National Commander Hails From Virginia
Dan Dellinger Elected Aug. 29

Dan Dellinger of Vienna, Va., was elected national commander of the 2.4 million-member American Legion on Aug. 29, 2013 in Houston, during the 95th national convention of the nation’s largest veterans organization.

He has served as a presidential appointee on the Federal Taskforce on SBA Hiring and as vice mayor of the Town of Vienna, Virginia as well as serving three terms as town councilman.

He is a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose and the Citizens Flag Alliance.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Aug. 31. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Dellinger’s “Building for Tomorrow Today” coin incentive program will end June 30, 2014, or when supplies are exhausted.

Please visit www.legion.org, or www.mainelegion.org to obtain a copy of the National Commander Incentive Coin Certification Form or call Department Headquarters at 873-3229.

Veterans No Boundaries Retreat: 2nd Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette, left, gets ready to take part in a cycling event during one of his three-day visits to the Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation’s ninth annual Veterans No Boundaries Retreat. The program was held at Camp Wavus on Damariscotta Lake in Jefferson Aug. 23-26. It’s a program designed to help disabled veterans realize that their disabilities do not stop them from taking part in outdoor activities and have the opportunity to socialize with other disabled veterans and reconnect with their families.

This was one of many events Ron participated in while visiting the camp.

L’Heureux Takes Over State Adjuvant Position Nov. 4

The American Legion, Department of Maine, would like to announce that Paul L’Heureux has taken over the State Adjuvant position as of Nov. 4. Lloyd Woods who held the position has accepted the same position for the state of South Carolina.

Please join us in welcoming L’Heureux into his new position within our fine organization. And, also, we wish the best to Lloyd Woods and his Southern adventure as he continues to dedicate his life to the American Legion.
Calling All ‘Snowbirds’

The American Legion, Department of Maine was notified last year by National Headquarters that they have discontinued its “Snowbird” address change service due to duplication of time and effort spent processing and maintaining the requests. However, we here at Department Headquarters would like to continue that service to you. If you are a Snowbird, for example, you live in Maine from April-October and Florida from November-March, please fill out the attached SNOWBIRD FORM below and mail the form as soon as possible to The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine. The completed form can also be faxed to (207) 872-0501, or sent via Email by visiting us online at www.mainelegion.org under the Forms/Applications tab.

Please take advantage of this “Snowbird” address change service the department is offering. It not only allows you to continue to receive The Maine Legionnaire newspaper or any other mail from The Department of Maine, but will also help us reduce the cost we spend on the abundance of mail that gets returned to the department due to addresses not being changed back.

Full Military Honors for POW Tait:

Members of The American Legion, Department of Maine who attended the Oct. 5, 2013 funeral service for Cpl. Robert Tait, a POW of the Korean War who died during captivity and whose body was lost to his family and this nation for 62 years until recently identified September, 2013 by the Defense Prisoner of War, Missing Personnel Office and returned to his family in October, 2013 for burial with full military honors.

Grand Opening of the Mid-Coast Veterans Resource Center, 62 Pegasus Street, Brunswick Landing. Addressing the crowd on Sept. 19 were Gov. Paul LePage and Past Post 171 Cdr. Roger Dumont USN (Ret), Chairman Mid-Coast Veterans Council, the driving force in getting the Center established. Also pictured is Roger’s wife, Bonnie Dumont.

Post 24 to Honor Female Veterans Nov. 16 in Rumford

On Saturday, Nov. 16, the Rumford Post 24 will have a Female Veterans Luncheon to honor all women veterans. Schedule includes: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., a morning of pampering (manicures, hair, Reiki, and massages) (local professionals have generously donated their time for this event), 1 p.m., a sit down lunch will be served. We are excited to share that Mrs. LePage will join us for lunch and honor us as our guest speaker. More speakers will follow to provide information on women’s health care and their entitlements. A gift will be given to all female veterans who attend as well as chances for fun giveaways. Come and connect with other women who have served. Please support in sharing this information with all female veterans. Please RSVP to Tricia Thurston at 337-2389 if you plan on attending or if you would like more information. Remember, Women are Veterans Too! Many women do not realize they are veterans. They believe that they have had to serve in combat to be a veteran. Our mission is to educate those who are unaware of this in hopes that they are able to take advantage of any benefits they are entitled to.

Make Plans Now for Mid-Winter Conference in Millinocket

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 17-19, 2014 at the Donald V. Henry Post 80, 970 Central St., Millinocket, Maine 04462. The conference will be hosted by Commander John Hargreaves and 2nd Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette. National Vice Commander Mr. William A. Rakestaw, Jr. of New Jersey will be attending. Hotel reservations can be made at the Baxter Park Inn, 935 Central St., Millinocket at 207-723-9777 or 1-866-633-9777 and state “Legion”; Rate: $75.00 for one occupant, $85.00 for two. Deadline: January 1, 2014. Arrangements will be made and publicized in the SMILE and on www.mainelegion.org website as soon as they are made. Please watch future editions for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.
Sen. Collins Introduces Bill: a Drug Take-back Program

The recent government shutdown repre-

sened a failure to govern, and I was particu-
larly troubled by the harmful effects it had on the military and our nation's veterans. That is why I led the bipartisan effort that ultimately resulted in the com-
promise agreement that ended the impasse in Washington. I put together a bипartis-
ian group of 14 Senators that worked night and day to come up with a compromise plan to end the shutdown, prevent our nation from defaulting on its obligations, and charge the Senate and House Budget Committees with developing a longer-term fiscal plan for our nation.

A final agreement between Senators Reid and McConnell incorporated elements of our bipartisan plan.

I am pleased that the shutdown has ended, but this is not the end, it is merely the beginning of our work. There is much work ahead and tough decisions to be made. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, I am committed to the well-being of our service members, veterans, and military families who have sacrificed so much. Throughout the shutdown, I remained concerned about how the government shut-
down would affect these individuals and their families.

I am a cosponsor of S.1541, the Military Pay Protection Act of 2013, which would ensure that our troops are paid during a government shutdown. The bill also covers civil Defense Department employees who provide support for our military, many of whom are veterans. The Senate, with my strong support, passed similar legislation, which the President signed into law on September 30. I also urged the Secretary of Defense to exercise his authority to ensure that all of our nation's service members and civilian employees at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, DPAS in Limestone, and other locations in Maine, such as the Navy's office at Bath Iron Works, were paid on time.

In addition, the Senate and the House of Representatives have both unanimously passed a bill ensuring that survivors of fall-

en service members receive the benefits that they are owed and rightfully deserve. The President signed this important legisla-
tion into law on October 10. The families of our fallen heroes should not be made to bear the burden of the dysfunction in Washington.

I am also a cosponsor of S.1564, the Protecting Those Who Protect Us Act, which would continue compensation and pension benefits for veterans and their fam-
ilies, including survivor benefits and fund-
ing for educational programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill for veterans who failed to age.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Eric Shinseki testified that in the event of a prolonged government shutdown, the VA would have been unable to make November compensation payments to 5.18 million vet-

erns nationwide.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the lasting effect that this shutdown may have on the many veterans who have been wait-

ing far too long already for their claims to be processed.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have supported advanced funding for VA medical services, support, and facilities, which enabled these services of the VA to continue to function, even during a government shutdown.

As a result, all VA medical facilities and clinics remained open and fully operational through the government shutdown. Given that all they have done to protect and defend our nation, we owe these brave men and women the benefits they have earned through their service.

The VA needs a financial system that is equal to the task of running the second-
largest federal agency. This system must also be capable of meeting the needs of vet-

erans — not only today, but into the future.

H.R. 813 provides funding in advance to protect benefits and services to veterans, and puts in place a budgeting system that better ensures that VA has the resources it needs while protecting taxpayer dollars.

I'm happy to report that we are building momentum for bringing this important bill to the House floor for a vote. It is actively supported by almost every veteran and mili-
tary support organization, and members on both sides of the aisle are beginning to fol-

low the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's lead on pushing for this bill's passage.

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I'm hopeful Speaker Boehner will sched-
ule a vote on this legislation as soon as pos-
sible. Our nation has a sacred trust with the men and women who volunteer to serve and who sacrifice much on every citizen's behalf.

We have a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans are provided the benefits and services they need, and have earned, with-
out disruption or delay.

