Virginia Veteran Elected Leader of The American Legion

Brett P. Reistad was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 30, 2018, in Minneapolis during the organization’s 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans organization since 1981.

A resident of Manassas, Va., Reistad is a life member and past commander of Post 270 in McLean. The Department of Virginia reached an all-time high in membership while he served as department commander from 2005-2006. He retired as a lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department after 26 years of service and began a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, a congressionally funded law enforcement investigative assistance program of the U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia’s Bluefield College.

Reistad’s American Legion membership eligibility is through his honorable Vietnam War-era service (1974-1978) as an active duty U.S. Army infantryman where he served with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at historic Fort Myer, Va. He participated in the inaugural ceremony for President Carter and other high-profile ceremonies. He has since been honored as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Reistad has served at every level of The American Legion. He is a past president and honorary life member of the National American Legion Press Association. He recently completed a six-year appointment as chairman of the Department Legislative Committee and two three-year terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations where he helped coordinate the input of 23 veterans service organizations in crafting veteran-friendly legislation and advocating the proposed legislation before the governor and General Assembly. He is also a tenured past department historian and was recently bestowed an honorary life membership by the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion.

He is a past Legionnaire of the Year from Post 270 and a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10 in Manassas. His wife, Jessica, and his family, are proud members of the American Legion Family.

His theme as national commander is “Celebrating Our Legacy,” with special emphasis on the organization’s centennial.

Appreciation Award:
District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, center, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from National Commander Brett Reistad, left, and State Commander Scott Paradis, right, for his exemplary efforts in organizing the National Commanders official visit to the Department of Maine. The certificate was presented at the Maine Military Museum in South Portland on Sept. 15.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

I Am The American Legion: Matt Jabaut

On Maine’s state flag, underneath the North Star, is the word dirigo. Latin for “I lead.” Not only is it the state’s motto, but it fits Matt Jabaut, a post-9/11 veteran who’s taking on leadership roles at the post and department levels.

Jabaut credits his mentors, who helped him successfully transition from the Army to college, then the civilian workforce. “I got hooked on giving back, feeling the camaraderie, serving a higher purpose, and helping other people who weren’t as successful in their transition,” he says.

While commander of Post 202 in Topsham for three years, Jabaut connected members with their interests or talents – Boys State for one, legislative for another. He understands that his peers have family and work obligations, but sometimes it’s about helping a person find his or her niche. “You find what they’re passionate about, and they’re willing to give up their time to do a program.”

Jabaut also runs Maine’s unique three-part Legion College. “The goal is to develop the next generation of leaders at the post, district and department levels. The more people see that, the more they want to be involved and learn the history we are so proud of.”

That century of service inspires Jabaut. “Our nation continues to make veterans, and we need to be there for them. The legacy, history, infrastructure and influence of the Legion has taken 100 years to build. No one else has that.”

By Henry Howard

www.mainelegion.org—OCT 19, 2019

POW/MIA Memorial Nears Completion: Thanks to all those who donated to The American Legion Family Department of Maine POW/MIA Memorial, completion of the project is in its final stages. Flags were put into place on Oct. 23, and all the bricks were laid, including 480 engraved with the names honoring those courageous Maine service members who were prisoners of war or went missing in action, never to return home. Only a few more final pieces of the display are needed to make this project complete. They include a black granite bench and memorial plaque. If you would like to make a contribution to help complete the project in honor of our Maine POW/MIA heroes of war, please mail check payable to: The American Legion Family Department of Maine, earmarked “black granite bench/plaque” 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine, 04901 or visit us online at www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button. Thank you in advance for your support!
Commander’s Comments

M otivation—The word motivation means many different things to many different people. So let’s begin with the New Webster’s Dictionary definition of Motivate (Motivation) – to furnish with a motive; to impel; to induce.

Some people say motivation is knowing where you want to go (your goals and objectives) and how you’re going to get there (your plan). The word motivation is derived from the combination of the words: motivate and action (toward your goals).

Motivation is not a big rally, although a rally can sometimes be used to stimulate motivation. Motivation, simply stated, is to set your goals and establish and work the plan that will enable you to accomplish those goals. Perhaps the late Will Rogers summed it up best when he said: “Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to be successful in selling or any other activity, you need to know what you’re doing, love what you’re doing and believe in what you’re doing.”

We know our Department membership goals for this year and we know the goals of our Districts and Posts. In order to continue the progress and inroads The American Legion has made in programs for Veterans, widows, children, orphans and the many programs for our community, state and nation, our membership must continue to grow. Membership is the life-blood of The American Legion. Perhaps that last sentence is motivation enough for us to attain our goals. As discussed in membership workshops of The American Legion, we must have PRIDE and COMMITMENT toward attaining our mission. We at Department Headquarters are committed to support and assist each District and Post in meeting their part of the membership challenge. We are all PROUD Legionnaires and will be even PROUDER of The American Legion and our own membership when we exceed our target for this membership year.

Qualities to Attain Success

We must all be self-motivated by a desire to attain our membership goals. We must be excited and motivated in the accomplishments and programs of The American Legion, so that we can convey this feeling of pride and belonging to all prospective members. Through our own PRIDE in The American Legion, there is a high degree of determination that will allow us to continue even when we encounter a setback or two. We will all learn from this tremendous experience and become more proficient, which will allow us to accomplish our goals. Our desire and determination will get the job done.

COMANDER SCOTT PARADIS

We must be totally organized, at all levels of our membership campaign, with a plan of action that will accomplish, step by step, the goal we must attain. Our plan must consider all aspects of prospecting and selling as well as time management.

There must be a COMMITMENT not only to doing the job but a total COMMITMENT of accomplishing the mission and goal. This commitment involves time and energy and whatever else is necessary to get the job done – successfully. We must all be willing to put in the time and effort necessary without considering it as drudgery.

Last but not least or perhaps first, last and always we must have a good PMA (Positive Mental Attitude). We must know we will accomplish the goal – no matter what. We must be open to suggestions from others and must be flexible enough to put these ideas in the overall plan to accomplish our goal. We must be “possibility thinkers.” We must look for and create opportunities and ways to improve our programs, which will aid us in accomplishing our goals. We must be results-oriented and revise our plan if the revision furthers the attainment of our membership goals.

In summary, in order to succeed in our membership goals, we must have:

1. What is your goal? – Department, District, Post
2. Timetable/Plan of Action
3. Commitment/Organization
4. Hard Work/Organization
5. Positive Mental Attitude
6. Determination
7. Team Work

If you leave out just one of the above ingredients, your chances of making your goal will be less. Like a good recipe, all of the ingredients must be there in the right amounts and everyone will savor the flavor. Include all of the ingredients in your membership programs, and we will savor the flavor – SUCCESS.

Thank you for your precious time and honorable service.

Commander Scott Paradis
Department of Maine

A ‘First’ Look

M y Fellow Legionnaires! Thank you for the privilege to serve as your 1st Vice Commander for the Department of Maine.

I hope you all had a wonderful Veterans Day, spending it however you see fit. Celebrating service, volunteering to help others, educating our communities about service or engaging our members.

With our renewed focus on membership, we want to continue to engage our members by making them aware of the value of being a Legionnaire. Continue to show them all the great work that we do at our posts and in our local communities. As we discussed at our Fall Conference in Brunswick Post 20, retention and engagement are key to this part of year. Hopefully the tools for you to leverage as a post or district to drive this are giving you what you need to be successful in meeting our membership goal of growth. We will continue to support you by providing tools, like potential members and renewals as we visit your posts and districts.

We are seeing good progress, while we are a little behind last year at this point, we have made each of the goals so far! Great job to all of you making it happen out there! We are also in good shape against the “Goal To Grow”. This will become more difficult as we go but I am encouraged by those that have really taken this to heart and want to be the first to meet this Goal!

As we work towards our goals of membership, I also want us to remember why we are here. We are here to continue the legacy of 100 years of service to our communities, state and nation. They are all stronger and will continue to be through our service. Some of the important principles our organization believes in, are not taught anywhere else. It is up to us to fulfill this commitment to continue to strengthen our nation through our programs and volunteer activities. We are Veterans Strengthening America and we do that through the engagement and work of our members.

Please let us know how we can help support you as our mission as a Department should be to support and enable our posts and districts to be successful. We are here to support you!

Helping Maine Grow!

Matthew Jabaut
1st Vice Commander, Dept of Maine

Hardwood Products Co.

Donation: State Commander Scott Paradis presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Hardwood Products Company LLC for their recognition and support of Maine Veterans on Fri., Sept. 28.

Hardwood Products Company LLC, located in Guilford, Maine, donated a box of printed stirring sticks to every post throughout the State of Maine as congratulations to their 100th year of serving the needs of Veterans and their families. The boxes will be distributed over the next few months by Commander Paradis. Left to right, Post 119 Commander Brian Knowlton, Department of Maine Commander Scott Paradis, VP of Operations and VP of Gold Bond Sales James Cartwright, District 14 Commander Daniel Nutter and Director of Manufacturing Woodware Products Bruce Jones.

Touring The Grounds At State HQ: Department Commander Scott Paradis, left, Department NECA Randall Kluj, center, and National Commander Brett Reistad, right, stand in front of the recently laid bricks for The American Legion Family Department of Maine POW/MIA memorial located on the grounds of the Maine American Legion complex. The photo was taken during National Commander Reistad’s visit to the Department of Maine State Headquarters in Winslow on Sept. 14.

Photo by Jeff Stevenson

RENUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY!
VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG OR VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW
I was thinking about what I was going to write for this article today as I was unpacking winter clothes and putting away summer clothes. I had the television show, Madame Secretary, on as background noise. This program is not based on fact, but the story could easily be something that could happen. Tonight’s show was about the repatriation of the remains of 31 WWII MIAs. Their bodies had been found in the Philippines. It also was about a young woman who was campaigning for a candidate seeking election. The young woman was upset because she did not agree with something that the candidate had said and she decided not to vote in the elections. Her mother, Madame Secretary, got upset with her and made a statement similar to this one: “Millions of service men and women have fought for our country to give you the right to vote. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. You have decided not to vote because you disagree with one thing that a candidate says. You need to exercise the right that all these men and women have earned for you.” The young woman did listen and did go to the polls and vote. This was a very short summary of an hour long show, but it states what we all know. We have all served our country to help to give all our citizens that right to vote. Exercise that right and please vote. This was a very short summary of an hour long show, but it states what we all know. We have all served our country to help to give all our citizens that right to vote. Exercise that right and please vote.

To set up a good review for you of the processes and procedures necessary to run this line of business, the Department of Business and Economic Development has prepared some materials. These can be found online at www.maine.gov/bed. The materials include a brief overview of Maine’s business environment, information on how to start a business in Maine, and resources for ongoing business success. The materials are designed to help businesses understand the regulatory and business environment in Maine, access potential markets, identify potential partners or suppliers, and begin the planning and preparation necessary to start and grow a successful business.

Money Matters

**Thoughts**

The IRS Form 990 is a public document, so make sure that your nonprofit's board reviews it before it's filed, and that it is completed thoroughly as well as accurately. Look to the IRS website for guidance on annual reporting of the Form 990. If a nonprofit is recognized as tax-exempt, then it must file an annual information return with the IRS. The IRS has a list of forms that are required for different types of organizations. For example, a religious organization may need to file different forms than a school. It's important to understand what forms are needed and when they are due.

**Orraticonal Contest**

By now your Post should be well into the selection process for your Oratorical Candidate. The Department contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine on February 9, 2019. So, Posts and Districts should have their contests completed by the end of January 2019. If you need assistance or have candidates who need assistance, please call the Department of Maine headquarters and they will direct you to the best person to assist you.

**Wanted Finance Officer Candidates**

Not having heard anything yet about applications for the position of Department of Maine Finance Officer, I assume that you are still thinking it over. There is much to be done in this position, so early identification of applicants would allow me to set up a good review for you of the processes and procedures necessary to run this

More on “MONEY MATTERS”, Page 5
The Adjutant Speaks

After the State Convention, we continued with the Maine Legion College and Post Service Officer Classes. We also have been working to complete the New Memorial located at your State 116. It is dedicated to all the 480 Veterans from Maine who have never returned.

The Memorial (see picture in this issue) has a black granite stone in the center with the POW-MIA seal. Below are 480 bricks with the name of each Veteran and War era of which they served, WW-II, Korea and Vietnam. There is also a granite & brick walkway to stand on. We have just recently added the Flags and have brought in crushed stone around all flags and the walk area.

The next step for the POW/MIA Memorial project is to acquire a Black Granite Bench to match the POW-MIA Stone. At this time the Legion Riders have been working on what they call The POW-MIA Memorial “Black Stone Project” to finish the Stone and to purchase the bench. We are currently holding back on the bench until a few more funds are collected. After that, we are going to wait till spring to finish the landscaping followed by a dedication, hopefully in early spring before the State Convention. If you have an opportunity to stop by you will definitely be pleased, as there are constantly vehicles in the yard during the week as well as weekends.

The next project is our current 100 year Anniversary and History. We have received a few stories and pictures about a few posts as you will see in this edition, but what we have found is that some of our members that read this paper have more knowledge about their post then do the current members and officers. So we are asking that if you should know your Post history, please make contact with your current Post Officers and take the time to gather photos, past & current, the history of the naming of your Post and what you have done to your community. One of those that stand out is the Veterans Memorial Park in Bucksport as you cross the bridge. We are hoping that Post-93 will be able to give us that history of a job well done. There are 174 Posts in the State of Maine and every one of them has made a difference in our 100 year history.

