



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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Department Headquarters  
126 State Street, P.O. Box 396  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-0396

(802) 223-7131 EMAIL: [alvthq@talofvt.com](mailto:alvthq@talofvt.com)  
[www.vtlegion.org](http://www.vtlegion.org)

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### APRIL 2023 Bulletin

Messages from the Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander,  
District Commanders, and County Commanders

- Historian report - Behind the Scenes at the Oratorical
- Update on Legion Baseball
- 104<sup>th</sup> Vermont Annual Convention information
- Endorsement list
- Commander Scanlon Testimonial



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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### *Tom Scanlon*

Spring is here and we are getting closer to a very important holiday for all veterans, *Memorial Day*. Many cities, towns, posts, veterans facilities and homes are involved in or are the location of a Memorial Day ceremony or event. It is important for us to let our communities know what is happening and when. Hence, a need for a *Press Release*. These are still quite important and effective in getting the word out, even with a growing percent of the population only getting their news online or through social media. We can no longer just do a press release and forget about it, thinking everyone, to include the local media, are taking notice. Even our local media gathers news from social media outlets and what is being talked about locally.

When getting your *Press Release* out, do it twice. Once early and again close to the time of the event. Also put it on your social media accounts; FaceBook, Instagram, etc.. The more exposure the better. I also suggest you post it multiple times on the local electronic message boards such as Front Porch Forum. By adding links for additional information, sharp graphics, or a QR Code adds value to the message and is more apt to get the attention of your local media.

There is a great resource out there for our veterans and it is the **Veterans Legal Assistance Project (VLAP)**. This is a grant funded legal services clinic housed at the South Royalton Legal Clinic and is part of the Vermont Law School. Cases and consultations are generally handled by second and third year law students under the supervision of a staff attorney. *VLAP* limits matters involving court appearances to Windsor, Washington, Orange, and Rutland counties; however a large number of their services are available to veterans statewide including: discharge upgrades assistance, Social Security Disability (SSI and SSDI) appeals, veteran's benefits appeals, bankruptcy representation, foreclosure prevention, landlord/tenant eviction representation, consumer fraud, and simple estate planning. I am sure that they would also help out a post with various issues or do some legal research. *VLAP can be contacted at:* VLAP of Vermont, PO Box 117, South Royalton, VT 05068, *PHONE:* 802-831-1500 or 802-281-3721, *FAX:* 802-419-9678, *EMAIL:* [dhayes@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:dhayes@vermontlaw.edu) Information will be available at our June Convention and we are trying have a presentation made.

It is terribly troubling when you hear the number of suicides by members of our military and veterans. Since the end of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan more current or former members of the military have taken their own lives than were lost in those two wars combined. This is the #1 issue facing the veteran community today. This is why the *Be the One* is the active platform initiated by the American Legion to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The intent is that this program will; destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer -to-peer support and resources in local communities, to deploy FDA-approved therapeutics to veterans and to identify issues and find resources for support.

*What can we do?....Ask veterans and others how they are feeling....Listen when they need to talk....Reach out when someone is struggling....Let them know that there are many people who are willing to help....Tell them there family and friends care....Tell them to call 988 for help or call for them....Be the One to save a life....Check at [www.legion.org/betheone](http://www.legion.org/betheone) for more information.*





## Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires.

Spring is here finally and so is mud season, and I can't wait until it all dries up.

Usually in my bulletin articles I end up talking about membership, but I figured that I would introduce myself to those of you that don't know me.

My home post is Hardwick Post 7. I have been a member for 13 years. I have been the post adjutant since 2015. I was Director for the Hardwick Post 7 Gateway Riders for 7 years.

I have been District Commander of the year for 20-21. I have been northern Area Commander, and I am currently the Sr. Vice Commander. I have held National Appointments to the National Defense Commission, Law and Order Commission and currently the Veterans Choice Committee.

My service was in the US Coast Guard 89-95. Right out of basic training I was stationed on a 180' sea going buoy tender that maintained navigational buoys that was home ported in Woods Hole Mass. I served on the CGC Bittersweet for 2 years before transferring to Coast Guard Station Burlington. While at Station Burlington, I worked search and rescue cases, Certified Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Officer and performed numerous safety boardings.