Veterans should never be victims of the dysfunction in Washington. H.R. 813 will help ensure that they aren't in the future.
Commander’s Comments

As we approach the holidays, my wife and I would like to wish everyone the best of wishes and good luck for the coming year and a hope for peace and goodwill at all times. We are also nearing the middle of our Legion year and a time to reflect on those projects and endeavors that we have started and perhaps completed and those that we plan to start in the coming months.

It has been an interesting, exciting and busy five months and hopefully will continue that way for the rest of the year. As commander, I have had the opportunity to appoint a new Department Service Officer, a new Assistant Department Service Officer and a new Department Adjutant. I would like to thank all of you for your support in these matters and ask that everyone continue to work together for the goals of the American Legion Family as these new officers learn their new positions.

The one thing we do know for certain is that change will come, and we, as an organization must embrace the changes and move forward for the “Good of the American Legion”. One of the areas that are seeing that change is in the Public Relations area with an active and revived committee and mission. That mission is essentially threefold:

1. To enhance the American Legion’s public image through increased public awareness; 2. To train personnel at all levels of the Legion on policies and procedures in their areas of public relations; 3. To update and enhance the internal communication and publicity within the American Legion Family.

This mission is actually a part of our five year membership plan on at least two levels that of creating brand awareness and training our membership. I would ask that each District consider appointing a qualified and interested member to act as a liaison between the Department Public Relations Committee and the Posts in your District. As the National Commander said in his recent visit, “The American Legion is one of the best kept secrets in the Country”. We need to make every effort to change that attitude.

There are important things to accomplish during the remainder of our year, so please, take a short breather to enjoy the upcoming holidays and then return to your programs and projects and membership. Don’t forget that the Department Office is your Office and the Department Officers are your Officers and we are available to assist you in every way that we can. But you need to tell us what you need and when you need it. There are no wrong questions; just ask and we will find an answer for you.

Lastly, I would like to give a personal thanks to our departed Adjutant Lloyd Woods. He has served the Department of Maine in a superlative manner for over twenty years and we will miss him dearly. With that, we wish him well in his new position in the warmer climes of South Carolina and know that he will continue to serve the American Legion to the best of his ability.

And in closing the quote:

“Don’t wish for less challenges; wish for more wisdom.” — Unknown

God Bless America

The American Legion Veterans Serving Veterans First
For the Blue Hat Legionnaire
John W. Hargreaves

Americanism Corner

God Bless America.

Eugene Coombs is doing a great job going to the middle schools in Somerset County talking about Americanism programs. Thank you.

American Legion Baseball held at Shelby, North Carolina was another all time paid attendance record, 104,726. New Jersey beat Petaluma California 10-4 in seven innings. At the champion game there were 6,836 fans.

It is time to get started on Oratorical programs, Boys State and Boys Nation.

Simeon Toronto from Andover, Minnesota was elected National 2013 American Legion Boys Nation President. Agnes Rieger from Kansas City, Missouri is the 2013 National Oratorical champion, winning an $18,000 scholarship. The Junior Air Rifle Sports champion was Alan Rodriguez from Phoenix, Arizona.

I received this information from the minutes from National, Sept. 26, 2013. I believe we could all do better on Americanism. I cannot do it all. Let’s try harder.

God Bless America.
A ‘Second’ Look

Turning the Page, a new chapter.
Six months ago looking to the future, I wouldn’t imagine our Dept. Adj. Lloyd Woods and Service Officer Robert “Ki” Owen ever stepping down. Both have given so much throughout the years, and we just want to thank them for their service. Go into the sunset with Love and Peace.

The Torch has been Past.
The New Dawn will Rise.
The Good of the Legion will stand.
Changes are difficult, but the circle must be drawn.
2014 is on the horizon, and a new day will shine.
Give thanks to our Veterans and thanks given to ALL.
Be kind and thoughtful to the Veterans you meet.

POW returned home:
On Feb. 15, 1951 during the Korean Conflict, then 19 year old Cpl. Robert Tait died as a POW. The reason for his death was not given. His remains were lost to this nation and his family for the following 62 years until The Defense Prisoner of War, Missing Personnel Office identified his remains in September of 2013. Those remains were returned to his sisters Teresa McQuin and Iona Strout both of Bar Harbor, Me. on Oct. 2, 2013. On Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013 this Soldier was finally laid to rest with full military honors at the Ledgelawn Cemetery in Bar Harbor. More than two hundred military veterans were on hand to honor our fallen comrade. The Governor and First Lady LePage as well as some of the Legion and veteran riders who rode great distances paid their final respects to the lost comrade and his family as well as members of the American Legion Auxiliary attending. Pictured here is the Honor Guard escorting his remains to the grave site.

History Bulletin

Fall is now upon us; soon we will be finalizing our outdoor projects and begin working on the indoor ones. It’s a good time to begin organizing and preparing our post/district legion history and yearbook. A reminder to all historians, to familiarize yourself with the duties of the post/district historian, please go to page 18 in the 2013 Post Officer’s Guide.

As noted, there is also an example of a one year post narrative history and yearbook found on pages 144-151. Completing yearly post/district histories and yearbooks is vital in securing all that has been accomplished within the post/district. Unfortunately our many achievements are seldom shared with the public.

However, a new five year project is beginning that will promote what the American Legion has accomplished the last 100 years as well as what the future goals are for the organization. National Headquarters has formed a new program to prepare for the upcoming American Legion Centennial Celebration.

The LEGACY & VISION project’s goal is “to call to the attention of the American people the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion since its founding, “and “to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead.”

One of the goals of this project is to have an online history of each post accessible to all on the National Legion Web Site by 2018, as well as future plans and goals of the American Legion for the next hundred years.

This project may sound daunting to some, but I feel with proper planning and preparation it will be gratifying and as well as very rewarding.

The time is now to begin forming a committee within our department. The current goal is to have an individual to chair the committee for each district, as well as someone to chair at the post level.

For those who are interested, I have brochures available explaining the program. (I will also be distributing them throughout the year in my travels.) One of the brochures explains the online digital process recommended on how to submit articles, photos etc.

The other brochure is a workbook for those who do not have internet access. Please note that we understand that while many posts may want to participate in this project, not every post has the technical tools and expertise needed to manage the web site; every effort will be made in getting your information on-line for you.

If you are interested in more information, please contact me by e-mail or phone. Looking forward to working with each and every one of you in getting this project underway.

Till next time, remember: HISTORY means saying HI to the future with a STORY from the past.

Prepare for 2014 Oratorical

The Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine on February 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

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

This contest is for students who welcome an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship monies. The American Legion’s High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn valuable information about our country’s Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for the past 76 years.

National Finals: The 2014 National Finals is April 4-6 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Quaterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 5, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 6. Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 10, 2014.

Getting Ready: The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with both Area and District Commanders to prepare your posts and districts for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December 2013 and have all District contests completed by the end of January 2014.

More Information For more information about the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact The American Legion, Department Headquarters at 873-3229, or e-mail Department Chairman Tommy Adkins at tomadkins@myfairpoint.net or check out the State and Local Oratorical Contests of National’s website at www.legion.org/oratorical or the Department of Maine’s web-site at www.mainelegion.org.
The Adjutant Speaks

To all Blue Cap Legionnaires in the State of Maine:

I send this message of thanks and sincere gratitude for your support and unyielding backing during my tenure as the Department Adjutant. You have made the majority of my time as Adjutant pleasant and enjoyable over the past few years. I want you all to know that I leave this department with mixed feelings. I along with some other department officers recently attended meetings in Indianapolis pertaining to the Fall Meetings and the Commanders/Adjutant’s conference. One of the sessions I attended was a meeting with the newer Adjutants with the National Judge Advocate, Philip Onderdonk. Each time I meet with him either in a session of training or one on one I learn that he is a man of much knowledge and expertise.

One of the things I recently learned from the latest meeting was that we should not be copying any identification cards of those in the military as it is a violation of Federal law to do so. My recommendation when we have an individual wishing to join our organization is to note the application with a short statement by the Adjutant that the individual’s military ID card has been seen and returned to them. If they have a copy of any orders showing they are in the military that would be acceptable. Please note that I mention the Adjutant here as the post adjutant should be the only individual who verifies eligibility and who has complete control of any eligibility document presented to prove eligibility to join.

