



Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars



"Serving the Present While Remembering and Honoring the Past"

February 2017

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 8



SPECIAL NOTICES <> SPECIAL NOTICES

Absence of the Commander: During the period of 24 February thru 2 March, Commander SanPedro and some of the Department Officers will be out of State attending the Legislative Conference and the Voice of Democracy awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. During this period, anyone needing assistance are to contact SVC Richard A. Farris at (H) 338-6092, (Cell) 323-0408 or email rfarrisandbfarris95@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to the following Post for achieving 100%+ in membership for the Year 2016-2017

LaBelle-Perkins Post 1605, Burlington * 102.34% * Commander Charles F. Harding
Francis E. Elliot Post 4154, Millinocket * 102.61% * Commander Wilmer E. Voisine
King-Mitchell Post 7529, Island Falls * 100% * Commander Alfred Milano
District 2 * 101.34% * Commander James A. Wing

Congratulations to the following State of Maine Winners

Voice of Democracy

Kiley Eckstein ~ 1st Place ~ Dist 4 ~ Bangor Post 1641
Michaela F. Flanders ~ 2nd Place ~ Dist 11 ~ South Berwick Memorial Post 5744
Maximilian B. Howard ~ 3rd place ~ Dist 6 ~ Belfast Post 3108

Patriot's Pen

Gillian Skehan ~ 1st Place ~ District 4 ~ Bangor Post 1761
Abby Matsovich ~ 2nd Place ~ District 10 ~ Portland Post 6859
Edward Whitesell ~ 3rd Place ~ District 11 ~ South Berwick Memorial Post 5744

VFW Scholarship Themes for 2016 * 2017

Voice of Democracy ~ **"American History - Our Hope for The Future"**
Patriot's Pen ~ **"American's Gift to My Generation"**

Maine Officers Leadership Development (MOLD) Seminar: Any Posts wishing to hot the MOLD Seminar are asked to contact Chmn Kevin G. Woodward at 259-3912 or e-mail bampa_5@yahoo.com. The seminar will be held during the month of August with final dates announced in the April thru July GOs.

1. April Council of Administration (CoA): Will be held 22 April 2017 at the **Ramada Plaza Portland at 1 pm sharp**. The Headquarters Hotel will also be the **Ramada Plaza Portland**, 155 Riverside St., Portland, ME. Tel: 207-774-5861. Rates are \$ 82.00 + 7% tax (1-4 persons). (All rooms are non smoking).

All Council Members and Chairmen are requested to be in attendance and make their reports at that time. Anyone not able to attend the CoA meeting are to forward a copy of their report to the State Adjutant

office to be read at the CoA meeting. **Please make sure that you notify the State Adjutant that you wish to be excused for the CoA meeting.**

Saturday meetings will commence at 8:30 am at the Ramada Plaza Portland as follows:

- **Veterans Service Office Cmtee * 8:30 am
- **Audit & Finance Cmtee * 9:15 am
- **State Convention Cmtee * 10:15 am
- **Eastern States Conference Cmtee * 10:30 am

2. State Commander Testimonial: Will be held at the Ramada Plaza Portland, 155 Riverside St., Portland, ME. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Please send your check to: ***Shirley M. Dumas, 64 Washburn St., Caribou, ME 04736-2125*** and make your check payable to ***“Department of Maine, VFW”***. ***Deadline for purchase of tickets will be 8 April 2017; no tickets purchase will be accepted after that date as we must notify the Hotel of the number of people in attendance.*** The VFW National Representative will be Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman. ***Banquet ticket order form is attached to this General Orders.***

3. Commanders on all levels: Should begin organizing their 2017 Memorial Day “Buddy”® Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

4. Post Commanders: Is directed to Section 213 of the National By-Laws concerning any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District meetings, County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

5. Post Commanders: Post Trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Among the duties of the three (3) elected Post Trustees, they shall:

- a. At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
- b. Not later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period, at the direction of the Post Commander, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustees Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.
- c. The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify to the accuracy of the information contained therein.
- d. Perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

6. Commanders at all Levels: Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Departments should be reminded of the provisions of Sections 216, 416, and 516 of the Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant and properly reviewed.

7. Post Commanders: In accordance with the provisions of Section 1301 of the National By-Laws, effective December 31, 2016, all Men’s Auxiliary charters have been cancelled and such subordinate units

must now be disbanded. Disposition of Men's Auxiliary property shall be in accordance with Section 1301 of the Manual of Procedure.

8. 25th Anniversary of the Liberation of Kuwait: The following was received from Adria Horn, Director, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services: "Quote" We recently received a pallet of beautiful commemorative books marking the 25th Anniversary of the Liberation of Kuwait. We received 259 books to be exact because that is the census number that the Federal Gov't has on file for Maine Veterans who deployed in support of Desert Storm. If you have Veterans in your organization who deployed in support of DS, please let me know as these books are specifically earmarked for them. These are similar to the Korean War Commemorative Books and created by the same organization. Next year (2017), we expect to receive the Vietnam books. I've seen a draft version and it's amazing. I look forward to giving that out to as many Vietnam Veterans as possible with your assistance. "Unquote"

9. Commanders on all levels: Are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

10. Reporting of Deceased Members: All Posts are asked to make sure that they have reported all of their deceased members for the year 2016-17 to the State Chaplain David L. Sivret @ chsivret133@yahoo.com in order to be able to honor all of them in both the Convention book and also at the Memorial Service at the State Convention in Bangor.

11. Department By-Laws Recommended Changes: It is that time of year where we must start looking at the Department By-Laws for changes. Anyone having any recommended changes are to forward them NLT 25 March 2017 for the By-Laws Cmtee to review them at the April Committee meeting and inclusion in the General Orders for everyone to see. **Please note that the current Department By-Laws are located in the back of your 2016-17 Department directory.**

12. State Convention Flyers: Please note that the following flyers for our upcoming State Convention are listed in this General Orders as follows:

>Hotel Information: **Deadline to make reservations at the Headquarters Hotel is 30 April 2017.**

>Convention Book Ads: **Deadline for purchase of ads is 15 April 2017.**

>Pre-Convention Registration: **Deadline for Pre-Registration is 6 June 2017 where you will save \$3.00.**

>VFW Booster Ads: Please note that this gives a chance for everyone in the Department to have their name inserted in the Convention book. Cost is \$3.00 per name. **Deadline for purchase is 25 April 2017.**

13. Post Inspections: A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. District and Department Inspectors to include Assistant Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed. **District Inspectors are asked to complete their inspections ASAP and forward them to Chairman Richard A. Farris, 160 Belmont Ave., Belfast, ME 04915.**

14. Post Community Activities Reports: All Post Commanders are reminded to forward each month their Community Activities report to the respective Department Chairman as listed in the Community Activities pamphlet. **NOTE: Effective now and until further notice, due to JVC Mitchell recuperating, all C/A reports (hard copies) are to be forwarded to the State Adjutant at "thedumas@gwi.net". Programs not reported as part of the "All State Commander/Post" could be affected and you may miss on**

receiving awards.

15. Post Election Reports: Post election reports are to be completed via the OMS program and must be completed NLT 1 June. Please note that all **offices must be reported** on the election report regardless if it is election and/or appointed, this will facilitate the completion of the Department directory. **For those Posts who do not have a computer access, please forward your election report to the State Adjutant office who will file for you.**

16. Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office: Section 217 of the Manual of Procedures directs that nominations of Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however that when a poll system is used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the adjutant to prepare a printed ballot. Election of Officers shall be elected in April. The Post Commander elect will select the Installing Officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of the Post Commander. Post Officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. An officer-elect who may be absent for good and sufficient reason or cause may be installed at any regular or special meeting prior to the Department Convention. If not then installed, the office will automatically become vacant. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year except that three trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and thereafter one (1) trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.

