



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



September 12, 2008

**If it were not for the rough roads,  
you would never appreciate the superhighways.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

#### Membership

Membership in Maine is doing just fine. We appear to be on our way to another successful year in membership. The most recent membership report from our National organization shows Maine in fourth place in the nation and in second place in the Northeast Region. Hooray for Maine and a big thank you to everyone who is working so hard on membership. We just passed 63% of our goal and most everything is looking good throughout the Department. Well, almost everything.

So far this year we have recruited **265** new members for the 2009 membership year and that sounds like a lot of new members for the Legion, however last year at this same time we had recruited **312** new members and we need to pay attention to this number. Even worse, in the 2007 membership year on this same date we had recruited **340** new members. In order for us to make our 100% in membership, a goal this year which is within our reach, we will need to recruit over 1,000 new members and we seem to be falling short of that goal. What can we do?

Our Department Vice Commanders, Andy Olson and Randy Kluj, stand at the ready to assist any post that would like some help in this area, or any other membership area for that matter. Each of them has pledged to do anything and everything they can do to make this a successful membership year. They have recently put together a membership incentive program that should be of interest to anyone who has the slightest idea they might like to do some membership work for our organization. Their new membership incentive program will be announced at the Fall Conference in Waterville on September 20.

If membership incentives are not a motivator for you, then perhaps knowing you are doing a favor by enlisting new members in our organization. Yes, that is correct; you are doing them a favor. What does membership in The American Legion do for them? It does many things, but the basics are that it makes them a part of a group of veterans standing up for their fellow veterans, a group who believes in mentoring the youth of our nation, who support extraordinary Americanism programs, and who support our nation's military. It doesn't take much to ask someone to join and you really will be doing them a favor.

## Post Name Change

New Auburn Post 153 will now be officially known as the William J. Rogers Post 153. This is an honor bestowed upon the Rogers' family following the untimely death of Past National Commander Bill Rogers, who was a charter member of Post 153. Recently the post voted to change the name, applied for, and has received a new charter with the designated name change.

Past National Commander Rogers served our organization as Department Commander in 1955 – 1956 and as the National Commander in 1976 – 1977. Those who knew Bill will have no doubt about why the post took this action. Bill Rogers was one of the finest gentlemen you could ever meet and throughout his lifetime took the time to mentor, encourage, and guide younger legionnaires in any endeavor they might undertake. He was truly one of the great ones.

The William J. Rogers Post 153 of Auburn will be announcing plans for an official ceremony to celebrate their newly named post in the near future.

## Maine Fuel Heating Assistance

Maine has 11 Regional Community Action Agencies to help folks heat their homes and apartments. Depending on the location in Maine where the resident lives, you should contact the agency nearest you for details and sign up information. The low income home energy assistance program (liheap) helps low income residents and renters pay their heating bills. The income guidelines to receive assistance can be obtained directly from the agency. Listed below are the contacts and telephone numbers:

Aroostook County -	Aroostook County Action Program, 764-3721 or 1-800-432-7881.
Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties -	Coastal Economic Development Corp., 442-7963.
Androscoggin and Oxford Counties -	Community Concepts, Inc. 743-7716.
Somerset and Kennebec Counties -	Kennebec Valley Community Action Program 873-2122.
Knox County -	Coastal Community Action Program 596-0361.
Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties -	Penquis Community Action Program 973-3630.
Cumberland County -	People's Regional Opportunity Program 874-1140.
Waldo County -	Waldo Community Action Partners 338-3025.
Washington and Hancock Counties -	Washington-Hancock Community Agency 667-2118 or 1-800-828-7544.
Franklin County -	Western Maine Community Action 645-3764.
York County -	York County Community Action Corporation 324-5762.

For assistance for residents using propane, the contacts and telephone numbers are below:

Peoples Regional Opportunity Program (PROP) 874-1140 or 1-800-698-4959.  
York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC), 324-5762 and ask for fuel assistance.

## Fall Conference

The annual Fall Conference of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion will be held on Saturday, September 20, at Bourque-Lanigan Post 5 in Waterville. Saturday's conference will start at 9:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day, wrapping up at around 3:00 p.m.

Congressman Mike Michaud will be on hand to bring us up to date on the latest veterans' issues and other news from Washington and as a special bonus, National Vice Commander Jim LaCoursiere from Connecticut will also be on our agenda and available throughout the day on Saturday.

The Post and Unit 5 will have coffee and donuts each morning and sandwiches, chips, soda and water for lunch. The banquet on Saturday evening starts at 5:30 with a choice of Lasagna or Spaghetti, salad and garlic or Italian bread at a cost of \$15. Send reservations to Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville 04903 and please specify Lasagna or Spaghetti. Tickets will not be sold at the door. **Cutoff is Sept. 15.** There will be entertainment following the banquet program with Jerry LaChance and John Goodine.

For those of you interested in staying in Waterville for the conference, room reservations at the Best Western motel are available through this office for \$72.76, including tax, for Friday and/or Saturday night. There will be a Department Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Jim Boyle Hall of Waterville Post 5 to conclude what we hope to be an outstanding conference.

## Fall Conference Agenda

Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Bourque-Lanigan Post 5 in Waterville.

9:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony Welcome	Andy Olson, Department First Vice Commander John Doyle, Department Commander
9:15 a.m.	Veterans Issues	Congressman Mike Michaud
9:40 a.m.	Committee Reports: Maine Blind Camp American Legion Riders Troop Greeters Liaison	Brian Danforth, SAL Detachment Vice Commander Paul L'Heureux, Director and Bill Kilde, Asst. Director Randy Kluj, Department Second Vice Commander
10:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker	Jim LaCoursiere, National Vice Commander
11:00 a.m.	Veterans Burial Benefits	Tony Cincotta, Berwick Post 79
11:20 a.m.	Reconnect Activities	Margie Williams and Terry Knowles, Co-chairs
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Break	On your own at Post 5 or elsewhere
1:00 p.m.	Membership	Andy Olson & Randy Kluj, Department Vice Commanders
1:40 p.m.	Resolutions & Svc. Office	Robert "Ki" Owen, NEC and DSO
2:00 p.m.	No. Me. Vet. Cemetery	Harry Hafford, Chairman NMVC
2:20 p.m.	Americanism Programs	Brenda Dearborn, Department Americanism Officer
3:00 p.m.	Sweepstakes Drawing Announcements Closing Ceremony	Prizes: \$3,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$200 Ron Sailor, Department Adjutant Andy Olson, Department First Vice Commander

**Department Commander  
Testimonial**

The Department Commander's testimonial will be held on May 16, 2009 at Smith-Tobey Post 21 in Bath with a 5:30 p.m. social hour, dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a program to follow. SAL Detachment Commander Bruce Pierce will also be honored at this event. More information will be published at a later date, but please mark this on your calendar.

**History Awards**

History is the legacy for us to leave the future members of our posts and districts. The job of Historian is an on-going one throughout the year and it is a vital job for your leadership team. Information on how to compile a History or Scrapbook is available in Section 4 of your Officers' Guide. Please call me if you have any questions or need a copy of the pertinent information in the Guide. The deadline is May 1, 2009 and you can mail them to me or the Department Headquarters. Everyone who submits will receive a Certificate of Recognition.

The post award categories for this year are: 1. History Books, 2. Scrapbooks, 3. Newsletters

The district award categories also are: 1. History Books, 2. Scrapbooks, 3. Newsletters

All award categories will receive appropriate plaques for first and second place winners and Certificates of Appreciation for all other submissions.

Please call me if you have any questions.

E. Jeff Barnes  
Department Historian  
Tel: 907-4737

**District Meetings**

**District 3 – Androscoggin:** Sept. 14, Lisbon Post 158, 2 p.m.

**District 13 – Penobscot:** Sept. 14, Etna/Carmel Post 107, noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

**District 10 – Somerset:** Sept. 15, Skowhegan Post 16, 6:30 p.m.

**District 11 – Waldo:** Sept. 21, Brooks Post 183, 2 p.m.

**District 5 – Oxford:** Sept. 16, Oxford Post 112, 7 p.m.

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Sept. 20, Guilford Post 119, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 mtg.

## What's Happening?

**Litchfield Post 181:** Sep. 18, Libby-Tozier Gymnasium, 7 p.m. Commander Robert Fant (ret. USN), a former POW for 56 months, who served in prison with Senator John McCain in Vietnam, will be the guest speaker. Due to the expected turnout, the post meeting will be held at the Libby-Tozier gymnasium on Rt. 197 at the corner of Hallowell and Academy Roads in Litchfield. All are welcome.

**POW/MIA Committee:** Sep. 19, Farmington, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Department of Maine American Legion POW/MIA Committee will be honoring National POW/MIA Recognition Day with a rally in front of the Farmington Post Office on Main St. in Farmington. Come one, come all. If possible please bring a U. S. or POW flag and join us to show them they are not forgotten. If you are unable to join us, please say a prayer for them at noontime on this day.

**POW/MIA Ceremony:** Sep. 19, Maine Veterans Cemetery, Caribou, 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**Free Veterans Concert:** Sep. 20, Togus VA Medical Center, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. Featuring Johnny D and the Rockets, Firewater Creek and The Distributor's. Also helping out are The Knights of Columbus along with special guests Ms. Louise, Debra Caron and DJ Wil with more guests, music and fun. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will be donated to the local Veteran's Medical Center for adapted sports equipment.

**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.

## Auxiliary Corner

**Condolences:** Marilyn Miller, long-time active member of Old Orchard Beach Unit 57, recently passed away. Cards can be sent to "The Family of Marilyn Miller", 13 Willow Ave., Old Orchard Beach 04064.

Donna L Greenlaw "Bunny"  
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

# EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD

**Purpose of Award:** To confer recognition upon one employer in each state for an outstanding job in hiring and retaining older workers. A laminated plaque will be provided by National Headquarters for presentation for the Department Winner. It is recommended that Posts recognize their nominees as well.

**Procedure:** Nominations from Posts or other sources should be sent to Department Headquarters. One nomination will be selected from those submitted as the winner. Deadline for submission of nominations will be **December 31** of each year.

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**EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD**

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFORMATION:**

1. **Exact** Name of company: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Business address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name and title of company's contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Tel. Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Type of business: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Total employees: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Employees over 55: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Give reasons why you feel this nominee should receive this year's Employer of Older Workers Award. Include a brief summary of the company's policies and records which qualify it, such as hiring, promotion, retention, and affirmative employment policies; attach additional sheet of paper if necessary. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Name, title and daytime telephone number of the person making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

10. This nomination form must be signed by the appropriate Post official and sent to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900 by **December 31**. Please allow six to eight weeks for the award to be delivered.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Post official signature                      Date                      Tel. Number

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Adjutant                      Date