



*American Legion*  
*Department of Vermont*  
*Monthly Bulletin*

April 2021

*"For God and Country"*



## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

### *Ronald LaRose*

There is a God out there! He con-

versed with Gov Phil and the two of them determined it was time to open Vermont Clubs!! Hooray!! Now remember, there are still protocols in place and be sure your Post lounge is following them, if not and you get caught it could jeopardize all of our Posts. Be smart.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, we had a productive DEC meeting. We officially added two new members to our DEC: Victor Stone from Post 91 as our Historian and Bruce Paquin from Post 27 as our SAL Advisor. Both were loaned to the Dept from Cathy as they were to serve in those same positions for her. They are quality people with sound backgrounds and will be a plus to the Dept. I welcome you both to the Dept.

We have three Posts with many issues. The DEC suspended the Charter of two Posts, and we

have a team visiting the other Post to attempt to assist them with their issues. The two we suspended, we sent letters to all of their members telling them of the issues with their Posts and asked if any members would be willing to try and revitalize their Post with assistance from Dept. We gave them suspense of May 15, 2021 to respond to Dept.

Most committees brought us up to date on what they were doing and issues they were facing. Nothing major was mentioned, but in the back of everyone's mind is the pandemic and the effect it has and could have on our events.

It was mentioned again the success of our membership drive, which netted us the winner of the 'Big 12', third in the nation for percentage and this is a direct result of Linda Perham, Cathy Tester, Melodie, and a lot of people down in the trenches at each Post. This is a big feather in the cap of the Department of Vermont! Congrats to all!!

The Dept Adjutant has done a great job working with our Posts and especially the Adjutants.

She has convinced these Adjutants the Dept supports the Posts, not the other way around. With that said, Dept Adjutant has generated much interest in the Adjutant's Workshop to be held on April 10. She has approximately 50 registered for this workshop. Yes, she has a large room!

The convention was discussed but not in any great detail as we will see what happens with the protocols and the effect they could have on the convention. One thing for sure it is happening in the Rutland area and all delegates will be pre-registered for the convention. This could be a plus for us if we are restricted on the number of people we can have in a facility. More to come on this.

We are asking all five District Commanders to hold their District Caucus prior to the convention. The Dept Adjutant will be setting up a ZOOM meeting with these commanders to discuss how to run their caucuses.

The Annual Ex-POW Chapter 1 Banquet held at Post 19 has been canceled once again for

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this year. It is normally held on the first Saturday of June. These gentlemen are all hovering around the ‘century’ mark and are at an age that makes them very vulnerable to this virus. We are now looking at 2022 with our fingers crossed.

As I write this article, we are bracing for a late winter storm after all of this great weather Mother Nature gave us in March. We can complain, but we are Vermonters and know the winter is not really over until mid to late April. My lawn is completely raked. What will I do in April? I will check with my Honey-do list!

Stay safe; keep checking on your older relatives, older members of your Legion Family, and senior citizens in your community.

You can reach me by email: [ronaldllarose@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldllarose@gmail.com); by telephone: 453-3818/7663; my cell phone 989-8573.

Ron LaRose  
Department Commander





## NATIONAL COMMANDER

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*James W. "Bill" Oxford*

From the moment COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020, the American Legion Family leaned into the crisis to serve communities, states and a nation in need. That story is told and illustrated in a photo-filled, 84-page bookazine now available from Emblem Sales at [www.legion.org/emblemsales](http://www.legion.org/emblemsales). Or order a copy by calling (888) 453-4466. The limited edition bookazines are \$9.95 each plus shipping and handling.

The American Legion Family mobilized to feed the hungry and isolated throughout the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of protective face masks were obtained and distributed by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters. When blood was sorely needed, the American Legion Family gave in record amounts. The 100 Miles for Hope challenge provided members and their families a healthy outlet during the difficult time, one that nearly 5,000 enjoyed as the pandemic wore on.

Meals were prepared and distributed throughout the country – from statewide support services in Michigan and Maine to free hamburgers for truck drivers alongside highways in upstate New York and snacks for quarantined troops in Alaska. Virtual or socially distanced meetings, veteran career fairs, memorial ceremonies and drive-by birthdays – even a virtual Texas American Legion Boys State – became standard practice throughout the organization, conducted safely to reduce spread of infection. Some posts offered COVID-19 testing. Others later became vaccination sites.

