



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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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)

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## January 2025

### Bulletin

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

**Department Commanders Message – Joseph Zickmund**

**Department Sr. Vice Commander Message – William Brothers**

**4 Chaplains Ceremony Info**

**Commander Zickmund Projects Flyer**

**National Leading Candidate Visit – Dan Willey Banquet**

## Department Commander

*Joseph Zickmund*



Vermont Legionnaires,

Happy New Year! It is my fervent prayer that each and every one of you enjoy an abundance of faith, good health and purpose in 2025.

Recently, the Department of Vermont hosted the Mid-Winter Conference in Colchester. Attendance was good but so many of you missed a real opportunity to learn what's going on at the Department and to experience the camaraderie that comes with socializing with other veteran and veteran-minded people. We had the honor of hosting our National Vice Commander Chuck Robbins of New Jersey. I truly enjoyed the time I was able to spend with him, an easygoing and kind man with a strong belief in the programs and mission of The American Legion. From the banquet on Friday to the end of the conference early Saturday afternoon, many people did a great job of planning, preparing and presenting. To all involved, my thanks and gratitude for your hard work and dedication.

Our next Department sponsored convention is in June. It is our annual meeting where new officers are elected; many awards are presented and the information outlining our current year as well as planning for the next are discussed. It is a wonderful opportunity for every Vermont Legionnaire to learn more about who we are and what we do. I hope to see many of you in attendance.

A word on BE THE ONE: We have a dedicated team that can travel to your post meetings to share resources and to offer instruction on how each of us can BE THE ONE to assist a veteran in need. Veteran suicide is an unacceptable and all too frequent tragedy and it is within our power, and responsibility, to do all we can to reduce and eliminate it. I encourage you to contact Department HQ to invite a team to visit your post during a meeting or special event. There is no cost and if their visit can help one person, it is time very well spent.

I am grateful for your support, your kindness, and your willingness to make a difference.

Warm regards,

Joe Zickmund  
Commander, Dept. of VT

## **Senior Vice Commander – William Brothers**

Greetings Legionaries:

I want to thank everyone for the great job on membership. We did hit our goal of 80% Percent! Let's keep up the good work.

We had a great Mid-Winter Conference; it was very informative, and we had a great visit with the Eastern Regional National Vice Commander – Chuck Robbins. He spoke on how the Legion Family is doing and on our National Commander LaCoursiere's mission and "Be the one". It's been a great success.



Hitting our Membership goal just goes to show that we can get it done when we put our minds to it. Let's keep the momentum going on this, renewal is essential especially this time of year when our numbers drop drastically. Call, mail, visit, check in – process that membership.

I also want to thank everyone for the outpouring of condolences for the passing of my wife Dottie, it meant the world to me and her mother - my mother-in-law, I was so thankful for my Legion Family during this time. I also want to thank Melodie for what she did on my behalf, getting the word from the Department. To my home Post, Fair Haven Post 49, thank you for everything you did for her and I. Especially our Auxiliary of Post 49 for the food they provided and a shout out to our bar manager Pam for all she did to make this go as smoothly as possible.

In closing I will be starting my visitations back up soon looking forward to seeing you all.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander

## **Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl**

Greetings,

During the Mid-Winter Conference an interesting suggestion/proposal was discussed about adding an insignia to the front of our American Legion Uniform Caps. The insignia would represent our State of Vermont. I believe this is a great idea and hope to see it enacted. However, first there are a few hurdles to overcome:



1. What would it look like? Whatever is decided, it should be the consensus of all our membership. If it becomes difficult to decide, a simple choice would be to use the State of Vermont's official State insignia. Also, I would assume the final selection would have to be approved by the National American Legion's Flag & Emblem Catalog Department, by reason that this is the only place Caps can be purchased from, including the embroidering of insignias.
2. Would all current members have to purchase a new Cap? No, not unless they want to. However, in the future all caps purchased would only be sold with the insignia. How much will the Cap cost? Legion Cap prices. Form Flag & Emblem 2025 catalog are \$40.99 (Post "State" Caps) \$49.99 (All other Caps: Post "City" County, District, Department, National)

The embroidered insignia on the Cap will be added to the overall price.

There are 42 Department having insignias, the extra cost for their insignias, range from \$5.00 to \$22.00 extra.

For more information, refer to the American Legion Emblem 2025 Catalog, page 80A.

Respectfully,

Robert Pearl, No. Area Commander

## Southern Area Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

BE THE ONE!

