



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



April 6, 2007

**You will be happier if you give people a bit
of your heart rather than a piece of your mind.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Boothbay Harbor Post 36

York Post 56

Membership

National Vice Commander Lloyd Woods of Madawaska Post 147 has recently presented State Commander Don Simoneau once again with a check for \$25 for the Department of Maine being in first place in the Northeast Region as of the last membership target date. Both commanders could not be more proud of the legionnaires in Maine for the outstanding performance in membership achieved so far this year.

We have done it once again. We have exceeded our previous year's membership and that means we are a growing organization. What does that say about The American Legion in Maine? It says we are working our programs, serving our communities, and assisting veterans and their families everywhere. There are now 94 posts at or over 100% in membership and there are 34 more within five or less of achieving this goal. Wow, that is impressive. Also, 10 of our 17 districts have achieved this goal and that too is impressive.

To say this has been a banner year for membership would be an understatement. We started out the year with a real surge and have continued to keep up the pace all year long. There are many, many individuals to thank for this success and we try to do that on a regular basis. We have hit every goal so far; we have won \$1,000 from our National organization due to our success, and can again say **WE ARE A GROWING ORGANIZATION**. It seems that when our membership is successful, then everything else is successful. Our programs are working well and we continue to serve America. I don't know about you, but it makes me proud to be a member of The American Legion in one of the finest Departments in the land. Walk proudly my friends; we are **LOOKIN GOOD!**

Department Testimonial 2007

A joint testimonial will be held for State Commander Donald Simoneau and Auxiliary State President Marlene Angers on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the John Martin Manor Restaurant in Waterville. Social: 5 to 6 p.m., Banquet: 6 p.m., followed by program of the evening. The menu will be a CHOICE of baked haddock or Prime Rib, baked potato, tossed salad, mixed vegetable, popover, fruit cup appetizer and dessert for \$20 per person. Send reservations to Ken Bouchard, 35 Lavoie Street, Jay, Maine 04239 Tel: 897-6739. Tickets will be held at the door. Reservations must be received by April 27, 2007. If you wish to stay overnight, the Best Western Motel on Main St. in Waterville has given us a rate of \$60 plus tax. When calling the hotel at 873-3335, please mention The American Legion.

Humanitarians Sought

The Humanitarian Award Committee is seeking nominations for the annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award, considered to be one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by The American Legion, is presented annually during State Convention.

Criteria for nominees to be considered is:

Candidates for the Annual Humanitarian Award must be endorsed by an American Legion Post for them to be considered for the Department Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in his/her chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in his/her field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

Procedure: Deadline for submission of nominations will be **May 1** of each year. You can find the application form in this newsletter or on-line at the Department of Maine web site at www.mainelegion.org

Department Web Site New and Improved

The Department of Maine transitioned to a new web site this past Thursday to provide more information and an easier site to navigate. Hopefully everyone who uses it will enjoy the improvements. Bianca St. Louis of this office spent a great deal of time to design this site and she has proved to be a wonderful addition to the HQ staff. Please take a few minutes to visit our web site at www.mainelegion.org to see what is there. If there are any errors or omissions, please let us know and we will make the appropriate corrections. Kudos to Bianca.

**Wreaths Across America
National Sponsorship Campaign**

What began in 1992 with a trailer of wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath Co., decorated by volunteers and placed on veterans headstones, has grown into an expansive, nationwide display of remembrance and gratitude to, “our fallen heroes” with wreath laying ceremonies at more than 240 veterans cemeteries across the United States and in Puerto Rico involving The Civil Air Patrol; the Cemetery Administration; Maine State Society; veterans organizations; private citizens; schools and approximately 80,000 members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

It is estimated that the Worcester Wreath Co. will donate approximately 14,000 wreaths to Wreaths Across America in 2007. Wreaths across America has joined with Civil Air Patrol to kick off a National Sponsorship Campaign in which the public is invited to sponsor the placement of holiday wreaths on veteran’s graves in December 2007. According to Karen Worcester, Executive Director for Wreaths Across America, “Our mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom. Thousands of CAP members last year participated and helped us to do just that, and this year’s Wreaths Across America promises to take this worthwhile endeavor to even greater heights.” CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Pineda said: “This project will provide citizens across the country the opportunity to join with CAP members in celebrating the freedom we all enjoy by honoring those who made it possible -- our fallen heroes.”

To learn more about Wreaths Across America and the National Sponsorship Campaign visit the Wreaths Across America web site at www.wreathscrossamerica.org or the Worcester Wreath Company at www.worcesterwreath.com.

**Maine State Veteran’s
Benefits Directory**

The Maine State Veteran’s Benefits Directory is available on the Internet at <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/maine-state-veterans-benefits> These benefits may include grants and scholarships, special exemptions or discounts on fees and taxes, home loans, veteran’s homes free hunting and fishing privileges, veteran’s license plates, Maine Veterans memorial Cemeteries, and more.

Post Data Report

Each post was mailed a Post Data Report for the 2008 membership year and as of today there are still over 70 posts that have not returned them. This form needs to be at Department Headquarters no later than April 15 or it may cause the July, 2008 renewal notice to be mailed with incorrect information.

**The Moving Wall
Vietnam Memorial**

The Moving Wall will be coming to Old Orchard Beach May 24 – 28, 2007. The opening ceremony will be on Friday, May 25 at 3:00 p.m. with nightly ceremonies thereafter at 6:00 p.m. It will be set up at the Memorial Park at the corner of Staples and First Street. For more information, please call OOB Rec. Dept. at 934-0860 or e-mail jwebber@oobmaine.com Volunteers are needed. If you have even a couple of hours you can give to this project, please pick up the applications at the OOB Town Hall or at www.oobmaine.com

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Farmington Unit 28	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Waterville Post 5	\$350.00 – Children’s Miracle Network
Madison Unit 39	\$50.00 – Commander’s Project

Thank You’s

Thank you to everyone for the cards and phone calls during my recent illness.

