



## The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: [legionme@me.acadia.net](mailto:legionme@me.acadia.net)

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

### Weekly Update



October 3, 2008

**Following the path of least resistance  
is what makes men and rivers crooked.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:**

**Hampden Post 213   Limerick Post 55   Mars Hill Post 118**

**Membership**

Membership continues to roll into the Department Headquarters at a great pace. The last National membership report we received shows Maine holding second place in the nation and that is fantastic. District 12 – Hancock is leading the pack with 80% and District 17 – No. Aroostook is in second place by about 3 percent. Kudos to District 12 Commander Jeana Durost and District 17 Commander Joel Cyr and the membership go-getters in those districts who have done a great job. Jeana and Joel might not want to look over their shoulders as the others may be gaining on them. I know we are on the way to another growth year for the Maine American Legion and as Department Commander John Doyle likes to say; “working together, we can make a difference”.

**National Legion Honors  
Maine Legionnaires**

The National organization of The American Legion has recently honored two outstanding legionnaires from Maine. Scott Paradis, Corinna Post 73 Commander and 2007 Legionnaire of the Year for Maine, was selected to attend the Legion College during the first week of November in Indianapolis, Indiana this year. The Legion College is a one-week course designed to prepare young legionnaires to hold leadership positions in districts and departments through education, development and motivation.

Paul L’Heureux, Past Department Commander and Alternate National Executive Committeeman, of Auburn Post 153, was selected to be an instructor and facilitator for this same session to be attended by Paradis. Paul is a graduate of the National Legion College and was elected to be the Vice President of the Legion College Alumni Association during the National convention in Phoenix in August.

## District Awards

National Commander Dave Rehbein is adding an incentive for the districts. He is adding a Christmas bonus award this year. A Christmas bonus will be paid to each district whose membership on December 31, 2008 exceeds that of December 31, 2007 by at least one percent. For each one percent increase in membership over the preceding year on that date, the district will receive \$50. If the district is ahead by two percent, then the check will be \$100 and so on. Listed below are the membership totals as of December 31, 2007:

District 1 – 1627 or 90.84%	District 2 – 2457 or 80.69%	District 3 – 1683 or 85.56%
District 4 – 497 or 94.67%	District 5 – 1288 or 84.35%	District 6 – 671 or 89.95%
District 7 – 662 or 84.87%	District 8 – 790 or 77.22%	District 9 – 2531 or 82.60%
District 10 – 826 or 86.95%	District 11 – 578 or 77.17%	District 12 – 737 or 87.01%
District 13 – 1375 or 88.71%	District 14 – 697 or 82.68%	District 15 – 1038 or 85.29%
District 16 – 956 or 87.95%	District 17 – 1437 or 92.06%	

## Department Of Agriculture Grant and Loan Programs

The loan program provides assistance to elderly and very low income families in making home improvements, repairs and modernization. Families are eligible if they own their own land and dwelling and need to make repairs or improvements and have an adjusted annual family income that does not exceed certain limits. Income limits are available at Rural Development offices and on-line at <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/>. Eligible properties must be located in rural areas of Maine and be a modest dwelling without an in-ground swimming pool. Interest rate is one percent up to 20 years, depending on repayment ability. FMI visit the web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/me](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/me) or contact the office serving your county:

**State Office**, Michael W. Aube, State Director or Dale D. Holmes, Housing Program Director, 967 Illinois Ave, P.O. Box 405, Bangor 04402, Tel. 990-9110

**Presque Isle Area Office**, Richard W. Ireland, Area Director, 735 Main St., Suite 1, Presque Isle 04769 Tel. 764-4155, Ext. 4 (Aroostook, Washington and N. Penobscot counties)

**Bangor Area Office**, Raymond S. Roberts III, Area Director, 1423 Broadway, Suite 3, Bangor 04401 Tel. 990-3676, Ext. 4 (Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Waldo counties)

**Lewiston Area Office**, Orman Whitcomb, Area Director, 254 Goddard Rd., P.O. Box 1938, Lewiston 04241 Tel. 753-9400, Ext. 200 (Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec and Oxford counties)

**Scarborough Area Office**, William F. Bailey, Jr., Area Director, 306 US Route 1, Suite B1, Scarborough Tel. 883-0159, Ext. 4 (Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and York counties)

The grant program provides assistance to elderly families in removing health and safety hazards in their homes; all major hazards must be removed. Its purpose is also to remodel the dwelling to make it accessible to household members with disabilities. For more information, please contact the above addresses.

