Michael D. Helm was elected national commander of the 2.4 million member American Legion on Aug. 28, 2014, in Charlotte, N.C., during the 96th national convention of America’s largest veterans organization.

A U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab in 1972. He has been a member of Jack Helt American Legion Post 313 at Lebanon, Neb., since 1972. Born in McCook, Neb., he grew up in Norcatur, Kansas, where he currently resides. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

Helm served as commander of the Department of Nebraska from 1987 to 1988 and as a national vice commander from 2003 to 2004. He also served as the national commander’s representative to the National Legislative Commission, the chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.

He was Nebraska’s first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve as Nebraska’s official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

Mike’s wife Debbie is active in The American Legion Auxiliary having served as District 9 president and as the Department Junior Activities Chairwoman. They are the parents of five young Legion family members. Aaron and his wife Robie, both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; Rebecca and her husband Jaron Cox, both graduates of Kansas State University; Jacob, a senior cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy; Matthew, an Army ROTC cadet at Kansas State University and Timothy, a student at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin, Kansas.

Helm took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice commanders are Doug Haggan, Department of France; Paul O. Sandford, Department of Kansas; Richard W. Neville, Department of North Carolina; William R. Bryant, Department of Virginia; and Gerald L. Jacobs, of Wyoming.

They each represent regions that cover the 50 states, District of Columbia and overseas departments of The American Legion.

National Historian Sue Mason, Long Beach, Calif.; National Sergeant-at-Arms Leon Hagan, of Beatrice, Neb.; and National Chaplain Randy Cash, Columbia, S.C., were appointed to their positions by Cmdr. Helm following the close of the national convention.

**National Commander’s Pin Incentive**

During the 2014-2015 membership year, National Commander Mike Helm will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2015 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2014 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Aug. 30. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Helm's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2015, or when supplies are exhausted.

[http://www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin)

To obtain a copy of the National Commander’s Pin Certification form, please visit [http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/commanders_pin_certification.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/commanders_pin_certification.pdf) or call Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229. See page 10 for National Commander’s Honor Ribbon.

Yarmouth Post 91 member Charles R. Tibbits, 4th from left, joins the Maine Delegation at the 96th Annual National Convention in Charlotte, NC while visiting his son. Left to right, National Executive Committeeman Alternate Brenda Dearborn, Jennifer Hargreaves, National Executive Committeeman John Hargreaves, Charles R. Tibbits, Audrey L’Heureux, and Department Adjutant Paul L. ‘Heureux.”
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, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Me 04903-0900, email: legion-me@mainelegion.org, or Tel: (207) 873-3229.

Calling all ‘Snowbirds’

The American Legion, Department of Maine continues to offer its “Snowbird” address change service. If you are a Snowbird, for example, you live in Maine from April-October and Florida from November-March, please fill out the attached SNOWBIRD FORM below and mail the form as soon as possible to The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine. The completed form can also be faxed to (207) 872-0501, or sent via email by visiting us online at www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Applications. If you are a member who moves between the same two addresses at the same time each year, please remember to check the box provided. By checking this box, you will not have to notify us again unless you have a change in either address or time. Please take advantage of this “Snowbird” address change service the department is offering. It not only allows you to continue to receive The Maine Legionnaire newspaper or any other mail from The Department of Maine, but will also help us reduce the cost we spend on the abundance of mail that gets returned to the department due to addresses not being changed back.

Vietnam Welcome Home Ceremony: National Executive Committee member John Hargreaves and his wife, Jennifer, attend the Vietnam Welcome Home Ceremony at Capitol Park in Augusta on Sept. 21.

Nominate Your Top Scout

The American Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion’s first national convention in 1919. Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. This is natural for Legionnaires who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive traits in our country’s youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community.

The Legion annually honors the Eagle Scout of the Year at the national convention. The winner of the competition receives a $10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded $2,500 scholarships. Further information is also available from department adjutants, or the Americanism and Children & Youth Division: The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 --www.legion.org


Veteran of the Month

Robert L. Berube was born in Lewiston, Maine on November 4, 1942. He graduated from Lewiston High School and then went to college for 2 years at the University of Maine. He enlisted to go into the Army in 1961 where he achieved the rank as Captain. Robert served on the Maine Unit 619 and many other local units in Maine and he also served in part of New Hampshire. He was the Commander of Unit 619 transportation in Auburn, Maine and did numerous things while he was there such as organized the troops to move,notated, safety & security and was a hydraulic engineer.

Robert received the Top Commander Honor, Personal Achievement, Meritorious Medal, and the Unit Citation Medal. Robert was discharged in 1983.

Robert worked in a paper mill in Lisbon, Maine for 3 years. After that, he went into business for himself as a building contractor doing commercial & residential work for 10 years. He also did masonry work. Robert retired in 2005.

Robert got married to his first wife in 1960 and had 3 children; they also had 12 grandchildren. He got remarried in 1994 to Lauren and has 1 stepdaughter.

Robert is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoys his solitude, easy listening music, loves to watch sports on TV (baseball & hockey). He also used to enjoy hiking, boating & skiing and coached & played hockey.

Robert came to the Maine Veterans' Home in So. Paris in July 2013 where he enjoys going to the outings with the other residents. Thank you Robert for your service!
Commander’s Comments

A special thanks to the legionnaires that have paid their dues and remained sustaining members. Approximately 90% of the membership does not presently participate in Post functions for various reasons and that is OK. Your membership sustains this great organization and we remain number one veteran’s organization because of you. Again, thanks for your service and your support.

The other 10% are active in Posts, Districts and Department functions, running programs, serving as officers and committee members. They receive gratification from what they do and the pleasure of doing it together. Many Posts struggle to keep their doors open during these hard times and maintain enough membership at meetings to conduct business. If you ever thought of stepping up, even a little bit will help and be appreciated.

The Fall Conference was a success and one day was 100% training with some great instructors, plus all Department Officers have completed the American Legion Extension Course. 5 out of 6 Area Commanders and 10 out of seventeen District Commanders. This is already making a difference at all levels. We are now concentrating on helping with training for Post commanders and officers as we move forward.

Our relationship with National Headquarters is strong; many officers have been to National Headquarters for training in special programs such as Membership, Americanism, Child and Welfare, Legion Baseball and Support of Legislative issues. Unfortunately, the National Commanders’ visit in October was cancelled as the Commander had to visit overseas and this will be the first year without a visit. The other dates offered were during the week and winter which was not a good idea. With the Winter Conference coming up, we will invite the National Headquarters to send up a representative.

Finally, we need membership teams to visit those that have dropped out or yet to pay their dues for two reasons, what is their condition and why have they dropped out? Are they aware and receiving benefits? Just let them know we care and want them to retain their membership.

A ‘First’ Look

Happy Veteran’s Day! Take the time to thank all veterans who served honorably. This great state of Maine has approximately 168,000 veterans. Memberships and Post Adjutants, make sure not to hold 2014 membership dues. Remember $26.00 goes to state HQ. We have approximately one dozen posts that have not complied with the dues increase. These posts must send the balance before department can process your membership.

If you have any questions, please call Department of Maine Headquarters. Prayers go out to Department Chaplain Earl “Jim” Grant, we all hope for a speedy recovery.

Prepare for 2015 Oratorical

The Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine on February 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 21, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

The main purpose of The High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

This contest is for students who welcome learning... For the student who looks for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship monies, The American Legion’s High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural

More on ORATORICAL, Page 5

On the Agenda

NOVEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS
District 1 — York: Nov. 30, OOB Post 57, 2 p.m. with refreshments to follow.
District 5 — Oxford: Nov. 18, Bethel Post 81, 7 p.m., speaker and refreshments
District 9 — Kennebec: Nov. 12, Gardiner Post 4, 7 p.m.
District 11 — Waldo: Nov. 16, Palermo Post 163, 2 p.m. Pot-luck family luncheon, 3 p.m. Rather than exchange gifts, please bring non-perishable food for needy families for Thanksgiving or comfort items for Togus. If you do not wish to bring a gift you can contribute to the “mayonnaise jar”. All posts and family members in the district are welcome. Please bring pot luck. Guest Speaker Ron Caron.
District 12 — Hancock: Nov. 11, Bucksport Post 93, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 15 — Washington: Nov. 16, Machias Post 9, 2 p.m.

DECEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS
District 5 — Oxford: Dec. 15, Locke Mills Post 68, Christmas, appoint nominating committee, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. mtg.
District 12 — Hancock: Dec. 9, Northeast Harbor Post 103, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 9 — Kennebec: Dec. 10, Augusta Post 205, Christmas party, 7 p.m.

JANUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS
District 3 — Androscoggin: Jan. 11, Mechanic Falls post 150, 2 p.m.
District 5 — Oxford: Jan. 20, South Paris Post 72, Oratorical contest, refreshments, 7 p.m.
District 9 — Kennebec: Jan. 14, Maine Veterans Home, 7 p.m.
District 11 — Waldo: Jan. 18, Belfast Post 43, 2 p.m.

FEBRUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS
District 3 — Androscoggin: Feb. 8, Lisbon Post 158, 2 p.m.
District 5 — Oxford: Feb. 17, Dixfield Post 100, nominations, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. mtg.
District 9 — Kennebec: Feb. 11, Maine Veterans Home, 7 p.m.
District 14 — Piscataquis: Feb. 21, Dexter Post 53, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 16 — S. Aroostook: Feb. 7, Caribou Post 5, 1 p.m. dinner followed by mtg., Four Chaplains
District 17 — N. Aroostook: Feb. 1, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.; Four Chaplains service.

Open House at the Beals Hospitality House: A Thank You Open House was given at the Beals Hospitality House on September 28, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to express our appreciation to all the various service organizations for their support throughout the year(s). Tours of the house were offered so those attending, both old and new, could see what the Beals House provided and how it has improved since it first opened its doors back in December 1999.

There were representatives from the American Legion and Auxiliary, the DAV and their Auxiliary, as well as members of the VFW and their Auxiliary and the 40 & 8 and their La Femmes.

Thanks to all who attended and for all the dedicated support from everyone. We couldn’t do it without you. Pictured are The American Legion “Family” Representatives.
The Adjutant Speaks

Many of us attended the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina during the last week of August with the weather at its best. During that time, the subject that many Legionnaires talked about was the changes taking place in the American Legion.

We have entered the era when the current leaders are realizing that like other times in our organizations history, we have to make those changes in order to continue for another 100 years. When I say changes, I mean in a number of ways. We have to first remember why we are here.

As I travel around the State of Maine and visit each post and attend district meetings, I see firsthand why some posts have fallen on bad times. So many have lost their vision on the importance of each post being involved in their community and what a difference they do make. Some have decided that because they have less members they can no longer function. They have decided that it’s a numbers game and not a leader’s job to accomplish the missions that the American Legion was founded on. You have to stop and realize that the military and the veteran’s population has decreased because of age and technology.