In closing, I must say as your Department Adjutant this has been another exciting year with new ideas and directions, volunteers that have stepped up and taken on challenges to serve on committees and making a commitment for the future of our organization. We have seen new leadership at the Post & District levels that we have not seen before and an attitude that we will be around for another 100 years.

Please remember to stay Focused and keep moving Forward.

From all of us at Department HQ Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.

Americanism Report

Now that the school year is half completed, our attention has turned to the Oratorical and Boy’s State/ Boy’s Nation Programs. An often overlooked program in some posts is the School Award Medal Program. The objectives of this Program is as follows:

1. Places emphasis on the development of the six core qualities of active citizenship.
2. Encourages the development of those ideals in young Americans in order to promote engaged citizenship.

3. Offers recognition for those youths deemed most dedicated to high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.

The six core qualities are COURAGE, HONOR, SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, and PATRIOTISM.

Establish a series of talks with students and faculty to highlight the six qualities. The sole purpose of the program is to promote wholesome ideals in active citizenship among youth.

The School Award Medal Program presentation should take place in conjunction with the schools Award or Commencement Ceremonies. With a school approved, Legion speakers and local veterans should be enlisted to present the award.

Guidance for forming and operating the program can be obtained, by contacting https://legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/schoolaward.pdf.

Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, Sr.
Department of Maine

Membership is Everybody’s Responsibility

Judge Advocate

During Fall Meetings in Indianapolis in October, the American Legion National Executive Committee passed 25 resolutions. Resolutions 3 thru 25 spanned every committee, there was a resolution that The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation engage in a Twenty-Five Million Dollar ($25,000,000.00) financial campaign to further increase its good works; resolutions on survivor benefit plans and to make a permanent site for The American Legion World Series. These resolutions touched on recognition of wartime translators for Afghan and Iraqi veterans, encouragement to the VA to research several new things, close loop holes in the GI Bill, contracts for advertising companies, upgrades to membership software, and more, much, much more. But the two resolutions that struck me were Resolutions 1 and 2. The American Legion is concentrating its efforts to expand its membership eligibility dates to April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government.

Resolution 1 titled “Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition” listed many unrecognized armed hostile events that required activation of US military. #1 was also a callout to Congress to declare that the United States of America has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities; finally it asked that Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as “war-time veteran” all military service personnel who served honorably under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during said period. Resolution 2 supported #1 stating “in accordance with the history, tradition and purposes of The American Legion, it is fair, proper and reasonable that the privilege of membership in The American Legion should be extended to all military personnel who served on active military duty during all of these mentioned armed hostile events requiring activation of U.S. military personnel”. It also pushed for amendments be made to The American Legion and Auxiliary bylaws to reflect the new qualifying dates.

A call on Congress to open membership to ALL who honorably served from December 7, 1941 to today and a change to the bylaws.

What does this mean to the Department of Maine and all American Legion Posts? Get your membership tools sharpened, get your Post bylaws in order, and get ready to welcome the next generation of veterans into your Post. This could be a great boost nationwide.

To answer questions Department re-

More on “JUDGE ADVOCATE”, Page 5
**Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants**

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters. If you are interested in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@maineligion.org to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 45 min. to an hour.

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**“Judge Advocate”**

(Continued from Page 4)

receives daily via phone, letter, or e-mail, here is information with regards to The American Legion Family and each branch’s responsibility.

The National Headquarters of The American Legion offers guidance on the day-to-day operations of the Department Headquarters. Calling, writing, or e-mailing National Headquarters about problems within a Post is simply referred back to Department Headquarters. Department usually sends it to your Post Executive Committee to handle internally. There is a chain of command for complaints regarding officers or members of a Post beginning with the Post Commander and Executive Committee. If the challenge cannot be resolved the issue goes to your District Officers before it ever reaches Department Headquarters.

The American Legion Auxiliary was provided for by the first National Convention of The American Legion in 1919 as a separate corporation with no oversight or monetary ties to The American Legion at any level of the organization. The relationship between the two organizations is one of “cooperation rather than regulation”. The American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units are related, but independent organizations each with separate EIN’s, financial records, By-laws, etc.

The National Judge Advocate of The American Legion has issued the following ruling.

“It is crystal clear that The American Legion Post has no authority to control the Unit related to it. The Post may not revoke nor threaten revocation of its Unit’s charter. The Unit should regard its connection with the Post as a distinct honor. It should strive unceasingly to carry out the National Constitution’s pledge to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion.”

Eligibility and membership in the Auxiliary is limited to women who have direct personal connection with service members as prescribed in the membership eligibility dates. As of this writing, men are not eligible for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary. As you can see from The American Legion’s recent resolutions, things could change.

There are five rules of subsidiary corporations (Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Riders) as follows:

1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc. must be named by the Post (confirmed by the Post Executive Committee).
2. All vacancies in the subsidiary corporation must be filled by the Post.
3. The subsidiary corporation must report to the Post no less than once per month. These reports must include financial reports.
4. The Post Treasurer or Finance Officer must be the signatory on all accounts.
5. All amendments to articles of incorporation or by-laws must be approved by the Department.

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as a committee (program) within The American Legion. It is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. All male descendants, adopted sons, or stepsons of members of the American Legion and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during periods of war as designated by the United States Congress for eligibility in The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

You are NOT eligible under an uncle or aunt. No females are eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

All actions of the Sons of The American Legion at all levels shall be subject to review and ratification at the appropriate level of The American Legion. The Sons of The American Legion Riders is a program of The American Legion Post. The Sons of The American Legion Riders are sponsored at the discretion of a local Post and are open to all Post members or Post related to it. The Post may not revoke nor threaten revocation of its Unit’s charter. The Post has no authority to control the Riders. The Director of the Riders can be appointed and removed at the Post Commander’s discretion. All financial records of the Riders must be open and available to the Post at all times.

For God and Country, Jason Hall
Department Judge Advocate

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**“Money Matters”**

(Continued from Page 3)

department. Please identify yourselves early.

10 Ways to Prevent Employee Theft and Fraud
Employee theft is one of the most serious problems facing Posts today. An employee is 15 times more likely than a non-employee to steal from a Post. Employees account for an estimated 44 percent of theft losses at stores. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that nearly a third of business failures are related to employee theft or fraud.

Posts are rightly concerned – or should be. Employee and those who hold elected financial sensitive positions misleads take many forms:

- Larceny (outright theft)
- Skimming (diverting business funds)
- Fraudulent disbursements (billing schemes, inflated expense reports, check tampering)
- Embezzlement of raw materials or inventory
- Stealing business opportunities (misappropriation of customer lists or other trade secrets)

Companies that insure posts against fraud have become alarmed by the losses and encourage Posts to become even more vigilant.

Those who steal typically have worked at a business for several years before starting to steal and continue for an average of three years before they get caught. That’s a lot of time to generate losses for the Post. Here are some things you can do:

1. Know your employees. Be alert to key indicators of potential theft such as:
   - Sudden, apparent devotion to work and working late.
   - Lifestyles well above salary levels.
   - Strong objections to procedural changes related to financial, inventory or supply matters.
   - Drugs and alcohol abuse.
   - Moonlighting with materials available at the business.
   - Evidence of compulsive gambling, persistent borrowing or bad check writing.

NFIB recommends that small business employers perform background checks on potential hires. Checking references is one important step. But for employees entrusted with handling your money or financial records, a background check is better.

2. Supervise employees closely. Not surprisingly, studies show that when supervision is lax, theft and fraud rates go up. This doesn’t mean looking over their shoulder every minute. But it does mean checking what they do. It’s also wise to have more than one person looking out for your money.

3. Use purchase orders. The payment, receipt and preparation of purchase orders should be separate functions and handled by different individuals. Use serially pre-numbered purchase orders and always verify incoming orders.

4. Control cash receipts. Use serially pre-numbered sales slips and conduct weekly audits. Balancing of sales slips and register receipts should be done by someone other than the sales clerk.

5. Use informal audits. Make unannounced internal audits and have a yearly audit performed by an outside firm.

6. Install computer security measures. Understand your computer systems and software, and how they might be used to divert money or inventory. Restrict access to computer terminals and records. Periodically change entry codes and check regularly to ensure that security procedures are in effect.

7. Track your business checks. Always use pre-numbered checks, with amounts and payees typed or written in permanent ink. Producing all checks from financial software such as QuickBooks is highly recommended. Lock blank checks and a signature machine, if you have one, in a secure place.

8. Manage inventory and use security systems. Separate receiving, store keeping and shipping functions. Physical inventories should be done annually by individuals who are not responsible for inventory records. Some businesses also install security devices to monitor merchandise or inventory.

9. Beware of accounts receivable. Make mail-opening and posting separate functions. Record checks and cash in appropriate registers and stamp checks for deposit only.

10. Provide a way for employees to report theft or fraud by co-workers. This needs to be done carefully to avoid signaling you don’t trust employees. But it can be highly effective.

If you suspect a problem, attorneys at the Small Business Legal Center offer this advice:

- Be extremely careful about making accusations and conducting investigations – a false accusation can result in a lawsuit against you.
- Verify suspicions by investigation, and determine the extent of fraud and methods used. If you can identify the responsible employee, terminate their employment and consider further legal action.

If it is a large or complex issue, consider involving legal counsel who can assist with finding additional experts such as forensic accountants or investigators.

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2019 Lobster Dip Set

Special Olympics Maine is pleased to announce the Annual Lobster Dip on New Year’s Day (January 1st, 2019) at 12 noon in front of the Brunswick in Old Orchard Beach (39 West Grand Ave). For more information please visit http://www.somaine.org/lobster-dip-2019.
President’s Message

Where has the time gone? The month of October was filled with exciting and emotional adventures, starting with a visit to Madawaska with Department Secretary Michelle to present certificates to Past Unit Presidents. As always, the hospitality up at the “County” was amazing! It was an honor to attend the groundbreaking of the new Gold Star Family Monument at the Veterans Park in Lewiston along with my husband Ron and VA & R Chairman Jeri Greenwell. The highlight was meeting Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last living Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima at the ripe old age of 95. What an inspiring person. His goal is to have a Gold Star Family Monument in every state! I hope he can do it!

I, along with many others, had the delight and privilege of spending a filled weekend with our National President Kathy Dungan. She was wonderful to talk to and to spend time with. We had the honor of escorting her for a visit to the Cabin in the Woods at Togus, and meet with a few of the female veteran residents. They already have a waiting list and are in hopes to expand the programs!

Afterward we visited the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope with an escort from the American Legion Riders, along with three SUVs filled with toiletries, blankets, and household items, as well as toys and stuffed animals. Lastly, I stopped in at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Togus.

A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped fill and pass out the ditty bags filled with over 20 different items. All of this and more makes me ALA PROUD, especially in light of our current theme in supporting women veterans!

The American Legion Auxiliary welcomes our new Chartered Unit, George T. Files Unit 20 from Bath. What an exciting and emotional experience to actually sign a Charter. Being able to present it with our National President Kathy is something that I will never forget. History in the making for sure. I’m humbled and truly proud to have been a part of it.

Our American Legion Family Project is off to a great start. We are on our way towards a second Stryker Transport Chair thanks to the generosity of a $1000 donation from the Legion Riders. Thank you so much for helping us reach our goal in purchasing four chairs for the Togus VA Outpatient Unit.

I know we are all busy, but let us remember Veterans Day on November 11th. It’s because of these brave men and women that we have our freedoms today. If you see a veteran, be sure to give them a big thank you for their service. Guaranteed, it will bring a smile and warm the heart.

The holiday season will be upon us before we know it. The Christmas Gift Shops at Togus and our seven other veteran nursing homes are held during the first two weeks in December along with the Christmas Parties. We would love to have some Legionnaires to help us sing some Christmas Carols. All the times and dates will be listed in the ALA Chatter.

May all of you have a blessed and healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday this year with your friends and family. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, our military, our children and youth and our community. Remember “WE DARE TO CARE” Because they matter.

The American Legion Family Department of Maine

Helping Togus VA Hospital & Maine Veterans

We are pleased to announce our American Legion Family Project for 2018-2019 for Legion Commander Scott Paradis, Auxiliary President Joan Caron, and SAL Commander Scott Morton! Helping our VA Hospital at Togus and Maine Veterans.

We are so fortunate to have one of the best VA Hospitals in the country, and what better way to pay homage to it, by giving back. Chief, Voluntary Services Director Jonathan Barczyk told us about “The Red Coat Ambassadors”, who are the volunteers who greet the Veterans at the Outpatient Unit. These volunteers have to wheel patients to different parts of the hospital, either for blood work or x-rays, and the wheelchairs they have are old and heavy and often have a hard time. So, he introduced us to the Stryker Transport Chair. When it comes to patient experience, details matter. The Stryker TC is designed to create a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment that speaks volumes to caregivers, patients and their family members. The investment in the well-being of patients and caregivers tells them you care about their comfort and safety—it tells them that they matter.

The American Legion Family goal is to raise enough money to buy at least 4 Stryker Transport Chairs for a total of $12,000. As a Legion Family, we should be able to do this to help our Veterans and volunteers. Please mail your donation, payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked, “Family Project”, 5 Verrill Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901 or visit www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, our military, our children and youth, and our community.

Remember “WE DARE TO CARE”

Installation of New Officers: Brunswick Unit 20 new Post officers were installed by National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan, District 3 Commander, and Department of Maine Officers on Fri., Nov. 19. Front row, left to right, Auxiliary NEC Debbie Marr, Dept. V.P. Virginia Chaput, A&R Chairman Jeri Greenwell, Dept. Secretary Michelle McRae, Dept. President Joan Caron, National President Kathy Dungan and Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms Veronica Gurney. It was an honor to be a part of this Ceremony. Unit 20 looks forward to doing good work for our Veterans & families.

