



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

February 2022

"For God and Country"



Legionnaires,

The Mid-Winter Conference was held January 21-22 at the Double Tree in Burlington. The Friday committee meetings and banquet were well attended and it was an honor to have Lt. Governor Molly Gray as our guest speaker at dinner. Our Saturday joint session with the presentation of the Four Chaplains Ceremony was very moving and I have received a lot of positive feedback. Thank you to everyone in the Legion Family that participated to make the joint session ceremony a success. We were also honored to have National Vice Commander Cory Bates attend Mid-Winter.

I have enjoyed traveling around the state visiting post membership meetings or special

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Catherine M. Tester

functions. To date I have visited 32 Posts and have learned a lot about the success and challenges these Posts are facing. During January I had the pleasure of visiting Hardwick Post 7, Woodstock Post 24, Poultney Post 39, Fair Haven Post 49 and Colchester Post 91. If I have not visited your Post yet, I look forward to seeing you in the next 3 – 4 months as weather and time permit. If your Post is having a special event coming up that you would like me to attend, please let me know so I can see if I'm available.

On **Tuesday, March 15, 2022** the American Legion will be celebrating its 102nd birthday. This is an excellent opportunity for your post to plan an event to celebrate this great organization.

The American Legion is looking for a few good men and women. If you have prospective candidates for District, County,

or Area Commanders we would love to get endorsement letters for them from your Post. Please send them into Department so they can be posted in the bulletin.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,
Catherine M. Tester
Department Commander





PAUL E. DILLARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER

AMERICAN LEGION



Not just Walter Reed

Dear American Legion Family
Members and Friends,

The report by the Navy Times hit like a gut punch. No hot water, A/C or doors with locks for junior troops forced to live in hellish Walter Reed base barracks was the headline of the article published on Feb. 4.

In essence, nearly 500 Navy corpsmen and Army medics stationed at Naval Support Activity Bethesda were housed in quarters with insufficient hot water, broken locks, inoperable air conditioning and other “trouble ticket” items that even the commanding officer admits have existed for years. It is no small irony that the two barracks were named Comfort Hall and Sanctuary Hall.

Fortunately, leadership at the facility has started relocating more than 350 of the servicemembers to temporary lodging and initiating the needed repairs.. But still, one has to wonder how did we get to this point? In 2007, the Washington Post reported mold and rodent infestations in Building 18 at the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2021, a congressional delegation toured a barracks at Fort Hood which was described as “the worst they’d ever seen.” Military.com reported a similar situation at Camp Lejeune.

When the media exposed a wait-time and records manipulation scandal at a VA Medical Center in 2014, The American Legion loudly proclaimed that the problem was “not just Phoenix.” Subsequent inspector general reports and congressional hearings proved us right.

I hope that history is not repeating itself with military housing.

The sixth of the 11 Principles of Military Leadership is “know your people and look out for their welfare.” Every military commander should take it to heart. Infrastructure has been one of the most used Washington buzz words for the last year, yet I can think of no infrastructure project more worthy than providing quality housing for our military members.

Veterans have endured many hardships while serving in war zones. But garrison living should be different. The men and women who choose to serve in our all-volunteer force have many other attractive options. They should not be subjected to living in third-world conditions while serving in a first-world nation. The military of 2022 should not expect its members to live in housing that hasn’t been adequately renovated in decades. Next month, I will address a joint committee of Congress. You can bet that this will be a major topic of discussion.

For God and Country,

Paul E. Dillard

National Commander of The
American Legion



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| Department Commander | 1 | Letter from the National Commander | 13 |
| National Commander | 2 | Burn Pit Information | 14 |
| Citizen of the Year Award | 3 | Mission Blue Grants | 15 |
| Sr. Vice Commander | 4 | Awards | 15 |
| Department Chaplain | 5 | Endorsement of Department Officer | 16 |
| Department Adjutant | 6 | Legion Riders | 17 |
| Third District Commander | 7 | LIT Information | 18 |
| Consolidated Reports | 7 | Department Convention | 18 |
| Caledonia County Commander | 8 | Department Commanders Project | 19 |
| MyLegion.org | 8 | Auxiliary President Project | 20 |
| SAL Advisor | 9 | Post Everlasting | 21 |
| Addison County Commander | 10 | SAL Commanders Project | 22 |
| Department Historian | 11 | Gas Raffle / Sweepstakes Awards | 23 |
| Oratorical | 12 | DEC Minutes | 24 |
| Scholarships Deadline | 12 | Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program | 25 |

The American Legion Department of Vermont is pleased to announce that Senior Vice Commander Tom Scanlon was the recipient of Middlebury College Citizens Award. Following is the announcement of the winners from the President of Middlebury College. Congratulations Tom!

Dear Middlebury Community,

I am very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Bonnie and John McCardell Citizen's Awards: Laura Asermily, Kelly Hickey, and Tom Scanlon. The awards recognize their passion for serving their community as volunteers. In short, what they have done has made a difference in our lives—before and during the pandemic.

They have worked to improve health and safety, support local businesses, protect the environment, and assist those suffering from addiction along with their families. Due to the pandemic, we had to delay our announcement of the 2021 recipients until now.

Members of the local and campus communities submitted nominations and a committee of faculty and staff made the final selections.