The COVID Operations publication not only says what the American Legion Family did during this time, it illustrates who we are, and why it matters.

This bookazine can be used whenever someone asks what the American Legion Family is and does. It is a strong example of the recently adopted American Legion motto, "Veterans Strengthening America."

Bill Oxford  
National Commander  
April 1, 2021





## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

*Catherine M. Tester*

It was nice to hear the Governor announce his "Phased Reopening Plan".

The plan is well laid out and if we all continue to do our part (wearing our mask, getting vaccinated, social distancing) it looks promising will be able to have an in-person Annual Convention on June 26.

On April 10, we held a Leadership Training at Rutland Post 31. Our presenters were: National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald, Department Finance Officer Dennis Minoli, Northern Area Commander Tom Scanlon, and me. This was a hybrid training, meaning we had in-person and zoom members attend. Topics covered included: Leadership - Professionalism - Decision Making - Compatibility Mode, Traditions and Ceremonies, Organization of the American Legion, Program Budgets/Fundraising, Department Chair responsibilities and mylegion.org.

It was wonderful that we were able to gather again in person and see everyone's smiling faces and socialize. We did have six members on ZOOM who were engaged and given the opportunity to ask questions. The ZOOM attendees appreciated that they were given the opportunity to attend virtually.

One of the bright spots of COVID has been the use of technology for meetings and training. I look forward to exploring how we can continue to use this technology going forward for committee meetings, hybrid training, DEC meetings, etc.

I would like to thank Rutland Post 31 for the use of their building for our training and personally thank Commander Danny Maniery and his wife Julie for their hospitality, set up, and especially Julie for her help on Saturday morning. Your assistance was much appreciated.

If you are eligible to get vaccinated, please

do your part and schedule your appointment. I know I am looking forward to traveling to see my grand-kids for some much-needed hugging in May since my husband and I will be fully vaccinated.

A reminder, consolidated reports are due to Department. Although our post homes have been shuttered this past year for 5 plus months, many posts have still been working the legion programs and helping in their communities. If you need help in completing your consolidated report, please contact your county or district commanders.

Elections at Posts are taking place and I commend all of the Legionnaires who are stepping up to take on or continue in their leadership roles at the Post level. Please remember to reach out to your District Commanders to schedule installations at your Post.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on June 26 in Rutland for our Annual Conventions. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester  
Sr. Vice Commander







## NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

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### *Tom Scanlon*

As we are somewhat starting our new “normal”, we look around and see role models and heroes amongst us. At my post, Post 27 in Middlebury, our hall is being used to give out vaccinations 3 to 5 days a week, with Saturday appointments coming shortly. Post 27 had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Vermont Department of Health wherein the facilities would be available for emergencies. Little did the post know, that a pandemic was on the horizon! However, the post was there to help protect its citizens to include our local and area veterans.

Once again Post 27 had to cancel the annual Memorial Day Parade and did so with the following message (email) calling all to honor our fallen veterans and the selfless servants in our communities:

*It is with heavy heart and deep regret that Middlebury American Legion Post 27 is, once again, announcing the cancellation of the 2021 Middlebury Memorial Day Parade. This decision was made by the post leadership with the primary concern being the safety of all involved, and upon the guidance and recommendation of both public health and emergency management personnel.*

*This annual local Memorial Day celebration is when we remember how men and women set aside their civilian pursuits to serve their nation's cause, defending the freedom of mankind and preserving our precious American heritage. However, the current Covid-19 Pandemic has given rise to new heroes, our health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so. They are now,*

*each day putting the needle in arms of many, in an ardent attempt to stop this insidious virus from spreading to our families, friends, and neighbors.*

*These heroes have much in common with the people we honor on Memorial Day, America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selflessness. They are ordinary in that they represent the diverse fabric of our community and state.*

*We must celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers while still remembering the approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military who have lost their lives in defense of our nation. Even when the enemy is an invisible virus, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has also lost numerous members to Covid-19.*

*On Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Day please still pause to remember and honor those who fell for us in battle. However additionally honor all those selfless servants, from those running into the crumbling towers on 9/11, to those working in healthcare, caring for, and protecting us today.*

*For God, Country & Community*

*Tom Scanlon*



## CHITTENDON COUNTY COMMANDER

*Jessica Blanchard*

We would like to thank all that have endured this pandemic and have returned to our post. We love you all and all has been missed. We have had many losses this past several months/year and everyone is dearly missed, I truly hope that we will be able to celebrate all of their lives very soon.

