



*American Legion*  
*Department of Vermont*  
*Monthly Bulletin*

May 2021

*"For God and Country"*



**DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER**

*Ronald LaRose*

vince veterans that have served since 9/11 to join our organization. This is a problem in Vermont and nationwide. If we can solve this, our numbers will increase.

I am hoping some Posts can hold a Memorial Day Ceremony as we take the time to recognize those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The Annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Randolph Center Veterans Cemetery on Sunday, May 30 at 3:00 pm.

The Department of Vermont American Legion Annual Convention is a go!! Our Convention will be centered on Rutland's Post 31 by using not only Post 31's facility, but also the Moose Club and the Elks Club, which are both within walking distance of Post 31. Post 31 is hosting our banquet at a very reasonable price. This will be our first convention in two years and our first get together since Mid Winter 2020. This should be an exciting time for our entire Legion Family.

As you know, we hold the Annual Elections at the Convention. It is critical that every Post make a sincere effort to attend to

insure we have a quorum for a legal election. I ask all Posts to be represented at your Annual Convention.

Remember, Friday of the Convention Weekend is as busy as Saturday is. Besides a DEC meeting, we will be working on the final details for the Convention itself. If you are a DEC member or a Committee Chairperson with responsibilities on Friday, I look forward to seeing you on Friday. Let's make this Convention special!

Remember, COVID is not over just because you are vaccinated. Continue to follow the protocols where necessary. Keep checking on your older relatives, older members of your Legion family and other senior citizens of your community. Stay safe and healthy!

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

Ron LaRose  
Department Commander

This is my final message to you as your Department Commander. It has been my pleasure to serve you and the Department for the past two years, and I appreciate the confidence and support you have shown in me to lead the Department of Vermont.

Membership is what keeps the Department moving forward and keeps us afloat financially. Our annual goal set by National keeps declining, but our percent of membership is the highest it has been in a number of years. This is a direct reflection on Linda Perham's efforts. The Department won the Big 12 for the first time in many years, and this award put \$2,000 in the Department's general fund.

Declining membership totals is a national trend. No one has the answers on how to reverse this trend. The problem facing the American Legion is how we con-

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## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

*Catherine M. Tester*

Although at times I felt that time stood still especially when our posts were closed and we could not visit friends and family, it is May and everything looks very good for our summer programs (Legion Baseball and Boy's State) and also June Convention.

Let us all come together to celebrate the new phase we are moving into and celebrate the successes of the past two years since our last convention.

Department has shared the delegate forms with the posts. It is important that each post fill out the delegate form and return to department by the deadline. 34 is the magic number. This means we need to have 34 delegate forms to department by the deadline. Even if you are not sure you are going to be able to attend, submit your post form so it is on file with department.

Vermont is currently 4th in the state for membership at a little shy of 95 percent. I would personally like to thank each member, membership chairman, adjutant, post commander and anyone else who helped Vermont reach this milestone. And if you have not heard, Vermont won the "Big 12" and received \$2,000 for the state. HATS OFF TO EVERYONE!

As your posts plans events for Memorial Day, The American Legion Memorial Day speech for 2021 is available—to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by men and women in the armed forces. The speech is available for download [here](#).

I look forward to seeing many at convention on June 26. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester  
Sr. Vice Commander





## NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

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### *Tom Scanlon*

I hope this message finds all our members and their families healthy and safe. During this perilous time this is of the greatest concern to all. We, The American Legion, can't be there to help veterans, children, and communities, if first we do not take care of, and protect ourselves. This being true, even though venues are now opening up, with many being fully or partially vaccinated. We still must take care.

May has been historically National Military Appreciation Month. May 8<sup>th</sup> is VE Day denoting Victory in Europe as well as being Military Spouse Appreciation Day. May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the 71<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Day. This is a day to pay special tribute to the men and women in our Armed Forces as well as being the day of the "American Legion Blue Star Salute". And finally, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Day, that last Monday in May where we pay tribute to the men and women who have died in our nation's service.

During this month, and in the following months members of our Vermont Army and Air National Guard will be deployed. We, the Vermont American Legion, will be there to show our support through Operation Reconnect. One of the things we will be doing is awarding the Blue Star Banner as referenced above.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by Army Captain Robert Queisser of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry. His two sons served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a son or daughter in active military service.

