



Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars

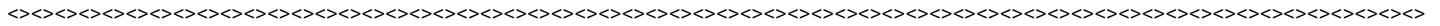


"Communication ~ Dedication ~ Service"

November 2020

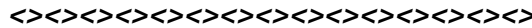
GENERAL ORDERS

No. 5



SPECIAL NOTICES <> SPECIAL NOTICES

"Happy Birthday to the Marine Corps for being 245 years old"
"Happy Thanksgiving to One and All"



1. Dates for Council of Administration Meeting and Testimonials: The following dates have been established for the year 2020-21.

- >16 January 2021 > CoA Meeting/ VoD-PP-ToY Banquet, Bangor, ME **(Cancelled due to Covid-19)**
- >24 April 2021 > CoA Meeting/State Commander Testimonial, Lewiston, ME
- >11-12 June 2021 > State Convention, Bangor, ME
- >13 June 2021 > CoA Meeting, Bangor, ME

2. Council of Administration: The CoA meeting to include and Audit & Finance and Service Office meetings will be held on 24 October via the zoom program. Please note the times for the following meetings:

- >**Finance and Audit** > 8:30 am (Zoom meeting – Cmtee members)
- >**VSO** > 9:30 am (Zoom meeting – Cmtee Members)
- >**CoA** > 11 am (Zoom meeting > Council members, Chairmen and members wishing to attend)

3. Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Banquet: Due to Covid-19 and guidelines as announced by the Maine CDC and State of Maine Governor Mills, the banquet for this coming January has been cancelled. At this time, we are working as to how all awards will be presented to the winners in all 3 programs and all District Commanders will be informed as to the awards presentation process. Rest assured that the programs are going full speed, please meet your deadlines as prescribed by our Chairman Anthony Kimble

4. Department Directories: Everyone has been asked to please the directory to make sur that the information listed in them is correct. Note that the information in the directory was derived from the election reports of both Post and Districts. Changes are to be notified to the Department Adjutant asap.

5. Checks Sent to Department of Maine: When forwarding checks to our State Quartermaster, please note that checks are to be made out to "Department of Maine, VFW" and in the memo line, note the name of program it is for.

6. State Convention Book Advertising: Consult Tele-Communications from Londonberry, NH is soliciting ads for our State Convention book throughout the State of Maine. Any business calling your Post respectively inquiring about the as solicitation, please inform them that they are the sole company that sells ads for the Department of Maine.

7. Section 220 of the National Bylaws: "Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members" states, "Any elected Post officer removed by the Department Commander, by reason of failure to pay current dues or by vote of the Post under the provisions of this section, shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office in the same administrative year in which the officer is removed." **NOTE: District Commanders are forwarded an update list of Unpaid Post Officers and are asked to contact their respective Post to ensure the officer affected pay his dues prior to his due date. For the month of November, we have 3 members and for the month of December, we have 20 members whose dues are due.**

8. National Commander-in-Chief Challenge: Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of November 2020.

During the month of November, we're challenging Posts to reach out to your communities and help grow our membership.

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each Division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between November 1st and November 30th will receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

We want our Posts to show that they're reaching out to the community via social media. If the top Post in the Division also shares this post from the office VFW Membership Facebook page (@VFWMembershipHQ) on their Posts Facebook page, they will receive an extra \$ 200.00 on top of the \$ 1,000 stipend!

We want to see our Posts reaching out through every available avenue, to show that we are an active and progressive organization that has **20/20 VISION FOR VETERANS!**

8. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."

9. Chain of Command: Whenever a Post has an issue, start with the Post to correct the problem, then if you must then go to the District Commander and then the Department Commander. 90% of the times, the problem can be corrected at the Post level.

10. Dates to Remember:

- 3 November > Election Day
- 11 November > Veterans Day
- 16 November > Thanksgiving Day
- 7 December > Pearl Harbor Day
- 25 December > Christmas Day

11. Candidates for Department High Office 2021-2022:

- 1 Department Commander > Herman L. Littlefield Jr. > Post 6131
- Department Sr. Vice Commander > Jennifer L. Lane > Post 1603
- Department Jr. Vice Commander > John J. Bouchard > Post 9389
- Department Quartermaster > David D. Williams > Post 1641
- Department Chaplain > Kevin G. Woodward > Post 11553
- Department Judge Advocate > Anthony R. Kimble > Post 3108
- Department Surgeon > Danford G. Saucier > Post 9389
- Department Surgeon > Teresa S. Drag > Post 9787
- Department Surgeon > Randolph S. Michaud > Post 2599
- Department Surgeon > Carl S. Lambert > Post 887
- Department Surgeon > Amy Hope Meuchel > Post 6859

12. Candidates for National Council Member, Maine 2021-2024:

Steven J. SanPedro > Post 6859
Andre L. Dumas > Post 9389
Kevin G. Woodward > Post 11553

13. District Meeting Dates:

D-9 > 1 Nov @ 1 pm, lunch @ noon > South Paris Post 9787 > Cmdr Davis
D-2 > 7 Nov @ 1 p > Burlington Post 1605 > Cmdr Davis
D-1 > 8 Nov @ 1 pm, noon lunch > Fort Fairfield Post 6187 > QM Williams
D-4 > 7 Nov @ 2 pm > Old Town Post 3381 > Adj Dumas
D-3 > 15 Nov @ 2 pm > Harrington Post 11553 > SVC Littlefield
D-11 > 15 Nov @ 2 pm > York Post 6977 > Cmdr Davis
D-10 > 6 Dec @ 1 pm > Fryeburg-Lovell Post 6783 > Cmdr Davis

14. Directory Changes:

Pg. 33 > Post 1605 > New email for QM Lawrence: wendysuemplawrence@yahoo.com
Pg. 51 > Post 9787 > Adj Mowatt new address: 11 Gates Hill Rd., W. Paris, ME 04289

BY COMMAND OF:

Michael "Keith" Davis

Michael "Keith" Davis
Commander

OFFICIAL:

Andre L. Dumas

Andre L. Dumas
Adjutant



State Commander
Michael "Keith" Davis



Greetings

The holidays are fast approaching as well as hunting season. Think safety. Bundle up when outdoors, layers if possible. Don't forget buddy checks throughout the holiday season. The holidays can be a sad time especially for those that are alone and hurting.

