



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



September 4, 2009

☺ SMILE ☺

**The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom – these are the pillars of society.**

#### National Convention

The delegates and guests who represented the Department of Maine at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual National Convention recently concluded in Louisville, Kentucky enjoyed the area where the convention was held this year very much. The Department of Maine, American Legion had 24 delegates, 1 alternate and 12 guests who attended the convention. The Auxiliary had 13 members who attended the Auxiliary convention.

There were a number of events to attend and if the attendees desired, there were tours to the Derby site with a breakfast on the “back stretch”. Also included for tours was a tour of the historic Louisville, the Pottery and Plantation, and the Woodford Reserve and Horse Farms. Another tour was the Bourbon and Bardstown tour along with the Patton Museum. Another point of interest was either a daytime river boat ride or an evening river boat ride with a meal. A number of the Maine delegation took this ride and it was enjoyable.

There were also a number of restaurants and night spots close to our assigned hotel, that I believe everyone enjoyed visiting. Our hotel was within a very short walk from the main convention hall to just about anything happening in connection with the convention. The hotel was connected to the convention center with a covered “skywalk” and this proved to be advantageous on a few occasions when it was raining when we had to go to the various meetings being conducted.

The convention truly started on Saturday, August 22, with meetings of the various national commissions and on Sunday, August 23, with the various meetings of the convention committees. Each department was allocated one spot on the convention committees and just about all of the delegates from our department participated by attending an assigned meeting. On Sunday the convention parade was held and different from last year was great even though it was sunny, the temperature was not as hot as it has been in years past in locations such as San Antonio.

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Elected to the position of National Commander for the year 2009 – 2010 was Clarence E. Hill, from the State of Florida. He along with five National Vice Commanders was elected at the closing of the convention on August 27. The five National Vice Commanders are: Morris M. Bentley, Idaho; Gordon B Browning, Maryland; James C. Morris, Ohio; Eugene Schumacher, South Dakota and Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts. Some of you might remember Mark as he was Past National Commander Paul Morin's aide the year Paul was National Commander.

One final point to the Legionnaires of this great Department of Maine is that the resolution that we passed at our convention in Bangor this past June relating to urging the national organization to urge HUD to establish separate veterans housing was passed without being changed by the whole convention committee and the convention itself.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Commander Clarence Hill</b></p>
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A retired U.S. Navy captain has been elected national commander of the nation's largest veteran's organization. Delegates to The American Legion's 91st National Convention here chose Clarence Hill of Jacksonville, Fla., to lead the 2.5 million-member organization of wartime veterans for a one-year term.

The new national commander plans to increase The American Legion's outreach efforts using social media networks and other technologies. His goals also include diversifying The American Legion by recruiting more minorities and increasing awareness of issues effecting women veterans. While veterans from any war era will always be welcome in The American Legion, Hill plans to expand outreach efforts to Vietnam era, post-Vietnam era and current War on Terrorism veterans.

A native of Martin's Ferry, Ohio Hill graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served 19 of the next 24 years on sea duty and retired in 1996. His shipboard service included one frigate, two destroyers, two cruisers, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12 in Mayport, Fla, and the Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy. He served as officer-in-charge of a PT boat, commanded the Naval Communications Station United Kingdom in Thurso, Scotland, for three years, and the guided missile frigate USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) for two years, including combat operations during Operation Desert Storm. Ashore, he earned two masters degrees, one from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and the other from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

A 27-year Legionnaire, Hill is a Life Member and three-time Post Commander of American Legion Post 316 in Atlantic Beach, Fla. He is a dual member belonging to SAL Squadron 316. He attended the National American Legion College in 2000 and was an instructor in 2001. He was department commander for Florida from July 2002 to July 2003, achieving an all-time-high in membership. Hill earned eight "Gold Brigade Awards" for recruiting 50 or more members of The American Legion in a single year. He served for three years as the national chairman of The American Legion National and Homeland Security Commission and belongs to The American Legion Riders. Cmdr. Hill took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice commanders are Eugene A. Schumacher of Aberdeen, S.D.; James C. Morris of Cardington, Ohio; Dr. Gordon B. Browning of Chestertown, Md., Mark A. Avis of Palmer, Mass., and Morris M. Bentley of Grangeville, Idaho.