17. Section 222 of the Manual of Procedures: Post delegates and alternates to the District shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention with one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

18. Filing of Annual Report of Incorporation: All Posts and Districts that are incorporated will be receiving in the near future their notification for filing their 2017 Annual Report via USPS or email. You will be able to file it on line by going to **State of Maine Secretary of State** or you will be able to download the form and file it via USPS with your \$35.00. Filing by April 1, 2017 will allow the State to provide better service. A late-filing fee penalty will be assessed on all reports received after 1 June 2017, the legal filing deadline. If your Post does not receive a notification, chances are that your Post is not incorporated. \$35.00 per year to protect the personal assets of **EVERY** member in your Post is cheap insurance. **NOTE: Trusted Agent for your Post are either the Commander, Quartermaster or Adjutant, please make sure that you have correct Trusted Agent registered with the State of Maine Corporation Division.** For any assistance, contact 1-207-634-7752.

19. District Meetings: All District Commanders are reminded that if a District meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, they are to immediately notify the Department Representative, the State Adjutant office and their respective Posts. **WE** do not want anyone to have an accident due to inclement weather.

20. Dates to Remember:

- 12 Feb * Lincoln's Birthday
- 20 Feb * President's Day (George Washington's Birthday Observed)
- 22 Feb * Washington's Birthday
- 26 Feb/2 Mar * Legislative Conference; Voice of Democracy, Washington, D.C.
- 12 Mar * Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 9 Apr/21 May * District Convention throughout the State
- 22 Apr * Council of Administration, State Commander Testimonial, Portland, ME
- 9/11 Jun * State Convention, Bangor, ME

22/26 Jul * National Convention, New Orleans, LA

21. Candidates for Department High Office 2016-17:

Department Commander * Richard A. Farris * Post 6131
Department Senior Vice Commander * Darald M. Mitchell * Post 9779
Department Junior Vice Commander * Christopher L. Armstrong * Post 9437
Department Quartermaster * David D. Williams * Post 1641
Department Judge Advocate * William B. Bradbury * Post 1605
Department Surgeon * Christopher L. Robison * Post 4527
Department Chaplain * David O. Sivret * Post 9779

22. Candidates for National Council Member, Maine, 2017-2021:

Thomas R. Lussier * Post 6859
David D. Williams * Post 1641
Kevin G. Woodward * Post 11553
Ronald F. Smith * Post 1761
Raymond R. Lupo * Post 4633
Andre L. Dumas * Post 9389
Steven J. SanPedro * Post 6859
Arthur J. Roy * Post 1603

23. District Meetings Dates: NOTE: Any changes of District meeting dates are to be notified to the State Adjutant ASAP.

11 Feb * D-1 * Caribou Post 9389 (Hosting for Post 2599) @ 1 pm (Lunch at noon) > QM Williams
19 Feb * D-3 * Calais Post 9779 @ 2 pm > JVC Mitchell
3 Mar * D-5 * Dexter Post 4298 @ 1 pm > JVC Mitchell
4 Mar * D-2 * Island Falls Post 7529 @ 1 pm (Lunch at noon) > Adj Dumas
19 Mar * D-4 * Bangor Post 1761 @ 2 pm > Cmdr SanPedro
19 Mar * D-11 * South Berwick Post 5744 @ 1 pm > QM Williams
8 Apr * D-1 * Caribou Post 9389 (Hosting for Post 9609) @ 1 pm (Lunch at noon) > Adj Dumas

24. Directory Changes:

(Changes to the Department Directory are to be notified to the State Adjutant ASAP for inclusion in the directory.)

Pg 33 * Post 1603 * Add Cmdr Gooldrup Cell #: 577-3099
Pg 34 * Post 1605 * Chg SO to: Brian Smith, 563 W. Broadway, Lincoln, ME 04457, Tel: 285-3815;
E-mail: silstarfarm@yahoo.com
Pg 38 * Post 3335 * Chg QM to: Wayne Blake Jr., PO Box 74, Strong, ME 04983, tel: 523-9061
Pg 51 * Post 9494 * Chg name to: Kittery-Elliott Memorial Post 9394

ATTESTED BY:

BY ORDER OF:

Andre L. Dumas

Andre L. Dumas
Adjutant

Steven J. SanPedro

Steven J. SanPedro
Commander



*State Commander
Steven J. San Pedro*



Comrades;

Wow! It is hard to believe that January has gone as fast as it has. We only have five more months in this VFW year and we still have a lot to accomplish. The time is now, for us to get moving on all of these goals that we have set for ourselves.

We had the honor of having our National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief BJ Lawrence here for our mid-winter Council of Administration. On January 13, I took him to the Scarborough Maine Veterans Home for a tour. He was very impressed with the quality of life the residents get and how friendly and caring the entire staff was. After that, we visited the Portland VA CBOC where the Maine VA Director Ryan Lilly gave him a tour. Once again, very impressed and please to see Veterans getting the care they deserve.

On January 14, we had a jammed packed day of meetings, the Council of Administration followed by the Department Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen awards banquet. Even though it was a busy day, we were able to put out a lot of good information for everyone to take home.

I would like to "Thank" everyone that helped put everything together. There were a lot of moving parts but it all came together. Thank you to both the Fairfield and Winslow Posts for hosting our events. As always, the State Adjutant Andre Dumas was a big part of why everything was so successful. "Thank you" Andre for all that you did to make the whole weekend a big success.

At the end of February, our Department Delegation will be heading down to Washington DC for the National VFW Legislative Conference. We will be meeting with both Senators and Representatives during this visit. If there is anything that you want us to bring up, please get it to our Legislative Team or me before we leave.

Don't forget to donate to my Commander's Special Project which is "House in the Woods". This is a good organization that gives disabled Veterans outdoor experience they would never get anywhere else. Let's help our Veterans by supporting this worthy cause.

We need your help with Membership! As I write this, we are at 88.91% and need 990 more Members to reach our goal of 100%. That means we need to average about 200 Members per a month for us to reach it. We can do this, but it will have to be a total effort from everyone. So once again, I am asking for your help. We have a lot of Members whose dues have expired and we can't let them get away. We need to reengage them and see why they haven't renewed their Membership. If it is something we can fix, please do so. They are important to us and we need to show them that we care about them as a Member of our organization. We have many Posts with less than 10 Members needed but we only have three Posts at 100% or higher. Please get those final few Members and join the few Posts we have in the Commander 100% club. Remember that **everyone is a recruiter** and we all must do our part to help grow our Posts, Districts and Department.

Please check the Community Activities Report in these General Orders. If there is something wrong, please contact the Chairman so it can be fixed. If you haven't been notified yet, Department Adjutant Dumas will be doing Community Activities until future notice. If you send your reports in by mail, they will need to be mailed to him. He already receives the electronic forms by email so no change is needed there. If you haven't completed something yet, then please get it done! We are running out of time and there is no reason for there to be this many blanks on this report.

Keep doing the great things that you're doing for our Veterans, their Families and our Community as we continue **"Serving the Present while Remembering and Honoring the Past"**

Congratulations to the following District and Posts for having attained 100%+ in membership: Washington Post 9437, Burlington Post 1605, Millinocket Post 4154, Island Falls Post 7529 and District 2.

Steven J. San Pedro

Steven J. San Pedro
Commander



Deceased Roll Call

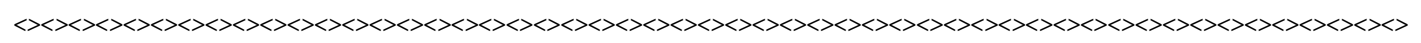


Department of Maine, VFW

David O. Sivret, Chaplain

26 December 2016 * 25 January 2017

“May our Comrades Rest in Eternal Peace in Post Eternity?”



District 1

6187 * PLANT, John E. Jr.

9389 * LABBE, Oneal L. * Vietnam
O'DONNELL, Robert J.

9609 * KOCHER, Eugene L.
PELLETIER, Real R.

District 2

1605 * Mc CAFFERTY, Stanley

District 3

9779 * FISH, Carl M. Jr.

District 4

3381 * GOETTSCHE, Lee R. Jr.
SPENCER, Eugene R.

