Please Join Us to Celebrate our 100th Annual State Convention
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
June 15-16, 2018

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 100th Annual Department Convention at the Spectacular Event Center, 395 Griffin Road, Bangor. Department Commander Randall Kluj will call the convention to order promptly at noon time on Friday, June 15. Many activities, guest speakers and recognition to award recipients will take place both Friday and Saturday, including a massive parade to kick off The American Legion’s 100th Centennial Celebration. The parade will begin Saturday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m. in downtown Bangor and will include state-wide Legionnaires, bands, floats, military vehicles, and a sea of flags as far as you can see.

The staging area will be located at the intersection of Exchange and State Street.

This promises to be an exciting and eventful convention for all Legion family members and friends. Please celebrate with us by attending The American Legion Centennial Parade and take the time to visit us at our convention center to learn what The American Legion, Department of Maine has to offer all our veterans and their families across the state of Maine.

The registration fee to attend the convention is $10 which covers both sessions to be held June 15-16 as well as access to coffee and bottled water throughout the day.

Please show your support to our Veterans and Legionnaires around the State of Maine by making every effort to attend.

The American Legion Department of Maine was well represented at St. Louis Caucus.

Initial discussions about forming a veteran’s organization which would eventually become the American Legion were held in France. It was decided there that more work needed to be done and that it should be done state wise. Consequently, a caucus was held in St. Louis, MO on May 8 thru May 10, 1919.

The State of Maine was well represented with no less than 10 delegates; many of them serving in key positions in the formation of our American Legion. Below is the official listing of committees.

The Advance Committee recommends committees on the following subjects:

1. Credentials
2. Temporary Name of the Organization
3. Organization
4. Resolutions
5. Constitution and By-Laws and Declaration of Principles
6. Next Meeting Place and Time
7. Publication
8. Emblem
9. Permanent Headquarters
10. Finance

Next, I alphabetically presented our comrades who served and in what capacity they served. I hope you will agree with me that upon review, there can be no doubt that the State of Maine was well represented in the formation of our beloved American Legion.

Consequently, a caucus was well represented at St. Louis Caucus.

Note: Albert Greenlaw served as the Chairman for the Committee on Finance. He also served as the Chairman for the Committee on Name. The Committees initial recommendation for name was as follows: “We, your Committee on Name, unanimously make the following recommendation, that the name of this Organization shall be ‘The American Legion of World’s War Veterans’.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Boyle of Augusta (Sergeant in the 54 Ar. C. A.) served as Department of Maine Secretary, St. Louis Organization Committee and the Committee on next meeting. Committee on next meeting initially organized the first convention.

Note: James L. Boyle was the first Department of Maine Adjutant and served over 30 years in that position. He was elected Adjutant for the State of Maine at the first Annual State Convention in Bangor on Sept. 24, 1919.

Roger A. Greene of Lewiston (Major in the 101st San. Tr. 26th. Div.) served on the Resolutions Committee.

Albert Greenlaw of Eastport (Lt. Colonel in Hdq. 26th. Div. Asst. Ch. Staff) served on the Permanent Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee.

Note: Albert Greenlaw served as the first Commander for the Department of Maine American Legion from 1919-1921.

More on ST. LOUIS CAUCAS, Page 2
Commander’s Comments

Something to Be Proud of—Spanning the past several years, the Department of Maine, American Legion has made many accomplishments. Our compound houses the Legion Family, the American Legion, Sons of Veterans, and Auxiliary. Strides have been made in the American Legion Family, and many significant milestones have been accomplished, showing continued growth with the values of The American Legion’s Four Pillars.

Outstanding Service Award: State Commander Randall Kluj, left, presents State Adjutant Paul L’Heureux with an Outstanding Service Award from all Department of Maine State Officers for his extraordinary support and dedication to Legionnaires and Veterans in the State of Maine. The award was presented at the Legion Family Testimonial at Rockland Post 1 on May 19.

Paul Bunyan Statue In Bangor, Me.: Did you know that according to the Maine Legionnaire, Paul Bunyan of Bangor, Maine wore his American Legion hat sometime during The American Legion, Department of Maine’s 1990 convention there? If anybody has a picture, the Dept. of Maine would appreciate a copy.


My fellow Legionnaires, this being my last article, I will pen as the Department 1st Vice Commander. I would like to take this time to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Commander Kluj, Department Officers, and The American Legion for allowing me this extraordinary opportunity to serve you as the Department 1st Vice. It was a duty that I did not take lightly and have thoroughly enjoyed over the past year. Hopefully my next article will not be possible without the Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, who was the driving force in accomplishing all these goals.

Past National Commander Tony Jordan is excited about our recognition on the Nation level and supports all our new ventures of the Department of Maine American Legion. National recognition and applauds our efforts to unite the younger veterans to our membership. The Department of Maine is one of the few organizations that house The American Legion Family at one location.

At National Convention in Reno, Nevada, the Department of Maine was presented with the award for the #1 newspaper, The Maine Legionnaire. Rachael Currie and staff are integral parts of the publication and do multiple projects to advance our organization.

We are an ongoing organization serving veterans, rejuvenating our outreach to all veterans. To honor our POW/MIA’s, we are planning to construct a monument at our compound. Many good works have been accomplished, and it is to be celebrated! Let’s celebrate our 100th centennial with post level events, participation in the Convention Centennial Parade, membership drive, open house, etc.

I’ve been honored to serve as your Commander (2017-2018). The Department of Maine has a solid core of officers working together, striving to do the right things to promote the well-being of our Legion organization. Thank you to all officers and members for your support and cooperation. And now, I pass the torch on to others who can march forward upholding the values of The American Legion’s Four Pillars.

Thank you for a wonderful year,
Randy

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS
(Continued from Page 1)

Roy C. Haines of Ellsworth (Sergeant Asst. Ch. Staff 334th Tank Corp.) served on the Advance Committee. The Advance Committee is crucial to the event as it organizes and sets the agenda for the meetings. He also served as the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, Declaration of Principles and Bylaws committee, and on the Committee on publications. When Theodore Roosevelt Jr. declined to serve as the permanent chairman for the caucus, Sgt. Haines spoke up to nominate Col. Henry D. Lindsley who was then selected for permanent chairman of the caucus. What follows is an excerpt from his speech.

Sergeant Roy C. Haines (Maine): Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Caucus. The gavel has called us to order so that we may bring into being and into American history one of the greatest organizations the mind of man has yet conceived, an organization emanating from the wish of that great, earnest, unselfish, loyal patriot who is the present temporary Chairman of this honored Caucus. I believe we have one here who, if Colonel Roosevelt will not serve, can ably preside over the deliberations in which we are to participate during the coming sessions of this Caucus here in St. Louis; a man who has made his way, a man who, when the great call came, not the call sounded by human voice but the call by the Great Eternal Soul of us all, responded and from his official duties as the Mayor of Dallas, Texas, went to Plattsburg, and then enjoyed a year of honored service in France, there to become a Major, and to win the Distinguished Service Medal of his Country. I move you, Mr. Chairman of this Caucus, that there be placed in nomination at this time Colonel Henry D. Lindsley, of Texas. (Applause.)

Frank M Hume of Houlton (Colonel in the 103rd, U. S. Inf.) served on the Advance Committee, our fellow legionnaires from Maine were represented in no small way, a man who, when the great call came, not the call sounded by human voice but the call by the Great Eternal Soul of us all, responded and from his official duties as the Mayor of Dallas, Texas, went to Plattsburg, and then enjoyed a year of honored service in France, there to become a Major, and to win the Distinguished Service Medal of his Country. (Applause.)

George M. Presson of Augusta (Adj. Gen. N. G. of Maine) appeared as a delegate but I didn’t uncover any committee work.

Note: Milliken was Maine’s Governor during World War I. During that war, the 103rd Infantry Regiment (of the 26th Division of the American Expeditionary Force), which was composed of Maine residents, was nicknamed the “Milliken Regiment.”

Source document for Caucus information; Proceeding and Committees; Caucus of the American Legion St. Louis. Notes are from additional research sources.
A ‘Second’ Look

MATTHEW JABAUT

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

This edition I wanted to make sure we provided a legislative update on behalf of your Dept. of Maine Legislative Committee. It is important for you to have the information on what our organization is working for both in Augusta and in Washington D.C., especially in election years! Please feel free to use the list below to ask questions of our legislators to see what they are doing to support us.

The American Legion Department of Maine Legislative delegation also recently had the opportunity to meet with each of our Legislators in Washington D.C. We received a great reception from each of our legislators and had great conversations with them about several areas of interest to Maine Legionnaires.

1. Improvement of VA Mental Health Treatment at VA Togus, to include inpatient facilities in ME
2. Access to VA Healthcare in all areas of the state.
3. Elimination of Veterans Homelessness.
4. Establishment of additional Veterans Courts.
5. Elimination of laws/regulations that put an unfair burden on Veterans and their families.
7. Support state programs that benefit the survivors of veterans.
8. Support educational programs for veterans.
9. Support state laws and programs that encourage veterans to reside in the State of Maine.
10. Establish a military end strength that will transition the NG back to a strategic force and ensure that no military person will be in combat more than 2 tours in an enlistment.
11. Ensure the NG members and family have the services they require when between activation.
12. Support programs at the state and Federal level to rate veterans with disabilities before discharge and grant benefits from date of discharge.

Many of the National priorities are covered in a lot of the priorities listed above. I would like to highlight a few specific things that we are discussing that may or may not be easily tied to our priorities. We will continue to fight for full concurrent receipt and inclusion of veterans with less than 50% rating. We will continue to push the VA to provide the best care possible to our veterans and make sure that care remains available to all part of our state.

Helping to Drive Maine Forward!

On the Agenda

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 10, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.
District 6 – Knox: June 23, St. George Post 34, 11 a.m.
District 12 – Hancock: June 12, Southwest Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 14 – Piscataquis: June 2, Greenville Post 94, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

Leading Candidate for National Commander

The Department of Virginia proudly presents our next candidate for National Commander of the American Legion, Brett P. Reistad.

