



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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Department Headquarters  
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### MAY 2023 Bulletin

#### IN THIS EDITION:

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

- Scholarship Awards
- Call to Convention and Agenda
- Endorsement list
- Norwich Awards
- Commander Scanlon Testimonial
- And much more.....



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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### *Tom Scanlon*

We are now approaching the start of the summer months and Memorial Day is right around the corner. While most individuals think that this is a day to celebrate the start of summer, we in the American Legion, truly know what this day really is. It is not about barbecues, but rather a day to remember all those individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms, and those in the military who continue to do so. Let us never forget and give this holiday the dignity it deserves.

As I have visited posts throughout the state and enjoyed attending many wonderful Legion Birthday dinners, I have repeatedly spoken about veteran suicides. I must say that most, if not all, are aware of the gravity of this issue nationally. And, it is not just veteran's suicides, but suicides in general to include children, and members of various professions. It is something we should all be cognizant of and work to reduce. While at posts I also spoke about my Commander's Project, Josh's House, and the Josh Pallotta Fund. I want to thank the posts for their extremely generous contributions that I have thus far received.

I recently attended the annual meeting of the Legionnaires Insurance Trust (LIT). This is the benefit program that provides free accidental death insurance to all members of the Legion Family, yes including the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, of \$1,000 and \$5,000 if travelling on Legion business. THIS COVERAGE IS FREE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, and we must tell them about it and get all signed up. In addition to this free insurance there is a variety of other discounted insurance coverages available through the LIT. Included is the Hospital HELP Plan, Cancer Care, Emergency Assistance Plus, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Long Term Care Assistance, Medical Alert Service, ID Theft Insurance and coming soon discounted hearing aids. The LIT has paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion dollars, as well as providing financial support of nearly \$95 million dollars to support state department activities and VA&R efforts, not to mention providing financial recognition for departments and their innovative membership development efforts. At this recent meeting Michigan, Colorado, and Maine received \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$3,000 respectively for signing up members and reporting how they did it. We are missing something here. The word is not getting out.

Vermont received this year from the LIT a total distribution of \$2,940 for programs and VA&R. Of the fifty states we received the lowest amount given. Here are just a few of the disbursements based on enrollment: Florida \$142,337, New Jersey \$32,977, Massachusetts \$17,653, New Hampshire \$4,499, Alaska \$4,196, and Rhode Island \$4,831. These are funds that go to support our programs.

Lastly, in June we will be having our annual convention at the Double Tree in South Burlington. Make sure each post is represented so a quorum is achieved to conduct business. This is your organization.



## Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires.

The warmer weather is finally starting to come around and I can honestly tell you that I have had enough of the cold, and raw rainy weather. It is time for mother nature to start being kind and start warming everything up.

This month I am going to talk about something that should have meaning to all of us.

Recently Corrinna and I have become members of the board for the Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel. We had a chance to visit the chapel that Rev Fox called his home chapel. After we met and toured the chapel in Gilman, VT

we were invited to the home of two of the trustees of the chapel and attended a meeting to discuss the future of the chapel. For those that don't know, this chapel is also the home of The American Legion Moore Fox Post 41.

During this meeting the Director of the Four Chaplains Chapel in Pennsylvania Bill Kaemmer was present. The board has decided to try and save the chapel and keep its legacy alive. We will be doing this through fundraising and hopefully through donations from members of the Four chaplains' chapel community.

### **History of Rev George L. Fox:**

George L. Fox was born on March 15, 1900, and was one of five children. At the age of 17, he joined the US Army where he served as a medical orderly on the Western Front of WWI where he earned the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and the French Croix, d Guerre. The French awarded him the Croix de Guerre for saving the life of a French soldier during a gas attack. He unselfishly removed his gas mask and shared it with a French and another American soldier until they were able to make it so safely.

After returning home from WWI he finished high school. He then later went on to study at the Moody Bible Institute and at Illinois Wesleyan University. After graduating he became a Methodist preacher in Downs Illinois and then later in Rye New Hampshire. Soon after he took on a church in Wells River, Vermont. He remained in Vermont and became state chaplain and historian for the American Legion Department of Vermont.

When WWII broke out he joined the Army again and that same day his oldest son Wyatt joined the Marine Corps. In late 1942 Rev GL Fox was transferred to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton Mass where he attended the Chaplains School at Harvard University. It was here where he met fellow chaplains, Goode, Poling, and Washington. In January 1943 the 4 chaplains embarked on the USAT Dorchester for a journey with 900 other members of the military. On February 2, 1943, the Dorchester was torpedoed by U-223. It was then that George L. Fox along with his fellow chaplains remained on the ship with the other men that could not leave the ship and perished.

### **Rev George L. Fox's medals from both wars**

#### **WWI:**

Purple Heart

Silver Star Medal  
World I Victory Medal  
French Croix de Guerre

## **WWII**

Distinguished Service Cross  
Chaplains Medal For Heroism  
Purple Heart  
WWII Victory Medal.

Every February 3<sup>rd</sup> many Veterans organizations including The American Legion throughout the country hold the Four Chaplains Ceremonies to honor and remember these four heroic men that gave their lives for the sake of others.

