



The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



October 30, 2009

☺ SMILE ☺

**One of the greatest things about life is not so much where we stand
as what direction we are going.**

Wreaths Across America To Honor Veterans

Wreaths Across America, the organization which donates 15,000 wreaths to decorate Arlington National Cemetery each year and many, many more across the world, including 2,500 at the veterans' cemeteries in Augusta, will be honoring veterans yet again at the Bangor Civic Center on Sunday, December 6, 2009.

This event, starting at 11:45 a.m., will be the first stop of the wreath caravan which will deliver the 15,000 wreaths to Arlington for placement of veterans' gravesites on the following Saturday. All veterans' groups, including American Legion posts, are invited to participate. Each group, with or without a Color Guard, will be individually recognized as they make their way around the Civic Center. Color Guard groups are encouraged to attend, but any group will receive a warm welcome.

If you wish to participate in this extraordinary event, please use the sign-up sheet at the end of this newsletter to indicate the appropriate information so your group can be properly recognized during the ceremony.

Last year there was an additional ceremony in Portland on this same day, but the Bangor event will be the only formal event in Maine for the wreath caravan on its way to Arlington.

Possible Job Opening

The U.S. Census Bureau is gearing up for its decennial population count that starts in 2010. The count is used for a multitude of reasons which include apportioning representatives in Congress, and locally, allocating federal funds for roads, schools, and other necessary programs. If you want to help with the count, call the toll free number of 1-866-861-2010 for a testing session near you. These census taker jobs pay at least \$14.75 an hour and can be worked around your busy schedules."

Free Meals for Veterans

The following businesses are showing their support to Veterans and Active Duty military personnel on November 11 by offering a free meal. The Muddy Rudder Restaurant and the Freeport Café are offering a free meal on that day. The Muddy Rudder Restaurant on Route One, Yarmouth will serve from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the Freeport Café on Route One, Freeport will serve from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Muddy Rudder Restaurant in Brewer will also be offering the same Vets Eat Free Program as well as Applebee's as previously reported. At Applebee's, military personnel, including Reserves and National Guard, can select from one of six entrees: 7 oz. Sirloin, Three Cheese Chicken Penne, Fiesta Lime Chicken, Fire Pit Bacon Burger, Chicken Tenders Platter, and Oriental Chicken Salad. FMI, feel free to visit www.applebees.com and click on "Veterans Day." Many Applebee's participate, however, check with your local restaurant for more information.

Free Car Wash on Veterans Day

J&S Oil is offering a free basic car wash at their Manchester and Waterville locations on Veterans Day in honor of our service men and women. No proof of veteran status is required. Veterans may upgrade to a higher level car wash by paying the difference between the basic and the upgrade desired.

Grace for Vets is also sponsoring free car washes at participating car washes across the state. These washes will only be available on Veterans Day, rain or shine, at:

Bradley's Car Wash, Presque Isle, ME
Sammy's Lube Express & Car Wash, Windham, ME
Sudzie Car Wash, Scarborough, ME
J&S Oil/Ultia Clean Car Washes, Manchester, ME
Fox Brand, Houlton, ME

Veterans History Project

The mission of the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. You can be part of this important project. To get started and learn more, visit: www.loc.gov/vets. At this site, you can download a Field Kit, which gives guidelines for conducting interviews and information about what the History Project does and does not accept. This site also features hundreds of interviews with U.S. veterans and background information about the conflicts in which they served.

Log on to www.loc.gov/vets today or call the toll-free message line at 888-371-5848 to request a Field Kit.

Agent Orange

Free Agent Orange test for Viet Nam veterans who served with boots in country. Please call 1-877-421-8263, extension 4733, to schedule an appointment for the test.

Letters

Greetings to All,

I would like to tell you about our Open House and Job Fair that we will be having on November 3rd and 4th at Togus VA Medical Center. The purpose of this event is to inform our fellow veterans that they may be eligible for health care services here at Togus. Also, we are currently seeking experienced registered nurses for our inpatient units, and as a bonus we will be offering flu shots to the veterans that currently have a VA Medical card. I am trying to reach out to as many Maine veterans as possible. We would like to invite them to come visit us on that date and we will have someone available to assist them with the paperwork to determine their eligibility. I can provide flyers if you need them, or if you have lists that I can utilize, I will do the leg work. The open house will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day and is located in building 200. Thanks again for your assistance in advance and if you have any further questions please contact me at 621-7352 or the fax number is 621-4846. Have a fabulous weekend!

