fifteen “Korean Reborn” books were presented to Korean War veterans and family members.

Attendees heard program directors from the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services, Department of Labor, Pine Tree Legal, Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration, discussing benefits, program changes, and participated in a question and answer session. “There was a lot of topics discussed and valuable information put out,” said Rick Nugent Post Service Officer. Not only were we able to deliver this much needed updated information, we were able to assist two veterans with enrollment assistance into VA health care, two potential claims and one surviving spouse with a potential for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Claim on the spot, as well as three potential new members for the Post.”

Oxford Post 112 1st Vice Commander Randy Jack stands ready to man the recruiting and service information table prior to the Veterans Information Benefit Seminar on March 5.

Discussion Panel: Oxford Post 112 Service Officer Rick Nugent introduces discussion panel at the Veterans Benefit Seminar held at the Oxford Hills High School March 5. Seated, left to right: Director Adria Horn Maine Bureau of Veterans Services, Mark Cater Department of Labor LVER, Keri Karsten Rural Veterans Coordinator, Karen Staples Administrative Assistant for Congressman Bruce Poliquin, Patrick Crowley Veterans Benefits Administration, Mike Ouellsie Togus Homeless Veterans Representative, James Doherty Veterans Health Administration, Rob Liscord Veterans Outreach Coordinator Pine Tree Legal, and Attorney Krista Selna Pine Tree Legal and Veterans Medical Legal Coordinator. Missing from the photo was LaRhonda Harris, Woman’s Veterans Program Manager.

District 6

Legion Post 30 Honors Local Business for Flying American Flag

Rockport — Flying the American Flag is a symbol of patriotism and is a way to honor the sacrifices men and women made who fought and served their country to help retain basic human rights.

Joe and Ginny Ryan, owners of Adventure Advertising, were honored by the Camden American Legion Post No. 30, April 6 as the first recipient of a Certificate of Recognition for Proper American Flag Display.

“This is a new program we started to recognize businesses that properly and proudly display the American Flag,” Legionnaire Jeff Sukeforth said. “There are many government buildings that fly the flag and we hope by recognizing smaller, private business in town, more will begin to do so. It is also our way to say thank you for properly displaying their American Flag.”

As for the Ryan’s, Ginny said that it is a great honor to be recognized and question why anyone would not fly their country’s flag. “We live in America, why wouldn’t we fly the flag?” Ryan said. “I come from a military family and it’s our way of showing respect and a basic way to show patriotism. We are not just Americans on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, we are Americans every day.”

Camden Post 30: Frank Carr, left, Commander of the Camden American Legion Post No. 30, recognized Ginny and Joe Ryan, center, of Adventure Advertising as the first recipient of its Certificate of Proper American Flag Display April 6. Also pictured is Post Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth.

North Haven Post 33 Attains 100% Membership

State Commander Ronald Rainfrette presents North Haven Post 33 Commander Jerry White, left, with a 100% Membership Certificate during the District 6 meeting held Feb. 27. Looking on is District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, right, and Area 3 Commander Stephen Jarrett, back, center.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

St. George Post 34 Receives 100% Membership Award:
During the District 6 meeting held Feb 27, St. George Post 34 Adjutant Jan Guadlo accepts a 100% Membership Certificate from Area 3 Commander Stephen Jarrett. Looking on is District 6 Commander Ray Lewis.

Thomaston Post 37 Receives 100% Membership:
Thomaston Post 37 Commander William Demmons is presented with a 100% Membership Award by State Commander Ronald Rainfrette and District 6 Commander Ray Lewis at the District 6 meeting held Feb 27. Left to right, Thomaston Post 37 Commander William Demmons, Area 3 Commander Stephen Jarrett, State Commander Ronald Rainfrette, and District 6 Commander Ray Lewis.

New Post 37 Adjutant:
Kent Woodward is sworn in as the new Adjutant for Thomaston Post 37 at the Feb. 27 District meeting by District 6 Commander Ray Lewis. Looking on is State Commander Ron Rainfrette, Past National Vice Commander and current State Legislative Committee Chairman William “Chick” Cicotti, Area 3 Commander Stephen Jarrett, and Post 37 Commander William Demmons.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Remembering Brunswick Naval Air Station
REUNION
July 15 – 17, 2016 Brunswick, Maine

A re you a former Military Personnel or Civilian Employee stationed at NAS Brunswick? Join us for REUNION 2016. All Family members of Military Personnel and dependents also are welcome.