The 501c3 board for The George L. Fox Memorial Chapel hopes to raise enough funds to purchase the church at a fraction of the asking price through donations which should be received by May 15, 2023. If your post or if you know of anyone that would like to become part of this endeavor and make donations to save this chapel, please feel free to contact me or the Department headquarters.

For more information on this please visit the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/126423543747447>

I am looking forward to serving the Department of Vermont American Legion Family as Department Commander. I am also looking forward to attending Legion events and visiting posts throughout the state meeting our members.

Please keep in mind that

Be safe, stay healthy, and remember you can **BE THE ONE** to help a veteran in need.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at [post7adj@gmail.com](mailto:post7adj@gmail.com)

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

# **BE THE ONE**

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

## **Joe Zickmund, Northern Area Commander**

Spring is finally in the air; flowers are starting to bloom and I'm going to have to soon get the lawn mower out. It won't be long, and all of our summer activities and events will start happening. Many Posts have Flag Day and Memorial Day observations with increased opportunity to be visible to the communities we belong to. Summer fundraising, baseball and cookouts will soon be here, too. As Legionnaires and Veterans, it's important that we present ourselves to our communities in ways that instill trust and a sense of pride. How many of you recall as a child the feeling that you had when you saw the Veterans marching in a parade? When you saw the colors go by? Now it is our time to help the next generation enjoy those same feelings. We don't need parades to do that; being good people with integrity and honor will help the communities embrace us and maybe even join us. And.... we can have parades – because who doesn't love a good parade. Have a great Spring!

For God, Country and the American Veteran,  
Joe Zickmund

## **Southern Area Commander – Lewis “Lew” Graham**

Greetings, Legionnaires and Legion Family members,

Time is winding down quickly to our annual convention and end of the organizational year has happened for many Posts as they have already installed new officers. Thank you all who have stepped up and are doing the necessary work of keeping our programs active and relevant. I was happy to see that the PACT Act has been passed by Congress. (There are 23 illnesses covered by the act, check out your eligibility for benefits!) The American Legion testimony was certainly part of the support that helped that happen, which leads to the reminder that Post Consolidated Reports are overdue. Please take the time to submit the reports to Headquarters. All that data is what makes The American Legion an effective agency in advocating for this kind of legislation.

Please take the time to become a delegate and represent your Post at convention, particularly on Saturday, the day the important business of elections and recognition is conducted. It is always inspiring to see the collective impact we have on our Vermont veterans and communities, the Commander's project and our contribution to the National programs as well. This year all three family organizations are supporting Josh's House, which is located at the old Colchester Armory. Stop by and see the amazing support they are providing our veterans daily. I also mention Fowlers R&R Ranch in Whiting (south of Middlebury on Route 30), a veterans' training and support facility which has finished their greenhouse and also acquired equipment for veterans to learn farming and woodworking skills. The Middlebury and Vergennes posts as well as others support their program. Give me a call if you would like more information on these facilities, 802-279-0441.

May is Military Recognition Month, which ends, of course, with Memorial Day observances. Please take time to attend these important events. They mean a great deal to our veterans and their families. There is a program I was not aware of called the National Golden Age Games, that takes place in Iowa this year from May 20-25. They are for veterans aged 55 and older who are VA patients. Some activities to compete in are Air rifle and air pistol, badminton, basketball, blind disc golf, cycling, dominoes, golf, horseshoes, pickleball, swimming and tennis. How about a Post entry next year? It has been an event since 1985.

And coming up in June with time to plan for, are: Women Veterans Day, the Army's birthday, Flag Day, the Coast Guard Auxiliary's birthday and significantly, PTSD Awareness Day.

Vermont is doing well with membership. Please keep up the good work.

I hope to see you all at the convention.

For God and Country,

Lew Graham, Jr.  
Southern Area Commander

## **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**

Post commanders and Adjutants, please take the time to complete your consolidated report, children and youth report and the Maynard Petryka Color Guard form. Questions on how to complete the forms, where to send them etc. Contact your County or District Commanders or the Department of Vermont Office and someone will be glad to assist.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander David Perron**

Legionaries, May is among us and the outdoors are getting greener.

Here is a quote from Harry S. Truman *"Our debt to the Heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."*

Please, when we go to our Memorial Day activities, please keep those words in your heart.

Time to start thinking and planning for the Annual Convention, would like to see you all there.

Membership we are doing but like always we can do better. Let's strive for that 100 % goal!

**Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS**

God and Country

David W. Perron, Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793, [Perrondavid323@yahoo.com](mailto:Perrondavid323@yahoo.com)

## Mark our Calendar!

June 3	POW/MIA Luncheon	Bristol Post 19
June 3	Dept. Commander Scanlon Testimonial	Middlebury Post 27
June 22-24	Annual Convention	DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington
June 25-30 June 28 evening	Boys State Boys State Legion Recognition & Parents' Night: Band Concert, Inauguration of State officers	Norwich University Norwich University
July 16	DEC Meeting @ noon	Montpelier Post 3
July 22-26	Legion Baseball Tournament Begins	Castleton University
Aug 25-30	104 <sup>th</sup> National Convention	Charlotte, South Carolina

## Annual Ex-POW Banquet, Bristol Post 19

The Annual Ex-POW Banquet will held at American Legion Post 19 on June 3, 2023 starting with a short business meeting at noon, followed by a social period and dinner will be served at 1:00 pm.

