



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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February 2023 **Bulletin**

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

- Oratorical Program Updates
- Endorsements
- Boys State
- And more....

Department Commander



Tom Scanlon

We recently completed our Mid-Winter Conference and had the honor and privilege to have quite a few National Officers on hand, to include National Vice Commander Paul Kennedy, and National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey. Also present were the Sons National Commander Chris Carlton, and the National Vice President of the Auxiliary Veronica Gurney. We had some great trainings available, and all enjoyed a wonderful banquet. The Department of Vermont was the recipient of many accolades, particularly of note came from our National Vice Commander, who indicated that of all the states he has visited, it is Vermont where he has felt most welcome.

I recently ran across a short story commented on some time ago by a dear old friend, Michael Josephson, entitled "*Tell Someone They're Valued.*" I would like to share it with you. It sends a strong message and is in keeping with the American Legion's BE THE ONE initiative. It is as follows:

The students at Sandy's high school were badly shaken by the news that a classmate had killed himself. The suicide note said, "It's hard to live when nobody cares if you die." Glen, a teacher, realized this was a teachable moment about the importance of making people feel valued. He asked the class to imagine they were about to die and to write a note "telling someone how and why you appreciate them."

Sandy, who had a rocky relationship with her mother, decided to write her mom. Her letter said, "We've had some rough times and I haven't always been a very good daughter, but I know I'm lucky to have you in my life. You are the best person I've ever known. And even when I disagree with you, I never doubt you love me and want what's best for me. Thanks for not giving up on me." When her mom read the note, she cried and hugged Sandy tightly but said little.

The next morning, Sandy found a note on her mirror. "Dearest Sandy, I want you to know being your mother is, by far, the most important thing in my life. Until I got your note, I thought I had lost your love and respect. I felt like such a failure. I intended to end it all last night. Your note saved my life."

Be careful not to underestimate the power of expressed appreciation. It won't always save a life, but it will always make someone's life better.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those that made our conference possible, and such a success. To those that graciously agreed to conduct classes, or chair committee meetings, to set up and take down the meeting rooms, to escort guests, to those working membership, particularly our Senior Vice Commander, to our County, District, and Area Commanders, our Department Service Officer, Judge Advocate, Historian, and Finance Officer, and to all Post leaders that work day in and day out, to all our Vermont American Legion former leaders that are always there to assist, and to the Department Adjutant and his extensive staff of one, Melodie, who keep the wheels turning.....THANK YOU ALL.....You are all deeply valued and appreciated.





Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Midwinter Conference has come and gone. I feel that this was a great conference and had decent attendance. We had a visit from Valerie Palotta who talked about Her son and how Josh’s house got started. It truly is a great place for all veterans to visit and visit with other veterans.

The Department of Vermont is still doing excellent in membership. The next target date for 85% is 15 February and currently, we only need 78 to meet that goal. We go this! Out of 55 departments we are sitting in the 7th spot with a close race with Tennessee, and Minnesota. We are still sitting in the first spot for the Northeast Division and Maryland is close behind.



TO ASK VETERANS
IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO LISTEN WHEN
A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK

TO REACH OUT
WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING



Every year National Headquarters has the Big Twelve Competition. This competition is to recognize departments that meet or exceed their pledged membership goal by the March 90% target date. The department in each category that has pledged the highest percentage and meets this goal receives the award. The winner in each category will be reimbursed for computer equipment purchases up to \$2000 and the runner-up in each category will be reimbursed \$1000. There are 6 categories. Vermont is in category VI: Departments with 9,999 members or fewer. I am proud to mention that we are also leading in this competition. I want to thank all of you for your hard work on membership.

If you are planning on running for a department office, please get your Post Endorsements to Melodie at Department HQ.

Be safe, stay healthy, and remember you can **BE THE ONE** to help a veteran in need. I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at post7adj@gmail.com.

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

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.

