



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



January 26, 2007

**The way to get things done is not to  
mind who gets the credit for doing them**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

#### Mid-Winter Conference Highlights

Our Mid-Winter Conference held at the Fireside Inn and Suites in Auburn was a rousing success based on the positive comments received during and after the event. On Saturday an eventful agenda, coordinated and arranged by Department Commander Don Simoneau and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander John Doyle was presented to approximately 80 legionnaires. Vice Commander Doyle performed admirably as the moderator over the weekend as Department Commander Simoneau was unable to be with us. There were Department committee presentations, awards, and more, with a Military Code of Conduct program presented by EM1 (SW) Shawn Vance of Bath Post 21 and the address by candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Dave Rehbein of Iowa highlighting the day. Another highlight on Saturday was a surprise visit by Congressman Mike Michaud. He was warmly received by all Legion family members and took a few minutes to update us on the latest happenings in Washington D.C. pertaining to veterans. Thank you Congressman Michaud.

Saturday evening's banquet saw a gathering of nearly 100 Legion family members conclude the day with another inspiring address by Mr. Rehbein. On Sunday morning both the Legion and the Auxiliary concluded the conference with Executive Committee meetings and then all were back on the road to head for home and some much needed rest. A big thank you to all who pitched in to make this a successful conference with special thanks to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Paul L'Heureux and Department Commander's Aide Ken Bouchard of Livermore Falls Post 10.

At the close of the conference on Saturday the winners were drawn in our Sweepstakes Raffle that enriched some individuals with the grand prizewinner taking home \$3,500.00. The winners were as follows:

Merton Round - \$3,500.00 – Orono Post 84  
Gerald Bell - \$500.00 – Windham Post 148  
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Mark Pilgrim - \$1,000.00 – Berwick Post 79  
Herbert Marsh - \$200.00 – Headquarters Post

It should be noted here that Mr. Round returned \$500.00 of his winnings as a donation to the Department of Maine for our American Legion Boys State program.

**Department Executive  
Committee Actions**

As previously mentioned on page one, the Department of Maine Executive Committee met on Sunday January 21, 2007 at the Fireside Inn and Suites with the following actions passed by this committee:

- Voted to allow Department officers to receive travel pay beyond the current fiscal year up to the annual convention.
- Voted to increase the Oratorical Contest budget from \$2,150 to \$3,300 to cover the new expanded contest necessitated by the change in the Department structure from seven Districts to 17 Districts.
- Authorized a part-time employee for Department Headquarters.
- Increased the budget for Post Development to allow for “seed money” for our newly chartered post in Turner, due to the lack of dues money available in their charter process.
- Approved the Commander’s appointment of Mickey Boutilier as the Public Relations Committee Chairman
- Authorized members of the Department Finance Committee (DFC) to have a “voice” at Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings on DFC recommendations.

**Department Vice Commanders  
Announce New Awards**

Department Vice Commanders Paul L’Heureux and John Doyle have announced a new award for this year for the outstanding District Commander and the outstanding Post Commander.

This award will be based partially on membership, but will also encompass the commander’s community involvement, leadership ability, aspirations within the Legion, and other recommendations.

The District Commander’s Leadership Award will be known as the Past National Commander William J. Rogers’ Award and the symbol awarded will be a Rogers’ Ranger. The Post Commander’s Leadership Award will be known as the Past National Commander Anthony G. “Tony” Jordan Award and the symbol awarded will be a Tony’s Tiger.

Past National Commander Anthony Jordan and the Department Vice Commanders will judge the applications to determine the winners. Our Past National Commanders will present the awards at our Department convention and the headquarters office will notify the recipients to confirm his or her attendance at the convention.

**PLEASE SEE THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR THE APPLICATION FORM. THIS FORM CAN BE USED FOR EITHER AWARD. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MAY 1, 2007**

**Help Wanted**

The Department of Maine headquarters office in Waterville is looking for a legionnaire to work part-time for approximately 18 hours per week. During peak workload and conference/convention times there is a requirement to work additional hours. This individual must have a background in or be able to be trained in the following areas:

Public Relations – Coordinate with news media agencies, write news releases, provide guidance for inquiries, and coordinate with the Department PR committee.

Conferences – Will assist with the coordination of conferences, conventions and other statewide gatherings of our organization.

Programs – Must be familiar with and able to coordinate with Department committees and or to provide guidance to same.

Other duties as assigned by the Department Adjutant.