Please join me in congratulating these three incredible individuals for their efforts to improve life in Addison County. A story in the newsroom about their contributions is [here](#), and a list of all recipients can be found [here](#). We hope to be able to honor them in person soon.

Sincerely,

*Laurie Patton
President*



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

I have heard legionnaires ask, “What are the National Commissions and Committees all about” and “what can individuals from a Department contribute on a national level?” I will try to put a little clarity to it through my own experience.

There are various Commissions (Americanism, Convention, Finance, Internal Affairs, Legislative, Marketing, Media & Communications, Membership & Post Activities, National Security, Special, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and Veterans Employment & Education), and many of which have various committees under the same. I was formerly a member of the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee which is under the National Security Commission. My three decades in law enforcement and retiring as an executive in that field from a major law enforcement agency enabled me to make viable recommendations and decisions.

My most recent appointment is to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. At the most recent convention in Phoe-

nix I attended the commission meeting and there were excellent presentations, particularly in the area of veteran’s employment. The two that particularly interested me were from the CEO’s of Hiring our Heroes, a project of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and SkillMil. They work at placing veterans into the workforce, particularly those exiting the services. Both function in different ways, for example, SkillMil utilizes the military occupational specialties and other credentials to include non-military to connect veterans to jobs.

As a result of these presentations, and the fact that my son-in-law had recently told me he currently needs over 1,000 employees, and it will rise to over 4,000 with the infrastructure bill passing, I saw the potential in getting all of them aligned and connected, working to put veterans in the front of the line for jobs.

My son-in-law is the International Servicing Director for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). They do commercial/residential painting, industrial/bridge painting, dry-wall finishing, glazing (glass structures), to include the painting of military facilities and vessels, both inside and out. They also have training centers in eve-

ry state and some of the jobs, particularly work on military installations require clearances. Bridge painting, for example, is a job that requires training and certification, and is highly paid work. With the passing of the Infrastructure Bill there will be an increased need for individuals to fill these types of positions.

I was able to get them all connected and they have all met and are working on plans to get our veterans good paying jobs. A positive result helping our nation’s heroes. I am proud to have played a little part in the solution to the problem of veteran’s employment.

Being on a National Commission or Committee has to be taken seriously so as to effect positive outcomes. It is not just a check in, and *check out*.

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon

Senior Vice Commander

Department of Vermont



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires

You may be wondering why I haven't been participating in legion activities for the past several months. Here are the reasons:

Back in July ~ September 2021 I was at the VA and in the planning stage for having knee replacements. When they did the pre-op testing they found my blood counts to be abnormal. They sent me to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center where I received the diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). This is a chronic leukemia which requires treatments for extended periods now and into the future because this cancer leaves a residue of cells that can not be detected. So... treatments must continue regularly.

As we Christians do, I immediately asked God to take my burden. I am confident that God will get me through this. There have been some other bumps in the road as well, such as pseudo-gout in my

knees and blood clots in my left leg and right lung. He has held my hand every moment and has His Angels: doctors, nurses, specialists, as well as family, friends and neighbors who have called, sent cards, and prayed for me. Praise God for all these very special folks.

I am very weak due to the cancer infusions and all the medicines, but getting around with a walker or wheelchair. God has me on a positive ramp to become fully restored and in good condition. He is awesome. Sometimes, there is no strength to stand up, that's where God adds his strength to stand and off we go. Even in discomfort and pain, God's presence and strength leaves me with a sense of joy and peace.

Enough about me, sure miss getting around to some of the Posts and attending the special activities. Can't tell you how much I appreciate the prayers, cards, and calls. My apology for not getting the

word out much sooner. We've been on a roller coaster without breaks. We have been traveling to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Rutland Regional Hospital, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and the White River Veterans Hospital. All of these places have God's Angels taking great care of me. There are many times when I have had no strength; that's when God's strength comes along and lifts me up. Praise the Lord.

Hey Posts and individuals, if you haven't made a donation to the Commanders Bell project at the Vermont Veterans Home, please consider doing so. It means so much to me to know that the old Chapel Bell will no longer deteriorate. God bless you for your support. Please remember to pray for our troops.

Looking forward to attending the June Conference,

Chaplain Ken



103rd National Convention

THE 103RD NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN - AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2022. SAVE THE DATE! TO CHECK OUT WHAT IS ALREADY PLANNED GO TO WWW.LEGION.ORG/CONVENTION/RESOURCES. NOMINATIONS FOR ATTENDING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION HAPPEN AT THE JUNE CONVENTION.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Brian Markwell

What Is a Person's Legacy?

By Mary Gormandy White
Communication Expert

Accomplishments

The things a person accomplishes throughout life form the basis of the individual's legacy. A person's legacy of accomplishments isn't just about winning awards and coming out ahead. It includes all kinds of accomplishments, such as successfully overcoming adversity, raising resilient children, excelling as a leader, creating inventions or innovations, and much more. The things a person does and achieves throughout a lifetime form a powerful legacy that others will remember about them.

Impact on Others

The influence an individual has on others is also an important aspect of legacy. People who set positive examples for others through their actions and words can leave a powerful legacy of good deeds and appropriate behavior. Parents and grandparents greatly impact their children, helping to mold their beliefs about family values and love from an early age that will impact them and future generations.

Those who exhibit bravery leave a legacy of selflessness and courage. Everyone impacts and influences other people in some way, including friends, acquaintance, cowork-

ers, neighbors. People can also leave an impact on the larger community, such as through serving on a nonprofit organization's advisory board.

