



The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: legionme@me.acadia.net

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



March 20, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Some day your whole life will flash before
your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

District 16 – Southern Aroostook

Presque Isle Post 88

Augusta Post 205

Lebanon Post 214

Membership

Membership is doing very well this year. At almost every target date, including the most recent one on the Legion birthday, Maine has been NUMBER ONE in the nation. A lot of credit goes to our Department Vice Commanders Andy Olson and Randy Kluj, but they will in turn tell you that everyone in Maine is responsible for our success. They believe, as do the rest of us, that membership is a team sport and we need everyone on the team to do their best for us to be successful.

We are now over 95% of our goal and have an opportunity to reach 100% by the second week in May. To reach 100% of the National goal is something this Department has not done in a very long time. Usually the goal is set so high that it is unattainable, but this year is an exception and if we all pull together we can make it happen. Please do your part and perhaps someone else's part to help us to get there.

On the District level, District 14 – Piscataquis Commander Lee Leeman and the very dedicated legionnaires of the 14th District were the first ones to reach 100%. Hooray for Lee and the many membership team members who put them over the top. Not far behind, as a matter of fact only two days ago, District 16 – So. Aroostook Commander Chuck Williams and the membership go-getters of "The County" reached the 100% milestone. Good job by everyone. We have a couple of more districts that are closing in on that magic number and with renewal notices sent out by National this past week, we should be seeing more posts and districts attain that goal, which hopefully will mean the Department will share that honor with the many others who make our organization a truly outstanding veterans' service organization. Department Commander John Doyle has lived by the motto – Working Together, We Can Make A Difference. He is very proud of the Maine American Legion and the many dedicated legionnaires who make us shine in every aspect of our programs and membership. Let's git er done!

Attention Veterans, Widows & Orphans

Do you know according to Maine Veteran Law Title 36 Chapter 105 Property Tax Exemption, the exemption for veterans of World War I is \$7,000? Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Lebanon/Grenada and Panama when reaching the age of 62 or when they receive any pension or compensation from the U.S. Government for total disability, service or non-service connected, are entitled to a \$6,000 exemption. This exemption applies to veterans, un-remarried widows, minor children and gold star mothers.

To receive this exemption you must apply to your town or city assessor **before April 1**. To receive this exemption on your property tax, contact your assessor. It's Maine Law and you have earned it.

Consolidated Post Report

The Consolidated Post Report is more than a template for your Post's achievements; it gives a way for The American Legion to speak with a collective voice, which is much stronger than that of 14,600 individual posts speaking on their own.

It is a great communication tool when it comes to getting the attention of our Congressmen, Senators and elected officials. It conveys our true influence in our local communities. With the tremendous amount of volunteer service and dedication we can show with this report, it encourages our elected officials to take a second look whenever we have an issue to address with them.

When our legislative ace PDC Don Simoneau is in Augusta at the Legislature, it gives him instant credibility and a much bigger voice than he would otherwise have. When National Commander Dave Rehbein is addressing issues in Congress, he definitely gets a better reception than he would otherwise when he is able to recite our numbers to the politicians. This is how we do some really important work to assist our veterans in need. Consolidated Post Reports indeed do make a difference.

The American Legion is truly a great organization, but others will not know just how great we are unless we tell them and the Consolidated Post Report is the best way to do just that. In short, the Consolidated Post Report, a copy of which is at the end of this newsletter, is perhaps the most important report to be filed by any American Legion post. You may also find this report form on the Department web site at www.mainelegion.org. Please do your best to complete this report or to assist the individual in your post that has the responsibility to complete this report, which is due to the Department Headquarters by May 15th. Thank you.

2010 Membership Cards

The cut-off date at National for pre-printed cards for the year 2010 is April 8. All address changes, name changes, transfers, new members, etc. that we receive by **April 7** at Headquarters will be reflected on the 2010 membership roster. Any changes or additions after that date will not appear on your new roster.

Annual Post Data Report

The deadline for the Annual Post Data Report for the 2010 Membership year is April 15th and at the present time we still have many posts that have not sent them in. Failure to get this report in by the deadline may cause the first 2010 Renewal notice to be mailed with incorrect information.

