



## The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org)

Website: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

### Weekly Update



November 13, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**A person can grow only as much as his horizons allows.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

**Locke Mills Post 68**

#### Mid-Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Maine American Legion will be held at the Roderick-Crosby Post 28 in Farmington on **Saturday, January 16, 2010**, not Friday January 15 as previously reported in the newsletter.

#### National Commander's Visit

The newly elected National Commander for The American Legion now knows what northern Maine is like to visit. He also knows the people of Maine better now than when he took office.

Last weekend, Commander Hill toured Northern Maine Posts of Mars Hill, Stockholm, Fort Kent, Madawaska, Van Buren and Caribou from the time he arrived at 3 p.m. Friday until Saturday evening when he enjoyed two 1½ pound lobsters for dinner. He also visited the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery, Caribou on Sunday before departing the area on Monday morning. Sunday was a day of rest for Commander Hill and his aide, Larry White. They both had paperwork to do on Sunday and truly appreciated the time off to complete what they had to do.

Continued on page 2

All during the visit, Commander Hill told everyone that he was a true member of Past National Commander Dave Rehbein's club on moose. The belief of the club is that moose do not exist and that they are a figment of someone's imagination. True Mainer's know differently and so does, I believe, Commander Hill. He just refused to admit it. His aide has pictures of three moose we spotted on the way from Van Buren to Caribou on Saturday afternoon. They were the biggest and darkest moose I had seen in many years.

One of the gifts given to Commander Hill was an antler presented by District 16 Commander Chuck Williams. It is now going to be very difficult for him to continue saying that moose are just figments of an imagination.

It truly is a pleasure to host the National Commander here in the State of Maine and we are extremely fortunate to be able to have him visit us. The state is such a big one from one end to the other that it is difficult to cover the whole state in one short weekend. I am sure the Commander and his aide enjoyed their visit here and we told them both they were welcome to return to this beautiful state of ours whenever they wanted.

### American Legion Launches New Web Site

America's largest veterans service organization has launched a new Web site, bulging with new content and featuring a completely redesigned look. American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill said the new Web site, "is a tremendous addition to our online presence. It's more informative, better-looking, and easier to navigate than our previous site. I encourage Legionnaires to visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) [1] and explore the wealth of content in its pages."

Initial planning for The American Legion's new Web presence began in September 2008, according to Hill. The new site includes more than 30 separate landing pages for American Legion programs and activities, including [baseball](#), [scholarships](#), [troop support](#), [membership/post activities](#) and the [Family Support Network](#). Two prominent programs – [The American Legion Riders](#) and [Sons of The American Legion](#) – also have their own landing pages. Online visitors will also find the Legion's popular blog site, "[The Burn Pit](#)."

"We've got everything there from our COP Keating fundraising drive for soldiers attacked in Afghanistan, to film footage of the Legion's 1927 National Convention in Paris, France," Hill said. It's a very impressive online compilation of what The American Legion is all about."

The Legion's new home page features two major stories, headlines and news links that are updated each morning. The page's new design also includes links to the Legion's social media such as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), to major hubs of Legion activity such as the [Veterans Benefits Center](#) and [Legislative Action Center](#), and to the national commander's [Web site](#).

"Our national staff has worked very hard to create this new Web site as a fantastic calling card to the entire world," Hill said.

## Thank You

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent me cards and letters, or called the house with concerns for my health over the past three weeks. I got home on the 6th of November, and I am doing very well. As a matter of fact, I have dropped two pant sizes and walk at least two miles a day! A special Thank you to the Ladies of Unit 40 of Winthrop, who so graciously made a financial donation to Kathy and me. Kathy has been unable to work for the last eight months, and that sure helped. Thank you Ladies. And of course, thank you to Post 132 "The Best Post in the State", whose support meant so much to me, as that family always does.

Steve Page

## Letters

Your new [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) website is up and better than ever. However, ten times as many people are visiting per hour than expected -- over 25,000. That caused the site to crash several times. The memory is being bolstered as I write, and your national staff is working around the clock to keep it running. Extra capacity should be in place by the end of the week, so keep coming back -- we're expecting you. Also send any feedback to [jstoffer@legion.org](mailto:jstoffer@legion.org) or [jpiercy@legion.org](mailto:jpiercy@legion.org). We want to know how to serve you better. And remember: this is just phase one -- much more to come.

Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

## Directory Changes

**Pg. 20**, POW/MIA Committee, Darrell Savage, P.O. Box 34, W. Enfield 04493 (732-5400) (c 794-5400)  
**Pg.56**, Lincoln Post 77, Adjutant, Darrell Savage, P.O. Box 34, W. Enfield 04493 (732-5400) (c 794-5400)  
**Pg. 59**, Hampden Post 213, meetings will be held every other month during the winter months  
**Pg. 62**, Cherryfield Post 8, Adjutant George Openshaw, 377 Ridge Rd., Cherryfield 04622

## District Meetings

**District 11 – Waldo:** Nov. 15, Palermo Post 163, 2 p.m.  
**District 5 – Oxford:** Nov. 17, Bethel Post 81, 7 p.m., Guest speaker  
**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Nov. 21, Dexter Post 53, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

## December District Meetings

**District 12 – Hancock:** Dec. 8, NE Harbor Post 103, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.  
**District 9 – Kennebec:** Dec. 9, Augusta Post 205, 7 p.m.  
**District 2 – Cumberland:** Dec. 13, S. Portland Post 35, 6 p.m., Christmas party, please bring gift up to \$10, male for male and female for female.  
**District 5 – Oxford:** Dec. 15, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m., Christmas party, appoint nominating party

## What's Happening?

**Family Supper:** November 20, Stockholm Post 136, 5:30 p.m. \$7 adults, \$4 children, 12 and under. A shotgun will be auctioned off after the meal, followed by free bingo.

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

**Gifts of Gratitude Troop Support Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Auction:** November 28, Bath Post 21, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. auction, \$5 per person. Refreshments, raffles and door prizes. FMI, please contact Ginny at 319-2427 or ginandco@yahoo.com

**Tree of Caring:** Dec. 4, Maine Veterans Home in So. Paris, 7 p.m. FMI please call Dick Young at 743-8084.

**Stockholm Post 136 Christmas Party:** December 4, Stockholm Post 136, 5:30 p.m. Christmas party and potluck supper, bring dish and gift up to \$10.

**Stockholm Post 136 Children's Christmas Party:** December 5, Stockholm Post 136, 11 a.m.

**Wreaths Across America:** December 6, Bangor Civic Center, 11:45 a.m.

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day:** December 7, 1:00 p.m., at the mast of the U.S.S. Portland in Fort Allen Park on the Eastern Promenade in Portland. All veteran organizations are respectfully requested to designate **one** representative and a color guard to lay a wreath at the Mast of the Memorial site. All participating personnel, please arrive at Fort Allen Park by **12:30 p.m.** for the purpose of marching in.

## Kudos

Mark Reaser, Saco Post 96 scholarship recipient, enjoys Navy life and football. Most college freshmen are enjoying sleeping in, partying and mingling with others. Former Thornton Academy football player Mark Reaser is spending his post-secondary education waking up at 5:30 a.m., hitting the books, memorizing the cafeteria menu and doing constant exercises while being yelled at by commanding officers.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

<http://www.journaltribune.com/articles/2009/11/06/sports/doc4af4421a97bd1656607622.txt>

Hermon Post 200 for their donation of \$1,000 for the construction of the Hermon Veterans Memorial, \$500 to the JROTC at Hermon High School to support their shoe box program sending gift boxes to Maine troops in Afghanistan, \$500.00 to Unit 200 to be added to their scholarship fund and \$1,000 to support the programs of Katahdin Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Post 200 Judge Advocate, Harry Rideout donated an American Flag that had been flown over the Nation's Capitol to the Hermon Veterans Memorial while Post and Unit 200 supplied a State of Maine flag and a MIA flag for the Hermon Veterans Memorial.

Old Orchard Beach 57 for their donation of \$500 to the USO, \$100 to the Friends of O.O.B. Football, \$600 to the O.O.B. Police Dept. to assist in purchasing dog food for the Canine Division, \$500 to ALA District 1 for the Special Olympics Christmas party and \$500 to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

**Donations**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

Madison Post 39

\$200 - VAVS

**Sick Call**

Donald Best, Winthrop Post 40, 612 Route 133, Winthrop 04364.

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

We need 35% membership by November 17, so keep sending those transmittals to Detachment. Ten squadrons are already at 35 percent membership, just another **37 squadrons to go.**

As previously reported, the computer class at Lewiston High School has taken up the “Movies for Soldiers” program. Ms. Morris’s class has already collected about 30 DVD’s. Each student will go and address two other classes each to enlist their help with donations. Ms. Morris has offered a further incentive to her students. They will get extra credit in computer class for their participation in “Movies for Soldiers”. This program also counts as community service for them, which is a requirement for graduation. I believe that they will collect 300 DVD’s before Christmas.

