



Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars

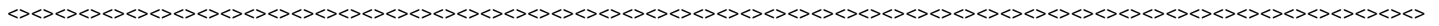


"Communication ~ Dedication ~ Service"

September 2020

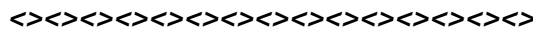
GENERAL ORDERS

No. 3



SPECIAL NOTICES <> SPECIAL NOTICES

Happy Birthday to the United Air Force "73 Years Old"



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
- >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. More information will be forwarded to everyone in the near future as plans are finally finalized. We will also inform all CoA members and Chairman on the use of zoom in the near future as we are well aware that some of our members who may have never used the Zoom program.

3. Mailing of Annual Information to all Posts & Districts Commanders, Department Chairperson, Department Officers and PSCs: Information was mailed to all of the District and Post Commanders, Chairmen and Past State Commanders. Commanders are asked to make sure that information is distributed to your respective chairmen as much information was forwarded to you all.

4. Department Directories: Were mailed to all along with the annual mailing of information. Please note that the information derived for the directory was obtained from the election reports as filed by all of the Posts and Districts in the Department. Upon receipt of the directories, please make sure that the information is correct, any errors, please email the correct information to the State Adjutant office.

5. Community Activities Reporting: Reports can be completed via the Department website which once sent out is received by all respective Chairpersons. You can email it to Chmn Christopher Robison 15 E. Bucksport Rd., Orrington, ME 04474 or email at clrobison1981@yahoo.com. We are well aware that all Posts are doing tremendous community activities within their communities and Posts, but on many occasions are not being reported. **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.**

6. District Commanders: Your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedure which states that each Post shall be inspected at least once during the year. Make sure that all of your Posts in your District are inspected and report them in a timely manner to **Inspector John J. Bouchard, 102 Highland Ave, Fort Kent, ME 04743-1467.** A reminder that District inspector cannot inspect his/her own Post as per

Department by-laws, District Commander will either conduct the inspection himself and/or appoint another individual.

7. District Commanders: Are reminded that District minutes must be forwarded to the State Adjutant within 7 days of the District meeting.

8. September 11th, Patriot's Day: As per the proclamation of the President of the United States, the United States flag will be flown at half staff from sunset to sundown. A moment of silence will be observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day.

9. POW/MIA Recognition Day: Will be observed on September 18th known as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Posts shall conduct a ceremony which can be found in the Manual of Procedure and a speech will be emailed to all of the Posts by the State Adjutant office.

10 Attention of commanders at all levels: Is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

11. Posts Commanders: Are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

12. 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."

13. Change of Post and District Officers: All District and Post Commanders are reminded that whenever there is a change of Officer(s) within the Post or District that they need to notify the State Adjutant Office asap so that the Department directory can be updated accordingly and the information disseminated to all in the General Orders.

14. District Officers: Article IV – Districts, Section 416, District officers elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders and District Junior Vice Commanders **shall submit proof of eligibility** to the Department Adjutant.

15. 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.

16. Dates to Remember:

7 September > Labor Day

11 September > Patriots Day

3 November > Election Day

11 November > Veterans Day

17. Candidates for Department High Office 2021-2022:

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

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

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

19. District Meeting Dates:

D-3 > 16 Aug @ 2 pm > Calais Post 9779 > Adj Dumas
D-5 > 16 Aug @ 1 pm > Madison Post 7865 > QM Williams
D-7 > 30 Aug @ 2 pm > Waldoboro Post 4525 > SVC Littlefield
D-1 > 20 Sep @ 1 pm > Ashland Post 9699 (lunch @ 12 noon) > Cmdr Davis
D-10 > 20 Sep @ 1 pm > Portland Post 6859 > SVC Littlefield
D-5 > 27 Sep @ 1 pm > Jackman Post 5723 > Cmdr Davis
D-11 > 27 Sep @ 2 pm > Old Orchard Beach Post 7997 > JVC Lane
D-6 > 18 Oct @ 1 pm > Washington Post 9437 > SG Kimble
D-8 > 18 Oct @ 12 noon > Winslow Post 8835 > Cmdr Davis

20. Directory Changes: Will be published effective the October General Orders.

BY COMMAND OF:

Michael "Keith" Davis

Michael "Keith" Davis
Commander

OFFICIAL:

Andre L. Dumas

Andre L. Dumas
Adjutant



State Commander
Michael "Keith" Davis



Greetings:

This past month has flown by. I hope everyone is doing good and finding ways to be productive and have fun during this pandemic. We are working on having a ZOOM CoA with some Officers meeting in one place. Hopefully more to follow on the subject in September. We are also working on ZOOM MOLD school, hoping to make that happen in November.