I am seeing good things happening throughout the State. Posts have found ways to make money and carry on food drives to help those in need. I recently attended District 8 meeting. Very good meeting, enjoyed the time listening to what all the Posts are doing. All Commanders for the Posts in the District were present. Bravo Zulu. For those that don't know what that is; Job well done.

VOD/Patriots Pen are due to the Post 1 November. If you are unable to meet the deadline, get with your Post and extend the deadline if necessary. The deadline to the Department remains the same.

We just completed our first zoom CoA. I thought it went very well. Just have one reminder. Remember that even though we are at home while doing these meetings, they are still official meetings. All rules apply that would apply if we were in person.

Commanders, If you have anyone become infected with Covid-19 at the Post, Canteen or cases with customers while renting your facilities, please notify Adjutant Dumas or myself. I do not want to find out the hard way (newspaper, TV, etc.) that a Post has been affected.

We are still working to put together a Zoom MOLD training session. Probably will be in December. Hunting season is here, I will be out of town for a week enjoying comradeship with my best friends and nature. If you have any topic, ideas, please send them to me or Kevin Woodward. Once the details are worked out, the Department Adjutant will put out more information.

If you would like me to attend an event at your Post or in your community, please notify the State Adjutant Andre Dumas as soon as possible. My schedule is starting to fill up for the year and I want to be at as many functions around the state as possible!

"Communication, Dedication, Service". Communication - Keeping the lines of communication open to our Veterans to keep them informed and keeping the lines of Communication open from our Veterans to get them what they need. Dedication and Service - Working tirelessly to get Veterans the help and services they need and deserve.

Michael "Keith" Davis

Michael "Keith" Davis
Commander

"Communication - Dedication - Service"

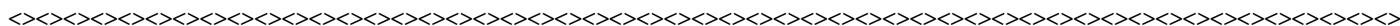


Deceased Roll Call



Department of Maine, VFW
Kevin G. Woodward, Chaplain
25 September ~ 24 October 2020

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



District 2

1605 > THURLOW, Grady L.
TILTON, Vaughn C.

District 4

1761 > XIRINACHS, Michael II

District 6

3095 > CUMMINGS, Robert A.

District 7

7738 > WILLIAMS, John R. Jr.

DISTRICT 9

1641 > MILLER, Roger
CROSS, Woodrow W.

3335 > HILTZ, Clayton G.

District 10

6859 > BRESLER, Arkady J.
GILLIS, Christopher R.
GOODIE, Richard B.

District 11

1744 > CHASE, Roland F.

Members-at-Large

15020 > LEET, Robert C.



**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
 COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT (CSP)
 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER - CENTRAL
 Herman L. Littlefield Jr.**



I have now received a total of 14 contributions to the Commander's Special Project, the Coronavirus emergency relief fund for Veterans. This fund was established by Commander Davis to aid our veterans who are experiencing undue hardship during the coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 cases are still on the rise in the State of Maine.

Please stay diligent with the safety protocols put in place by the Commander-in-Chief. Check on your neighbors and your local Veterans. Everyone could use an extra dose of friendliness during these trying times. Social distancing, wearing a face mask and washing your hands frequently will help see you safely through the pandemic.

Thank you to all Posts which have sent in a contribution thus far. Remember to make your check payable to **Dept of Maine, VFW** and put **CSP** on the memo line to ensure your post receives credit for their contribution.

I am available and willing to answer any questions you might have about the Commander's Special Project. I can be reached by phone at (home) 338-5052 or (cell) 207-322-1548. Please remember to send your check to me at **1360 Atlantic Highway, Northport, ME 04849**. Loyally

**QUARTERMASTER
 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, MAINE (NCM,M)
 BUDDY POPPY ~ INSURANCE & BONDS
 David D. Williams, PSC, QM**

QM: Don't look now but Winter is on its way fast and furious. I'm hoping everyone is staying safe and out of Harm's way.

Bonds: Bonds have slowed down there are still many Posts who have not got their bonds yet. Remember if you get them from another source, that is fine however you need to send this office a copy of it. Also, when you get your certificates, make sure I put the right amount of your bond on the certificate. I messed up with one so I went back and fixed it and Keith you will be receiving a new one. My apologies.

Audits: It gets old bringing that up every month but there are 4 Quarters a year and you must submit four (4) reports not all at once or when you feel like it. July, October, January and April that's when their due.

I would like to wish everyone a great Veterans Day Thanksgiving and don't forget to vote.

Until next month happy reporting.

NCM,M: Memo from CiC Hal Roesch. I would like to clarify our earlier communication concerning the Legislative Conference. Based on direction from Capitol Hill, we will not be allowed to make in-person visits to our representatives on the Hill as a result of the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Therefore, the 2021 in-person Legislative Conference and Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners is canceled.

We have been advised that I will be able to provide testimony before the Veterans Affairs Committee, but not with an audience of our members as is traditionally allowed. We are currently exploring all options to include a virtual testimony, a possible in person testimony with 3 or 4 support staff, a virtual committee meeting and all other possibilities to get our priorities and concerns heard.