Submitted by Nancy Hory

Legion Family to gather in Bangor for Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 19-20, 2019 at the Spectacular Event Center, 395 Griffin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401 - (207) 941-8700. The conference will be hosted by Commander Scott Paradis and 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture

Hotel Reservations can be made at the following:

Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101

Website: www.holidayinn.com/bangorme - Room Rate: $89.00

Quality Inn: 250 Odlin Rd., Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-942-8272 - Room Rate: $88.00

Please state “Legion” when calling for reservations.

Please watch future editions in the SMILE and on www.mainelegion.org for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.
The leaves have changed and the temperatures are dropping. The cold weather is coming, so please check on our more seasoned veterans in our ranks. The price of heating oil is higher this year, no veteran should go without heat this year.

We all by now should know that the appeals process is going to change in February of 2019. Until then the old appeal 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 is 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. The 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. As of right now, there is a 75% denial rate towards the veteran. So, in most cases, it is not to the veteran’s best interest to opt-in.

According to the VA the program is great, but remember that the VA is only the veteran. As of right now, there is an office before he or she decides to opt-in. This year the appeals process will be decided within 125 days. The have small differences, but the bottom line is that the standard is that the appeal will be decided within 125 days.

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According to the VA the program is great, but remember that the VA is only considering the number of Claims resolved, not the outcome. The other side is that the RAMP is not even being done at the Togus Regional Office. So the appeals are going to a different regional office for decision. The traditional claims process is slowing down here at Togus because other regional offices are sending their appeals to this one.

**PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA APPEALS OF CLAIMS.** Appeals have very strict time lines. See the attached chart! These dates are chiseled in STONE. Do not lose benefits by waiting too long to appeal the denial of your claim! If not warranted.

12 months from notification letter, to file a Notice of Disagreement. 60 days from Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA. 30 days from Supplemental Statement of Case to file an appeal to the BVA.

120 days from the mailing date of an 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.** Please just leave your name, phone number, and who are 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 Post Service Officer Training has taken a month off because most have vacations and other activities that the summer offers. For that reason, you have not seen my emails about classes. Well as the summer winds down we are going to pick up again. I will send out my Post Service Officer Newsletter the week of the 15th with the next class. 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.

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

**DSO Newsletter.** To sign up for the newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed out monthly.

**NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE**

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

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

Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ. Call 1-877-222-VE TS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

On-Line at www.vets.gov. Togus VA Women’s Clinic. If you haven’t already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women’s health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a veteran woman 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 ensures a paper trail and evidence it was submitted!** You can either mail it or drop it off in the office!

**DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.**

More SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, Page 8
Service Office Update
(Continued from Page 8)

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 julie.kenn@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, on Friday the hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot’s Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in, as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION
AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT:
If you are interested in having us speak at your area or district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve status; subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least 30 minutes of your agenda for the presentation.

Department of Maine
PSO Class:

The Old American Legion Post
The Legion Family

Donald G. Hands, 100th Anniv. Chairman

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

The Legion Family—Part Four
(A teenager learns about the American Legion and asks important questions.)

“Well, of course, the Legionnaires are part of the Legion Family”. “They started the group”. “Actually the idea for the legion started in France with the American Expeditionary Forces of AEF”. “Some military members and decided there should be a Veterans group”.

He further explained; “Then there is the Auxiliary”. “The ladies group”. “The idea of a ladies group was considered as early as the first convention; and that was back in 1919”.

“That was a long time ago.”

“Yes, almost a hundred years now”. “Any way, as I was saying; at the first convention there were ladies groups that wanted to be associated with the American Legion”. “The Legion didn’t want to alienate any of the groups because the groups all had some merit, but if the legion accepted one and not the other – well then some worthy ladies would be left out”. “It was finally decided that the American Legion would have its own ladies group called the “Women’s Auxiliary of the American Legion”. “Now it’s called the American Legion Auxiliary”.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world’s largest women's patriotic service organization. The American Legion Auxiliary’s mission is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifices of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our Veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Mission Statement: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement: The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Purposes:
In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:
To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government.

To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self.

Values:
Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty.

Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families.

Tradition of patriotism and citizenship.

Personal integrity and family values.

Respect for the uniqueness of individual members.

Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members.

Adherence to the adopted policies and rules.

The Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. To become a member of The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation’s children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members. This year, Sons attended an all-time high national membership of over 365,000. The largest Detachment, Pennsylvania, has over 61,000 members. Trophies and awards are given to Detachments and Squadrons for the largest membership and the largest increase in membership. Just as each Legion post determines the extent of its service to the community, state and nation, each S.A.L. squadron is permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet its own needs. The S.A.L. has study programs recommended for younger members. One such program, called “The Ten Ideals,” teaches the elements of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence and comradeship. If a member completes the Ten Ideals program, he is eligible to continue with another program called the “Five-Point Program of Service.” This program covers patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership and legislation.

Sons focus on much more than just membership. At all levels, Sons support The American Legion in promoting a wide variety of programs. Sons assist their posts in other activities such as Veterans programs, Veterans Administration home and hospital volunteerism, Children Youth projects and fundraising. Since 1988, The Sons have raised more than $6.9 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Members have volunteered over 1.3 million hours in VA Hospitals throughout the country and raised over $2,500,000 that has gone directly to VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment and clothing for the patients.

“The newest group is the American Legion Riders”

The National Executive Committee officially adopted The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program with Resolution 35 (October 2007) and Resolution 32 (May 2011). Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.

All operators must be correctly licensed and insured per state laws.

All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans’ homes, severely wounded service members and their families.

“So, if you were in the military before, or related to someone in the military – then the American Legion has a group you could join.” Hey, that means I could join because my grandfather was in the Army.”

“Yes” “You would be in the Sons of the American Legion; unless of course you entered the military yourself”. “But” he added, “either one of those possibilities are several years down the road”.

“Come to think of it” He paused for a moment. “I seem to remember that there were some kids your age in the parades”.

“Yes, there were”. “They were involved as juniors”. “They were marching too”. “There were baton twirlers, baseball players, and others”. It sounded as if he was talking to himself.

“Wow”, I answered. “That is a full family”. “Something for everyone in the American Legion”.

“The pictures I see on the walls and that my dad show me are old” “How old is the American Legion?”

“Well”, he answered, “Remember the ‘Great War’ or ‘World War One’ we talked about?”

“Yes”

“There were some soldiers in the AEF, (American Expeditionary Forces) in Paris who wanted to start a veteran’s organization”. “They planned it”. “They had their first convention in the United States 1919”.

“That means the American Legion is almost 100 years old”. “I’ll bet they must be celebrating.”

“You know what, I just read something in the paper about that.” “It’s the American Legions ‘Centennial’. “They are planning a parade, a big convention, a memorial at the statehouse, Museum displays, and historical speeches.” “They even have a coin”. More on LEGION FAMILY, Page 9
Law and Order Update

By Kirk Thurston, Chairman of the Department Law and Order Committee. This year’s committee members are Randall Klju from Orneville, Don Chase Jr. from Winthrop, Curtis Merrill from Naples, Sheri Drake from Winterville, Phil Dow from Burlington, Matthew Straniero from Carmel, Willis Stahl from Naples and Ronald Saindon from Lisbon Falls.

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

The forms are simple and easy to prepare. Add a few newspaper articles on an individual and a supervisor’s letter of recommendation and you have a package for submittal. I am willing to assist any Post in the preparation of their applications. Remember, May 1st is the deadline for packages to be at Department Headquarters. The forms can be found on the Department of Maine, American Legion’s web-site. If you have any questions on form or content of the applications, packages or other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at 369-0831, e-mail fuzzzy3@roadrunner.com or call upon any of the committee members in your area. Refer to this year’s Department State Directory for their phone numbers or check with Department for the information. Last year’s number of entries can be greatly improved, so let’s get out there and get some deserving people recognized. Thank you in advance.

Maine American Legion Riders Making A Difference

“Crop for a Cause”

As you know, our American Legion Riders (ALR) are especially well known for their charitable work supporting schools, homeless shelters, veterans homes and their local communities. The members of Berwick’s ALR chapter teamed up again this fall to support a local charity that is near and dear to the hearts of York County citizens and veterans alike: The Pease Greeters.

The greeters are a group of patriotic men and women who greet the many active duty, guard and reserve service men and women transiting through New Hampshire’s Pease International Airport on their way to or from Afghanistan, Iraq or other areas of conflict. Since 2005, the Pease Greeter’s have met over 1,500 flights, received and thanked 590,000 troops, and provided them with snacks and refreshments, items for use on their deployments or toys to bring back home to their loved ones at no cost. The Pease Greeters are “thanking our troops one flight at a time”, to show our men and women in uniform the love, honor and respect of the citizens of a grateful nation, but they rely greatly on donations to continue their work.

Law & Order/Oratorical: Area 2

Commander and Law and Order Chairman Kirk Thurston speaks on Law & Order programs and gives a few words about the upcoming Oratorical contest to those in attendance at Lisbon Post 158 monthly meeting held Oct. 23.

Dirigo Boys State Update

I’m sure we all can agree, the number of delegates over the past few years have not been the best. Although last year’s numbers were up, we as an organization can do better. Now is the time to get the word out there. During the Fall Conference, the talk of the use of Social Media was discussed. There are Public Service Announcements already created for this purpose and can be found on a Public Relations CD. If you go to Legion.org/publications click on Public Relations Toolkit. This brings up a 123 page PDF titled ‘pr-toolkit.pdf’. Go to page 107 and click on ‘Boys State Invitation’. Customize this article to fit your Post. There is another article on that page you can use once you have selected your delegates. It is nice for the delegates to see their names in print in their local newspaper.

As a Post, don’t think you have to sponsor delegates. Money is tight, mail out solicitation letters to area businesses, clubs and yes other Veteran Service Organizations. It works. So, let’s get out there and get those sponsors for our upcoming delegates.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important Legion Program.

By Kirk Thurston, Boys State Committee Chairman

Legion Family

(Continued from Page 8)

“The American Legion makes money.” “No, it’s a commemorative, which means it is made to celebrate the occasion of the 100th Anniversary.”

“Oh, I’ll bet my dad would want to know more about this.”

“He could always contact the Department of Maine American Legion.” “They are in Winslow, ME, now.” “They have a website too, I saw it in the newspaper but I don’t remember what it’s called”, “I’ll bet your dad could find it easy enough with any search engine”.

“By the way, where is the post now?”

“This town doesn’t have one anymore.” He answered.

“Then, who will do all the work for the Veterans and where is my opportunity to be a part of the American Legion family?”

Contribution From Naples Chapter 155: American Legion Riders Chapter 155, Naples, made a generous contribution of $1000 to go toward the purchase of a black granite bench for The American Legion Family Department of Maine POW/MIA memorial. The check was presented Oct. 20 during the Legion College class held at Dept. HQ and American Legion Auxiliary National President’s official visit to the Department of Maine. Left to right, National ALA President Kathy Dunigan, Department Auxiliary President Joan Caron, Bob Ellis, Naples Post 155 Adjutant William O’Neal, Vinnie Yedynak, Maine Legion Riders Director Donald Mulcahy, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaub, and Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms Kelly Ela.

Mission Complete: The final sign for Department Headquarters has been installed. It had been in the planning stages but because of the following Chapters, the goal was accomplished in record time. We want to thank the following Chapters for their support in this project: Dixfield Chapter 100 - $135, Corinna Chapter 73 - $500, Kennebunkport Chapter 159 - $500 Winthrop Chapter 40 - $1,000, and Naples Chapter 155 - $1,000.

A Quilt For The Riders

Summer Rally Fundraiser: Department of Maine Legion Riders Summer Rally was held at Lisbon Post 158 on July 28. Cynthia Pomelow of Unit 158 stands here next to the quilt she spent over 30 hours to handcraft to be raffled off as a fundraiser.
The Historic American Legion
Cecil R. Cole Post 94, Greenville

Cecil R. Cole our namesake: One hundred years ago on July 18, 1918, Cecil R. Cole was killed in the Second Battle of the Marne. If you live in Greenville, you will know the American Legion Post bears his name. At the dedication of the Post, it was said “He was the first to go and the last to return.” His body was interred in Flanders, Belgium, for 2 years before it was returned to Greenville. Cecil was not born in Greenville, but the family moved there in 1911. When he entered WWI, he first enlisted in the Navy, but because of being color blind, was discharged. He then enlisted in the Coast Guard, but when the call came that the Army needed men, he transferred to the Army and requested active duty. He was in the Engineer Division and he was soon sent to France. On the night of July 17, 1918, the infantry came to the Engineer Division asking for volunteers for a major battle they were in and Cecil answered the call. It was a night battle, the Second Battle of the Marne. The Marne is a river that joins the Seine, near Paris. History notes that this battle marked the turning point of the war, and tipped the balance of power in favor of the Allies. The family did not receive word of his death for nearly two years. Cecil was a true patriot; he understood the importance of winning the war and was relentless in seeking to serve his country.

Our Post Home: The American Legion Hall’s history dates back to 1927, when it served as an office for the Coburn Steamboat Company. The building was built in 1927 to replace an older building that had burned the previous year. The American Legion Cecil R. Cole Post No. 94 was organized in Greenville on Oct. 1, 1920, and for the first few years Post 94 held meetings at different places including the Town Hall, Shaw Hall, L.O.O.F. Hall, Methodist Church Vesture, Community House and homes of the members.

During WWII, the building was used by the Government to billet black soldiers stationed in Greenville. The following is excerpted from the April 2015 edition of the “Insight” published by the Moosehead Historical and written by Gordon Crossman who witnessed the accounts as a young boy.