Northern Area Commander - Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

I have several items for you this month. First of all, I want to thank everyone who attended Mid- Winter Conference. It was good to see you all there. Conferences and Conventions are extremely important, and attendance has been tapering off over the years. These are events that should have representation from every Post. Department Conventions in the summer are especially important, as it is then that we elect our Department Officers. Each and every Post is entitled to a say in who it is that represents them in the coming year. I urge not just my Northern Area Posts, but all Posts, to attend these important events.

Secondly, I was honored by my Post, Post 7 in Hardwick, to be endorsed for Department Vice Commander. I hope all of you will attend Convention in June for the election of officers and I humbly and respectfully ask for your support. In keeping with the philosophy of our current Vice Commander, Mark Cloutier, I will continue to bring an attitude of honesty and integrity to the election and to the office.



Thirdly, I have come into the possession of some American Legion-branded metal folding chairs, per the pictures below. They are used, and do show signs of use, but are still serviceable. I have 43 still available, AT NO CHARGE to any Legion Post or Legionnaire who can make use of them. Feel free to contact me via my cell phone at 802-272-0416 (call or text) or via email at trollfur@yahoo.com if interested in any or all of them. I'll make them available on a first-come-

first-served basis.

And the last item, and semi-related to the chairs above, I will be MIA for the month of March, possibly a couple of weeks into April. On February 28 I'll be having a procedure on my neck which will result in being in a neck brace and not released to drive for 4-6 weeks. I'll remain available by phone and email during that time but will not be out and about until I'm released to drive.

Until next month, have a safe winter and be well!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Furry

Northern Area Commander

Southern Area Commander – Lewis “Lew” Graham

Greetings,

At last, Groundhog Day is here. The day always gives me assurance that our Vermont winter is on the wane, since sugar season will not be too far behind.

I want to thank any of our posts who contributed to the wreaths or attended the ceremony as they were laid on the graves at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery December 17. It is a privilege to honor our veterans that way.

Thank you to all who attended Mid-Winter Conference. At the Commander's dinner, I and the Northern Area Commander, Lou Furry performed the POW-MIA ceremony for the assembly. It was especially gratifying to hear that five of our Missing in Action veterans have been repatriated and given burials and 3 new identifications have been made and families notified.

Our membership is getting quite close to meeting the 85% goal due February 15th. Please send in your membership promptly so Headquarters will have it in time to be counted. Vermont is ranking quite high in the Eastern Area and is 9th at National!

A quick reminder, County Commanders, please make sure your evaluations have been sent to Headquarters and, Posts, the consolidated reports are due the end of April. These reports are very important to keep The American Legion an influence for legislation that supports all veterans. The Legion was instrumental in getting the PACT Act passed last year!

I will be headed to sunny Florida on February 14 and will be back March 1st. My friend Steve and I visit Legion Posts in his area and help with the local dinners and other events. It is a great time meeting other Legionnaires and seeing how they and the local Legion Riders run their programs.

So, I will sign off until next month.

Please, DEC members keep the April meeting on your schedule. All members are welcome to attend and learn what is happening although you cannot make a motion or vote.

See you closer to spring.

For God and Country

Lew Graham, Jr.

2nd District Commander - David Perron

Legionaries,

What a great mid-winter, very well run and we had good attendance. Another great job Mel and committee. Hope made it back home safely. Our Membership is looking well, but we can always make it better. Time for all of us to get out there and beat the bushes. Remember membership is everyone's job.

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.

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

3rd District Commander - Joe Zickmund

Membership is going great and with a final push, 3rd District has a real shot at meeting and exceeding goal this year. Your hard work is noticed and very much appreciated.

A couple of thoughts: The American Legion birthday is coming up fast. If you haven't already done so, it's time to plan your local celebration and observance. Spring (just around the corner) is a busy time filled with school awards, Boy State, Legion Baseball, Children and Youth activities and so much more. Now is the time to start thinking about and planning for them. Before we know it, we'll be talking about Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Thanks again for your hard work and please let me know if I can help with activities, membership growth or anything else. Have a great February!

Joe Zickmund

Dist. 3 Cdr.