The days of WWII with over 16 million veterans are gone. Today’s military is much smaller in size, and with the change in equipment and technology the numbers will get smaller. So, when someone tells me we are a dying organization, I say to them “no” we are a smaller organization, but the needs and mission have not changed. But then again it is easier to say no to get the job done than it is to say yes we can make it happen.

We have to go back to 1919, when the American Legion was founded on four pillars: 
- Veterans Affairs
- National Security: which is POW-MIA, Support for our Troops, Size of our Armed Forces, Quality of Life, and Homeland Security.
- Education: which is American Legion Baseball, Boy’s State, The Pledge of Allegiance, Boy’s Scouts of America, Voter Registration & Participation, Illegal Immigration, and Flag Protection.

Now does every post do these programs? Of course not, but any post large or small does in its own way, supports one, if not more of the pillars that we sometimes take for granted. Do you think you make a difference in your community? Just take a moment and think about what it would be like if you were not around. Would that flag be properly displayed, that burial for that veteran be honored properly, how about that family whose son or daughter is in need of help because they are the new veteran and have no post to turn to. Yes, you do make a difference no matter what size post or community you come from.

As I said in my last article, the younger veterans are coming and they will join. All of you, including members reading this article that have not had the opportunity to get involved at the local post at this time, but hopefully will soon, and show the new veterans the pride and purpose that we stand for; demonstrate to them the commitment that we are willing to make to assure that the veterans today will not be treated as was so done to many in the past.

In closing, I must refer back to VA Claims Backlog and how The American Legion was unwavering and kept the pressure on the leadership to make changes now. Remember, that only happens because of who we are and the Four Pillars that we stand for.

Americanism Report

On Friday, September 19, I had the privilege to attend the POW/MIA Ceremony held in Jay by the Frank L. Mitchell VFW Post 3335 and American Legion George Bunten Post 10 along with riders from the United Bikers of Maine. My hat goes off to those riders as it was a very cold night to ride the 18 miles plus. The ceremony was very honoring and humbling and one that I will try to attend annually.

Hopefully everyone was able to attend Veteran Day events in their respected areas, there were so many to choose from.

Fall is a busy time for the Post with their Americanism programs. Now is a good time to recognize the young men that were this years’ Boys State Delegates with a supper and brief ceremony. This gives them a chance to talk about their experience at Boys State. Fall is also the time to prepare for the Oratorical Program. Most Posts will have their competition in November or December with the Districts completing theirs in January. The Department will hold theirs on February 14, 2015 at 9 AM at Thomas College in Waterville. The snow date will be the following weekend, February 21, 2015 at 9 AM. FMI contact Chairman Donald Chase at ddchasejr@roadrunner.com or Department Headquarters. Don will need a lot of help with judging, scoring and everything else that goes with the competition. Please contact him if you are able to help in any way.

The Holiday Season is just around the corner, remember those veterans that are homebound or in nursing homes whether it be one of the Veteran’s homes or a private one.

In parting, remember the meaning of the American Legion Preamble “To Foster and Perpetuate a 100 Percent Americanism” “Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world -wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.”

Historical Bulletin

With the arrival of fall, we now begin to plan for the upcoming winter months as well as the holiday season. While preparing to keep ourselves warm and comfortable as well as get ready for the holidays, let us not forget our homeless veterans.

Try reaching out in your community and work with the other organizations that also help them. The holiday season is also an important time to visit our veterans who are in nursing homes. Many times, you may be their only visitor.

A reminder to all Area and District Commanders, as mentioned at the DEC meeting, I would like each one of you to send me a brief outline of the positions you have held in the Legion. It will be a big help to me as I put together the year’s Department year book (scrapbook). And, speaking of your year books, another topic I had mentioned at the DEC meeting was I am willing to give a small workshop at your post and/or district meeting regarding the year books. I have examples and literature to share with your historians to help give them a better idea of what the contest consists of. I’m sure many of you, like myself, have an easier time grasping something if you can be shown an actual example. Included will be examples of the yearly post histories, newsletters and the upcoming American Legion Centennial Celebration. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please contact me ASAP to schedule a date and time. Please feel free to call or e-mail me at any time.

Again, I also want to stress the importance of getting out the word regarding our legion scholarships. Fall is a good time to start, while promoting the Oratorical Contest, to also mention the scholarships we have available.

Until next time, may you and yours have a wonderful holiday season and a big THANK YOU for all you do for The American Legion.

Oratorical

Continued from Page 3

Students learn valuable information about our country’s Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 75 years.

National Finals: The 2015 National Finals are April 10-12 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Quartefinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 11, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 12. Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 12, 2015.

Getting Ready: The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with both Area and District Commanders to prepare your posts and districts for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December 2014 and have all District contests completed by the end of January 2015.

More Information: For more information about the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact The American Legion Department Headquarters at 873-3229, or e-mail Oratorical Chairman Donald Chase at ddchasejr@roadrunner.com. Also, please check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests of National’s website at www.legion.org/oratorical or the Department of Maine’s website at www.mainelegion.org.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Historical Contest 2014-2015

By: Ronald H. Caron, Department Historian

A ‘Second’ Look

Continued from Page 4

political muscle necessary to maintain a voice for veterans. Numbers count! The count for program implementation and political influence and they must be disciplined and focused. This brings me to the Department’s Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth. This plan was developed by our Department Commander, in its second year, and will enable the Department of Maine to continue its leadership role in Maine. The Strategic Plan has five elements:

First is “Brand Awareness,” it is here that public relations are enhanced and Legion programs receive maximum exposure.

Second is “Communications,” web sites, social media, traditional print and transmitted media are enhanced and internal communications are emphasized.

Third is “Training, Education and Leadership Development,” here we insure the leaders of our organization understand the rich history of the Legion and Legion processes and discipline that will lead to continued success.

Fourth is “Post Creation, Development and Revitalization,” it is here that we must protect our robust infrastructure of local posts that are so important to our visibility, public acceptance and program implementation.

Fifth is “Membership Recruiting and Retention,” it is here we use our leaders to focus our efforts at all levels to enhance membership involvement, maintain our customs and processes and strengthen retention to maximize our capacity to take advantage of the shrinking percentage of the United States population that are veterans.

The American Legion, Department of Maine

Historical Contest 2014-2015

Awards and Rules

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, 2015. The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

DISTRICT NEWS LETTER

The district newsletter 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, 2015. The first place winner in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

The following is a list of winners at the 2014 Officers Guide score sheets. The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1st, 2015. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2015.

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<th>POST HISTORY BOOK</th>
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<td>These will be judged according to the 2014 Officers Guide score sheets. The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1st, 2015. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2015.</td>
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Service Office Update

We are very proud that the Department Service Office has recently gone through a complete office update, the rooms have been painted, and the office space has been reorganized (all courtesy of the VA and without cost to the Legion membership). We are now completely digital in the DSO. Feel free to stop by and take a look when you are at Togus. Also, we now have three service officers to serve your needs and assist you with claims for compensation, pension and other VA benefits.

As mentioned above, we are moving toward digital claim files in the office to align with how the VA does business. If you would like to pick up your old paper file, please stop in before the end of the year as we are planning to purge our claim files that have been inactive for the last three years (i.e. no claims filed or pending appeals) as well as other appropriate files.

Important note: These files are only American Legion working files, not your VA maintained claim file. If you have a question regarding a paper file, please call our office at 207-623-5726. We are only allowed to release paper files to the veteran/claimant.

Due to the recent events at the VA, we are starting to see a lot of changes. As they occur, I will make sure to get them onto our Department Facebook page, and into the “Smile.”

The best place to find out about what is happening is to take a look at the VA website at www.va.gov; it is a good resource for information pertaining to the VA. We are still encouraging you to sign up for the VA “e-benefits” website at www.ebenefits.va.gov as well as the MyHealthVet website at www.myhealth.va.gov. Those sites allow you to file claims and check on the status of your claim as well as attend to your healthcare needs all from the comfort of your own home.

DSO Newsletter: We are again sending out a call to all Post Service Officers! If you contact me, I will put you on our email list to receive the monthly Department Service Office Newsletter. 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 are of value to our veterans. 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 will contain active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing USPS mailings at this time.

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

Post Service Officer (PSO) Training Seminar: We recently completed our first PSO training seminar in September, to a full class; the October class is now full as well. Sign up for the newsletter to find out about future dates, also check for announcements on the department Facebook page or in the “Smile.” We are attempting to conduct the courses on a monthly basis as needed. We will schedule the next class on a weekend. The class is four hours long, results in Department PSO Certification. It is not a required course, but is highly recommended.

Attention District Commanders: PSO Training is available at District Meetings; you can either have the PSO Training Seminar (4 hours with certification) or a DSO presentation (1 hour). If you are interested in having us speak at your meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Note: We must have the names of the PSO Seminar attendees in advance to prepare certificates for presentation.

Korea Reborn Coffee Table Books: We have on hand at the DSO at Togus a limited supply of hard bound books “Korea Reborn – A grateful nation honors veterans for 60 years of growth” that were given to us to recognize and present to those that served in the Korean War. They are a gift from the people of South Korea to those who served. If you are a veteran who served in Korea during the period June 27, 1950 – Jan 31st 1955 we will be happy to provide you with a copy.

DSO Contact information: We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at amedeo.lauria@va.gov, orville.shelton@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Friday, 0730 – 1500 hours, closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot’s Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office, say hello, and have a cup of coffee and talk about the status of your claim or seek other assistance.

We are here to serve YOU our American Legion members!
Learn How to Become a Successful Service Officer at Your Post
Call The American Legion, Dept. of Maine Service Office at 207-623-5726 or Like us on Facebook to Receive Up-to-date Information and Notification on Our Next Scheduled SO Training Seminar.

The American Legion, Dept. of Maine Holds First Post Service Officers Training Seminar at Dept. HQ: The Department held the first American Legion Department of Maine Post Service Officers Training Seminar at the Department Headquarters in Winslow on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Thanks goes out to seven Legionnaires who gave their time to learn about the VA Claims process and other aspects of The American Legion Post Service Officers Program. Seated, left to right, Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, Stonington Post 102 Service Officer Deborah E. Alley, and NECA Brenda Dearborn. Standing, left to right, Palermo Post 163 Service Officer Thomas Nickerson, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Service Officer Palmer Payne, Augusta Post 2 Service Officer Terrance R. Knowles, and Standish Post 128 Service Officer Bruce Roubo.