Doing Good Deeds

The good works that a person does throughout life can establish a legacy of kindness, generosity, and social responsibility. From helping others who are less fortunate or in a vulnerable population, those who do good works throughout their lives establish a positive legacy that helps make life better for others. From volunteering to acts of kindness to charitable organizations or individuals in need, there are countless ways that good deeds leave a mark on the world

Sharing Resources

Speaking of good deeds, the resources a person shares also impact the individual's legacy. People who generously share their time, talent, or expertise are creating a positive legacy of sharing resources for the good of others and the greater good.

Legacy Isn't Always Positive

Keep in mind that a person's legacy isn't always positive. An individual who behaves in unethical ways to get ahead without concern for others will leave behind a very different legacy than an individual who lives a good life characterized

by high moral standards and concern for others. People are well-served to remember that everything they do in life works together to create the overall mark they'll leave on the world. When making choices between right and wrong, a person who chooses to do what is right is forming a positive legacy while those who make decisions that are unethical or otherwise wrong are laying the groundwork for a negative legacy.

The above edited article was found online, and I thought as a volunteer organization, was very applicable to our many volunteers and their efforts to support our Legion family. Because of all the great work our volunteers are doing, I'm sure many people will leave behind a very favorable legacy.

This is the time of the year, if your post hasn't done so already, to check the status of those members for whom the post pays their memberships. If you use a cutoff age like 80, make sure you have checked those who may have advanced into this window. Or past post commanders or other individuals in your post who now fall into this category who might have been overlooked. One or two members per post across the entire state can make a big difference. That last 100 may be easier to make than anyone could have ever expected. Keep up the good work in making those goals throughout the year.



THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

Joe Zickmund

Many Posts struggle to have sufficient attendance at meetings to meet the requirements for a quorum. There are a couple ways to handle this. We can change our bylaws to reduce the number required or we can find ways to get our membership more involved. Changing the bylaws without changing what we're doing is only slowing down the eventual demise of our organizations. I am certain that nobody reading this

wants to see that happen.

So, what do we do? We embrace our programs. We figure out what our inactive members need to re-engage, we build value in our communities, and we look for new members. There's a big push on finding new, younger members but let's not forget the members we have as we do so. What are we doing for them? Are we in contact with them? Are we inviting them to activities, meals, ceremonies, and meetings? Have we asked them why they don't attend meet-

ings? We all have a "why". Let's all revisit and shore up our "why" and then help others remember theirs so they can be engaged and an active part of this great organization. It's truly vital to our continued ability to serve.

For GOD and Country

Joe Zickmund

Veterans Inquiring About Assistance

As of December 30, the American Legion Department of Vermont Service Office has resigned. For veterans seeking assistance, please see below:

Vermont Residents

Please contact Rhonda at the Department of Vermont Veterans Affairs at 802-828-3379 or for additional information visit their website at: <https://veterans.vermont.gov/office-veterans-affairs/office-veterans-affairs-staff>

New Hampshire Residents

Please contact The Department of New Hampshire American Legion Service Officer, Michael Hartt at 603-222-5786 or for additional information visit their website at: <https://legionnh.org/page/content/services/department-service-officer>

If you have general questions, please contact The American Legion Department headquarters at 802-233-7131 or email at alvthq@talofvt.com during regular business hours

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)!

We all know we have a duty and responsibility to report our activities to Congress through our



Department and National office. It is imperative that we obtain 100 percent on our CPR's. As you all know, it tells the story of who we are and what we do and do best. Let us tell the world of our good deeds, as many truly don't know what we do? Did you know you can attach an addendum to your report? Call Department Adjutant Brian Markwell for help!



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David W. Perron

February has arrived. Mid-winter was a great time and glad to see all there it felt good to visit again. Great job Commander and Kudos to Mel for putting it all together again.

Anyone that couldn't make it if you have questions feel free to reach out to me.

Membership starts with you!!!!!! Let's make are Post stronger and healthy. Everyone's job!!!!

Keep up the good work with all actives throughout all Post.

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

COUNTY COMMANDERS- A big thank you to all County Commanders that have done evaluations

and got them in to Department. Please CC me or text me the Post # when you have them completed. Let's keep working on these and get all completed.

Also please update phone numbers and e-mail in Directory. Having trouble reaching out to some.

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving.

Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793

Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you.

David W Perron

Caledonia Country Commander

MyLegion.org

From February Training Newsletter

National Headquarters continues to receive questions on signing on to MyLegion, processing memberships, transmittals and more. Each case is carefully evaluated, but many of these issues are end-user concerns. If the process steps are carefully followed in order, the system should work for members, posts, districts, and departments sufficiently.

When the Customer Service and Information Technology (IT) staff get bogged down responding to problems already addressed through MyLegion.org training

resources, it keeps them from working on improving the MyLegion experience for all of us. So, before you call or email, please take the time to check "Need Help?" area at the top of MyLegion.org. There you will find step-by-step instructions and how-to videos covering the most common features utilized by individual members and membership processing features for posts.

How to Use MyLegion.org.

Our IT staff is continuing to update the MyLegion platform to add features and resolve issues. The progress of these improvements may be found under "Known Issues." **Known Issues (mylegion.org).**

If you find an issue is not resolved by following these step-by-step instructions, or if you are still having trouble with an issue that is marked as resolved, please contact us at cs2@legion.org.

