



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



April 13, 2007

**An innovative, healthy organization requires
we work with people rather than do things to them.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Rockland Post 1

Sanford Post 19

So. Portland Post 35

Kingfield Post 61

National Commander's Call To Action

Our troops need your help and they need your help now!

When it comes to funding our troops, we have no time to waste. The clock is literally ticking for our troops in the field. That's why National Commander Paul Morin is inviting every member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion to contact their congressmen and senators to demand that they pass a clean supplemental appropriations bill: one that funds our troops without artificial timetables for withdrawal.

In both the House and the Senate, majorities have passed supplemental appropriation bills that set deadlines for withdrawal from Iraq and provide billions of dollars for pork barrel projects.

As the president promised in his speech at American Legion Post 177, in Fairfax, Virginia, recently, he will veto the appropriations bill containing provisions for a "timetable for withdrawal." If Congress fails to pass a bill he can sign by mid-April, then funding for the troops will be delayed and they will face the following consequences:

- Our military leaders will need to take money from military personnel accounts, weapons and communications systems in order to fund programs that protect our soldiers and Marines from improvised explosive devices and send hundreds of mine-resistant vehicles to our troops on the front lines.
- The Army will be forced to consider cutting back on equipment repair and quality of life initiatives for our Guard and Reserve forces.

- The Army will also be forced to consider curtailing some training for Guard and Reserve units here at home, reducing their readiness, and could delay their availability to mobilize for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The Army will be forced to consider slowing or even freezing funding for its depots, where the equipment our troops depend on is repaired. They will have to consider delaying or curtailing the training of some active duty forces, reducing the availability of those forces to deploy overseas.
- The Army may also have to delay the formation of new brigade combat teams, which would prevent us from getting those troops into the pool of forces that are available to deploy.
- In a recent letter to Congress, the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Pete Schoomaker, warned, "Without approval of the supplemental funds in April, we will be forced to take increasingly draconian measures, which will impact Army readiness and impose hardships on our soldiers and their families."

The United States Senate is back from its spring recess. The House will return next week. When it comes to funding our troops, we have no time to waste. It's time for them to get the job done.

The men and women of the armed forces in the theater of operation are dependent on this emergency funding to sustain and achieve their military missions.

I'm urging every member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion to contact their congressmen and senators to demand passage of a clean bill: one that funds our troops without artificial timetables for withdrawal.

Here is what you need to do.

Go to <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/> to see where your congressmen and senators stand on the supplemental appropriation that sets a timeline for withdrawing our troops. Call and email them. Tell them you expect Congress to pass a clean war-funding bill now ... without the timelines and without the pork.

I am asking all Department adjutants, Auxiliary presidents and SAL adjutants to give this Call to Action the widest dissemination possible. Do it today, do it now, and do it for the troops.

<p>State Convention Hotel Rooms</p>

We have a few hotel rooms left in the block for anyone who wishes to stay at the headquarters hotel during the state convention in June. Please contact this office if you are interested in staying at the Ramada Inn on the Odlin Road in Bangor. Room rate is \$84.53 including tax. We will be able to hold these rooms only for a short period of time and reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis until we fill the block.

2007 Legion College

Now it is time to prepare for the Class of 2007. The first task is to identify candidates for this year's session, which runs from November 4-9, 2007. The following is provided to help you get a head start in the recruiting and selection process.

Course Curriculum: A combination of lecture, small group workshop and practice exercises will comprise the structure of the course. Students will receive training in leadership, sales and marketing, communication and fundraising.

Selection Requirements: The criteria for selecting candidates are the same. We are looking for Legionnaires with military service from 1982 or later. Candidates must also complete The American Legion Extension Institute prior to submitting their application.

The deadline for submitting up to three nominations is July 20, 2007. A National Selection Panel made up of Past National Commanders will make the final selections.

Now is the time to start looking for candidates. There are several ways to begin your search. One way is to publicize the College through your Post newsletters. E-mail is another way to get the word out. The cost of the college per Department is \$600.00 for the person chosen by the National Selection Committee and will be paid for by the Department of Maine. Students will receive \$40.00 per day per diem except for instances where National provides meals.

All travel arrangements will be made through the national office. Students who fly into Indianapolis will receive their airline tickets from National. Likewise, National will figure the mileage (\$.445 per mile) for those students who choose to drive to Indianapolis, not to exceed least expensive airfare from nearest airport. All students will be housed at the Radisson Hotel located in downtown Indianapolis. Students will be paired up two to a room. Students will be responsible for out-of-pocket incidentals and garage parking.

For a copy of the student application send request to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville ME 04903-0900 or call 873-3229 or go to the National web-page at www.legion.org, under Programs/Events, Legion College.

Clean-up Day at Camp Tall Pines

It might seem too early to be thinking of spring-cleaning when there is snow outside and also on the way but keep Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camp Tall Pines open for this year's clean-up day. Again this year, American Legion/Auxiliary Camp Tall Pines committee will act as our host for a luncheon cookout for all who join us. Wear work clothes, as we have an assortment of tasks to be accomplished. We have tasks for everyone. Hope to see everyone at Tall Pines on May 5th!