The Second Post Service Officers Training Seminar took place at the Department Headquarters on Tuesday, Oct 28. Thanks goes out to eight Legionnaires who gave their time to learn about the VA Claims process and other aspects of The American Legion Post Service Officers Program. Seated, left to right, Post 20 Adjutant and Legislative Committee Chairman William “Chick” Cicciotti, Post 205 Service Officer Herbert Mann Jr., Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, and Oxford Post 112 Service Officer Rick Nugent. Standing, left to right, Brunswick Post 20 member Gil Ormsby, District 1 and Biddeford Post 26 Service Officer Jake Mulligan, Waterville Post 5 Service Officer Cornelius “Jim” Ware, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 member David Patch, and Brunswick Post 20 Service Officer Richard Kowalczyk.

Where to Get a Veteran ID Card

The federal government does not issue a veteran ID card for the purpose of discounts at retailers and restaurants. However, many states have veteran ID cards that can be used to receive discounts from retailers and restaurants. Veterans can request a veteran driver's from the Maine Department of Motor Vehicles. The following information is often times required: (1) an honorable discharge DD214; and (3) a valid, unexpired driver's license. If the request is made at the time of renewal no additional fee is required. If the request is made before renewal is required a $5.00 fee is charged. Meanwhile, the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), issued by VA, is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. Veterans can request a VHIC at their next VA health-care appointment.

Comfort Items Sought for Togus

One of the many areas that voluntary services cover at the Togus VA Hospital is comfort items for the patients. To assist veterans with various needs, The American Legion Family has a supply closet in the voluntary service office which they try to keep stocked with the following items:

Toilettry items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, deodorant (men’s and women’s), alcohol free mouthwash and after-shave, powder, shaving cream, hand lotion, shampoo, denture tablets, cribbage boards, playing cards, search and find books, crossword books, coffee, postage stamps, and canteen books.

Canteen books are used for anything a patient may need or want that isn’t available in the supply closet, such as shoes, underwear, clothing, snacks or food in the cafeteria.

Items can be donated directly to The American Legion supply closet at Togus or donations can be made by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04903, and earmarked VAVS Comfort Items.
Remember Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941

Judge’s Corner

I wanted to share with you this DoD report which I feel is very important. More than 100 people die from suicide every day in the U.S. and it is currently the 10th leading cause of death in America.

DoD Quarterly Suicide Report

In its efforts to better understand suicide among all its components, the Department of Defense released its first quarterly suicide report (QSR), today, for the four quarters of 2013.

The report summarizes suicide counts and annual rates for the active component, reserves, and National Guard. Additionally, the QSR shows calendar year 2013 quarterly suicide counts, annual suicide counts, and annual suicide rates for each of the services. It also reports 2012 annual counts and annual rates as published in the department’s 2012 Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) annual report.

The Department of Defense considers one loss to suicide too many, and will continue to do everything possible to prevent suicide in our military. The QSR is intended to communicate the department’s suicide data on a routine and frequent basis.

Summary of Results

The 2013 suicide rate for Active Component Service members was 18.7 suicides per 100,000 Service members. For the Reserves, the rate was 23.4 per 100,000 Service members. For the National Guard, the rate was 28.9 per 100,000 Service members.

Data Sources and Collection Process

Suicide mortality data in this report are provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AMFES) with inputs from the Service suicide prevention programs. Population data are collected from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).

AFMES tracks suicide data for the Active Component and that portion of the Reserves and National Guard on Active Duty status (i.e., Activated Service members on Title 10 orders).

For all other Service members whom AFMES does not track, suicide data originate from civilian authorities and is made available through the Services.

Suicide Counts

Suicide counts are broken down by component and Service. The Active Component counts and rates provided in this report also include the Cadets and Midshipmen at the military academies.

Counts are also provided for the Reserves and National Guard. The counts and rates provided here include Reserve and National Guard suicides regardless of the Service member’s duty status at the time of death.

Suicide Rates

Suicide rates are presented as annual rates per 100,000 Service members. For each annual rate, the denominator is the average of the 12 monthly end-strengths for that segment of the population. This averaging approach accounts for the changing size of the Service member populations throughout the course of the calendar year.

The Causes of Suicide Are Diverse

Suicide is a complex issue. Just as in the general population, suicide in the military is usually associated with relationship problems, financial distress, legal issues, and depression.

There appears to be no direct link between deployment and an associated risk of suicide. Recognize the signs of suicide: hopelessness, anxiety, self-destructive behavior like alcohol and drug abuse, and talking about death.

DoD’s Goals and Objectives for the Future

Enhance partnerships among federal and non-federal organizations through joint activities and messaging.

Increase help-seeking among Service members and their Families.

Promote awareness of available resources such as Vets4Warriors, the Military Crisis Line, and other DoD activities.

Strengthen the personal commitment of Service members, including military leaders, to prevent suicide.

Educate Service members on recognizing suicide warning signs and risk factors and on building protective factors and resilience.

A breakdown of 2013 suicide counts by quarter and resources for service members and their families, who may be facing challenges, can be found at: http://www.suicideoutreach.org/SuicideData/QuarterlyReports.aspx

Money Matters

We have improved the way we process incoming checks to the Department of Maine.

How we had been processing checks, was to account for and accumulate incoming checks over the week. Then we would bundle all those checks together and once or twice a week take them to the bank and deposit them. There were several problems with that process. The two biggest problems were we were holding revenue for as long as five to seven days before the deposits were made thereby not having access to that money nor earning what little interest the banks pay these days. Secondly, we lost the services of a member of our office staff for about thirty minutes to an hour while they physically went to the bank. There are also a number of personnel issues associated with making those deposits, especially in the winter, which we hadn’t addressed until now.

We’ve modernized! As of this month we now have a scanner in our office connected directly to our bank. Now we scan the checks every day directly into our bank checking account from our staff’s desktop. No travel time, no holding up our deposits for days. This process has also reduced the paperwork to account for each deposit; it is more secure and doesn’t place our employees at risk or waste their time making physical deposits.

Next we are modernizing the way we issue checks and pay routine bills. More on how we will be doing in the next issue.

Chaplain’s Corner

Hi fellow Legionnaires,

I was really excited about going to the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina this year, and I was very proud to carry the American Flag in the parade; it was such an honor.

National Convention was very interesting and a lot of good information was there, however, I couldn't make it to all of the meetings. There were quite a few Resolutions to vote on, which most of them had passed. I also got to go to the Nascar Museum, which was quite something to see, and got to meet a lot of people from most all the states that attended.

With regret, I did miss the Chaplains Convention in September; I just couldn't get the time off from work.

I am looking forward to meeting with all the commanders from the Posts I did not make it to last year. October and November months will be very busy.

I can't express enough about recruiting new members. Let’s get out there and give it your all. RECRU - RECRU – RECRU. Don’t forget to send in the names and addresses of people that are sick or who have passed on.

Yours in Service,

Earl “Jim” Grant, Dept. Chaplain

784 Parker Farm Rd.
Buxton, Maine 04093
grant6952@roadrunner.com
President’s Message

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine is on the move. Our theme this year is “Teamwork” and our officers, committees, members and board, as witnessed at our Fall Conference. Our Units and Districts are working hard to reach our goals and pass each yard line on the membership field. Membership Chairman Deb Marr and I have been visiting Districts to express the importance of recruiting new members, rejoining former members and renewing all members.

Our Department leadership team, Jeri Greenwell, Charlotte Hagan, Lois Hubbard and Nancy True have been very busy conducting Membership Development Workshops in each District. They are providing a lot of information to our members. Many committees have already been busy. Our Homeless Veterans Standdown Chairman Sis Littlefield did a great job. VAVS Chairman Dawn Dreyer continues to recruit members to volunteer at many activities at the Togus VA Center. Our Togus and Maine Veterans Home Christmas Gift Shop Chairmen have been soliciting gifts and donations for each of the seven upcoming Gift Shops. As always, Unit donations for all of these programs is essential for their success. Children and Youth Chairman, and Special Olympics/Blind Camp Chairman Kitty Doyle is always on the move promoting all of the programs under her umbrella.

As the holidays start passing us by we will start emphasizing other programs, such as lobster dip for Maine Special Olympics on New Year’s Day; Camp Tall Pines; our scholarships; Auxiliary Emergency Fund; Dirigo Girls State, etc.

Our support of Camp Tall Pines is truly needed as they have some major projects they need help with, anyone that has any contacts, leads or expertise in any of the projects below contact lan at Maine Special Olympics at lanf@somaine.org.

Replace 10 Exterior Doors & Locks
Replace 18 Mattresses
Replace Face Boars of American Legion and Torch Run Cabins
Replace Boat

The Maine American Legion Auxiliary’s webpage has been updated and has a lot of information available. Visit us at www.mainela.org. You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Maine American Legion Auxiliary.

All members are invited to join us at Mid-Winter Conference, the third weekend in January. Location will be available soon. Conferences are our chance to learn who we are and what we do.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”
—Phil Jackson

Whistleblowers Exposed Pervasive Mismanagement Throughout the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

This year, whistleblowers exposed pervasive mismanagement throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that resulted in unacceptable wait times for health care in many parts of the country. Congress acted quickly to investigate these allegations and implement reforms to the VA system that increase Veterans’ access to health care and hold senior executives at the VA accountable. This law, known as the “Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014,” also includes a two-year extension of the Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program, which I have strongly supported. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation with Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Angus King (I-ME) to extend this popular and effective program, which has a site at Cary Medical Center in Caribou, and I secured $35 million to continue to the program in the Senate Appropriations Committee’s VA funding bill.

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act also creates a new pilot program to allow eligible Veterans to seek care from non-VA health providers if they live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility or are unable to secure an appointment in a timely manner. As the implementation process continues, Congress must oversee these efforts to ensure that the promise of improved access to health care is fully realized.

Under the new leadership of Secretary Bob McDonald, the VA has begun other systemic reforms to better serve Veterans. The VA has responded to many of the recommendations put forth by its Inspector General, which completed a comprehensive investigation of patient scheduling and access issues across the country. A national recruitment effort to hire much needed health professionals was launched in August. In October, Secretary McDonald directed all VA health care and benefits facilities to hold quarterly town-hall meetings so that the VA can listen directly to those it serves and continue to improve their operations on a regular basis.

While progress has been made, more work has yet to be done. It is my hope that the Senate will have the opportunity to consider bipartisan and comprehensive legislation to improve the many services that are offered to Veterans, including health care, employment programs, and education benefits. Efforts to reduce the backlog in disability claims must also be continued. The VA has recently made some progress toward meeting its goal of eliminating the backlog by the end of 2015. In October, the VA announced it had processed more than 1.3 million claims in fiscal year 2014 – the highest number in VA’s history.

Our nation’s Veterans – those men and women who have served our nation and defended our freedom – deserve access to the best services possible, and I stand ready to serve those who have so bravely defended us.