4154 * BENJAMIN, Raymond * WW II
NICHOLAS, George W. * Korea

District 5

4198 * SPAULDING, Marshall W.

7866 * LaPLANTE, Donald H. * Korea

District 6

9437 * HENRY, Arthur E.

District 7

2197 * DIONNE, Lionel J. * Korea

4525 * COPELAND, William H.

7738 * MITCHELL, Leverett R. * Vietnam

District 9

1603 * DOUGLAS, Gerald O.
VALLEE, Paul R.

3335 * ROBINSON, Wallace D.

District 10

832 * DANLEY, Curtis H.

6859 * FENDERSON, Earl H.
FLAHERTY, Edward P.

District 11

7997 * BRETON, Eugene A.
PAQUETTE, Armand E.
PAUL, Dustin J.

9935 * LITTLEFIELD, Ralph G.

Members-at-Large

15020 * BOYINGTON, Harlon J.
SMITH, Bernard



**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
INSPECTOR
Richard A. Farris**



Hello comrades:

This is a start of a new year so keep up the good work and move forward.

Just a note to remind you that again that it is **INSPECTION** time! Please get **YOUR** reports in ASAP. All District Commanders have their inspection report forms. **WHERE ARE THE DISTRICTS STANDING WITH INSPECTING THE POST, HAVE WE STARTED?** Inspections have started to roll in so keep up the good work.

District Cmdrs, please get your District Inspectors on the job and get the Posts and Districts inspected.

To date; 18 Posts and 4 Districts have been inspected as listed on the C/A spreadsheet from Chairman Mitchell. Please get them done ASAP so that we can have the Department 100% inspected.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY
Darald M. Mitchell**

As I start this report, I want to let everyone know that I am on my recovery from my medical issue and I wish to "Thank" everyone who sent me a Get Well card, it is truly appreciated and makes my day as I opened each one.

As you are all well aware, our State Commander SanPedro has asked our State Adjutant to monitor the C/A program and make sure that all of the Posts are reported on the spreadsheet until my recovery is better and I can resume my duty, also "Andy" will be mailing me the reports that he has received so that I can continue monitoring all of the hours and monies for each Posts. For those of you, who are doing the reporting by hard copy of the report, please mail it to **Andre L. Dumas, State Adjutant, 64 Washburn St., B-1, Caribou, ME 04736-2125.**

As I have stated on numerous occasions, reports need to be mailed to the respective Chairman as listed in last month's GOs. Finally, please remember that the judging for the "All State Post" is derived from the reports received from the Posts and annotated on the C/A spreadsheet, this is the only way we can make the final results from what is reported. **Post Commanders, please make sure that you report all of your Post Activities monthly even if it is the same activity each month.**

**.Till next month Semper Fi Comrades !!
Remember to Report! Report! Report! Report!**

**QUARTERMASTER
BUDDY POPPY * CHRISTMAS CARDS & LABELS
INSUANCE & BONDS & MEN'S AUXILIARY
David D. Williams, PSC**

The time keeps flying by which means that time of the year is coming up again for all our Posts to hold Nomination and Elections soon. Also with that said, now that we are on a prescription dues payment system which means the month that you join the Organization is the month that your dues must be renewed every year. If you have been a member for a few years and have been continues, then your dues will always be due by the 1st of the year. However, if you miss a year, then reinstate your membership then you will be on a yearly cycle meaning your dues are due the month you reinstated your membership each year. All officers who fail to renew their membership before it **EXPIRES** will be removed from Office

and cannot hold that office or any other office for the remainder of that year. So if all this stuff is confusing to you, I have a quick and easy solution. Become a Life Member if you are not, then you never have to worry about dues again. Also you can save yourself some money in the long run. Here is an example: 1987, I became a LM, it cost me \$200.00 at that time. Our Post dues were \$16-20 per year so **in 20 years**, my life membership paid for itself and now from 2007, I'm saving \$36.00 a year which is the cost of our Post dues now.

Legacy Life membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars: Any member who is a life member may become a Legacy Life member and Legacy in the VFW continues on forever. What that means after your time here is up; the National Organization will continue to pay a stipend of money each year to the Post and also the Department in your memory. There are 3-Levels Bronze \$400.00; Silver \$400.00; Gold 400.00; which means each \$400.00 moves you up a level! You can pay \$400.00 at a time or you can pay \$1,200 all at once and become a Gold Legacy. With each level, you receive a special Legacy Card Plaque and discounts at the Emblem and Supply store. So the higher the level; the more Benefits! Also, your Accidental Death Insurance increases also. Confused yet?? I am from typing it. But if you have any questions or want more information, get a hold of me and I can help you out or go on the **vfw.org** website.

One last thing, please mail all State QM correspondences to my P.O. Box, not the post address please.

JUDGE ADVOCATE
HOSPITAL/VAVS * MAINE VETERANS HOMES' AUGUSTA
NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT (NVMS)
VETERANS CEMETERY, CENTRAL
Christopher L. Armstrong

Hello Comrades. I hope you are all well! As many of you may have heard, I did have a heart attack the end of November, Togus then sent me to Roxbury Mass for surgery and I can safely say that they have found the problem; finally I am feeling much better! I would like to "Thank" everyone that sent me Get Well cards as they were very uplifting!

I am very happy that you are all doing well with donations to NVMS and VAVS; a lot of Posts have donated numerous times to VAVS and it is great to go out to the VAVS office and the hospital and see the good that these donations actually do. So; please keep up the good work as it makes a big difference to our sick Veterans. Thank you all for all you do!

SURGEON
MEMBERSHIP * SAFETY & DRUG ABUSE * BLOOD
William B. Bradbury, Chairman

Membership: Hello Comrades. It was really nice to see everyone at the CoA in Fairfield and at the Winslow Post for the VOD/Pat Pen Banquet.

At the time that I am writing this, the Department of Maine is at 88.91%. So far this month, we have picked up 101 members (new and or reinstated) 60 of that was done in one week. I would really like to see that to continue. As I stated at the CoA, we have over 300 members that have let their membership expire. Quartermasters, you need to keep up on your membership list and talk to these members before they expire. A simple call, letter or email, just to remind them that it's that time of year again to keep them in good standings! We have six Posts below 80%; every Post should be at 90% or better right now. We have 27 Posts that need 10 or less members to reach 100%, two Posts only need one member and seven Posts need only 2 members. Who will be the next 100% Post? How many of these Posts will be next, I'm hoping all of them. We also have a District (District 7) that only needs seven members to reach 100%. Right now, we have four Posts (Washington Post 9437, Burlington Post 1605, Millinocket Post 4154 and Island Falls

Post 7529) and on District (District 2) that has reached 100% or better. Great job! Again, who will be next? Remember everyone is a recruiter – everyone...

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS – REINSTATE MEMBERS – RETAIN ALL MEMBERS

If you have any questions or need any kind of help, don't hesitate to contact ***mainiacvetcamper@gmail.com*** or call me at 207-730-9191 or any one of Comrades in your area on the membership team. Any one of us will be more than happy to help you at any time. Thank you for what you do for this great organization.

Surgeon: February is National Heart Month. Everyone has a heart, so take care of it. Make sure you go easy with all this snow we have and will get. If your having a hard time breathing, pain in your chest, pain radiating down your arm, chest is pounding or headaches from stress, get to your Dr. or emergency room and do not drive yourself, get someone to drive you. If it's serious enough and you do drive, it could cause an accident and hurt others. Be safe, be careful and get it done. Do not put it off because it might be too late. I personally don't want to lose a member, brother or sister. Get checked.

Safety & Drug Abuse*Blood: Safety and Blood reports are coming in, but coming in slow. Keep the reports coming in? If you have done it, report it. If you have done it more than once and haven't reported it, report it and report it all.

CHAPLAIN

David O. Sivret, Father

Greetings Comrades: This month, I would like to share with you an example of selfless service. I feel it is part of each one of us who have worn the uniform of our Armed Forces.

