Conference Brings Innovative and Informative Information

By RACHAEL CURRIE, Office Manager
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

The American Legion, Department of Maine’s Annual Mid-Winter Conference took place at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor, Maine on Jan. 20-21, 2018. This year’s conference brought innovative and informative information to all those who attended including Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and guests.

Directing this year’s conference was Commander Randall Kluj who also acted as the M/C for the program and 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut. Special guests included Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan, Associate Editor for The American Legion Magazine and staff liaison to The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary Observance Committee Laura Edwards, Commercial Account Acquisition for Irving Energy Nelson Hansen, and Vice President of Veteran Mentors of Maine James Orr.

This year’s annual event was held in honor of Past National Commander (PNC) Jordan who as the guest speaker during Saturday night’s banquet spoke highly in regard to Department officers and staff as well as the efficiency in the operations at Department Headquarters, referencing it “A One Stop Shop”.

PNC Jordan served as National Commander of The American Legion during 1997-1998 where he was elected during the 79th annual National Convention held in Orlando, Fl. Jordan, a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War, is a member of Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post 54 in Wiscasset, Maine and has been a member of The American Legion for 52 continuous years.

Saturday’s conference commenced with an opening ceremony by Department Commander Randall Kluj followed by the National Anthem performed by Green ville Post 94 member Gary Nelson and PNC Anthony “Tony” Jordan welcoming attendees and special guests. Special Projects Coordinator for the Department of Maine Amedeo “Deo” Lauria and 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman Donald Hands proceeded with Maine’s 100th Year Anniversary presentation followed by a 100th Year Anniversary overview (National level) by Laura Edwards. Various committee reports were then given by the Chairman of each committee following the 100th Anniversary presentations.

Special guest Nelson Hansen of Irving Energy presented a group savings plan to The American Legion, Department of Maine attendees, offering special discounted pricing on fuel and home heating equipment.

Following Mr. Hansen was Veteran Mentors of Maine, James Orr. Mr. Orr gave an overview of Veteran Mentors of Maine and its purpose which is to make certain that no Veteran is left behind, and to provide mentors to Veterans at risk in Maine, in particular, those who have been admitted to the Veterans Court Program.

After lunch, Department 1st Vice Commander Scott Paradis and 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut reviewed a strategic membership plan as well as membership recruiting and retention. 1st Vice Commander Paradis conducted a special 100% membership presentation for all Posts who achieved 100% membership by December 31, 2017. These Posts were entered into a drawing for a chance to receive a $50 Emblem Sales gift card. The lucky winners of that drawing were:

The lucky winners of that drawing were:

- The American Legion Family and Friends
- There is strength in numbers. And there is dedication among American Legion Family members.
- Combine American Legion dedication and strength through numbers, and we have a time-honored formula for meaningful advocacy for the values we share. Support for veterans, our troops, young people and patriotism.
- Every day, we see American Legion members supporting today’s service members. Sons of The American Legion members are diligently attending to the needs of older veterans. American Legion Riders are raising money right this minute for scholarships to help young people. And Auxiliary members are working tirelessly to support their posts, chapters and squads.
- Communities across America today are better off due to American Legion membership. I know this first-hand, having witnessed the kindness of American Legion Family members in many ways. I also know the impact we have on veterans, service members and their families can’t be always be expressed in numbers.
- Yet, it’s numbers we need now, more than ever before.
- Without strong numbers, our influence to fight for veterans’ rights on Capitol Hill is jeopardized. Our youth programs will mentor fewer children who need our guidance. Our charitable donations will help fewer veterans, service members and their families who need us.

In my travels as your national commander, I have seen the best of The American Legion. Veterans helping veterans and strengthening every corner of our nation.

We need to retain current members and recruit new ones to continue effectively serving our communities, states and nation in ways only The American Legion Family can. This coming weekend, the national Membership and Post Activities Committee will meet to lay out plans for growth.

But we need your help. Check in with expired members and encourage them to rejoin. Connect with younger veterans and let them know how The American Legion has their backs.

There are tools to help you succeed and help us grow:

- There are wonderful flyers, presentations, posters, ads and more that you can use. Download them at the Legion’s membership page at www.legion.org/membership/tools.

Each month, we are sending three copies of The American Legion Magazine to every post – at no charge. These are intended to be resources to give to prospective members, or leave behind at

More on “Mid-Winter”, Page 2

Strength Comes from Membership

Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

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More on “Mid-Winter”, Page 2

100th Anniversary Banner Display: Special guest and Associate Editor for The American Legion Magazine/staff liaison to The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee Laura Edwards, Left, and Dept. Commander Randall Kluj, right, stand in front of the 100th Anniversary banner designed by Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo “Deo” Lauria. This banner along with a few others designed by Mr. Lauria and Office Manager Rachael Currie were brought to Mid-Winter Conference for display with the option to buy (see pg. 19 for details).
The Maine Legionnaire, February 2018

Commander’s Comments

What a great time to be a part of The American Legion Department of Maine. I feel privileged and honored to be a part of the Department leadership team. It seems that business as usual just don’t happen anymore. With the change to our new home, we now have a complete history display with history books probably covering many of your grandparent’s. The learning center and programs for education are catching the eye of National Headquarters and our instructors are exceptional.

The Winter Conference was a huge success and Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan presented an exceptional presentation at the banquet on what needed to be heard. Kudos to you Commander Tony Jordan.

As we plan for the future, it becomes clear that leaders at my level need to pass on what we have learned on the journey and where it is not possible to mentor anyone, I will present some tips of guidance learned from my journey.

Nomination Committee: The most common error is to select members who have never held the positions or know the membership abilities. The most experienced members should be selected for this committee and they should be able to communicate easily. Start early and don’t be rushed into just filling in names. Remember that members can be nominated from the floor before establishing an election process.

Post Officers:
- No member should hold more than one position, especially Commanders and Adjutants. The Finance Officer, Adjutant and Commander should be trained in the use of e-mails, online banking and search of web sites in order to keep in communication with District, Department and National. The Smile is weekly from Department with considerable information.
- Each officer should have a function at every meeting and never accept any member who says you can put down my name but don’t expect me to do much.
- Vice Commanders should lead to the Commander’s position, if no interest in being Commander, place them in other positions.

Executive Committee: The Commander, Adjutant and Finance Officer should be on the committee, other officers according to your By-Laws and At-Large members should be your most experienced members as their meetings have a great effect on the years success and staying within the Post By-laws.

District Officers:
- The District Commander should be an experienced commander from Post level, proficient with a lap top, conduct informational meetings with near perfect protocol and be able and willing to travel to Post meetings within the District and attend Department Executive meetings.
- Vice Commanders should be planning to move up to commander and being mentored for the job.
- Other positions within the District should be filled with experienced members from various Posts within the District setting the example for visiting members.

Education Opportunities: Never has there been a better time to increase your education within the American Legion.
- Basic course once known as the Extension Course is now on-line (FREE) and should be completed by all members, especially those moving into officer positions.
- Courses at the Department of Maine are now offering American Legion College and various classes in leadership skills and preparing you for the future. All they need is you to step up, inquire and sign up. Classes are at skill levels so you would need to complete step one before attending step two.

Truly, it is a great time to be part of The American Legion of Maine. On many levels, as Past District and State we offer leadership opportunities to further our organization. Our leadership course, The Maine American Legion College, was held on Feb 17 & 18th at Department HQ with great success. Please keep posted with upcoming dates for our next American Legion College Course. Taking advantage of our educational opportunities and following leadership guidelines, we ALL further The American Legion of Maine.

Membership Drawing: Dept Commander’s Aide Allen Benner, left, draws the winners for 100% Membership as of Dec. 31 and the Christmas Membership Incentive at Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 21 with the assistance of 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, center, and 1st Vice Commander Scott Paradis, right. Department Randall Kluj, back left, is seen here overlooking the drawing before he makes the announcement. (See membership winners listed on page 1-2 in the Mid-Winter Conference Article).

A ‘First’ Look

Retention: The Key to Membership Growth

Why do Veterans join The American Legion and not renew their membership the following year? Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to find out why they joined in the first place. If their reason for joining is realized during their first membership year, they will probably renew.

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

Moved – Mad – Mortality

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

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

Mad: This is where face-to-face contact is necessary. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” Who or what is the member upset with? The retention/membership worker must find this out before anything can be resolved.

Most “mad” problems can be resolved by discussion and working it out with parties concerned. We must try!

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

I – Initiate: Tell the story of The American Legion.
I – Indoctrinate: Explain individual programs.
I – Involve: Find the interest area and involve the new member.

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

Communication: Let everyone know what is going on.

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

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

What is: A District meeting? a department meeting? a banquet? a Division meeting? a Department meeting? a Continental meeting? a National meeting? a National Convention.

More on “1ST VICE”, Page 3

Mid-Winter”
(Continued from Page 1)

Camden Post 30, Unity Post 50, Oakfield Post 52 and Litchfield Post 216. Congratulations goes to all the posts that achieved 100% membership.

A drawing for the Vice Commanders Christmas Membership Incentive which included individual Legion memberships paid in the month of December also took place for twelve $50 cash prizes. The following winners were: Ronald Estes - South Paris Post 72, James Worthly - Westbrook Post 197, Riley Mercier - Madison Post 39, Brian Warren - Gardiner Post 4, Charles Lazore - Greenville Post 94, Frederick Cummings - Westbrook Post 197, Ronald Jean - Westbrook Post 197, Donald Beau lieu - Van Buren Post 49 and James Reis - Westbrook Post 197.

Following the speakers and membership drawings, candidate announcements were made. Scott Paradis, Corinna Post 73 - Department Commander; Matthew Jabaut, Topsham Post 202 - 1st Vice Commander; Debra Couture, Litchfield Post 181 - 2nd Vice Commander; Kirk Thurston, Rumford Post 24 - 2nd Vice Commander; Alfred McKay, Damariscotta Post 42 - Americanism Officer; Jeffrey Stevenson, Bath Post 21 - Historian; Kelly Ela, Naples Post 155 - Sergeant-at-Arms; John Hargreaves, Richmond Post 132 - NEC; Randall Kluj, Milo Post 41 - NECA.

At the conclusion of the Mid-Winter Conference, the Sweetsakes winners were drawn and announced. Grand prize winner of $4,000 was Brian Moores, Lubec Squadron 65. $750 winner was Michael Whalen, Baileyville Post 23 and $250 winner was David N. Cotta, Head quarters Post 178.

Department Commander Kluj closed the conference in proper form with announcement that the Dept Executive Committee would meet Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

The evening celebration included a wonderful prepared meal, and music provided by DJ and Veteran Terrance Stone.
A ‘Second’ Look

My Fellow Legionnaires! It is my distinct pleasure to continue to serve as your 2nd Vice Commander for the Department of Maine.

It was so great to see so many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference! I thought we shared a lot of good information and ideas for how to celebrate our 100-year Anniversary. We talked a lot about our legacy and how we have shown the value of the organization over that time. I would encourage all of you to celebrate with us either at the convention or at your post!

Education continues to be a priority and building our leaders abilities at the post and district levels so that all members have a legendary experience within our organization is a must. Classroom or formal training is important but not the only way. Mentorship is a great way to pass on the institutional knowledge that is out there onto the new leaders and new generation of Veterans. I would encourage all of you to be a mentor or to search one out.

At our Mid-Winter Conference PNC Tony Jordan mentioned our need for mentor and mentorship as well in his address. We need to take this advice and have a call to action for those of you out there who have this knowledge and find someone to pass this forward. You may not be in a place in your life to take on a role at a Post or be there all the time, but my guess would be that you could find the time to be there for the members that are in those roles.

I have been fortunate enough to have many mentors in my life, at work, personal and through the Legion and wish the same for everyone in our great organization. I will always remember them, pass their teachings onto others, and through this process their ideas and legacies will be passed forward. I urge all of you to continue your own legacy through mentoring.

Helping to Drive Maine Forward!

Teaching Legion College In Maine: Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut instructs those in attendance for the very first Maine Legion College class held Feb. 18 at Department HQ.

Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL

We’ve revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process. Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments:
• No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
• No more worrying, “Did I renew my membership or not?”
• Join the other 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, “I believe in The American Legion and what it’s doing. I’m in this for the long haul.”
• Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.

• Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership, please visit www.legion.org/join/PUFL and enter your name and member ID.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program, contact customer service at (800) 433-3318.

www.legion.org/join/PUFL

On the Agenda

MARCH MEETINGS

District 1 – York: Mar. 18, Kearsarge Post 123, 2 p.m.
District 3 – Androscoggin: Mar. 18, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 21, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. Election of officers. Refreshments.
District 7 – Lincoln: Mar. 14, Waldoboro Post 149, 7 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: Mar. 14, Waterville Post 5, 7 p.m.
District 11 – Waldo: Mar. 18, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.
District 12 – Hallowell: Mar. 13, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 13 – Penobscot: Mar. 4, Newport Post 105, 2 p.m. Refreshments served.
District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 17, Sangerville Post 165, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 16 – S. Aroostook: Mar. 3, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m.

APRIL MEETINGS

District 1 – York: Apr. 15, Berwick Post 79, 2 p.m.
District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 9, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m. Past presidents and past commanders dinner with mtg. to follow and nomination of officers.
District 3 – Androscoggin: Apr. 15, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 18, Rumford Post 24, 7 p.m. Installation of officers. Light supper 6 p.m.
District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 11, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.
District 11 – Waldo: Apr. 15, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m. Refreshments served.
District 12 – Hallowell: Apr. 9, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 13 – Penobscot: Apr. 8, Hiram Post 213, 2 p.m. Refreshments served.
District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 21, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 8, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. dinner. Nominations.

MAY MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: May 20, Naples Post 155, 1 p.m. lunch, post everlasting and election of officers. Mtg. to follow.
District 3 – Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming Commander
District 5 – Oxford: May 15, West Paris 151, 7 p.m. Light supper 6 p.m.
District 7 – Lincoln: May 2, Damariscotta Post 42, 6 p.m.
District 11 – Waldo: May 20, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
District 12 – Hallowell: May 8, Stonington Post 102, 6 p.m.
District 13 – Penobscot: May 6, Howland Post 97, 2 p.m., installation of officers. Refreshments served.
District 14 – Piscataquis: May 19, Greenville Post 94, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 16 – S. Aroostook: May 5, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m.
District 17 – N. Aroostook: May 6, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner. District elections.