The Ex-POWs will be our guests and all others attending will pay \$15 for their dinner. Please RSVP by **May 24, 2023**, make your checks payable to American Legion Post 19 and mail to the address **P.O. Box 292, Bristol, Vermont 05443**.

Post 19 has hosted this event for the past several years and it is the highlight of our social functions throughout the year. We hope there is a good turnout of Ex-POWs, their families, and their friends. Vermont Chapter #1, American Ex-Prisoners of War is normally well represented at this annual event.

We look forward to seeing all of you on June 3at Post 19. If for some reason you would like to discuss this event with me, you can call me at work at 802-453-3818, at my home at 802-453-7663, on my cell at 802-989-8573, or by email at [ronaldllarose@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldllarose@gmail.com).

RONALD L. LAROSE  
Commander

## Department Commander Presents Awards

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian



On Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> Department Commander Tom Scanlon, accompanied by Norwich University Post # 1819 Commander, John Dulmage, attended the Annual Norwich University Tri-Service Awards Ceremony. This event honors and recognizes cadets and midshipmen from Norwich ROTC units who have made notable contributions to their units or have achieved excellence in their studies and training. After opening remarks by Major General Mark Anarumo, President of Norwich University, Brigadier General Henry U. Harder, Jr. (Assistant Adjutant General-Vermont Air National Guard), delivered a keynote address in advance of the award presentations. In his remarks General Harder reminded all the ROTC students of the importance of military service and the critical jobs they will have in defending the safety and security of the United States.

In total there were 41 award categories addressing a variety of academic, military, leadership, and service accomplishments. Commanders Scanlon and Dulmage presented awards to a total of twenty-four students composed of eight midshipmen and sixteen cadets. The first group of twelve received the American Legion Military Excellence Award. This award focuses on general military performance. The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award was then presented to a second group of students. I'm not a great estimator of crowd sizes but I'd hazard that there were 1000 ROTC students in attendance to cheer on the well-deserved awards achieved by their peers.



Overall, this was a superb well staged event, and it was a delight to meet and converse with such an impressive group of young men and women. The underclassmen were excited about their futures and looking forward to active-duty training during their summer break while the seniors were looking forward to commissioning, advanced training and their first duty assignments.



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

Hello everyone, another month has gone by and want to say thank you all for the hard work on membership. We need to submit our consolidate reports, I hope to see a 100 percent in the fourth district.

Now on another note, I am running for Southern area commander this year, I have 14 years military service. I have 23 years as a legion family member, I am a dual member and have held many positions in the Sons, I was post 49 Sons' commander for 4 years, and was Rutland County commander for a year and moved up to Southern Area commander for 2 years. I am an Adjutant for Post 49 and serve on many committees at the post level. I am on the athletic committee and have served on the Americanism Committee. This year I participated in the State Oratorical contest as a timekeeper.

I am DAV coordinator for Rutland and also a driver transporting veterans to White River Junction Hospital for appointments, I have been doing this for 9 years now, it is very rewarding to be able to do this for them.

I have been on visitations, and it's been great seeing you all and I will be continuing them now until June for convention, it's great to what other post are doing and to meet everyone again.

In closing, I hope to see you all at the convention this year and I am looking forward to more exciting experiences in the coming year.

Thank you all for what you do for our posts and veterans that need it.

Thank you all for the work you do.  
For God and country  
Bill Brothers  
4th District Commander

## **Rutland County - Richie Baptie**

Hello legionnaires,

I hope everyone is doing well. Hope everyone is informed on all the legion activities and those running for positions in the Department. Make sure you are up to date on all those running and their qualifications. Very happy to see that membership is still going upward. Also, that all post are trying to recruit new members. I am excited to see how the post are community involved.

For God and Country

Richard (Rich) Baptie  
Rutland County Commander

## **Post Everlasting**

DUKETTE, HENRY R .....	03	GIROUX, LEONARD A .....	03
CHAPIN, GARY .....	10	WOOD, EDWARD .....	10
MAHONEY, ROBERT J .....	13	RUPPRECHT, MICHAEL .....	13
RUSSELL, ROBERT E .....	14	COOLEY, CARROLL R .....	25
LAWYER, CHRIS A .....	39	HANLEY, JR GILBERT A .....	39
ROBILLARD, MAURICE J .....	39	BLAIR, CHARLES E .....	39
MOSEMAN, JAMES F .....	49	COSGROVE, ROBERT F .....	60
TODD, W. R. ....	63	POMBAR, EDWARD L .....	63
PERRY, DONALD F .....	63	SMITH, ROBERT .....	91
O'BRIEN, THOMAS .....	91	GILE, KENNETH .....	100
SURETTE, HARRY L .....	CN01		

## **Legislative Update PDC Richard “Dick” Farmer**

In the later part of April, our bills relating to tax exemption for military retirement pay made a little progress. The bill was heard in the Finance Committee. We should not read too much into this, but at least it is still alive.

