



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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December 2022 Bulletin

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

- Oratorical and Green Mountain Boys Program Updates
- Mid-winter conference hotel and banquet information
- Training Roadshow
- And more....

Department Commander



Tom Scanlon

I hope and trust all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday enjoying both friends and family. Just before the holiday, on Veterans Day, I had the wonderful opportunity to join our Sons of the American Legion at their annual Dodge House visit and lunch in Rutland. This group of hardworking young people, and some not so young, members presented Chris Morgan, Executive Director, with a check for \$16,400. I must also add that they brought the lunch and dessert for all with them as well. Kudos to these wonderful individuals, and the work they do for not only the Dodge House,

but for veterans throughout the state all year long. Well done gentlemen and thank you from a proud dual member.

2022 is quickly ending with the Christmas Holidays and the New Year's celebration upon us. In January we will all really have to work hard on membership and continue that push throughout the months to follow. There are plenty of veterans out there who are eligible for membership, and we have to just let them know we are here and showcase what we do. We must sell the American Legion and tell our story. Each of our posts has to use social media, in addition to our local media outlets, to create interest in what we do and to entice new members. Once we get these new members through the door, we must mentor them to ensure we keep them. Without mentorship there is a high probability that these new members will become "non-renewals" down the road. We can stop this trend by having an effective mentorship program at the post level. These mentors are advisors to the new and less experienced members. A mentor should NOT be someone who walks ahead to show how they did it, but rather, someone who walks alongside to show what the new member can do while providing advice, and an ear to listen. As I have recently read: The mediocre mentor tells. The good mentor explains. The superior mentor demonstrates. The greatest mentors inspire. If we do not adapt and change our ways as relates to telling our story, recruiting, and mentoring our outlook may be bleak. As W. Edwards Deming once stated "*It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory.*"

Also coming up quickly is Americanism Month, February. Americanism, one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion, is the unfailing love of country and all that falls under that umbrella. The American Legion has numerous programs as relates to Americanism. Some of the notable programs are Boys State and Boys Nation, Flag Education, Scouting, Law Cadet, Operation Comfort Warrior, Legion Baseball, and Oratorical. We should all be actively involved in promoting these programs. For example, all posts should be actively promoting and urging their local high schools now to encourage participation in our Oratorical Program and assist with local, district, and state competitions. It is so inspiring to see these young adults develop a keen knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution and write, practice, and then re-write their oral presentation with hopes of being selected for the next level of competition. Each contest has two phases: an eight-to-ten-minute prepared oration and a three to five minute assigned topic presentation. All of the participants have their eye on the prize, scholarship awards at both Department and National Levels. These young orators are utterly amazing.

Please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the new year bring us all peace, good health and happiness. Be the reason someone smiles today. An extra smile, cheerful greeting, a kind word of appreciation or encouragement – It will cost you nothing and yet it can be a great gift.

Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires.

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and I hope you were able to spend time with your families.



The next major event for us is our Mid-Winter Conference and it will be at the Double Tree in South Burlington. Keep an eye out for more information. Melodie sent a mailing out from Department Headquarters and information will be posted in this month's bulletin. Please get your reservations made and your tickets for the banquet.

I know month after month I talk about membership. As we all know isn't only the post commanders, adjutants, or membership chair's responsibility. The responsibility of membership relies on all of us. Without members, we would not have the American Legion.

If you are trying to recruit new members or even getting older members to renew let them know why the American Legion is worth joining. American Legion posts should be used as community centers. Currently, the average age of an American Legion member is 67. What is going to happen without membership once this age group has faded away? We need to concentrate on recruiting younger aged veterans. I fear that without them there will be no more American Legion. Make sure to let expired and new members know that the American Legion isn't just a bar with cheap drink prices. If you are trying to recruit younger veterans, purchase them their first year's membership so they can see what the American Legion is all about. After all the holidays are among us. Here are a couple of reminders:

- The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, active-duty personnel, their families, and communities around the world.
- The American Legion offers Expert Advice, support, and representation for veterans and their families seeking benefits.
- Operation Comfort Warrior helps active-duty Military personnel and recently discharged veterans recover and adjust to lifestyle changes.
- The American Legion is the most influential, non-partisan, effective, and dependable advocate of veterans' affairs fighting for better active duty pay and VA issues. One great example is the PACT Act. The American Legion was very instrumental in getting the bill passed. The American Legion uses strength in numbers to help get important legislation concerning Veterans passed.