Blue Star Service Banners were widely used during both world wars, and the American Legion revived the tradition after 9/11 by providing banners to military families across the nation.

The Blue Star Banner and flag are referenced in the American Legion Officer's Guide. There is also an event planning and promotion guide for a "Blue Star Salute, an Armed Forces Day Celebration" available on [legion.org](http://legion.org). Both of the above are well worth the read. The latter provides all a post would need, to include certificate samples, media materials, print ads, etc. A great project for any post to salute those deployed. .

Please stay safe and healthy. I hope and pray we will all meet at our annual convention in Rutland next month.

*For God, Country & Community*

Tom Scanlon

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Active duty military members and veterans experience a high rate of PTSD with as many as 34% suffering from this debilitating condition as well as other mental health issues, including addiction, anxiety, and depression. Given the troubling statistic that veterans are two times more likely than civilians to commit suicide, it's clear that not enough is being done to support our veterans and to ensure they receive the care that they deserve.

Here at [OnlineTherapy.com](http://OnlineTherapy.com), we want to do our part to support the brave men and women who have risked their lives to serve our country. We recently published a new resource that dives into veteran mental health care and shares the most effective, affordable, and convenient online therapy services for veterans.

You can view our resource at: <https://www.onlinetherapy.com/therapy-for-veterans/>  
<https://www.rosemountvfw.org/>

Aubrey Nelson

Virtual Care Advocate





## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

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*PNUC/PDC Linda Perham*

The Convention is just around the corner and we are working hard to make this an event you will enjoy. The May bulletin, has traditionally been, dedicated to the convention. We will not have a bulletin for June.

Hotel information is provided, you have many options in Rutland.

The Legion Family of Rutland Post #31 will be hosting our dinner. This will not be a official banquet. It is a casual fun get together for all of us to enjoy each other. The flyer is included in this bulletin. Please make your reservations prior to June 10th. The staff provides delicious meals and are excited about the convention delegates returning to Post #31. We are having entertainment after dinner hour and there is time for socialization and even some dance moves!! We hope you enjoy. Tickets must be preordered. \$25.00, no tip or tax. Not a bad deal!!

Uber and Lyft are services that provide cab service for anyone that wants to drink and NOT drive!!. Cheap and safe.

Convention for The Legionnaires will be held at the Elks club on 44 Pleasant Street, off Washington Street which is a short walk from Post #31. The Agenda for meetings are also included in this bulletin.

We have a full itinerary planned beginning on Friday morning 10AM DEC, District Caucuses, Awards Presentations....then we have an afternoon baseball game planned at St Peters Field, starting at 4 pm. It is the 75th anniversary of Post #31 baseball and we are excited about the game with Lakes Regions.

After the game, meet us for social hour and dinner 6:30pm.

Saturday: we have a lot of work to cover. Remember to preregistration your delegates before June 1st!!. Not registrations will be accepted at the door. Due to COVID, we did not want people to stand at tables waiting to register. There is NO registration fee for this convention. Also, if you could identify on the delegate sheets, who is a WWII or Korean War veteran, we would appreciate that. We would like to make a special presentation to them.

If anyone has any donations that they would like to present at the convention, please notify us at HQ and we will make certain to include you on the agenda.

We will only be bringing membership cards for the posts that have submitted delegate sheets. If you do not plan on coming to Rutland convention, you can pick them up at Department Headquarters after Tuesday, the following week. We will not be shipping cards to posts. So, please, make every effort to send at least one delegate to represent your post at the state convention. We have a lot of information to provide, that may be helpful to you. Also, its a great way to meet other Legionnaires and find out how we all meet the many challenges of being a Legion Post in rural Vermont.

The Sons of The American Legion will be holding meetings at Post #31, upstairs in the hall. The Auxiliary will be meeting at the Moose Club, next to Post #31.

I have appreciated working with all of you this year. I wish you all the very best for the future. Please, keep up the great work for our veterans, their families and the communities that surround you.

Linda Perham  
Department Adjutant



## CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

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*David Perron*

May is here and April sure went out with a bang. Convention will be in Rutland, and all are on their own for Hotels, Department well be sending out some info.

Our Post homes are open again and we are almost back to being as normal as we can be, let us get out in are Communities and show them what where all about.

Election time for Post officers. Let's get are elections done so installations can take place after Convention.

Asking again to please check your membership for vaccination and help them with it please call if some need a ride.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help in these troubled times.

