



The American Legion Department of Maine

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December 7, 2016

☺ SMILE ☺

May you see sunshine where others see shadows and opportunities where others see obstacles.

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

8:30 a.m.DEC Meeting (IF NEEDED)

From The Adjutants Desk

We currently have one serving on the Special Olympics Committee other than representatives from The Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion. The Department is looking for 3 dedicated individuals to assist us on filling these openings. Remember that we do make a difference every day in people's lives. Please consider stepping forward to help. Contact the State Commander, Peter Johnson at 207-280-0888 or call the State HQ at 207-873-3229

To all Posts:

This will be the last notice on the tax info published in the SMILE.

After asking all of you to stand by while we researched the Maine Sales Tax Exemption for The American Legion we are now ready to provide you with a step by step procedure that you may all follow. It will include some of the paperwork and information needed to pass the requirements. This packet that we will send you will provide you with 80% of the needed information. (You may stop at the office and pick one up also)

Now the other side of the story---If you have not kept up with State & Federal requirements, this will add more work for you to process this form in a timely matter. Please read the sheet on How to Obtain a Sales /use Tax Exemption Certificate carefully.

In order to receive one of these packets you must e-mail or call this office to request one which will be mailed to you. We will track these request for further results. Thank you again for your patience.

Directory Changes

Pg. 23, Special Olympics, please add Chairman Jesse Pierce, P.O. Box 165, Buckfield 04220 (336-3601)

District Meetings

District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 14, Augusta Post 205, 7 p.m. All members and their wives are asked to bring a gift in the \$10 to \$15 range for a Yankee Swap Christmas. Please note if it is for female (pink ribbon) or male (blue ribbon) or anyone. The Post 205 Commander has okayed alcohol as a gift or consumption if you're so inclined. In addition there will be a casserole supper. Please contact Adjutant Eileen M Krawczyk at eileensashamia@gmail.com to let her know what kind of food you're bringing. I would ask Eileen to post as often as possible what is being promised so everyone can plan around that. Also fun and games.

District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 18, Naples Post 155, 2 p.m., Christmas party exchange of gifts, Leg Dist. 2 and Aux Dist. 1

District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 20, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m. Appoint nominating committee. District Christmas party.

January meetings

District 17 – N. Aroostook: No mtg.

District 1 – York: Jan. 8, Sanford Post 19, 2 p.m.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 8, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 2 p.m.

District 7 – Lincoln: Jan. 9, Boothbay Harbor Post 36, 6 p.m.

District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 11, Maine Vets Home, Cony St. Ext., 7 p.m.

Military Trivia

What did the real Butch Cassidy do after escaping to Bolivia with his partner-in-crime, the Sundance Kid?

Influenza Shots

12/7/2016	Bangor CBOC	8:00 AM	11:30 AM
12/12/2016	Togus Outpatient Pharmacy	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
12/19/2016	Togus Outpatient Pharmacy	1:00 PM	3:00 PM

Even More Opportunities!

Rumford CBOC, Monday thru Friday, 1:30 - 4 pm, **Lincoln CBOC**, Monday thru Friday, 1pm - 3 pm, **Bingham VA Clinic**, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 7:30 am - 4 pm, **Calais CBOC**, Wednesdays, 1 pm – 4 pm, **Caribou CBOC**, Monday thru Friday, 9 am - 3 pm, **Houlton VA Clinic**, Wednesdays, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Camp Lejeune

VA's Proposed Rule to Consider Certain Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune as Presumptive for Service Connection

As part of VA's ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs today proposed to amend its regulations to establish presumption of service connection for eight conditions associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune.

Based on evidence from several internationally recognized scientific authorities, including the National Academies of Sciences, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has decided there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence available to establish a presumption of connection between exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune and the occurrence of eight health conditions, as recommended by the VA Technical Workgroup (TWG).

The proposed eight presumptive diseases are:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

VA will not limit entitlement to active duty military personnel. Rather, VA proposes to presume exposure for all active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 cumulative days from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987.

In addition, VA proposes to establish a presumption that individuals who served at Camp Lejeune during this period and later developed one of the presumptive diseases were disabled during the relevant period of service, thus establishing active military service for benefit purposes.

VA evaluates each Camp Lejeune claim based on its individual merits. Presumptive service connection for a disease alleged to have been caused by contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune requires medical evidence of a current disease on the presumptive list and evidence by official military records of no less than 30 days of service at Camp Lejeune during the period of contamination. Veterans meeting these criteria should file a VA Form 21-526EZ with information showing that they have a current diagnosis and their service information. Veterans Service Organizations can help Veterans file for benefits, or they can file a claim electronically through eBenefits. Indicate on your form that your claim is presumptive due to service at Camp Lejeune.

