



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

---

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

(802) 223-7131 EMAIL: [alvthq@talofvt.com](mailto:alvthq@talofvt.com)  
[www.vtlegion.org](http://www.vtlegion.org)

---

### January 2023

### Bulletin

### IN THIS EDITION:

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

- Oratorical Program Updates
- Mid-winter conference Agenda
- Training Roadshow
- Endorsements
- And more....

## Department Commander

---



### *Tom Scanlon*

I would first like to thank our Senior Vice Commander, County, District, and Area Commanders as well as all the Post Commanders, Adjutants, and local membership teams for their efforts in getting to where we are as relates to membership. As of January 5<sup>th</sup>, we are 6<sup>th</sup> in all the Legion and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Northeast Region at 80.44% of our assigned quota. Keep up the great work. Thank You.

This past weekend the Department Adjutant contacted a training on My Legion and put together a in depth package of instructional material as relates to the same as a handout. It was well attended by both Legion and Sons Department and Post Leadership. Next week on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> a similar training will be conducted in the north at Waterbury Post 59. Call HQ and sign up. It is worth the time. Kudos to our Department Adjutant for putting this together. Keep in mind that being familiar and knowledgeable of My Legion helps with membership. Lists can be created at all levels as to who signed up as a response from the Direct Mailings of the Legion and eligible to transfer to a local post, not to mention printing of reports and mailing labels.

On Friday and Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> our Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in South Burlington. Please make every effort to attend. The American Legion National Northeast Vice Commander Paul Kennedy and the National Judge Advocate will be in attendance. The Sons National Commander and the Auxiliary Northeast Vice Commander will also be present. I look forward to seeing all at this conference.

On Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mid-Winter Conference there will be two classes in the afternoon that should be attended by all individuals in leadership positions or aspiring to move up in the ranks. The first being important for officers at the Post level, most particularly the Service Officers on assisting veterans and their concerns. Immediately following this short program is a presentation be the American Legion National Judge Advocate on ‘Preventing Problems and Litigation’ an overview of areas of concern that we all must be aware of with Q & A to follow. Check the Conference Schedule for further information, location, and times of trainings, committee meetings, and all related events.

I was privileged recently being invited to Lyman F. Pell Post 8 in Norwich for their Salute and Toast to all our branches of Service this past week. It was a great event and was attended by members and leadership from the area posts. It was wonderful seeing neighboring posts coming together.

**BE THE ONE**



## Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Happy New Year. Now that 2022 is past us we can only hop for a better year. We are now past the holidays and the good news is that the days are getting longer, and before you know it the warmer days will be upon us. I know that I am

looking forward to winter being over with.

Only a couple things of mention this month.

The Department of Vermont is doing outstanding with membership. At the time of me writing this article we have hit out 80% target date 2 weeks early. The Department of Vermont is currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 55 departments and in the Northeast Region we are sitting in the number one spot. I can't say enough how proud I am of the Department of Vermont. Let's keep the momentum going and keep climbing with in the ranks. We now have plenty of time to reach our next target date of February 15<sup>th</sup>. So please look at your post rosters and make phone calls to, or make an in person visit to those that still have not renewed. I have confidence that we can do this.

The next event for the Department of Vermont is our Midwinter Conference that is being held at The Double Tree in south Burlington. We will have a couple of dignitaries from National visiting. Northeast Region Vice Commander Paul Kennedy and the National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey who will be there to answer any questions. Hope to see many of you there.

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

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](mailto:post7adj@gmail.com)

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



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

# National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian



As the New Year begins to unfold it is worth a paragraph or two to introduce the leadership of the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion (NADHAL). The two principal leaders at the national level are the National Historian, Deborah Davis, and the president of the NADHAL Charemon Dunham.

Deborah Davis was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. She joined the Army in 1975 and retired twenty-two years later in 1997. She has a BA in History from the University of Colorado. As a Legionnaire she has had the distinction of having served three years as the post commander of the first all-female post in Colorado. One of her principle missions this year is to flesh out, test and deploy a set of ground rules for the submission of fully digital history books. This year the judging team will accept one digital history book from the Department and one from a Post within the Department. These will be used to test the judging rules to be implemented and included in the 2023 Officers Guide.