4th District Commander - Bill Brothers

Hello Legionnaires,

Hello again everyone, well another month gone by and we had a great mid-winter conference and saw a lot of people and a great deal of new information shared and some great time.

The membership is doing good and let's keep it going so we can meet our next goal.

I am looking forward to visitations, I will be starting back up this month. If any post has anything you need, let me know, I will see if I can get it for you and/or bring it on my visit to your post.

We had some great visitors at mid-winter this year, the judge advocate was one and he gave a great presentation and a lot of information.

We also had National Vice Commander Kennedy from Pennsylvania, he attended several of our committee meetings on Friday and shared his knowledge of all of the legion programs.

I am reminding everyone to not forget buddy checks especially the shut-ins to let them know that you are thinking of them and see how they are doing and if they need anything.

Thank you again for all you do.

For God and country
Bill Brothers
4th District Commander

Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin

Greetings Legionnaires,

It is February and the deep freeze is here. Fortunately, I am only talking about the weather, as our membership efforts continue to heat up. Thanks to the great efforts of Addison County Posts, Bristol 19, Middlebury 27, and Vergennes 14, we are totally above the February benchmark goal of 75%. I am very proud on how well we are turning the post Covid membership numbers from a downward, spiral to a positive upward trend. As we continue to grow our numbers the true winners become the veterans we continue to serve. The larger our organization becomes the better we are heard in Washington as the voice of the veterans who can no longer be silenced or ignored. A strong voice allows us to push for passages of veteran's legislative actions such as our successful efforts on bills like the "PACT" Act and many more. I encourage you to keep up the great work and Finish Strong!

FYI - Just a couple of notes on activities in Addison County Posts. On February 18th at 9 am, Vergennes Post 14 will be Hosting the local Department Oratorical contest. I am sure Chairman

Karlene DeVine would welcome anyone who would like to lend a hand with one of the many roles that exists in this character-building contest. Even if you just show up to watch the young participants compete. It will inspire them, and you might learn something about our country's constitution. Bristol Post 19 will be hosting the district competition on February 25th and the Department finals to be held in Montpelier on March 4th.

Speaking of Bristol, they will be sponsoring a Karaoke on Saturday, February 4th from 8 pm to mid-night and a Post Brunch from 10 am to noon on February 19th. If you have a chance, I'm sure they would love to see you there. Keep in mind you BINGO players, Middlebury Post 27 is still conducting their Wednesday night games and are always ready to welcome winners every week, along with showing off all of the new remodeling of the sparkling kitchen and hall. The patronage and support you give to these programs continue to help all of our veterans and their communities. Thank you for your support. As I stated in the beginning of this message, the cold is here, so I'm leaving. This will serve as my February/March messages, as I will be out of the country until mid-March. I will look forward to communicating with everyone again in April, Children and Youth month. Have a safe and healthy winter.

Bruce F. Paquin

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

Green Mountain Boys State – Dylan McNamara

Green Mountain Boys' State (GMBS) is a leadership development program for rising high school senior boys sponsored by the American Legion of Vermont. As a reminder the focus of the program is to help educate our youth about Vermont town, county, and state government. The program occurs over 6 days and the boys (aka "delegates") are elected and appointed to offices within the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of government. Delegates work on issues relating to Vermont, and also have the opportunity to debate these issues within the House and Senate chambers at the State House in Montpelier.

I am excited to announce that GMBS will be from June 25th-June 30th at Norwich University this year. Relocating GMBS to Norwich provides an opportunity to expose the delegates to a highly respected Military College which is centrally located within our state. It also brings GMBS back to Norwich, which housed the program for many years in the past.

Please encourage youth in our community to learn more about GMBS and encourage them to apply using this [LINK HERE](#). I want to thank the American Legion for their continued support of this program. For more information, feel free to contact me (Dylan McNamara) at gmbstvtdirector@gmail.com

Rutland County - Richie Baptie

Greetings legionnaires,

I have been able to revisit some Post and find all are doing the best to recruit new members and happy to see that we continue to get new members. As a reminder Consolidated Reports and Children and Youth reports are due to department end of April.

