



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



January 12, 2007

**If you can find a path with no obstacles,
it probably doesn't lead anywhere.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Vinalhaven Post 18

Old Orchard Beach Post 57

Old Town Post 75

Saco Post 86

No. Berwick Post 87

Oxford Post 112

Athens Post 192

Membership

Membership is doing exceptionally well this year so far and we should be proud of all of our accomplishments throughout the Department. We have 63 posts that have achieved 100% or more of their previous year's membership and many more that are oh so close. District 17 Commander John Cyr and all the membership go-getters in Northern Aroostook have really set the pace this year by reaching 100% before the end of the calendar year. We have several Districts that are closing the gap and working really hard to get to the magic number. Good luck to all.

We continue to be in the top ten on the National membership report as we have been for the last seven or eight years and to consistently rate that high Nationally speaks volumes for our dedicated membership team in Maine. So far this year we have recruited just under 900 (878) new members for the 2007 Legion year and that is terrific. Membership in The American Legion, even at the increased dues rate, is one of the best deals around. In addition to belonging to an organization that takes care of our veterans, takes care of children, has unparalleled Americanism programs, and stands for a strong national defense, there are many discounts available by just showing your Legion card as you will see later in this issue and many, many more good reasons to belong to stand shoulder to shoulder with your fellow veterans. Please keep up the great membership work. Membership is a team effort and we need YOU on our team. Thank you.

REMINDER – DUES RECEIVED AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER JANUARY 9, 2007 MUST BE AT THE NEW DUES RATE OF \$23.00 PER PERSON AS PASSED BY DEPARTMENT CONVENTION RESOLUTION IN JUNE 2006.

**Membership Renewal
Notification Cards**

We have recently received a supply of post cards from our National organization for individual posts to send to their members who have yet to renew their membership for 2007 that are available to any post that wishes to use them. Please let us know if you wish to have some on hand at your post and we will send them to you. As well, we will have a supply of these on hand at the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference in Auburn for those who will be attending.

Member Benefits

A Maine legionnaire told me yesterday of using the American Legion discount at LensCrafters to purchase a new pair of glasses and sunglasses. She was able to save \$415. Great discounts are available to every legionnaire; all we have to do is ask. She said that none of the other discounts available or newspaper coupons even came close to matching this discount. In most places it is just a matter of showing your membership card.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Sanford Post 19	\$450.00 – Commander’s Project
Skowhegan Post 16	\$250.00 – Commander’s Project
Eliot Post 188	\$100.00 – Commander’s Project
Windham Post 148	\$250.00 – Commander’s Project
Clayton Heath, Norway Post 82	\$10.00 – Commander’s Project
Roland Goss, Freeport Post 83	\$25.00 – Commander’s Project
Austin Colman, Bar Mills Post 130	\$25.00 – Commander’s Project
Clifford Holman, Bar Mills Post 130	\$50.00 – Commander’s Project
Gary Jones, Oakland Post 51	\$10.00 – Commander’s Project
Bath Unit 21	\$50.00 – Commander’s Project
(Fashion contest for Kitty Wing & John Doyle)	
Dudley Leavitt, Bath Post 21	\$25.00 – Commander’s Project
Dudley Leavitt, Bath Post 21	\$100.00 – VETAID
Don & Roberta Simoneau	\$50.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Oxford County Auxiliary (for Joyce Bickford)	\$26.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Livermore Falls Post 10 (for Roberta Simoneau)	\$105.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)

Thank You

National Vice Commander Lloyd Woods of Madawaska Post 147 conveys his personal thank you to all legionnaires in Maine who have done so much for membership. At our recent National target date Maine was number six in the Nation and NUMBER ONE in the Northeast Region and Lloyd is proud of us all. He said that Maine continues to set an example for other Departments to follow and is proud to represent Maine as our National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region

Directory Change

Pg. 4, Department Historian Charlie Foss has a new telephone number, 564-2907.

What's Happening?

9th District Oratorical Contest: Jan. 17, Winthrop High School, Performing Arts Center, 9:20 a.m.

Maine Special Olympics: Jan. 17, Special Olympics Committee meeting, Richmond Post 132, 6 p.m., all welcome.

Mid-Winter Conference: Jan. 19 – 21, Fireside Inn and Suites, Auburn. Located just off Exit 75 of the Maine Turnpike. Auburn Post 153 will be having a DJ at the post home for your entertainment and dancing pleasure on Friday evening starting at 8:00 p.m. All conference attendees are invited to join in the festivities.

Special Olympics Winter Games: Jan. 29 – 31, 2007, Sugarloaf USA.