This is a very fluid process and we'll keep you posted, concerning both events, as we determine the next course of action. Please continue to promote the programs.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
INSPECTIONS ~ POW/MIA
John J. Bouchard**

Inspections: Comrades: Hope everyone is safe and in good health. I know it is hard to go out in this epidemic to inspect the Post and District. Just go out there and be safe. With the change of weather, be careful out there. You are all doing good job, keep it up. On another note, District Commanders, if you change your Inspectors please notify me so that I know who will be inspecting your Post, also that the District inspector cannot inspect his/her own Post. Remember that all District Inspector respond to me as Inspectors.

By-Laws: Section 208 – Change of Name: A post may, after at least thirty (30) days written notice to the Department Commander and members of the post, change its name upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting. Upon recommendation of the Department Commander, an amended Charter will be issued by the Commander-in-Chief. No change may be affected until an amended Charter is issued.

A Post **shall not** change its name to the name of a living person, other than a living Medal of Honor recipient, only after written consent from the recipient has been received, nor adopt a name already adopted by another Post in good standing in the Department.

POW/MIA: Don't forget to send your reports on POW/MIA to get your Post credited. Credited is the POW/MIA chair, flying the POW/MIA flag, any functions dealing with POW/MIA. Returning home with full honors are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| >Air Force Maj. Paul A. Avolese | >Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Howard E. Miller |
| >Navy Electrician's Mate 3 rd Class Alton W. Whitson | >Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John P. Langan |
| >Army Sgt. Jesse "Johnnie" D. Hill | >Nary Fireman 1 st Class Louis J. Tushla |
| >Navy Hospital Apprentice 1 st Class John M. Mulick | >Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Jacob Cruz |
| >Army Cpl. Robert C. Agard Jr. | >Marine Pfc. Henry E. Ellis |
| >Marine Corps Cpl. Elmer E. Drefahl | >Navy Seaman 1 st Class Maurice V. Spangler |
| >Navy Fireman e2 nd Class Martin D. Young | >Army Air Forces 2 nd Lt Earl W. Smith |
| >Navy Seaman 2 nd Class James M. Flanagan | >Navy Seaman 2 nd Class D.T. Kyser |
| >Navy Fireman 3 rd Class William L. Barnett | >Navy Shipfitter 1 st Class Charles F. Perdue |
| >Navy Fireman 1 st Class Edward D. Johnson | >Navy Ship's Cook 1 st Class Rodger C. Butts |
| >Army Air Forces 2 nd Lt. Earl W. Smith | >Navy Seaman 2 nd Class James M. Flanagan |
| >Navy Seaman 2 nd Class D.T. Kyser | >Navy Fireman 3 rd Class William L. Barnett |
| >Navy Shipfitter 1 st Class Charles F. Perdue | >Navy Fireman 1 st Class Edward D. Johnson |
| >Navy Ship's Cook 1 st Class Rodger C. Butts | >Navy Fireman 1 st Class Howard D. Hodges |

**SURGEON
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ~ PATRIOT'S PEN ~ TEACHER OF THE YEAR
WAYS & MEANS
Anthony R. Kimble**

Good Day Comrades. Hope everyone enjoyed the changing of the leaves as I am sure they are all off the trees by now and the fun of raking them up has begun as we prepare for winter. I did see that some of Northern Maine has already had some snow already. Covid-19 continues to be a huge part of all of our lives and several towns are starting to see small outbreaks. Please continue to follow all social distancing, wearing your mask and washing your hands. We are strong willed and we need to stay positive we will get through this. I know it is extremely difficult but please stay safe and healthy.

Blood Bank: DONATE, DONATE, DONATE. Blood is always in need at the hospitals. The Red Cross are always having blood drives, so if you all can donate some Blood, that will make a lot of people happy.

Covid-19 Updates: Maine has entered **Stage 4** of its **Restarting Maine's Economy plan**, which includes guidance on winter capacity limits for businesses and strengthened measures on wearing cloth face coverings

to prevent the spread of Covid-19. With winter weather approaching, we must support businesses across the state as outdoor service becomes less viable and people move inside. This expanded capacity, along with continued health and safety precautions, is a prudent step forward that balances public health and economic health. These adjustments, however, should not lure us into a false sense of security. This virus is still very much with us all across the state and wearing a face covering, staying six feet apart, avoiding large gatherings, and washing our hands often is key to keeping Maine schools and businesses open and keeping Maine people healthy.

Safety: Get Your Flu Shot – Autumn is the start of flu season and doctors recommended everyone 6 months and older gets vaccinated against the flu.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen: I am going to keep this information each month, as we begin to get close to our November deadlines. Good luck and happy judging.

2020-2021 **Voice of Democracy** theme will be: *Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?*

2020-2021 **Patriot's Pen** theme will be: *What is Patriotism to Me?*

The new 2020-2021 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pens entry forms are now available on the Maine VFW website. Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below.

When judging your entries, be sure to follow the example in Nationals Judging Criteria. For the Voice of Democracy, "**OCD**", or **O**riginality, **C**ontent, and **D**elivery. For Patriot's Pen, look for **T**heme **K**nowledge, **T**heme **D**evelopment and **C**larity of **I**deas.

