



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



August 20, 2010

☺ SMILE ☺

**Ten rules for getting rid of the blues: Go out and do something nice for someone else—
then repeat it nine times.**

Maine Veterans' Cemetery

The dedication of the Southern Maine Veterans' Cemetery will be held at 83 Stanley Road, Springvale on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 12:00 noon. If you are attending, please RSVP to the SMVMCA at 324-9161. Everyone attending must be at the Nason Community Center parking lot between 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. and will be transported to the site by buses provided by the York County Community Action Corporation. The last bus will leave the parking lot at 11:45 a.m. The area for assembly will be located to the left of the Springvale Fire Station at the corner of Main St (Route #109) and Oak St. (Route #11A). After the ceremony there will be a reception at the Little Theater attached to the Nason Community Center. Everyone is welcome and again, please RSVP to the above number.

CareerCenter

For those who are not aware there is a group that helps Maine veterans in finding jobs, get training and access services. This group is known as the CareerCenter, The Maine Employment Resource. At the end of this newsletter is a list of the various individuals who assist Maine veterans offering specialized employment and training services. If you served in the U. S. Armed Forces, a Veterans' Representative can help you find a job, get new skills and access other state or federal resources that are available to you.

The representatives stand ready to assist you. For an appointment with your nearest representative see the list attached at the end of this newsletter or call 1-888-457-8883 or TTY: 1-800-794-1110.

**Project America Run
Remembering Their Sacrifice**

On May 1, 2010, Mike Ehredt, a retired postal clerk and Army veteran, touched the wheel of his jogger stroller in the Pacific Ocean in Astoria, Or and began an epic 4,514 mile journey across the country to Honor and Remember Service members lost in Iraq. He is currently placing flags that hold a yellow ribbon bearing the name, rank, service, age and hometown of those whose dreams and ambitions were taken so quickly from us. The flags are being placed each mile along the roads he is traveling in reverse chronological order by date of death, till the very last flag is placed on the shores of the Atlantic in Rockland, Maine. This is a personal tribute, a silent memorial for those who have served with dignity and honor and whose sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Pepsi Refresh Everything Project

The American Legion is demonstrating its commitment to helping military veterans find jobs by entering its career fairs in this month's Pepsi Refresh Everything Project. If the effort is successful, The American Legion will be awarded a \$250,000 grant to sponsor events across the country in which employers are paired with veterans looking for work.

“The unemployment rate among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans exceeds 14 percent. This is a national disgrace!” said American Legion Nation Commander Clarence E. Hill. “Every veteran vowed to defend America and protect our way of life. The least we can do is to allow them an opportunity to support their families and contribute to America's workforce. Hiring veterans isn't just the right thing to do, but it is smart business! These talented men and women offer unique skills, discipline and a proven work ethic that would benefit any employer smart enough to hire them. Additionally, job fairs sponsored by The American Legion include Small Business Development Workshops so veterans can pursue the American dream.”

The Legion job fairs are among more than 1,200 charities that are competing for a grant. Pepsi will award \$250,000 each to the two charities that receive the most votes on its Web site. Visitors can cast their votes by clicking on and registering at the “Vote Daily” panel at www.legion.org <<http://www.legion.org>> or by visiting www.refresheverything.com/vetsjobfairs <<http://www.refresheverything.com/vetsjobfairs>> . Voters can also text message their votes (standard rates apply) by texting *101758 to Pepsi (73774).

The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors finished in first place during February's competition and won \$250,000. That money is still being used to provide items such as therapeutic athletic equipment, sweatsuits, DVDs, CDs, duffle bags and other comfort items to wounded and recovering patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units around the world.

Hill urged Legionnaires, Legion family members, friends and supporters of The American Legion to spread the message to vote for The American Legion's job fairs. “Individual voting alone will not win this competition,” Hill said. “We need people to post it on their web sites, Facebook and Twitter accounts. They should use all social media methods at their disposal. Operation Comfort Warriors was able to win because American Legion posts, Auxiliary units, Sons of the American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters all came together and worked toward a common goal. Spreading the word in newsletters and the mainstream media can also help us replicate our earlier success.”

