



The American Legion Department of Maine

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January 18, 2017

☺ SMILE ☺

If confusion is the first step to knowledge, I must be a genius.

IMPORTANT

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune *VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma

- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

Environmental health experts in VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

Mid-Winter Conference

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA

SPECTACULAR EVENT CENTER

395 GRIFFIN RD. BANGOR, MAINE 04401

JANUARY 21-22, 2017

Saturday, January 21, 2017

8:30 a.m. Conference begins at the Spectacular Events Center (Bangor)

- Opening Ceremony **DC Johnson**
- National Anthem performed by Post 94 Greenville member **Gary Nelson**
- Welcome/Introduction of Guests **PNC Anthony "Tony" Jordan**
- Introductions of National Guests **NEC John Hargreaves**

➤ Legislative Issues (National and Local Level) **National Legislative Assistant Director/Grassroots Coordinator Jeff Steele**

➤ Legislative Committee **Chairman DJA Matthew Jabaut**

➤ Presentation on the Air Guard **Col. Roy U.S. Air Force**

➤ Department Service Office Report **DSO Amedeo Lauria**

➤ Americanism **DAO Debra Couture**

➤ Women Veterans Advisory Committee **Chairman/DAO Debra Couture/DSAA Patricia Thurston**

➤ Children & Youth Scholarship Opportunities **DH Ron Caron**

12:00-12:30 LUNCH \$10.00 (sign-up sheet for Boxed Lunches will be available in the a.m.)

➤ NEC Report **John Hargreaves**

➤ Maine Blind Camp: Brian Knowlton to Report and Introduce **Director Mark Tamaleaa**

➤ Finance Report **DFO Tommy Adkins**

➤ Legion College **Jason Hall**

➤ 100th Centennial Celebration **DSV Scott Paradis ,DH Ron Caron, & Don Hands**

➤ Baseball Committee Update **Chairman Dan St.Pierre**

➤ Boy Scouts Update **Chairman William Benson**

➤ Law and Order Update **Chairman Kirk Thurston**

➤ Oratorical Update **Chairman Don Chase**

➤ Boys State **Pete Johnson**

➤ Sons of The American Legion **Advisor Paul L'Heureux**

➤ Membership Awards **DFV Randy Kluj & DSV Scott Paradis**

➤ Candidate Announcements

➤ Sweepstakes Drawing & Announcements

➤ Closing/Announcements

➤ Past Commanders Club Meeting–**President Debra Couture/V.P. Patricia Thurston/Secretary Cathy Merrill**

EVENING—Spectacular Event Center Banquet

5:30–6:30 Social Hour

6:30-7:30 Banquet

7:30–8:00 Guest Speaker **Comedian Gary Crocker & Eastern Division Nat’l Aux. V.P. Patti Lach**

DJ–Terran Stone

Sunday, January 22, 2017—Spectacular Event Center

8 – 8:45 **Department Officers will meet with Department Commander**

9 a.m. **DEC meeting**

District Meetings

District 6 – Knox: Jan. 28, Thomaston Post 37, 11 a.m.

Military Trivia

What did the US call a “predawn vertical insertion”?

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers in every town in Maine to count the homeless on January 24. This is the HUD pit count we do every year for the last 6 years.☺ I am the POC for volunteers and my email is jdewitt@tcmhs.org.

I am collecting used DVD’s for Veterans at Togus and in nursing homes and Valentines for Veterans. I will accept any and all DVD’s or Valentines, but please give to me by February 7th !! You can drop them off in Thelma’s office, our receptionist, at 1155 Lisbon Street or in my mail box in the mail room.

Thank you in advance!

Jerry DeWitt

Veterans Outreach and Post 22 Commander

Directory Changes

Pg. 78, Finance Officer David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 81, Constitution & By-Laws, David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 81, Convention Committee, David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 82, Finance, David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 82, Detachment Advisory, David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 82, VA&R/VAVS, David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com
Pg. 83, Building Corp., David Raymond, e-mail: ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com

From The Adjutants Desk

The following Posts have reached 100 % membership before December 31, 2016. They have met the Vice Commanders Challenge and qualified for a drawing of 4 - \$50.00 gift cards from Emblem Sales. In order to win one of these gift cards, someone from the following Posts must be present at the Winter Conference to be entered into the Drawing. (Please note that you must have at least 25 members to be in the drawing.)
Fryeburg Post 137, Sangerville Post 165, Hermon Post 200, Kennebunkport Post 159, Windham Post 148, Hallowell Post 6, Farmington Post 28, Old Orchard Beach Post 57, Kennebunk Post 74, Bethel Post 81
Jonesport Post 108 and Monson Post 116.
The following posts will receive certificates: Togus Post 90, Bar Mills Post 130, Vanceboro Post 172 and Easton Post 187.