While many find this change or any change frustrating, the move to a more flexible environment is imperative to keep us operational as we move into the future. Thank you for your patience as we work through this process.





S.A.L. ADVISOR

Bruce Paquin

Fellow Legionnaires,

Fresh off our recent Mid-Winter Legion family get together in South Burlington, I am proud to share with you some of the half year accomplishment of your Sons of the American Legion program. I think you will agree that the level of leadership and commitment by Commander Revell and his Officers is not only impressive, but truly worthy of our support and gratitude. To fully understand the Detachment's, accomplish, we first must look back to the 2021 American Legion National Convention held in Phoenix, AZ last August. At that Convention, the Detachment of Vermont was awarded the highest per capita in the Eastern Region for donations in the support of the Nationally sponsored Child Welfare Foundation. Moving forward, SAL members not only participated in 9/11 remembrance ceremonies across the State, but several of the events were also emceed by Son's members. Detachment Officers also attended the Vietnam Veterans moving wall in Brattleboro for the reading of names. The SAL does remember and continues to remind everyone of our past, to help keep these events in our thoughts. One of the core programs of support for your SAL is the Veterans "Dodge House" in Rutland. Around Veterans Day, the Detachment paid a visit to them, providing the Veterans with lunch and presenting the director

with a check of \$15,150.00 to help with their amazing work for the Veterans. More donations are pouring in, and the support does not stop there.

I'd like to give a special thanks to the Middlebury American Legion Post 27 for their support to the Dodge House. Middlebury Legion Family members hosted an on-site radiothon fund raiser with WVTM radio station at the Post home, which with matching funds from the Post, raised another \$15,000.00 for the program. At the event, Commander Revell signed up a new SAL member, JT Dodge, the son of Mike Dodge, who the house is named for. As you can see, job one, membership is instilled into the leadership of the Sons, with a mission to go beyond our goals. To date, we have achieved over 2,800 members reaching 78+% of goal. We still have allot of work to do and I'm confident in our efforts. Also in the fall, Detachment and Squadron 10 Officers helped organize the Granite City 5 K run, which raised \$22,000.00 for the Veterans Place in Northfield, in collaboration with the City of Barre and the Elks Club. During the Holidays, Detachment and Squadrons members participated in Wreaths across America as well as other programs in support of Veterans, such as Squadron 19 Santa ride which dropped off bags of goodies to the five town area veterans and senior citizens homes. The

(Continued on page 10)

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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Finalvt@talofvt.com

Department of
Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000

www.va.gov

American Legion
Headquarters

317-630-1200

www.legion.org

Vermont Office of
Veterans Affairs

802-828-3379

www.veterans.vermont.gov

VA Hospital
White River Jct., Vermont

802-259-9363

Benefits
800-827-1000 or,
802-296-5177

Scheduling
802-296-5160

Dept. Service Officer

Larry Thompson

479-3686

thompsonl@myfairpoint.net

Detachment and Squadron members are supporting many more Veterans, Rehabilitation, Youth, and Communities Programs, all worthy. Donation and man hours performed are still coming in and being counted. These will be reported at our next get together.

I think you will agree, the volunteer service and work are being performed at an impressive level by your "Sons Members". I congratulate you the American Legionnaire for having the foresight to create a program such as the SAL which is self-sustaining and continue to support the Veterans and all the American Legion's programs and initiatives. Thank you for all your support to a Department SAL program which exist for service to the Veterans and their families, Communities, State, and Nation.

Bruce F. Paquin
Department of Vermont
SAL Advisor

SUICIDE

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



Commander Tester's Motto for the year:

*"Have a goal for tomorrow,
A plan for today,
And remember the lessons of yesterday."*



ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER

Alan M. Smith

Greetings 2nd District Legionnaires,

Congratulations to the Addison County Posts all had attendees at the Mid-Winter Conference, attendance at the conferences and conventions have plummeted in the past years.

If possible, Posts could offer to cover the cost of rooms and meals to increase attendance.

Membership from here on out gets hard, contact those unpaid in person, this usually pays off. If any of the Addison County Posts need assistance contact me.

Veterans' needing assistance with claims and benefits should contact Vermont Veterans Affairs at 802-828-3379 or toll free at 888-666-9844, D.A.V. Service Officer at 802-296-5167 or V.F.W. Service Officer at 802-296-5168. Currently, The American Legion is without a Service Officer.

We plan on having a booth at Addison County Field Days, if you are interested in helping contact me or Karlene Devine.

Mid-Year Report

*Victor Stone
Department Historian*

The role of Dept. Historian is an interesting and active one. By charter, the responsibility is to “collect records and data of value and interest to the organization and compile a complete history of the year’s activity.” This is accomplished through a year-end report and a year book compiled for the Department Commander. In essence, the mission of the Department Historian is to tell the story of the American Legion in Vermont and on certain occasions to reflect back on the recorded history of the organization. Interestingly, the word history, in many languages is the primary translation for the word story; you can see it in the word: **History**.

I must say I have enjoyed the work and through it I’ve met many impressive Legionnaires, attended interesting events and, along the way, learned a lot about the American Legion and its character.