Smile Guidelines

In order to be able to plan, arrange and publish the best weekly newsletter for our members throughout the Department of Maine, the following guidelines have been established for anyone who submits or would like to submit information to be published in the weekly SMILE. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated and by following these guidelines, everyone will know the news and what is going on in the department.

- Please either print legibly or do the information you wish published on a computer.
- Please keep it as short as possible as we are limited in how many pages of material can be sent within our mailing permit authorization.
- Please submit the information/article no later than Thursday of the week you wish it to be published.
- Please indicate under what category you wish the information to be published, i.e., general information, KUDOS, Sick Call, condolences, etc.
- Please indicate how many times you would like the information published if possible. Please bear in mind that timing means a lot.
- Please submit the information/article at least one week before the date of the event or happening, if possible.
- Please remember if a holiday falls on a Friday then the SMILE will be published Thursday and is not published only a couple of weeks a year as much information will be published as possible. Please remember that all of the information submitted might not be published when you wish it to be but we will do our best to accommodate each request.
- We will attempt to put in as much information as we can in each edition.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

District Meetings

District 11 – Waldo: Sept. 3, Brooks Post 183, 7p.m.

District 9 – Kennebec: Sept. 8, Oakland Post 51, 7 p.m.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Sept. 11, Guilford Post 119, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Sept. 12, Auburn Post 31, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: Sept. 12, E. Millinocket Post 13, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Sept. 12, Frenchville Post 145, 1 p.m. dinner

District 10 – Somerset: Sept. 20, Fairfield Post 14, 6 p.m. lunch, 6:30 p.m. mtg.

What's Happening?

2010 Navy Open Golf Tournament: Aug. 25, Bath Country Club, sponsored by District 8. Returning co-chairmen for 2010 are Joe Byrnes USN (Ret) of Post 21 (Bath) and Roger Dumont USN (Ret) of Post 171 (Harpwell). It is estimated that from 100 to 128 golfers will enter the tournament, and the exposure to your business/organization would be significant. Proceeds of this year's tournament will be used to help fund the Navy's departure ceremony from Brunswick Naval Air Station, assist in supporting the local Sea Cadet unit, provide continued Internet access for long-term care patients at Togus VA hospital and support local area veterans through the programs of The American Legion.

Sponsorship of a hole is \$150; golf cart sponsorship is \$50. For the listed prices, your logo and name will be displayed in the tee box, at the green or on a golf cart. Individuals will be put into foursomes. To participate, please contact any of the following: Cdr. Ed Morton Sr., Bath Post 21, 449-1764, edm_132@yahoo.com, Cdr. Bill O'Connell, Harpswell Post 171, 833-6048, Billoc1203@aol.com, Cdr. Bill Lary, Topsham Post 202, 522-4024, blary908@yahoo.com or Area Representative Mike Frelk, Bath Post 21, 522-9832, am4pack@gwi.net

Farmington Community Blood Drive: Aug. 27, Franklin Memorial Hospital, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., sponsored by Farmington Post 28. All presenting donors have the chance to win 2 Boston Red Sox tickets and be honored on the field as the Blood Donor of the Game. FMI, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Baked Bean Supper: Aug. 28, Howland Post 97, 4 Front St., 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., hot dogs, American Chop Suey, fried onions, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert. Take-outs are available by calling 290-4490. Music by "Joel". Public is welcome.

Texas Hold-em Poker Tournament: Aug. 29, Winthrop Post 40, 2:00 p.m., open to the public, refreshments available. Come join the fun, win \$

Children Fingerprint Identification Program: Sept. 11, Farmington Post 28, corner of High St. & Middle St., Farmington, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Sponsored by Post 28 and the Farmington Police Dept. Free.