Brett has dedicated 37-years of active service to the American Legion and its programs. His involvement in the Legion began through a chance encounter with a WWII veteran and legionnaire who learned of Brett’s U.S. Army Vietnam War era service, and extended an invitation to join McLean Post 270 in McLean, Virginia. He was encouraged to attend the next scheduled meeting, where he was warmly welcomed, initiated into membership, and told that young veterans of his age will be the future of the American Legion. For Brett, the camaraderie, patriotism and spirit of service resonated strongly, and within two years, he was serving as post commander.

Through the encouragement of mentors, Brett sought opportunities of increased responsibility. In the ensuing years, he excelled in leadership roles at the district, department and national levels – most recently as chairman of the National Legislative Commission. With the encouragement of fellow legionnaires and family, he was nominated to be a candidate for national commander.

As an active candidate for national commander for the 2018-2019 Legion year, Brett, if elected, will have the honor of serving during the Legion’s centennial. He looks forward to the opportunity of leading the largest wartime veterans service organization in the country, comprised of 2 million members, with 13,000+ posts located throughout the world. Brett has chosen “Celebrating Our Legacy” as his theme as the Legion celebrates its centennial, and we ask for your support as he campaigns throughout the country.

BRETT P. REISTAD of Virginia

Help support our leading candidate for National Commander Brett P. Reistad by donating to the National Commander’s Campaign. Please send check payable to The American Legion, Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Me. 04901-0727 earmarked for “National Commander’s Campaign”.

Legion Talk!: Department 2nd Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and Department Commander’s Aide Al Benner discuss Legion business at the Legion Family Joint Testimonial held at Rockland Post 1 on May 19.

Remember: FLAG DAY
June 14, 2018

Investing In Your Post: A note of common stock in James W. Williams Post 12, American Legion, Inc. of Bangor, ME. Many Legionnaires bought “Stock” in their post. The money was usually used to finance a post building or some other major post undertaking. Here George S. Kephart, (who has since passed), bought a single share for $10.00 on Oct. 5, 1921.

100th Anniversary Chairman,
Donald G. Hands
The Adjutant Speaks

We are now nearing the “kick off” date for our 100th Anniversary Convention in Bangor starting on the 15th of June. We have planned a parade on Saturday the 16th starting at 11:00 AM. Many of the posts located across all of Maine are planning to march in this event. There will be bands, military vehicles, floats, a sea of flags and other surprises. If you are interested in marching in your 100th Anniversary Parade you can show up on Saturday at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor before 10:00 a.m. and you will be bused to the starting point. These buses will also take you back to the Convention Center upon completion of the parade. Note: If you have any military vehicles that you would like to enter in the parade please contact: Doug Dameron at 207-949-4735 or email at doughdaman@live.com.

Also during the convention you will be given information about the American Legion in Maine. These historical facts are the results of a very dedicated Legionnaire from Post-56 in York by the name of Donald Hands. He has been working selflessly on these projects for over a year and has many interesting stories to tell us. He will have trivia questions to ask and some facts that I believe no one is aware of. He has also researched 100 Past State Commanders of The American Legion in Maine as well as the history of the leadership in the beginning of this organization back in 1919. Don will also have a display of Legion items, and you will have no problem recognizing him, as Don and his wife, Susan will be dressed in Legion & Auxiliary uniform. Don has spent many hours researching the archives at State HQ and his time interviewing people from all over the State. If you have a chance, make sure you take the time to say “Thank You” for all his work and dedication to this project.

We have also sold 1300 Anniversary coins and the phones have not stopped ringing for more. Therefore, we have decided to purchase 500 more. They are $10.00 each or $15.00 to cover shipping & handling. Coins are available at State HQ or by visiting www.mainelegion.org. You can also purchase some at the State Convention.

Another project we have started is a 100th year Commemorative Rifle Raffle for an Engraved Henry “Golden Boy” 22LR. Only 1000 tickets were printed and we have sold 427 as of this date. These tickets will also be available at the State Convention.

As for the actual Convention, as I said in the last issue of this paper, this will not be a regular Convention. Even the Installation of all the State Officers will take place immediately after the normal order of business on Saturday. There will be a social time before and after this event. We will be adapting to many changes that may take place, but the one thing that will make this event a success will be the ATTITUDE & PATIENCE that you all show during this Convention. Please keep in mind “we are only 100 years once” so come and enjoy the spirit of camaraderie and meet friends & fellow veterans that you have not seen in years. Please mark your calendar for Friday & Saturday June 15th and 16th.

See you in Bangor!!!
To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members in the Department of Maine:

Many of you have heard me speak about “Family First,” but it is a theme that I see carried out on a daily basis in American Legion posts, units and squadron throughout the country and overseas.

It is American Legion volunteers who last year donated their time serving in VA Medical Centers, clinics, Fisher Houses, Vet Centers and state veterans homes. It is American Legion volunteers who contributed 600,000 hours to the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program and saved the government more than $14 million. It is American Legion volunteers who conducted blood drives, disaster preparedness education and JROTC training.

We had enormous legislative success over the last year, and I know that these victories would not have happened without your hard work and advocacy. We now have a modernized veterans appeals process which will greatly reduce the backlog claims. We have greater accountability and the current generation of veterans can now enjoy a better GI Bill benefit, named after Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery.

Membership is the foundation upon which our Four Pillars lie. A strong membership base is needed for everything that we do. We could not raise funds to assist with natural disasters, operate our most patriotic youth programs in the country or advocate for our veterans without our members. Please tell your Legion-eligible family members and friends about the value and importance of our great organization. We need to be vigilant in working to expand benefits for family members who also happen to be caregivers for disabled veterans. We also need to let Congress know that we will oppose any attempt to replace VA with a private sector for-profit system. All elected officials know that numbers matter.

Next year we will celebrate our 100th birthday. It has been truly an amazing century. Congress recognized the significance and power of our Legion Family by passing our Commemorative Coin Act, an honor that is given to only two organizations a year. The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act received a record number of sponsors and proceeds from the sale of these collectibles will benefit American Legion programs.

We have many outstanding programs but this year I am asking for your support in raising money to provide training for our outstanding corps of service officers and temporary financial assistance for children in need. I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion Family. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable Department Convention.

For God and Country,
Denise H. Rohan, National Commander

100th National Convention of The American Legion

This year's National Convention will be in Minneapolis, MN Aug. 24 to Aug. 30, 2018. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, 1101 4th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

The hotel room rate is $149 plus Tax Rate of 13.40% per room/night - Doubles (1-2 persons). Additional Occupant in Room per day - $10.00 (3-4 persons); Rollaway Rate per Day - Not Available;

Parking Rate per Day – $28.00—Valet only.

If you are thinking about going to the National Convention, please let The American Legion, Department of Maine know by calling (207) 873-3229, or email paul@mainelegation.org and we will be sure to put you on the mailing list for the information. For more information, please visit www.legion.org/convention/resources.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ONLINE TODAY!

VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG OR VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW

Americanism (Continued from Page 4)

and our state and nation. Please continue to pray for and honor our heroes like Cpl. Cole and others who continue to serve by conducting Law Enforcement and Fire Department Award celebrations. They are wonderful and are sincerely appreciated by those who do so much to protect us.

Do not forget what our men and women in our armed forces continue to do to protect us. As the numbers of troops deployed to Afghanistan and other third world countries have decreased, we may start to forget how many still must leave their families behind and deploy around the world to protect our way of life. Our Maine National Guard and Reserve troops continue to deploy several times a year. They are always in need of assistance. I have worked with the Child and Youth Program Coordinator for the last two Maine National Guard deployments. The point of contact is Elizabeth Marcotte. She can be contacted at Eliza-beth.a.marcotte6.ctr@mail.mil or by phone at 430-5773. Please contact her if your post wants to reach out to our troops who are about to deploy, are deployed, or are returning home soon. There are many ways that you can help. She can give you ideas and assist you in what they may need.

Their Yellow Ribbon Programs are also a wonderful way to connect with active duty and guard personnel after they return home and there is always room for an American Legion table at one of their events. Who does not want new members in their post? This is one way that you can meet these service members, welcome them home, and help them learn about the American Legion.

At this time of year, Americanism is at the forefront of what we do. Boys State and Flag Day are next month. Memorial Day is this month. Please take time to work with your schools and engage the children in events that teach them about these important holidays and Boys State. Teach them how to properly fold the American Flag, what Flag Day means, or ask them to assist with decorating the graves of our deceased service members.

In this way, we can “pass on our blessings of liberty to our youth to enable them to understand and cherish our ideals and traditions”. Remember: “Teach Your Children Well”. They are our future.

If I have visited your post, you know that I tend to ramble a bit. As you can see, I may have done that a bit here. I hope that Rachael will forgive me as she attempts to fit this article in The Maine Legionnaire! However, I am passionate about what I do and believe in and I believe in what we do and stand for in the American Legion and what Americanism stands for. I promise that I will continue to help the new Americanism Officer in whatever way that I can.

My last comment is for Curtis Merrill, District 2 Commander. We have been competing on the sale of the fantastic State of Maine, American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coins. Curtis, you are still ahead of me in sales. I will keep trying, but I am not sure if I will catch up with you. Thank you for a job well done. (If anyone needs a coin, you can contact me. I have a few left. Curtis has some, too!)

God bless you all and thank you for your support over the past 2 years.

Respectfully, Debra Couture
President’s Message

Spring Is Here and We Need to Start the Memorial Build!

We still have POW/MIA Memorial bricks that need sponsorships. If your Unit, Post, Squadron, or Chapter hasn’t sponsored a brick yet, please consider doing so. If you have sponsored brick(s), please consider sponsoring one more. I know many of you are sponsoring bricks from your home towns or Legion Family home towns. Please consider helping other communities get their bricks sponsored. All of these heroes deserve a brick and we can’t begin building without all of them sponsored.

