



## The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: [legionme@me.acadia.net](mailto:legionme@me.acadia.net)

Website: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

### Weekly Update



Aug 3, 2007

**When you blame others,  
you give up the power to change.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Real Estate and  
Personal Property Taxes**

A new Maine law will go into effect in 2008, which may or may not affect your American Legion Post. The following is quoted as an excerpt from the Maine law, which will exempt most Legion Post homes from real estate or personal property taxes levied by municipalities.

“E. The real estate and personal property owned, occupied and used for their own purposes by posts of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, (other organizations also named).....that are used solely by those organizations for meetings, ceremonials or instruction or to further the charitable activities of the organization, including all facilities appurtenant to such use and used in connection therewith. If an organization is not the sole occupant of the property, the exemption granted under this paragraph applies only to that portion of the property owned, occupied and used by the organization for its purposes.”

“An organization or institution that desires to secure exemption under this section shall make written application and file written proof of entitlement for each parcel to be considered on or before the first day of April in the year in which the exemption is first requested with the assessors of the municipality in which the property would otherwise be taxable. If granted, the exemption continues in effect until the assessors determine that the organization or institution is no longer qualified. Proof of entitlement must indicate the specific basis upon which the exemption is claimed.”

These are two excerpts from the law, which is approximately seven pages long, to allow American Legion Posts to claim an exemption from municipal property taxes. We have copies of the entire law here at the HQ office if anyone would like a copy, just call and we will get it in the mail to you.

**OIF/OEF Veterans  
Scholarships Available**

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is offering scholarships to combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). It offers a scholarships up to \$1,250 per year for a person pursuing a BA/BS degree. You must have honorable service and a 2.0 GPA. The deadline for applications is September 28, 2007. Contact: [www.horatioalger.org](http://www.horatioalger.org)

**Paid-Up-For-Life Members**

The Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) members were added to the membership report this week. Please remember that the Post's share of a member's dues for (PUFL) members is now being generated directly from National Headquarters. Each Post will receive a "greenbar" printout of their PUFL members along with a check, or a credit for small amounts. The credits are being handled directly by National Headquarters. Therefore, please do not subtract any PUFL credits when transmitting regular membership to this office.

**Bath Post 21  
Dedication**

The Smith-Tobey Post 21 in Bath will be dedicating their new pavilion at the post home at 12:00 noon-time on Saturday, August 11, 2007. The dedication will be in honor of Past Department Commander Richard Blouin (1991-1992). PDC Blouin, in addition to his dedication to The American Legion, was also a charter member of the Maine Vietnam Veterans Vigil Committee.

In conjunction with the dedication Post 21 is also holding a Clam Bake, which will start at 1:00 p.m. following the dedication. Everyone is welcome and meal choices are steak for \$12 or lobsters for \$15. Both will include all the "fixins". Tickets are available at the post home or by calling Ed Strozier at 443-9804.

**Rockland Post 1 To  
Host Gala Event**

Rockland Post 1, in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Lobster Festival, will host several events on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 12:00 noontime, the post will host a free BBQ for all members, guests, and crewmembers of the USS Nassau, which will be anchored off Rockland's coast from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 1:00 p.m. there will be a horseshoe tournament starting and Motorcycle Show and Shine for all riders to show off their pride and joy for the benefit of The American Legion Legacy Fund. Registration for the Show and Shine is \$5 and trophies will be awarded. Concluding the events of the day at Post 1 will be a sock hop from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. Tickets to the Sock Hop are \$10 for members and guests. Nassau crewmembers get free admission.

The Navy will offer free tours of the 820-foot ship on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Boarding times will be from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the hour at the pier near the harbormaster building.

**Fisher House Matches  
Legion Phone Card Purchase**

INDIANAPOLIS (July 30, 2007) - Just days after the national commander of The American Legion announced the purchase of \$25,000 in pre-paid telephone calling cards to be given to troops as part of Operation Landstuhl (Lond Stool), an official with the Fisher House Foundation announced his organization's intention to match the donation given to U.S. troops recovering at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

"We are going to send \$25,000 of our own calling cards to the heroes recovering there," said James D. Weiskopf, Vice President of Communications for Fisher House. "This is in addition to the periodic shipment of cards we make to both the Pastoral Care Division and the manager of the two Landstuhl Fisher Houses. We stand ready to assist The American Legion in this special program to take care of service members and their families."

"This is an example of two great organizations working together," National Commander Paul A. Morin said. "Thanks to the Fisher House Foundation and The American Legion family, the troops will soon be getting \$50,000 worth of calling cards instead of \$25,000. As a consequence of war, a steady stream of new patients arrives there daily. These cards will all be put to good use." Operation Landstuhl is an initiative by Morin, Auxiliary President JoAnn Cronin and Sons of the American Legion Commander Earl Ruttkofsy. It was prompted by a recent visit to the center by Morin and Cronin.

"Brig. Gen. David Rubenstein and his staff at Landstuhl do an outstanding job of making sure the patients there receive the best medical care in the world. They are to be commended, but there are some personal comfort items that the patients could use," Morin said. "Whether it's a set of civilian clothes, DVDs, CDs, magazines or books, we want to provide it for them. We owe it to them. These phone cards are just the start."

