



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

March 2022

"For God and Country"



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Catherine M. Tester

Legionnaires,

It's impossible to turn on the television or open your social media accounts without seeing the devastating news and events that are currently taking place in Ukraine and the surrounding area. My heart goes out to this country and are very thankful for the countries of Poland, Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Slovakia that have been a refuge for the 3 million refugees that have picked up and left everything behind to flee their homes in Ukraine. The American Legion is no stranger to these types of events. Our organization is comprised of veterans from all war eras who have seen what

this kind of turmoil can have on the country, let alone the families who are in immediate danger. I would ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers, as well as all service members serving in theater, abroad, and here in our own country.

Awards, Awards, Awards!

Now is the time to submit your nominations for Finance Officer of the Year, Adjutant of the Year, Legionnaire of the Year, Service Officer of the Year, Law Officer of the Year and The Ron Aldrich "Medal of Valor Award". Also, your consolidated report, Children and Youth report and Color Guard forms are due as well. Go to vtlegion.org for forms and additional criteria for these awards.

Our next DEC meeting will April 10 at noon at Montpelier Post 3. I look forward to seeing everyone in person.

Make plans now to attend the Annual June Convention at the Double Tree Hotel in South Burlington. It kicks off with our Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday at Cedar Knolls Country Club. I hope you can join us.

Please keep up the great work you do within the community for our veterans and children.

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

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester

Department Commander





PAUL E. DILLARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER

AMERICAN LEGION



Paul E. Dillard, National
Commander
Mar 09, 2022

Dear American Legion Family
Members and Friends,

March is Women's History Month. This is a time for us to recognize the women who have served in every war since the American Revolution, as well as make great improvements in the care for women veterans today and in the future.

Today, women are the fastest-growing demographic in the military and veteran community – the number of women veterans is projected to be approximately 2.2 million in 2046. With this, VA must plan now to account for these demographic shifts and ensure that women veterans are provided high-quality care and resources.

Improved health care for women veterans is one of several [American Legion legislative priorities](#)

[for the second session of the 117th Congress. I testified on improved care for women veterans](#) yesterday before joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

An American Legion legislative victory for the first session of the 117th Congress was the passing of the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, which will improve maternal health care for women. Continued improvements in VA's reproductive care ensures that the needs of women veterans in areas of newborn, maternity and reproductive care are being met through comprehensive health services. This improved care will allow women veterans who seek health care through the VA feel that it is a system built with them in mind.

As we move forward in improved care for women veterans, it is important to advocate for new legislation which fills gaps remaining in care for our women veterans.

This means improving mammography services (Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options – MAMMO – for Veterans Act, S. 2533/H.R. 4794), mitigating the cost of contraceptive care, increasing access to child-care services and newborn care at VA medical centers, and studying the need for women-specific drug

and alcohol dependency rehabilitation programs (H.R. 344, Women Veterans TRUST Act), as well as others.

This also includes addressing gender-specific difficulties that affect women veterans, such as not being recognized as a veteran by VA employees, lack of awareness and understanding of VA health-care benefits, and that women veterans being more likely to experience mental health issues and military sexual trauma, as well as chronic pain management and musculoskeletal condition treatment. To address these problems and barriers to care, VA must have care models and standards that are gender-specific and culturally competent.

As women remain the fastest growing veteran demographic, The American Legion will continue to advocate for Congress and VA to meet the unique medical needs of women veterans. A veteran is a veteran, so let's stand ready to care for and meet the needs of our women veterans and recognize the sacrifices they have made by improving their care.

For God and Country,
Paul E. Dillard

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SUICIDE

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



Commander Tester's Motto for the year:

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

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)!

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





SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

SWOTS new....SWOT is going on....

SWOT is an acronym used to denote Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. It is utilized in what is called SWOT Analysis. It is both a planning and assessment tool. This is a technique developed at Stamford in the 70's and is frequently used in strategic planning and at times being very situational. It is a very much structured method with which to plan that evaluates those four elements of an organization, project, event, etc. It is a powerful framework for leveraging and/or identifying an organization's strengths, identifying and

improving weaknesses, identifying and minimizing threats, and taking full advantage of opportunities. It is definitely a powerful problem solving method with the end result being a viable plan for improvement. I have utilized this framework numerous times working with staff to effectively problem solve or to reinvigorate a stalled course of action.

