



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters
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www.vtlegion.org

November 2023 Bulletin

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

- Fall Conference Condensed DEC Minutes
- Mid-Winter Conference Hotel Info & Banquet Info
- Most Up to Date PUFL Information
- Membership Renewal & Target Dates
- Christmas Open House Info

Department Commander



Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

The Fall Conference has come and gone, and I have to say it was a good one. Lots of information was discussed. We also had a visit from National Vice Commander Bill Roy. Next up is the Mid-Winter conference to be held at the Hampton Inn located just off I-89 exit 16. We are currently starting to plan for it and hope to make it very informative.

Recently there have been emails in my name landing in everyone's inboxes asking for donations of gift cards. The emails are not from me and should be deleted. These are phishing attempts that aim to scam people out of money. If you look closely at the email address that they are being sent from, you can see that it is not coming from me. My email is listed at the end of this article. Unfortunately, there is no way for us to stop them other than reporting them to the Federal Trade Commission (ReportFraud.ftc.gov) and it is not guaranteed that they will be able to stop them either. We all just need to be mindful of these emails and not even reply to them. If it allows you to report it as spam or a phishing attempt, please do so.

One thing that we talked about at the Fall Conference is a project that I am starting. This is called veterans and video gaming. I am working on forming a committee for this and hope to have it ratified at the Mid-Winter Conference. There are some Departments that have already started this and held gaming tournaments with great success. The Department of California is heading this up and if we can get 30 departments on board with this and pass resolutions, National HQ will create an E-Gaming Commission. They have partnered with Regiment Gaming, Stack Up, and Operation Comfort Warrior.

Online gaming gives veterans with TBIs and PTSD the spirit of fellowship, and support online and growing the space where our veterans and their families can bond over their shared passion for online gaming.

FACTS

- 64% of households have at least one gaming device.
- 55% of avid gamers say that they play video games to connect with their friends or family.
- 50% of veterans used video games to cope with challenges associated with their military service.
- According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention report, an average of 17.2 Veterans committed suicide per day in 2019.

- According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 11-20% of Veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, 12% of Gulf War Veterans, and 15% of Vietnam Veterans have PTSD in any given year.
- Mental health conditions are treatable with the VA offering a wide range of effective treatments and services for Veterans with mental health conditions, including a bundled public health approach involving multiple sectors, including the media and entertainment industries.
- Studies conducted by WebMD and reviewed by Dan Brennan, MD, playing video games has numerous benefits for mental health, including mental stimulation, feeling accomplished, mental health recovery, social interaction, and emotional resilience.
- On May 22, 2019, Mike Richman from VA Research Communications reported that studies with a small sample of veterans trying to recover from mental health issues found that video games can help in overcoming such problems as PTSD and substance abuse disorders.

I have a resolution that can be used for this, and I plan to send it out to all Posts to jump on board if they choose to. PCs that Posts purchase to be used for gaming can also be used as a resource center for our veterans. You don't even need to purchase a PC for this. You can use PlayStation, and Xbox consoles set up with online access and communication headsets.

If you are interested in this, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be glad to answer any questions.

I can be reached by email at post7adj@gmail.com

Stay Healthy and Be Safe,

Mark Cloutier
Commander, Department of Vermont
For God and Country.





Sr. Vice Commander – Joseph Zickmund

Legionnaires,

It's fall in Vermont! Leaves changing, corn mazes, apple cider and tourists everywhere.

Being prepared to have a conversation about the American Legion or specifically about your Post; how many of us really know the history of the American Legion? Do we know and understand the mission? The purpose of, and all that the American Legion does for veterans? If we are to effectively recruit and keep new members, we must be able to have those conversations and we must be able to give them reasons to not only belong but to participate.

There are pamphlets, manuals and books that can be read that give a great overview of things. The free Basic Training Course that is offered at legion.org is another excellent choice that covers the history and provides information for each of the Pillars of the American Legion. I encourage all members, new and old, to take this online course. I found it to be a very worthwhile use of my time.

New topic: Buddy Checks. There has been much chatter at the national level about Buddy Checks. Very simply, an organized effort to leave no veteran behind. Caring for veterans is our most sacred duty as Legionnaires and taking the time to check in with them, see how they are doing, seeing if they have needs or inviting them to a meeting or dinner could have life-saving ramifications. I encourage each Post to implement a Buddy Check program and to make the calls and visits. I will be working with Area, District and County Commanders to get them the information they need to share with you in your Posts.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, feedback, or ideas. Enjoy the beautiful autumn weather.