As you can see, I have pictures for our first day, and it is not an April fools joke... We hope that other posts are just as lucky and start on a new path with everything we have learned over the past year.

Stay humble, and kind. Be safe and fingers crossed so we can all continue doing what we all do best. Helping all veterans!!

Jessica Blanchard



AUX President Deb Voyer presents the Post Commander Henry Lingo with an Appreciation Certificate



Opening day



Dave Meyers (chaplain/ buildings community with Commander)



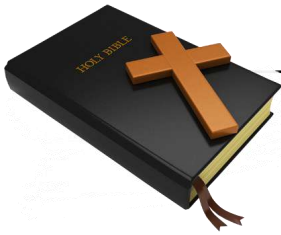
Happy Customer



Happy Customers



Auxiliary presents a get well card to Randy Patenaude (Aux Historian and our Trifecta (legion, Aux and Sons member))



## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

*Ken Coonradt*

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

APRIL 2021

Howdy Legionnaires,

Hallelujah! The Vernal Equinox (1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring) is finally here, and we still have snow on the back lawn. Can't remember being more anxious to see springtime arrive. It's been a long haul of a winter, what with the Covid-19 pandemic we've had to endure as well.

For Christians around the world, it is the Lenten season. This is the 40 days before Easter when Christians give up something in remembrance of the suffering of Jesus Christ. It's a time of penitence and fasting. Catholics and Protestants celebrate the Lenten season.

Historically, starting on Ash Wednesday we make a commitment to give up something that is important to us as an exercise in self-denial. Usually, it is something like ice cream, delicious desserts, coffee, beer, or wine. It's also a good time to start doing better at being kinder, more charitable, more respectful to others, even those we haven't a lot of affinity for. Giving up bad habits is also a good way to sacrifice during Lent. So, folks, unless you're perfect, think of a bad habit you can get rid of permanently.

Our Jewish friends recently celebrated Purim (the deliverance of the Jewish people from a massacre plotted by Haman). Haman, a high official in the Persian Empire devised a plan to eradicate all Jews. But Esther became aware of the plot and took advantage of her privileged position to approach the King and reveal the plot to him. Haman was executed and the Jews were saved. Purim is a worthy event to celebrate.

Please pray for the souls lost to the pandemic, and don't forget to pray for our troops and our great Vermont Veterans Home.

God Bless and Happy Easter to All!

Chaplain Ken

P.S. Remember God loves us and there is nothing we can do to change that, so accept Him into your heart!

## 100 Miles of Hope

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford encourages American Legion Family members to get registered and get started on the second 100 Miles of Hope fitness and fundraising challenge to benefit The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

Sign up at: <https://www.legion.org/100miles>







## CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

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*David Perron*

April is among us need rain for May flowers. Convention will be in Rutland, and all are on their own for Hotels, Department well be sending out some info.

Asking again to please check your membership for vaccination and help them with it, please call if some needs a ride.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help in these troubled times.

WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving.

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

Thank you.

David W Perron

Caledonia Country Commander

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Melissa Jackson, Emily Stockwell,  
Commander Post 49 Kevin Cull, Terry  
Carruth, President Unit 49 Gina Cull,  
Michelle Burgess

### **Community coming together for our Veterans.**

Fair Haven Auxiliary Unit 49 brings totes chucked full of wonderful Easter gifts for our Veterans, plus an envelope with a large donation presented to Michele Burgess, Activities Director..us. Unit 49 reached out to their local communities, Fair Haven, Castleton, Poultney and Benson and Hubbardton and attribute this success to their community.