The President of the NADHAL is South Dakota Legionnaire, Charemon Dunham. M.s Dunham is also an Army veteran having served as a Personnel Officer (Captain). She was previously the President of NADHAL from 2005-2007 and she served as the National Historian from 2013-2014. She advises all American Legion Historians that “Histories are important. If we do not write up our history or do not take pictures, our history is lost. Memories fade and verbal stories change. [The Historian] is the one who will make sure our history is not lost...if we do not document our history, we will regret it.”



## Department Adjutant Brian Markwell

January is off and running with a full calendar of events for the Vermont American Legion. Our first event was this past Saturday at Post 50 in Castleton. We had 15 in attendance for the first session of the My Legion.org training. We have another session this coming weekend, 14 January, at Post 59 in Waterbury. This training is more than just processing membership. We discuss other uses such as creating mailing lists and address labels, emailing announcements and newsletters, searching for Post 100 members near your post that may be willing to transfer their membership to your post. As I told those in attendance, I’m hoping that they will be ambassadors for the system in being a source for all members of the Legion and SAL to help manage their membership as well as assist their posts.

Coming up on 20-21 Jan is our Mid-winter conference to be held at the Doubletree hotel in South Burlington. Committee meetings and our banquet will be held on Friday with the general session and DEC meeting on Saturday. The schedule will be coming out soon. National

Vice Commander Kennedy as well as National Staff Judge Advocate Seavey will be in attendance and speaking to the group.

Membership renewals and new member recruitment have been going well lately with the Department of Vermont currently being in 6<sup>th</sup> place nationally and in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Northeast. Thanks for everyone's efforts in making this happen.

Hope to see everyone at either or both upcoming events this month.

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

## **Northern Area Commander - Lou Furry**

Greetings Legionnaires,

As I write this on January 7 (up against deadline, once again...), the holidays are behind us, our little "January thaw" seems to be winding down with a light layer of fresh snow outside, and Mid-Winter Conference is quickly approaching. I hope to see as many Posts as possible represented there. In the midst of all this happening, our Vermont membership team has really stepped up and made things happen. By membership team, I mean you, the Adjutants and Membership Chairs at Posts throughout the State. I'm sure Dept. Vice Commander/Membership Chair Mark Cloutier will be mentioning his pride in, and appreciation of, your efforts. SIXTH in the nation and FIRST in the Northeast Region! This is no minor accomplishment. This is fantastic work on your part. Much as I dislike harping about membership, we all know it is the lifeblood of any organization. I urge you to keep it up. We can make it keep happening. Thank you for your efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lou Furry

## **Upcoming Events**

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



# COMMANDER'S PROJECT

2022/2023

## JOSH PALLOTTA FUND / JOSH'S HOUSE

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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.

# Mid Winter January 20-21 Agenda

## Friday - January 20

9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Registration	<i>Diamond Foyer</i>
9:00 am	Finance Committee	<i>PDC Woodward</i>
10:00 am	Americanism/CY	<i>PDC's Tester/Bushaw</i>
11:00 am	Oratorical	<i>Karlene DeVine</i>
11:00 am	Legion Riders	<i>Lou Furry</i>
11:00 am	Boys State	<i>Dave Cobb</i>
12:00 Noon	Break for lunch (not provided)	

## **Auditorium – Lower Level (First Floor)**

1:00 pm	Post Service Officer Information - How to Assist & Advise Veterans – <i>L. Thompson</i>
1:45 pm	Constitution & By-Laws – Preventing Problems & Litigation – <i>Mark Seavey, Esq. National Judge Advocate</i>

## Conference Banquet

5:30 pm	Social Hour	<i>Promenade / Diamond Ballroom</i>
6:15 pm	Dinner	<i>Promenade / Diamond Ballroom</i>

## Saturday - January 21

7:00am to 8:30am	Registration	<i>Diamond Foyer</i>
------------------	--------------	----------------------