Joe Zickmund

Senior Vice Commander

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.

Dept. Chaplain – Christina Moore

My fellow Legionnaires, I thought that this was an appropriate prayer as our world is going through very trying times at the moment. I hope all are well and as we are near the Holiday Season, I hope you and yours are all in good health. Hope to see you at Mid-Winter Conference. Be well.

“Almighty God, giver and sustainer of life and liberty, grant that, as we meet this day, our thoughts may be upon You and on those who have served our land in times of war and peace. We give thanks that through their efforts and sacrifices we may enjoy the blessing of this great land.

O Lord, we are mindful that there are homes in which there is emptiness because loved ones have not returned home from battle. So many have given that last full measure of devotion so that we might be free. There are those who still suffer from the wounds that have purchased our Liberty. Give comfort, O Lord, to those who sorrow, to those who wait, to those who are hurting because of their loss.

We pray, O Lord, that we may have peace in our time so that those sacrifices will not have been repeated. To that end, we ask that You would strengthen our resolve to stand fast in the face of tyranny, that You would give guidance to those in authority so that justice and brotherhood may prevail. Here there is selfishness, help us to share.

Where there is thought of war, turn lives to Your peace, which the world cannot give. Among us, the living, light the flames of devotion to duty. Grant that in all things we may be ready to serve for the preservation of human freedoms in Your world. We make our prayer in Your name. Amen.”

Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl

Legionnaires,

Does a local American Legion Post need a bar, lounge, bingo hall or any other type of business to be successful? Answer: No, but it sure helps.

During this past year here in Vermont, mismanagement of a Post and its business deteriorated to the point of having problems with VT Taxes, the IRS, overdue bills, etc., thus causing it to be headed for bankruptcy. However, thanks to the hard work and persistence from the Legion’s State, County, and local members plus that of the Auxiliary, Son’s, and many community members it was brought under control and is now proceeding to be a model Post.

How can similar problems be avoided by other Posts? Answer: Presently, it is difficult to prevent such failures because it doesn’t become noticeable until it’s almost too late and the end is near. Often the failure can be accounted to mismanagement as a result of not following a good business and poor or no bookkeeping/accounting. An easy solution would be to require

all Posts to follow an approved business and accounting program. The problem is the Posts choose the way and how they account for their business and are not required to follow instructions from the district. The district often gets involved when the Post is near complete failure. And when this happens it takes a lot of time a money to correct the mess.

My thoughts for a solution to hopefully prevent such a catastrophe from happening: Have the DEC develop a business and accounting plan that could be used by all VT American Legion Posts. Offer the plan to all Posts. If the Post accepts the plan and agrees to abide by it, they would be guaranteed help/assistance from the Department in case they experienced difficulties and need help. Otherwise, they would be on their own.

Again, Thanks to all who helped save the above-mentioned Post.

For God and County,
Bob Pearl, No. Area Commander

Southern Area Commander – William Brothers

Hello everyone, I hope all is good with you. We are doing great on membership, and I hope we keep up the momentum.

We had a great Fall Conference at Vergennes Post 14 and a lot of great are coming. I will be attending Legion College this month and I am looking forward to the class and bringing back what I have learned to share with you all when I visit. Thank you all for what you do for Veterans and their families.

Remember, if you have events coming up before the bulletin goes out, let Melodie @ HQ's know and she can get the word out.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Southern Area Commander



Bill Brothers - Fair Haven Post 49, Knights of Columbus, Slate Valley Cares "Coats for Kids" program

Department Adjutant – Brian Markwell

Another year is flying by. It's November already with Veteran's Day coming up and Thanksgiving after that. Next month is Christmas of course with New Year's Eve and then it's January and the start of a new year. Also in January is the Department's Mid-Winter Conference on 19-20 January to be held this year at the Hampton Inn in Colchester. Banquet and room reservations are already being accepted.

We had the first Zoom meeting of Dept. leadership this past Sunday and reviewed dues and then how to record membership eligibility after verifying by seeing a DD Form 214 for both Legion and SAL members by Post Adjutants. This document should be maintained by the Post Adjutant for future use when membership eligibility needs to be verified again such as when the member runs for Post or squadron officer positions. Current guidance is that after eligibility verification has been recorded by the Post Adjutant, the DD Form 214 be returned to the individual. Future Zoom meetings will be held to discuss this and other subjects with Post officers and other Department leaders. We will also be going on the road again this coming year with Post Adjutant training and anyone else who wants to know more about how to better utilize the tools available in the on-line programs provided by the American Legion. Stay tuned and be on the watch for future opportunities to participate in these events. The in-person events will be held in various locations around the state to make it easier for Post representatives to attend without having to go to the other end of the state. Dates and locations will be coming out soon.