WE CAN DO THIS.

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

Thank you.

David W Perron

Caledonia Country Commander



## BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER

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*Joe Bump*

Hello Comrades,

Spring is trying hard to push its way in here. I, for one, am glad for the rain and the warmth. Hope you have all survived the winter and that May finds you in good health and happiness.

May can be a very busy month. By now the elections are in the books and you should be getting your installations scheduled and complete. It is the job of the District Commander to install your officers, but if Christine is not available, give me a call. I will be happy to do the installation. Remember that all paperwork and installations need to be complete before convention.

By now everyone should have their packets and please note the procedures for attendance at the convention. We had a great training session in Rutland and I had the opportunity to meet NVC Macdonald. Seemed different to actually be there in person and not on zoom. Hope this is a sign of things to come.

I have been honored to serve as your County Commander and hope that you will continue to support

*(Continued on page 6)*

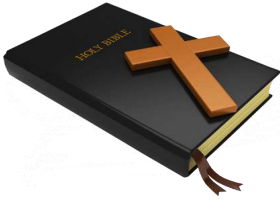


me. With your blessing, I hope to spend another year in the same position. I look forward to getting out to the posts and visit with you all.

Thank you again for all your support

*Joseph J. Bump*

Joe Bump  
Commander  
Bennington County



## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

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*Ken Coonradt*

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As Chaplain for the American Legion, Department of Vermont, I had the opportunity and pleasure of attending the Department Leadership Training on 10 April 2021 at Post 31 in Rutland. The training was informative, educational, and appropriate.

One of the presentations dealt with the duties and responsibilities of Department Officers. It was noted that the bullet on Chaplain read, "Chaplain – Moral and Intellectual Leadership." While this statement is not wrong; it is a far cry from the real duties and responsibilities of the Chaplain. To provide just a touch of the actual work of a Chaplain, the Chaplain's How-To Manual reads, "Chaplains seek to minister to the spiritual needs of people wherever there is a need."

For many Legionnaires, Chaplains are the only ministers or priests they will ever know, as they have no affiliation with either church, synagogue, or other religious institution. The role of the Chaplain is ever-increasing due to the aging of our membership.

Each Chaplain should be alert to the physical and Spiritual needs of his/her comrades. The Chaplain should be notified when there is a death, illness, or special concern in the membership. At that point, the Chaplain should provide all ministry and service available!! The "How-To Manual" denotes 6 pages to the history, purpose, qualifications, work, tools, and calendar of events that apply to Chaplain duties.

It is my hope that in the event of future training events, my superiors will allow me to present a more comprehensive description of the Post/Department Chaplain responsibilities. Regrets that I did not offer to do so at this recent session.

Let us be thankful that progress is being made toward elimination of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Praise the Lord!"

Please pray for our veterans and those servicing around the globe.

Chaplain Ken

P.S. Remember God loves us and there is nothing we can do to change that, so accept Him into your heart!



## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DINNER

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH BEGINNING AT 6PM**

**RUTLAND POST #31**

**\$25 PER TICKET (NO TIP, NO TAX) (YOUR TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR)**

**PRE ORDER ONLY!**

**CUT OFF DATE JUNE 15TH**

### **MENU:**

**CAESAR SALAD WITH ENTREE OPTIONS OF:**

**ROAST PORK WITH GRAVY OR BBQ CHICKEN BREAST OR PASTA PRIMAVERA**

**FINGERLING POTATOES & VEGGIES ROLLS AND BUTTER**

**DESSERT: LEMON BERRY CAKE OR COCONUT CREME PIE**

**COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE**

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**Please return to: UNIT #31 AUXILIARY C/O: CATHY MILES, PO BOX 1, WEST RUTLAND, VT 05777**

**Roast Pork - # \_\_\_\_\_ BBQ Chicken Breast - # \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pasta Primavera - # \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**NAME : \_\_\_\_\_**

**POST/AUX/S.A.L. # \_\_\_\_\_**

**TEL # : \_\_\_\_\_**

**ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED AFTER THE DINNER!**

## Notes:

American Legion Department of  
Vermont  
PO Box 396  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
802-223-7131



Vermont American Legion  
Department Convention

June 25 & 26, 2021  
Rutland, VT

*For God and Country*





#### Preamble

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:  
to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;  
to maintain law and order;  
to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per-cent Americanism;  
to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;  
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;  
to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