Sponsorships are only $50.00 for each brick. That is the equivalent of:

- 20 medium Dunkin Donuts Iced Coffees
- Dinner for two at Texas Road House
- 5 months of Netflix
- One month of Internet
- A year’s subscription of AAA Membership

You can find all the information about sponsoring a brick for the memorial on our website at: www.maineala.org.

We currently have 349 bricks sponsored with only 131 to go!

The following Counties still have bricks that need to be sponsored: Androscoggin (5), Aroostook (8), Cumberland (43), Hancock (7), Penobscot (25), Piscataquis (5), and York (38).

WE ARE SO CLOSE!! If every Unit, Squadron, Post, and Chapter pitched in as a family for just one more brick each we would be at our goal!

As always, thank you for all that you do and God bless you all!

For God and Country,
Ann Durost (aka Owner of Man O’ War)
Department President
P.O. Box 211, Seal Harbor 04675 (669-5686), anndurost@gmail.com

Department Testimonial Fun:

The American Legion Department Commander Randall Kluj, left, and Auxiliary Department President Ann Durost, right, share a few laughs together, as they reminisce about this years past events during the Legion Family Joint Testimonial held at Rockland Post 1 on May 19.

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, 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.

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.

Legion Family Testimonial At Rockland Post 1: Rockland Post 1 Commander Dane Winslow Sr. welcomes everyone to the Legion Family Testimonial held at the Post home on May 19.

Detachment Commander’s Testimonial Speech: The Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Ronald Marr speaks about various happenings that took place during the 2017-18 membership year as Detachment Commander to those in attendance at the Legion Family Testimonial.

Testimonial Gathering: The Sons of the American Legion Judge Advocate Don Allisot, center, and 1st Vice Commander Scott Morton, right, gather for conversation at the Legion Family Testimonial with Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan.

100th Anniversary Patch: A LA Past Department President’s Veronica Gurney, left, and Debra Marr, right, show off a wooden American Legion 100th Anniversary patch at the Legion Family Testimonial at Rockland Post 1 on May 19.
Quiz time!! Don’t worry it will be true or false to the following scenarios:

1. My Post has numerous people running for the same positions during elections?
2. My Post has turned away volunteers due to the overwhelming help we get at events?
3. Our Adjutant cannot keep up with membership, we gain so many new members all year long?
4. We have no problem with funding Boys State, Legion Baseball, or any program we support?

I will stop with the quiz; I am guessing I know the answers for most Legion Posts.

I didn’t mean to depress you, but I can offer some solutions or ideas that could help your Post have more participation, have healthy membership, and with that comes support and funding for your programs.

Any organization is only as good as its members. You have heard this before—MEMBERSHIP!

Let me share some ideas that can help your Post out:

1. Have a membership chair and committee, have a team committed to a year-long membership program. This committee should not only focus on new members, but focus on retention. Utilize MyLegion.org and keep in touch with members you haven’t seen in a while. New members are great, but keeping the members you have is equally important.
2. Don’t only focus on committee members for information and advice, have a list of inactive members ready to call or email and ask for their opinion on how the post should do something. The fact that the post cared enough to contact them might make the difference at renewal time.
3. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries. If members stay in The American Legion for five, ten, twenty or more years, they are probably not among those who are likely to drop out. When members reach one of these membership milestones, it provides two retention opportunities for your post. First, it is another opportunity to recognize a member or group of members for their continuing support. Doing that solidifies their membership even more. Also, by publicly recognizing these membership milestones, you inspire other members to strive to earn the same recognition by maintaining their membership, too.
4. A newsletter is a must for your members, it keeps them in the loop and gives opportunity to continue recognizing and appreciating members. Submitting member’s names and stories to the local newspaper is also important. Not only do you highlight the member’s hard work, you show the community the great work you are doing as a Post.
5. Get members involved at any level. Involved members don’t drop out. Your post needs to try to find ways to get members involved in a meaningful way without tangling up too much of their time. This is especially true with newer members.
6. Make sure you capture e-mail addresses whenever possible. Also, make sure your members know your post e-mail address so they’ll accept e-mail from you. E-mail is the quickest and least expensive method of sending information and documents to your members and to receive correspondence from your members.
7. Bring a list of inactive members to a post meeting and have members contact them. It’s an important sign to members when a volunteer leader takes the time to contact a member simply to say that the post misses them and to also relay to the member that the post is there to assist if there’s anything the member needs.
8. Get new and inactive members to attend Department Conventions or training classes in Winslow. They are more likely to renew when they witness the importance of the business conducted at these functions. Even if they don’t attend every year, the stature of the event and the impression they get by attending will help remind them of the benefits of membership.
9. Have an Early Bird Dinner for all that renewed their dues well ahead of December.
10. Recognize your members as often as possible. Thank them for their participation in every program or function. Whether you do it formally or informally, it pays to express appreciation to members whenever possible. It’s never too late to show gratitude to hard workers!

Remember, The American Legion’s success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Don’t take a backseat at your Post, step up and see what you can do to ensure the success of your Post.

Enjoy your day, and the people in it.

Happy 4th of July
We are the Land of the Free
We are the Home of the Brave
Let’s pay tribute
To our brave American Heroes
On this day and forever
Happy Independence Day!

The American Legion Family

As we get ready for our 100th Maine American Legion Convention, the time is right to reflect on our last one hundred years and to look forward to our next one hundred years.

I could fill this page with the things that the American Legion has accomplished. Let me remind us of just four. First is that our first youth resolution was to sponsor The Boys Scouts of America; second was our partnering with the National Education Association to establish National Education Week; third was that we drafted and fought for the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944, “The GI Bill”; and fourth was that we passed Resolution 169 to support the Warriors and their mission in the Global War on Terror.

When we look to the future, we should always remember that change is inevitable. We should always strive to leave things better than we found them and embrace our future for what it gives us and those that follow us as we continue to serve our Veterans, our Country, and our communities.

One of the main challenges that we face at the National, State, and Post levels is that of membership and the funding issues associated with the continued decline in membership. We need to strive to stabilize our membership and also to live within our budgets. We need to be inclusive in our dealings with potential members and try to make them a part of our organization at all levels.

As your representative to the National Organization, it is my duty to serve the interests of the members of the State of Maine as well as the State Organization. To do this, I need the input from you as the membership. As I travel around the State, please do not be hesitant to bring issues to my attention. It is important that issues be brought forward so that they can be resolved in a manner that is good for the American Legion as a whole.

As a final piece of information, I want to remind everyone to file their Form 990, 990EZ, or 990N as appropriate. The importance of this cannot be understated. If this is not done for three consecutive years, the post’s tax exempt status will be revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. If this happens, there can be a number of consequences such as loss of State Sales Tax exemption, loss of State Gaming Licenses and more. Please file as appropriate. If you have questions regarding this issue please contact the State Headquarters.

On a final, more positive note, I hope to see you in Bangor for our one hundredth convention and to celebrate the great accomplishments of the last hundred years and anticipate the excitement of the next hundred years for the American Legion.

It is an important thing we do and we do them well.

By John W. Hargreaves, National Executive Committee Member

Waterville, Me. Convention Medal, 1950: Author’s collection: the Waterville 1950 convention medal features the image of the American Legion hall where post #5 used to meet. It was minted for the 32nd Dept. of Maine Convention.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman

Rockland, Me. Convention Medal, 1953: Authors collection: The Rockland Me. Medal is one of my favorites, celebrating the marine heritage of the area as it is an old Ships wheel embellished with a lobster. It is representative of many medals within the American Legion which recognize the uniqueness of the area of the convention.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman
Service Office Update

Good morning, I would like to thank the 16 legionnaires who have attended the PSO seminars that I have given this year. I have updated the material and redefined the role of the service officer. I would like to see more legionnaires sign up for the seminar. You do not have to be in the service officer position; you just have to care and want to help make a difference. This job changes lives and you could be a part of it.

The next class is the 29th of May. The vision I have moving forward is that everyone attends the seminar. Maine is a large state with the population very spread out. I cannot be everywhere so I need your help.

The reason for the course is so that you have the basic knowledge of the programs. We all by now should know that the appeals process is going to change in February of 2019. Until then the old appeals process is still in effect. That is why I have the appeal time line still in the article. The Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) continues, it is another option for veterans to have their appeal decided. It as a preview of what the appeals process will be like after February. It has changed a little in its development.

When it first started, a veteran had to be asked to participate and opt-in letters were sent out. The VA has sent out four different groups over the last five months. A message came out two weeks ago that opened up the RAMP program to all veterans. So now a veteran can ask to be part of the new appeals process. The veteran can choose one of two lanes. The first is the supplemental claim review lane, and the second is the higher level review lane. They have small differences, but the bottom line is that the standard is that the appeal will be decided within 125 days. I would ask that the veteran calls the office before he or she decides to opt-in. This way, we can discuss the differences and decide if this program is the best for the veteran. Have a great couple of months and I hope to see you at the state convention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at carl.curtis2@va.gov or call my cell phone at 207-623-5726.

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.

PSO Training Seminar. The next PSO Training Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday the 29th of May. This will be the third class of the year. You can make reservations by e-mailing me at carl.curtis2@va.gov

You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.

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.

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon - Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. 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 on www.va.gov.

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

PSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, maureen.malley@va.gov, or Carl.Curtis2@va.gov.

More SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, Page 9

SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS

We Want You! at our next Post Service Officer’s Training Seminar

Attention Post Service Officers

Post Office Box 205
Togus, ME 04374

For More Information Or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office at
armetra.lauria@va.gov
Or call 207-623-5726
to make a seminar reservation.

Advanced fee for a Board of Veterans Appeals Decision to file to progress to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Contacting the DSO for Assistance by Telephone:
Post Service Officer:
Please just leave your name, phone number, and who you are working with.

