



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



June 29, 2007

**A positive thinker does not refuse to recognize
the negative, he just refuses to dwell on it.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

National Legion College

The American Legion College will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from November 4 – 9, 2007. If you or someone from your post is interested in attending, please request the application materials from this office. The Department of Maine pays for one student to attend each year.

The College is a combination of lectures, small group workshops and practical exercises. Students will receive training in leadership, sales and marketing, communication and fundraising. The focus is on self-taught small group sessions with the guidance from graduate facilitators, national staff members, contracted professional speakers and national officers. Major emphasis is placed on core programs, management techniques and development of leadership skills necessary to increase visibility of programs, growth in membership and public awareness of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion.

The deadline for submitting applications for The American Legion College is Friday, July 20, 2007. All applicants must have completed The American Legion Extension Institute course prior to attending.

**Togus July 4th
Annual Bash**

Come and join us for our annual July 4th Bash at Togus. We will need about 15 volunteers to help the patients play Bingo and to pass out watermelon. Entertainment will follow after lunch to be provided for anyone who participates. Legionnaires, please wear your caps, as our veterans love to see them. Please meet us in Building 207 on the first floor at 9:30 a.m. and we will be concluding the events around 2:00 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you there. FMI please call Mary Barger at 443-4807.

Officer Reports

We have received Post Officer reports from many of our Legion posts, but we still have a lot to go. Without a current Post Officer report our organization functions a lot less efficiently and ultimately causes problems with our communication. Please do your best to get the following reports to this office as soon as you can. We have not received reports from Area 1 or District 1 York and District 7 Lincoln. The following posts have not submitted reports as of the printing of this newsletter:

Calais Post 3	Cherryfield Post 8	E. Millinocket Post 13
Brunswick Post 20	Ft. Fairfield Post 27	Camden Post 30
No. Haven Post 33	So. Portland Post 35	Thomaston Post 37
Madison Post 39	Washburn Post 48	Oakland Post 51
Oakfield Post 52	Dexter Post 53	Limerick Post 55
Pembroke Post 59	Gorham Post 60	Ellsworth Post 63
Bridgton Post 67	Scarborough Post 76	Strong Post 78
Orono Post 84	No. Berwick Post 87	Presque Isle Post 88
Togus Post 90	Wilton Post 117	Limestone Post 127
Bar Mills Post 130	Sabattus Post 135	Fryeburg Post 137
Harrison Post 139	Peaks Island Post 142	Wells Post 143
Windham Post 148	Waldoboro Post 149	Mechanic Falls Post 150
W. Paris Post 151	Cape Elizabeth Post 152	Kennebunkport Post 159
Lee Post 160	Palermo Post 163	N. New Portland Post 173
Dayton Post 177	So. China Post 179	St. Francis Post 180
Clinton Post 186	Easton Post 187	Topsfield Post 191
Athens Post 192	China Post 195	Peru Post 199
Dixmont Post 201	Monmouth Post 204	Masardis Post 208
Gr. Diamond Is. 212		

Even though the officers of these posts may not have changed, please send a report to update any information that may have changed. There is a blank Post Officer's Report at the end of this newsletter for your use. District Commanders please note the posts in your District and do your best to help get them sent in.

NASCAR Opportunity For Wounded Warrior

NASCAR is looking to hire a wounded veteran with a very specific injury – a single-arm amputation. The candidate will be fitted with a special prosthetic device that will enable him/her to change tires as part of an actual NASCAR pit crew. The pay, benefits, and exposure are phenomenal.

If you have such an injury and are interested, please contact Maj. Belcher ASAP at 1-610-476-1609.

Landstuhl Heroes Deserve More

Many of the wounded arrive there naked. We are not talking about a hospital in the Sudan, but our very own Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a stop on the journey home for most of the severely wounded Americans fighting in the War on Terror.