VA acknowledges that current science establishes a link between exposure to certain chemicals found in the water supply at Camp Lejeune and later development of one of the proposed presumptive conditions. However, VA experts agree that there is no scientific underpinning to support a specific minimum exposure level for any of the conditions. Therefore, VA welcomes comments on the 30-day minimum service requirement and will consider other practical alternatives when drafting the final rule. VA also notes that the proposed 30-day requirement serves to establish eligibility for service connection on a presumptive basis; nothing in this proposed regulation prohibits consideration of service connection on a non-presumptive basis.

For more information go to www.regulations.gov. The 30 day public comment period will be open until Oct. 10, 2016.

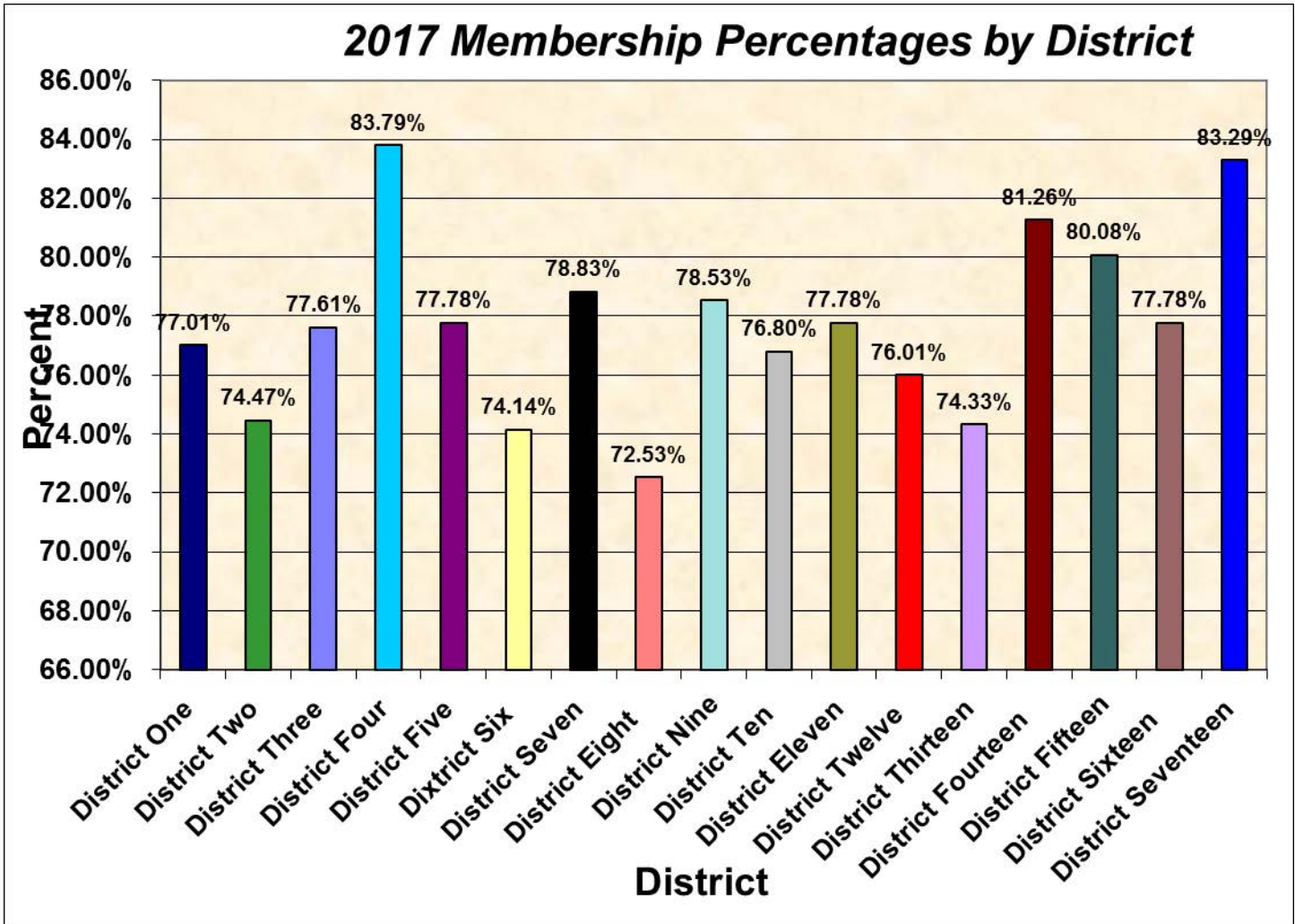
Holiday Cards for Veterans

We need your help! We're collecting holiday cards to disburse to veterans at the Togus VA Hospital. Collected by 12/19/16. Drop-off location: Tri County Mental Health Services, c/o Jerry DeWitt, 1155 Lisbon St., Lewiston ME. FMI, please contact Jerry DeWitt at 783-9141, ext. 228 or jdewitt@tcmhs.org Sponsored by Tri-County Mental Health Services.

I also will help anyone in District 3 make out a 1010ez to apply for VA health care. Call or e-mail me for appointment 576-0376, Monday thru Friday.

Jerry Dewitt, District 3 Commander

Membership



Recurring Events

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., Caribou Post 15.

Line Dancing: Every Friday evening, Caribou Post 15.

Sanford Post 19:

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

Winthrop Post 40:

Pool League Tournament: Mondays, Winthrop Post 40, 7-10 p.m.

Free Pool: Saturdays, anyone can sign up.

Texas Hold-Em Poker: Sundays, Winthrop Post 40, 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.

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

Networking, Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills: Dec. 14, Legends at the TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, Boston, MA 02114, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Enter through West Premium Doors. Lunch will be served and we will be providing private guided tours of the TD Garden and The Sports Museum. There is no cost to attend. Seating is limited. Enter to win great prizes including tickets to Bruins and Celtics games and autographed merchandise. Speakers from TD Bank, City of Boston Office of Veterans Services, Dress for Success Boston, and Bruins Alumni. Please respond by Dec. 5, 2016 to Abby Koss at intern@dfsoston.org. Hosted by TD

Bank in conjunction with the Boston Bruins® and Dress for Success Boston. For questions please contact Tina Martell at 1-207-756-6863.