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 10, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.
District 12 – Hallowell: June 12, Southwest Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

1st Vice

(Continued from Page 2)

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

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

HOW IMPORTANT IS MEMBERSHIP RETENTION?

Approximately 11% of Maine Legionnaires do not renew their membership each year. That’s how important it is. Not for the sake of numbers, but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state and national level.

Thank you for your service and the privilege of your time.

MEMBERSHIP IS
Americanism Report

I hope everyone is staying warm and feeling well this winter. It has been a very bad flu season. Please take care of yourselves.

The Department had a wonderful Mid Winter Conference on January 20th and 21st in Bangor. Thank you to all who did such a great job planning and executing the conference. Thank you to all the Americanism committee members who gave updates on their respective programs. Also, welcome to our two new Americanism Committee members: Peter Dustin and David Gray.

As we move into the next few months, there will be many Americanism events taking place.

On February 10, 2018, the Department of Maine American Legion Oratorical Contest will take place at Thomas College in Waterville at 9 AM. I hope as many of you as possible will attend. At this point in time, there are only five young men and women who have sent in applications to participate. Our numbers of participants has decreased over the years. Several of our district commanders have some great ideas on trying to increase our numbers for future years. If you have thoughts about this and would like to participate in a group to take a look at how we might be able to increase participation, please email me at navycapttonini031@gmail.com by March 1, 2018. We will try to put a meeting together later this Spring to discuss and see what we can do as we move forward.

Another big event that will be here soon is Boys State. We have a great scholarship program that Past State Commander Pete Johnson has started. Anyone who wants to contribute to this fund is encouraged to send donations to Rachael at Department Headquarters. Shawn Babine, our Boys State Director, has some great ideas for this coming year, too. Shawn already has his volunteers set up for 2018. He will be expanding some of the topics/classes to include issues that our students are facing in the world today. One of those issues is sexual harassment. Shawn has two speakers who will be attending and working with the students on this issue. They are a husband and wife team, graduates of Boys and Girls State, respectively; and who are both attorneys at their places of employment. Shawn is also working with headquarters on an application that can be loaded to the student’s iPhone or android phone. This application will include training manuals that have historically been in a paper version only. The paper version will still be

More on “AMERICANISM”, Page 5

The Adjutant Speaks

Here we are in 2018 and we are going to have the busiest year to date. We are planning to “kick off” the beginning of our 100th year celebration for The American Legion on March 15th with ongoing events leading into 2019. At this time, we have designed and received 1000 Aniversary coins that are currently being sold by Department & District Officers at Department HQ and on our web-site. They are $10.00 each or $15.00 online to cover shipping and handling. We have currently sold over 400 coins. If you desire one, please contact HQ at 873-3229 or go to our web-site at www.mainelegion.org.

Another event that will take place is at the Annual State Convention which will be held June 15-17 in Bangor. We normally open the convention on Friday with house procedures and Resolution meetings and some awards. Saturday has been the biggest day for Legion business, ending with the Banquet & Installation in the evening. However, this year, because of the 100th Anniversary, we are planning some big changes on Saturday that will affect us all. We are still in the planning stages and are meeting with the leadership of the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and Legion Riders.

The big event for Saturday will be a parade in downtown Bangor starting around 11:00 AM and arrive back at the Convention Center by 2 PM. The lead person for this event has informed us that at least four bands will be attending and hopes for a few others. The goal is to start the parade with the Legion Riders followed by Post-1 from Rockland carrying all the Post flags in the lead with the entire Legion family of that Post included in the march. The next group will be Post-2, then Post-3, Post-4, and so forth, continuing by Post numbers. What we vision is a sea of flags as far as you can see. We do not care if you only have 6 members or 60 members in the march, bring your colors and make history for The American Legion 100th Anniversary.

Our Public Relations team & our Centennial team are working to notify all news media people for something that has never been done. This will only succeed if you all start planning as soon as possible. Get those flags ready and anything else that you normally use in a parade or Honor Guard. In the next few months, we will have more information available and will be sending it out to all Legion Posts as well as posting it on our web-site.

We should all be back at the Convention center by 2:00 PM and proceed with the agenda for the all the Legion family which will be reduced this year. There will be a few issues that will surface for sure, but the one thing that will make this event a success will be all in your hands, that being ATTITUDE & PATIENCE.

Remember, this is a one time event that has never been done before. So to all those members that have not been to a convention in a while, or have not been at all, please make every effort to help us make history in the State of Maine on June 16, 2018.

100th Anniversary Legion Family Meeting: The American Legion Family gather at Department Headquarters on Dec. 22, 2017 to discuss the massive Centennial parade which will take place at this year’s 100th Annual State Convention June 16 to kickoff the Centennial celebration for The American Legion 100th Anniversary. Left to right, Auxiliary Department President Ann Durost, Auxiliary Department Secretary Michelle McRae, Department Office Manager Rachael Currie, Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, and Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo “Deo” Lauria. Missing from photo is Sons of The American Legion Adjutant Bruce Pierce who is busy taking the photo.

REMEMBER: PATRIOT’S DAY APRIL 16TH
Historical Bulletin

Honor Flight Maine a nonprofit organization 501(c) 3, was founded by Earl Morse, a 21-year Air Force Veteran of Vinal Haven. This program is to honor Veterans for their service and sacrifice. Selection is based upon a first come first served basis, with top priority given to WWII Vets and then to Veterans with terminal illness. More specific details can be found on their website www.HonorFlightMaine.org. Earl said it best, ‘WII Vets are the only group of veterans who literally helped to save the World’, they definitely deserve our recognition and respect.

This program requires a herculean logistical effort throughout, from its staff, preplanning, ground crews, transportation (bus and plane), first class lodging, food, administrative and personnel support which was executed with near perfect precision.

Everything is completely free of charge to the Veteran; there is however a fee of $500 to the Guardian, with everything you do and see it is doubtful you could do this for less money on your own. I was fortunate, not only to attend this trip with my friend and neighbor Harry Higgins (93), a WWII Veteran, but also a fellow member of Bath Post 21. At first Harry was reluctant to go, but at the prod- ing of his wife Loraine and his insistence of me going with him or he wouldn’t go and more prodding by my wife Lilly for me to go, off we went. Program Founder Earl Morse and Bill Green and their camaraderie Kirk Crafty of Bill Green’s Maine were also in attendance on this trip.

Most importantly, there were 46 Veterans selected to be honored on this momentous trip. It did not take long to discover that the Honoree’s, Guardians and support personnel are amongst the finest people I have ever been associated with, both Veteran and Non-Veteran alike. There are too many people involved to adequately recognize but thank you to Trip Leads/ Earl Morse, Laurie Side- linger, Joy Asuncion & Ground Crew/ Deanie Bissonnette, Faith Pumber and Brian Knowlton, just to name a few.

This trip started out on a Friday morning from Portland International Jetport in a wheel chair procession. Guardians push the Veterans in a wheelchair for the entirety of the trip for their safety and so they don’t get so tired as to not be able to enjoy the trip. We flew out to Washington, D.C. then on bus toured around historic sites such as Fort McHenry where the “Star Spangled Banner” was composed. We had a motorcycle escort by the Patriot Guard Riders to the WWII Memorial then we went on to the Arlington for the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a few of our Veterans were selected for a Wreath laying ceremony with the Tomb guards. The Women’s Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument were also to be seen and much more.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of this trip, not only to the recipient, but to the Guardians as well. Harry is still going on and on about this adventure that he almost said “No” to. We are losing our WWII Veterans fast, anyone who knows one, please encourage them to take a chance in this program. They will not regret it. Thank you again to all who made this happen!

The next scheduled flight is 27-29 April 2018.

Honoring Our Veterans

Through Honor Flight Maine: Department of Maine, American Legion Historian Jeffery Stevenson, left, attends the Honor Flight Maine Program, with WWII Veteran, friend, and neighbor Harry Higgins in October, 2017. Harry is a fellow member of Bath Post 21.

Americanism

(Continued from Page 4)

available for those students who do not have phones or cannot load the application to their phones.

Additionally, the Samsung scholarship’s (awarded at Girls and Boys State) website is already up and running at http://legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application. There are several changes to the scholarship this year. 1. Applicants with membership to the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion will receive a bonus point in their score. Or, they can receive a bonus point by uploading a membership card of a parent. Only one bonus per application is allowed. 2. Essay questions have been revised. Each is worth 10 points. The topics are available at the application website noted earlier in this paragraph.

There is also a Boys State toolkit that was designed to help posts, departments and others in the Legion family raise awareness and increase participation in the program. It is not mandatory to use this program. It is just a tool that can be used. You can request this program for use. Anyone who requests it will have their request forwarded to their department’s program. To access the toolkit visit: https://www.legion.org/boysnation/resources. The password is ALBSdownload.

Your Post should have already received their Boys State package. Please start working with your local high school guidance office (or whoever is your point of contact for Boys State) soon so that the students understand the application and the commitment involved in the program. It is never too early to start working with them.

Again, I want to thank all of you for everything that you do to assist our Veterans and to help your post, community, state, and nation. You do a great job. God Bless you all.

“Rohan”

(Continued from Page 1)

places where veterans congregate – VA hospitals, doctor’s offices, etc.

Review the Legion’s Basic Training course a www.legion.org/alei and encourage other members to check it out. The interactive guide features videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and more to help visitors learn more about our organization.

Oratorical Preparation:

Oratorical Committee Chairman Donald Chase, and Dept. Officers get ready for final preparations of the State Orator- ical contest at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 10. Left to right, Oratorical Chairman Donald Chase, Department Assistant Service Officer and Oratorical Timekeeper Maureen Malley, Dept. Americanism Officer Debra Couture and Dept. Commander Randall Kluj (hidden in the back).
President’s Message

The Memorial brick sponsorships are still trickling in but we have a long way to go. If you have sponsored a brick (or more), I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you have not sponsored a brick yet, please look at finding a way to sponsor one (or more). What a long-lasting tribute to the heroes of our state! Please be a part of that. Our remaining brick sponsorships that are available by County are as follows:

- Androscoggin: 22 bricks unsponsored
- Aroostook: 19 bricks unsponsored
- Cumberland: 71 bricks unsponsored
- Franklin: All bricks are sponsored!
- Hancock: 9 bricks unsponsored
- Kennebec: 26 bricks unsponsored
- Knox: All bricks are sponsored!
- Lincoln: All bricks are sponsored!
- Oxford: All bricks are sponsored!
- Penobscot: 33 bricks unsponsored
- Piscataquis: 6 bricks unsponsored
- Sagadahoc: All bricks are sponsored!
- Somerset: 1 bricks unsponsored
- Waldo: All bricks are sponsored!
- Washington: 6 bricks unsponsored
- York: 51 bricks unsponsored
- Unknown County: 26 bricks unsponsored

Please look at your county and see if you can help. If your county already has sponsored all their bricks, please consider sponsoring Heroes from a County near you or from the 26 Heroes whose county is unknown.

Please continue to send your brick sponsorships to Headquarters. You can watch the progress of how many have been sponsored by going to www.maineala.org. Forms for sponsorship can also be found on the website and they should be sent to Headquarters once you have selected the name(s) you want to sponsor.

For God and Country,
Ann Durost (aka Owner of Man O’ War)
President

American Legion Family
Joint Testimonial

A joint testimonial to honor our 2018 American Legion Family Leaders, American Legion Department Commander Randall Kluj, American Legion Auxiliary President Ann Durost, and Sons of The American Legion Commander Ron Marr, will be held May 19, 2018 at Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt Post 1 in Rockland. Social Hour will be from 1-2 p.m. (appetizers provided) and BBQ served at 2 p.m.

The menu will include: BBQ split breast chicken, hamburgers/cheeseburgers, natural casing hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, garden salad, macaroni tuna salad and one additional side TBA, condiments, pickles, and assorted desserts. A gluten-free option will also be available.

Cost for the meal will be $16.00 per person. Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 1, P.O. Box 184, Rockland, Maine 04841. Deadline for reservations: May 11, 2018. All tickets to be picked up at the door.

The American Legion Family
Department of Maine
POW/MIA Memorial Project

The American Legion Family, Department of Maine has joined together in a joint project to build a POW/MIA Memorial at The American Legion Family Maine Headquarters. This memorial is to honor and remember the 479 Mainers who are still unaccounted for*. Each missing Mainer will have a brick listing their name, branch of service, and war conflict. Please help us keep these hero’s memories alive with this memorial. They have given the ultimate sacrifice For God and Country.

You can sponsor a permanent brick for the POW/MIA Memorial. Each brick is $50.00 and can be sponsored thru an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, a Sons of the American Legion Squadron, or an American Legion Riders Chapter within the State of Maine.

You may sponsor a specific name or someone from your area or you can choose to have us pick who you sponsor. Only one brick per name is available and the name must come from the official list of Maine Missing POW/MIA’s that we have compiled*. Names are available on a first come basis. However, all missing Mainers need to be remembered with a brick so we will select an available name if yours is not available and we will notify you of such. The Official List of The American Legion Family, Dept. of Maine’s Missing for the POW/MIA Memorial can be found at: www.maineala.org.

The list will be updated as bricks are sponsored.

For more information on how to sponsor a brick for the POW/MIA Memorial, please call The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine 207-465-4966 or visit www.maineala.org or www.mainelegion.org.

Girls and Boys State Attendees:

Gray Post 86 hosted a Boys & Girls State Award Dinner on Oct. 24, 2017. Many attended the event including Past Department President Nancy True, left, and Department Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae.

American Legion Family
Attends Special Olympics
Opening Event:
Department of Maine American Legion Family at the Opening of Special Olympics Maine Winter Games Jan. 17 at Sugarloaf. Left to right, Past Department President Charlotte “Kitty” Doyle, Janet Kluj, 3rd District Department Vice President Lilly Stevenson, Department Chaplin Virginia Chaput, NEC Debbie Marr, SAL Detachment Commander Ron Marr, Department Treasurer Nancy True and Department Commander Randall Kluj.
Judge’s Chambers

Thank you to all who attended the Mid-Winter Conference recently in Bangor. Always something new and meet many incredible people. The weeks leading up to the Conference were a blur, besides my full-time job I was busy attending town meetings and fielding many calls concerning Post discipline, by-laws, and Veterans needing assistance.

I had to sit back and de-stress a few times, one way I get my head back on course is to review the American Legion Preamble. I concentrate on the last clause or the 10th clause:

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELP-FULNESS.

To me the most important clause.