Why am I bringing this up in this forum? It is applicable to the American Legion Posts or even membership. Well, let's take a look at the process:

- List all strengths now. Then, list all the weaknesses.
- List all opportunities, current and in the future. Then list the future weaknesses. (Threats are potential future weaknesses.
- Plan of Action – Review you

matrix with an eye to formulating an action plan to address each area.

Where does all this take us Strengths need to be maintained and built upon. Weaknesses need to be stopped or at the very least reduced to the lowest level possible. Opportunities need to be optimized and definitely need to be prioritized. Threats need to be countered with alternatives or minimized to the full extent possible. The following is a very rudimentary matrix for membership. It can be expanded on and utilized as planning tool to identify post membership needs..... Be creative and go for it.

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon,

Senior Vice Commander
Department of Vermont

STRENGTHS

Organizational Support & Material
Knowledge & Support of Post Leadership
Legion name known & respected
Need Younger Members

WEAKNESSES

Lack of volunteers
Age of current membership
Reliability of data
Lack of member activities

OPPORTUNITIES

DMS Lists from National
Available Publications
State & County Fairs
Local ARNG Armory

THREATS

Resurgence of Covid
Deployment of ARNG
Environmental Disaster/Weather
Economy



NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Mark Cloutier

Welcome fellow Legionnaires.

WOW, can you believe that it is March already? I know that I am excited for this cold weather and snow to be gone!

I know that I keep saying this, but membership is key. We are close to our goal but not quite there. Please folks, let's reach out to our members that have not yet renewed. Overall, the Northern Area looks good.

I'm sure you all have been following the happenings in the Ukraine. My heart goes out to the citizens of Ukraine. I am also proud of the civilians stepping up and fighting for their country.

Hopefully this unnecessary conflict is over with soon. In the meantime, please keep all the innocent men, women and especially children in your thoughts and prayers. Hopefully soon they can once again enjoy peace.

The American Legion birthday is right around the corner, and I have already been to a couple of post birthday dinners. As always it is great to be able to attend these functions. The food and hospitality have been outstanding, and I thank those posts that I have already visited. I am looking forward to visiting more soon as I already have 2 more visits on my calendar.

One last thing to mention is that it is almost time for your Post Consolidated Reports. The easiest

way to complete these is by doing them on mylegion.org. They are now available to fill out and submit. Every post should have received the paper form along with your children and youth forms. It is very important that these are filled out and turned in. I know that we have been in the middle of a pandemic but there should still be some information to put on your reports.

Be safe and stay healthy!

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

Mark Cloutier

Northern Area Commander, Department of Vermont
For God and Country

Save The Date Department Annual Convention

Mark your calendars and begin planning to attend The American Legion Department of Vermont's 103rd Convention, **June 23 - 26, 2022**. The Double Tree by Hilton in South Burlington has been selected as the site location.

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





DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires,

On 10 April 2022 we Christians will celebrate Palm Sunday (also called Passion Sunday), the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter. It is the day Jesus made His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. All of Jesus' followers lead His procession with palm leaves, thus named Palm Sunday.

You will recall Jesus held His Last Supper with his disciples, where he related to them *"I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."* Shortly

thereafter, Judas betrayed Jesus by agreeing to tell the Roman authorities where He was for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus was taken before the authorities and mocked and treated horribly before taken to Golgotha and crucified.

We all know what happened the following Sabbath. He arose... and after confronting His disciples and others, He ascended into Heaven. Jesus endured all this horrible treatment, yet He took our sins (yours and mine) and promised us everlasting life after death on earth. We celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

For a better rundown of the mean-

ing of Palm Sunday events, see Matthew 26:36 through 27:54 in your Bible. For Easter, refer to Mark 16:1-19.

God bless you all, please reflect on the events of Palm Sunday and Easter. Praise God for His great sacrifice and the promise of everlasting life.

Pray for our troops around the globe.

