



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



October 2, 2009

☺ SMILE ☺

What one does is what counts and not what one has the intention of doing.

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

North Haven Post 33

PTSD Regulation

On August 24, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a proposed regulation in the Federal Register with the goal of making it easier for a veteran to claim post traumatic stress disorder by reducing the evidence needed to support the claim if the stressor claimed by the veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity.

Specifically, VA is proposing to amend 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 3.304(f) by re-designating current paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5) and adding a new paragraph (3) stating that if a stressor claimed by a veteran is related to the veteran's fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, or a psychiatrist or psychologist with whom VA has contracted, confirms the claimed stressor is adequate to support a diagnosis of PTSD and that the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor, in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, and provided the claimed stressor is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the veteran's service, the veteran's lay testimony alone may establish the occurrence of the claimed in-service stressor.

According to the proposed regulation, VA has chosen to limit the confirmation of a claimed stressor to an examination by a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, or a psychiatrist or psychologist with whom the VA has contracted, in order to ensure standardization and consistency of mental health evaluations and reporting of these evaluations, which will be based upon uniform VA examination protocols.

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The proposed amendment takes into consideration current scientific research studies relating PTSD to exposure to hostile military and terrorist actions. It is intended to acknowledge the inherently stressful nature of the places, types, and circumstances of service in which fear of hostile military or terrorist activities is ongoing. With this amendment, the evidentiary burden of establishing an in-service stressor would be reduced in such cases. Additionally, this amendment is intended to facilitate the timely processing of PTSD claims by simplifying the development and research procedures that apply to these claims.

Written comments must be received by VA on or before October 23, 2009. VA will publish a final regulation once all written comments have been reviewed.

Barry A. Searle, Director National VA&R Commission

License Plates

Friends

The Support the Troops License Plate needs your help and support now!! We have till Nov 1, 2009 to register 400 new Support the Troops Plates purchased for your vehicle. Even if your registration does not run out between now and then you can still change to the Support the Troops Plate, right now!! Please do not wait; we need your help today!

Please Remember these Important Facts!!

As we now have many hundreds of men and women from Maine in harm's way, and more to be deployed soon with the 133 Army National Guard, heading again to Iraq or Afghanistan, this is the perfect time to show your support and assistance to them with the purchase of the Support The Troops Plate!

Ten dollars from every plate registration and renewal of the Support the Troops Plate goes into a fund that must be used to provide financial assistance to members of the Maine National Guard, residents of the state who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and the families of those members of the Maine National Guard or Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States for emergencies and other special needs as determined by the We Support Our Troops Advisory Board.

So far with over 3,565 plates, that mean \$35,650 has gone into Support of Maine Troops Program since November 2007!!

Please pass this to everyone on your e-mail list so that we can show the State of Maine this is not the time to take away a license plate that directly helps those who are in harm's way fighting for your freedoms you enjoy each and every day.

For God & Country
Donald Simoneau

Freedom Salute

The Freedom Team Salute Program is jointly sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army. The purpose of the program is to say “Thank You” and to individually recognize and honor US Army Veterans, and anyone who has supported Army Soldiers and the Army’s mission. Each Army Veteran receives a Freedom Team Salute Commendation Packet which includes a personalized letter and Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army, an official Army lapel pin, and a US Army decal. Similar packets are available for Supporters (Veterans of any service or civilians) who have supported Army Soldiers or the Army mission in some way. More information is at: www.freedomteamsalute.com.

The Department of Maine does not release any name or address of any member of the department without their permission and authorization. Therefore, if you desire to receive one of these packets, please contact Department Headquarters and advise us of your desire. We will compile a list of the members who authorize us to release their name and address and forward it to the appropriate individual with the program.

Directory Changes

- Pg. 6**, District 5, Adjutant, Wayne Hakala, 44 Hayes Hill Rd., Greenwood 04255 (527-2234)
- Pg. 9**, Area 7, Rep., James Ireland (c 554-7016) remove e-mail address
- Pg. 23**, VA&R Committee, Replace Charlie Hewett with Tim Flaherty, 82 Depot Rd. Apt. 16, Falmouth 04105 (899-2153)
- Pg. 26**, Biddeford Post 26, Adjutant, Raoul Goulet, P.O. Box 33, Biddeford 04005 (229-7263)
Meeting nights 2nd Thurs.
- Pg. 27**, Kennebunk Post 74, Adjutant, Wayne Edes, 17 Warrens Way, Kennebunk 04043 (985-8029)
- Pg. 33**, Peaks Island Post 142, Adjutant, Steven Pedersen, 17 Luther St., Peaks Island 04108 (766-5015)
- Pg. 33**, Peaks Island Post 142, Service Officer, Joseph Berman, Brackett Ave., Peaks Island 04108
- Pg. 39**, Rangeley Post 120, Adjutant, Harold Spiller, Jr., P.O. Box 243, Rangeley 04970 (864-3852)
- Pg. 39**, Weld Post 203 Adjutant, Joan Masterman, P.O. Box 126, Weld 04285
- Pg. 44**, Thomaston Post 37, Adjutant, William Demmons, 491 Patterson Mill Rd., Warren 04864 (319-3400)
e-mail: William_d@netzero.net
- Pg. 46**, Gardiner Post 4, Commander, Earle Gilley, 12 Gilley Dr., Gardiner 04345
- Pg. 51**, Bingham Post 99, Commander, John Durgin, P.O. Box 434, Bingham 04920 (672-3285)
- Pg. 51**, Jackman Post 122, Adjutant, William Watkin, 885 Long Pond Rd., Long Pond Twp 04945 (668-4885)
e-mail: watkin3@gmail.com meeting nights, 1st Tues 5 p.m.
- Pg. 57**, Millinocket Post 80, Adjutant, Leo Kittrick, 2 Fern St. Apt. 40, Millinocket 04462
- Pg. 94**, Voiture 354, Chef de Gare, John Schlaack, 1069 Pinkham Brook Rd., Durham 04222 (353-8457)
- Pg. 107**, VAMC, Brian Stiller, Director, VAMROC, Togus 04330 (623-8411)

