



## 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



February 8, 2008

**The person who has confidence in themselves  
gains the confidence of others.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

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

**Corinna Post 73**

**Waterville Headquarters Post 178**

**Brooks Post 183**

**Dixmont Post 201**

**Membership**

It may seem as if we have done all the work on membership for this year as we are now at 92%, but the hardest work is still ahead of us. We need to get those last few renewals of those who have yet to pay for their 2008 membership and to continue to recruit more members to keep us strong in the constant battle for veterans' rights locally here in Maine and Nationally in Washington DC.

The Department of Maine still needs new members to remain in the Big Twelve Competition at National. Last year the Department of Maine received a check for \$1,000 to go toward new computer equipment in the headquarters office. Commander L'Heureux is asking for each of us to continue the exceptional work we have done with membership in past years and strive to remain in this year's competition. To achieve our goal we all need to pull together to be as successful as we have in previous years. This would also entitle Commander L'Heureux to "bragging rights" whenever he is with other Department Commanders at National events.

We now have 33 posts that have achieved 100% or more and that is outstanding. If yours is one of these, congratulations and thank you for a job well done. If yours is not one of the 100% posts, please make that extra effort to join this elite group. We need everyone on the team to do his or her part for this to be a successful membership year.

National Northeast Vice Commander Thomas L. Burns of Delaware called to congratulate the Department of Maine on obtaining 90.73% last week, well ahead of the February 12 membership target date. He thanked Commander L'Heureux and the other Department Officers for the hard work and staying well ahead of our membership target dates.

**Important I. R. S. Notice**

Previously tax exempt organizations with gross receipts of less than \$25,000, were not required to file an annual information return. However, beginning in 2008, all of those tax exempt organizations, which includes all American Legion posts (and units), are required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard). This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006. **Organizations that do not file the notice will lose their tax-exempt status.**

The I. R. S. is developing an electronic filing system as there will be no paper form for the e-Postcard and will publicize filing procedures when the system is completed and ready to use. When completed the e-Postcard will be available on-line at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**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 program are June 15 – 19, 2008. Graduation will again be Thursday afternoon 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](http://www.mainelegion.org)

**Thank You**

Ron, I want to thank you for your very kind hospitality during my visit to Maine. I think your conference was very well planned and I think you will see some long-term benefit from posts and officers. Great job!

Dyke Shannon, Post Insurance Program Director

### **Foxwood's Trip**

Westbrook Post 197 is sponsoring another trip to Foxwood on Sunday February 24th. A bus will leave the Post home at 7 a.m. and leave Foxwood at 5:30 p.m. sharp. As usual you will receive a buffet voucher and gaming credits. There are 14 seats still available, you may call 854-5788 or 854-9044 or email: [wmpost197@verizon.net](mailto:wmpost197@verizon.net) to reserve a seat.

### **Oratorical Contest**

Oratorical Chairman Bill Barr has announced the state finals for the Department Oratorical Contest will be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Saturday, February 16, 2008 with the semi-finals starting at 10 a.m. and the finals to be held at 1 p.m. Please note this on your calendars.

### **Historian Book/Scrapbook/Newsletter Contest**

History is something that you can look back to and find out what has happened in the past. History is a must for every Post in The American Legion. Every Post that submits a book will receive recognition, even though it is not a large book and maybe only a few pages, it will be something for all to look at in the future. Information on how to compile a History book is available in the Post Officers Guide.

The historian awards this year are as follows:

Post and District History book: Large plaque for 1st place winner and medium plaque for 2nd place.

Post and District History Scrapbooks: Large plaque for 1st place and medium plaque for 2nd place.

Post and District Newsletters: Large plaque for 1st place winner, medium plaque for 2nd place and all others will receive a certificate of appreciation.

The deadline to submit History and Yearbooks to Department Headquarters is **May 1**.

### **Donations**

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

Machias Post 9

\$250.00 – Maine Troop Greeters

## What's Happening?

**Department Oratorical Contest:** Feb. 16, Thomas College, semi-finals, 10 a.m., finals, 1 p.m.

**Junior Auxiliary Leadership Workshop:** Feb. 17, Greenville Post 94, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Junior Auxiliary members are invited. Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. and the workshop will commence following the meal. Adults \$6 and Juniors \$3. FMI call Georgine Butman at 695-2806 or on the Internet at: [moosharp@midmaine.com](mailto:moosharp@midmaine.com)