### ***Proceedings - 8:30am - Emerald Ballroom III***

Presentation of Colors	<i>Fair Haven Post 49</i>
Invocation	<i>Gerald Rogo, Chaplain</i>
POW/MIA	<i>Area Commanders</i>
Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Si Loomis, Sgt-at-Arms</i>
Post Roll Call	<i>B. Markwell, Adjutant</i>
Introduction of Head Table and Welcome	
<i>Tom Scanlon, Department Commander</i>	
National Vice Commander	<i>NVC Paul Kennedy</i>
National Judge Advocate	<i>Mark Seavey, Esq.</i>
◆ Josh Pallotta Fund	<i>Val Pallotta</i>
◆ Americanism	<i>PDC Barbara Bushaw</i>

- ◆ Law & Order *Tom Scanlon*
- ◆ Children & Youth *PDC Catherine Tester*
- ◆ Oratorical *Karlene Devine*
- ◆ Scouts *PDC Ron LaRose*
- ◆ Education & Scholarships *PDC Jerry Stewart*
- ◆ Athletics/Legion Baseball *Leon "Scott" Stevens*
- ◆ Boy's State *Dave Cobb*
- ◆ The Veterans Place *Karen Boyce*
- ◆ VAVS *Gerald Rogo*
- ◆ Vermont Veterans Home *Gerald Rogo*
- ◆ Historian's Report *Victor Stone - Historian*
- ◆ SAL Advisory *Bruce Paquin*
- ◆ NEC Report *PDC Ron LaRose*
- ◆ Internal Affairs *PDC Fred Latour*
- ◆ Convention Committee *Mark Cloutier*
- ◆ Post Evaluations *David Perron*
- ◆ Public Relations *Lloyd Goodrow*
- ◆ Legislative *PDC Richard Farmer*
- ◆ American Legion Riders *Lou Furry*
- ◆ Reconnect Program *Lou Furry*
- ◆ Constitution & Bylaws *Rebecca Otey*
- ◆ Finance Officer *PDC David Woodward*
- ◆ Membership *Mark Cloutier*
  - Memberships to the Podium - Membership Recognitions
- ◆ Endorsements for Department Officers
- ◆ Donations to the Commanders Project
  - Donations to the Podium
- ◆ Sweepstakes Drawing *Tom Scanlon*
- ◆ Benediction *Gerald Rogo*
- ◆ Retirement of Colors *Fair Haven Post 49 Color Guard*
- ◆ Adjournment

**Department Executive Committee Meeting** *Immediately Following Close of the Regular Session*



**Sons of the American Legion**  
*Saturday, January 21st @ 8:30 am*  
*General Session – Emerald Room II*



**American Legion Auxiliary**  
*Saturday, January 21st @ 8:30 am*  
*General Session – Emerald Room I*



## **Southern Area Commander- Lew Graham**

Greetings, Legionnaires:

First, I want to commend all our Posts for their attention to membership. Vermont is number 6 in the nation! Please keep up the good work. If I can help any of you, please get in touch.

It is my pleasure to be attending the workshops being put on by Headquarters folks to get the officers acquainted with all the info available at MyLegion.org. Please look into them for yourself and your Post members. There is information and teaching tools for nearly any topic of interest to a veteran, be they young or old. These are some of the benefits that your dues pay for. Don't miss out because you are unaware, they are available.

New Year's inevitably ushers in the preparation for renewal of the governing bodies of the Legion Posts. Many schedules require a slate of officers in March to be elected in April. And then the Department elects officers at June Convention. Please give some thought to stepping into service for your Legion Post. If you feel you "can't be a leader", let me assure you that leadership can be learned and there are many people willing to mentor you, if you are interested. It is rewarding to help your Post thrive.

I hope to see you at winter conference. If you have any questions or thoughts, please see me there so we can talk.

For God and Country  
Lew Graham, Jr.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander - Joe Zickmund**

Happy New Year!

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".* A quote most of us have probably heard before. It popped into my head as I was pondering membership goals and how we can reach them. I know, I know.....I'm talking about membership again. Well, that is sort of true but what was impressed upon me as I recalled the quote is that we can exchange many words for "triumph of evil" and the quote is still valid. It's a call to action for good men (and women) to do something good to prevent something bad. Complacency, inaction, disengagement, indifference – all are counterproductive to growth. To be engaged....to do something is better than doing nothing. I encourage each of you to identify one veteran or one son/grandson of a veteran and engage them. Share why you belong to the American Legion. Offer to help them become a member. It's a simple thing to do and it's how we can sustain and grow our membership.