I look forward to doing anything and everything I can in supporting your work for the veteran family of our American Legion Family.

Respectfully,

Brian D. Markwell,
Dept. Adjutant

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Dept Fall Meeting 2023

DEC Meeting – Saturday October 14, 2023

1408 hours – Post 14, Vergennes, VT

Opening ceremonies conducted by Dept. Commander Mark Cloutier

Roll Call conducted by Dept. Adjutant Brian Markwell. Quorum present.

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes of the last DEC meeting.

Financial report given by Dept. Finance Officer Dennis Minoli. Motion made and passed to accept the finance report.

SAL Detachment Commander gave report of the SAL Officers. Motion made and passed to accept the list of SAL Officers.

Unfinished Business: Post 28 update from PDC Linda Perham read by PDC Ron Larose. Motion made and passed to accept the report.

New Business: Dues increase. Motion made to increase the dues.

A Second motion was made and passed to leave the dues raise at \$5 and send recommendation to raise dues by \$5 to the Finance Committee.

It was recommended that we add the Firefighter of the Year award to the Law-and-Order committee.

PCI oral history publication was tabled until the Mid-Winter conference.

Karlene Devine discussed that Front Porch Forum is an excellent marketing tool to increase the Legion's visibility.

Dave Cobb discussed that there will be a group meeting on 7 Nov by representatives of both Boys State and Girls State concerning resources.

DEC went into Executive session.

Upon return from Executive session, a motion was made and passed to give Admin Assistant Melodie Ashford-McGrath a 3% pay raise and a bonus.

The meeting was adjourned at 1529 hours.

For God and Country

Brian Markwell

Dept of Vermont Adjutant

Post Everlasting – Gone, but never Forgotten...

CLAYTOR, JACK	01	ROCCHIO, ANTHONY M.	25
WALSH, WILLIAM J.	01	ANOE, DAVID K.	25
BAILEY, LAWRENCE	07	KELLEY, PAUL L.	25
KAMIENSKI, EDWARD J.	07	MORSE, HAROLD	28
BERGERON, ROGER	10	FORSTER, CLIFFORD	28
COPPING, CLAYTON	10	BOERA, A. RICHARD	30
NEWCOMBE, JR., SIDNEY	10	RIDLON, ALAN G	31
WARDEN, SR., JEFFREY	14	SMART, JAMES T.	37
STRAW, DUANE W.	14	BRAYTON, JAMES B.	39
SISTERS, HENRY J.	14	BROUGHTON, STEVEN C.	39
BROUGHTON, HENRY S.	14	ROGERS, WALTER H.	39
RUSSELL, ROBERT E.	14	COLEY, FREDERICK	48
COTA, ROGER L.	14	GOODMAN, GEORGE	63
BUSIER, WILLIAM B.	14	BELL, BARRY S.	63
SAWYER, JR., HOUGHTON	17	LABARE, NORMAN	63
CROMACK, WARD	17	SLOCUM, CHARLES H.	63
COUSINO, PETER J.	19	BINGINOT, RENE J.	64
KENYON, DAVID C.	20	ADAMS, DARRELL B.	64
TISDALE, PAUL	21	DEFORGE, JAKE	91
HILL, GILBET C.	23	TERRIEN, WILLIAM.....	91
HINTON, BRIAN R.	23	GELINAS, EDWIN J.	91
EDDY, MICHAEL P.	25	HALL, JASON D.	1819
BOUTIN, MAYNARD	25	RUFFINS, LARRY	100
ARCHER, RICHARD M.	25		

Another Look Back

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian

In 1950 the 32nd Annual Department Convention was held at St. Johnsbury; quaintly identified as the scales and sweets capital of Vermont. Post #58 hosted the event at the State Armory. The Department Commander, A. Luke Crispe, a member of Brattleboro Post #5, chaired this four-day conference.

During the Convention the members took note of some significant accomplishments. Perhaps most noteworthy was the establishment of a new headquarters location for the American Legion Department of Vermont and the Legion Auxiliary at 126 Main Street in Montpelier by an act of the Vermont General Assembly. The Department and Auxiliary were justifiably proud of their new headquarters and invited all members to drop by to see the facility.