District Meetings

- District 16 – S. Aroostook:** Oct. 3, Houlton Post 47, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.
District 15 – Washington: Oct. 4, Jonesport Post 108, 2 p.m.
District 17 – N. Aroostook: Oct. 4, Stockholm Post 136, 1 p.m. dinner
District 7 – Lincoln: Oct. 5, Wiscasset Post 54, 6 p.m.
District 2 – Cumberland: Oct. 11, Standish Post 128, 2 p.m.
District 3 – Androscoggin: Oct. 11, Livermore Falls Post 10, 2 p.m.
District 12 – Hancock: Oct. 13, Bar Harbor Post 25, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 mtg.
District 9 – Kennebec: Oct. 14, Winthrop Post 40, 7 p.m.
District 14 – Piscataquis: Oct. 17, Milo Post 41, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 5 – Oxford: Oct. 20, Buckfield Post 58, 7 p.m., pumpkin pie

What's Happening?

Rumford Post 24 Family Fun Day: October 3, Rumford Post 24. Activities start at 12:00 p.m. and will run until 4:00 p.m. Children and adult activities are planned and include face painting, dance revolution, Guitar Hero, collage table, horse shoes, ladder golf, pool tournament, darts, 50/50 Raffle and more. The Rumford Police Dept. will be there with the "Child Identification Program's Iris Scan". The Rumford Fire Department will join us as well. We will begin serving lunch at 12:00 p.m. at no cost for members, eligible members, and their families. The band "One Step Ahead" will play from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and is open to the public, must be 21 years and older. Cost for the dance is \$2.00 for members and \$5.00 for non members. For eligibility requirements stop by the American Legion and pick up an application. Any Department Officer is welcome to attend.

Breakfast: October 10, Palermo Post 163, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., \$5 per person. Breakfast will consist of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, sausage gravy & biscuits and pancakes. Proceeds to benefit our computer program and hall.

Tea Party: Winthrop Unit 40 will be hosting a "Tea Party" for members of 30 yrs or more. Invitations have been sent out with RSVP, transportation will be provided if needed. It will be a fun time for all. FMI please call Hermance at 933-3417.

Harvest Supper: Oct. 18, Dixfield Post 100, social hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m., \$5 per person. The menu will be roast pork, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Please RSVP by sending a check to American Legion Post 100, P.O. Box 454, Dixfield 04224 or by calling Ditson Welch at 562-8999 or Marcel Martineau at 364-2474 by Oct. 11.

Future Togus Programs: October 21, Bats of the World presented by the Chewonkie Nature Program.

Stockholm Post 136 Dance: October 24, Stockholm Post 136, Main St., Stockholm, Blue Grass band Blistered fingers, 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. \$20 per person. FMI contact Rudolph St.Peter at 834-3504 or 896-3161

Roast Beef Supper: October 24, Palermo Post 163, Turner Ridge Rd off Rt.3 in Palermo, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We are asking for a donation of \$8.00 per person. Following the supper, we will be having a drawing for two shotguns, a Remington 12ga over & under and a NEFA 20ga pump, plus and auction for other items. Everyone is welcome. FMI please call Bud Horridge at 993-2003 or 207-312-841

Hunter's Breakfast: October 31, Stockholm Post 136, 4:30 a.m., \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.

Condolences

National Security Committee member Lucien Marcoux has lost his son Robert. Cards may be sent to him at 302 Russell St., Lewiston 04240.

ALA Americanism Officer Irene Ervine's husband Tom has passed away. Cards may be sent to Irene at 355 Fisher Rd., Bowdoinham 04008.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

Many squadrons took the summer off and just had their first meeting since spring when they met this September. I know you are making plans for Halloween parties, hunting season and harvest balls. Let's keep membership at the top of that list, too. Collect those dues early and transmit to Detachment often.

Please remember that our goal for Children & Youth is \$1.00 per member to Children's Welfare Foundation. I hereby challenge all squadrons to meet this goal. Let's show National what a small Detachment like Maine can do.

NEC Joe Cooper and I will go to fall NEC on October 9th. Our next DEC meeting will be November 15th at Post 47 in Houlton. Let's have a good turn out so the north knows we care.

Madison Post 39 will host a Sock Hop on Friday, October 23rd from 8:00 pm 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.

If your Squadron has an event and would like it in the SMILE, contact me by Wednesday at unclebru2@aol.com.

Yours in Service.
Bruce Pierce
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant

Certification Form
Department Vice Commander's Awards

INDIVIDUAL INCENTIVE AWARDS

Awarded to Legionnaires, Auxiliary or SAL members by Department Vice Commander's Danny Ayotte and Brenda Dearborn.

This is to certify that: _____
 Member's name

Mailing address	Town	State	Zip code
of _____	_____	_____	Post No. _____

NOTE: to qualify to receive this award, new members recruited may be Legionnaires, Auxiliary or SAL members.

	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Vice-Commander's Pin: 2 new members	_____	_____
Legion Ball Cap: 10 new members	_____	_____
A \$50 Gas Card: 20+ new members	_____	_____
TOTAL POINTS ACCUMULATED:		_____

 Signed, Post Adjutant

 Dated

Duplicate as needed.

Mail this form to:
 The American Legion, Department of Maine
 P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900