The Canadian military supply line to Europe was carried on the Canadian Pacific Railroad through Northern Maine to Halifax, Nova Scotia for loading aboard ships destined for England. The soldiers were placed as guards on the Canadian Pacific Railroad bridges between Greenville Junction and Onawka. They could be seen using a handcar to push along the rails, all four soldiers pumping their way to work. Occasionally they would lose one of the handcars to an approaching train if they were too slow in moving it off the tracks. They patrolled both on the trestle and the road under the trestle 24 hours a day. If you were walking at night from the ilage to the Junction, passing under the trestle, the soldiers would challenge you.

In the winter months, they wore heavy coats, ski masks, and heavy gloves. During the summer, they had ponchos in inclement weather. They were not use to the Maine winters and stayed pretty much confined to their barracks except for meals and guard duty. They marched in formation to and from their meals. On one occasion, they helped drag West Cove for a drowned boy who lived in the Junction. They manned some of the boats and used their trucks lights to illuminate the lake.

The soldiers adjusted well to Greenville Junction. They enjoyed fishing in Moosehead Lake, playing cards, rolling dice and listening to music. They had their own can-teen in the barracks. They would allow the Junction kids to visit their barracks and at times gave them army caps, parts of uniforms, and belts. The soldiers also had their own movie projector at the barracks. They enjoyed the current movies. The soldiers only left the wharf for meals, guard duty, and medical attention from the Greenville Hospital. Most of the soldiers came from Mississippi and Alabama. They were well disciplined and never caused any problems in the community. Years later, some returned to Greenville Junction to visit their World War II place of duty, bringing their families with them.

According to Legion records, in 1944, the Legionnaires received the offer of a vacant building owned by the Coburn Steamboat Company. This building, located at the Greenville Junction Cove, could be bought for the grand sum of one dollar for the specific purpose of being the Post 94 home, but it would have to be moved from its present site. It should be noted the Coburn Steamboat Company was owned by Louis Oakes, a local philanthropist.

Various lots had been offered to the Post and finally a decision was made to accept the parcel of land on West Street from the Reverend Robert Mayhew.

Post 94 Home: According to Legion records, in 1944, the Legionnaires received the offer of a vacant building owned by the Coburn Steamboat Company. This building, located at the Greenville Junction Cove, could be bought for the grand sum of one dollar for the specific purpose of being the Post 94 home, but it would have to be moved from its present site. It should be noted the Coburn Steamboat Company was owned by Louis Oakes, a local philanthropist.

According to Legion records, during the winter of 1947, Dominic Murray and Gerald Peach supervised men and machinery in maneuvering the building, by way of Moosehead Lake, from the Junction Cove to the lot on West street (now Pritham Avenue). It was not until 1950-1954, the building was fully set on the cellar foundation. Over the years continued improvements and renovations have been made, including two new heating plants, the kitchen rebuilt, walls and floors refinished and new equipment purchased. A 16mm film donated to the American Legion, by Rollie Wortman, shows about 20 seconds of action during the move across Moosehead Lake. Interestingly, in conversation with Legionnaire John Roberts, we learned that he was a 16 year old school student in Greenville and actually drove the Cletrac tractor Atlas Plywood Factory donated for the move. He volunteered because the assigned operator couldn’t swim and he was nervous about operating it on the lake pushing the building estimated at 65 tons. John’s father, Volney, a World War I Veteran, also operated a larger Cletrac tractor to help pull the building over the small rise in back of Tony Bartley’s garage.

The members of American Legion Cecil R. Cole Post 94 are proud of its 98 year history in Greenville supporting the community, a strong national defense, service to our Veterans, mentoring the youth of our region and organizing patriotic activities.

Honoring Maine’s Veterans

On this Veterans Day, it is my privilege to recognize and thank all of the men and women who have served in our armed forces for their commitment to our country. Their tireless efforts and unfailing devotion to duty have kept us safe in times of peril. Today, we pause to reflect on their service and the debt of honor that we owe them and their families.

One hundred years ago, members of the Allied Forces and Central Powers laid down their arms, an event recognized as the end of the First World War. Originally known as Armistice Day, November 11 became an annual holiday that we as a country remember and honored the more than 116,000 Americans who lost their lives during The Great War. After World War II, this annual remembrance was expanded to honor all those who served, and became known as Veterans Day. Today, we continue to use this occasion to pay tribute to all of our Nation’s veterans who have proudly served. Our veterans and their families – those who returned, those who are still missing, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice – represent the very best of what this country has to offer and I am deeply thankful for their noble service.

The people of Maine have long embraced the call to serve, and our state has a storied history of sending our sons and daughters to bravely defend the safety, security, and values of the United States of America. This spirit of service not only lives in the willingness to don the uniform, but also in the commitment of the people of Maine to care for those who have returned.

I am humbled to join people throughout Maine and across the country to honor the selfless service of our Veterans and to recognize the eternal debt that we owe them and their families. There is still much work to do to honor their sacrifices, but today we re dedicate ourselves to supporting those who have served in uniform on our behalf, including those veterans who do not have access to healthcare, those veterans who are not using the Veterans Administration hospitals, those veterans who are unemployed, poverty, and lack of access to healthcare, and those families who are left with the burden of not knowing the fate of their loved ones who remain unaccounted for overseas. We must continue to serve our veterans with the same dedication that they served us.

Sweepstakes Winners

*** Announced ***

The Annual Fall Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, September 22, with our Sweepstakes drawing, which saw three of our Legionnaires win the following amounts:

Jerry White, N. Haven Post 33
$4,000 (grand prize winner)

Joan Mulkern, Portland Unit 161
$750

Ralph Routhier, Waterville Post 5
$250

CONGRATULATIONS!!
**Bits ’N Pieces**

Rockland Post 1  
Rockland ALR Chapter 1 for their donation of $100 to five Veterans a lobster dinner and $100 to help cover cost of food for the sailor from the naval ship USS Hue City for a weekend.

Madison Post 39  
Unit 39 donated $100 to Somerset Special Olympics, $100 for traveling expenses for a Unit member whose husband was hospitalized in Portland, $15 Bingo package for the Matthew Abbot benefit, $15 bingo package for Randy Grover, Jr. benefit, $50 gas card for a Unit member’s family who is traveling back and forth to the hospital in Portland, $15 Bingo package for Somerset/Kennebec Special Olympics.

**Your Letters**

Boys State Week Informative & Engaging  
Dear Director Babele and The American Legion,  
Thank you for an informative, engaging, and enjoyable week at Dirigo Boys State. I have always been interested in government and the sciences, and this program has solidified my passion for public policy and the sciences, and this program has inspired me to continue my study of the discipline in conjunction with the environment. I also want to thank you for awarding me the James L. Boyle Scholarship and Samsung American Legion Scholarship. It is an honor to receive these awards and I am truly grateful.

Belated Thanks!  
Dear Department of Maine,  
Please accept my belated thanks for your generous contribution to my campaign for National Commander. I am most grateful for your support.  
For God and Country,  
Brett Reistad

Scholarship Recipient Honored  
American Legion, Dept. of Maine,  
Thank you for choosing me to be the recipient of The American Legion, Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship for 2018, it is an honor!  
Kaila Roy

Generous Scholarship Much Appreciated  
Dear American Legion,  
Thank you very much for your generous scholarship. I am looking forward to school this fall.  
Jake Brewer

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 1**

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kewan Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 130; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eriet Post 188; Lebanon Post 214

American Legion Post 19 Honors Cole’s Legacy

Springvale — Local veteran Joseph Doiron took one end of the maroon veil and Anna Hoffman, of Barrington, New Hampshire, took the other. With a quiet sense of ceremony, both lifted the veil to reveal what was underneath: a new monument paying tribute to Private Thomas W. Cole, the first soldier from Sanford to die while serving in World War I.

The monument now stands in front of the American Legion Hall on Main Street, a tribute to the man after whom American Legion Post 19 is named.

Cole died on May 10, 1918, two days after he was wounded by shrapnel during battle in France. At the time, Cole had been serving in the Trench Mortar Battery, Artillery Brigade, 26th Division, of the Maine National Guard.

A year after his death, on July 19, 1919, the local American Legion post was founded, chartered, and named after him.

Numerous local veterans gathered with Hoffman, who is Cole’s great-niece, and her husband, Jeff, to unveil the new monument on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Post Commander John Geno welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Chaplain Ray Fisher led the invocation, and Sergeant-At-Arms Steve MacIntosh posted the colors. All in attendance stood solemnly for the national anthem and afterwards recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Captain Jonathan Bratten, the official historian of the Maine National Guard, served as the morning’s guest speaker.

During the ceremony, Bratten and American Legion District Commander Gordon Kendall presented Hoffman with Silver and Gold Stars, bestowed by Gov. Paul LePage, to honor Cole, respectively, for the wounds he suffered and the ultimate sacrifice that he made.

After the ceremony which also included the placing of an American flag at the monument, a rifle salute, and a performance of “Amazing Grace,” by bagpiper John Pulkkinen — Hoffman expressed her gratitude to the veterans of American Legion Post 19.

“It’s really exciting for me,” said Hoffman, who added she has an interest in genealogy. “I’m very happy they got in touch with me.”

During the ceremony, Past District Commander Steven White, now the American Legion’s Area 1 Commander, placed the marker at the memorial so that Hoffman could then position the American flag there. White later said that the event was in step with the America Legion’s purpose.

“One of (our) most important missions is to never forget those who went before us, especially in the Great Wars,” White said.

After the ceremony, many in attendance went inside the Hall to enjoy a reception with refreshments.

The post has taken steps in recent years to educate both its members and the public about Cole. A black and white photograph of Cole is framed on the wall in the American Legion Hall’s lounge, alongside a newspaper article chronicling the history of the post as it approaches its centennial anniversary next year.

A banner with Cole’s picture and with information about his military service greets visitors in the hall’s lobby — it’s one of the many banners created by veteran Joseph Doiron and students at Sanford High School as part of their ongoing Fallen Veterans Project.

According to records provided by Dale Midgley, the service officer of Post 19, Cole was born in Conway, New Hampshire, on Oct. 13, 1895. He was the son of Frank Gardner Cole and Etta Tar, of Springvale. Cole lived in Springvale at the time of his enlistment in the National Guard in the summer of 1917, when he was 21 years old.

About 60 men from American Legion Post 19, including its commander, Perley H. Ford, attended Cole’s funeral in Conway, New Hampshire. Cole is buried in Fort he so nobly embodied,” Bratten said.

“This memorial will educate Mainers to bear in mind the sacrifices of previous generations, in order to create a more peaceful future.”

*Article published in York’s County Coast Star on Fri., Oct. 19*  
*By Shawn P. Sullivan*

**New Memorial Unveiled at Sanford**  
Post 19: Anna Hoffman, left, and local veteran Joseph Doiron unveil a new memorial honoring Private Thomas W. Cole, the first soldier from Sanford, Maine, to die while serving during World War I. Hoffman is Cole’s grand-niece. The American Legion Post in Sanford is named after Cole.

*Photo by Shawn P. Sullivan, York County Coast Star Contributor*

**Most Senior Member Honored:**  
Kennebunk Post 74 Commander Dennis L. Lamontagne, right, presents its most senior member, James Pastorelli, age 98, left, with a cane during the District 1 meeting on Oct. 3.

*James enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served with the 71st Infantry Division and was present when the U.S. Army met the Soviet Army at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945. James also served under General George Patton during the Battle of the Bulge 1944-1945.*

*Photo by Post 74 Sergeant-At-Arms Breen Savage*
National Commander’s Visit to the Department of Maine


Left to right, wife of State Commander Scott Paradis, Sherree Paradis, National Commander Brett Reistad, and State Commander Scott Paradis.

Left to right, National Commander Brett Reistad, Marian Merrill, and State Commander Scott Paradis.

Left to right, State Commander Scott Paradis, National Commander Brett Reistad, Lee Humiston, Post 148 Adjutant/Finance Officer David Taugay and District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill.

Photos by Jeffrey Stevenson

TEAM 100 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON

During the 2018-2019 membership year, American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his Team 100 American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2019. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

The National Commander’s Honor Ribbon form can be found by visiting https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/team100_legionfamilyribbon.pdf or www.mainelegion.org.

“New Member” is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Reistad’s pin incentive program will end June 30, 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.

National Commander Visits the Maine Military Museum in So. Portland

“Greetings and Certificates”

Left to right, National Commander Brett Reistad, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, and Lee Humiston.

Left to right, State Commander Brett Reistad presents Portland Post 17 Commander Curtis Ballentine with an autographed picture on Sept. 15 while visiting the Post during his official visit to the Dept. of Maine.

Left to right, Portland and South Portland Police Department representatives, Jeff Edwards, Tony Ampezzam, Stacey Brooker, National Commander Brett Reistad, John Iseland, and Todd Bernard.

Left to right, National Commander Brett Reistad, Marian Merrill, and State Commander Scott Paradis.

National Commander Visits the Harold T. Andrews Post 17: National Commander Brett Reistad presents Portland Post 17 Commander Curtis Ballentine with 70-year Continuous Membership certificates and a hat pin.

National Commander Visits Auxiliary State HQ:

Left to right, State Commander Scott Paradis, National Commander Brett Reistad, and Maine American Legion Auxiliary Department President Joan Caron.

National Commander Visits the Maine Military Museum in So. Portland

“A Special Visit To Togus VA Facility: National Commander Brett Reistad pays a special visit to Iona Osnoe during his visit to the Togus campus in Augusta on Sept. 14. National Commander Reistad, right, along with State Commander Paradis, left, recognized Iona Caron.