Dates to Remember:

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen:

1 November > All 1st Place School Winners due to the Post for Post Judging

15 November > All 1st Place Post Winners due to District for District Judging

1 December > All 1st Place District Winners due to Department for Final Judging

30 December > Completion of Department Judging

15 January > Department Winners to National (Complete Package)

Teacher of the Year:

1 November > Teacher Nominations Due to the Posts

15 November > Teacher package due to the District for Judging

1 December > Teacher Packages forwarded to Department for Final Judging

30 December > Completion of Department Judging

30 December > District Participation Reports due to Department Chairperson

NOTICE!!! Requirements for Teacher of the Year Entries

Completed Teacher VFW Entry Form

Nomination Letter (Up to 350 words)

Teacher Resume (1 page up to both sides)

Up to five (5) pages (both sides) of supporting documentation

A good quality head and shoulders Photo

Ways and Means: The tickets will be mailed shortly please keep an eye out for them. We are going to be going with the same prizes as last year, 1st Prize \$500, 2nd Prize \$250, 3rd Prize \$100.

CHAPLAIN

MAINE OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPOMENT (MOLD)

WREATH ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

Kevin G. Woodward, PSC

I would like to wish all comrades and their families a "Happy Thanksgiving"

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, this year it will be more difficult than most due to the Covid-19 virus that has impacted us extremely hard. As a result of this, it may not be possible to have large family

gatherings due to multiple reasons. That doesn't mean that we cannot be in touch with our family and friends. Email, texting, messenger, video chats are a good way to be in touch.

Another important day this month is Veterans Day.

A Prayer for Our Veterans

Oh God, Our Heavenly Father,
You have blessed us with
brave men and women
who are willing to defend our freedom.
May your protection and grace
surround them each day.
Let your healing hand be upon those
who suffer wounds and injuries.
May those who have made the
ultimate sacrifice rest forever in
Your Holy Presence.
Comfort the families who mourn
and are left to remember
the precious lives of their loved ones.
Help us to honor and support them.
Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made
on behalf of the American people by our
sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers,
fathers, and friends.
Amen.

WAA: Wreaths America Day December 19, 2020. The mission to ***Remember, Honor and Teach*** is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 2100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Please become a part of this mission to honor our fallen Comrades and help the Department with your sponsorships. As we draw close to the end of the year, I am in hopes that everyone will take some time and obtain some sponsorships for this important program. Due to Covid restrictions, this year's convoy will be like no other. Stops have had to be canceled or changed to meet requirements.

MOLD: This year's MOLD is still up in the air. Please stay tuned for future updates.

***IMMEDIATE PAST STATE COMMANDER
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - STATE CONVENTION 2021
Christopher L. Robison, IPSC***

Seems every time we think the VIRUS is starting to slow down and go away, it comes back fast. We are all trying to Get our jobs done the best we can but with the COVID-19 virus still around, it keeps fighting us.

Now I hear we are going to be canceling the VOD/PP Banquet with all the work being done by Chairman Anthony Kimble, it hurts. This is/has been a hard year so far but ***WE WON'T QUIT***. Keep working all our Programs and things will get better, at least I hope so.

***CHIEF OF STAFF
Arthur J. Roy, PSC***

Comrades, Hope everyone is staying safe and in good health.
Hopefully, this Virus crap will be gone soon as we all are tired of wearing masks and staying home.

Most of our Posts haven't income and are hurting but we must all work together and we will get back to where we can get things back to normal soon.

I see most Posts are working on Programs and trying hard to get their Membership moving forward. Calling members can work, so please keep calling when you can and many like to hear from us just to keep in touch.

We all like to hear from our Members and how they are doing or if they need any help. I run errands for some and even take some to appointments or anything I can do for them. Keeps me busy BUT I enjoy helping them. If I can help you give me a call, OK?

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY
Michael A. McInnis, Chairman

We now have 25 Posts & 3 Districts that have reported in Americanism and Loyalty Day. Please remember, report any/all programs completed either in person or on social media. Now that our Posts are starting to open for outside service, please complete any reports that you may now will be able to, show the good things the Veterans of Foreign Wars does every day. Remember, we just had POW/MIA & Patriots Day programs to report on, along with District and Post meetings and program. Keep up the great work.

Americanism: All Posts should be reported in Americanism. If you fly an American flag at home or at your Post, marched or participated in a Memorial Day Parade or program or placed flags on graves for Memorial Day. Please report any/all programs completed either in person or on social media.

Loyalty Day: All Posts should be reported in Loyalty Day. All Posts & Districts have held meetings. A Loyalty speech was sent to all the Posts. Many of you may not have held meetings, you can report if you participated by placing the Loyalty Day speech on your Social Media. Please report any/all programs completed either in person or on social media.

As stated in the last couple of months GO's, all reports for Americanism/Loyalty Day can be mailed to me at 15 Vines Road, Saco, ME 04072-1733. They can also be faxed to me @ 207-283-9357. If you submit your Community Activity Reports on-line at the Department of Maine website, I should receive them. If you do not receive credit, please contact me @ 207-590-6058 or at my email: qmvfw7997@yahoo.com

AUDIT & FINANCE
DEPARTMENT GRANTS
Alfred E. Michaud Sr., PSC

The Audit and Finance Committee will meet at the next COA or telecommunicate.

Grants:

Homeless Veterans Grant through the Department of Labor; no standdown due to COVID19.

Our **State of Maine VSO Grant** funds are on hold till gaming picks up.

Our **VA Transportation Grant** the **\$40,000.00** is being closed out for 2019-2020, new grant starts new date 1 November 2020.

Our **State Homeless Veterans Grant** will be zero this year due to COVID19.

CREDENTIALS
Samuel C. Flint, Chairman

Hello everyone. I hope this finds you and your families all well and healthy. Please keep in touch with not only your family but also friends, Veterans and neighbors. As you have on TV in the last few days, Maine Covid-19 is rising every day in high double digits, so please be very careful wherever you go, wear your mask, 6" apart. Stay Safe.

