



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



February 23, 2007

**Fanatics are always so certain of themselves,
but wiser people so full of doubts.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

Berwick Post 79

East Corinth Post 115

State Oratorical Contest A Huge Success

Saturday, February 17th the Department Oratorical Contest held at Thomas College in Waterville can only be judged a huge success by any standards. William Richards, a home-schooled high school student from Winthrop, was our state winner and will go on to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete in the National contest in April. William is the fourth of five siblings in this family to compete in the state finals and he has certainly done his part to uphold the family tradition.

Department Oratorical Chairman Bill Barr is to be commended for organizing and directing this event. Many others assisted with the event and a Legion hosted luncheon was coordinated by Ernie and Donna Paradis of Waterville. As well, the staff at Thomas College could not have been more helpful.

In the morning semi-finals, Kyla Baxter of Mt. Desert H. S., Luke Beland of Bangor H. S., and Kelsey Holmes of Jonesport-Beals H. S. competed in the East bracket. Grace MacKenzie of Cape Elizabeth H. S., Andrea Wrede of Lisbon Falls H. S., Elliot Munn of Oxford Hills H. S., and William Richards of Winthrop (home schooled) competed in the West bracket. The bracket winners, Kyla Baxter and William Richards competed in the afternoon final contest, with William snaring the first-place gold medal and \$1,000 prize money. Kyla received the second-place silver medal and a \$500 award.

A big THANK YOU and snappy salute to all the contestants who put a lot of time into their oration preparation and best of luck to William Richards in his quest to become our National Oratorical Champion.

**Past National Commanders'
Leadership Awards**

Department Vice Commanders Paul L'Heureux and John Doyle have instituted two new awards this year for the outstanding District Commander and the outstanding Post Commander. These awards will be partially based upon membership, but will also encompass the commander's community involvement, leadership ability, aspirations within the Legion, and other recommendations.

The District Commander's 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 will be a Tony's Tiger.

Past National Commander Tony Jordan and the Department Vice Commanders will judge the applications to determine the winners. Our Past National Commanders will present the awards at the Department convention in June 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 IS MAY 1, 2007.

**Special Olympics Winter
Games at Black Mountain**

The Franklin and Androscoggin County Winter Games of the Maine Special Olympics will be held at Black Mountain in Rumford on February 27 & 28, 2007. Opening ceremonies will be at 10:30 a. m. on Tuesday, February 27th. This is the second such event held this year, as there was not enough room for all Special Olympians to compete last month at Sugarloaf.

Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members from Franklin, Oxford, and Androscoggin counties are particularly encouraged to attend to cheer on the athletes, but all Legion family members are welcome to attend all events, including the luncheon on Tuesday.

National President's Visit

National Auxiliary President Jo Ann Cronin will be in Maine April 6th & 7th and there will be a banquet in her honor on Saturday evening April 7th at Augusta Post 2. Social: 6-7 p.m.; dinner: 7 p.m., choice of Prime Rib or Baked Haddock, potato, vegetables, salad, rolls, coffee, tea and dessert. Entertainment. \$20.00 per person. Make checks payable to Joyce Thurlow, and mail to her at 1 Meadowrue Dr., Augusta 04330. Telephone: 626-8136. Cut off date is March 30. Please note menu choice on check. All tickets will be held at the door.

**Homecoming for Maine's
National Vice Commander**

The Thomas O. Cyr Post 147 of Madawaska is proud to announce the Homecoming event for National Vice Commander Lloyd Woods.

This event will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono located just off exit 193 of Interstate 95. Social hour: 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. with a program to follow. Dinner selections will be Baked Haddock in Lemon Butter OR Roast Top Round of Beef with all the trimmings for \$20.00 per person.

Please send reservation requests, along with a check or money order, payable to the Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, 353 Main St., Madawaska 04756. Please indicate “homecoming” on the check and your choice of Baked Haddock or Roast Beef. Cutoff is May 1, 2007 and all tickets will be held at the door.

If you wish to stay at the Black Bear Inn, there are 30 rooms blocked for this event at \$69.55 (tax included) on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the Black Bear Inn directly at 866-7120.

Assisting Our Veterans

This letter is to address a problem some of our veterans are experiencing in nursing homes outside the Veterans Administration (VA) system.

These veterans may or may not be able to receive their medications from Togus, depending upon the packaging of the medications. Most nursing homes outside the VA system have an internal policy that does not allow the acceptance of medications from the VA that are not individually bubble-packed. (One dosage per container) and the VA does not bubble pack medications.

These medication costs do not affect patients at Togus or other VA facilities, but many of our veterans are patients in non-VA facilities and there comes the problem. If these patients are unable to obtain their medications from the VA, then they are forced to obtain the medications from “civilian” pharmacies at an oftentimes extremely high cost.