Photos by Jeffrey Stevenson

Department Historian

NATIONAL COMMANDER’S PIN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

During the 2018-2019 membership year, American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his national commander “Membership Excellence: Team 100” incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion. The National Commander Membership Incentive Pin Form can be found by visiting https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/newmemberpinform_reistad.pdf or www.mainelegion.org.

“New Member” is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Reistad’s pin incentive program will end June 30, 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.

Photos by Jeffrey Stevenson

Department Historian

www.mainelegion.org
Help Support Maine American Legion Today!

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.

Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today!

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

TO PAY BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, please send payment in the amount of $10/coin, plus $5 shipping and handling up to 5 coins 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. Please include an additional $5 for every 5 coins purchased.

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.

Amazon Smile Fundraising Program

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

We are up and running! American Legion Department of Maine Foundation can now accept contributions from Amazon through the “Amazon Smile” program as an IRS 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization.

It does not cost anything to sign up or donate! When you make purchases on “Amazon Smile” Five cents (.05) of every dollar you spend will be sent to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation for veterans and community programs.

Here is how to sign up!

If you already have an Amazon Account, there is no need to create another one. You just log in at this link: http://smile.amazon.com. When you are asked to designate your charity, type in American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping.

Please note: (You must log in through the Amazon Smile portal each time you shop for our Foundation to receive the donation. Do not go in through the regular Amazon when you shop.)

The funds come directly to “American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine”!

Please help us get the word out and email to your friends and family!

More on “MEMBERSHIP”, Page 23

How Membership Works

David Tanguay, Windham Post 148 Adjutant
Special to The Maine Legionnaire

American Legion Post Membership Program: American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 of Windham, Maine has seen a 105% membership growth annually over the past eight consecutive years. At a time when many Post are struggling to maintain or gain membership, Post 148 has done well through a multifaceted approach to membership.

I would like to say this is an “ALL Hands” effort, but, the reality is positive membership can be accomplished with a core of dedicated individuals. The Commander noted that, “the Field-Allen Post was the best kept secret in Windham” when he came aboard. Although that might not have been entirely true, it did inspire a change in thought concerning the Post. Increased membership starts with a dedicated membership team with goals and a plan of action. At the top, The Commander sets the annual goal. For several years, it has been 110% of the previous year’s membership level. This year the Commander’s goal was twenty new or transfer members. His thought process took into consideration the annual loss of membership due to “one and outs”, transfers and losses due to an aging membership.

This “Best Kept Secret” needed visibility. The Post was already using the four pillars of the Legion in its programs. It had activities and programs to support Veterans and a strong youth program and a variety of Community functions. The membership committee (Commander, 1st and 2nd Vice, Adjutant, and Service Officer) laid out a plan to increase visibility of the Post. This “Visibility” has several layers both internal and external to the Post. The Committee also asked the question, “What do our Veterans want in a Post?” Although there is no one answer, several activities were considered and tried.

Following are a listing of some thought and activities that in total support the Post membership goals:

Internal communications: Post has a monthly Newsletter (Voted best in the Dept.) that can be used as a membership tool. Newsletters are provided to potential members along with membership application form. Additionally, the newsletter carries a front page monthly tally of where the post stands towards goal and a welcome listing of new and transfer members (recognition). The Newsletter also features a “Post Member in the Spotlight” heralding the background and activities/support from that member. The Post Adjutant also provides a weekly email review of Post events and again reviews the membership status and goals. As the Post reaches 75% membership, the Membership Team starts a more intensive campaign of personal contact by letter, email, or phone.

External Communication: I would suggest a Post needs programs as noted above and that they need to have a publicity protocol to increase the Post visibility. Field-Allen Post goal is at least one article each month and more frequently near major events. The Post is fortunate that the town has two “small Town” newspapers. One of the papers, after a meeting with the Editor, agreed to do a “Spotlight” heralding the background and story of members. Membership goals: and activities that in total support the Post and general activities were considered and tried.

Additional fundraising was considered and tried. The membership goal was to increase visibility of the Post. This “Visibility” and Service Officer) laid out a plan to increase visibility of the Post and a welcome listing of new and transfer members (recognition). The Newsletter also features a “Post Member in the Spotlight” heralding the background and activities/support from that member. The Post Adjutant also provides a weekly email review of Post events and again reviews the membership status and goals. As the Post reaches 75% membership, the Membership Team starts a more intensive campaign of personal contact by letter, email, or phone.

External Communication: I would suggest a Post needs programs as noted above and that they need to have a publicity protocol to increase the Post visibility. Field-Allen Post goal is at least one article each month and more frequently near major events. The Post is fortunate that the town has two “small Town” newspapers. One of the papers, after a meeting with the Editor, agreed to do a “Spotlight” heralding the background and story of members. Membership goals: Special Programs: The Post has come up with a couple of ideas that seems to work. One started by the Post Service Officer was a weekly “Vet Coffee”. Each Wednesday from 9 to 11 am the Post instituted a drop-in program where home bound vets (and others) could drop in for a couple of hours to get out of the house. The program became an instant success with anywhere from 6 to 12 vets would drop by for coffee, play cards and/or socialize (tell sea stories and other lies). One very positive result of this program was the
District 1 continued

100% Membership: Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 of Kennebunk was presented with an award for 100% Membership retention for 2017-2018. Kennebunk Post 74 was one of only two Posts in the 1st District to receive this award. Also presented were letters of congratulations from State and National Commanders. 1st District Commander Gordon Kendal, left, is seen here presenting the awards to Kennebunk Post 74 Commander Dennis L. Lamontagne.

Photo by Post 74 Sergeant-At-Arms Breen Savage

Berwick Post 79 American Legion Receives Spirit of America Award

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Berwick, Maine recently recognized the work of the members of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 for their “exemplary citizenship and achievement and honor brought to the community” with the 2018 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute on Sat., August 7.

The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute program was initiated in Augusta, Maine in 1990 to honor and promote volunteerism. Every year, the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. Most often, tribute recipients are chosen by Boards of Selectmen and honored at town meetings, as was the case in Berwick.

In the Municipal Resolution documenting the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute, the Berwick American Legion Post was cited for their work assisting veterans, providing education scholarships, recognizing the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year, providing and sponsoring annual community events such as the Berwick Car Show, Flag Day, Memorial Day and Veterans day services, sponsoring blood drives and helping to raise funds for Hurricane relief efforts.

An official expression of sentiment recognizing the Berwick Post’s receipt of the Spirit of America Foundation award from the members of the Maine Senate and House of Representatives on behalf of the 129th Legislature and the people of the State of Maine, sponsored by State Representative Beth O’Connor and co-sponsored by State Senators Ron Collins and Dawn Hill, both of York, was also presented.

Since the first presentation in November 1991, the Spirit of America Foundation tribute has been presented at over 500 ceremonies. More information on this program is available at www.sportoaf.com. To find out more about the American Legion, or to find and join a post near you, consult www.mainelen legion.org.

Article courtesy of The Weekly Sentinel, Your Community Newspaper Serving Towns of Southern York County, Maine, Sept. 21, 2018

District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Grey Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Cape Elizabeth Post 152; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

Post 155 Extends Maine Hospitality to National Commander

Portland — When National Commander Brett Reistad arrived at the Maine Military Museum, people from the Naples-based American Legion Post 155 played a part in making him feel welcome during his visit to Maine.

The newly-elected Reistad — who stepped into his post two weeks ago — has embarked on a national tour to promote the 100-year anniversary of Legion in 2019.

“It is exciting to be stepping into the position of national commander during the 100-year anniversary of the American Legion,” he said. “There will be plenty of opportunities in my year as commander to discuss Team 100, pay tribute to the Legion’s century of accomplishments and celebrate our rise in the next 100 years.”

Reistad’s other objective was to meet the many faces of the military families now belonging to the Legion.

His stop in Maine over the weekend is the first leg of his nationwide journey. He was in Michigan and New Hampshire at the beginning of last week, prior to arriving in Maine, where he spent three days. On Sunday morning, he flew out of the Portland International Jetport on a plane bound for Kansas.

Second District Commander Curtis Merrill acted as a gracious host, planning out some of the stops, coordinating the meals and getting to know the new national commander.

Merrill was thrilled to meet Reistad.

“He was super, very informative. I was very impressed with him. It is an honor for us to be able to do that for him. anytime you can do something for your national commander, it is a plus for your post,” Merrill said.

“We were very impressed with him. We thought he was a gentleman and handled himself well. He was well-spoken, polite and cordial. That was what we could not get over — how cordial he was. He talked to everyone,” Merrill said.

“As commander of the 2nd district, I put the whole program together. Everyone was pleased. And, they were still raving,” he said, adding one of the raves was dinner at Post 76 in Scarborough that included the ¼-inch thick steaks that could be cut with a butter knife.

On Thursday, Merrill accompanied the national commander on the trip to the American Legion Headquarters in Winslow and on the tour of Togus VA Medical Center outside of Augusta.

On Saturday, Reistad spent time in South Portland and Scarborough. A stop in Naples was not on the itinerary.

However, more than a few dozen people from Post 155 were a presence at the event at the Maine Military Museum on Saturday.

The Department of Maine American Legion Post 155 Riders filled a few tables and had the opportunity to visit with Reistad. The Ladies Auxiliary prepared the luncheon with menu items that included Mainer’s favorite comfort foods such as red hot dogs and Whoopie pies. First District American Legion Auxiliary Vice-President Marian Merrill was in charge of the kitchen staff. Marion came up with the idea to serve red hot dogs, which are often unavailable in other parts of the country.

Mary Neal, from Post 35 in South Portland, baked the Whoopie pies.

Little did Merrill know before planning the luncheon venue that Reistad, a native of Virginia, was a museum buff. Merrill could not have picked up a better location than the Maine Military Museum to impress Reistad.

“Aafter we had lunch at the museum, we asked him what he wanted to do. He said, ‘I want another hour to go through the museum again.’ He loved the museum,” Merrill said.

Reistad’s remarks revealed his love for museums.

“To me, this is the highlight of my trip to Maine. There is so much to see. I wish it were in my backyard,” Reistad said.

Merrill got a chance to show Reistad what is in his backyard.

“We went down to the South Maine Community College and through the campus. We went down to the army bunkers, the ones used to protect the harbor. He was very impressed with that — to see the history. Then, I took him from there to the Liberty Ships, where they made 13 ships at a time during World War II,” Merrill said.

“We took him out to the waterfront and his aide asked, ‘Is this the ocean? He didn’t realize he was at the Atlantic Ocean,’ he said.

Merrill said he is looking forward to the many events and the membership drive that will be part of the American Legion’s 100-year celebration.

According to the Legion’s website, “The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism and youth programs.”

By Dawn De Busk, Staff Writer (The Bridgton News) - Published Sept. 27, 2018

Honored For Hospitality: American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad, left, gives a certificate of honor to Department of Maine Second District Commander Curtis Merrill, center, on Sat., Sept. 15. To the right of Curtis is American Legion, Department of Maine Commander Scott Paradis.

Photo by Dawn De Busk, Staff Writer (The Bridgton News)
District 2 continued

**A Saber Presented In Memory Of Medal Of Honor Recipient:**

William J. Pembroke Post 139 1st Vice Commander ISG (ret) Jeremy Wentworth and Post Finance Officer Stephen Wentworth presents a Saber in memory of MSG Gary J. Gordon, Medal of Honor recipient for his actions on Oct. 3, 1993, to the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University on Sept. 6, 2018. The two received special thanks from former Army Chief of Staff Gen (ret) Gordon Sullivan and Norwich President Richard W. Schneider.

**Peaks Island Post 142 Awards:**

District 2 Cmdr. Curtis Merrill and Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux visited Peaks Island Post 142 to present membership certificates and other awards on Aug. 11. Left to right, Sgt-At-Arms Dominik DeAngelo, Chaplain Christopher Hoppin, Cmdr. Frank Childs, District 2 Cmdr. Curtis Merrill, and Adjutant/Judge Advocate Frederick O’Keefe.

**First Vice Commander of American Legion Hopes to Build Bridges and Maintain Traditions**

Windham resident and veteran Rebecca Cummings was recently elected as the First Vice Commander for American Legion Post 148. She is also the President of the Windham Veteran’s Association, the fiscal and property care taking agent of the Windham Veterans Center.

Cummings is a paid-up-for-life Legion member and she states she wanted to be a part of an important organization. But in addition to that, it is her goal to get more veterans involved in their local posts and associations. “We are losing members and I want to help more veterans become involved,” Cummings stated. “Traditions and values are going away as we lose our older veterans and I would like to see younger veterans step up and help continue the traditions that we cherish and are so important. I would especially like to see more women veterans join us.”

Cummings, much like every veteran in the American Legion Post, has a story to share. Hers is a tale of how a woman chose to fight for her Country. “I was in Middle School during Desert Storm,” began Cummings, who lived in Portland at the time. “I because very interested in learning about our involvement and I immersed myself in the daily political events. With the encouragement of my teachers, I began writing to soldiers deployed to the Gulf. They wrote back, and we continued the correspondence for a while.”

Cummings’ keen interest in the Gulf War led her to study history while in high school, which fanned the flame for patriotism. However, entering the service was not her initial choice. “I wanted to be in the medical profession,” she explained. “I was considering either becoming a doctor or a nurse.”

But realizing the cost was above what she could afford, she decided to combine her passion for medicine with patriotism and talked to a recruiting officer in Portland. “I knew what I wanted to do and asked what my options were,” Cummings said. “I don’t think they knew how to respond to me. This was the mid-1990’s. They seldom had a high school student who was a girl who walked in off the streets and asked to join.”