From the beginning of your journey in the armed forces, there is a principle that is drilled into your mind from the start: the buddy system or battle buddies. You are assigned someone to drill with, bivouac with, go to firing line with, and possible fight side by side with. You watch each other’s back. You create lifelong relationships.

We leave the military and the concept seems to fade. The American Legion is full of Veterans aware of the “battle buddy” concept but sometimes we don’t have each other’s back as much as we could.

At the end of World War I, Veterans returned home to forge their future. They had to figure out a path for survival with minimal assistance, if any, from the government. There were no real public services or resources for the returning Veterans, no plan to address the injured troops or to assist the families when there were casualties.

Cue the birth of the American Legion. A group of young men concerned for their comrades and the comrade’s families. A group searching for ways to provide care and protection for their battle buddies, war widows and orphans. A group motivated and prepared to write laws, push them to Congress, to get hospitals built, programs in place, and assistance to the men and women who sacrificed for the United States.

Take an internal look at your Post; are you looking for ways to enrich the lives of veterans? Are you searching for ways to provide care for their families? When troops return in 2018 to your town, what does your Post offer them to get past their injuries, to get employed, to care for their families with dignity, to get assistance at the VA? Are you being a battle buddy?

Take a self-evaluation of what your Post offers, I assure you that new members will join your Post based on services offered to enrich their lives and offering them friendship in their time of need.

At your Post, you may not have served with that Veteran, but look out for their best interest, be an ear when they need to talk, be the person they can depend on. Be a battle buddy.

Look forward to seeing everyone in June at the State Convention. We only get one Centennial in our lifetimes, make sure your Post shows up in force ready to celebrate the birthday of the American Legion.

Education/Training Presentation: Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, right, gives a brief update on Education/Training with Department 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, to those in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 20 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. Matt and Jason also introduced Naples Post 155 Service Officer Kelley Ela (right photo) as the newest member of the team.

Detailing Veterans Day 2018 Resolution

Veterans Day 2018 was Sun., Nov. 11 and is the Centennial of the WWI Armistice that ended the horrific conflict and restored a period of peace to a troubled world.

District 5, at its stated meeting at Locke Mills, on Dec. 19 passed unanimously a Resolution calling upon all District 5 members who attend religious services on Veterans Day 2018, to request of their spiritual leaders in their Houses of Worship, that their bells be rung eleven times at the eleventh hour of the morning in joyful celebration and remembrance of the great event. District 5 Posts will then conduct their own customary ceremonial following the religious services. At the

The Signing Of District 5 Veterans Day 2018 Resolution: District 5 Commander Randal Canwell, seated center, signs the District 5 Veterans Day 2018 Resolution, while District Officers, left to right, Chaplain Joy Boudreau, 1st Vice Commander James Lowell, 2nd Vice Commander Harold Wilbur, Service Officer Richard Nugent, Finance Officer Richard Grover and Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt await their turn to sign.

Introductory Acceptance Speech: Naples Post 155 Service Officer Kelley Ela takes the stand after being introduced as the newest member of the Education/Training Committee which is currently teaching the new leadership curriculum that will involve the first graduating class of The American Legion College for State of Maine. Kelley will be one of the lead instructors of the next scheduled class. Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, left, looks on.
February is upon us, this winter seems to be creeping along very slowly. The Service Department is still as busy as ever though, and the number of appeals has risen, which means more hearings. I think that it is time to review what is needed to be successful when filing a claim. First you need a diagnosis for a condition that can be traced back to service. You will also need a Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA. 120 days from Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA.

PSO Training Seminar: The next PSO Training Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday the 27th of March, 2018. This will be the first class of the year. You can make reservations by e-mailing me at carl.curtis2@va.gov. Remember if you have a change of Post Service Officer, please ask you’re newly elected Post Service Officers to sign up and attend the PSO seminar. Also, I will add them to the DSO newsletter until they can attend.

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

DSO Newsletter: To sign up for the newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov, and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

INTENT TO FILE: Some Veterans are not ready to file a claim or are looking for additional information. In that case, you can execute an Intent to File with our office. That is NOT a claim for benefits. You have one year to file your claim; one year period! Failure to file in one year starts the clock on your claim from the day you file. DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW UP AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!

NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE: VA claims that are denied and have not been appealed within the appropriate time frame require “New and Material Evidence” to be reopened. It is sometimes futile and frustrating to the Veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE: Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements for Veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature.

By adding this telephone application option to VA’s regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll. This option provides Veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ, Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST. On-Line at www.vets.gov!

TOGUS VA WOMEN’S CLINIC: If you haven’t already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women’s health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women Veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman Veteran it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information.
Registration Open for the 2018 American Legion Baseball Season

Registration for the 2018 American Legion Baseball season is now open at www.baseball.legion.org. In 2017, over 3,600 teams participated in the nation’s preeminent youth baseball league, vying for a chance to reach the American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., where each of the eight teams played on national television, with games broadcast on ESPNU.

In 2018, new rule changes include changes to the pitch count rule and seven inning games in national tournament play. Returning coaches may renew their teams or register new teams. New coaches should contact their department’s chair to find out more information about state-specific rules and deadlines. For more information on Legion Baseball, visit www.legion.org/baseball

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

In 2017, The American Legion awarded $22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Award Amounts
Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive $500. Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional $2,500 scholarship. A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All Academic Team, will be awarded an additional $5,000 scholarship.

All Academic Team winners will retain their $500 scholarship from their department. Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight (8) years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

Baseball Committee Update: Maine Legion Baseball Field Director Dennis Damon, left, and Maine Legion Baseball Director David Gray, right, give a brief update on Maine American Legion Baseball to those in attendance at Mid Winter Conference Jan. 20.

Service Office Update
(Continued from Page 8)

M y name is Kirk Thurston, Chairman of the Department Law and Order Committee. This year’s committee members are Roderick Collins of Bridgewater, Shawn Coffin of West Paris, Kevin Bishop of Orneville Township, Mike Lange of St. Albans, Don Chase Jr. of Winthrop, Curtis Merril of Naples and Phil Dow of Burlington.

The time has come for all Legionnaires to press our local area First Responder organizations, i.e. Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs and Game Warden, for information regarding the outstanding heroes in our communities. Contact the leadership of these groups and ask how you can help them honor their people. The forms are simple and easy to prepare. Add a few newspaper articles on an individual and a supervisor’s letter of recommendation and you have a package for submittal. I am willing to assist any Post in the preparation of their applications.

Remember, May 1 is the deadline for packages to be at Department Headquarters. The forms can be found on the Department of Maine, American Legion’s website at www.mainelegion.org.

If you have any questions on form or content of the applications, packages or other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at 369-0831, e-mail fuzzzy3@roadrunner.com or call upon any of the committee members in your area. Refer to this year’s Department State Directory for their phone numbers or check with Department for the information.

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

Thank you in advance.

Honor Our Heroes:
Department Law and Order Committee Chairman Kirk Thurston gives an update on the Law & Order Committee to those attending Mid Winter Conference Jan 20, reminding everyone that May 1st is the deadline to submit forms to State Headquarters to recognize those outstanding heroes in our communities.

Law and Order

Reg, 623-4821, or

Carl Curtis 2, carl.curtis2@va.gov

Membership is Everybody’s RESPONSIBILITY

THE MAINE LEGIONNAIRE, FEBRUARY 2018
VETERAN OF THE MONTH—January
Vaughn P. Estabrook
So. Paris Veterans Home

VAUGHN P. ESTABROOK, ARMY
1967-1969

Vaughn was born on Feb. 6, 1941 and grew up in Harrison & Durham, ME. Vaughn went to school at Freeport High School.

In March 1967, Vaughn was drafted into the Army and was stationed at the Army base in Aurora, Colorado. He worked as a medic for the hospital transporting the injured. Vaughn served during the Vietnam War for about a year. He was honorably discharged in 1969 earning the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Vaughn also received a plaque with airborne wings on it from the 82nd Airborne Division.

Vaughn married Edna and they have two children, Charles & Victoria. They have four grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

After being discharged, Vaughn went to work in construction for BIW. He enjoys playing bingo, listening to music, helping with filling the bird feeders and planting.

Vaughn came to the Maine Veterans’ Home in 2015 and resides on the B Unit.

Thank You Vaughn for your service!

VETERAN OF THE MONTH—February
Harry L. Harper
So. Paris Veterans Home

HARRY L. HARPER ARMY
1943-1945

Harry was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 26, 1919 and grew up with two older sisters. He graduated from Frankford High School in Pennsylvania and attended college at Pennsylvania State University where he earned his BS in Premed in 1941.

Harry then went to Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for Basil Metabolic studies and earned his masters degree. In 1950, he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his medical degree.

Harry enlisted in the Army in August 1943 and was honorably discharged on October 31, 1945. He served during World War II and was stationed at Camp Grant Illinois and in Needles, California where he worked as an assistant laboratory officer.

Harry met Evelyn Small, an Army nurse from Gardiner, Maine while stationed in Taunton, England at the 67th General Hospital. After they got out of the service they got married on October 17, 1945. They have three children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Harry worked as an intern at CMMC in Lewiston, Maine and then opened up his own general practice in August 1951 in South Paris, Maine and practiced for more than fifty years.

Harry enjoyed writing so he decided to write a book called “Dr. Iodine”. Ten years later, he decided to write another book called the “50 Year History of Stephens Memorial Hospital”. He then wrote his third and final book called “Thoughts While on A Treadmill Going No Where”. His granddaughters Joanna from Conway, New Hampshire and Carri from Norway, Maine edited his third book for him.

Harry enjoys listening to music, exercising and doing his therapy services while he resides here at the Maine Veterans’ Home.

Thank You Harry for your service.

More Available Scholarships! Don’t Miss Your Opportunity—Apply Now!

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to www.mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us by mail at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me 04901-0727, email: legion-me@mainelegion.org, or Tel: (207) 873-3229. Applications are due by May 1.
Announcing the 71st Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce its 71st Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program held last June. Left to right, Ted Finn, Sheila Boys State can apply for this scholarship winner from each department for $1250 national scholarship awarded to the selected departmen of Maine are the LeFleur and fered through The American Legion, De- ernment. The two $500 scholarships of- D

guidance counselors for assist-

contact school principals or

by visiting www.dirigoboysstate.com to learn more.

Dirigo Boys State

“A Great Opportunity to Earn Scholarships”

Dirigo Boys State is a great oppor-

portunity for high school juniors to earn scholarships for college as well as learn about the functions of our state government. The two $500 scholarships offered through The American Legion, Department of Maine are the LeFleur and Boyle scholarships which are selected by the Boys State staff during the program.

The Samsung Scholarship is a na-
tional scholarship awarded to the selected winner from each department for $1250 with the opportunity to earn up to $20,000. Selected individuals attending Boys State can apply for this scholarship by visiting www.legion.org/samsung-scholarshipapplication.

To learn more about these scholarships as well as other available scholarships offered through The American Legion, please visit www.mainelegion.org/pages/programs/scholarships.php or www.legion.org/scholarships. Additional scholarships from the Alumni Association will be offered year to year depending upon funding. Last year the Dirigo Boys State Alumni Association gave out $3000 in scholarships. Please visit www.dirigoboysstate.com to learn more.

Gray Post 86

Dirigo Boys and Girls State Award Dinner: Gray Post 86 hosted a Boys & Girls State Award Dinner on Oct. 24, 2017 for two delegates who were sponsored by the Post to attend the 2017 American Legion National Conventions. The total cost for each student for the 2018 session is $300. However, partial sponsorship is also encouraged and can often make the difference on whether or not another student is able to attend. If you would like to be a sponsor for the 2018 Dirigo Boys State Program, please mail your donation to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 or make your donation online by visiting www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboysstate.com for additional information and application material.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 71st Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.

Gardiner Post 4

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

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

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

Caribou Post 15

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

Sanford Post 19

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

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

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

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

Bits ‘N Pieces

The Annual Springvale Vet Center Christmas Luncheon was held on December 13 at the Vet Center. Over a hundred veterans, their family members and friends enjoyed a delicious luncheon compliments of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of Post 19, Sanford, Maine.

On November 20, Sanford Post 19 conducted a Post Everlasting Ceremony for the 13 Legionnaires, 1 Legion Auxiliary and 1 Sons of Legion who had passed since our last Post Everlasting ceremony in November 2015. The ceremony was attended by family members, friends and many members of the Post to pay homage and remember these comrades and all the comrades of the Post Everlasting of the American Legion T.W. Cole Post 19.

Madison Post 39

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

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

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

Wiscasset Post 54

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

Berwick Post 79

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

Guilford Post 119

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

District 7

District 7 for their donation of $100 to Wreaths Across America.
Our American Legion Centennial is a chance to celebrate what we have done in the past hundred years, and recalibrate our organization for our next hundred years.

Celebrate what we have done in our past hundred years. As an American Legion we have fought for and won Veterans bonuses, drafted and successfully lobbied for the original Serviceman’s Readjustment Act. We know it as the GI Bill.

Taken the U.S. Government to court over Agent Orange and won. Stood for God and Country Recalibrate for our next hundred years as an American Legion we need to be responsive to the needs of our present and future veteran populations, maintain our standards in support of God and Country, and teach the importance of good citizenship.

Our Challenges, have you ever heard, “I don’t have the people anymore.” “My people are already overworked.” “Nobody wants to do anything anymore.”

“Nobody wants to do anything anymore”: Remind them that this is a celebration of the work they have done before. Acknowledge that their experience is just what is needed for the post to be successful. Suggest that it would be less work for them; if they mentor another person through the process. Get in touch with other members wouldn’t have been involved for a while and get them on board.

The National and Department of Maine American Legion have ideas about how to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. They would appreciate our involvement in those plans. Bear in mind, the post also has the freedom to hold similar events and expand upon them. Perhaps you can hold an event that is more tailored to your community. In any case, stay in touch with the Department Adjutant and / or myself. You can reach me at (207) 703-2727 or leave a message at the post (207) 363-0376.

I serve as State Chairman for the 100th Anniversary. My specific tasking is in support of the district and post levels. I will come to district meetings, perhaps in vintage American Legion uniform and with some of my personal American Legion Collection. I will make myself available to talk to whomever needs guidance in fulfilling their post potential for the Centennial. For God and Country.

By Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Committee Chairman

The Old American Legion Post
What is the American Legion and its Preamble “Part One of Four”

(A teenager learns about the American Legion and asks important questions.)

In class today; we talked about our family history or “genealogy” as our teacher called it. The teacher said that our ancestors influenced who we are today because of something called DNA-which was a word too big for me to say.