A reminder to all Detachment Officers and District Commanders, we have a DEC meeting in Houlton on Sunday, November 15 at noon. Committees may meet at 11:00, just before DEC. The north has been leading on membership so let’s get up there and honor that effort.

Waterville Post 5 will host a Sock Hop on Friday, November 13 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. There’ll be a 50/50 drawing and prizes for the best dressed (remember, it’s a sock hop). Tickets are \$5.00 per person or \$8.00 per couple. FMI contact Chairman Joe Cooper at 342-3098 or Brian Danforth at 314-0222. All proceeds to benefit Pine Tree Camp.

It’s hunting season. Stay safe afield and remember your local post if they do a hunters’ breakfast or supper. If your Squadron has an event and would like it in the SMILE, contact me by Wednesday at [unclebru2@aol.com](mailto:unclebru2@aol.com).

Yours in Service.  
Bruce Pierce  
Detachment Commander

**Auxiliary Corner**

I write to you this week from the road, visiting Units in Augusta, Richmond, Belfast and Winthrop. Last week I had the pleasure of visiting Livermore Falls and Norway. Norway's visitation included Units from So. Paris, W. Paris, Oxford and Buckfield.

A thank you to all ALA members in attendance for your efforts on behalf of veterans, community and Children & Youth.

The Machias Veteran's Home is having its very first Gift Shop for its residents. Anyone wishing to help or donate wrapping paper, tape, scissors or monies should contact Lois Tenan at 546-3828 or Betty White at 546-2550. Gift Shop will be held from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. December 2, 2009.

A REMINDER: Those writing checks for the Commander's/President's Raffle, please note on the memo line that it's for the Comm/Pres. Project for Homeless Veterans. Again, thank you for supporting the American Legion Family Project.

Forms have been sent out with reservation information for Mid-Winter Conference. Fill out and return ASAP. Deadline is December 15th. It's a good idea to take care of this before we all get busy with the holiday season.

More next week on my travels and on upcoming events.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and Blessing to you all.

-----**WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS RESULTS**-----

**Lois M. Hubbard**  
**ALA President**  
**Email:misslois@mgemaine.com**

**1561 Mason Bay Rd.**  
**Jonesport, ME 04649**  
**TEL: 207-497-5949**  
**FAX: 207-497-5949**

Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,  
Department Adjutant

## Your American Legion Benefits

As many of you already know, being a member of The American Legion comes with many benefits. There are a lot of members who don't realize they are entitled to these benefits. Listed below are three of the many benefits available. Please post this information in your Post Homes, republish it in your own newsletters, or read it at your meetings so your members are informed. The savings on one prescription could possibly cover the cost of a member's dues for the year.

**Free Accidental Death Insurance:** Eligibility for the "No-Cost" AD&D program is limited to Legionnaires in good standing. There are no age restrictions for the "No-Cost" program and the \$1,000 benefit does not reduce due to age. There is a dismemberment benefit and the program provides an extra \$500 in benefits should the accidental death occur when the Legionnaire is on official Legion business.

Special note – Active duty military can enroll, but will only be covered for non-occupational events. In other words, driving to the store is covered; jumping out of airplanes is not.

Legionnaires can sign up for the "No Cost" AD&D in any of the following ways:

- ◆ Go to the web site - theLIT.com – and enroll via computer.
- ◆ Call the toll free number 1-800-235-6943 and request activator form.

**CVS/CAREMARK:** The American Legion's discount prescription program will be administered by CVS/Caremark, providing a discount prescription program to its members and their families. American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary members and their dependents save 20% or more on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies or through a mail order prescription program. For local service, simply show your membership card. There are many participating pharmacies in the network. To use the mail order program, obtain a form by calling CVS/Caremark. Service representatives may be reached toll-free at 1-888-414-3141.

**EyeMed Vision Care:** Your American Legion, SAL membership card and American Legion Auxiliary card is honored at many locations. Call or visit any participating network provider – LensCrafters, Sears Optical, Pearle Vision, Target Optical, or independent doctor of optometry. You can save up to 40% on eyewear. To find a location near you call 1-800-793-8626 or visit [www.eyemedvisioncare.com](http://www.eyemedvisioncare.com) and go to member access, then provider locator to locate a provider near you, scroll to bottom of page to Discount Plan Members and search under "A" for American Legion.