Looking back on the past several months here is a brief look at some key stories:

- The June Convention and Installation of our Dept. Commander, Cathy Tester, after COVID influenced two-year term of service by Past Dept. Commander Ron LaRose
- In July the Sons of the American Legion made a sizeable donation to the Vermont American Legion Foundation
- In the last part of July and early August the American Legion Baseball season ended with Post #91’s team taking the winner’s trophy in the post season tournament
- In August our leaders attended the 102nd National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona
- In September a solemn remembrance of the tragic events of 9/11 was held at Middlebury at Post #27
- The National President of the American Legion Auxillary, Kathy Daudistel, visited our State in September
- Also in September the Dept. Commander installed a new slate of officers at Norwich University Post #1819

- In October, the Dept. Commander installed the officers of Thetford Post #79
- Again in October the Fall Conference and DEC meetings were held at Vergennes Post #14; featuring a visit by National Vice Commander Cory Bates
- In November, a Civil War memorial rededication ceremony was held at the Bennington Museum; this was in many ways the work of Bennington Post #13

Of course these are not the only events of the year but they do give you a sense of the activity and the unfolding story of our 2021-22 year. Looking forward we can anticipate the Oratorical Contest, the American Legion birthday in March, Boys and Girls State, Law Cadet Program activities, and, of course, the June 2022 Department Convention and many more events.

As we move into the second half of our operational year, I’d like to leave you with this thought...not many people are eager to study history as a discipline as it invokes uncomfortable memories of having to study ancient dates, recall the lives of obscure men and women, and remember the events of long forgotten places; however, if history was understood and taught as an intriguing unfolding story, it would never be forgotten. After all who doesn’t like a good story?





ORATORICAL PROGRAM

This year, we have 2 contestants. One is being sponsored by Harry N. Cutting Post 59-Waterbury and the other is sponsored by Lyman F. Pell Post 8-Norwich.

District 3 contest site has not been determined yet. But will be in the Barre-Montpelier area.

District 5 contest will be at the Ballard Hobart Post 36-Ludlow on Thurs. Feb. 10 at 4 PM.

Department Contest is Sat. Mar. 5. Tentatively, it will be at the Pavilion in Montpelier. With 2 contestants, we should be done by Noon time. We have had the Department Contest at the Pavilion in the past and it is perfect for our needs.

If you would like to be part of the contest personnel, please get in touch with me. (802-877-6392 or kdevine@myfairpoint.net) Due to COVID precautions, only student competitors, their family members and contest personnel will be in attendance.

I want to thank the SAL for their significant contribution towards our Department Contest awards.

They have financially supported the Oratorical Program for several years now. Brian Massey became involved when he was the SAL Americanism Chair. Dual member, Bruce Paquin has attended Oratorical Committee meetings and the new SAL Americanism Chair, Randy McGrath is following in Brian's footsteps. I look forward to continuing to work with the SAL in this effort.

Thank you, Vergennes Post 14, Bristol Post 19 and Middlebury Post 27 for recognizing the efforts of the dedicated youth that will be competing this year by your generous donations to the Department Oratorical program.

The 2022 National Finals will be April 22-24 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241, (317) 248-2481. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 23 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 24.

If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities at the National Finals, go to <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/volunteer>. There is no reimbursement for your expenses, but the satisfaction of watching high school students from across the country including France and Puerto Rico explain the U.S. Constitution is revitalizing. Something we could all use now.

Scholarship Awards – DEADLINE April 1

This scholarship award, sponsored by The American Legion Department of Vermont, has a challenging and noble purpose, which is broadly and aptly stated in the following program slogan:

“AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY QUALIFIED STUDENT”

The American Legion believes that more students will continue their education if they are given a helping hand. Through the splendid cooperation and support of the entire American Legion Department of Vermont Membership, this scholarship award has been made possible.

Visit vtlegion.org for the application for contact Department at: Email Phone number





THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1100, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1100 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P 317/486-3281 • T 317/486-3281

To my fellow Legionnaires in Vermont,

Earlier this year, I had the honor of visiting the Department of Illinois and participating in the annual American Legion Pilgrimage to the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln. I reflected on the promise that Lincoln made during his second inaugural address: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and for his orphan..." In many ways, caring for veterans and their families describes the mission of The American Legion.

I believe that we have no greater calling than to create an environment where fewer widows, widowers and orphans are made. We can certainly help this effort by preventing veterans from taking their own lives.

Buddy checks will not prevent every veteran suicide, but each life that is saved is an accomplishment like no other. The American Legion should be a community sanctuary for every veteran in crisis and all who have experienced the horrors of war.

We also need to support those who served our nation, along with their families in need. My chosen program for this year is our Veterans & Children Foundation, an outstanding American Legion charity which provides temporary financial assistance to families and training for our service officers.

America needs and deserves a strong American Legion. Our strength comes from our membership. A department convention is the perfect opportunity to discuss ideas pertaining to growth and renewal. Through my department visits, I have witnessed the energy and enthusiasm that exists at many of our American Legion posts. Let's spread that spirit throughout the entire organization. As I announced during the NEC meetings last fall, any department that achieves 103 percent of its membership goal and 90-percent retention for 2022 will receive \$18.50 for every member over that 103 percent. For purposes of this incentive program, we will continue to receive transmittals from 2022 until October 1. But it's important to send those 2022 transmittals as soon as you can to your department so they can be sent to national headquarters.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable convention.

No Veteran Left Behind,

Paul E. Dillard
National Commander



ATTN: VETERANS & ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

Were you exposed to Burn Pits while deployed?