Below is an excerpt from the National Commander General Order #1. This was sent out via email a few weeks back. Since becoming Department Commander, I have seen several problems in the Posts with people harassing/abusing/threatening others. This cannot and will not be tolerated.

The Department of Maine will conform to the National Organizational guidelines established in General Orders #1 2020-21, paragraphs 2 & 3:

"2. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles .

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship, we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

3. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect."

The State Commander's position supports National's call for equality. The State Commander also extends disciplinary action, based on the Commander-in-Chief's general order, to any member of the organization who knowingly or willingly denies a member or potential member the rights and privileges of our fraternal organization based on their campaign/conflict association. Discrimination at any and all

"Communication - Dedication - Service"

levels will not be tolerated in this Department. Anyone found in violation of these directives will be subject to Article IX hearings that could result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Code of Ethics was just emailed to all Department Officers, Committee chairman. I suggest this be forwarded to post Officers as well. Everyone needs to be onboard with the Code of ethics.

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.

Yours In Comradeship

Michael “Keith” Davis

Michael "Keith" Davis
Commander

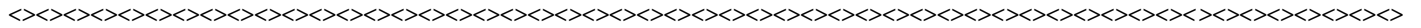


Deceased Roll Call



*Department of Maine, VFW
Kevin G. Woodward, Chaplain
25 July ~ 24 August 2020*

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



District 4

1761 > Cross, Woodrow W.

3381 > Hodgkins, James
Osborne, Paul H.

District 5

6924 > Pooler, David D.

District 10

10643 > Bourke, Stanley R.

10879 > Wing, David A.

District 11

9935 > Roy, Joseph R.



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



Greetings to all: By the time you are reading these GOs, the rather warm and humid month of August will be over and September with us and beginning the enticement of fall. The relief from the exceptionally warm heat this summer will be nice but thinking about what comes next is not entirely pleasant. I hope all is well for you and your families. Please check on the other Veterans around your neighborhood and town.

I have had three (3) donations for the Commander's Special Project thus far. This is a reminder that Commander Davis' Special Project is the "**Coronavirus Fund for Veterans.**" All donations will be made available to Veterans who request assistance during this Coronavirus pandemic. Remember that we are all in this together---and together we shall overcome.

Please make your donation checks payable to "**Department of Maine, VFW**" and be sure to enter "**CSP**" in the memo line. Your checks should be mailed to myself at 1360 Atlantic Highway, Northport, ME 04849. Thank you in advance for supporting your fellow veterans in this unexpected time of need.

Please still practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently and wear a mask for your protection as well as the protection of others with whom you come in contact.

Loyally, Herman L. Littlefield Jr.; herman.littlefield@yahoo.com, Tel 338-5052 (home) or 322-1548 (cell).

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE (VSO)
 BEALS HOSPITALITY HOUSE ~ PUBLIC RELATONS
 Jennifer L. Lane**

I hope this edition of the World-Famous GO's find you well and hydrated. Seemed to be an odd week, looking at old photos of the past several years of National Conventions and not seeing our Comrades in person at what was slated to be another great time in Reno. As per Commander Davis , we are looking at doing the CoA meeting via zoom and will inform you all as we come closer to the time and date. I hope everyone has been enjoying their time and hope that everyone has been accomplishing great things. I am still very involved working with the VFW, Operation Brotherhood and Patriot Riders of America assisting our Posts, Veterans and families. Never a dull moment when the phone rings. COVID 2020 has really changed the way we conduct business in all aspects of our lives, and it seems these changes are going to be with us for the next few years. Keep the faith and continue what you do for our veterans and their families.

Public Relations: We would really appreciate to see some articles and information published in print. We rely on social media to communicate these days that I am not sure that we realize that people still read the newspaper. A lot of great work being done by all of our and the Posts and too many times, we do not advertise in our local papers and let the community the great work we do what we do. Let's work on that this year by starting today.

Beals House: The house is still up and running, but with limited guests due to the restriction at VA Maine Healthcare system. Please keep the house in your thoughts. Go get 'em.

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

QM: Can you believe the summer is all but over? How times flies by when you're staying safe from the Virus. I hope everyone is in good health and staying safe.