These documents can be a DD214, Certificate of Discharge, etc. A copy can be kept at the post and should be under lock and key and only available to the Adjutant and be under their control. No one else should have control or be able to view them. When the individual’s request for membership is brought forth the general membership for voting on the application can be noted as such and placed in the locked cabinet if at all possible.

As many of you know the IRS has and is requiring The American Legion and from my latest information received the DAV as well to produce and present eligibility documentation of each and every member of our organizations. Even though there appears to be a resolution to this requirement by the IRS it is still recommended that each and every post obtain as many of not all of the documents from the members of the post.

Some may not wish to produce them and if each of you reviews the officer’s guide you will find information as to how to proceed from there if documentation is asked for and is not produced. Social security numbers, birth dates and any other information they wish to have removed or blackened out can be as long as their name, branch of service and type of separation or discharge is available and readable. I cannot believe that we are or will be required to do this but just in case we are, everyone should be aware of what to do if they are questioned by the IRS in an audit procedure.

One remaining bit of information that the National Judge Advocate departed before the session was over was that it is highly recommended that each and every post have access to an attorney either on retainer or if one can be found to do pro bono and a CPA. These two individuals can be a great asset and help if ever needed.

As this will be my last article and will be read by those of you after I have departed the state I again thank you for being there and if ever I can be of assistance to you in the future please do not hesitate to contact me. My cell phone number will remain the same and will be on as close to 24/7 as possible. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Service Office Update

First, I would like to thank Robert “Ki” Owen for his over quarter century of dedication to helping veterans as our Department Service Officer. I wish him the best and know from folks that I have big shoes to fill.

Second, I would like to introduce myself to the Legion Family here in Maine. I am Amedeo “Deo” Lauria, the new State of Maine Department Service Officer, located at VA Medical Center at Togus, in Augusta. I recently assumed this position in September and, along with Orville “Dean” Shelton your new Assistant Department Service Officer, look forward to assisting veterans as we work together along with the VA toward obtaining their well-earned benefits.

A little background: I entered the Army at the end of the Vietnam War. I served as both an enlisted soldier as well as an officer until my retirement. My thirty years in the Army was mostly in the area of Human Resources, with my enlisted time spent in the Signal Corps. I served in both the active and reserve component so I know the challenges of both. I’ve been married, for 38 years, to my wife Susan, we have three grown children. Susan is also an Army veteran with over a decade of service as both enlisted and an officer worldwide to include tours in Berlin, Germany and the Pentagon. My family and I moved to Maine to complete my last Army assignment, before retirement, as the Commander of the New England Recruiting Battalion, then located in Topsham, Maine.

We settled in Sabattus, Maine, and am a proud member of Sabattus American Legion Harry J. Conway Post 135. After my retirement, I went into teaching and was the first Senior Army Instructor for the newly formed Army JROTC program at Old Town High School, in Old Town, Maine.

After I retired from teaching, I took a year off and then decided to return to service to give something back by applying for the Maine American Legion Department Service Officer position.

It is our goal to provide the best assistance possible to those who served this great nation. Dean and I look forward to meeting and talking with our fellow Legionnaires and fellow veterans, assisting them as they navigate through the VA system. In addition, we also look forward to working with the Post Service Officers (PSOs) in a meaningful and coordinated manner to better assist our Legion members.

It is my intent and goal to develop and present training to PSOs at future venues; to include here at Togus, VAMC.

Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us by mail at The American Legion, Department of Maine, PO. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900, email: legionme@mainelegion.org, or Tel: (207) 673-3229.

Nominate Your Top Scout

The American Legion’s support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion’s first national convention in 1919.

Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. This is natural for Legionnaires who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to help build character and positive traits in our country’s youth. Few other post activities generate more goodwill from the community.

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

The American Legion
PO. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

—www.legion.org

The 2014 Eagle Scout Nomination Form is available by visiting www.legion.org/publications, www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Applications or by calling Department Headquarters at 207-873-6234.

Scholarship Applications Ready

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship and the James V. Day Scholarship.

Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us by mail at The American Legion, Department of Maine, PO. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900, email: legionme@mainelegion.org, or Tel: (207) 673-3229.
Money Matters

It is hard to believe that as you read this article six months into the Maine fiscal year we will have passed. It is of course time to begin thinking about the new budget for 2014-2015. In that regard we have two new members appointed to the Finance Committee they are Bill O’Connell and Tom Naragon. Tom isn’t actually new to the committee, but has returned to the committee which we greatly appreciate.

While it is too early to ask for budget requests, for those responsible for program budgets please start to think about your program needs for next year and jot them down.

When we do start to finalize the budget for next year a non-request from a program will be considered the same as saying we have enough for our needs at the current level of funding.

With the new fiscal year comes an increase in dues to the Department of three dollars per year. This increase which was badly needed will be partially offset by the anticipated increases in many of our associated programs (i.e. Background checks for adult volunteers in our youth programs, Increases in many of our programs to meet the needs of the programs which have been cut in past years etc.)

The increase may sound like a substantial increase in revenue to the Department, but if you do the numbers you’ll see the increase is far from substantial in terms of our overall budgeting needs.

Since the last issue of The Maine Legionnaire the Finance Committee has met to make recommendations to the DEC on the hiring of the Department Service Officer and Assistant Service Officer as well as the replacement for our Department Adjutant. These recommendations were accepted at our Oct 19th DEC Meeting in Waterville, ME and will be implemented immediately.

We (meaning myself, the Finance Chairman, the Department Commander, Vice Commanders and the Department Adjutant) continue to look for ways to improve the efficiency of the department finances. We will keep you informed of the progress as we make it.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns about the Department finances please email or call me.

Chaplain’s Corner

I had the pleasure of meeting our National Commander Dan Delligere, I am proud to share that I feel he will do wonderful things for the American Legion. Veteran’s Day is November 11th. A day we honor the duty, sacrifice and service of America’s veterans of all wars. Remember to thank a veteran for their service. Honor those who served by having a service or by attending a service. Educate the public on the importance of this day.

The American Legion’s National Commission of Children & Youth has established the week of the Thanksgiving holiday as “National Family Week”. I encourage the American Legion family to plan events to support the families in your community.

Plan events that will help to strengthen the family unit like, family suppers, father/daughter mother/son dances, a military family appreciation event, invite families to volunteer on community projects. When supporting families the possibilities are endless.

With the holidays fast approaching think about adopting a troop or unit to send care packages to. Keep their families in mind as well. Many of you have experienced the separation that comes with deployment. We all know how difficult it can be. Along with sending care packages comes the need for prayers to bring them all safely home to their families. It is never too early to begin planning for the “Four Chaplain’s Ceremony”. Involve your local community, Scout groups and Legion family when planning. Get the word out to your community when planning this important event. Get the local papers involved as well as putting out flyers etc.

Thank you for reading and may God Bless You All and may he keep our troops safe from harm.

The American Legion Posts of Frenchville and Madawaska recently held a tribute for the remaining area veterans of World War II. A ceremony took place Aug. 27 at Ridgewood Estates in Madawaska to recognize the veterans of Post 145 in Frenchville and Post 147 in Madawaska. A certificate and an American flag were presented to each. Above, standing, from left, Master of Ceremonies Percy Thibeault, Post 145 Commander Cliff Guerrette, Barbara Haslett with Congressman Mike Michaud’s office, Phil Collins with U.S. Senator Susan Collins’ office, and Post 147 Commander Joel Cyr. Veterans in the second row include Maurice Sirois, Tom Clavette, Robert Michaud, Roland Michaud, Armand Martin and Adrian Cyr. Front row, sitting, Clovis Daigle, Gerard Michaud, Louis Dufour, Nivard Hebert and Clarence Cyr. Other remaining WWII veterans of Posts 145 and 147 who were unable to attend included Alfred Turgeon, Joseph Cyr, Elmer Hunting and Alphe Pelletier. During the planning of the event, three other WWII veterans passed away, including Maurice Raymond, Don Michaud and O’Neil Dumais. Below, Mr. Elmer Hunting, right, was presented his certificate in Brewer by Post 145 Finance Officer Percy Thibeault.