This will be a salaried position with no overtime paid for additional hours worked during peak workload times. Salary range will be \$200 - \$250 weekly.

Please send a letter stating your, background, qualifications and desire to hold this position to Department of Maine, P. O. Box 900, Waterville 04903, Attn. Ron Sailor.

**American Legion  
Dirigo Boys State**

We have finalized the details of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program and the mailings to each school and each post adjutant will be in the mail by the time you read this. For those who may not receive one of these mailings, the following information may be helpful.

The cost for each delegate to attend Boys State remains at \$230.00. The dates for this year's program are June 16 – 21, 2007. Graduation has changed from Friday morning to Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. This year the program will be held at Thomas College in Waterville.

This program is for students who have completed their junior year of high school. The selection process varies from post to post, but is generally done with the school recommending the students and the post selecting the delegates. Merit and ability are two important factors, but attitude and desire to attend also play a large part in the selection process. The real key to a success, both for the student and for the program is participation. When delegates participate, everyone wins.

If you would like more information on the program, please contact this office and we will be pleased to send it to you. You can also check out the program on our web site at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

**Michaud To Head House  
Veterans Affairs Committee**

U. S. Representative Michael Michaud was unanimously elected to serve as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health this past Tuesday. Michaud vowed to continue to work with veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs and his congressional colleagues to fulfill the nation's promises to veterans and their families.

“With both an aging population and a new generation of veterans coming from Iraq and Afghanistan, it is critical that the VA has the resources necessary to meet their diverse needs,” he said in a statement. “This subcommittee will be examining issues important to veterans in Maine and across the country, especially funding for VA medical care.”

Previously, Michaud, from Millinocket, Maine served as the ranking Democrat on this subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over veterans' hospitals, medical care and treatment of veterans. He had the endorsement of the panel's top Democrat, Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois, who retired because of health reasons.

**Valentine's Day  
Party at Togus**

Volunteers will be holding a Valentine's Day party at the Veterans Hospital at Togus on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and would like to have more Legion family members to join in with the fun for the patients. If you wish to join in, please meet the group at 9:30 a.m. at Building 205 on the third floor. It will be a fun time and a great way to help our veterans who are hospitalized. For more information, please call Mary Barger at 443-4807.

**Kudos**

Gray Post 86 for their award of \$200 for the Post 86 scholarship awarded to Adam Bridges.

Augusta Post 205 for their donation of a 4 X 6 American flag to the Cohen Senior Center in Hallowell.

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for providing the town with \$4,000 to secure the Vietnam Moving Wall for the Memorial Day celebration in May 2007.

Tony Cincotta of Berwick Post 79 for his extra effort to follow up with a needy veteran to obtain assistance for this veteran.

**Healing Field  
Correction**

The Healing Field project of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maine is under way attempting to purchase 25,000 American flags to decorate our state capitol as well as travel down the turnpike all the way to New Hampshire this upcoming **Veterans Day**. (previously reported as Memorial Day) There is a new web site for this at: [www.healingfield.org/maine07](http://www.healingfield.org/maine07) All the proceeds of this project will go toward benefiting veterans in Maine. Please take a minute or two to visit this exceptional web site.

If you would like a further explanation of what this program is all about and how your post can support this wonderful effort, please contact Past Department Commander Herman Wright at 882-6764 or via the Internet at [hwright3@clinic.net](mailto:hwright3@clinic.net)

**Donations**

*THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU*

Trenton Post 207 (\$1 per member)	\$410.00 – Commander’s Project
Merton Round, Orono Post 84	\$500.00 – Boys State
Litchfield Post 181	\$94.00 – Commander’s Project
So. China Post 179	\$100.00 – Commander’s Project
Vinalhaven Post 18	\$100.00 – Commander’s Project
Belfast Squadron 43	\$100.00 – Commander’s Project
Andy & Rita Olson (fashion contest)	\$50.00 – Commander’s Project
Various from MWC (fashion contest)	\$300.00 – Commander’s Project
Wilton Post 117	\$100.00 – Beals House
Various individuals at Mid-Winter Conf.	\$32.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Robert Thibodeau, Jr., Millinocket Post 80	\$50.00 – VETAID
Dennis Merrill (in memory of William Harris)	\$50.00 – VA&R
Jeff Barnes, Ellsworth Post 63	\$15.00 – Maine Special Olympics
Mechanic Falls Post 150	\$200.00 – Commander’s Project
Mechanic Falls Post 150	\$200.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Marlene Angers	\$560.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Marcel Martineau, Dixfield Post 100	\$20.00 – Commander’s Project
Sangerville Post 165	\$100.00 – Commander’s Project
Corinna Post 73 (\$1 per member)	\$130.00 – Commander’s Project
Donald Stone, Trenton Post 207	\$25.00 – Commander’s Project
Winterport Post 138	\$50.00 – Commander’s Project
Earl Webster, Millinocket Post 80	\$5.00 – Commander’s Project