Because she was under the age of 18, she needed her parents’ approval. However, her mother was not pleased with her decision. “My mother told me that she had prayed and prayed she would give birth to daughters, so she wouldn’t have to send her child off to war – and then I had to go and do something like this,” Cummings smiled.

At first, her mother refused to sign the approval. However, after realizing how determined her daughter was and that she would join the armed forces anyway when she turned 18, both her mother and her father reluctantly signed the required forms. Within two weeks, Cummings was on a plane and away from her family for the first time, heading to Fort Leonard Wood, MO for basic training.

Cummings spent four years in Germany at the Mainz-Finthen Airfield Base and was a Medic at the battalion aid station. It is there where she met her husband who was in the same unit. The story goes that he faked an injury to see the cute, blonde medic. “We met over Motrin,” Cummings laughed.

After they married, and her service contract was completed, they had two sons. She stayed at home to raise their family, while her husband remained active. They were relocated to Fort Riley, Kansas and then to Fort Bliss, Texas.

It was during this time she took online courses that were paid for by the GI Bill and eventually obtained her bachelor’s in nursing. Accomplishing what she had set out to become, she chose school nursing as her career. “I chose to be a school nurse because my husband was deployed, and I needed to have a job that would allow the same schedule as my sons,” she explained.

Once her husband retired from the service, they moved to Windham where her parents currently reside. She quickly joined in the community efforts that not only included her membership with the American Legion Post but her campaign and election to the Windham Town Council.

Among all her many activities, you will find Cummings taking the time commiserating with fellow veterans every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Coffee Hour located at the Windham Veterans Center.

She hopes other women and younger people will take the time to join her – to share stories, to connect and to support one another as they keep traditions and values alive.

For more detailed information on events, activities or how to become a member, contact Rebecca Cummings at 207-893-8020.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 3**

**New Officers for American Legion Post 22 and Auxiliary**

The Lewiston American Legion Post 22 and Auxiliary Unit 22 recently held their annual Installation of Officers. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Lewiston Armory. New members are always welcome to attend. The Lewiston Post 22 is one of the oldest American Legion posts in the State of Maine. For more information, call Jerry Dewitt at 576-0376.

**Lewiston Unit 22 Officers:**

The new officers of Lewiston Auxiliary Unit 22 are, left to right, President Clara Glendenning, Doris Bourgoin, Louise Allen, Sally Dumont, and Patsy Cummins. At left, standing with the Unit 22 officers, is Lewiston Post 22 Commander Jerry Dewitt.

**Lewiston Post 22 Legion Officers:** The new officers of Lewiston Post 22 are, front row, left to right, Pat Rossignol, Dale Harrington, Commander Jerry Dewitt, Don Dube, Albert Landry. Back row, left to right, Norm Busi- sier, Bert Dutil, Charles Dick, George Bourgoin, and Armand Bussiere.

By Reporter Laurie Steel Twin City Times—Sept. 6, 2018 Vol. XX, No. 23
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 3 continued**

Special Presentation Awarded To Post 135 Commander: While attending Sabattus Post 135 monthly meeting the Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux had the opportunity to present Post 135 Commander Joseph Michaud, right, with a signed copy of National Commander Brett Reistad’s current picture. The Adjutant commented on a very orderly and productive meeting during his visit.

A Special Visit To Lisbon Post 158: On Oct. 23, Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux attended the monthly meeting of Lisbon Post 158. Adjutant L’Heureux presented a 100 %Membership Award to the Sons of The American Legion as well as a picture of the new National Commander Brett Reistad. He is seen here congratulating Lisbon Post 158 Commander Ron Saindon, right, on a very organized and well-attended meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 5**

Rumford Post 24; Buckfield Post 58; Lockemills Post 68; So. Paris Post 72; Bethel Post 81; Norway Post 82; Dixfield Post 100; Oxford Post 112; Fryeburg Post 137; West Paris Post 151; Peru Post 199

Youths Supporting POW/MIA At Rumford Post 24: Noah Stickney, right, did an amazing job at TAPS and Damien Nadeau SAL member of Squadron 24, left, was just as amazing performing the National Anthem and Some Gave All. These two young men did a phenomenal job supporting our POW/MIA ceremony at Post 24. They made our ceremony complete.

POST HISTORY

John D. Long Post 58—Buckfield

Side Entrance

Front Entrance

Interior Look: The meeting room at John D. Long Post 58 in Buckfield.

MEMBERSHIP IS

**Memorial Day Address**

Memorial Day Address—By Locke Mills Post 68 Americanism Officer James Cobb

Commander Bickford, Auxiliary President Hakala, Fellow Legionnaires and Friends, Good Morning and thank you all for coming today.

This is the day we come together to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to this incredible country.

We commemorate their valor, loyalty and commitment to all of us and to all who came before.

The day these brave men and women joined the armed forces, they made a promise to keep us safe.

Safe from those who wish to do us harm.

Safe from tyranny and oppression, and safe from those who wish to steal our freedoms…

There have been many conflicts abroad, but with our forces as a deterrent, it has been 203 years since there has been major foreign invasion on United States soil. I’d say these brave service members kept that promise… and then some.

As a 23 year veteran of the United States Army, I could not be more proud to call every single one of those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines brothers and sisters in arms.

As I was preparing for today, I came across this short tribute written by locko Willink, a Retired Navy SEAL Officer and I thought it was most fitting.

I am the fallen Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine.

Remember me. I am the one that held the line.

Sometimes I volunteered. Sometimes I went because I was told to go.

But when the nation called—I answered.

In order to serve, I left behind the family, friends, and freedom that so many take for granted.

Over time, I used different weapons: a sword, a musket, a bayonet, a rifle, a machine gun.

Often, I marched into battle on foot—countless miles—across whole continents. I had little water and even less food. But it did not matter. We had a job to do.

Other times, I rode to battle on horseback or in wagons; sometimes on trains; later in tanks or Jeeps or Humvees.

In early wars, my ships were made of wood and powered by the wind.

Later they were made of steel and powered by diesel fuel or the atom.

I even took to the air and mastered the sky in planes, helicopters, and jets.

The machines of war evolved and changed with the times.

But remember that it was always me—the warrior—that had to fight our nation’s enemies.

I fought at Lexington and Concord as our nation was born.

I crossed the Delaware on Christmas day in 1776. Freedom was on our side.

I defended The Chattahoochee River in the War of 1812. I would stand again.

In the Civil War, I fought with my brothers—and against my brothers—at Gettysburg and Shiloh and Bull Run. I learned that we must never again divide.

In World War I, I marched on the Marne and held the line at Belleau Wood. The War to end all wars, they called it. I just called it hell.

In World War II, I fought everywhere, from the beaches of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, to the sands of Iwo Jima and the hell of Guadalcanal. I stood against tyranny and kept darkness from consuming the world.

In Korea I landed at Inchon and broke out of the Chosin Reservoir. They called it the forgotten war—but I never forgot.

In Vietnam, I went and I fought in the Mekong Delta and at Ia Drang and Khe Sanh and Hamburger hill. Some say my country waivered. But I did not waiver. Ever.

In the recent past I have fought in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and other desperate places around the globe.

And finally I have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, In Baghdad, Fallujah, and Ramadi.

In Kunar, Helmand, and Kandahar.

As technology advanced, I used night vision goggles and global positioning systems and drones and lasers and thermal optics.

But it was still me, a human being that did the work.

It was me that patroled up the mountains or across the desert or through the streets.

It was me that suffered in the merciless heat and the bitter cold.

It was me that went out, night after night, to confront our nation’s enemies and confront evil face to face.

It was me. Remember me. I was a warrior.

But also remember:

That I was not only a warrior.

I was not just a soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine.

Remember also: that I was a son, a brother, a father.

I was a daughter, a sister, a mother.

I was a person—like you—a real person with hopes and dreams for the future.

I wanted to have children.

I wanted to watch my children grow up.

I wanted to see my son score a touchdown or shoot the winning basket.

I wanted to walk my daughter down the aisle.

I wanted to kiss my wife again.

I wanted to grow old with her—and be there to hold her hand when life grew hard.

When I told her I would be with her until the end—I meant it.

When I told my children I would always be there for them—I meant it.

But I gave all that away.

All of it.

On that distant battlefield, on some god-forsaken patch of dirt, amongst the fear and the fire and the bullets.

Or in the sky above enemy territory filled with flak.

More on “MEMORIAL DAY”, Page 17
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...
District 5 continued

“Memorial Day”
(Continued from Page 16)

Memorial Day
Address: Locke Mills Post 68 America-
icanism Officer
James Cobb, a for-
er U.S. Army sol-
dier and presently a
history teacher at
Tekstar HS delivers
the Memorial Day
Address at Locke
Mills Post 68.

Or on the
unforgiving sea where we fought against the
enemy and against the depths of the abyss.
There, in those awful places: I held the
line.
I did not waiver and I did not hesitate.
i: The Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or
Marine.
I stood my ground and sacrificed my
life – my future, my hopes, my dreams.
I sacrificed everything – for you.
This Memorial Day, remember me: the
fallen warrior.
And remember me not for my sake
but for yours.
Remember what I sacrificed so you can
truly appreciate the incredible treasures you
have: Life. Liberty. The pursuit of
happiness.
You have the joys of life, the joys that I
gave up, so that you can relish in them:
A cool wind in the air.
The gentle spring grass on your bare
feet.
The warm summer sun on your face.
Family. Friends. And freedom.
Never forget where it all came from.
I came from sacrifice: The supreme
sacrifice.
Don’t waste it. Don’t waste any of your
time on this earth.
Live a life that honors the sacrifice of
our fallen heroes.
Remember them always. And make
every day... Memorial Day.
What truthful statements, and while
they are great and truthful, for some of us,
they may be more abstract.
It isn’t easy to relate to the solemnness
of the occasion if one doesn’t know or never
knew a member of the armed forces killed in
action. It is easy to get caught up in the
BBQs and family gatherings of the long
weekend... if you are at a loss to put faces
with names. Today I’d like to share with you
a few names that I know personally. Names
and faces that are forever seared into my
memory and weigh heavy on my heart.
Born in 1924, Class Raymond Faulstich,
Private First Class Torey Dantzler, and
Sergeant Tatjana Reed.
Private First Class Raymond Faulstich
was a 24 year old father of two. He decided
to join the Army to better support his young
family with a steady income and a job he
could be proud of. He was sent to Iraq in
2004 for a yearlong deployment. His job as
a truck driver in a transportation
company put him out on the dangerous
roads of Iraq most every day. He quickly
built a reputation as an excellent driver
who was cool under the pressure of
operating in a combat zone. He was
driving the lead vehicle in a convoy
toward the Baghdad airport when they
were attacked by insurgents that used an
I.E.D. to slow the convoy, and then
engaged in full force with Rocket
Propelled Grenades and small arms.
He had the convoy commander in his
truck and knew the only defense to such
an attack was leading the way out of the
kill zone as fast as possible. He sped out
of the area with the other 6 trucks
following behind. He stopped the truck at a
checkpoint about two miles down the road
so the commander could assess any damage.
The commander discovered his own driver,
Ray, had been hit by enemy fire. Ray died
before he could leave the driver’s seat. He
had led the convoy to safety without regard
for himself. His wife was presented his
posthumous Silver Star for Valor at his
funeral. While speaking with her after the
services, she said she was very proud of her
husband’s service and that it gave her a choice,
she knew Ray would do it all over again.
He knew the risks and he died doing exactly
what he wanted to do.
Sergeant Tatjana Reed was born in
Germany and moved to the United States as
a teenager when her mother married a
Soldier stationed in Germany. Her new step-
father became her hero and she wanted to
follow in his footsteps by becoming a US
Soldier. She enlisted at the age of 16 and
in 1998, became a United States Citizen,
something she always talked about. In 2002,
she was assigned to the 66th Transportation
Company in Kaiserslautern, Germany.
Private First Class Torey Dantzler was
born and raised in a small town in central
Louisiana. He joined the Army at the age of
20, not long after 9/11 telling his mother he
wanted to serve his country and make
him proud. After completing his training as a
truck driver, he was sent to the 66th
Transportation Company in Kaiserslautern,
Germany. His squad leader was Sergeant
Tatjana Reed. They and the rest of the 66th
Transportation Company, were deployed to
Iraq in early 2004. Their mission was to haul
food and other supplies to the Soldiers
stationed in various places throughout Iraq.
When the roadside bomb went off, Torey
Dantzler’s truck took the brunt of the blast
on the driver’s side where he sat. He died
instantly. Sergeant Tatjana Reed, who was
in the passenger seat, was blown out of the
truck. She died waiting for the MEDEVAC
helicopter to arrive. Her final words were to
send her love to her own daughter and her
sister. At her funeral, her daughter sat beside
her mother’s hero. As I presented her flag to
her tearful family, I was not met with bitterness
or anger. Instead her family thanked each
and every one of us for bringing Tatjana
home. That was the hardest flag I have ever
had to present.
It was at that moment that I finally
understood why there are stories that
veterans just don’t talk about, but I wanted to
share those stories with you.
That is my Memorial Day and my
every day. These were Soldiers I served
with, knew personally, and think of daily.
They and numerous others died while
serving our country and sacrificed themselves
for the pursuit of freedom and the
greater good. They fought in different
battles and at different times but they all
died for us. All the combat veterans you see
here today could tell you similar stories.
They stand here in honor of those they knew
and those they did not.
So when you see that Veteran, with a
tear rolling down their cheek during taps
or as the National Anthem plays, know that
that is a tear of respect, of honor, of
remembrance, and of hope. The hope that
the life they have lived is worthy of the gift
they have been given. The gift of one more
day to live to its fullest in honor of all those
who’s sacrifice was greater than any other.
Please join me in a moment of silence
as we all remember those who made the
ultimate sacrifice.
Thank you for coming. May your day
be filled with memories and peace. May god
bless all the fallen heroes and may god bless
the United States of America.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...
District 6

99 Year Old WWII Veteran Honored

Beniah Harding, a resident of the
Knox Center in Rockland, was re-
cently honored by the Winslow-Holbrook
-Merritt Post 1. Beniah Harding, who is
99 years old, served in the Navy of WWII
and participated in the Invasion of Nor-
mandy, the largest amphibious invasion in
history, in June 1944. Normandy is locat-
ed on the northern coast of France. The
Invasion of Normandy is the fourth-most
lethal American battle by estimated num-
ber of Americans killed (16,293 killed).
wikipedia.org.
In recognition of his service to our
country, Beniah Harding was presented
an official WWII Veteran hat by members
of the Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt Post 1,
left to right, Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Lane-
ry, Adjutant Michelle Sawyer, and Vice
Commander Russ Wolfertz.