In Honor of their Service: The American Legion Posts of Frenchville and Madawaska recently held a tribute for the remaining area veterans of World War II. A ceremony took place Aug. 27 at Ridgewood Estates in Madawaska to recognize the veterans of Post 145 in Frenchville and Post 147 in Madawaska. A certificate and an American flag were presented to each. Above, standing, from left, Master of Ceremonies Percy Thibeault, Post 145 Commander Cliff Guerrette, Barbara Haslett with Congressman Mike Michaud’s office, Phil Collins with U.S. Senator Susan Collins’ office, and Post 147 Commander Joel Cyr. Veterans in the second row include Maurice Sirois, Tom Clavette, Robert Michaud, Roland Michaud, Armand Martin and Adrian Cyr. Front row, sitting, Clovis Daigle, Gerard Michaud, Louis Dufour, Nivard Hebert and Clarence Cyr. Other remaining WWII veterans of Posts 145 and 147 who were unable to attend included Alfred Turgeon, Joseph Cyr, Elmer Hunting and Alphe Pelletier. During the planning of the event, three other WWII veterans passed away, including Maurice Raymond, Don Michaud and O’Neil Dumais. Below, Mr. Elmer Hunting, right, was presented his certificate in Brewer by Post 145 Finance Officer Percy Thibeault.

President’s Message

Our undying tribute to our Veterans, Military and their Families has been once again proven by the devotion of our Auxiliary Members. As we Honor Your Service on Veterans’ Day, November 11th, we cannot THANK YOU enough for your sacrifice and your family’s sacrifice. Our department has many programs to help enhance our Veterans, Military and their Families’ lives.

Within our Children & Youth Program the units have been working diligently to enrich the lives of our Maine National Guard and OMK/DOD Camps, not only with monetary donations, but with volunteer hours, clothing, activities, and much more. Our Education Chairman has put the call out to all high school senior and home-schooled students across the state about unit/department/national scholarships with PSAs, newspaper and social media.

Our District Department Vice President Ann Spaulding achieved a special feat in helping our amputees and children of veterans. She has secured with New Balance a program to help fit our combat warriors and children of our military with new sneakers.

National President Nancy Brown Park will visit Maine on January 10-11. The grass-root members are quilting lap robes for the residents at the Scarborough VA Home, making homemade cards for our deployed troops, and getting ready to send off Pocket Flags to the 153rd Battalion and the US Army 86th Airborne. Join us at Westbrook #197 for a tea/luncheon on Saturday at 12 noon and have Dinner with the Smileys at Gray #86 Saturday evening with social hour beginning at 5 p.m. Come join us to give National Madam President a Hearty Maine Hello!

We are in the second phase of our Public Awareness Campaign from National. Our Public Relations Chairman has done a wonderful job in having us be HEARD around the state of Maine. Throughout this time communities across the nation will know who we are. This phase is to let the communities know about upcoming Auxiliary events and volunteer opportunities in our units in their communities.

Our solemn gift to our soldiers is to carry on their memory through the service of our elite membership of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine.

In the Spirit of Service not Self for Veterans, God and Country.

Georigne Butman, 2013-2014 Department President, PO Box 74, Greenville Junction, ME 04442, 207-695-2806, 207-951-5360 moosharp@myotmail.com
21 Yrs. of Legion Ball for Strickland

After 21 years of service to Maine Legion Baseball program, Former Commissioner Brian Strickland, left, is stepping down. He is pictured here receiving a plaque from American Legion Baseball Director Chuck Berube. Brian was appointed Zone 3 Commissioner back in 1993 by then Dept. Commander Doris Baker. On the recommendation of Comrade John Kezal of Post 24 Rumford, Brian served as zone commissioner for five seasons hosting the State tournaments in 1995 at the Field of Dreams in Harrison. In 1998 he was appointed Baseball Director by Commander Jimmie Johnson and served that position for six years which included the World Series Champion year of 2004. In 2006 Brian was asked to serve as advisor by incoming Legion Baseball Director Chuck Berube, and has held that position up through the 2013 season. Besides legion baseball, this year also marks thirty consecutive years as an officer in his post, including being a two time Post Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer as well as holding several other offices. Thank you Brian for your service to the Maine American Legion Baseball program as well as continuing to support the American Legion.

Demers Noted for Togus Service

A merican Legion Post 205 Augusta Legionnaire Donald Demers, along with five others, were presented with the WE WHO CARE award accompanied by $1000 from WGME-TV at a ceremony held at the Portland Museum of Art recently.

The other recipients were Christina Bourassa, founder of Buttons for Babes in Franklin County, Patty Haggie from the Telling Room in Portland, Nancy Hibbard, a 25-yr volunteer at Camp Sunshine, and Hugh Tozier, founder of Konbit Sante in Haiti. The Telling Room in Portland, Nancy Hibbard, a 25-yr volunteer at Camp Sunshine, and Hugh Tozier, founder of Konbit Sante in Haiti. The Southern Area Agency on Aging received the WE WHO CARE agency award.

Each recipient was recognized for their outstanding service to the community. Mr. Demers was cited for contributing more than 1000 volunteer hours at Togus VA Medical Center. The staff at Togus VA hospital described him as having a “quiet demeanor and a hearty sense of humor,” he puts those he serves at ease. A United States Naval veteran, Don is often the first person with whom patients interact with upon arrival, greeting them with a genuine, “How can I help you?”

In addition to volunteer work at Togus, Mr. Demers also volunteers his time at the Kennebec Valley Human Society walking dogs, cleaning cages, playing with the cats, and taking photos of the animals to help them find a “forever home”. Also, for the past 15 years, Legionnaire Demers has served as an adult supervisor for Boys Scout Troop 602 sponsored by American Legion Post 205 in Augusta.

As if all of the above accomplishment were not enough, Mr. Demers spearheaded the collection of over 4000 used cell phones to be sold to salvage vendors in return for $50 prepaid calling cards sent to soldiers, sailors, and Marines deployed to combat areas overseas. To date, the program has raised more than $175,000 in prepaid calling cards.

American Legion Maine State Commander John Hargreaves said that Don Demers embodies the Four Pillars of the American Legion to include service to veterans, community, children, and nation. “We are all very proud to stand next to our comrade American Legionnaire Don Demers”.

‘Tree of Caring’ in the Works

Western Maine Veterans Advisory Committee (WMVAC) is once again offering a chance to honor friends and loved ones by lighting a bulb on the “Tree of Caring” at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris this holiday season. Bulbs may be purchased in memory of a deceased loved one (need not be a veteran) or to honor a special person who is still with us. The cost is $5.00 per bulb. The funds received from this program will be used exclusively for special activities and needs of the residents at the veterans home.

To purchase a bulb, or for more information, please contact Dick Young 207-890-3600, or send a check to Dick Young, VFW Post #9787, Tree Bulb Chairman, c/o Maine Veterans Home, 477 High St., South Paris, ME. 04281. Checks may also be sent to Jon-Alyce Rich, co-chairman, at the same address.

The tree lighting will be held at the Maine Veterans Home, located at 477 High Street, South Paris, Me., on Thursday, December 5, 2013, at 7:00 pm. Music and refreshments will be served in the Multifunction Room following the tree lighting.

The prior seasons of the “Tree of Caring” have been a great success and have added to the enjoyment of the residents as well as covering costs of some personal needs for others.

National Vice Commander Appreciated Support

Lloyd,

I thank you and the members of your Department for a fine year and I thank all who had the opportunity to attend my testimonial. I thank you if you could please put a note of thanks in your Adjutant’s newsletter.

John Neylon,
National Vice Commander

Boys State Member Expresses Gratitude

Dear Maine American Legion,

Thank you so much for your sponsorship in sending me to Boys Nation this summer. It was an incredible experience and learning opportunity. I learned so much about how our federal government works and met the most incredible young adults.

I have no doubt that what I learned through Boys Nation and the friendships I formed there will remain with me for my whole life. I apologize for not writing sooner, however, I left for a program with the Seeds of Peace Organization for two weeks the day I returned from Boys Nation. Once again I’d like to express my gratitude for providing me with such a life-altering experience. I know I will use all I have learned to better things in the future.

Sincerely,
Jared Dumas

Lewiston Post’s Turnel Recognized for His Merits

Washington, May 31, 2013

Dear Mr. Turnel: (Lewiston Post 22 Member)

I am pleased to inform you that by decree of President Hollande on May 21, 2013, you have been appointed a “Chevalier” of the Legion of Honor.

You were appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor on May 21, 2013, by President Hollande.