After I was Honorable discharged I worked for IBM for 14 years before I was part of the BIG Layoff in 2008. After working a low paying retail job I started working for the State of Vermont in the IT Field and just recently had a promotion of sorts. I have landed the position of IT Manager I, supporting the Vermont Department of Corrections.

I am looking forward to serving the Department of Vermont American Legion Family as Department Commander.

Be safe, stay healthy, and remember you can **BE THE ONE** to help a veteran in need.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at [post7adj@gmail.com](mailto:post7adj@gmail.com)

For God and Country,  
Mark Cloutier  
Sr Vice Commander, Department of Vermont

# BE THE ONE

988 is the universal telephone number of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. Remember it and use it if necessary.

## **Joe Zickmund, Northern Area Commander appointee, District 3 Commander**

For those that know Lou Furry, you know him to be dedicated and the kind of person who finishes tasks with rare exception. Unfortunately, Lou has been unable to continue as your Northern Area Commander and although that weighs heavily on him, it is with understanding and gratitude that his resignation was accepted by Commander Scanlon. I hope each of us can appreciate and thank him.

Because my home Post has endorsed me for Northern Area Commander for the upcoming 2024-year, Commander Scanlon asked if I would accept an early appointment to the position. I am honored to have been asked and will do my best to finish out the year with the same verve and dedication that Lou would have demonstrated.

My message this month is more of an introduction. I am a U.S. Army veteran who is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> year as a Legionnaire. I have held most positions at the Post level, including more than 5 years as a Post Commander. I am a Legion Rider (Past Director), a dual member (SAL) and last year's Department of Vermont District Commander of the Year. A position I hold again this year. I am currently the Adjutant at my home Post and serve on committees at the Post and Department level.

On a more personal note, I have been married to my high school sweetheart for nearly 41 years. I have 4 grown children and 5 grandchildren. I'm a paid for life member of the American Legion and the VFW, a Master Mason and a past state officer (and current member) of the 40 & 8. I enjoy family time, riding my motorcycle and of course, serving our veterans. I am here to help.

Please reach out if you have any questions: (802) 505-8545 or joezickmund@gmail.com.

For God and Country,  
Joe Zickmund

## **Southern Area Commander – Lewis “Lew” Graham**

Happy spring to you all,

And with spring comes the new or recommitted officers for our great organization. It is a time for us to take our oaths of office and declare our support for our officers and The American Legion with renewed dedication. Over the year it is easy to routinely repeat the Preamble at our meetings and lose the deep meaning in its words. Our individual obligations to the community, state and nation and our devotion to mutual helpfulness are the solid bedrock of our organization.

<https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/preambleinterpretation.pdf> shows the importance of this document not only to Legionnaires but through them to the nation. It is worth a read and reminds us that The Legion and our veterans must come before our personal agendas.

I don't need to remind you that Memorial Day is just around the corner. It is a great time to participate in events that remind the public of our fallen heroes and the veterans who remain in our midst who need our support. It is also an opportunity to work together as a Legion Family to keep them in the public eye. The last couple of years a local Post and their Auxiliary and Sons have been able to hand out poppies at a local grocery store and spread the word quite effectively.

Maybe something similar would work for you.

Membership continues to move forward slowly and we still have a shot at 100%. Every new person you meet is a possibility. Sometimes all it takes is a casual conversation to get the ball rolling. Thanks for your hard work in this area and keep it up.

I have been able to attend several trainings and celebrations and get to know new folks. It is always a pleasure. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you on Legion business or celebrations. I am just a phone call away, 802-279-0441.

For God and Country,  
Lew Graham, Jr.

## **Scam Warning from National**

There is an unauthorized "My Legion App" currently available from the Android and Apple stores. The app was created by an organization identified as "Giant Killer". Please do not engage with this seller as they do not have permission to use our likeness.

**Please do warn Legionnaires and Posts** the application is a scam and is charging a monthly fee. National has no plans produce a fee for service app. We are actively working on a mobile application focused on helping local Posts and individual members.