Now that we are moving forward with the new year under different circumstances, let us hope that we somewhat are able to get back to how we did business and have a State Convention in Bangor in June 2021. As you have been informed in the past, you must make sure that you complete all of your required programs to be able to vote at the state convention. I will keep you informed as time goes on to make sure that you do not miss voting at the State Convention.

Take care of yourselves, your family members and please check on your neighbors and Veterans.

HISTORIAN
STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA (SVA)
Amy H. Morse-Meuchel, Historian

Historian: Please email or mail me any articles or photos of activities your post are holding for Commander Davis' memory book. **Meuchelamyh@outlook.com**

SVA: Colleges and Universities are still happening online and on-site at campuses across Maine. Student seems to be getting tested often. There have been zero students that have reached out for assistance. All gatherings have been postponed or done through Zoom.

HOMELESS VETERANS
VETERANS CEMETERY SOUTH ~ ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE (Augusta)
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER (South)
James E.N. Bachelder, PSC

Homeless Veterans: Stand-Down: We would like to Thank the Council of Administration for their support of the multiple mini Stand-Downs spearheaded by the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services (MBVS). We also want to Thank Comrade Michaud for getting the Department of Labor grant moving as quickly as possible. And we also appreciate the ongoing support of the Operation Brotherhood (OB, Sr. Vice Commander Jennifer Lane) and their financial support. We may be able to purchase most of the normal items for the MBVS if the US Department of Labor accepts either of the 2 grant requests (Maine VFW and OB). The VA has ordered surplus supplies free of charge. By the time you are reading this, the November 3rd mini Stand-Down in Bangor will be over. The next 2 events are: Tuesday December 1st at the Lewiston Vet Center then the 8th at the Portland Vet Center. At this time, the events are from 10 am until 2 pm. More events will be as this develops.

Homeless Veterans Action Committee: A Co-Chair of the committee stepped down due to an employment change. The replacement is Clifford "Mike" Gray from Easterseals Maine in Bangor. The By-Name-List continues to show that we are finding more Homeless Veterans then we can house. During the 90-day period ending on October 6, 2020, we had 140 known homeless Veterans, 59 Veterans were found and 19 of them were housed. The causes are a lack of affordable housing, loss of employment due to Covid-19 and an influx of Veterans from across the country because of the low infection and death rate due to Covid-19.

We have had concerns about the VA involvement in solving the Homeless Veterans problem. We have data that shows since 2011, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has dropped by 43.3%. And since 2018, the number has dropped 2.1%. Go to the National Alliance to End Homelessness at **endhomelessness.org** and see the data.

This reduction in results can be directly connected to the government's change in priorities. What we are being told by our Legislator's representative is, "We give you the funding, so it's now your responsibility to solve the problem."

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: At this time; all future association meetings are canceled. The contractor that removed the plants in the WW I Memorial due to miscommunication will replant the memorial as it was

designed this spring. We are doing what we can to keep some red on display anyways. The 3 silhouettes of the Dough boys are restored and in place again.

The POW/MIA Memorial is looking nice with the grass ready for mowing. We still need around \$ 24,000 to purchase the remaining conflict tablets. Fundraising is ongoing. We thank the Deering Post 6859 for the \$100.00 donation we receive this month.

Stanley Road has the underlayment on the road. The final coat is on its way soon so no more construction damage in the road.

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.

Assistant Legislative Chairman (Augusta): We hope everyone had the time to vote. We are working with legislators from both sides of the isle to have support on future bill we hope to have in the next session.

HOSPITAL/VAVS

Michael W. Blair, Director

The total donations for the month of October 2020 was \$ 825.00 with \$ 550.00 is to be used by Hospital /VAVS as needed for Veterans. \$ 250.00 is for recreation for Bingo. The Rumford Clinic will receive \$25.00.

I would like to Thank Post #1641 Rumford, #6924 Fairfield, #6859 Portland and #10881 Farmington.

MEMBERSHIP

LEGISLATIVE ~ MAINE VETERAN'S HOMES (MVH)

Steven J. SanPedro, PSC/Chairman

Comrades: I hope this finds all of you in good health. Please contact your Post if you need help during this difficult time. We all need to stand together as we navigate through this time of constant change.

Legislation: I have heard back from most of Maine's Legislators and I am happy to say that they have committed to co-sponsoring the bills that we talked about last month. Something that is alarming is the VA has decided to completely outsource all of the VA claims exams. We finally have Veterans feeling comfortable enough to use the VA because they know what they are going through and now they will be going to anyone the VA contracts. This is not good for the Veteran. Plus, this will slow things down with more steps and let's not forget the many jobs at the VA that will be eliminated. I sent an email to all of our Legislators on 23 Oct 20 requesting them to look into this. I have heard back from all of them and they are looking into this. So more to follow on this issue.