God bless,

Chaplain Ken



Free Entrance Fees for Veterans and Dependents

Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites **are waived for current Military Servicemembers and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.**

They now have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

Department of Defense Identification Card

Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

Veteran ID Card

Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a "qualifying situation," such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Interagency Pass) Program

The Interagency Pass Program already includes a free annual pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Current Military Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) Department of Defense ID. Dependents of current Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) DD Form 1173 AD or DEC.

The annual Military Pass has been expanded to include Veterans and Gold Star Family members. Other free or discounted passes, including some lifetime passes, are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers, and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

How to get your Interagency Pass

Interagency Passes can be obtained in person while visiting a participating site. Visit [Places to Get Interagency Passes](#) for a searchable list and be sure to contact the site before you go, to make sure they are open and have passes in stock. In addition, Military passes, as well as those for seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, are available online through the USGS Online Store.

For more information about eligibility and passes, visit [Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families](#) (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)).

The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. Examples of fee-free days include the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day, and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Fee-free days and fee policies vary among the agencies, so it's best to check the agency website or contact the site you plan to visit in advance of your trip.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Brian Markwell

Let's get ready to travel. If you're looking for something to do this summer, I have a couple suggestions that just might let you fill two tasks at a time. First up is our own Department of Vermont convention in Burlington at the DoubleTree from 23 – 26 June 2022. Activities start off with the annual golf tournament, then the banquet on Friday, the 24, with the main session on Saturday, the 25th. Golf tournament information will be out soon. The banquet will cost \$35 per person. Send in your reservations to Department in Montpelier. Room rates are \$179, and bookings are now being taken by the hotel.

The next event up is the American Legion National Convention being

held this year in Milwaukee, WI from 26 August to 1 September 2022, which may be within driving distance for some of our driving enthusiasts. Our hotel is the Springhill Suites located just across the road from the convention center. Check out the Legion website to get more information about the schedule of events and what might be of interest to you to attend. More information will be coming out at the Department or Vermont convention in June, and you might be able to volunteer or get elected to be a delegate to the National Convention and be part of the voting block of Delegates representing Vermont.

For those of you who are interested in membership processing on mylegion.org and have not gotten

that far yet, there is an excellent article in the February 2022 edition of The American Legion Dispatch, page 5. It walks you through step by step in accomplishing renewals, adding new members, and transferring members. If you need help getting onto mylegion.org, please let us know and we'll help get you online. If you don't receive the Dispatch, you can find it online at the National website or get in touch with us in Montpelier and we can get you a copy of this article with instructions. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the June Department convention.

Respectfully submitted.

Brian Markwell

Department of Vermont Adjutant



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David W. Perron

March has arrived and hope it warms up soon. Hope we all got the chance to get out in vote on Town Meeting Day.

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

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

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

COUNTY COMMANDERS- let's get out there and finish up the evaluations and please let me know

your status.

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

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving.

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

Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you.

David W Perron

Caledonia Country Commander

Veterans Inquiring About Assistance

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

Vermont Residents

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

New Hampshire Residents

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

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



BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

Dave Cobb

Legionnaires and Friends:

If it's March, it's time to think about Boys' State!

By the time this communication reaches you, all Legion Posts and Vermont high schools have received the 2022 Boys' State information and application forms. Additionally, this information, all forms, and supporting documents will be available on the Department of Vermont web site: http://vtlegion.org/boys_state.cfm

At our January meeting, your Boys' State committee approved the decision to maintain the Boys' State fee at \$300 for 2022. We discussed the challenges and opportunities available to us as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with existing federal, state, and Northern Vermont University guidelines, we will employ current health protocols – All participants, staff, and volunteers must be fully vaccinated in order to attend. We are heartened that we will be able to return to double-occupancy rooming in the dormitories. This will help us attract a

larger enrollment this year.

Please direct all inquiries about Boys' State to me. I'll do my best to respond as quickly as possible.

dave.cobb.vt@gmail.com or 802 535-2716.

Thank you for your service, and for all you do to support the American Legion Family Youth Programs.

In service,
Dave Cobb
Director

American Legion Summer Conference 2022

Hello there!

We're glad you can join us for American Legion Summer Conference 2022.