This was my 1st visit to the Veterans Home as Service to Veterans Chair... Wow now that's a start for sure....Thank you Unit 49 for inviting me. I was so proud..

Hats off to Fair Haven Auxiliary 49!

Linda Perham





## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DINNER

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH BEGINNING AT 6PM**

**RUTLAND POST #31**

**\$25 PER TICKET (NO TIP, NO TAX) (YOUR TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR)**

**PRE ORDER ONLY!**

**CUT OFF DATE JUNE 15TH**

### **MENU:**

**CAESAR SALAD WITH ENTREE OPTIONS OF:**

**ROAST PORK WITH GRAVY OR BBQ CHICKEN BREAST OR PASTA PRIMAVERA**

**FINGERLING POTATOES & VEGGIES ROLLS AND BUTTER**

**DESSERT: LEMON BERRY CAKE OR COCONUT CREME PIE**

**COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE**

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**Please return to: UNIT #31 AUXILIARY C/O: CATHY MILES, PO BOX 1, WEST RUTLAND, VT 05777**

**Roast Pork - # \_\_\_\_\_ BBQ Chicken Breast - # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pasta Primavera - # \_\_\_\_\_**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME : \_\_\_\_\_**

**POST/AUX/S.A.L. # \_\_\_\_\_**

**TEL # : \_\_\_\_\_**

**ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED AFTER THE DINNER!**



## ORATORICAL PROGRAM

**Victor Stone**, Department Historian wrote an excellent synopsis of the 2021 Department Final Oratorical Contest for the March Bulletin. Thank you. It was challenging doing a speech contest in a gymnasium and having to limit the number of attendees. There are lessons learned to add to the playbook for the next pandemic.

Thank you to all that made this contest possible. Following the guidelines set forth by National make this a premier program for youth and assures credibility of the program. It takes a “family” to pull it off. It was a Legion Family event—assisted by members of Auxiliary, SAL and Legion. Besides judges, there are timekeepers, ushers and escorts and tabulators. Thank you all.

A bit needs to be said about our judges. Their expertise and enthusiasm is one of the important pillars of this endeavor.

**Robert Dornfried**, 2LT, VT Army National Guard 572<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, Human Resources Officer; High School Social Studies teacher, Tolland, CT; Paternal grandfather was a Korean War vet and founder of VFW, Berlin, CT. Maternal grandfather was a WWII vet with the Army Air Corps.

**Michelle Kennedy Hogan** 1990 VT Dept. Oratorical winner; Author; former U.S. Senate Intern; Assistant Director of Development at Easter Seals VT and Veterans Count Vermont

**Bill Mattoon** Submariner and Chief Warrant Officer (ret) U.S. Coast Guard; Member of the VT Commissioning Committee, USS Vermont, Navy's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine; Adjutant/Finance Officer for Springfield Veteran's Memorial Post 18.

**Tom Scanlon** VT American Legion Northern Area Commander; Director, VT American Legion Law & Order Cadet Training; U.S. Army CSM (ret); Retired law enforcement; Adjutant Middlebury Post 27

**Cookie (Roberta) Steponaitis** Member Vergennes Auxiliary Unit 14; High School History teacher (ret); Speech coach; Member Miss Vermont prep team; Castleton University Placement Coordinator; former interim director, Vergennes Boys & Girls Club

The Department Oratorical awards are 1<sup>st</sup> Place = \$1,000. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = \$750. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = \$500. These speeches take hours of preparation, research and practice. A fundraiser, Paint ‘n Sip with Jackie Rivers was held Mar. 20. Jackie donated \$200 of the proceeds to add to the 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2021 award. Everyone enjoyed the Paint ‘N Sip. Jackie usually does the 2 hour program in person and has perfected it for Zoom. If she is doing the program for a nonprofit, Jackie donates 50% of the proceeds to the nonprofit. Let me know if you would like her contact info or check out <https://learntopaintwithjackie.com/>

Karlene DeVine—Chair

Department of Vermont

Oratorical Program Chair



## BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

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*Dave Cobb*

April Newsletter

Boys' State 2021 is rapidly evolving! Here's the highlights.....