The hospital is a stopping point on the journey home for many wounded service members, who are injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. During peak fighting periods, the hospital often accepts more than 900 new patients per month.

"Operation Landstuhl" is just more than a month old and we are already on our way to achieving our goal," Morin said. "The generosity of the American people has been overwhelming. I am confident that we will meet our goal by the close of our 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention on August 30."

The late Zachary Fisher, a New York builder, and his wife Elizabeth, established the Fisher House Foundation in 1990. Fisher House is designed to diminish emotional and financial drains on veterans' families and provide wheelchair-friendly places for veterans to visit. In recognition of the special sacrifices of severely wounded or ill U.S. service members and their families, the foundation donates "comfort homes" so families can face medical difficulties together.



## American Legion Baseball

The American Legion state baseball tournament will start on Saturday, August 4th at St. Joseph's College in Windham with the following lineup:

Sat. August 4

10 a.m. Bessey Motors (Oxford Hills area) vs. Monmouth  
1 p.m. Bangor vs. Nova Seafood (Portland)  
4 p.m. Fayette-Staples (OOB) vs. Brewer  
7:30 p.m. Madison vs. New Auburn

Sun. August 5

Game 5 - Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3, 10 a.m.  
Game 6 - Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 4, 1 p.m.  
Game 7 - Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 4, 4:30 p.m.  
Game 8 - Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 3, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. August 6

Game 9 - Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7, 12 p.m.  
Game 10 - Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 8, 3 p.m.  
Game 11 - Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 6 p.m.

Tues. August 7

Game 12 - Loser Game 11 vs. Winner Game 9, (note 1) 3 p.m.  
Game 13 - Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 10, 6 p.m.

Wed. August 8

Game 14 - Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13, (note 2) 3 p.m.  
Game 15 - Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13 (if necessary) 6 p.m.

Note 1 - pairings for Games 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents unless absolutely necessary.

Note 2- If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 will receive the bye in Game 14.

The Maine champion will travel to the Regional Tournament in Burlington, Vermont, Aug. 16 - 20.

The American Legion 2007 World Series is scheduled for Aug. 24 - 28, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

## What's Happening?

**12<sup>th</sup> District Hancock:** Aug. 5, all day, dinner served at noon. Annual outing at Gouldsboro Point. Lobster feed with mussels and corn on the cob. \$8.00 per lobster. Please send payment or reservation requests to Maurice Norwood, P. O. Box 98, Southwest Harbor 04679 or call 244-3724 NLT July 28, 2007.

**Damariscotta Legion Riders:** Aug. 5, 4 p.m. meeting, Damariscotta Post 42.

**Department Executive Committee:** Aug. 11, 11:00 a.m., Waterville Post 5. **(Please note this date has changed from the previously published date of August 18)**

## Condolences

Steve Savage, Florida SAL member and brother of Auxiliary Vice President Donna “Bunny” Greenlaw, recently passed away. Cards can be sent to Bunny at P. O. Box 503, Buxton 04093.

## Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

I am always interested in how squadrons assist their communities. This I have found is expressed in the various programs that they do within. I am constantly looking at those different ideas and like to report on those that are proactive and supportive of our veterans.

On a recent trip to Millinocket I stopped into Post 80 to recreate and see some old friends. I was also trying to drum up a presentation of The “Healing Field” for the Post 80 American Legion Family. I talked with Squadron Commander John Tyson and soon the conversation included a new program that they were involved in, he called it Adopt a Soldier. This program is as simple as our Adopt a Vet program but it goes a little further. Simply the squadron hears of a local soldier that is serving overseas and they begin to make a box of goodies for that person. This box is usually about 25 - 30 lbs. when they are finished. They begin by checking with the local merchants for donations and put cans out to gather monetary donations. While John began telling me about this program he stopped and asked Benny Fitzgerald to enter the conversation. It seems that Benny is the man with this plan and he is the main catalyst behind it, he is also a vice-commander for the squadron. He explained that the best method is to talk with the soldier’s parents and or family to find out what it is exactly that they are missing from their lives while serving their country over there. Typically a box will consist of disposable cameras, t-shirts, various candies, insoles, games, sun block, lotion, lip balm, tooth brush, paste, those personal items that they need or want. It is then all packaged up in zip loc bags, (I guess they are in quite a demand as well) put in a box and sent. This is definitely a hit with the soldier and I will bet the good friends do pretty well too. Squadron 80 has adopted four soldiers and is looking at possibly two more, keep up the great work!

Another area of interest is the Poker Run that will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee is \$5.00. Anything goes cars, trucks, bikes, etc. Best hand wins. Registration at 9 a.m. Start at American Legion Post 80 and you end at the same point. There is a meal at the end of the run, this is also \$5.00. This is sponsored by Squadron 80. FMI call 723-8088 or 723- 9141. There will be a presentation of “The Healing Field “ project at Post 80 in Millinocket. The presentation will be held at 2 p.m. on August 18<sup>th</sup>, all are encouraged and welcome to attend. The honorable PDC Herman Wright and myself will be the presenters.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

# Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services

Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

163 Mt. Vernon Road, 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