Ladies of the American Legion
Unit 100 helping out at the Poppy Toll Bridge held on Aug. 30. Left to right, Ana Scott, Valerie Scott, Kathryn Shealy, and Kirsten Shealy.

‘Tree of Caring’ in the Works

Western Maine Veterans Advisory Committee (WVMVAC) is again preparing for the Tree of Caring by selling light bulbs to be displayed on the tree throughout the month of December located in front of the Maine Veterans’ Home (MVH) in South Paris.

Annually, this group sells light bulbs for $5.00 each. They can be in honor of someone or in memory of someone. The tree lighting will take place on Thursday, December 4th, 2014, at 7:00 pm in front of the building located at 477 High Street in South Paris with music and refreshments for all.

To purchase bulbs, mail checks to Maine Veterans’ Home, c/o Dick Young, 477 High St., South Paris, ME. 04281. Make checks payable to Maine Veterans’ Home or MVH and specify whether donation is in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

All proceeds benefit the Activities program at the Maine Veterans’ Home. MVH is a 90-bed facility offering long term care, skilled rehabilitation, dementia care and residential care. For more information about the Tree of Caring or about the facility, please call 743-6300, or visit the website at www.mainevets.org.

President’s Message

NANCY RONCO

Whistleblowers Exposed Pervasive Mismanagement Throughout the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

SEN. SUSAN COLLINS
Oppportunity Gained
Thanks to American Legion Funding

Dear American Legion,

Words can’t describe how thankful I am that you gave me the opportunity to go to Dirigo Boy’s State. Without your funding, I wouldn’t have been able to go.

From the many speakers we invited, I learned about all aspects of government in the State of Maine. A lot of the head counselors were very helpful because they themselves have served in government.

Parliamentary procedure was definitely the hardest concept to grasp. First, the House or Senate clerk reads the bill. Then debate is opened. The House or Senate passes, amends or rejects the amendments made by a committee (for instance the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife). After the amendments are passed or rejected, the bill is put to vote. However, if anyone wants anything to get done, they need to stand up, raise their hand, say “Mr. Speaker!” and wait to be called on. In order to, for instance, move to a vote, you say, “I move the previous question”.

It’s all very confusing and certainly too complicated to get a grasp of in a few day’s time. Most of us got a mild understanding of it, enough to run the House and Senate.

I learned much more than I could have just from observing government.

I was in the town of King in Mellen County. All of the eight towns are named after the first eight governors of Maine.

My county won the softball and basketball tournaments, going undefeated. I played softball. King won best flag and had some really good test scores. Somehow we still lost Honor Town to Ames (who accumulated the most Honor Town points, which are awarded for everything a town or county does). The town with the most Honor Town points wins Honor Town, which is next year’s Dirigo capital.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to go to such an amazing event.

Sincerely,
Dylan Johnson

An Amazing Experience at Dirigo Boys State

To the American Legion,
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend Boy’s State.
I learned so much about state government, heard some amazing speakers and made some life-long friendships.
It was an experience I will never forget.

Sincerely,
Mike DiBona, Steamers HS

Scholarship Money Pays Off

To the American Legion,
Thank you for the opportunity of receiving the James V. Day Scholarship in June 2014. I was honored that you chose me to be the recipient of this scholarship. This scholarship helped me purchase my computer for college.
Again, thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Desiree Dunn

AND THE WINNER IS…

South Paris, a ninety bed facility offering nursing and rehabilitation services, assisted living and dementia care. Shown in the picture drawing the winning ticket belonged to Mrs. Florence McLaughlin of West Paris.

Support American Legion Charities

Each year, the elected American Legion national commander fund-raises for a program within the organization that supports veterans, servicemembers, and their families. Over the past few years it has been the Child Welfare Foundation, the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Operation Comfort Warriors and the National Emergency Fund.

As your 2014-2015 American Legion national commander, rather than focusing on a specific fundraising program, I have set a goal for the Legion family to raise a combined $4 million for the various Legion charitable programs. American Legion Charities provides direct support and assistance to veterans, military personnel, families and communities.

Your generous tax-deductible donations help provide: financial assistance to military and veteran families with children at home who are in need; relief for families of veterans who have suffered devastating losses after natural disasters; employment opportunities for transitioning servicemembers through the hosting of job fairs; representation on Capitol Hill to protect military retiree benefits and to ensure quality of life for military members and veterans; youth opportunities to participate in one of the Legion’s premier youth programs such as Legion Baseball, Boys National, Oratorical Contest or Shooting Sports.

I am leaving the choice of fundraising to you. All I ask is that you give.

America is paying attention to The American Legion not just because we are right on the issues, but because we are doing these great things in our communities. Many of those charities benefit not only members of the military and veterans, but also their families – which matters. Most veterans believe that the nicest thing you can do for them is to be kind to their families.

The most common request of a soldier who is dying on the battlefield is ‘tell my wife I love her.’ Nothing will be appreciated by a veteran more than taking care of his or her family. And that’s exactly what these programs are intended to do. They are intended to support the families of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

Learn more about American Legion Charities online by visiting http://www.legion.org/donate.

—http://www.legion.org/dispatch

National Commander’s Honor Ribbon

During the 2014-2015 membership year, National Commander Mike Helm will award his National Commander Honor Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by June 30, 2015. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent to qualify for the award.

Commander Helm’s Honor Ribbon incentive program will end June 30, 2015, or when supplies are exhausted.

To obtain a copy of the National Commander’s Honor Ribbon Form, please visit http://www.legion.org/commander/ribbon or www.mainelegion.org.

27th Annual Lobster Dip Set

Special Olympics Maine is pleased to announce the 27th Annual Lobster Dip on New Year’s Day (January 1, 2015) at 12 noon in front of the Brunswick Old Orchard Beach (39 West Grand Ave.).

For more information, please visit www.specialolympicsmaine.org.

If you have not received your 2015 Lobster Dip Registration packet, please visit: http://www.specialolympicsmaine.org/documents/lobsterpacket2015.pdf
‘18 Guys in Street Clothes’

The Offseason Story of Developing a 2015 Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 Baseball Team for Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth

By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Guy walks into a bar. Seated on bar stools are: a magician with a top hat upside down from which he will be expected shortly to produce a rabbit; another magician who is enveloped in chains, which will be gone somehow very soon when he is submerged in a tank of water—or not live to tell the story…;

and an American Legion baseball coach.

Guy approaches the bar and asks the coach, “What brings you here?” The coach says, “I really like the pickled eggs in the jar on the bar.”

Guy then asks the magician with the top hat. “What are you doing here?” Magician looks at the other magician, in chains, and says, “I want to see how he gets out of those chains!”

Guy then turns to the magician in chains and says, “And what on earth are you here for?”

Magician points to American Legion baseball coach and says, “Getting out of padlocks and chains in 20 feet of water is hard—but not compared to what this guy will do in putting together an American Legion baseball team.”

Okay, so it’s not exactly a true story. But it probably is true that a higher percentage of magicians have succeeded at pulling rabbits out of the hat, or escaping, Harry Houdini-like from being submerged in water in chains than adult males have succeeded in putting together a winning Legion baseball team.

Why?

Because the coach faces greater challenges and obstacles. Try this sample:

*teened boys playing with other teened boys they often do not know from another high school on a summer baseball team;

*teened boys, who might have been the best, e.g., centerfielder or first baseman or catcher or shortstop on their high school team, suddenly facing the prospect of playing second fiddle to a player from another school who is better at the position than he is;

*players who either just had a fabulous season with their high school team and are gun ho to continue the baseball hot streak into the summer; or players who struggled in the spring, and may be burned out heading into the summer;

adolescent boys faced with juggling an intense four-games-a-week baseball schedule with summer jobs, girls, family BBQs, girls, college visits, girls, graduation parties, girls, summer football camps, girls, summer basketball leagues, girls, soccer leagues, and girls.

Today’s “Baseball Beat” column is entitled in part: “18 Guys in Street Clothes.” This column is the first of a series of columns this off-season that will track the progress, and lives, of the 18 players who will be on the summer 2015 Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 roster. I am General Manager of the team, and have been for 15 adventuous years (Also, full disclosure—one of the 17 players listed below is my son, Sam; one roster spot remains open).


How do they do in school? Honor Roll? High Honors? Struggling?

Do they know each other? If so, how? And if they do—friends? Enemies? In between? Why? How?

If they don’t know each other, what efforts will the Legion Post or coaches make to facilitate their getting acquainted so they will be better teammates and playing partners?

During the season, how will things go?

What activities will there be besides baseball games?

The photo accompanying this column was of a baseball game at the old Maine State Prison in Thomaston in the early 1980s. We took the Legion team there to play the inmates. Exciting, and a good thing to do for those with little hope.

Public service projects? Libby-Mitchell was famous around the early 2000s for their Saturday afternoon beach cleanups. The Maroon squad beat the Red squad in July 2005 when Derek Silsby found a small refrigerator in the dune grass, put it in a trash bag, and earned his team the “Most Weight in Trash Picked Up” award. Orange popsicles all around!

Visiting the Maine Veterans Home over Fourth of July was always an event that changed those visited, and those visiting. The presence of youth invigorates the residents. And the kids? You would be surprised how many feel meek in the presence of war veterans, especially those disabled from the war, when perhaps the hardest thing they have ever done in their life is take out the trash by 8 am Thursdays.

Going to sing Christmas carols to the nice ladies at Kaler Vaile Home over the holidays? Easier to do when your catcher and left fielder, Matt Curran, sings even better than he drags bunts. Watch the face of a 96-year-old when serenaded with “Have Yourself a Merry Christmas” by a young voice that, if you close your eyes, makes you think, “Sinatra…”

The roster of the team chosen shortly after the September 4 tryouts was:

Tim Brigham, Cape Elizabeth High, pitcher/infielder, team MVP 2014; Nick Lorello, Scarborough High, catcher/infielder, youngest player on team, carnivore;

Matt Denison, Cape Elizabeth High, pitcher/catcher/infielder, power hitter;

Jacob Gardner, Scarborough High school, pitcher/1B; 6’5”, potential thru the roof! Came into his own as hoop player last winter; caught bevvy of TD passes for American Legion baseball team in the fall; stay tuned!