If you have any questions, please contact Consulate in Miami (legionohonorflorida@yahoo.com +1 (305) 123 456). In the meantime, please find enclosed a brief fact sheet, which explains in more detail the award you will receive.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations.
Sincerely,
The France Ambassador to the United States

National Commander Enjoyed His Maine Visit

Dear Lloyd and Fellow Legionnaires:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share some time with you, as well as department leadership, fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members, over such excellent hospitality and fellowship. Having said that, I would also like to formally thank all those involved in arranging and managing the travel accommodations that helped the visit progress smoothly; without your help this could not have been accomplished.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the department for the LL Bean gift certificate. It was very thoughtful of you to remember my visit in this special way.

My theme this year is “Build for Tomorrow - Today” to carry on the legacy of our organization, while collectively making it stronger with a good set of plans (a clear roadmap) and a solid foundation. We must anticipate the needs of the war time veterans we serve. The American Legion will always be their biggest advocate, just as our predecessors were there for us.

Sincerely,
Daniel M. “Dan” Dellinger, National Commander
PSA's Increase Legion Awareness

We, as Legionnaires, are lacking when it comes to promoting the good of The American Legion at the local and national level. It is known that Legionnaires and posts are very humble and do not tout the positive efforts they are doing year-round to assist veterans and their families, active-duty servicemembers, youth and community members. However, it's time for us to start.

As we embark on our five-year membership plan, one of the strategies that departments are to adhere to is communication — communicate the Legion's efforts at the local and national level through public service announcements (PSA's), social media sites, etc. James McMann, a member and service officer for Post 318 in San Jose, Calif., can attest to this.

McMann submitted a PSA about a Hiring Our Heroes event that Post 318 was hosting to San Jose radio station 94.5 KBAY. KBAY producer Sam Van Zandi contacted McMann, proposing an on-air interview with him during the station’s “Salute to Military and Veterans” in May. During the interview, McMann discussed the history of The American Legion, our four pillars, our many children and youth programs, and how our accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance on VA benefits, free of charge, to veterans and their families.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to convey what the Legion has done for our veterans and community,” McMann said. “And it (was an opportunity) to promote the Legion as an organization worthy of joining.”

“Van Zandi offered his services to help if there was anything we wished to promote. This only proves that opportunities like these and the relationships they create can be used to further the Legion's goals, increase non-veterans public awareness of the Legion and show that we are a strong and relevant voice in the veterans community. The American Legion has a long history of service that most people are usually unaware of.”

The Legion provides a host of PSA's, from youth programs to membership promotions, that you can download online for free: www.legion.org/prtoolkit

You can also download the Legion's Public Relations Toolkit online for free: www.legion.org/prtoolkit

With ideas from the PR Toolkit, Legion posts can get noticed by newspaper editors and other media. For example, it is important to use pictures and video to highlight the human side of things when submitting a story to a newspaper. The key to making a compelling story is to make it local and unique and show how it affects the community.

Additionally, make local news personalities your Twitter or Facebook friends, so they can stay updated on what is happening within your post. McMann said that PSA's are one of the main communication tools that Legionnaires have to connect to people outside of the normal scope of communications.

“The next time you have something you want to publicize, don’t forget that your local radio stations (may) offer free PSA's,” McMann said. “All you have to do is ask. And you never know what else you may get from your efforts.”

We received the wonderful gift of airing a Legion screening of a film for the community who were able to gain an education about the community and solicit new members that we could never afford to buy.”

Daniel Wheeler, National Adjutant
September 4, 2013
Digital Dispatch

National Commander's Message to You

Dar Legion Family Members and Friends,

Among my first public duties as your national commander was to present The American Legion's legislative agenda in testimony before a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. As I went through our priorities, I reminded the lawmakers that we have a shared obligation to live up to our nation's promises to some 15 million men and women expected to separate from service in the coming years.

Just as important as my testimony on the Hill were numerous meetings between Legionnaires and members of their own congressional districts that took place following my appearance. On Capitol Hill, in congressional offices and in the home districts of our elected representatives, lawmakers take The American Legion priority list seriously and will act upon it, when we make the effort to keep them informed.

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Daniel Wheeler, National Adjutant
September 4, 2013

Digital Dispatch

Labor Day: American Legion Cyr-Plourde Post 145, Frenchville, and Thomas O’Cyr Post 147, Madawaska, made a presentation of twenty 12 x 18-inch American flags to the 20 WWII veterans left from both posts for Labor Day. A member of them from both posts lives at the Assisted Living Ridgwood Estates. Left to right, Post 147 member Rudolph Daigle, Post 145 Clifford Guerreau, Post 147 Erny Levesque, and Post 145 Robert Sinclair gave a demonstration at Ridgwood Estates where the activities took place on how to properly fold an American flag. Looking on in the background is a resident of Ridgwood Estates Mr. Ernest Charette. Ridgwood and Paradis Shop & Save provided refreshments for all who attended which was over 150 with Legionnaires and Auxiliaries from both posts.

— Bertrand Michaud, Post 145 Publicity Officer

Busy Season for Legion Riders

As we finally entered the riding season for 2013, all the Chapters had a full schedule. Many of the Chapters were holding fund raising activities for not only their post but for the Legion Riders annual Charities. But this year we also had a couple of special events.

The American Legion Post 32 from Pittsfield had just been re-vitalized and was working hard to let the veterans in the area know that they were back and getting the job done.

The new Commander, Harold Goodridge contacted me and wondered if a few Legion Riders would join them in the parade held in Pittsfield. I informed Mr. Goodridge that the Riders had a busy schedule and was not sure if they could attend. I contacted the Riders Director Paul L’Heureux, and let her know of the request.

We both decided that this would be a great project to show support of a Legion Post that had fallen on bad times, but thanks to a few veterans led by Commander “Harold” they were now a big part of the community. We got a few Riders, 42 was the count. They were there to show support and had a great time in the process.

Next we were asked by the Waldoboro Fire Dept. to help celebrate their 125th Anniversary. Well approximately 39 Riders not only supported that celebration, but the Riders won first place for the “Civic, Patriotic” category.

Next was the Riders Summer rally held in Dover-Foxcroft and sponsored by the American Legion Riders of Post 29. What started out by some who said it could not be done turned out as one great event.

The hospitality and planning was a class act. Starting out on Friday night on July 26th with a supper and social time, we then moved on to Saturday morning with a great breakfast. As more Riders arrived, we then lined up with 53 Riders and headed to Moosehead Lake area. Great weather and a well-organized ride and a nice lunch by the water’s edge was a winning formula.

And lastly the Post for our annual business meeting with awards and donations for our upcoming events. We ended the day with another great social time to follow. Sunday was a light breakfast and a big thank you to all as we rode back to our home towns.

Attending the meeting were Riders from: Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, Rockland Post 1, Waterville Post 5, Caribou Post 15, Skowhegan Post 16, Sanford Post 19, Bath Post 21, Rumford Post 24, Madison Post 39, Winthrop Post 49, Damariscotta Post 42, Cortmna Post 73, Old Town Post 75, Berwick Post 79, Dixfield Post 100, Madawaska Post 147, Auburn Post 153, Topsham Post 202, and Augusta Post 205.

Total donations for the American Legion Legacy Fund was $5000 that was presented at our National Convention by 2 Riders from Maine. The remaining funds raised were presented by the Riders at the Homeless Veterans event that was held in Augusta. State Director Ray Bouchard, and other Riders from all over Maine made a presentation to give a check for the amount of $13,500. “Great Job”

In closing, there are so many Riders that made all the events a success that it would be too hard to remember them all. But I do know one thing about all of them, They Ride and do what they do because they can. Thank you all for making 2013 another successful year. And from all of the Riders from Maine. Thank you for the support and Happy Holidays to you all.

Paul L’Heureux
Executive Director
Legion Activities

Top-Dog Grilling: National Commander Dan Dellinger who we are told is a pretty fair hand at the barbecue himself, standing with Past District 11 Commander’s and barbecue wizard’s Jerry Parker and Lee Spaulding at the Unity Post 50 barbecue pit (which was incidentally built by Jerry Parker) on Sept. 8. Left to right, National Commander Dan Dellinger, Past District 11 Commander’s Jerry Parker and Lee Spaulding.

Post 51 visit: National Commander Dan Dellinger with the members of Oakland Post 51 on Sept. 7.

