



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

August 2021

"For God and Country"



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Catherine M. Tester

My Fellow Veterans,

As I am sure you all have seen, the images of what is currently happening in Afghanistan are painful and upsetting to watch. These images have made many relive painful memories of their time in service causing severe physical and emotional pain. As Department Commander of the American Legion of Vermont, I am encouraging all posts to organize and conduct buddy-checks. It is our duty as veterans to look out for our fellow brothers and sisters in arms to make sure they are OK and supported with whatever they need. Thank you for caring and thank you for your service to our Country then, and now.

Department of Vermont is off to a great start for the new Legion Year. Committee chairs and members have all received their

appointment letters and are ready and eager to work our legion programs and mission of the American Legion. Thank you! There are a few committees with some vacant appointments. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to me.

It is hard to believe it is August and several of us will be heading to the 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona the end of this month. I and my fellow legion delegates look forward to sharing our experience and what we learned with all of you at the Fall Conference. Our Membership Chairman Scanlon with the help of Membership Director Woodward have published post membership quotas. Tom, David, Brian, and I met with Leading Candidate Dillard and his membership team via ZOOM the beginning of August. Tom presented his membership plan and we received our quota of 9,666 for the 2021/2022 membership year. Tom has shared his plan with County, District and Area Commanders and

will be sharing it along with other membership activity at the Fall Conference.

Mark your calendars:

Legion Family 9/11 remembrance ceremony on Saturday, September 11 at Middlebury Post 27 starting at noon. The event will be followed by light snacks provided by Post 27.

Fall Conference on Saturday, October 23 at Vergennes Post 14 starting at 9:00am.

Mid-Winter Conference is on January 21-22 at DoubleTree in Burlington.

Mid-Winter Banquet on January 21 at DoubleTree in Burlington.

Our American Legion Baseball tournament was a huge success despite mother nature. Congratulations to Colchester Post 91 for winning the championship game over Brattleboro Post 5. Chair Leon "Scott" Stevens, his committee and Rutland Post 31 balanced rain delays, flooded

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

I hope everyone is starting to dry out from all the recent rain events throughout the state and enjoying some sun light.

Get all the natural vitamin D you can and stay safe and healthy.

I want to congratulate my friend, Commander Henry Lingo, of Post 91 and all the officers and members of that post for their sponsored American Legion Baseball team winning the state championship. The Sunday game was completed before the rain arrived, and it was a pleasure to present the trophies with our Department Commander. They will move on to the Division 1 Northeast Tournament. GOOD LUCK.... A shout out for a job well done by the runner up, Brattleboro Post 5.

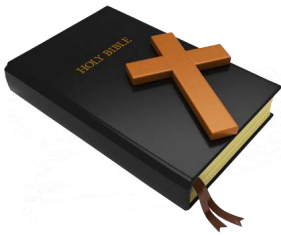
We, the Department Leadership, recently had a virtual meeting with the Leading Candidate for National Commander, Paul Dillard, and his staff. The meeting's focus was membership and I had to present our Department Membership Plan for 2021/2022. The plan will be disseminated to all posts in the very near future. This will be accomplished by the District and County Commanders,

who play a pivotal role in the plan. We also received our membership quota for the 2021/2022 membership year, and it is higher than last year. We are now in the process of number crunching and seeing how this plays out for the Districts, Counties, and Posts. There will be more on this soon and posts will have their target number. We will work hard to make them as fair and achievable as possible for all. Start looking for those new members now. They are out there waiting to be asked. I signed up a new member for my post last week just by asking. Look for the military caps, ink, and stickers and strike up a conversation and sell your post and the American Legion. Talk it up as to what we do for veterans, children, and our communities and put a membership application into her or his hand and ask them to join.

Membership is the lifeblood of any service or veteran's organization. We must retain all our current members and work ardently to obtain and recruit new ones. Both retention and recruitment are enormous challenges, that must be met head on.

A closing comment on this subject. Please do not hold on to membership. Process it right

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DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Ken Coonradt

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

You may have heard that the Bennington Select Board is considering the elimination of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at their Select Board meetings. It was dropped during the pandemic as it was difficult to do it over the phone or via ZOOM.

My first exposure to the Pledge of Allegiance was during the first grade at the Snow School on East Road here in Shaftsbury. It was a reminder of who we are, what we are and why we are. The Pledge was recited at the beginning of school every Monday morning.

