



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

March 2021

"For God and Country"



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Ronald LaRose

Around the first of March is when Mother Nature starts to play games with our minds. We have a heavy snowstorm, followed by very warm weather for a couple days and then this is when you let your guard down – a day or two in single digits with a chill factors down to -10 to -20! Winters in Vermont never change, just get use to it!

Good news for the Department and our Posts, membership is soaring and we have reached the 'Big 12'! Vermont is currently third in the country based on membership percentage. So many people to thank for these efforts starting with our Membership Chairman Cathy Tester, our Adjutant Linda Perham, the Department Secretary Melodie Ashford, the Area Commanders, District Commanders, County Commanders, and down to the individual Posts. It has been over eight years since the Department has reached these goals. A shout out to all that made this happen!

With some good news, you know there will be some bad news. We have been making plans for an in-person convention in June at the Rutland Holiday Inn. They have pulled the rug out from under us to host COVID vaccinations. The reason is justified, but it leaves us up in the air about the 2021 Annual Convention. We are putting our heads together to find another facility or consider a virtual convention. More to come on this.

The DEC Meeting scheduled for mid April has been moved up to March 27 at 9:00 am so we can discuss the convention location and other critical issues well in advance of the convention. Stay tuned!

Cathy, Tom Scanlon, Victor Stone (new Historian) and I attended the National Guard Deployment Ceremony at Bradford Armory. They were sending 89 soldiers off for a period of 12-15 months. Small towns draw big crowds for such a ceremony. The Main Street was full of people and flags as the buses departed town. A great send off.

I am sure most of you have had at least one COVID vaccination and maybe some have had their second one. Second week of March, I

received my first. Get this done so you can start traveling again, meeting with family and friends you haven't seen in awhile and for your own health sake.

I would be remised if I didn't take one stab at the Governor over not allowing us to open. I have written three letters to the Governor and received only one in return. There is no light at the end of the tunnel for 'clubs' to open and no estimation when we might open up. My last letter was a rebuttal to his letter. I closed by telling him I am only trying to open our Posts so they can stay financially stable, and why I am asking for this our Legislators are discussing how deep they are going to get in our rip-open ticket profits. Nothing like a double edge sword! Talk to your representatives. Twist some arms!

Stay safe; keep checking on your older relatives, older members of your Legion Family, and senior citizens in your community.

You can reach me by email: ronaldllarose@gmail.com; by telephone: 453-3818/7663; my cell phone 989-8573.

Ron LaRose
Department Commander

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Department Commander	1	Washington County Commander	10
National Commander	3	Oratorical Contest Volunteers	11
Sr. Vice Commander	4	Active Member Age Count	12
Northern Area Commander	5	Boy's State	13
Department Adjutant	6	Constitution and Bylaws	14
Southern Area Commander	7	VT 64th Annual Oratorical Contest	15
District Two Commander	7	Virtual Paint & Sip	17
District Five Commander	8	Endorsements for Department Officers	18
Department Chaplain	9	Post Everlasting	19
Caledonia County Commander	10	District 3 Food Drive	20



Dates	Event/meeting	Location	
2021			
March	20	Oratorical Virtual Paint & Sip	Virtual
	27	DEC Meeting	via ZOOM
April	9-11	National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald visit	TBD
	10	Leadership Training	Post 31, Rutland
June	8-10	Leading Candidate Paul Dillard visit	TBD
	25-26	Annual Convention	Howe Center, Rutland



NATIONAL COMMANDER

James W. "Bill" Oxford

Dear American Legion Family,

The February Dispatch includes an article about an exciting membership campaign. It's called Operation Come Back. And who doesn't like a good come back?

The truth is that approximately 615,000 Legionnaires who belonged to our organization in 2019 and 2020 have not renewed for 2021. It is up to us to retain expired and existing members in order to have any chance of growth. Department, district and post leadership and membership teams should access their rosters for non-renewed members through MyLegion.org. Personally contact these members and encourage them to renew. If they are dead set against it, ask why. Perhaps their concerns can be easily resolved or a neighboring post might be a better fit. Be sure to transmit the dues immediately to department and national headquarters so we can better serve the member and also have more accurate data. And please, send them their membership cards in a timely manner.

American Legion posts have done an amazing job responding to COVID-19. As America comes back from this pandemic, communities will need a strong American Legion.

Bill Oxford
National Commander
26 February 2021



2021 Membership Target Dates

April 14, 2021	95 percent
May 12, 2021	100 percent



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Catherine M. Tester



March is National Women's History Month, and there have been several articles and events

that have highlighted women veterans during the month. One of these exhibits is the "Color of



Freedom" at the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Check it out if you get a chance.