He further said something like: “We are the way we are today for two reasons.” “It is because of our nature or physically inherited traits from our parents and ancestors.” “It’s also because of the way we were nurtured; or the way we were brought up by our parents and the things we learned by living.”

That made me really curious about my family history. So, I asked my dad and he sat me down in the kitchen and brought out some old picture books. The pictures were so old – some of them were in black and white and faded. There were different size pictures. I really liked old cars in the pictures.

I recognized some of the pictures of my aunts and uncles and I laughed at how young everybody used to look. When it came to my grandfather – there was a picture of him as an older man. I asked my father about it. He said that was my grandfather and great grandfather. I noticed they were in uniform – like they were in the army or something – so I asked about that. My father told me that his dad was in the Navy and my great grandfather – he thinks retired from the Army.

He surprised me by saying; “The uniform was the American Legion uniform”. “American Legion” “What’s that?” I asked.

“Well, it’s a veterans group” “Veterans got together after the war to help other veterans.” “It was a social club too.” “Some posts had bars, sponsored sports, and dinners, and the veterans would go there to socialize.” “I know they had business meetings too”.

“Wait a minute”; my dad said; and he disappeared into his bedroom. He brought out a card with a pin on it. The pin was gold and blue, kind of round with pointy parts, had a star in it, and said “American Legion” on the top and bottom.

Oh, yes. and the U. S. was big in the middle.

On the card was printed the American Legion preamble;

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

“What does all that mean?”

My dad thought for a minute and said: “Well, tell you what; I know someone you can talk to about it.” “He was an old friend of your grandfather and he still lives in town.” “I’ll give him a call.”

Look forward to Part Two, Uniforms and Parades) in the next Legionnaire.

By Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Committee Chairman
Once finalized, the designs will be unmine the commemorative coin designs. Coinage Advisory Committee to deter-

Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizens working with The American Legion, for one year, beginning in January 2019. To commemorate this occasion, The American Legion will celebrate its 100th year Anniversary products/1269/

Get your Post Website set up today on the Legion Centennial Website by visiting http://www.centennial.legion.org

Celebrate the Centennial with Shirts, Hats, Pins, and More

The American Legion Centennial Celebration may not start until the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis, but the Legion’s Emblem Sales outlet has already expanded its selection of 100-Year Anniversary items, with more to come.

Items now available for sale include caps, polo shirts, T-shirts, tacks and patches. Centennial items are priced for any budget, ranging from $3.95 to $37.95. Centennial enthusiasts can wear their pride in the nation’s largest veterans organization on the golf course, pinned to their Legion caps or Riders vest, or any occasion at all.

As the official celebration draws nearer, Emblem Sales will continue to expand its selection, as well as offer promotional items for posts to purchase. http://emblem.legion.org/100-Year-Anniversary/products/1269/

U.S. Mint to Issue Coins that Celebrate American Legion's Centennial

The American Legion will celebrate 100 years of service to veterans, servicemembers and their families in 2019. To commemorate this occasion, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act was signed into law last October by President Donald Trump. This legislation requires the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue gold, silver and half-dollar clad coins in celebration of the centennial of The American Legion, for one year, beginning in January 2019.

The Department of the Treasury is working with The American Legion, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee to determine the commemorative coin designs. Once finalized, the designs will be unveiled to the public before coin production.

Proceeds Earned

Thanks to Legion Post 15

Boy Scout Troop #186 and Cub Scout Pack #186 want to thank the members of American Legion Post 15 for allowing us to hold a Hunter’s Breakfast today and for all of the great help you provided. We are so fortunate to have American Legion Post 15 as our charter organization and the support you provide allows us to bring the Scouting experience to our young men.

In September, the Troop attended the North Star District Fall Scout Camporee located along the Allagash River. This event drew troops from all over Aroostook County and as far away as Brewer. Although six of our eight boys attending were new scouts, our Troop fared very well taking three third place finishes in the Iron Chef, Map & Compass and Forest Ranger Challenge competitions.

In October the Troop and Pack traveled deep into the North Maine woods to visit the shores of Eagle Lake to visit the abandoned trains. It was a wonderful time to go as the fall foliage was at peak and the weather was perfect for a hike. The Troop has set a current goal to earn enough money to purchase an enclosed trailer to store our camping gear. This will allow us to easily go to events by just hooking up to the trailer and be on our way. The proceeds of the Hunter’s Breakfast will get us well on our way to starting to earn the trailer.

Again, we thank you.

Cub Scout Master Pack #186, David Spooner

Words of Thanks

Dear Rachael and Sue,

Thanks so much for photo of uniform in your display area of the headquarters. You surely did a fine job and I hope you have many visitors to Winslow. Perhaps I and my daughter will get up to see the exhibit. You both deserve credit for pulling it together, and also Mr. L’Heureux. Hope you keep in touch.

Best wishes, Adele Gorham

A Place Of Honor: It is with great honor to announce that The American Legion, Department of Maine proudly displays a mannequin dressed in the uniform worn by Mr. John D. Gorham, a U.S. Navy Veteran of WWII. The uniform was donated by his wife Adele along with his medals, certificates and various correspondence. With the help of Office Assistant Sue Risinger, left, and Office Manager Rachael Currie, right, phase 1 is now complete with the uniform. Our next task is to have the paperwork we received of Mr. Gorham framed and matted for display.

Get Started with Flag Rewards at Emblem Sales

What are Flag Rewards? Your Post can receive a 10¢ credit for every dollar your Post or your Sponsors spend on American Flags from Emblem Sales (excluding taxes & shipping). For more information on how to get started with Flag Rewards, visit www.emblem.legion.org/flag_rewards.asp

How are Flag Rewards earned? Your Post will earn 1 Point (worth 10¢) for every dollar your Post or your Sponsors spend on American Flags from Emblem Sales (excluding taxes & shipping).
The Women Veteran’s Luncheons have begun to spread throughout the state not only by Legion Posts but by Auxiliary Units who are willing to support women veterans. VFW Posts have also begun to come on board and provide luncheons for women veterans emulating our luncheon programs. We appreciate all that the Post, Unit and Department are doing to support these events. These events are providing a place for women to come together as veterans and providing a variety of education to support them to know what is out there for them. I know some of you will probably be shocked but there are still women out there who have served that do not realize they are veterans too. Our goal is to make sure they are veterans too. Our goal is to support them to know what is out there for them. Some of you will probably be shocked but there are still women out there who have served that do not realize they are veterans too. Our goal is to support them with this reality.

There are so many to thank for all the help in supporting the 5th Annual Women Veteran’s Luncheon in Rumford in November. Post 24 has the best volunteers! From set up to break down our volunteers were absolutely amazing. Thank you Keith Bickford, Susan Richard, Tammy Parise, Pam Marcellino, Rena Nichols, Wayne Gallant, Jo Gaudet, Carol Roach, Don Roach, Kirk Thurston, Barbara Arsenault, Kathy Richard, Sheila Weld, Joy Bordeaux, Raven Clementi, and Judy Richardson. Thank you Department of Maine American Legion officers Paul L’Heureux Jeff Stevenson, Amadeo Lauria and Matt Jabaut. A special thank you goes out to Jarod Golden. To our very generous professionals who support this event by donating so much to our veterans Lynne Steele, Kelly DeRoche, Freida Charon, Heather Richambault, Dawn Arsenault, Audra Treneweth, Birdie Rocray, Randy Leach, Tina Erwin and Kathy Touchette. Thank you to all businesses who donated to this event, Hair Design, Mardens, Hannaford, Community Energy, Dunkin Donuts and Circle K. Thank you to others who donated towards our raffles Arlene Thibeault, Charlene, Cheryl Mills, Darlene McPartlan, Deb Couture and an anonymous donor (you know who you are). We were treated with songs and support from the local girl scouts along with their leaders. Guest speakers included Congressman Bruce Polliquin, Senator Lisa Keim, Outreach director from Senator King’s office, Teague Morris. A special presentation was given by Susan Wood and veteran Wendy Wren from the program Vet To Vet. Please take some time to see what the Vet to Vet program is all about. To all committee members who were able to make it to this event I thank you! Without all of your support we could not continue to do this event.

The Wells-Hussey Legion Post 42’s Auxiliary in Damariscotta held their 1st Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in October. It was a successful event and we appreciate their support. Thank you Mary Jane Mc loin for organizing this event.

The following events are in the planning stages: On February 24th Legion Post 2 in Augusta will have their 1st Annual Women Veterans Luncheon. This event will be supported by their Auxiliary with Legionnaire Kristine Nelson taking the lead for this event. Legion Auxiliary Unit 21 in Bath will host a Women Veteran’s Luncheon on April 14th. This event is being led by Kitty Wing.

Camden Post 30 will support a luncheon in June. Jeff Sukoforth is the contact person for this event.

Winthrop Post 40 will host a luncheon on August 4th with support from the Women Veteran’s Advisory Committee members.

Please share this info with all women veterans. They do not need to be a Legion member to attend.

We will add information for all luncheons to our Facebook page Women Veteran’s Advisory Committee Dept of Maine American Legion. Please like and share this page with all women veterans.

If you are willing and able to hold a women Veterans Luncheon, please reach out to one of the committee members. We are here to support in any way possible. We appreciate all that you do for these events.

5th Annual Women Veteran’s Luncheon: Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall and Senator Lisa Keim discuss Female Veterans’ issues at the 5th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon held at Rumford Post 24 on Nov. 4.

Airforce Veterans in attendance at the 5 Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford.

Navy Veterans in attendance at the 5 Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford.

Army Veterans in attendance at the 5 Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford.

Marine Veterans in attendance at the 5 Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford.

Photos by Jeff Stevenson
Irving Energy Post Member Discount: Irving Energy Commercial Sales Representative Nelson Hansen presents a special group pricing for Posts and members to those in attendance at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference held at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor on Jan. 20.

The American Legion Department of Maine & Irving Partner to Save Heating Costs

At January’s Mid-Winter Conference Irving Energy gave a presentation that illustrates the purchasing power that members of the American Legion can take advantage of.

Irving Energy’s Commercial Sales Representative Nelson Hansen and Manager of Residential Channel Sales Jeffrey Dillion brought forward two exciting offers for American Legion Posts to control building heating costs and for members to save on their residential heating.

The offer is twofold: all posts within Irving’s service and delivery areas can take advantage of group pricing on heating oil and propane. The more posts that sign on, the better the pricing will be!

Once your post is an Irving customer it will be provided a Promotional Code that is unique to your post. That code will be communicated to the membership and members can reference that code when they call Irving at 1-888-310-1924 to get their residential account set up at a special discounted rate.

If your Legion Post shares a building with other community service groups members can still take advantage of this promotion under the Department of Maine.

Members of the American Legion will save 15 cents per gallon on heating oil and 30 cents per gallon on propane as well as discounts on equipment such as boilers, heaters and oil tanks.

Members can also take advantage of the Irving Rewards program to save money as the gas pump!

Getting your American Legion Post signed up for this exclusive group pricing is simple. Call Nelson Hansen at 1-855-202-7260 and he will take you through the process to begin your partnership with Irving.

Once your Post in an Irving customer Jeffrey Dillion will provide your Post Commander and staff with your post’s unique promotional code that you can reference when you call Irving at 1-888-310-1924.

What is your post waiting for? Call Nelson Hansen at 1-855-202-7260 to start saving today!

Humanitarian Sought

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

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

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2017. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0777; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org or on the web at www.mainelegion.org.
I n accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundredth Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 15, 2018, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 16, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor, Maine.

PURPOSE
The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 National Convention to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION
Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 16, 2018. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

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

MEETINGS
The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at the Spectacular Event Center on Friday, June 15, 2018, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at the Spectacular Event Center on Sunday, June 17, 2018. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

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

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor, Maine, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2018.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2018 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 16, 2018. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credential reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors. If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of $10 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS
At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 15, 2018, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms, National Executive Committeeman and National Executive Committeeman Alternate.

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

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 16, 2018, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 16, 2018 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

VOTING
Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at the Spectacular Event Center on Saturday, June 16, 2018. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 16, 2018, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 9:30 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate’s card, badge, convention registration and your 2018 membership card must be displayed during voting. Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 7 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 16, 2018. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 16, 2018.

POSTS WISHING TO HAVE DECEASED MEMBERS INCLUDED IN THE POST EVERLASTING CEREMONY ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A LIST OF THE HONORED DEAD TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. LISTS MUST INCLUDE NAME OF DECEASED COMRADES AND CONFLICT SERVED. IF YOUR POST FILES A POST EVERLASTING LIST FOR THE MAINE LEGIONNAIRE AND SAID LIST IS UP TO DATE, A SECOND LIST IS NOT NECESSARY.

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

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Official:
Paul L’Heureux, Department Adjutant
Randall Kluj, Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL
FOR
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

THE AMERICAN LEGION
100TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
June 15 — 17, 2018
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!
Resolutions to be Presented by May 1st

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

Candidates Deadline: May 16

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office on or before May 16, 2018 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 27, 2018. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the Annual Department Convention, take the “Basic Training Course”, aka “American Legion Extension Institute Course” and successfully complete said course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

American Legion Extension Institute Course

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

Legionnaire of the Year Sought

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

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

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year’s winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2018. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at www.mainelegion.org

Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 3 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

Time To Do It: Pay Your Legion Dues Today!

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

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

If you do not have a membership card that reads “2018” then you are now a delinquent member. Your post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1. so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage.

If you don’t have a “2018” card, please contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

Eligibility Information to Join The American Legion

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving, you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

*August 2, 1990 to date of cessation (Operation Desert Shield/Storm)
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause - Panama)
August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada)
February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam)

June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korea)
December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (World War II)
April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I)

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

The American Legion, Department of Maine Historical Contest 2017-2018

By: Ronald H. Caron, Department Historian

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, 2018. The first place winner in each category 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, 2018. The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

POST HISTORY BOOK
These will be judged according to the 2017 Officers Guide score sheets. The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1st, 2018. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2018.

Have You Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2018!
Join online at www.mainelegion.org
Maine American Legion
Winter Conference

Words From Our Past National Commander: This year’s annual event was held in honor of Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan. As guest speaker during Saturday night’s banquet, PNC Jordan speaks highly in regard to Department officers and staff as well as the efficiency in the operations at Department Headquarters, referencing it “A One Stop Shop”.

Centennial Rifle Drawing “Ticket No. 1”: Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, left, presents Department Commander Randall Kluj with the first ticket of the Centennial Raffle for an engraved Henry Rifle at MWC Jan. 20. The drawing is to be held June 1, 2019.