As a Korean War Veteran, I am acutely aware of what the Flag stands for. It is the symbol of our Nation. It reminds us of the thousands who went to war and those who made the supreme sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted. Freedom of religion, speech assembly, want, and choice among the many.

God was present in the lives of our forefathers when they designed our way of life. He was present in the life of Mr. Bellamy when he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance and he is present in our lives as we praise Him and honor our Grand Old Flag.

Let us pray that the Bennington Select Board members will feel God's presence in their lives and will want to remind the community of our Flag heritage via recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

And don't forget to pray for our Troops serving around the globe and be grateful to God for our wonderful Vermont Veterans' Home and all who make it home for our heroes and their spouses.

God Bless,

Chaplain Ken

(Continued from page 1)

fields, and multiple field locations to playball this year. It was nice to see America's favorite pastime in action in our state.

I want to thank the Sons of the American Legion and SON's Department Adjutant John Waite for the recent donations to the Vermont Foundation. You truly amaze me on the support you give to the veterans of our state. THANK YOU!

Our Department Executive Secretary has been working

on putting together a package for each of the posts. This will include the new department by-laws, directory, Legion Trust Insurance, and other important information. Please don't just set this on a desk to gather dust. Share the contents at your meeting and with your post legionnaires.

I wish you all, your families and your Post, a very happy, healthy, and safe summer. I am looking forward to visiting Posts in the upcoming months. If you need me, if you have a special event or occasion, please let me

know. I will do my very best to attend or have a Department Representative present.

My motto for the year -
"Have a goal for tomorrow, a plan for today, and remember the lessons of yesterday."

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester
Department Commander





NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Mark Cloutier

Welcome fellow Legionnaires.

I hope that you all have had a great summer so far. Can you believe that it is already August, where has the summer gone? Hopefully there is some nice warm weather soon.

Some topics of mention this month:

- The Northern Area is looking good. Currently the Northern Area is at 98% for 2021 memberships. We are almost there. Please reach out to those that have not yet renewed their memberships for the 2021 membership year. The Department of Vermont is at 96.48% which puts us in 5th place nationally and 2nd in the Northeast region. Great job everyone!
- There are still some posts that have not yet had their post officers for 2021 installed yet. This is very important and needs to be done as soon as possible. So please post Commanders or Adjutants reach out to your District Commanders to set up a date for installations. It seems that there might be some confusion as to who can do post installations. I will quote from the Department of Vermont Constitution and By-laws. The Post officer installation form can be found on the Department of Vermont website, or by clicking here. http://vtlegion.org/documents/Installation_Form-Certification_Service_Records_2019.pdf. It is the responsibility of the Installing Officer to complete and sign this form and submit to Department Headquarters within 15 days of the completed installation.

***Article II Section 16. Installations (pg. 32):** All installations of Post officers shall be done by the District Commander, in his/her District. In the case the District Commander is not available, then the County Commander of the County in which the Post is located shall be the Installing Officer. If neither of the above is available, then any member of the Department Executive Committee may serve as the Installing officer. Installations to be completed by September 1st.*

- Post evaluations should now be well underway. This is the responsibility of the County Commanders to complete evaluations as soon as they can. These also need to be submitted to Department as soon as possible. So, County Commanders, please reach out to your posts to schedule a visit and complete these evaluations.

Stay tuned for more.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email post7adj@gmail.com, or just shoot me a message on Facebook.

Mark Cloutier
Department of Vermont
Northern Area Commander
For God and Country



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Brian Markwell

PEOPLE! PEOPLE! PEOPLE! In case you haven't heard, there is something free in life and it's called the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. Just for signing up, you get up to \$5,000 accidental death insurance if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from or participating in any covered event conducted for Legion business, or \$1,000 for all other fatal covered accidents. You pay nothing for this coverage. And this benefit is available to all Legion Family members. It takes less than 10 minutes to sign up. Just remember to have your membership number handy to include on the application. And for signing up, the Department of Vermont gets paid a small amount of money rebated to them based on the number of members who sign up during the year. I'm not quite sure how this works but I think it has something to do with upselling to other products relating to computer and ID security. You can always say no to other offers and still get the original free life insurance benefits. Just click on the link to get started. [No Cost LegionCare - lit \(thelit.com\)](http://NoCostLegionCare-lit(thelit.com)) We will have a computer station set up at the Midwinter conference to have people sign up if they haven't already taken advantage of this offer.