We have rooms reserved at DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont for June 23, 2022 through June 26, 2022. Booking is simple, go to <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionsummer2022/> or call us at 1-802-865-6600

We're looking forward to seeing you in June!



Book Your Room

Event dates: June 23, 2022 - June 26, 2022

Book by: May 29, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont

Address: 870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403USA

Rooms & Rates

- 2 Double Beds - \$179.00
- 1 King Bed - \$179.00

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

2022 STATE CONVENTION BANQUET

DOUBLETREE by HILTON, Williston Rd., SO. BURLINGTON VT

Friday, June 24, 2022

COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:30 P.M.



Tuscan Chicken or Sliced Roast Beef with Herb Demi

The above will be served with Fresh Tossed Garden Salad (Rolls and Butter,
Roasted Red Potatoes, Penne Pasta with Red Sauce, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables,
Chef's Choice Dessert Table – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade
\$35.00 per person – All Inclusive

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: June 10, 2022

PLEASE RESERVE: # _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____ Post/Squadron/Unit: _____

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)



S.A.L. ADVISOR

Bruce Paquin

Greetings Legionnaire,

As spring rapidly approaches with COVID easing up a little, we are starting to see an increase with activities and programs in our Post homes. With this comes a renewed up tick in our all important membership within the Legion Family. My congratulations go out to all of the SAL Squadrons who have to date reached the 100% and above mark. Tops being Paul Lafountain Sq 69 at 117% followed by Fair Haven Sq 49 at 115%, Pierce-Lawton Sq 37 at 109%, Enosburg Sq 42 at 108%, Middlebury Sq 27 at 107%, Rutland Sq 31 at 104%, West Rutland Sq 87 at 101%, and Hartford Sq 26, Jay Peak Sq 28 at 100%. Great work! keep up the effort and commitment. As we see our membership increase, we also see increases in donations to our veterans, programs, and community service with both dollars and volunteer hours. Your Detachment Officers are continuing to visit Squadrons around the State, providing education, assistance and information for the optimal operation

with in the frame work of the American Legion Family. We a putting an emphasis on keeping track of all activities and donations to be included on a consolidated reporting form. This information should be included with your Legion post reporting forms at the end of the Legion year. Most Legionnaires are a modest lot and don't do what they do for the recognition, but because it's the right thing to do and we "just want to help". We do need to report so others in the community see what we do. We need to blow our own horn. Arm your Department Officers so they can toot a little as they travel around. As always, I am impressed with the great work your Squadrons perform on your behalf. I have no doubt as the weather gets warmer we will only do better.

For God and Country

Bruce F. Paquin

SAL Advisor

Department of Vermont

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

126 State Street

P.O. Box 396

Montpelier, Vermont

05601-0396

800-501-7131

802-223-7131

vtlegion.org

Melodie Ashford

Executive Administrator

Finalvt@talofvt.com

Department of
Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000

www.va.gov

American Legion
Headquarters

317-630-1200

www.legion.org

Vermont Office of
Veterans Affairs

802-828-3379

www.veterans.vermont.gov

VA Hospital
White River Jct., Vermont

802-259-9363

Benefits
800-827-1000 or,

103rd National Convention

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





Past Detachment Commander Frank L. Gabaree

Past Detachment Commander Frank L. Gabaree, 86, of Montpelier, Vermont, passed away on March 7, 2022, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family. Frank was a member of the Sons of American Legion Squadron #3 in Montpelier, where he served in many officer roles, such as Northern Commander from 2000-2006, Sr. Vice Commander from 2006-2008, Detachment of Vermont State Commander from 2008-2011 and National Executive Committeeman for Vermont from 2011-2013. This was one of his greatest passions, and the dedication that he gave to the Legion will not soon be forgotten. Being a kind and dependable father and grandfather was of the utmost importance to Frank, and he certainly did not disappoint when it came to wholeheartedly loving his

family. Frank is survived by his six daughters and their husbands, Ileen, Victoria, Wanda, Betty and John, Jennifer and Lloyd, Heidi and Jim; 13 grandchildren and their partners, Travis, Nate, Elizabeth, Kaleb, Frank, Warren, Alanna and Hunter, Connor and Autumn, Michael and Monica, Kyle and Ashley, Kaitlyn and Brad, Christopher and Carleigh, Brooke and Johnny. He also leaves behind four great-grandchildren, Avery, Ezra “Papa’s little man,” Francesca (as of yet unborn), and Penelope (as of yet unborn). Frank was the brother of 13 siblings, and is survived by his sister, Beverly, and two brothers, Louis and Park.. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #3 in Montpelier, which will go towards a student scholarship to honor Past Detachment Commander Frank L. Gabaree.



LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

PDC Dick Farmer

Legionnaires:

As I start to write this, I’m watching the news on the war in Ukraine. How blessed we are to live in the United States. The Ukrainians need our prayers and much, much more.

Our bill on tax exemption on Veterans’ retirement income is still alive, but hardly. The chance for it to move is pretty slim. Our assistance did help, but there is just too much opposition to this Legislation at this time.

This week the Legislatures are home on break, due to Town Meeting. This would be a good time to talk to them about concerns and thus keep the pressure on them.

A positive note on the National level is that legislation will be going forward with “Burn Pit” recognition. This should be of great help to thousands of Veterans that have been affected by these poisonous Pitts.

In conclusion, we should hope

for the best and continue the pressure on the representatives. Maybe a bill will break free.

Again, lets pray for the citizens of Ukraine. May they have peace.

For God & County,

Dick Farmer, PDC – PNEC

P.S. Don’t forget Post Consolidated Reports. If you need help filling them out, contact your District or County Commander. I will help if I can.

Mid-Winter Conference: A Busy Time

Victor Stone
Department Historian

At the Mid-winter Conference in January I thought it would be an interesting exercise to trail along with the Department Commander to gain a perspective on the variety of activities that consumed her time and attention. I found the experience enlightening, informative and well worth the effort. What follows is an abridged version of her very active schedule.

Friday, January 21st

After checking in with the registration personnel and attending to some last minute details the Commander then dropped in on several committee meetings that were scheduled for the day.

1000 hours- Conference Convention Committee: listened to a proposal by Barre Post #10 to host the Annual Convention in June. Lots of good questions regarding capacity, parking, and hotel accommodations were asked. Further investigation suggested. Also, there was discussion about the location for the January 2023

Mid-Winter Conference.

1100 hours- Finance Committee: Detailed review of budgets and performance to budget as well as status of assets and investments

1200 hours- Lunch...featuring a pizza run by the Commander and National Vice Commander

1300 hours- Membership Revitalization Committee: Focus on meeting the Department membership goals for the year. Having received contact lists from the Dept. Adjutant, the Committee members went straight to work on the phones to contact members who had not yet paid their dues.

1400 hours- Oratorical Committee: The group worked to finalize their plans for this year's program with finals set for March 5th.

1420 hours- Boys State Committee: Good discussion and detailed planning for this year's program and thoughtful planning for future committee leadership.



Many issues and challenges need to be overcome to make this a memorable and fruitful experience for attendees but plans are in place. Best quote from the meeting, "We ask kids to think, not what to think."

1530 hours- Final check on banquet seating arrangements and reservations.

1600 hours – Meet and greet attendees at the hospitality room

1815 hours- Banquet kicks off and visit by Molly Gray, Vermont's Lt. Governor.

Saturday, January 22nd

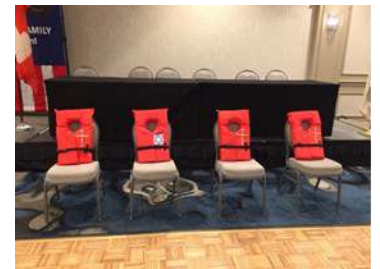
0830 hours- Joint meeting of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion to witness in the Four Chaplains Ceremony

0930 hours- American Legion Mid-Winter Conference main session

1200 hours- Lunch: this is noteworthy in that the Commander and her crew, recognizing that the Conference Center was not able to provide lunch, used the Colchester Post #91 facilities to prepare 135 luncheon bags for the attendees

1400 hours- DEC Meeting

Obviously I haven't captured every single interaction or event but from the foregoing narrative you can see that the Department of Vermont Commander was busy from dawn to dusk during this two day session (and even a day earlier). She was able to participate in a broad range of discussions about initiatives important to our organization as well as chairing the formal meetings of the Conference. By trailing around with her I gained insight into the hard work put by our dedicated members to meet the goals and objectives of this great organization.