Did you know that 3 February was set aside by Congress in 1988 to remember four individuals, the Four Chaplains of the USAT Dorchester. George Fox, Methodist Minister, Alexander Goode, Rabbi; Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed Minister and John Washington, Roman Catholic Priest.

The story takes place on 3 February 1943 at 12:55 am; the Dorchester had been hit by a torpedo from a German submarine, U-Boat 223. That torpedo tore a gaping hole in the Dorchester, and the Dorchester began to fill with torrents of frigid ocean water.

The Chaplains spread out among the servicemen. They guided disoriented soldiers to the appropriate stairways. They sought to calm the panic-stricken and help the dazed get into their life jackets. On the top deck, the four Chaplains quieted the men, and directed them to the lifeboats. With calmness, the four Chaplains handed out life jackets. Then, when their supply ran out, they selflessly took off their own life jackets, and strapped them around soldiers who had none.

Standing within feet of those chaplains, Second Engineer Grady Clark was amazed to see them give up their own life jackets. As the frigid, oil-smeared water began sloshing against the ship's railing, Engineer Clark slipped into it. As he later said: "As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there, praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets." It's been said that at the end, in their prayers to God, spoken in Hebrew, Latin and English, those four Chaplains linked arms together and braced themselves against the ship's slanting railing, as it went under.

On 3 February 2017, it will be the 74th anniversary of those remarkable, unselfish, interfaith deeds of love, which those four Chaplains enacted for their fellow service members. Let us remember those four Chaplains and all the men and women who have lost and risked their lives in our nation's military service, both now and in the past.

Fr David O. Sivret + Pro Deo Et Patria

Notes: Quarterly Chaplain Reports are due NLT March 31st. If there is someone sick in your Post, please let me know so that I can send a card.

**CHIEF OF STAFF
WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Thomas R. Lussier, PSC/CoS**

The Department Website is good working order. National has a new website and is still offering Departments and Post grants to have their own websites. The 2016-2017 Directory continues to be updated. The following site has been added for your convenience: ***Easterseals Maine***

Please, any changes must be submitted to the Department Adjutant. Would always like to see more guestbook entrees! Also if you have any photos of Department events please forward to me.

Comrades; the Department website contains an incredible amount of information designed to make everyone's job much easier. Many years have been devoted to creating this site so please utilize it! If anyone has any problems please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank You!

**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, MAINE (NCM,M)
VETERANS ADVISORY TO VA MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Raymond R. Lupo, PSC/Advisor**

NCM,M: With the appointment that Dr. David Shulkin is to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the VFW Commander-in-Chief said he'll be proud to support this nomination and will be appreciative of Dr Shulkin willingness to continue severing Veterans and improving the VA. It should be noted that Dr. Shulkin has served as the Under Secretary for 18 months and has been the leading force in the VA's health care reform.

This past week, Congressman Poliquin will be joining the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, he wrote that as an instrumental force, he can serve the Veterans of Maine and across the country on their behalf. (Let hope so.)

Veterans Advisory to VA Maine Healthcare: Application for 2017 National Golden Age Games will be accepted from Veterans interested by February 1st thru March 1st. Veterans must be 55 or older; you can complete the application on line. The 2017 games will be held in Biloxi MS. Plans for six Fisher Houses will be available at Togus and the first one is planned for construction to start this spring.

Keeping up with all your VA appointments: Want an easier way of keeping track of your VA appointments or your clinical appointment, can't remember them? You can use MY HealtheVet to organize your appointments. My HealtheVet is an online feature that keeps your clinical appointments in one convenient location. If you do not have a My HealtheVet account, take time and register today.

**COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT (CSP)
Christopher L. Robison, Chairman**

I would like to extend a sincere "Thanks" to District 10 and Post 6859 Commander Joel Demers who gave a portion of his 50/50 winnings from the January Council of Administration to the VFW National Home for Children and the Commander's Special Project, House in the Woods. Later that evening, I was privileged to attend the State Patriot's Pen/Voice of Democracy banquet. I would like to congratulate both Gillian Skehan and Kiley Eckstein who were both the District 4 and Department of Maine winners for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. I am proud that both of these intelligent and patriotic young ladies came from my home District. I look forward to seeing where they place on the National level!

Focusing again on the Commander's Special Project, the donations have slowed down significantly. We have no Districts at 100% participation and one District where not one single Post has contributed. I encourage **ALL** Posts to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause. Every little bit helps and we owe it

to our fellow Veterans, especially those who are severely injured, to support them. The House in the Woods hosts Veterans from all over the United States and gives them a taste of the Maine Woods that we take for granted. For example, they take Veterans confined to wheelchairs out hunting in specially designed all-terrain chairs. This organization is supported entirely by private donations. They are constantly expanding and improving the experience they provide to our Comrades-in-Arms. Please support the House in the Woods and our fellow Veterans by contributing to Commander SanPedro' Special Project. Donations should be sent to me, Christopher Robison @ 15 East Bucksport Rd. Orrington ME 04474. I will forward the donations to the State Quartermaster once I document them. ***If donations are sent directly to our State Quartermaster or any other Chairman, you will NOT get credit. Please ensure you receive credit by sending donations and reports to the appropriate Chairman for the current year.*** As was mentioned at the January CoA, too many reports are being sent to the wrong Comrade. Thank you Comrades for all you do for our fellow Veterans. ***SERVING THE PRESENT WHILE REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE PAST.***

HISTORIAN

Robert H. Bernard, PSC

Well, the good weather here in Florida continues as we enjoy above normal temperatures.

I know that the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen banquet has just ended which was hosted at the Winslow Post. I hope everyone that attended had a great time supporting those fine young people. I would like to "Thank" Tom Lussier and others that are sending me picture from the VOD/PP Banquet, by the time you read this report, I should have received them and have started to place them in the Commanders book.

If anyone took pictures during the Council meeting (presentations and awards), would you please send them to me? Thank you very much.

Once again, if any of you are planning to attend VFW events, please bring your camera, take pictures and forward them to me via e-mail or U.S. mail. It would be great to have them in the Commander's History Book. If you are unable to e-mail the information to me, you can always put the information on a disk and send it through the U.S. Mail, all my mail is forwarded to me here in Florida. If you want to send me information directly I have added my Florida address.

Robert H. Bernard, 78 Robie St., Gorham, ME 04038 or
Robert H. Bernard, 292 Lake Erie Dr., Mulberry, FL 33860 or
e-mail @ ***rbernard@maine.rr.com***

PS: Commander SanPedro, Adjutant Dumas, would either of you please keep the banquet program and the list of winners so I can enter those in your book, "Thank you."

"Thank you" to all that have sent in information.

HOMELESS VETERANS

VETERANS' CEMETERY SOUTH

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT (AUGUSTA)

James E. N. Bachelder, PSC/Chairman

Homeless Veterans: We conducted the Annual Point in Time (PIT) Survey and are waiting for the final numbers. The number of volunteers that were trained and helped this year was exceptional. The word is getting out and stakeholders are stepping up to ***locate*** our homeless citizens. The results from the past surveys helped us reduce the number of Homeless Veterans by 50% over the past 8 years. This year, the survey concentrated on our youth. The success we have had helping our Veterans guides us on how to reduce the number of youth who are homeless.

Our next program is the VA2K Walk and Roll to be held in May. The initial planning is just starting. A date has not been chosen yet. We do not know how many CBOCs will participate this year. We anticipate that Saco, Portland and Bangor will be involved. Maine has led the country in this program since it began. Let's make this year another success. This increases awareness of our homeless Veterans, increases donations of needed items and funding, and gets everyone walking. Watch for more updates.

The Homeless Veterans Networking Group is planning our next Stand-Down. The date is being researched. We have suggested the third Saturday in October. We hope to make this the annual date. The event planning timeline has been submitted to the group and will be adjusted and confirmed. This will make sure all the information needed for the Department of Labor (DOL) Grant is gathered and forwarded in a timely manner. It also makes sure the after-action report is made available for the DOL grant closeout after the Stand-Down.