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

PSO Training Seminar. The next PSO Training Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday the 29th of May, 2018. This will be the third class of the year. You can sign up for the seminar. A letter has gone out to all of our 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.

DOs 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 out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post.

Tell us about you and your post. We need to know the information in the DSO newsletter.

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More SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, Page 9
The Old American Legion Post
Uniforms and Parades

Uniforms and Parades—Part Two
(A teenager learns about the American Legion and asks important questions.)

At thirteen — almost 14 years old, my prized possession is my bike. I clean it every week, just like my dad cleans his car. I keep it oiled and make sure I lock it wherever I go. Today, I rode my bike across town to see my grandfather’s friend.

I had not been in this neighborhood before. The houses were nice but you could tell they were older than the one I lived in. I locked my bicycle to a tree and knocked on the door.

When the door opened; it was an old man; with bright blue eyes. He had a lot of wrinkles and full head of grey hair. He also had a really nice smile.

“You must be the Alder’s boy, Robert’s great nephew”

“Well, yes I am”

“You look like him” I can see the family resemblance.” “Well, I’ll get the keys and we will go out back”.

He disappeared from the doorway for a moment and came back with a set of keys jingling in one hand and a cane in the other. It was funny — he seemed to walk well without the cane.

“Follow me”. He said.

We walked behind the house; only to see another building you couldn’t see from the road. It was just one floor and not very big. It had peeling paint and looked like no body lived there anymore. I think it was abandoned and wondered why I needed to see it.

Then I noticed the faded sign over the door which had some names on it and said under them; American Legion Post 336.

He tried a few keys till he had the right one and door opened with a creaking sound. Obviously those door hinges needed some oil.

The room smelled a little musty and was dusty. He explained that it had been a “long time” since anyone have been in the building. He asked me to help him open some windows to air it out.

I looked around the room. There was about 25 or 30 old chairs set up. One end of the room had two doors. The room were in had a desk in a corner and a podium centered near that same wall. There was a star like thing on the podium.

“What the star thing on the podium” I asked.

“That star thing”, he answered, “is the American Legion Symbol”. “It was based on the original World War One discharge pin”.

“What’s a discharge pin?”

“It’s what they gave the soldier and sailors after the war to show that they were out of the service”. “Most people wore them in parades and sometimes in church or other special occasions like memorial’s”.

I saw behind the podium an American Flag and another flag. They had a gold fringe and were really dusty.

“What is the other flag?” I motioned to the one on the right.

“Oh, that”, he answered as he walked over to spread the flag out so I could see it.

“That, he paused, is the American Legion Flag”. “See, it has the American Legion symbol and the post name and number on it.”

“What is a post anyway?”

“The post is the place the Legionnaires, (that what post members were called), would meet, and the post was usually named after the town it was in, or some battle, or the first person from the town who died in the war”.

“So who is this post named after?”

“I thought you would ask and am delighted to tell you’ “This is the Cowell – Alderman Post”.

“So this is Cowell – Alderman Post 336”

“Yes, it is” he paused, “or was”.

“Cowell Alderman – his last name is a lot like mine”.

“They were two different persons”.

“One died in the World War One and the other in World War Two.” “Alderman was Robert J. Alderman, A lieutenant in the U. S. Army and your ancestor”. “He was your uncle.”

“But his name is different”.

“Well, sometimes names change over time – ask your parents”.

“Here, here’s something you may want to see”. “You told me your grandfather and great grandfather were wearing a uniform”.

He opened a closet door and there was a rack of blue uniforms with gold trim on the sleeves and a gold stripe on the pants. He picked one out.

“This is the American Legion uniform”. “They don’t wear them anymore; or I don’t think they have to.” “You can see here the American legion symbol and post number on the collars.”

Also, he pointed out, “The state American legion symbol and post number on the other shoulder”. “Some servicemen put there unit patch on the other shoulder”. “What’s a unit patch”? “That is a patch that identified what service they were in and where they were stationed”. He brought out a few more uniforms and me unit patches. Some were from the Army and some were from the Navy. Some had boats on them and others just numbers or letters and fancy symbols.

“Here is a uniform with a World War One discharge pin on it.” “You see how it is similar to the American Legion symbol”.

“Yes”.

“By the way, During World War One – it wasn’t called World War One”. “Nobody knew there was going to be another war”. “In fact they called it the ‘War to end all wars’ or the ‘Great War’”.

“What was so great about it”?

“I guess the great sacrifices the people made and the great causes they were fighting for”.

“Oh.”

More on UNIFORMS & PARADES, Page 10
The American Legion Department of Maine’s First Convention

We learn from the Convention call that, the convention is held in the U. C. T. Hall on 24 Sept. 1919 at post office square of Bangor Maine. Headquarters will be at the Bangor House. (See below)

Posts are allowed one delegate and an alternate; beyond that one more delegate per 200 members.

As a civilian organization; military titles and uniforms are not necessary at meetings and conventions.

James W. Williams Post #12 held a Military Ball later that day at the Bangor City Hall. (See below).

The 1919 American Legion Maine State Convention Schedule above lists Governor Carl Milliken as a featured speaker.

For more information on The American Legion, Department of Maine’s First Convention, including the official listing of Posts in Maine at the time of the convention, Resolutions, Committee members, elected officers, State Exec. Committee Report, etc. please visit www.mainelenegion.org or contact the Department of Maine’s 100th Anniversary Chairman, Donald G. Hands at 207-703-2727 or via e-mail at dghands@comcast.net.

Bangor House

Bangor City Hall

1919 American Legion Maine State Convention Schedule

STATE CONVENTION AMERICAN LEGION.
Bangor, Maine, September 24, 1919

10.00 A.M. Convention assemblies. Prayer——Mr. Beach

Mayor Woodman

Governor Milliken

Report by Committees on Credentials

11.00 A.M. Election of temporary Chairman and Secretary.

Election of Committees

1. Resolutions

2. Constitutions and By-Laws

3. Nominating

11.45 Major Atkinson, War Savings Division, Boston

1.00 P.M. Convention assemblies. Reports of Secretary and Treasurer.

Reports of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws

5.30 P. M. Election of State officers, State Executive Committee, Two members National Executive Committee, delegates and alternates to National Convention. Vote on time and place of next Convention.

4.00 Report of Committee on Resolutions.

8.00 P. M. Ball.

Uniforms & Parades

(Continued from Page 9)

He pulled out another uniform. “This one has a ruptured duck.”

“A ruptured duck?”

“Well, that what the servicemen used to call it”. “It is actually the World War Two discharge pin”.

I looked at it. It was a bird with wings spread on a circle.

“So the Legion people were in the Military”.

“Well, yes and no.” “They were veterans – that means that they were in the military and got out or as we say were discharged”.

“If they weren’t in military anymore – then why did they have uniforms”?

“I guess to show they shared the bond of the American Legion”. “To show that they were proud of their service”. You know to be uniform or as one.”

I walked around and looked at some the pictures on the walls. There were some group pictures, individual pictures, and then I noticed some parade pictures. The parade pictures had people in uniform playing horns and drums like the high school band.

“I see parades”

“Yes, the American Legion had many parades”. “Usually Memorial Day and Veterans Day”. “During wartime they had a lot of parades”. He went back to the closet and brought out a small suitcase. He opened it and pulled out a horn. On the bell of the horn was the American Legion symbol.

He continued, “Many legionnaires were in the Drum and Bugle Corps parade group”. “Some had different – fancier uniforms and vied for medals and ribbons in competitions”.

“Do they do that anymore?”

“Maybe in the big cities but not around here.” “In fact this post has been closed since the late 1980’s or early 1990’s”.

“So the American Legion was all about the parades and the uniforms?”

“No”, he answered, “not at all”. “It is about four pillars of the legion”.

The Maine Legionnaire

Photo/Article Submission

Due to the 100th Anniversary planning, State Convention, Dirigo Boys State and the Maine Legionnaire newspaper, the Department wasn’t able to include all photos and articles for publication in this issue. We will make every effort to include them in the August issue.
 bits ’N Pieces —

Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 donated $200 to the Madison Senior Citizens, $500 to People Who Care, $200 to Center Point Community Church (Anson Food Cupboard), $100 to the Solon Food Cupboard, $100 to the Starks Food Cupboard, $100 to the Norridgewock Food Cupboard, $150 worth of coffee to VAVS at Togus, two $500 scholarships, $2,900 worth of coats and boots for students in need from both Madison and Carrabec School Districts.

SAL donated $500 to The Maine Children’s Home for Little Wanderers, $100 to YMCA Camp of Maine to help send a military family’s boy or girl to summer camp, $50 to Skowhegan Chapter of DAR to go toward the repair of the sundial in Coburn Park, $100 for a Madison eighth grade student who needed financial support for a trip to Washington, D.C., $100 to the Colonel’s (the beloved Yellow Labrador service dog owned by Paul and Robin Turek) surgery, $100 to the Maine Leatherneck Detachment of the Marine Corps League, and $100 to the VFW for the Luck of the Draw Raffle.

Thank you to local merchants who donated heating oil and wood and special thanks to Pit-master Eddie Cowan.

Unit 39 donated $257 to the Sea Cadets, $50 to DAR, Eunice Farnsworth Chapter for restoration of a sandal in Coburn Park, $445 to People Who Care, $245 to the Anson Food Cupboard, $245 to the Solon Food Cupboard, $245 to the Starks Food Cupboard, $120 to the Norridgewock Food Cupboard, $25 to Skowhegan Giving Tree, $50 to Lobster Dip for Special Olympics, $25 to Paralyzed Veterans Assoc., $50 towards a Tandem Bike at Maine Veterans Home in Augusta, $50 to Veterans Creative Arts Festival, $50 to the Colonel’s (the beloved Yellow Labrador service dog owned by Paul and Robin Turek) surgery, $40 to Camp Tall Pines, two $200 scholarships, $25 to Madison Idol, $100 to an active duty Legionnaire who lost his entire home to a fire and bought Christmas gifts for four veteran members and two Auxiliary members who are in nursing homes. They also donated a $15 Bingo package for the Marine Corps League, $500 to Special Olympics of Maine, $150 to Angel Flight and $100 to Somerset Special Olympics. They purchased 22 backpacks with various items to put in them such as pajamas, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, hats, mittens, etc. for Foster Children at DHHS-$266.