Our next goal of 75% is December 14th. I am confident that we can reach this goal. Our last goal of 65% made it with room to spare and I am hoping that we can keep the momentum going. As of November 21st, we are at 67.95% with 651 needed to meet the goal.

I am setting a membership challenge for Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairs. I can't give the particulars in this message because it would make it too long. Keep an eye out in your mailboxes for a letter from Department HQ regarding this. I am still waiting to hear from a few districts on dates for membership training.

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

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at post7adj@gmail.com

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



From the Desk of the Department Historian

History can take the form of an interesting and tremendous story. It can be a story about events, individuals, trends, changes, challenges or responses and reactions to the unexpected. The story and evolving history of Vermont's American Legion has all of these attributes. As members of the Legion we are all players in the emerging and unfolding story of our organization. Thank you to all of you who work so hard to ensure that the Legion has a tremendous story to tell future generations of Vermont Veterans.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Victor Stone, Dept. of Vermont Historian

Department Adjutant Brian Markwell

And now the Holidays are in full swing. Hope yours are going well. We'll be quiet for events for the month of December but getting ready for a full schedule come the new year in January. Workshops are scheduled for Post Commanders and Adjutants plus commanders at each level who want to know more about My Legion.org and the tools available for you to obtain information about the Posts in your area of responsibility. We'll be covering exporting information into Excel spreadsheets that you can sort by whatever information you're looking for such as current paid memberships, Honorary memberships, PUFLs, or whatever you may want that may be helpful to you. The workshops are scheduled for January 7 in Castleton Post 50 and January 14 in Waterbury Post 59. They will be held from 10am to 2pm with lunch provided. Please RSVP to Department Headquarters with which training you plan to attend. We need this information to plan for lunch and how many tables, chairs, and power cords we need for each location. You can attend either location if one fits your schedule better. The training will be focused on members who want to know more about what may be available to help them perform their job in their current or future positions. Even if you don't have a laptop to bring with you, maybe you'll be the person who gets to use the instructor's laptop to show the class how to perform different actions under the guidance of the instructor. We also plan to hand out an Adjutants guidebook with many different references that may be useful to the Post members or their level of responsibility in the performance of their jobs.

Then following the training workshops, we get to gather for the Mid-Winter conference on January 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in So Burlington. More information about that event will be covered in another article in this newsletter or to follow shortly.

Melodie and I have sent many posts parts of the DMS Post 100 spreadsheet with members listed in and around their posts. If you did not get this information and think it may be of use to you, please let us know and we will send you what we have in your area. If you find members who would like to be transferred into your post, let us know and we will make it happen.

I hope to see you all at some or multiple points during January as we get the New Year off to a fast start.

For God and Country,
Brian Markwell
Adjutant, Department of Vermont

BE THE ONE

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



COMMANDER'S PROJECT

2022/2023

JOSH PALLOTTA FUND / JOSH'S

HOUSE

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Scanlon

Commander, Department of Vermont



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

Northern Area Commander Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

With the holidays upon us, this is an especially appropriate time to check in with your local veterans to see how they are doing. Are they food-secure? Mentally healthy? Do they need financial assistance for heat, electricity, medications? While we as Legionnaires do tend to take care of our own, the veteran you serve does not necessarily need to be a Post member or even a Legionnaire. We serve ALL veterans, members or not. The non-member veteran would be even more likely to feel isolated and alone, especially at this time of year. The younger veteran may not be as financially secure as some of the older, more established veterans. They may be trying to juggle a military career, a family, and bills on a less than ideal income. Let them know that they are not alone in their struggles. You might consider gifting a membership to a non-member veteran so they can see for themselves that there are others who have been there, done that, and can help them cope. Be The One. The one who pulls a veteran back from the brink, who provides a holiday meal or gifts to a veteran in need. The one who simply listens to a veteran who needs to vent in order to maintain their own mental health. Sometimes the only thing it will cost is a little bit of time while you listen. Be The One.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy, SAFE holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter in January.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lou Furry

Southern Area Commander Lew Graham

Greetings to Legionnaires and their families:

I am happy to announce that I expect to be navigating on my own by the 13th of December. I have once again come to appreciate more deeply the real difficulties that our disabled veterans face. It is way too easy to let the awareness slide when we do not face it ourselves every day. Two months and a half have been a severe annoyance. Please, make it a point to keep others who struggle every day in your thoughts and actions for support and care. Buddy checks are a really effective way to stay in touch and make a difference.

