



## 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



April 25, 2008

**Nothing is easy to the unwilling**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

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

**Millinocket Post 80**

**Norway Post 82**

**Peaks Island Post 142**

**Athens Post 192**

**District 4 Commander  
Serves With Pride**

A university student's disgraceful art experiment left out one important variable; resistance from a determined American Legionnaire. Suzanne Crane, a 40-year old education major at the University of Maine at Farmington, displayed a series of U. S. Flags on the floor of the student center hallway on campus on April 15. Her purpose was to figure out how people felt about the flag and she gave them a choice; to walk around it or on it.

Enter Vietnam veteran Charlie Bennett, The American Legion's District 4 Commander of Farmington Post 28. He tried to remove the flags from the floor, but university officials threatened to arrest him. Charlie stopped removing the flags, but stood his ground as he took his post in front of Old Glory, discouraging many students from stepping on it. Some found other flags to trample on. Charlie protected one of our flags with pride and honor, but most of all he protected it with his love of our country and what that "piece of cloth" stands for.

Charlie served an 11-month tour in Vietnam and saw many of his brothers and sisters, who fought for the U. S. Flag as he did, return home with mental and physical scars to be carried for a lifetime, and some did not return at all. To those who have been there, the U. S. Flag is more than just a "piece of cloth"; it represents the core values we all share as proud Americans and has given our soldiers a small sanctuary to hold on to when all odds are against them and times are at their worst. This "art" exhibit at Farmington was removed before its intended deadline, not because of bad taste, but because a local fire official deemed it was a safety hazard. This may not have become a safety hazard without Charlie pointing out just how much of a problem it could be.

From the bottom of my heart I say thank you Charlie Bennett. Thank you for standing up for the principles of our organization and being there for us, both during the recent events at U. M. Farmington and for your past proud service to our country.

**Legion Riders To Hold  
State-wide Meeting**

The American Legion Riders of Maine will hold a state Ride-In this summer at Millinocket Post 80 on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Currently we plan to meet at 2 p.m. to finalize the Legion Riders state constitution and by-laws, followed by dinner served by Post 80 with evening entertainment. Post 80 members are working on motel deals for this event and there are also places for those who want to camp out. More information will be distributed and posted on the ALR web site as the details are finalized.

Bill Kilde, Assistant Director  
Maine State Legion Riders

**Donations**

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

District 4, Franklin County	\$100.00 – Blind Camp
Brian Knowlton	\$100.00 – Beal’s House
District 14, Piscataquis County	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Madawaska Post 147 Riders	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Harpswell Post 171	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
District 11, Waldo County	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Fairfield Post 14	\$50.00 – Veterans Housing Coalition of Maine
John Schlaack	\$20.00 – Veterans Housing Coalition of Maine

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

Jane Pratt	\$10.00 – National Legacy Fund
Frank & Jackie Culina	\$20.00 – National Legacy Fund
Mr. & Mrs Francis Buchanan	\$25.00 – National Legacy Fund

**From a Deployed  
Soldier in Iraq**

Dear Nana:

I have visited three separate areas on this tour in Iraq. Each place has its own uniqueness, beauty and of course troubles. It goes without saying that there are folks who want us here and folks who don't. We are simply here to do a difficult job called peacekeeping. We also do another job called humanitarian responsibilities and even another called civil affairs. Things will not change overnight, no matter how hard these young soldiers work, and I ask you to pray for these young men and women in harm's way.

When these young men and women return they will have changed. Their families will notice that change. I ask you to pray for these families as well. To be a soldier means sacrifice and commitment. Some of these soldiers will come home limbless; some will come home mentally scarred; and others will not come home at all. I ask you to say prayers for these soldiers – these good, fine soldiers.

For God and Country,  
Josie (last name and rank omitted intentionally)

**District Meetings**

**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 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District - Hancock:** May 13, Stonington Post 102, 6 p.m. dinner at Harbor Café across from post, 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?

**Grande Testimonial:** May 3, honoring Grande Chef De Gare Donald Grotton & Grande La Presidente Kenda Simmons at Veterans Memorial Post 205, Augusta. Social: 1 p.m., Banquet: 2 p.m.; baked stuffed chicken or baked ham with pineapple, veggie, baked potato, salad, dessert. Cost: \$12 per person. Cutoff is April 28. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Mail Reservations to: Debra Ryan, PO Box 215, Winthrop 04364. Tel: 512-2568. Make check payable to: Cabane 308. Please give a phone number where she can confirm the reservation.