We need posts to send in their current list of officers and remind you to also fill out and have the installing officer sign the installation form and send it in to department.

We also encourage more posts to sign up to process their own memberships online. This will allow you to have nearly instant confirmation of membership renewals as well as new membership applications. It will also save you time and postage mailing the paperwork to Montpelier to be processed. If you need assistance in setting this function up, please let me know and I will gladly walk you through the process.

As always, if you have any questions or need help with something, please feel free to contact me at adjvt@talofvt.com or 1-802-999-1026.

For God and Country,

Brian Markwell

Dept of Vermont Adjutant

(Sr. Vice Commander Continued from page 2)

away or get it to department as quickly as possible. All outstanding membership must be submitted by the first Friday of the month. This is to ensure we, the Department, meet the quota dates. National target dates are normally the second Wednesday of the month, and they must have the membership processed by that day to be calculated into the total. If it is processed on Friday, they will have it by the following Wednesday. Please help with this, and those posts that are not on MyLegion, please sign up and use this great tool.

The National Convention is coming up in a

few weeks and hopefully we will have new and welcoming news to report after the same, other than it being hot in Phoenix. I enjoy cool and even cold over hot and humid.... Stay safe and enjoy the summer.

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon



SECOND DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

I would like to thank the 2nd District Posts for accepting me as Second District Commander. I am looking forward to the next year and working with the Posts in our District.

There are still 4 Posts in the District whose officers have not yet been installed. As soon as the new Directory is available with its updated contact information, I will be reaching out to those Posts to schedule your installations. For those who would like to schedule something prior to that, you may feel free to contact me.

My contact information is as follows:

Email: trollfur@yahoo.com

Cell phone: 802-272-0416

Mailing Address: PO Box 1286, Hardwick, VT 05843-1286

I have some big shoes to fill, following former Second District Commander Mark Cloutier's advancement to Northern Area Commander, but will do my best. Congratulations to Mark!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Furry, 2nd District Commander



FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lewis Graham

Hello to all The American Legion Family in District 5. I am excited to look forward to a great fall and winter getting to know you all and getting our district events focused on service to veterans and their families. It was great to see that six of our Posts were at 100% this year and several others knocking at that door! Kudos to you all for keeping a membership focus.

I will be asking the 5th District Caucus to ask run a gun raffle. Caucus is on Sunday, 9/19 @ 10am. More information to come. It will be for a308 with 170 tickets sold at \$20 each. If any of you are aware of a place in our district or at least in the southern area where we could buy the gun, please let me know. I do know of one in Central Vermont but would like to purchase it in our area if possible.

There is a significant percentage of veterans served by senior centers or in nursing homes and I would like to dedicate the receipts to some of those facilities in our district. We will be holding a District caucus at Ludlow Post 36 on the third Sunday in September at 10:00am. The Commander is planning to attend.

As always, if you have questions or suggestions, call me at 802-279-0441 or email me at vermonter@charter.net. Time "after pandemic" will be an adventure, particularly with the large number of returning veterans added to those already home who can use our help. Let's move forward with energy and purpose.

For God and Country,

Lewis G Graham, Jr.



THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

Joe Zickmund

Comrades,

I hope everyone is enjoying the good weather we are having between the rain showers. Not too many sunny days so we have to make the most of them when they arrive. We have been advised several posts have not yet taken care of their Officer Installations or haven't yet submitted the appropriate paperwork to Department after doing so. If you haven't installed your Post Officers yet, contact me or your County Commander and let's get it taken care of. If you've already performed installations, I ask that you let me, your County Commander or Department know about it so they can update records.

Thank you to the members in Chelsea for the BBQ invite – my wife and I greatly enjoyed your hospitality. I'm happy to report it was on one of those rare sunny days. I also appreciate that you reached out and asked me to visit your meeting this month to help with installations. Commander is a position of leadership, but I believe it's even more so one of service. If any District 3 County Commanders or Post Commanders need help with anything, know

that I will be responsive and accommodating to the extent my employment allows.