Since last report, Maxine Dube and her helpers (Marie Wing and Barbara Wyman) have mailed out $20,232.19 worth of coupons.

Madison Post 39 ALR’s donated $100 to the Coffee and Newspaper Fund at Togus, $500 to the Legacy Fund, $200 to the YMCA of Maine and $500 to Homeless Vets.

Unit 39 Naval Sea Cadet SN Cameron Smart earned the Presidential Fitness Ribbon for completing the required push-ups and sit-ups and had an impressive mile in 6:08 minutes.

Norway Post 82

Many years ago, Norway Post 82 assumed the responsibility to decorate the Main Street each year with the colors of our nation on holidays and for special remembrances. It is accomplished by post member Randy without fanfare or turmoil. He also makes sure the flags in the memorial area are raised or lowered and replaced as necessary.

Windham Post 148

Unit 148 filled 50 more dirty bags with health and hygiene items for distribution at the Portland Vet Center.

Dick McKeen has a list of Windham cemeteries, some small and some isolated. He faithfully visits to honor our departed Veterans.

Phippsburg Post 216

Phippsburg Post 216 for their donation of $50 to Honor Flight of Maine, $50 to Girls State, $50 to Wounded Heroes Program of Maine, $25 to Troop Greeter's Museum and $50 to Camp Sunshine.

Legionnaires Disease

Can you imagine a place and time when; if you wore your legion hat or uniform – people would avoid you? People would not share an elevator with you. A waitess, over hearing a person was legionnaire, used gloves to dispose of his dishes and silverware rather than wash them. This happened in south eastern Pennsylvania during late 1976. Pennsylvania is one of the strongholds states of the American Legion. What could cause this? The hotel gained worldwide notoriety in July 1976, when it hosted a Dept. of Pennsylvania convention of the American Legion. Soon after, a pneumonia-like disease killed 29 people and sickened 182 more who had been in the hotel. The vast majority were members of the convention. The negative publicity associated with what became known as "Legionnaires Disease" caused occupancy at the Bellevue-Stratford to plummet to 4 percent and the hotel finally closed on November 18, 1976. In 1977, Dr. Joseph McDade discovered a new bacterium, which was identified as the causative organism. It thrives in hot, damp places like the water of the cooling towers for the Bellevue-Stratford's air-conditioning system, which spread the disease throughout the hotel. The bacterium was named Legionella and the disease, Legionellosis, after the first victims.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman
Support Veterans in the State of Maine!
Make a Difference Today and Contribute to your Favorite Fundraiser or Program of The American Legion

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.

Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today!

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.

Coins are also available for free pick up at $10 each. You may pick up your order at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

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

Your donation will help support Veterans in the state of Maine as well as Children & Youth Programs and other various programs of The American Legion. A few of our programs are listed below. For a complete listing, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

Maine American Legion Programs: General Fund, Vet Aid, Homeless Vets, Legion Baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Oratorical, Jr. Shooting Program, Beals Hours, and Maine Special Olympics. To pay by credit card, please visit www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button.

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.

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.
Department Officer Candidates 2018

SCOTT PARADIS  
Commander  
Corinna Post 73

MATTHEW JABAUT  
1st Vice Commander  
Topsham Post 202

DEBRA COUTURE  
2nd Vice Commander  
Litchfield Post 181

KIRK THURSTON  
2nd Vice Commander  
Damariscotta Post 42

ALFRED MCKAY  
Americanism  
Bath Post 21

JEFFREY STEVENSON  
Historian  
Naples Post 155

RANDALL KLUJ  
NECA  
Milo Post 41

JOHN HARGREAVES  
NEC  
Richmond Post 132

KELLY ELA  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
Topsham Post 202

LEGIONNAIRE'S 99TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Cake Cutting Ceremony: Headquarters staff, members, and guests gather for the Cake Cutting Ceremony at Department Headquarters Mar. 15 in celebration of The American Legion's 99th Birthday. Left to right, Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, Rockland Post 1 Commander Dane Winslow Sr., Dept. Chaplain Patricia Thurston, Office Assistant Sue Risinger, Dept. Commander Randall Kluj, Office Manager Rachael Currie, Janet Kluj, Office Assistant Alyssa Currie and District 13 Service Officer Henry Slininger.

Special Gifts Presented: Special Projects Manager Amedeo Lauria presents a small gift to Rep. Cathy Nadeau at the State House Mar. 15 in appreciation of her attendance.

Attendees: Some of those in attendance at the State House to celebrate the Legion’s 99th Birthday.

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.

What a Delegate Should Bring: This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 100th Annual State Convention in Bangor, June 15th and 16th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year’s convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival and pick up your delegate or alternate package. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.

Parade: Buses will start departing the Convention at 9 a.m., by order of Post # (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) The parade will kick-off at 11 a.m. All buses should return by 2 p.m. when Convention will reconvene. If you want to watch the parade, but not march, you may ride down on the buses. For anyone who cannot ride the bus, there will be parking available on Exchange Street, or along the parade route. The parade will be held rain or shine.

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Legion Awareness: Special Projects Manager and Event Coordinator for the 99th Birthday Celebration Amedeo Lauria spreads awareness of Legion programs to those in attendance at the State House.

Idea Sharing: Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, left, Dept. Chaplain Patricia Thurston, right, and Women Advisory/Women Veterans Committee member Gloria Hall, center share a few
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL
FOR
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In 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 first 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 list of those candidates who have filed for office. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. The Department Adjutant’s staff will be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

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

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

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

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

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION
100TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
June 15 — 17, 2018
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

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 Committee 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.

Balloons will close promptly at 9:45 a.m.

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 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.
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
100th Annual State Convention Program
June 15-17, 2018
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 15, 2018
Resolutions Committee (9 a.m.) Spectacular Event Center, Bangor – Open hearing
Committee Chairman, Terry Knowles

First Session
Friday, June 15, 2018

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)
Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of Colors
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Preamble
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules
and Organization
Welcome
Greetings
NEC Report
Post Excellence Award (Report)
Maine Special Olympics
Camp Tall Pines,
Maine Blind Camp Update
History Awards
Children & Youth Scholarships
& Daniel E. Lambert Scholarships
Past Commander’s Club
(James V. Day Scholarships)
Beals House
Junior Shooting Sports Update
Introduction of Past Dept. Commanders
& Past Legionnaires of the Year
Legionnaire of the Year Award
Nomination of Dept. Officers
Announcements
3 p.m. Recess
5 p.m. Social – 6 p.m. Dinner - Legion Family Birthday Bash
& Legionnaire of the Year

Department Commander, Randall Kluj
Department Commander, Randall Kluj
Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Alfred McKay
Department Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
ALL
District 2 Service Officer, Kelley Ela
Milo Post 4, Organizer, Randy Kluj
Milo Post 41, Peter Polk
ALL
Department Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Past Nat’l Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
Maine Seniors Magazine, Councilor
David Nealley
NEC, John Hargreaves
Department Commander, Randall Kluj
President /CEO Phil Geelhoed, Training
Ian Frank & Chairman, Jesse Pierce
Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Department Historian, Jeffrey Stevenson
Scholarship Chairman, Ronald Caron
President, Debra Couture, V.P. Patricia
Thurston, & Sec./Treasury, Paul L’Heureux
Beals House President, Eileen Krawczyk
Chairman, Joseph Donahue
Past Dept. Commander, Peter Johnson
Past Dept. Commander, Peter Johnson
Selected Legionnaires
Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux

Second Session
Saturday, June 16, 2018

Call to Order (8:00 a.m.)
Presentation of Colors
Service Officer Update & PSO Award
Public Service Awards
Humanitarian/Humanitarian Citizen Award
Department Finance Update
Legislative Update
Update on National Security
Centennial Parade (11:00 a.m.)
Reconvene (2:00-2:30 p.m.)
American Legion Auxiliary
Sons of The American Legion
100th Anniversary Update
Adjutant of the Year Award
Membership Update/Awards
4th Estate Awards
Women’s Advisory Committee Update
Americanism Awards
Roger’s Rangers & Tony’s Tigers Awards
Awards: Matt, Scott, Jeffrey
Report of Committee Resolutions
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.
Response
Report of Credentials Committee
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle
Announcements
Benediction
Adjournment
5:30 p.m. State Convention Installation

Department Commander, Randall Kluj
Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Alfred McKay
Dept. Service Officer, Carl Curtis
Law & Order Chairman, Kirk Thurston
Chairman, Edward Roach, Jr.
Dept. Finance Officer, Tommy Adkins
& DFC Chairman, William O’Connell
Chairman, Matthew Jabaut
Chairman, David Patch
Staging Area – Intersection of Exchange
St. & State St., Bangor – Boarding at
9:00 a.m. – Parade begins at 11:00 a.m.
Auxiliary President, Ann Durost
Detachment Commander, Ronald Marr
100th Anniv. Chairman, Donald Hands
Dept. Commander Randall Kluj &
Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux
Department Vice Commanders, Scott
Paradis & Matthew Jabaut
PR Chairman, Peter Johnson and
Amedeo Lauria
Chairwoman, Patricia Thurston
Dept. Americanism Officer, Debra
Couture & Dept. Cmdr. Randall Kluj
PNC Tony Jordan, 1st Vice Scott
Paradis, & 2nd Vice Matthew Jabaut
Department Commander, Randall Kluj
Committee Chairman, Terry Knowles
Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Department Commander, Randall Kluj
Chairman, William Alaimo
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting
Department Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux
Department Chaplain, Patricia Thurston
(Sine Die)
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor

Sunday, June 17, 2018
Spectacular Event Center

8:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor

The American Legion
Dirigo Boys State

June 17-21, 2018
Thomas College, Waterville

Old Orchard Beach, Me. Convention Medal
1941

Old Orchard Beach, Me. Convention Medal
1949

Old Orchard Beach, Me. Convention Medals: Authors Collection:
During WWII, as metal was being saved for the war effort, some “medals”
were actually plastic and/or paper composites as the Old Orchard Beach medal
of 1941. These two medals have the same basic design while the 1941 one
is plastic and the 1949 one is metal.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman
2018 Resolution Index

Resolution 1 Organizational Structure
RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018, that The American Legion, Department of Maine shall appoint an ad-hoc committee to review, recommend and implement a plan for a sustainable future structure for the Department of Maine, with the following criteria:

The structure must not decrease the represented number of non-department officers on the Department Executive Committee and secondly:

Districts should be comparable in size and number of posts while maintaining alignment to their communities and school districts and thirdly:

The Committee will provide its findings and recommendations for implementation at the next Mid-Winter Conference for membership and Department Executive Committee approval; and, be it further

RESOLVED, When passed at the 2018 Annual Convention and approved at Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee, the recommendations from the committee will be implemented for the 2019-2020 Legion year.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future Resolution 2 Transfer of Post, District Property
RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018, that The American Legion, Department of Maine add to its By-Laws “In addition to other legal requirements under existing laws, and the Department of: (i) no Post, District, or any other holding company, or corporation subordinate thereto, shall purchase, sell or otherwise transfer title or interest in any real estate or private property which is equal to twenty five percent (25%) or more of Posts or Districts net worth unless written notice of such proposal has first been:

Submitted thirty (30) days prior to any subsequent actions to The Department of Maine Commander and then Department Commander shall review any sale, purchase, transfer or encumbrances to determine whether such transactions meet the purposes of the Post, District, Department of The American Legion as prescribed in the National and Department By-Laws and Constitution. The Department Commander will also determine if it is in best interest of The American Legion to involve the Post Revitalization team to help the Post or District through a difficult process and secondly:

Each member or said Post, District is given a minimum of ten (10) days notice prior such regular meeting or special meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, and at which proposal is to be considered, and then will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at said meeting to approve or disapprove. Failure to comply with these provisions shall nullify said transaction.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, When passed at the annual Convention the resolved above (the part in question) are added to the Department of Maine By-Laws as ARTICLE XX and current ARTICLE XX be renumbered as XXI.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future Resolution 3 Holding More Than One National and/or Department Office at One Time
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in The Department of Maine Convention assembeled in Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018, That Article IV of The Department of Maine Constitution have the following sentence added following the list of Department Executive Committee Members: No elected or appointed Department or National officer in The Department of Maine may hold more than one National and/or Department office at one time; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, This change is to become effective following the close of the annual Department Convention in 2018.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future Resolution 4 Organizational Structure
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in The Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018, That The American Legion, Department of Maine replace ARTICLE IV, sections 4 of the Department Convention to read;

“The executive power shall be vested in a Department Executive Committee to be composed of 24 District Commanders. District Commanders shall be chosen, one for each District, by the Posts in each District at a meeting held before the annual Department Convention, and in addition thereto said executive power shall be jointly vested with the Department Executive Committee, Members of the Department Executive Committee shall be: (Res. 10-1992) Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, 24 District Commanders, Department Adjutant, Department Finance Officer, Department Judge Advocate, Department Service Officer, Department Historian, Assistant Department Service Officer, Department Chaplain, Department Americanism Officer, Department Sergeant-At-Arms, National Executive Committee (ex officio), National Executive Post Commanders (ex officio), Past Department Commanders (with voice, Res. 8-94)

Past Department Commander of The Department of Maine. The American Legion, in good standing, shall be members of the Department Executive Committee for life with voice and vote, but shall not be counted or considered for the purpose of a quorum. (Res. 2-99)

The practice of naming Honorary Past Department Commanders is prohibited, but those that were elected shall remain as such. A Legionnaire of the Year Committee, made up from the Past Department Commander’s Club, will select a Legionnaire for this honor annual.

Resolution 5 Organizational Structure
RESOLVED, By The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine June 15-17, 2018, That The American Legion, Department of Maine shall appoint a committee to review, recommend and implement a plan for a sustainable future structure for The Department of Maine, with the following criteria:

The structure must not change the represented number of non-department officers on the Department Executive Committee and secondly:

Districts should be comparable in size and number of Posts while maintaining alignment to their communities and school districts and thirdly:

The committee will provide its findings and recommendations for implementation at the Mid-Winter Conference for membership and Department Executive Committee approval; and, be it further

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine, June 15-17, 2018, That The American Legion, Department of Maine shall appoint an ad-hoc committee to review, recommend and implement a plan for a sustainable future structure for The Department of Maine, with the following criteria:

1st: The committee would use The Department of Maine job descriptions to determine the qualification candidates and thirdly; and, be it further

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in Department of Maine Convention assembled in Bangor, Maine June 15-17, 2018, That The American Legion, Department of Maine implement this committee and review beginning with candidates for 2019-2020 offices.

Submitted by District 8, Department of Maine

Houlton, Me. Convention Medal 1940: Author’s collection: This medal was issued in commemoration of Col. Frank M. Hume. He served during the Spanish American War and later during the “Great War” he served as the Commander of the 103rd Infantry, 26th Division. After the war he was one of legionnaires who: at the invitation of Gov. Milliken attended the St. Louis Caucus of the American Legion and was instrumental in the formation of the American Legion Department of Maine.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman

Portland, Me. Convention Medal 1933: Authors Collection: Newly elected State Commander Raymond E. Rendall is shown wearing the Portland, ME. Convention medal of 1933.

Note: Red, White & Blue ribbon indicates American Legion Auxiliary.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman
The Founding of the Department of Maine

Donald G. Hands, 100th Anniv. Chairman

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

The founders of the American Legion who met in Paris decided that they would wait until the American Legion could be brought stateside to “perfect” the organization.

One reason for this was to invite the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. In addition to other U.S. Army personnel serving stateside, the founders decided to have a caucus in St. Louis, Missouri on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May 1919. They appealed to the States to send delegates to the St. Louis Caucus and was accompanied by Lt. Colonel Albert Greenlaw of Eastport, Me., Sergeant James A. Boyle of Augusta, Me., Major Gen. George McL. Presson of Farmington, Me., and Capt. Arthur Lincoln Robinson of Portland, Me.

At the St. Louis Caucus, The Maine delegation voted Albert Greenlaw to be the Chairman, James L. Boyle as Secretary, and Walter H. Butler as Treasurer.

The American Legion Department of Maine was actually born in St. Louis as it was in St. Louis where it was officially recognized by the National office.

Returning back to Maine, Chairman Greenlaw and Secretary Boyle began to organize posts in Maine. Sec. Boyle distributed Post Application forms and bulletins, collected the .50 cents dues for 1919 and distributed American Legion Buttons. Chair Greenlaw developed contacts and countersigned the work of the fledgling Department of Maine.

A meeting was held on July 23, 1919 at the Maine State House:

The Department of Maine had 25 posts. Listed by post number and city/town:

1. Rockland
2. Augusta
3. Calais
4. Gardiner
5. Waterville
6. Hallowell
7. Princeton
8. Cherryfield
9. Machias
10. Livermore Falls
11. Eastport
12. Bangor
13. East Millinocket
14. Fairfield
15. Caribou
16. Skowhegan
17. Portland
18. Vinalhaven
19. Sanford
20. Brunswick
21. Bath
22. Lewiston
23. Woodland
24. Rumford

Eighteen (18) of the twenty-five (25) posts were represented.

The previous elections that were held in St. Louis were Ratified, Affirmed and Approved. Acceptance and organization of additional posts were addressed. Twenty-five cents was decided upon to be the temporary assessment per capita. The first State Convention would be in Bangor, Me. The convention date was 24 Sept. 1919 – by then; Maine had 54 posts.

The American Legion, Department of Maine is celebrating 100 years. We have reason to pause; look back and be proud of our accomplishments.

The American Legion, Department of Maine is celebrating 100 years.

Let’s not tarry in the past for the mission is still ahead of us. We need to be about the business of posturing our organization for the next hundred years.

Sources:
Most of this information came directly from Department of Maine historical notes and some articles from the Maine Legionnaire.

Thanks to Commander Kluj and the Department of Maine for allowing me this opportunity, Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux for his support and guidance in the process and Office Manager Rachael Currie for the use of her graphic and the office staff for helping me find this information.

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman

St. Louis Caucus

Artwork by Rachael Currie

The American Legion Department of Maine

Bangor, Me. Convention Medal 1934: Authors Collection; this medal is in the shape of the WW1 canteen which would have been familiar to so many legionnaires. It served both the leguanire and auxiliary members. It was minted for the 16th Department of Maine Convention.

Lewiston, Me. Convention Medal 1936: Authors Collection; this was minted for the 18th department of Maine convention. It features a heart, the shape of the state of Maine and a star designating Lewiston as the “industrial heart of Maine”.

Authors

By: Donald G. Hands
100th Anniversary Chairman

Commitment To Veterans: Dept. Commander Randall Kluj, left, stands with Past Dept. Commander James Johnson at an Installation Ceremony held at Ramsdell Rogers Post 55 in York on May 14. Past Maine Department Commander James Johnson, (1994-95) spoke of current initiatives to provide a hospital for Veterans suffering from PTSD, alcohol, and drug addiction in New Hampshire. Commander Johnson, now a resident of New Hampshire, is an example of the ongoing commitment the American Legion has to Veterans.

To Join or Not to Join the American Legion; That is the Question:

When it came to joining a “veteran’s organization”; there was a significant amount of skepticism and apathy among the troops. Some felt it would be another “top down” group such as the military, where the leaders would form and run the organization despite the wishes of the grassroots membership. Others thought the new organization would be a “voting block” of veterans formed to support Gen. John J. Pershing, (shown here) who was considering a run for the White House. Still others felt that this was just a way of the U. S. Military to keep track of them after the war.