We are looking for you!
We want you to join us for a weekend of fun, July 15-17, 2016 for great food, family, old friends, new friends…and much, much more!

We need to hear from you NOW! It’s not too soon, the excitement is building, activities are being scheduled, the sooner we know how many to plan for, the more we can do. http://bnaendregion

Don’t miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity, this may be the only reunion we have.

Local HS Referee Barrett Honored

Longtime football official recognized. Dennis Barrett has seen it all, both in the Navy and during his civil service career that followed.

The native of Springfield, Ill., who spent several years assigned to Brunswick Naval Air Station, both as a sailor and a civilian, also saw plenty on high school football fields throughout Maine.

It was his time on the gridiron that led “Denny” to receive the State of Maine Chapter’s Football Official Recognition Award recently.

“I was really surprised when they called me and told me they were recognizing me for my accomplishments,” said Barrett, who resides in Brunswick. “I felt very honored to be a representative of the Augusta Chapter of the Maine Association of Football Officials. It is a real honor that these guys honored me.”

Barrett served his country for 20 years, spending his entire career at the BNAS.

“I was told that I was assigned to (air squadron) VP-26. Had no idea what it was,” remembered Barrett. “When I got here and saw those big P2s I was amazed. I got into the squadron and loved the area. I spent my entire career in Brunswick.”

Barrett enjoyed being stationed in one place for 20 years.

“It was easier to raise a family,” said Barrett, who transitioned as an air crewman when the P3s were introduced to bases in Brunswick and Jacksonville, Fla.

“I liked it mostly because of what I was doing and I liked the area. I was comfortable in it. When you get orders to somewhere else, you don’t know what you will be facing. I got into the flying part of my career and something that I thoroughly enjoyed.

After retiring as a chief petty officer, Barrett moved into the civil service, serving in the base’s supply department before transitioning as the supervisor of the fuel farm, retiring in 2011.

“During his enlisted time, Barrett began to officiate football games.

“When I was a young boy, I really enjoyed watching the referees work games,” said Barrett. “Ron Gibbs, who was an NFL official at the time, inspired me. When my father died when I was 9-years old, for four years I played football. When I came up here, I started doing base football games, basketball games, and that led me on. I found out where I could go to get involved in this.”

He signed on to work through the Portland board, which assigned officials for high school football games in southern Maine.

“I enjoyed the Portland board, but it was hard to get established because I was deployed during the football season,” said Barrett, who later moved to the Augusta board, where he remained until retiring from the field in 2012.

“The Augusta board has treated me with great respect,” said Barrett. “I was an instructor on the board, teaching the new officials. I had medical problems in 2012 that forced me to retire from the field.”

That didn’t end Barrett’s contributions to the game of football. When attending Mt. Ararat High School football games, Barrett can be seen working in the announcer’s booth. He continues to teach the game to officials.

“I teach the class for the students to learn the rules and mechanics of the game,” said Barrett. “Plus, I do a lot of

More on BARRETT, Page 22
District 8 continued

Barrett (Continued from Page 21)

...now (Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, Portland), and schools can choose boards to work their games. Boards watch out for each other.”

Of the ceremony, Barrett had his moment in the sun during a dinner at Bowdoin College, where he was honored with a plaque. Coaches were also honored during the ceremony, and scholarships were handed out to high school students.

“I am so very honored,” concluded Barrett.

THE TIMES RECORD – REFEREE BARRETT ARTICLE – APRIL 4TH 2016
MIDCOAST MAINE’S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER
BY BOB CONN
Times Record Staff – Brunswick

Dennis is a current member and Past Post Commander of the Corry-Edwin Garver Post 202, Topsham.

CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS!!!

Photos by Post 216 Public Affairs Officers Mike Young.

Continuous Membership Award: Phippsburg Post 216 Service Officer Chuck Mainville receives his 7 year continuous membership certificate from Commander Ken Kellogg, right, as Sgt-at-Arms David Barnes, left, looks on.