Sign up for the VA Burn Pit registry today.

★ IS THIS FOR ME?

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

★ WHY SIGN UP?

- Document your exposures and health concerns.
- Improve awareness of long-term health for you and all Veterans.
- Learn about follow up care at the VA.
- Satisfaction from helping other Veterans and Service members.

★ VA MEDICAL CENTER, VT



For assistance with enrollment call your local Vermont Veterans Outreach Specialist:

888-607-8773

VT MILITARY & FAMILY
SUPPORT CENTER
24/7



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
White River Junction Healthcare System

163 Veterans Drive
White River Junction, VT 05009
802-295-9363 | 866-687-8387

Scan QR Code with your smartphone camera to sign up for the VA Burn Pit registry OR visit:



veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home

Mission Blue Grants

All Mission Blue Applications must be submitted before July 1, 2022, for those posts to be awarded grants. Internal Affairs will be unable to process any grant applications after this date.

Since Fall Meetings, national has made it easier than ever for posts to receive at least a portion of the maximum \$2,000 available for these grants. If a post does not have either a current CPR on file or insurance with national listed as an additional insured, they could still be eligible to receive

up to \$1,000. If those posts can secure the proper insurance requirements afterwards, they may reapply for another \$1,000 (or whatever amount meets the maximum amount for Mission Blue grant totals.) Posts that have previously received \$1,000 under the former requirement restrictions can be eligible for the remaining amount of the \$2,000 maximum so long as they have a certificate of insurance for a current policy at the time of the second/ subsequent application(s).

Additionally, all recipients' posts are required to submit a grant usage report within six months of the check issued date per the

terms of the Mission Blue Grant program. Posts that do not report their grant usage potentially be billed by finance for the entire amount of those funds. As of today, approximately 60% of all grants issued have been reported and 86 reports are overdue. Please reach out to all your overdue recipient posts and encourage them to submit their report to avoid an awkward situation. We do not require receipts and the form takes no more than 2 minutes to complete.

If your post is interested in applying for the Mission Blue Grants. Contact Department for forms and additional information.

Congratulations to the following posts for 100 percent membership as of February 3 report

- ◆ McBride Hardwick Post 44, Dorset: Goal 20 members, Current 26 for 130%
- ◆ Creller-Landon, Inc. Post 60, Alburgh: Goal 83 members, Current 84 for 101.20%
- ◆ Cecil A. Davis Post 17, Whitingham: Goal 15 members, Current 15 for 100%



From Your Department Commander,

As I travel visiting posts I have met some amazing and dedicated Legionnaires. Are you aware there are awards to recognize these individuals?

- * PDC Rodney Sherman-Legionnaire of the Year
- * Adjutant of the Year
- * Finance of the Year
- * Service Officer of the Year
- * Law Officer of the Year
- * The Ron Aldrich "Medal Of Valor Award"
- * American Legion Department of Vermont Color Guard of the Year

**ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
YEAR: 2022 - 2023**

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

| | | SPONSORING |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| DEPT. COMMANDER | THOMAS SCANLON | 27 |
| SR. VICE COMMANDER | MARK CLOUTIER | 07 |
| NO. AREA COMMANDER | LOU FURRY | 07 |
| SO. AREA COMMANDER | WILLIAM FERMAN LEWIS GRAHAM | 49 36 |
| 1 ST DISTRICT COMMANDER | JESSICA PATENAUDE | 91 |
| 2 ND DISTRICT COMMANDER | DAVID PERRON | 30 |
| 3 RD DISTRICT COMMANDER | | |
| 4 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER | WILLIAM BROTHERS | 49 |
| 5 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER | | |
| ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER | RICHARD WEST | 91 |
| CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER | ANGELA MARSHALL | 58 |
| ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER | | |
| DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER | | |
| NECman | | |
| ALT. NECman | | |



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS VERMONT

ATTENTION: PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS: American Legion Riders of the Department of Vermont. Below is the information to join our Mid Winter ALR meeting which is also our election meeting. This will be held via ZOOM and we are hoping more members will be able to participate because of this.

If you intend to run for a position please let Lou Furry or myself know so we can get a jump on setting up the voting for this meeting. Nominations will still be taken the day of the meeting but if you know you are willing to keep your position or would like to accept a nomination for one please let us know in advance if possible.

A list of current officers is included beneath the Zoom login information. If anyone needs assistance to get access to Zoom please let me know in advance as well so we can make this happen for you.

The American Legion Dept. of Vermont is inviting you to a scheduled American Legion Riders Zoom meeting.

Topic: American Legion Riders Meeting

Time: Saturday, Feb 26, 2022 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256211509?pwd=RkN5WGR2R3dqVC9qME1rWnJqYTM1dz09>

Dial In: 1 929 436 2866

Meeting ID: 872 5621 1509

Passcode: 873015

(Continued on page 18)

Current ALR VT Officers:

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 - Chris Wood

District 1 Representative - Ken Trombley

District 2 Representative - Dale Manning

District 3 Representative - Wanda Woodard

District 4 Representative - Marc Colety

District 5 Representative - Andy Sheldon



Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan

Money to help pay YOUR portion of hospital bills or you can use your cash benefits however you see fit!