Other highlights were that: 1) the Boys State program was held at Norwich University with 225 boys in attendance, 2) the national membership quota was reached with Vermont ranking number 8 in the Nation, 3) the attendees celebrated the attainment of 13,080 Legionnaires in 78 Posts in the State, and 4) the cost for dinner tickets in 1950 was \$1.50 per person (this might

not have been a highlight 73 years ago but in light of today's cost of \$35 per person it has the feeling of a highlight).

Vermont's Governor at that time, Harold J. Arthur, commented, "We come together again as Veterans of our two great wars at a time of world turmoil and unrest, not only to celebrate in spirit of comradeship and reflect upon the ideals for which these conflicts were fought and won, but also to chart another leg of the course for this great organization to pursue for the good of mankind." These comments seem to have a timeless quality and with few edits could be said again at our 2024 Annual Convention.

2nd District Commander – David Perron

Legionaries, Hope this note finds you all well. Hope everyone enjoyed Fall Conference and for sure planning for Mid-Winter. Headquarters has sent out the info.

Membership starts with all of us; let's beat the bushes and get our numbers up. County Commanders get out and visit your Posts and do your Evaluations, please text me or email me when your Posts are completed.

Also District II, Karlene DeVine has received five (5) applicants from North Country Union and would like Posts in District II to step up to the plate and sponsor one student. Please give her a call 802-877-6392 and help out. Post 30 will be holding the district competition. Oratorical is an outstanding Legion program.

Second District Commander, David W Perron
Phone 1-802-272-2793
perrondavid323@yahoo.com

3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from District Three. It is finally feeling like our communities in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties are recovering from the historic flooding over the summer, and Headquarters is mostly back up and running. It has been a long road, and there is still plenty to do. I have seen much support in our communities, and Posts continue to be a center for meals, financial help, and a place to find some entertainment. Our Posts are doing some great things in their cities and towns showing the spirit of "continuing to serve." Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication.

We are well into the 2024 membership drive, and there looks to be many challenges to making 100% Why do you belong to the American Legion? We have to reinforce this with our current members, and you have to tell your story to the Veterans that are not members yet. Work hard to get out the word about all the good things that the American Legion does. Remembering the four pillars of the Legion and explaining how we contribute to each of them can go a long way in showing why membership matters. Handing out candy at Halloween supports children and youth!

There were many stories shared at the Fall Conference that show the importance of the “Be The One” campaign. It seems that many of us have been directly impacted by the issue of suicide even though we don’t often discuss it. We all have the things that we struggle with on a day-to-day basis, and sometimes we can lose sight of how our interactions with others can affect them. You may never know how one compliment, one word of encouragement, or one small act of kindness may have changed a person's life. Treat each person like their life depends on it. Maybe it does.

5th District Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

I have just returned from the Vermont Fall Conference conducted at Post 14, in Vergennes, Vermont. Thank you to Post 14 for hosting an exceptional and productive meeting for the Legion family.

“Be the One”. Why is this a priority right now?

Today, the No. 1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. Each day, at least 17 veterans die by suicide. That is more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism and unrest in the world continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.

If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: • Call 988 and press 1, • Text 838255.

Buddy Checks. Posts are strongly encouraged, by resolution, to make Buddy Check calls during Veterans Week (mid-November) and American Legion Birthday Week (mid-March). Please take part and make the call and personal contact.

Do not forget donations for Commander Mark Cloutier Commander's Projects: Josh Pallotta Fund and Rev. George L Fox Memorial Chapel.

National dues are increasing by \$5 starting in 2025.

I plan on visiting each post and will be making calls to set up a visit or please call and let me know your available dates for my visit at fredwilson2016@hotmail.com or 9177630354.

For God and Country.

Just Fred

Rutland County - Richie Baptie

Greetings Legionnaires.

I hope those of you who attended the Fall Conference enjoyed the program and learned as much as I did from the various speakers. One note on suicide prevention and or those looking for help, those of us who get their medication from White River pharmacy when you call you can be connected with the crisis hot line by hitting the crisis number. Please pass this on to other veterans. You don't need to dial any bunch of numbers or try to remember them.

On membership I see from the weekly count that the membership was going well but has started to slow, all of us need to get out and talk to veterans in our area.