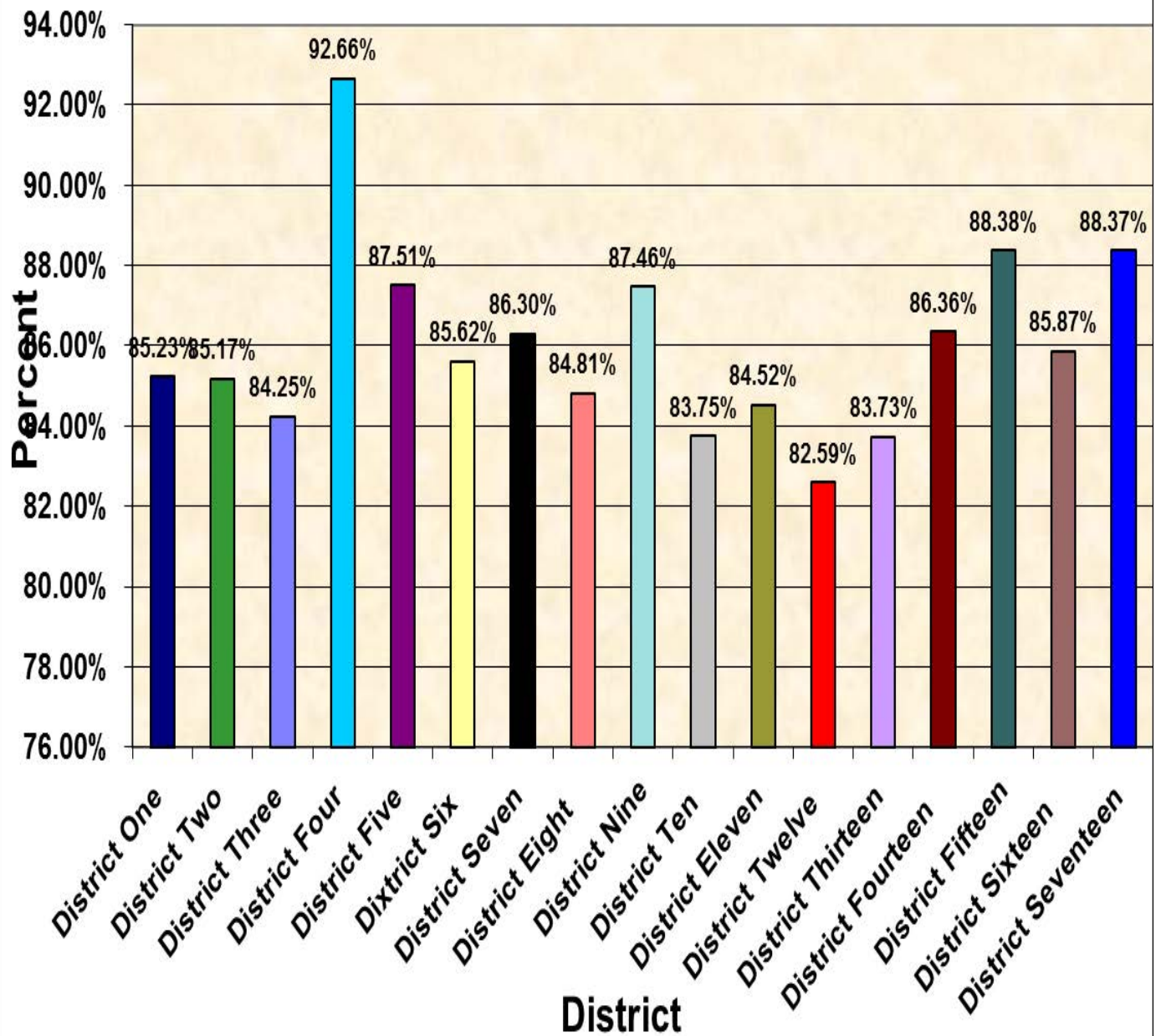
We are asking that you please attend to be recognized for all your effort whether you win the gift card or not and to meet other fellow Legionnaires from all over the State and share your success stories with us all.