Another great talking point is that the American Legion Executive Committee voted to endorse H.255 and Senate 118. Those are the two bills that relate to tax exemption for military retirement exemption pay. In the big picture, this action will let the Vermont Legislature know that the largest veterans’ group in the State (the American Legion) is concerned about the financials improvement of those who have retired from the military.

This also shows other Veterans that we care about their welfare and the widows’ welfare. Income and Sociality Security should not be a determination in regard to retirement pay.

I will keep you informed if there is progress with this legislation.

Let’s pray that our military and their families are safe.

For God & Country,  
Dick Farmer  
Legislative Chairman  
PDC/PNEC



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT  
P O BOX 396  
MONTPELIER VT 05601-0396  
Email: alvthq@talofvt.com**

## **CALL TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

**THE 104<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION, THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT IS HEREBY CALLED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE AND WILL BE HELD IN SO. BURLINGTON, VERMONT AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER ON JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

### **PURPOSE**

1. To receive the reports of Department Officers and Chairmen of Standing Department Committees.
2. To act upon any resolution and/or amendment to the Department Constitution and By-Laws, as presented.
3. To elect, by vote, the following Department Officers for the ensuing year:

- COMMANDER (1)
- SENIOR VICE COMMANDER (1)
- NORTHERN AREA VICE COMMANDER (1)
- SOUTHERN AREA VICE COMMANDER (1)
- DISTRICT COMMANDERS (5)
- COUNTY COMMANDERS (12)
- FINANCE OFFICER (1)
- NEC (1)
- Alt. NEC (1)

4. To select the site of the 2025 Department Convention
5. To elect the Delegates and Alternates to the 2023 National Convention. (Department Commander elect, immediate Past Department Commander and Incoming Department Adjutant shall, by virtue of their offices, shall be delegates to the National Convention. National Executive Committeeman, by virtue of his/her office, shall be a delegate to the National Convention.) (Section III, Article VII, National Constitution & By-Laws.)
6. To transact such other business as may be legally brought before the Convention.

### **REPRESENTATION**

Shall be by Posts in accordance with Department Constitution & By-Laws, Article V, Page 9.

**ARTICLE V – Section 3.** A Department Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates chosen annually by each Post, each of which shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each twenty-five memberships or major fraction thereof, paid to the Department Finance Officer, 45 days prior to the date of the opening of the Department Convention. Delegate strength to be based on membership on file at Department Headquarters 45 days prior to the opening date of Department Convention. Membership received following the 45-day period at Headquarters Office shall not be used in determining Post delegate strength. In addition, each Post shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate at large. All Past Department Commanders and current Department Officers and current elected National Officers, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be delegates to the Department Convention with vote, to be exercised with their respective Posts, such votes thereof, shall be in addition to the number of delegates allowed said Posts as provided in this section.

**Section 4.** Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates and shall vote only in the absence of the delegate. No voting by proxy shall be allowed.

**Section 5.** The Posts shall elect all delegates and alternates not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the Department Convention.

**Section 6.** A quorum shall exist at Department Convention when (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.

**Section 7.** The Department Convention Committee, i.e., Resolutions, Credentials, Distinguished Guests, and/or any other Committee that may be deemed necessary to conduct a Department Convention, shall be appointed by the Department Commander, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the opening date of the Department Convention. Only accredited delegates to the Department Convention shall be eligible for appointment to any Convention Committee. The Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws shall constitute the Constitution and By-Laws Committee at the Department Convention.

## **CREDENTIALS**

Attention of all Posts is called to the resolution relating to delegates and alternates passed by the 1936 Department Convention, reading as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that it is the sense of this Convention that delegates and alternates presenting themselves to the Committee on Credentials for seating shall, in addition to complying with present regulations, be required to present to the Committee on Credentials their Membership Card, or having failed to bring such card, shall furnish to the Committee other evidence sufficient to satisfy such Committee, that they are members in good standing of the Post they propose to represent;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is a sense of this Convention that all persons entering the Convention Hall at or for any of the business sessions of the Department Convention, shall be required to show their Membership Cards before being allowed to enter.

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL DELEGATES ARE INSTRUCTED TO HAVE THEIR LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD, FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (2023), WITH THEM AT CONVENTION.**

**THEIR LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD MUST BE SHOWN ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023. NAME CONFIRMATION FROM DELEGATE SHEET WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE SO THAT HE/SHE MAY BE SEATED IN THE VOTING SECTION OF THE CONVENTION.**

## DISTRICT MEETING

District Commanders may call a meeting of the delegates and alternates from their respective districts, at such time and place as will not conflict with the Convention Program.

## RESOLUTIONS

Posts having resolutions to present to the Convention are required to send one (1) typewritten copy of each resolution to the Department Adjutant, Department Headquarters, P O Box 396, Montpelier VT 05601-0396, two (2) weeks PRIOR to the opening date of the Department Convention.

## AMENDMENTS – DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE XIV, Section 1 (PAGE 20).** The Department Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the total delegates thereat; provided that the proposed amendments shall have been sent to all Posts and members of the Department Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of a regularly called Department Convention.

**Section 2.** That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the Department Adjutant to the several Posts, as provided in Section 1 of this article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Post, the Department Executive Committee, or by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee of The American Legion, Department of Vermont, Inc.