When our official app is ready, it will be announced through official Legion channels and will be identified with The American Legion as the "seller" once published to the stores.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**

Post commanders and Adjutants, please take the time to complete your consolidated report, children and youth report and the Maynard Petryka Color Guard form. Questions on how to complete the forms, where to send them etc. Contact your County or District Commanders or the Department of Vermont Office and someone will be glad to assist.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander David Perron**

Legionaries,

April is here snow can go away now. Hope all got through the winter months ok. Hope we can get out and visit members and check up on all. Our memberships are looking better, let's keep at this task, it's everyone's job and are Post grow from the more members we have. Let's strive for that 100 % goal.

County Commanders, time to get your Evaluation completed and get them turned in, you can steer them in the right direction.

Once an evaluation is completed and sent to the Department. Please text or e-mail me post # completed so I can fill in my tracker.

Looking forward to serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander/Evaluation Chair.

**Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.** Thank you all for serving. Thank you.

God and Country

David W. Perron, Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793, [Perrondavid323@yahoo.com](mailto:Perrondavid323@yahoo.com)

## **Mark our Calendar!**

April 16 noon – 2 p.m.	DEC April Meeting	Montpelier Post 3
June 3	Dept. Commander Scanlon Testimonial	Middlebury Post 27
June 22-24	Annual Convention	DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington
June 25-30 June 28 evening	Boys State Boys State Legion Recognition & Parents' Night: Band Concert, Inauguration of State officers	Norwich University Norwich University
July 22-26	Legion Baseball Tournament Begins	Castleton University
Aug 25-30	104 <sup>th</sup> National Convention	Charlotte, South Carolina

## **3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander - Joe Zickmund**

Election season is upon us. Something I believe every post needs is fresh ideas. How does a Post get fresh ideas? We volunteer to help by being part of the Post leadership. If we put ourselves in positions that we've never held, we bring fresh ideas and a new outlook and we gain a sense of purpose. There is

no higher purpose in our organization than to be of service to our fellow veterans – something well accomplished from the front.

We talk a lot about membership numbers, and they are vital to our mission, but we have to serve the members, not just count them. Not ready to be an officer? How about serving or chairing a committee? Americanism, Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Membership & Post Activities, Public Relations, Legislative, Finance, Economic, House, and Service Committees are the Standing Committees. Your Post may have others, too.

The very basic qualification of membership is that we all swore an oath and agreed to stand a post if needed. You are needed. I encourage you to consider standing a post again...at your Home Post. It's rewarding, it's helpful and it's needed.

For God and Country,

Joe Zickmund  
District 3 Commander

## **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander - Bill Brothers**

Hello Legionnaires,

Another month has gone by, and I hope that everyone had a great Saint Patrick's Day and started getting ready for spring clean-up.

Well, membership is looking good, and the numbers are still coming in, thank you all for the hard work getting us where we are. I have talked with a lot of younger veterans in the past month and have asked them what we can do as a legion family to get them interested in becoming a member, most of them said we need to do more family-oriented events where the kids are involved. These younger vets are more into family with them having young children, so we should work together on things to attract families.

If anyone has any ideas on this, please share with everyone to see if it would help their post in getting them into the post to see what we are all about and what we do.

Hope everyone is working on BE THE ONE, it is a great program, and you can go to the legion website and find out more information.

April is here and we are finally in spring and getting ready to come around and do visits and see how you all are doing and get to see what is new in your post and what events are coming up. Let us not forget to do the end of year reports or get them started, they are due in May, and we would like to see 100 percent reporting this year. These are what is used to combine all of our numbers and donations to present the report to national to show how much our state does for our veterans, youth, and communities. Thank you to all posts that have already completed their reports.

Thank you all for the work you do.  
For God and country  
Bill Brothers  
4th District Commander

## **Rutland County - Richie Baptie**

Hello legionnaires,

Hope all are doing well. First, I'm very sorry to hear of Lou Furry's complications from surgery and his resignation from Northern Area Commander. I sincerely wish that all turns for the better, Lou has done an outstanding job as legion riders director and Northern Area Commander.

Membership is doing well but we must continue to pursue new members and reach out our pass due members as well. I ask each legionnaire to reach out to our members who are home bound and hospitalized so that they will know that they are not forgotten. You can be the one.

I would like to thank all the legion post for their cooperation and assistance.

