



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



April 18, 2008

**My interest is in the future because I am  
going to spend the rest of my life there.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

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

### **District 6 - Knox**

**Kingfield Post 61**

**Mechanic Falls Post 150**

**Wreath Pickup  
At VA Togus**

The pickup day for the wreaths laid at the National Cemetery at Togus, which have been snowed under until now, will be **Saturday, April 26, 2008**. We will be beginning this effort at **9:00 a.m.** and invite any able-bodied person to join us. As usual it will be a fun time with hopefully lots of help so no one person is over-worked. Photos and community service project signatures are available upon request from Lu Lamoreau.

**Veterans Cemeteries  
Decoration Day**

More help is needed to remember our Maine heroes who are buried in the Maine Veterans Cemeteries. We will gather at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2008** at the Augusta Civic Center Drive Cemetery and the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou to place flags so we never forget the sacrifice given by these veterans when our country called. When doing this we make sure every veteran buried in the cemeteries has two visitors each year, and you are one of those visitors. If we have a similar group to last year, it will take about two hours for us to complete this task. FMI please call PDC Don Simoneau at 897-4139 or District 4 Commander Charlie Bennett at 778-2340.

**Speaking of Charlie Bennett, top-notch KUDOS go to Charlie for his stand at UM Farmington to protect our Flag. Thank you Charlie.**

**American Legion  
Dirigo Boys State**

We have had several inquiries in the Department Headquarters office about the possibility of moving The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program to a later date due to several schools extending their school year because of the increased number of snow days this past year. The answer simply is we are not able to do this. We have a contract with Thomas College for specific dates and Thomas has other programs following our dates and is not able to just shift us from one week to another. As well, to now move the location, first of all violates our contract with Thomas College and secondly would require last minute negotiations with another location, which would be next to impossible.

The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program will be held at Thomas College from Sunday, June 15 to Thursday, June 19, 2008 and we do not have the option to change these dates.

**State Convention Housing**

Please remember that the Department Headquarters handles reservations **ONLY** for Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Candidates for Department Office, District Commanders, Area Representatives, specified Auxiliary members, SAL Officers, 40 & 8 Officers and La Femmes Officers. All others need to make their own reservations and the following information will assist you in your planning for the convention in Bangor, June 20 – 22, 2008. Please mention The American Legion when calling.

**Bangor Motor Inn** – 947-0355 – Hogan Rd., double, \$83.46; king, \$87.74 tax included.

**Days Inn** – 942-8272 – 250 Odlin Rd., single or double, \$77.04 tax included.

**Econo Lodge** – 945-0111 – 372 Odlin Rd., single, \$64.15; double, \$79.95 tax included.

**Super 8** – 945-5681 – 462 Odlin Rd., single, \$82.90; double, \$93.09 tax included.

**Holiday Inn** – 947-0101 – 404 Odlin Rd., \$96.25 tax included.

**Howard Johnson** – 942-5251 – 336 Odlin Rd., single, \$64.15; double, \$74.85 tax included.

**History Book Deadline**

ATTENTION all Post and District Historians. The deadline for the history books is coming right up. If you wish to have your book judged for the Department competition, all books must be received at Department Headquarters by May 1, 2008, which is less than two weeks away.

Brenda Dearborn  
Department Historian

## Kudo's

Portland Post 17 for their recent donations of \$100 to the Fort Western Presumpscot School, \$500 to the Children's Miracle Network at MMC, and their continuing support of the Harold T. Andrews baseball program with over \$3,000 donated as of this date.

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donations of \$500 to the Breakaway 5 K race and \$500 each to the libraries of the Jameson, Loranger and Old Orchard Beach High Schools.

## Department Testimonial

Smith-Tobey Post 21 of Bath will host the Department Testimonial for Department Commander Paul L'Heureux, Department President Charlotte "Kitty" Wing, and SAL Detachment Commander Don Allisot on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Social hour, 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner choices are roast pork or baked haddock for \$15 per person. The Bath Post will also have a live band called "Vegetables By Day" starting at 8 p.m. for your entertainment. Please send your dinner reservations to Department of Maine, P. O. Box 900, Waterville 04903 indicating your choice of pork or haddock. All proceeds from the dinner will go to veterans programs in Maine.