**Section 3.** Any provisions of this Constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to any amendment adopted by The American Legion, at its National Convention, to the National Constitution of The American Legion, when said amendment affects that Department or its internal organization.

**Section 4.** Any amendment to this Constitution shall be effective at the close of the Department Convention, at which the same is adopted.





### CONVENTION NOTES:

*Please use the microphones if you would like to be recognized at the podium, and state your name and post number when speaking. This assists the stenographer in creating an accurate and detailed history of our proceedings.*

*Don't forget to pick up your Post packets at the HQ table.*

*Thank you for attending your Department Convention. You are the backbone of this organization.*

*We hope you have had a great time!*

### *FUTURE DATES:*

*D.E.C. MEETING JULY 16, 2023  
AT MONTPELIER POST 3  
BEGINNING AT 12:00 NOON*

*Visit [www.vtlegion.org](http://www.vtlegion.org)  
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND  
IMPORTANT ITEMS OF  
INTEREST.*



**AMERICAN LEGION**

**DEPARTMENT OF**

**VERMONT**

**ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**June 23 & 24, 2023**

**Double Tree Hotel  
Burlington, Vermont**

*Hosted by the Department  
Convention Committee*

*On the behalf of both the  
Department of Vermont and  
myself, I want to extend sincere  
appreciation to all for your  
commitment, support, and  
assistance extended to us, as well  
as to our VETERANS,  
COMMUNITIES, and  
CHILDREN.*

*Let us all remember to  
**BE the ONE**  
To help those struggling silently,  
in an effort to save a life.*

*Thank You for your Trust and  
Support in allowing me to lead  
you this past year. It has been  
a tremendous honor.*

*For God, Country & Community,  
Tom Scanlon*

## **Thursday , June 22**

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- 8:30am** - Golf Tournament  
Cedar Knolls Country Club
- 3:30pm** - Past Dept Commander's Meeting  
Carlton Room
- 6:00pm** - Past Department Commander's/  
President's Dinner  
Windjammer

## **Friday, June 23**

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- 10:00am** - Dept. Executive Committee
- 12:00pm** - Legion Riders Arrival
- 12:30pm** - Opening Session
- Call to Order:** *Commander Scanlon*
- Presentation of Colors:** *Fair Haven Post 49*
- Invocation:** *Chaplain Gerry Rogo*
- POW/MIA:** *Area Commanders*
- Pledge of Allegiance:** *Silas Loomis*
- Welcome:** *Commander Tom Scanlon*
- Resolutions:** Title Only *PDC C. Ferris*
- Constitution and Bylaws:** *Rebecca Otey*
- NEC Report:** *PDC Ron LaRose*
- Internal Affairs:** *PDC Fred Latour*
- Dept. Adjutant:** *Brian Markwell*
- Dept. Finance:** *Dennis Minoli*
- Dept. Convention:** *Mark Clotier*
- Athletic Report:** *Scott Stevens*
- Children and Youth:** *PDC C. Tester*
- Americanism:** *PDC Barb Bushaw*
- Eagle Scouts:** *PDC Ron Larose*

- Law & Order:** *Tom Scanlon*
- Legislative:** *PDC Richard Farmer*
- Oratorical:** *Karlene Devine*
- Education & Scholarship:**  
*PDC J. Stewart*
- Sons of The American Legion:** B.  
Paquin

- Membership Awards:** *Mark Clotier*
- Children and Youth & Americanism  
Awards Presentation:** *PDC C. Tester*
- Salute to Colors and Recess**

**BANQUET/DANCE @ 6:00 PM**

## **Saturday, June 24**

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- 8:30am** - Convention Reconvenes
- Salute to the Colors:** *Fair Haven Post 49*
- POW/MIA:** *Area Commanders*
- Invocation:** *Chaplain Gerry Rogo*
- Pledge of Allegiance:** *Silas Loomis*
- Preamble to the Constitution:** *Cmdr  
Tom Scanlon*
- Commander Remarks:** *Commander  
Tom Scanlon*
- Final Report of Rules:** *Rebecca Otey*
- Reading of the Call to Convention:**  
*Adjutant Brian Markwell*
- Credentials Report:** *Dennis Minoli*
- Memorial Service:** *Gerry Rogo*
- The Spirit of Youth Awards:** *PDC Barb  
Bushaw*
- Law Officer of the Year:** *Tom Scanlon*

- Resolutions Report:** *PDC C. Ferris*
- Legislative Report:** *PDC Richard Farmer*
- Finance Report:** *Dennis Minoli*
- Veterans Place:** *Karen Boyce*
- Josh Palotta Fund:** *Val Palotta*
- Department Awards:** *Brian Markwell*
- Selection of 2024 Convention Site:**  
*Mark Clotier*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ELECTIONS**

- Department Commander
- INSTALLATION:** *Rebecca Otey*
- Senior Vice Commander
- Area Commanders
- Finance Officer
- NEC & Alt. NEC
- INSTALLATION:** *Rebecca Otey*

### **DISTRICT CAUCUS - 25 minutes:**

- Elect delegates to National Convention
- District & County Commanders
- Installation By:** *Rebecca Otey*

- Benediction:** *Chaplain Gerry Rogo*
- Retirement of Colors:** *Fair Haven Post 49*
- Adjournment**

**DEC to follow**



# AMERICAN LEGION



Hello there!

