



The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: legionme@me.acadia.net

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



February 9, 2007

**You have to be original. If you are like
someone else, what do they need you for?**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Membership

It may seem as if we have done all the work on membership for this year as we are now approaching 97% of our last year's total, but the tough work is still ahead of us. We need to get those last few renewals of those who have yet to pay for 2007 and to continue to recruit more members to keep us strong in the constant battle for veterans' rights.

We are also looking for just over 300 more members before March 20, 2007 for the Department of Maine to take second place in the Big Twelve Competition at National. First place has already been won by South Dakota. By gaining 300 members, the Department of Maine will be in line to receive a check for \$1,000.00 to go toward new computer equipment in the headquarters office. Commander Simoneau is asking for us to continue the exceptional work we have done with membership this year for us to achieve this goal. This would also entitle Commander Simoneau to "bragging rights" whenever he is with other Department Commanders at National events.

We now have 72 posts that have achieved 100% or more and that is outstanding. If yours is one of these, congratulations and thank you for a job well done. If yours is not one of the 100% posts, please make that extra effort to join this elite group. We need everyone on the team to do his or her part for this to be a successful membership year. District 17 Commander John Cyr reminded me today that his was the only District above 100% in membership and challenges any other District to catch him. Are we going to let Commander Cyr be the only one able to say this? I hope not.

National Vice Commander Lloyd Woods was pleased to authorize a check for \$25.00 to Department Commander Simoneau for the Department of Maine obtaining the highest percentage of goal achievement for the recently passed 80% target date for the Northeast Region (Lloyd's region). Commander Simoneau was extremely pleased to receive this and says thank you to everyone who had a part in making this happen.

More on Membership

We have continued to receive membership in this office with dues money at the old rate included from several posts. Please be aware that no matter when your post received the membership dues, if we did not receive them at headquarters before January 10, 2007, the new dues rate of \$23.00 per member needs to be sent. The new Dues Rate Chart appears at the end of this newsletter.

Also, when sending Paid Up For Life (PUFL) applications with the person's membership, **please** send a separate check for each, as the PUFL application needs to be sent separately to National.

American Legion Riders To Hold Conference

On Saturday, February 24, 2007 the Legion Riders organization will be holding a one-day conference at Auburn Post 153 from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m. This conference is for anyone in the Department of Maine with an interest in the program, whether you are already a Legion Rider or one who is thinking about joining or starting a Legion Riders group within a post. All are welcome.

Mr. Bill Sloan, Assistant Director for Membership from our National organization, will be on hand to share his knowledge and to provide direction for us all. Bill will show us how to form a Legion Riders group within a post, how there can be growing pains as with any group, and share success stories of Legion Rider groups from around the country. Bill will show us what each group should and should not do when forming a group within a post and there will be ample time for questions, not only of Bill, but with the Department Legion Riders Committee members as well.

There is no cost to attend this conference, but the post needs a head count for food preparation, coffee, etc., so if you are planning to attend, please call the post at 782-1118 or e-mail Department Vice Commander Paul L'Heureux at AFDPAL@AOL.COM

A donations-only lunch of spaghetti, salad, etc. will be served at Auburn Post 153 from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. or you can visit one of the local restaurants. All Legion family members are welcome.

Thank You

I would like to thank all Legion Family members in the Department of Maine for your kind expressions of sympathy. I have received many cards from Jim's friends in Maine and they have meant a lot to me. Please express my appreciation to everyone there, I wish I could thank them personally.

Dorothy McMahan
Wife of PDC Jim McMahan

From the Service Office

Medication Co-payment Rate: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has given notice that there is no change in the medication co-payment rate for calendar year 2007 and the rate will remain at \$8.00. The total amount of co-payments in a calendar year for a veteran enrolled in one of the priority groups 2 through 6 shall not exceed the cap of \$960.00.