- AL-GMBS 2021 will be held in-person, from June 20 – 25 at Northern Vermont University – Lyndon.
- Enrollment will be limited to 72 delegates and 20 staff – because of dormitory, dining hall, and classroom space limitations. This is slightly better than half of our normal delegate enrollment of 115-120.
- We have begun making arrangements with legislators and town officials who assist our staff to provide the delegates with a program that is current and relevant to the issues facing us today.
- All materials were delivered to high school guidance personnel by electronic means. This is considered part of the “New Normal” in doing business during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **BOLO! All materials will be delivered to our Legion Posts by electronic means during the first week in April.** E-mails with information pages, flyers, and applications will be sent to both the Post Commanders and Adjutants. These materials can be downloaded, printed, and distributed to interested Legionnaires as needed.
- All materials can also be found on the Department of Vermont web site by clicking on the Boys' State link.
- Vermont high schools may be contacting our Legion Posts seeking financing for their delegates. They have been informed of our situation – our Posts have been closed for many months, and are just now set to reopen under COVID-19 protocols. We know all Posts will do what they can – so please contact Boys' State director Dave Cobb to discuss the financial situation, and we will do what we can for all concerned.
- Boys' State is looking for a nurse or EMT to join us On-Staff for the week in June. Low pay and some long hours will be compensated by working with the best and brightest young men we have in Vermont! Contact Dave Cobb to learn more about this request.

This is going to be one exciting and challenging month! Stay tuned to your newsletter for updates!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Dave Cobb, Director

AL-GMBS



## **From the Archives of the Department of Vermont**

Victor Stone, Department Historian

While familiarizing myself with the vast treasure of documents, reports, magazines, and other interesting artifacts to be found at the Department of Vermont Headquarters in Montpelier, I stumbled across some 94-year-old documents that tell an interesting story (History!) of the Vermont American Legion's contribution to the State and local communities during the Great Flood of 1927.

Many of us are familiar with the devastating impact of Hurricane Irene in 2011 and the subsequent efforts to recover and repair Vermont's infrastructure. However, the Great Flood of 1927 stands as one of the most impactful events in 20<sup>th</sup> century Vermont history.

It all began with an extremely rainy month of October that left the soil over most of the State completely saturated and waterlogged. Then, on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and the following two days more than six inches of rain fell on 53% of the State. The town of Somerset alone recorded 9.8 inches of rain. This enormous amount of water overburdened the rivers and streams as they rose 13 feet above normal within a few hours; washing out 1285 bridges, collapsing the Mad River, Bolton and other dams, and killing 84 people. Among those killed was the Lt. Governor of Vermont, S. Hollister Jackson, a brother of H. Nelson Jackson the founder of the American Legion in Vermont.

Not surprisingly, those who lived or worked near the rivers in Winooski, White River, Connecticut, and Lamoille Valleys were most seriously affected. Communication lines were destroyed; roads were washed out; railroad tracks had been swept away and thousands of people were homeless.

As you would expect, the American Legion posts were among the first to respond to the emergency by providing valuable assistance in rescue work and rehabilitation efforts. Vermont's Department Commander, Carleton M. Lawrence, of Ludlow, after taking stock of the situation, sent out messages to Post Commanders all over the State with orders to organize Legionnaires' response. He appointed Legion Flood Relief Officers in the various Districts. These officers were given carte blanche authority to draw upon the Department's treasury if necessary and they were counselled to supplement but not duplicate the work of the American Red Cross. They were to see to it that afflicted families had sufficient necessities-fuel, food, clothing, medicine-to guarantee their safe and comfortable existence.

As soon as the word got out about Vermont's plight, American Legion Departments from around the country began sending unsolicited funds to aid the Vermont Legionnaires in their important work and across the State Legion posts contributed money, food, and supplies to affected communities. Out-of-State and in-State monetary contributions amounted to \$10,000; not an insignificant amount in 1927 dollars.

If we consider that the American Legion had only been around for less than ten years at the time of this event it was truly remarkable that the organization could have such a positive and valuable impact in the face of such a catastrophe. This legacy continues to underscore the promise that "whenever there is an American

*(Continued on page 13)*



Legion post within calling distance, the community knows that its call for aid will not be in vain.”