As Michael M. Phillips explains in his book, “The Gift of Valor,” the clothes of these heroes are often cut off their back by medics and corpsmen as they are evacuated from the battlefield. He adds, “If you make it to Landstuhl, you’re good to go. It was an article of faith among the Marine infantrymen in Iraq that if the corpsman plugged up the hole to keep you from bleeding out, and the field surgeons stitched up the important organs, and the Air Force got you all the way to the Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then you’d live. You might not be the same. Your legs might not be where they were before the war. Your arms might not work as well. Your skin might be disfigured by burns. Your brain might be so badly injured that you might not really be the same person you used to be. But you’d survive and eventually get home to your parents, your wife, your kids, your girl.”

The American Legion wants them to do more than survive. America can never repay the debt it owes these heroes, but it can certainly improve their quality of life. Much attention has been rightly given to substandard conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, but little is being done to help improve the plight of our heroes at Landstuhl.

Last month, Commander Morin and President Cronin had the honor of visiting this vital DoD facility. Patients there don’t ask for much. Some are even eager to return to their old units so they could fight alongside their buddies. Sadly, some of these wounded warriors had broken television sets in their rooms. Others lack comfort items such as DVDs, MP-3s or even magazines. They do receive a small clothing allowance, but when you arrive with nothing it doesn’t go very far.

We are throwing down a challenge to the entire American Legion family and anyone else who wants to help. Let’s raise \$50,000 by the close of our 89th National Convention on Aug. 30 to ensure that these men and women are given the comfort items they want. By family, we mean The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion; “anyone else” includes everyone who has the heart to help these brave young men and women. It’s important that this be a family effort because it is our families that these soldiers are protecting. The heroes at Landstuhl are our Band of Brothers and Sisters.

Words such as “support the troops” and “sacrifice” are tossed around so much these days that they are in danger of being dismissed as clichés. Here is another one: “Talk is cheap.” Care packages and cards are nice, but a donation to “Operation Landstuhl” is effortless. Simply visit www.legion.org/landstuhl and use any major credit card to make an online donation. It doesn’t matter how much you give. Just give something. If you prefer, you can mail a check to Operation Landstuhl, c/o The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

Every post, unit or squadron that makes a donation will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the national commanders and the national president. A strong national security and taking care of veterans are two of the original four pillars that The American Legion has been built on. Operation Landstuhl is yet another way to fulfill that commitment.

National Cmdr. Paul Morin

National Pres. JoAnn Cronin

SAL Natl. Cmdr. Earl Ruttofsky

**Department of Maine
Fall Conference**

The American Legion Auxiliary of Maine has announced the details of the annual Fall Conference to be held in Millinocket on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Millinocket Auxiliary Unit 80 will be offering a package deal for meals including the Saturday evening banquet and we will publish the details as soon as we have them. The following motels will hold rooms until August 29th for those who may be interested in attending:

America's Best Value Inn - \$69 plus tax for single rooms plus \$10 for each additional person. Breakfast included for Sat. and Sun. 723-9777 or 1-888-315-2378.

Pamola Motor Lodge - \$55.75 including tax for single rooms or \$66.45 for two people and \$5 for each additional person. 1-800-575-9746.

Econo Lodge - \$68.48 including tax for all rooms with two double beds. Continental breakfast included. 723-4555 or 1-800-424-6423.

All Auxiliary and SAL events will be held at the Donald V. Henry Post 80. The Legion conference will be held at America's Best Value Inn. There will be entertainment on Friday evening at the post home and tentatively there will be a D.E.C. meeting for the Auxiliary and Legion on Sunday morning.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Laura Wingfield	\$30.00 – Healing Field
M.W. Sewall & Co.	\$150.00 – Healing Field
Kathy Fiedler	\$20.00 – Healing Field
Portland Post 161	\$20.00 – Healing Field
Johanna Moody	\$20.00 – Healing Field
Arthur Lapham	\$20.00 – Healing Field
Harpswell Post 171	\$100.00 – VAVS
Harpswell Post 171	\$100.00 – Beals House

Kudos

Jerry Parker of Unity Post 50 and Lu Lamoreau of Augusta Post 205 for all their help at our annual state convention at the registration table.