SAL State Officer Attendees: Son’s of The American Legion Officers in attendance at MWC. Left to right, Adjutant Bruce Pierce, Sgt.-At-Arms Almon Morton, NECA Don Allisot, and Assistant Adjutant Scott Morton.

Oratorical Contestants and Judges: The 2018 American Legion State Oratorical Contest was held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 10. Seated, left to right, Oratorical Contestant Michaels Platt, rep. District 9—3rd place; Connor DiAngelo, rep. District 14—5th place; Marina Long, rep. District 1—2nd place; Isabelle Mehrhoff, rep. District 10—4th place; and State Oratorical winner Lucas Wright of Scarborough, Maine, representing District 2. Standing, back, left to right, Oratorical Judges Jennifer Canbo, Amanda Joyce, Kurt Schaub, Tim Lajoie, and Dog Wallace.

Oratorical Greeting: Department Officers give greeting to contestants and their families as they arrive at Thomas College on Feb. 10 for The American Legion, State Oratorical Contest. Left to right, Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, Americanism Officer Debra Couture, Oratorical Tabulator Gregory Couture, and 1st Vice Commander Scott Paradis.

Oratorical Support: Department Commander Randall Kluj’s wife Janet, left, and Department Finance Officer Tommy Adkins, Past Department Commander William “Chick” Cicotte, and Madawaska Post 147 Adjutant Lloyd Woods discuss Legion business during break.

Oratorical Tabulators & Timekeepers: Oratorical Tabulators, back, left to right, Gregory Couture, Dept. NEC John Hargreaves and Dept. Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria (not pictured). Timekeepers for the program were Dept. Finance Officer Tommy Adkins, seated, front, and Ass’t. Dept. Service Officer Maureen Malley (not pictured).

Oratorical Department Staff: Headquarters staff Alyssa Currie, left, and Office Manager Rachael Currie, right, provide their assistance and support during the Oratorical competition held Feb. 10 at Thomas College in Waterville.


Family
Support Veterans in the State of Maine!
Make a Difference Today and Contribute to your Favorite Fundraiser or Program of The American Legion

Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today!

The Department of Maine recently released a Centennial Coin in celebration of 100 years of service to Veterans, families and local communities. All proceeds will go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion that require much needed assistance. Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, calling Department directly at 207-873-3229 or by check or money order. The coins are $10 each plus $5 shipping/handing.

TO PAY BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, please send payment in the amount of $10/coin, plus $5 shipping and handling to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to include a return address for shipping purposes.

Car Donation Fundraising Program

 Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for possible tax credit and benefit Veterans in the state of Maine. This is a free, convenient service for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation.

Our affiliate program makes sure your vehicle is properly handled so you get your tax deduction and Veterans in Maine get the benefit of your donation.

You can currently donate online by visiting www.v-dac.com, or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

For more information, contact The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 or via email at www.legionme@mainelegion.org.

Centennial Raffle Program

Get your Engraved Henry Rifle Raffle Ticket Today!

Ticket Price $10
Contact your local Post for tickets or call Department HQ at 207-873-3229.
Drawing will be held June 1, 2019

Are you interested in a Retractable Banner Designed for your Post or Special Event?

Please contact Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229 (Banners range from $100—$300)

All remaining proceeds go towards supporting Maine Veterans, their families and Maine American Legion Programs.

Help Keep our Maine American Legion Programs Alive!
Support our Veterans and Donate Today!

You may also mail your check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please indicate on the check The American Legion program you are contributing to.

Thank you in advance for your donation. It is generous donors like you that help provide the assistance needed to keep our programs alive so we can continue to provide support to our fellow Veterans, service members and their families.
Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 Hosts York Cub Scouts

On 22 Jan. 2018, despite the bad weather, 14 Wolf Cub Scouts from York, Me. came to the Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 to meet a Police Officer, talk with some Veterans, and learn about flag protocol. The boys were: Alex Dimino, William Bakke, Declan Moore, Paul Eldredge, Ben Cipolleti, Luke Westover, Dashiel Clarke, Jackson Howell, Braylin Miller, Asher Kuhn, and Everett Burke. The adults in the picture from left to right are Legionnaires Robert Marlowe; Deborah Lee; Peter Doe, and Post 56 Commander Donald G. Hands.

The event started with Ptlm. Brian McNeice of the York Police Department talking with the cubs and allowing them to get into his police cruiser and look around. I could tell the kids loved it. Officer McNeice then answered some questions from the Cubs and posed for a picture with them. Everyone was impressed with Officer McNeice and the way he interacted with the Scouts.

Next, veterans from all the services held a “show and tell” and “question and answer” period with the wolf scouts. They were all Legionnaires who volunteered their time to tell their stories. Peter Doe talked about his time in the Air Force and showed a light from an airplane that was mounted on a plaque and given to him when he retired from aircraft maintenance. The boys had plenty of questions about airplanes. Robert Marlowe talked about his time and travels in the U.S. Army. Donald G. Hands spoke of his time in the U.S. Coast Guard and showed a picture of the Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin on which he served. Deborah Lee who represented the U.S. Marines spoke about her time when women were just being accepted into the service. She also talked about her duty stations which included the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a U.S. Marine Guard on the front gate. Bob Seeley came forward and talked about the time in the U.S. Navy. He brought his uniform and explained to the kids what all the stripes and decorations were. During this time both the kids and parents had great questions and some of the answers were quite humorous.

The Cubs then learned about our national flag and how to fold it. One of them stepped forward to assist me folding the flag while Leg. Robert Marlowe explained what the folds stood for. I was impressed with how much the Cubs already knew about the flag.

The event took longer than expected but the boys were attentive. Everyone, including the adults, had a great time and shared a great sense of community.

By Donald G. Hands
Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 Commander

Wolf Cub Scout Visit To York Post 56: The 14 Wolf Cub scouts that visited Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 in York, Maine on Jan. 22 (Alex Dimino, William Bakke, Declan Moore, Paul Eldredge, Ben Cipolleti, Luke Westover, Dashiel Clarke, Jackson Howell, Braylin Miller, Asher Kuhn, and Everett Burke) are pictured here with Legionnaires, left to right, Robert Marlowe; Deborah Lee; Peter Doe, and Post 56 Commander Donald G. Hands. The Cub Scouts are: Alex Dimino, William Bakke, Declan Moore, Paul Eldredge, Ben Cipolleti, Luke Westover, Dashiel Clarke, Jackson Howell, Braylin Miller, Asher Kuhn, and Everett Burke.

York Post 56 Members Participate In Wreaths Across America: York Post 56 Honor Guard presents the colors while other York Post 56 Legionnaires lay wreaths in the Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the First Parish Church Cemetery in York. Left to right, Post Commander Donald G. Hands has the wreath for the U.S. Coast Guard, Past Commander Robin Greene has the wreath for the U.S. Air Force, and Post Chaplain James Fitzpatrick has the wreath in honor of POW/MIA’s.

York Post 56 Makes Donation to 911 Scholarship Fund: York Post 56 demonstrated its continuing commitment to Community and Country by making a donation to the Families of Freedom 911 Scholarship Fund. The monies are from the proceeds of the Posts First Annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 17, 2017 at the Cape Neddick Country Club Golf Course. Under the guidance of 1st Vice Commander Pete Doe, Legionnaires Chuck Arboeh, Bob Linskey, and Earle Van Valkenburg served as organizers for the event. The check was presented on Oct. 25, 2017 at 4 p.m. at Post 56 in the Meadowbrook Plaza in York. Lauren Segal of Scholarship America received the check from Post Commander Donald G. Hands. Left to right, Post Judge Advocate Bob Marlowe, Post Commander Donald G. Hands, Representative of the Freedom for Families Scholarship Fund Lauren Segal, and Post 1st Vice Commander Peter Doe.

Supporting Our Troops: Legionnaires Peter Doe, James Fitzpatrick, Bob Linskey, and Dana Ramsdell from Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 collected donations at Harbor Fest in York Beach to benefit the troops overseas. Here, left to right, Robin Greene, Kandise Minihane, and Jane Lawless put together 21 boxes with sun-dries, toiletries and treats.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Almost Ready For Take Off: Courtesy of York Post 56 First Vice Commander Peter Doe, this model of an FB111A was on display for several days leading up to York Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 Veterans Day Ceremony. It was very popular with the kids and equally popular with the adults. FB111A Jets were used to fly out of Pease, N. H. and Plattsburgh, N. Y. Air Force Bases. Currently trailered, it was originally fitted with a transmission so it could be driven in parades—this FB111A jet looks like it could take off from here. Currently, this unit could use a little TLC and an inside storage option. Anyone who could help or wants to use this for an event is encouraged to contact the Post at 207-363-0376.

Trophy Cases Refurbished At Kennebunk Post 74:

Over this past year, Kennebunk Post 74, left to right, Richard Avy, Brian McBride, Paul Gregoire and John Gouviea have refurbished four trophy cases of deceased soldiers who lost their lives in WWII Korea and Vietnam. These cases were rehabbed by these members of Post 74 while Kennebunk High School was under construction. The trophy cases have lined the walls at KHS for many years to remind everyone of the sacrifices our men and women have given to ensure we live as a free nation.

Berwick Post 79 Donates To The Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots Program:

Thanks to a $500 donation from Charles S. Hatch Post 79 in Berwick, ten boys and girls bicycles were purchased and donated to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program this past holiday season. According to Pastor Bob Cole, these bikes really made the Christmas project. This donation was in addition to the dozens of toys and pounds of food dropped off at the residence of Pamela and Chuck Bogdan. Since 1997, the Bogdan family have created large scale outdoor Christmas light displays at their home in Berwick, coupled with collecting food donations in support of the Food Cupboard maintained by the First Church Congregational, United Church of Christ in Rochester, New Hampshire. Several years ago, the Bogdan’s added Toys for Tots collection bin on their property, and the rest, as they say, is history! By the way, Chuck Bogdan is the Post Adjutant! Ten lucky boys and girls got a real surprise under the tree at Christmas. Left to right, Pamela and Chuck Bogdan, Post 79 Commander Jeff Chase and Post 79 1st Vice Commander Phil Jenks.

Establishment Of An SAL Charter: Department of Maine Sons of the American Legion (SAL) First Vice Commander Scott Morton, left, presents Kennebunkport Post 159 Commander John Leach, center, and SAL Squadron 159 Commander David Stobo, right, the Charter authorizing the establishment of an SAL Chapter at Kennebunkport Post 159 in Kennebunkport on Dec. 7.

District 2

Portland Post 17 Xmas Party:

Harold T. Andrews Post 17, Portland, held a Christmas party for members and guests on Dec. 16. Approximately 40 people feasted on lobster, scallops, pork, chicken, ham, meatballs, pasta, vegetables, salad, and a huge assortment of desserts. After the meal, presents were given out. In the photo, Commander Paul Avery, seated, hands presents out for distribution to one of the helpers, Chaplain Bill Chittick. Other helpers, standing, left to right, Sons of the Legion member Chris Johnson, Junior Vice Rick Cobb and Finance Officer Joe Rich.

Portland Post 17 Tradition Continues Despite Bad Weather:

On Nov. 11, 2017, despite the 32F temperature and 20 mile per hour winds, Harold T. Andrews Post 17 in Portland held a parade down Congress Street from Longfellow Square to City Hall that was well attended by both marchers and spectators. After the parade, they continued a tradition of serving haddock fish chowder to anyone who wished to attend. This tradition was started by Post 17 member and USCG Veteran Finn Wilhelmsen in 1974 who continued cooking the Post parade chowder lunch until health forced him to stop in 2015. Fortunately, for all those who loved his chowder, Finn was joined in the cooking in 2003 by his son Dana Herwood (pictured here stirring his 3rd pot of fish chowder). Dana cooked with his father until 2014 and then was on his own from 2015 until the present. Sometime during Finn’s time of cooking for Post 17, they voted to make a brass tablet that says “FINN’S KITCHEN” and fastened it to the kitchen door for all to see and to show appreciation for all the years of work by Finn Wilhelmsen.

Raising $ For Special Olympics: Members of Portland Harold T. Andrews Post 17 have been going to Old Orchard Beach to raise money for Special Olympics in the summer time every year for the last 10 years. People take turns wearing the Purple Dinosaur Barney suit to attract attention for the team. This year on the second weekend in August, member of the Sons of the Legion Chris Johnson suited up as Barney.
District 2 continued

**Vets Helping Vets**

In South Portland in the Knightville area is a large gray building with a large parking lot. Some of you, who reside in District 2, know it as your polling place. This building is the Stewar P. Morrill American Legion Post #35. The building has been there since 1920 according to the city tax records. The American Legion has been a part of this community since that building was built. Activities range from organizing parades to community suppers to placing flags on Vets graves on Memorial Day to hosting community benefit and recently housing some 40 Sea Cadets on a monthly basis. An additional event that is pretty much under the radar is the Thanks Giving and Christmas Boxes that are given out to veteran organizations.

These boxes, banana boxes to be exact, are filled to the brim with a complete meal for the holidays. I recently helped “stuff” the boxes and was amazed what they contained. In addition to the fixings for a meal including fruits and vegetables and a 10 to 12 lb. frozen turkey was provided. Everything that you would expect to find to make a Holiday meal until you pack it in a box.

The American Legion contacts the Vet Center in Portland, as well as, the Air National Guard and the Coast Guard to help with the Vet Boxes. The Vet Center picked up 7. The balance of 10 were to be picked up at 1:00 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 22. We waited and called around to the people assigned to deliver them but to no avail. Now what do you do with 10 half-frozen turkeys? Well this is where leadership kicks in. We called the Vet Center, South Portland Social Services, South Portland Fire Department and the South Portland Food Bank. First Come First Served was the message. The Vet Center put out the word to those who were not on the original list and the South Portland Food Bank said they would take the rest. So from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., a couple of us sat at the Post and did an Army Times crossword puzzle as Vets came in one by one and we were more than happy to relieve us of our burden. It was cold and snowing and we took advantage of the weather and wheeled the half-frozen turkeys out in the snow.

Personally I like to consider myself a “worker bee” and stay in the background. However my helping this year helped bring the meaning of Christmas a little closer. A fellow legionnaire and I got to see firsthand what it means to be a Vet who just moved to a new location and the meaning of Christmas a little closer. A fellow legionnaire and I got to see firsthand who was getting these boxes. Usually we pack and someone else delivers which on the whole is fine with us. We got to see the faces of the people who were truly glad to receive their Christmas meal. We got to see the faces of the people who were truly glad to get this little surprise. In one case it was a vet who just moved to a new location and the cupboards were pretty bare. This was completely unexpected for this vet and the response was heart moving.