Endorsed By Your American Legion Department

LEARN MORE

NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR STATE

LEGION FAMILY: IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE

UP TO \$5,000.00

NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION

For Online Activation Visit: TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

Save The Date Department Annual Convention

Mark your calendars and begin planning to attend The American Legion Department of Vermont's 103rd Convention, **June 23 - 25, 2022**. The Double Tree by Hilton in South Burlington has been selected as the site location.



The cost of rooms will be \$179.99 plus tax and Banquet on Friday evening will be \$35 per person. More information on when you can reserve your room and banquet tickets will be forthcoming in the March Bulletin



Department
Commander
Catherine M. Tester

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S PROJECT

*Preserving a piece of the
Veterans Home history*

Project: To build a permanent structure to house the original chapel bell at the Vermont Veterans Home.

Goal: To raise \$15,000.00 for this project.

History: The Vermont Veterans Home came into being in 1884. In 1890, a chapel was built entirely with donations from the Grand Army of the Republic. The bell for the chapel was donated by Major A. B. Valentine, a prominent businessman in Bennington at this time.

During the period 1967 - 1976, several renovations and building projects were completed and the original chapel was taken down. A new chapel was built along with a large community room. The Chapel Bell was kept but not built into the new chapel. Instead, it was affixed to a 4' high wooden post structure and parked outside the chapel building. Over the years, the Bell had rusted badly and was in poor condition.



In 2016, the Bennington Rotary Club arranged for the Bell to be refurbished. The metal pitting was repaired, and the Bell proper was repaired and resurfaced. However, it still resides atop the 4' wooden posts and is now placed at the memorial area on the Home grounds. This method of display leaves the Bell open to the elements and more evidence of metal pitting and deterioration of the Bell proper is occurring.

The Plan: The project entails the Bell being removed from the wooden posts and placed in a permanent structure that would protect it from the elements and place it on display with a plaque giving the history of the Chapel Bell.

The structure will be placed in the grassy area just in front of the main entrance of the Veterans Home and resemble the original architecture of the Veterans Home. The Bell would be hung inside the structure rather than set on a base.

A stamped concrete walkway would lead to the Bell display with a wrought iron fence around the structure.

Local contractors have already been contacted and have signed on for the project.



How to

Donate: This project is being funded 100 percent by donations to the Commander's Project. Donations are gladly accepted from individuals, Posts, Squadrons, Units, business's or departments.

Donations can be made to the Chapel Bell Project in two ways:

1. Mail your donation to the Department of Vermont at P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT, 05601. Make the check out to the "Department of Vermont". Please put *Commander's Project* in the memo line.
2. You can present your check in person to Department Commander Tester at any event that she is attending.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Vermont President
Francisca Massey

Vermont Paws & Boots



“President’s Project – Vermont Paws & Boots”

Vermont Paws & Boots Mission Statement: “Vermont Paws & Boots assists disabled Veterans and First Responders by teaming them with rescue dogs and creating a bond allowing each to thrive again”

\$10.00 per ticket – Many chances to Win! All Proceeds will go to Vermont Paws & Boots



1st Prize – Vermont Teddy Bear Co. - Cuddle Puppy (*T-Shirt with Aux Emblem included)



2nd Prize – Doggie Gift Basket with Gift Certificates

**3rd Prize – Handmade Full Size
Patriotic Blanket**



And Several More Surprises to Be Drawn!!!

**To Purchase Tickets: Send Payment to ALA HQ – “President’s Project” – PO Box 192,
Montpelier VT 05601**

Drawing will be held at Department Convention June 2022

POST EVERLASTING

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| COOLBETH, EARL | 07 |
| HAMILTON, ROBERT C | 13 |
| REDDING, JOHN H | 13 |
| RYERSON, JOHN L | 19 |
| BLOOD, FRED M | 24 |
| ELLIS, JAMES | 24 |
| FENTON, CHARLES | 24 |
| KEITH, JR THEODORE | 24 |
| LEUTKE, CHARLES | 24 |
| ROBERTS, JR LAURENCE | 24 |
| SIMONS, CHARLES | 24 |
| WATSON, JAMES | 24 |
| WILLIS, MARIE | 24 |
| JILLSON, JR ERNEST | 24 |
| ALLEN, ROGER V | 49 |



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

SON's Commanders Project

Pathways Vermont Supportive Services for Veteran Families

2021 FACT SHEET

In partnership with



The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is a national initiative funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs to address homelessness among veterans in the United States.

The SSVF program is housed in Vermont Veteran Services at the University of Vermont, with case management and housing services provided by Pathways Vermont. The program helps very-low income veteran households who are homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness gain and retain stable housing.

Services provided include needs assessment, intensive housing case management, assistance accessing VA benefits and financial assistance.

PROGRAM SERVICES

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families program provides short-term supportive services to participants to help them obtain and/or retain stable housing in 90 days. The program uses a Rapid Rehousing approach, meaning the program's priority is to support participants in developing a permanent housing option.

Intensive case management is the primary service provided. In certain cases, case management may be augmented by temporary financial assistance. This assistance is used to help with expenses related to securing housing, for example rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits and other related expenses. It should be noted that financial assistance is limited in amount and cannot be guaranteed.