All those interested in receiving a copy of The American Legion, Department of Maine Constitution and By-Laws, please visit www.mainelegion.org, click on the Forms/Applications menu and scroll down to Department/Misc. Forms. For those who do not have a computer and wish to receive a copy via mail, please contact State Headquarters at 207-873-3229.

Wanted

If any post has a Bingo machine for sale, please contact Steve Spaulding, Skowhegan Post 16 at 399-5601.

2017 Membership Percentages by District



Recurring Events

Rockland Post 1:

Sunday Morning Breakfast: 8 - 10 a.m., all you can eat - \$8

Karaoke Night: Every Friday night, 6 - 10 p.m.

Augusta Post 2:

Friday Night Karaoke: Fridays, Augusta Post 2, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Night Dance: Saturdays, Augusta Post 2, 7 p.m., \$7, live bands.

Gardiner Post 4:

3 Card Challenge: Fridays, Gardiner Post 4 Club Room, 6 p.m.

Cribbage: Every Sunday, Gardiner Post 4, 1 p.m.

Trivia Contest: Every Friday, Gardiner Post 4, 6:30 p.m.

Open Jukebox: Every Thursday, Gardiner Post 4, 5 – 8 p.m.

Darts: Steel Tip Dart Tournament every Tuesday night at 7 PM starting Nov. 1. \$5 entry fee every week for 14 weeks. Cash prizes at the end. Members & guests welcome.

Livermore Falls Post 10:

Post 10 Suppers: Third Saturday each month, 4:30 – 6 p.m. \$7 adults, \$4 students under 12. For local delivery please call 897-5676. Join us for a great meal and bring your friends with you for a fun gathering.

Caribou Post 15:

Texas Hold-Em: First and third Sat.

Line Dancing: Every Friday evening.

Sanford Post 19:

Live Music: Every Friday night. Great bands and lots of fun.

Winthrop Post 40:

Pool League Tournament: Mondays, 7-10 p.m.

Cribbage Tournament: Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Food available at the bar. Anyone can sign-up. Join in the fun.

Free Pool: Saturdays, anyone can sign up.

Texas Hold-Em Poker: Sundays, 2 p.m. \$55 Buy-in.

Norway Post 82:

Coffee Hour: Every Tuesday, Norway Post 82, 9 a.m. Everything is free. Coffee, many different types of donuts, coffee cake, muffins. Any veteran is invited to come by and enjoy the company of other veterans.

Gray Post 86:

ALPS: Third Monday of each month, Gray Post 86, 6:30 p.m.

Dixfield Post 100:

Public Supper: Third Saturday of the month, Dixfield Post 100, \$7 adults, Children ½ price, meals vary, FMI call 562-8030.

Sabattus Post 135:

Dart Tournament: Every other Monday starting Sept. 19, Sabattus Post 135.

Cribbage Tournament: Tuesday, Sabattus Post 135.

Fridays Nights DJ: Come dance the night away with our new DJ, Sabattus Post 135

Windham Post 148:

Texas Hold-Em Poker: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. Windham Veterans Association & Post 148 at Dena's Restaurant, next to Windham Post Office - Jct. Rtes. 115 & 302. \$60 buy in.

Eagle Lake Post 176:

Wings Night: Fridays, Eagle Lake Post 176, 5 – 9 p.m.

Lebanon Post 214:

Spaghetti Supper: Second Saturday of the month, Lebanon Post 214, Adults \$7, Children under 10 free. Held at the hall in the First Parish Congregational Church, 650 Center Road, Lebanon. FMI, please call 658-7182.

Current Events

Texas Hold'em: Jan. 21, Locke Mills Post 68, 595 Gore Rd., Locke Mills. Doors open at 11 a.m., games begin at 1 p.m. Meals and beverages available, BYOB.

Chili Cook Off and Corn Hole Tournament: Jan. 21, Bath Post 21, 1 p.m.

Honor Flight Maine Benefit: Jan. 28, Le Club Calumet, 334 West River Rd., Augusta. Social & Hors d' oeuvres 6 – 8 p.m., show time 8 p.m. Vocalists, comedy, special appearance Elvis Presley. All donation checks made payable to: Honor Flight Maine and mailed to Henry Breton, 1 Glen St., Augusta 04330. FMI please call 512-8210 or 240-1398. For all Maine veterans to visit their Washington War Monuments at no cost.

Beans and Casserole Supper: Feb. 4, Gray Post 86, 5 – 6 p.m. Adults \$8, children under 12, \$4. Pies for dessert.