Initiation Certificate: Phippsburg Post 216 members Alice Koleczynski and Chet Koleczynski receive their original initiation certificates from Commander Ken Kellogg as Sgt-at-Arms David Barnes, left, and Service Officer Chuck Mainville (background) watch.

District 9

Karaoke At Augusta
Post 2: Augusta Post 2 Commander Pat Eisenhart presents a Certificate of Award for Best Singer to Melissa Leland who was the winner of the first Post Karaoke contest to raise money for Boys State. The Post will be holding weekly competitions on Friday nights until a winners compete for the championship on April 1.
District 9 continued

Congratulations!!!
District 9
for providing the most number of pictures & articles for publication in The Maine Legionnaire.

Augusta Post 2 Raises Money For Boys State: Augusta Post 2 members and guests who participated in the Augusta Post 2 paint party to raise money for Boys State on March 4.

Camden National Bank Sponsors Boys State Delegates: Camden National Armor Street Branch in Augusta will sponsor two high school juniors who will attend Boys State at Thomas College in June. Camden VP Vicnaire said “Camden National is proud to support Boys State to help prepare our youth for governmental leadership in the future.” He commended the American Legion for its excellent work in serving children and youth throughout the state.

Birthday Celebration: Augusta Post 2 held a gathering for The American Legion's Birthday. The Legions birthday was celebrated with a wonderful ham dinner followed by many thanks of those who were present that had made personal contributions to The American Legion programs. The day ended with music & dancing for all.

Celebrating 97 Years

The wartime veterans, family, and friends of Augusta American Legion Post 2 held a dinner in celebration of its 97 years of service to veterans, children and youth, Americanism and national security.

The guest speaker was Department of Maine American Legion Adjutant Paul L’Heureux who presented Post Commander Patrick Eisenhart a copy of the Proclamation signed by Governor LePage making March 15 American Legion Day.

March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 – for the day in 1776 when rebelling patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born – March 15 is the day on which the Legion came to life.

Since its inception, the American Legion has grown to be the largest veterans’ organization in the state of Maine and in the nation. Nationally there are 2.4 million members. In Maine, there are 18,000 wartime veterans.

At the birthday dinner, Adjutant L’Heureux gave some highlights of the accomplishments of the American Legion which included being the moving force to get the G.I. Educational Bill approved by Congress and the founding of the Veterans’ Administration. The Adjutant urged post members to keep in the forefront the history and mission of the American Legion.

In 2012, the national organization reported among the many contribution of posts across the country as $4,621,177 in community services, $1,585,868 for VA hospitals, $1,993,951 in cash for Children and Youth activities, $3,144,734 for Boys State, $830,053 for Scholarships, $5,925,258 for Legion Baseball, and support for 2,097 Scouting units.

Augusta Post 2 Commander Eisenhart who also serves as the Department of Maine Public Relations Chair closed out the dinner by saying “We have 174 Posts in this state of Maine who work tirelessly to carry out the proud history and tradition of service of the American Legion. I am proud to be associated with each and every one. We thank Governor LePage for helping make our birthday celebration special.”

American Legion Public Relations Chairman Patrick Eisenhart
On November 1, 1866, the first Federal veterans facility hospital-home established for disabled veterans who served in volunteer forces of the Union Army, known then as the Eastern Branch of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, opened near Augusta, Maine. It was the first federal institution ever established for veterans of volunteer military forces and was the origins of today's VA hospital system.

In the wake of the American Civil War, thousands of men—many of whom were amputees and recent immigrants with no families—desperately needed help. Many of the men could not return to their prior civilian occupations as farmers, factory and railroad workers, and such, because of their war injuries and disabilities. The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, re-named as the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) in 1873, provided medical care, housing, schools, job training, jobs, and other services to the disabled veterans in a residential setting.

The Civil War prison at Point Lookout, Maryland, was authorized as site for the first National Home in 1865, but a clear title could not be obtained, so the summer resort known as Togus Springs in Maine came under consideration instead. Horace Beals, a wealthy New York businessman, had purchased the resort in 1859 from Orren Emerson and invested roughly $100,000 to make it into a summer resort comparable to Saratoga Springs. Beals died in the fall of 1864 and his family could not keep up the property, so his heirs sold it.