We're glad you can join us for AMERICAN LEGION.

We have a room block reserved at DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont for June 22, 2023, through June 25, 2023. Booking your room is simple, just select "Book a Room" to receive your group's preferred rate.

We're looking forward to seeing you in June! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event!

## Book Your Room

**Event dates:** June 21, 2023 - June 25, 2023

**Book by:** May 27, 2023

## DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont

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

**Phone** +1 802-865-6600

## Rooms & Rates \$183+Tax

Rooms at your event's exclusive rate are filling up quickly. [Visit the booking page](#) and adjust the calendar to see which nights are available for your stay.



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

**2023 STATE CONVENTION BANQUET**

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

**Friday, June 23, 2023**

**COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M**

**DINNER – 6:30 P.M.**

**Entertainment - the “Throw Back” Band – After Dinner**



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

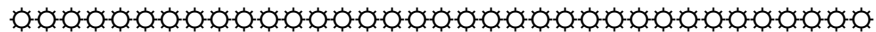
**\$40.00 per person – All Inclusive with Entertainment**

**The “Throw Back” Band**

**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 12, 2023



PLEASE RESERVE: # \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets    AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Circle   Legion   Sons of the American Legion   Auxiliary)



# COMMANDER'S PROJECT

2022/2023

## JOSH PALLOTTA FUND / JOSH'S HOUSE

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Commander, Jim Troiola visited and toured Josh's House and spoke with Andrea Gagner the Executive Director. He was visibly impressed with what was provided to our veterans.

Some of you may remember Valerie Pallotta as one of the founders of the Vermont Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Her involvement was a result of her son Joshua joining the Vermont National Guard and deploying to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. When Josh returned, he was a broken person with both physical injuries and PTSD.

In 2014 Josh lost the battle with the demons inside of him and took his own life. His mother became a crusader for all other veterans suffering and for suicide prevention and awareness. As a result, Val founded the Josh Pallotta Fund and ultimately Josh's House, which is a wellness and recreational center providing a myriad of services and activities for veterans. It is located at the old Fort Ethan Allen at 162 Hegeman Avenue in Colchester. It is a wonderful location. You should stop by and check out this vibrant and accessible facility. ([www.joshpallottafund.org](http://www.joshpallottafund.org))

Their goal is to have two other like facilities in the state, one in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where our veterans are so underserved, as well as one in the southern area. I want to help them, and Val, achieve this goal.

This is so important for all our veterans. The Sons and the Auxiliary realize this as well. For the first time all of us have the same project to help give them a great push in achieving their wonderful goals. There is also a race to see which of us can raise the most for this important endeavor.....Please Help.....

Tom Scanlon

Commander, Department of Vermont



Please send your checks to Department HQ made out to the "Department of Vermont" and with "Commander's Project" annotated in the memo area. It is a wonderful project which helps our veterans who are so underserved.

## **ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPT. OFFICERS 2023 – 2024**

*Bold indicates there is no one who has stepped up to run.*

Department Commander: Mark Cloutier, Post 07

Department Senior Vice Commander: Lewis Graham, Post 36, Joseph Zickmund, Post 10

So. Area Commander: William Brothers, Post 49

**No. Area Commander:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Commander:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Commander: David Perron, Post 30

3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Commander: Christopher Wood, Post 59

**4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Commander:**

**5<sup>th</sup> Dist. Commander:**

Addison Cty. Commander: Bruce Paquin, Post 27

Bennington Cty. Commander: Joseph Bump, Post 13

**Caledonia Cty. Commander:**

Essex Cty. Commander: Roy “Buzz” McKinnon

Franklin/Chittenden Commander: Philip Pearo, Post 60

**Lamoille Cty. Commander:**

**Orange Cty. Commander:**

**Orleans Cty. Commander:**

Rutland Cty. Commander: Richard Baptie, Post 50

**Washington Cty. Commander:**

**Windham Cty Commander:**

**Windsor Cty. Commander:**

Dept. Finance Officer: Dennis Minoli, Post 10

NEC: Tom Scanlon, Post 27

Alt. NEC: Catherine Tester, Post 50

## Eagle Scout Luncheon



## Norwich University Awards



## **“SPONSOR A HOLE” @ CEDAR KNOLLS COUNTRY CLUB** **2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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, Auxiliary member or Son’s of the American Legion. 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.



**2022 - 2023**  
**American Legion – Dept. of Vermont**  
**Education and Scholarship Winners**

\$1,500.00 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner – Michael Fernandez, Thetford Ctr., VT (Thetford Academy)

*Received the Department of Vermont Educational Award*

\$1,000.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner – Chloe Chase, W. Brattleboro, VT (Brattleboro UHS)

*Received the Thomas Scanlon Department Commander Educational Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Marina Wilson, Brattleboro, VT (Brattleboro UHS)

*Received the Crippen Fellows Post 50 PDC George Harrington Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Sarah Geiling, West Dover, VT (Brattleboro UHS)

*Received the Department of Vermont Award*

\$500.00 Winner –Gemma Stowell, East Burke, VT (Lyndon Institute)

*Received the Department of Vermont Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Maeve Miller, Strafford, VT (The Sharon Academy)