These boxes and supplies are gathered at the Post each year and are paid for thru donation of its members. A small group divides the vegetables into bags and then places the other items in each box. It is quite an assembly line process. The American Legion is a community based Veteran Organization whose purpose is to promote Americanism and Patriotism.

Westbrook Post 62 recently hosted Westbrook native and grand-mother Pat Gallant Charette the 2017 World Open Water Swimming Women of the Year award winner at a recent meeting. Her accomplishments not only included the English Channel but numerous other world open water swimming challenges. Welcoming Post 62 members present, left to right, Commander Richard Galipeau, First Vice Commander Gary York, Second Vice Commander Roger Barr, Award Winner Pat Gallant Charette, Chaplin Phil Leclere and Secretary Peter Patten.

**Congratulations!!!**

**District 2**

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

Gray Post 86 Cub Scout Spaghetti Dinner: Gray Post 86 held a Cub Scout spaghetti dinner put on by the scouts and parents of Pack 86 on Jan. 21. Left to right, Cub Scout Patrick Vozzo and Troop 86 Den Leader Mike Johnson.

Photo by Jeff Stevenson

Gray Post 86 Boys & Girls State Dinner: Gray Post 86 hosted a Boys & Girls State Award Dinner on Oct. 24, 2017 for two delegates who were sponsored by the Post to attend the 2017 program last June. Left to right, Ellie Espling, Girls State Delegate Alexandra Lambert, Boys State Delegate Josiah Rottari & Dale Denno.

Members Help With New Ramp At Peaks Island Post 142: Members of the Peaks Island community contributed nearly $20,000 so Peaks Island Randall and MacVane Post 142 could be more handicap accessible. A new ramp was installed in October, providing access to the Post which is located on Welch Street just up from the Island’s Casco Bay Ferry Landing.

The Ferry connects the Island to Portland with more than a dozen trips per day. "We all appreciate the generosity of our neighbors," said Post 142 Commander Frank Childs. "We have been a key part of the Island since 1937 but accessibility has been a problem in the past. Now, everyone can reach our Post’s main floor. We started raising the funds in 2014 and are very grateful for the community’s support."

Purple Heart Community: Recently, Town Council member, Jarrod Maxfield, introduced his high school classmate, Anthony Webster, right, a Purple Heart recipient, Windham Post 148 member, and representative for the Purple Heart Association at a council meeting to brief the Council on a proposal to make Windham the first Purple Heart Town in the State of Maine. Moving forward, Council member, Rebecca Cummings, left, herself a Veteran and member of Field-Allen Post 148, noted that the Windham Veterans Center did not have a Purple Heart, Wounded Veterans, parking spot. Councilman Cummings stepped up and funded two Purple Heart parking spots at the WVC. As Rebecca Cummings noted, “let’s make the Town purple!”.

Councilman Cummings hopes that the Town and the Community will get involved and provided these spaces to our wounded Veterans. If members of the business community are interested in helping to make the Town Purple, contact Anthony Webster at evo3782000@yahoo.com. Field-Allen Post 148 is coordinating with Tony Webster to make Windham a Purple Heart Community.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Veterans Day Ceremony At Windham Vet Center In North Windham: On a very cold Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., Field-Allen Post 148, Windham, coordinated the Memorial Garden Ceremony at the Center with the placement of a floral wreath on the Garden’s Vietnam Memorial. Placing the wreath are Post members Chuck Whynot (Vietnam) and Jerry Black (Korea). In the background are part of the Post Rifle Squad, Dick Graves, Bob Bean, Larry DeHof, Master of Ceremonies Dave Tanguay.

Field-Allen Post 148 Honors Its Oldest Member

At the 3rd Annual Field-Allen Post 148 Awards Dinner, the Legion recognized, at a gathering of over 40 Post members, their Past Commander Donald Rogers of Windham Center Road with a Longevity Award for 59 years of continuous service to the Post on Dec. 6. Donald Rogers stepped up to be Post Commander on several occasions (1965-66, 1968-69, 1972-77, and 1979-80) over his 59 years of service to the Post. This year, the Post established a new recognition award named in honor of Don to be presented annually to the Post member who epitomizes service to others. The award, named “Commander Donald Rogers Service Award”, was presented by Past Commander Rogers to its first recipient, Larry DeHof, during the Award Dinner Ceremonies. Post Sergeant-At-Arms Larry DeHof coordinated the Everlasting Gratitude Wreath program this year as well as being the driving force behind the formation of the Post’s Honor Guard and Rifle Squad.

Other awards and recognitions were presented including the recognition of Longevity Awards for Roger Timmons-38 years, John Boyden-38 years, William Johnson-32 years, Mike Schwartz-32 years, Maurice Merrill-28 years, Charlie Cragan-26 years, Terry Ladd-24 years, Ed Pagurko-23 years, Scott Briggs-22 years, Peter Sivinsky-22 years, David Tanguay-22 years, William Chipman-21 years, Rod Voisine-21 years, and Ed Ovington-21 years. The Post also introduced several of its newest members: Ray Berard, Rebecca Cummings, Jerri Donn, Peter James, Craig Pride, David Rendall, Phil Sweitzer, Dan Wirtz, and Fredrick D. Williams.

Other recognitions included the presentation of Meritorious Service Awards to: Richard Small, Henry “Chuck” Whynot, and Larry DeHof for the contribution to Veterans and the community.

The final awards of the evening were presented by District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill for American Legion National recognition to Commander Mel Greener. Service Officer Chuck Whynot and Walter Braley for membership recruitment for 2017.

Wintham Post 148 3rd Annual Awards Night: Past Commander Don Rogers, center, presents the “Commander Donald Rogers Service Award” to Post Sergeant-At-Arms Larry DeHof, standing on left. Also present, Post Commander Mel Greenier, seated, right, and District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, standing on right. Next to the flag is Master of Ceremonies Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay.

Wreaths Across America Comes Back to Windham as They Return to Maine

After receiving great fanfare on Sun., Dec. 10, the Wreaths Across America convoy made a brief stop at the Windham Veterans Center (WVC) on Dec. 18 to place wreaths in the Center’s Memorial Garden. The WAA team had their traditional breakfast at Chutes in North Windham and then proceeded with horns blaring through North Windham to the WVC. At the WVC, Lil Charhon, the events coordinator for WAA passed out seven wreaths, each representing a military service to a Veteran from that branch of service and one POW wreath. The wreaths were then placed in the snow-covered garden on the veteran’s stone that had the appropriate service logo affixed to the stone. After the brief ceremony, all returned to the warmth of the WVC for coffee. Lil took the opportunity to pass out a wreath to each veteran and to honor the Vietnam era Veterans assembled with a WAA tee shirt and cap. Lil indicated this was her last WAA trip as the event coordinator and that she would be moving back to the Cumberland area to be near family.

Wreaths Across America Return To Maine: Left to right, Ken Murch representing the US Army, Walter Braley representing the USMC, Roger Timmons representing the US Navy, VFW Post Commander Willie Goodman with the POW/MIA wreath, WWII Vet Carroll McDonald representing the USAF, Bob Beane with the US Coast Guard wreath, and Dave Tanguay representing the Merchant Service on behalf of his father who was a Merchant Seaman during WWII. Each wreath was placed at the appropriate service emblem on the stones.

First Recipient Of The Medal Of Honor: First recipient of the Medal of Honor from Vietnam War, Grand Marshal Roger Donlon accompanied by his wife at the Wreaths Across America held at Windham High School Dec. 10.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

Windham Post 148 Honor Guard: Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard members, left to right, Larry DelHof, Dick Graves, and Dave Horne, and a small contingent of local Veterans, placed a wreath at the Town’s Veterans Memorial in front of the High School at a Remembrance Ceremony of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. The following script was read: “On Dec. 7, 1941 more than 2,390 Americans lost their lives when Japanese bombers launched a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. We place this wreath today to honor those Americans who gave their lives on this date to preserve our way of life in a free world”. This is the 15th consecutive year the Legion has placed the wreath on the Memorial. Earlier, the Post Honor Guard placed wreaths on the Veteran Memorial and Vietnam Memorial located at the Veterans Memorial Garden in North Windham.

Naples Post 155
Oratorical Contest: Naples Post 155 proudly introduces Liam Opie as the Post’s first Oratorical Contest winner in over 30 years. Liam is a Junior at Lake Region High School. Front row, left to right, Post 1st Vice Commander and Oratorical Committee member Donald Mulcahy, Post Chaplin Cathy Merrill, Winner Liam Opie, Post Commander Bill Stuart, Post Adjutant Bill O’Neil. Back row, left to right, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill and District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela.

Naples Post 155 Bring
Holiday Cheer: Legion Riders Post 155 brought some holiday cheer to the South Paris Veterans Home on Dec. 17. Accompanying them was Naples Post 155 Commander Bill Stuart and his wife Kathy, some members of the Lake Region High School chorus, and let us not forget, Santa & Mrs. Clause. Left to right, Santa, Legion Riders Don Mulcahy and Bill O’Neil visit with one of the residents.

More Holiday Cheer: Naples Post 155 Commander Bill Stuart and his wife Kathy visit with the Fogg family at South Paris Veterans Home Dec. 17 bringing some holiday cheer to Veterans. Naples Legion Riders Post 155.

Preparing Coffee & Donuts: Naples Chapter 155 Legion Riders get ready to pass out coffee and donuts to residents at the South Paris Veterans Home Dec. 17. Left to right, Scott Burnham, Don Mulcahy, Bill O’Neil, Bob Ellis and John Leisenring.

Music Played For Residents At So. Paris Veterans Home: Eugene Long is at the piano with Lake Region High School chorus members Morgan Cross, Pason Avery, Joel Parr, Tanner Crockett, Liam Opie, Sean Buchanan, Emily St. John and Paige Goldstein while bringing some cheer to residents at the South Paris Veterans Home on Dec. 17.

Introducing the Newest Member of SAL Squadron 155

Naples-Casco-Raymond Memorial Post 155 members introduced the newest member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 155, seven year old Nathaniel Elsaesser. Over the last three years, this young man has worked tirelessly on Veterans Out Reach. He has attended numerous Honor Flights, parades, carried the flag, carried our banner, attended Bike Week and worked as the liaison between American Legion Riders and the Combat Vets. This young man has been to Togus numerous times visiting the veterans and has been to the transitional housing shelter. Nathaniel has helped with food shopping for the food pantry at transitional housing, as well as stocked shelves in their pantry. He also helped bring veterans food and stocked their shelves and refrigerators. He said some of the places were a little scary but his veterans needed help. Upon finding a veteran with nothing in his cabinets and only a half of a bottle of water in the refrigerator, it made him think, so as he brought the food he explained to the veteran the art of cooking a hot dog and placing it in a bun. He assumed the man was unaware of what food was and straightened him out on what to do with it. The veteran told him he knew what food was but he just didn't have any.

Three Generations Serving The American Legion: Left to right, District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela (Nathaniel’s mom), newest Sons of the American Legion Nathaniel Elsaesser, Sons of the American Legion Commander Steve LaPoint, and Vice Commander Post 155 Donald Mulcahy (Nathaniel’s PopPop) - Three generations serving the American Legion at the same time.

Promoting Oratorical: Legion Rider Director Don Mulcahy promotes the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program at the Naples Post 155 Auxiliary Craft Fair.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Proud District: American Legion District 2 contestant Lucas Wright of Scarborough and Oratorical winner of So. Portland American Legion wins the State Oratorical Contest on Feb. 10 at Thomas College. Lucas was one of two contestants from Cumberland County District 2. Lucas will now represent the state of Maine in the national competition in Indianapolis in April. He will be competing against 49 other contestants from all over the nation for a grand prize of $18,000 scholarship. Left to right, District 2 Oratorical Chairman and 1st Vice Commander of Naples Post 155 Donald Mulcahy, Post 155 Adjutant Bill O’Neil, Lucas Wright, Auxiliary Unit 155 Historian Line Mulcahy, and District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill.


Quilt Showing: District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela and Legion Rider Line Mulcahy show off one of the many quilts donated to the Female Veterans home at the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope. Each woman starts with a handmade quilt. She will take the quilt with her when she leaves as a memory of her journey.

Promoting Veterans Outreach: Legion Riders Director Don Mulcahy, Vinny Yedynak, Treasurer Bill O’Neil, Secretary Line’ Mulcahy, left to right, continue Promoting Veterans Outreach Program at the Naples Post 155 Auxiliary Craft Fair.
U.S. Marine Corps’ 242nd Birthday Celebrated: The Wells-Hussey American Legion Post 42 in Damariscotta was once again the host of the annual U.S. Marine Corps birthday Fri., Nov. 10. Forty-two guests outnumbered the ten Marines for a potluck dinner and the annual cake. The message from the Post’s Commander was read by Ralph Eugley, Jr. The cake was cut this year by Gary Pitcher and served to the youngest Marine, Adam Fenderson, who served the oldest Marine, Paul Oshirak. A good time was had by all and thank you to all for attending. Back row, left to right, Gary Pitcher, Pete Roskop, Adam Fenderson, John Hartman, Floyd Seiders, and Ralph Eugley Jr. Front row, left to right Paul Oshirak, Jim Morkeski, and Paul Tierney. Missing from the photograph is Don Stanley who left early.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

WWII Veteran Helps Organizations Fundraise to Build Halls

John E. Lowell (1896-1978) was drafted late in the war so never was sent overseas. He ended up at Devans, probably Camp Devans at that time. He was an 18-year-old who was a fundraiser for area towns by being in minstrel shows as a singer and actor in skits, etc. He did this to help different organizations to get together funds to build their halls—Masons groups, Granges, etc.

He was assigned to care for and guard the Army mules even sleeping in the barns with them. He asked to attend cook and bakers schools and finished his duty as an official cook. He was discharged as a private. He returned to Buckfield, married, had seven children and worked as a farmer and a woodsman. He was a charter member of Buckfield American Legion Post 58 in 1920.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34; Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110

Eagle Scout Earns Badge For Completion Of Community Project: Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, left, and District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, right, present Eagle Scout Zachary Dorr of Scout Troop 200 with an American Legion Eagle Scout Certificate on Jan. 6 for his project and for continuing the Scout Belief in Americanism Project. Zachary built and placed three Little Free Food pantries in the Camden area, one being on the War Memorial Post 30 grounds.