**Special Olympics Report**

It is that time of year again to raise money for Special Olympics Maine. We will be having the lobster dip, also the chicken dip on Jan. 1. Richmond Post and Unit 132 will be issuing a challenge to all posts and units to see who can raise the most money. Last year Mechanic Falls Post, Unit & Squadron 150 raised the most and Richmond Post 132 came in second. A great thank you to Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for all they do for the Lobster Dip and the Special Olympics. We would like to thank Fred Kennedy and his wife for donating a projector. It will be very handy to have and we will be using it a lot. THANK YOU FRED!!! We at Special Olympics want to THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL THEY DO. (I would like to name you all in this article, but there are so many out there, I would miss someone).

The United States will host the Special Olympics World Games in Boise, Idaho from Jan. 6-13, 2009. More than 3,000 athletes from 85 nations are expected for this event. For more information, please visit the 2009 World Winter Games website at [www.2009worldgames.org](http://www.2009worldgames.org)

Camp Tall Pines in Poland, Maine's Special Olympic summer camp, needs your assistance to keep costs to a minimum so more Olympians can attend. If you or your Post, Unit or Squadron would like to donate any of the following items, please contact Chairman George Seeley at 338-4050 or [bettysee01@roadrunner.com](mailto:bettysee01@roadrunner.com)

- |                    |                     |                       |               |                 |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Toilet paper       | Hand wipes          | Paper towels          | Dish cloths   | Disinfectant    |
| Windex             | Shampoo             | Hand soap (in bottle) | Tooth brushes | Deodorant       |
| Scouring pads      | Napkins             | Bleach                | Facial tissue | Dish detergents |
| Laundry detergents | Other kitchen items |                       |               |                 |

George Seeley, Chairman

**American Legion  
Riders Project**

Times are getting real tough for our veterans and their families. This winter there will be a lot of veterans and their families that will need help with heating oil, food and health care. The American Legion Riders of Smith Tobey Post 21 have again this year taken on this project. Last year we at Post 21 raised and gave out over \$17,000 for fuel, food and whatever else was needed. This just does not go out to veterans, but also includes their families. So when you know of a veteran, a wife of a veteran or a son or daughter of a veteran that needs help this winter, please contact me and we will do all we can to help. We also have Bath Iron Works that was a great contributor this past year. So to kick this all off, Post 21 will be hosting a Halloween dance on October 31 to raise money for this great cause. Prizes will be given for best costume. Snacks, auction from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and music will be provided by a live band from 9 p.m. - midnight. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. All proceeds will go toward heating fuel for veterans or their families this winter. I know a lot of you will not be able to attend, but you can still support this great project by sending a donation to me at 21 Englebrekt Rd., Edgcomb 04556. If you have an item you would like to donate or a service to donate for the auction, please contact me at 449-1388. Remember the most important thing; ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL.

Herman Wright  
Past Department Commander

## Donations

**THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU**

Donald L. Miles, Bridgton Post 67

\$10.00 – VAWS

## Kudos

To Fairfield Post 14 for their donations of \$150 to Lawrence High School Cheering Boosters, \$150 to Boy Scout Troop 460, \$150 to Lawrence High School Band Boosters, \$100 to the town of Skowhegan for the veterans' memorial, \$25 to Sebecook Valley Hospital for the breast cancer walk, \$150 to Fairfield PAL, \$300 for two Lawrence High School band members to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, and \$1,760 to benefit a member that is at the Veteran's Home at Togus.

To Hampden Post 213 for adopting a unit at the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor and providing gifts and companionship to those residing in the unit and in general making their days a little brighter.

## What's Happening?

**Standish Post 128:** Oct. 4 & 5, The Inlet Restaurant, 7 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Post 128 is sponsoring a benefit breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning to benefit veterans. The Inlet Restaurant is located on Rt. 113 in Standish. FMI call 642-5111.

**Beals House Work Day:** Oct. 11, VA Togus, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The work party will be washing windows, staining the handicap ramp, replacing some plywood on a separate ramp, and other odd jobs in need at the home. Tools and materials will be provided although you might want to bring some work gloves. There will be hamburgers and hot dogs and other luncheon items for those participating. FMI, please contact Bob Wetzler at 379-2449.

**Bar Steward Training/Certification:** Oct. 20, Winthrop Post 40, 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. FMI please call Don Chase 441-2214 or call the post 377-8258.

**Waterville Military Family Day:** Oct. 25, Alford Youth Center, 126 North St., Waterville, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. All military service personnel and their families (both active and retired) are welcome to attend this special day to enjoy some fun, food and music at no charge. Also available will be a variety of information booths and displays. Please contact Tim Trafford at 873-5713 if you have any questions.