Membership: Due to the pandemic, we will have to work hard and think outside of the box to be creative on getting our Membership signed back up. The Department is currently sitting at 83.87% with 6367 members which is an increase of 2.11% and 160 Members. We need 1224 Members to reach 100%. We have decreased our New Members by 25 and increased our Reinstated Members by 32 from this time last year. We are all recruiters and we must **Retain, Reinstate and Recruit** Members. We have 5 Posts that have completed a Recruiter Event and submitted the proper paperwork to me. Make sure you read and understand the 2020-2021 Membership Program. If you have any **questions on Membership please contact me at 207-894-5260 or email me at sanpedro105@roadrunner.com**

Maine Veterans Homes: The staff and Leadership are doing a great job to keep the Homes COVID free. This is very hard to do and requires very disciplined employees. They have had to change their life to ensure they don't do something off shift that will expose them to COVID-19. They cannot bring it back to the home because our patients are at a higher risk. Please remember to think and pray for our Veterans in these Homes. It has to be very difficult for them. The Augusta new home is still moving forward. I have a board meeting next week and I will find out what the new projected completion date will be. I want to Thank everyone at the Homes as they are truly living up to their motto of "**caring for those who served!**"

"COMMUNICATE - DEDICATION - SERVICE"

NATIONAL HOME

Melvyn E. Bates, Chairman

Happy thanksgiving and let's not forget the **VETERANS DAY** recognitions. Recently, our Veterans monthly magazine featured the National Home for children...combined with a great presentation on the VFW Cootie program...hopefully we have all taken the time to read and understand these articles. **IDENTIFICATION...** That is the real issue for us as supporters of the VFW as well as members. We as members have all taken a pledge to support our Veterans and families as well as teaching and relating our history to the children of our country. That is our **NUMBER ONE** priority. Working with community ideals is also important, but not to the point it takes away from our main **GOAL...**veteran and their families!!

I have been in communications with our National Home as they also have been in touch with me...we as a country and as Veteran organization have been put through a very tuff time period this year due to the Virus unleashed on the world by CCP. We have loss our ability to fund raise, have meetings and even have social gatherings not even considering the losses of family members and our own comrades to this biological intrusion.

So please, put aside your normal thought and donations and dig down and help our **OWN** National Home. It's not just for children...It's Families with children. Thanks respectfully.

NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT (NV&MS)

Christopher L. Armstrong, Chairman

Hello Comrades: I know we all have been dealing with Covid-19 and we can't get together in our usual way but we need to keep moving forward and checking in on our fellow Veterans, some are in need of our help.

With the Covid-19, there has not been a lot going on to raise money so the Donations are coming in slow but they are still coming in, so Thank you. We have raised so far \$750.00. We need to think outside the box at this time which I know isn't easy but I know we can do it. Stay safe and Healthy hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

SCOUTING

Randolph S. Michaud, Chairman

At this time, I have still only seen two (2) Posts that have done something for the Scouting community. It would be nice to see more Posts report on something that they have planned or are currently doing for their local Scout troops in their respective areas.

Remember, Halloween is approaching fast, please use your social distancing and provide the kids that may come to your home a safe Halloween. Thanks

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Cornelius J. Ware, SO

Phase II Service Office COVID-19 Procedures: As we continue to work through Phase II protocol at the R.O.; we are still observing the following practices, to continue to maintain the health and safety of our staff and the veterans we serve. (1) We will be seeing Veterans by appointment only no walk-ins at this time. (2) Masks must be worn during your visit; we have hand sanitizer available. (3) No more than 2 Veterans in the office at a time. (4) We sanitize our workstations and adjacent areas between visits and at the end of the

workday. (5) If we get an urgent walk-in request, we will try and accommodate with an appointment on that day if the schedule permits. To avoid conflicts and allow us to provide you with the best service possible, please call and make an appointment. You can reach us at the VFW Service Office phone number (207)623-5723. Email us at vfw.vbatog@va.gov. Once again, we Thank you for your patience and understand as we continue to conduct business with the health and safety of our staff and Veteran's as our primary concern during this Covid-19 pandemic.

NVS Proficiency Training: NVS training session for the ASDO was conducted virtually 13 through 27 October. The DSO has been available to assist Veterans during this timeframe.

Regional Office (R.O.) Phase II: During Phase II, the Veterans Service Center is seeing Veterans by appointment only. Togus public contact and VR&E can be reached at (207) 621-6938 for appointments. VA 's 1-800-827-1000 number, E-Benefits and VA. Gov are still good sources for information. You are also encouraged to contact your local VSO's for assistance.

Boots to Business Workshop: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is conducting a two-day workshop 11/03/20 and 11/04/20 through their Boots to Business program. To register for the program or to get more information, contact William Card at 207-751-7379 or William.card@va.gov.

Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) Hearings: The Appeals Management Team in Washington D.C. has scheduled BVA hearing for Togus in November and December for the following dates 11/02/20; 11/12/20; 11/24/20; 12/03/20 and 12/09/20. Our office has 13 Veterans tentatively scheduled for this quarter. These hearings will be held quarterly as VA works through the Appeals backlog.

ADVISORY TO VA MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
John Poulin, ASO

Very short meeting today and this will be a brief report Comrades. This is my 3rd Veterans Advisory to VA Maine Health care committee report.

>As of Wednesday Oct 14th, 2020, the VA Maine Operating Status is as follow

>Fulltime Masking continues for all campus locations.

>VFW office appointments are mandatory to see VFW Service Officers

>Upon entry to facility access points, all persons will be instructed to hand sanitize with alcohol-based hand sanitizer and take one mask to be utilized for their day.

>Staff will always maintain their mask, except for hydration/nutrition and/or in an office location by themselves.

>Social distancing must always still be maintained.

>Hand hygiene before and after touching outside of mask.

Testing Locations: Drive-up, appointment only testing through Primary Care is available on the Togus campus. Due to limited test availability, testing is not currently available at the CBOCs. If/when testing kits become available, we plan to expand testing capabilities to the Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor CBOCs.

Recent Covid outbreak on Maine VA Campuses: There has been an outbreak of 5 cases at Maine VA campuses. Four at the Maine Campus at Togus, and One at the Bangor CBOC. No patients were infected and all staff who tested positive are quarantined to home until full recovery.