It is great to announce the 5th District Commander position is now filled! Andrew Sheldon from Post 36 has stepped up to this leadership position. Thank you, Andy.

Fowlers R&R Ranch in Whiting has been contributing 30 1-to-5-pound packages of Jersey beef, thirty small jars of honey and several dozen eggs to the Veterans Center Food Shelf every disbursement day since February. Ballard-Hobart Legion Post 36 assisted by Rutland Post 31 and Barre Unit 10 sponsored a fundraising raffle for the farm and a Ludlow Legionnaire was the lucky winner of fifty-five pounds of beef! Friends of the Ranch from Rutland Post 31 also helped put the plastic over the hoops to enclose the greenhouse at the farm. Many thanks to all who

supported us. Fowlers are already planning new ways to help with food security for veterans and the local community. They may even be able to raise some greens this winter!

I have mentioned before my interest in the Meals on Wheels program in Vermont which is usually administered by the local senior centers. When I was delivering for my local center, I found that a good percentage of all the route clients were older veterans. Given the increased food costs these days, I would encourage our Posts to connect with the local centers and donate food or funding to help them over the holiday season. Sometimes the visit by the route driver is the only contact that the clients have during the week.

I was able to participate in the Ballard Hobart Post 36 Veterans' Day service and also their Early Bird dinner. It is a pleasure to get out and meet our veterans and honor their service. I certainly hope to go to many other Posts and their events as I get out. I will be happy to put any announcements of your activities in the bulletins, just give me a call at 802-279-0441.

I wish you all a happy holiday season with family and friends.

For God and Country
Lew Graham, Jr.

3rd District Commander - Joe Zickmund

Happy Holidays from District 3!

You are doing a great job with membership. Keep up the good work!

As weather turns and we look more toward indoor activities, I thought this the perfect opportunity to let you know what's going on at the Posts of District 3. A wonderful opportunity to support Vermont veterans and have some fun, too. These events are fundraisers and help support the individual posts – I would encourage you to consider attending and supporting our area Posts. I've contacted every Post in the district and this is what they've shared with me. They all have Facebook pages and should be checked/followed for updates:

Post 3, Montpelier

- Monday night cribbage tournament @ 6:00pm weekly – call for details (802) 229-9043
- Thursday night poker @ 6pm weekly
- Saturday afternoon pool tournament 1:00pm weekly.

Post 10, Barre

- Tuesday night meal @6:00pm weekly. Cost \$10
- Last Sunday of the month breakfast 8:00-10:30 monthly \$12 adults, \$5 children
- Most Saturday nights there is a band @ 7pm

Post 59, Waterbury

- Monthly Bingo (call the post or watch Facebook for more information)
- Thursday night meal 4:30-6:30 weekly. Dine in or drive through

Post 63, Northfield

- Friday night grill 5:00-7:00pm weekly. \$12 There is usually live music after the meal
- First Sunday of the month breakfast 8:00-11:00 monthly \$12 (\$13 starting January '23)

I certainly plan to visit these posts to enjoy good food, entertainment and above all else, fellowship with veterans and those that support them. Thanks again and best wishes for a wonderful holiday!

Joe Zickmund, District 3 Commander

2nd District Commander - David Perron

Legionaries,

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and am sure we all ate too much. Great time to get out in are communities knock on doors make sure all are doing ok and see if anyone needs anything. We still have a long wat to go before the New year. So, when we're out and about throughout the Holidays do your buddy checks on your members remind them about their membership. Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New year.

2nd District lets work on Membership we need Post to work on their membership and get them in.

County commanders, please call your Post and start scheduling your evaluation visit it's important to do them early, it helps new Commanders, you can steer them in the right direction

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

Post Commanders in District 2nd please reach out to me if you have any applicants for Oratorical program.

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

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.

God and Country

David W Perron, Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793

Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

2nd District Commander/ Evaluation Chair

The American Legion – Department of Vermont



**May the warmth and love that is all around us at Christmas
time fill your heart with joy; today and always.
Best Wishes in the New Year - - 2023!**

From the Officers and Staff of The American Legion

Department of Vermont

Thomas Scanlon, Dept. Commander

Mark Cloutier, Sr. Vice Commander

Low Furry No. Area Cmdr. & Lewis Graham, So. Area Cmdr.