When asked about his strongest
memory of that time, Mr. Harding said
that when people asked him if he had
been scared, he replied, “you were just
too damn busy, you couldn’t be
scared!”

Eagle Head Cane Awarded to the
Oldest Member of the Post

Dell Hys-
song
served under
General George
Patton in the
Third Army,
Fourth Infantry
Division in Ger-
many. He was
wounded in the
Town of Prum
by a sniper’s
bullet that
missed his spine by a half inch. He kept
the bullet which hangs in a frame in his
living room along with some of his many
medals. Hyssong was awarded the Bronze
Star in 1984 for "meritorious achievement
in ground combat against the armed en-
emy during World War II in the European-
African-Middle Eastern Theater of Opera-
tions." He served in the Army from July
24, 1944, to June 18, 1946.

War Memorial Post 30 of
Camden members gathered to pre-
sent the Eagle Cane to the Post’s old-
est and longtime member Dell Hys-
song. Front row, left to right, Paul
Satkowski, John Hyssong, Carolee
Hyssong, Dell Hyssong, Post Com-
mander Frank Carr. Back row, left
to right, Post Finance Officer Jeff
Sukeforth and Dave Framenstein.
Post Historian Norman Carver (not
pictured) was taking photographs.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

Special Awards Presented At Camden Post 30: Several members of Camden Post 30 were presented with a special award on Sept. 6 for their volunteer efforts in the repair and shingling project for the Post. This group worked daily to complete the project. Front row, left to right, Post Sergeant-at-Arms Joel Carver, Sandy Lyle, John Hyssong and Geof Chapman. Back row, left to right, Post Commander Frank Carr and Paul Satkowski (not pictured is Rob Steward). They were awarded the one of a kind award for their work diligent work ethic in achieving the end goal. They nick named themselves the shingle monkeys for their skill in maneuvering in, on, and around the staging being used.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

POW/MIA Ceremony: George T Files Brunswick Post 20 conduct a POW/MIA Ceremony at the Downtown Brunswick Mall on Sept. 21.

100% Membership: District 8 Commander Robert Webber, right, presents Harpswell John Leo. Murray Jr. Post 171 Commander Mike Doyle the Post Award for achieving 100% in calendar year 2018 at the District 8 meeting at Brunswick Post 20 on Sept. 30.

Phippsburg Post 216 Flag Retirement Ceremony: Flag Retirement Ceremony held at the Phippsburg Town Office parking lot on June 16. Participants were, front row, Girl Scout Troop 170 of Phippsburg. Back row, left to right, Robert Morse, Chaplin Richard Spear, 1st Vice Commander Kenneth Kellogg, Commander Gary Flemmings, Finance Officer James Meese, Sergeant-at-Arms David Barnes, Bruce MacMillan, Adjutant John “Mike” Young, and Roger Grabler.

Post 202 Commander Receives National Commander Photo: Department Vice Commander Matt Jabaut, right, presents a signed picture of National Commander Brett Reistad to Topsham Post 202 Commander Josephine Eltzroth at Brunswick Post 20 on Sept. 22 during the Annual Fall Conference.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Auguste 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; Auguste Post 205

Autographed Photos From National Commander: Members of District 9 received autographed pictures from the National Commander Brett Reistad of Virginia a District 9 meeting in Winthrop on Oct. 10. Left to right, Hallowell Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley, District 9 Commander Donald Chase, Gardiner Post 4 Chaplain Barbara Kasiola, Augusta Post 205 Service Officer Herbert Mann, Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, Standing in rear, Winthrop Post 40 Commander Colin Hewett, and Augusta Post 2 Adjutant Alvah Donnell.

Eagle Scout Court Of Honor: Augusta American Legion Post 2 Finance Officer Howard Betts congratulates Caleb Richardson, left, after the completion of Eagle Scout Court of Honor which took place Aug. 26. He also was awarded the Boy Scout Religious Medal. As a scout, Caleb has supported the Post and the community. Along with making Eagle Scout, this past summer, Caleb attended the American Legion Boys State Program where he ran and was elected Governor and was nominated and selected to attend Boys Nation in Washington D.C. He also attended the West Point Summer Leadership Experience course.

Displaying Medals At District 9 Meeting: Gardiner Post 4 Chaplain Barbara Kasiola, left, with District 9 Commander Donald Chase, right, proudly displays the medals she won in August 2018 at The National Veterans Golden Age Games in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the District 9 meeting in Oakland on Sept. 12. Barbara won 2 Bronze Medals for horseshoes and bowling and a Silver Medal for shuffleboard. In the past 7 years, she has won 14 medals.

Hallowell Post 6 Centennial Committee: Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell, Centennial Committee. Front row, left to right, Dana Parker, Commander & Service Officer Maureen Malley, and Adjutant Gerald Stuart. Back row, left to right, Finance Officer Phil Lindley, Historian Steve Mairs, Mike Madden, and Bruce Johnson.
Assistant Coach Earl Kingsbury, and Head Coach, Bob Sinclair, is the baseball Coach of The Year.

Besides a terrific meal served to 70 plus individuals made up of Comrades, guests and Boy Scouts of the Post sponsored Troop 647, the evening was also dedicated to recognizing Post 6 Comrades who had 30 plus years of Legion longevity as well as the local High School Baseball team and coach for a great year.

Hall-Dale High School's Baseball team had just won their first Class C State Championship since 2001 and the Team’s support Post 6 has shown for the team.

On hand to be recognized for their achievements were 8 of the team players, Assistant Coach Earl Kingsbury, and Head Coach Bob Sinclair, all who were given a standing ovation at the completion of the picnic meal. Post 6 Adjutant Jerry Stuart presented Coach Sinclair with a framed American Legion Distinguished Achievement Certificate. It should be pointed out Coach Bob Sinclair had earlier in the Spring season been presented an American Legion 100th Anniversary Coin by Adjutant Stuart and when Coach Sinclair later participated in the Boston Red Sox "Run To Home Base In Fenway, Boston" program on May 1. Bob carried that coin as he ran to honor veterans of all branches of the military. Coach Sinclair scooped a small handful of dirt from the home plate area and presented it to Post 6 as a thank you for the support Post 6 has shown for the team.

Hallowell Post 6 Annual Legion Family Picnic

Dedication Ceremony: Hallowell Post 6 Officers and Comrades attired in their parade uniforms raised the U.S. Flag at the dedication ceremony of Hallowell’s new Fire Station on July 27. Fire Chief Jim Owens is also a member of Post 6. The beautiful new Fire Station had practically been built on a donation from a private citizen who requested anonymity. Post 6 Comrades who took part in the flag-raising were Commander Maureen Malley and Comrades Bruce Johnson, Phil Lindley, Steven Mairs, Bob McKenna, and Gerald Stuart.

Winthrop Post 40 members, District 9 Commander Donald Chase, and members of Posts in Winthrop, Madison, Wakes and Readfield perform a ritual of acceptance and re-dedication of the Winthrop Veterans Memorial, on Sun., Sept. 30.

Raising Money For Veterans: Post 181 has all War Eras selling raffle tickets to raise money to help veterans. Members of Post 181 in Litchfield sell raffle tickets each year for wood, oil, and other items to raise funds. Front row (left to right): Nunzio Biondello (WWII, Korea, Vietnam), Normand Bernier (Vietnam). Back row: (left to right): Malcolm Harvey (WWII, Korea, Vietnam), Roger Line (DS/DS, OIF/OEF/ND), Greg Couture (Vietnam, DS/DS), and Debra Couture (DS/DS, OIF/OEF/ND).

Post 181 is a great team.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 11

Belfast Post 43; Unity Post 50; Winterport Post 138; Stockton Springs Post 157; Palermo Post 163; Brooks Post 183;

Participating in the 75th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremonies in France

Five members of the Jerry W. Dobbins Post 157 in Stockton Springs and two others from the Department of Maine traveled to France to participate in the 75th Anniversary Commemoration ceremonies on June 23. Representing Stockton Springs Post 157 were current Commander Horace Seekings, Past Post Commander Judy Otis, Post Chaplain Fred Deredin, Past Post Commanders Langdon Chandler and Ed Burns. Others in attendance were current Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture and Area 4 Commander Greg Couture.

On January 23, 1943 the B-17 “Beats Me!” went down while flying its 11th mission out of Molesworth, England and crashed in the Kéronic Forest just outside the small town of Pluvignier in Brittany, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the U-Boat Pens in Lorient, France. The targets that day were the...what remains they could find and took any identification before the Germans could get to the site. Every year since then the citizens of Pluvignier and the local chapter of the Les Souvenir Français has held a memorial service in honor of the dead crewmen who gave their lives to help liberate France from the Germans. One of the dead crew members was SGT Jerry W. Dobbins from Stockton Springs. SGT Dobbins was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor in 2013 for his actions in helping other crew members exit the plane at the expense of his own life on that day.

Les Souvenir Français is a patriotic organization of veterans that is much like the American Legion. Its emphasis is to help all generations remember what took place during the wars and to honor those who fought and gave up their lives in order to help liberate France. Videos and photos are available on Post 157’s website at www.mainepost157.org.

75th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremonies: Left to right, Area 4 Commander Greg Couture, French WWII Re-Enactor, Post 157 Chaplain Fred Deredin, Past Post Commanders Ed Burns and Judy Otis, Current Post 157 Commander Horace Seekings, Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, French WWII Re-Enactor, and Past Post 157 Commander Langdon Chandler.

Palermo Post 163 Annual Boys & Girls State Achievement Awards & Certificates

Malcolm-Glidden Post 163 in Palermo held its Annual “Boys and Girls State Achievement Awards” and also presented “Certificates for Length of Service” to “Legion Members and Ladies Auxiliary” on Tues., Sept. 18.

The Formal Ceremony Awards and Certificates were presented by Post Commander Clayton York, Sergeant at Arms Tony Horak, Chaplain Dan Boynton who gave the opening and closing prayer; Ladies Auxiliary President Deanna Stevens, and Chaplain Norma Shorey.

Guests and recipients were offered refreshments and fresh baked goodies by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Certificates Presented:

Left photo: Mr. George McKenney of Post 163 and Mrs. Bev McKenney of Unit 163 Ladies Auxiliary are presented their 50 Year Certificates. Right Photo: Mr. Steve McPherson of Post 163 and Mrs. Sharon McPherson of Unit 163 Ladies Auxiliary are presented their 30 Year Certificates. Certificates were presented at Palermo Post 163 Formal Awards and Certificates Ceremony on Sept. 18.

Photos by Mrs. Carol Blomquist and Mrs. Nancy York

Achievement Awards: Left to right, Palermo Post 163 Commander Clayton York, Boys State Award Recipient Hagan Wallace, Girls State Award Recipient Elizabeth Sugg, and Ladies Auxiliary President Deanna Stevens. Boys State Recipient Hagan Wallace, while attending Boys State at Thomas College was elected as “Party Chairman” and “Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was awarded “The Gavel Award”, “Best Leader”, and “Delegate”. He competed at the National Competition in Washington, D.C. Hagan thanked the Legion by giving Commander York an American Flag that had flown over the White House. Girls State Recipient Elizabeth Sugg attended “Husson College in Bangor, was a “Senator”, received the “Dirigo State” Award for being so energetic and enthusiastic. She also thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for sponsoring her and is hoping to return in 2019 as a Counselor.

Photo by Mrs. Carol Blomquist and Mrs. Nancy York

Certificate Award: Mrs. Janet Potter of Palermo Unit 163 Ladies Auxiliary is presented her 50 Year Certificate at the Formal Awards and Certificates Ceremony on Sept. 18.

Photo by Mrs. Carol Blomquist and Mrs. Nancy York

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Bangor Post 12; East Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 85; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; East Corinth Post 115; Loe Post 140; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213

Certificate of Appreciation: District 13 Commander Don Candage, left, presents Ariana McIntyre, right, a Certificate of Appreciation for the work she does for military families at the District 13 meeting held at Etna-Carmel Post 107 on Sept. 8. Ariana is a Family Assistance Specialist at the Maine Military Family Assistance Center located at the AFRC in Bangor. She was given the Certificate for the work she does when a member of the family is deployed.

Photo by Hemron Post 213 Adjutant Tom Carle

65 Year Certificate: District 13 Commander Don Candage presents Franklin A. Dentremont his Certificate for 65 years of service in Post 13 in East Millinocket at the Post meeting on Sept. 25.