#### Friday Agenda:

**10:00 am: DEC Meeting**

**11:00 am: District Caucus**

**12:00 pm: Awards/ Trophy Presentations (Membership, Children and Youth and Americanism)**

**1:00 pm SGT at Arms Meeting**

**4:00pm Legion Baseball Game Rutland vs. Lake Regions @ St. Peters Field**

**6:00 pm: Dinner at Post #31**

**8:00 pm: Entertainment**

#### Saturday Agenda

**0900 : Opening Ceremonies**

**Rules of the Convention: R. Otey**

**Call to Order: L. Perham**

**Credentials Report: D. Minoli**

**Americanism Recognitions: C. Moore**

**Constitution/Bylaws: R. Otey**

**Resolutions: R. Farmer**

**Special Presentation: M. Cloutier/C. Wood**

**Finance Budget: D. Minoli**

**Special Presentation: L. Perham/D. Tetreault**

**Awards and Trophies**

**Caucus Results: L. Perham**

**Delegates to National Convention Report**

**Elections:**

1. Department Commander
2. Senior Vice Commander
3. Northern Area Vice Commander
4. Southern Area Vice Commander
5. National Executive Commander
6. Alternate National Executive Cmdr.

**Benediction**

**Retirement of Colors**

**Post DEC meeting 15 minutes after close of Convention. (Newly elected officers and PDC's)**

The Department of Vermont would like to extend our appreciation to :

Rutland Post #31 Legion Family for all their assistance.

The Loyal Order of Moose for hosting our American Legion Auxiliary and

The BPOE of Rutland for hosting our Convention.

Everyone has faced the COVID challenges throughout the year and we are extremely fortunate we can all work together to make this Convention possible.



*Vermont Doughboys 1919*

# Vermont

## Department Convention

## Hotels



Hampton Inn 802-773-9066

Comfort Inn 802-775-2200

Holiday Inn 802-775-1911

Call soon and save your space!!



## ORATORICAL PROGRAM



## 2020-2021 Oratorical Program

The graphic tells much. It was a teeter-totter year with the restrictions of COVID. True to our respective military service origins, a way was found to make it to a final contest and select Avery Carter as our Department winner on Sat. Mar. 6, 2021 at Christ the King School, Rutland, VT.

In 2018, Avery began competing in the Oratorical Program as a freshman at Long Trail School. She lives with her parents and sister in Dorset, VT. As Avery's passion for the U.S. Constitution grew, she created

a podcast, *U.S. Constitution: 101*, 3 to 5 minute history lessons of aspects of the US Constitution. <https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3IuZm0vcy8xZmEy-NjMxYy9wb2RjYXN0L3Jzcw==>



2021 Vermont Department Winner  
Avery Carter with mother, Jamie  
and father, Phillip.

2021 judges' observations from Avery's recent win included comments about her Prepared Oration, "Marbury Vs. Madison and the concept of Judicial Review" explained the U.S. Supreme Court case in 1803 that established the Court's power of judicial review over acts of Congress. She impressed one judge with her "ability to bring the technical to life" by comparing biology concepts with the living document of the U.S. Constitution.

Another judge noted that in her Assigned Topic speech, Avery gave a "solid progression of how the Framers' tradition became the 22nd Amendment", which limits the US President to no more than two terms in office. The five judges noted that Avery's way of presenting her arguments was engaging and interesting.

Avery has been enthusiastically sponsored by Castleton Post 50 every year that she has competed. Her Department award for 2021 First Place was \$1200. Due to the pandemic, the National Finals in Indianapolis were cancelled for 2020 and 2021. National American Legion recognized the hard work done by winning competitors and in 2020 awarded \$2000.00 and for 2021, National awarded each Department finalist \$5000.00.



Dept. Commander, Ron LaRose; Oratorical Program Chair, Karlene DeVine; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner, Jeswin Antony; father, Antony Gnanapiragasam; mother, Aero Antony

We had two returning competitors as well. Second Place winner was Jeswin Antony, sponsored by Henry N. Cutting (Waterbury) Post 59. Jeswin is a sophomore at Harwood Union H.S. Michael Christesen, a sophomore at Sharon Academy and a resident of Lebanon, NH was sponsored by Lyman F. Pell (Norwich) Post 8. The most successful competitors are those that begin competing in the Oratorical Program early in their high school years. I look forward to seeing these 2 young men return next year.