Brian Markwell, Adjutant

NECman – Ron LaRose & Alt. NEC– David Woodward

Lawrence Thompson, Dept. Service Officer

Dennis Minoli, Finance Officer

Gerald Grogo, Dept. Chaplain

Melodie Ashford, Exec. Admin

4th District Commander Bill Brothers

Hello everyone, hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and safe one. Here is another month gone by and we are doing good on membership so far but still have work to do. With the Christmas holiday coming up let us not forget to check on our members that have not been seen in a while to let them know that they are being thought of and to see if they need anything.

I am going to be starting visitations back up and looking forward to seeing everyone again. If you need anything let me know and I can bring it with me, if I cannot, I will see if it can be sent to you.

We also have our Mid-winter conference coming up fast and it should be a good one. I hope we can see someone from all of our posts there this year. It is a wonderful way to see what we are working on for the upcoming year and what we need to do to improve the way we are keeping our legions updated on what is going on and coming up.

If anyone has up and coming events, you should get it to Cathy so it can be put in our newsletter. This is another way to get support for what you are doing at post level.

On another note, I was at the Dodge House when the Sons Commander Jeremy Revell, presented a check. When you see a Sons member at your post, thank them for what they do because they did an outstanding job this year, not just with Dodge House but also other donations they have made throughout the year.

I also attended the past commander's dinner at Crippen Fellows Post 50, it was a great night with two deserving Veterans receiving Quilts. It was an enjoyable evening with the legion family from Post 50. The Rutland County Commander and Post Commander Richie Baptie and other members of the Post 50 family did an outstanding job recognizing their leadership.

Mark your calendar for January 7 for our 4th District Caucus. The caucus kicks off at 1:00 pm but please join us for the morning training with Department Adjutant Brian Markwell. Post 50 will be serving a lunch of soup and sandwiches and then we will have our Caucus.

In closing remember to keep up the great work you all are doing on membership and buddy checks.

For God and country

Bill Brothers
4th District Commander

Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin

Happy holiday season fellow Legionnaires. As we continue into our season of giving and service to our brothers and sisters who are still serving, and those who came before, I want to thank everyone for what you do this holiday season.

As the ghost of Christmas past visits us, we are reminded how we are able to enjoy the freedoms with our families and count our blessings that are bestowed upon us through the sacrifices of our veterans. As I visit the Post in my County, I am constantly amazed and impressed with the programs, donations, and dedication of the American Legion family members for what they do for their communities and their veterans.

I look forward to the opportunity that has been extended to me from the Bristol Post 19 Legion family to accompany them on Saturday December 17th for their “five town” Christmas visits. Santa and his elves will be traveling around singing carols to children and the elderly alike in a Christmas sled/bus, spreading joy and gifts to all where they land. This is just one of many holiday celebrations throughout Addison County. In Middlebury, Post 27 is helping in sponsoring the New Year’s Eve fireworks display for the community. Hopefully, I will see you at one of the many holidays sponsored events around Addison County.

In closing, I want to recognize the outstanding efforts in membership by our County. To date, 73.5 percent, well above the December 14th goal of 45 percent. Well done, don’t take your foot off the gas yet, we still have a lot to make up for. Have a safe and happy new year.

Bruce F. Paquin

Addison County Commander, Paquinvt@comcast.net, 802 545 2800

Washington County Commander – Chris Wood

Hello from Washington County,

We are well into the busiest holiday season of the year which will end with the end of 2022 and the start of a new year. Time waits for no person, and we can all feel harried. Remember to take some time for you and do your buddy checks to make sure everyone in the Legion Family is doing ok. Keep up the great work of connecting with all Veterans in your communities, and never miss an opportunity to remind them why it is important to belong to the American Legion.

The four pillars of the American Legion are the “why” we belong to this organization, and I want to touch each one briefly to remind us all why we do the work we do.

- Under Veteran Affairs we have made gains around taking care of those that have been exposed to toxic environments, but we must never stop telling our members that this is because their dues go towards representation at the highest levels to be our voice. Most members think their dues go to the post!
- Under National Security our post evaluations play a part in ensuring that our communities have a place to turn to when issues of public safety come up. Who knows

better how to defend a home base better than a Veteran? When doing post evaluations, I always ask myself and the Post Commander "Do people feel welcome at this Post?" This should include the public at large when there is an emergency.