Members of District 13 were in attendance to honor and thank him for his service. Standing, left to right, Adjutant Jack Neal, Americanism Officer Darrell Savage, Service Officer Sheldon Hanington, District 13 Commander Don Candage, and Historian Tom Carle. Franklin A. Dentremont, seated, holds up his Certificate.

Photos by E. Millinocket Post Commander Charles Powers

Maine Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon Event: The Maine National Guard held a Yellow Ribbon event for their members Aug. 25 at the Maine Army National Guard Regional Training Institute in Bangor. Tables were set up with all the organizations that can assist their members. The American Legion Department of Maine put together the material needed to showcase the reasons to become a member of The American Legion. The event has several informational sessions in the morning hours. Several people stopped at our table, some with questions and some with interest in the Legion. Working the table for the event, left to right, State Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley, District 13 Commander Don Candage, and District 13 Historian Tom Carle.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

Howland Post 97 hosted an ATV Ride-In during the Post’s monthly meeting on June 23. Twenty-six members and guests of the Penobscot Off-Road Riders ATV Club rode from their club site in Lincoln to the Post to take part. The dinner was prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary and Post Adjutant John Neel, left, consisting of beans and hot dogs, chicken pot pie, American chop suey, and chowder with a large selection of pies and cakes for dessert. Special guest Miss Central Maine Faith Bracket, center, helped with serving the meal along with Post Commander & Penobscot Off-Road Riders President, welcomed the Riders, guests, and members of the local community.

District 13 Installation

Ceremony: District 13 Commander Don Candage, and Installing Sergeant-At-Arms Thomas Carle performed the Barrows-Skidgel Post 105 Installation of Officers Ceremony on Sept. 10. Standing, left to right, Sergeant-At-Arms Kathy Condon, Service Officer Jack King, Chaplain Keith Thompson, Finance Officer Kimberly Lander, Adjutant Hazel Norf, and 2nd Vice Commander Karl Frazier, 1st Vice Commander Timothy Vashon, Commander Camille Derosier, and District 13 Commander Don Candage. Not present were Judge Advocate Charles Roundy, and Historian Lawrence Savage.

A family friend of Hermon Post 200 Chaplain John Clark came to the meeting with him. George Fulcher is a retired Tech, Sargent of the Air Force and Veteran of WW11. At the meeting, George was asked what he did during the war. His answer with a smile was not much. The Post voted to give him a membership to the Post. On Oct. 14, his church celebrated with him his 100 birthday. At the party was a placard that listed his military career: George “Gremlin” Fulcher, Oct. 1918. Because he was under 5’ tall he was put into the Turret of a WW11 B-17 Bomber No Way out!! Member of the “Lucky Bastards Club”. Need 25 missions to be a Bastard. George flew 73 missions. Assigned to the 94th, 91st, and 341st Bomber squadrons. Missions in Germany, England, and North Africa. Discharged in 1945 after 50 missions and went back for 25 more missions Tech, Sargent Army Air Corps.

POW/MIA History: District 14 Commander Dan Nutter with assistance from District 14 Sergeant-At-Arms Kevin Bishop and Area 5 Commander Willard Leeman, left to right, explain the history of the POW/MIA flag at the District 14 meeting at Guilford Post 119 on Sept. 8.


Have You Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today? Help us increase membership for 2019! Join online at www.mainelegion.org
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 43; Pembroke Post 59, Lubec Post 65; Jonesport Post 108; Vanceboro Post 172; Topsham Post 191

A Generous Donation From Pratt Chevrolet: Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, right, accepts a donation from Ian Pratt of Pratt Chevrolet Dealership in the amount of $500 on June 7 to go toward the Calais American Legion Support Fund.

Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean was presented the “2018 Calais Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute Honors” at the Calais City Council meeting Thurs., Aug. 16.

Words from Commander McLean: “I want to thank our community for supporting our Veterans and their families! I am continuing to send out Legion membership cards! I am also coordinating with the Calais Dollar Tree for “Operation Home Front” for school supplies for our local communities! Any correspondence: Commander Calais American Legion Sherman Brothers Post 3, PO Box 311, Calais, ME 04619; email: calleg3@yahoo.com; Facebook-Calais American Legion; tele. 207-214-4410 (cell). Please leave message.

A Donation To Local Food Pantry: Calais Post 3 donates $40 worth of non-perishable food items to Calais 1st National Bank for the local food pantry in support of our local school food pantries! Left to right, Post Commander Michael McLean and Calais 1st National Bank Branch Manager Aleisha Millburn.

Post Revitalization Results: New Energy

District 15 meeting was held at Cobcook Post 59 in Pembroke on Oct. 14. There were 2 guest speakers. Department of Maine American Legion Firefighter of the Year Dana Hatton spoke of the experience for him, his family and his department members. He stressed the importance of all Posts putting in for firefighter of the Year from their area, as it may be the only time in their careers they get that level of recognition. He also made a point that we should be putting in for firefighter of the Year Dana Hatton spoke of the experience for him, his family and his department members. He stressed the importance of all Posts putting in for firefighter of the Year from their area, as it may be the only time in their careers they get that level of recognition. He also made a point that we should be putting in for firefighter of the Year Dana Hatton spoke of the experience for him, his family and his department members. He stressed the importance of all Posts putting in for firefighter of the Year from their area, as it may be the only time in their careers they get that level of recognition. He also made a point that we should be putting in for firefighter of the Year.

Department Finance Officer Tommy Danforth was the second speaker. Funny as usual, he spoke on the importance of electing the right person as Post Finance Officer. He stressed the importance of self-auditing, more eyes on the books keep them correct, and removes the opportunity for the funds to come up missing. District 15 Commander Ike Hubbard then discussed several issues Posts need to address.

Cobcook Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon later presented Ike with a tongue and cheek promotion to Brigadier General, Commander of the Fighting 15, pictured, and Area 6 Commander Rusty Leighton was presented with a Certificate for having 43 years continuous service.

There were 20 members from District 9 from Posts 3, 9, 23, 59, 65, and 108 as well as 3 members of Post 178 and 1 member visiting from Florida. The Auxiliary met at the same time with 28 members present. By the sounds and giggles coming from downstairs, they had a good meeting as well. After the meetings ended, all enjoyed a meal of Lobster, Scallop and Fish Chowders, Moose Burgers, salads and desserts. Good business, good friends and good times.

Placing Flags To Honor Our Fallen: Sherman Brothers Post 3 of Calais placed Flags on Graves of our Fallen Comrades on Sat., May 26 at the Calais Cemetery. Left to right, Maine State Senate Candidate Marianne Moore, Post Commander Mike McLean, and Maine State Senator Joyce Maker.

District 16

Caribou Post 15 has been very busy for the last 3 months. We are upgrading our Legion for the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion for 2019. Our Legion has not had upgrades in a very long time so we are taking one project at a time, doing it, and then moving on. We started with ordering a new flag from the Rustic Flag Company and ordering new decorations rather than use the old ones. We will go with new and more modern look to streamline the look of the Legion and hopefully get more citizens to use the Legion. With less stuff on the walls, it will hopefully bring in more rentals of the hall.

The Caribou Legion also stepped up when approached by multiple organizations for help. The Loring Military Heritage Center conducted its annual Brownie Ala Mode sale from the Legion, the Caribou Kiwanis used the building for free for the annual Keystone Kops event. We have donated flags to the Caribou Veterans Cemetery as well as each month we hold a dinner for the Veteran’s at the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou. They absolutely look forward to this event with pizza and other things from outside the home. Gives them a chance to feel normal and many Legionnaires go up and talk to them and spend time with them.

Recently we have helped the Caribou High School Project Graduation earn money for their event through a special bingo, to keep the new graduates in one place overnight, keeping them safe during the what has proven to be the worst night for young adults graduating. This will put them in one location and they will be able to use the money to help them with food and donations of items for the graduates.

The Legion also recently held a special bingo for the Limestone High School Destination Imagination team to help get them to Tennessee for the National event. Raising money for them helped put them on the path to their goal and allowed us to help them! It was a well-attended event and the students were so excited for us to give them money!

The Legion held another bingo to benefit the Fort Fairfield High School project Grad on Tues., May 15. We hope this event will be as successful as the others that we have done and help them with their project as well.

The Legion held a special bingo for the post to help us boost the money for the revamping of the building. We were lucky to have an overwhelming crowd. We had to put up more tables and chairs to accommodate the crowd! We also ran raffles in conjunction with this and a

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Taps Column

District 16 continued

“Caribou Post”
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50/50 that made over $300!! That person gave all the money back!! We were so grateful to Tammy Jo Knoll for this donation!! At this event we were grateful to have made over $1200 for our post renovations.

One of the best parts of doing the revamp of the building is we have been able to secure some really nice and large donations, and we have worked with people like Dixie Shaw. Catholic Charities of Maine and Dixie Shaw have given us some things that we needed, and in return we are holding a bingo for them to FEED THE COUNTY! Their donation benefits us and in return we benefit them.

Caribou Post 15 member Cuppy Johndro is presented a donation from Caribou Kiwanis Club for the Post building revamp. Left to right, Caribou Kiwanis Club Bill Francis, Cuppy Johndro, Post 15 Commander Wayne Little, Becky Dixon and Jack Dixon.

Prepare for 2019 Oratorical

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 16, 2019.

The main purpose of The American Legion Oratorical Contest “A Constitu tutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Young orators will have the chance to compete at various levels with the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships.

We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2018 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2019.

For more information about the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please visit www.maineligion.org or contact your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229. Please check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests by visiting National’s website at www.legion.org/oratorical.

“Membership”
(Continued from Page 13)

addition of 15 new members to the Post. Once the drop-in vets came to know the Post members, they considered joining the Post.

Another event was to do a “try us out for a year” program. Each October, new members would receive free membership for the Post for that coming year. Not all Posts may be able to afford this option, but, it did create an incentive for several new members. This program in October is coupled with a newspaper article and local poster highlighting a membership theme.

Advertise active Veteran program such as a trip to the Maine Military Museum or the Auto Museum, open to veterans in the community. A popular event was the Vet Appreciation Day a local indoor shooting range. The programs are good for Post members and increases visibility of the Post for new membership. Score one or two new members. Summer plan are for a large Vet Picnic at a local State Park.

Invite local vets to participate in traditional Post programs. Every year the Post provides the manpower to place flags on the graves of some 850-vet graves in the Town. The Post opens the project up to local community groups, Scout groups and vets who would like to assist in this special program. Additionally, The Post places 100 large flags on utility poles around Town. Support for this event is another possibility.

Invite vets to join in the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Again, Newspaper articles of the event should include invitations for veterans to participate.

At Post sponsored public events such as bean suppers, St Patrick’s Day dinners etc., make available literature about the Post and membership forms and, someone that can speak to the positive attributes of Post Membership and sign them up.

Administration: One of the most important elements of membership is the active administration of it. It cannot be a passive process. One individual, Adjutant or Member Chair must keep a current spread sheet of membership from day one of the cycle. The Dept. provides a printout. (as Adjutant, I prefer to make my own spread sheet with a little more contact data and status for current and next year). This individual should check the National membership data base at least weekly and compare with the local data base. With an increase of electronic membership this is necessary to keep current on membership. The print-outs provided by the Department level lag by a month or more. This review allows for the production of data to the Membership Committee and for broader distribution to the membership. Individuals can see the status and do a self-check as to whether they have sent in their membership for the year. The use of the Nation “Tools” is also a great help. Pre-formatted letters to be sent to prospective members housed at the State level normally brings in a member or two. This tool alone has not brought in large numbers, but a few. Use of the Nation Label function tool is a blessing for the mailings of Post newsletters etc.

Post Membership: Members are encouraged to bring along a fellow veteran to our programs or meetings. Again, not a big gain, but a few. Each member is provided with a business type card produced by the Post that can be given out by Post members to vets they meet. One side, embellished with a very bold, Bald Eagle, says, “Thank you for your service and support for your country”, the other side with large flag motif, has contact info for the Field-Allent Post. The next generation of cards will invite the Vets to the Post Vet Coffee on Wednesdays.

In Summary: Yes, this a lot of info. The Membership program is and should be the major focus of the Post. If done well, it permeates all aspects of the Post life and provides examples to draw from to recruit new members and keep current membership. The Post needs to set goals. And be proactive in achievement of the goals. The Post should be providing opportunities to define the Post through the four pillars; increase the visibility of the Post internally through website through newsletters, emails etc. and externally through regular and frequent publicity in local and Department level news outlets; should provide opportunities for veterans to sample the Post life; and should conduct frequent reviews of membership status and respond accordingly.
Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 25

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the February 2019 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be January 25, 2019. 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

Fort Pepperrell Post
No. CN-09: American Legion Post CN-09 in St. John’s NF Canada held their Post meeting on Oct. 29. Members attending the meeting, left to right, Commander John Walther, Anne McFarlane, John Guelich, Terry Clower, Finance Officer Ray Reiser, Service Officer George Walter and Millard Starr.

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

POST HISTORY
LeVasseur-Farrell Post 49—Van Buren


Main Entrance: The side entrance of LeVasseur-Farrell Post 49 in Van Buren.

Interior Look of LeVasseur-Farrell Post 49

Job Opportunity for Department Finance Officer!

The American Legion, Department of Maine is currently seeking to fill the position of Department Finance Officer. This is a compensated position with the possibility for future growth and responsibilities.

For more information regarding this position and a complete listing of the job description/requirements, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 or email Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux at legionme@mainelegion.org.

Get the credit card that supports The American Legion.

Support the mission of The American Legion. Apply today. 38 I-771-983-1954 / mainelegion.org

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From All of Us at The American Legion State HQ

This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Guide carefully. EA+ is not insurance. © 2018 Worldwide Rescue & Security 43262