For this past year, some contests were held virtually, some in person. There are not words adequate to recognize all the work some individuals put into this contest year. A shout out to the sponsoring posts for being flexible and making it all happen for the benefit of the students and our country.

Writing this causes me to think about those that have supported the Oratorical Program and my efforts in the years that I have been involved but are no longer with us. Jim Brouillette, Leonard Normandeau, Les Howe, Pat Moore, Dan Hillard, Ray St. John, Dell Hill and Ron Aldrich come to mind. They were all fine Legionnaires. They believed in the incalculable value of the Oratorical Program. Lets go forward with their spirits in mind.

If you would like to be involved with the Oratorical Program, please contact me. (802) 877-6392 National puts on a one day, very educational Oratorical College in September. This is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with an American Legion program that grows leaders, enhances understanding of the U.S. Constitution in high school students and makes you feel good about the American Legion.

Or, you can test the waters by volunteering for the next contest year. It could be as brief as recruiting students in your area, organizing a contest at your post (January), supporting the District level contest (February) or participating in the Department contest (March).

Be brave, try something new.

Respectfully,  
Karlene DeVine  
Department of Vermont  
Oratorical Program, Chair



Paul Christesen, father; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner, Michael Christesen





## BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN

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*Dave Cobb*

May, 2021

Dear Comrades in Arms:

Greetings from your Boys' State staff!

As we know, Boys' State for 2020 was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past 16 months, we have become increasingly familiar with Zoom meetings, e-mails, and virtual contacts with family and friends. It has been much the same with your Boys' Staters.

Contacts with our Posts statewide have been made entirely through e-mails and phone calls. It has been the same with Vermont schools and high school counselors. We rely on our local Posts and these schools to promote our program. It has been a heck of a way to go, given that one of the greatest benefits of Boys' State is the personal contact among our delegates and staff, and the lifelong friendships made.

April and May are primetime for Boys' State. We determined to host a fully in-person program in 2021.

Our school contacts told us that their students have had their fill of remote learning.

The dates for Boys' State 2021 are Sunday, June 20 – Friday, June 25. Our host site is Northern Vermont University – Lyndon. At this time, our staff members are busy adapting our traditional programming to ensure the safety of our delegates and staff. This requires that we meet the multitude of rules, regulations, and requirements of the Federal and State governments and associated agencies.

No doubt that 2021 will be vastly different from our norm. Boys' State will be smaller because of social distancing, facility capacity considerations, and the availability of public access to areas like our Vermont State House. State regulations will not allow for our traditional Veterans' Recognition and Band Concert on Wednesday night. We will not be headed to Montpelier to convene our legislature as the facility is not open to the public. That said, we are prepared to do whatever it takes to provide a meaningful and safe experience.

I truly hope that, by the time you are reading this communication, we will be talking about the successes of Boys' State 2021 and share the stories of the perseverance of our delegates, staff members, and community volunteers. Thank you, Legionnaires, for all you do on behalf of your Green Mountain Boys' State program.

For God and Country,

Dave Cobb,

Director

Green Mountain Boys' State



## **Department of Vermont Historian**

Victor Stone, Department Historian

### **National President of the American Legion Auxiliary Visits Vermont**

Nicole Clapp, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), was the guest of the Vermont Department of the ALA for five days beginning on May 7, 2021. Ms. Clapp, a 46 year member of ALA-she joined when she was four years old-and a health care professional enjoyed a spectacular, whirlwind tour of the State orchestrated by Corrinna Colson, ALA Department of Vermont President.

Chauffeured and escorted by John Tester, a member of Ballard Hobart Unit 36, they visited units in Barton, Newport, Hardwick, Colchester, Montpelier, Rutland, Brandon, and Castleton. As well, they visited the Vermont Adaptive Facility, Vermont Historical Society Museum, Vermont Veterans Cemetery, Trapp Family Lodge, Vermont National Guard Library and Museum, St. Ann's Shrine, and the Veteran's Place among other interesting locations. Clearly, the National President was able to see and experience the many facets of our State that make this a unique and beautiful place to live.