For God and Country  
Richard (Rich) Baptie  
Rutland Area Commander

## **Addison County Commander Bruce Paquin**

Greetings Legionnaires:

We have made it to April and spring is in the air. April is also the American Legion's Children and Youth month. This is the time of year we try to focus on that pillar for the advancement of all of our Children and Youth programs. We got off to a great start in March with the Oratorical contest. Second place was won by Megan Mentzer from Ferrisburgh and was sponsored by Vergennes Post 14. Congratulations go out to Chairman Karlene DeVine and her Committee for a superb effort with this youth competition. I would also like to thank Vergennes Post 14 and Bristol Post 19, two Addison County Post for hosting competition events leading up to the finals in Montpelier.

Our membership remains on track to be at goal come April 19<sup>th</sup>, but we are slowing and need to do better. As of this writing, in Addison County, Bristol Post 19 has reached the 90 percent goal. Vergennes Post 14 is at 89.13 percent and Middlebury Post 27 is at 89.08j percent just a little off the mark of goal. Come May, I hope to see all of our Post well over the 100 percent mark.

If there is any way I can assist your Post with help for memberships or activates programs, please contact me. I encourage you to keep up the great work and Finish Strong!

Bruce F. Paquin  
Addison County Commander  
Department of Vermont



## **Post Everlasting**

SCOTT, JR., WILLIAM H .....	01	ANDREWS, PAUL .....	07
BELLIVEAU, GERARD .....	07	PEARSON, KENNETH .....	10
LAFAYETTE, RICHARD .....	10	VERMETTE, ARMOND O .....	10
WINTERS, MILO .....	10	TOWSLEE, FRED .....	13
BECKER, PAUL E .....	13	BUTTON, RICHARD K .....	18
BROOKS, LINCOLN W .....	21	ARCHER, RICHARD .....	25
BELL, JACK .....	44	EARLE, ALFRED M .....	47
JONES, DONALD P .....	91	O'BRIEN, THOMAS J .....	91
KALANGES, WILLIAM C .....	91	AUSTIN, DONALD .....	100

## **Children and Youth - PDC Catherine Tester**

April is Children and Youth month; the children are the future of our great nation. What is your post doing or what has your post been doing for Children and Youth in your community? Here are some ideas:

- Host an arts and craft day, community picnic with relay races and face painting, organize a nature hike, or help plant a community garden.
- Reach out to the local schools to see if you can teach flag etiquette and why we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to youth in the classroom.
- Fundraise for American Legion children and youth programs.
- Join the third annual 100 Miles for Hope where registration fees and donations support The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to ensure Temporary Financial Assistance grants are provided to help eligible military veterans and Legion members with children in the home who are facing a hardship. Or fundraise to support the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, which provides grants to nonprofits that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of the children and youth of this country.
- Host a kids Bingo, with a lunch or dinner and make it a family event.

It's through The American Legion that youth can learn patriotism, respect for the American flag and develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime. And The American Legion is where families go to feel a sense of community and give back to those that gave us our freedom.

Here is a letter from the president of the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). A donation to this worthy organization just might help to save a child's life.

## **Children's Organ Transplant Association**

The Children's Organ Transplant Association was founded in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In less than eight weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. Sadly, he died before an organ was found. Those community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using the funds to help other transplant families. That was our beginning, and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

For more than 35 years, thanks to the commitment of the men and women of The American Legion Family, we have assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

We need your help today to make sure that tragedies, like the one that was the catalyst in founding COTA, are not repeated. The United States achieved a historic milestone in 2022 with one million transplants performed – more than any other country in the world. However, 17 people die each day in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every nine minutes. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month, and I am asking everyone within The American Legion Family to go to [www.RegisterMe.org](http://www.RegisterMe.org) and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

You can become a COTA Miracle Maker. Find out how your Post, Unit, Squadron or Legion Riders can help a transplant family near you by visiting [COTA.org/Legion](http://COTA.org/Legion).

Sincerely,  
Rick Lofgren, President  
[rick@cota.org](mailto:rick@cota.org)

## **AND DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR POST**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT!**

## **2023 Vermont American Legion Baseball season**

This year Vermont will have 13 teams statewide participating in American Legion Baseball teams. From the North: Franklin County, Montpelier, South Burlington, Addison, Colchester, and Essex. From the South: Bellows Falls, Bennington, Brattleboro, Lakes Region, Manchester, Rutland, and White River.