My final comment for this bulletin is regarding supporting your Posts. Nearly every post has some form of fundraising. Be it a bar, a meal, bingo, a raffle or a band on a Saturday night – I encourage you to attend and/or volunteer in support of these activities. The continued success of the American Legion is rooted in all our posts. Great satisfaction can be had in knowing that you made a difference. Let me and your County Commanders know when you have something going on as we would also like to help support your Posts with our attendance or by spreading the word about your event. We're here to help.

For God and Country,

Joe Zickmund

Commander, District 3 - Department of VT



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David Perron

August is here, Hope are your Post summer projects are doing well. Very nice to see all are Post homes open and getting out and doing things for are Communities. Times to start getting are 2022 Memberships, the earlier we start will be easier when clock is running out.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help with anything you folks need.

COUNTY COMMANDERS- Time to get out there

and visit your Post for Evaluations, I like to visit early so you have time to re visit and check their improvements.

WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving. Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793, Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you.

David W Perron - Caledonia Country Commander



Melvin “Doc” Simon

Past Department Commander & Past National Vice Commander

February 20, 1933 - July 24, 2021

White River Jct., VT – Melvin “Doc” M. Simon, 88, died Saturday, July 24, 2021, in Windsor, VT. Doc was born at home on February 20, 1933, in Cold Spring, MN, the fourth of five children of Albin and Leona (Scherer) Simon.

Doc grew up in Minnesota and graduated from St. Boniface High School in 1952 where he excelled at sports serving as Captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams. He also served as Class President in his Junior and Senior year of high school. With his friend, Marvin “Narge” Faber, Doc enlisted in the US Navy in March 1952, went to basic training in Great Lakes, IL, and served as an Aviation Storekeeper for the Navy jet pilots’ training base at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Kingsville, TX. He had the distinct honor of flying once with the Navy Blue Angels jet squad back to base following an incident with an engine of the jet he was in. In September of 1954, he became one of the first crewmembers aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga after it was recommissioned for duty as part of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea during the Korean Conflict. Doc received his Honorable Discharge in 1956 and continued to serve in the Reserves until 1960. Doc went on to become the curator of the U.S.S. Ticonderoga Museum at Ticonderoga, NY, for two years as well as President of the U.S.S. Ticonderoga Veterans Association 2004-2005. He was aboard the 1973 Tiger Cruise following the decommissioning of the ship and was proud to have attended every annual ship reunion until 2016.

While in the Navy Doc met his future brother-in-law by chance in a mess hall. Through this random encounter, he started writing to his future bride Lucille “Lou” Beaulieu. They wrote daily for an entire year before meeting face-to-face. At the time, Lou was studying for her medical lab tech degree, and so chose to do her lab internship in Houston. Following her internship, they drove from Texas to Minnesota to meet Doc’s family, and then Lou returned to New York by train from Chicago. They were engaged by telephone upon her return as Doc had sent the engagement ring to her home. They were married on May 28, 1955, at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in her hometown of Tarrytown, NY.

Doc briefly worked at the New York State Thruway Authority as a Mechanical Stores Clerk while he pursued a degree in Business Administration at Westchester Community College in White Plains, NY. Following the births of his three older daughters, Doc started working as a janitor at a small handicraft import business known as Shopping International. The owners of the business decided to return to their roots in Vermont, and so Doc and Lou moved their family to White River Jct. in 1962. They welcomed daughter number four soon after arrival in Vermont. Over a career spanning 25 years, Doc worked his way up to Vice President of Operations. Shopping International closed the Norwich facility in 1983. Doc worked at several other companies and finished his working career in 1996 at Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH.

Upon arrival in Vermont, Doc became active in the community and especially the Hartford American Legion Post 26, becoming a Life Member in 1975. He was extremely proud that during his tenure as Post Commander, membership of the Post doubled earning him Legionnaire of the Year in 1980. Doc also served as District Commander, Commander of the Department of Vermont and National Vice-Commander. He was proud to note that he visited each Post within the Department of Vermont during his tenure of Department Commander. As National Vice-Commander Doc was asked to place the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day in 1981. Doc served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the American Legion Foreign Relations Committee for many years as well as

many other positions and committees at all levels of the American Legion. He was particularly proud that he attended every National Legion Convention from 1973 to 2016. Doc moved his membership to Norwich Post 8 in 2016.