Post Level High School Oratorical Program Competition: Dec. 10, Sanford Post 19, the Legion Post Hall, 1 p.m. The winner will receive a scholarship and be eligible to participate in the District 1 finals in January 2017.

Annual Vet Center Holiday Luncheon: Dec. 13, Sanford Vet Center, 628 Main St., Springvale, This is for all veterans, their families and friends in the Sanford/Springvale area to attend. The dinner is jointly sponsored by Sanford Post 19, Unit 19 and the SAL. The post looks forward to sponsoring this Luncheon every year and it is attended by hundreds of veterans and their families. Special Thanks to all the Legion post volunteers who make it such a joyous event.

Christmas Party for the Veterans in Bldg. 207: Dec. 16, 2nd floor (long term care), 11 a.m. Members of Harpswell Post-171 will be organizing another Christmas Party. As always there will be gifts & food for everyone. Also helping the Legionnaires will be active duty personnel from all branches of the Military. If anyone would like to help wrap gifts on the 14th please contact Bill O'Connell at 833-6048.

District #1 Planning Event: Dec. 30, Sanford Post 19, 6 p.m., in the Post Hall. Refreshments will be available.

Donations

Richmond Post 132

\$45 – CWF

Kudos

On November 20, Sanford Post 19 conducted a Post Everlasting Ceremony for the 13 Legionnaires, 1 Legion Auxiliary and 1 Sons of Legion who had passed since our last Post Everlasting ceremony in November 2015. The ceremony was attended by family members, friends and many members of the Post to pay homage and remember these comrades and all the comrades of the Post Everlasting of the American Legion T.W.Cole Post 19.

Sanford Post 19 for their donation to Wreaths Across America for \$1,500 to purchase 100 wreaths for the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale for the Wreaths Across American Ceremony to be held on December 17.

Berwick Post 79 for their donation of \$500 to the Berwick ME Fuel Emergency Fund, \$200 to the Table of Plenty, \$200 to Somersworth, NH/Berwick ME Food Pantry, \$130 to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, \$150 to North Berwick ME Christmas Project, \$50 to the Rollinsford NH Police Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets, and \$100 to the Lebanon ME Union Free Will Baptist Church Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets.

Condolences

NECA Ron Rainfrette's mother passed away. Cards may be sent to Ron at 608 Beach Rd., Lincolnville, ME 04849

Answer to military trivia question: Cassidy whose real name was Robert Leroy Parker, reportedly returned to the US and went into the adding machine manufacturing business.