One more note on the flag code. As you drive around and see the flag being displayed incorrectly on a business, stop and talk to the people, you would be surprised by how many do not know the proper way to display the flag and I am thanked every time for showing the correct way.

For God and Country,

Richie-Richard Baptie
Rutland County Commander

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.

Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet

Legionnaires,

I am honored to have been chosen to replace Chris Wood as the Washington County Commander. Furthermore, I am very pleased that Chris accepted the district 3 Commander position, and we will jointly serve the Washington County Posts. I am a fellow Waterbury Post 59 Legionnaire with Chris. As the Post 59 Adjutant, I know the incredible work and dedication Chris puts into everything he does. As the new Washington County Commander, I have huge shoes to fill.

My immediate goal in the next few months is to visit every American Legion (AL) post in Washington County. I know I'm overdue with this task. However, I'm new to the County Commander position so I ask for your patience while I learn the duties associated with this responsibility. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I promise I will get back to you as soon as possible.

A little about me...I retired from the Air Force in 2011 after almost 25 years of active-duty service. I was assigned to various locations, both stateside and overseas. My stateside assignments included Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, Lowry AFB, CO, McClellan AFB, CA, Andrews AFB, MD, and Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. I spent most of my career overseas at Howard Air Base (AB), Panama, Kadena AB, Japan, and Ramstein AB, Germany. I've deployed a few times to include stints in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Lastly, with Veteran's Day approaching, please take some time to reflect on the service you have provided to our great Nation. Without the sacrifices you made, both large and small, the United States of America would not be the greatest Nation in the history of mankind. However, more importantly, take some time to talk to your fellow Legionnaires and learn their personal story. I am constantly amazed talking to my fellow Legionnaires and learning about the incredible things they did while in the service of their Country.

Wayne Goulet

Windham County Commander – Steve Martin

My apologies to all for missing the cutoff date for the last Department Bulletin. First let me introduce myself; my name is Steve Martin, a veteran of the U.S. Navy 1966 - 1970 and I have been a member of Brattleboro Post #5 for 36 years including 3 years as Commander and most recently as Adjutant for over 10 years.

It is my intention to visit each of the Posts in Windham County over the next month or two in an effort to complete Post evaluations and listen to any concerns or suggestions. Should any Adjutants have issues with the use of the "MyLegion" website, I have considerable experience navigating it and can provide assistance in its use. Do not hesitate to call for help for that or for any other Legion related issue. My cell phone number is 802 380 1061.

It is also important to note that The American Legion National organization has announced an increase of five dollars per year effective with the 2024 membership year.

I look forward to meeting each of you.

For God and Country
Steve Martin



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

Department Legion Family “Christmas Open-House”
Thursday, December 21st 11 am to 2 pm

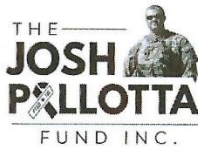
Mid-Winter Conference – January 19th – 20th, 2024
Hampton Inn by Hilton – Colchester, VT
Flyers attached.

Department Directory Updates:

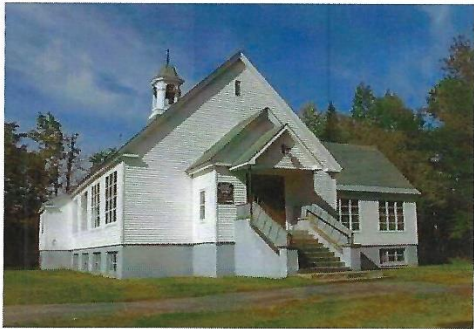
- Page 12: Keith Arlund, Dept. J.A. Telephone number is: 802-465-8098
- Page 48: Post 63 meeting should be 2nd TUESDAY of the month 5:30 pm
- Page 53: Post 88 meeting time should be 6:00 p.m.
- Page 59: PDC Corrinna Colson should be PDP Corrinna Colson
- Page 69: Ballard Hobard 36 should be in Windsor County NOT Windham

Mark Cloutier – Department Commanders Project

This year's Commanders project will be a Dual project. Both of which are very important.