At this time, we have all the services needed to help our Homeless Veterans. ***We just need help finding our homeless Veterans.*** This is what we are asking you to do.

Any Post that has the funding to help the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope complete the construction is asked to donate. This is the only facility for Homeless Female Veterans with children in Maine. It will house 7 Veterans and 7 children. Last year we documented 16 homeless female Veterans with the PIT survey. We know there is a need for this facility.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at james.bachelder@metrocast.net or call 432-7127 between 9 am to 9 pm.

Veterans' Cemetery South: We held our annual elections and we are keeping the same members in their previous offices, James Bachelder as Chairman, Dale Midgley as Vice Chairman, Ronald Rivard as Secretary and Joe Doiron as Treasurer.

It is quiet in the cemetery this time of the year. We removed all the WAA wreaths in mid-January. Now is the time to start raising funds for this December's WAA wreath. Read the report from the Wreath across America Chairman for the order instructions.

The POW/MIA memorial fundraising is moving along. We already have over 50% of the needed funding. We are submitting requests to all the cities/towns in our area for financial support. If your Post can hold a fundraiser for the memorial, we would be glad to attend and educate the donors.

This month, February, the State will be removing trees from phase 2 and 3 areas of the grounds and start developing those parts of the cemetery. We are looking forward to spring.

We meet on the second Thursday at 9:30 am at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery beginning in September.

**LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT & FINANCE (A&F)
Peter F. Miesburger, PSC/Chairman**

My Fellow Comrades: Again, I can't believe that we are in the second (2nd) month of the C/Y of 2017, where does the time go.

As I previously stated, we are in the second month of C/Y 2017, both the 115th Congress and the State of Maine 128th Legislature are both in their First Session along with newly elected President Trump. I am asking all of you to give both 115th Congress, 128th State of Maine Legislature along with President Trump at least ninety (90) days to see what action will be taken to support Veterans Issues. The State of Maine 128th Legislature will be in session until June 2017. I am asking all of you to reach out and meet one on one with your local members of the State of Maine 128th Legislature as well as members of the State of Maine, Congressional delegation.

I recently attended the Department of Maine, VFW midwinter Council meeting and annual VOD/PP banquet. I want to say to Department Commander Steve, "Job Well Done" conducting the Council meeting, along with National VFW Jr. Commander-In-Chief B.J. Lawrence, who gave a up-date briefing on the status

of the National VFW, again "Well Done" on the briefing. If you didn't attend the VOD/PP banquet, you don't know what you missed. This is one of the "Best" programs that the Department of Maine, VFW has to offer our students. My advice to all of you is to start making plans to attend next year's VOD/PP Program.

Again, don't forget our housebound Comrades and residents of local Nursing Homes. You don't know what a visit means to our Comrades until you see the "Smile" of their face when you visit with them. Another issue that I want to discuss is "Women Veterans", remember they wore the same uniform that we wore and are just as equal as we are. If by chance that you meet a "Women Veteran", take the time to explain the benefits to be a Member of the VFW, get the "Women Veterans" involved with your Post.

**MAINE OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (MOLD)
WREATH ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)
Kevin G. Woodward, Chairman**

WAA: As I stated at the COA meeting, this year's Wreaths across America program helped to remember and honor almost 1.2 million veterans at 1400 participating locations this year. Approximately 430,000 of these went to Arlington which allowed a wreath on every grave in Arlington. We in the Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars should be starting to obtain our sponsorships now. If we do this throughout the year, we should be able to obtain enough sponsorships to accomplish the goal to cover Arlington as well as our Veteran's graves here in Maine. Don't forget that this is also a method for the Department to obtain some additional funds to assist in our other important programs. I will be providing more information in future GO's as it becomes available.

MOLD: If any Post is interested in hosting the Maine Officers Leadership Development (MOLD), please let me know. The training will hopefully be in August again this year. Last year's training was extremely successful and it is highly recommended for all newly elected Officers to take advantage of the information provided to assist you in your duties. It is also good for those that have attended previously to take a refresher.

**NATIONAL HOME
Charles A. Warden, Chairman**

Comrades; because of my wife's health, I was unable to make the CoA meeting but understand \$148.00 was collected for the VFW National Home. I want to "Thank" all who donated.

I did a funeral for a Korean War Veteran and it was very well attended and also attended Post meeting.

For those Comrades who do not get the National Home newsletter, I want to pass on an article on **Get to Know Your National Home.**

For more than 92 years, the National Home has offered families the chance to heal and grow. The National Home for Children is open to families of active duty military personnel, Veterans and descendants' of members of the VFW and the Auxiliary. Eligible families may live in the National Home's community for up to 4 years, during which time they are provided a full system support and services.

Does this not motivate you to support the VFW National Home for Children??? The home is supported from our donations only. Let us make the National Home proud of the Department of Maine VFW for their support.

"Thank you" and God Bless

POW/MIA
John J. Bouchard, Chairman

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identification of remains of Missing in Action (MIA) since World War II, Korea and Vietnam and are returning home with full military honors.

>Navy Water Tender 1st Class Walter H. Sollie, 37, Myrtlewood, AL., Dec. 7, 1941, will be buried Jan 6, 2017 in Pensacola, FL;

>Army Maj Jack D. Griffiths, 31, San Diego, CA, 30 Nov 1950, will be buried Jan 11, 2017 in San Diego, CA;

>Mr. John D. Armstrong, former US Navy Reservist, was training with the Flying Tigers at Kyedaw Airfield, British Royal Air Force airfield outside of Toungoo, Burma in 1941, burial pending'

>Mr. Maxx C. Hammer Jr., American pilot training with the Flying Tigers to Battle Japanese forces invading China in 1941, killed on training mission, burial pending;

>Mr. Peter Atkinson, former US Army Air Corps Reservist, American pilot training with the Flying Tigers at Kyedaw Airfield outside of Toungoo Airfield in 1941, burial pending;

The following military personnel were killed during the attack of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Dec 7, 1931; Interments are pending:

>Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class E. Barncord, Kansas <> Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean, Massachusetts <> Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux, Louisiana <> Navy Fireman 3rd Class Glaydon I.C. Iverson, Minnesota <> Navy Coxswain Verne F. Knipp, Colorado <> Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Donald R. McCloud, West Virginia <> Navy Seaman 1st Class Camillus M. O'Grady, Kansas <> Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Francis J. Pitonyak; Pennsylvania, Interment services pending <> Army Pvt. Gene J. Appleby, Ohio;

The following military personnel military services are pending at this time:

>Army Cpl Luis P. Torres, Waushara, WI, Sept 1, 1950 <> Army Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg, Jefferson, AL; Nov 29, 1950 <> Army Pfc. Charles C. Follese, Koochiching, MN; Nov 30, 1950 <> Army Sgt 1st Class Eugene J. Colley, New Hanover, NC; Dec 2, 1950 <> Army Sgt Thomas E. Zimmer, Milwaukee, WI; Dec 6, 1950 <> Army Sgt Edward Saunders, Baltimore City, MD; Feb 11, 1951 <> Army Cpl Joseph N. Pelletier, Coos County, NH; Feb 11, 1951 <> Army Air Forces 2nd Lt John D. Mumford; June 6, 1944 <> Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt Sidney A. Cook; Nov 20, 1943 <> Marine Corps Cpl Walter G. Critchley; Nov 20, 1943 <> Marine Corps Reserve 2nd Lt Ernest Matthews; Nov 20, 1943 <> Marine Corps Pfc. James O. Whitehurst; Nov 20, 1943 <> Marine Corps Pfc. Larry R. Roberts, Nov 20, 1943 <> Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Charles E. Carlson, Dec 23, 1944 <> Army Air Forces 1st Lt William J. Gray; April 16, 1945 <> Army Sgt James W. Sharp, Dec 6, 1950 <> Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt William C> Ryan, May 11, 1969.