What’s Happening in Your District...

District 7

Boothbay Harbor Post 36; Damariscotta Post 42; Wiscasset Post 54; Waldoboro Post 149

Damariscotta Post 42 Scholarships: Wells-Hussey Post 42 in Damariscotta presented scholarships totaling $2,000 on Aug. 16. Receiving scholarships were Noah Dawson (Wentworth Institute of Technology, construction management), Taylor Poland (University of Maine at Orono, mass communications) and Bayley Pendleton (University of Southern Maine, athletic training). Left to right, American Legion members Jon Poland, Jerry Elwell, Bruce Poland, Noah Dawson, and Gary Pitcher stand with students Taylor Poland, Bayley Pendleton, and Gerry Miller. Unable to attend the scholarship event was Cassandra Lee-mann. The American Legion Post has been awarding scholarships for more than 30 years. Applicants must fill out an application and complete an essay on what the U.S. Constitution means to them.

Photo by Paula Roberts—The Lincoln County News August 24, 2017

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Brunswick Post 20; Bath Post 21; Harpswell Post 171; Thompson Post 202; Phippsburg Post 216

Brunswick Post 20:

Junior Shooting program held at Brunswick Post 20 on Jan. 11 by Post 20 1st Vice Commander and State Director of the Jr. Shooting Program Dave Watson, left, with Assistance of Marksmanship Consultant Edward Stanhope. They gave expert instruction on the safe and effective use of air rifles to their students with an extra emphasis on safe. They were very easy going and excellent communicators with the kids who were in turn very enthusiastic about what they were doing. For more Info: Facebook: Brunswick American Legion Post 20, www.legion.org/shooting.

Bath Post 21 Support Community and Salvation Army: Members of Bath Post 21 support the Salvation Army and the community of Bath on Dec. 9 by ringing the bell for the holiday.

Bath Post 21 Sergeant-at-Arms Glen Goodell and Angela Goodell.

Bath Post 21 Service Officer and Dept. Historian Jeff Stevenson.

Photo by Glen Goodell

Lincoln County News November 16, 2017
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

Veterans Day Ceremony: Bath Post 21 Post Commander Ed Mortin, Unit 21 President Raven Wing and SAL Commander Don Allsot perform the Memorial Ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery in Bath on Veterans Day.

Photo by Jeff Stevenson

Marching To Post Plot:
Troop 21 march to Post plot at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Bath on Nov 11, 2017.

Photo by Jeff Stevenson

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; No. Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205

District 9 Christmas Party: District 9 held their Christmas Party at Augusta Post 205 on Dec. 13. There was lots of good food, fun, games, prizes and comradery! Past Commander Pat Eisenhart’s wife, Cecile, did a great job of serving as Gamemaster.

Augusta Post 2 Veterans Day Program: Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta held their Veterans Day Program on Nov. 10 at Cony High School. The Legion Riders were on the road again from Naples Post 155. Left to right, Kathy Merrill, Post 2 Commander Patrick Eisenhart, Bill O’Neil, Kelly Ela, Skip Brown, and Donald Mulcahy.

Hallowell Post 6 Celebrate Veterans Day: Hallowell Post 6 celebrate Veterans Day with Legion members replacing worn flags in front of the Hallowell City Hall.

Veterans Day Guest Speakers Hallowell Post 6 celebrate Veterans Day with Guest Speaker Major Adam Cote of Maine Army National Guard who is speaking in front of the Veterans Memorial in the Hallowell Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony: Wreaths Across American Ceremony was held at the Hallowell Veterans Memorial with Post Adjutant Jerry Stewart conducting the ceremony.

Placing Wreaths: Hallowell Post 6 Commander and Dept. of Maine Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley places wreaths at the Hallowell Veterans Memorial at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony.

Litchfield Post 181 Works With MENG For Deployed Troops: As part of Yellow Ribbon Program Support, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary teamed up with the Maine National Guard and Yellow Ribbon personnel to make pillowcases for deployed service member’s children for Christmas. The pillowcases have the faces of the children’s parents displayed on the pillowcase. Auxiliary member Lillian Frace and Irene Wise sewed the pillowcases together. Legion members Greg and Deb Couture (Litchfield Post 181), working with members of the MENG, printed and transferred the military members faces to the pillowcases. National Guard members holding some of the pillowcases, left to right, Spc Sean Farrell, SSG Josh Sennett, CW3 Jon Hunt, and Sgt Ryan Gauthier.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

Litchfield Post 181 Special Veteran’s Day Event: William R. Bold Post 181 in Litchfield, held a special Veteran’s Day event on Nov. 11. The Post honored WWII and Korean War Veterans by presenting them with Eagle Canes. The canes are handmade by Donna and George Gunning and include the Veteran’s branch, dates of service, name, and all medals/ribbons received. Post 181 Veterans who received the canes are pictured in the first row, left to right, William (Bill) Quackenbush (WWII), Harold Blen (WWII), George Perry (Korea), Keith Estabrook (WWII/Korea), Malcolm Harvey (WWII/Korea/Vietnam), and Leo Small (WWII). Back row, left to right Post 181 members Randall Furbish, Ron Dixon, Debra Couture, Ernie Rowe, Scott Bailey, Roger Line, Glenn Bowman, Greg Couture, Michael Sherman, Normand Bernier, and Carlton Tripp.

Litchfield Post 181 Wreaths Across America: As part of the Wreaths Across America celebration, members of Litchfield Post 181 along with the Town of West Gardiner, laid wreaths at the Town’s Veteran’s Memorial on Sat., Dec. 16. The wreaths, with flags from all branches of the military services and POW/MIA’s, were laid at the memorial by seven Veterans from West Gardiner. The Veterans, left to right, Dan McLaughlin, Post 181 Greg Couture, Post 181 Ron Dixon, Post 181 Deb Couture, Keith Jiminez, Don Goggin, and Post 181 SFC Michael Boyce. Ms. Bryce Smith sang the Star Spangled Banner and Dylan Haskell played Taps.

Skowhegan Post 16 Flag Retirement Ceremony: Peter-Shortier Post 16 in Skowhegan held a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Nov. 11. Approximately 100 people attended, which is more than when we started five years ago. Back row, left to right, Al Smith, Deron Whittemore, Jarod Hubbard, Kristin Gordon, Shawn Hewett, Adam Folsom, Duncan Kunz, Gage Morgan, Seb Neubauer, Donald Gage, Dave Daignault, Darrin Files, Shanna Brown; center row, left to right, Larry Goldsmith, George White, II, Zach White, Logan Welcome, Connor Files, Dalton Curtis, Dylan Corson, Ben Morgan, Jacob Glasson, Lance Glidden, Thomas Gage; front row, left to right, Cub Smith, Drake Whittemore, Chantelle Whittemore, Alex Drayton, Sierra Whittemore, Nancy Glasson, Chris Hand, Alex Hand, Travis Coombs, Darius Reaves, and Isaiah Cyr.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

Bangor Post 12 Annual Christmas Banquet: James W. Williams Post 12, Bangor, held their annual Christmas banquet on Wed., Dec. 6 at the new Dysart's Restaurant banquet room in Bangor. There were many door prize drawings. Commander Doug Damon, left, thanked many members for their hard work in the Veterans Day Parade and other community events. Chairman of “Post 12 Blood Donors” John Nelligan got eight new members to sign up to be donors. John is working with the American Red Cross to donate as a group of members, family and friends early in 2018.

WWI—James W. Williams Playground
Bangor, Maine

This City Playground was first dedicated in memory of PVT 1st Class James W. Williams on July 5, 1939. It was dedicated to his memory again in 1955 at the request of Bangor Post 12 because no sign was ever erected and people in Bangor had forgotten the name of the playground. At that time people referred to it as “Newbury Field” because the site is located at the corner of Hancock St. and Newbury St. Williams was one of the first to be KIA (2d Battle of the Marne 7/17/18) from Company G in Bangor. Post 12 voted to purchase a sign so this would not be repeated. The Bangor Parks/Recreation Department had the sign installed on July 3. The sign is double sided and visible to passing motorists as well as people who use the playground. As noted on the sign, Williams played here and attended the Catholic School operated by the Sisters of Mercy since 1865. The Diocese sold the property to the City about 1937 as is recalled. Williams was a foster child who was raised by his uncle who lived on Hancock Street. There is more to tell about his life and how it ended at age 23 near Belleau, France. Today, he rests in peace in the beautiful American Cemetery of Aisne-Marne in France near where he was killed by a German artillery shell. When his body was recovered, a Catholic crucifix was found around his neck along with rosary beads.

James W. Williams Gravesite: The gravestone in France with Bangor Post 12 wreath sent to remember the anniversary of PVT 1st Class James W. Williams.

James W. Williams: Photo of James W. Williams probably taken at “boot camp” for Company G in Bangor.

Carmel Days 2017: Float displays POW/MIA table during Carmel Days 2017, Sept. 29-30. Float was constructed by members of Etna-Carmel Post 107 and took third place.

Etna-Carmel Post 107 Commander Matt Stranzero displays his salesmanship skills during Carmel Days 2017.

Outstanding Fireman Award: Etna-Carmel Post 107 Commander Matt Stranzero, right, presents Outstanding Fireman Award to Carmel Fireman Cameron McRae, center, along with Fire Chief of Carmel Ryan Simpson, left. Seated are members of Post 107 John Smart, left, and Robert Sibley, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14

Deer-Boxcroft Post 29; Milo Post 41; Dexter Post 53; Brownville-Jct. Post 92; Greenville Post 94; Monson Post 116; Guilford Post 119; Sangerville Post 165

Greenville Post 94 & District 14 Oratorical Contest: Greenville Post 94 and District 14, Piscataquis County held their Oratorical Contest on Jan. 29th at Greenville High School. Left to right, Post 94 Oratorical Chairman Pete Johnson, Second Place Winner Owen Cannell, First Place Winner Connor DiAngelo, Third Place winner Anthony Mason, and Greenville High School English Teacher & School Coordinator Alan Cartwright.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14 continued

“Flags Of Honor Hike”: Monson Post 116 Commander William Ranta accepts the honor flag for appreciation of supporting the Wilderness Walk for Warriors “Flags Of Honor Hike” for the last three years on July 8. Every year before hiking the 120 mile Wilderness Walk, a BBQ is put on by the Post to raise funds for Maine Veterans. This year, Monson Post 116 put on a slideshow in spite of a snowstorm which yielded a good turnout. Thanks goes out to Co-Founder Wilderness Walk for Warriors and District 14 Vice Commander Tim Robinson, right. Standing left is Monson Post 116 Post Commander William Ranta.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

Calais Post 3 Meet & Greet: Calais Post 3 had "Veterans Meet & Greet" gathering on Mon., Nov. 27 at Just South of the Border restaurant! A nice turnout. Thanks goes to Gary Young, Dave Seavey, and the staff for their outstanding support for our Veterans. The annual Lioness Santa Parade was held on Fri., Dec. 1. Post 3 Commander Mike McLean was selected to be the "Parade Grand Marshall"! Donations were accepted for the holiday season in order to donate within the local community.

Showing Respect To Our Fallen Hero: Machias Post 9 Commander Ike Hubbard, left, and Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, right, attend funeral services for Chief Robert Coles, Pearl Harbor Survivor. Post Commander Mike McLean is a member of the "United Veterans Honor Guard".

Calais Post 3 Chaplain Dave Sivret, left, Pastor Bobby Oliver, center, and Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, right, attend a Veterans Day Church Service held at Baring Baptist Church.

Welcome Home! Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston and wife Alice join the troop greeters at Pease ANG Base to surprise their daughter and Post member, SSG Erika Yates, center, at a refueling stop as SSG Yates was on her way to Texas following a year-long deployment to Northern Iraq. SSG Yates is a flight paramedic with the Army National Guard. Welcome home Erika!

A Visit To Germany: Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston reports being in the presence of these thousands of graves of our soldiers who gave their lives in the liberation of Europe is a humbling experience. Duston and his wife Alice visited the American Cemetery in the Ardennes in December. They flew to Germany in an Air Force C-5 thanks to space available and their status as retired military. While in Germany at Ramstein Airbase and a couple of army bases, they were able to thank many of the fine young people and their families serving in our military overseas.

Cherryfield Post 8 Invite Scouts & School Children To Lower Flags: Webelos Scouts of Pack 139 in Cherryfield prepare to lower the Narraguagus Post 8 flags to half-staff to remember the victims of 9/11. This is a reminder to posts how you can include scouts and school children in your post activities. At Cherryfield Post 8, we invite scouts and school children to raise and lower our flags for as many holidays as we can.
Cherryfield, Milbridge and Harrington led by a salute. This is a powerful learning moment for these children that freedom is not free and we must never forget. We have been decorating and caring for our veteran’s graves are all getting older so it is important that we pass this legacy on to our youth so that when we are gone someone will read our name on our gravestone and give us a salute as they place a wreath or flag.

By Peter Duston
Post 8 Adjutant & Scouting Coordinator

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

Do Your Participate in the Wreaths Across America Program?

Do you participate in the Wreaths Across America program? You can partner with your local scout unit whether you sponsor them or not to get enough donations for a wreath for every veteran grave in your town. At Cherryfield Post 8, our scouts lead the WAA Day remembrance ceremony and then with volunteers place the wreaths on graves. They have been taught to read and speak the veteran's name aloud and then come to attention.

The Wreaths Across America day in Cherryfield, Milbridge and Harrington led by Cherryfield Post 8 and the Scouts of Troop and Pack 139. Two Cub Scouts salute the empty graves of Civil War brothers both casualties of that war and in unknown graves in the South.

Wreath Honoring POW/MIA: The wreath honoring POW/MIA's here in front of the Cherryfield Post 8 home.

District 16

Caribou Post 15; Fort Fairfield Post 27; Houlton Post 47; Washburn Post 48; Oakfield Post 52; Presque Isle Post 88; Mars Hill Post 118; Limestone Post 127; Easton Post 187; Marsadis Post 208

District 17

Van Buren Post 49; Fort Kent Post 132; Stockholm Post 136; Frenchville Post 145; Madawaska Post 147; Eagle Lake Post 176; St. Francis Post 180

Van Buren Post 49 Recognition Night: Van Buren Post 49 Adjutant & District 17 Adjutant Roy Doucette receives the Legionnaire of the Year 2017 Award for the dedicated volunteer work he has accomplished for the Post during Recognition Night at Levasseur-Farrell Post 49 in Van Buren on Nov. 11. Mr. Doucette was presented an American Legion Post 49 jacket. Some of the extraordinary achievements are the creation of a Military Silhouette (a soldier kneeling) and a plaque naming the original donors, mostly community members in 1948 for our Levasseur-Farrell Post 49 building.