Respectfully,

Danamarie K.Fortier, Healthcare Recruiter U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Togus, VA Medical Center
Human Resources Management Service

Commander

I received a call last night from a grandmother who was unable to be in Bangor, Me to greet her Marine who just returned from Afghanistan. As the returning Marines debarked from the aircraft they were greeted with a round of applause. Thinking there was someone important on the aircraft, they began to look around for this important person. The Marines were informed the reception was for them. The Greeters...Members of the Maine American Legion and its Auxiliary. Grandma wanted me to know how proud she was to be an auxiliary member. By the way, the Marine, her father, uncle and grandfather are all members of American Legion Post 93 here in Tomahawk, WI. God Bless you Commander and keep up the good work.

Joseph Story,

Commander 11th District ,Wisconsin American Legion

Directory Changes

Pg. 9, Area 1 Rep., James Cray, e-mail james.cray@pw.utc.com
Pg. 41, Norway Post 82, remove Corey Millett as Adjutant
Pg. 68, Madawaska Post 147, e-mail: post147@myfairpoint.net
Pgs. 69, 72, 73, Brian Danforth, e-mail: detachmentofficer@yahoo.com
Pg. 70, 6th District Commander, remove Jon Burns
Pg. 70, 3rd District Commander, Dennis Richardson
Pg. 108, Calais CBOC (904-3700)

District Meetings

District 13 – Penobscot: Nov. 1, Old Town Post 75, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 17 – N. Aroostook: Nov. 1, Frenchville Post 145, 1 p.m. dinner
District 6 – Knox: Nov. 5, Thomaston Post 37 after the regular meeting
District 16 – S. Aroostook: Nov. 8, Ft. Fairfield VFW, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.
District 3 – Androscoggin: Nov. 8, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.
District 15 – Washington: Nov. 8, Machias Post 9, 2 p.m., Food raffle
District 10 – Somerset: Nov. 9, Fairfield Post 14, 6 p.m. refreshments, 6:30 p.m. mtg.
District 12 – Hancock: Nov. 10, Bucksport Post 93, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 9 – Kennebec: Nov. 11, Gardiner Post 4, 7 p.m.
District 8 – Sagadahoc: Nov. 12, Bath Post 21, 6 p.m.
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.

What's Happening?

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

Memorial Ceremony: November 7, 11:00 a.m. Monmouth Post 204 will conduct a memorial ceremony at the Veteran's monument on Main St. in Monmouth. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hunters Supper: November 7, at the post home on Windemere Lane in Unity from 5-7 p.m. A raffle drawing will follow the supper.

Roast Pork Harvest Supper: November 7, S. Portland Post 35, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., \$7. If you bring a non-perishable food item, the cost will be \$6.

Veterans Breakfast: November 8, Winthrop Post 40, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free. Breakfast will include eggs, ham, sausage, bacon, biscuits, gravy, home fries, pancakes, coffee, tea, juice and fruit. There is no smoking. Hope you come and enjoy a great breakfast.

Ceremony Honoring Veterans: November 8, Androscoggin Bank Colisee featuring the Army band followed by the Maniacs game, 4 p.m. FMI, please contact L&A Veterans Council Chairman Paul Bernard at 225-3285.

Veteran's Day Activities: November 11, 3rd annual free Veterans Days breakfast at Lewiston High School, 7 – 8 a.m.; musical tribute at the Lewiston Armory at 10:00 a.m.; ceremony at Post 153 at 12:15 p.m.; unveiling ceremony of the 18th Veterans Memorial Stone at 1:30 p.m. FMI, please contact L&A Veterans Council Chairman Paul Bernard at 225-3285.

Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner: November 11, Bangor Civic Center, 6:00 p.m. This year the Katahdin Area Council, Boy Scouts of America is honoring the Maine Troop Greeters at their annual Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner. The Maine Troop Greeters have been faithfully serving the men and women of the Armed Forces for many years, and their contributions to our community, state and nation have become almost legendary. It is fitting therefore, that the Boy Scouts of America, one of the largest service organizations in the country has chosen to honor the Troop Greeters at a public dinner. FMI, please contact Lori Jones, Generals' Staff Office Manager at (207) 626-4271

PTSD Session: November 12, 7 p.m. ,Victoria Grant Community Building, Winterport (Rt 69 to Winterport to Heritage Apartment Complex (sign) turn into complex to large parking lot, the Community building is right there). Winterport Post and Unit 138 will host a session on PTSD, its impact on veterans and their families. The speaker will be Ralph Grover, RNMSN, from the Bangor Vet Center. All veterans and/or families are invited. Food and refreshments will be served. FMI, please call Phil or Tammy Higgins, 299-4568, 223-5733.

Hunter's Breakfast: November 14, Buckfield Post 58, 5 a.m. – 9 a.m. \$5 adults, \$3 children, 12 and under.

Kudos

Monmouth Post 204 thanks the Girl Scouts and their leaders for their floral arrangements and maintenance at the Monmouth and North Monmouth Veteran's monuments. They are currently creating special autumn arrangements at those locations in preparation for Veteran's Day. Job well done, Ladies!

Portland Post 17 for their donation of \$160 to the Portland Sea Dogs "Strike Out Kids With Cancer Program" and their donation of \$100 to the Presumpscot School in Portland for an instructor to teach two classes on democracy.

Donations

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Any donations to the Commander's and President's project for Homeless Veterans, please indicate on the check that it is for the Homeless Veterans-Commander's/President's project. If you want to donate just to the Homeless Veterans fund, so indicate that fund. This will allow the office to make sure the monies go into the appropriate accounts. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lloyd

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

The Detachment of Maine has reached 24% membership as of October 29th. Although we did not make the October 14 target of 25%, we are still in the running to make 35% by November 17th.

Squadrons 155 Naples, 197 Westbrook, 153 New Auburn, 202 Topsham, 75 Old Town, 80 Millinocket and 9 Machias have all exceeded the 25% October goal. Squadrons 24 Rumford, 100 Dixfield, 40 Winthrop, 51 Oakland, 132 Richmond, 14 Fairfield, 39 Madison, 65 Lubec, 15 Caribou and 49 Van Buren have already exceeded the 35% November goal. Squadron 132 leads the Detachment with 76% followed by Van Buren with 75% and Caribou with 72% membership. I congratulate these squadrons on a first rate job. They are showing the rest of us how it's done.

The Movies for Soldiers program is alive and well. If you have a donations box that needs pick up, please contact me or another Detachment officer. We want to get those DVD's and music CD's to our deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. This project is all about supporting our troops. I would like to welcome the Computer club of Lewiston High School to the Movies for Soldiers program. Yours truly dropped off a donation box and talked to the club about the Sons and Movies for soldiers. Their instructor/faculty advisor has set a goal for them to collect 300 DVD's and CD's by Christmas.

Waterville Post 5 will host a Sock Hop on Friday, November 13th 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.

If you're out Saturday evening by Post 150 in Mechanic Falls you might see the Detachment Commander and his fellow squadron ghouls beside a big bowl of candy. A "Trick or Treat" and a "Thank you" will get you a sweet from the Squadron 150 boys. From all of us at the Detachment of Maine, have a safe and Happy Halloween!

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

Wreaths Across America

Sign up Form

Groups are encouraged to attend with or without an Honor Guard.

Organization: _____

Post or Unit Name: _____

Post or Unit Number: _____

Number in Honor Guard: _____

Additional number of people in the delegation marching: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Marching units are encouraged to bring the American Flag and organizational flag. Please limit your honor guard to two flags. At the conclusion of the ceremony flags will be placed in a rack with flags from other units. Please place some type of marking on the standard so it will be easy to identification at the completion of the ceremony.

Those participating in the Grand Entry Ceremony should be in the assembly area no later than 11:30 a.m. Your delegation chairman should check in with the ceremony coordinator Tom Naragon upon arrival.

Please return this form to: Tom Naragon, 6 Hope St., Lisbon Falls 04252 or e-mail: tnaragon@roadrunner.com