The material for this piece was summarized from an article entitled *The American Legion in the Vermont Flood* by Elery J. Lyndes, Dept. Adjutant in the 1928 Dept. of Vermont Yearbook; an article entitled, *High Water*, by Alexander Gardiner in the February 1928 issue of The American Legion Monthly; and certain facts and statistics come from *The Flood of '27* by the Vermont Historical Society.



Part of the waterlogged section of Montpelier where Legionnaires gave valued assistance in rescue and rehabilitation efforts.



Legionnaires help save a valuable horse during the inundation.

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## Constitution and Bylaws

### Article V Constitution- Department Convention Section 6

Now reads:

**It now reads:** ...A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when a majority of the Chartered Posts within the Department are present. When the Credentials Committee Chairman reports a Quorum, as set forth in the Bylaws of this Constitution, the Convention may transact any business before it.

**Proposed Change:**

A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when *forty percent (40%)* of the Chartered Posts within the Department are present. When the Credentials Committee Chairman reports a Quorum, as set forth in the Bylaws of this Constitution, the Convention may transact any business before it.

## Article II Bylaws Duties of Department Officers

### Section 6 Department Finance officer

**Now Reads:** The Department Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department, which he/she shall deposit in the name of the organization in banks insured by F.D.I.C., and/or invest in mutual funds or stocks as directed by the Finance committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

**Proposed Change:** The Department Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department, which he/she shall deposit in the name of the organization in banks insured by F.D.I.C., and/or invest in mutual funds or stocks as directed by the Finance committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee not to exceed (50% percent of the fund balance on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year).

## Article III- Standing Department Committees

### Section 13: Law and Order Committee

**It now reads:** The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Committee, at its first regular meeting following the Department Convention, five (5) members to the Cadet Law Enforcement Committee for a term of one (1) year. The Department Adjutant and the Department Finance Officer shall, in addition, be members of this committee with vote. The Department Finance officer shall handle all receipts and disbursement of funds connected with this program. They shall assist in the development of the program and shall cooperate with the Vermont State Police in the carrying out of its programs, schedules and training sessions as held at Vermont State Police Academy.

**Proposed change:** The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Committee, at its first regular meeting following the Department Convention, five (5) members to the Law Enforcement Committee for a term of one (1) year. The Department Commander shall appoint a Chairperson of this Standing Committee from the 5 members whose term shall be for one (1) year. The Department Adjutant and the Department Finance officer shall, in addition, be members of this committee with vote. This committee shall develop and/or coordinate for an effective and appropriate Youth Law Cadet Program. The Department Finance officer shall handle all receipts and disbursement of funds connected with this program, and related program(s). The Department Commander, with the advice and consent of this committee, shall appoint a Director if necessary and required. This committee shall additionally review and evaluate all applications for the award of Law Enforcement Officer of The Year and complete the necessary evaluation forms for tabulation so as to discern the awardee who will be announced at the next annual convention. This committee will meet as often as necessary to properly perform its functions and on the call of the Chairperson.

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**Addition to Article VIII section 10:** Upon revocation, cancellation, or suspension of the charter of a Post in any District, said Post shall immediately cease operations and upon revocation or cancellation shall turn over its charter to its Department Commander or Department Executive Committee, and the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered, and directed by and through its duly authorized agent to take possession, custody, and control of all assets of the Post.

**ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS  
YEAR: 2021 - 2022**

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

OFFICE OF:	LEGIONNAIRE	SPONSORING POST
DEPT. COMMANDER	CATHERINE TESTER	#50
SR. VICE COMMANDER	TOM SCANLON	#27
NO. AREA COMMANDER	MARK CLOUTIER	#07
SO. AREA COMMANDER	WILLIAM FURMAN	#49
1 <sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
3 <sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
4 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	CHRISTINA MOORE	#87
5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER	JOE BUMP	
CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER		
CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER	DAVE PERRON	#30
ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER		
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER		
LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER		
RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER	DANIEL MANIERY	#31
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER		
DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER	DENNIS MINOLI	#10
NECman	RON LAROSE	#19
	DAVE WOODWARD	#13
ALT. NECman		