***"The only thing necessary for the American Legion to fade away is for good members to do nothing".***

Thank you for your service,

Joe Zickmund

## **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander - Bill Brothers**

Hello Legionnaires,

I hope everyone had a great holiday and happy new year. Well, here we are another year gone by and we are still dealing with COVID and RSV. I hope everyone is still in good health and taking care of family and our veterans in this time of need.

Membership is doing well, however, since we are now in 2023, all posts need to work on those members who have not renewed yet. I have heard some legionnaires are worried still about COVID. COVID is going to be around for some time and Posts are doing their best.

Mid-Winter is January 20-21. Our National Vice Commander from Pennsylvania and our National Judge advocate will be in attendance. The agenda for programming on Friday and Saturday is included in this newsletter. Please review and do try to attend. I always walk away from conferences and convention meeting new people, making new friends, and also learning more about this great organization.

I am looking forward to visiting your post over the next 6 months. If you have fundraising events/raffles, dinners, etc. send that information to Cathy Tester at [ctester2663@gmail.com](mailto:ctester2663@gmail.com) to be included in the newsletter. If you have events, you would like me to attend, please let me know.

As a friendly reminder, Buddy checks are especially important this time of year, it only takes a few minutes to reach out to someone and check in.

Thank you all for what you do for the veterans, children, and community.

For God and country  
Bill Brothers  
4th District Commander

## **Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin**

Greetings Legionnaires,

As we enter the New Year, halfway through the administrative year. I would like to thank all of the Department Officers and fellow veterans for all of the support and assistance I have received in my tenure as the Addison County Commander. Thanks to the hard-working Posts in my County, Bristol 19, Middlebury 27, and Vergennes 14, the task of leadership is smooth with the experienced mentors available to me. Addison County has done a fantastic job with membership to date, with Vergennes 14 over 81 percent - Middlebury 27 over 79 percent - and Bristol 19 just at 79 percent. We are above the January benchmark goal of 60 percent. Now the hard part begins, new members are great, but let us not forget the renewals. That can make the difference between a good membership drive and a great one. We need to keep membership in

our forethoughts to reach our goals. Keep up the good efforts. Over the last half of the year, I encourage everyone to Finish Strong! We will prepare to finish the year off by taking care of our members, executing our programs, and building bonds with the community.

FYI - Just a couple of notes on activities in Addison County Posts. Vergennes 14 will be welcoming a new Adjutant. Georgette has moved out of the area and Arnie Phillips will be replacing her. We wish Arnie the best of luck in his new role and offer him any support he might need. We can start by attending the Post fish fry on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Post home. At Bristol 19 fresh off their busy Holiday programs, they will be sponsoring a Post Brunch from 10 am to noon on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have a chance, I am sure they would love to see you there. Keep in mind you BINGO players, Middlebury 27 still is conducting their Wednesday night games and are always ready to welcome new winners every week. Wherever you go, the patronages you give to these programs continue to help all of our veterans and their communities. Thank you for your support. I do look forward to seeing everyone in Burlington this January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mid-Winter Conference. I wish all of the veterans and their families a healthy, happy, and safe 2023 New Year!

Bruce F. Paquin

Addison County Commander, [Paquinv@comcast.net](mailto:Paquinv@comcast.net), 802 545 2800

## **Rutland County - Richie Baptie**

Greetings legionnaires,

Hope all have had good holidays. 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. I always remember what PDC Dave Woodward suggested that we carry membership applications with us so we will be ready when speaking with a prospective new member.

Thanks to all for keeping us moving forward.

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

## **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](https://legion.org/newsletters).

And visit [legion.org/dispatch](https://legion.org/dispatch) any time.

## **2nd District Commander - David Perron**

Legionaries,

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Congratulations to everyone in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District who has helped with membership. We are doing well across the state and we need to continue to recruit, renew and retain our members.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter January 20-21.

God and Country

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

[Perrondavid323@yahoo.com](mailto:Perrondavid323@yahoo.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander/ Evaluation Chair

## **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](http://Legion.org)

## **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](http://legion.org/brand)

The logo for "BE THE ONE" features the words "BE" and "ONE" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. The word "THE" is positioned between "BE" and "ONE" and is rendered in a smaller, red sans-serif font. The letters of "THE" are contained within a blue rectangular box that is slightly wider than the text itself.