If you are experiencing any of these and need medical attention, call 911 now. For immediate help in dealing with a suicidal crisis, contact the Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1.



These signs require immediate attention: Thinking about hurting or killing yourself. Looking for ways to kill yourself. Talking about death, dying, or suicide. Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

Probable causes of crisis: The end of a relationship. Loss of a job. Housing instability. Feeling a loss of purpose. At some point, everyone will face a challenge. Some of those challenges may develop into a crisis. Recognizing a crisis in yourself or those you care about can help you know when to find support.

Start a Conversation: You do not have to be an expert to talk to a Veteran facing challenges. You just need to show genuine care and concern. Here are some things to remember: *Listen more than you speak, do not dominate the conversation.*

Mid-Winter Conference was held 17 and 18 January 2025 at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Colchester, Vermont.

Guest speakers were American Legion Eastern National Vice Commander Chuck Robbins and Sons of the American Legion NER Vice Commander Robert Manzo.

A joint meeting of The Vermont American Legion Family was convened by Department Commander Joseph Zickmund.

At the conclusion of the joint meeting Committee Reports and the status of the Commander's Projects and donation were given to the membership.

A couple of programs that impressed me the most were:

1. The Director, veterans, first responders and their dogs from Paws and Boots were there to provide information on their organization that train dogs with at-risks veterans and first responders.
2. The Director of The Vermont Veterans' Home an experienced residential and healthcare campus for Veterans. The staff of the Vermont Veterans' Home strive to fulfill America's promise to care for our country's Veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. To truly fulfill the promise, we offer clinical care and a wide range of services that are recognized for their effectiveness in patient centered care. Together we strive to create an environment that provides our residents with the dignity and respect that they so rightfully deserve."
3. A \$5 dues increase for 2026 to be discussed at Convention in June 2025.

The conference was a success, and I wish more people would have attended to hear all the valuable information and interactions with other members.

Fred E. Wilson Jr., Southern Area Commander.

[2fredwilson@gmail.com](mailto:2fredwilson@gmail.com) 9177630354.

### **1<sup>st</sup> District Commander – Victor Stone**

Greetings from District 1,

I hope this message finds you well and easily coping with our lovely winter weather. I wanted to share how much I enjoyed the Mid-Winter Conference content and the opportunity to reconnect with friends and our department leaders.



As we transition into the next several weeks, I am eagerly gearing up to support the Post and District Oratorical Contests. These events are always a highlight, providing a platform for our young talented orators to shine and even teach us a thing or two about the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to these exciting activities, I have been tasked with evaluating our current Post Evaluation process. This initiative is crucial for ensuring that we continue to improve and meet the standards we set for ourselves. I would greatly appreciate any feedback or ideas you might have on this matter. Your insights would be invaluable in this endeavor.

Please feel free to contact me at [victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net](mailto:victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net) with any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

For God and Country,

Victor Stone

### **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander – Roy “Buzz” McKinnon**

Hello From Second District

I just returned from Mid-Winter which was very good and informative. The Department has met the national number of 80% of membership, good job to all.



One of the things that will affect every Post is that we have begun revisions of the Post Evaluation system in order to make the evaluations more useful for the Department.



1st District Commander - Victor Stone will be the point of contact for this, if anyone has input, please contact him. His email is provided in his message above. He is trying to put something together by the April DEC Meeting.

Next, I have noticed that the American Legion is changing from training to operations with NEW technologies. So, for Posts that do not participate, you may find yourself falling behind. With that, I encourage every Post to send a representative to the Conventions, Conferences and Trainings that are available.

Elections for Post Officers are coming up fast, please let me know as soon as you can in order to get installed and completed before Summer Convention. Also, Department has a \$5.00 increase come July 1<sup>st</sup>, increase according at your Post and let HQ's know!

For God and Country  
Roy "Buzz" McKinnon  
2nd Dist. Commander

### **3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander – Christopher Wood**

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties.

The calendar has turned another year digit, the Mid-Winter Conference is in the books, and we are into the last quarter for membership. Hopefully everyone has found a creative way to get through the darkest days of winter, as we all look forward to springtime. Don't forget to reach out and "be the one" for Veterans and their family members who might be struggling during this time of the year.



The Mid-Winter Conference gave many updates on the many programs that the American Legion provides, and a highlight was the Paws and Boots Program which is doing some phenomenal work in veteran support. The biggest buzz at Mid-Winter was around achieving the 80% target for membership. Well done!