A highlight of her visit was a banquet held in her honor at Crippen-Fellows Post #50 wherein Vermont Department Commander, Ron LaRose was present to welcome Ms. Clapp and share his thoughts about the importance of the ALA as a crucial member of the American Legion Family and its significant value to the State of Vermont. As an interesting side note, there are now about 1000 men who are members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The total membership of ALA is about 850,000.



Vermont Department Commander Ron LaRose and ALA National President Nicole Clapp



### **ALA Leadership**

From Left to Right: Corrinna Colson, ALA Dept. of Vermont President, Nicole Clapp, ALA National President, Joanie Dudley-President of Montpelier Unit 3, Francisca Cech-District 3 President



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

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

OFFICE OF:	LEGIONNAIRE	SPONSORING POST
DEPT. COMMANDER	CATHERINE TESTER	#50
SR. VICE COMMANDER	TOM SCANLON	#27
NO. AREA COMMANDER	MARK CLOUTIER	#07
SO. AREA COMMANDER	WILLIAM FURMAN	#49
1 <sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
3 <sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	JOE ZICKMUND	#10
4 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	CHRISTINA MOORE	#87
5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER	JOE BUMP	
CHITTENDEN COUNTY COMMANDER		
CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER	DAVE PERRON	#30
ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER		
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER		
LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER		
ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER		
RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER	DANIEL MANIERY	#31
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER		
DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER	DENNIS MINOLI	#10
NECman	RON LAROSE	#19
	DAVE WOODWARD	#13
ALT. NECman		

# POST EVERLASTING



LAPETE, WILFRED P	14
McCLULLOCK, AGNES M	41
COLLETTE, ERNEST	49
MACKEY, JOSEPH	49
REAL, LLOYD	78
FRIZZELL, MARSHALL C	80
GRAY, BRADFORD A	91



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

*“Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Devine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship. The American Legion does mourn the passing of these comrades. “*

## Public Relations Committee Report-Year End

Catherine M. Tester, Public Relations Chairman

How many are aware there is a Public Relations Media Guide for the American Legion? There is...

*"If you build it, they will come,"* was the theme of the popular 1989 film *"Field of Dreams."* But while the characters in the baseball fantasy received some supernatural assists, a sound public relations strategy requires far more than simply having a good product. The American Legion is a great product but if people don't know about it, they won't simply come and join. Public Relations is an IMAGE. And every member and post of The American Legion plays a role in communicating our image. That is why it is so important for us to promote our activities. Even though we have been closed for a large part of the past year, posts have conducted food deliveries, held take-out dinner fundraisers, made much needed donations, supported local youth programs, as well as supported our American Legion programs. This guide is designed to give you all of the essential tools that you need (except money) to implement a PR program. You can find sample press releases, social media protocols and much more in this guide. Download it at [legion.org](http://legion.org).

Our bulletin is shared via MailChimp to our legion membership for whom we have email for. approx. 5,200. Out of these 5,200 members, 19 percent or approx. 1,000 are highly engaged and 24 percent are moderately engaged. Which means they are opening our monthly email and clicking on the bulletin. These stats for mass marketing are on average with the industry. Over the last year the bulletin has been read by legion members in the UK, Canada, Romania, Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, United Arab Emirates, France as well as in the United States.

If you have an article for the bulletin send it along to me via email and follow us on facebook.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine M. Tester

Public Relations Chairman

Sr. Vice Commander

## April Training Day

Sr. Vice Commander Cathy Tester in her April Bulletin piece made reference to the training sessions that occurred on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Rutland Post #31. Actually, there was quite a buzz of activity at the Post as Legionnaires from around the State assembled to greet friends and spend some quality learning time.

On one floor of the building the Sr. Vice Commander and the Northern Area Commander, Tom Scanlon, presented a program aimed at the Dept., District, and County officers. As Cathy previously noted, they were well supported by National Vice Commander, Frank MacDonald, and Dept. Finance Officer, Dennis Minoli. Dept. Commander Ron LaRose also took time to address the attendees with remarks about Leadership and the vital impact of Leaders on organiza-



tions. The presentations covered a broad range of issues with many nuggets of useful information for all who attended, no matter their experience or length of service in the American Legion.

The National Vice Commander reminded participants that all American Legion programs begin at the Post level and then work their way up in the organization, perhaps to the level of a National Program. Hence, one's creativity and dedication to an initiative can spread virally through the organization. One other message to remember is that an American Legion Post is a community asset and that the Post members can make that asset what they want it to be. Both of these notions, program development and community asset, aptly demonstrate just how much control Posts have regarding the American Legion experience for their membes.