The urgent needs of disabled veterans, hindered by nearly a year of delays in forming a working Board of Managers, forced the first National Home to open before it was fully ready. A Congressional amendment reorganized the Board of Managers from a body of 100 to 12 in March 1866 and shortly afterwards two of its members, Gov. Frederick Smyth of New Hampshire and Hon. Lewis Gunckel, visited the Togus resort and recommended it as the first National Home.

In early September 1866, newspapers announced the arrival of General Edward W. Hincks (who was still on active duty with the Army) to prepare the old resort for the admission of war veterans. The home’s first surgeon, Dr. Bowman B. Breed of Lynn, Massachusetts, arrived in early October and brought the first patient with him: James P. Nickerson, formerly a private in Company A of the 19th Massachusetts Volunteers. According to NHDVS Board of Manager records, the official opening date of the Eastern Branch was November 1, 1866, although the first patient of record was admitted on October 6, 1866. Dr. Breed’s appointment did not take official effect until December 1866, but he was paid from October 6, 1866.

Like all other National Homes, the Eastern Branch provided a cemetery as a final resting place for the veterans. Today all of the NHDVS cemeteries are national cemeteries and maintained as national shrines to honor the nation’s patriots buried there.

The NHDVS Eastern Branch at Togus, Maine, and the NHDVS other 10 branches, became part of the Veterans Administration during the second consolidation of federal veterans’ programs in 1930. The Veterans Administration was elevated to a Cabinet-level department in October 1988 and renamed as the Department of Veterans Affairs. The former NHDVS Eastern Branch has operated continuously since it opened in 1866, serving generations of American veterans that fought in every U.S. war, and today is known as the Maine VA Health Care System.
District 9 continued

William R. Bold Post 181, Litchfield: Greg Couture presents a $200 check from Litchfield Post 181 to Rayna Leibowitz of the Litchfield Food. The food bank can purchase over 1250 pounds of food with this donation.

District 10

Legion Birthday Celebration: Madison Post 39 celebrate Legion’s Birthday with a birthday cake provided by the Auxiliary. Left to right John Bryant, Post 39 Commander Ralph Withee, Cecil Dow and Bob McGlashing.

Legion Birthday Check Presented: Madison Unit 39 Auxiliary President Robin Turek presents Madison Post 39 Commander Ralph Withee with a check for $200 for the Legion’s Birthday.

Dirigo Girls State Delegates: Two Dirigo Girl State Delegates from Carrabec High School speak at Madison Post 39’s March meeting of their experiences and participation at Girl State this past June. Left to right, Auxiliary Unit 39 President Robin Turek, Bianca Beaulieu, Brianna Lesperance and Harriet Bryant, Education Chairperson.

Skowhegan Post 16 held a special event at the Post home on Mar. 13 in celebration of their 70th birthday. It was a combination of membership day and a day for people from Skowhegan and the surrounding area to find out what the American Legion was about. A luncheon was served with many homemade desserts from the area! Unit 16 President Ronda Pooler and Tim Pooler worked in the kitchen cooking hotdogs. Larry Johnson and Tina Richard enjoyed the food and great company with their fellow Legionnaires.

Zumba-thon For Vets: The Madison Auxiliary Unit 39 sponsored a Zumba-thon for Vets on Apr. 8 to benefit the VA/VSS programs at Togus. There were over 50 participants that did Zumba for two hours with seven different instructors. With the registration fee, selling of American Pride bracelets and “Hero Bags” (pictured in the background) over $1,200 was raised. Tiara Nile who is a member of the Auxiliary Unit #39 and Zumba instructor, organized this event.
**District 11**

Unity Post 50:
Department Commander Ronald Rainfrette awards Gerald Parker and Ron Cropley the Meritorious Service Medal and certificate for their many years of service to District 11 during the District 11 meeting held at Unity Post 50 on April 25. Both Gerry and Ron have served several times as District commander and each has held most all the other positions within the District. These two Legionnaires are credited as being instrumental in keeping District 11 active over these many, many years and are well deserving of this recognition. Left to right, Department Commander Ronald Rainfrette, Gerald Parker and District 11 and Post 50 Finance Officer Ron Cropley.