Every Post should have sent in a POW/MIA report by now. If not, do so; it's all about team work. We must remember that POW/MIA remembrance is every day, not just once a year. Also, the flying of the POW/MIA flags, Table for One or a Chair with the POW/MIA cover is also a daily happening, not just once a year.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT (AUGUSTA)
Adrian S. Cole, Chairman

Greetings Comrades: We had another strong month of work in the public relations realm. Keep up the good work getting the word out about what our organization does for the community. Remember to use **#VFWPostPride** when posting pictures of your community activities to social media.

I am currently tracking submissions of newspaper articles from Burlington 1605, Sanford 9935, Winslow 8835, Bath 7738, Topsham 2197, Washington 9437, Windham 10643, and Auburn 1603.

Ken Lambert, Commander of Post 7738, brought a CBO report to my attention that was released this month on ways to reduce the federal deficit. We should remember that it is the CBO's duty to analyze the

federal budget and determine the fiscal impact of all programs, so it is not a partisan issue or agenda item, but something that is being analyzed at some level. The report suggested eliminating concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation for Disabled Veterans effective January 2018. The report projected a savings in federal spending of \$139 billion between 2018 and 2026, and uses a rather simple analysis to make an easy target for legislators to pull the trigger on eliminating our earned benefits. What they fail to report is the negative economic impact felt by both the individual Veterans and communities who will see a decrease in spending when they are no longer able to put that money back into the economy, both factors that are irrelevant to their analysis of this problem. It is our duty to make this very relevant to our elected officials.

While the VFW has fought for full concurrent receipt, current legislation keeps us stuck on only a partial amount for medical retirees. ***I am asking each of you to write our Congressional Delegation and strongly voice your disagreement with any targeting of this benefit, and support for full concurrent receipt of benefits earned by our Veterans.*** Fixing the national deficit, largely incurred during the wars many of us served in should not come at the cost of the benefits of those who served. It is tantamount to having the cow pay for his steak dinner. I would suggest a war tax, but then the nation may know we are at war. Here is the link to the CBO report: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/2016/52177>

In comradeship.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
TOGUS BEAL HOUSE
Louis A. Peterson, PSC/Chairman

Togus Service Office: Did you know that our VFW Service Officers, C. James Ware, Chief SO and his assistant, Joan Bolduc scored in the low to high 80 to 90% in their Leadership Training Sessions & VA Knowledge Exams?

Also, that the VA has established a presumptive of Service Connections for Diseases connected with Camp LeJeune water supply for a minimum of 30 days between 1 August 1953 and 31 December 1957 to include a diagnosis:

Adult Leukemia >> Aplastic Anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes >> Bladder Cancer >> Kidney Cancer >> Liver Cancer >> Multiple Myelanoma >> Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma >> Parkinson's Disease.

If you suspect you have one of these ailments contact your PCP or VFW Service Officer NOW.

The Beal House: Don't forget - "Ci-Ci" is retiring "Soon"! We need someone to fill the position of an "In House Keeper". Please, keep your ears and eyes open and help us out!

Just to inform you that I, Louis A. Peterson, have been duly elected to fulfill the position of Vice President to the Board of Trustees of the Beal House, filling the vacancy left by the death of Joe. We also voted to accept Lois Tibbetts as a member of the board.

Respectively Submitted: Louis A. "Sandy" Peterson, PSC, VSO Chairman to the VFW and Vice President, Beal House Board of Directors!

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
Cornelius J. Ware, SO

Camp Lejeune Presumptive Conditions Rules: On January 13, 2017, VA published a ***Final Rule in the Federal Register***, establishing presumptive service connection for eight medical conditions for any of the Veterans, Reservists and Guard members who served at Camp LeJeune, N.C. (including Marine Corps Air Station New River) for 30 or more days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987. This

presumptive service connection is based on exposure to toxic chemicals present in the water on base during that time period. The medical conditions are:

Adult Leukemia >> Aplastic Anemia and other Myelodysplastic Syndromes >> Bladder Cancer >> Kidney Cancer >> Liver Cancer >> Multiple Myeloma >> Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Parkinson's Disease.

The effective date of the regulation will be March 14, 2017, so compensation and DIC claims will be able to be paid beginning on that date. Earlier claims that were denied must be re-opened in order to be considered under the new presumptive regulation. Dependents and civilians who lived or worked at Camp LeJeune are **NOT** entitled to any compensation for disabilities arising from toxic exposure at this time.

Administrative Time: The office has adjusted its Friday schedule to provide the staff admin time from **12:00 noon to 4:00 pm**. The office hours will remain Monday thru Thursday, 7:45 am to 4:00 pm and Friday 7:45 am to 12:00 noon for walk-ins. The staff will still be in the office during admin time and available for Veterans with emergency issues on a case by case basis.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY * PATRIOT'S PEN * TEACHER OF THE YEAR
CONVENTION 2017 * CONVENTION SITE SLECTION 2018
Ronald F. Smith, PSC**

Greetings Comrades: Another successful Awards Banquet to honor our students. For those who could not attend, here is the list of our Department winners:

Voice of Democracy

1st Place ~ Kiley Eckstein ~ Highview Christian ~ Dist 4 ~ Bangor Post 1761

2nd Place ~ Michaela F. Flanders ~ Marshland High School ~ Dist 11 ~ South Berwick Memorial Post 5744

3rd Place Maximillian B. Howard ~ Belfast Area High School ~ Dist 6 ~ Belfast Post 3108

Patriot's Pen

1st Place Gillian Skehan ~ All Saints Catholic School ~ Dist 4 ~ Bangor Post 1761

2nd Place ~ Abby Matsovich ~ Gray/Glauster Middle School ~ Dist 10 ~ Portland Post 6859

3rd Place ~ Edward Whitesell ~ Marshland Middle School ~ Dist 11 ~ South Berwick Memorial Post 5744

Congratulations to all District and Post Winners as well!!

The Teacher of the Year program sort of had a miscommunication factor. However, the program is going on. New dates for ToY are:

27 February >> To the Post

13 March >> To the District

25 March >> To the Department

This gives you all plenty of time to get your qualified Teacher in for the "Teacher of the Year". Make sure you check the "Chairmen's Guide" to ensure you have all the required documentation and supporting information to include a 5x7 photo.

Now is the time to start working on next year's program. The themes for next year are:

Voice of Democracy >> "American History - Our Hope For The Future"

Patriot's Pen >> "American's Gift To My Generation"

Participation was way down this year, so I'm asking you for your help in promoting the "***Veterans of Foreign Wars***" premiere program.

"Thank You" for all you do to promote the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary.

**WAYS & MEANS (W&M) * CREDENTIALS
Paul S. Colburn, Chairman**

W&M: Hello to my Comrades and Sisters of this great VFW. Hope all is well and you are all being safe. Please be very careful in all of this ice and snow and rain.

Now District and Post Commanders, you have received your tickets so please start promoting. Remember you can promote to anyone and please also ask your Auxiliary members to assist. The more we promote, the better the chance for winning big. Please fill my mailbox up with your checks and stubs. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 945-9850. My address again is 65 14th St., Bangor, ME 04401. Thank you for all you do.

Credentials: OK District and Post Commanders; it is just a few weeks away from elections. Please get your affairs in order so each and every Post will have a vote at our State Convention. Again, should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 945-9850. You can also email Cindy at **ccowling53@gmail.com**. Thank you all and please make sure all is in order, and if you need assistance, do not be afraid to ask for help,

DEPARTMENT SCOUTING
Michael K. Davis, Chairman

Scout of the Year: WHO CAN ENTER!

Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

Scouts must be 15 years of age and have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community.

Scouts must be enrolled in high school at the time of selection. Note: All applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

HOW TO ENTER! Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, community service record and letters of recommendation to a local VFW Post no later than March 1. **NOTE:** A Scout can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

Please go to the below web sites to find out all the many Scouting events that are ongoing.