Now the hard part as we scrape, crawl, and dig to get that last 20% of our quota. Norwich Post 1819 has rocketed Washington County into the lead for District 3 with 105% of their quota. Johnson Post 46 in Lamoille County has held steady at 94% of their quota, but the last 6% is proving to be the toughest to get. Chelsea Post 61 keeps Orange County in the mix by holding steady at 93% of their quota. This makes representation of each County in the District for the top three spots.

Barre Post 10 is showing themselves as fourth quarter contenders as they brought in 14 new members closing in on Norwich University Post 1819 which continues to lead the district with an additional new member bringing their total to 15 this year. So far, the posts

in Orange and Lamoille County have been able to dig up 1 new member each for their posts. Thank you for all you do!

Christopher Wood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Commander

## **Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet**

Legionnaires,

Waterbury Post 59 and Northfield Post 59 have a lot of fun activities planned during January and February. Please review the list below and visit these Posts to have a great time of fun and fellowship.

### **Waterbury Post 59**

#### **January**

- 26 Jan (Sunday) - Line Dancing (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- 26 Jan (Sunday) - Pitch (Card Game) (3:15 p.m.)
- 26 Jan (Sunday) - Queen of Hearts Drawing (5:00 p.m.)
- 30 Jan (Thursday) - Thursday Night Dinner (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)
- 30 Jan (Thursday) - Wassailing Night (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)

#### **February**

- 1 Feb (Saturday) - Private Event (1:00 p.m. - TBD)
- 2 Feb (Sunday) - Line Dancing (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- 2 Feb (Sunday) - Pitch (Card Game) (3:15 p.m.)
- 2 Feb (Sunday) - Queen of Hearts Drawing (5:00 p.m.)
- 4 Feb (Tuesday) - SAL Meeting (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- 6 Feb (Thursday) - Thursday Night Dinner (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)
- 8 Feb (Saturday) - Private Event
- 9 Feb (Sunday) - Super Bowl Party
- 9 Feb (Sunday) - Pitch (Card Game) (3:15 p.m.)
- 9 Feb (Sunday) - Queen of Hearts Drawing (5:00 p.m.)
- 12 Feb (Wednesday) - American Legion Post Meeting (7:00-8:00 p.m.)
- 12 Feb (Wednesday) - Auxiliary Meeting (7:00-8:00 p.m.)
- 13 Feb (Thursday) - Thursday Night Dinner (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)
- 15 Feb (Saturday) - Rotary Club Pie for Breakfast
- 16 Feb (Sunday) - Dayton 500 Party
- 16 Feb (Sunday) - Chili Cook-Off
- 16 Feb (Sunday) - Pitch (Card Game) (3:15 p.m.)
- 16 Feb (Sunday) - Queen of Hearts Drawing (5:00 p.m.)
- 18 Feb (Tuesday) - Blood Drive
- 20 Feb (Thursday) - Thursday Night Dinner (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)
- 22 Feb (Saturday) - American Legion/SAL combined birthday party (5:00 - 7:30 p.m.)
- 23 Feb (Sunday) - Pitch (Card Game) (3:15 p.m.)
- 23 Feb (Sunday) - Queen of Hearts Drawing (5:00 p.m.)



27 Feb (Thursday) - Thursday Night Dinner (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)

### **Northfield Post 63**

#### **January**

24 Jan (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

29 Jan (Wednesday) - Cribbage (6:00 p.m.)

30 Jan (Thursday) - Pitch (Card Game) (7:00 p.m.)

31 Jan (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

#### **February**

1 Feb - (Saturday) - SAL Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

3 Feb (Monday) - SAL Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

5 Feb (Wednesday) - Cribbage (6:00 p.m.)

6 Feb (Thursday) - Pitch (Card Game) (7:00 p.m.)

7 Feb (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

8 Feb (Saturday) - Members Bar Bingo (1:00 p.m.)

9 Feb (Sunday) - Superbowl Party (potluck)

11 Feb (Tuesday) - American Legion Meeting

12 Feb (Wednesday) - Cribbage (6:00 p.m.)

13 Feb (Thursday) - Pitch (Card Game) (7:00 p.m.)

14 Feb (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

15 Feb (Saturday) - Members Bar Bingo (1:00 p.m.)

16 Feb (Sunday) - Daytona 500 party (potluck)

19 Feb (Wednesday) - Cribbage (6:00 p.m.)

20 Feb (Thursday) - Pitch (Card Game) (7:00 p.m.)

21 Feb (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

22 Feb (Saturday) - Members Bar Bingo (1:00 p.m.)

26 Feb (Wednesday) - Cribbage (6:00 p.m.)

27 Feb (Thursday) - Pitch (Card Game) (7:00 p.m.)

28 Feb (Friday) - Weekly Friday Night Grill

I don't have the time for all the events listed above. You can get any missing times by calling the Waterbury Post at 802-244-8144 and the Northfield Post at 802-485-6713. Due to a short notice, I wasn't able to get the events planned at the Barre, Northfield, and Norwich Posts. Hopefully I will be able to provide events at these Posts in the next bulletin.