**District 13**

Lincoln Post 77:
Department 2nd Vice Commander Randy Kluj, left, and Lincoln Post 77 Commander Darrell Savage, right, presents Roland Shorey with a 50 Year Membership during the District 13 Meeting held at Hampden Post 213 on Apr. 3.

**District 14**

Milo Post 41 Meritorious Service award was issued to Willard L. Leeman, left, of Milo on Mar. 2 for his outstanding and meritorious service at the Joseph P. Chaisson Post. Willard was personally responsible for 23 membership renewals which led to the post reaching and exceeding 100% membership for the year 2015-2016. Pictured with 5th Area Commander Willard Leeman is Post 41 Commander and Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Randall G. Kluj.

**VA Grant Expands Transportation in Piscataquis County**

Are you a Veteran and live in Piscataquis County? Penquis-Lynx, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the White House Rural Council announced that the State of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars has been awarded a second year a $50,000 grant which will improve access to healthcare for Veterans living in Piscataquis County. The grant will assist 1,110 Maine Veterans in Piscataquis County by funding transportation services for Veterans to and from VA medical centers, VA outpatient community clinics, specifically Bangor VA and Lincoln VA clinics, and other facilities that provide VA care. The grant is part of a program authorized by Congress to help State Veteran Service Agencies and Veterans Service Organizations operate of contract for transportation services to transport Veterans.

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs Secretary is strongly committed to provide this level of service to Veterans. “VA is committed to ensuring all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, have access to the healthcare they have earned through service to our Country”, said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “This grant will play a critical role in expanding access to VA healthcare for Veterans”.

For more information call Rella Poulin, Togus Transportation Office, 207-623-8411, ext. 5239.
**Taps Column**

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

**District 17**

Madawaska Post 147 presents Chairman of the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Corporation in Caribou, Harry Haf-ford, left, with a check in the amount of $1,000 to assist in the ongoing project to renovate the com-mittal shelter at the cemetery. Presenting the check on behalf of the post is Past National Vice Commander/ Past Department Commander and member of Post 147, Lloyd Woods.

70 Year Membership Certificate: Perkins Plourde
Post 136 Stockholm member John C. Sodergren, receives his 70 year membership certificate from National. Mr. Sodergren was presented the certificate by Post Commander Herman Fisher and Vice Commander Andy Olson.

**Past Commanders Club**

B y the time that you read this article, the Department Convention will be just a few weeks away. We are receiving applications for the two scholarships that will be awarded this year. As in the past, the judging is difficult because of the quality of the many young students applying for the scholarships. We only wish we could do more for the talent that exists in the great state of Maine, but we are grateful for the continued support that many Legion posts give to this program.

I want to remind you all that this program continues to collect $2.00 annual dues from January till December of each year. It requires your post has paid, we will have a table set up at the state convention in Bangor to help you sort that out. We will also have membership cards as our current records will be on hand for you to update and to make any corrections if needed. Remember, we are talking about $2 per Past Commander. So if your post has eight living past commanders, that makes $16 a year to support the two scholarships of $500. “We take checks or cash” and we look forward to talking with you at the convention.

For current information, you may contact me via email at coldeagle@gmail.com or call 207-239-1182.

CATHY MERRILL
Secretary/Treasurer

Stockholm Post 136 presents a plaque to Commander Herman Fisher for at least 6 years service to the Post. On Herman’s left is Danny Olson, presenter representing the post and on his right is Andy Olson, Post Vice Commander.
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2016 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be August 5, 2016.

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 Aug. 5

LD 1612 Signing Ceremony: Governor Paul R. LePage signs LD 1612 into law on April 14, 2016. LD 1612 combines several legislative proposals to improve the delivery of services and benefits to Maine veterans and provide tuition assistance to members of the Maine National Guard. The LD 1612 combined five bills providing them with a vehicle to receive funding. One of the bills includes LD 1590 "An Act To Exempt from the Sales and Use Tax Sales to Certain Veterans' Organizations Funding Direct Supportive Services to Veterans and Their Families". Governor LePage is pictured here signing the bill into law at a signing ceremony he held in the Cabinet Room with members from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Photo published in the Maine Wire.