Being a Marine, one of my favorite female Marines is none other than Bea Arthur, who you may remember as Maude on the long running hit TV sitcom "Golden Girls". Bea served in the Marine Corps from 1944 to 1945 at USMCAS

(US Marine Corps Air Station) Cherry Point, North Carolina, where she worked as a driver and a dispatcher.

Upon her discharge in September 1945, **Arthur** had reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. SSGT Arthur, like the hundreds of female Marines before her, and the thousands that followed, blazed the trail and cracked the glass ceiling for Marines like myself.

The inclusion of women in the military not only gave birth to generations of women veterans, but a host of female Legionnaires as well. In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to highlight our three female Vermont Department Commanders.

The first female Department Commander was Marlys Ann (Pemberton) Lemnah elected Department Commander on June 26, 1997. Marty traveled around the State of Vermont raising funds for the Vermont Veterans Cemetery Chapel Building Fund.



Her countless hours of dedication made this a reality and provided families a place to hold services for their fallen veteran since November 1998.

The First Grenada/Panama and Desert Storm Veteran elected as Department Commander was Linda Thayer (Perham) on Jun 23, 2001. Linda and father PDC Wayne Mclean were the only father and daughter Department Commanders for over a century of American Legion History. Linda was appointed as the National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region in 2005. Linda continues to serve the Veterans as our current Department Adjutant, serves on the Board of the Dodge House and as adjutant of Rutland Post 31.

In June of 2007, Barbara (Whipple) Bushaw was elected as the third female Department Commander. Barb was a member of the Vermont National Guard for 21 years retiring with the rank of SSG.

Commander Barbara was, and still is, very active with the Legion serving on many Department committees.

I would like to thank these three trailblazing women, and all the female Legionnaire's in Vermont. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the veterans of our state have made our Department and your individual Post's a better place.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Department Convention which will be held June 25th and 26th at the Howe Center in Rutland.

Please reach out to me if I can be of any assistance and continue to work on your membership.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester
Sr. Vice Commander





NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

I would first like to start off with a few house-keeping messages:

LAW & ORDER COMMITTEE:

Please get law enforcement officer of the year nomination forms in ASAP. Department has sent them out to all agencies. Application also available on the Department web site. Also on this web site is the application for the “Ron Aldrich Medal of Valor Award” which is for firefighters as well as EMT and Rescue personnel. Make sure you see that these are distributed to your local agencies. All award application have to be back to Department by April 15th.

RECONNECT: Thus far department representatives have attended four Vermont Air Guard deployments and one VTANG ceremony most recently in Bradford. Be advised that the department needs at least three (3) weeks lead time to procure blue star banners for award. We have had last minute calls resulting in our not being able to obtain nor present these banners. Please get the word out that we need “at least 3 weeks”.

We are into March and the winter is getting closer to an end (hopefully). While this month has a few religious holidays and a return to daylight savings time, it is most notable for the month with St. Patrick’s Day. However there is a date that is often forgotten by many, March 25th. This is National Medal of Honor Day wherein we honor those courageous members of our armed forces who have received this most prestigious award. One such individual was Audie Murphy. Thirty years ago this month I was at Arlington National Cemetery visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and I found his gravesite nearby. The recognition of his gallantry was, and still is, inspiring. He was so much more than an actor in TV westerns.

The most recent recipient of this great honor was Army Staff Sergeant David Bellavia, an 11B, who is an Iraqi veteran who was in the battle of Fallujah.

The staff sergeant stated in part....”Why do American warriors under fire do what men have done since this nation’s inception? This is a common thread that connects the militias of Lexington and Concord with the warriors of Fallujah: It is our love of nation, our way of life, and our love by those we serve with side-by-side.....The best leaders in battle become that way by being loyal subordinates. We don’t get a vote. We execute the lawful intent of our government. There is no political affiliation on our dog tags. We continue the warrior legacy of the United States without regard for adulation or unanimous approval.....We’ve seen war. We don’t want war. But if you want war with the United States of America, there’s one thing I can promise you, so help me God - Someone else will raise your sons and daughters. We fight so our children will never have to (fight).”

His acceptance speech was inspiring, as our most recipients. I urge that you go on line and listen to some of these warriors and the heartfelt remarks that they make. Many are on YouTube.

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon





DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

PNVC/PC Linda Perham

The Spring is coming and lots of changes too!!

First, the convention venue has changed. Holiday Inn, Rutland has been tasked as an injection site for the area. So, we will be moving the convention to the Franklin Conference Center, in the Howe building complex in Rutland. This will be for the Legionnaires. The Sons of The American Legion will hold their convention at Post#31. More details will be provided for the June convention in next month's bulletin.