Gifts given:
National Commander Dan Dellinger receives an LL Bean gift certificate from Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods. Left to right, National Commander Dan Dellinger, Department Commander John Hargreaves and Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods.

Area 3 recognition: Department Commander John Hargreaves and 1st Vice Commander Richard Graves give special recognition to Area 3 Commander Dan Boland for his service in the Korean War. Dan received this special recognition during Fall Conference on Sept. 21 at Bath Post 21. Left to right, Dept. Commander John Hargreaves, 1st Vice Commander Richard Graves, and Area 3 Commander Dan Boland.

The American Legion Post 16 in Skowhegan had a Boys and Girls State supper on October 7, 2013 with a great turn out and the stories from the kids were awesome to hear. To see the support from the families, school and the community was incredible. Front, left to right, Melissa Kelly, Monique Mills, Lindsey Boothby, Department 4th District Vice President Ann Spaulding, Shelby Watson, Maria Beaulieu, Holly Lupo and Heather Lupo. Back, left to right, Austin Frederick, Sam Edmondson and Cole Clement.

Fall Conference: Matt Herndon from National Headquarters conducts the LEAD training program during Fall Conference at Bath Post 21 on Sept. 21.
Past Post 171 Cdr. and Mid-Coast Veterans Council chair Roger Dumont (far right) speaking to US Sen. Angus King during the Wings Over Wiscasset event, Aug. 6. Roger discussed veterans benefits and the Grand Opening of the Mid Coast Veterans Resource Center at Brunswick Landing on Sept. 19. 6th District Cdr. Steve Jarrett (2nd from left) and Bonnie Dumont (3rd from left) listen in.

Harold T. Andrews Post 17, Portland hosted a barbeque for some of the residences of the Scarborough Maine Veteran’s Home on September 18. The guests were treated to a lunch followed by several games of “Bar-Bingo”, and a bag of gifts were given out to each resident. Post 17 Commander Curt Ballantine (standing back, right) poses with members and staff of the Scarborough Veterans Home.

Bath Post 21 Conducts POW/MIA Ceremony on September 20th. Names of all the Maine POW/MIA’s were read by Commander Al Morton. Left to right, Glenn Goodell (Sgt-at-arms), Caleb Donaldson (Sea Cadet), Al Morton (Post Commander), Sue LaFlemme (Auxiliary President), and Ignatius Sanborn (Sea Cadet).

Winthrop Post 40: Department Commander John Hargreaves, left, National Commander Dan Dellinger, center, and Winthrop Post 40 Member Don Chase at the new Winthrop Veterans Monument Park on Sept. 7.

The Sabattus
Harry J. Conway American Legion Post 135 recently conducted a Blue Star Service Banner presentation to seven local military families with members currently serving in the military. The following families or representative of serving military members were recognized with a Certificate and Blue Star Banner: Mrs. Katie Davis (1LT Adam Davis), Mrs. Tracey Rancourt (MSG James Rancourt), Miss Julie Rocray (SSG Woodbury Nickerson), Mrs. Mallory Hammond (SGT Cody Hammond), Mrs. Jamie Poulin (SGT Nicholas Poulin) and Mrs. Tiffany Libby (SGT Matthew Libby). Also recognized, but unable to attend, were Mrs. Jess Jacobson (SGT Timothy Jacobson). Top photo, left to right, Senator Garrett Mason, Tiffany Libby, Jamie Poulin, Tracey Rancourt, Mallory Hammond, Katie Davis, not pictured Juley Rocray; Jess Jacobson. Bottom photo, left to right, Joe Michaud, Senator Garrett Mason, Tracey Rancourt, Dominic Santomango and Gordon Smith.

Have You
Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today?
Help us increase membership for 2014!
Maine Legion Baseball State Tournament End-of-Season Results

2013 STATE TOURNAMENT

Maine Legion Baseball State Tournament

at the Augusta CARA Complex, Aug. 1-4, 2013

2013 Senior Legion All Tournament Team

OUTFIELDERS
Justin Courtney — Bangor
Robert Hamilton — Westbrook
Cody Duve — Windham
Keenan Lowe — Westbrook

INFIELDERS
Hunter Boyce — Bangor
Noah McDaniel — Staples Crossing
Zack Quintal — Staples Crossing
Zack Bean — Westbrook
Joey Pranceur — Windham
Max McCubbin — Staples Crossing
Sam Staub — Westbrook
Corbin Hyde — Pastime (Lewiston)

PITCHERS
Zack Lachance — Red Barn
Curtis Worster — Bangor
Nate Boyle — Windham
MVP-Robert Hamilton — Westbrook
Team Sportsmanship Award — Bangor

Tournament Scores
Game 1 — Pastime 3 - Red Barn 1
Game 2 — Bangor 14 - Fayette Staples 0
Game 3 — Westbrook 8 - Windham 7
Game 4 — Staples Crossing 10 - Brewer 3
Game 5 — Red Barn 11 - Fayette Staples 10
Game 6 — Windham 8 - Brewer 2
Game 7 — Bangor 9 - Pastime 3
Game 8 — Westbrook 9 - Staples Crossing 8
Game 9 — Windham 7 - Pastime 6
Game 10 — Staples Crossing 16 - Red Barn 6
Game 11 — Westbrook 9 - Bangor 3
Game 12 — Bangor 12 - Staples Crossing 6
Game 13 — Windham 10 - Westbrook 6
Game 14 — Windham 5 - Bangor 4
Game 15 — Windham 9 - Westbrook 1 (Championship Game)

SCARBOROUGH "WHO DUN IT?!" AWARD

Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 Dun It! That's Who!

Commander Bob Coulthard, Past Commander Duane Jutting, & Past Commander Dave Dolloff

There are certain people or organizations in a community that are the “glue” or the backbone that hol things together.

Since 1945, one such group in Scarborough is Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76.

The three commanders and past commanders shown here at a BBQ to raise money for Legion charitable causes are just a few of the players involved in doing good things for Scarborough. Whether it is hosting Red Cross blood drives; sponsoring the annual festive Scarborough Memorial Day Parade; supporting American Legion baseball for dozens of local teenage boys each summer; or organizing other events for kids; the members of Post 76 Dun It! Their members returned to Scarborough from the battle fields of World War II; Korea; Viet Nam; and the Persian Gulf and could have said, I am done with my service to my country. They did not do that. They continue to be active in their town. We all benefit because they do.

Who Dun It! Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 Dun It.
And Scarborough is better off because they did.

The Maine Legionnaire, November 2013
National Commander’s Focus: National Emergency Fund

My fundraising program: NEF

What will 50 cents get you these days? Maybe a small cup of coffee, perhaps a gumball for a grandchild or a stamp. Fifty cents, however, will go a long way toward helping members of The American Legion Family or posts that are struck by natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, flood strikes or wildfires.

During my national commander’s acceptance speech last month in Houston for the 95th National Convention, I set a $1 million fundraising goal for the Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) program. It’s a lofty goal, but it comes down to just 50 cents per member.

We don’t know when or where the next disaster will occur, nor do we know how severe it will be. We do know that Legionnaires, posts and family members will need assistance as they recover from a tragedy. NEF donations help Legion Family members pay bills, such as temporary housing, food and clothes, while they wait for insurance money to kick in. NEF has also helped posts refurbish or rebuild after a disaster.

In the past year, the NEF program has granted nearly $750,000 in assistance for qualified veterans. Money has gone to victims of Superstorm Sandy in New York and New Jersey, as well as those recovering from tornadoes in Moore, Okla., and flooding in Marseilles, Ill.

Posts are encouraged to take an active role in raising funds for NEF and there are many easy ways to drive donations, such as a motorcycle rally, a fish fry or a golf outing. Posts should also consider partnering with an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Riders chapter in order to receive greater participation and to promote the event more effectively.

And remember, as you hold fundraisers or ask for contributions, be sure to let prospective donors know that 100 percent of donations go toward grants for Legionnaires, posts and family members who are dealing with the after-effects of an emergency situation. All marketing and promotional costs are paid by National Headquarters.

Final touches are being put on a new series of NEF brochures that are aimed at assisting department and post leaders on best practices before, during and after an emergency. When the brochures are completed, review the documents and identify NEF coordinators who can familiarize themselves with what can be done ahead of time and how to respond during a disaster in your community.

Part of those efforts include distributing the checks to those in need. Their payout is our organization’s payoff for a successful fundraising campaign.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing generosity.

