



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



March 2, 2007

**I have never met anyone who said they left an organization because they were recognized too much.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:**

### District 10

**Bethel Post 81**

**Brownville Jct. Post 92**

**Eliot Post 188**

**Augusta Post 205**

#### Membership

So far this has been a great year for membership. We have 80 posts at or over 100% and the Department of Maine is in fifth place in the nation and in **FIRST PLACE** in the Northeast Region. Someone is doing something right and we should all be proud of our accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this.

We have some top performers who should be recognized for their exceptional membership work starting with District 17, who narrowly continues to lead the pack. Commander John Cyr passes off the accolades to the dedicated membership workers in his area. District 11 is a close second and Commander Ron Cropley is working to take over first. Just came in this morning – District 10 has hit 100% and Commander Steve Spaulding is walking with a new swagger this morning while he brags about the excellent help he has had this year in achieving membership throughout the district. John, Ron and Steve are outstanding legionnaires and we are fortunate to have them serving our organization.

On the post level, we have several posts that have gone above and beyond the call of duty this year and are currently over 110% of their previous year's membership as follows:

Wells Post 143

Brunswick Post 20

Harrison Post 139

Harpwell Post 171

N. Vassalboro Post 126

Skowhegan Post 16

Jackman Post 122

Corinna Post 73

Old Town Post 75

Lee Post 160

Eastport Post 11

Danforth Post 45

Fort Kent Post 133

Stockholm Post 136

## Total Force GI Bill

The “*Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement and Integration Act of 2007*” which was introduced last week, modernizes the Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) to more effectively support armed forces recruiting, retention, and readjustment following service, and to better reflect a “Total Force” concept that ensures members of our Selected Reserve receive educational benefits that match their increased service to the nation.

The bill, S 644 / HR 1102, is sponsored by Sen. Blanche Lincoln, **Sen. Susan Collins**, Sen. Norm Coleman, Sen. Byron Dorgan, **Sen. Olympia Snowe**, Sen. Patrick Leahy, Rep. Vic Snyder, Rep. Stephanie Herseth, Rep. Loretta Sanchez and Rep. John Boozman

Ron Chamrin, Assistant Director of Economics, was invited to speak at a press conference with members of congress to emphasize The American Legion’s support and significance in the Total Force GI Bill. “From the classrooms at America’s universities, to the corner store, to the corporate office, to the volunteer fire house, reservists from all socio-economic backgrounds have been deployed,” Chamrin told members of the press. “These men and women want to continue their education and better themselves, however the current laws and policies forbid them from doing so. Not only is this a travesty, but also this is a moral injustice to those who answer the call of duty, who bear the burden of war, only to return with a disadvantage compared to those who have not served in the military or did not deploy.”

The American Legion supports this legislation and strongly encourages all members of our organization to write, call, and contact their respective members of congress.

## Candidates for State Offices

**Letters of Intent** - Anyone wishing to have their name placed on the official ballot to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of the discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office prior to May 18, 2007. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo (not computer generated) of yourself must be at Department Headquarters by April 27, 2007.

## American Legion Birthday Speech

The American Legion Birthday is March 15-17. A copy of the 88<sup>th</sup> birthday speech is available online at: <http://www.legion.org> and clicking on **Public Relations and then Suggested Speeches**. If you do not have Internet access, please contact this office for a copy at 873-3229.

### **Oratorical Kudos**

Dear Ron:

I do not know if you received any comments on the first annual Oratorical Contest held by the Department of Maine in the new structural format, but I did feel Bill Barr did an outstanding job in duplicating National's format and feel that he should be recognized for his accomplishment. There are so many tasks to perform before the final contest is completed and all tasks are time consuming, e.g. arranging for the judges, timekeepers, ushers, rooms, etc, etc. I realize that all of our projects have similar obstacles to overcome, but not all have a new structure to contend with. Bill's job is not an easy one and sometimes heartbreaking in that we have 17 districts and only 7 showed up to compete. Those in attendance enjoyed the exceptional speakers. THANK YOU BILL BARR.