FY22 FUNDING

In 2014 Pathways Vermont was awarded a subcontract from SSVF at UVM to provide case management and housing services for a Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant awarded by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The SSVF program operates in all 14 counties in Vermont and 6 counties in the eastern Adirondacks. We have to raise \$15,000 to cover expenses that the grant does not cover.

| Source of funds | Amount |
|--|---------|
| SSVF at UVM Department of Veterans Affairs Grant | 548,000 |
| Fundraising | 15,000 |

FAST FACTS*:

248

Vermont Veteran Families Housed

138

Vermont Veterans Supported to Positive Outcome

224

Instances of Homelessness Prevented (through temporary financial assistance)

183

Children Served

*Through March 2021



Gas Raffle and Sweepstakes Awards

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the Gas Raffle. It raised over \$1,000 dollars for The American Legion programs. Congratulations to the Gas Raffle Winners:

- Kenneth Coonradt – 1st Place \$250
- PDC - Richard Gray – 2nd Place \$150

Congratulations to our lucky Mid-Winter Sweepstakes Raffle winners:

- Earl Coolbeth, Hardwick VT - \$2,500
- Stephen Hein, Hyattsville MD - \$1,000
- Francis Potter, St. Albans VT - \$500
- Larry Varney, Perkinsville VT - \$100
- David Bovat, Grand Isle VT - \$100
- Paul Croteau, St. Johnsbury VT - \$100
- Jacob Kokaly, Jr., Newport VT - \$100
- Stuart Fisher, Grafton VT - \$100
- James Bessette, Williston VT - \$100
- Peter Frank, Savoy MA - \$100
- Peter Morran, New Britain CT - \$100
- Eric Brown, Guilford VT - \$100
- Hoard Dushane, Crown Point NY - \$100



National Commanders Members Incentive

Remember the National Commanders incentive for those who paid their 2020 dues but not their 2021 dues. A member can pay just the 2022 dues and keep their continuous years of membership. The member would not gain a year for the lost year but keep those prior to paying their 2022 dues. This can't be done online it has to be mailed into department. Let's tell our members they are important and make those calls.

DEC meeting January 22, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met at the Doubletree Hotel, in S Burlington, VT at 1300 hours. The meeting was presided over by Department Commander Catherine Tester. Roll call was taken by the Dept Adjutant and a quorum was present of the executive board members.

Minutes from the October 23, 2021, DEC meeting were approved.

Department Assistant Finance Officer David Woodward gave the finance report. It was moved and passed to accept the report.

Commander Tester then went into unfinished business with Post updates.

Post 39, Poultney. Matt McCoy is working with an accountant to file past 990's. They're painting the post; donations are coming in for cans of paint.

Post 26, Hartford. Fred Stebbins was asked in October to go to Post 26 to work with them as Adjutant. Their rest stop vending is currently the only source of income. Monthly reports are being sent in with minutes and financials. Lou Graham said there is a vacancy on the committee and said that there are diminishing funds that can't cover expenses and pay off the \$16,000 debt. Fred said that they are paying back an extra \$1,000 per month to catch up on back rent.

Post 57, Milton, according to Mark Cloutier is basically on hold until spring.

Post 69, Arlington, per David Woodward, everything is current and on track. He moved to change monthly monitoring to quarterly and move the responsibility to the county commander. The motion passed.

Convention update was given by Fred Stebbins. Currently Barre, Post 10, is looking into hosting the Department convention in 2022. PDC Ferris brought up whether we can use a larger facility such as an armory or the auditorium. PNVC Perham was concerned about the limited parking. The Barre site is on hold until further information is obtained. Next mid-winter, 2023, to be held at the Doubletree in South Burlington was moved and passed.

New business was then brought up. Post 35, Mt Mansfield is up and running well.

Commander Tester then made appointment of Barb Bushaw as the Americanism committee chair.

Resignation of DSO was then brought up. PNVC Perham moved not to accept the DSO resignation. Moved and passed to go into executive session. Voted to come out of executive session. Vote on motion to not accept DSO resignation failed.

PDC Latour moved that the DEC accept the DSO resignation. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1515 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Markwell

Department Adjutant



JEEP

JOINT
ENLISTMENT
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM

★ WHAT IS IT?

A Vermont State program to incentivize non-Recruiters to become a Recruiting Assistant by supporting the enlistment / accession of Soldiers or Airmen into the VTNG.

A \$1000 payment will be awarded to the Recruiting Assistant for any non-prior service, prior service, or officer accession. The Recruiting Assistant must provide the lead and be available to the prospect from initial contact through the enlistment process up to the beginning of initial entry training.

★ PAYMENTS

NON-PRIOR SERVICE - \$500 at enlistment, \$500 upon shipping to initial training as applicable.

PRIOR SERVICE - \$1000 upon accession if qualified, if not \$500 upon accession and \$500 upon shipping to qualification training.

INTERSTATE TRANSFERS - Same as Prior Service Accession.

★ ELIGIBILITY

Eligible

- VTNG Airmen, Soldiers, and all military retirees
- Federal Civilian Employees of the VTNG
- Members of the State Guard of Vermont

Non-Eligible

- Any Airmen, Soldier, retiree or civilian whose primary duty is recruiting (to include temporary orders) or duty is with a Junior or Senior ROTC
- Any currently serving VTNG Member in the grade of O5 or above
- Immediate family members of any non-eligible person above



SERVICE

**NEW
CURRENT
PRIOR**

**\$1000
PER LEAD**

GET STARTED

**TALK TO YOUR
LOCAL/UNIT
RECRUITER**

