



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



December 31, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

The flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Harpswell Post 171

East Corinth Post 115

Caribou Service Officer

Information was just received that the VA Service Officer in the office located in Caribou is leaving the County and will be located at the Augusta VA Togus office. This represents a major reduction of services for veterans in the County and for the filing of claims by the veterans residing there. As the Governor has announced major reductions in the State of Maine budget due to revenue shortfalls, there is a possibility that the Caribou office would not be filled as soon as it could. No information to this possibility to make it firm has been received but all veterans in the County should contact their respective legislators, House and Senate for the State of Maine, and push for this position to be filled on a priority basis. If it is not, veterans from there will either have to travel to Bangor or Augusta to file claims or attempt to do it on-line which is no small feat to say the least.

Veterans should also commence writing letters to the Governor of the State of Maine to keep the office open and to fill that position on a priority basis. At this time of year, waiting for 3 or more months to have it filled and require the veterans residing there to travel 3 or 5 hours is ridiculous. Letters to our Senators and Representatives in the state legislature should also be done as well as calls to request that the position be filled on a priority basis. Information has been received that a request has gone forward to waive the hiring freeze for this position but it may take 2 to 4 months before any information is released on the final decision. I don't think the veterans in this state can wait that long nor can the veterans served by the Caribou office.

Lloyd Woods
Department Adjutant

Free Items to Vets

Two wheel chairs, excellent condition. One is a Gerry chair, full size, the other is a full size Broda wheel chair with tilt seat and lays down flat and has detachable sides. Also have other medical supplies. FMI, please call Brian Danforth 314-0222.

Target Date

National Commander Hill has moved the January target date from January 13 to January 21. This is to better maximize the January renewal notice that will be reaching the Legionnaires next week. Membership dues will need to be into Department by January 20.

Auxiliary Meeting Cancelled

Auxiliary District 4 meeting in Belfast scheduled for Jan. 3 has been cancelled.

Here's to the Heroes

"Here's to the Heroes," a program sponsored by Anheuser-Busch provides free admission in 2010 for any active duty, active reserve, National Guardsman or ready reserve service member representing any of the five service branches and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. All service members need to do is register online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense (DoD) photo identification. Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch's seven theme park brands.

District Meetings

District 16 – S. Aroostook: Jan 2, Easton Post 187, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 10, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 1 p.m. Oratorical, 2 p.m. mtg.

District 11 – Waldo: Jan. 17, Belfast Post 43, 2 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 20, S. Paris Post 72, 7 p.m., Oratorical contest

What's Happening?

Old Orchard Beach: Jan. 1, Lobster Dip, 12:00 noontime. Come to OOB in front of the Brunswick Hotel to see many Legion family members take a cool dip in the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for Special Olympics of Maine.

Texas Hold'em Tournament: Jan. 9, Stockholm Post 136, 11 a.m. Top eight places paid subject to turnout.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Anonymous	\$2 - VAVS
Fairfield Post 14	\$200 – VAVS (Togus Patient Care)
Fairfield Post 14	\$200 – Maine Blind Camp
Fairfield Post 14	\$200 – Beals House
Fairfield Post 14	\$200 – Homeless Vets (Commander's project)
Fairfield Post 14	\$100 – VAVS (Togus Canteen)
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 - Homeless Vets (Commander's project)
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 – Camp Tall Pines
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 – Special Olympics
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 – Beals House
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 – NEF
Harpswell Post 171	\$100 – Maine Troop Greeters
Harpswell Post 171	\$200 – Wounded Warriors

Thank You

We wish to thank Richmond Post 132 for their recent help.

Gary and Maggie Kinney

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Mid-winter conference will be held in Farmington on Saturday, January 16th and I encourage all squadrons to pick a delegate and send him there. The Sons will convene at 9:00 a.m. in the Post 28 dining hall to conduct business. An agenda will be posted soon. Let's see a big turn out this year.

Sick call and relief: Sandy St. Peter, wife of Wayne St. Peter of Stockholm Squadron 136, has been taken to Eastern Maine Med, Bangor where she lies in a diabetic coma. Our thoughts are with the St. Peter family and we pray for Sandy's recovery. Wayne is staying by her side, but the situation is causing the family a financial strain. If anyone can help with very affordable accommodations in Bangor or wish to make a donation to help out, please contact Stockholm Post 136 Commander Rudy St. Peter at 834-3504.

The Lobster Dip 2010 is tomorrow. Although I cannot go in because of a recent surgery, I will be down to lend moral support to our brave dippers. This is a major fund raiser for Special Olympics of Maine, so let's all get down to Old Orchard Beach at high noon on New Year's Day. It is well worth facing the cold to give these special athletes the chance to compete.

Auxiliary Corner

Here we are with a brand new year ahead of us all. I've never been much for New Year resolutions, but prefer to set GOALS and set them HIGH.

To each of you I wish you the best of all New Years and that your year is all you wish it to be.

The plan is to start the New Year with a "Splash"! Here's hoping many of you have supported those "Dipping" for Special Olympics. Also, keep in mind that their Winter Games will be happening soon and many Spring Meets are planned throughout Maine in the different counties. If you have never attended these events, it would be a great 2010 new adventure and one that will win over your heart.

Mid-Winter Conference is but two weeks away and I'm hoping you're all looking forward to a full, exciting Conference, one where education will be provided and fun will be had. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!!

Have a SAFE and HAPPY New Year and let's start 2010 off on a positive note.

-----WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS RESULTS-----

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ALA President
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Jonesport, ME 04649
TEL: 207-497-5949
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Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant

**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post # _____ submit the names of all of our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of \$2.00 per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Post Adjutant

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SUBMIT TO:

**Paul L'Heureux
12 Sherwood Dr.
Auburn, Maine 04210**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**