Adam Godfrey, Cape Elizabeth High, pitcher/catcher/infielder, power hitter;

Bryce Hewitt, Cape Elizabeth High, pitcher/infielder/outfielder; certifi ed baseball nut;

Brendan Kane, Scarborough High, pitcher/infielder/outfielder/1B; fastest player on team; dark horse candidate, Legion All-Tourney Team CF;

Ross LeBlond, Cape Elizabeth High; catcher/outfielder; Most Dedicated Player 2014, ready for breakout season; a top schoolboy golfer; most “colorful” player on squad;

Nick Leflore, Scarborough High, infielder; strong hitter; perhaps best grasp on fact that teams perform on field but are often formed off field; starter for undefeated HS baseball team;

Austin Pemberton, Scarborough High; pitcher/outfielder/1B; power hitter,

Las Vegas odds he will lead state in HRs summer 2015; team comedian;

Jack Posey, Scarborough High;

pitcher/infielder/outfielder; prototypical Legion player; Magic 8 Ball says expect some big contributions from Posey;

Most Likely;

Tim Ross, Scarborough High, outfielder; Most Dedicated Player 2015;

key hit in playoffs; is developing into the best defensive player on the team as an outfielder; great speed and instincts for the ball out there;

John Timpson, Scarborough High, outfielder/infielder; strong hockey player looking to bring those skills to baseball; (four players on Libby-Mitchell All-Time Team were also hockey players);

Sam Warren—Scarborough High; pitcher/1B/outfielder; third-year player; Best Pitcher Award 2014; looking to bring hitting up to same level; little-known secret—can play “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” on piano (or will by summer banquet);

Mitch Wedge, Scarborough High; pitcher/infielder; one of strongest throwing 3B at SHS in 20 years; helped lead SHS golf team to state title in fall 2014; had a 10 on third hole, played one under par the final 15; Resilience anyone?

Bayley Welsh, Scarborough High, pitcher/catcher/infielder/outfielder; has gotten better every level he has played; strong “team chemistry guy,” an important quality when it is 95 degrees, late July doubleheaders.

U.S. Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks would not let his players on the 1980 “Miracle” team identify themselves as being from a particular college. What team did they play for? “USA!” Libby-Mitchell will take the same approach. For purposes of this article, it is perhaps informative for the reader to know the team will be attempting to create a “melting pot” of different kids from different towns.

It should be an interesting summer.

Follow us thru the offseason. Always interesting to see what happens behind the scenes before the biscuits come out of the oven.
Legion Riders Reflect Back

As the year winds down and the Riders are being more selective in their riding schedule and the attire that they now have to wear, I have to reflect back on what has turned out to be another successful year for the Rider program.

We started out this year by having our Winter Meeting on February 22, 2014 at the Bourque-Lanigan Post-5 in Waterville hosted by Chapter-5 of the Legion Riders of Maine. With approximately 100 Riders present, we were well received and treated to an outstanding meal and a day of camaraderie. Normal business occurred with election at the conclusion of the meeting. Elected Officers were, Director-Kaye Bouchard, Assistant Director-Larry Haines, Secretary-Paula Cummins, Road Captain-George Draper, Sgt-at Arms-Mike Lalalmen, Safety Officer-Andrew Belfegarde, Appointed: Chaplain-Dan St. Pierre, and Executive Director/Liaison Officer-Paul L’Heureux.

As the summer progressed, we planned our Summer Rally on July 18th, 19th, 20th to be held at the Smith-Tobey Post-21 in Bath hosted by Chapter-21 of the Legion Riders of Maine. Riders from all over the State started to arrive on Friday and enjoyed an evening of entertainment. Early Saturday morning, the Riders enjoyed an excellent prepared breakfast and had a chance to meet more Riders joining us for the ride along the coast and up to Fort Popham located in Phippsburg. After a brief rest and a group photo, we headed back to the post for a Bike Rodeo that some Riders had a chance to show off their true skills. We then held our meeting and again enjoyed a great meal followed by entertainment. The following morning, Riders headed back to all parts of the State form Sanford to Madawaska. Thank you to the Riders of Post-21 for an excellent Summer Rally.

During that meeting the following donations listed in the table below were collected from the Legion Riders.

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<th>Legacy Fund</th>
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Thank you for making 2014 another successful year. And from all the Riders of Maine to all of you, thank you for the support and a Happy Holiday to you all.

Loud & Proud
Paul L’Heureux, Ex. Director

Summer Rally Weekend: American Legion Riders from all parts of Maine enjoy a ride to Fort Popham located in Phippsburg during the Summer Rally weekend that was held July 18-20 at Bath Post 21.

Topsham Post 202 American Legion Riders during the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2014.
Busy Season for Legion Riders

Legion Riders Donate to OMK:
American Legion Riders donate various games to the Operation Military Kids at the Bryant Pond Camp on July 21. Legion Riders State Director Kaye Bouchard, left, is pictured here with Scott Olsen, Executive Director at Bryant Pond Camp.

Legion Riders Memorial Stones: Department Adjutant and Legion Riders Executive Director Paul L’Heureux stands next to a Legion Riders Memorial stone at the Lewiston/Auburn Veterans Memorial Park. Thanks to the officers of the L & A Veterans council and with the help of Maurice Dutil of Lewiston who helped the Riders attain the logo on one of the current 27 memorial stones now located in the park.

Auburn Post 153 Legion Riders at the end of a benefit ride, called Ride for Camp Tall Pines, on Sept. 14th, 2014 at Camp Tall Pines in Poland. All donations were used to help raise money for the camp and its programs.

American Legion Riders stand to honor POW/MIA Lt. Hout at the Memorial Service at Ledgelawn Cemetery in Bar Harbor on May 24th, 2014. 2nd Lt George Hout was a native of Bar Harbor and went MIA in Sept. of 1944 (70 years ago this fall) while serving with the USAAF Indo China Wing of the Transport Command during WWII.

Legion Riders: Run for the Fallen

American Legion Rider members ride for Run for the Fallen.

George Draper of Post 40 in Winthrop preparing to lead the opening ride for the Run for the Fallen on Sat., Aug. 23.
Donations to National Emergency Fund and Child Welfare Foundation were presented at National Convention from the Department of Maine. Department NEC John Hargreaves presents a check in the amount of $2,066.53 to the Child Welfare Foundation from donations collected at Department HQ. Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins stands next in line to present a check to the National Emergency Fund for $1,783 from donations also collected at Department HQ.

Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, right, sets up to distribute convention packets to the Maine Delegation at the 96th Annual National Convention held in Charlotte, NC. Left to right, Department NEC John Hargreaves, Past Department Commander Edward J. Roach, Jr., and Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux.

Past National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, left, and Past Department Commander Edward J. Roach, Jr. attend the General Session meeting at National Convention in Charlotte, NC. Both Legionnaires have attended many conventions throughout different areas of the country.

Waiting to Be Served: Some of the Maine Delegation and their wives wait to order their lunch after attending various meetings in Charlotte, NC for the 96th Annual National Convention held Aug. 22-28, 2014. Left to right, Department NEC John Hargreaves, Jennifer Hargreaves, Christine Adkins, Lucy Ayotte, Catherine Graves, Past Department Commander Daniel Ayotte, Past Department Commander Edward Roach, Jr. Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, SAL National Executive Committeeman David Raymond, Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins, and Department Commander Richard Graves.

National Convention Videos can be viewed by visiting http://www.legion.org/videos/convention

Past National Commander Jake Comer swears Mike Helm in as the new American Legion National Commander.
The 2014 National Convention parade rolled down Tryon Street in uptown Charlotte, North Carolina on Sunday, Aug. 24. There were numerous bands and floats in attendance representing their state including The American Legion, Department of New York band that is pictured here.

Past National Commander Anthony Jordan (Maine) is in the process of nominating Mr. Douglas C. Haggan from the Dept. of France to become the National Vice Commander of the Northeast Region at National Convention in Charlotte, NC on Aug. 26.

Some of the Maine Delegation at the 96th Annual National Convention in Charlotte, NC. Left to right, NEC John Hargreaves, Charles R. Tibbits who joined the Maine Delegation while visiting his son in North Carolina, Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, and Department Adjutant Paul.

Enjoying the National Convention Banquet in Charlotte, NC on Aug. 26. Left to right, Auxiliary President Nancy Ronco, Auxiliary NECA Mary Jane McLoon, and Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux.

Taking a Break: Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins, left, with his wife Christine, right, and Department Commander Richard Graves and his wife Cathy take a break from the many meetings they attended at the 96th Annual National Convention before heading to other scheduled events.

Happy & Safe Holidays to You and Yours

From All of Us at The American Legion State Headquarters
— Bits ’N Pieces —

Sanford Post 19

In response to a mass needs assessment that Sanford Post 19 conducted in the spring, they held a special seminar on home loans, grants and weatherization programs that Vets qualify for. The event took place on September 17, 6 p.m. The seminar was well attended and legion members unable to attend called in for further information. Every attendee was most grateful for the Legion arranging the seminar and letting its members know about it via a special postcard. Presenters included: Martha Bresahan of York County Community Action, Steve Bolton of Habitat for Humanity and Jim Bachelder of the VFW, AL and local Veterans TV show. Dale Midgley, Post 19 Service Officer, covered information on VA Grants for disabled Veterans as well as Energy Efficiency Grants for VA and FHA. Ray Fortier delivered opening and closing prayer.

Post #19 in Sanford was able to aid the widow of a Korean War and Vietnam War era Veteran. Post Chaplain Kris Stanley and Post Service Officer Dale Midgley had visited her and became aware that she was in need of funding for fuel. Upon discussing her situation with Post Commander Gary Metzger, he authorized funds for the delivery of fuel to be provided for her to give “a hand up” until her application of fuel assistance comes through. In addition to this, arrangements are being made for some structural repairs to her mobile home this fall to ready her home for winter. She was most grateful for the assistance and to Post 19, and it has been a pleasure to assist her, what a nice lady!

Commander Gary Metzger has made it a priority to make sure that all our members who need help get the Post know. He has also directed that seminars on Grants & Loans be made available for Veterans as well as other seminars that will be conducted this fall such as the Korean War Vets Luncheon in mid-October.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions in regards to future events via our Post Service Officer Dale Midgley @ midgleyd@earthlink.net or (207) 590-3532.

The USS Scranton recently had a team of a dozen folks come and support clearing for the Habitat for Humanity Veteran’s Build project. They worked miracles and moved mountains, quite literally! Thank you USS Scranton crew, you really are making a difference and we appreciate all of you!

Sanford Post 19 for their donation of $300 to the DAV in support of their annual golf tournament, $500 to The Salvation Army, $500 for The Run for the Fallen, $500 to Wreaths Across America, $1,000 to Habitat for Humanity for a veteran’s build happening in southern Maine and $2,700 to Homeless Vets of Maine from the American Legion Riders. We would also like to give honorable mention to Ed Verge of Post #19 who graciously donates his time and talent to the repair of electric wheel chairs that are distributed to vets in need of them via the “Wheels for Vets” program. Thank you Ed! You are so appreciated and you are making a big difference!