— Dan Dellinger, National Commander
September 4, 2013

Photo by William Cicillote

Pittsfield Mayor Gary Jordan Jr., left, presents Pittsfield Commander Harold Goodridge, center, with Proclamation, declaring 9/11 Remembrance Day in Pittsfield. Assisting with the presentation is Department of Maine Commander John Hargreaves.
American Legion Post 22 Lewiston invites all veterans and family members to attend the Tree of Honor at the State House Hall of Flags on December 6th at 3:30 pm to add their loved ones name/boots to the Tree of Honor. Please see attached photo of last year’s tree. You can email the name of your loved one that served in the military to me and I will add their boots to the Tree of Honor for the holidays. We are hoping VETERANS AND FAMILIES will attend this event in honor of those that served our country past and present. For more information, please contact Post 22 Commander Jerry DeWitt, LSW - Ph: 783-4663 x228, Cell: 576-0576 or via email: jdewitt@tcnhs.org

Legion Needs to Inform Public of What We Do

The National and State Commanders have stressed the importance of upgrading our public relations efforts at all levels. The number one complaint made by the membership at the Fall Conference was the general public just doesn’t know what we do. The Department of Maine public relations committee is committed to answer the call.

At the Fall Conference and every week thereafter, the public relations committee has been meeting to develop objectives and strategies for reaching those objectives.

During its deliberations, two things became clear. First, there is much work to be done. And secondly, to get the job done we will need the commitment of every post and district in the state.

Among the objectives the committee set, are as follows: (1) Establish a training team to travel the state to guide local posts in starting an ongoing PR program. (2) Establish personal relations with local media staff. (3) Develop and distribute ongoing radio and TV public service announcements. (4) Write and submit written press releases to local newspapers. (5) Create social media to enhance ongoing communication among members and the general public.

The measurement of our PR efforts hopefully will be increased membership from last year.

We need every Legionnaire to buy into the above goals and objectives if we are going to get the job done. As an immediate start, individual members can review the meaning of the Four Pillars, tell a fellow vet about the pillars, then ask that veteran to join.

The public relations committee is excited and welcome the challenge. Comrades who feel they have some good ideas to enhance our image in the community should contact PR committee chair Pat Eisenhart at 207-623-4839 or pat@theopcenter.com.

Stay tuned for the good of the Legion!

Pat Eisenhart
Public Relations Chairman

Winning... with Teamwork

Post 50 Barbeque: National Commander Dan Dellinger, left, receives a license plate from Unity Post 50 Commander Randolph Korsik on Sept. 8. at the chicken barbeque Unity Post 50 held in his honor.
FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES

Charlotte, North Carolina - August 22-28, 2014
http://www.charlottesgotalot.com/

Baltimore, Maryland - August 28 - September 3, 2015
http://baltimore.org/about-bacva

Cincinnati, Ohio - August 26 - September 1, 2016
http://www.cincyusa.com/

Louisville, Kentucky - August 25 - 31, 2017
http://www.gotolouisville.com/

Minneapolis, Minnesota - August 24 - 30, 2018
100th National Convention of The American Legion
http://www.minneapolis.org/

Indianapolis, Indiana - August 23 - 29, 2019
100th birthday of The American Legion
http://visitindy.com/am legion

Hospitality for National Commander Dan Dellinger, right, and his Aide Bob Renner at the hospitality reception held at the Ninety-Nine Restaurant in Augusta for the Commander’s visit on Sept. 6.

Richmond Post 132: National Commander Dan Dellinger receives a signed banner from the members of Richmond Post 132 and those in attendance at the National Commander’s Banquet on Sept. 7. Left to right, Past National Commander Anthony Jordan, National Commander Dan Dellinger, and Department Commander John Hargreaves.

National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger visits Unity Post 50 on Sept. 8, 2013 for a chicken barbeque held in his honor during his official visit to Maine. Left to right, 2nd Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette, National Commander Daniel Dellinger, District 11 Commander Clayton York, and Post 163 member Morrison Horridge.

Maine State Flag: National Commander Dan Dellinger, left, receives the Maine State Flag from District 11 Commander Clayton York, center, while Unity Post 50 Commander Randy Korsiak views an autographed license plate the National Commander had just been presented at the wonderfully delicious chicken barbeque given on Sept. 8 at Unity Post 50.

Post 119: Americanism Officer Charles Foss, center, receives Service Certificates from Department Commander John Hargreaves, left, and National Executive Committeeeman Paul L’Heureux, right, at the 14th District meeting held at Guilford Post 119 on Sept. 14.
A deployment doesn’t only require a sign-ificant commitment from a service-member; it requires a significant commitment from his or her family as well. That’s the message behind Everyone Serves, a handbook released by Blue Star Families that aims to help family and friends of a service man or woman cope with the stresses associated with a deployment. The American Legion’s Economic Division gave input on the handbook, which is available in PDF, eBook or Web form at EveryoneServesBook.com.

The website serves as an “advice hub” for military families and friends of service-mem bers. In addition to videos, it features video interviews with individuals who share their experiences of having a loved one deploy and worksheets that help a military family evaluate how they are dealing with a deployment. Advice is tailored according to three stages: pre-deployment, deployment, and reintegration.

Reda Hicks, wife of an Army pilot currently in Afghanistan, and her son, Howie, have had the experience firsthand of having a family member deploy and used the handbook for guidance. Hicks, who blogs about military life and her experiences as a spouse of an active service member, said Everyone Serves is a good resource because it gives practical advice in non-military language.

“The book covers a broad array of things that come up before, during and after deployment,” Hicks said. “And the language is very straight-forward. You don’t need any background in military. There are none of the acronyms we love so much — truly military speak.” Hicks, whose Houston home is nowhere near a major military installation, said she has observed how unaware her civilian friends are of the impact that a deployment can have on the friends and family members of a service member. In addition, military spouses and veterans service organizations like The American Legion can help “bridge the divide” that growing numbers of civilians and a civilian population that is increasingly losing its connection to the military.

It’s crucial, she said, that the civilian population realizes the issues that military spouses face.

“Many civilians don’t know that a large and growing population of military spouses are professionals — lawyers, accountants, teachers, medical professionals — who suffer from very high unemployment because they have a hard time getting a new license each time they move, and civilian employers don’t know they are there,” she said.

“Many military spouse organizations are working on the licensing piece, but we need help raising awareness that these amazing women and men are out there, make great employees, and really need the work.”

— Posted in Veterans Career Center

www.legion.org/careers

Department of Maine Fundraising Programs

Your Donations Welcomed!

Bangor Troop Greeters: An ongoing program provides funding for a Bangor Troop Greeters for support of our armed forces serving overseas by greeting troops returning or leaving for active duty from Bangor International Airport. The Bangor Troop Greeters is a non-profit group of veterans and men and women that welcome each troop home from war and give a proper send off to each of the young men and women heading overseas.

Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals: The Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals established in 1983 is a fundraising organization that works to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible.

Children’s Homeless Veterans Stand-down: Donations go to State Headquarters to be forwarded to State Headquarters to be forwarded to the Stand-downs.

Maine Blind Camp: An ongoing program that provides funding to the Maine Blind Camp for the Blind in Waterville. Donations go to State Headquarters to be forwarded to the Togus VA Center for the comfort of the patients.

Operation Military Kids (OMK): The U.S. Army’s combined effort with America’s communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. OMK’s goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being.

Tasks: An ongoing program that provides funds to be used at the Togus VA Center for the comfort of the patients. Funds are used for such things as canteen, books, christmas parties, christmas gifts, pizza parties, game parties, camp parties, ice cream parties, camping parties, etc. Donations go to State Headquarters to be accounted for.

The American Legion Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals: The American Legion’s largest annual meeting.

The American Legion Child Welfare Fund: Established in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Its main philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across this nation. Donations received at State Headquarters will be presented to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during National Convention, the American Legion’s largest annual meeting.

The American Legion Special Olympics: An ongoing special works program, which provides funding for Maine Special Olympians. Donations go to State Headquarters to be forwarded to the Special Olympics during the annual State Convention.

The Maine Veterans Homes: An ongoing program that provides funds to the six Maine Veterans Homes for social activities for the residents. Donations for this fund should state which Home (Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough, South Paris) you wish your funds to go to.