Wayne Goulet

Washington County Commander



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## Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

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National Leading Candidate - Dan Willey of Kansas Visits Vermont in March!  
(Banquet info attached – Itinerary Coming soon!!)

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DEC Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Noon  
Montpelier Post 3

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Department Dues Raise – July 1, 2025

**2026 Membership Year increase \$5.00**

(Membership to Department and National will be \$45 NOT \$40)

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# Post Everlasting Gone, but Never Forgotten...

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Gendron, Armand .... 01  
Alexander, James .... 12  
Mayhew, Carmen .... 12  
Sutton, George .... 19  
Holcomb, Alan .... 19  
Jewell, John .... 19  
Leopold, Steven .... 19  
Lafountain, Arthur .... 19  
Dodge, Hassall ... 20  
Norris, Robert .... 23  
Hunkler, Stewart .... 29  
Comai, Roudolf .... 29

Wellman, John .... 29  
Thayer, Clifford .... 29  
Faris, James .... 29  
Gruber, Harry .... 36  
Lauf, Walter .... 50  
Thomas, Kenneth .... 55  
Partlow, Kenneth .... 63  
Baird, Andrew .... 75  
Lagasse, James .... 80  
Allard, Francis .... 80



# Commander's Projects

*Joseph Zickmund*

2024-2025

Vermont



My projects for the year – raising funds to cover the unmet expenses, and hopefully to expand the reach of the youth programs – Oratorical, Boy Scouts, Boys State and Baseball. Also, I will be supporting and raising funds for Vermont Paws and Boots. An organization that pairs and trains service dogs with at-risk veterans and first responders.



The goals of American Legion Baseball are the development of team discipline, individual character and leadership development qualities in young people. Over ten million teenagers and over half of all major league players have played American Legion Baseball since its inception.



The Department of Vermont as well as the National organization recognized and provides scholarships for the Eagle Scout of the Year on the local and national levels. Additionally, the Department of Vermont also provides an annual banquet to recognize the achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout.



The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.



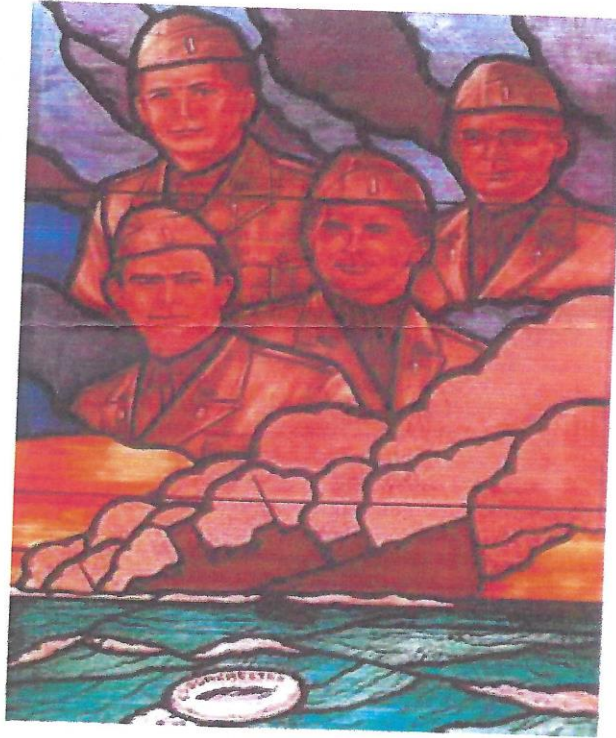
Vermont Paws & Boots mission is simple and straightforward, to save the lives of veterans and first responders who are struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma and physical disabilities.