Department Testimonial

Smith-Tobey Post 21 of Bath will host the Department Testimonial for Department Commander John Doyle and SAL Detachment Commander Bruce Pierce on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Social hour will be at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m., with program to follow. Dinner choices are Rib-eye Steak or Baked Haddock with baked potato, veggie, rolls and dessert for \$20 per person. Please send your reservations and check to Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville 04903-0900 indicating your choice of steak or haddock.

For anyone who may wish to stay overnight, the Holiday Inn in Bath has quoted a rate of \$75 plus tax. Please call 1-866-258-7245 to make a reservation and use the code **JDT** to receive this rate.

Thank You

To All Legion Family Members:

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards and phone calls due to my recent surgery. I cannot explain how happy I was to see so many individual and posts that sent me words of encouragement and get well cards. Thank you.

Larry Dearborn
Past Department Commander

Donations

Guilford Post 119	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp
Old Town Post 75	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
Rod Green, Lubec Post 65	\$25.00 – National Commander’s Campaign

Directory Change

Pg. 56: Corinna Post 73 meetings are 1st Monday only, except Sept., which will be the 3rd Monday.

District Meetings

District 14 – Piscataquis: March 21, Sangerville Post 165, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

APRIL

District 7 – Lincoln: April 1, Damariscotta Post 42, 6 p.m., elections

District 6 – Knox: April 2, Thomaston Post 37, 7 p.m., nominations

District 16 – S. Aroostook: April 4, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m.

District 17 – No. Aroostook: April 5, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: April 5, Bangor Post 12, noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg., elections

District 4 – Franklin: April 7, Farmington Post 28, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting

District 9 – Kennebec: April 8, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.

District 8 – Sagadahoc: April 9, Topsham Post 202, 6:30 p.m.

District 10 – Somerset: April 13, Fairfield Post 14, 6 p.m. elections and installations

District 2 – Cumberland: April 14, Gray Post 86, Past Commander's and President's dinner, mtg. to follow.

(includes old First District). Social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Boneless prime rib (chicken available upon request) for \$15 per person. Please send reservations to Gray Post 86, P. O. Box 428, Gray 04039, attention Nancy True or call Nancy at 657-2661. Checks should be made out to Auxiliary Unit 86. Cutoff is April 9th.

District 12 – Hancock: April 14, SW Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

District 14 – Piscataquis: April 18, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

District 3 – Androscoggin: April 19, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: April 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 15 – Washington: April 19, Lubec Post 65, 2 p.m., meal to follow

District 5 – Oxford: April 21, Rumford Post 24, Installations

What's Happening?

Bean Supper: Mar. 21, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., by Hermon Post 200 at the Rescue Squad Building on the Billings Road in Hermon. All you can eat. Adults \$6, children \$2.50

Department President Testimonial: April 4, Augusta Post 2, social hour starting at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. 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.

District 15/6 Joint Testimonial for Commander Fred Prince and President Nancy Prince – April 18, Helen's Restaurant in Machias, social hour will start at 5:00 p.m., dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. Menu choices are pasta checca, chicken marsala, fried haddock or pot roast for \$15.00 per person. Please send reservations to Nancy Prince, 1241 US Hwy 1, Columbia Falls 04623 or tel: 483-4703. Cutoff is April 1, 2009.

Department Adjutant Testimonial: April 25, Orono Post 84, social hour 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. 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. Cutoff is April 21. For anyone who may wish to stay overnight, the following Orono motels have quoted these rates: Black Bear Inn - \$89.95 plus tax. Tel: 866-7120 / University Motor Inn: \$92.00 plus tax. Tel: 866-4921.

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Membership and more: The Detachment of Maine is now at 81% membership as of March 14th. That's pretty good but we need 90% by April 8th. Let's keep Adjutant Ron Densmore busy with lots of transmittals. Ron has also sent out the Annual report forms. If you don't get them by next week, see your Post Adjutant. If the post has not received them, e-mail the Detachment Adjutant at kdensmore@roadrunner.net.

