



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



March 21, 2008

**Minds are like parachutes –
they only function when open.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Livermore Falls Post 10

Houlton Post 47

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 Department Commander Paul L'Heureux is in Augusta at the Legislature, it gives him instant credibility and a much bigger voice than he would otherwise have. When National Commander Marty Conatser 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 and even though this form is dated for last year it is fine to use it for this year as well as the report form has not changed enough to make any difference. We will have the web site form updated shortly. Please do your best to complete this report or to assist the individuals in your post who have this as a responsibility with the completion of this report, which is due to the Department Headquarters by May 15th. Thank you.

Letters Of Intent

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of their discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office prior to May 21, 2008. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of yourself (not computer generated) must be at Department Headquarters by **April 25, 2008**.

Resolutions Deadline

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before **May 1** of the subject year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be presented to the Department Adjutant's office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee.

What's Happening?

Camden Post 30: Mar. 22, Benefit Auction at the post home, preview at 6 p.m., auction starts at 7 p.m. To raise money for the Post's Memorial Day festivities. FMI, please call 236-3310 or 763-4003.

Topsham Post 202: Apr. 5, Law Enforcement Breakfast, 8 a.m. To honor law enforcement officers, fire-fighters, and EMT personnel. Please RSVP to Topsham Post 202, 79 Foreside Rd., Topsham 04086 by March 31.

Winthrop Post 40: Apr. 5, Sadie Hawkins Dance, 8 p.m. – midnight. \$8 per person or \$15 per couple with music by Ship of Fools. Members and guests welcome.

Past Commanders/Past Presidents Night: Apr. 8, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner. Prime Rib dinner or chicken if you prefer for \$15 per person. Please send reservations with your meal choice to Gray Post 86, Attention Nancy True, P. O. Box 428, Gray 04039 or call 657-2661/653-3886 or e-mail dtrue@maine.it.com and make checks payable to Gray Post 86. Cutoff is Apr. 3. This is to honor all past commanders and presidents of the old Cumberland County and First District.

Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce: Apr. 19, Chamber Showcase at the Sedmocha School in Dover, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be a Community Connections for Non-Profits. Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Commander Ed Conroy is looking for members of other area posts to man a table at this event and possibly to partner with other area posts to split the \$150 fee. FMI please contact Ed Conroy at 717-6473 or edfconroy@myway.com

District Meetings

District 4 – Franklin: Apr. 1, Farmington Post 28, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow. Nominations. Joint meeting with Farmington Post 28.

District 13 – Penobscot: Apr. 6, Hampden Post 213, 12:00 p.m. lunch, 1:00 p.m. mtg. Meeting will be at the VFW Hall on the Canoe Club Road in Hampden.

District 12 – Hancock: Apr. 8, S.W. Harbor Post 69, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow.

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 8, Gray Post 86, 8 p.m.

District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 9, Richmond Post 132, 7:30 p.m.

District 8 – Sagadahoc: Apr. 10, Topsham Post 202, 6:30 p.m.

District 17 – No. Aroostook: Apr. 13, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow. Nominations.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Apr. 13, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.

District 10 – Somerset: Apr. 14, Skowhegan Post 16, 6:30 p.m. meeting; election and installation.

District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 15, Rumford Post 24, 7 p.m. Installation.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 19, Dover Post 29, 6:30 p.m. supper, mtg. to follow.

District 11 – Waldo: Apr. 20, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 1 – York: Apr. 27, No. Berwick Post 87, 2 p.m.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Damariscotta Post 42	\$250.00 – Maine Special Olympics
District 14-Piscataquis	\$100.00 – Maine Blind Camp
District 14-Piscataquis	\$100.00 – Beals House
District 4-Franklin	\$50.00 – Beals House
Brian Knowlton, Guilford Post 119	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
District 5 – Oxford	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters
District 5 – Legion & Aux. cash collection	\$100.00 – Maine Troop Greeters

Kudos

District 3 – Androscoggin Commander Ken Bouchard for his excellent assistance and follow through for a veteran's family in need.

Sick Call

Maurice Norwood, Southwest Harbor Post 69, P. O. Box 98, Southwest Harbor 04679.

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Hope all of you are staying warm? The cruise I took was certainly an experience I won't soon forget. A true vacation and yes I got sunburned just a little. Meanwhile you were all back in the great state of Maine holding down the fort! I appreciate that and I need to thank a couple of Detachment Vice Commanders for their efforts while I was away. Brian Danforth took my place and represented the Detachment at our National Vice Commander's Homecoming! Thank you Brian and I need to mention Bruce Pierce, he was at a very important meeting with potentially our newest Squadron 111 in Turner and hopefully assisted them to set a strong foundation with which to grow on; thanks Bruce!

Membership continues to come in and I am wondering if we will make a March 30th 100% target for this Detachment? Nationally we stand at 88.578 %. With what we have to send in at this point we need approximately 270 members to achieve this goal! I can report that we have a renewal rate of 75.74 %. This tells me that there are still 633 members who have not renewed for 2008 who were members in 2007. It would seem to me that it would be easier to get the member to renew than to recruit a new one with all of the paperwork that is needed. Please make an effort to get these members in this has been a great membership team this year and YOU are a large part of that team. Let's make one last push to accomplish this goal, thank you.

Now, Our Lobster Raffle was drawn and in case you didn't get the information the winner for 2nd place was Keith Jennings and Bill Voisine won the 1st prize. Fortunately, for you Detachment Officers we again do not have to cook the Lobster Bake! Both gentlemen opted for the money so there we have it. When the rest of the figures come in I will report to you on the disposition of those funds.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

ALA Legislative Newsletter Survey
Let us know what you think of Spirit of America

Mental Health Treatment for Families: Supporting Those Who Support Our Veterans
Congress needs to ensure comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families at all VA Medical Centers.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
Congress needs to introduce and pass legislation to assist victims of Military Sexual Trauma to ensure they receive the support they require.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reporting that the number of homeless veterans has dropped 21% in the last year. This is a decrease from 195,000 to 154,000 veterans who are homeless at any given time. Secretary James Peake announced the findings as part of the 14th annual Community Homeless Assessment. Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG) report on homeless veterans.

According to the VA, the drop in homeless veterans can be attributed to the services offered by the VA and its partners in community and faith-based organization, plus changing demographics and improvements in survey techniques.

"We are seeing significant progress in the fight against homelessness," said Peake. "The success should encourage all those concerned about homeless veterans, for it shows we can make a difference in the lives of these veterans through our services and with our community partners,"

Auxiliary Junior Convention: Apr. 27, Brownville Jct. Post 92, starting at 9 a.m. with a noon luncheon. RSVP to Georgine Butman at 695-2806 or Brenda Roberts at 965-3631 by Apr. 15. For overnight accommodations: Hitching Post B&B, 943-2493 in Milo; Down Home B&B, 943-5167 in Milo; or Bears Den Log Cabin Motel, 564-8733 in Dover.

Sick Call: Julie Rowe, 172 Elm St., Mechanic Falls 04256.

Our trip is coming up quick to be going to Washington D.C. to talk to our representatives up on the hill. We will be leaving on March 28, 2008. I have a total of four corsages.

Charlotte "Kitty" Wing
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