Include Scouts or Other Youth Groups in Post Events to Gain Attention

Including Scouts or other youth group members in Post events can gain the Post sometimes significant attention. If you get that boring “old guy” off the podium and put kids up there reciting the Gettysburg Address, you will get his/her entire family showing up to your event. If you go through the school as Cherryfield Post 8 does, the 8th grade nominates the orator and you get teachers and the principal to attend your event. Some of these people might be a veteran And want to join your post.

This young Airman learned all about folding, raising, lowering and posting our Flag in many Scout and Legion events so when I was called to play Taps for a WWII marine and the Honor Guard didn’t show up, Savage was home for the weekend and responded to my call for help 20 minutes before the committal and with a 5 minute practice did a near perfect Flag fold, honors and presentation “On behalf of a grateful nation...” while I played Taps.

In December, he assisted me in another last minute burial and made me even more proud. As an Eagle Scout, he enlisted in the Air National Guard as an A1cl (E-3) and is now a member of Post 8 along with his mother who has just returned from a deployment to Northern Iraq. Scouts join the military and are potential future members especially if they had Scout/Legion experience.

Submitted by Peter Duston, scouting coordinator, Adjutant for Post 8 and Assistant State Director for Buglers Across America - a national association of buglers available to provide live Taps to Veterans funerals.

Scouts Fold Tiny “Pocket Flags” for our Troops or Veterans

You can enlist a local school class or scout unit to fold these tiny pocket flags for distribution to a military unit or ship on deployment. Go to www.pocketflagproject.com to order your flags. It’s a simple project that takes very little money and very little effort on the part of the post but the pay off with the kids learning about patriotism and service is priceless.

The Scouts of Troop and Pack 139 serving western Washington County sent a box of flags to an Army Medevac Helicopter unit in Northern Iraq with a thank you note to every casualty being transported. Think of how this was a win-win situation, the wounded got thanked and the scouts learned a valuable lesson that freedom is not free.

Awards Presented To Dedicated Veterans & Auxiliaries: During Van Buren Post 49 Recognition Night on Nov. 11, awards were presented to dedicated Veterans and Auxiliaries. Clayton Belanger is seen here presenting a monetary award to the top 3 winners of Voice of Democracy. Left to right, 2nd place winner Lauren Hadley, 1st Place winner Julia Berube, and 3rd place winner Sophie Rioux along with Voice of Democracy Chairperson Sue Lajoie.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17 continued

Madawaska Chapter 147 Veteran Wall Dedication: Madawaska Chapter 147 dedication of the Veteran Wall at Borderview in Van Buren on Nov. 8. This was arranged by Legion Riders Cecile Roy and her husband Claude Roy.

Veterans Day At Caribou Veterans Cemetery: Veterans Day at the Caribou Veterans Cemetery with Legion Riders Chapter 147 on Nov. 11, 2017. In the Firing Squad are Ed Ellis, Robert Thibeault, Claude Roy, Gil Roy, Jessica Daigle, Jenn Daigle, Gaeton Bourgoin, and Sergeant-At-Arms Dave Russell. Also present were Diane Daigle, Robert Gagnon.

Veterans Day Attendees: Chapter 147 Legion Riders, Post members and guests in attendance at the Caribou Veterans Cemetery on Veterans Day.

Caribou Veterans Cemetery: Veterans Day Ceremony at Caribou Veterans Cemetery.

Veterans Day Guest Speaker: Senator Angus King attends the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Caribou Veterans Cemetery with Legion Riders Chapter 147.

Veteran Wall At Mercy Nursing Home In Eagle Lake: Seven Veterans have been dedicated on the wall of the Mercy Nursing Home. Dedication took place Nov. 8

Veteran Wall At St. Joseph’s Memory Care In Frenchville: Veteran Wall Dedication at St. Joseph’s Memory Care in Frenchville on Nov. 9.

Veteran Wall At Mercy Nursing Home In Eagle Lake: Veteran Wall Dedication at Mercy Nursing Home in Eagle Lake on Nov. 8 where also the local Girl Scout Troop #50 presented the colors and did a skit about Old Glory. Left to right, Robert Gagnon, Diane Daigle, Ed Ellis, Veteran Edmond D’Orvilliers; kneeling are Director Jenn Collin, Veteran Joel Pelletier, Bridget Daigle, Dave Russell and Bob Thibeault. Absent from photo are Veterans Larrie Deprey, George Pelletier, Beverly Trask and Edmond Marquis. The seventh Veteran, Harold Plourde, passed Fri., Nov. 3, and was also dedicated on the wall.

Veteran Wall Dedication: Veteran Wall Dedication at Mercy Nursing Home In Eagle Lake on Nov. 8 where also the local Girl Scout Troop #50 presented the colors and did a skit about Old Glory. Left to right, Robert Gagnon, Diane Daigle, Ed Ellis, Veteran Edmond D’Orvilliers; kneeling are Director Jenn Collin, Veteran Joel Pelletier, Bridget Daigle, Dave Russell and Bob Thibeault. Absent from photo are Veterans Larrie Deprey, George Pelletier, Beverly Trask and Edmond Marquis. The seventh Veteran, Harold Plourde, passed Fri., Nov. 3, and was also dedicated on the wall.

Veteran Wall At St. Joseph’s Memory Care In Frenchville: Veteran Wall Dedication at St. Joseph’s Memory Care In Frenchville on Nov. 9.

United We Stand

Veteran Wall Dedication At St. Joseph’s Memory Care In Frenchville: Veteran Wall Dedication at St. Joseph’s Memory Care in Frenchville on Nov. 9. Left to right, are Robert Gagnon, Robert Thibeault, Jenn Daigle, Veteran Raymond Voisine, Veteran Patrick Daigle, and Ed Ellis.
Eagle Cane Presentation: Legion Riders Chapter 147 in Madawaska have the names of the oldest Veterans in each of the homes in Northern Aroostook County so an Eagle Head Cane will be made for each of them. They still have five more to present when they are completed for a total of ten canes. Unfortunately, it takes a while to have them made, and Patrick White passed away before it was completed. On June 18, there was a memory service for Patrick White with the Home presenting the cane to his family in attendance. Left to right, Jeffrey T. White, Susan (White) Ralston, and Nancy (White) Cassidy. Patrick’s son Tim White was unable to attend. The cane is now with Susan’s son (Patrick’s grandson) First Sergeant Gregory P., a Veteran living in Huntsville, AL.

Outstanding Service Award: Legion Riders Chapter 147, Madawaska presents a plaque to Director Jenn Collin on Dec. 7 for her outstanding service to this Chapter and to our Veterans. Left to right, Bridget Daigle, Director Jenn Collin, and Dave Russell.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17 continued

Christmas For Vets At Highview Rehabilitation: Christmas gifts were delivered to Veteran residents at Highview Rehabilitation on Dec. 20 by Madawaska Post 147 members and Legion Riders Chapter 147. Front row, left to right, Joseph Raymond, Armand Cote, Daniel Dube, Cecil Dugal, Louis Dufour, Raymond Gies and Raoul Chasse; second row, left to right, Robert Gagnon, Fern Lavoie, Mike Pelletier, Rudy Daigle, Roland Marquie, Herb Albert, Bridget Daigle, Ed Ellis, John Chasse, Commander Greg Morin, Director Jenn Collin, and Gateon Bourgoin.

Arrow Air Disaster At Gander NF: St. John’s Newfoundland Post CN-09 Finance Officer Paul Ray Reiser, Commander John Walther & Adjutant Harlow Snippen attend the 32nd SAD Anniversary of the Arrow Air Disaster at Gander Newfoundland on Dec. 12.

Memorial Stone for the 32nd SAD Anniversary of the Arrow Air Disaster at Gander Newfoundland.

Holiday Boat Decorations: Decorated boats at Port De Grave during the holidays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...

St. John’s Newfoundland Post CN-09

CN-09 Scholarship Presented: St. John’s Newfoundland Post CN-09 Commander John Walther presents a Legion Scholarship to Julia Druken at the Post’s Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23, 2017.

Christmas For Vets At Highview Rehabilitation:

Holiday Boat Decorations:
Send Reasons to Join and Stay in The American Legion

A nyone who has been a member of The American Legion for some time, or has recruited someone to join, can quickly list a few good reasons to become part of the nation’s largest organization of wartime veterans – and to renew.

The reasons may be national in scope, such as:
- Strengthens the veteran voice in Washington for a more effective VA health-care system.
- Keeps the GI Bill updated and relevant for new generations.
- Provides substantial veteran oversight of congressional committees and agencies.
- The reasons may be specific to an American Legion department, such as:
  - Adds to the network of like-minded Legion Family members in my state.
  - Ensures support, resources and training for American Legion department service officers who assist others who served.
  - Builds future leaders through American Legion Boys State and other youth programs.
- They may, of course, be local, such as:
  - Young people in my community need Legion mentoring through Scouts, Junior ROTC, Junior Shooting Sports and other programs.
  - Community memorials to those who served before must never be forgotten.
- The local Legion Riders chapter has a great time raising funds that matter in the community.
- And, they may be individual, such as:
  - Camaraderie with fellow veterans and patriotic Americans.
  - The Legion helps me understand my VA benefits.
- The discount programs are valuable.
- During the centennial year, The American Legion would like to remind eligible veterans and those who have let memberships expire “100 Good Reasons to Join and Renew in The American Legion.”
- The best of those reasons will come from local posts and members. The multi-media campaign is set to launch in September 2018.
- To help, members everywhere are invited to send their top 10 reasons by email to dispatch@legion.org. From those suggestions, the centennial campaign will be designed, fueled by the 100 best reasons from the combined submissions. Reasons should be limited to no more than one or two sentences each, including a specific local reference, if applicable.
- As the ideas come in, look for them at www.legion.org, in social media and other centennial promotions as the 100th anniversary of the organization unfolds.

Continue Hosting Legion Family Dinners

E for nearly 100 years, The American Legion has served veterans, their families, communities, states and the nation. And last year I called on the Legion Family nationwide to serve up the biggest and best Veterans Day dinner in history by inviting the whole community to join them at the dinner table.

Although we have entered a new year, Legion Family dinners can still be held in conjunction with special events. These events include the Legion’s upcoming birthday (March 15), your post’s birthday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more. Healthy families enjoy dinner at the same table together, and we consider the entire community to be members of the American Legion Family.

A Legion Family Dinner Kit is available to help posts, squadrons and units with promotion efforts. Download the kit at www.legion.org/nalpa/resources.

Resources in the kit include:
- A suggested timeline for planning the event, tips on getting local sponsors involved, and a set of message points that can be presented, and localized, at the dinner or to the press.
- Sample letters of invitation to local groups to attend and participate in the dinner, a press release, a sample media advisory, a downloadable flyer with fields for posts to provide local information, social media posts and a radio PSA.
- Remember to use the hashtag #LegionFamilyDinner when promoting your event. I always want to see The American Legion trending on social media.
- The Legion Family dinners are a great opportunity to tell the story of your post namesake in advance of our centennial.
- Let’s make sure the whole community can understand who we are, what we do and our vision for the future.
- The dinners can also serve as a way to promote the benefits of membership and participation in the American Legion Family.
- Because we are about Family First!

—Digital Dispatch—Feb. 2, 2018

Did you renew your membership online and lost or forgot to print your Temporary Membership Card?

If so, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to http://www.legion.org/renew
2. Click on I’ve already renewed online and need to reprint my temporary membership card.
3. Enter your 9-digit Member ID#
4. Enter your Last Name and press “Continue”

Please note: Only current paid members of The American Legion can print their membership card from this page.
Maine Legion College Graduates: The completion of the very first Maine Legion College Course took place at Department Headquarters in Winslow on Feb. 18 where twelve Maine Legionnaires graduated from the said course. The instructors were Dept. 2nd Vice Matthew Jabaut, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, and Naples Post 155 Service Officer Kelly Ela; guest speakers were Dept. Commander Randall Kluj and Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan.

Guest Speaker: Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan gives opening remarks to Maine Legion College attendees at their last module training course held at State Headquarters in Winslow on Feb. 18.

Father-Daughter Ready To Lead: Naples Chapter 155 Assistant Director Donald Mulcahy, left, graduates from the very first State of Maine Legion College held Feb. 18 at the Dept. of Maine Headquarters. The class instructors were Naples Post 155 Service Officer and daughter of Don Mulcahy, Kelly Ela, right, Department 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, and Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall.

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<tr>
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<td>James T. Clemens</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>Sandy Skillings</td>
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<td>Alvin L. Adams</td>
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<td>173 – New Portland</td>
<td>Robert Huff</td>
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<td>173 – New Portland</td>
<td>Timothy F. Casey</td>
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<td>Larry Pooler</td>
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<td>David R. Phaneuf</td>
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<td>Sylvanus R. Tracy Jr.</td>
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<td>216 – Phippsburg</td>
<td>Faye C. Wells</td>
<td>Korea</td>
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The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2018 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 27, 2018.

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.

State Oratorical Winner: Lucas Wright, a Sophomore at Scarborough High School representing District 2 at the 2018 State Oratorical contest placed first in the constitutional speech contest held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 10. State Commander Randall Kluj, left, presents Mr. Wright with a check in the amount of $1500, an oratory medal, and a Certificate of Achievement for his accomplishment. He will compete at the National Oratorical Contest in April for a chance to win up to $18,000 in scholarships.

Junior Shooting Program Aims For Safety At Brunswick Post 20: Kasey Whittaker takes an extra emphasis on safety after receiving expert instruction on the safe and effective use of air rifles at the Junior Shooting program held at Brunswick Post 20. The Junior Shooting Program was taught by Brunswick Post 20 1st Vice Commander/State Director of the Jr. Shooting Program Dave Watson and assistance of Marksmanship Edward Stanhope. For more information, please visit Facebook: Brunswick American Legion Post 20 or www.legion.org/shooting.


Representing Maine Veterans: (Left photo) The American Legion, Dept. of Maine Legislative Committee meets with Senator King to advocate for Maine Veterans and Veterans across America on Capital Hill Feb. 27. Left to right Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, and Senator Angus King. (Right photo) Dept. National Executive Committeeman John Hargreaves meets with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree to discuss Veterans’ issues.

Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 27

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.