Sanford Post 19 is pleased to announce that they have implemented the “Wheels for Veterans” program! Since the program’s inception in mid-June, it has provided two reconditioned battery powered wheelchairs to vets and their dependents. One wheel chair was issued to a vet paralyzed from the waist down and the 2nd is now with the son of an AL vet who is suffers from a very debilitating disease. Post #19 is currently accepting donations from citizens in the Sanford and Springvale area in the form of: battery-powered wheelchairs, traditional wheelchairs, and walkers with and without wheels. These items will benefit veterans and their dependents who have not obtained them from the VA administration or for those not eligible for benefits through the VA. At present we have a waiting list of veterans and family members in need of these types of equipment. Please contact Post #19 Service Officer, Dale Midgley for more information. Email: midgleyd@earthlink.net, Cell phone: 590-3532

Old Orchard Beach Post 57

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of $250 to Special Olympics Maine.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick Post and Unit 79 hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, September 13 in the Berwick Town Hall. 49 units of blood were collected in the 5 hours devoted to the drive.

Training Seminar Conducted During Fall Conference Provides Good Information

An All-day Training Seminar conducted during the Annual Fall Conference on Sept. 20 at Camden Post 30 brought about a lot of good information. National Headquarters authorized two individuals to visit the Department of Maine to provide LEAD Training. Bill Sloan, Assistance Director of Internal Affairs spoke on several topics including Developing an Effective Membership Team, Post Operations & Membership Development and Guidance on how to be an effective District Commander. Deputy Director of Information Technology Joe Gallagher provided good information about MyLegion.org. Those in attendance are pictured here as Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux gives an update to all District Officers on issues and current information available from Dept. HQ. He distributed new guidance handbooks to all District Officers as well as new handouts.

Sweepstakes Winners Announced

Fall Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 20, with our sweepstakes drawing, which saw four of our legionnaires win the following amounts: The lucky winner of the top prize of $3,500 was Peter Bucklin, Waterville Post 178. Other winners were $1,000 – Elliot Wiggin, Gray Post 86; $500 – Lynn White, Strong Post 78 and $200 – Richard Roberts, Waterville Post 178.

Fall Sweepstakes: Department Sergeant-at-Arms Patricia Thurston draws the sweepstakes’ winners at the Annual Fall Conference held at Camden Post 30 on Sat. Sept. 20. Assisting with the drawing are Department Judge Advocate Scott Paradis, right, and Department Commander Richard Graves.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 1**

PR Training:
District 1 Commander Stephen White welcomes everyone to the Department of Maine Public Relations Training/Department Service Officer Presentation on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 at Berwick Post 79. The presentation was given by Public Relations Committee members Pat Eisenhart and Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria.

**District 2**

Sixty One Years Ago...
Korean War Raging On...
Losses Mounting...We Remember

Corporal James D. Mulloy, U.S. Army, was a member of the 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action (KIA) near the end of the Korean war while fighting the enemy in North Korea on July 17, 1953 and is one of the 54,246 Americans who died during this conflict (25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953). Corporal Mulloy is one of 245 Maine residents KIA during the Korean War, and the only veteran from Berwick, Maine who died in this conflict. His name is inscribed on the Maine Korean War Memorial in Bangor, Maine and he is remembered each year on Memorial Day when the names of Berwick veterans who have died in past conflicts are read during a somber ceremony at the Berwick Town Hall.

Some 61 years later, Corporal Mulloy’s sacrifice was again commemorated in a recent presentation made at the Berwick Town library. A copy of a hardbound, 160-page book entitled “Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth” was presented to Melissa Saggerer, the Berwick Town Library Director by Mark Pilgrim, Commander, Charles S. Hatch Post #79, in memory of our Corporal James D. Mulloy.

The issuance of this book is part of the congressional resolution designating 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran and recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Funding for this gift was provided by the South Korean public and private sectors. (A free online version of this book is currently available at: www.remembermyservice.com. It is worth a trip to the Berwick Public Library to review or sign out “Korea Reborn” or one of the many books that have been written about this conflict.

The dedication stone at the Korea War Monument in Washington, D.C. reads: “Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met”. The same could be said of the men and women currently serving in our armed forces. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers today and every day, and let us never forget the sacrifice of Corporal Mulloy and the 244 other Maine residents who gave their lives for a people they never met and a country they never knew.

Gray Post 86 recently held a Boys/Girls State celebration at their post to recognize the recipients they sponsored to attend the 67th Annual Dirigo Boys and Girls State this past June. Post 86 Commander Jason White and Post 86 Girls State Auxiliary Chairperson Nancy True presented Appreciation Certificates to the recipients. Left to right, Jason White, Carson Hodsdon, Josh Moran, Sara Calder, and Kelcie Brown and Nancy True.

“Korea Reborn”: Commander Mark Pilgrim, left, presents the book “Korea Reborn” to the Director of the Berwick Town Library, Melissa Saggerer.
District 2 continued

Standish Memorial Post 128 Commander Hal Ware and Service Officer Bruce Roubo visited The American Legion, Department of Maine on Oct. 16 to do research in the department archives on the Standish Memorial Post where they were able to gather up a lot of interesting facts and information. Hal and Bruce were very pleased in the organization of the department archives which are available to all Legion members in Maine. The American Legion, Department of Maine archives retains information dating back to 1919, the year The American Legion was first incorporated. Members are encouraged to visit.

Westbrook Post 62 held its first meeting on Oct. 1 at District 2 headquarters with special guest speaker Lt. John Andrew Manini, U.S. Coast Guard Homeland Security Northern sector. Left to right, Secretary/Treasurer Richard Gali peau, Adjutant Derwood Judkins, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. John Andrew Manini, Chaplain Blanche Kelley, First Vice Commander Ashley Pike, Commander Philip Leclerc. Front row, left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms/Historian Frankie Burila, and Chairman of Legion Building Corp. Robert E. Barton. Photo by Rose Harriman

District 3

‘We Honor Veterans’ Pinning Ceremony

We Honor Veterans is a national awareness and action campaign developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The common goal is to provide the best possible care for Veterans in the best possible manner and setting while honoring Veterans’ preferences.

As part of the “We Honor Veterans” program, the Volunteer Office is pleased to announce that we have begun our special pinning ceremonies for Hospice patients. It begins with a simple ask from a volunteer or a staff member. “Can we have the honor of recognizing you for your years of service in a special pinning ceremony?”

The first to be recognized was a gentleman at the Hospice House. He was at the house for a short time before going back home. Before he went back home he was presented with a framed certificate and pin. He and his family were so pleased and appreciated that Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice did so much for our military veterans.

Following our first pinning ceremony we had a special ceremony honoring hospice volunteers and staff who are military veterans. This was our chance to thank those who are part of our own organization. The ceremony took place during the Big Hospice meeting in September. This marked the official kick-off to our pinning ceremonies for patients. Since then, we have done three ceremonies and have several others on the books. Volunteer, United States Navy veteran, Veteran-to-Veteran volunteer, and AHCH “We Honor Veterans” Committee Member Leo Savard along with United States Navy-Retired and AHCH “We Honor Veterans” Committee Member Ken Winter presented the awards to our staff and volunteers. Ken shared, “I was distinctly honored to recognize my fellow veterans and heartened that America is firmly behind the sacrifice that we all, in some measure, have made.”

Legion Family to Gather in Gray For Mid-Winter Conference January 16-18, 2015

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 16-18, 2015 at Gray Post 86, 15 Lewiston Rd., Gray, Maine 04039. The conference will be hosted by Commander Richard Graves and 2nd Vice Commander Peter Johnson.


Room Rates (tax not included):
- King - $80.99
- 2 Queen - $80.99
- 2 Queen Deluxe - $107.99
- 2 Queen Deluxe with fireplace $125.99

Continental breakfast daily from 6-10 a.m.

Deadline: January 1, 2015.

Arrangements will be made and publicized in the SMILE and on www.mainelegion.org website as soon as they are made. Please watch future editions for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.

The “We Honor Veterans” program has begun its special pinning ceremonies for Hospice patients. This ceremony is a way of recognizing and honoring veterans for their years of service and sacrifices.

Front row, left to right, United States Army & Hospice RN Crystal Guerrette, United States Navy & Hospice RN Crystal Guerrette, United States Navy & “We Honor Veterans” Committee Member Ken Winter, and Volunteer Supervisor Kathy Baillargeon.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

10th Annual Cookout for District 5


West Paris Post 151 District 5 members at MVH So. Paris during its cookout. Over 100 residents, volunteers, Legion and Auxiliary members were in attendance.

Members of District 5 enjoying the annual cookout.

Annual Cookout: West Paris Post 151 District 5 members gather here for a meeting at MVH So. Paris during its annual cookout.

AN UNEXPECTED REUNION...

While attending the District 5 cookout held at MVH, Department Historian Ron Caron, left, had an unexpected surprise. One of the residents in attendance happened to be Bob “Gunny” Poliquin, right, who had recruited Ron into the Marine Corps back in 1971. “It was really nice to see him after all of these years, and to think he also remembered me!” mentioned Caron. Poliquin, who retired after 23 years in the Corps, was a recruiter who worked out of the Lewiston office located upstairs at the current Lewiston Post Office.

The American Legion West Paris Post 151’s New Home
6 Church St., West Paris, ME 04289

Post 151 Auxiliary President Natalie Andrews, left, alongside West Paris Post 151 Commander Shawn Coffin attend District 5 cookout at MVH. In So. Paris.
**District 5 continued**

Dixfield Post 100
family sponsored the Wounded Heroes Benefit Supper on Sept. 13, 2014 raising $301 for them. Left to right, Auxiliary First Vice Gloria Pat- neaud, Post 100 Commander Edward Ellis, Auxiliary President Dolcie Leavitt, and in front Post 100 First Vice Commander Frank Burgess.


**District 6**

Backpacks for Kids

Rockland — What began last year as just something to do to help kids get ready to go back to school, has turned into a major community event.

Local resident Stephanie Williams started Backpacks for Kids last year to help area students get what they need to have a successful start to the new school year.

"What started with just five backpacks full of school supplies has turned into over 200 this year," said Williams. "I did last year and people kept asking if I was going to do it again," she said. "Word spread and people jumped on board."

The American Legion Post in Rockland, the Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders, and some of the bingo players donated and collected enough items to fill 67 backpacks. They presented them to Williams Aug. 18.

"When it's something for the community, everybody gets involved," said Post Commander Darryl Leavitt.

From pencils to backpacks to notebooks, Williams has collected items from area residents and community businesses. Williams contacted the local superintendents to find out the needs and will distribute the backpacks to the schools. She said extra items will be given to the teachers to be used in classrooms.

"I did some research before I started this and found out 38 percent of kids do not know where their next meal is coming from," said Williams. "This helps give these kids a little self-esteem."

Williams began collecting items in July and will accept more donations until Friday, Aug. 22. Items can be dropped off at Mid-Coast Gym on Park Street in Rockland, Southend Grocery on South Main Street, or Midcoast Rec Center in Rockport.