- The pillar of Americanism should be the easiest for posts, but we can all fall into the rut of not being proactive enough. We fell into this pitfall when a local resident felt that the American Flag hanging at our post was past its useful life and brought down the image of the American Legion, so they filed a complaint with National Headquarters about this. The post had a plan to replace this flag, but it took long enough to reflect poorly on our post. Never rest in being the beacon of Americanism in your community!
- Lastly, the pillar of Children and Youth is one of the most vital links we have to our communities. I have really enjoyed watching Jeswin Antony rise up through the grades to represent our post at the National Oratorical contest. Unfortunately, there have been very few school students competing against him. We have to connect with our local schools and develop these young people through our children and youth programs.

Chris Wood
Washington County Commander

Rutland County Richie Baptie

Greetings legionnaires,

Have been busy this past month with visiting our family Post's and spreading the word on our membership goal and am pleased at how everyone is involved and doing their best to increase members. I would like to thank Southern District Commander Bill Brothers for traveling with me to different Posts. Also, want to thank Department Commander Tom Scanlon for attending Post 50's past commanders and past auxiliary president's dinner. And also, all of the Department officials that were present. Not to forget the Son's and Department officials thanks to you all

For God and Country,
Richie-Richard Baptie
Rutland County Commander

Wreaths Across American Vermont Veterans Cemetery

Support Wreaths Across American at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery by making a donation using the link below.

https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/41908/Overview/?relatedId=150000&fbclid=IwAR3f96x99U-aADo-lchnPri_vHSCw22ajq6032pQfZ49Xm8b1sAZQtFdN6w

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



Friday, December 16th

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!

Upcoming Events

Department Open House	December 16, 2022 (11 am – 1 pm)	Department Headquarters
MyLegion Training	January 7, 2023 10:00am – 2:00pm	Castleton Post 50
4 th District Caucus	January 7, 2023 1:00-3:00pm	Castleton Post 50
MyLegion Training	January 14, 2023 10:00am – 2:00pm	Waterbury Post 59
Mid-Winter Conference	January 20-21, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington
Annual Convention	June 23-24, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington

National Commander's Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his national commander "Be Then One" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Certification form can be found at Legion.org

Mid-Winter Conference – January 20-21, 2023

Stay tuned for the agenda for the Mid-Winter Conference at the Doubletree in Burlington. There is a possibility that we will have the National Judge Advocate, Mark Seavey attend to provide some valuable training for all Legionnaires. Look for an email from Department on the agenda in the near future.

Be The One Branding Materials

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

BE THE ONE

TO ASK EVERYONE, TO INCLUDE VETERANS, IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO LISTEN WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, NEEDS TO TALK.

TO REACH OUT WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, IS STRUGGLING.

Membership Challenge – Post Commanders and Adjutants – Mark Cloutier

As we all know, this time of year our membership starts to slide. You can all help prevent or at least slow the slide.

Our next goal is quickly approaching. We need to be at 75% by December 14th. As of 21 November, the department of Vermont is at 67.95% with 651 renewals or new memberships needed to reach 75%. This is something that I am confident that we can meet. You all worked hard to reach our last goal of 65 percent so it has been proven that you can do it.

I am starting a membership challenge for all Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairs and awards will be presented at Mid-Winter Conference. All Posts that reach 75 percent or higher by December 14th will receive a 2023 membership pin. We have different levels of pins, and they will be awarded according to the membership renewals that your Post has.

I will also be having a 75 percent Target Date drawing. According to the weekly report pulled from Melodie at Department HQ, those posts that are 75 percent or higher will be put into a drawing for a \$50 gift card after the December 14th deadline. This will be done by district, so there will be 5 cards up for grabs. The Post with the highest new membership in their District will receive a coin at Mid-Winter Conference.

So please look at your rosters and start reaching out to your members that have expired or have yet to renew for 2023. I have confidence that you all can reach this goal. The final goal is to reach 100 percent by 17 May 2023. Let's stop the slide and start the climb again.

Sons of the American Legion Report – Bruce Paquin

Happy holiday season from myself and the Detachment of Vermont to the Department and all veterans. I continue to travel around the state to be a part of the many outstanding programs your Sons support and participate in. This past Veteran’s Day, I had the honor to attend the Dodge House for homeless veterans in Rutland. Detachment Commander Revell presented Director Chris Morgan with a donation check for a little over \$16,000.00 in support of their efforts to provide a safe place for these worthy veterans. Several residents were also there for the presentation and the lunch that followed, served by the Detachment. Sincere gratitude and appreciation were shared by all.