He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church for nearly 59 years and was an active member of the White River Junction Lion's Club for more than four decades, served as Trustee of Public Funds for Hartford for many years, Hartford Veterans Council, ANAVICUS (Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada – US Unit), U.S.S. Ticonderoga Association, and the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Doc and Lou loved to open their home to others. What was supposed to have been a 3 month visit in 1972 for foreign exchange student, Maria Eugenia Cardenas from Colombia, South America, became an 8 month stay and a lifelong relationship. They welcomed Lou's nieces Cindy and Erica Beaulieu into their home for several years following the tragic deaths of their parents. Doc absolutely loved Dartmouth football and was fortunate to have Narge Faber's son Steve play football at Dartmouth. As a result, Steve became the son he never had and joined the family for many holidays during his Dartmouth years. This experience led to Doc taking in two more players and their families from Minnesota when they were playing for Dartmouth, one of whom was from his hometown of Cold Spring!

In addition to sports, Doc loved to meet new people, play cards and cribbage, and a cold brewski. He loved traveling and stepped foot in all 50 States as well as visiting many countries in Europe, Asia and Central America. Doc loved to collect things which led to his daughters to lovingly call him "Knerps", named for a squirrel from the childhood story Doc made up for the girls. Most of all, Doc loved his family. The family would like to thank all of those who made it possible for Doc to stay in his home including the Bugbee Senior Center Meals on Wheels, neighbors Mike and Alyn Asis, and the White River VA Hospital medical staff.

He was predeceased by his parents; wife, Lou on July 19, 1999; a brother, Leon "Red" Simon; and two sisters, Eileen Jonas and Dorothy Schouville.



ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER

Robert McComiskey

Good day from Essex County,

Post 80 in Brighton has had a busy July starting off with a dance on the 3rd with their annual chicken bbq on the 4th which sold out. They also have a gun raffle going on as well. Installation for the legion and auxiliary was done on the 27th with a light lunch after.

Northland post 47: I would like to give a special shout out and congratulate finance officer of the year to comrade Dale Lynch who kept the post running through these difficult times. The post had an appreciation dinner for the individuals in the community who donated money to keep the post open. They have started to send boxes to local soldiers sta-

tioned abroad and also have a gun raffle and a wheelbarrow full of cheer.

Moore Fox post 41 will be having their annual meeting and installation in the near future and are recruiting new members.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Essex county legion family for their 100% membership.

For God and country,

Robert McComiskey - Essex County Commander

<bmccomiskeyeef@gmail.com>

BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

Dave Cobb



SUICIDE

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, please call the crisis line at 1-800-273-8255, press 1 for veterans. You could also text at **838255**.





DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Victor J. Stone

Play Ball

Despite the best efforts of Mother Nature to interrupt and disrupt this year's American Legion State Baseball Tournament, Scott Stevens and his crew found a way to schedule, reschedule and program a most successful event. Spanning several days, from July 28th to August 1st, eight teams competed to become the State AL Baseball Champions and earn the right to play in the Northeast Regional Tournament in Worcester, Massachusetts.

This year's double elimination tournament featured Franklin County Post 01, Colchester Cannons, Post 91 Baseball, and South Burlington Wildcats from the Northern Division. Rutland Post 31, Brattleboro Post 5, White River Junction Post 84 and Manchester Union rounded out the Southern Division.

Perhaps the nicest baseball

day was Saturday July 31st. The weather was sunny and mild which made both playing and watching the games a pleasant experience. Between games a few moments were taken to recognize and show appreciation for the teamwork and dedication that is required to orchestrate AL Baseball. The Joe Patterson Faithful Service Award was presented to PDC Rodney "Stub" Sherman of Post 59 in Waterbury. The Senator John Byland Leadership Award was given to Tim Albertson, head coach of the SD Ireland team. This award recognizes an individual who through example demonstrates professionalism and leadership to the young men under his stewardship. The Ray Greenwald Dedication Award was presented to groundskeeper Richard Densmore, a member of Squadron 31 in Rutland, who for 30 years has ensured that St. Peter's Field is one of the best maintained fields in the State.

To round out the presentations, scholarships were awarded

to three players: Zachary Stabell representing Barre Post 19 (\$500.00), Ethan Labatt representing Bennington Post 13 (\$300.00), and Grady Lockerby representing Bellow Falls Post 37 (\$300.00).