Voluntary Antibody Testing has begun for all employees

VA Homeless Stand-Down: Will not happen this year. Perhaps after Phase II, Veterans Stand-down will be combined with annual open house. Please note this was a suggestion and not bound in cement.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings: Will begin next Fiscal Year. Fisher House Grand Opening festivities will be decided at later date due to prevent overcrowding in keeping with Covid-19 guidelines.

Togus is Preparing for a Covid Resurge Outbreak as is the whole National VA System: Some medical providers are seeing patient face to face but this is at their discretion. Contact your provider to see if your appointment is by phone or in the office.

This is a lot of information to digest Comrades, but the bottom line is these precautions are put in place to protect everyone. It's a "Better Safe than Sorry" approach. I am choosing to view the future with hope. Hope

that this will pass quickly, and we can move forward. "Let perseverance be your engine and hope your fuel."
H. Jackson Brown Jr. Be good to yourselves and be good to each other. Respectfully submitted.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Thomas R. Lussier, PSC

The Department Website is in good working order. The VoD & PP themes for 2020-2021 are posted on the site to include all student entry forms and the Department 2020-2021 directory has been updated. I'm in the process of developing a new and exciting website in the near future.

Please ensure any directory changes are sent to the Department Adjutant. Also, if you have any photos of Department events, please forward to me. The website includes a Department photo gallery that I would like to keep updated and I always would like to see more guestbook entrees.

Comrades, the Department website contains an incredible amount of information designed to make everyone's job more helpful. 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!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
James A. Proctor, Chairman

3, 2, 1 Liftoff: Girls from troop 1651 enjoyed a full day of stem activities at the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor. Girls explored different types of space activities needed during types of space activities needed during space exploration, such as engineering, biological life, health and fitness in space, analyzing and maintaining proper levels of atmospheric gasses, utilizing robotic arms to preform activities. Planning nutritious balanced meals for astronauts and learning about the effects of an anti-gravity environment. Each girls was then assigned an important job to carry out on a space mission. Girls were partnered, one performing the functions in the control center one earth while the other was carrying out the mission in space. They utilized electronic communication to inform each other about the status on their jobs while working as a team to ensure safety. During the space mission, the girls worked through a dangerously low oxygen level that occurred while the astronauts were in the middle of the mission, but thankfully all the engineers and astronauts worked together and everyone made it back safely. The girls learned a lot about integrating science, technology, engineering and math while having a "blast" in space.

DEPT @ 84.53% - Need 1174 For 100% (15+)
Department Statistics

Maine as of Monday November 2, 2020

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2599	1	94	0	0	6	100	160	62.50%	-60	PRESQUE ISLE	0
6187	1	54	0	0	13	67	82	81.70%	-15	FORT FAIRFIELD	0
9389	1	357	0	0	33	390	481	81.08%	-91	CARIBOU	0
9699	1	63	0	0	8	71	79	89.87%	-8	ASHLAND	0
District Total	1	568	0	0	60	628	802	78.30%	-174		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1605	2	119	1	0	2	122	132	92.42%	-10	BURLINGTON	1
7529	2	58	0	0	7	65	82	79.26%	-17	ISLAND FALLS	0
District Total	2	177	1	0	9	187	214	87.38%	-27		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9779	3	103	0	0	13	116	136	85.29%	-20	CALAIS	0
11553	3	102	0	0	12	114	139	82.01%	-25	HARRINGTON	1
District Total	3	205	0	0	25	230	275	83.63%	-45		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
109	4	116	3	0	18	137	176	77.84%	-39	ELLSWORTH	0
1761	4	170	1	0	19	190	244	77.86%	-54	BANGOR	0
3381	4	157	0	1	16	174	209	83.25%	-35	OLD TOWN	0
4633	4	96	1	0	4	101	111	90.99%	-10	HAMPDEN	0
District Total	4	539	5	1	57	602	740	81.35%	-138		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
4298	5	51	0	0	11	62	74	83.78%	-12	DEXTER	0
5723	5	5	0	0	6	11	15	73.33%	-4	JACKMAN	0
6924	5	96	0	0	3	99	121	81.81%	-22	FAIRFIELD	2
7865	5	100	0	0	11	111	131	84.73%	-20	MADISON-ANSON	0
7866	5	8	0	0	0	8	13	61.53%	-5	NORRIDGEWOCK	0
10881	5	20	0	0	4	24	24	100.00%	0	FARMINGTON	0
11191	5	21	0	0	4	25	35	71.42%	-10	NEWPORT	0
District Total	5	301	0	0	39	340	413	82.32%	-73		2