*Received the District #4 Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Melanie St. John, Guilford, VT (Brattleboro UHS)

*Received the Bennington Post 13 PDC Ralph Brown Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Amelia D’Aiello, Canaan, VT (Canaan Memorial HS)

*Received the Department of Vermont Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Rory Salzano, Hartland, VT (Hartford HS)

*Received the Windsor Post 25 PDC Roy Sweet Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Taylor LaRose, So. Burlington, VT (So. Burlington HS)

*Received the Colchester Post 91 PDC Barbara Bushaw Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Jasmine Little, Vergennes, VT (Vergennes UHS)

*Received the Crippen Fellows Post #50 PDC Royal Sheeley Award*

\$500.00 Winner – Raymond Plummer, Grafton, VT (Bellows Falls UHS)

*Received the Ludlow Post 36 PDC’s C. Lawrence, H. Vail, D. Garland and C. Ferris Award*

# ***Department Commander***



## ***Tom Scanlon Testimonial***

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. Music**

### **Middlebury Post 27**

49 Wilson Rd, Middlebury, VT

**\$25.00 per person**

Pork roast, mashed potato, veggie, rolls, dessert

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**Time to have some fun and celebrate Tom's year as  
Department Commander.**

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**RSVP to Cathy Tester at [ctester2663@gmail.com](mailto:ctester2663@gmail.com) by May 29.**

**Make checks payable to Middlebury Post 27 and send to  
Cathy Tester, 656 Route 73, Orwell VT 05760**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_**

# WHAT IS THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST?

We're inspired by the community of veterans still serving in America.

For over 55 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of the American Legion.


We craft benefit programs that help veterans protect what they value most.

## The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)...

Provides products and services to protect Legion members and their families since 1966



Paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion



Provides financial support of nearly \$95 million to support state department activities and VA&R efforts



Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts



**Visit [TheLIT.com](https://TheLIT.com)**  
to see the programs and services available to you.



LEGIONNAIRE  
INSURANCE TRUST



# Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

*Now We Can Help*

## The LIT Plans can help with

- **Hospital HELP Plan**
- **Cancer Care**
- **Accidental Death Protection**
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident**
- **Emergency Assistance Plus**
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Dental Insurance**
- **Long-Term Care**
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service**



ENDORSED BY YOUR  
AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT



- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.\*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.\*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).\* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.\*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

**To Learn More and Enroll, Visit**  
**[www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com)**

**For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943**

\*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit [www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com) to review plan details.

## Oratorical Program Karlene DeVine



Some things I learned at the 2023 American Legion National Oratorical Finals in Indianapolis: National Champion, Haley Bock opened with the story of a U.S. citizen living in Guam, who served 18 months with the U.S. Army in Iraq, 12 months in Afghanistan and later 10 months in Afghanistan with the National Guard. His last Afghanistan tour was months after the Presidential election in which he was unable to vote. Residents of four of the U.S. unincorporated territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) are U.S. citizens and pay federal taxes such as Social Security and Medicare. There are approximately 4 million U.S. citizens in these territories. Despite contributing billions in taxes to the federal government, *they experience "taxation without representation", that is they have no voting rights for Federal elections.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> place runner-up, Emma Johnson, found her inspiration in the musical "Hamilton". Scenarios in the musical prompted her to seek more information about the U.S. Constitution and our government. She cited a survey that sought to find out how much our citizens know of the U.S. Constitution. It found in 2021, 53% of those surveyed could not recall the 3 branches of government. Additionally, 1 in 4 of those surveyed couldn't recall any of the basic rights protected in the First Amendment. This led her to consider the common core state standards in education. Is teacher's discretion in what they teach impeding students' understanding of the "seminal documents" and their implications to citizenship?

The 49 participating contestants represented states, Washington, DC, and France this year. Based on my experience listening to these contestants, we have young folks across the country that are educated about rights and responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution.

At the banquet following the final competition, SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton, noted that the contestants all projected passion and purpose, qualities that were necessary to move the country forward.

Our contestant, Jeswin Antony, received a rousing applause from his peers when he was called forward to receive his Certificate of Participation. Clearly, he made several new friends and found some friends from last year. Thank you, Waterbury Post 59 for sponsoring and supporting Jeswin.

We are on to a new speech contest year.

**Attention:** Post Commanders and District Commanders

Beginning the next Oratorical year, Local contests will be held Oct.-Dec

District contests will be held Nov.- Jan.

The Department contest will be in February, 2024.

## **Process for participation in the Oratorical Contest**

1. Applications for student participation are available on the Department website.
2. The application must be provided to Headquarters ***no later than October 14, 2023.***
3. As I receive applications, I will call a post that the contestant has affiliation with or a post near the school or home of the contestant. The purpose of my call will be to establish a post to sponsor the students.
4. I am available to assist anyone/post in running their contest between October and December.
5. Collaborating with District Commanders, contest sites and personnel will be set to occur sometime November to January. Again, I am available to assist in running a contest.



***Immediately after the Annual Convention (June 2023), follow up with me with a date for your contests. When a student applies, I will have a target date for them to prepare for. Do this whether you have a student or not. It is easier to cancel than to find space at the last minute.***

**[kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net)**

Karlene DeVine

Department Oratorical Program

## **DEC Meeting April 16, 2023**

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met at Post 3, Montpelier, VT. The meeting was presided over by Dept Commander Tom Scanlon with the opening ceremony at 1200 hours.