## District Meetings

**District 3 - Androscoggin:** Feb. 10, Lisbon Post 158, 1 p.m. 4 Chaplains, 2 p.m. meeting.

**District 10 – Somerset:** Feb. 11, Madison Post 39, light snacks at 6 p.m., mtg. at 6:30 p.m.

**District 15 – Washington:** Feb. 10, Pembroke Post 59, 2 p.m. 4 Chaplains

**District 12 - Hancock:** Feb. 12, Ellsworth Post 63, has been **cancelled**.

**District 9 – Kennebec:** Feb. 13, Oakland Post 51, 7:30 p.m.

**District 8 - Sagadahoc:** Feb. 14, Bath Post 21, 6:30 p.m.

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Feb. 16, Greenville Post 94, 7 p.m. Public supper prior at 5 p.m. with the proceeds going to fund American Legion programs.

**District 5 - Oxford:** Feb. 19, Dixfield Post 100, 7 p.m. Nominations

## Sick Call

PDC William “Chick” Ciciotte, P.O. Box 374, Topsham 04086.

## Condolences

Richard Guillet, Commander OOB Post 57, recently lost his wife. Cards of sympathy can be sent to him at 13 Wilson Dr., Old Orchard Beach 04064.

Wayne Scarano, Past Commander Millinocket Post 80, recently passed away. Cards of sympathy can be sent to his son, Mark Scarano, P.O. Box 985, Ashland NH 03217.

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

It is time to talk about all of those great programs that The Sons of The American Legion Squadrons in this state support. There are a large number and we at detachment and the national organization would like to know what you are doing.

I know that you don't want that pat on the back and God forbid a trophy or a plaque but...It is essential that you all fill out the Consolidated Report Form and return it to the Detachment of Maine for our records, then we will send it on to national. This one report is what we; The American Legion Family has to convince those folks in Washington D.C. that maybe they need to support the veteran or other social program a bit more than they have been. We need to show them that this organization is subsidizing their responsibilities far more than we should. They need to understand that we are mainstream America and what we think is important most of their constituents do too, essentially we are keeping them in a job and they should listen to what we have to say. I thank you for your support in this area.

One other program that is absolutely essential is membership, without that we wouldn't make much impact in Washington. Each Squadron has a membership chair and or team, detachment does as well. Our team consists of all those squadrons and to me some pretty talented detachment officers. At this time I have issued a challenge to all district commanders. The challenge is the district commander with the highest membership percentage and his designee will have dinner with either a Vice-Commander or the National Commander of the Sons that is sent to our convention. District Commanders Jon "Left Hook" Burns, Scott "wooden eye" Morton, Earl "too loose" Follett, Bruce "the thunder" Bragdon and John "Right Hook" Tyson, these gentlemen are a huge part of this membership team. Just a little hint, that district commander that reactivates another squadron should certainly go over 100% and in line for the prize, hard telling what two would do. Rounding out the Membership Team is Brian "the dangerous" Danforth and Bruce "the goose" Pierce, both are vice commanders of this Detachment of Maine the Sons of The American Legion, and I thank you for your service and I hope you can report 100 % membership by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March!

If you see these guys around don't get nervous they are working for this" American Legion Family".

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

**American Legion  
Auxiliary Corner**

As you plan your activities for 2008, consider scheduling regular blood drives that will directly benefit your community.

The needs of our veterans are met on the daily bases. The American Legion Auxiliary's goal at Togus is to make sure no veterans get left out or overlooked.

We were introduced to new ideas and better ways to take responsibilities in our leaderships role in the Auxiliary. This can only help us grow and blossom in the years ahead.

Ladies before you know it, our year will be over. What have we accomplished as member of the American Legion Auxiliary since last year's convention. What can we accomplish before our year is over. Remember the end of the year reports filled out and sent into the department and hope we can get 100% reporting from all the units.

Please mark your calendars on April 6, to attend a Leadership Workshop at Wiscasset Unit 64. It will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served, a count of how many plan to be there will be necessary. Please contact Leadership Chairman M. Jo. Miete at 882-7779, or Third District President Mary Jane McLoon at 563-5316. This is open to any auxiliary member.

The American Legion Smith-Tobey Post 21 will be holding there Past Commander, Past President, and Past SAL Commander Dinner Saturday February 9, at 5:30 p.m.

Wishing you a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year and ask that you all be kind to each other in the coming year.

If you have items for submission, please contact Department President Charlotte "Kitty" Wing at 443-8816 or email: [monami@suscom-maine.net](mailto:monami@suscom-maine.net)

Charlotte "Kitty" Wing  
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