"It's such a 'feel good' kind of thing," said Williams.

Further information can be had by contacting Williams at stephillcrn4@hotmail.com.

Showing just some of the backpacks and supplies that have been collected for Backpacks for Kids are, left to right, Sons of the American Legion member Gary Gamage, Project Coordinator Stephanie Williams, Auxiliary President Dolcie Leavitt, and Rockland Post 1 Commander Darryl Leavitt.

A Formal Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014 at Camden Hills State Park by District 6, War Memorial Camden Post 30 at the request of the American Heritage Girls Scouting Troop. Legionnaires, back row, left to right, District 6 Commander & Post 30 Adjutant Ray Lewis, Camden Post 30 Service Officer Cecil Dennison, Camden Post 30 Commander Rosey Gerry, and Dept. of Maine First Vice Commander Ronald Rainbow. Front row, left to right, Troop Coordinator Ms. Ruth Moore, kneeling with red blouse, with members of the Troop.
District 7

Bay View Lodge Helps American Flags Wave

One of the beauties of summertime in the Boothbay region, and elsewhere in small town America, is traveling along our byways, viewing with patriotic pride the many American flags waving in front of homes and businesses, as well as along local highways such as Routes 27 and 96.

Several community members raise these banners of liberty each May before Memorial Day and take them down in November after Veteran’s Day. Earlier this year, members of Charles E. Sherman Jr. Post #36, American Legion, determined that due to the heavy wear and tear last year to the flags waving along our region’s highways, it did not have enough flags to fly this year.

The need for funding for new flags was brought to the attention of Bay View Masonic Lodge. Bay View Masons and the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation combined to donate $1,000 to the American Legion post to purchase new flags, with the stipulation that the flags had to be made in America.

Mike Alley said he and his Masonic brethren were truly pleased to be able to help the American Legion on this community pride project.

Boothbay Register
By: Thomas Pulkkinen
Posted: Saturday, August 2, 2014

Bay View Masonic Lodge presents the $1,000 donation to purchase flags at its June meeting. Present were District Deputy Charles Billings representing the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, Linc Sample of Bay View Lodge who sought funding for flags, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Past Commander Robert Raudenbush who received the donation, active Mason and member of the American Legion Harry Pinkham, and presiding officer of Bay View Masonic Lodge Michael Alley.

Carousel Music Theater Director Robb Barnard, left, presents a check to the Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Commander Frank Redman. The theater donated a portion of ticket prices from its show Veterans Night Aug. 26 to The American Legion for community service projects.

Photo by Linda Redman

District 8

Harpswell Post 171’s Halloween Tea Party was held on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Harpswell Grange to benefit the Post 171 Togus 2014 Christmas party fund. Assorted teas, scones, squash soup, finger sandwiches, fresh fruit sticks, pastries, and sorbet were served. The Guild of Extraordinary Gentewomen hosted the tea party and provided the food. Kudos to the Guild for being so generous to both the Togus veterans and Post 171. Left to right, Jeannie Goodrich, Kayla Hamilton, Heidi Harkenrider-Crossman, Gale Doyle, Tracy Williams, Post 171 Cdr. Mike Doyle, Laurie Palmer, Debbie Gill, and Beth Kendall.

The Mid-Coast Veterans Council’s Third Annual Golf Tournament held at Brunswick Golf Club on Aug. 22. Cdr. Mid-Coast Veterans Council and Past Cdr. of Harpswell Post 171 Roger Dumont, right, is shown here with Gov. Paul LePage, center, and Larry Burrell, President McKean Defense Group, corporate sponsor of the tournament.

Harpswell Post 171 held a Lobster Stew Supper on Aug. 8, 2014. The delicious stew and blueberry muffins were enjoyed by all! As in previous events, demand exceeded supply, and the kitchen ran out of lobster stew! Left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Steve Collins, Finance Officer Bill O’Connell, Gale Doyle, and Adjutant (and chef) Bob Webber. Not shown are Cdr. Mike Doyle, Diane O’Connell, and Sandra Collins.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

Phippsburg

Post 216 members present WWII Veteran James O. Gilliam a “Certificate of Honor” at his home on Sept. 2. Left to right, Army National Guard SGT Eric Halpin, WWII Veteran James O. Gilliam, Mrs. Gilliam, Sgt.-at-Arms Dave Barnes, and Judge Advocate Dan Coffin.

District 9

Department First Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette presents certificate to Jim Palmer for attending the Service Officer training hosted by the Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria at Department Headquarters in Winslow held on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Left to right, Department First Vice Commander Ron Rainfrette, Augusta Post 2 Service Officer Jim Palmer, and District 9 Commander Pat Eisenhart.

Phippsburg

Post 216 members present WWII Veteran James O. Gilliam a “Certificate of Honor” at his home on Sept. 2. Left to right, Army National Guard SGT Eric Halpin, WWII Veteran James O. Gilliam, Mrs. Gilliam, Sgt.-at-Arms Dave Barnes, and Judge Advocate Dan Coffin.

District 9

South China

Post 179 Commander Rick Fischer awarded Elliot Sveeves, left, and Robert Marr with a Certificate of Recognition on their 65th Birthday Celebration at their recently held meeting for being a Charter member of the Boynton-Webber Post 179.

Harpswell

Post 171 Color Guard at the flag-raising ceremony Friday, Aug. 22 before the start of the Mid-Coast Veterans Council’s Third Annual Golf Tournament at Brunswick Golf Club. Funds raised will be used to support the Veterans Resource Center at Brunswick Landing and the mission of the MCVC, which embraces helping any honorably discharged veteran, including those who served during peacetime, connect with veterans’ services. The council also provides funds for some veterans for help with heating, groceries, and vehicle repair. Left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Steve Collins, Bill O’Connell (hidden by US Flag), Bill Allen, Roland “Rollie” Weeman, Adjutant Bob Webber, Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Jim Swol, and Cdr. Mike Doyle.

Fireman’s Field Day: Phippsburg Post 216 members manned the Post recruiting booth at the Fireman’s Field Day on July 27. Left to right, Second Vice Commander Gary Flemmings, Comrade Dick Soule, Service Officer Bill Rollins, and Legion Riders Director Joe Civita.

60 Years: Augusta Post 205 Commander Dean Shelton presents Mr. Alfred Cavanagh with his 60 year membership certificate in The American Legion. Left to right, Post 205 Second Vice Commander George Bean, Mr. Alfred Cavanagh, and Post 205 Commander Dean Shelton.

70 Years: Augusta Post 205 Commander Dean Shelton presents Mr. Ivan LaBree with his 70 year membership certificate in The American Legion. Left to right, Post 205 Commander Dean Shelton, Mr. Ivan LaBree, Post 205 Second Vice Commander George Bean, and Post 205 member Robert Emery.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

Kennebec County Honor Guard parades the colors at the Oak Hill High School Veterans Recognition Football Game in Wales on Sept. 20, 2014. The Honor Guard paraded the colors and led the opening ceremonies for the Oak Hill High School Veterans Recognition Game. Representatives from Litchfield Post 181 and Sabattus Post 135 were in attendance for the ceremony. Left to right, Norman Bernier, Keith Estabrook, Dale Denbow, and Ernie Keene.

Litchfield Post 181 member Ernie Keene, shown with Department First Vice Commander Ron Rainfrette and other Legionnaires who make up the Kennebec County Veterans Honor Guard, presented the Colors of the Five Branches of Service at the Travis Mills dedication.

Monmouth Post 204 took part in the Monmouth Apple Fest on Sept. 27, 2014. There were candy apples available for $1 each and free candy was given to the children along with mini American flags. It was a big hit! A very special thanks to all of the parents who contributed and donated money. Left to right, Post 204 Service Officer Chuck Shaw, Post 204 Commander Tracy Gray, and Post 204 Sgt.-at-Arms Joe Voisine.

Winthrop Post 40 Color Guard displays the colors at the Winthrop football game on Feb. 17, 2014. Left to right, John Brennan, Donald Chase, Colin Hewett, Carl Smith, Daniel Bellagrad (hidden behind the Legion flag), Scott Foyt, and Bill Crowley.

Monmouth Fair: Monmouth Post 204 was at the Monmouth Fair from July 31 - Aug. 3 selling pull-tab tickets and a raffle for a Kindle Fire HD for the scholarships fund and a monument for the East Monmouth Veterans Memorial. The monument will be at least $1,000. Any donations are welcome. Also, if anyone is interested in the Kindle Fire HD, the cost is $1 per ticket or $5 for 6 tickets. Drawing will be in November. Please mail to The American Legion Monmouth Post 204 P.O. Box 420, Monmouth, ME 04259. Pictured is Treasurer Arthur Esman, left, and Second Vice Commander Don Morin, right. Not pictured is First Vice Commander Archie Wing and Service Officer Chuck Shaw.

Litchfield Post 181 held their annual fundraiser at this year’s Litchfield Fair from Sept. 3-7, 2014. Post 181 ticket sales and concessions for this year totaled over $11,000. Its great results make it the main fundraiser for the Post. The raffle awarded 6 prizes this year - a cord of wood, 100 gallons of fuel oil, a cash prize of $200, and $50 gift cards from the Oak Hill Market, Gowell’s Market, and Litchfield Country Store. The winning tickets were drawn at the conclusion of the fair on Sept. 7, 2014. Pictured above, left to right, Mike Heldman, Larry Parlin, William “Bill” Quackenbush, and Greg Couture.

Pictured below, left to right: Greg Couture and Russ Thayer. Back row, left to right, Keith Estabrook, Robert Fant, and Deb Couture.
**District 10**

**Madison Sea Cadet Participates in International Exchange Program**

Madison, RI - PO1 Riley Coleman was selected as one of the six US-NSCC Cadet Escorts for the NSCC International Exchange Program event held in Newport, RI from 23 June through 02 July 2014. Forty-nine cadets from Australia, Canada, Singapore, Sweden, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom were represented. While there, PO1 Coleman was multi-functional. In addition to the normal Petty Officer duties, she was the Morale, the Recreation and the Mess Deck Petty Officer in charge. During this sixteen-day event, the cadets not only attended classroom trainings as well as physical training, but made a number of day-long and overnight tours. PT events included calisthenics, races and events with kayaks on the waters of the bay around Newport. Tours included a US Coast Guard Station and a US Naval Submarine Base, both in CT. Other tours of places of interest included Boston and New York City. During the tours, each US Escort Cadet had a group comprised of all member nation cadets.