Best Wishes to The Legion family,

Paul L'Heureux
Department Adjutant

WISH LIST – December 2016
Department of Veterans Affairs
Voluntary Service (135)
1 VA Center
Augusta, Maine 04330 (207) 621-4886
jonathan.barczyk@va.gov

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Drivers for Volunteer Transportation Network (Bethel/Sanford/Rumford/Aroostook/Augusta)
2. Parking Lot Shuttle Driver – (Wednesday & Thursday & On-Call)
3. Clinic Clerical Assistant – Bangor & Lewiston CBOC
4. Bangor Eye Clinic Volunteer – (Monday – Friday)
5. Community Living Center 73 – Feeding patients (must complete on-site training)
6. Escort - Wednesday
7. Fee Services Assistant – Business Service Line – (Monday-Friday)
8. Million Vet Program Volunteer – (Monday-Wednesday-Friday)
9. Prosthetics Escort – (Monday-Friday)
10. Coumadin Clinic Volunteer – (Monday – Friday)
11. Female Escort – Radiology – (Monday-Friday – Mornings)
12. Facilities Management Volunteer – (Monday – Friday)
13. Health Information Volunteer – (One Day/ Week)

ONGOING PROGRAM SUPPORT:

1. Coffee funds (provides coffee in waiting areas/wards/clinics)
2. Comfort Items, i.e., **nail clippers, toenail clippers**, denture creams/cleaner, small body wash, body lotion, toothbrush covers, deodorant, disposable razors(Higher Quality Razors Preferred), large powders etc. (**No alcohol based products**)
3. Funds to purchase Canteen/Coupon Books
4. Newspaper funds (provides newspapers in waiting areas/wards/clinics)
5. Recreation General Purpose Funds to support various activities
6. General Welfare Funds

SPECIAL REQUESTS/PROJECTS:

1. Gas Cards (\$25)
2. Trac Phone Cards
3. Hannaford Gift Cards (\$25)
4. Walmart Gift Cards (\$25)
5. Over the Ear Headphones (Must be New)
6. WIFI Access for CLC-73 Patriot Place (Approx. \$40/month)
7. WIFI Access for 4-S (Approx. \$40/month)
8. Organizations to sponsor entertainment on 73 Patriot Place
9. Parking Lot Shuttle Vehicle Project

NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME: Afghans; Jigsaw Puzzles; Used Clothing; Used Stamps; Magazines over three months old; Dental Floss; After-Shave; Hand Lotion and Envelopes. **Due to Infection Control policies we are unable to accept used clothing/bedding walkers, canes, or crutches at this time. Currently we are unable to accept personal memorabilia and artwork.**

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that under the Tax Code, donations to the Department of Veterans Affairs' General Post Fund for exclusively public purposes are deductible from federal income taxes in the manner and to the extent allowable. The announcement reflects the tax law provision, which makes those donations deductible as "donations to the United States". Donations to support any of the Department's programs are deductible, whether the donor directs that the donated funds be used for a specific purpose or allows the Department to decide how the donated funds will be used. Donated funds made by check should be made out to "VAVS" and sent to the address above.



**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

Mid-Winter Conference Reservations
January 21, 2017 – Spectacular Event Center, Bangor

Registration Fee/Banquet Cost: \$40.00/person

Banquet Cost Only: \$30.00/person - Registration Fee Only: \$10.00/person

Name	Phone No.	Registration & Banquet \$40.00/person (✓)	Banquet Only \$30.00/person (✓)	Registration Only \$10.00/person (✓)
	-			
	-			
	-			
	-			

TOTAL # REGISTRATION & BANQUET TICKETS: _____

TOTAL # BANQUET TICKETS ONLY: _____

TOTAL # REGISTRATION TICKETS ONLY: _____

\$ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$_____._____

Please make check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine
& mail check & reservation form to:

The American Legion, Department of Maine
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

Deadline for reservation is January 13, 2017

You must register for the conference or pay when entering the facility.

Banquet Menu Includes:

APPETIZERS

Crackers & House Specialty Cheese Spread
Veggies & Dip

DINNER BANQUET BUFFET

Freshly Baked Dinner Rolls
Caesar Salad and Tossed Salad
Mixed Vegetables – Carrots & Peas
Roasted Red Potatoes
Meat Lasagna
Parmesan & Encrusted Chicken – **Gluten Free**
Baked Panko Encrusted Haddock w/ Lemon Dill Sauce
Assorted Cheesecakes