



The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

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Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



April 3, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**If you want to lead, you must learn
to listen – to friends and enemies alike.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

District 5 – Oxford

Locke Mills Post 68

Oakfield Post 52

W. Paris Post 151

Hermon Post 200

Membership

Membership continues to roll along at a great pace in the Maine American Legion. We continue to be NUMBER ONE in the nation, are now just under 97%, and have a good shot at making 100% for the Department for the first time in more years than I can remember. Usually the membership goal set by National is unattainable, but this year we have a reasonable goal and it would be a tremendous accomplishment for the Maine American Legion to achieve 100%. Whatever you can do will be appreciated.

The District race has tightened up for the top spot with District Commander Chuck Williams and the members of District 16 – So. Aroostook taking over the number one spot. Close behind is District 14 - Piscataquis Commander Lee Leeman, who held the top spot since last December, and is pushing to regain the lead. More recently District 5 – Oxford Commander Bob Richardson, with help from National staff member Jim Fiedler and a couple of other dedicated legionnaires from that District, has achieved 100% and is now chasing Chuck and Lee. We also have six or seven more Districts within striking distance of the magic 100% mark.

We have some posts which have really excelled this year and have exceeded 105%. Kudos to each and every one of them for their exceptional efforts: Limerick Post 55, York Post 56, Wells Post 143, Gorham Post 60, Bridgton Post 67, Yarmouth Post 91, So. Paris Post 72, Oxford Post 112, W. Paris Post 151, No. Haven Post 33, Monmouth Post 204, Jackman Post 122, Bucksport Post 93, Brewer Post 98, Hermon Post 200, Dixmont Post 201, Hampden Post 213, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, Topsfield Post 191, Ft. Fairfield Post 27, Houlton Post 47, and Mars Hill Post 118. I cannot go without also mentioning the posts which are over the 104% mark: Berwick Post 79, Standish Post 128, and Old Town Post 75.

Working together, we can make a difference.

**Veterans Being Billed For
Service Connected Illnesses**

American Legion National staff is currently researching individual claims we are receiving from veterans who are being charged by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for treatment of service connected injuries or illnesses. We are contacting those veterans to verify that they were indeed billed for treatment of a service connected illness or injury.

This billing of private insurance is done by VA if a veteran is treated for a non service-connected injury. If a veteran is treated by the VA for a service-connected injury, the veteran's private insurance should not be billed and VA is mandated to cover the costs for treatment.

If you are or know of any instances where veterans are actually being billed for the treatment of service-connected illnesses or injuries (including conditions service-connected on a secondary basis) or have had to take action in the past to correct such billing practices, please contact Jacob Gadd, Assistant Director for Program Management. He can be reached at (202) 263-2991 or by email at: jgadd@legion.org

Your prompt response on this matter will be appreciated.

**Last Call For
History/Scrapbooks Contest**

This is the final reminder for all Posts and Districts to send their History and Scrapbooks to the Department Headquarters no later than May 1, 2009. This also applies to newsletters if you have not already been sending them.

The Maine American Legion has had a tremendous year under the leadership of our Commander John Doyle and as we are first in the nation in membership it is an opportune time to record our history at all levels of the organization.

In addition to a very nice plaque for first and second place in the History, Scrapbook and Newsletter categories at both Post and District levels, all participants will receive recognition with a certificate. They will be presented at the state convention in June.

If anyone has any questions on the formats, please give me a call or refer to the Post Officer's Guide. It is not too late to put a book together and any history you record is a valuable resource for the Legion in future years.

History is our legacy and the office of Historian is a vital one in a Post or District.

E. Jeff Barnes
Department Historian
Tel: 945-9326

The Way We Get By

The Way We Get By is a documentary film about the Maine Troop Greeters, who have greeted nearly one million military personnel at Bangor International Airport since this organization was formed. With each flight that transits Bangor IAP, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Maine Troop Greeters have been there to send them off or welcome them home. Charlie Company of the 126th Aviation Regiment is featured in this deeply touching documentary.

There will be four screenings of this film at the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine in Orono: April 9 at 6:45 p.m., April 10 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and April 11 at 12:00 p.m. The April 9 screening will include a ceremony honoring the Maine Troop Greeters. It will include Governor Baldacci, Adjutant General Bill Libby and members of the Maine National Guard.

There are 500 free tickets reserved for each screening for military personnel and the rest will be sold to the public for \$7.00 each. You can obtain these tickets by calling the Collins Center Box Office at 207-581-1755.

The movie trailer can be viewed at www.thewaywegetbymovie.com The movie has been described by those who have had the opportunity to see it already as: “a story that is not just indescribably moving, but is a timeless metaphor for our country”, “absolutely captivating”, “celebrates the human heart”, “I adored every frame of this movie and every person in it”, and many other superlatively positive comments. The Way We Get By screenings are hosted by the Maine Public Broadcasting Network and Bangor Savings Bank.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

District 11 – Waldo	\$50.00 – National Commander’s Campaign
Fayette Central Elementary School	\$52.85 – Cemetery Flags
Dixfield Post 100	\$50.00 – National Commander’s Campaign
Dixfield Post 100	\$50.00 – Legacy Fund

Kudos

To Fairfield Post 14 for their donations of \$100 to the Waterville Fire Dept., \$100 to Colby Lacrosse Team to sponsor a program to purchase supplies for Maine Marines on active duty, \$50 for the Bentley Bear program, \$500 to help with medical costs for a seven year old suffering from an inoperable brain tumor, \$50 to the American Diabetes Assoc., \$100 to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, \$200 to CMN, \$200 for the Brain Injury Assoc., \$50 to the Pine Tree Council BSA, \$50 to Paralyzed Veterans of America and \$100 to the U.S.O.