Another great effort by a Sons Squadron was done in Brandon by Squadron 55, who roasted 16 turkeys for Thanksgiving. They prepared and delivered over 175 Thanksgiving meals to local veterans, the elderly, and the community. I am looking forward to accompanying Bristol Squadron 19 on Saturday, December 17th for their “five town” Christmas visits. Santa and his elves will be traveling around singing carols to children and the elderly alike in a Christmas sled/bus, spreading joy and gifts to all where they land.

The Detachment has taken the “Be the One” slogan to heart. Multiple efforts are being made by Son’s members to make “buddy checks” and follow up on them. Especially this time of the season, no veteran should be alone with no one to talk to or be with. I ask everyone to reach out to someone. It doesn’t cost a dime to make a difference in someone’s life. It might just change your life too! Have a safe and happy New Year.

Post Everlasting

CHEVALIER, DAVID H12	GARROW, RALPH12
BROWN, ROGER 12	HARVEY, WINSTON12
HURLBURT, SILAS12	PEDDLE, WILLIAM12
POLLENDER, WILFRED12	ROWSE, HENRY12
WALKER, HERBERT12	SABOURIN, GERALD E19
PROZZO, ROBERT J19	ROCCHIO, ANTHONY25
KELLEY, PAUL25	HUNT, THOMAS26
SUTTON, GERALD A33	ABARE, RICHARD F33
SANDVIL, JR JOHN E42	COOPER, DONALD J42
BROUSSEAU, WALDO47	LALIME, MICHAEL A49
SHEPARD, DOUGLAS91	SHEPARD, GERALD91

Green Mountain Boys' State – Dave Cobb

As we plan for the 2023 Green Mountain Boys' State (GMBS) Program, we are cognizant of the fact that this storied program originated 85 years ago. Throughout the years the program has provided tremendous opportunities for delegates to learn about local and state government and develop friendships and leadership skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. GMBS has been fortunate to have steady and consistent leadership over the years. 2023 will mark a time of transition, several staff and counselors who have been supporting the program for over 40 years have "retired." Additionally, Dave Cobb, the Director since 2008, has stepped into a support role and Dylan McNamara has assumed the Director position. Some of you had the opportunity to meet Dylan at the Fall Conference in October and learned that he attended GMBS and Boys' Nation in 1991 and has served as a GMBS staff member since 2017. He is excited to build on the history and strength of the program.

Given the staff attrition, one of the major priorities is staff recruitment. Additionally, Dylan and his new Assistant Director, Kevin Briggs, hope to grow the program back to pre-pandemic levels. Feedback from recent delegates and the program is being reviewed to identify ways to enhance the experience for the delegates. The dates and location of the program are to be determined but will either be during the week of June 19th or June 26.

MyLegion hands on Training Roadshow

Learn how to process membership. Submit your consolidated report using mylegion, send your newsletter to your members via mylegion. Update member information. Learn how to use global lookup. Run reports and much more.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of two training sessions.

Southern Area - January 7th Castleton Post 50 - 10 am to 2 p.m. (lunch provided). Bring laptops for hands-on membership entry training.

Northern Area - January 14th Waterbury Post 59 - 10 am to 2 p.m. (Lunch TBD) Bring laptops for hands-on membership entry training.

Legion Riders Director Lou Furry

Greetings Riders,

The time for our Winter Meeting/election of officers is swiftly approaching. Currently, we have no host Chapter for that. As a result, the Winter Meeting will likely be held via Zoom at a date, sometime in February, to be determined. As soon as it is decided, word will be sent out to let you know. In the meantime, all Chapters are encouraged to provide updated contact information in order to ensure that you are receiving the information you need to receive. The Chapter Data Form has been revised and simplified to make it more user-friendly. It is now simply this:



CHAPTER DATA

Post #:	Post Address:		
Do you Charge Dues:	YES	NO	If Yes, Amount:
Meeting Day, Time, Location:			Elections Held on:
Current number of members:			

CONTACTS

Note: 2 Contacts would be preferred, but please provide at least 1 in order to enable us to pass along information to someone in your Chapter.

Contact 1

Name:	Title:
Phone:	E-Mail Address:

Contact 2

Name:	Title:
Phone:	E-Mail Address:

Please complete and submit this form to Director Lou Furry at trollfur@yahoo.com

Please consider completing this form and returning it to me so I can update my records with the most current information possible. I can't reach you if I don't know who and where you are!