Please call 879-0489 prior to May 6 to give us a rough idea of how many volunteers will be able to join us on clean-up day. This helps us plan the right amount of food for lunch. Thanks.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Granville Smith, Headquarters Post 178	\$50.00 – Dirigo Boy’s State
Madison Post 39	\$150.00 – Commander’s Project
Sabattus Post 135	\$126.00 – Commander’s Project
Waterville Post 5 (anon)	\$20.00 – Commander’s Project
13 th District	\$25.00 – VAVS (coffee fund)

Directory Change

Pg. 43: Rockland Post 1 has a new adjutant: Alfred Bowen, 23 Court St., Rockland 04841. Tel: 594-8821. Please send all correspondence to the post address.

District Meetings

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, 8 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.

What’s Happening?

Dover Post 29: Apr. 20, Fundraiser, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., spaghetti dinner followed by music by Dirigo Highway. 112 Park St., Dover-Foxcroft. FMI contact Ed Conroy at 564-3265 or edfconroy@myway.com

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Apr. 21, Waterville Post 5, 10 a.m.

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

Vietnam Memorial: May 24 – 28, Old Orchard Beach. At Memorial Park at the corner of Staples and First Street. FMI please call OOB Rec. Dept. at 934-0860 or e-mail jwebber@oobmaine.com

<p style="text-align: center;">Sons of The American Legion Detachment News</p>

I recently went to Philadelphia, PA to represent the detachment at the annual Eastern Region get together. This meeting is a gathering of all detachments in this Eastern Region. The purpose is to exchange ideas and improve communication as well as to talk with people from different states to share experiences and program information. We also have reports from various National Commissions and Committees and it isn't very often we are able to have those gentlemen available for a one-on-one conversation. It gave us a chance to congratulate Andrew Newman on a job well done as our National Vice Commander of the Eastern Region. He hosted a banquet at his post. The banquet event was great and entertaining, as Andy was the focus of some roasting and his height was definitely a topic of conversation. In fact he has his own step stool to take on the road with him. It was all in fun, but seriously The Detachment of Pennsylvania is the largest detachment in the world! Currently they boast 42,000 members and their goal is to close with 45,500! That is what The Detachment of Maine should be when we grow up!

I want to congratulate Bath Squadron 21 on their Propionic Acidemia Fundraiser. In one evening they raised \$5,209.00 for this Foundation dedicated to finding a cure for this Children's disease. The squadron is responsible for over \$27,000.00 to date for this worthwhile cause!

I want to thank Ed Conroy and the members of Post 29 in Dover-Foxcroft for their interest in The Sons of The American Legion. Your foresight is commendable and the detachment eagerly awaits the charter application. Feel free to call me for anything and that goes for any post with a question about their squadron or a post that might like one.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

WISH LIST – April, 2007
Department of Veterans Affairs Center (135)
Augusta, Maine 04330 (207) 621-4886

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Drivers for statewide Volunteer Transportation Network – Sanford, Rumford, Rockland, Brunswick, Skowhegan, Bangor.
2. Veterans History Project- recording personal histories
3. Pharmacy – mail out program
4. Escort and Delivery – Hospital wide and in Primary Care on weekdays
5. Canteen Service – assisting during lunch time
6. Mealtime companions for long term care patients - individuals and small groups needed
7. Nuclear medicine- Office help & procedure buddies
8. Primary Care – Computer instruction- My Health E Vet & MOVE Program.
- 9. Nursing Home Care Unit - escort needed Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Friday (12:30-3:30)**
10. Hospice Volunteers - Training provided
11. NHCU - assistance with clothing/writing letters/reading/visitation
12. NHCU – 1 on 1 visitation to play board games/cribbage/dominos/etc...
13. Telehealth Support – Learn to provide support in your community to patients using home telehealth devices (Aroostook, Washington, Hancock, Oxford, and Cumberland counties)

ONGOING PROGRAM SUPPORT:

1. Electric razors- triple head type. (\$49-69 ea.)
2. Comfort Item Program (disposable razors, deodorant, etc.)
3. Diabetic snacks for clinic patients
4. Coffee & Newspaper funds - provides coffee/newspapers at waiting areas/wards/clinics.
5. General Patient Comfort Fund (Memorial Donations)
6. Adapted Sports Equipment/Outings – Recreation Therapy
7. National Rehabilitation Events (Golden Age Games, Winter Sports, Wheelchair Games, and Creative Arts)

SPECIAL REQUESTS/PROJECTS:

1. Unit 4 South activity sponsorship.
 2. Televisions for patient rooms (**approx. \$285 ea.**)
 3. Wheelchairs for volunteer escort service. (**approx. \$125 each**)
 4. TV/VCR/DVD combo & cart for Bangor, CBOC (**\$500-\$700**)
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NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME! Used Stamps; Jigsaw Puzzles; Playing Cards; Hardcover Books; Romance Novels; Magazines Over Three Months Old; Disposable razors; Soap; After-Shave; Writing Tablets; Pens; and Envelopes.

Due to Infection Control policies we are unable to take used walkers, canes, or crutches at this time.