40/8 Washington's Birthday 2007: Feb. 16-17, Best Western- Merry Manor, 700 Main St, So Portland. Contact Dick Prince at 428-3737 or chiefw4@aol.com FMI

District Meetings

1st District: Jan. 13, Bar Mills Post 130, 2 p.m.

2nd District: Jan. 14, So. Portland Post 35, Oratorical, 2 p.m.

3rd District: Jan. 14, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 1 p.m. Oratorical, 2 p.m. mtg.

5th District: Jan. 17, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. with Oratorical on the agenda.

11th District: Jan. 21, Belfast Post 43, 2 p.m.

Sick Call

William “Gene” Bickford, NECA of Norway Post 82, 22 Sanborn Circle, Norway 04268

Condolences

James McMahon, Past Department Commander of Auburn Post 153 recently passed away. Cards can be sent to his widow Dorothy McMahon, 126 Cedarwood Lane, Madison, TN 37115

Edmund Hagan, Bath Post 21, husband of Past Department President Charlotte Boynton Hagan recently passed away. Cards can be sent to Charlotte at P. O. Box 241, Bath 04530.

Theresa Vigue, wife of Noel “Clem” Vigue, Waterville Post 5, recently passed away. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Clem at 466 Maple Ridge Rd., Winslow 04901.

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment News**

The dip was certainly an experience. Although the weather was pleasant for the 6th of January, it is still a shock to the system. The tide was high and the wind was blowing and there were four of us that went to the beach. After the photo ops were taken, we went in.... And out very quickly!

It looks like winter will finally take place this year. During Mid-Winter Conference we will try to take advantage of a couple of programs that will be available in the afternoon. These include a “Healing Fields” presentation and another one that is a surprise.

I am looking to appoint a new committee at Mid-Winter Conference. This will be named the Detachment Commanders Advisory Committee. Its main function will be to assist detachment commanders through their year and to promote aspiring detachment commanders to help them become better leaders. This will be made up of Past Detachment Commanders with the immediate past commander as chair. This will be a five-member committee and as each new past commander takes the chair the longest past commander will be relieved from the committee.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

WISH LIST – January, 2007
Department of Veterans Affairs Center (135)
Augusta, Maine 04330 (207) 621-4886

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Drivers for statewide Volunteer Transportation network – Sanford, Rumford, Rockland, Brunswick, Skowhegan and Bangor.
2. Veterans History Project – recording personal histories.
3. Office Assistance – Saco Clinic.
4. Escort and Delivery – Hospital wide and in Primary Care on weekdays.
5. Canteen Service – assisting during lunch time.
6. Mealtime companions for long term care patients - individuals and small groups needed.
7. Nuclear medicine – Office help & procedure buddies.
8. Primary Care – Computer instruction – My Health E Vet & Move Program.
9. Information desk – Monday & Wednesday.
10. Nursing Home Care Unit – escort needed Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
11. Hospice Volunteers – training provided.
12. NHCU – assistance with clothing/writing letters/reading/visitation.
13. NHCU – 1 on 1 visitation to play board games/cribbage/dominos/etc.
14. Optometry – repairs and other duties during weekdays.
15. Telehealth Support – Learn to provide support in your community to patients using home telehealth devices (Aroostook, Washington, Hancock, Oxford and Cumberland counties).

ONGOING PROGRAM SUPPORT:

1. Electric razors – triple head type. (\$49 – 69 ea.)
2. Comfort Item Program (disposable razors, déodorant, etc.)
3. Diabetic snacks for clinic patients.
4. Coffee & Newspaper funds – provides coffee/newspapers at waiting areas/wards/clinics.
5. General Patient Comfort Fund (Memorial Donations)
6. Adapted Sports Equipment/Outings – Recreation Therapy.
7. National Rehabilitation Events (Golden Age Games, Winter Sports, Wheelchair Games, and Creative Arts)
8. Crayons & coloring books for waiting areas (financial support needed)

SPECIAL REQUESTS/PROJECTS:

1. Stereo for Building 207 Physical Therapy Clinic.
2. Unit 4 South activity sponsorship.
3. Oncology waiting area guest services.
4. Televisions for patient rooms (**approx. \$285 ea.**)
5. Wheelchairs for volunteer escort service. (**approx. \$125 each**)

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME! Used stamps; Jigsaw puzzles; playing cards; hardcover books; romance novels; magazines over three months old; soap; after-shave; writing tablets; pens and envelopes. **Due to Infection Control policies we are unable to take used walkers, canes, or crutches at this time.**