



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



November 25, 2009

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness.  
It will change your life mightily.**

**VA Web  
Renovation**

On Veterans Day, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rolled out the first phase of a large-scale Web renovation to better serve America's Veterans. This first and most visible step of the renovation consists of changing the Web site's look, making it easier for Veterans and their families to navigate and to find the information they are looking for.

"VA is looking at all possible ways to increase our outreach efforts so that we can reach all our Veterans and their family members," said VA Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs L. Tammy Duckworth. "That includes leveraging new technologies and creating user friendly Web sites. VA's care and services are only as good as Veterans' awareness of them. This new renovation will help organize our Web site and ultimately better serve our Veterans."

VA's long-term goals in redesigning the site are to make it easier and more inviting for Veterans through incorporating Web best practices, focusing on topics and tasks rather than office function, improving the navigational structure to ensure consistency, and making it more visually appealing. The new website design will cover more than 500 VA Web sites and about 80,000 pages.

Some of the major changes include improvements in the navigational structure that provide consistency among all sites and consolidate major topics; a slide show section that showcases current VA events or hot topics; and bottom columns that feature news items, highlights and a "Quick List" with links directly to important applications such as Veterans On Line Applications (VONAPP) and MyHealtheVet.

To view the new version of the Web site, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

**2010 Flag &  
Emblem Catalog**

Just in time for the holidays, the brand new 2010 American Legion “Flag & Emblem” catalog debuts with over 70 new items for Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members along with brand new offerings for American Legion Riders

Nearly 85,000 catalogs have been mailed to members who purchased from Emblem Sales within the last 3 years in addition to commanders and adjutants at all levels of the organization.

Some of the new items available for 2010 include:

- Branch of Service Challenge Coins
- Branch of Service Ties and Caps
- Lady Legion Shirts
- Legion Riders Leather Vest & Chaps
- Legion Riders Caps
- Boys State Caps
- Polar Fleece Tops

And more!

Additional copies of the catalog are available by calling toll-free 1-888-453-4466. Most catalog items can be ordered 24 hours a day on the Internet at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org).

**VA Medical Center**

The attached is a map of the Veterans Administration facility at Togus. It shows the various building numbers and where the various parking and handicapped parking lots are located. The American Legion office is located in building 205, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. This should assist anyone who has an appointment at Togus or wants to visit the Legion office there.

**Milo Post 41  
Meetings**

Please be advised that Post 41 has switched dates of the regular meeting and executive meeting for the month of December. Executive meeting will be held December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting will be held December 16th at 6:00 p.m., supper 7:00 p.m.

### Directory Changes

**Pg. 4,** Americanism Officer, Charles Foss, e-mail: [lworchester@midmaine.com](mailto:lworchester@midmaine.com)

**Pg. 12,** Department Americanism Committee Chairman, Charles Foss, e-mail: [lworchester@midmaine.com](mailto:lworchester@midmaine.com)

**Pg. 14,** Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Charles Foss, e-mail: [lworchester@midmaine.com](mailto:lworchester@midmaine.com)

**Pg. 44,** Damariscotta Post 42, e-mail: [legionpost42@tidewater.net](mailto:legionpost42@tidewater.net)

**Pgs. 69, 71, 72, 73,** Brian Danforth, 56 Mathews Ave., Waterville 04901

### 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

**Correction for District 8 – Sagadahoc meeting:** Meeting will be held Feb. 16, Harpswell Post 171, 6 p.m., not Jan. 14 as listed in The Maine Legionnaire.

### What's Happening?

**Gifts of Gratitude Troop Support Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Auction:** Nov. 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](mailto:ginandco@yahoo.com)

**Post Renaming:** Nov. 29, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Auburn Post #153 will be honoring Past National Commander William J. Rogers by renaming the post in his honor. The family of Mr. Rogers will be in attendance. All veterans and friends are cordially invited to attend. FMI: Paul L'Heureux 754-6044.

**Post 5 Christmas Party:** Dec. 4, Waterville Post 5, 7 – 11 p.m. Please come and help support the post. Enjoy a fun evening with snacks, dancing and caroling. No gifts please.

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

**Meat Raffle and Drawings:** Dec. 5, Fairfield Post 14, 6:00 p.m. at the post. All proceeds will benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry in Fairfield. This is an annual joint effort of the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L.

**Stockholm Post 136 Children’s Christmas Party:** Dec. 5, Stockholm Post 136, 11 a.m.

**Wreaths Across America:** Dec. 6, Bangor Auditorium, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Ceremony to honor veterans and greet the Wreaths Across America caravan on its way to Arlington National Cemetery to deliver 15,000 wreaths for gravesite placement from the Worcester Wreath Company. All veterans are invited. FMI call Randy Kluj at 943-5509.