VA Claims: Due to the inability of the Regional Office to timely enter the power of attorney into the Veterans Administration programs it is in the best interest of veterans to call the phone service at Togus for information regarding the status of their claims and/or other issues with the regional office. The number to call is 1-800-827-1000 and or 626-4464.

Robert A. Owen DSO
Department Service Officer
Tel: 623-5726 or E-mail: robert.owen@vba.va.gov

Attention Veterans, Widows & Orphans

Do you know according to Maine Veteran Law Title 36 Chapter 105 Property Tax Exemption, the exemption for veterans of World War I is \$7,000? Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Lebanon/Grenada and Panama when reaching the age of 62 or when they receive any pension or compensation from the U.S. Government for total disability, service or non-service connected, are entitled to a \$5,000 exemption. This exemption applies to veterans, un-remarried widows, minor children and gold star mothers.

To receive this exemption you must apply to your town or city assessor **before April 1**. To receive this exemption on your property tax liability, contact your assessor. It's Maine Law and you have earned it.

**Special Olympics
Winter Games**

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 27. 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. You are welcome to attend all events, including the luncheon on Tuesday.

Historian Book/Scrapbook/Newsletter Contest

History is something that you can look back to and find out what has happened in the past. History is a must for every Post in The American Legion. Every Post that submits a book will receive recognition, even though it is not a large book and maybe only a few pages, it will be something for all to look at in the future. Information on how to compile a History book is available in the Post Officers Guide.

The historian awards this year are as follows:

Post and District History book: Large plaque for 1st place winner and medium plaque for 2nd place.

Post and District History Scrapbooks: Large plaque for 1st place and medium plaque for 2nd place.

Post and District Newsletters: Large plaque for 1st place winner, medium plaque for 2nd place and all others will receive a certificate of appreciation.

The deadline to submit History and Yearbooks to Department Headquarters is **May 1**.

State Convention Housing

Please remember that the Department Headquarters handles reservations **ONLY** for Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Candidates for Department Office, District Commanders, Area Representatives, specified Auxiliary members, SAL Officers, 40 & 8 Officers and La Femmes Officers. All others need to make their own reservations and the following information will assist you in your planning for the convention in Bangor, June 15 – 17, 2007. Please mention The American Legion when calling.

Bangor Motor Inn – 947-0355 – Hogan Rd., double, \$72.76; king, \$79.18 tax included.

Best Inn – 942-1234 – 570 Main St., \$67.36 tax included for all rooms.

Days Inn – 942-8272 – 250 Odlin Rd., single, \$73.83; double, \$84.53 tax included.

Econo Lodge – 945-0111 – 372 Odlin Rd., single, \$65.22; double, \$80.20 tax included.

Fairfield Inn – 990-0001 – 300 Odlin Rd., single \$116.63; double \$127.33 tax included.

Super 8 – 945-5681 – 462 Odlin Rd., single, \$71.69; double, \$82.39 tax included.

Holiday Inn – 947-0101 – 404 Odlin Rd., \$96.25 tax included.

Howard Johnson – 942-5251 – 336 Odlin Rd., single, \$85.55; double, \$96.25 tax included.

Directory Change

Pg. 68: Cyr-Plourde Post 145. Change meeting night to 2nd Wednesday, same time. Service Officer: Bertrand Michaud, 48 North Perley Brook Rd., Fort Kent 04743, 834-3579

