



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



September 11, 2009

☺ SMILE ☺

At its heart, human nature is not random.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for **Monmouth Post #204** for attaining 100% membership. Great going!

Membership is coming in but somewhat slowly. I would like to ask that you review the attached membership listings and any of those posts that are in your respective areas or locations that are down, please give Commander Andy and Vice Commanders Danny and Brenda a hand and try to get them back on track. We are ahead of the proposed target date percentages but would like to be more ahead. You are working hard and I appreciate it very much.

In the District races, District Ten, Somerset County is leading at the present but not far behind is District Seventeen, Northern Aroostook. Both have something very good to be proud of. I just wonder who will be the first to reach that big mark of 100%. Seems it is going to be very interesting. It appears that all of our Districts met or exceeded the first important cut-off date of September 9, 2009. Congratulations to you all. That is a feat in and of itself.

American Legion Day

Maine's Senator Olympia Snowe introduced and had passed on the same day, a resolution proclaiming September 16, 2009 as The American Legion Day. This is something we as Legionnaires in the great State of Maine should be proud of and hopefully Senator Snowe will get much praise to taking on this resolution. I ask each and every Post Commander and member of this organization in the State of Maine commend her and send a letter of appreciation to her for this action. Also, please mention that Joe Sixeas, her Legislative Assistant, for being one of the hardest working staffers on Capitol Hill.

**National
Commander's
Testimony**

On September 10, 2009, the newly elected National Commander Clarence E. Hill, Florida, testified before the joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees of the United States Congress. At the testimony, the views of The American Legion were given regarding points of interest such as the advanced funding for the VA, making the transition between the point of enlistment and the point of leaving the military and enrolling in the VA system seamless and proved that The American Legion has quite a strong voice which many of the members of Congress listen to very intently and take our views seriously. Commander Hill pressed for providing adequate and compassionate services to veterans and providing in a continuous manner.

The National Commander also spoke on the huge backlog of veterans' claims at the VA and made our point that this is a source of continuous frustration and a national embarrassment. Another point the Commander made was the need for gender specific treatment procedures and facilities. He stated we have fought for and will continue to do so, for better treatment and facilities for our veterans returning from the theater of war of both female and male warriors.

**Americanism
Meeting**

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

Legion Cap

On page 61 of the Officer's Guide, is recommendations on wearing of The American Legion Cap, Uniform and Regalia. On the next page, page 62 continues on when the cap should or should not be worn. In one section, the guide states that the cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the guard or honor, color guard and commander of same while in marching or order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed. Legion members marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the members shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.

Kudos

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of \$500 to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

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 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 5 – Oxford: Sept. 16, Oxford Post 112, 7 p.m. bring your plan for membership drive 2010.

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

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

District 10 – Somerset: Sept. 21, Madison Post 39, 6 p.m. light refreshments, 6:30 p.m. mtg.

What's Happening?

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.

Chicken Barbecue Post #50: Public chicken barbecue, Saturday, September 26 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Legion Home on 108 Windemere Lane, Unity. (Old Fire Road #7). Eat in or Take Out. \$7.00 includes ½ chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, pickles, roll and butter with cupcake.

Thank You

Thank you is not enough for all the kindness showered on my family during this unrealistic time of our lives. The Legion family has extended so much caring, it has helped pull us through this very difficult time of our lives. Our blessing to each and everyone of you.

The Family of Gordon Jameson

Caution

Reports are being received that Veterans are being contacted by "Patient Care Group" representing that they are helping administer VA prescriptions and stating that the pharmacy billing procedures have changed and they are therefore requesting Veteran credit card numbers for prescription payments in advance of filling their prescriptions. This is false. VA does not call Veterans asking to disclose personal financial information over the phone. VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines.

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Our first membership target is 10% by September 14th. We have 7% as of the fourth. Let's get those transmittals in. There's still time to make the goal.

There will be a ride for soldiers to support "Movies for Soldiers" on September 20th, rain date is September 27th. The ride will start at Post 56 York and end at Post 40 Winthrop. Riders are asked to bring DVD's and music CD's to be sent to our troops through "Movies for Soldiers". This program has sent 1,500+ DVD/CD's to Iraq and Afghanistan for the troops. For more information, contact Bruce Bragdon 207-465-7762 email 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 is your conference to connect with other squadrons and the state organization. We hope to see you there.

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

Auxiliary Corner

For those of you who have been waiting for the Pine Tree News, please know that this is done and ready to go. The holdup has been the fact that we have not yet received our bulk stamp from the post office. This was applied for the week we moved the office. I feel your impatience and frustration. Copies will be available at Fall Conference. We are in hopes that the stamp will be here very soon. The November Newsletter should be issued in a timely manner.

Hope to see some of you at Togus Saturday 9/12, for "Fall Frolic".

September 18, 2009 is POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY. If your Post is not planning a program, suggest that flags be flown with ribbons and take photos to send into your local papers. These RECOGNITIONS should be made known to your communities. This could be a great American Legion Family Project. For more information, please contact POW/MIA Chairman Ginny Chaput at ginandco@yahoo.com.

A reminder to Program Chairman: Be ready with reports for Fall Conference. You'll want to share ideas on your program and create excitement we can all take part in. LAST CHANCE to get reservations for the lunch and banquet on the 19th. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT! Call Tina May Nicholson @ 207-723-8515

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

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Best Wishes,

**Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant**

