



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



February 6, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Do not tell people what they cannot achieve or what they cannot do.
Tell them instead what they can do and what they can achieve.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Houlton Post 47

York Post 56

Clinton Post 186

Athens Post 192

**National Salute To
Hospitalized Veterans**

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be held at the Togus Veterans Affairs Medical Center during the week of Feb. 8. The program pays tribute and expresses appreciation to America's veterans, increases community awareness of the role of the medical facility; and encourages citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers. In addition to visits by dignitaries, veterans groups and military personnel, there will be a variety of special activities including valentine and flower distributions, an ecumenical service and patient luncheon. FMI contact the Togus Voluntary SO at 621-4886 or e-mail: lorna.hatch@med.va.gov or steven.hurd@med.va.gov. All Legion family members are encouraged to visit the Medical Center to say hello to a fellow veteran at any time, but particularly during this week-long event.

**NECA L'Heureux
Shines for Maine**

Dear Commander Doyle:

We would like to take this time to thank the Department of Maine for allowing Alternate National Executive Committeeman Paul L'Heureux to be a facilitator during the 2008 American Legion National College. His guidance and leadership during the Legion College were second to none.

With fifty-four students, this was the largest class ever to attend and it could not have been as successful as it was without the help of Mr. L'Heureux. Again, thank you for allowing him to be a facilitator.

David Rehbein
National Commander

Department Testimonials

Department Commander Testimonial: The Department Commander's testimonial will be held on **May 16, 2009** at Smith-Tobey Post 21 in Bath with a 5:30 p.m. social hour, dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a program to follow. SAL Detachment Commander Bruce Pierce will also be honored at this event. More information will be published at a later date, but please mark this on your calendar.

Department President Testimonial: The testimonial for Department President Donna "Bunny" Greenlaw will be held at Augusta Post 2 on **Saturday, April 4, 2009** with a social hour starting at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. with a program to follow and entertainment after the program. Menu choices are chicken cordon bleu for \$12.00 or baked haddock for \$15.00. Please send your checks to Joyce Thurlow, 1 Meadowrue Dr., Augusta 04330 or telephone Joyce at 626-8136. Cutoff is March 28th.

Department Adjutant Testimonial: Orono Post 84 will host a testimonial for Department Adjutant Ron Sailor on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. As this is Ron's fifth and last term of office as the State Adjutant, a testimonial dinner will be held in his honor to commemorate the ten years he has served in this capacity. Social hour for this event will be at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. with a program to follow. There will also be a dance with music by Rockin Ron, an exceptional 50's and 60's rock band, following the program. 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.

For anyone who may wish to stay overnight, the following Orono motels have quoted these rates for two people: Black Bear Inn: \$89.95 plus tax. Tel: 866-7120 - University Motor Inn: \$92.00 plus tax. Tel: 866-4921

Grande Testimonial

The testimonial for Grand Chef De Gare Kenneth Bouchard and La Grande President Pat Smith will be held at LaFleur's Restaurant, Main St., Jay, on **Saturday, March 21, 2009** with a social hour starting at 12 p.m. Lunch is at 1 p.m. with a Roast and Toast at 2 p.m. Menu choices are stuffed chicken, baked haddock or roast pork for \$17.00. Please make checks payable to Voiture 354 and mail to Ken Bouchard, 35 Lavoie St., Jay 04239. Please include choice of meal. Cut off is March 10th.

Togus Easter Party

The annual Easter Party for the veterans at the VA Medical facility at Togus will be held on Friday, February 13 starting at 9:30 a.m. in Building 205 on the third floor. Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities.

Veterans look forward to visits from legionnaires and enjoy seeing the Legion cap, so this is your opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our hospitalized veterans if you can spare a few hours on this day. Lunch will be provided for everyone.

**Veterans History
Project**

The Voluntary Service staff at the VA facility at Togus is collaborating with students from the University of Maine at Augusta to help record veterans' stories. This group is looking for veterans who would like to tell their story and have it preserved at the Library of Congress for future generations.

If this is something that sounds interesting to you, please call Voluntary Service at Togus at 621-4886.

**American Legion
Dirigo Boys State**

We have finalized the details of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program and the packets to each school and post adjutant have been mailed. For those who may not receive one of these mailings, the following information may be helpful.

The cost for each delegate to attend Boys State remains at \$230.00. The dates for this year's Boys State program are June 21 – 25, 2009. Graduation will be on Thursday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. and the program will be held at Thomas College in Waterville.

This program is for students who have completed their junior year of high school. The selection process varies from post to post, but is generally done with the school recommending the students and the post selecting the delegates. Merit and ability are two important factors, but attitude and desire to attend also play a large part in the selection process. The real key to a success, both for the student and for the program is participation. When delegates participate, everyone wins.

If you would like more information on the program, please contact this office and we will be pleased to send it to you. You can also check out the program on our web site at www.mainelegion.org

Directory Changes

Pgs. 12, 82, 83, 85, 89, Chuck Berube e-mail: chuckberube@myfairpoint.net

Pgs. 9, 17, 82, Kenneth Bouchard e-mail: kenbouchard@myfairpoint.net

Pg. 40, Kirk Thurston e-mail: fuzzyt3@myfairpoint.net

District Meetings

District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb 8, Lisbon Post 158, Four Chaplains 2 p.m., meeting to follow.