Concurrent with the Leadership session, on another floor of the building, Dept. Adjutant and Past Department Commander Linda Perham, was addressing a room full of Post Adjutants. The scope of materials presented to the attendees was broad-based and essential to the effectiveness of an Adjutant: roles and responsibilities, key sources of information, tools, insurance, forms, and a plethora of other useful, supportive resources. Dept. Commander LaRose and National Vice Commander MacDonald shared a few words with those present; reflecting on the key role of the Adjutant to the overall well-being and success of Posts and Departments.

Both sessions were well planned and proved to be valuable for the 50 or so Legionnaires who traveled to the event or participated via Zoom videoconference. Time well spent and enjoyed by all!



From Left to Right: Northern Area Commander Tom Scanlon, Sr. Vice Commander Catherine Tester, National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald, Dept. Commander Ron LaRose

## **LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE – Tom Scanlon, Chairperson**

As most of you are aware 2020 was not a year wherein many programs ran, let alone flourished. The Law Cadet Program fell victim to the world-wide Covid-19 Pandemic and was not operational. As you remember Vermont, due to dwindling numbers and lack of facilities, collaborated with the New Hampshire Police Cadet Training Academy for the mutual benefit of both organizations and programs. This is run on the campus of the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, where the state police academy is also situated.

In 2021 no requests for information or applications for the program were requested. While it is anticipated that the New Hampshire Program will operate in late June, no Vermont applicants will take part in the same. This is possibly due to a combination of factors. The first being the residual fear of Covid-19, while participating in a program in close quarters. Additionally the toxic reports and media as relates to law enforcement may well have had an adverse affect as relates to those wanting to participate. Hopefully, in 2022 the climate will be better, both as concerns health and the perspective with which law enforcement is viewed.

In 2020 we did have applications for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY). From the field of applicants Tony Facos, Chief of the Montpelier Police Department was selected. Due to Covid there was no Vermont American Legion convention where the award could be made. However, I was proud to travel to Montpelier and meet with the mayor, who nominated Tony, and present him with the award on the front steps of the Montpelier Police Department. Chief Facos, who has since retired is now working for the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.

The nomination packets for the 2020/2021 LEOY are in and being reviewed by the outstanding committee. I am sure a worthy candidate will be identified and will be honored at our annual convention in June.

I want to thank all those on the committee who make everything work and spend time to review and score the applicants for the annual law enforcement award. These are very hard choices in that those nominated are all worthy of recognition.

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## **RECONNECT PROGRAM – Tom Scanlon, Chairperson**

The American Legion's Reconnect Program takes us from our comfortable post homes to visit with our military personnel as they prepare to deploy to some distant location. The Department leadership has been represented at five deployment ceremonies in the most recent months. These have been both the Air and Army National Guard units. At these ceremonies Blue Star Banners were given to those deploying. This has been the case since August 2001, and as a result of Resolution 107 wherein the American Legion, post 9/11, vigorously supported the Blue Star Banner Program as part of the Operation Reconnect program.

The **Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance and Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW)** also play an integral role in the American Legion Operation Reconnect Program. Through the Family Support Network the American Legion provides a broad range of services to help families cope with the unique challenges of deployment. Temporary Financial Assistance provides for immediate, short-term financial needs, for families of deployed personnel who have minor children at home, upon application for cash grants. Local posts play an integral role in both these programs as well as taking the lead in **OCW** by sending care and comfort packages to those deployed. More information can be found at [www.legion.org/fsn](http://www.legion.org/fsn) and [www.legion.org/financialassistance](http://www.legion.org/financialassistance) . It would be worth ones while to be familiar with these programs in the event you may get that call for assistance

Anything you do, or any interaction, with active duty personnel, even at a NG or Army Reserve facili-

ty counts for Reconnect and as such is reportable to National Headquarters. If you or your post, to include the Sons, and Auxiliary, are doing anything in this area give me a call or an email and I will do the reporting though Department to National. I just need to know the who, what, when and where. This is important for the Department's involvement and to facilitate tracking. I can be reached at (802) 989-0486 or at [tscanlon@aol.com](mailto:tscanlon@aol.com) . Please put "Reconnect" in the subject box to call my immediate attention to the correspondence. Remember, Reconnect efforts are important and reportable.