History tells us that none of the skeptic’s complaints were true. The government structure of the American Legion is “bottom up”, where ideas come from individual legionnaires and filter up the organization for consideration. General Pershing did not run for the U. S. Presidency. Lastly, The American Legion is a civilian group; not tracking its members for governmental and or military purposes.

Apathy for the American Legion existed largely among overseas personnel, who by the end of the Great War only wanted to go home and resume civilian life. After returning, many veterans saw the good works, benefits, and socialization the American Legion offered and joined. Today the American Legion is the largest veteran’s service organization with around 2.4 million members.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Kennebunk Post 74 Commander Dennis LaMontagne presents John Quincy a certificate for 60 years membership in The American Legion on April 4. Left to right, Brian McBride, John Fleshman, John Quint, Commander Dennis LaMontagne, John Govia, and Robert Declercq.

Berwick Chapter 79 Fundraiser: Berwick Riders Chapter 79 recently held their 2nd Crop for a Cause Scrapbooking fundraiser which raised $500 and several hundred pounds of food donations. The Riders packed two SUVs full of food and clothing and delivered it to Preble Street in Portland on April 14. Left to right, Director Dennis Ouellette, Sergeant-At-Arms Robert Wright, Safety Officer Gary Branyen, Stan Sheldon, Daniel Cassidy and Ride Coordinator and Public Affairs Officer Beverly Cassady.

To Join or Not to Join the American Legion; That is the Question:

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WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Eliot WWI Veterans Monument: Eliot Kittery Memorial Post 188 recently met at the William Fogg Library this past April to present Eliot citizens with Certificates of Appreciation for their help and hard work in restoring the Eliot WWI Veterans Monument.

Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 Commander Jack Mercer, left, presents Eric Fernandes a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on restoring the Eliot WWI Veterans Monument.

Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 Commander Jack Mercer, left, presents Ruth Drake a Certificate of Appreciation for her help in bringing the condition of the Eliot WWI Veterans Monument to the Posts attention, and spearheading the project for its restoration.

WWI Veterans Monument

To Join or Not to Join the American Legion; That is the Question:

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WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

50 Year Certificate: District 2 and South Portland Post 35 Finance Officer Ken Marston, right, receives his 50 year Certificate at the Post meeting on Fri., Feb. 16.

Westbrook Post 62 member Dennis Marotte entertained with professional photos of his 13+ years as a volunteer of Maine PROJECT ARCH-ANGEL with the SOVIEL RUSSIA on April 4. Left to right, Jean Souliere, original leader of the Student Ambassador Program, Post Commander Richard Galipeau, Dennis Marotte, and Founder of the Project Danniel Glover.
District 2 continued

Windham Post 148 Vet Coffee Social: Field-Allen Post 148 veterans gather for the Veterans Coffee 2nd Anniversary. For 204 consecutive weeks, the Vet Coffee Social has been providing an opportunity for local veterans to gather and socialize over coffee and donuts at the Windham Veterans Center (WVC). Around the table, left to right, Post Service Officer and founder of the Vet Coffee Chuck Whynot, the newest Post member Richard Drapeau and the oldest Post vet (WWII) Carroll McDonald. In the background, some of the 30 plus veterans who stopped by to celebrate the 2ND Anniversary of the Vets Coffee. All veterans are invited to drop in any Wed. at the WVC from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for coffee and donuts.

Showing The Colors: Field-Allen Post 148 showed its colors at the Town of Windham’s Little League opening day ceremonies in East Windham on Sat., April 28 at 9:00 a.m. Post 148 provided colors for the National Anthem as well as guest speakers, Post 1st Vice Commander Rebecca Cummings and Post member Wally Clark. Color Guard, front to back, Sergeant-At-Arms Roger Timmons, Larry DelHo, Richard Drapeau, Chuck Whynot, and Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms Richard Graves.

Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day & Windham Post 148 80th Anniversary: Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham held a St Patrick’s Day dinner on Feb. 17 for approximately 100 Veterans, their families and the community. Before the 80th annual dinner, the Post held a cake cutting ceremony to kick off the Windham Post 148 80th Anniversary Year (1938 to 2018). Ceremonial cake cutters: Past Post Commander Don Rogers with 59 years of Legion service, Rebecca Cummings, one of the Posts newest member, and Post Commander Mel Greenier.

Naples Post 155 hosted The Lake Region Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting in February. A set of granite coasters with The American Legion Post 155 logo was awarded to center, left to right, Wendy Gallant, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sue Mercer, and Chamber of Commerce President Dan Harden by Naples Post 155 1st Vice Commander Donald Mulcahy, left, and District II Service Officer Kelly Ela, right.

Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope Challenge: Naples Riders Post 155 took to the road again to present the first check to the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope in Augusta in February. Left to right, Road Captain Skip Brown, Sergeant-At-Arms Vinny Yednak, Air Force Veteran Carolyn Olsen's (not pictured) grandson Aiden Pack, House of Hope Executive Director Martha Everett-St.Pierre, Legion Rider Director Donald Mulcahy, Finance Officer Bill O’Neil, Bob Ellis, and Secretary Line’ Mulcahy. The Riders have challenged the American Legion family and anyone who wishes to donate to this worthy cause. The Riders will match any donation up to $3000.00. The House of Hope is the first established home for female veterans and their children in New England. Please make donations payable to the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope, c/o American Legion Riders, American Legion Post 155, P.O. Box 164, Naples, ME 04055.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

100% Certificate: Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, left, and District 3 Commander James Veilleux, right, present a certificate for 100% membership to Edward Stanhope of the Alden M. Gayton Post 31 of Auburn during the District meeting held at Lewiston Post 22 on April 15.

Auburn Post 153 Support Odyssey Of The Mind Teams: Odyssey of the Mind teams from the Auburn Edward Little High School and the Auburn Middle School both came in 1st Place in the Regional Competition in Brunswick. The teams competed on April 7 for the State Competition in Biddeford. The top two teams in each division will qualify for World Competition which is held in Ames, Iowa. In the past two years, the Auburn teams have gone to World Finals where teams from all over the world gather with approximately 15,000 kids competing. The teams thank the William J. Rogers Post 153 of Auburn for their continued support. Without Post 153 help financially, the teams would not have been able to go to World Finals these past few years. Back row, left to right, Tristan Brezovsky, Carl Woodhead, Josh Brobst, Tom Brann, Adam Runnels; Front row, left to right, Jim Rowe, Callie Fulcher, Emily Farrington, and Post 153 Bob St. Pierre.

By Emily Farrington, Odyssey of the Mind Team Member
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

Rumford Post 24; Buckfield Post 58; Lockemills Post 68; S. Paris Post 72; Bethel Post 81; Norway Post 82; Dixfield Post 100; Oxford Post 112; Fryeburg Post 137; West Paris Post 131; Peru Post 199

50 Continuous Years: Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, right, presents Peru Post 199 Commander Jim Scott, left, with a certificate that marked his 50 continuous years of membership during District 5 meeting held Apr. 18 at Rumford Post 24.

Legion Birthday Celebration At Rumford Post 24: Urbain “Joe” Arsenault, left and Past Department of Maine Commander Edward J. Roach Jr., right, cut the American Legion birthday cake at the Napoleon Ouellette Post 24 in Rumford on March 17.

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

Rockland Post 1 Honors Maine State Trooper & Member Of “The Old Guard”: A special recognition ceremony was held at the Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt American Legion Post 1 on Sun., April 22. LT Mark Holmquist gave a special presentation on the 3rd US Infantry Regiment “The Old Guard” and his service in that unit from 1991 to 1993. He was a member of the First Presidential Firing Party and was in the regiment as a Sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. LT Holmquist, in his capacity as a member of the Maine State Police, was also part of the 2015 and 2016 convoys with Wreaths Across America to Arlington National Cemetery. He currently serves as the Commander of the Major Crimes Unit - South in Gray, Maine. At the conclusion of LT Holmquist’s presentation, he was surprised and honored by the Lincoln County Quilters with a Quilt of Valor. The quilt was titled “On Stand By” and specially made for LT Holmquist. Approximately 100 legionnaires, auxiliary members, and guests attended this wonderful event. Pictured from left to right, Pat Johnston, Lincoln County Quilters member and one of the designers of the quilt, LT Mark Holmquist, Wayne Johnston, Commander Post 1. The quilt in the background is the Quilt of Valor that was presented to LT Holmquist.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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

Wiscasset Post 54 Commander William Cossette, left, receives the 100% Membership Award for 2018 from Department Sergeant-At-Arms Alfred McKay during the Wiscasset Post meeting held in April.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Phippsburg Celebrates Law Enforcement: At the 46th Annual Law Enforcement breakfast held at Topsham Post 202 May 14, Acting District 8 Commander Joe Donahue, left, presents Phippsburg Post 216 Sergeant-At-Arms Comrade David Barnes his plaque while Chief John Skroski of Phippsburg Police Department reads Citation.

Photo by Mike Young

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

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

Augusta Post 2—1936 Flood: Percy Jarvis and Philip Gilbert reaching safety from flooded American Legion home at Augusta.

Have You Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2018!
Join online at www.mainelegion.org
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

August Post 2 Legion Birthday Celebration: Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 of Augusta celebrated the 99th anniversary of the American Legion on March 17 and honored 8 Post members who were World War II and Korean War Veterans. Left to right, Richard Lorenz, Robert Cochran, Post Commander Howard Betts, Leroy Hussey, Francis Harwood, Arvil Farn, Al Dowling, Henry Breton, and State Bureau of Veterans' Services David Richard.