Second, the Adjutants workshop will now be held at Rutland Post #31. Starting at 0900hrs. (Middlebury Post #27 is also an injection site now). I have 35 adjutants of the Legion and Sons currently registered and still have seats available, however we ask you to contact me at pnvcperham@comcast.net or call 802-289-3076 to reserve a seat. I want to assure social distancing is available. We will be building "Battle Books" for adjutants with everything you need and everything you should know to be a successful and knowledgeable advocate for veterans and your post officers. We have some fun packed into a full agenda. National Vice Commander Frank Macdonald will be working with you and other leaders of our Department.

Third, Consolidated Post reporting is vital to provide our Legislative leaders in Montpelier and Washington a picture of what we do. I have sent your adjutants the form and you can easily do it on Mylegion. Every adjutant is required to complete this form and send it in ASAP. If you wonder why our politicians feel they can make rulings that adversely effect your post, it's because they do not see all that you do. You know that our communities would miss us if we were gone.... tell them that and complete the form.

Fourth, Larry Thompson, from Barre Post #10, is currently working on achieving his accreditation as a Veterans Service Officer, (VSO). He is expected to begin working with Milt Willis in learning the ropes until June, when Milt retires after 38 years of service. Both men should be commended for their commitment to our veterans and their families and wanting the best for this organization. It's never easy to retire from something you love, as well as, not easy to walk into a whole new challenge. Please bepatient during the transition.

Fifth, Mylegion will begin a new look and going live April 1st. All adjutants should go onto mylegion.org web site and scroll to the bottom and fill out the authorization form before the end of March. You must be in the system now for updates. This will soon bethe only platform for dues and membership. If you need help, please call me directly.

Training will be available April 10th in Rutland and again in October. Get registered now.

We are working every day to increase communication and service to all of you. Pleasetake the opportunity while it's available. More information will be available with your adjutants weekly, so check in with them.

We thank you for all you have done during these challenging times! Linda Perham, Adjutant

PNVC/PC Linda Perham
Department Adjutant





SOUTHERN AREA COMMANDER

PDC Royal Sheeley

Another month has passed and we are still coping with the COVID - 19 restrictions on our meetings and the operations of our Posts. However, we are continuing to serve your Veterans where we can. As spring approaches and greater numbers of our fellow Vermonters get their vaccinations, we can hope that we will be able to open our Post homes and get back to some sort of normal operations. That being said there are a couple of things that need to be considered as the end of the Legion Year approaches and we plan for our 2021 Convention. First and foremost membership is still an active endeavor. We achieved membership in top twelve Departments Nationally and still can reach 100 percent membership this year so, let's make that happen. I would like to commend the District, County, and Post Commanders in the Southern Area who made this goal possible. Secondly, consolidated reports are due soon so remember to fill them out and document all the good things that you have done during the COVID-19 shutdown to continue being an American Legion Post and supporting our Veterans and communities. Thirdly, in 2021 all Posts and Squadrons need to be on MyLegion.org to process membership and therefore Posts and Squadrons need to have their adjutant listed as the authorized POC for your organization and have an associated E-Mail that will be the adjutants connection with Legion.org.

For God and Country,

PDC Royal E Sheeley,
Southern Area Cmdr



DISTRICT TWO COMMANDER

Mark Cloutier

Welcome fellow Legionnaires. I hope you all are staying safe and Healthy. Firstly, I apologize for not providing any information for the last months bulletin as work has extremely busy for me with work.

I hope those of you that are eligible to get the vaccination are doing so. I know that I am looking forward to receiving mine. Hopefully as everyone become vaccinated the Governor will loosen up the restrictions a bit and start allowing posts to open back up again.

Post officer nominations and elections will soon be upon us. I have yet to figure out the best way to accomplish this. Once I do, I will send an email to all the 2nd district posts. I am planning on holding a "Virtual" 2nd district caucus soon to discuss a few things, to include direction from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development on what posts can do during this pandemic. Once I have an agenda and a date, I will have Department HQ send out information on how to connect to zoom and the agenda of topics to be discussed. I hope to see representation from all posts on this meeting.

I am extremely proud of the 2nd district. Even through this pandemic you all have managed to bring the 2nd District to the top of the membership report with 94.94% members renewed. We are only 58 members

from being at 100%. Let's dig deep and find those members and get them renewed. I am willing to put a challenge out there. If the 2nd district reaches 100%, I will let the Membership Director (PDC David Woodward) hit me in the face with a pie at the summer convention in June. If by some chance we are unable to have an in-person convention and only virtually, I am willing to uphold my end of the deal while on Zoon during that meeting.