The final game of the tournament was played at St. Peter's Field on Sunday August 1st. The game featured Colchester Post 91 Baseball versus Brattleboro Post 5. In the end the Post 91 convincingly proved itself the better team by winning the game 10-2. Department of Vermont Commander Catherine Tester was on hand to present the trophies to the winning team and bid them good luck on their next adventure as they represent Vermont in the Northeast Regional Tournament. Overall, a fine job by the Post 91 team, Scott Stevens, and those supporting him and the American Legion to make this an exciting, enjoyable tournament!



Commander Tester (R) and Sr. Vice Commander Scanlon (L) presenting championship trophies to Post 91 players.

Scott Stevens presenting the Ray Greenwald Dedication Award to Richard Densmore



Colchester Post 91 team celebrating their victory in the American Legion Baseball Tournament



S.A.L. ADVISOR

Bruce F. Paquin

On the weekend of July 23 - 25 the Detachment had their first event and DEC meeting. A combination camp out, meeting and cookout that was open to all the Legion family. This was a fantastic event hosted by the Detachment of Vermont and held on the property of Detachment Commander Jeremy Revell and his family in Lincoln, VT. Kudos to all involved that made this networking event take place in a manor to promote comradeship and inclusively.

The DEC meeting was held Saturday morning with myself and Department Commander Tester in attendance. John Waite presented Commander Tester a \$3,900 donation and the Detachment approved a \$7,500 donation. Both donations to go to the Vermont American Legion Foundation. Commander Tester accepted the contribution with a sincere thank you and then spoke on how her intent was to have both SAL and Auxiliary representation on the Foundation board. Commander Tester also gave Detachment Commander Revell a standing invitation to attend all

of her future DEC meetings. Commander Tester has made it clear that communications will be a priority with her. My compliments continue to go out to the Detachment for not only a well run meeting, but to the creativity for incorporating an event like this and to have fun while conducting business in a professional fashion.

The Detachment has set in place a visitation schedule for officers to travel around the state to help promote the Sons' program and to keep the lines of communications open. I further offer my time and assistance to visit with any Post in the Department to discuss all issues and questions regarding the Sons of the American Legion program. In conversations at times with Legion members, I find some misconceptions do exist. I do agree with Commander Tester that open and clear communications do solve many issues.

Just one last thought to all Legionnaire members. If your father was a veteran, that also makes you eligible to become a Sons' member. What better way to honor your

mother/fathers' service than becoming a dual member. Not only will you honor your mother/father, but you will increase membership for our organization, and help foster better communications within the legion family. I urge you to consider this, remember you are already a member paid by your service.

Promote the family by duality. As Past National Commander Jimmy Foster would say, **"Its cool to be dual"**.

Yours in a strong Legion family.

Bruce Paquin
Department of Vermont
Sons of the American Legion Advisor

Bruce F. Paquin
Department of Vermont
SAL Advisor



Convention Committee

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held on Jan. 21 & 22, 2021 at the Doubletree in South Burlington. The room cost will be \$115.00+ tax per night with no breakfast included. We will keep you informed on when you can call to reserve your rooms.

Fred Stebbins, Conv./Midwinter Conf. Committee Chair

Membership

The 2021 Membership Workshop videos and PPT slides. They are on the Vimeo channel and on the website at: www.legion.org/training/membership

Blue Cap Membership Challenge

BLUE CAP MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE, TAL AND SONS.

Hello everyone, I have been thinking about trying to incentivize all of our blue cap members with a membership challenge. After all there are over 9,000 of you on TAL side and over 3,000 Sons. We CAN NOT just rely on the county and district commanders to push membership, AS IT IS A GOAL FOR EVERY-ONE!!! After speaking with membership Chair Tom Scanlon, this is what we came up with.

Any member of The American Legion or the Sons that recruits a new member (this would be a person that was not a member in the previous membership year) will have their name placed in a drawing. Each time 50 members are recruited a name will be drawn and that person will receive \$50. A Sons member can recruit a Legionnaire member and a Legionnaire can recruit a Sons member and that will count.

In order for this to work, the person that recruits a member of the Sons or TAL, MUST send me the name of the recruit, post they went to and their own name. Everyone has an equal chance to win in this drawing, and each time you recruit a member your name will be entered into the drawing, so someone could have multiple chances in the same drawing. This contest starts immediately.