Bob Morrill
Assistant Department Adjutant

Please extend my gratitude to everyone who sent cards and well wishes during my recent recovery.

Rita Olson, President
Stockholm Unit 136

District 4 News

The winner of the Week-end Getaway raffle at Rangeley Lakes Resort is Joe Kemton, a member of Farmington Post 28. The May meeting of District 4, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 13th at Strong Post 78 has been cancelled. The June meeting will be on June 14th at Rangeley and it will be a cookout. More details will be announced in the SMILE at a later date. Any 4th District member who would like to fill an office for the upcoming Legion year is asked to please contact District Commander Charlie Bennett at 778-2340 or pass the information to the Department Headquarters.

What’s Happening?

Togus VA Hospital: Apr. 28, Women's Veterans Workshop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

District Meetings

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.

6th District: Apr. 19, Thomaston Post 37, 7:30 p.m. **Rescheduled from Apr. 5**

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.

Sick Call

Orville "Ollie" Olsson, Waterville Post 5, 34 Oak St., Waterville 04901

Dora Michaud, Past Department President, 73 High St., Oakland 04963

Harriet Martell, Past Department President, 537 Main St. #1, Calais 04619

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

On March 24th Herman Wright, our wives and I went to Lubec and met with Washington County area members of the American Legion Family. It was our great pleasure to deliver a "Healing Field" presentation. It was well received and we hope to begin to collect all of those flags that are out there in Washington County. While I was there I had the opportunity to speak to Squadron members about the SAL. At that time I spoke to Machias Squadron 9 Commander Rex Look about following up on a possible member, Morrill Worcester. He said he would and I think that it would be a privilege to call a nationally known figure a fellow member. I want to thank Rod Green and Lubec Post 65 for making this possible and a very special thank you for the meal.

I want to thank Bob Hood Squadron Adjutant for 65 for his prompt transmittal of membership and his understanding of how important the renewals are to the organization's growth. Growing is what we will be doing this year if all Squadrons go after those renewals. We are standing at number 26 nationally right now and at almost 87%, which is good but here is the time when that last 13 % is the toughest to get in. If we all work a little harder we can achieve this goal of 100 %. Remember that the pre-printed cards will be printed on or around the 1st of May. This is important to Squadron Membership Chairman because they will then have to fill out those cards of those members who do not renew or are new in the following membership year. So please do yourselves a favor and transmit your dues as soon as you can and especially before the 1st of May. I have been talking to a number of Posts about reactivating Squadron Charters since Mid Winter Conference. I believe that this will round out their Legion Family and assist those posts in making the work of The American Legion a little easier. I appreciate these inquiries and I want to make certain that these new members of The Sons of The American Legion are there to assist you. They do not know a whole lot about The American Legion, but I will bet with the proper guidance from a knowledgeable Sons Advisor, they will soon enough. We are all Americans and through our dedication to your service we can overcome any obstacle and complete any objective.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

THE AMERICAN LEGION HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Criteria: an American Legion Post must endorse Candidates for the Annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in his/her chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in his/her field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. If there is a very close competition, a veteran should be chosen over a non-veteran and a Legionnaire over a non-Legionnaire, all other things being equal. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

Procedure: an American Legion Post must endorse Candidates for this Award. Deadline for submission of nominations will be **May 1** of each year.

THE AMERICAN LEGION HUMANITARIAN AWARD

This form must accompany all nominations

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birth date: _____ Education: _____

Family: _____

Sponsored by Post No. _____ of _____

Resume of activities to be considered for this award: _____

Two letters of support from parties having actual knowledge of the candidate's activities must accompany this form.

This nomination form must be signed by the appropriate Post official and sent to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900 by **May 1**. The Humanitarian Award will be presented annually at the Department Convention.

APPROVED: _____
Post official's signature Post No. Date

Please use additional sheets if necessary. This form may be reproduced.

Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System
163 Mt. Vernon Rd., Augusta, ME 04330
Tel: 207-287-3481 Fax: 207-287-3483

MAINE VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

Please complete the items listed below and mail to the above address so that eligibility may be determined.

- 1) Name of Veteran _____ 2) Tel.# _____
3) Address _____ 4) City _____ 5) State _____ 6) Zip _____
7) Date of Birth _____ 8) Service/Serial # _____
9) Social Security # _____ 10) County residing in _____

11) Please list names and relationships eligibility is requested for:

Spouse _____ (must be married to the veteran to be eligible)

Unmarried Dependent Child who became incapable of self-support before reaching 18 years of age due to a mental or physical disability _____

12) Please **select** from the following your preference for a burial location within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System:

- Northern Maine (37 Lombard Road, Caribou)
 Central Maine (163 Mt. Vernon Road, Augusta)
 Southern Maine (Possible future cemetery system expansion to include a cemetery in southern Maine such as in Springvale)

Please submit with your application proof of military service as follows:

Active Duty – Please submit a **certified** copy of your DD214 or equivalent (If more than one period of service, please submit a copy of each DD214 you were issued).

National Guard/Reservists – Please submit a copy of your 20-year retirement letter and a DD214, NGB22 or equivalent.

I hereby authorize the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to release information pertaining to my military service to the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System. This includes my dates of service, branch of service and the character of the discharge that I received.

Signature of Veteran

Date

Revised 3//28/07