Dept Adjutant Markwell conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

An item was added to the agenda. The SAL budget was presented by Commander Jeremy Revell. No changes were made to the budget. Motion made and passed to accept the SAL budget.

American Legion Riders Secretary Corrinna Colson presented the list of officers. Motion made and passed to accept the list of American Legion Riders officers.

Motion made and passed to accept the January 21, 2023, DEC meeting minutes.

Motion made and passed to go into executive session at 1212 hours.

Motion made and passed to return to regular session at 1223 hours.

Motion made and passed to send issue discussed in executive session to Internal Affairs for review with a 30-day time limit.

The budget presentation was given by Dept Finance Officer Dennis Minoli. He explained that the District funds have been eliminated, and the Investment Income has been added to the budget. He explained that the Foundation currently has approximately \$62,000 with no changes being made. A discussion of how to make donations to the foundation was had with the Finance Officer. He reported that the Jay Peak loan had been reformatted as a loan in QuickBooks and not an expense.

Dave Cobb gave an update about Milton Post 57. He explained that a former Post officer had signed a quit claim to the property as well as Milton clearing the way for the property to become listed as belonging to the Department of Vermont. He explained that a survey had been completed showing the

actual property being .3 acre and not the .5 acre that had previously been thought. Dave explained that the property has been appraised at \$199,900 and that he was meeting with a realtor and potential buyers on April 17, 2023.

A Jay Peak Post 28 update was given by Dept Adj Brian Markwell and Dept Finance Officer Dennis Minoli. The Post is open and makes money from their bar operations and Bingo games. They have met the first two payments on their monthly pay back plan. Karlene Devine mentioned the name of a JROTC instructor who is a member at Newport Post who might be interested in helping.

An update about Moore Fox Post 41 was given discussing that it's a church project and that the sellers want the building to remain a church. The organization is working on getting the church onto the historical registry. A separate entity is set up to purchase the church, not the Legion.

Dick Farmer mentioned that the Vermont Veterans fund on the tax return should be looked into about asking for a grant from.

PDC Tester gave an update about Post 26. She reported that once or twice a month they have a food table at the Sharon rest stop on the interstate and they make \$1200 - \$1500 a month. They have 78 members with about half being from out of state.

The resolutions committee will be looking at about 3 resolutions.

New business: PDC Tester moved to accept the resignation of Lew Furry as Northern Area Commander. Motion passed.

PDC Tester moved to accept Joe Zickmund as the Northern Area Commander. Motion passed.

Department Commander Scanlon wants to have the Dept Newsletter go out quarterly. Bill Brothers moved to have newsletter go out in July, October, January and May. Motion passed then discussion brought up the fact that the summer convention and mid-winter conference have to be warned the month prior.

Senior Vice Commander Mark Cloutier brought up that the National lead candidate, Dan Seehafer, will be visiting 23-25 May 2023.

Good of the legion: Dick Farmer discussed and shared Veteran/Military related legislation in Montpelier. He suggested that a letter of endorsement be drawn up and submitted in support of H255.

Motion made and passed to write a letter of endorsement to H.255 to be sent to chair and members of the respective committees.

PDC Tester moved to include S118 in the letter of endorsement. Passed.

PDC Ferris mentioned that we should write a resolution to endorse those bills.

PDC Latour mentioned that members in the Northeast Kingdom were working on getting a shower for a Veteran.

Mount Mansfield Post sold facility but still meeting.

Lamoille County is trying to get 3 small posts to merge.

Oratorical Chair Devine mentioned that she will be sending out requests for donations from past winners. She also said that they will be moving the oratorical competition dates to November to


January for local competition, December to January for District and February for Department competition.

Department Commander Scanlon conducted closing ceremonies and the meeting was adjourned at 1326 hours.

Sincerely submitted,

Brian Markwell  
Dept Adjutant

## Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel Appeal



**Attention American Legion Family!**

Please join the members of the *Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel* in our attempts to purchase his church in Gilman, VT where he ministered before his tragic death on the USAT Dorchester during WWII on February 3, 1943. This church will be the site of the Four Chaplains Ceremony in future years and serve as a community center to help revitalize the town of Gilman for its residents and the members of the *Moore - Fox American Legion Post #1*.

Please consider donating to save this church & preserve the legacy of Reverend George L. Fox, the most decorated of the four chaplains & his wife Rev. Isadore H. Fox, who went on to raise their two children Wyatt & Mary & became the Dept. of Vermont Auxiliary President in 1961 & Past National Chaplain in 1971. If every American Legion Post family donated, the highly discounted purchase price for this property would be covered and we could then move forward with the renovations to bring this church up to code and make it ADA compliant!

Volunteer contractors are ready to utilize grant funds to make this iconic church vibrant once more & ready for the new American Legion Chaplain to conduct services. Please consider sending your tax-deductible donation to support this 501c3 church payable to:

*Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel, 170 Hutchins Farm Rd  
East Hardwick, VT 05836.  
ATTN: RGLFMC, Treasurer*