Speaking of membership...Post Adjutants, this year National has done away with the green membership rosters that is usually sent with your cards. Everything now will need to be done on mylegion.org. If you need assistance with setting up an account, please let me know and I will be happy to talk you through setting up your account. It is a very easy to use platform to process your membership online and it also saves Melodie a ton of work.

Take care 2nd district, be safe and stay healthy, and I hope to see you soon.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email post7adj@gmail.com, or just shoot me a message on Facebook.

Mark Cloutier
Department of Vermont
2nd District Commander
For God and Country



DISTRICT FIVE COMMANDER

Richard Farmer PDC

Legionnaires:

As we head toward spring, it looks like our Posts can open a little and we can work to get back to a degree of normal functions.

I would like to thank the Posts in 5th District for their efforts in membership. Good job to those who obtained 100% and there were several of you. Most of the rest of the Posts made quota. I must thank Headquarters for their help with membership. Having said that, our job is not finished. Let's keep after those renewals.

Thanks go to Post 8, Lyman F. Poll for sponsoring Mike Christenson for Windsor County, the 5th District Oratorical Winner. Thank everyone for supporting the program. The best to you Mike. Thanks to Mrs. And Mrs. Christenson for their help in this project.

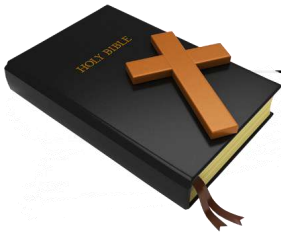
With the opening of Posts, we must get back to what we would normally do at this time of year. Elections are coming up, let's get this done. New officers are always welcome. It is not a good idea to put the member who has been in the organization for two weeks into the Commander's chair. Whatever you do, help the new officers learn the new job.

Legislation is in session; H.176 Accounting for Break-Open tickets quarterly and H.185 – Military Retirement Pay Exemption. These will be discussed by the time you read this. Legislators will be home on break for Town Meeting. This is a great time to speak to your Representative about legislation that concerns you.

Stay healthy and get your shots. Check a fellow veteran to make sure they are ok.

For God & Country,

Dick Farmer PDC
5th District Commander



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires,

We recently entered the seasons of Lent, on Ash Wednesday. It runs 40 days, ending on Holy Saturday. This season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts, and then became a time of penance by all Christians.

Lent is also a good season to look deep into ourselves and see if our conscience is in line with God's will. Conscience is the part of us that helps us to know that everything we think and do are according to God's moral code. But we must use the gift (God's gift) of conscience to listen and obey God's will or else it will be useless. More than that, it can malfunction if not properly cared for. Our conscience will witness effectively to us if we truly desire to stay close to God, spend time in His word, and make an effort to understand ourselves and our tendencies to do right or wrong, or to make good or bad decisions. Let God, through His Holy Word, develop your conscience in Godly ways, then it can speak to you in concert with God Himself.

Conscience is not always an unbiased witness. We may have persuaded our conscience that all is well when it is not. In a sense, we may have "bought off" the witness of our conscience. But we can't buy off God. He is the only truly unbiased witness and judge.

Hope everyone has or is planning to get the Covid vaccine. It has proven to be effective even for those who have only gotten the first shot. Pray that the trend will continue and soon we can again enjoy all the true freedoms. Everyone (staff and residents) at The Vermont Veterans Home have had the vaccine. Exceptions are only for those who, for health reasons should not get it.

Please pray for our troops and pray for the souls of our departed comrades who have gone to Post Everlasting ~ may they rest in peace.

Stay well and God bless you all!!

For God and Country,

Chaplain Ken



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

March 17th



March 14th



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David Perron

March is among us and yes spring is around the corner, we just do not know which one yet. Hope all is well and those of you that can get vaccinated please do so. Post reach out to your Membership and ask if anyone needs help to register or transportation.

Membership is looking good, please keep up the good work.

Please stay safe and take care of your families, we can and will get thru this for we are Vermont Strong.

Please feel free to call or text me if anyone needs help with anything and will do whatever I can to help. We all need to be strong and pray together, God and Country.

Please keep up the wonderful work throughout are Community's.

Thank you all for serving. Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793, Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you.

David W Perron, Caledonia Country Commander



WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER

Christopher Wood

Hello from Washington County. Welcome to spring and here's to working our way out of this long hard winter. Our world is still filled with much uncertainty, but it feels like we are headed in the right direction. Many posts continue to get along by holding drive thru dinners and having meetings through online platforms. The drive thru meals are keeping the bills paid, and they create a sense of community as our friends and neighbors stop in for a hot meal to go. Post 59 is proud to sponsor Jewin Antony as he returns for a second year of the oratorical program. He has worked hard on his speaking abilities, and he has risen to the challenge of doing his speeches by videoconference. We wish him best of luck as he goes forward to the state contest.