# POST EVERLASTING



LESPERANCE, FRANCIS J	01
LUMBRA, FRANCIS W	01
TESSIER, RICHARD R	01
WOODWARD, HUBERT J	01
BROWN, GEORGE C	05
MOQUIN, NORMAN R	07
SETIEN, MARTIN A	10
WEAVER, HAROLD E	13
BERTONE, ANTHONY	13
ST. ONGE, NEIL C	21
KIBLING, WENDELL	25
BIRCH, WILLIAM	29
TALLMAN, SR., DORICK D	33
BELDEN, PATRICK J	50
ROGERS, RICHARD	50
PRAIRIE, JR., RENE R	60
SURPRISE, SR., LEONARD V	63
FLANDERS, ELLIS J	87
PRATT, ARTHUR	91
LANE, FRED	91
HARGER, ROBERT	100



*"Whereas, we humbly bow to  
the will of Devine Providence,  
while ever cherishing in our  
hearts the memory of  
distinguished service to our  
country and outstanding  
contributions to American  
Legion comradeship. The  
American Legion does mourn  
the passing of these comrades. "*

*Please contact the Department Headquarters with  
information about your Post Everlasting Members  
so they can be included in the bulletin each month.*



## Were you exposed to Burn Pits while deployed?

Veterans and service members who have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990 as well as those who deployed to Afghanistan or Djibouti after September 11, 2001 can use the registry.

The VA Medical Center has scheduled dates in areas around Vermont for Veterans to check their eligibility and also register.

4/27/21          Bennington American Legion Post 13

Other dates to be announced

REGISTER AT <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home> or scan the QR Code with our smartphone camera to sign up.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** **PDC Richard “Dick” Farmer**

Legionnaires:

It seems good to be getting back to something near normal. We have ways to go, but are getting there.

When you do your elections, I will install you when it is convenient. We can stay within the Government's guide lines. Please call me to schedule a date and time.

As this is being written, Legislation is being presented to the “Ways & Means” Committee that would add Veteran tax exception (retired) from retirement pay. This is an add on an wasn't first ten thousand exemption. Veterans are asking for first thirty thousand. This is the way, it works in Montpelier. Contact your representative and tell them, we want the thirty thousand.

If I can be of more help, let me know.

5<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Dick Farmer, PDC/NEC

P.S. Get on “Schools To Go” to get Boys' State Application in (RHF).

3/27/2021

MARCH 27, 2021 (VIA ZOOM) DEC MINUTES 0900 hrs.

COMMANDER RON LAROSE PRESIDING.

CHAPLAIN KEN COONRADT OFFERED OPENING INVOCATION.

SGT AT ARMS STEBBINS MADE A MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH USUAL OPENING DUE TO ZOOM , SECONDED AND MOTION PASSED.

DEPT. ADJUTANT PERHAM: ROLL CALL 36 MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED). EXCUSED PDC FARMER AND PDC TETREAUULT AND SIMON DUE TO RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS AND ILLNESSES.

COMMANDER LAROSE: OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Leading candidate Paul Dillard's visitation scheduled for June 2021. Due to State restrictions with Covid, conflicts of the scheduling Commander LaRose asked for motion on rescheduling the visit. Motion by Stebbins, 2d by Tom Scanlon to cancel at this time. ACTION: passed unanimously.

Discussion: Cdr LaRose discussed several topics:

1. National Vice Commander Macdonalds visit April 9-10 for the Leadership and Adjutants training sessions at Rutland Post #31.
2. Award nominations must be into Department HQ prior to May 1st.
3. Membership promotion at all levels.
4. Sons of The American Legion membership improving slowly.
5. Convention June 25-26 in Rutland.
6. Motion to accept previous minutes that were sent to all DEC: motion by Scanlon, 2d by Lemnah with correction of note to edit Bylaw proposal that will be presented to the membership at the convention to Law and Order Committee. ACTION PASSED.

ADJUTANT PERHAM: Update given of administrative and collective chairman's successes.

JUDGE ADVOCATE OTEY: Bylaw addition to present to the DEC for presentation at the Department Convention. She believes this is well written and should be included in bylaw changes. After, a procedure will be established on how the Department would take possession of a posts assets when and if a charter is revoked or canceled.