Noah "Bud" Steele  
District 7 Commander

### **Scholarship Applications Lagging/Incomplete**

Applications for the Children & Youth, Daniel E. Lambert, and James V. Day scholarships are due by May 1, 2007. This may seem like a long way away, but waiting until the last minute can cause problems with recommendation letters and other essential information. This office has been advised that not only applications have been slow as compared to previous years, but also that several of the ones received are incomplete. Please do whatever you can to remind your school contacts to remind their students to be timely and complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the committee and it would be a shame for someone to miss out on a scholarship for lack of information.

Printable applications for scholarships can be found on the Department of Maine's web site at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under programs. We will also send them to anyone who contacts this office to request them. Scholarships are not limited to high school seniors, but are available to any student wishing to advance his or her education.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**The American Legion  
Legacy Run**

**INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA TO RENO NEVADA: 2,100 MILES  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR FALLEN HEROES**

August 18, 2007 Gathering of Riders hosted by The American Legion Riders of Indiana. Final Registration and Road Captain training at American Legion Post 500, Indianapolis, Indiana.

August 19, Early morning assembly and departure from Post 500.

August 19, Overnight stop in Iowa City, Iowa

August 20, Overnight stop in Grand Island, Nebraska

August 21 - Overnight stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming

August 22 - Overnight stop in Evanston, Wyoming

August 23 - Overnight stop in Elko, Nevada

August 24 - Early afternoon arrival in Reno, Nevada

August 25 - American Legion Riders National Rally

August 26 - American Legion National Convention Parade

Riders from all points in the United States may pre-register online and join The American Legion Legacy Run as it proceeds west. The American Legion Legacy Run will pause at pre-planned sites along the route to visit severely wounded warriors who have returned from the War on Terror.

Riders Chapters and Legion Family volunteers along the route are identifying refueling stops and coordinating travel routes with local law enforcement. Nationally, Riders Chapters are planning fundraising rides and runs and are coordinating PONY EXPRESS (see <http://www.alr135.org/pe>) routes to pick up donations from posts across the nation.

Registration is \$35 for each rider and \$15 for each passenger and is open to all regardless of your intent to ride. All proceeds collected from registrations will go to offset the cost of running the event. All paid registrations will receive a special Legacy Run patch set, map book, Legacy Run wristband and other Legacy Run materials. Registration also includes entry to all Legion functions and activities related to the Legacy Run itself, including the Indianapolis gathering and kickoff events.

Registration will be available online at [www.legion.org/legacyrun](http://www.legion.org/legacyrun) by mid-March, and at selected locations and larger ALR Chapters nationally during the months leading up to the event.

Riders from all Departments are asked to conduct fundraising rallies and rides independently during the months leading up to the Convention. All monies collected for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund will be combined into Department totals presented to The National Commander in Reno by The American Legion Riders.

Please pass along this information to all interested Patriot Guard, Pony Express, and any other veterans' rider's organizations in your area. POC at National Headquarters is Bill Sloan at 317-630-1265.

Chapters, Posts, Units, and Squadrons wishing to donate to The American Legion Legacy Run should make checks payable to the Department of Maine and mail to P. O. Box 900, Waterville 04903 and indicate "Legacy Run" on the check. All contributions of \$500 or more are recognized with a National Commander's Certificate.

**Presidential Memorial Certificates**

The Presidential Memorial Certificate is a parchment certificate with a calligraphic inscription expressing the nation’s grateful recognition of a veteran’s service. The veteran’s name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the President.

**ELIGIBILITY** – Certificates are issued in the name of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. Eligible recipients include next of kin, other relatives and friends. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. The veteran may have died at any time in the past. The local VA regional office generally originates the application for a Presidential Memorial Certificate if a veteran’s death is brought to official attention. The next of kin may request a certificate when a service member dies on active duty or if the veteran was not receiving a VA benefit. Requests should be accompanied by a copy of a document such as a discharge to establish honorable service. VA regional offices can assist in applying for certificates. If you would like to request a Presidential Memorial Certificate or if you requested one more than eight (8) weeks ago and have not received it yet, VA asks that you either:

1. **Fax** your request and all supporting documents (copy of discharge and death certificate) to: (202) 565-8054, or
2. **Mail** your request and all supporting documents using either the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial mail service, such as one of the overnight or express mail delivery services, to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

If you have any questions about a certificate you have received, a request you have already sent in, or about the program in general, you may call (202) 565-4964.