Thank you for considering donating to these important and worthwhile programs. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to: **THE VERMONT FOUNDATION FOR VETERANS AND CHILDREN** and place in the memo line: **COMMANDERS PROJECT 24**

The mailing address :  
Department of Vermont HQ  
P.O. Box 396  
Montpelier, Vermont 05061



# FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY



**February 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Geo. L Fox Memorial Chapel ~ 12 Elm St, Gilman, VT**

The Rev. George L Fox Memorial Chapel cordially invites you to join us for the 2nd Annual Four Chaplains Ceremony. It will honor the selfless service of the Four Chaplains, who gave their lives to save others while the USAT Dorchester was sinking after being torpedoed by a German U-boat on Feb 3, 1943.

FMI and questions: Contact the chapel via phone or text at 802-266-7722 by email at [glfoxmemorialchapel@gmail.com](mailto:glfoxmemorialchapel@gmail.com) or visit our facebook page

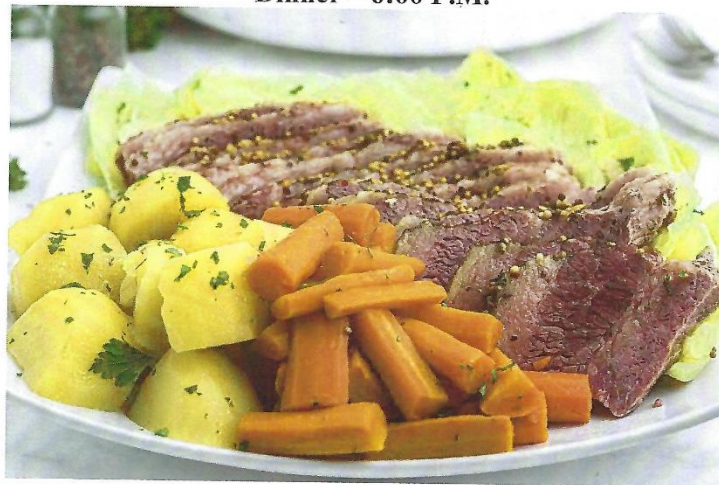
Light Refreshments will be served concluding the ceremony.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT  
“National Leading Candidate Banquet”

Dan K. Willey of Kansas Visits Vermont

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - **St. Patrick's Day**  
Montpelier Post 3, 21 Main Street, Montpelier

Meet and Greet/Social– 5:00 P.M  
Dinner – 6:00 P.M.



Corned Beef Dinner

The above will be served with Cabbage, Turnip, Carrots & Potatoes, Rolls & Cottage Cheese  
Chocolate Cake for Dessert

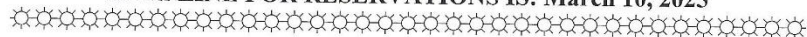
**\$15.00 per person**

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Vermont and

**SEND CHECKS TO:**

Dept. HQ, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: March 10, 2025**



**PLEASE RESERVE: \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squadron/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)

# **VOLUNTEER\***

## **\*DAV DRIVERS NEEDED\***



Would you have a few hours a week to transport Veterans to the White River Junction VA Medical Center for their medical appointments?

IF SO – We'd love to hear from you.

Please telephone

802-295-9363 extension 5394 for more information.

*Serving Those who Served All*



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Veterans' Appreciation Snowmobile Ride

Saturday - February 1, or rain date - February 15, 2025 In Island Pond, VT



Five Star Sanctuary – Event - is partnering with –  
Operation Church Inc., a 501c3 Non-Profit.  
Supporting military families.

**Wounded Warrior Project is  
supporting this event.**

**Prizes will be given, and a raffle will be  
drawn the day of the event.**

**Veterans & Family only - Snowmobile  
event February 1, rain date February  
15, 2025, arrival time is at 8:30 am.**

**You must have your own sled &**

**V.A.S.T. TMA sticker 2025**

You can donate using-Venmo @Snowvet802  
- OR -

Operation Church Inc. / Checks can be written to

## Point of Contact / Organizer

John Maille – U.S. Army

Retired - Staff Sergeant

Cell- 802-777-4810

[FiveStarSanctuary@outlook.com](mailto:FiveStarSanctuary@outlook.com)

Chaplain Ricky Vest

E-mail-rvest@operation.church



2nd Veterans' Appreciation Snowmobile Ride - Wounded Warrior Project / Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T.), is supporting this event, on Saturday February 1, or rain date February 15, 2025. Location will be in Island Pond, VT. Check W.W.P. and our webpage - [Fivestarsanctuary.org](http://Fivestarsanctuary.org) for sign up - more details and application coming soon.