

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. 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.)

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bruce Pierce and I have succeeded Don Allisot as Detachment Commander. Among the duties that I now assume is to scribe this weekly dispatch. I want to thank Donny for his exemplary service for the past two years. In that time, we've built up membership, organization and team-work under his leadership. We need to continue to build up this year and in the future. Our membership is currently 102% and 11th in the nation, securing Comd. Don a front row seat at the National Convention in Phoenix.

We're doing well for the 2007-08 membership year, but it's not over yet! Our final target is 105% by July 24, 2008. I'm asking every squadron to pick up that roster one more time and look at those members who have not renewed. Our renewal rate is now 85%. That's better than the 80% from last year, but it's still low. If we bring our renewal rate up to just 90%, we would make our final goal. Ultimately, we need to get our renewal rate up to 95% or better.

Summer is here and a little rest is in order. In the weeks to come, I'll use this column to keep you informed and hopefully involved with detachment. We have a busy year coming with lots of good to be done.

Bruce Pierce
Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

First I'd like to send out congratulations to newly elected State Commander John Doyle and SAL Commander Bruce Pierce and all the newly elected officers. I am looking forward to us working together this coming year. I'd also like to thank all the installation teams for a great job and making our night a special one to remember.

My Presidents Project will have to do with Rehabilitation. There is a great need for help at our Veteran Homes and at the Togus VA Hospital. The details will be worked out within the coming weeks and I will inform everyone as soon as they are worked out. Our State Theme this year is "HOPE"

I was also asked to forward the following information that was received from ALA National Headquarters, per Georgine Butman, Past Jr. Activities Chairman. ALA Juniors now have a Facebook Web Page just for Juniors. This page was created to be a source of information for our junior members across the nation. Please inform all of your juniors in your unit. In order to access Facebook get connected to www.facebook.com to login or register. If you need assistance, contact ALA National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500.

Once again, I am looking forward to working as an American Legion Family and continue to help our organization be everything that it is meant to be.

Donna L. "Bunny" Greenlaw
ALA Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Teddy Bear Raffle at Convention	\$864.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Catherine Trent	\$50.00 – Veteran’s Grave Flags Fund
POW/MIA Committee	\$200.00 – Children & Youth Scholarship Fund
Don & Linda Moore	\$25.00 – National Legacy Fund
(In memory of PNC Bill Rogers)	

Kudos

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for donating \$300 to the Meals on Wheels program, \$100 to the New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, and \$200 to the Cancer Society for walk-a-thons.

Old Orchard Beach Unit 57 for donating \$300 to the Cancer Society for walk-a-thons.

District Meetings

District 10 – Somerset: July 14, Fairfield Post 14, 6:30 p.m. (light lunch to follow mtg.)

What’s Happening?

Togus Vets BBQ: June 28, VA facility at Togus, Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. This event will be hosted by The American Legion Riders of Mechanic Falls Post 150 and all proceeds will go benefit the hospitalized veterans at the Veterans Administration facility at Togus. Post 150 is requesting a donation of \$6.00 for the barbecue and everyone is welcome. FMI please call Roger at 576-9535.

Oxford Post 112: July 1, 6:30 p.m., concert in the park, rain or shine. The Bel-Airs will be performing.

Freeport Post 83: July 3, 4 p.m., Dedication ceremony for their new World War II Honor Roll at the Freeport Public Library. Color guard is being conducted by Yarmouth Post 91. Guest speaker will be RDML Crean. There will be a reception following. All are invited.

Sick Call

Peter Perkins, Stockton Springs Post 157, 61 Muskrat Rd., Stockton Springs 04981

**Maine Blind Camp
Update**

The Maine American Legion has supported the Maine Blind Camp at Camp Lawroweld for many years. This support has been provided with donations from individuals and organizations and whatever was raised was given to the camp. Any shortfall was covered by the National Camps for the Blind. As we mentioned at last year's convention the National Camps for the Blind are no longer providing this support. The annual cost has been approximately \$6,000 for the week.

In 2007, the Blind Camp Committee and the DEC voted to cover the full cost since it was so close to the scheduled date and the camp and campers had a great desire to attend. The Blind Camp Committee and Department Adjutant Ron Sailor met with Camp Leadership on July 25, 2007 and discussed various options and made a determination to go ahead for the upcoming year. We have since signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the camp for \$6,000. As part of the agreement the week is advertised as Sponsored by the American Legion. A line item has been placed in the Department budget to cover any shortfall from donations. This year donations will cover just over half of the cost with \$2,300 being contributed by the Sons of The American Legion. Looking toward the future and a possible balanced budget in the Department, I would encourage individual and unit donations toward this worthwhile program.

One thing many people are not aware of is that it is open to any totally blind or legally blind individual, including our Veterans. Legally blind is defined as being 20/200 with corrective lenses. Please get this information out to your districts and posts. If we can get Veterans to attend it would be great for them as well as encourage support from people who have not supported it in the past. We in the Legion need to get the word out so that any Vets wishing to attend can.

There are people attending the camp who have been coming for so many years they now are accompanied by their children. It is a joy watching them swimming and boating and taking part in many other outdoor activities. I have had the pleasure of attending the Camp's visitor's day the last two years and it is an uplifting experience. As soon as any of the campers found out you are from the American Legion they go out of their way to thank us for our support.

This year's camp will be held July 20-27 at Camp Lawroweld in Weld. Visitors' Day will be on Wednesday July 23 and is open for all. In the afternoon tour the camp and take boat rides, have supper with the campers and then enjoy the excellent Talent Show at 7 p.m. For more information and directions go to www.lawroweld.org.