**Servicewomen's Luncheon:** Oct. 25, Senator Inn in Augusta, registration at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon cost is \$22.50 inclusive with a choice of Spinach Quiche or Toast Stuffed Pork with gravy. Updates will be presented on laws and policies affecting women and information on the Maine Veterans Homes and Cemeteries. RSVP with check made payable to ME Unit #41 WN to: Diane Turcotte, P. O. Box 152, Showhegan 04976. FMI, please call Diane at 474-2235.

**Bath Unit 21:** Oct. 4 – Nov. 15, Surf & Turf Bingo, 4 p.m. Each Saturday between now and Nov. 15 Bath Unit 21 will hold this event at the post home to benefit the Edmund Hagan Scholarship fund.

### District Meetings

**District 16 – So. Aroostook:** Oct. 4, Houlton Post 47, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow.

**District 17 – No. Aroostook:** Oct. 5, Stockholm Post 136, 1 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow.

**District 15 – Washington:** Oct. 5, Jonesport Post 108, 2 p.m., pot luck dinner to follow.

**District 7 – Lincoln:** Oct. 6, Wiscasset Post 54, 7 p.m. snacks.

**District 9 – Kennebec:** Oct. 8, Winthrop Post 40, 7 p.m.

**District 3 – Androscoggin:** Oct. 12, Livermore Falls Post 10, 2 p.m.

**District 12 – Hancock:** Oct. 14, Bar Harbor Post 25, 6:30 p.m. supper, mtg. to follow.

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Oct. 18, Milo Post 41, 6:30 p.m. supper, mtg. to follow. Supper will be at Elaine's Basket Café, which is next door to the Milo post. Cost is \$15.95 including tax and gratuity. RSVP to District Commander Lee Leeman at 943-7482 NLT October 12.

**District 5 – Oxford:** Oct. 21, Buckfield Post 58, 7 p.m.

### Directory Changes

**Pg. 42,** Rockland Post 1, Service Officer John Mullett, (594-1961)

### Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

We are five days away from the second target date for 2009. We need 25% by October 8<sup>th</sup>. Can we do it? I think we can. Detachment Adjutant, Ron Densmore reports us at 14% as of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need the squadrons to transmit a bunch of membership fast.

For those who visit our Detachment website at [www.mainesal.org](http://www.mainesal.org), there is a new section to see. Please click on Adopt-a-Soldier and you will find out about a wonderful project. Currently three squadrons are actively involved in this project and your squadron might want to do this as well. This project was started in Millinocket where they get contact info on deployed soldiers from local families. They collect money to buy items that make deployment more comfortable and ship them to the soldiers along with e-mails of thanks and encouragement. We hope this web page will be a resource to aid any squadrons that wish to adopt a soldier from their community.

Lastly, we have soldiers in hospitals and care facilities around the world right now. There is currently a need for movies on DVD. Convalescing in one of these facilities is boring and the movie selection is small. If you have any DVD's you would like to donate, send them to SAL 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Bruce Bragdon, 922 Smithfield Road, Belgrade, ME 04917. The DVD's go on to the Red Cross who then ship them for free to our convalescing soldiers.

Yours in Service.

Bruce Pierce  
Detachment Commander

## Auxiliary Corner

October is Education Month. The Auxiliary's Education program promotes quality education for every child and supports students in their desire to continue their education beyond high school. This is a great time for auxiliary members to start working actively with educators and local schools to develop and maintain an educational system that serves the needs of all children at every level. Auxiliary volunteers can sponsor and support state and national education legislation; establish new scholarship opportunities for students; alert eligible students to existing scholarship resources; help students identify career opportunities and professional job requirements; and encourage students to plan early for college and apply for scholarship opportunities and promote the "Need a Lift?" publication.

If you need any further education information, please contact our Education Chairman Mary Wells, P.O. Box 519, Houlton, ME 04730 (207) 532-6007.

While I was reflecting on Education Month, I thought, Education - Learning, Learning - Education. "**Words**", how one may use, take, look or feel them, also reflecting on the fact that our State Theme is "**Hope**" I thought I would put out a few words for us to "Reflect" upon.

### Negatives

1. Rumor - gossip; unconfirmed news.
2. Deceptive - misleading; designed to mislead or misrepresent.
3. Perception - discernment or judgment; insight gained from observation.

### Positives

4. Fact - the truth; reliable information
5. Confirm - To prove; to validate, as formal approval, confirmation.
6. Ownership - admit to; acknowledge.

Just a little \*Food for thought\*

Donna "Bunny" Greenlaw  
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