Residential Healing & Wellness Retreat: Feb 9-13, Kennedy Learning Center, Camp Kieve-Nobleboro ME, featuring private rooms & baths. Energy Psychology Education, Alternative Healing Modalities such as Acupuncture, Massage, and Yoga. Recreational activities such as Climbing Wall, Nordic Walking, Pottery, and Snowshoeing. If you are a Maine Veteran, living with the symptoms of PTS and/or TBI, you are eligible to apply. A copy of your DD214, a statement of need from your physician or mental health provider, and a fully refundable \$100 deposit (returned last day of the retreat) are required. Veterans greatly benefit from being accompanied by a caregiver, friend or family member; exceptions will be considered upon request. FMI and/or an application, please visit embraceavet.org, email info@embraceavet.org, or phone Dean Paterson at 207-865-3867. Completed applications, DD214 and check may be mailed to: Embrace A Vet, Post Office Box 516, Topsham, ME 04086

Valentines' Masquerade: Feb. 18, Winthrop Post 40, Dance with GWizzoes Band. 8 p.m-1 a.m. Donation \$5 - Cash Prizes

Donations

Guilford Post 119
Guilford Post 119
Sangerville Post 165

\$200 – Maine Blind Camp
\$200 – Beals House
\$100 – Maine Blind Camp

Sick

District 2 First Vice Commander and Naples Post 155 Adjutant Curtis Merrill is home recovering from surgery. Cards may be sent to him at 90 Sand Rd., Naples ME 04055.

Leroy Knowlton fell at home last Friday and cracked his pelvis so is currently in Dexter Health Care for rehab. Cards may be sent to him at his son's address: Brian Knowlton, P.O. Box 494, Dexter ME 04930.

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment News**

The Detachment Finance Officer has a new e-mail address. Please use this new contact point for all official detachment business with him in the future. ME.SAL.DFO@gmail.com

Always willing to serve,

Ron Marr, Detachment Commander
1779 Hotel Rd Auburn, ME 04210 (207)-701-9675 ronalmarr.rm@gmail.com

Answer to military trivia question: The invasion of Granada

Best Wishes to The Legion family,

Paul L'Heureux
Department Adjutant



**The American Legion, Department of Maine
2017 Mid-Winter Conference
Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
January 21, 2017**

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of The American Legion, Department of Maine will be held at the **Spectacular Event Center, 395 Griffin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401 on January 21, 2017**. The conference will be hosted by Commander Peter Johnson and 2nd Vice Commander Scott Paradis.

Special Rates for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations:

Rodeway Inn, formerly Econo Lodge: 327 Odlin Road, Bangor, Maine 04401.

Phone: 207-945-0111.

Room Rate: \$59.00 + sales tax (rooms with one queen bed) - \$69.00 + sales tax (rooms with 2 double beds). Continental Breakfast included, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker & Elevator(s)

Days Inn: 250 Odlin Road, Bangor, Maine 04401.

Phone: 207-942-8272

Room Rate: \$76.00 + sales tax for room with King bed or 2 double beds. Includes Hot Breakfast, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker

Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone 207-947-0101

Room Rate: \$89.00 + sales tax (all room types apply upon availability). Includes Restaurant, Lounge, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevator(s)

Please state "American Legion Mid-Winter Conference" when calling for reservations.

Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual, as the Department HQ will not be coordinating reservations for this conference. Deadline: January 13, 2017

Mid-Winter Conference Registration Fee only: \$10.00/person which includes unlimited coffee/tea and muffins all day. (Please choose this option if you will be attending the **conference only** and not the banquet). **This is for American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Guests that are attending.**

Mid-Winter Conference Banquet Cost only: \$30.00/person which includes Comedian Gary Crocker, Downeast Humorist followed by music for your dancing pleasure (Please choose this option if you will be attending the **banquet only**).

Mid-Winter Conference Registration Fee & Banquet Cost: \$40.00/person

Please note that boxed lunches will be available to purchase for \$10 at the Spectacular Event Center. There will be a sign-up sheet in the a.m. with the lunch of your choice:

Boxed Lunch: Turkey & Provolone on Artisan Bread – Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle

Boxed Lunch: Ham & Provolone on Artisan Bread – Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle

Boxed Lunch: Veggie & Provolone on Artisan Bread – Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle

Chips

Cookie (Individually Wrapped)

Bottled Beverage – Assorted Pepsi Products

Gluten Free Salad needs to be made for a special customer – no onion, no peppers, low sodium