The first scheduled games will be played Tuesday, June 13th, and the last day on the schedule is Tuesday, July 18th (Monday, July 17th in the South).

The state tournament will be hosted by Lakes Region Baseball Team sponsored by Crippen Fellows Post 50, Castleton and Fair Haven Post 49. The tournament will kick off on July 22 and run through 26 at Castleton University.

Mark your calendars and come out and watch some great Baseball!!!

# Behind the Scenes at the Oratorical

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian

On March 5, 2023, I had the pleasure of attending the finals of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Dept. of Vermont Oratorical Program in Montpelier. In the March Bulletin, Karlene DeVine, the Chair of the Oratorical Program presented an informative and interesting summary of the participants and winner of this year's program. This month I'd like to share a few thoughts and observations about the team behind the scenes that made this year's event a memorable and learning experience for the participants.



*Karlene DeVine, Chair of the Oratorical Committee*

As you can guess a great deal of planning and attention to implementation detail is required to ensure that the finals come off without a hitch. To make this happen more than a dozen Legionnaires volunteered their time to serve as escorts, judges, timers, tabulators and even to prepare snacks and drinks for this important program. Organized by Karlene, who has been involved with Oratorical for more than sixteen years and Chair of the Committee for thirteen years, the team produced an environment with the feeling and ambiance of a casual reception in juxtaposition to the precise rules, procedures and protocols associated with the Oratorical Program.

A hearty well done is due to this year's team!



*Oratorical timer briefing with Bill Brothers, Tom McGibney and Cookie Steponaitis*



*The team that helped make the Oratorical Finals a classy event. From Left to right: Silas Loomis, Brian Massey, Francisca Massey, Melodie Ashford, Karlene Devine, Tom Scanlon, Maureen Dwyer, Tom McGibney, Bill Brothers, Michelle LaBombard, Wayne Goulet.*

# AMERICAN LEGION



Hello there!

We're glad you can join us for AMERICAN LEGION.

We have a room block reserved at DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont for June 22, 2023, through June 25, 2023. Booking your room is simple, just select "Book a Room" to receive your group's preferred rate.

We're looking forward to seeing you in June! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

## Book Your Room

**Event dates:** June 21, 2023 - June 25, 2023

**Book by:** May 27, 2023

## DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont

**Address** 870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403USA

**Phone**+1 802-865-6600

## Rooms & Rates \$183+Tax

Rooms at your event's exclusive rate are filling up quickly. [Visit the booking page](#) and adjust the calendar to see which nights are available for your stay.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

**2023 STATE CONVENTION BANQUET**

DOUBLETREE by HILTON, Williston Rd., SO. BURLINGTON VT

**Friday, June 23, 2023**

**COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M**

**DINNER – 6:30 P.M.**

**Entertainment - the “Throw Back” Band – After Dinner**



Tuscan Chicken or Sliced Roast Beef with Herb Demi

The above will be served with Fresh Tossed Garden Salad (Rolls and Butter, Roasted Red Potatoes, Penne Pasta with Red Sauce, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables, Chef’s Choice Dessert Table – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade

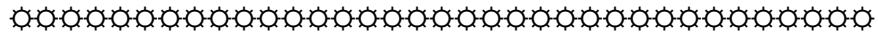
**\$40.00 per person – All Inclusive with Entertainment**

**The “Throw Back” Band**

**Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Vermont and**

SEND CHECKS TO: Dept. HQ, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: June 12, 2023



**PLEASE RESERVE: # \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets    AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squadron/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_**

(Circle   Legion   Sons of the American Legion   Auxiliary)

## **ORATORICAL PROGRAM Karlene DeVine**

Off to National Oratorical Finals for Jeswin Antony (Harry N. Cutting Post 59) 22-23 April. This will be his 2<sup>nd</sup> time in Indie. Considering a career in the sciences, possibly the medical field, Jeswin has applications into many colleges and universities. *The Final contest is live streamed <https://www.legion.org/legiontv> 23 April. Contest begins at 10 AM.*

I have volunteered as contest personnel again this year and am excited about seeing Jeswin once again with all the winners for the various Departments. The intent of this challenge is to present high school students “an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship. “ BUT, you know what ? ? ? It provides as much to the attendees and contest personnel with exposure to thoughtful reflection.