**Donations**

THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

Eighth District  
Noah Steele, Waldoboro Post 149  
Jeff Barnes, Ellsworth Post 63

\$50.00 – Commander’s Project  
\$100.00 – Commander’s Project  
\$20.00 – Blind Camp

## Kudos

Gray Post 86 for their recent donations of \$200 awarded as a scholarship, \$50 for the 172<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Company Welcome Home Celebration, and \$25 each for Project Graduations at Gray - New Gloucester High School and Greely High School.

## What's Happening?

**Dover Post and Unit 29:** Mar 12, 6 p.m. supper. 7 p.m. meeting and presentation of membership pins and certificates to all members, some with service in excess of 60 years.

**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

**16<sup>th</sup> District:** March 10, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m. dinner.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District:** March 11, Auburn Post 31, 2 p.m.

**4<sup>th</sup> District:** March 11, Wilton Post 117, 2 p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> District:** March 11, Naples Post 155, 2 p.m.

**15<sup>th</sup> District:** March 11, Cherryfield Post 8, 2 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District:** March 13, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**9<sup>th</sup> District:** March 14, Richmond Post 132, 7:30 p.m., nominations

**14<sup>th</sup> District:** March 17, Sangerville Post 165, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

**11<sup>th</sup> District:** March 18, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.

**5<sup>th</sup> District:** March 19, So. Paris Post 72, Elections, 7 p.m. (**changed from Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> at Post 82**)

**Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment News**

Well I hope to pick this up a bit as I got pretty maudlin last week.

As I was saying just like it is at your particular job. It seems that management promotes those excellent workers to supervisors and so those good workers no longer work at those jobs they were so good at. They tell people how to do it, oh well.

I got into this squadron officer business in 1982; I have been involved ever since. My thought was that through this organization, we could make the Community a much better place for our families. For the most part, we did help make the Community a better place to live in. The operative word is help. The squadron also benefited by this activity. We became more organized and more visible, which created more membership and what were 25 soon became 75 members and today we stand at 210 members. The activities and projects benefited as well. We became better at organizing and better at promoting and soon fewer people could handle larger projects and so multiple tasks were being accomplished. This is where the term “ Membership creates activity and activity creates membership” came from.

When people tell me that membership is failing and there is no interest in the organization that tells me that there is nothing to keep the membership busy with. They have no purpose and so drift away. We have to have purpose and that is developed by leadership on short and long term basis. So please get active within your community. Community activity along with favorable public relations, without a doubt, creates more membership opportunities for your organization.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION**

**THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTION.  
USE ANY ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY. SUBMIT ANY NEWS CLIPPINGS AND OTHER  
SUPPORTING MATERIAL AS YOU DEEM NECESSARY TO QUALIFY THE NOMINEE.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.)
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Town/City) (State) (Zip) (Telephone)
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Birth) (Military Service - Branch and Number of years.)
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Is the nominee a member of the Legion Family) (If so, list Post name and #.)
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Education) (Marital Status)
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Professional Service - Length of time employed as a Firefighter, rank attained, special schools attended, commendations, citations, etc.)
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Resume of any acts performed above and beyond the call of duty, special assignments or accomplishments that should merit special attention including military decorations.)
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Community Service – service in community such as Scouting, special youth programs, public offices held, fraternal organizations, etc.)
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, number, address and telephone # of sponsoring Post/County/District.)
  
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Commander or Adjutant of sponsoring Post/County/District.)

Applications must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than **May 1**.  
Return to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900.  
For any questions, call Department Headquarters at 873-3229.