District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 8, Windham Post 148, 2 p.m.

District 15 – Washington: Meeting has been canceled.

District 12 – Hancock: Feb. 10, Ellsworth Post 63, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

District 8 – Sagadahoc: Feb. 12, Bath Post 21 6:30 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 17, Dixfield Post 100, 7 p.m. nominations

District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 21, Brownville Jct. Post 92, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

What’s Happening?

Department Oratorical Contest: Feb. 14, Thomas College, 9:30 a.m. for the semi-finals and 1:00 p.m. for the final. Lunch will be served at the college for all contestants, family members, coaches, and contest staff members including judges. All are welcome. FMI, please call Bill Barr at 353-4388.

Sweetheart Dance: Feb. 14, Bath Post 21, 8 p.m. until midnight. Music by Smokey’s Midcoast R&B Review. Cost: \$6/person or \$10/couple with all proceeds going to support our troops. FMI call Ginny at 319-2427.

Forty & Eight Birthday Celebration: Feb. 20 - 22, Best Western Merry Manor Inn in So. Portland. Rooms are \$67.36 including tax. Call 774-6151 for reservations. Saturday evening dinner of roast top sirloin or baked stuffed haddock for \$23.00 at 7 p.m. Reservations through Marcia Farr, 323 Capisic St., Portland 04102.

Mardi Gras Celebration: Feb. 21, Rockland Post 1 is hosting their second Mardi Gras celebration with food, drink, raffles and give-aways. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Live music and dancing from 7 – 11 p.m. with music with Bonnie Edwards and The Practical Cats. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the door. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Bath Post 21 (John Doyle)	\$150.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Post 21 Legion Riders (John Doyle)	\$100.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Anonymous (Post 21 – John Doyle)	\$30.00 – Special Olympics (Lobster Dip)
Wayne, Lynn & Theryl Robbins	\$35.00 – Commander’s Project (Vet Aid), in memory of Louise Coulombe
William Chapman, Rockland Post 1	\$25.00 - VA&R
Dixfield Post 100	\$50.00 – Beals House
Dixfield Post 100	\$50.00 – VAWS

Thank You

I would like to thank all the Legion family members who attended the opening of the Special Olympics winter games and all who helped make the Lobster Dip so great this year.

We had the best turnout in years at Sugarloaf and at Old Orchard Beach for each of these events. With all of the help from our Legion family we donated over \$19,000 for the year 2008. Thank you, thank you for all your help.

George Seeley, Chairman
Maine Special Olympics Committee

Thank You

To the Legion Family:

Thank you to the Legion family members who made phone calls and sent cards while I was in the hospital. I am home from the hospital and for those wishing to call, may do so at 592-3686.

Danny Ayotte
Department Sgt.-at-Arms

Sick Call

Past National Chaplain Jeri Greenwell, P.O. Box 4, Bethel 04217

Robin Neal, Milo Post 41, 1146 Main Rd. #9, Brownville 04414

Condolences

Past Department Commander Herman Wright's mother recently passed away. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Herm at 21 Englebrekt Rd., Edgecomb 04556.

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

The following squadrons have met and exceeded 100% membership: Eagle Lake, St. Francis, Houlton and Farmington. Congratulations for going above and beyond. Our next target is 75% by February 11th. The Squadrons to already pass this goal are: Sanford, York, Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Damariscotta, Winthrop, Fairfield, Lubec and Caribou. Well done. I thank you for your hard work. You all have set a good example for the rest of us to follow. We can make this goal.

I know it is cold out and winter seems to be dragging on, but our programs are still moving ahead as our membership continues to work hard. I'm told that you all have donated another 100 movies for wounded soldiers. That is good news from Bruce Bragdon, our 9th District Commander. I would also like to remind squadrons of my challenge of \$100 per squadron for Maine Blind Camp. A few squadrons have risen to the challenge and there are more of you who want to weigh in. I can't wait to hear from you.

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION**

**THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTION.
USE ANY ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY. SUBMIT ANY NEWS CLIPPINGS AND OTHER SUPPORTING
MATERIAL AS YOU DEEM NECESSARY TO QUALIFY THE NOMINEE.**

1. _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.)
2. _____
(Address)

(Town/City) (State) (Zip) (Telephone)
3. _____
(Date of Birth) (Military Service - Branch and Number of years.)
4. _____
(Is the nominee a member of the Legion Family) (If so, list Post name and #.)
5. _____
(Education) (Marital Status)
6. _____
(Professional Service - Length of time employed as a Firefighter, rank attained, special schools attended, commendations, citations, etc.)
7. _____
(Resume of any acts performed above and beyond the call of duty, special assignments or accomplishments that should merit special attention including military decorations.)
8. _____
(Community Service – service in community such as Scouting, special youth programs, public offices held, fraternal organizations, etc.)
9. _____
(Name, number, address and telephone # of sponsoring Post/County/District.)
10. _____
(Signature of Commander or Adjutant of sponsoring Post/County/District.)

Applications must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than **May 1**.
Return to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900. For any questions, call Department Headquarters at 873-3229.