**For you personally**--Consider supporting this exceptional youth program—engaging high school students, fund raising, local contest organization. The American Legion’s mission and vision (in summary) “To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, . . . and our communities . . . Veterans Strengthening America.” This program is vital to heal the current social, cultural, and political polarization. Starting with the youth.

### **Growing the Oratorical Program 2023-2024**



The Eagles are no longer doing “Flag, God and Country” speech program for age 10-11, 12-13, 14-16. It originated from a collaboration between the Eagles and The Legion in Ohio in 1967. Using the Eagles’ format in Vermont would provide a gateway program for Oratorical. The speech is limited to 3 minutes, done without microphone or notes and uses judging criteria similar to the Oratorical.

Keep in mind that our current Oratorical winner began with a junior high school essay contest sponsored by Harry N. Cutting Post 59.

Though the Eagles are no longer doing this program, their website still has information <https://www.foe.com/Portals/0/pdf/programs/GFCInfoPack2014.pdf>

It might be interesting to run the junior high school speech contest at the same time as the Oratorical—taking advantage of the venue and incorporating both audiences. Beginning 2023-2024.



It is time to rethink the dates of the Oratorical Contest. When I first began as Oratorical Chair, the first Saturday of March worked as a contest date for Finals. Now, many towns have Town Meeting that day. Our contest results must be submitted to National by mid-March. This year, the date of the contest had to be changed at the last minute due to the weather.

Beginning the next Oratorical year, I am proposing Locals be held in October to December and Districts be held November to January. The Department contest would be in February. This would allow more

flexibility for weather challenges. It would provide our department winner more time to perfect his or her final speech for National.



***As other Departments do across the country, I am asking that immediately after the Annual Convention (June), each post and each District set dates for their Local and District contest. Do this whether you have a student or not. It is easier to cancel than to find space at the last minute.***

Respectfully submitted,

Karlene DeVine

## **Basic Training**

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

### *How Does it Work?*

The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images and video.

### *Evaluation*

At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material.

When you've completed each section quiz, you'll be able to take the final exam. The exam will take roughly ~30 minutes to complete.

Enhance your knowledge of the American Legion and take the Basic Course at [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei).

## **Be The One Branding Materials**

The approved logos for the Be The One initiative is subject to the same usage rules as The American Legion Brandmark. These guidelines, detailed instructions on proper use of the branding, and downloadable files can be found at [legion.org/brand](http://legion.org/brand)



# COMMANDER'S PROJECT

2022/2023

## JOSH PALLOTTA FUND / JOSH'S HOUSE

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Commander, Jim Troiola visited and toured Josh's House and spoke with Andrea Gagner the Executive Director. He was visibly impressed with what was provided to our veterans.

Some of you may remember Valerie Pallotta as one of the founders of the Vermont Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Her involvement was a result of her son Joshua joining the Vermont National Guard and deploying to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. When Josh returned, he was a broken person with both physical injuries and PTSD.

In 2014 Josh lost the battle with the demons inside of him and took his own life. His mother became a crusader for all other veterans suffering and for suicide prevention and awareness. As a result, Val founded the Josh Pallotta Fund and ultimately Josh's House, which is a wellness and recreational center providing a myriad of services and activities for veterans. It is located at the old Fort Ethan Allen at 162 Hegeman Avenue in Colchester. It is a wonderful location. You should stop by and check out this vibrant and accessible facility. ([www.joshpallottafund.org](http://www.joshpallottafund.org))

Their goal is to have two other like facilities in the state, one in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where our veterans are so underserved, as well as one in the southern area. I want to help them, and Val, achieve this goal.

This is so important for all our veterans. The Sons and the Auxiliary realize this as well. For the first time all of us have the same project to help give them a great push in achieving their wonderful goals. There is also a race to see which of us can raise the most for this important endeavor.....Please Help.....

Tom Scanlon

Commander, Department of Vermont



Please send your checks to Department HQ made out to the "Department of Vermont" and with "Commander's Project" annotated in the memo area. It is a wonderful project which helps our veterans who are so underserved.