**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.**

## **Sons of the American Legion Report – Bruce Paquin**

Happy New Year Fellow Legion Members,

As we enter The New Year, I know I speak for Commander Revell, and all of the Detachment of Vermont Sons members, who would like to wish all of our veterans a happy and healthy 2023. In addition, we commit to continue our service and care to all of our honored veterans, who have served our great nation. As you all know, The Sons exist for the purpose of honoring our veteran's service and to give aid and support for all the great programs for which help lift up our veterans, their families, and the communities in which we live. As a dual member, I am proud of the support that the Detachment is providing to their Squadrons and to the Legion Posts.

As I travel around visiting various Department Posts and SAL Squadrons, a common theme has become abundantly clear to me. The Posts that thrive well with their programs and efforts have a great family team, with all components working together in real time that involve effective communication with each other. The most important key factor in this successful model is an active SAL Legion Advisor that creates a solid bridge from the Post to the Squadron. In other words, an Advisor who attends both Post and Squadron meetings to keep all members informed to help align efforts of the Legion's family operations and programs. You are doing a disservice to your Post by just appointing a Legionnaire's name to fill a position as an Advisor, if he/she has no interest or intent to try to properly fulfill any aspect of the job. In every Post I have been called into or asked to assess why there are problems or issues with SAL Squadrons, the common answer is clear. I am no rocket scientist, but the common denominator in all dysfunctional SAL/Post is not having a competent SAL Advisor that makes regular reports to the Post and offers no assistance to their Squadrons. I speak to all of the Officers of our Department's Legion Post with SAL Squadrons. You have a valuable asset right in your Post. With proper support and guidance, you can achieve greater levels with dedicated Son's members ready to help in any and all Post functions. Give them the tools they need to assist you in becoming a full family partner in service to our Veterans. You can start by naming an active working Advisor. I promise you that positive results will follow. If you do not have a SAL Squadron chartered in your Post, I encourage you to contact me for all of the reasons I have stated above. Why not make your Post a true Legion family?

I want to congratulate the Detachment on their membership efforts. As of this writing, we are setting at 68 percent, slightly better than the 60 percent January 19<sup>th</sup> benchmark goal. We still have some challenging work to do, but I am confident we will get there. I want to give a shout out for the great efforts of Squadrons 42 Enosburg – 103 percent / 31 Rutland - 89 percent / and 21 Newport – 88 percent, well done! We need to keep membership in our forethoughts. Keep up the good efforts. I wish all of the Legion family members and their families a happy and safe New Year in 2023. I look forward to seeing everyone in Burlington at the Mid-Winter Conference this January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21st.

## **Legion Riders Director - Lou Furry**

Greetings Riders,

Per the Mid-Winter Conference Agenda below, The American Legion Riders Department Executive Committee meeting will be held Friday 1/20/23 at 11:00 AM at the Sheraton in Burlington. You will note that Friday afternoon the National Judge Advocate - Mark Seavey will be addressing The American Legion as a group. Department Commander Scanlon is hoping that many of the Post Commanders and Adjutants come for this informative session. We also have the National Vice Commander Paul Kennedy attending and will be addressing our group. The Sons of the American Legion have their National Commander Christopher Carlton attending this Conference. The Auxiliary have their Eastern Division National Vice President Veronica Gurney attending as well, so there is something for everyone!

Lou Furry  
Director, American Legion Riders

## **Oratorical Program – Karlene DeVine**

I have received applications from 5 students for the 2023 Department Oratorical Contest. One applicant from District 1 (Post 14), 2 from District 2 (Post 21 & 23), 1 from District 3 (Post 59) and one from District 5 (Post 8).

I will be asking for volunteers to staff contests at all levels—local, District and Department. Contest personnel will include ushers, escorts, timekeepers, tabulators and judges. Each contest with only one participant will be about a two-hour commitment. The Department Contest will be Sat. Mar. 4. Staff will be needed for approximately 4 hours from beginning to end.

The only District commander that has responded to my request for a District Contest date is District 2. The District 1 contest is Sat. Feb. 25th. District Commanders (3 & 5), please give me a date in February for your District Contest ASAP.

If you want the ultimate experience in the Oratorical Program, volunteer to help with the National Finals. This special event showcases 53 our country's best and brightest youth as they present their thoughts on one of our country's most important documents in our nation's history, the Constitution of the United States of America!

The contest will take place at the Wyndham Indianapolis West hotel. Contests quarterfinals and semi-finals will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, with the finals to be held on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

The support of many volunteers is needed to conduct this wonderful event, which in 2023 will provided more than \$203,500 in college scholarships to contest quarterfinalist, semi-finalist and

finalist. <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/volunteer> Sign up as soon as possible. There are mandatory risk management training (online) and background checks necessary.

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 landmark. 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](https://www.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](https://www.legion.org/emblem/request).

## **Post Everlasting**

CHAMBERLIN, CARL W .....	05	SLATE, TERENCE J .....	05
LAROSA, ALFRED .....	05	LAFLAMME, ADRIAN F .....	13
KRAWCZYK, JR. JOSEPH L .....	13	JORGENSEN, HARRY .....	24
ANOE, DAVID .....	25	VINCENT, ROBERT D .....	28
BOLOGNANI, ERNEST G .....	29	HOUSTON, MATTHEW N .....	29
MASLACK, FRANK .....	39	BRESNAHAN, MICHAEL B .....	47
REESE, PEDRO .....	49	KELLOGG, THOMAS W .....	51
ALLEN, CHARLES "BUTCH" .....	59	DENNIS, RYAN .....	60
DEMARTINO, JOE .....	63	STRAIGHT, RODNEY .....	63
BARBER, LEONA F .....	66	WHITAKER, JR. WILLIS C .....	66
SMITH, SR. RONALD L .....	76	WILCOX, GEORGE A .....	80
MAGOON, WALLACE A .....	87	ZDIUCH, MICHAEL J .....	91

## Meet Paul and Mark



**Paul M. Kennedy** is a life member of American Legion Post 80 in Pittsburgh who has held every office in his post. He also served as the 32nd District commander, department western vice commander (2013-2014), department membership chairman (2015-2017), Pennsylvania department commander (2017-2018) and alternate NEC member (2018-2022). Kennedy joined the U.S. Army in August 1968 and retired as a chief warrant officer-4 in September 2008. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Joint Task Force Award with V Device, Bronze Order of Mercury, and Combat Rifle Governors Twenty Badge. He also served on the PEMA Network Commission.

Kennedy and his wife Mary have three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



**Mark Seavey** was appointed national judge advocate of The American Legion on Oct. 7, 2021. A member of Mathews American Legion Post 83 in Virginia, Seavey began his career with the national organization 27 years ago. In The American Legion's Washington, D.C., office he served as an appeals representative where he represented veterans with claims pending before the Board of Veterans Appeals, and as an assistant director and grassroots coordinator in the Legislative Division. Upon his return home from a deployment in Afghanistan, Seavey moved to the National Headquarters office in Indianapolis where he served as a war reporter and military blogger in the Media & Communications Division.

Seavey served on active duty in the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve, and the Virginia Army National Guard. As an infantry squad leader with the Virginia Army National Guard, he was activated for service in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1997 as part of the first callup of National Guard combat arms units since the Vietnam War. In 2004, he deployed to Afghanistan for one year where he performed a variety of tasks. He served as squad leader on combat patrols, monitored presidential elections, and provided security for Afghans. Seavey is a recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, two Armed Forces Expeditionary medals, the NATO medal, two Army Achievement Medals, and other medals from his military service.

Seavey is a graduate of The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina, and a graduate of George Mason University of Law where he received a Juris doctorate degree. He has been a member of the Indiana State Bar Association for 12 years, and lives with his wife and three young children in Brownsburg, Ind.

## MyLegion hands on Training Roadshow

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



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

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

<b>OFFICE OF:</b>	<b>LEGIONNAIRE</b>	<b>SPONSORING POST</b>
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 <sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	ROBERT PEARL	60
2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	DAVID PERRON	30
3 <sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
4 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
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		
ALT. NECman		