Thanks to all for keeping us moving forward.

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

Legislative Committee PDC Richard Farmer

Legionnaires:

The Vermont Legislature is back in session and there are numerous bills regarding military affairs. Some are germane only to issues related to the National Guard, but some are relative to all Veterans.

The Governor is interested in getting people to move to Vermont. For this to happen, it must be affordable to live here and this means reasonable taxes. The Governor knows that for Vermont to entice retired Veterans here, we must have jobs and competitive tax rate. What we have now is not realistic or competitive.

Representative Canfield, Fair Haven will submit a new piece of Legislation that is different from last years' bill. Four areas of interest will be looked at for retired military income tax exempt (2) provision for survivor benefits (3), no social security clause and (4) realistic eligibility rules. The number of endorsements for this bill changes daily, but they are numerous. These always help a bills progress in committee.

If you support this type of legislation, contact your representative. Explain to them that last year's legislation was so restrictive that no one could get an exemption. This was due to unrealistic qualifications.

As I learn more, I will keep you informed. Don't forget your consolidated Reports.

May our military and their families be safe.

For God and Country,
Dick Farmer

Legislative Chairman

Dispatch goes digital – Remember to sign up

This is the final issue of the print American Legion Dispatch. Starting in January 2023, Dispatch will be more timely with improved content! Sign up for the free Dispatch newsletter at legion.org/newsletters.

And visit legion.org/dispatch any time.

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

The logo for "BE THE ONE" features the words in a bold, sans-serif font. "BE" and "ONE" are in dark blue, while "THE" is in red. The letters "E" and "O" in "BE" and "ONE" are connected to the "T" and "H" in "THE" respectively, creating a unified graphic element.

**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.**

Legion Riders Director - Lou Furry

Greetings Riders,

Thanks to the Riders of Waterbury Post 59, we have a host Chapter/Post for our Winter Meeting. It will be held at Post 3 in Montpelier on Saturday, February 18, with a start time of 10:00 AM. There will be a break for lunch at noon.

This is our election meeting. I encourage all Chapters to have at least one representative there for balloting. I also encourage anyone interested to run for any of the offices. The offices up for election and their current holders are:

Director - Lou Furry
Asst. Director - Mark Cloutier
Secretary - Corrinna Colson
Treasurer - Bonnie Stewart-Lohr
Safety Officer - David Hendee
Road Captain - John Christian
Sgt.-at-Arms – Dan Verge

District 1 Representative - Ken Trombley
District 2 Representative - Dale Manning
District 3 Representative – Shannon Capron
District 4 Representative - Marc Colety
District 5 Representative - Andy Sheldon

Districts for the Riders Representatives are the same as The American Legion Districts.

With the exception of 2 years, I have held this Directorship since 2012, when The American Legion Riders became an official program of the Department of Vermont. Should our Chapters continue to entrust me with it, I will serve for another term. However, I do not begrudge the opportunity for someone else to challenge for it. All of these offices are open to nomination of anyone interested in serving. This is your opportunity to be heard, to serve, and to decide on your leadership for the upcoming year. Take advantage of it!

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Furry
Director

Oratorical Program – Karlene DeVine

Department of Vermont, 2023 American Legion Oratorical Contest

Open to the public, family and friends.

LOCATION: Pavilion Building, 109 State St., Montpelier

DATE: Saturday, March 4th

TIME: Contest personnel arrive at 9:30 AM

Students arrive at 9:45 AM

Contest begins between 10 AM and 10:15 AM

OTHER: Light breakfast and beverages offered prior to 10 AM

PARKING: State Street and a small lot across from the entrance to the Pavilion

ENTRANCE TO PAVILION is on Gov. Davis Ave.

There will be 3 student orators.

The first-place winner will represent Vermont at the National Finals in Indianapolis, IN 21-23 April 2023. Travel expenses of the student and a chaperone will be provided by the National American Legion.