# ***Department Commander***



## ***Tom Scanlon Testimonial***

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. Music**

### **Middlebury Post 27**

49 Wilson Rd, Middlebury, VT

**\$25.00 per person**

Pork roast, mashed potato, veggie, rolls, dessert

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**Time to have some fun and celebrate Tom's year as  
Department Commander.**

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**RSVP to Cathy Tester at [ctester2663@gmail.com](mailto:ctester2663@gmail.com) by May 29.**

**Make checks payable to Middlebury Post 27 and send to  
Cathy Tester, 656 Route 73, Orwell VT 05760**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_**

## **ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPT. OFFICERS 2023 – 2024**

Department Commander: Mark Cloutier, Post 07

Department Senior Vice Commander: Lewis Graham, Post 36

No. Are Commander: Joseph Zickmund, Post 10

So. Area Commander: William Brothers, Post 49

1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Commander: Robert Pearl, Post 60

2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Commander: David Perron, Post 30

3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Commander: Christopher Wood, Post 59

Addison Cty. Commander: Bruce Paquin, Post 27

Bennington Cty. Commander: Joseph Bump, Post 13

Franklin Cty. Commander: Philip Pearo, Post 60

Rutland Cty. Commander: Richard Baptie, Post 50

Dept. Finance Officer: Dennis Minoli, Post 10

NEC: Tom Scanlon, Post 27

Alt. NEC: Catherine Tester, Post 50



## Prepare for Legion Family Day in April



The National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day](#) at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.

This year for Legion Family Day on April 29, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary, and to bring awareness to the organization's ["Be the One" initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

"Tell them about our Be the One campaign and our efforts to de-stigmatize the courageous decision to seek mental wellness," National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola said. "Too many veterans take their lives while feeling isolated and alone. Some have no close relatives to whom they can reach out. It is a mistake for them to believe they have no family. Whether they know it or not, they have an American Legion Family."

At your Legion Family event have an information table with [Be the One resources](#) that include a press release, brochures, posters, wallet cards, branding materials and more. [Visit betheone.org](#) for more information.

If you are planning a Legion Family Day event April 29, or a separate Be the One event, please share with national at [legiontown.org](#).

## American Legion Brand

When it comes to designing products for American Legion events and programs, National Headquarters has developed a style guide to help you create designs that match our existing brand and landmark. This guide walks you through color, font, and layout specifications among others. It also will walk you through when to use the emblem versus the brand mark. To access the style guide visit [legion.org/brand](#).

The brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications applications (e.g., lifestyle apparel, fundraising, sponsorships, digital media, social media, and event announcements). While the emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications (e.g., press releases, business cards, post signage and official letterhead).

The American Legion emblem and other legally protected logos of the American Legion Family is restricted and typically may not be used without permission from National Headquarters.

The use of the emblem by an individual Legionnaire is limited to the wearing of the official insignia and to the possession of authorized jewelry or merchandise bearing the insignia. Posts are confined to using the emblem or reproduction of the emblem on stationery, post publications, notices, posters, or place cards, or matters of similar character used in the ordinary routine and conduct of legitimate post business. Departments are similarly limited.

Any other use of the name "The American Legion" or the emblem shall be subject to the approval of the national adjutant at [legion.org/emblem/request](http://legion.org/emblem/request).

### **Scholarships for Nursing Students in Vermont Colleges or Universities**

Do you *know* a Vermont resident enrolled in a registered nursing program at a Vermont college or university?

Scholarships are available through *La Soci  t   des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux*, (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) an independent, charitable honor society of American veterans established in 1920. Among the many charitable programs of La Soci  t  , the Locale 646(Vermont) has provided \$23,500 in scholarships to 20 nursing students since 2017.

To request a scholarship application or eligibility criteria, contact Karlene DeVine, LTC (ret)USAF Nurse Corps, [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net) (802) 877-6392

### **Applications must be postmarked no later than May 14,2023.**

Donations are welcomed to support the scholarships awarded. All funds donated will be dispersed to eligible students.

The national Forty and Eight Nurses Training Program started in 1955 to help alleviate the shortage of skilled nurses in this country. For more information see <http://www.fortyandeight.org/nurses-training/>