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day:** Dec. 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.

**Maine State Hall of Flags Ceremony:** Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hall of Flags in the Maine State House in Augusta. All veterans are cordially invited to join the Maine Funeral Directors Association (MDFA) for the 2009 Wreaths Across America annual wreath laying ceremony.

**South Buxton Cemetery Assoc. Wreaths Across America:** Dec. 12, South Buxton Cemetery, Route 112, Buxton, near the cemetery office, 11:30 a.m. The organization’s mission is to remember those veterans & military personnel at home and dispersed across the globe.

**Veterans Cemetery Wreath Laying:** Dec. 12, Veterans Cemetery, 9 a.m.

**Donations**

**THANK YOU      THANK YOU      THANK YOU**

Bath Unit 21	\$200 – Homeless Vets (Commander’s Project)
Waterville Post 5	\$600 – Maine Veterans Home
District 14 – Piscataquis County	\$50 – Maine Blind Camp

**Condolences**

Herman C. “Mike” Lamoreau passed away November 20, 2009. Our sincerest condolences go to his family and friends. He was a life member and past commander of Post 88, Presque Isle.

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

The membership is coming in pretty good right now. Let's keep it coming in. We did not quite make the November 17<sup>th</sup> target of 35% but we came a lot closer than last year. We are improving. Detachment currently stands at 31% membership. Districts 5, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 16 met or surpassed the 35% target. The following squadrons have likewise met or surpassed the target: 155 Naples, 62 Westbrook, 153 New Auburn, 24 Rumford, 100 Dixfield, 42 Damariscotta, 40 Winthrop, 51 Oakland, 132 Richmond, 14 Fairfield, 39 Madison, 65 Lubec, 15 Caribou, 47 Houlton and 49 Van Buren. Good work, gentlemen. With "go-getters" like you guys, we can achieve our membership goals. As for the rest of us, let's start giving them a run for their money.

Please remember the Commander's challenge to all Squadrons to raise \$100 for Children's Welfare Foundation. We have received \$165 at Detachment so far. We'll need over \$2,900 by May if we are to make a dollar per member.

The Homeless Veterans of Maine need our help. Department Commander Andy Olson, Department President Lois Hubbard and I are collaborating on this joint project. Commander Andy has obtained a beautiful cedar bird feeder to raffle off for this important project, so let's buy lots of raffle tickets and show our support. I also would like to challenge all squadrons to raise \$100 for homeless veterans of Maine. Please remember to send all donations through Detachment with the program noted in the memo space so we can properly track donations we send on to Department and give recognition where it is due.

Augusta Post 205 will host a Sock Hop on Friday, December 11th 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. BYOB. FMI contact Chairman Joe Cooper at 342-3098 or Brian Danforth at 314-0222. All proceeds to benefit Pine Tree Camp.

Stockholm Squadron 136 is putting on a twin lobster supper and dance on Saturday, December 12. Supper will be served 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The cost of dinner and dance is \$20 per person in advance. The dance starts at 8:00 p.m. and dance only tickets will be sold at the door. Call Dennis Anderson at 896-3060 or Neil Nelson at 896-5644 for tickets and more info.

It's hunting season. Stay safe afield and have a happy Thanksgiving. Remember our veterans and Troops.

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**

On behalf of the Auxiliary - Dept. of Maine, I wish each member and their loved ones a HAPPY THANKSGIVING. May you enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

The Gift Shop at Togus is being set up Nov. 23rd & 24th, and will be ready for resident shoppers Mon., 11/30-12/3. Your help is needed to wrap and get packages ready for shipping. What a wonderful way to show your pledge of "Service not Self".

The Gift Shop at the Machias Veteran's Home is being held on 12/2. Your help in wrapping, along with donations of wrapping paper, tape, scissors or monies to help get this new event "off the ground" would be appreciated.

Along with celebrating Thanksgiving in Nov., the Auxiliary celebrates it's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ladies check out the National Website for ways you and your Unit can participate. This is something we can ALL take pride in, so lets ALL get involved.

Raffle Tickets are still available on those beautiful cedar bird feeders that will support the Cmdr./Pres. Project for Homeless Veterans. Remember to state on the memo line that monies are for Cmdr/Pres. Project for Homeless Veterans.

Last chance to get those pictures of activities from your Post and Unit into the Redesign Team. Your efforts will go a long way in helping to create a website that depicts MAINE at it's best. Send photos to Georgine Butman by email at [moosharp@midmaine.com](mailto:moosharp@midmaine.com) or to P.O. Box 74, Greenville Jct., ME 04442. Tel: 591-5360 or 695-2806 - DEADLINE is 12/1/09.

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

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Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,  
Department Adjutant