National Historian James T. Higuera of Arcadia, Calif., National Chaplain John L. Beaver of Mobile, Ala., and Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Martel of Pierson, Fla., were appointed to their positions by Cmdr. Hill following the close of the national convention.

**9-11 Tribute**

The Governor's Office, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the City of Bangor are planning a service project in honor of 9/11. Sept. 11 is a Day of Service and Remembrance and a part of the United We Serve Campaign promoted by the Obama's. Together volunteers will cleanup and restore a park in the Park Wood Transitional Housing area in Bangor. We are looking for volunteers to clear underbrush, plant perennials, create a picnic area, and mark plants in the area. We are also looking for donations of picnic tables, benches, perennials, and materials to make signs that label plant life. Contact Rochelle Runge at [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov) or 287-8933 to volunteer or donate. This will take place on Sept. 11 from 2:15 – 6 p.m. at the Park Wood Transitional Housing, 1201 Union St., Bangor. The housing area is for people and their families who were homeless or on the verge of homelessness. While tenants in the development, they learn life skills and with the help of the various programs, work towards independence. The park is in need of TLC to make it inviting and safe for residents and families in the community. Please join us for this joint initiative of the Governor of the State of Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the City of Bangor as we remember those who lost their lives on 9/11 and celebrate them in service.

**Americanism Meeting**

Americanism Officer Charlie Foss has called a committee meeting immediately following the close of Fall Conference in Millinocket.

**Donations**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

Windham Wal-Mart “Car Show 2009”

Dixfield Post 100

Colleen and Arlindo Decastro, in memory of Ralph Chester Gray

Starr Pombrio and Karl Norris in memory of Ralph Chester Gray

Fairfield Post 14

\$1,000 – Legacy Fund

\$50 – Legacy Fund

\$20- VETAID

\$25 – VETAID

\$200 – Maine Blind Camp

**Fall Conference**

Fall conference will be in Millinocket September 18-20 with the Legion conference starting at **8:30 a.m.** Sept. 19.

## District Meetings

**District 17 – N. Aroostook:** Sept. 6, Ft. Kent Post 133, 1 p.m. dinner

**District 9 – Kennebec:** Sept. 9, Oakland Post 51, 7 p.m.

**District 8 - Sagadahoc:** Sept. 10, Topsham Post 202, 6 p.m.

**District 3 – Androscoggin:** Sept. 13, Lisbon Post 158, 2 p.m.

**District 13 – Penobscot:** Sept. 13, Millinocket Post 80, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

**District 15 – Washington:** Sept. 13, Pembroke Post 59, 2 p.m., potluck

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Sept. 19, Guilford Post 119, 7:30 p.m.

**District 11 – Waldo:** Sept. 20, Brooks Post 183, 2 p.m.

## What's Happening?

**Chicken BBQ:** Sept. 5, S. Portland Post 35, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. FMI call Paul Neal at 232-7410.

**Supper and meeting night:** Sept. 10, Winthrop Post 40, 6 p.m. supper followed by meeting. Smoke free.

**Yard Sale:** Sept. 12, Waterville Post 5 and Unit 5 will hold a combined yard sale in the post parking lot, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. In case of rain, it will be held inside.

**Pig Roast:** Sept. 13, Westbrook Memorial Post 197, 300 Conant St. (Rt. 25), 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 each (sold in advance) and the menu will include roast pig, home baked beans and corn on the cob. Gloria Jean will entertain us doing her Patsy Cline show. Call 854-5788 for tickets.

**POW/MIA Recognition Day:** Sept. 18, US Post Office, Main St., Farmington, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring a flag! POW/MIA or a US flag. If you are a member of the American Legion, please wear your legion cap. See you there. FMI contact Dept. Sergeant-At-Arms, Charlie Bennett at 778-2340.