For God and Country,

Karlene DeVine, Chair
Department of VT Oratorical Program

American Legion Brand

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

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

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

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

Any other use of the name “The American Legion” or the emblem shall be subject to the approval of the national adjutant at legion.org/emblem/request.

Post Everlasting

ROYCE, RAYMOND	08	GOODELL, MARSHALL	15
BROWN, FRANCIS G	19	TORREGROSSA, JESSE	44
GOODIN, JOHN T	55	HOGABOOM, LANNY A	63
HENRY, STANLEY	100		

DEC Meeting January 21, 2023

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met after the Mid-Winter conference. Meeting was presided over by Dept Commander Tom Scanlon opening at 1215 hours.

Dept Adjutant Markwell conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

Motion made and passed to accept the past DEC meeting minutes.

Finance report given.

Motion made to raise Boys' State sponsor fee to \$400 passed.

Motion made to approve Boys' State budget passed.

Motion made to approve budget for Legion Baseball passed.

Jay Peak Post 28 submitted a request for a \$10,000 loan to cover bills to be repaid at \$100 per month. Weekly reports to Finance Officer covering income and expenses will be submitted by the post. Motion passed with two opposed. Motion made to pay for Oratorical finals at the Pavilion passed.

Post 57 update given by Dave Cobb. There are three variations of the Post name on the town records. A competitive market analysis will be completed after the title clears. It was recommended that a quit claim deed be signed by a previous post officer. It was found that no survey has ever been done on the adjoining properties.

Baseball Committee had Bill Brothers added to the committee with PDC Tester added as a consultant.

Resolutions Committee had PDC Ferris appointed to the committee.

Department Convention Golf Tournament. It was reported that Dave Steves has expressed a willingness to chair. PDC Tester volunteered to help.

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) was discussed concerning the timing of the reports and that the CPR should also reflect what the post's squadron's contributions.

A discussion about Gilman Post 41 was lead by Post 47 Commander Scott Leigh concerning the history of Post 41 as having been the church of the Four Chaplains Reverend Fox. A recommendation was made to add Post 41 to Post 100 to support their membership. The DEC endorsed and supported Post Commander Leigh's efforts to maintain Post 41.

A discussion about Chittenden County now having only one Post, Post 91, now deletes the requirement for the position of County Commander for that county. Motion made and passed to recommend that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee create an Addison/Chittenden County designation merging Post 91 into that county.

The next DEC meeting will be 16 April 2023.

Closing ceremony conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 1337 hours.

Sincerely submitted,
Brian Markwell
Dept Adjutant



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.ioshpallottafund.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.

ORDER FORM

Commanders/Presidents Project 2022-2023

Josh Pallotta Fund/Josh's House

	Youth						
	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>				
Quantity							
	Adult						
	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X-Large</u>	<u>XX-Large</u>	<u>XXX-Large</u>	<u>XXXX-Large</u>
Quantity							
	<u>XX-Large Tall</u>	<u>XXX-Large Tall</u>	<u>XXXX-Large Tall</u>				
Quantity							

Post/Squadron/Unit #	Contact Person
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Contact Phone/Email

**Shirts are \$30 each. Please make checks payable to The Department of VT and send with order form to
Department of VT HQ P.O. Box 396 Montpelier, VT 05601
Questions Please Contact SAL Commander Jeremy Revell at 802-771-7242 or jrevell@lagvt.com**



Mid-Winter
Conference-
January 20 & 21

A few sights and
impressions by
Victor Stone, Dept.
Historian

AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF
VERMONT



Commander
Scanlon



National Vice
Commander
Paul Kennedy



National Judge
Advocate Mark
Seavey



Mid-winter Meeting Committees and Presentations -

Americanism and Children and Youth



Boys State



Service Officer-
Larry
Thompson



National Judge
Advocate - Mark
Seavey- Know
your Constitution
& By-Laws

American Legion
Riders



Mid-Winter Conference Banquet



National Judge Advocate-Mark Seavey, Commander Scanlon, National Vice Commander Paul Kennedy