Quarterly Reports: The 4th Quarter ended June 30 and there are still many Posts and Districts who have not submitted their reports. I understand some Posts may not be able to hold meetings as normal, but you need to send me in the reports signed or not then get the signatures when possible and send me a signed copy. Until this pandemic is over, we must accept a few changes to the way we do things. Also, if you are one of the people (many) who bring your reports to the CoA, then you're really going to be late as the October meeting has been cancelled and the next one is not scheduled until January 2021. So please get them in as soon as possible after the close of each Quarter.

Poppies: Very few Posts have ordered poppies to date. Remember, there is a 5 poppy per member for **All State Qualifications**. Also, if your Post would like to order special poppies for anniversary's, you may do so through the Emblem & Supply store.

Bonding: This is the last month as all bonds expire so you need to renew them as soon as possible. Remember, the Bond needs to be at least equal to the amount of funds your Post has, so if your Post has 25,000.00, then the bond needs to be at least that amount. A lot of Posts get their Bonds from their insurance companies which is fine, you just need to send me a copy for my files.

Everyone has a great month and let's help make our State Commander 100%, so get out there and recruit. Could you imagine if every member in the State of Maine recruited one new member, we would double in size. I'm willing to bet that everyone who reads this GOs knows of 1 person who is eligible to join our great organization. **HAPPY LABOR DAY.**

NCM,M: I hope these GO's finds everyone in good Health and Spirits.

The VFW held its 1st National CoA and meeting via the web with Zoom, unfortunately I was unable to attend due to the fact I was in or getting out of the Hospital recovering from a surgery I had on August 20. Everything is good and I am back to business as always.

I want to remind everyone that the Community Grants come out on September 1st so it's a great way for your post to get \$1000.00 for a community event.

I will have more to report on next month from what took place at the meetings held Aug 21-23. But I do know that they will be having the VOD Parade of winners as usual in Washington D.C. We just need to hope that Covid-19 is under control by then.

Have a great Labor Day weekend and talk to you all next month.

Memo dtd 27 Aug 20 from Kevin Jones, Adjutant General: All: We are experiencing delays in the production of Buddy® Poppies. COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the assembly facilities, resulting in a low supply of fully assembled poppies. Please continue to submit your orders while we actively work toward fulfilling your requests. All orders will be processed in the order in which they are received, but fulfillment may be significantly delayed.

This is a difficult time for everyone and we're working hard to adapt to this new reality. Please watch for further updates, and feel free to send inquiries to our program administrators at buddypoppy@vfw.org. We appreciate your patience and will do our best to ship your orders as quickly as possible.

Respectfully, Kevin Jones, Adjutant General.

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

Inspections: Hope you are all in good health. Well, it is that time of year to get your District and Posts inspected. BE safe, wear a mask. Please remember that the District Inspector cannot inspect his/her own Post, thus the District Commander must appoint another individual to do the inspection. **Due to the Coronavirus and uncertainty of people traveling, I have extended for this year the deadline to 28 February 2021 for inspections to be completed.** So go out there and be safe. "Smile, God Loves You".

By-Laws:

Section 220 – Vacancies and Removal of Elected Offices or Committee Members.

Vacancies: all vacancies occurring in the elected offices of the Post shall be filled in accordance with section 220 of the Manual of Procedures at the next regular or special meeting as prescribed in Section 203 of the Manual of Procedure.

Removal: Elected officers or elected committee members may be removed for just cause by the Post or the Department Commanders as prescribed in Section 2200 of the Manual of Procedure. Any elected Post officer or committee member removed, by reason of failure to pay current dues or under the provisions of this section shall not be eligible to serve in any Post office or committee in the same administrative year in which the officers or committee member is removed.

Section 203 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Quorum; Authorized Attendees:

Regular Meetings: Post shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. Failure to comply can result in immediate revocation of the Post Charter notwithstanding the provisions of Section 211 of the Manual of Procedures.

Special Meetings: Special meetings will be called in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Manual of Procedure.

Committee Meetings: Meetings called by the Post Committee Chairman, or as authorized by the Post by-laws, for the purpose of conducting the business in that committee.

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| >Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Frank L. Athon Jr. | >Marine Corps Sgt. George R. Reeser |
| >Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Charles D. Miller | >Army Sgt. James N. Stryker |
| >Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Charles G. McMackin | >Army Sgt. John E. Hurlburt |
| >Navy Seaman 1 st Class Carl S. Johnson | >Navy Fire Controlman 2 nd Class George Gilbert |
| >Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks | >Navy Fireman 1 st Class Frank F. Nicoles |

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

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

COVID 19 Updates: Know the symptoms - Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, shortness of breath, and lower respiratory distress and may appear 2-14 days after exposure. If you or someone you know is exhibiting these symptoms, contact your medical provider.