Our current membership is 9,563 with a goal from National for this coming year of 9,666. Last year with the loss of 206 Post Everlasting members we still had a gain in membership of 147 members. That means this department recruited 353 members last year. This is the first time in years that VT had a gain in membership, and I am certain we can have a gain this year of 103 members to achieve 100%

Remember, send your name, the new members name and post number to me at dwalvt@gmail.com (in the heading please put membership) and I will send a reply that I have received your email. You can also text me at (802) 688-4897 with this information. Updates on winners and how many people are in the current drawing will be posted in the department bulletin.

David Woodward PDC
Alternate NEC
Membership Director

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

126 State Street
P.O. Box 396

Montpelier, Vermont

05601-0396

800-501-7131

802-223-7131

vtlegion.org

Melodie Ashford

Executive Administrator

Finalvt@talofvt.com

Department of
Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000

www.va.gov

American Legion
Headquarters

317-630-1200

www.legion.org

Vermont Office of
Veterans Affairs

802-828-3379

www.veterans.vermont.gov

The Dodge House
95 Crescent St
Rutland, Vt 05702

August 1, 2021

Dear Fellow Veterans;

Winter is quickly approaching and many struggling and homeless veterans, come to our Veterans Assistance Office, located at the Dodge House. Many are in need of winter boots in various men and women's sizes. Keeping their feet warm and dry has made a significant difference.

Our supply has slowly depleted and we are reaching out to ask for your participation in providing new boots to needy veterans. We have secured a vendor that provides low cost boots for \$50.00 a pair. We are hoping to purchase 50 pair this year.

If you have any questions regarding our boot project or how to help us reach our goal, please feel free to contact me at [dodgehouse vao@comcast.net](mailto:vao@dodgehouse.com)

God Bless our Veterans,

Christina Morgan

Executive Director





AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Pam Norton

Patriotism – love for or devotion to one's country.

As we head towards the 20th anniversary of 9/11 (now officially called Patriot Day), there had probably been no greater sense of patriotism in our country since the end of World War II. Our country came together with outrage over the acts of terrorism against our country and fellow citizens.

Patriot Day can be honored by providing a remembrance ceremony or participating in one within your community or sponsor a Patriot Day event, volunteer your time to help another organization with their event. Fly your flag at half-mast from sun up to sun down and observe the national moment of silence at 8:45 a.m.

We are now in an era where some of our youth/young adults think patriotism for our country is overrated. We need to instill in our youth the love of country and the honoring of the symbol of our nation. One such organization whose mission is to REMEMBER, TEACH, HONOR is Wreaths Across America. In their most recent newsletter they state, "Patriotism begins at home and then reaches to community and Country."

So how can you reach into the community to instill

patriotism? Perhaps, a cleanup or spruce up project in the community while wearing your Legion branded or patriotic clothing and inviting community members to join you. Perhaps, working with an art teacher at a local school to have children draw a picture or write an essay of "What being an American Means to Me" or "What our Flag Means to Me" or a similar theme. Perhaps supplying crafts for a local daycare project relating to something patriotic. Some glue, popsicle sticks, paint and pipe cleaners or straws can be the grounds for making a child friendly flag and with those items drop off an age appropriate card of what the stars and stripes stands for. Drop a thank you card off at the home of someone flying our flag, thanking them for honoring our flag and country.

Constitution Day is September 17. Perhaps, performing one of the above suggestions but having it relate to the Constitution.

There are many items that can be purchased such as flag books, copies of the Constitution, etc., but leading by example is an excellent way to show your patriotism.

Pam Norton, Leadership Chair
427 Maple St., Vergennes, VT 05491, (802) 349-6866, norton@middlebury.edu

Greetings Riders,

Riding Season has finally arrived, albeit a cool one...

I hope you are all getting a chance to enjoy it and do the things we do best.