Sons of the AL
Nat'l Cdr.
Christopher Carlton



Kelly Donaldson-
President
Vermont AL
Auxiliary



Banquet guests
in conversation
and dining



ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**YEAR: 2023 - 2024**

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

OFFICE OF:	LEGIONNAIRE	SPONSORING POST
DEPT. COMMANDER	MARK CLOUTIER	07
SR. VICE COMMANDER	LOU FURRY LEWIS GRAHAM	07 36
NO. AREA COMMANDER	JOSEPH ZICKMUND	10
SO. AREA COMMANDER	WILLIAM BROTHERS	49
1 ST DISTRICT COMMANDER	ROBERT PEARL	60
2 ND DISTRICT COMMANDER	DAVID PERRON	30
3 RD DISTRICT COMMANDER	CHRISTOPHER WOOD	59
4 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER		
5 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER		
ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER	JOSEPH BUMP	13
CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER		
CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER		
ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER		
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER	PHILIP PEARO	60
LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER		
RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER		
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER		
DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER	DENNIS MINOLI	10
NECman	TOM SCANLON	27
ALT. NECman		



COMING SOON – VERMONTERS WEEKEND TOUR THE USS VERMONT SSN-792 NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON

The USS VERMONT Support Group encourages you to keep the early to mid-April weekends open to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the USS VERMONT (SSN 792).

We anticipate the experience to include a visit to the Sub School Trainers where sailors learn to operate and maintain their boat, a tour down the hatch into the USS VERMONT where our sailors live and work, and a stop at the Reunions Pub on the base for refreshments. There you'll meet sailors, their families, and have an opportunity to buy USS VERMONT memorabilia.

Details, tour guidelines, and registration links will be available on our website at www.ussvermont.org, and our FB page at USS Vermont Support Group when we have confirmation of the dates. Pre-register to receive notice when the tour registrations go live by sending an email to ussvermont792@gmail.com with the number of Vermonters who will attend.



Submitted by PDC Donald Tetreault

- NS Staff returned to the office on January 3 and spent the bulk of the week onboarding two new staff members and reviewing and drafting the National Security sections of the National Commander's upcoming testimony.
- NS Staff worked with Chairman Shuman to identify speakers and all logistics associated with the National Security Commission meeting to be held during the 64th Annual Washington Conference.

Tip of the Week

Your DEERS record has your TRICARE coverage eligibility, contact information, and other important information critical to access the system. Here's why you need to update your information regularly:

1. Update DEERS so you can use TRICARE.
2. Errors in the database mean a delay in benefits.
 - Accurate DEERS information prevents disruption with authorization letters for referrals and TRICARE delivery of prescription drugs.
3. Incorrect DEERS information will cause missed enrollment deadlines.
 - Ensure you don't miss enrollment deadlines after a Qualifying Life Event (QLE), such as moving, childbirth, or retirement.

Ensure you safeguard your healthcare security and your family's well-being by updating your DEERS information, and always show up as TRICARE eligible in DEERS.

- The 2023 Basic Allowance for Housing rates will increase by an average of 12.1% effective January 1, DOD [announced](#) Wednesday. With high inflation and increased cost of living, this is welcoming news; however, there is still more that can be done, but this is a step in the right direction.

Another Tip of the Week

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- The vaccines and boosters are offered at no cost, but there may be a cost based on your plan for an office visit or if you require follow-on care.
-
- If you've already received your COVID-19 vaccine or booster, you can sign up for [v-safe](#). V-safe is a smart-phone based tool developed by the CDC that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine or booster. Through v-safe, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine or booster.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 11,400; Rifle – 7; Clips – 10
- Participants: Post – 6; Department – 5

POW/MIA

December 5, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Pierce, A.)

December 7, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Scarborough, T.)
- Soldier accounted for from WWII (Simon, W.)
- Soldier accounted for from Korean War (Miller, J.)

December 13, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Uhrin, M.)
- Airman accounted for from World War II (Harms, R.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 174 servicemembers so far this year.

Don Tetreault, PDC, PNEC