Ride Safely,
 Lou Furry
 Director, American Legion Riders

Oratorical Program – Karlene DeVine

Four of seven children in the Ciaccias family of Pennsylvania have participated in the oratorical contest. Says their mother, Kristen, "They each have read the Constitution and supporting documents several times over and found themes and connections in order to craft their speeches. They were challenged to write and rewrite in order to improve and move forward."

They learned not only to memorize, but they each developed real confidence in their abilities to write, memorize and deliver a significant oration. I remember my daughter Grace stating during the last presidential debates, 'They keep talking about all they will do, if you read the Constitution, they don't have all the powers they are claiming to have.' "The American Legion magazine, May 2022.

It will take you less than 10 min. to watch the 2022 First Place National winner, Emma Noble as an example of the skills and knowledge gained by participating in the Oratorical Contest. Adhering to contest rules, she could only speak up to 10 min. without jeopardizing critical points. <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/videos/PLD1D27913E787209F/dPy2SdhBukc>

The national contest was on hold during the pandemic. However, recognizing the effort invested by competitors, in 2021, each state winner received an award and National paid out \$230,000 to those recipients of 43 states that had contests. (David King, KY Oratorical Chair)



Thank you to all who have assisted over the years. Application deadline Dec. **14, 2022**
https://vtlegion.org/documents/oratorical_application2023.pdf

National Security Update - National Guard and Reserves

Law Enforcement Officer and Fighter Fire of the Year Awards Submissions

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, especially considering heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion's national convention.

Department Law and Order Committees are encouraged to select and honor a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year at their conventions. Departments nominate their winners for the national award by [submitting an application](#) to The American Legion. Applications must be received no later than Feb. 1. Departments may only submit one nomination per year. Only department winners are eligible for the national award, which will be awarded in person to the winner at national convention.

As of 2010, The American Legion has given a National **Firefighter** of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of their position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's national convention. Departments nominate their winners for the national award by submitting an application to the National Security Division via email to Nriffel@legion.org.

POW/MIA

November 7, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Eeds, C.)
- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Tash, J.)
- Airman accounted for from World War II (Holeman, D.)

November 8, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from Vietnam War (Zich, L.)

November 14, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Martin, F.)
- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Rotunno, J.)

November 15, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Nies, W.)
- DPAA has identified/repatriated **170** servicemembers so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 9,920; Rifle – 19; Clips – 25; Static Display – 0
- Participants: Post – 6; Department – 5

Tip of the Week

- TRICARE Open Season began on November 14. Do not miss your chance to enroll in a health plan or change health plans for coverage that starts January 1, 2023. You have until Tuesday, December 13, to decide how to update options for you and your family. Remember, if you are not enrolled in a health plan, you can only receive care at [military hospitals and clinics](#) if space is available.

Options:

1. Are you staying with your current plan? No need to re-enroll.
2. Need to make enrollment changes or change plans?
 - Log in to [milConnect](#) and click the "Manage health benefits" button.
 - Call your [TRICARE contractor](#).
 - Mail your [enrollment form](#) to your TRICARE contractor.
 - Visit an overseas [TRICARE Service Center](#).

Don Tetreault, PDC, PNEC
National Security Member

American Legion Winter Conference 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont
870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403
phone +1 802-865-6600

Room block reserved for January 20, 2023, through January 22, 2023.

Booking your room is simple. Book by going on the web at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionwintermeeting2023/>

or by calling 1 802-865-6600 and ask for American Legion Winter Meeting 2023. There are rooms starting on January 19th.

Rooms & Rates

- 2 Double Beds Larger Room - \$119.00
- 1 King Bed - \$119.00
- 1 King - Larger Room Additional 80 Sq Ft - \$119.00
- 1 King Jr Suite - Conference Table - Fridge - \$119.00
- 1 King 1 Bedroom Suite - Mountain View - \$119.00

Book by: December 28, 2022

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT
2023 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

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



Friday, January 20th, 2023

COCKTAILS – 6:00 – 6:30 P.M

DINNER – 6:45 P.M.

Tuscan Chicken or Sliced Roast Beef with Herb Demi

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

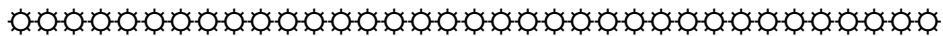
\$35.00 per person – All Inclusive

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 13th, 2023



PLEASE RESERVE: # _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____ Post/Squadron/Unit: _____

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)