To Caribou Post 15 for donating the proceeds of a bean supper to restore the veterans’ honor roll in Caribou and for delivering, along with the V.V.A., 8 walking sticks to the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou.

What's Happening?

Bean Supper: April 4, Milo Post 41, 5 – 6:30 p.m. Take-out also available. FMI, please call the post home at 943-2542.

Benefit Dinner: April 4, Greenville Post 94, 5 – 6:30 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings and the cost will be by donation. All proceeds will go to replacing worn out American flags on the utility poles throughout Greenville and will be sponsored by Greenville Post and Unit 94. FMI please contact Pete or Helena Johnson at 695-2019.

Department Adjutant Testimonial: April 25, Orono Post 84, social hour 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner will be a buffet with black oak carved ham and baked stuffed haddock for \$16 per person, which will include admission to the dance. Reservations can be made through the Department of Maine, P. O. Box 900, Waterville 04903 or by calling the office at 873-3229. Cutoff is April 21. For anyone who may wish to stay overnight, the following Orono motels have quoted these rates: Black Bear Inn - \$89.95 plus tax. Tel: 866-7120 / University Motor Inn: \$92.00 plus tax. Tel: 866-4921.

District Meetings

District 16 – S. Aroostook: April 4, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: April 5, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: April 5, Bangor Post 12, noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., elections

District 4 – Franklin: April 7, Farmington Post 28, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting

District 9 – Kennebec: April 8, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.

District 8 – Sagadahoc: April 9, Topsham Post 202, 6:30 p.m.

District 10 – Somerset: April 13, Fairfield Post 14, 6 p.m. elections and installations

District 2 – Cumberland: April 14, Gray Post 86, Past Commander's and President's dinner, mtg. to follow. (includes old First District). Social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Boneless prime rib (chicken available upon request) for \$15 per person. Please send reservations to Gray Post 86, P. O. Box 428, Gray 04039, attention Nancy True or call Nancy at 657-2661. Checks should be made out to Auxiliary Unit 86. Cutoff is April 9th.

District 12 – Hancock: April 14, SW Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

District 14 – Piscataquis: April 18, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

District 3 – Androscoggin: April 19, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: April 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 15 – Washington: April 19, Lubec Post 65, 2 p.m., meal to follow

District 5 – Oxford: April 21, Rumford Post 24, 7 p.m., installations

Sick Call

Ollie Olsson, Waterville Post 5, 34 Oak St., Waterville 04901

PNC Tony Jordan, 6 Fairway View Dr., Vassalboro 04989

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Membership stands at 83% as of March 26th. Our next target is 90% by April 8th, just five days away. We all need to be talking to those unpaid members about renewing. Adjutants and Membership Chairmen please transmit weekly, not weakly. It's our members that make us strong.

The 2009 Detachment Lobster Raffle was drawn on Sunday, April 29 in Belfast. SAL member Harvey Brooks won first prize, a lobster bake for 50 people, an \$800 value. SAL Squadron 42 of Damariscotta won the second prize of \$50 worth of live lobsters. Congratulations to our winners. The proceeds of this raffle go to the VA&R and VAVS programs to help Maine veterans.

Thanks to everyone who donated DVD's and tapes to the Movies For Soldiers program. Bruce Bragdon has delivered 1,225 movies to the Red Cross for shipment overseas. The following letter was received from Tikrit.

Dear Laurie and Sons of The American Legion:

On behalf of team "4:18 to Tikrit", I wanted to offer our most sincere thanks for the second shipment of videos and DVD's that arrived yesterday. In 24 hours you have doubled our collection of movies and service members have been quick to take advantage of the new material. This is my second deployment as an Assistant Station Manager – Reservist and I can tell you from experience that every time we receive a shipment of any kind from the chapters, it not only provides assurance that we are not forgotten, but is a welcome sign of your support. Please know that your contributions will raise the spirits of many deployed service members.

With fondest wishes,
Michelle Risinger

If you would like to get the latest updates send an email to moviesforsoldiers@mainester.com. In the subject write "update" & you will get the update only. Otherwise he will answer all e-mails.

Donations to help with shipping these movies can be sent to: SAL Squadron 158, 10 Webster Rd, P.O. Box 575, Lisbon, ME 04250, attention Kris. Make checks out to: SAL Squadron 158. Please write "Movies" in the note section.

If your squadron has an event and would like it in the SMILE, contact me by Wednesday at unclebru2@aol.com.

Bruce Pierce
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 or e-mail to: legionme@me.acadia.net. 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.)

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE, THE AMERICAN LEGION
20 ____ - 20 ____ DISTRICT 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 _____

2nd Vice Commander _____

Sergeant-at-Arms _____

Historian _____

Chaplain _____

Americanism Officer _____

Service Officer _____
(Name) **(ID Number)** (Mailing Address) (Zip)

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

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MEMBERS: _____

AREA REPRESENTATIVE: _____

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. **This form needs to be completed every year, even if your officers do not change.**