**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.

**Joint District Testimonial:** May 10, honoring District 3 Commander Ken Bouchard and District 4 Commander Charlie Bennett at Farmington Post 28. Social hour 4 p.m.; dinner at 5 p.m. with a program to follow. Live Bluegrass and Country music from 7 – 9 p.m. Please send reservations to Charlie Bennett, 1200 Fairbanks Rd., Farmington 04938 or call him at 778-2340 or Ken Bouchard, 35 Lavoie St., Jay 04239 or call 897-6739. \$12 per person. Please make checks payable to Farmington Post 28. Cutoff is May 6. If you may be staying overnight, please call Charlie Bennett for motel information.

**Joint Testimonial:** May 31 honoring District 9 Commander Russ Tregembo and District 4 President Judy Lewis at Augusta Post 205. Social hour 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Chicken cordon bleu, etc. – no charge. Guests are requested to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Shepard of Faith Food Pantry. Please call C. C. Atwood at 737-2253 for reservations. Cutoff is May 19.

## 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. Cutoff date for reservations is May 12.

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.

**Sick Call**

Frank A. Wise, Jr., 60-year member of Gardiner Post 4, P. O. Box 963, Augusta 04332

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

It is a busy time of year with many dinners, installations and testimonials coming up. Very soon I will again join the ranks of Past Commander and believe me it is time. I am thinking about where we were two years ago and I am feeling confident that we will really fill some holes and move the organization forward. I am confident because a young man by the name of Bruce Pierce, who is the leading candidate for Detachment Commander and because several other candidates have submitted their applications for Detachment Offices. We have an opportunity to improve our assistance to this American Legion Family. We will remain a growing entity with still more ability as we grow.

The generosity of “The Family” still, to this day, amazes me as we help each other in our projects to assist our communities. Let me explain. I was asked to install Topsham Memorial Squadron 202. After I passed the gavel to incoming Commander Garrett Hamrick, he presented me with a check for \$1000 to donate wherever it was needed. The Troop Greeters need some assistance and I believe it is very appropriate for the Sons to assist with this excellent program. You see, many times when I have been to national meetings, people have come up to me and explained how very important it was that their son or daughter was welcomed back into the states in Bangor Maine, by The American Legion. Their work is so very important and I know we need to support our troops in any way we can. So if you can help please do so for this cause. It is important to those soldiers who are returning home! Thank You Squadron 202!

Remember we need your completed Consolidated Report Forms returned to Detachment Adjutant Ron Densmore, 9 Sunset Ridge, Wiscasset 04578. This is the only tool that we have to show the Congressional delegation we need to support our favorite programs a little better than they have been. Next week I will tell you about another project that began a year ago and how one squadron has taken an Adopt a Vet program and included a community with its generosity to adopt in-country veterans. The National organization has sent another renewal notice and we still have around 500 out there, so if you can, please help us chase these renewals down and help the Detachment of Maine win another race in the Stoneyard 365!

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

## Auxiliary Corner

**Membership** - Membership is the foundation on which the program of the American Legion Auxiliary is built, and the success or failure of that program depends largely on how well that foundation is laid. With the start of each new Auxiliary year, we build that foundation even before we plan any of our other programs. No unit can successfully carry out any large activity without the firm foundation of a strong membership. A unit which fails to recruit as many eligible women as possible to its ranks has not done its full share toward the success of its Department and National Organization.

Dues of American Legion Auxiliary members shall be payable annually or life. Units should make an effort to have their entire membership in good standings for the New Year as soon as possible. Active membership campaigns should be planned. Early payment of dues by members is highly desirable in order to feed the energies of the unit for securing new members and other American Legion Auxiliary activities.

**Leadership** - Preparation of the future leaders for the organization is vital concern of the American Legion Auxiliary. A comprehensive leadership course has been developed in the department. Trained leaders conduct Leadership courses within the Department using nationally approved manuals, American Legion Auxiliary Correspondence Course and The American Extension Institute Course. Every unit member is urged to learn more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Knowledge of the organization enhances member participation in support of Unit programs.

**Americanism:** - The Americanism program of The American Legion embraces a multiplicity of activities. It necessitates real, honest, unselfish effort on the part of all members of The American Legion. The members of the Auxiliary can effectively make patriotism a personal matter and they can select and successfully carry out projects adaptable to the needs of their communities. The Americanism work of the Auxiliary Ideals includes all activities tending to perpetuate American ideals and uphold the principles of American democracy.

Charlotte "Kitty" Wing  
Department President

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.)