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Cherryfield Post 8	\$500.00 – Maine Special Olympics
Cherryfield Post 8	\$500.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Ida Zion, Madison Post 39	\$5.00 – Commander's Project
Bar Harbor Post 25	\$5.00 – Commander's Project
H. Ralph Withee, Madison Post 39	\$10.00 – Commander's Project
District 4	\$500.00 – Commander's Project
Stockholm Post 136	\$150.00 – Commander's Project
Jerry Greenwell, Bethel Post 81	\$100.00 – National Commander's Campaign
Ramona Naragon, Lisbon Post 158	\$100.00 – National Commander's Campaign
Thomas Naragon, Lisbon Post 158	\$100.00 – National Commander's Campaign
Frank Yager, Ellsworth Post 63	\$25.00 – National Commander's Campaign
George and Betty Seeley, Belfast Post/Unit 43	\$100.00 – National Commander's Campaign
Andy Olson, Stockholm Post 136	\$50.00 – National Commander's Campaign
Terry Knowles & Margie Williams, Milo Post 41 (in memory of Britt Knowles)	\$20.00 – Commander's Project
Mechanic Falls Post 150	\$1,345.00 – Lobster Dip
Mechanic Falls Aux. Unit 150	\$305.00 – Lobster Dip
Mechanic Falls SAL Squadron 150	\$1,711.00 – Lobster Dip
Bath SAL Squadron 21	\$200.00 – Lobster Dip
Richmond SAL Squadron 132	\$1,085.00 – Lobster Dip

What's Happening?

Augusta Post 205 & Belfast Post 43: Feb. 10, 8:00 – 12:00 p.m., Dance to benefit the Beal's House at Belfast Post 43. \$10.00 per person. FMI contact Don Grotton 557-5455

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

Unity Post 50: Feb. 17, 12:00 noon, Chicken Barbecue for \$6.00 at the post home. Eat in or take out.

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

3rd District: Feb. 11, Lisbon Post 158, 1 p.m. Four Chaplains, 2 p.m. mtg.

7th District: Feb. 11, Damariscotta Post 42, 2 p.m.

15th District: Feb. 11, Pembroke Post 59, Oratorical and Four Chaplains, dinner, 2 p.m.

12th District: Feb. 12, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

10th District: Feb. 12, Skowhegan Post 16, 6 p.m.

14th District: Feb. 17, Brownville Jct. Post 92, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

5th District: Feb. 20, Rumford Post 24, Nominations, 7 p.m.

Sons of the American Legion Detachment News

The Sons of The American Legion is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. 2007 marks that anniversary when The American Legion created The Sons on September 9- 10, 1932 in Portland, Oregon during the Legion's 14th National Convention.

I know that at our National Convention this year in Reno, Nevada a large celebration has been planned. We have much to celebrate; by 1952 this organization was almost extinct. The Sons of The American Legion had 72,000 in 1939 and an all time low of 5200 in 1952. Since that time we have grown to our current 315,000 members.

This Detachment of Maine will be celebrating this anniversary at Mechanic Falls Post 150 on a date to be announced. Post Commander Gary Purington has graciously offered a portion of that Post's American Legion Birthday celebration to the SAL to recognize our anniversary. Department President Marlene Angers and Department Commander Don Simoneau will be on hand with me to commemorate these events. We intend on having the traditional birthday cake and I believe that there will be some 75th anniversary T-shirts available. Please join us as we celebrate these very important milestones. There will be more information on this later.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL LEGION PER CAPITA
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 10, 2007

<u>No. of Cards:</u>	<u>Amt. of check:</u>	<u>No. of Cards:</u>	<u>Amt. of check:</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>\$23.00</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>\$598.00</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>46.00</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>621.00</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>69.00</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>644.00</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>92.00</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>667.00</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>115.00</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>690.00</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>138.00</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>713.00</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>161.00</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>736.00</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>184.00</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>759.00</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>207.00</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>782.00</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>230.00</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>805.00</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>253.00</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>828.00</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>276.00</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>851.00</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>299.00</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>874.00</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>322.00</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>897.00</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>345.00</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>920.00</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>368.00</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>943.00</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>391.00</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>966.00</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>414.00</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>989.00</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>437.00</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>1,012.00</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>460.00</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>1,035.00</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>483.00</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>1,058.00</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>506.00</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>1,081.00</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>529.00</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>1,104.00</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>552.00</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>1,127.00</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>575.00</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>1,150.00</u>

Make checks payable to: The American Legion, Department of Maine. Mail cards and checks to:

The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900