**New Legion Discount
Prescription Drug Program**

The Caremark/CVS Discount Drug Program goes into effect on July 1, 2007 replacing the RX America as the National Program for Discount Prescriptions. The change should be invisible for most members.

A Legion family member can present their membership card to any of the 57,000 participating pharmacies (including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target, Rite Aid, Kmart, and many more) and receive a discount on prescription medications. Even if you have a funded insurance program, in some cases the Legion discount may be cheaper than the co-pay. Please ask your pharmacist to run it through both programs to see which is more advantageous.

If members have used RX America in the last 18 months they will be receiving a discount drug card in the mail within the next six weeks. It is not necessary to use the card for the discount as the membership card works in the same way. As always the discount applies to the member and his or her dependents.

If a member uses the new program after July 1 at any of the participating pharmacies, they will receive a CVS Health Advocate card within the next 45 days, which will also give them a 20% discount at CVS on CVS brand merchandise.

The discount program is available to legionnaires, Auxiliary members and SAL members by simply showing the applicable membership card.

Thank You

Thank you to all Legion family members who made phone calls, sent cards of well wishes, and all the welcome back at Varney's GMC when returning to work on June 20th. I made it to the VFW convention in Presque Isle and The American Legion convention in Bangor. Met lots of old friends.

Thanks guys and gals and SAL. I am recouping fast and am now good for another 50,000 miles anyway. Miss you all.

Past Dept. Sgt-at-Arms Ralph Smart
Danforth Post 45

District Meetings

10th District: July 9, Madison Post 39, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Light lunch to follow.

15th District: July 15, Eastport Post 11, 2 p.m.

**American Legion Riders
To Hold State Meeting**

The next meeting of The American Legion Riders organization will be held on Sunday, July 15th at Damariscotta Post 42. We would like to have everyone assemble at the Sherman Lake rest area on route 1 in Newcastle no later than 11:00 a.m. for an escort to The American Legion hall in Damariscotta. Damariscotta's ALR supporters are planning on a BBQ lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, etc with the meeting to follow. FMI please contact Gayle at: ggifford@midcoast.com

Gayle Gifford, Director
American Legion Riders of Damariscotta

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

The Healing Field project continues to roll along and we plan on another having a booth this weekend for the Bath Heritage Days. This proved to be quite an attraction at convention and with the amount of individuals that stopped in. It does two things for us, one is awareness and promotion and the other is the ability to sell those flags.

The 2008 Membership cards are available and those who attended convention and have completed the necessary Squadron Officers Report form have them already. If you do not have them and have completed that form then it is being sent to your Adjutant. If you do not receive the cards within two weeks then you will want to call Ron Densmore at 882-5943 to determine where your Squadron cards are.

Enjoy the weekend and have a Happy Fourth of July!

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE, THE AMERICAN LEGION

20 ____ - 20 ____ POST OFFICERS

ELECTED: _____(DATE)

Commander _____

(Name) (ID Number) (Mailing Address) (Zip)

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Adjutant _____

(Name) (ID Number) (Mailing Address) (Zip)

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Finance Officer _____

1st Vice Commander _____

Membership Chairman _____

2nd Vice Commander _____

Sergeant-at-Arms _____

Historian _____

Chaplain _____

Americanism Officer _____

Service Officer _____

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Meeting Nights and Time _____ Post Telephone Number _____

Street Address, Post home _____

Please fill in the name, street address or Post Office box, town, zip code and telephone numbers of **ALL** officers and return this form to: THE AMERICAN LEGION, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900. If additional page is needed please use same.

Note: In order for your post to receive correspondence or be listed in The American Legion State Directory, this form must be filed with the Department Adjutant's office, at the address listed above, on or before the deadline. **This form needs to be completed every year, even if your officers do not change.**

DEADLINE: June 1

(Name of Post) (Location) (Post No.)