**What’s Happening?**

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

**Belfast Post 43:** Feb. 4, 8 a.m., Four Chaplains Breakfast. All are welcome, no charge.

**Valentine's at Togus:** Feb. 14, volunteers are needed to visit the wards and distribute goodies to the patients. Costumes are optional.

**40/8 Washington's Birthday 2007:** Feb. 16-17, Best Western- Merry Manor, 700 Main St, So Portland. For more information contact Dick Prince at 428-3737 or [chiefw4@aol.com](mailto:chiefw4@aol.com)

**Belfast Post 43:** Feb. 24, 5 – 7 p.m., public supper with a chili cook-off. Cost: \$6 Proceeds will go to benefit Maine Special Olympics. FMI contact Betty Seeley 338-4050.

### District Meetings

**4<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Farmington Post 28 (**change from Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**) Lunch at 1:00 p.m., meeting at 2:00, then Super Bowl Party from 3:00 til the end of the game. Lots of food, pool table, card games, etc. All welcome.

**13<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Bangor Post 12, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Districts:** Joint meeting, Feb. 4, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, Four Chaplains

**17<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 4, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. dinner, Four Chaplains, with 16<sup>th</sup> District.

**8<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 8, Topsham Post 202, 6:30 p.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Lisbon Post 158, 1 p.m. Four Chaplains, 2 p.m. mtg.

**7<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Damariscotta Post 42, 2 p.m.

**15<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 11, Pembroke Post 59, Oratorical and Four Chaplains, dinner, 2 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 12, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**10<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 12, Skowhegan Post 16, 6 p.m.

**14<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 17, Brownville Jct. Post 92, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**5<sup>th</sup> District:** Feb. 20, Rumford Post 24, Nominations, 7 p.m.

### Sick Call

John Grady, 62-year member of Eastport Post 11, P. O. Box 1, Eastport 04631.

### Condolences

Lawrence LaPierre, Old Orchard Beach Post Commander, recently passed away. Cards can be sent to his widow Karen at 180 Portland Road, Old Orchard Beach 04064.

### Sons of the American Legion Detachment News

Mid-Winter Conference was in some respects a success and others not so successful. I am elated to have two new squadrons attend. It is always productive to share information. The other part of this is that I wish there were more people in attendance. Although it was fantastic that we did have a quorum to conduct business, as this is always a plus.

As I stated to legionnaires at the conference, the Sons of The American Legion is their program. With that comes responsibility. The American Legion should be teaching, advising and training those squadrons so that leadership can be established. This is for new squadrons or those that are not as productive as they should be. A good working knowledge of American Legion programs should be understood and communication of the needs of that post are a must for the Squadron to be successful.

The Sons are responsible as well. Membership in the Sons does not mean that it is just a cheap watering hole. It is a proud heritage that our eligible veterans gave us. We should honor what they felt was worth fighting for, which are America, Patriotism, our Communities and our families. Their sacrifices allowed us to enjoy life the way we live, and we cannot do enough to make our country, our state and communities a better place to live in. After all we are all Americans.

We are young and have energy and enthusiasm. If those squadrons actually get it and the squadron becomes a valuable arm of The American Legion Post, then some members of The American Legion Post may show you respect and you will have earned it. That should be all that we need to carry on this legacy that our eligible veteran's gave us.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS'  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicants will be assessed based on current year's accomplishments)

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POST NAME & NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT POSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CONTINUOUS YEARS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT QUALIFIES THIS COMMANDER AS A LEADER:** (use additional sheets as needed) \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE POST OR DISTRICT THAT DISTINGUISH THIS LEADER:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**DOES THIS LEGIONNAIRE ASPIRE TO HIGHER POSITIONS WITHIN THE AMERICAN LEGION?** (if so, specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS PERSON FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE AMERICAN LEGION?** (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

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This form must be submitted to The American Legion, Department of Maine, P. O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04903 **no later than May 1, 2007**

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete with attached recommendations.**