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
3095	6	12	0	0	2	14	19	73.68%	-5	FRIENDSHIP	0
3108	6	115	0	1	13	129	168	76.78%	-39	BELFAST	1
4169	6	9	0	0	1	10	14	71.42%	-4	VINALHAVEN	0
6131	6	48	0	0	15	63	76	82.89%	-13	NORTHPORT	0
9437	6	39	1	0	2	42	50	84.00%	-8	WASHINGTON	0
District Total	6	223	1	1	33	258	327	78.89%	-69		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2197	7	55	1	0	12	68	79	86.07%	-11	TOPSHAM	0
4525	7	54	0	0	9	63	76	82.89%	-13	WALDOBORO	0
7738	7	56	1	1	1	59	70	84.28%	-11	BATH	0
District Total	7	165	2	1	22	190	225	84.44%	-35		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9	8	38	0	0	9	47	59	79.66%	-12	GARDINER	0
887	8	192	0	0	25	217	264	82.19%	-47	AUGUSTA	0
1285	8	221	0	0	6	227	248	91.53%	-21	WATERVILLE	0
8835	8	236	1	0	12	249	272	91.54%	-23	WINSLOW	1
9526	8	33	0	0	5	38	43	88.37%	-5	WINTHROP	0
District Total	8	720	1	0	57	778	886	87.81%	-108		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1603	9	282	0	21	20	323	359	89.97%	-36	LEWISTON-AUBURN	0
1641	9	61	0	10	12	83	144	57.63%	-61	RUMFORD	0
3335	9	210	0	0	18	228	254	89.76%	-26	JAY	0
9150	9	62	0	0	5	67	80	83.75%	-13	LEWISTON	0
9787	9	103	1	0	14	118	146	80.82%	-28	SOUTH PARIS	0
District Total	9	718	1	31	69	819	983	83.31%	-164		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
6783	10	35	0	0	1	36	45	80.00%	-9	LOVELL	0
6859	10	298	0	0	33	331	396	83.58%	-65	PORTLAND	0
9328	10	36	0	0	2	38	41	92.68%	-3	HARRISON	0
10529	10	75	0	0	1	76	78	97.43%	-2	YARMOUTH	0
10643	10	47	1	0	14	62	75	82.66%	-13	WINDHAM	0
10879	10	275	2	0	11	288	338	85.20%	-50	GORHAM	0
11362	10	30	0	0	2	32	35	91.42%	-3	NAPLES	0
District	10	796	3	0	64	863	1008	85.61%	-145		0

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
5744	11	107	0	0	12	119	156	76.28%	-37	SOUTH BERWICK	0
6977	11	169	0	1	8	178	199	89.44%	-21	YORK BEACH	1
7997	11	163	2	0	41	206	234	88.03%	-28	OLD ORCHARD BEACH	0
9394	11	46	0	0	6	52	59	88.13%	-7	KITTERY	0
9935	11	161	5	7	131	304	294	103.40%	+10	SANFORD	1
District Total	11	646	7	8	198	859	942	91.18%	-83		2
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
15020	99	580	6	17	60	663	776	85.43%	-113	RUMFORD	2
District Total	99	580	6	17	60	663	776	85.43%	-113	QM'S HOUSE	2
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
State Total	0	5638	27	59	693	6417	7591	84.53%	-1174		10



EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED TO BRING THE DEPARTMENT TO 100%

THIS 2020 – 2021 YEAR - WILL YOU HELP?

“COMMUNICATE – DEDICATION - SERVICE ”

“RETAIN-REINSTATE-RECRUIT”

**"COMMUNICATION – DEDICATION - SERVICE"
MICHAEL "KEITH" DAVIS, STATE COMMANDER**

DIVISION LEADERS <<>> NOVEMBER 2, 2020

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

DIV. I (10-50) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.		DIV. IV (201-300) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.	
1. 10881 FARMINGTON	100.00%	1. 9935 SANFORD	103.40%
2. 9328 HARRISON	92.68%	2. 1285 WATERVILLE	91.53%
3. 11362 NAPLES	91.42%	3. 8835 WINSLOW	91.54%
DIV. II (51-100) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.		DIV. V (301-400) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.	
1. 10529 YARMOUTH	97.43%	1. 1603 AUBURN	89.97%
2. 9699 ASHLAND	89.87%	2. 10879 GORHAM	85.20%
3. 9394 KITTEERY	88.13%	3. 6859 PORTLAND	83.58%
DIV. III (101-200) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.		DIV. VI (401- HIGHER) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.	
1. 1605 BURLINGTON	92.42%	1. 9389 CARIBOU	81.08%
2. 4633 HAMPDEN	90.99%	2.	
3. 6977 YORK	89.44%	3.	

TEN HIGHEST POSTS BY %		TEN LARGEST POSTS	
1. 9935 SANFORD	103.06%	1. 9389 CARIBOU	390
2. 10881 FARMINGTON	100.00%	2. 6859 PORTLAND	331
3. 10529 YARMOUTH	97.43%	3. 1603 AUBURN	323
4. 9328 HARRISON	92.68%	4. 9935 SANFORD	304
5. 1605 BURLINGTON	92.42%	5. 10879 GORHAM	288
6. 8835 WINSLOW	91.54%	6. 8835 WINSLOW	249
7. 1285 WATERVILLE	91.53%	7. 3335 JAY	228
8. 11362 NAPLES	91.42%	8. 1285 WATERVILLE	227
9. 4633 HAMPDEN	90.99%	9. 887 AUGUSTA	217
10. 1603 AUBURN	89.97%	10. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	206

DISTRICT STANDINGS		MAGIC NUMBERS FOR 2020-2021	
1. District 11 DAY	91.18%	WE HAVE = 6417 – WE NEED 1174	
2. District 8 LAMBERT	87.81%	ALL POSTS/DISTRICTS SHOULD BE AT 100%	
3. District 2 EWING	87.38%		
4. District 10 GOODMAN	85.61%	5 N/R MEMBERS & EARN A BLUE BALL CAP	
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE, VFW	84.53%	10 N/R MEMBERS & EARN A WHITE VFW SHIRT	
5. District 7 STEVENS	84.44%	ALL DEPT OFFICERS ARE ASKED TO RECRUIT	
6. District 3 SIVRET	83.63%	LET'S ALL WORK AS A TEAM AND	
7. District 9 DRAG	83.31%	RETAIN – RECRUIT & REINSTATE 3 MEMBERS?	
8. District 5 TWEEDIE	82.32%	NEED HELP or HAVE QUESTIONS	
9. District 4 SULLIVAN	81.35%	ASK ANYONE ON THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM OK?	
10. District 6 ARMSTRONG	78.89%		
11. District 1 SAUCIER	78.30%		