Movies for Soldiers: We are still collecting movies and will be until the Red Cross asks us to stop or our troops come home. To date we have collected 800 movies, and have more coming in. Special thanks to William Farwell of Squadron 132 in Richmond, who donated 200 Music CD's and Winthrop Squadron 40 who, together with the Ladies Auxiliary, donated 80 movies at a cost of \$400.00. Many thanks.

Donations can be made at the Waterville Library, Waterville Post 5, Luk Oil on route 27 in Augusta, Fairfield Post 14, on Main Street in Fairfield, Richmond Squadron 132, and the Augusta Sheriff's Office. For the latest updates on donation box locations and total amount of movies send an e-mail to: www.moviesforsoldiers@mainester.net You will receive a prompt reply. If you have a question or want to help he will respond as soon as possible.

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

Auxiliary Corner

ALA First District Notice: On April 14th there will be a meeting after the Annual Past Commanders/Presidents Banquet in Gray. If you wish to run for a 1st District office for 2009 - 2010, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Mary Neal 767-0874, Carolyn Bourgeois 775-1468 or Maureen Gavett 799-3147. The last meeting of the year will be May 10th at South Portland 35. This will also be the Memorial Service. Please bring or send a list of your deceased members. The election and installation of officers will also be held. If you are running for office please wear red/white/ blue; per Marie Carroll 1st District Sec/Treas.

Annual Reports: ALA Yearly Report forms have been sent out to all the units. If you have not received them, please contact ALA Dept Headquarters Secretary Lois Worcester Tel: 207-564-3366 ASAP to let her know. Let's get our reports in!

P.S. Please note my correct address is: 5 Court Way, Buxton 04093. PO Box is closed.

Donna "Bunny" Greenlaw
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

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 or e-mail to: legionme@me.acadia.net. 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.)

Consolidated Post Report

For 2008 - 2009 American Legion Year

If your POST has an e-mail address and/or web page, please provide it so we may communicate with you more effectively ... please print or type clearly.

E-mail _____ Web Page _____

Dept. of MAINE Post No. _____ Located at _____

(City)

2008 Membership _____ District No. _____

LEGISLATIVE

Post has active Legislative Chairperson who reports regularly to Post meetings

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

No. of cases handled by Post Service Officer _____ Emergency aid given vets from Post funds \$ _____ No. of volunteer hours recorded at VA Hosp. _____

Contributions to VA Hospital Voluntary Program \$ _____ Post has active VAVS Coordinator No. of VAVS Volunteers Post has "Heroes to Hometown" Rep

NATIONAL SECURITY

Blood Donor Program - Pints blood donated _____ No. blood donors from Post _____ ROTC Medals: No. presented by Post _____

ENERGY - Post has Chairperson Crime Prevention/Law and Order Program - Post has program Fire Prevention/Protection Program - Post has program

Homeland Sec/Disaster Relief & Citizen Corps: Does Post Participate Post has a POW/MIA Chairperson Post has a Foreign Relations Committee/Commission Chairperson

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Post has an active PR chairperson/officer Post produces a Post Publication No. of annual community events Post participates _____

Post participated in a 9/11 Community Commemoration Event **Number of times your Post was mentioned in the following media during the past year?**

Radio _____ TV _____ Cable Access TV _____ Paper (stories) _____ Paper (letters to the editor) _____

UNIFORMED GROUPS

Post sponsors: Color Guard ; Firing Squad No. of Funeral Honors provided for veterans _____ Cost of Uniformed Groups \$ _____

ECONOMICS

Post has Employment Chairperson Post has Homeless Veterans Chairperson No. Veterans referred to LVER or DVOP _____

No. placed in employment _____ No. placed in job training program _____ Promote programs as "Employ Older Worker" week and "Employer of the Year"

Submitted employer award nominations in following:

Homeless Veterans Outreach Employer of the Disabled Employers of Older Workers LVER DVOP Local Office

Employers of veterans, large category (+200 employees) Employers of veterans, medium category (50-200 employees) Employers of veterans, small category (less than 50)

AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH

Boys State: No. boys sponsored _____ Cost \$ _____ American Legacy Scholarship: Amount Donated \$ _____

Baseball: American Legion Baseball team sponsored Cost \$ _____ Other Athletic teams sponsored Cost to Post of other teams \$ _____

Scouting: Post sponsors scout unit(s) No. of youths in Legion Scouting _____ Donated to Scouting Activities \$ _____

Oratorical Contest: Post sponsored local contest No. of local contestants _____ Cost to Post \$ _____

Education: School Award Program: Post Participates No. of Awards Presented _____ Participates in American Education Week

No. of Schools assisted by Post _____ Cost to Post \$ _____ No. of Scholarships Awarded _____ Value of Awards \$ _____

Hours of service given to Education Program _____ Additional amounts expended on Education Program _____

Flag Education: No. of presentations to local groups _____ Cost to Post \$ _____

Post Participation: Flag Day ; Get Out The Vote ; Vet Day ; Memorial Day ; July 4 ; Legion Birthday ; Four Chaplains Sunday

Community Service: Est. No. hours service _____ Cost to Post \$ _____ **Junior Shooting Sports Program Club Sponsorship:** No. of Youth Involved _____ Cost to Post \$ _____

American Legion Riders: Post has Riders group No. of Legion Family members _____ No. of Community Events Sponsored _____

POST CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM:

No. of C&Y Activities Held _____ Cash aid given to benefit children \$ _____ Value of goods given to children (reasonable estimate) \$ _____ No. of children given aid (cash or goods) _____

Post participation: Halloween Safety Child Safety Family Support Network April is C&Y Month Operation Military Kids Special Olympics

COST OF OPERATING POST CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

Administrative (paper, equipment, etc.) \$ _____ Parties, Dinners, Prizes and Gifts \$ _____ All Other Expenses \$ _____

CONTRIBUTIONS: Dollar amounts to other agencies or American Legion activities

United Fund \$ _____ Red Cross \$ _____ Cancer Research \$ _____ Handicapped Children \$ _____

American Legion Endowment Fund \$ _____ Children's Hospital \$ _____ American Legion National Emergency Fund \$ _____ **All others sum total \$ _____**

(Signature)

(Title)

HELP SHARE THE NEWS

At first glance, the Consolidated Post Report may appear complicated and something you don't want to be troubled with, but it is perhaps the most important document your Post can submit. This information will be combined with that of other Posts that submit forms to be put into the report annually sent to Congress. Your Post is encouraged to send a photocopy to your own U.S. Representative. This summary is "US" when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of The American Legion and all veterans. Each Post has a story to tell, and when we speak collectively, our strength is magnified...your Post needs to be a part of that united force.

Every blank or line does not have to be filled in. Few Posts can claim activity for every item listed. If the post only has one program, then that should be the one reported.

The following instructions will help you fill in the report.

After the form is completed, send it to Department Headquarters by **MAY 15**. Keep a copy for the Post's records.

Some questions can be answered by putting an "X" in the provided. An "X" means "Yes". A blank means "No."

Many questions call for figures, such as the number of Funeral Honors provided for veterans, or the number of cases handled by the Post Service Officer. Some of the items being assessed ask for the number of dollars spent. There is a dollar sign (\$) at the beginning of each blank space which requests a response in dollar amounts. Do NOT report cents. Round out your answer to the nearest dollar.

All answers to the boxes and the fill-ins should be **typed or printed** clearly using a pen with dark colored ink.

Whoever is given the responsibility of completing the form may have to get some of the answers from other Post officers or committee members. If you can't get exact amounts or numbers, please make a reasonable estimate. If your Post did not participate in a program listed on the report, or if you simply can't get information by the requested date, leave the section blank. It will be a very unusual Post that has something to report on every line of the form. If your Post had other projects, activities or events, which cannot be adequately covered on the report form, attach a narrative (written description/pictures/newspaper articles) to the form.

REMINDER: MAY 15 is the final date for transmittal to Department for Post Reports to be included in the Department tabulation.