Thank you for your past and future support of the camp and hope to see you on Visitors' Day. Thank you.

Brian Knowlton, Chairman
Maine Blind Camp Committee

Post Officers Form

In order for your post to be listed correctly in the directory and to receive correspondence the Post Officer's Form needs to be completed and mailed to this office. This form needs to be completed every year, even if your officers do not change.

The following posts have **NOT** submitted a Post Officers Form for 2008-2009. **PLEASE** fill out the form (attached at the end of this newsletter) and return it to Department Headquarters.

First District

26 Biddeford
55 Limerick
87 North Berwick
96 Saco
143 Wells
159 Kennebunkport
177 Dayton

Second District

20 Brunswick
35 South Portland
62 Westbrook
67 Bridgton
83 Freeport
142 Peaks Island
148 Windham
152 Cape Elizabeth
155 Naples
212 Great Diamond Island

Third District

111 Turner
135 Sabattus
150 Mechanic Falls
210 Lewiston

Fourth District

64 Phillips
78 Strong
117 Wilton

Fifth District

137 Fryeburg
151 West Paris

Sixth District

1 Rockland
30 Camden
33 North Haven
37 Thomaston

Ninth District

2 Augusta
6 Hallowell
90 Togus
126 N. Vassalboro
186 Clinton
204 Monmouth

Tenth District

122 Jackman
192 Athens

Twelfth District

25 Bar Harbor

Thirteenth District

84 Orono
105 Newport
160 Lee
201 Dixmont
213 Hampden

Fourteenth District

29 Dover-Foxcroft
92 Brownville Jct.

Fifteenth District

3 Calais
8 Cherryfield
59 Pembroke
179 So. China

Sixteenth District

48 Washburn
127 Limestone
187 Easton

Seventeenth District

133 Fort Kent
180 St. Francis

As well we **do not** have the Officer's Report forms from District 2 – Cumberland, District 7 – Lincoln, District 8 – Sagadahoc, and District 10 – Somerset. We also have **not** been notified of the Area Representatives from Area 1, Area 3, and Area 7.

State Convention Results continued.

Resolutions Results: Some of our resolutions prompted lively discussions, but all in all most people focused on the issues at hand. The results of the resolutions are as follows:

Resolution 1 – Balanced Budget Amendment	Approved
Resolution 2 – Veteran’s License Plates Process	Approved
Resolution 3 – Purchase of HQ Office Space	Tabled
Resolution 4 – Holding More Than One Dept./Natl. Office	Rejected

Awards: There were many awards and presentations at the convention, too many to list them all in this newsletter, but four of the Legion’s most prestigious awards presented within our organization are:

Legionnaire of the Year	Bill Knight	Bangor Post 12
Humanitarian of the Year	Paul Bernard	Turner Post 111
District Commander of the Year	Charlie Bennett	Farmington Post 28
Post Commander of the Year	Richard Bowden	Bucksport Post 93

A complete listing of the convention awards will be forthcoming in the next issue of The Maine Legionnaire.

Sweepstakes Drawing: At the conclusion of the convention on Saturday the Sweepstakes winners were drawn and announced. None of our legionnaires present was fortunate enough to win, however the following will be receiving checks in the mail this week:

Sylvester G. Carroll	Grand Prize Winner	York Post 56	\$3,500.00
Gerald K. Giordano		Falmouth Post 164	\$1,000.00
Roy W. Crawford		Boothbay Harbor Post 36	\$500.00
Wallace W. Wright		Saco Post 96	\$200.00

Veteran’s License Plates for Active Duty Military: One of the questions that arose during our discussion of Resolution 2 was the procedure for active duty military personnel to obtain a veteran’s license plate.

This office contacted the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to obtain the rules pertaining to this issue. Active duty military personnel are NOT authorized veterans’ license plates UNLESS they are able to show documents (DD 214 or other) verifying a period of service of more than 180 days whereby they have been honorably discharged from a previous tour of active duty.

The direct quote from the rules of the DMV that pertains to who is eligible is: “The Secretary of State, upon application and evidence of payment of excise tax and the registration fee, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of special veterans plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to any Maine resident who has served in the U. S. Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged.”



The American Legion Department of Maine

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E-mail: legionme@me.acadia.net

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



June 27, 2008

**A leader looks for opportunities to
find someone doing something right.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

State Convention Results

The 90th Annual convention of the Department of Maine lived up to its advanced billing which promised hard-fought campaigns for office, lively debate on our resolutions and many awards and citations for those who made outstanding contributions to The American Legion during the year. The election resulted in the following being chosen to lead the Department of Maine in the coming year:

Department Commander	John Doyle	Bath Post 21
Department First Vice Commander	Andy Olson	Stockholm Post 136
Department Second Vice Commander	Randy Kluj	Milo Post 41
Department Americanism Officer	Brenda Dearborn	Richmond Post 132
Department Historian	Jeff Barnes	Milo Post 41
Department Sgt-at-Arms	Danny Ayotte	Augusta Post 205
National Executive Committeeman	Robert Owen	Topsham Post 202
National Executive Committeeman Alt.	Paul L'Heureux	Auburn Post 153

Department Adjutant Ron Sailor of Orono Post 84 and Department Finance Officer John Hargreaves of Richmond Post 132 are currently serving two-year terms which will expire in June of 2009.

Department Commander John Doyle made the following Department officer appointments, which were ratified by the Department Executive Committee following the convention:

Department Chaplain	Peter Johnson	Greenville Post 94
Department Judge Advocate	Dave Cullens	Orono Post 84
Asst. Department Service Officer	Lester Dearborn	Richmond Post 132

State Convention Results continued on page 2