Windham Post 148 Annual Pig Roast: Sept. 19, Windham Veterans Center, 1-3 p.m. Roast pig, pulled pork, coleslaw, potato salad, corn on the cob, (optional hot dogs/hamburgers), punch, coffee, (or bring your own beverage). Assorted desserts. Adult \$8.00 (or \$4.00)*, Child \$4.00, Prospective Member, \$4.00, *\$4.00: Adult, if you invite and bring a Veteran as a prospective member for the American Legion Field Allen Post 148.

Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railway: Oct. 2, Brooks Railroad Station. Train departs Brooks at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Fares for Legion members will be \$8 per member, \$10 for family members and children under 12 may ride for free. FMI or to RSVP, please call Richard Rote at 722-4087. Groups of 12 or more are asked to RSVP.

Donations

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Richmond Post 132 membership
Corinna Post 73 Legion Riders

\$200 – Memorial of Honor
\$500 – Legacy Fund

Kudos

Kudos to Steve Page and the outstanding "Blue Star Program" recently conducted at the Alfred W. Maxwell, Jr. Post #40, Winthrop. Job well done.

Kudos to Jim Burton and the other veterans in Oakfield and the surrounding areas for the Blue Star Ceremony recently held during the Merrill Centennial celebration last Saturday.

Thank You

Many thanks to all of you for your cards, calls of concern and get well wishes during my recent illness.

Richard Cyr

Sick Call

Department Historian Richard Graves is at EMMC, room 636 in Bangor. Cards may be sent to him at 22 Pine St., Milo 04463.

Letters

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Julie Williams, I am a manager of a real estate company in Bangor, and I have had a few clients that serve in the armed forces and have qualified for the \$8,000 tax credit benefit that has been extended for military service men and woman who have served overseas since 2008. The Federal Tax Credit that previously was available to all Americans who purchased a home in 2008 and 2009 expired on April 30, 2010. The Federal Government has since then extended the Federal Tax Credit to military service men and women who have served over seas since 2008 and would like to purchase a home if it is under contract by April 2011. I think this is an important benefit for your community to be aware of, and I would be happy to provide you with more detailed information that could empower those who qualify to purchase a home and receive an \$8,000 tax credit.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Julie Williams, Manager, ERA Dawson Bradford Co., REALTORS, 417 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Last Thursday Robin and I went to the opening day at the Skowhegan State Fair as it was honoring our veterans. Four bands sang from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. and there was representation from a few posts across the state, our own Lloyd Woods was there and a few American Legion Riders as well were part of the opening ceremonies. It was an honor to be there for the event.

Last Sunday was our D.E.C. meeting held at Post 5 in Waterville, all went well and next weekend newly elected NEC Dave Raymond and newly elected NECA Bruce Pierce will be joining other Maine Legion family members at the national convention in Milwaukee.

Our fall conference is being held this year again in Millinocket with the mushrooms from the north. Let's show them we appreciate them and go in full force. I am asking all squadrons to send at least one to this weekend of fun and conference.

Kudos, kudos, kudos, our District 9 commander can and should be proud as Mr. Dow from Squadron 40 and his guys have donated another \$200 to the Homeless Vet's project, so my thanks go out to the squadron commander and Mr. Dow as well as the entire group from Post 40 for believing in this project. Challenge still stands to all squadrons to a \$100 donation or greater, this is a joint project between the Sons and American Legion Auxiliary. Kudos also to Gray for their donation of \$50.

This is the weekend for the 2nd annual Fairfield Family Funfest, sponsored by the Sons of Squadron 14 and chaired by yours truly. It all kicks off at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park in Fairfield from nine to nine. This Saturday there will be live entertainment on stage with bands performing from noon to 9 p.m. Chicken BBQ, dunk tank, vendors, crafters, classic car cruz in, several posts sending American Legion Riders for a ride in, bounce house for the kids, talent show sponsored by Unit 14 and Maynard's homemade ice cream. This is to benefit MAINE'S HOMELESS VET'S. Have you got singing talent?? Come try your luck at karaoke being offered between bands by Susie Q Karaoke and Bryant the DJ.