The American Legion Post Excellence Award Program Continues

The Post Excellence Award program honors posts that show excellence in membership participation, youth activities, community service, and support to veterans and U.S. troops. Criteria:

- Membership. Post membership must be at least one member more than the previous year. A post officer must attend district meetings.
- Youth activities. The post must sponsor and actively participate in at least one secondary youth program: Boys State, Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts of America or Junior Shooting Sports.
- Community service. The post must organize a community service project that involves members of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion. A monetary donation may only be one part of a project.
- Service to troops or veterans. The post must organize a project supporting troops or veterans (for example, Family Support Network or Operation Comfort Warriors), that involves members of the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL outside the post. A monetary donation may only be one part of a project.
- Certification. District commanders must certify posts as having fulfilled the four specified criteria, and submit a list of the post’s name, number, address and commander’s name to department headquarters. Each qualified post, as well as district commanders whose districts have at least 50 percent of posts reach certification, will receive a certificate of recognition.

www.legion.org/commander/postexcellence

— Dispatch

Get your DD-214 Online Now

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has developed the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214 online: http://retrecs.archives.gov
This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his/her DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard form 180, which can be downloaded from the online website.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Get your DD-214 online at: Get your DD-214 Online Now

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers manual and paper process.

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Variety of Free e-newsletters
Keep Veterans, Families Informed

The American Legion has a variety of free e-newsletters to keep veterans, military personnel and their families updated on job fairs, health-care benefits, Legion programs and more.

Subscribe to the following e-newsletters online: www.legion.org/newsletters

Legislative Update. The email features information on key issues such as veteran’s health care and benefits, national security, education and career benefits, and flag protection. It also provides advance notice on Legion involvement in congressional hearings.

Flag Alert. An e-mail notification is sent when the flag of the United States is to be displayed at half-staff.

Veterans Career Center. The email provides a list of military job fairs around the country, information on career resources, and updates on legislation that affects veterans employment or education benefits. Legion Riders. The monthly email provides information on The American Legion Legacy Run, as well as links to external media stories on what Legion Rider chapters are doing across the country.

Commander’s Message. The national commander sends out emails, usually twice monthly, about important Legion initiatives and programs, and items of general interest to the veterans community.

Online Update. The weekly email includes news stories, slide shows, video features, and advance notices that relate to veterans affairs, Legion programs and activities, and members of the Armed Forces.

Digital Dispatch. The monthly email is aimed at department and post leadership and features stories on membership, post activities, awards and more.

Dugout. The bi-monthly email keeps Legion Baseball coaches updated on registration information, famous alumni, news stories, Legion World Series news and more.

Remembrance Day:
Douglas Wallace, center, received a Purple Heart Citation and Certificate of Appreciation from the citizens of Maine. Governor Paul LePage made the presentations on Remembrance Day, 9/11. Daughter Donna Wallace looks on.

Madison Post 39 Legion Member Receives the French Legion of Honor Award. On September 16th, 2013 retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Warren McAvoy, right, was presented with the French Legion of Honor Medal for his role in the liberation of France at Normandy during World War Two. The medal was presented by French Counsel General Mr. Fabien Fieschi, left, during a ceremony held at the South Hadley, Massachusetts Town Hall. Sergeant McAvoy has been a member of Tardiff-Belanger Post #39 for 61 continuous years. He enlisted in the National Guard in 1938 at the age of 15 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in October of 1941. In 1948 he enlisted in The U. S. Air Force and served until his retirement in 1964. The French Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional Merit.

Flag Day Ceremony at the Laura E. Richards School in Gardiner on June 22. The following members of Smith-Wiley Post 4 in Gardiner attended the ceremony: Dana Walls, Phil Collins, Jim Keenan, Dick Oben, Ed Brill, Greg Couture (Litchfield Post 181) and Barbara Kasiola.
Paid Up For Life Advantages

During the 2013-2014 membership year, National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who obtains five family member Commander pin endorsement.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Each member list may be submitted at any time after Aug. 31. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the member who earned it. Commander Dellinger’s “Building for Tomorrow Today” pin incentive program will end June 30, 2014, or when supplies are exhausted.

Please visit www.legion.org or www.mainelegion.org to obtain a copy of the Incentive Pin Certification Form or call Department Headquarters at 873-3229.

To view the PUFL membership rate chart visit: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/puflbrochure.pdf

To print a copy of the PUFL membership application visit: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/pufllfillable.pdf

The PUFL membership rate chart and application can also be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application or by contacting Department Headquarters at 873-3229.

Building for Tomorrow Today Pin

During the 2013-2014 membership year, National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who obtains five new members into The American Legion.

A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2014 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2013 membership year.

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

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

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Aug. 31. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Dellinger’s “Building for Tomorrow Today” pin incentive program will end June 30, 2014, or when supplies are exhausted.

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Wells-Hussey Memorial Post 42, Damariscotta recently erected a new flag pole enhancing the Veterans Memorial at the post home.

First Lady
Ann LePage presents a Blue Star Flag to Rita Barbioni, center, mother of Joseph Barbioni Jr. (USAF) on Remembrance Day, Sept. 11th in Brunswick. Past Department Commander Larry Dearborn assisted with the presentation. The First Lady presented banners to seven additional families.

Photo by William Cicotte

Post 153: Executive Director of the Legion Rider’s Program Paul L’Heureux, left, presents a plaque to Auburn Post 153 Commander Paul R. Bernard. Plaque states: “In grateful appreciation to the American Legion, William J. Rogers Post 153, Department of Maine is accorded the right hand salute of respect and admiration for support of the 7th Annual American Legion Legacy Run to benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund issued this 24th day of August.” It was signed by the American Legion National Commander, Fang A. Wong and the National Adjutant, Daniel S. Wheeler. L’Heureux stated that the Legion Rider’s program for Maine alone raised over $5,000 for the scholarship fund and also $15,000 for Homeless Veterans.
Taps Column

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<td>Eugene C. Lamkin Jr.</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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Want to Join the Legion? Here’s How

For veterans who qualify, there are multiple ways to join The American Legion. The traditional way is to fill out a simple form, which can be given to a recruiter or any Legionnaire who will make sure that the rest of the process is in motion. Prospective members may also join online.

We look at both methods, each of which can be done in a matter of minutes:

**Paper Form:** After a new member completes the application form, a Legion representative will sign it and take it to the local post. If a candidate is signed up at a post, he or she can receive the membership card on the spot or will be sent the new card shortly thereafter.

**Online Form:** Prospective members also can sign up online. Visit www.legion.org/join and follow the easy prompts from there. This information will be processed by National Headquarters. Once processed, a membership card will be sent along with other new-member materials.

Members can simply go to www.legion.org/renew and click “Renew Now” to safely and conveniently pay their dues. Once a member enters the information requested, he or she can set the account for automatic annual renewal, as well as select the option to receive electronic renewal notices instead of notices through the mail.

If the membership is current, he or she may still choose to sign up for automatic annual renewal and/or to receive renewal notices only. Automatic renewal can also be set up by calling the toll-free American Legion customer service line at 1-800-243-3313. Benefits of American Legion membership:

- **Voice on Capitol Hill:** The American Legion is the nation’s most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veterans affairs, fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that VA’s medical system is effectively serving those who served.
- **VA benefit assistance:** You and your family may easily save you many times the cost of your annual membership dues.
- **Magazine:** Our nation’s leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The monthly magazine features in-depth analysis, historical stories, Q&As with high-profile officials, news about veterans issues and much more.

Learn more at www.legion.org/Members/Membership and Post Activities.
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the February 2014 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be Jan. 24, 2014.

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 for you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

Photos should be clearly marked as to who’s who in the picture as well as who took the picture.

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at (207) 873-3229.

Attention: Next Deadline Is Jan. 24

District 8: Department of Maine Commander John Hargreaves met with the newly elected 8th District Officers at the District 8 meeting held at Bath Post 21 on Sept. 8. Left to right, Topsham Post 202 Iona Osnowe (94 years), Chaplain; Post 21 Ed Morton, Internal Affairs; Post 171 Dan Boland, Area 3 Commander; Department of Maine Commander John Hargreaves; Post 171 Bob Webber, Adjutant; Brunswick Post 20 Dan Lindsley, District 8 Commander. The group proposed a new set of Constitution and By-laws and set dates for meetings.

Happy & Safe Holidays to You and Yours

from All of Us at the American Legion State Headquarters