ORATORICAL PROGRAM

Department of Vermont Oratorical Program 2022 Department Finals



2022 Vermont Department Oratorical Finals. Runner up (L) Michael Christesen, (middle) Commander Tester, First Place (R) Jeswin Antony. This is the third Department Finals for each of these students.

In the auditorium of the Pavilion in Montpelier, Jeswin took 1st Place with his Prepared Oration, “We, the Cyber Patriots”, proposing a 28th Amendment to discourage misinformation, bullying, and abusive practices on the internet. He reflected that he has two younger brothers lacking understanding and familiarity to manage some information and misinformation available on the Internet. In defense of appearance of “intrusion of privacy,” Antony noted that Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requirements impact personal privacy for safety of others in the air flight encounter.

The Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic are scored on many factors related to minutes taken to deliver the speech, content and speaking skills. The oration is given without use of a microphone, podium, or notes.

The Assigned Topic is one of four chosen by National in May 2021. The Assigned Topic of the day is chosen by random draw and given to the student

with 5 minutes to prepare to speak. This year’s selection was Amendment XIV, Section 3 which prohibits any person who had gone to war against the union or given aid and comfort to the nation's enemies from running for federal or state office, unless Congress by a two-thirds vote specifically permitted it.

Jeswin will represent Department of Vermont at the National Oratorical Finals, April 22-24 in Indianapolis, IN. For Jeswin and his father, Antony Gnana-piragasam, travel and room expenses are reimbursed by the National American Legion.

Jeswin is a resident of Waterbury, VT and is a junior at Harwood Union HS. He was sponsored by Post 59 in Waterbury, VT and received awards from Post 59, District 3 and \$1500 from the Department. The National Winner receives \$25,000, second and third place receives \$22,500 and \$20,000 respectively. Each Department winner who is certified and participates in the First Round will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Each First Round Winner who participates in the Second Round, but does not advance to the Finals, will receive an additional \$2,000 to pursue education beyond high school.

Other Department of Vermont contestants:

Runner Up Michael Christesen, Junior at Sharon Academy

Speech Title: “Constitutional Parliamentarianism”

He was sponsored by Post 8, Norwich and received awards from Post 8, District 5 and \$750 from the Department.

Great appreciation to the members of the Legion Family that served as contest personnel at the various contests, local, District and Department. Thank you to those Posts that provided space for contests. The Oratorical Program exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution amongst high school students. We are helping a rare few to hone their skills as citizens of the United States. This could not happen without your support.



ATTN: VETERANS & ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

Were you exposed to Burn Pits while deployed?

Sign up for the VA Burn Pit registry today.

★ IS THIS FOR ME?

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

★ WHY SIGN UP?

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

★ VA MEDICAL CENTER, VT



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

888-607-8773

VT MILITARY & FAMILY
SUPPORT CENTER

24/7



VA



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

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

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



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

ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

YEAR: 2022 - 2023

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

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

POST EVERLASTING



WRIGHT, ROBERT	10
AZOTEA, RENALDO	10
LAROSE, ROGER P	12
EKBERG, RUTH M	24
BLONGY, RICHARD	31
COURCELL, LEONARD	31
GARROW, GERALD	31
KRABY, PAUL	31
LORMAN, SR FREDERICK	31
MANNET, JOHN	31
O'KEEFE, JOHN	31
FERRELL, KENNETH	33
KOPONEN, JACK P	36
WELCH, RALPH	37
JOHNSON, CLINTON L	47
GAUDETTE, WILFRED J	47
STONE, FRED	50
PRIOR, ARNOLD	51
VESPER, WILLIAM T	51
STETSON, LEON	51
DUMAS, VICTOR	75
HASKIN, DANA S	75
GRAVES, RONALD C	75
MOODY, JR ERNEST E	87



"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. "



Department
Commander
Catherine M. Tester

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S PROJECT

*Preserving a piece of the
Veterans Home history*

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



How to

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

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

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

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Vermont President
Francisca Massey

“President’s Project – Vermont Paws & Boots”

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

Vermont Paws & Boots



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



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



2nd Prize – Doggie Gift Basket with Gift Certificates

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



And Several More Surprises to Be Drawn!!!