Things have been rapidly changing and evolving in our Riders community and have made it extremely difficult to know just who is out there. I would therefore like to ask the Department of Vermont District and County Commanders to forward to me any of the Riders information, such as Director Name and contact information, they can acquire as they are out doing Post Evaluations and Installations. Posts and Chapters themselves may also provide this information. I can be reached either by email at trollfur@yahoo.com or on my cell phone at 802-272-0416. For those who still prefer mail, my address is PO Box 1286, Hardwick, VT 05843-1286.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Furry

Director, American Legion Riders





The American Legion
Department of Vermont Family
9/11 20th Anniversary
Remembrance Ceremony
Middlebury Post 27
12:00pm

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
FALL CONFERENCE

October 23, 2021

Vergennes Post 14

8:30 am Check-in

9:00am Opening Ceremonies

Baseball

Congratulations to the teams who played in the state championship and congratulations to Colchester Post 91 who clinched the State Championship winning 10 – 2 over Brattleboro Post 5.

Northern Division Representatives

#1 Seed - Post 91 Baseball

#2 Seed - South Burlington Wildcats

#3 Seed - Franklin County Post 01

#4 Seed - Colchester Cannons

Southern Division Representatives

#1 Seed - Brattleboro Post 5

#2 Seed - Manchester Union

#3 Seed - White River Junction Post 84

#4 Seed - Rutland Post 31



upcoming EVENTS

Dates	Event/meeting	Location
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2021

August 27 – September 2	National Convention	Phoenix AZ
September 11	9/11 Remembrance Ceremony 12:00pm	Middlebury Post 27
September 19	5 th District Caucus 10:00 am	Ludlow Post 36
October 23	Fall Conference	Vergennes Post 14
December 10	Open House Department of Vermont	

2022

January 21-22 22	Mid-Winter Conference Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	Double Tree, Burlington following Mid-Winter Conference
April 10	Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	Montpelier Post 3

POST EVERLASTING

PNVC, PDC SIMON, MELVIN "DOC"	08
BROOKMAN, DAVID	13
DUSABLON, ROBERT E	19
McGREGOR, William J	19
STEWART, CONRAD J	19
SIMONS, CHARLES J	24
KEITH, JR THEODORE K	24
GERARDI, FRANK P	24
WATSON, JAMES	24
JILLSON, JR ERNEST E	24
ELLIS, JAMES A	24
FENTON, CHARLES	24
WILLIS, Marie G	24
LUETKE, CHARLES	24
RANNEY, MICHAEL	25
INMAN, BOBBY G	30
DAVIS, GORDON H	46
STAGG, RODNEY H	55
KINNEY, JAMES E	80
FRIZZELL, MARSHALL C	80
RICHER, DONALD N	91



"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. "



Department of Vermont American Legion

“Foliage Gas Raffle”

1st Prize

2nd Prize









Donation: 3 Tickets for \$5.00

Drawing: Fall Conference, October 2021

Mail tickets and payment to:

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

Fall Foliage Gas Raffle Tickets

 <p>Department of Vermont American Legion "Foliage" Gas Raffle Donation-3 Tickets for \$5.00</p> <p>Drawing : Fall Conference, October, 2021 1st Prize-\$250 gas card 2nd Prize-\$150 gas card</p>	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
 <p>Department of Vermont American Legion "Foliage" Gas Raffle Donation-3 Tickets for \$5.00</p> <p>Drawing : Fall Conference, October 2021 1st Prize-\$250 gas card 2nd Prize-\$150 gas card</p>	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
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Calcutta Fundraiser at Post #67 Chester, VT



Benefits Allyson Waite



September 18, 2021

Social Hour 5pm – Dinner 6pm – Drawing to Follow

Tickets Are \$100 Each

100 Tickets to be sold

Dinner for 2 included

Donations or Prizes Are Being Accepted

**There will be a Silent Auction Held During
event and Winners announced at conclusion**

**PLEASE CONTACT Henry Cleveland with any questions, to buy a
ticket or if you wish to donate to Auction.**

Henry-802-793-4315/henryclevelandsg7@gmail.com

Angie-802-952-9080

Melissa-603-558-2512

Tickets Required at Door for Dinner



AMERICAN LEGION POST #9

GOLF 2021

TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

9 AM SHOTGUN START



MONTAGUE GOLF COURSE

48 RANDOLPH AVE. RANDOLPH VT 05060

PRIZES

**Top 3 Teams
Long Drive
Closest to the Pin
Putting Contest
50/50 Raffle**

REGISTRATION FEES

**Teams of 4 Required
Pay at the Door
Montague Member Fee \$45
Non-Member Player Fee \$60
Lunch Included in Fee**

**RAIN
DATE
SEPT. 25**

Deadline to Register: August 20

Email: post9register@gmail.com to register