Girl Scout Web Page: <http://gsusa.ebiz.uapps.net/vp/FamilyManagement/Activities.aspx?forward=1>

Boy Scout Web Page: <http://www.pinetreebsa.org/>

Scouting reports may be mailed to me at **135 Conant Ave., Auburn ME, 04210** or fill out the online activity reports and I will receive them.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Michael A. McInnis, Chairman

I recently was able to attend the January COA and the VOD/Patriot Pen Banquet. It was great to see all of the dedicated Youth from across our State show their Patriotism.

It is an important time for all of our Posts to get active in Youth Activities.

At the present time, only 50% of the Posts in the Department of Maine have reported Youth Activities.

Get your Posts active in supporting these young people and report your activities.



2016 <> 2017
97th STATE CONVENTION
Bangor, Maine



Ronald F. Smith, Chairman

Cindy Cowling – Chairperson * 653-9326

The 97th Annual Department of Maine VFW and 87th Auxiliary Convention will be held this year in the Bangor Motor Inn & Suites with **Norman N. Dow-Isaac E. Clewley Post 1761** of Bangor as the Host Post. Dates are: June 9-11 June 2017 and the Department Headquarters will be the **Bangor Motor Inn & Suites, 701 Hogan Rd., Bangor, ME @ 947-0355**. As in the past, all meetings, Memorial Service; the banquet and Council of Administration will be held at the Bangor Motor Inn & Suites.

“Motels & Rates”

Bangor Motor Inn & Suites (Headquarters Hotel) 701 Hogan Rd., Bangor, ME, **Tel: 947-0355**
Rates: \$72.00 + 7% Tax (King & Double) ** Cutoff date for Reservations – 30 April 2017 *

Other Hotels

Quality Inn * 750 Hogan Rd., Bangor, ME, Tel # 207-942-7899 * Rates: \$89.00 + tax
(Deadline for Reservations for the Quality Inn is 30 April 2017)

Country Inn * 936 Stillwater Ave, Bangor, Tel # 207-941-0200 * Rates: 109.00 + tax

Comfort Inn * 930 Stillwater Ave, Bangor, ME * Tel # 207-990-0888 * Rates: \$ 139.00 + tax

**** Please mention that you are with the “Department of Maine, VFW” ****



~~ 97th STATE CONVENTION ~~
Bangor, Maine
Convention Book Advertising Rates



Rates are for VFW and VFWA members advertising in the Convention Book

Back Cover - \$ 265.00

Inside Cover - \$ 210.00

Full Page - \$ 170.00

Half Page - \$ 115.00

1/4 Page - \$ 65.00

1/8 Page - \$ 45.00

Please send your advertisement copy in a **finalized format**
 Make check made payable to **“Department of Maine, VFW”**

Mail to: **Andre L. Dumas, Adjutant**
 64 Washburn St., B-1, Caribou, ME 04736-2125

All Advertising and monies must be received as soon as possible
“CUT OFF DATE IS APRIL 15, 2017”



97th State Convention
***** Pre-Convention Registration *****
VFW Department of Maine, VFW Convention
9 – 11 June 2017
Bangor Motor Inn & Suites
701 Hogan Rd., Bangor, ME
Pre-Registration Rates - \$ 5.00
Registration at Door - \$ 8.00

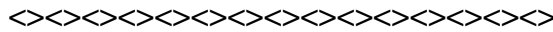
Come Celebrate the
97th Department of Maine VFW State Convention
&
87th Department of Maine Auxiliary State Convention

**** Pre-Registration Form ****
Please register the following members of Post/Auxiliary #: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 12. _____ |

Total Amount Due \$ 5.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Please Print clearly the name you will be using and Post @ Auxiliary Number

Deadline: 6 June 2017



Make Check Payable to: "Department of Maine, VFW"

Mail your Check to:
Cindy Cowling
108 14th St., Bangor, ME 04401

Any Question – Please Call:
Cindy Cowling @ 941-0807 or e-mail ccowling53@gmail.com



VFW BOOSTER ADS

*Each Booster Ad may have two (2) lines of copy
Each line limited to 27 characters or spaces (Maximum)*



Deadline: April 25, 2017

******* Print Name Clearly *******

1.	9.
2.	10.
3.	11.
4.	12.
5.	13.
6.	14.
7.	15.
8.	16.

Send all Booster Ads to:

***Andre L. Dumas, State Adjutant
Department of Maine, VFW
64 Washburn Street, B-1, Caribou, Maine 04736-2125***

**Make check in the amount of: \$ 3.00 per name
Make your check payable to: "Department of Maine, VFW"**

**"SERVING THE PRESENT WHILE REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE PAST"
STEVEN J. SANPEDRO, STATE COMMANDER**

DIVISION LEADERS <<>> January 30, 2017

>> LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR DEPARTMENT GROW <<

>>RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RECRUIT<<

>>RECRUIT – RETAIN – REINSTATE<<

DIV. I (10-50) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

DIV. IV (201-300) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

1. 9437 WASHINGTON	D-6	106.38%
2. 11191 NEWPORT	D-5	97.56%
3. 3095 FRIENDSHIP	D-6	96.77%

1. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	D-11	91.34%
2. 6977 YORK BEACH	D-11	90.90%
3. 1285 WATERVILLE	D-8	89.49%

DIV. II (51-100) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

DIV. V (301-450) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

1. 7529 ISLAND FALLS	D-2	100.00%
2. 4525 WALDOBORO	D-7	97.89%
3. 6187 FORT FAIRFIELD	D-1	97.80%

1. 8835 WINSLOW	D-8	92.38%
2. 9389 CARIBOU	D-1	92.15%
3. 1603 AUBURN	D-9	90.66%

DIV. III (101-200) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

DIV. VI (451-1000) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.

1. 1605 BURLINGTON	D-2	107.81%
2. 4154 MILLINOCKET	D-2	103.26%
3. 6924 FAIRFIELD	D-5	98.58%

1. 832 SOUTH PORTLAND	D-10	93.61%
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TEN HIGHEST POSTS BY %

TEN LARGEST POSTS

1. 1605 BURLINGTON	D-2	107.81%
2. 9437 WASHINGTON	D-6	106.38%
3. 4154 MILLINOCKET	D-2	103.26%
4. 7529 ISLAND FALLS	D-2	100.00%
5. 6924 FAIRFIELD	D-5	98.58%
6. 4525 WALDOBORO	D-7	97.89%
7. 6187 FORT FAIRFIELD	D-1	97.80%
8. 7738 BATH	D-7	97.59%
9. 11191 NEWPORT	D-5	97.56%
10. 10643 WINDHAM	D-10	97.40%

1. 832 SOUTH PORTLAND	D-10	454
2. 6859 PORTLAND	D-10	448
3. 1603 AUBURN	D-9	418
4. 9389 CARIBOU	D-1	395
5. 3335 JAY	D-9	364
6. 887 AUGUSTA	D-8	319
7. 8835 WINSLOW	D-8	315
8. 9935 SANFORD	D-11	300
9. 1285 WATERVILLE	D-8	295
10. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	D-11	289

DISTRICT STANDINGS

MAGIC NUMBERS FOR 2016-17

1. District 2 EWING	102.68%
2. District 7 SIONNI	97.17%
3. District 6 LITTLEFIELD Jr.	93.75%
4. District 10 DEMERS	91.67%
5. District 11 MCINNIS	90.01%
6. District 3 WOODWARD	89.65%
7. District 5 BEAULIEU	89.56%
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE	89.45%
8. District 1 BOUCHARD	88.16%
9. District 4 SLININGER	88.11%
10. District 9 DU FOUR	87.63%
11. District 8 CHOATE Jr.	85.31%

WE PICKED UP 51 MEMBERS FOR THE WEEK
WE HAVE = 7987 - WE NEED 942
ALL POSTS/DISTRICTS SHOULD NOW BE AT 90%
EVERY POST SHOULD NOW BE WORKING ON 100%
GET 5 N/R MEMBERS YOU EARN A GREEN BALL CAP
GET 10 N/R MEMBERS YOU EARN A WHITE VFW SHIRT

ALL DEPT OFFICERS ARE ASKED TO
RETAIN – RECRUIT & REINSTATE 3 MEMBERS
LETS ALL WORK AS A TEAM AND WORK TOGETHER
NEED HELP or HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT ME
OR ASK ANYONE ON THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM OK?