Yours in service,

Brian Danforth, Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

It's hard to believe that it's almost September and children will be heading back to school. There are so many good programs through the American Legion Auxiliary to help our children. Be sure to go on-line and visit the National American Legion Auxiliary's website to obtain information that you can provide to your members, your relatives, your schools, and your neighbors regarding Girls State, the National President's Scholarships, the Non-Traditional Student Scholarships, the Spirit of Youth, and the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. If you have additional questions regarding the scholarships available, whether on the State or National level, contact our Educational Chairman, Mary Wells at 532-6007.

Don't forget, Fall Conference is at the Millinocket Post Home on Saturday, September 18th. Our Department Vice President is working hard preparing a fun, educational and entertaining time for all. A reminder to all Department Officers and Committee Chairmen, if you are unable to attend, please be sure to contact me and the Department Secretary and asked to be excused.

The Pine Tree News will be published the first week in September. All Units are required to pay for a subscription as part of their annual assessments. Please be sure to send your \$10 to ALA Department Headquarters with an appropriate mailing address. Anyone can order the PTN by sending a check, payable to ALA Department of Maine, in the amount of \$10.00. It's well worth the expense to get information first hand.

Any Auxiliary Member wanting to share information about upcoming events or special occasions through the SMILE may e-mail it to me at dtrue5@maine.rr.com. Thank you for your efforts.

Yours in Service,

Nancy G. True
Department President

Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant

CareerCenter Veterans' Representatives "Veterans Serving Veterans"

CareerCenter Veterans' Representatives are located around the state and are ready to serve you. Find your local office below.

DVOP = Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist

LVER = Local Veterans Employment Representative

Augusta

DVOP - Larz Nelson, Larz.R.Nelson@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-624-5172

LVER - Doug Hudson, Douglas.C.Hudson@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-624-5120

Address: Augusta CareerCenter, 21 Enterprise Drive, Suite 2, Augusta ME 04333, [Augusta CareerCenter website](#)

Bangor

LVER - Lewis Bradford, Lewis.R.Bradford@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-561-4051

DVOP - Frank Noyes, Frank.A.Noyes@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-561-4052

Address: Bangor CareerCenter, 45 Oak St, Suite 3, Bangor ME 04401, [Bangor CareerCenter website](#)

Bath

LVER - Michael Dyer, Michael.P.Dyer@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-442-0300,

Address: Bath CareerCenter, 34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath ME 04530, [Bath CareerCenter website](#)

Lewiston

DVOP - Allen Stasulis, Allen.R.Stasulis@Maine.gov or Phone: 207-753-9096

LVER - Jerry Smith, Jerry.M.Smith@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-753-9082

Address: Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston ME 04240, [Lewiston CareerCenter website](#)

Machias

DVOP - Michelle Lynds, Email: Michelle.J.Lynds@maine.gov, Phone: 207-255-1920

Address: Machias CareerCenter, 15 Prescott Drive, Suite 1, Machias ME 04654, [Machias CareerCenter website](#)

Portland

DVOP - Don Verrill

Donald.W.Verrill@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-755-5891 ext. 520

LVER - Ricky Thornton, Ricky.Thornton@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-755-5891 ext. 511

Address: Portland CareerCenter, 185 Lancaster St, Portland ME 04104, [Portland CareerCenter website](#)

Presque Isle

DVOP - Kent DeMerchant, Email: Kent.R.DeMerchant@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-760-6322

Address: Presque Isle CareerCenter, 66 Spruce St, Presque Isle ME 04769, [Presque Isle CareerCenter website](#)

Springvale

DVOP - Jeffrey Rodas, Email: Jeffrey.A.Rodas@Maine.gov, Phone: 207-324-5460, Address: 9 Bodwell Court, Springvale, ME 04083

[Springvale CareerCenter website](#)