For anyone wishing to stay overnight, the Bath Holiday Inn will be offering a special rate of \$75.00 plus tax for Legion family members, compliments of motel manager Joe Byrnes. There are only 25 rooms available at this rate (normally \$125) and it is first come, first served. You can make reservations by calling 1-800-465-4329 and letting them know it is with The American Legion.

## Directory Changes

**Pg. 34,** Harpswell Post 171, P.O. Box 171, Harpswell 04079

**Pg. 48,** Litchfield Post 181, 233 Plains Rd., Litchfield 04350

**Pg. 53,** Bar Harbor Post, P.O. Box 722, Bar Harbor 04609

**Pg. 64,** Mars Hill Post 118, meeting night is the 1st Thursday

**Donations**

**THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU**

Freeport Post 83	\$50.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
District 5, Oxford County	\$150.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Ernie Paradis	\$50.00 – National Commander’s Campaign
District 4, Franklin County	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp

(The following donations are in memory of Past National Commander Bill Rogers)

Doris Karter	\$20.00 – National Legacy Fund
Barbara C. Carson	\$20.00 – National Legacy Fund
Russell & Eleanor Lashua	\$25.00 – National Legacy Fund
Pat Garascia & Sons	\$25.00 – National Legacy Fund
Mr. & Mrs. William Banks	\$25.00 – National Legacy Fund
Elwood & Laura Foye	\$100.00 – National Legacy Fund
Tom & Mona Naragon	\$100.00 – National Legacy Fund

**District Meetings**

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Apr. 19, Dover Post 29, 6:30 p.m. supper, mtg. to follow.

**District 11 – Waldo:** Apr. 20, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

**District 1 – York:** Apr. 27, No. Berwick Post 87, 2 p.m.

**MAY**

**13<sup>th</sup> District – Penobscot:** May 4, Howland Post 97, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., installation.

**8<sup>th</sup> District - Sagadahoc:** May 8, Bath Post 21, 6:30 p.m., District convention

**14<sup>th</sup> District - Piscataquis:** May 10, Greenville Post 94, elections & installation, 6:30 p.m. supper

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Cumberland:** May 11, So. Portland Post 35, 2 p.m.

**7<sup>th</sup> District – Lincoln:** May 12, Damariscotta Post 42, 7:30 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District - Hancock:** May 13, Stonington Post 102, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting

**9<sup>th</sup> District – Kennebec:** May 14, Augusta Post 205, 7:30 p.m., elections.

**16<sup>th</sup> District - So. Aroostook:** May 17, Caribou Post 15, 1 p.m.

**11<sup>th</sup> District - Waldo:** May 18, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

**17<sup>th</sup> District – No. Aroostook:** May 18, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. dinner, Elections

**15<sup>th</sup> District – Washington:** May 18, Woodland Post 23, 2 p.m., meal to follow.

**5<sup>th</sup> District - Oxford:** May 20, Fryeburg Post 137, 7 p.m.

## What's Happening?

**Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce:** Apr. 19, Chamber Showcase at the Sedmocha School in Dover, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be a Community Connections for Non-Profits. Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Commander Ed Conroy is looking for members of other area posts to man a table at this event and possibly to partner with other area posts to split the \$150 fee. FMI please contact Ed Conroy at [edfconroy@myway.com](mailto:edfconroy@myway.com) or 717-6473.

**Hermon Post 200:** Apr. 19, Bean Supper, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Rescue Squad Building on Billings Road in Hermon. All you can eat. Adults \$5, children \$2.50.

**Mars Hill Post 118:** May 9, Central Aroostook HS Cafeteria, 5 – 7 p.m. Baked bean supper and bake sale. Adults \$5, children under 6 free or 5 tickets for \$20. For tickets send money to Post 118, P. O. Box 616, Mars Hill 04758 or e-mail Commander Rod Collins at [rc199@pioneercable.net](mailto:rc199@pioneercable.net) All funds will be used to revitalize the post home.

## Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

I think we all have watched the YouTube video. My thoughts on this are not much different from those of you. My first thought was one of outrage and especially when I saw the face of Charlie Bennett. He was deeply concerned and a little frazzled as he was being threatened and followed in the Student Center. This is ironic to me as he, in part, is responsible for our right to freedom of speech. He served to preserve our rights as Americans and yet his “freedom of speech was threatened in a public building. His resolve was inspiring but I am quite concerned with our education system. Exactly what this spectacle has to do with an “Art project” is beyond me. I would think that it is more likely a social experiment or even a psychology project. What we have is an assault on our feelings about our country and our flag. This is what we as a society have created; our ideals and democratic government fosters these freedoms and those free thoughts. I just wish the college administration did not use the excuse of an educational program to hide behind. It is what it is, “Flag Desecration”!

Membership is slowing down. Let's finish up with a bang! We are still at #11 in the country! I want to be on top but hey, close will work. Again we have a great membership team but I am concerned with the renewals. At this time we are still showing 80.47 % and that means that there are still 510 members that have not paid their 2008 dues.

A reminder - the Squadrons were sent the Consolidated Report Forms. These are an important part of the year's agenda.

Department Testimonial is on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Bath. May 18<sup>th</sup> is the next Detachment Executive Committee meeting. This will be held at the Bath Post at 2:00 P.M.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

## Auxiliary Corner

Are you a Women Veteran? We would potentially like to start an informal network of women veterans. Please e-mail us at [aladc@legion-aux.org](mailto:aladc@legion-aux.org) if you are interested.

The topics the ALA has chosen for its legislative agenda include those we feel will have a significant impact on military and veteran families. Our membership has been monitoring them closely and moving them to the center of our advocacy efforts. While not in order of priority, here is what we feel must be fully resolved:

- Updating the Montgomery GI Bill, The American Legion Auxiliary supports passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (S.22/H.R. 2702)
- Preventing Homelessness Among Veterans, The American Legion Auxiliary supports passage of the Home for Heroes Act of 2007 (S.1084/H.R.3329) Specifically we feel these components are necessary.
- Addressing the Issue of Military Sexual Trauma (MST), The American Legion Auxiliary strongly supports any legislation that mandates research into the cause and effect and treatment of MST. This issue crosses DOD/VA lines of responsibility but it is firmly our position that both departments have unique obligations and responsibilities. We advocate the creation of a joint DOD/VA task force with oversight and responsibility for researching, addressing and treating all components related to MST from the Predator to the Victim. Currently the Women Veterans Health Care Act (H.R.4107) does include a provision for a VA study on treatment. We advocate for the passage of this legislation.
- Supporting Access to Mental Health Treatment for Military Families, Currently, the VA offers no mental health services for family members of veterans. The American Legion Auxiliary stands with The American Legion in calling for Congress to appropriate sufficient funds for the VA to ensure comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families.

**District 5 Auxiliary:** Will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, April 19th at Dover Post 29. Supper at 6 p.m. - meeting to follow. On the agenda we will vote on District 5 Constitution and By-Laws, and hold elections. If you need more information contact President Toni Vilies,

**Smith-Tobey Unit 21:** Apr. 23, Spaghetti Dinner, 5 – 7 p.m. at the post home. \$5 per person.

Charlotte “Kitty” Wing  
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE**

**POST DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE 2008 STATE CONVENTION**

Following are the elected delegates and alternates for this post to the 90th Annual State Convention of The Maine American Legion to be held at the Bangor Civic Center, June 20-22, 2008. Election of delegates has been in accordance to the Call to State Convention. This form must be mailed to the Department Adjutant's office by June 1, 2008. The 1976 State Convention mandated that all delegates MUST register prior to voting. Evidence of registration will be requested by the credentials committee.

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Post Adjutant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Commander's Signature

**DELEGATES**

**ALTERNATES**

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**DELEGATES-AT-LARGE:** (Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, District Commanders and Area Representatives)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Credentials Committee will meet June 21, 2008 at 8 a.m. Registration fee of \$5 for each delegate and alternate MUST be paid by sending a check payable to The American Legion, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900 by June 1, 2008. ALL DELEGATES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED.

**NAME OF POST** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **POST NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

No. of delegates allowed (Office Use Only) \_\_\_\_\_