Maine as of Monday, January 30, 2017

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R	LM	Prior Annual	Retention
Maine	2599	1	107	0	0	23	130	181	71.82%	5		PRESQUE ISLE	ME	0		67	35.82%
Maine	6187	1	71	2	1	15	89	91	97.80%	7		FORT FAIRFIELD	ME	0		19	84.21%
Maine	9389	1	342	0	0	22	364	395	92.15%	2		CARIBOU	ME	0		48	47.92%
Maine	9609	1	82	0	0	26	108	125	86.40%	6		FORT KENT	ME	0		39	74.36%
Maine	9699	1	75	1	1	7	84	87	96.55%	8		ASHLAND	ME	0		9	66.67%
District Totals		1	677	3	2	93	775	879	88.16%					0			
Maine	1605	2	129	3	1	5	138	128	107.81%	6		BURLINGTON	ME	6		29	93.10%
Maine	2299	2	22	0	0	10	32	37	86.48%	10		SHERMAN STATION	ME	0		16	68.75%
Maine	4154	2	134	1	4	19	158	153	103.26%	5		MILLINOCKET	ME	0		23	65.22%
Maine	7529	2	44	0	0	10	54	54	100.00%	9		ISLAND FALLS	ME	0		10	100.00%
District Totals		2	329	4	5	44	382	372	102.68%					6			
Maine	9779	3	120	2	0	23	145	157	92.35%	5		CALAIS	ME	0		38	34.21%
Maine	11553	3	120	0	1	20	141	162	87.03%	5		HARRINGTON	ME	0		41	48.78%
District Totals		3	240	2	1	43	286	319	89.65%					0			
Maine	109	4	126	0	1	23	150	163	92.02%	5		ELLSWORTH	ME	0		40	62.50%
Maine	1761	4	175	1	0	39	215	248	86.69%	3		BANGOR	ME	0		68	55.88%
Maine	3381	4	222	1	0	25	248	282	87.94%	3		OLD TOWN	ME	0		51	49.02%
Maine	4527	4	22	0	0	7	29	35	82.85%	10		ORRINGTON	ME	0		11	63.64%
Maine	4633	4	95	1	0	18	114	130	87.69%	6		HAMPDEN	ME	0		36	55.56%
District Totals		4	640	3	1	112	756	858	88.11%					0			
Maine	4298	5	52	2	0	15	69	73	94.52%	8		DEXTER	ME	1		23	73.91%
Maine	5723	5	5	0	0	4	9	14	64.28%	10		JACKMAN	ME	0		10	40.00%
Maine	6924	5	121	1	0	17	139	141	98.58%	6		FAIRFIELD	ME	0		20	95.00%
Maine	7865	5	100	1	0	36	137	168	81.54%	5		MADISON-ANSON	ME	0		64	62.50%
Maine	7866	5	8	0	0	3	11	14	78.57%	10		NORRIDGEWOCK	ME	0		6	50.00%
Maine	10881	5	22	0	0	2	24	28	85.71%	10		FARMINGTON	ME	0		7	28.57%
Maine	11191	5	29	1	0	10	40	41	97.56%	10		NEWPORT	ME	0		12	83.33%
District Totals		5	337	5	0	87	429	479	89.56%					1			
Maine	3095	6	25	0	0	5	30	31	96.77%	10		FRIENDSHIP	ME	0		7	71.43%
Maine	3108	6	138	1	0	27	166	185	89.72%	4		BELFAST	ME	0		44	59.09%
Maine	4169	6	10	0	0	6	16	17	94.11%	10		VINALHAVEN	ME	0		7	85.71%
Maine	6131	6	53	0	0	15	68	72	94.44%	8		NORTHPORT	ME	0		20	75.00%
Maine	9437	6	36	0	0	14	50	47	106.38%	10		WASHINGTON	ME	0		14	100.00%
District Totals		6	262	1	0	67	330	352	93.75%					0			

Maine	2197	7	46	2	0	19	67	70	95.71%	8		TOPSHAM	ME	0	24	75.00%
Maine	4525	7	69	0	1	23	93	95	97.89%	7		WALDOBORO	ME	0	26	84.62%
Maine	7738	7	67	3	0	11	81	83	97.59%	8		BATH	ME	1	18	66.67%
District Totals		7	182	5	1	53	241	248	97.17%					1		
Maine	9	8	52	0	0	21	73	77	94.80%	8		GARDINER	ME	0	25	84.00%
Maine	887	8	191	6	0	39	236	319	73.98%	3		AUGUSTA	ME	0	122	34.43%
Maine	1285	8	253	0	0	11	264	295	89.49%	3		WATERVILLE	ME	0	33	27.27%
Maine	8835	8	260	4	0	27	291	315	92.38%	3		WINSLOW	ME	1	41	60.98%
Maine	9526	8	36	0	0	12	48	63	76.19%	9		WINTHROP	ME	0	27	37.04%
District Totals		8	792	10	0	110	912	1069	85.31%					1		
Maine	1603	9	310	4	10	55	379	418	90.66%	2		LEWISTON-AUBURN	ME	0	101	55.45%
Maine	1641	9	94	1	13	47	155	198	78.28%	4		RUMFORD	ME	0	101	52.48%
Maine	3335	9	268	5	0	46	319	364	87.63%	2		JAY	ME	0	86	58.14%
Maine	9150	9	69	0	0	14	83	96	86.45%	7		LEWISTON	ME	0	27	48.15%
Maine	9787	9	119	0	1	29	149	160	93.12%	5		SOUTH PARIS	ME	1	41	68.29%
Maine	11032	9	31	0	0	4	35	42	83.33%	10		GREENE	ME	0	9	55.56%
District Totals		9	891	10	24	195	1120	1278	87.63%					1		
Maine	832	10	370	0	0	55	425	454	93.61%	2		S PORTLAND	ME	0	75	73.33%
Maine	6783	10	37	0	0	10	47	50	94.00%	10		LOVELL	ME	0	11	81.82%
Maine	6859	10	300	10	4	79	393	448	87.72%	2		PORTLAND	ME	6	154	55.84%
Maine	9328	10	41	0	0	6	47	51	92.15%	9		HARRISON	ME	0	8	75.00%
Maine	10529	10	83	0	1	4	88	94	93.61%	7		YARMOUTH	ME	0	9	66.67%
Maine	10643	10	55	1	1	18	75	77	97.40%	8		WINDHAM	ME	0	21	85.71%
Maine	10879	10	12	1	0	11	24	26	92.30%	10		GORHAM	ME	0	13	84.62%
Maine	11362	10	30	0	0	5	35	37	94.59%	10		NAPLES	ME	0	5	100.00%
District Totals		10	928	12	6	188	1134	1237	91.67%					6		
Maine	5744	11	110	6	0	52	168	181	92.81%	5		SOUTH BERWICK	ME	0	66	80.30%
Maine	6548	11	20	0	0	1	21	29	72.41%	10		KENNEBUNK	ME	0	9	11.11%
Maine	6977	11	184	0	0	36	220	242	90.90%	4		YORK BEACH	ME	1	54	75.93%
Maine	7997	11	183	3	0	78	264	289	91.34%	3		OLD ORCHARD BEACH	ME	0	104	77.88%
Maine	9394	11	35	0	0	4	39	41	95.12%	10		KITTERY	ME	0	7	71.43%
Maine	9935	11	176	7	0	79	262	300	87.33%	3		SANFORD	ME	1	118	66.10%
District Totals		11	708	16	0	250	974	1082	90.01%					2		
Maine	15020	99	517	16	10	105	648	756	85.71%	1		AUBURN	ME	1		
District Totals		99	517	16	10	105	648	756	85.71%					1		
State Totals			6503	87	50	1347	7987	8929	89.45%					19		