**Stockton Springs Post 157 Annual Golf Tournament to benefit American Legion Baseball:** September 19, Searsport Pines Golf Course. Check-in 8:00 a.m., Shotgun Start 8:30 a.m. It's a fun scramble 4-person format. All are welcome. Entry fee of \$50/person includes 9-holes of golf, complimentary food, contests, and a raffle ticket. To register, or FMI contact Paul Magner 567-3185.

**Future Togus Programs:** September 23, Predators; October 21, Bats of the World presented by the Chewonkie Nature Program.

### Condolences

Word has been received that Post 178 member John Albis's wife has recently passed away. Cards may be sent to John at P.O. Box 93, Woolwich 04579.

### Sick Call

Past Department Adjutant, Nathaniel T. Cobb is in the Lakewood Manor recovering from his recent hip surgery and doing well. Cards may be sent to him at his home at 3 Rosswood Green Ln, Unit 1, Oakland 04963.

### Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

Our first membership target is 10% by September 14<sup>th</sup>. We have 7% as of yesterday. We have nine days left so I'm asking all squadrons to get that next transmittal in as soon as possible.

There will be a ride for soldiers to support "Movies for Soldiers" on September 20<sup>th</sup>, rain date is September 27<sup>th</sup>. The ride will start at York Post 56 and end at Winthrop Post 40. Riders are asked to bring DVD's and music CD's to be sent to our troops through "Movies for Soldiers". For more information, contact Sons of the American Legion 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Bruce Bragdon 465-7762 or email him at: [moviesforsoldiers@mainester.net](mailto:moviesforsoldiers@mainester.net)

Post 80 Millinocket will be hosting Fall Conference on Saturday, September 19, 2009. I hope each Squadron can send at least one representative. This should be an informative conference where we will kick off some of this year's projects. Post 80 are wonderful hosts so let's see sons from York to Stockholm there.

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**

The year is going all too quickly. Here we are in September already. National Convention in Kentucky was great fun and marching in the parade with the Maine delegation was a highlight. September is Membership and Music Month. Let's get those memberships in so we can "sing" the praises of the Auxiliary. You are off to a good start with 1400 memberships paid in, to date. Let's keep this "Train" on track.

Fall Frolic at Togus is being held on September 12th and anyone wishing to attend should be at Building 207, 1st floor-room 121 by 8:45 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. All games will begin about 10 a.m. Fall Conference will be coming right up and it looks to be an enjoyable one. Millinocket is beautiful in the fall and I do hope many of you are planning to attend.

**Correction:** Ladies of Units in District #1, District Meeting, September 3, 2009 at 7 p.m. at South Portland, Unit #35. Agenda: Fall Conference planning. The meeting was previously reported as Sept. 9.

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

Lois M. Hubbard  
ALA-Dept. President

Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,  
Department Adjutant

**Post Officers Form**

We still have not received the following Post Officer's Forms. In order for your post to be listed correctly in the directory and to receive correspondence, the Post Officer's Form needs to be completed and mailed to this office. This form needs to be completed every year, even if your officers do not change. The following posts have **NOT** submitted a Post Officers Form for 2009-2010. **PLEASE** fill out the Officer's form and return it to Department Headquarters or e-mail to [lloyd@mainelegion.org](mailto:lloyd@mainelegion.org).

**DISTRICT ONE**

26 Biddeford  
55 Limerick  
159 Kennebunkport  
177 Dayton

**DISTRICT TWO**

35 S. Portland  
67 Bridgton  
152 Cape Elizabeth  
168 Portland  
212 Great Diamond Island

**DISTRICT FOUR**

120 Rangeley

**DISTRICT FIVE**

137 Fryeburg

**DISTRICT SIX**

18 Vinalhaven  
34 St. George

**DISTRICT SEVEN**

54 Wiscasset

**DISTRICT NINE**

195 China

**DISTRICT TEN**

122 Jackman  
192 Athens

**DISTRICT TWELVE**

25 Bar Harbor

**DISTRICT THIRTEEN**

160 Lee  
213 Hampden

**DISTRICT SIXTEEN**

48 Washburn  
187 Easton  
208 Masardis

**DISTRICT SEVENTEEN**

180 St. Francis