Safety: September is National Food Safety Education Month. Learn how to be a food safety superhero! Take steps to help prevent food poisoning and show others how to keep food safe. Every year, an estimated 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die from eating contaminated food. Anyone can get sick from a foodborne illness (also called food poisoning). But some groups of people are more likely to get sick and to have a more serious illness. Adults aged 65 and older, Children younger than 5, People with health problems or who take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness, pregnant women.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen:

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

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.

I am not exactly sure where the phrase ***“Always Remember, Never Forget”*** came from, but that seems to have always been connected with the events that happened on September 11, 2001. I am sure that even 19 years later, many of us ***DO*** remember. Not just what happened; but where we were, what we were doing, who we were with. God Bless You All and God Bless Our Country.

***CHAPLAIN
MAINE OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPOMENT (MOLD)
WREATH ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)
Kevin G. Woodward, PSC***

Three Powerful Words can take a relationship to an entire different level. Some may think the words are I love you. When spoken in truth I love you are very powerful words. The words I want to share are Please Forgive Me. It is not an easy phrase to speak, but asking forgiveness is the first step to healing a broken relationship whether it be personal, business or organization.

When we ask for forgiveness, we must struggle with personal pride, and the desire to be right. The core question becomes, is your relationship more important than your self-pride? The path to a better relationship may very well start with I am sorry.

Please remember two important dates this month. The first is Friday September 11th. On the anniversary of September 11, 2001, we once again call on your spirit that is within us to help us deepen our response to our commitment to non-violence. We are so aware of the fear and violence that continues to permeate our world since 9/11. As we pray in remembrance of that tragic day, help us also to be people of hope who embrace a belief that a new vision is possible.

The second is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday September 18th. Bless our veterans who lie in sickness and poor health. Grant them comfort and knowledge that they are not forgotten. Bless the families of those whose loved ones are still listed as POW/MIA's. And, finally O Lord, in this moment of silence we dedicate ourselves anew for 'God and Country' In your name we pray, Amen.

MOLD: MOLD has been canceled this year as a result of the uncertainty of everything due to COVID 19. Please know that Commander Davis and his entire staff is available to assist you for the success of our great organization and the Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars.

WAA: National Wreaths Across 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 1,500 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 summer, I am in hopes that everyone will take some time and obtain some sponsorships for this important program.

Thank you to those who have participated thus far. Remember that each \$15.00 sponsorship that you obtain provides a return of \$5.00 to the Department to assist in the continuing support of our various programs. Please send sponsorships to: Kevin G. Woodward, 9 Johnson Lane, Machiasport ME. 04655. **ME0016P** is the Department ID number and should be placed in the memo field of your check.

CHIEF OF STAFF
Arthur J. Roy, PSC

As the VIRUS is still around, we will need **TO CONTINUE WEARING OUR MASKS & STAYING 6 FEET APART**. None of us would have thought this would stay with us this long **BUT BE SAFE AND STAY SAFE**.

Steve SanPedro, Department Membership Chairman is working real hard on membership but he is one man so we all need to jump on board and try working as hard as we can to try calling members. Some phone numbers are on ROSTERS and ask **ALL POST MEMBERS TO PLEASE HELP OUT BY CALLING FRIENDS TO GET THEM TO GIVE US A HAND. REMEMBER, AS A TEAM WE CAN AND WILL GET THE JOB DONE**.

"GOD BLESS" & "THANK YOU ALL"

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY
Michael A. McInnis, Chairman

Thus far, we have 16 Posts that have reported in Americanism and 13 Posts and 3 Districts that have submitted a Loyalty Day report.

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.

Americanism: All Posts should be reported in Americanism. If you fly a 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.

Grants: Homeless Veterans Grant through the Department of Labor; funds have been drawn down; grant closed.

Our **State of Maine VSO Grant** funds are coming in on time and are forwarded to the State Quartermaster once received, funds will be less than normal for the new year.

Our **VA Transportation Grant** the **\$40,000.00** is up and running and we have applied for the new year by direction of the Council waiting approval by VA.

Our **State Homeless Veterans Grant** has been drawn down and is now closed.

CREDENTIALS

Samuel C. Flint, Chairman

Hello everyone. I hope this finds you and your families all well and healthy.

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-Morse Meuchel

Historian: LAST CALL for articles, pictures or anything that you would like to add to Commander Robison's book.

SVA: Students are heading back to school but not without getting tested for COVID-19. Each school in Maine is set up differently. Student will be allowed to take classes online and/or in person. Student will need to contact their college/university to see what the protocol is for the fall semester.

HOMELESS VETERANS

VETERANS CEMETERY SOUTH ~ ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE (Augusta)

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER (South)

James E.N. Bachelder, PSC

Homeless Veterans: We received 4 donations this month. The Old Orchard Beach Post 7997 donated \$200.00, the Jay Post 3335 donated \$25.00, the Winslow Post 8835 donated \$50.00 and the Sanford Post 9935 donated \$200.00. Thank you and we look forward for more Posts and Districts to donate for our Veterans.

The Maine Veterans in Need (MVN) is diligently working on a set of by-laws and looking at the process of filing for the 501C3. The hope is to have the by-laws be distributed before our last meeting and discussed. Amendments have been made and redistributed. The by-laws will be the largest part of the agenda for that meeting. The by-laws will then be scheduled for final discussion and a vote during the September meeting at 10:00 am on Friday the 18th. The member organizations are doing the everyday homeless assistance. Since SSVF is still paying for hotel stays, we have less Veterans coming for our assistance. We don't know when SSVF will no longer cover these costs.

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: They are still working on Stanley Road but the construction in the cemetery is moving along.

The areas A and B will be ready for their topsoil and turf soon.

The Green Burial Area (the first in a State Veterans' cemetery in VISN 1) has been landscaped,

The POW/MIA Memorial is shaping up. The main stone and 2 of the tablets are in place. The pavers are on-site waiting to be placed. The flagpole is in place. The POW/MIA Flag is planned to be raised during the dedication ceremony on or around April 2021. Pictures of the progress can be found on VFW Post 9935 Facebook page. A photo from behind the memorial looking at the flag pole to the middle of the main stone on to the 120 foot American Flag Pole. You can see the American Flag looking like it is half-staff on the memorial's pole. You will also find pictures of the other construction in the cemetery.

We are always working on Fundraising. This means we are always asking the municipalities in our coverage area for a donation. To receive funds from your city or town, you "the local residents" have to support the request. If the question is on your city/town meeting agenda and you attend to show your support, it has a much better chance of being accepted and awarded to the SMVMCA

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.

Legislative Assistant (Augusta): I feel this information is worth repeating because we don't know when we will be able to work with our legislators without the need for masks and social distancing.

An email received from the VLA committee is below. With preplanning, the testimony can be presented easier. The committee's Legislative Analyst:

Dear VLA Interested Parties,

Just a reminder that the VLA Committee is scheduled to hold two public hearings and one work session tomorrow. The agenda is attached to this email for your review.

If you wish to submit **written testimony**, please the Legislature's online testimony submission portal: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

If you wish to provide **live testimony**, please send an email to lio@legislature.maine.gov or call 207-287-1692 as soon as possible for additional information on how to sign up. To avoid lengthy delays tomorrow, **please sign up, if at all possible by 5pm today**. In an effort to give all individuals who sign up the opportunity to testify; individuals will be limited to three minutes, followed by questions from committee members.

The meeting can be **viewed via**

YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrvfi88SIVram_puSIkm3Fw

You may instead **listen to the audio** here: <http://legislature.maine.gov/Audio/#228>

Finally, committee documents for tomorrow's meeting are posted here (scroll down past the "reports received" list):

<http://legislature.maine.gov/joint-standing-committee-on-veterans-and-legal-affairs>

Janet A. Stocco, Esq., Legislative Analyst; Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Maine State Legislature Office, Tel.: 207-287-1670

Anyone wanting to support legislature whether it be for the Veterans, VFW or any other need, it would be smart to use this avenue. Instead of submitting 20 copies of your testimony and backup documents, the submission portal distributes the document electronically for you. We will be looking for your physical support by attending hearings at the State House this coming session when it is allowed.

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.

HOSPITAL/VAVS
Michael W. Blair, Director

Donations to Hospital/VAVS for the month of August 2020 totaled \$475.00. All donations are to be used as needed for Veterans care. I would like to thank Post # 7738 Bath and the Department of Maine.

NOTE: When making donations to VAVS, make the check out to "VAVS", not the Department of Maine.

Please if you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me at: tobsornot2b@localnet.com

MEMBERSHIP
LEGISLATIVE ~ MAINE VETERAN'S HOMES (MVH)
Steven J. SanPedro, PSC/Chairman

Comrades: I hope all of you are doing well and are healthy. Please remember that we want you to get back to as normal as possible but we don't want anyone to endanger theirs or anyone else health. Please use your judgement and make sound decisions.

Legislation: I will be having a virtual VFW Legislative Conference at the end of this month in place of the in-person conference in Washington, DC. I have made my appointment with Maine's Legislators. I will be conducting three of them by zoom and one by phone. This is the first time it has been done so we will see how it goes. There are a few proposed laws out there that we are keeping our eyes on. We will see how things go when they come back to session in September. The House has a few bills that the Senate doesn't have on their side. We are pushing to get their version of the bill so we can start moving forward with them. I am still getting informational updates from the staffers at Senator King, and Senator Collins office.

Membership: By the time you get this or soon after the Life Membership will drop in. We will now know where we stand and how much work we need to do. We need to try and get back to normal but we cannot compromise safety when doing it. Please be creative on how you get your Members signed back up. If you didn't know, we have two Early Bird Drawing that will end at the end of the month. Please take a look at them in the Membership Program for the details. Please don't forget to fill out the Recruiters Event Form and submit it to me when you conduct one. 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: I am happy to say that all Homes remain COVID free as I write this. It is a big challenge to keep the virus out of the Homes and the Leadership and the staff are doing a great job at it. That has become their number one mission. The new Augusta Home is about six months behind schedule but is still moving forward. They have made some great progress and the Home is starting to take shape. Everyone at the homes are truly living up to their motto of "Caring for Those Who Served!"

"COMMUNICATE - DEDICATION - SERVICE"

NATIONAL HOME
Melvyn E. Bates, Chairman

The year has been very unsettling for a lot of families not just around the world...but here in the State of Maine and at our National Home in Michigan.

We have had several more contributions during this past month...for our National home . I would like to acknowledge post 9394 as well as Post. .

It's obviously been difficult for those who rely on income from holding events for fund raising, When these events are being cancelled throughout the country and in the States.

It's very important that we remember our National Home above **ALL** other donations that we make...the National Home is our own organization and as we have sworn in our oaths to our organization that we shall support our own Veterans and families..

Supplemental report as received as follows: Good afternoon...so sorry...for whoops...I accidentally sent previously a report that was in draft and not done.

The only exception was...Post 7738, Dist.7...donations also Post 7797, Dist 11...Post 9394...Dist 11. They have all made donations in the first quarter of the year for our National Home.

Thus far, only three Districts have sent in donations respectfully...representative of a total of (5) Posts...so we have a way to go Comrades...donations are tuff when not operating at full capacity.....think how it must be for our National Home...who survives on our \$\$\$.

Mail your donations to 342 Houde Rd. Eliot ME 03903; attention Melvyn Bates Chairman for Maine..

Thanks...stay positive...healthy...safe!! 🇺🇸

NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT (NV&MS)
Christopher L. Armstrong, Chairman

Not a whole lot to report this month the checks are coming in at a snail pace, I know Covid-19 has been the reason for a lot of this but we do need to remember our Veterans need us more now than ever, so please remember to check in on our Veterans to see if they need something or maybe just to talk to them everything we do counts.

Stay safe and remember this will pass

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
Cornelius J. Ware, SO

NVS Advanced Skill Level Training in Virtual Format: NVS will once again be conducting Virtual Training for all accredited VSOs. DSOs My advanced training will be September 14 thru September 23. Training sessions will be held from 2 pm to 4 pm. The DSO will be available 8-12 during this period. The ADSO will also be available to assist Veterans during this time frame. The end of course exam will be administered electronically Thursday September 24 thru Monday September 28. NVS still will conduct this training using the VFW Psych Armor training portal.

NVS Proficiency Training: NVS training session for the ADSO will also be conducted virtually in November, the exact dates and agenda will be provided later. The DSO will be available to assist Veterans during this time frame.

Regional Office (R.O.) Phase II: The R.O. is finishing preparation to transition into Phase II. During this Phase, all R.O. and VSO offices will ease Veterans by appointment only. We will provide more information as it becomes available for VA public contact and VR&E. VA's -800-827-1000 number. E-Benefits and VA. Gov are still good sources for information. You are also encouraged to contact your local VSOs for assistance.

Phase II Service Office Covid-19 Procedures: As we prepare to transition to Phase II, we will adhere to the following practices for 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 will have hand sanitizer available. (3) No more than two (2) Veterans in the office at a time we will make considerations on a case by case basis if need be. (4) We will sanitize our workstations and adjacent areas between visits. (5) If we get an urgent walk-in request, we will try to 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 tel # 207-623-5723. Email us at vfw.vbatog@va.gov. Once again, we thank you for your patience and understanding 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.

Farewell: After four 4 years of dedicated service, we bid a fond farewell to ADSO JoAnn Bolduc who left the position on 28 August 2020. Fairwinds and following sea, Comrade you will be sorely missed.

"VETERANS SERVING VETERANS"

ADVISORY TO VA MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
John Poulin, ASO

Days of Summer Comrades. This is my first Veterans Advisory to VA Maine Health care committee report. As of Wednesday, Aug 12, 2020 the VA Maine Operating Status is as follows (briefly):

- Masking continues to be mandatory for everyone on our campuses.
- 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.

Elective Procedures- On March 13, 2020, the American College of Surgeons provided guidance to healthcare facility urging us to halt all elective hospital procedures. As part of these measures, we are rescheduling any non-urgent elective surgeries/procedures to keep our Veterans safe. Dental procedures that are not urgent or emergent will also be rescheduled. Veterans to whom this applies are being contacted. We will plan on rescheduling these procedures after August 1st, provided we are past this event. Please be assured that you may contact your clinical team should you have questions.

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.

Voluntary Antibody Testing will begin for all employees

VA Maine Today will begin a video series and they will be about 5 to 8 minutes long.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings Will begin next Fiscal Year.

Capital Projects: Groundbreaking was in July for the new Portland CBOC. Clinic should be set to open in winter 20/21. This clinic will be smaller than originally planned because the plan is to open another CBOC further south in Maine to handle south Maine flow. Caribou and Rumford Locations are awaiting contracts now

Outpatient Care Operations More testing for pre- procedural and for traveling. Universal testing for Community Living Center Staff and Residents will be once a month. The Construction for CLC has been temporarily delayed until end of Calendar year.

Phase I Plan= Up to 25% non-urgent face to face.

Phase II Plan will increase to 50% by end of August 2020

With heightened concerns about the spread of COVID-19, and keeping in line with VHA's guidance about postponing elective procedures and enhancing our capacity to provide virtual care, face-to-face outpatient visits for ALL clinical services, including Primary Care, Mental Health, and Specialty Care, will be assessed for conversion to virtual care. In order to accomplish this goal, clinical staff will review all scheduled appointments to determine if the appointment can be switched to a VA Video Connect (VVC) or telephone appointment. If the type of care is not appropriate for VVC or telephone (i.e., dental care or endoscopies), the provider should follow up with the Veteran to reschedule his/her appointments for no sooner than 60 days in the future of the cancellation date. Upon calling Veterans to either switch clinically appropriate appointments to VVC or telephone or postpone the appointment, Veterans will be asked two follow up questions: (1) whether they need medication refills and (2) whether they have any needs that need to be addressed sooner than the VVC, telephone, or postponed appointment. If a Veteran is at risk of imminent harm by not seeing a clinical provider face-to-face, then a face-to-face appointment will remain in place. In order to ensure that our urgent care clinics and emergency departments are not overwhelmed, it is critical that we ensure Veterans are still able to see their clinical providers for urgent needs.

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.

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 all 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

Girl Scouts are Bitter When You Litter: After they witnessed the litter floating on the side of the roads when flooding occurred, Troop 2290 of Milford decided to do a clean-up along with Anti-Littering campaign. Contacting the town of Milford, they got permission to use the town dumpster to dispose of the trash they collected. The girls worked diligently to clean-up the litter and left a sign posted for several weeks that read "Girl Scouts are Bitter when you Litter." The girls were both shocked and surprised at the things and amounts they gathered. One girl stated: "I am very disappointed in people." Great job to these Go-Getters.

DEPT @ 4.68% - Need 7235 For 100% (3+)
Department Statistics

Maine as of Friday August 31, 2020

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2599	1	0	0	0	2	2	160	1.25%	-158	PRESQUE ISLE	0
6187	1	0	0	0	10	10	82	12.19%	-72	FORT FAIRFIELD	0
9389	1	0	0	0	22	22	481	4.57%	-459	CARIBOU	0
9699	1	0	0	0	6	6	79	7.59%	-73	ASHLAND	0
District Total	1	0	0	0	40	40	802	4.98%	-762		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1605	2	0	1	0	2	3	132	2.27%	-129	BURLINGTON	0
7529	2	0	0	0	3	3	82	3.65%	-79	ISLAND FALLS	0
District Total	2	0	1	0	5	6	214	2.80%	-208		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9779	3	0	0	0	4	4	136	2.94%	-132	CALAIS	0
11553	3	0	0	0	4	4	139	2.87%	-135	HARRINGTON	0
District Total	3	0	0	0	8	8	275	2.90%	-267		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
109	4	0	3	0	6	9	176	5.11%	-167	ELLSWORTH	0
1761	4	0	0	0	8	8	244	3.27%	-236	BANGOR	0
3381	4	0	0	1	6	7	209	3.34%	-202	OLD TOWN	0
4633	4	0	1	0	4	5	111	4.50%	-106	HAMPDEN	0
District Total	4	0	4	1	24	29	740	3.91%	-711		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
4298	5	0	0	0	4	4	74	5.40%	-70	DEXTER	0
5723	5	0	0	0	6	6	15	40.00%	-9	JACKMAN	0
6924	5	0	0	0	0	0	121	0.00%	-121	FAIRFIELD	0
7865	5	0	0	0	2	2	131	1.52%	-129	MADISON-ANSON	0
7866	5	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.00%	-13	NORRIDGEWOCK	0
10881	5	0	0	0	2	2	24	8.33%	-22	FARMINGTON	0
11191	5	0	0	0	1	1	35	2.85%	-34	NEWPORT	0
District Total	5	0	0	0	15	15	413	3.63%	-398		0

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
3095	6	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.00%	-19	FRIENDSHIP	0
3108	6	0	0	0	6	6	168	3.57%	-162	BELFAST	0
4169	6	0	0	0	1	1	14	7.14%	-13	VINALHAVEN	0
6131	6	0	0	0	1	1	76	1.31%	-75	NORTHPORT	0
9437	6	0	0	0	0	0	50	0.00%	-50	WASHINGTON	0
District Total	6	0	0	0	8	8	327	2.44%	-319		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2197	7	0	0	0	1	1	79	1.26%	-78	TOPSHAM	0
4525	7	0	0	0	1	1	76	1.31%	-75	WALDOBORO	0
7738	7	0	1	0	1	2	70	2.85%	-68	BATH	0
District Total	7	0	1	0	3	4	225	1.77%	-221		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9	8	0	0	0	2	2	59	3.38%	-57	GARDINER	0
887	8	0	0	0	7	7	264	2.65%	-257	AUGUSTA	0
1285	8	0	0	0	6	6	248	2.41%	-242	WATERVILLE	0
8835	8	0	1	0	5	6	272	2.20%	-266	WINSLOW	0
9526	8	0	0	0	2	2	43	4.65%	-41	WINTHROP	0
District Total	8	0	1	0	22	23	886	2.59%	-863		4
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1603	9	0	0	21	5	26	359	7.24%	-333	LEWISTON-AUBURN	0
1641	9	0	0	0	3	3	144	2.08%	-141	RUMFORD	0
3335	9	0	0	0	4	4	254	1.57%	-250	JAY	0
9150	9	0	0	0	3	3	80	3.75%	-77	LEWISTON	0
9787	9	0	1	0	4	5	146	3.42%	-141	SOUTH PARIS	0
District Total	9	0	1	21	19	41	983	4.17%	-942		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
6783	10	0	0	0	0	0	45	0.00%	-45	LOVELL	0
6859	10	0	0	0	17	17	396	4.29%	-379	PORTLAND	0
9328	10	0	0	0	1	1	41	2.43%	-40	HARRISON	0
10529	10	0	0	0	0	0	78	0.00%	-78	YARMOUTH	0
10643	10	0	1	0	7	8	75	10.66%	-67	WINDHAM	0
10879	10	0	1	0	2	3	338	0.88%	-335	GORHAM	0
11362	10	0	0	0	1	1	35	2.85%	-34	NAPLES	0
District	10	0	2	0	28	30	1008	2.97%	-978		0

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
5744	11	0	0	0	7	7	156	3.84%	-149	SOUTH BERWICK	0
6977	11	0	0	1	4	5	199	2.51%	-194	YORK BEACH	0
7997	11	0	0	0	2	2	234	0.85%	-232	OLD ORCHARD BEACH	0
9394	11	0	0	0	1	1	59	1.69%	-58	KITTERY	0
9935	11	0	4	0	103	107	294	36.39%	-187	SANFORD	0
District Total	11	0	4	1	117	122	942	12.95%	-820		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
15020	99	0	3	1	26	30	776	3.86%	-746	RUMFORD	0
District Total	99	0	3	1	26	30	776	3.86%	-746	QM'S HOUSE	0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
State Total	0	0	17	24	315	356	7591	4.68%	-7235		0



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

THIS 2020 – 2021 YEAR - WILL YOU HELP?

“COMMUNICATE – DEDICATION - SERVICE ”

“RETAIN-REINSTATE-RECRUIT”