We are well along in our membership year, and we have done ok with renewals for 2021. The two biggest challenges I have seen is providing the "why" to stay a member of the American Legion and the "how" to keep members engaged in the organization. I have worked on my elevator message and I focus on the four pillars of the American Legion while keeping it current around the challenges we face in Washington around funding for veteran issues. Many people, including Legionnaires, don't know why the legion was founded which contributes to the view that we are a social club where veterans go to drink. The how follows by finding what a veteran is passionate about and giving them a job that plays to that passion. Whether it is veteran suicides, the GI Bill, or flag etiquette each member comes to the table with personal experiences that can be directed towards meaningful membership in your organization.

Christopher Wood

Washington County Commander



Vermont Department Oratorical Program



to **VOLUNTEERS** that assisted with judging Local and District oratorical contests.

District 3

- Wayne Goulet Internal Auditor, VT Army National Guard; former instructor VT Community College and VT Technical College; First Vice Henry N. Cutting Post 59; Air Force
- Scott Woodard Construction business owner; Capt. Waterbury Fire Dept.; 2nd Vice and Finance Officer Henry N. Cutting Post 59; Iraq vet; Army
- Christopher Wood Recent Masters Degree, Physics Instruction; Teacher at Spaulding HS; Washington Cty Commander; VT Dept. Sgt-at-Arms; Sec/treasurer Legion Riders; Adj. Henry N. Cutting Post 59; Air Force, Reserves, Air NG-firefighter, Emergency Management
- Alyse Beauchemin Three-time Vermont State Champion Oratorical Speech Contest (2015, 2016, 2017); Will be graduating from Bryant University this spring with a double-major B.A. in Global Studies (global politics track) and History with a minor in management; Will be attending graduate school this fall in Washington D.C. to study international science and technology policy; Post 14 Auxiliary member
- Rebecca Otey Attorney with OPLaw LLP; past Addison Cty State's Atty; JAG USAF/USAFR; VT Dept. Judge Advocate; Oratorical Chair, Bristol Post 19
- Brian Markwell Ret. Postal Inspector; Col. (ret) US Army Reserve (Field Artillery, Armor, Finance); Member Alburgh Vol. Fire Dept.; EMT; Finance Officer, Creller Landon Post 60

District 4

- Royal E. Sheeley Retired Lieutenant Commander US Navy Submarine Service. Retired Navy Defense Contractor at Analysis and Technology INC, Stonington, CT,. Past Commander Post 50, Past Department of Vermont Commander and Past National Executive Committeeman from VT. Current Adjutant Post 50.
- John R. Tester Member of S.A.L. Squadron 55 of Brandon and Auxiliary Unit 36 of Ludlow. Asst. Sgt-at-Arms for the Vermont State Auxiliary. Post Manager for Post 50, Castleton, and Training Coordinator for Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Service, Emergency Dispatch Center. Little League Umpire for 32 years. Associates Degree in Administrative Management
- Catherine Tester Sr. Vice Commander Department of Vermont. Served in the Marine Corps from 1980 – 1992. Past Post 50 Commander and Adjutant, currently serving as Post Historian. Employed as Project Manager with Middlebury College.

District 5

Mark Coltey

V.P. Mack Molding; VT Dept. Sons of the American Legion Adjutant

Elliott Rice

Vermont State Champion Oratorical Speech Contest 2018; Sophomore at Centre College, KY, majoring in political science and international studies

Rick Murray

Viet Nam Veteran, U. S. Marines. After returning from Viet Nam he started work, as a programmer at Comutec, West Lebanon NH from which he retired. Adjutant/Finance Officer for Lyman F. Pell Post 8.

Ron Aldrich

Retired from tool and die maker, Hartland, VT. Past deputy game warden. Passionate about The American Legion. Past member of Hartford Post 26. Vermont PDC(92-93). Dept. Oratorical Chair for several years. Member of Lyman F. Pell Post 8. Ron passed away in February 2021 just 2 weeks after judging Post 8's Oratorical contest. U.S. Army(Vietnam, GE)

Connie Aldrich

Devoted partner & wife of Ron. Active Auxiliary member Lyman F. Pell Post 8.

Jim Harlow

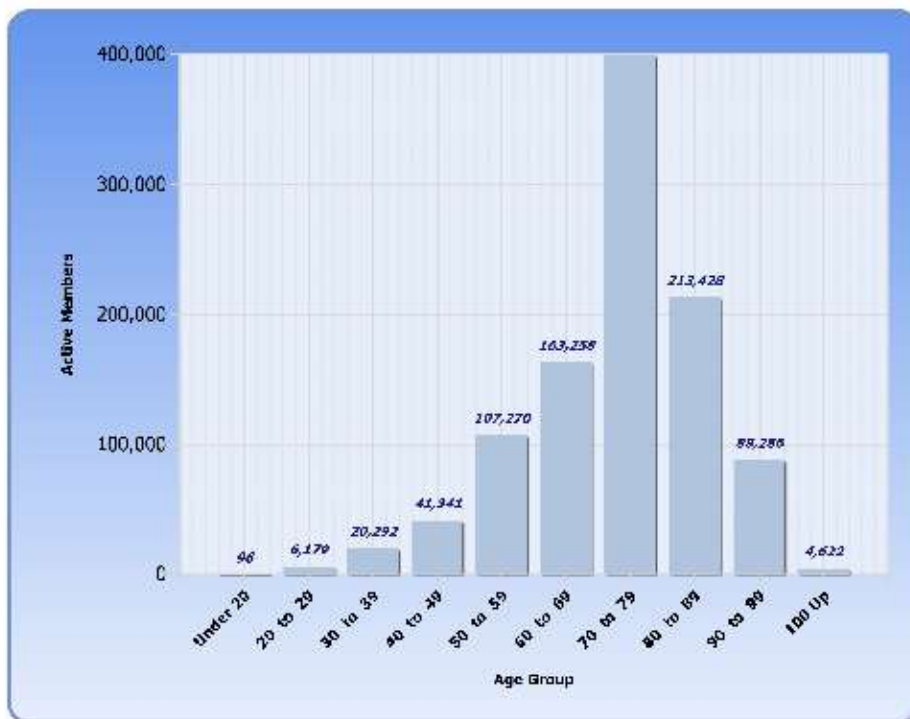
Current and past Commander of Lyman F. Pell Post 8 since 1992. Past Windsor County and 5th District Commander. Retired U. S. Army veteran

Karlene DeVine—Chair

Department of Vermont

Oratorical Program Chair

The American Legion Active Member Age Report



Age Range	# Members	Percent
Under 20	96	0.009
20 to 29	6,179	0.560
30 to 39	20,292	1.838
40 to 49	41,341	3.745
50 to 59	107,270	9.717
60 to 69	163,258	14.788
70 to 79	459,182	41.594
80 to 89	213,428	19.333
90 to 99	88,286	7.997
100 Up	4,622	0.419
Total w/DOB	1,103,954	
Total Active	1,525,102	
% w DOB	72.39	

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



Commander Ron LaRose presenting a Certificate of Meritorious Service to Legionnaire Horace J. Carr at the celebration of his 100th birthday.

Horace is an Army veteran who served in the WW II S. Pacific campaign, primarily on Guadalcanal. He is a 76 year charter member of Geno-Robinson Post #11 in Bridgewater, Vermont.



**The American Legion
turns 102 years old on
March 15th!**



BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

Dave Cobb

Your Boys' State staff is marching ever forward! Progress report as follows:

1. Representatives Mike Marcotte and Patrick Seymour have drafted a resolution allowing GMBS to use the Vermont State House on Thursday, June 24th – with all safety guidelines in place at that time – for the In-Person Day at the Statehouse – If we are able! Their work has been signed off on by the SGT at Arms office.
2. Director Dave Cobb is making the final corrections and entries to the updated Vermont high school Counselor and guidance secretary list. We will utilize this list to electronically communicate with these members of their respective school staffs about Boys' State – there will be no paper communications for the 2021 year.

PS: This list is available for all American Legion – Department of Vermont programs and projects upon request.

3. GMBS staffer and alumni Dylan McNamara is heading his team to develop a schedule and programming for on-line version if we are unable to have an in-person program for this year. Dylan is a senior administrator in the Essex-Westford School District.
4. We are working with a Media / Communication consultant to review how, what, and when we communicate with schools. He is reviewing our current communications (all print) and will make suggestions on the use of social media and a redesign of print information and forms that will be made available through various electronic platforms. Did I mention that he's doing this for free??
5. Throughout the month of March, we will begin our outreach with schools and our Legion Posts as we look for our delegates for 2021
6. We are in fairly constant contact with our liaison at Northern Vermont University – Lyndon, our host site. Decisions on in-person programming for summer camps are slow to come, and somewhat extended by the new conversations around the State College System merger, but we are staying “in the game”.
7. There appears to be some new leadership at the National American Legion – Youth Advocate level. We have read the information put out so far, and will react and redirect as necessary and as possible. Hopefully, they will someday soon realize that not every program had 500 delegates and 100 staff members. Someday!
8. The 2021 budget for GMBS has been turned in for consideration at our upcoming meetings. It was based on the 2020 budget for an in-person program, with modifications and cutbacks in certain areas, based on the restrictions we see coming as we move forward.
9. The State of Vermont budget for FY '22 does contain an allocation of \$10,000 for the American Legion Boys' State and Legion Auxiliary Girls' State programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Cobb, GMBS Director

Constitution and Bylaws

Article V Constitution- Department Convention

Section 6

It now reads: ...A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when a majority of the Chartered Posts within the Department are present. When the Credentials Committee Chairman reports a Quorum, as set forth in the Bylaws of this Constitution, the Convention may transact any business before it.

Proposed Change: A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when *forty percent (40%)* of the Chartered Posts within the Department are present. When the Credentials Committee Chairman reports a Quorum, as set forth in the Bylaws of this Constitution, the Convention may transact any business before it.

Article II Bylaws Duties of Department Officers

Section 6 Department Finance officer

Now Reads: The Department Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department, which he/she shall deposit in the name of the organization in banks insured by F.D.I.C., and/or invest in mutual funds or stocks as directed by the Finance committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

Proposed Change: The Department Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department, which he/she shall deposit in the name of the organization in banks insured by F.D.I.C., and/or invest in mutual funds or stocks as directed by the Finance committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee not to exceed *(50% percent of the fund balance on December 31st of the previous year).*

Article III- Standing Department Committees

Section 13: Law Cadet Training Committee

It now reads: The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Committee, at its first regular meeting following the Department Convention, five (5) members to the Cadet Law Enforcement Committee for a term of one (1) year. The Department Adjutant and the Department Finance Officer shall, in addition, be members of this committee with vote. The Department Finance officer shall handle all receipts and disbursement of funds connected with this program. They shall assist in the development of the program and shall cooperate with the Vermont State Police in the carrying out of its programs, schedules and training sessions as held at Vermont State Police Academy.

Proposed change: The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Committee, at its first regular meeting following the Department Convention, five (5) members to the Cadet Law Enforcement Committee for a term of one (1) year. *The Department Commander shall appoint*

(Continued on page 16)

a Chairperson of this Standing Committee from the 5 members whose term shall be for one (1) year. The Department Adjutant and the Department Finance officer shall, in addition, be members of this committee with vote. This committee shall develop and/or coordinate for an effective and appropriate Youth Law Cadet Program. The Department Finance officer shall handle all receipts and disbursement of funds connected with this program, and related program(s). The Department Commander, with the advice and consent of this committee, shall appoint a Director if necessary and required. This committee shall additionally review and evaluate all applications for the award of Law Enforcement Officer of The Year and complete the necessary evaluation forms for tabulation so as to discern the awardee who will be announced at the next annual convention. This committee will meet as often as necessary to properly perform its functions and on the call of the Chairperson.



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Victor Stone

Vermont's 64th Oratorical Contest

On Saturday March 6, 2021 American Legion organizers, judges, candidates and audience members gathered at the Christ the King School gymnasium in Rutland, Vermont for the 64th Department of Vermont Oratorical Contest. Three contestants, Avery Carter (Manchester), Jeswin Antony (Waterbury) and Michael Christesen (Hanover), were on hand to be evaluated for their speaking talent, command of the subject matter, and presentation poise. These contestants were veterans of prior oratorical competitions and thus had a firm grasp on the nature of the proceedings and flow of events.

Miss Carter, sponsored by Crippen Fellows Post #50, delivered a well-constructed prepared speech about the famous Marbury vs Madison Supreme Court decision and its impact on the concept of judicial review. Mr. Antony, sponsored by Harry N. Cutting Post #59, proposed some interesting ideas in a talk entitled We the Cyberpatriots. Mr. Christesen, put forth by Lyman F. Pell Post #8, provided an in-depth review of the issues associated with universal, compulsory conscription.

Following their prepared remarks, the three contestants delivered a short three-to-five-minute extemporaneous talk about the 22nd amendment to the constitution. In all cases the contestants were extremely well spoken, thoughtful, factual and poised; bringing credit to themselves, their families and their schools. After suitable deliberation, the judges selected Avery Carter as the winner. Her third in as many years. For her victory at the State level, she was presented \$1000 by Commander Ron LaRose and a \$5000 award from the National American Legion organization in lieu of attending the national competition which has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

In addition to their placement awards, each contestant was presented a certificate from Senator Patrick Leahy commemorating their participation during this unusual time of social distancing and limited social interaction.

Congratulations are due to Karline DeVine, chair of the Oratorical Committee, and her team of experi-

(Continued on page 17)

enced and dedicated judges and timers. They successfully overcame the many impediments and obstacles presented by the COVID19 restrictions to enable this classic American Legion Americanism program for 2021. The timers were John Tester (Post #36 Auxiliary) and Marian Connor. Mrs. Connor is the mother of three daughters that have participated in the Oratorical in past years (one of whom placed second at National!). The judges were Cookie Steponaitis (Post #14 Auxiliary), Tom Scanlon (Northern Area Commander), Bill Mattoon (Veterans Memorial Post #18), Michelle Kennedy Hogan (a former State Oratorical winner from 1990), and Robert Dornfried (2nd LT Vermont National Guard and High School History teacher).

Victor Stone

Department Historian



Commander Ron LaRose presenting the Oratorical contest winner, Avery Carter, with her first place award.



2021 Oratorical Contest participants (from L to R): Michael Christesen, Avery Carter, and Jeswin Antony



National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.



Virtual Paint 'N Sip with Jackie Rivers

Sat., Mar. 20 1 to 3 PM

\$20per person

\$10 will go towards the oratorical
scholarship

Register at:

<https://learntopaintwithjackie.com/shop/>

**ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
YEAR: 2021 - 2022**

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

OFFICE OF:	LEGIONNAIRE	SPONSORING POST
DEPT. COMMANDER	CATHERINE TESTER	#50
SR. VICE COMMANDER	TOM SCANLON	#27
NO. AREA COMMANDER	MARK CLOUTIER	#07
SO. AREA COMMANDER	WILLIAM FURMAN	#49
1 ST DISTRICT COMMANDER		
2 ND DISTRICT COMMANDER		
3 RD DISTRICT COMMANDER		
4 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER	CHRISTINA MOORE	#87
5 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER		
ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER		
CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER	DAVE PERRON	#30
ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER		
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER		
LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER		
RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER	DANIEL MANIERY	#31
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER		
DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER	DENNIS MINOLI	#10
NECman	RON LAROSE	#19
ALT. NECman	19	

POST EVERLASTING



BOREN, T. EUGENE	01
CHAMBERS, RICHARD L	01
BOUCHARD, CLIFFORD C	01
BILODEAU, JOHN	01
BLOUIN, HENRY	05
MEAD, CARROLL	05
SKIBINIOWSKY, JOHN	05
WISELL, STANLEY	05
ALDRICH, RONALD	08
BERTONE, ANTHONY	13
BRADFORD, EUGENE C	14
RORISON, ROBERT	18
BERTHIAUME, RICHARD	28
BIRCH, WILLIAM	29
YORK, MITLON R	29
HOWE, LESLIE	31
TOMLINGSON, VICTOR	31
WALSH, FRANCIS	31
GILBERT, WENDELL	42
DUFFY, ROBERT	42
RODDY, DAVID	42
DAY, STEVE	42
PARENT, ROGER	42
DELUDE, ANDREW	42
WETHERBEE, GARY	42
ADAMS, JOHN	42
DESLAURIERS, LEO	42
DEVRIES, DOUGLAS	42
LACROSS, JEFFREY	42
GLEASON, STUART	42
MAYO, HARVEY	42
GRIFFIN, ROBERT	50
TONER, ROBERT	50
ESTILL, JR GEORGE N	59
FOURNIER, RENE	60
FOURNIER, WARREN	60
PELKEY, ERNEST	60
BOURGEOIS, VAUGHN	60
AMELL, LEWIS J	63
PETERS, ROBERT	91
REID, ALLEN	91
LITTLEFIELD, CHARLES A	91
AUER, JR CHARLES	91

LAVOIE, SR GERARD	100
ROGERS, JACK	100
WHEEL, WILFRED	100

Please contact the Department Headquarters with information about your Post Everlasting Members so they can be included in the bulletin each month.



“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. “



3rd District - American Legion Auxiliary

“2 Day Non-Perishable Food & Personal Items Drive”

10 a.m to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 10th – 126 State Street,
Montpelier (ALA HQ’s - Back Parking lot)

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 11th – 320 No. Main Street,
Barre (Legion Post #10 – Back Parking lot)

The Two-day Event Sponsors:

The Montpelier Food Pantry – Just Basics



Barre’s Capstone Community Action Program

Items Needed: All nonperishable foods such as tuna fish, soups, pasta, sauces, vegetables, cereals, peanut butter, beans, fruit, anything canned, in a jar or boxed!
No raw or frozen meats, please.

Personal Items: Baby diapers, formula, baby foods, sanitary products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, dog & cat food, dish detergents, laundry soap, etc.

Please stop by either day or both days and donate to this worthy cause