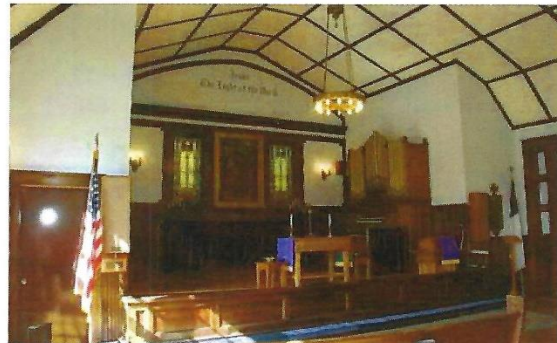


The Department of Vermont Auxiliary President Debi Graziano and I have decided to continue helping raise donations for Josh's house #2. This will aid in raising contributions to help Valerie Pallotta raise the funds that she needs to open a facility in the Northeast Kingdom. The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont has the least amount of Veterans resources in the state of Vermont, and hopefully, this will help.



Secondly, I would like to raise donations and awareness for the Rev George L. Fox Memorial Chapel. Now that the church in Gilman, VT has been purchased, funds still need to be raised for the building to be upgraded to become ADA-compliant. This will be done through grants which require funds to match the grant award. This can be accomplished with the help of you, the posts within the Department of Vermont. This can be done through a one-time donation or by becoming a sponsor of the chapel by

making a monthly, quarterly, or annual donation. For those that don't know this chapel plays a key part in the history of the American Legion. This is the home church of the oldest and most decorated of the four chaplains, Reverend George L. Fox. This church is also the home of the American Legion Moore Fox Post 41 and will be the site of the 4 Chaplains ceremony that will be held on 3 February 2024.



**** Make checks Payable to Commander Cloutier Project, Dept. HQ's, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05602-0396**

In check memo line please write which project your donation applies to.



American Legion Mid-Winter Conference

Friday & Saturday
January 19 & 20, 2024

HOTEL DETAILS

The room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax,
and includes a daily full hot buffet
breakfast.

To make a reservation, please call 802-
318-9041 and ask for Ryan or Brittany.

Hampton by Hilton Burlington Colchester

42 Lower Mountain View Drive
Colchester VT 05446



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

2024 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

HAMPTON BY HILTON, 42 Lower Mtn View Dr., Colchester, VT

Friday, January 19, 2024

COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:30 P.M.



Chicken Marsala & Cider Glazed Pork

The above will be served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Pasta Primavera, Sauteed Vegetable Medley,
Chef's Choice Dessert Table – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade

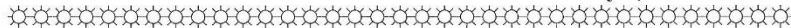
\$35.00 per person – All Inclusive

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: January 8, 2024



PLEASE RESERVE: # _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____ Post/Squadron/Unit: _____

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)

Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL

We've revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process.

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program, contact customer service at (800) 433-3318.

For Post and Department Officers (Effective June 1, 2016)

Effective June 1, 2016 all previous Paid Up For Life rate charts are superseded and the online version is the only valid rate chart; it is based on post dues of \$48.00 or less. If the post's dues are \$48.01 or higher, please call National's Customer Service number to receive a price quote. If you have any questions, you should contact your department headquarters or call Customer Service at 1-800-433-3318 for assistance.

Lifetime membership can be paid either in one single lump sum or over 12 equal, monthly payments. If a member chooses the Time Pay Plan, payment must be made by credit card only. (Check for online promotions if paying in full.) Once a member fulfills the PUFL membership dues, he/she will be protected from any future dues increases at the post, department or national levels.

All PUFL applications must be submitted to National Headquarters by one of two methods:

1. *Online applications:* Visit MyLegion.org to complete an online application.
2. *Call Customer Service:* Members can speak to a customer service specialist by calling **1-800-433-3318**. They can answer questions regarding the PUFL program as well as print and mail PUFL applications or take them over the phone.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SCHEDULE

CUTOFF DATES

RENEWAL MAIL DATES

MAY 15, 2023

JULY 1-8, 2023

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

OCTOBER 7-14, 2023

OCTOBER 18, 2023

NOVEMBER 10-18, 2023

DECEMBER 13, 2023

JANUARY 6-12, 2024

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

MARCH 2-8, 2024

APRIL 10, 2024

May 4-10, 2024

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.

2023 - 2024 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 18, 2023	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2023	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2023	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2024	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2024	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 13, 2024	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 10, 2024	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 15, 2024	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Some target dates were moved to the third week to maximize end of year renewal notices.

Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Wednesday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

DEPARTMENT HQ'S
LEGION, SAL, AUXILIARY, ALR's
"CHRISTMAS OPEN-HOUSE"



Thursday, December 21st

11 a.m. to 2 P.M.

**Drop in and have light refreshments and
Holiday cheer with your Department
Staff!**

**All of us here at Department hope to see
you!**