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

Drawing will be held at Department Convention June 2022

SON's Commanders Project

Pathways Vermont Supportive Services for Veteran Families

2021 FACT SHEET

In partnership with



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

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

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

PROGRAM SERVICES

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

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

FY22 FUNDING

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

Source of funds	Amount
SSVF at UVM Department of Veterans Affairs Grant	\$48,000
Fundraising	15,000

FAST FACTS*:

248

Vermont Veteran
Families Housed

138

Vermont Veterans Supported
to Positive Outcome

224

Instances of
Homelessness
Prevented
(through temporary
financial assistance)

183

Children
Served

*Through March 2021





JEEP

JOINT
ENLISTMENT
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM

★ WHAT IS IT?

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

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

★ PAYMENTS

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

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

INTERSTATE TRANSFERS - Same as Prior Service Accession.

★ ★ ★
SERVICE
★
**NEW
CURRENT
PRIOR**
\$1000
PER LEAD

★ ELIGIBILITY

Eligible

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

Non-Eligible

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

GET STARTED

**TALK TO YOUR
LOCAL/UNIT
RECRUITER**



DEC meeting February 18, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met by Zoom at 1904 hours. The meeting was presided over by Department Commander Catherine Tester. Roll call was taken by the Dept Adjutant, and a quorum was present of the executive board members.

Convention/Mid-winter Conference Committee Chair Fred Stebbins presented the option to have the 2022 Department summer convention at the DoubleTree hotel in South Burlington. The room rate would be \$179 with dinner costing \$35. A motion was made and passed to accept this proposal by the DEC members in attendance.

The Athletic Committee and PDC Don Tetreault will be notified about the event and the Golf Tournament coordination issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 1916 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Markwell

Department Adjutant



THE DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT PRESENTS
THE AMERICAN LEGION ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 23, 2022, SHOTGUN START 8:00 A.M.
GET YOUR TEAM ORGANIZED AND REGISTERED EARLY
CEDAR KNOLL GOLF CLUB
\$80.00 PER PERSON/4 PERSON TEAMS/\$320.00 PER TEAM

PLAYER 1 _____ AL/AUX/SAL/RIDER _____ POST _____
PLAYER 2 _____ AL/AUX/SAL/RIDER _____ POST _____
PLAYER 3 _____ AL/AUX/SAL/RIDER _____ POST _____
PLAYER 4 _____ AL/AUX/SAL/RIDER _____ POST _____

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND CHECK TO DON TETREALT,
70 SOUTHVIEW DRIVE, NO. BENNINGTON, VT 05257 PRIOR TO
JUNE 16, 2022 (CUTOFF DATE)
BARBEQUE AT THE END OF THE ROUND



“SPONSOR A HOLE”
CEDAR KNOLLS COUNTRY CLUB
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION GOLF TOURNAMENT

**PROUDLY SPONSORS
THIS HOLE**

Your Department of Vermont is again sponsoring the Annual Golf Tournament this year, to be held at Cedar Knolls Country Club, Hinesburg, VT. We are asking, as a fund-raiser, to have all the Post's sponsor a hole; whether it be the American Legion Family, Post and Auxiliary, Post and Sons, or whatever mixture you would like.

You may want to sponsor a hole in Memoria or thank you to a special Veteran. Whatever the case may be, we would appreciate your participation. The Legion Riders may want to get involved also. Kindly submit \$100.00 to Department of Vermont, earmarked for Golf, NLT May 31, 2022. All proceeds will go to Veterans Programs. Alter the above block to suit your needs. You can also call Melodie at HQ's, tell her what you want on your placard and pay by credit card over the phone.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Brian Markwell, Dept. Adjutant