



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



March 23, 2007

**Recognition matters because it builds people, and
building people is the most important job of any leader.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Rumford Post 24

Limerick Post 55

Gray Post 86

Maine Takes Second in Big Twelve Competition

The Department of Maine has won second place in the Big Twelve Membership national competition, which is an accomplishment of which we should all be very proud. This is the fourth time in the last eight years we have won this competition (three second-place finishes and one first), a feat that was not ever accomplished previously by the Department of Maine. In addition to the “braggin rights” this gives to Department Commander Don Simoneau, it also means the Department Headquarters will receive \$1,000 to spend toward new computer equipment. How have we done such an outstanding job with membership? It is because we have many exceptional membership workers in the Department of Maine from all over the state. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this happen.

So far we have 88 posts at or above 100% in membership and that is tremendous. Furthermore, we have 42 more posts that have five or less members to go to reach the magic number of 100%. This will be the fifth year out of the last eight years the Department of Maine has had a growth in membership and we should all be very proud of that, particularly when most veterans' service organizations as well as many, many American Legion posts, have consistently lost membership over the same time period. Few, if any, other Departments can make that claim.

All of this has been accomplished with teamwork. When some of our posts have been a little down in membership, others have picked up the pace and made up the difference. As we have said all along, membership is a team sport and we need all of the players to be successful. Kudos to each and every one of you who have worked membership this past year and more specifically to each and every member of our organization for 2007. I'm proud of you and you should walk proudly knowing you belong to a Department that can make such a claim.

**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. In addition, we have just confirmed that Congressman Mike Michaud will be addressing our group and no doubt he will be talking about veterans' issues.

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.

Women Veterans Workshop

There will be a Women Veterans Workshop held at the Togus VA Hospital on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. sponsored by the Women Veterans Advisory Commission and the Women Veterans Association. The informational sessions include:

- Medical and Benefits Eligibility Information
- Tour and Informational Session about the Women's Health Clinic
- Long Term Care Eligibility requirements for admission to the Maine Veterans Homes
- Status of the First Women's Monument to be established in Maine
- Cemetery/Burial Qualifications
- Camaraderie and Outreach

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Ellsworth Post 63

\$25.00 – Togus Coffee Fund

Kudos

Bucksport Post 93 for their donation of \$260.00 to the 172nd Mountain Division's homecoming event.

District Meetings

13th District: Apr. 1, East Corinth Post 115, 1 p.m. lunch, 2 p.m. meeting, elections

6th District: Apr. 5, Thomaston Post 37, 7:30, nominations

10th District: Apr. 9, Skowhegan Post 16, 6:30 p.m. Light lunch following the meeting

2nd District: Apr. 10, Gray Post 86, 6:30 p.m., past commanders and presidents banquet. Social hour – 5:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m. For reservations mail to Gray Post 86, P. O. Box 428, Gray 04039 or call 428-3737. Tickets \$15 per person. Cutoff is April 5, 2007.

12th District: Apr. 10, SW Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. supper

4th District: Apr. 12, Weld Post 203, 6 p.m. pot luck supper. Joint meeting with Post 203 at 7 p.m.
This is a change from April 8th.

8th District: Apr. 12, Bath Post 21, 6:30 p.m.

17th District: Apr. 15, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. dinner, nominations

15th District: Apr. 15, Lubec Post 65, 2 p.m.

3rd District: Apr. 15, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m., nominations and elections

11th District: Apr. 15, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

5th District: Apr. 17, Dixfield Post 100, 7 p.m. Installation dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Roast pork with all the trimmings for \$5.00. Please send reply to American Legion Post 100, P. O. Box 454, Dixfield 04224. Cutoff is April 8 and tickets will be held at the door.

16th District: Apr. 20, Caribou Post 15, Joint testimonial for District 16 Commander Chuck Williams and (Auxiliary 7th District) President Margaret Johnson. 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner. Tickets are \$12 each and available from Henriette Lagasse, 33 Lincoln St., Caribou 04736 or Tel: 496-7761. Cutoff is April 11.

14th District: Apr. 21, Dover Post 29, 6:30 p.m. supper

8th District: Apr. 28, Bath Post 21, Testimonial for (Auxiliary 3rd District) President Karla Dinsmore. 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner. Tickets are \$10 and available from Mike Frelk at 442-9206. Cutoff is April 14.

7th District: Apr. 29, Damariscotta Post 42, 2 p.m.

What's Happening?

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.

Harpswell Post 171: Mar. 30, Baked Ham Supper. Two seatings, one at 5:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. at the Merriconeag Grange Hall, 529 Harpswell Neck Road (Rt. 123) in Harpswell. Cost: \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and under. For reservations call Bob Webber at 725-7976.

Gray Post 86: Mar. 31, American Legion Birthday Party, 2–4 p.m. downstairs (**postponed from Mar. 14**)

Thank You's

Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and other messages of encouragement I have received during my recent hospitalization. Had triple by-pass surgery and want to say thank you from the bottom of my new heart. You added sunshine to my days.

Barry Knowles, Commander
Hermon Post 200

Thank you to everyone for all of your prayers, caring and thoughtfulness during our bereavement in the loss of our son.

“Ki” and Terry Owen
NEC/Past Department President

A big thank you to all the Legion family members who sent get well cards during my recent illness.

Earl Welch, Commander
Dixmont Post 201

Sick Call

Rita Olson, wife of Department Americanism Officer Andy Olson, 1310 No. Shore Rd., Stockholm 04783.

Condolences

Theodore Kinney, 50-plus year member of Danforth Post 45, recently passed away. Cards can be sent to his daughter Peggy Harris, 16 Vermont Ave., Bangor 04401.

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment News**

Membership has again slowed down! It is going to take a little bit more effort for us to reach over the top. At 84% we are at a point where it will take a good effort. So please let's all make that push to renew, reinstate and recruit! Please send them even if you have only one.

Which brings me to some good news. It has been quite a while since there has been a National Commander visit this Detachment, Big Earl Ruttkofsky is coming to town! Earl served with me as Vice Commander Central in 2001 – 2002. He is from the State of Michigan and I think he likes lobster. It is quite possible that he will be able to get a taste of those little devils while here in Maine.

Speaking of lobsters, the Lobster Raffle will be drawn during the Detachment Executive Committee meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 25th at Bath Post 21. Please get these tickets to Joe or a Detachment Officer before the meeting.

Legionnaire Rod Green has put together a meeting in Lubec that will have the Legion Families from Lubec, Calais and Machias together at once for a Healing Field presentation. That will be fantastic because we can talk to everyone and discuss everyone's ideas. Americanism Officer, Herman Wright and I will be doing the presentation. We hope to have a good turn out of The American Legion Family. This past week I had the opportunity to give a Healing Field presentation to the Dixfield American Legion Family. I thank them all for their support. We all appreciate whatever we can do and anything that can be done is greatly appreciated.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant