



Department of Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars

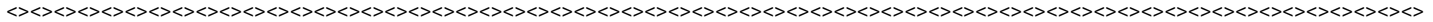


"Advancing the VFW Mission"

January 2022

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 7



Special Notice > After a vote of the State Officers from both the Department VFW and VFWA, a final decision by Commander and President Littlefield's was made to cancel the 2021-22 Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year banquet for this year due to Covid and Omicron Variant conditions and the concerns for all that would be in attendance. Chairman Kimble will be notifying all District Commanders on the presentation of the awards to all of the winners.



1. Dates for Council of Administration Meetings and Testimonials: Dates are as follows but locations could change as some hotels are still reluctant to do mass banquets.

- >Apr 9 Ellsworth, ME > Council of Administration, State Commander/President Banquet
- >Jun 10-12 > Lewiston, ME > State Convention, Council of Administration, Lewiston, ME

2. Council of Administration: Will be held on 15 January 2022 and all meetings will be conducted via zoom. Everyone will be sent the times of the zoom meetings in the next days.at a location to be announced in the near future.

- >Convention Cmtee meeting > 8:00 am
- >Audit & Finance Cmtee Meeting>: 8:45 am
- >Service Office Cmtee Meeting > 9:30 am
- >Council of Administration Meeting > 11:00 am

3. Commanders: Commanders at all levels should begin their 2022 Memorial Day "Buddy" Poppy Campaign. Every Post is urged to order and distribute VFW "Buddy" Poppies.

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

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

- >At least monthly, review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
- >Within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for on or behalf of the Post and submit a Post Trustee's Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector.

>The Report shall be in accordance with and upon such form as may be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit shall be signed by the Post Commander and Trustees, who shall, by their signatures, certify to the accuracy of the information contained therein.

>Perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

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

7. 2022 Revised Podium Edition – By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual: The podium edition of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 122nd VFW National Convention , effective August 23, 2021, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW by calling 1-833-839-8387. The cost is \$7.25 plus shipping. A free copy may be found in the OMS under “Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates” at www.vfw.org.

8. Program Reporting by Adjutants: As per VFW National Headquarters, all reporting will be done electronically to National on the “All American Dashboard” by the Adjutant. Adjutants are the official corresponding officer for the Post/District/Department and shall attest to all official communications and reports with their signature. Adjutant were granted permissions August 1 based on election reports to access the reporting functions. The Adjutant will collect participation reports from Program Chairman at Post/District/Department. There is also a video tutorial on the National Website in the Online Membership System for each level (Post, District). Log into the OMS system and under “Membership Quick Links” click on “All American Dashboard” and scroll down.

9. Inspections: District Commanders your attention is directed to Section 517 of the Manual of Procedures, which states that each Post shall be inspected at least once during the year. Please make sure all the Posts in your respective District are inspected and report them in a timely manner rather than accumulating reports for 100% mailing. Inspection reports are to be sent to **State Inspector John J. Bouchard, 102 Highland Ave., Fort Kent, ME 04743-1467.**

10. 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.

11. Post Commanders: Are reminded that Section 203 – Regular Meetings – All Posts 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.

12. Chain of Command: Use your chain of command. If there are issues at your Posts, start with the Post Commander, then District Commander and then the Department Commander. On many occasions, issues can be resolved at the Post level.

13. Directory Addresses and Email Addies: We are still having problems with returned GOs and also Officers not having an email addy. Please note that the information in the directory is derived from the Post election reports as received from National. We have had a couple of instances of a Post Commander having the same mailing address as the Adjutant and another one whereby a change was received by this office and was not correct. Post Commanders are asked that when their officers listed in the directory have a change of address or email addy that they notify the State Adjutant office for correction and also forwarding to the

Website Manager. It is also hoped that all Post Commanders have an email addy so that they can receive information from this office.

14. Request for State Commander Visit: Any Posts and/or Districts wishing to have the Department Commander attend are asked to notify both the Department Commander and the State adjutant office. These will make it easier for the Commander to make his schedule to those activities.

15. District Commanders: We are now in the winter season and as we are all well aware, travel can be risky at time. Any District Commander cancelling their District meeting due to weather are asked to notify the Department adjutant, the Department Representative and also all of their respective Posts. The Department does not want to see anyone have an accident trying to attend a meeting.

16. Parliamentary Procedures: Recently, a training package as received from national on Parliamentary Procedures was forwarded to all Commanders, Quartermasters and Adjutants at all levels to also include Council members. This is an outstanding training package and easy to understand by all. Please take the time to review it which in the long run will make your job a lot easier.

17. Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual establish that **Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised** shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure . Newly revised **Robert's Rules of Order** is readily available at local bookstores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon. The most recent edition (12th Edition) was released this year.

18. Section 220 of the National By-Laws, "Vacancies and Removal of Elected Officers or Committee Members" states: "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 officer or committee member is removed."

19. Dates to Remember:

- 9 April > Council of Administration, State Commander – President Testimonial
- 26 Feb – 2 Mar > Voice of Democracy, Washington D.C. **(Virtual)**
- 27 Feb – 3 Mar > Legislative Conference, Washington D.C. **(Tentative)**
- 28 Apr – 1 May > Department Senior Vice Commanders & All Adjutant-Quartermasters, Kansas City, MO
- 11 June > State Convention, Lewiston, ME
- 16 – 21 July > National Convention, Kansas City, MO

20. Candidates for Department High Office 2022 - 2023:

- Department Commander > Jennifer L. Lane > Post 1603
- Department Sr. Vice Commander > John J. Bouchard > Post 9389
- Department Jr. Vice Commander > Anthony R. Kimble > Post 3108
- Department Quartermaster > David D. Williams > Post 1641
- Department Chaplain > Kevin G. Woodward > Post 11553
- Department Judge Advocate > Amy H. Morse-Meuchel > Post 6859
- Department Surgeon > Teresa J.S. Drag > Post 9787
- Department Surgeon > William E. Day > Post 7997
- Department Surgeon > Randolph S. Michaud > Post 2599

21. District Meeting Dates:

- D-7 > 9 Jan @ 2 pm > Mid-Coast Veterans Center, 62 Pegasus St., Brunswick > JA Kimble
- D-8 > 23 Jan @ 12 noon > Waterville Post 1285 > Cmdr Littlefield
- D-9 > 30 Jan @ 1 pm > Jay Post 3335 > QM Williams

D-6 > 6 Feb 22 @ 1 pm > Belfast Post 3108 > JA Kimble
D-10 > 6 Feb @ 1 pm > Windham Post 10643 > SG Meuchel
D-4 > 12 Feb @ 2 pm > Old Town Post 3381 > Cmdr Littlefield
D-3 > 20 Feb @ 2 pm > Calais Post 9779 > Adj Dumas
D-5 > 6 Mar @ 1 pm > Dexter Post 4298 > Cmdr Littlefield
D-2 > 12 Mar @ 1 pm > Island Falls Post 7529 > QM Williams
D-1 > 13 Mar @ 1 pm > Presque Isle Post 2599 > QM Williams
D-11 > 13 Mar @ 2 pm > Kittery Post 9394 > SG Meuchel
D-7 > 10 Apr @ 2 pm > Topsham Post 2197 (American Legions Post) > ???
D-8 > 24 Apr @ 12 noon > Augusta Post 887 > JA Kimble
D-5 > 1 May @ 1 pm > Fairfield Post 6924 > JVC Bouchard
D-6 > 1 May 22 @ 1 pm > Belfast Post 3108 > JA Kimble
D-9 > 1 May @ 1 pm > So. Paris Post 9787 > QM Williams
D-10 > 1 May @ 1 pm > Portland Post 6859 > SG Meuchel
D-2 > 14 May @ 1 pm > Burlington Post 1605 > SVC Lane
D-3 > 15 May @ 2 pm > Herrington Post 11553 > Adj Dumas
D-11 > 15 May @ 2 pm > OOB Post 7997 > SG Meuchel
D-4 > 21 May @ 2 pm > Ellsworth Post 109 > Adj Dumas
D-1 > 21 May @ 1 pm > Caribou Post 9389 > Cmdr Littlefield

22. Directory Changes:

Pg. 24 > District 5 > New Commander: Gordon L. Webber, 191 Tower Rd., Vienna, ME 04360-3016; Tel: 293-2275.

BY COMMAND OF:

Herman L. Littlefield Jr.

Herman L. Littlefield Jr.
Commander

OFFICIAL:

Andre L. Dumas

Andre L. Dumas
Adjutant



State Commander
Herman L. Littlefield Jr.



Greetings to all.

Hope all is going well for all Comrades and their families. Hoping you all had a healthy and happy Christmas with loved ones, either in person or by Zoom, Skype or other digital means. Please be sure to take all precautions (hand washing, wearing a mask and social distancing) to keep yourself and other safe and healthy.

Where has the time gone??!! The last 6 months have flown by way too quickly. Our Department of Maine VFW has been very active supporting and protecting our veterans. My heartfelt Thanks goes out to all of you for your participation in the Veterans programs sponsored by your Posts. Programs at the Post level are the foundation for our work, progress and success as a Department.

I know these past 6 months have not been without trials and tribulations due to the continued presence of the coronavirus and its variants. As it stands now, the pandemic does not appear to be letting up due to the added presence of the variants. Many program activities will either have to be put on hold or done through Zoom style websites. National has also begun to cancel some face-to-face activities in the interest of safety of the members and guests. So, it's time to think outside of the box of comfort which we usually function within to do our works, to find more creative ways to keep your programs going in support of our veterans.

The new purge list from National is out and is available for all Districts and Posts to view. Please review this list with your Quartermaster. If you know of a member who has been marked on the list to purge but is still very much with us, please contact National immediately so they can make the appropriate corrections.

Just as a reminder, the Commander's Special Project is **House in the Woods** located in Lee, Maine. Checks are to be made payable to **Dept of Maine VFW** and sent to Sr. Vice Commander Jennifer Lane, the committee chairperson. Thank you for your donations.

RECRUIT -- RECRUIT -- RECRUIT!!

Reinstate previous members.

Retain present members.

Encourage participation in your programs from your entire membership. Involvement leads to a better program which leads to more and better services for our veterans.

Loyally,

Herman L. Littlefield, Jr.

Herman L. Littlefield Jr.
Commander

"Advancing the VFW Mission"



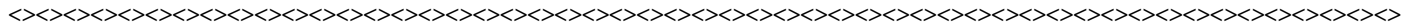
Deceased Roll Call



*Department of Maine, VFW
Kevin G. Woodward, Chaplain*

25 November 2021 ~ 24 December 2021

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



District 2

7529 > CAMPBELL, Bruce I.
HASTEY, Delmas M.

District 4

109 > JONES, Harry S. III
3381 > LAVOIE, Euclide O.

District 5

7865 > TWEEDIE, Gene D. > Dist. Cmdr

District 9

1603 > DESJARDINS, Thomas A.
3335 > KING, Norman S.
PARE, Lawrence H.
PRESBY, William C.

District 10

6859 > FOLEY, James T.
9328 > SUTHERLAND, Donald B.

District 11

6977 > CURRIER, Roger W.



**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE ~ TOGUS BEAL'S HOUSE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
COMMANDERS SPECIAL PROJECT (CSP)
Jennifer L. Lane**



Greetings Comrades! Another busy month of helping veterans and their families. I hope all is well and everyone is staying safe and getting in the spirit of the holiday season. December was another busy month across the Department helping Homeless Veterans, moving Veterans into permanent housing, delivering food and hygiene items, making sure our comrades had a heating source and delivering Thanksgiving meals to those veterans in need. Keep up all the great work!

Appointments 2022-2023: Please see list of appointed positions for the Department that I will be reviewing for next administration year as your Commander. Please email me at lanejena@msn.com if you are interested in filling any of these key positions.

I am also looking at locations for our Council of Administration meetings and banquets. If you and or your Post is interested in hosting an event and/or being on the committees to coordinate those events, please reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support!

Beals Hospitality House Togus: Is back up and running. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank everyone for the donations. The things that we always can use is one-ply toilet paper, paper towels, water, and coffee pods.

Please make sure you pass the word on our facility and that we are available for our Veterans and their families. If anyone has any questions or if you need brochures, please reach out to me. Donations should be made out to Beals Hospitality House and mailed to me.

Public Relations: I have seen some great coverage of all your hard work and events that have been taken place in the Department. Keep up the great work and brag about yourself – you deserve it! Please make sure that you forward your efforts to our Historian and don't forget we do have a national publication to submit to. Please also review the requirements for All-American, social media is a new requirement, reach out if you need assistance with anything.

Veteran Service Office Togus: Our office is still open to appointments due to restrictions of VA Maine and COVID. We are here for you and our families. Please take in consideration that we are down to one Service Officer until we can fill the position. I have spoken to a few candidates but nothing solid. If you or someone you know is interested in filling the position of Assistant VSO, please forward my information to them. If you are interested in donating paper to our VSO office, feel free to reach out to James or myself or have it delivered directly to the office at Togus.

Commander's Special Project: House in the Woods is always active and is readying themselves for assisting our fellow Veterans in respite and recovery sessions. Please take the time to view their website and or Facebook page. Donations should be made out to **Dept of Maine VFW** with **Commander's Special Project** in the memo line and mailed to me.

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?? A wish list for "Welcome Home Kits" was sent out with our September GO's. These kits are given to our comrades moving into permanent housing who have nothing. There is a challenge among our VSOs in the State of Maine to create at least 25 kits. Let us show everyone that the VFW will take on this challenge and raise them one!

As always, stay safe and reach out if you need any assistance in anything you need!

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
INSPECTIONS ~ POW/MIA
John J. Bouchard**

Inspections: By the time you all get your GOs; Christmas will be gone but to everyone MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR. Times flies. I look back at time and it seems to me it went by too fast. Inspections are

coming in slow; we already have three (3) District that are 100%, let's get together and get the job done before the deadline of February 30. Thank you for all the work you all do. [smile god loves you all]

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| >Army Sgt. Larry S. Wassil | >Navy Seaman 1 st Class Buford H. Dyer |
| >Army Sgt. James M. Stryker | >Army Master Sgt. James L. Quong |
| >Army Pfc. Anthony F. Mendonca | >Army Pfc. Morris E. Swackhammer |
| >Army Cpl. Benjamin R. Bazzell | >Army Air Forces 2 nd Lt. Anel B. Shay |
| >Army Pfc. Jimmy Rowland | >Army Cpl. Marvin D. Actkinson |
| >Navy Lt. Cmdr. Hugh R. Alexander | >Navy Fire Controlman 1 st Class Hubert P. Clement |
| >Navy Seaman 2 nd Class Tceollyar Simmons | >Navy Seaman 1 st Class Wilbur F. Newton |
| >Navy Electrician's Maye 1 st Class Edward L. Conway | |
| >Navy Fire Controlman 2 nd Class Lawrence J. Overley | |

**QUARTERMASTER
CHIEF OF STAFF
BUDDY POPPY ~ INSURANCE & BONDS
David D. Williams, PSC**

As I begin, I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year's celebration.

We are halfway through our year. So that means all Post should be bonded by now and submitted copy of their 990 filings, also a signed form requesting to be on the State Blanket list. Also, Dec 30 was the end of the 2nd Quarter so hopefully all the QMs are working on their Quarterly reports.

Also, all Post need to be bonded and if you didn't purchase your bonds through the Department, you must send a copy for my records.

Last thing, all checks that Post make out need to be sent to the proper Chairperson, and made out to the **Maine VFW**, not me or anyone else. All checks for VAVS must be made out to **VAVS** and sent to Mike Blair. And in the memo area, earmark please (what it's for)

Thanks for all your hard work and remember to Recruit, let's make Commander Littlefield a 100% Commander and keep our streak alive. Thanks.

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

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyable New Year's Eve with your families. It is hard to believe that 2021 is behind us and we are well on our way into 2022. Winter is definitely upon us, I pray everyone is safe, warm and healthy as we continue to work through the COVID pandemic. Please be safe and stay healthy and check in on one another to make sure everyone is doing well.

Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teacher of the Year: We had fantastic participation this year from all students who entered essays in Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen and I look forward to our banquet this month to celebrate all their entries.

We will also be honoring a Teacher of Year for Elementary, Middle School, and High School with an overall National Teacher of the Year that we will be representing Department of Maine. We will be celebrating these teachers at our January banquet when we celebrate the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners.

Ways and Means: The tickets have been mailed to all post and district commanders please work on selling these tickets during any post events. We are going to be going with the same prizes as last year, 1st Prize \$500, 2nd Prize \$250, 3rd Prize \$100.

Continue to send in your ticket stubs and monies collected up to the Department of Maine State Convention in June, we will have the drawing at that CoA.

Please mail your ticket stubs and monies collected to me: Anthony Kimble, 64 Bayview Dr, Northport, Maine 04849. Make all checks out to **Department of Maine, VFW** and in the memo line put **Ways and Means**.

**SURGEON
HISTORIAN ~ STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA (SVA)
Amy Morse-Meuchel**

January is National Blood Donor Month. I recommend you either hold a drive, give blood or share educational awareness. According to redcrossblood.org, an average of 29,000 blood donations are needed every day. Type O is the most requested to be given by donors. Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood. If you are unable to donate blood there are other ways to help out. VOLUNTEER. Help with the check in process, phone calls or even handing out snacks. Being a small part is better than no part at all. The coldest months are upon us. If you or you know of anyone who are in need of assistance with heat at their residency, not only should they reach out to their local VFW but reach out to your local town hall. Many are unaware that there are programs in the town to help with fueling assistance. Another way is to contact Southern Maine Agency on Aging at 207-396-6500. They also have programs to help with assistance. They also participate on Meals-on-wheels. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Historian: I have received many articles from some of you. Please continue to do so.

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

The beauty of this time of year carries many exciting reminders: That there is a savior, who loved us so much, that HE came to us. All other religions teach humankind needs to go to God. It is good to know we are not alone that God is with us. It is also at the end of the year, which allows us at least mentally to let go of the past, all the mistakes, failures, sins, those things that keep us from being all we can be for good and God. It is a time of new beginnings. Just think, we have a new year ahead of us. A time to start over. A time to try something new. A time to let go of the past and grab on to the new. A time to renew our relationships. It is a wonderful time. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

WAA: The 2021 Wreaths Across America trek has come to an end. This once again met many challenges due to the Covid restrictions. It was however quite successful and it is most appreciated of all of those who took part and participated in one way or another. I would have liked to see more sponsorships gathered to support the funds for the department programs but, all in all it was a good year.

**IMMEDIATE PAST STATE COMMANDER
SCOUTING
Michael K. Davis, IPSC**

I have had several Posts send me links to pictures and happenings with scouting on Facebook. Please ensure you also complete a community activity report.

This month, District 10, Post 10643 along with Department Commander Herman Littlefield awarded VFW Eagle Scout Certificate to Coleman Ballweg, Troop 41. District 11, Post 9394 worked with Scouts to pick up flags from veteran graves.

The following Posts are reported in Scouting for 2021-2022 District 4, 4633 > District 6, 9437 > District 10, 6859, 10643, 10879 and District 11, 9394, 9935, 9394, 109, 5744.

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

Scout of the Year dates: Deadline for entry to VFW post is March 1st

Deadline to Department April 1st (Posts should notify District of submissions)

Deadline to National Headquarters May 1st

My desire and goal are for all Posts and Districts to seek out applicants to work with and submit them to me for consideration. I should receive applicants from each District.

If you know of a Scout that has completed his Eagle project and will be awarded Eagle rank, contact me. I have certificates that the Department can award to those Scouts.

Boy Scout Web Page

Pinetree Council <https://www.pinetreebsa.org>

Katahdin Council <https://www.katahdinareabsa.org>

Girl Scouts of Maine

<http://www.girlscoutsofmaine.org>

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, MAINE

MEMBERSHIP

LEGISLATIVE ~ MAINE VETERAN'S HOMES (MVH)

Steven J. SanPedro, PSC

Comrades, I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season! I have to apologize for not recognizing the 100% Posts last month. So, Congratulation to Post 4633 Hampden, Post 7997 Old Orchard Beach and Post 9394 Kittery for reaching or exceeding their goal of 100% or higher. Great Job in attaining this milestone! Will your Post be the next Post to join them in the Commanders 100% Club?

National Council Member - Maine: It has been brought to my attention that many Departments are not happy with the way the Teacher of the year has changed to this year. That only one teacher will receive \$3,000.00 and the school will get \$3,000.00 also. This is a change from what was a \$1,000.00 for each teacher at all three levels and a \$1,000.00 for their schools. So, no change in total money given out but only one teacher instead of three. At the Department CoA, I will be asking those in attendance how they would like me to vote at our next National CoA. To keep it the same way or change it back to the original plan. Please let your District Commanders know how you feel so they can vote the way you want them to.

Legislation: The National Legislative Conference in March is currently on hold. The final decision will be made soon. Due to many restrictions, the conference will be hard to conduct due to limited access and limits on how many can attend. The 2023 NDAA is heading to the Presidents' desk for signature. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial authorization on the National Mall is in there. Also, a 2.7% pay increase for the Military. Please take the time to read about the many VFW supported items that are in the NDAA.

Membership: Point of clarification - No Post is allowed to conduct a Recruiting Event in another Posts town without the approval of that Post. Additionally, there can be no soliciting of gifts or funds without approval from the Post. The Department is currently sitting at 86.26% with 6569 Members which is an increase of 1.42% and 108 Members. We need 1046 Members to reach 100%. We have increased our New Members by 14 and decrease our Reinstated Members by 75 from this time last year. We are all recruiters and we must **Retain, Reinstate and Recruit Members**. We have 12 Posts that has completed a Recruiter Event and submitted the proper paperwork to me. Make sure you read and understand the 2021-2022

Membership Program. If you have any *questions on Membership, please contact me at 207-894-5260 or email me at sanpedro105@roadrunner.com*

Please read:

New/Reinstated Membership Grant initiative for VFW Posts Starting January 1, 2022, every VFW Post that signs up and submits full membership dues* for each member will receive a grant based on the type of membership submitted while funds are available.

Member Type Rebate Amount New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life with full Life member payment. \$30.00

New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life Installment Payment \$20.00

New to the VFW Annual member \$20.00

****Reinstated Annual member \$10.00**

***Full membership dues include the per capita for National, Department and the Post.**

****Reinstated definition - Anyone that has been a member before, and their dues have been expired for 2 years and 1 day or more is classified as a Reinstated member. Members submitted prior to January 1st are not eligible for this program. Current Annual members defined as any member whose dues have not been expired more than two years are not eligible for the grant. Members at Large are not part of this program**

Maine Veterans Homes: As always, the Homes continue to work very hard on keeping the virus out of the homes. Unfortunately, it is very hard because the staff is exposed to many things outside of the Homes through their own families and friends. They are doing their best to prevent exposure to ensure they do not bring it in the home. The staff and residents are getting the booster shots. The new Augusta Home is still not open but progress is being made. As always, I want to thank everyone at the homes as they are truly living up to their motto of "caring for those who served!"

"ADVANCING THE VFW MISSION"

AMERICANISM/LOYALTY DAY

Michael A. McInnis, Chairman

First of all, I hope that everyone had a happy & heathy Holiday Season.

We now have only 4 months left in the reporting year for Community Activities.

We have approximately half of our Posts that have reported in Americanism/Loyalty Day Programs. The reports have been coming in very slowly, many Posts have not reported in many programs. We have Martin Luther King Jr. Day coming on Monday January 17, 2022. We must also ***"Remember the Maine"*** on February 15, 2022.

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 Parade, Holiday Parade or Program. Please report any/all programs completed either in person or on social media.

Loyalty Day: All Posts should be reported in Loyalty Day.

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 \$10,000.00 approved, in process of closing grant.

Our ***State of Maine VSO Grant*** \$60,000.00 funds are trickling in.

Our ***VA Transportation New Grant*** the ***\$40,000.00 is up and running.***

State Homeless Veterans Grant we have had no info passed on if we will receive any this year so far.

CREDENTIALS
Arthur J. Roy, PSC

The REPORTS on the things needed to be completed ON TIME aren't being reported on time and copies aren't all being sent to our STATE QUARTERMASTER so the Question is why isn't this being done? I've put in the GO'S the RULES each month on these items BUT, please do remember if not done as the by-laws DON'T be upset when the State Convention is held and your Posts or Districts aren't able to **VOTE**. I'll more than likely have to tell National Headquarters the reason why and this will really look bad so GET moving and either go by the By-laws or why be a COMMANDER and run for leadership positions? Last year there were MANY that shouldn't have been able to vote BUT were allowed which means our TOP CHAIR OFFICERS BROKE THE BY-LAWS. THIS WASN'T RIGHT. Let's get **ALL TRUSTEE REPORTS AND COPIES** TO STATE QM when DUE.

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

Homeless Veterans: We received a message thru our Department website. A homeless Veteran is in Georgia and planning on arriving in Maine on January 1st. We directed him to the MBVS. We are not a starting point. We have no way to verify if the person is a Veteran and if they are Homeless. The VA, State of Maine or other service provider that has access to the documentation to verify the individual's status has to be the lead on any assistance.

Donations from the Maine VFW: Our count has Post 8835 Winslow and Post 10879 Gorham both donated \$100.00. The total number of donations is now 8 and the amount is \$790.00.

We have been in contact with the Augusta Post 887 about Welcome Kits. They are raising donations to create kits. The Augusta Elks are up the road and around the corner. The communication is open and the storage is available.

Stand-Downs: Still waiting confirmation of the new dates and locations.

Homeless Veterans Count: The annual Point-in-Time survey is coming on the last Wednesday of January. The lead of this program is Catholic Charities of Maine. Their phone number is 800-772-7447. They use the MMCN units spread around the State as local contacts.

Maine Veterans in Need: We canceled our December meeting because we didn't have any pressing questions. We just continued supporting the Veterans in Need and will have our regular monthly meeting on January 28th at 10:00 am via Zoom and in-person in Brunswick.

We always need Welcome Kits: If you can't put together a complete kit, you can donate to the building of a kit. The kit list was in the September GO's. You can see it on the Department website. You can print pages 22 and 23 to a pdf file and print all the copies you need. Please look at the list and see what your Post can do to help our Veterans in Need.

Homeless Veterans Action Committee: November BNL is from September 1st until November 30th with 157 identified homeless Veterans in Maine, 129 are sheltered, 28 are unsheltered, and 14 are over income for assistance from HUD VASH & SSVF. There are 47 chronically homeless Veterans statewide. It is taking 180 days from identification to Permanent Housing. This is supposed to be under 90 days. During this 90 day: Inflow is, 97 newly identified homeless Veterans found and Outflow is, 69 Veterans were housed.

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

Veterans' Cemetery South: We had a very nice and well attended Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying event.

We are not having a meeting until March 10th. The location had to be decided. We need more room than the conference room allows. We also need WIFI access to have Zoom participants. We will keep you updated.

Assistant Legislative (Augusta): This is what is listed for the January Legislature Calendar.

LD 1513 Act to Maintain a discontinued road.

Energy, Utilities and Technology – Economic Advancement – Environment and Natural Resources – Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry – House Chambers – Legislative Council and Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission in-Person Meeting.

HOSPITAL/VAVS

Michael W. Blair, Director

Donations for the month of December 2021 totaled \$1,300.00.

\$1,050.00 is to be used by Hospital/VAVS as needed for Veterans' care.

\$250.00 will be used to buy Bingo Coupon Books.

I would like to thank Posts # 2197 Topsham, # 6924 Fairfield, # 6859 Portland and # 10881 Farmington for the donations.

It is my hope that all Comrades and their families had a safe Merry Christmas and will have a Healthy and Happy New Year.

NATIONAL HOME

Teresa S. Drag, Chairperson

No donations were received since the last report. There are so many organizations asking for donations now, but we should remember our own and remember that even a little bit helps. One way that we can send donations is by using the "Smile" version whenever we shop via Amazon. By going to **smile.amazon.com** and selecting **VFW National Home for Children**, a donation amount is generated with every purchase. Just remember to go to smile.amazon.com instead of the main Amazon website each time you shop.

Remember if your Post or District adds a life membership or sends a donation directly, let me know via mail or email so that we can track and recognize it.

Donations should be mailed to me at: Teresa Drag, PO Box 140, Paris ME 04271.

Checks can be made out either to **Department of Maine VFW**, or to **VFW National Home for Children**.

VETERANS ADVISORY TO VA MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

JoAnn Bolduc, Chairperson

"You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's no limit to what you can do. -Dr. Seuss

At the risk of sounding repetitive comrades, Covid and its variants are still raring their ugly heads. "Like many hospitals in the state, VA Maine is currently experiencing a surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations and an increased demand for inpatient beds. We are doing everything we can to keep the impact to our Veterans to a minimum. Please plan for all upcoming appointments as normal unless you are contacted by your Care Team. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work to expand our capacity to care for Veterans in the safest way possible." (from VA website) Please be patient and adjust as needed to ensure the safety of everyone involved. That said, booster shots are still available and the VA health website updates booster clinic availability on a regular basis. If you wish to make an appointment for a vaccine or a booster you can contact your provider. You may also receive a vaccine or booster outside of the VA by searching your location at **www.vaccines.gov/search** OR Maine.gov vaccination sites. Hey! Don't forget those flu vaccines either.

Many have asked about the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. It is an amazing program but you have to meet some basic requirements before you are eligible. The full list can be discussed with your Care Provider but you MUST need assistance in supporting health and well-being assistance from a

personal caregiver with basic activities of daily live such as bathing, dressing, and feeding AND safety, protection or instruction in their daily living environment.

But Maine and the VA is about more than just being one step ahead of what wants to do is in. There are lots of healthy proactive options to help us live the best lives we possibly can and a New Year is the perfect time to try a new thing. Be it losing a few of those holiday pounds through the VA MOVE program, flexing some artistic muscle through the Creative Arts Competition, working on beating the crap outta those mental demons through one of the many mental health services or just finding a common interest with other veterans in the adaptive sports program, there is something out there for you.

May the New Year find you still curious about the wonders the world has to offer and showered with blessings overflowing. Be good to yourself and be good to each other.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
Cornelius J. Ware, SO

Service Office COVID-19 Procedures: As we are continuing to feel the impact of the Delta and Omicron strain on our office. Our office is still doing appointments only no walk-in traffic for the time being. This is still a temporary measure but necessary for R.O. protocol and our depleted office staffing level. We hope that this surge will safely pass, and we look forward to the VARO's plans and procedures for the full safe reopening of our office. Until then, remember the VSO staff though limited is still here in the office and ready to assist you. We are still conducting business with the health and safety of the office and the veteran's we serve as our primary concern. Sorry for the temporary inconvenience. You can continue to reach us at the VFW Service Office phone number 207-623-5723. Email us at vfw.vbatog@va.gov or regular mail: VFW Dept. Service Office, VA Regional Office, P.O. Box 3311, Augusta, ME 04330-3311

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to work through this crisis together. In our absence you can contact the Togus Benefits Office at 207-621-6938 for assistance. But for now, please stay healthy and stay safe.

Look Back at 2021: As 2021 comes to a close, the office has endured the storm of uncertainty due to Covid-19. With the exception of a one-week shutdown, the office has been open and though the staff is depleted, the office still conducted over 200+ office claims interviews and over 30 outreach interviews during V-VEAC 3-day event 7-9 December. We are looking forward to 2022 and all the positive changes that I hope it will bring. Until then, just know that the office is here to support our Veterans and their family. Have a safe happy holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

Updates to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Eligibility Following Remarriage: The Office of General Counsel (OGC) recently provided clarification on the effect of **Public Law (PL) 116-315** on entitlement to DIC remarriage of surviving spouses. Their guidance stated that a surviving spouse could remarry after the age of 55 **on any date** and retain or regain eligibility to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) as of January 5, 2021. Prior to receiving this clarification, the manual guidance was that if the surviving spouse remarried after age 55, but before age 57, the date of remarriage would have had to have been on or after January 5, 2021, for DIC eligibility to be retained. However, based on this clarification from OGC, a more liberal interpretation can be utilized. If a claim for reinstatement of DIC is granted under **PL 116-315**, benefits will be paid beginning the **later** of: One year prior to the date of claim, or January 5, 2021.

"VETERANS SERVING VETERANS"

WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Thomas R. Lussier, PSC

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

The **NEW** Department Website is in excellent working order. MAINEVFW.ORG

Please ensure any directory changes that need to be made are sent to the Department Adjutant also please remember the password for all forms is 1921.

Comrades the new 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!

DEPT @ 86.48% - Need 1029 For 100% (17+)
Department Statistics

Maine as of Monday December 27, 2021

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2599	1	95	0	0	9	104	169	61.53%	-65	PRESQUE ISLE	0
6187	1	52	1	0	8	61	83	73.49%	-22	FORT FAIRFIELD	0
9389	1	339	1	0	39	379	486	77.98%	-107	CARIBOU	0
9699	1	62	0	0	4	66	80	82.50%	-14	ASHLAND	0
District Total	1	548	2	0	60	610	818	74.57%	-208		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1605	2	119	1	1	2	123	132	93.18%	-9	BURLINGTON	0
7529	2	55	1	0	5	62	83	74.69%	-21	ISLAND FALLS	0
District Total	2	174	2	1	8	185	215	86.04%	-30		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9779	3	99	0	0	12	111	136	81.61%	-25	CALAIS	2
11553	3	102	0	0	12	114	139	82.01%	-25	HARRINGTON	1
District Total	3	201	0	0	24	225	275	81.81%	-50		3
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
109	4	117	0	0	31	148	170	87.05%	-22	ELLSWORTH	0
1761	4	170	2	1	24	197	244	80.73%	-47	BANGOR	1
3381	4	158	0	0	17	175	197	88.83%	-22	OLD TOWN	0
4633	4	102	1	0	8	111	111	100.00%	0	HAMPDEN	2
District Total	4	547	3	1	80	631	722	87.39%	-91		3
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
4298	5	51	0	0	10	61	69	88.40%	-8	DEXTER	0
5723	5	3	0	0	6	9	15	60.00%	-6	JACKMAN	0
6924	5	94	1	0	4	99	119	83.19%	-20	FAIRFIELD	0
7865	5	111	1	0	10	122	131	93.12%	-9	MADISON-ANSON	1
7866	5	8	0	0	1	9	13	69.23%	-4	NORRIDGEWOCK	0
10881	5	24	0	0	2	26	25	104.00%	1	FARMINGTON	0
11191	5	21	0	0	8	29	35	82.85%	-6	NEWPORT	0
District Total	5	312	2	0	41	355	407	87.22%	-52		1

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
3095	6	8	1	0	4	13	17	76.47%	-4	FRIENDSHIP	0
3108	6	118	0	0	21	139	171	81.28%	-32	BELFAST	1
4169	6	8	1	0	2	11	14	78.57%	-3	VINALHAVEN	0
6131	6	47	1	1	22	71	78	91.02%	-7	NORTHPORT	0
9437	6	38	0	0	2	40	45	88.88%	-5	WASHINGTON	0
District Total	6	219	3	1	51	274	325	84.30%	-51		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
2197	7	58	5	0	15	78	86	90.69%	-8	TOPSHAM	0
4525	7	52	0	0	8	60	69	86.95%	-9	WALDOBORO	0
7738	7	56	7	0	17	80	73	109.58%	+7	BATH	0
District Total	7	166	12	0	40	218	228	95.61%	-10		0
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
9	8	39	0	0	10	49	54	90.74%	-5	GARDINER	0
887	8	202	1	2	22	227	261	86.97%	-34	AUGUSTA	0
1285	8	215	1	0	7	223	235	94.89%	-12	WATERVILLE	1
8835	8	236	2	2	14	254	275	92.36%	-21	WINSLOW	1
9526	8	33	0	0	6	39	43	90.69%	-4	WINTHROP	0
District Total	8	725	4	4	59	792	868	91.24%	-76		2
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
1603	9	327	3	0	42	372	462	80.51%	-90	LEWISTON-AUBURN	0
1641	9	59	0	0	17	76	151	50.33%	-75	RUMFORD	0
3335	9	198	0	2	22	222	244	90.98%	-22	JAY	0
9787	9	104	0	0	16	120	143	83.91%	-23	SOUTH PARIS	1
District Total	9	688	3	2	97	790	1000	79.00%	-210		1
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
6783	10	35	0	0	2	37	42	88.09%	-5	LOVELL	0
6859	10	303	7	4	41	355	388	91.49%	-33	PORTLAND	3
9328	10	34	1	0	4	39	42	92.85%	-3	HARRISON	0
10529	10	72	0	0	0	72	78	92.30%	-6	YARMOUTH	0
10643	10	48	0	0	20	68	76	89.47%	-8	WINDHAM	0
10879	10	254	0	0	22	276	321	85.98%	-45	GORHAM	0
11362	10	28	0	0	2	30	35	85.71%	-5	NAPLES	0
District	10	774	8	4	91	877	982	89.30%	-105		3

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
5744	11	107	0	0	36	143	145	98.62%	-2	SOUTH BERWICK	0
6977	11	177	2	0	13	192	193	99.48%	-1	YORK BEACH	2
7997	11	168	5	3	101	277	273	101.46%	+4	OLD ORCHARD BEACH	0
9394	11	44	1	1	8	54	53	101.88%	+1	KITTERY	1
9935	11	165	0	0	122	287	333	86.18%	-46	SANFORD	2
District Total	11	661	8	4	280	953	997	95.58%	-44		5
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
15020	99	590	11	4	71	676	778	86.88%	-102	RUMFORD	3
District Total	99	590	11	4	71	676	778	86.88%	-102	QM'S HOUSE	3
Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	+/-	City	N/R LM
State Total	0	5605	58	21	902	6586	7615	86.48%	-1029		22



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

THIS 2021 – 2022 YEAR - WILL YOU HELP?

“ADVANCING THE VFW MISSION”

“RETAIN-REINSTATE-RECRUIT”

**"ADVANCING THE VFW MISSION"
HERMAN LITTLEFIELD STATE COMMANDER**

DIVISION LEADERS <<>> DECEMBER 31, 2021

>> 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	104.00%	1. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	101.46%
2. 9526 WINTHROP	88.88%	2. 1285 WATERVILLE	94.89%
3. 9437 WASHINGTON	88.88%	3. 8835 WINSLOW	92.36%
DIV. II (51-100) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.		DIV. V (301-400) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.	
1. 7738 BATH	109.58%	1. 6859 PORTLAND	91.49%
2. 9394 KITTEERY	101.88%	2. 9935 SANFORD	86.18%
3. 10529 YARMOUTH	92.30%	3. 10879 GORHAM	85.98%
DIV. III (101-200) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.		DIV. VI (401- HIGHER) TOP 3 POSTS IN DIV.	
1. 4633 HAMPDEN	100.00%	1. 1603 AUBURN	80.51%
2. 6977 YORK BEACH	99.48%	2. 9389 CARIBOU	77.98%
3. 5744 BERWICK	98.62%	3.	

TEN HIGHEST POSTS BY %		TEN LARGEST POSTS	
1. 7738 BATH	109.58%	1. 9389 CARIBOU	379
2. 10881 FARMINGTON	104.00%	2. 1603 AUBURN	372
3. 9394 KITTEERY	101.88%	3. 6859 PORTLAND	355
4. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	101.46%	4. 9935 SANFORD	287
5. 4633 HAMPDEN	100.00%	5. 7997 OLD ORCHARD BEACH	277
6. 6977 YORK BEACH	99.48%	6. 10879 GORHAM	276
7. 5744 BERWICK	98.62%	7. 8835 WINSLOW	254
8. 1285 WATERVILLE	94.89%	8. 887 AUGUSTA	227
9. 1605 BURLINGTON	93.18%	9. 1285 WATERVILLE	223
10. 7865 MADISON	93.12%	10. 3335 JAY	222

DISTRICT STANDINGS		MAGIC NUMBERS FOR 2020-2021	
1. District 11 DAY	95.58%	WE HAVE = 6586 – WE NEED 1029	
2. District 7 STEVENS	95.61%	ALL POSTS/DISTRICTS SHOULD BE AT 100%	
3. District 8 LAMBERT	91.24%		
4. District 10 GOODMAN	89.30%	5 N/R MEMBERS & EARN A BLUE BALL CAP	
5. District 4 SULLIVAN	87.39%	10 N/R MEMBERS & EARN A WHITE VFW SHIRT	
6. District 5 WEBBER	87.22%	ALL DEPT OFFICERS ARE ASKED TO RECRUIT	
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE, VFW	86.48%	LET'S ALL WORK AS A TEAM AND	
7. District 2 EWING	86.04%	RETAIN – RECRUIT & REINSTATE 3 MEMBERS?	
8. District 6 ARMSTRONG	84.30%	NEED HELP or HAVE QUESTIONS	
9. District 3 SIVRET	81.81%	ASK ANYONE ON THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM OK?	
10. District 9 DRAG	79.00%		
11. District 1 SAUCIER	74.57%		