Upon revocation, cancellation, or suspension of the charter of a Post in any District, said Post shall immediately cease operations and upon revocation or cancellation shall turn over its charter to its Department Commander or Department Executive Committee, and the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered, and directed by and through its duly authorized agent to take possession, custody, and control of all assets of the post.

Motion not needed, this was an FYI membership will be warned via bulletin, post adjutants.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS LOU FURRY: presentation of the newly elected officers for the 2021-2022 year. Motion made by Scanlon, 2d by Stebbins to accept the slate of officers.  
ACTION PASSED .

Chairman Boys State Dave Cobb: Report on In Person Boys State Program for June 20-25, 2021.  
Chairman Education and Scholarship Huzon Stewart: Requesting an April 17th committee meeting to select scholarship winners at the Montpelier Post #3 Post.

Chairman Law/Cadet Tom Scanlon: No applicants to date, unsure if there will be a program this year.

Chairman American Legion Baseball Scott Stevens: We will have a season!! It will begin around June 14th and posts can register their teams now.

Chairman POW/MIA Ron LaRose: The luncheon has been canceled this year, due to COVID and for the health and safety of the honorees.

National Foreign Relations Committee member: Christina Moore remarked about the return of individuals to the recovery of our MIA's.

Chairman Scouting: Cdr LaRose announced the Eagle Scout of the Year recipient Colby LaRose.

Chairman C&Y Barb Bushaw: Award determinations will begin on May 2, 2021 via zoom.

#### New Business:

Commander LaRose discussed in detail three posts that have been identified with serious concerns. Hartford Post #26, Milton Post #57, Paul Lafountain Post #67. After much discussion the following actions were determined:

1. Hartford Post #26 immediately suspended, Motion by M. Lemnah, 2d by Tom Scanlon, ACTION PASSED. All members will be notified of the current situation, by Commander LaRose. We will Await the Hartford Police and Attorney General actions. No members of the post or the SAL will be allowed to transfer until such time as action is taken. Also of note: no one will be allowed seating at the State Convention, as they are suspended.
2. Milton Post #26: Motion by Tom Scanlon, 2d by Jessica Patenaude to suspend the post, notify the membership and make all attempts to revitalize the post. ACTION: PASSED.
3. Paul Lafountain Post #69: Commander LaRose updated the DEC on reports from the Adjutant, who had recently resigned. The Commander has resigned. PDC Dave Woodward stated he had been in contact with the post finance officer and had a different interpretation of the activities at the post. Commander LaRose appointed PDC Woodward and County Commander Joe Bump to attend their next meeting and report back to him regarding their status.

Note: JAG Rebecca Otey weighed in with, if it is just a few individuals that are causing the post to suffer, we can take action on just the individual and not the entire post.

Chairman Finance: Dennis Minoli reported the requests of the finance committee, presented the budget for the Department Convention for full review, provided a P&L statement for the DEC to approve. He noted that the Sons of The American Legion budget would need to go to the Department Finance Committee and then to the DEC at the Convention.

Requests:

1. Increase the amount give to the Boys State program, from membership dues, from \$1.00 per member to \$1.25. Motion by Stebbins, 2d By Marc Cloutier ACTION PASSED.
2. Increase the dues amount for Post #100 members from \$40.00 to \$45.00 Motion by Perham, 2d by Scanlon ACTION PASSED.
3. Vermont Veterans Charity Foundation: Dennis requested permission to move \$45,000 for a total of \$50,000 placed in the foundation accounts. This money is currently in savings. Motion by PDC Bushaw, 2d by Dave Cobb ACTION PASSED.

Commander LaRose: Introductions of Bruce Paquin and Victor Stone.

Bruce will be replacing Dave Woodward for the remainder of the year as the Sons of The America Legion Advisor and Chairman of the Committee. Motion by Scanlon, 2d by Patenaude to accept. ACTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Victor Stone will be replacing Ray St John (Deceased) as historian. Motion by Tester, 2d by Lemnah to accept. ACTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ron thanked all that worked so hard this year and would see them all at the convention.

Chaplain Coonradt provided the benediction. Closed at 11:10am.