Augusta Post 2 Veterans Day Program: Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2, Augusta Veterans Day Program was held on Nov. 10 at Cony High School. The Legion Riders were on the road again from Naples Post 155. Left to right, Kathy Merrill, Past Post 2 Commander Patrick Eisenhart, Bill O'Neil, Kelly Ela, Skip Brown, and Donald Mulcahy. (Resubmitted from Feb. Edition due to error).

District 11

Unity Post 50 Donation: Unity Post 50 members, left to right, Ron Crophy, Jerry Parker, and Randal Parker deliver many boxes of non-perishable foods on Feb. 23 donated by Waldo County District 11 Posts from Unity, Palermo and Stockton Springs to the Gary Owen House in Searsmont, The Gary Owen House is a transitional shelter for homeless vets in Waldo County that can house up to seven veterans. They are delivering the groceries to Director Alexander Allmayer-Beck, far right.

District 12

Bar Harbor Post 25 Presentation: George Edwin Kirk Post 25 Vice Commander and Acting Commander Barbara MacPike did a presentation at the Jessup Library in Bar Harbor in January 2018. The presentation was given to community members on 18 WW1 Veterans from the island who lost their lives in WW1. Information and history on the Posts namesake George Edwin Kirk who died in France was presented, as well as information on the founding of The American Legion and all that The American Legion stands for.

Photo by Samantha Wanner (Acting Commander Barbara MacPike’s daughter)
Bar Harbor Post 25 100% Membership Award: District 12 Commander Richard Bowden, right, presents Bar Harbor Post 25 Vice Commander Pamela Farseorth, left, a 100% Membership Award at a recently held District meeting.

Our Building
The Duffy-Wescott Post 85

The Duffy-Wescott Post 85 of the American Legion is located in the lovely town of Blue Hill, Maine. The Post was chartered February 16, 1934 and serves members in the Blue Hill Peninsula area. Its “headquarters” is located in the Bluehill Academy Building (built in 1833) located at 13 Tenny Hill Road. The school was in operation from 1803 to 1898, and yes, the spelling “Bluehill” is correct.

Located in the Historical District of the town, the building is used for meetings and other events organized and/or facilitated through the Post. It is uncropped except when in specific use, yet is an iconic structure for the town. We have a bathroom, kitchen and even heat, though the building’s brick structure serves as our insulation. Our very first water well was drilled in late 2016 and put into service the following spring!

The Duffy-Wescott Post 85 took ownership of the property from the Trustees of the Bluehill Academy on May 10, 1944. At the time the Post was known as the Horace K. Duffy Post 85. With approximately 30 registered American Legion members assigned, we’re pressed to keep our heads above water. We struggle; with perhaps four members who use email, despite the fact that we have our own website! This is Maine and with 501(c) 3’s abounding, we are challenged to support this beautiful building, as deserved. It is the building’s time!

The photo that follows, as well as others dating back to the Civil War, can also be found on our website at www.duffy-wescottpost85.org.

As part of a recent effort to determine the state of the building – which is all too evident – we spent almost $7,000 to have an assessment made for the immediacy and nature of repairs needed. Also provided was an estimated cost to get the building back to a point where it is supportable and more viable as a meeting place, for the Post and for others in the community. We know that some of the costs estimated were perhaps “high” but at over $500,000, the estimate gives us a sense of reality. We also are keenly aware of the unique structural elements of the building, which would not be used today. The last major facelift came in the early 1900’s and some of those structural elements are a part of our immediate concerns. Our roof was last replaced 30 years ago.

The building has been fixture in the town and a meeting place for visiting Legionnaires for a very long time, yet taken for granted. Moving to Maine permanently in 2014 and joining the Post that fall, the condition of the building I had seen virtually every summer of my life suddenly became that much more evident. Something needs to be done, with our roof the first project. We are starting to raise local funds and are impacted by the fact we are a 501(c) 19 organization, which limits access to grants and funds from some who are concerned about where their funding is going. That is a reality we are also dealing with. Volunteers with wood, nails and hammers are not what this building needs. That is too easy.

If you want to help us save this wonderful building you can. Please send a check made out to "Duffy-Wescott Post 85" and mail c/o Ellen Best, PO Box 386, Blue Hill ME, 04614 and note "Building Fund" on the memo line. Or you can send the same via a check made out to "Duffy-Wescott Post 85" and mail to Butler Smythe, Finance Officer, P.O. Box 531 Blue Hill, ME 04614.

Certificate Of Appreciation
Rhodes: Left to right, Major General Douglas Farnham, State Representative Sheldon Hanington, and Dir. of Maine Bureau of Veterans Services Adria Horn.

VFW Post 119 at the American Legion Hall in Blue Hill recently honored two local veterans for a very long time, yet taken for granted. Moving to Maine permanently in 2014 and joining the Post that fall, the condition of the building I had seen virtually every summer of my life suddenly became that much more evident. Something needs to be done, with our roof the first project. We are starting to raise local funds and are impacted by the fact we are a 501(c) 19 organization, which limits access to grants and funds from some who are concerned about where their funding is going. That is a reality we are also dealing with. Volunteers with wood, nails and hammers are not what this building needs. That is too easy.

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Guilford Post 119 Awards 50 Year Certificate: (Left photo) Connor-Trafton Post 119 Adjutant Steve Deane, left, and Post 119 1st Vice Commander Herbert Libby, right, present Collin Bickford of Abbot, center, with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. The presentation took place at Guilford Post 19 meeting on March 18. (Right Photo) shows Mr. Bickford surrounded by his family after the presentation. From left, his daughter Wendy Cupero, granddaughter Cassandra Vachon, and her husband Eric Vachon who were present for this special presentation.

Photo & Article by Butler Smythe
The Stuart-Green Post is aptly named, after the first two individuals from Lubec, Maine who gave all in World War I (The Great War) and World War II respectfully. Brief biographies of each are illustrated below collected from the post’s historical archives and an honors search on the internet; references are provided.

Yours in Service, S/Dan

Citation: “The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Corporal Arthur J. Stuart (ASN: 363941), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company M, 125th Infantry Regiment, 32D Division, A.E.F., north of Jauronne, near Sergy, France, 31 July 1918. Although exposed to artillery, machine-gun, and rifle fire. Corporal Stuart attempted to carry a wounded man from within 100 feet of the German line. He was killed while crawling toward his own lines with his wounded comrade on his back.”

General Orders: War Depart. General Orders No. 116 (1918)

Graduated: Lubec High School*

Entering service: Detroit, Michigan

Death: July 31, 1918

Interred: Status: KIA

He also earned Croix de Guerre w/gilt star, Order No. 12.334 “D,” 15 Dec. 18, GHQ, French Armies of the East, “During a combat near Sergy on July 31, 1918, he displayed the greatest heroism and zeal in attempting to bring in a wounded man. Was killed on entering our lines.”

*Original data collected from an internet search indicates Corporal Stuart was from Detroit Michigan. He was in fact from Lubec, Maine; after high school he was attending auto-mechanic training in Detroit when he enlisted (official home of record). This discrepancy is corrected in the biography above as indicated from written copies found in the Post 65 Historical record dated July 1959.

References:
Corporal Arthur J. Stuart: Post 65 Historical Record Book 1, page 1, dated July 1959.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

Calais Post 3; Cherryfield Post 8; Machias Post 9; Eastport Post 11; Baileyville Post 23; Danforth Post 45; Pembroke Post 59; Lubec Post 65; Jonesport Post 108; Vancleave Post 172; Topsham Post 191

Stuart-Green Post 65
Lubec, Maine

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

Van Buren Post 49; Fort Kent Post 133; Stockholm Post 136; Frenchville Post 145; Madawaska Post 147; Eagle Lake Post 176; St. Francis Post 180

Van Buren Post 49 Community Easter Ham Lunch: Levasseur-Farrell Post 49 and Auxiliary Unit 49 of Van Buren served a Community Easter Ham Lunch on April 1. It proved to be a total success and was appreciated by all. This Post has done this community event for the past 3 years and this year’s attendance was the highest. Total people served was 145 to include several take-outs to some families who were home bound.

Helping at the event was, left to right, Post 49 Commander Alphy Durette, Post Adjutant Roy Doucette, Auxiliary Unit 49 Past DDVP Joan Doucette, and Post 2nd Vice Commander Camille Lauzier Jr.

Photo by Post Adjutant Roy Doucette
**Attention: Next Deadline is Aug. 3**

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2018 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be August 3, 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.

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:

**Department of Maine**
American Legion
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727

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**History of the Freedom Train and Bell**

The Legion-sponsored Freedom Bell goes aboard the Freedom Train during its tour of the country in celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Six years later, the bell is dedicated at its permanent home in Columbus Plaza, opposite Union Station in Washington.

Ticket To See The Freedom Train

The American Legion Freedom Bell in Washington D.C. is a gift from the American Legion. The bell was created for the 1976 American Freedom Train which traveled across the United States from April 1, 1975 to December 31, 1976. The train held a wide array of items that represented America’s history from NASA to movie memorabilia.

The bell is a replica of the Liberty Bell which was cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. This replica bell was cast by Fred S. Giechner Iron Works. While great attempts were made to find a foundry in the United States to cast the bell, all efforts failed. After its tour on the 1976 American Freedom Train the bell was stored and then placed at Union Station. That is because the American Legion wanted the bell placed near the National Mall.

Dedication Plaque That Accompanies The Bell.

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**What was the Official Flower of The American Legion?**

The Poppy

Or

The American Daisy

Answer: According to the 1921 Manual of Ceremonies for the American Legion: The American Daisy is the official flower and, where flowers are required, should be used.

Lemuel Bolles
National Adjutant

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

Membership Card No._________________________ Date____/____/____ Post No.____

Member’s Name_________________________ Show as entered in membership register

Old Address_________________________ Street, Route or P.O. Box

Post Office_________________________ State_______ Zip_______

New Address_________________________ Street, Route or P.O. Box

Post Office_________________________ State_______ Zip_______

Remarks_________________________

To update your address: Complete all sections of the above for and mail it to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.