We, the members of Clinton Post 186, ask you to check with your member veterans who are in local nursing homes to see if this is a problem for them and if so, please take action to attempt to remedy their problems.

For further information on this or if you have any questions, please contact Gary Dixon weekdays after 4:00 p.m. at 453-2036.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary L. Dixon
First Vice Commander
Clinton Post 186

**St. Patrick's Day
Party At Togus**

There will be a Saint Patrick's Day party at the VA medical facility at Togus on Friday, March 16, 2007. Volunteers are needed to visit with the patients to brighten their day during this event. If you are planning to be there, please wear GREEN.

Volunteers will meet in Building 205 on the 3rd floor at 9:30 a.m. and we will be completed no later than noontime. It is a great time and you will have as much fun as the patients. FMI, please call Mary Barger at 443-4807.

**"NEED A LIFT"
Now On-line**

What is NEED A LIFT? It is a college financial aid handbook published by The American Legion that is filled with scholarships, grants, fee waivers, student loans, and the organizations that offer them. There is also information included to help with school selection, apply for student financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), learn about loan forgiveness, understand tax credits, and much more.

The NEED A LIFT? Handbook is mailed to each High School free of charge each year and is available through American Legion Emblem Sales catalog at \$3.00 each. Now it is available on-line at www.needalift.org at no cost. Students, parents, and others can view, search and print material found in NEED A LIFT?

Correction

Last week's newsletter dated February 16, 2007 under the Veterans Memorial Bench Project listed the point of contact information as Mr. Al Gibson at aagbeg1@msn.com incorrectly. **The correct E-mail address for Mr. Gibson is: aagbeg@verizon.net**

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

14 th District	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Guilford Post 119	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Frenchville Post 145	\$50.00 – Commander's Project
Topsham Post 202	\$202.00 – Commander's Project

Kudos

NECA William “Gene” Bickford, Norway Post 82, for being presented with an honorary life membership from his post.

Oratorical Chairman Bill Barr and the many other individuals who volunteered their time to make the Department Oratorical Contest a huge success.

Oxford Post 112 for their recent donation of \$250.00 to Camp Sunshine.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who remembered us with sympathy cards following the loss of Edith’s brother, WWII veteran Clinton Knowlton. His burial will be on May 19 with full military honors.

Ray and Edith Lemieux
Auburn Post 153

What’s Happening?

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.

Lubec Post 65: Mar. 24, 2 p.m., Healing Field Presentation by PDC Herman Wright and SAL Detachment Commander Don Allisot with a dinner to follow. All American Legion family members are invited to attend.

District Meetings

16th District: March 10, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m. dinner.

3rd District: March 11, Auburn Post 31, 2 p.m.

4th District: March 11, Wilton Post 117, 2 p.m.

2nd District: March 11, Naples Post 155, 2 p.m.

15th District: March 11, Cherryfield Post 8, 2 p.m.

12th District: March 13, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

9th District: March 14, Richmond Post 132, 7:30 p.m., nominations

14th District: March 17, Sangerville Post 165, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

11th District: March 18, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.

5th District: March 20, Norway Post 82, Elections, 7 p.m.

Sick Call

Richard Prince, Gray Post 86, P. O. Box 431, Gray 04039.

Vaughn Mercier, Madison Post 29, 28 Glendale St., Madison 04950

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment News**

As we work on programs on the local level, I am amazed that as we continue to higher levels of an organization, it seems that we have less time to devote to those programs that drew us into this organization in the first place. This is true with me, as I reflect on a program that really got me involved. Sometimes there are thoughts on different projects that we do. Twenty-two years ago I began working on an annual Cribbage Tournament for Bath area Senior Citizens. This was a co-sponsorship with Squadron 21 and the Bath Recreation Dept. It has endured 22 years and it is a lot of fun to do. I have only missed one tournament in that time. Fortunately there is a young member who has worked on this since he was probably 10. Scott Morton has worked on this for about 15 years. I am sure he will keep this going long after I am gone.

The only drawback to this whole thing is that you develop relationships with these older people and you get a good realization of mortality every year. When you look at the sign up roster and some of those same names aren't there then you realize that they have gone. It is difficult to know that there won't be those smiles and laughter from the same people that you have seen for 10 years or more. We are getting older every year. I guess what is important is that we teach and pass down those beliefs and thoughts about what is important to those that will listen. I have been asked what happened to all those kids that used to belong to the sons. That is your answer, they got older, those 10 year olds are now 25 and those 28 years old are now 50.

What is important to me is to instill in other people the patriotism and loyalty that will continue to make this country great for many years to come.

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:** _____

**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) _____

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

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Complete with attached recommendations.