While in Boston, PO1 Coleman’s group, who called themselves the “Boston Red Shirts”, won the Boston Historical Site Challenge established by the event team leaders. The highlight of this day was shopping at the Quincy Market. The New York City tour included visits to Times Square, Wall Street, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty, Broadway and Ground Zero. A benefactor provided tickets for the entire group to see the play “Wicked” live on Broadway. According to PO1 Coleman, the most moving and emotional part of this tour was the visit to Ground Zero. She stated that “It was a very quiet, peaceful place, yet so full of feeling”. Her group toured the Ground Zero museum and found that to be intensely emotional. "No one left with a dry eye. So many people left there weeping and trying to make sense of what they saw".

PO1 Coleman stated that this is the most amazing experience she has had since becoming a Sea Cadet and wants to thank everyone that helped and supported her along this path in life. “I made many friends and had a wonderful time during this event. Being a Sea Cadet has opened my world to many opportunities and I have no regrets”. This event taught me a great deal about different countries and cultures.”

PO1 Coleman, a native of Brewer, is NCB39 Battalion’s Leading Petty Officer and has been in the Madison unit for almost four years.

Photos of this event can be seen on the NCB39BN Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.80051279981342&type=1 Please visit our website for more information about our unit: http://ncb39bn.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx

**Parade and Special Ceremony**

Madison: On 23 August, there was a parade in celebration of the annual Madison/Anson Days. This year’s theme was Honor our Veterans. There were floats addressing this, including a Humvee from the US Army National Guard, another US Army contingent and a USAF contingent. The Grand Marshal consisted of more than a dozen WWII veterans riding in convertibles. The Color Guard was provided by NCB39 Battalion, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps who are sponsored by American Legion Post 39. Among the Grand Marshals was WWII veteran Nunzio Biondello.

Following the parade, there was a special awards presentation held at the American Legion Hall. Mr. Biondello, who is retired USAF Master Sergeant, was presented with medals earned during his long and varied military service that had been lost over the years.

Madison Post 39 held a very special awards presentation on Aug. 23 for retired USAF Master Sergeant Mr. Nunzio Biondello. He is seen here receiving medals earned during his long and varied military service that had been lost over the years.

Left to right, CMSGT Brad Farrin, USAF (Ret.) Former Command CMSGT, Maine Air National Guard was provided by NCB39 Battalion, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Chief of Staff, Maine Air National Guard, and Seaman Sara DeRosa, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Mr. Biondello entered the US Navy in 1942 and was aboard LCI 401 at Omaha Beach on D-Day. He was discharged from the US Navy in 1946. He joined the US Navy Reserve from 1947-1950. He was recalled to active duty at the onset of the Korean Conflict, serving aboard the USS Tappanunahok until he was discharged in 1952.

In 1964, he rejoined the Naval Reserve where he remained until 1972. In 1972 he joined the Recruiting Service of the USCG, where they tried to talk him into taking a commission. He left the Coast Guard in 1974 to join the New York Air National Guard where he served with the 105th until 1982. He and his wife Margaret moved to Maine in 1982 where Nunzio joined the 101st Civil Engineering Squadron in Bangor ME. He served there until his retirement as a MAINEIAC in June, 1984.

**Best Poppy Poster Contest**

Victoria Spaulding won the National Poppy Poster Contest and received her award on Oct. 6, 2014 at Skowhegan Post 16. Victoria’s poster was the Best Poppy Poster in Class 1 in the Eastern Division. She is pictured here with, left to right, Unit President Ronda Spaulding (Victoria’s Aunt), Victoria Spaulding, Post 16 Commander Steve Spaulding (Victoria’s grandfather), and Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Herveux.

Skowhegan Post 16 held a celebration supper Monday, Oct. 6 in recognition of the Boys and Girls State recipients sponsored by Post 16 that attended the 67th Annual Dirigo Boys and Girls State this past June. Back, left to right, Eben Lenfest, Justin Ramos, Bill Kelly. Front, left to right, Megan Hooper, Jasmine Gordon, and Michaela Lewis.

**Sea Cadets Attend Navy’s Survival School**

MADISON – Nine cadets and two staff officers from NCB39 Battalion, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, attended an intense 3-day training event from Sept. 12-14, 2014. This training was held at the US Navy’s Survival, Evade, Resist and Escape (SERE) training facility near Rangeley, Maine.
District 11

District 11 Adjutant Lee Snyder visits WWII Veteran Wendell Glidden, left, for the presentation of two certificates of recognition, one from Senator King’s office and the second from the Maine Department of Veterans’ Affairs, along with a challenge coin honoring Glidden’s service during WWII on July 2, 2014 in Waldo. Glidden was in the hospital during the June 29 Waldo County WWII Veterans Recognition Ceremony held at the Belfast Bank of America campus.

Never Forgotten: District 11 Commander Lance Weddell, right, gives a bag of chocolates to WWII veteran Wendell Glidden on July 2, 2014 in Waldo. Wendell had given a bag of chocolates to Commander Weddell’s wife after a visit to Glidden’s home inviting him to the June 29 ceremony honoring Waldo County WWII veterans. When American troops liberated towns against Nazi Fortress Europe, they would give out pieces of chocolate to the people. Lance remarked “Wendell never forgot.”

District 13

Nokomis High School JROTC National Color Team visited Newport Post 105 during their August meeting. They asked for the Posts help to get them to the National Competition in Florida next spring. They also spoke about their fundraising efforts for homeless vets and stated that they had raised over $15,000 last year. Left to right, JROTC First Lt. Cheyenne Beriau, JROTC Maj. Cat Williams, Post 105 Adjutant Kimberly Lander, JROTC First Lt. Sarah Sylvester, JROTC Lt. Col. Felix Thibodeau, Post 105 Commander Gary Braley, and JROTC Capt. Tristan Shealy.

District 14

District 14 held their monthly meeting at Guilford Post 119 on Sept. 13. They conducted a Post Everlasting Ceremony in memory of District 14 Judge Advocate Laurie Word and also issued the streamer award to Monson Post 116. Left to right, Department Commander Richard Graves, and District 14 Commander Randy Kluj.

100% Membership: Dept. Commander Richard Graves and District 14 Commander Randy Kluj present 100% Membership award and Honor Ribbon to Monson Post 116 at the District 14 meeting held at Guilford Post 119 on Sept. 13. Left to right, Department Commander Richard Graves, District 14 Commander Randy Kluj, Post 119 Adjutant Matthew Deloia, and Post 119 First Vice Commander Robert Leenig.

Certificates of Recognition: District 11 Commander Lance Weddell congratulates WWII Veteran and Stockton Springs Post 157 member George Tsetsilas, right, following the presentation of two certificates of recognition, one from Senator King’s office and the second from the Maine Department of Veterans’ Affairs along with a challenge coin honoring Tsetsilas’ service during WWII July 2, 2014 in Belfast. The presentation was made at Tall Pines as Tsetsilas was unable to attend the June 29 Waldo County WWII Veterans Recognition Ceremony held at the Belfast Bank of America campus.

Citation For Meritorious Service: District 11 Commander Lance Weddell presents Palermo Post 163 member Melanie Boynton a Citation for Meritorious Service for her outstanding support of the June 29 Waldo County WWII Veterans Recognition Ceremony.
What’s Happening in Your District...

**District 14 continued**

District 14 Meeting: Department Second Vice Commander Pete Johnson and Department Executive Committeeman John Hargreaves at the District 14 meeting held at Guilford Post 119 on Sept. 13.

Barbecue For Veterans: Members of Milo Post 41 brought chairs and tables to the VA Clinic in Bangor Aug. 13 to help VA nurses and staff provide a barbecue for veterans attending regularly scheduled appointments and to provide entertainment to nearby nursing home patients. A musician played during the event and this allowed nursing home resident Sonny Burton (Pictured) to get out of a wheel chair and dance with a lady staff member. Burton is a Korean War vet and Milo Post 41 member. Post Commander Dan Nutter monitored Burton to see that he did not lose balance and fall. This is the third year the impromptu event has been held and was well received.

What’s Happening in Your District...

**District 15**

Sherman Bros. Post 3 in Calais mounted 30 brackets and flags along North Street in Calais during the first stage of “Project Legion Flags” during their monthly meeting on Monday, Sept. 15. Nick James, left, from Riverside Electric pictured here with Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean helped out with the project. The second stage will take place next spring.

International Fest Color Guard: Members of the American Legion Post 3 in Calais along with members of the VFW Post #9779 participate in the International Fest Color Guard along with Canadian Veterans.

Members of the Color Guard, Calais Post 3 Commander Mike Mclean, left, and Post 3 Adjutant Troy Ramsdell, right, at the October Fest Parade in Baileyville on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Calais Post 3 officers stand in front of the Calais Post 3 Legion building that was sold in August of 2011. Left to right, Commander Michael McLean, Historian Pete Trouant, Denny Woodruff, and Adjutant Troy Ramsdell.
The American Legion Launches New Fundraising & Awareness Campaign

Ladies and Gentlemen,
The American Legion is launching a national awareness campaign to raise funds to help our organization assist veterans, their families, young people and communities. The first installment of that campaign will focus on the mental health needs of veterans, particularly those who are battling the signature wounds of today’s war era: PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Because these messages will air nationally and before audiences that may be unfamiliar with The American Legion and its services, you may receive calls, visits and other communications from veterans in need or their families. If the request is routine, please handle as you usually would, as being a service organization.

If the need is urgent, refer the veteran or family member to a VA emergency support service, such as:

- Texting service: 838255
- Online chat service: www.VeteransCrisisLine.net

If a veteran comes to you or your post as a result of the message, please be welcoming and helpful. Offer him or her the services of the nearest accredited American Legion service officer, who can easily be found online at www.legion.org/serviceofficers or connect the veteran to local resources through your post service officer or other members.

Please feel free to contact Chuck Korp, Managing Director of Non-Member Fundraising at 317-860-3030 or ckrupa@ legion.org if you have any further questions.

DANIEL S. WHEELER,
National Adjutant

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 16

The VA2K walk was held at the Cary Medical Center in Caribou to help support homeless veterans on May 21, 2014. $20,000 was raised last year thanks to the presence of this event. Those who would like to take part can bring a donation card to benefit the veteran. Left to right, Katie Michaud, RN project ARCH coordinator; Rep. Charles Theriault, Madawaska; Bill Flagg, Cary Medical Center Relations Dept. and Wendell Hudson, veteran.

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Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 23

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the February 2015 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be January 23, 2015.

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.

Transformation Takes Shape at Department Headquarters

American Legion Riders Dixfield Post 100 Director Charles Green cuts down trees at The American Legion Department Headquarters. Also assisting him was Post 100 member Randal Canwell. The removal of this segment of trees was one of the many positive transformations that Department Headquarters underwent after moving to its new location at 5 Verti Drive in Winslow. Department Headquarters thanks both of you for your donated time.

Garage Makeover: One of the biggest changes that Department Headquarters underwent was the remodeling of the garage. This building offers many options for the future.