It is anticipated that during the remainder of 2021 many more of Vermont's Air and Army National Guard units will be deployed. We will be there for them, and we invite you to join us.

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## Scholarships

**2020 – 2021**

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

\$1,500.00 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner – Alecia Thompson, Bridgewater VT (Hartford High School)

\$1,000.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner – Lily Barth, Concord VT (St. Johnsbury Academy)

\$500.00 Winner – Oliver Podushnick, Middlebury VT (Middlebury Union High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Ethan Prins, Weston VT (Burr and Burton Academy)

\$500.00 Winner – Mary Lovegrove, Orleans VT (Lake Region Union High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Nathan Forgan, Fairfax VT (So. Burlington High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Abigail Churchill, Rutland VT (Rutland High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Melody Falker, Pittsford VT (Otter Valley Union High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Reagan Kayhart, No. Ferrisburgh VT (Vergennes Union High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Alicia Caputo, Rutland VT (Rutland High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Cassidy Ryea, Richford VT (Richford Jr./Sr. High School)

\$500.00 Winner – Aidan White, Middlesex VT (Brooks School)



# **Department Commander Year end Report**

There is a light at the end of the tunnel on the pandemic. We will be holding our Annual Convention for the first time in two years. We are all looking forward to it. A chance to conduct business face to face but also to socialize a little for the first time since 2020 Mid Winter, 17 months ago.

This past year witnessed a few changes in the Department, both in personnel changes and some changes in the way we do business. In the end, these changes had a positive impact on the Department. This was reflective in our recruiting efforts (Dept won the Big 12 for the first time in a few years) and the Department was more responsive in supporting the Posts. We held our first Department training in a few years; an Adjutants Workshop and a leadership seminar with good attendance at both.

With the retirement of Milt Willis, the Department Service Officer, the Department found a capable replacement in Larry Thompson, who will be trained, certified and will shadow Milt prior to his retirement.

We combined two Posts that were geographically close to one another for the greater good for the members of both Posts. On the same note, we had to suspend two Legion charters for not being viable Legions by not holding meetings, lack of interaction with their communities, creating a debt load, etc. We are hoping these two Posts can be revitalized in the future and be a positive influence on their communities.

We held ZOOM meetings for both the DEC and some committees. They proved to be well accepted, well attended and a little shorter in duration. Much was accomplished in these ZOOM meetings with all participants staying in the confines of their home. Hopefully, these ZOOM meetings will be utilized often as we go forward .

Even though I was not able to travel to all Posts during my tour as your Commander, I do hope the Department was responsive to your needs as you chatted with the office staff and with me.

As your Commander for two years, I cannot be any more proud of the support and confidence you showed me. I thank you for that and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Ron LaRose  
Commander

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## **BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE REPORT – 2021**

The American Legion has supported Scouting since the first National Convention in 1919. Scouting was the first national youth activity officially recognized by the American Legion, and our support to Scouting could not be stronger than it is today.

The Department of Vermont Boy Scout Committee has two major functions: in coordination with Green Mountain Council, co-host the Eagle Scout Luncheon and select the Eagle Scout of the Year.

The Eagle Scout Luncheon, normally held in February, was not held in 2021 due to COVID, but Green Mountain Council hopes to hold an outdoor barbeque later in the year once COVID restrictions are lessen. The Department of Vermont did receive the list of the Class of 2020 Eagle Scouts and sent them certificates

for their achievement.

The Department of Vermont received four (4) applications for Eagle Scout of the Year. The Boy Scout Committee reviewed the applications and selected Koby LaRose, Troop 543 of Bristol, as the 2021 Eagle Scout of the Year. Koby is a high school senior at Mount Abraham Union High School and will be attending the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. He has been accepted into the 4+3 year program of Doctor of Dentistry.

The Eagle Scout of the Year Award of \$1,000 is due to the generosity of PDC Don Tetreault. The Department of Vermont thanks him for this generous gift.

There are many Legion Posts who are active in supporting their local Boy Scout Troop, Cub Scout Pack or Venture Crew by being the Charter Organization. Some Posts charter more than one Scout organization. These Posts are owed a great deal of gratitude in their support of these Scouting organizations, insuring these young men and women have a Scouting program in their community to guide them as they mature.

I want to thank my Boy Scout Committee members for being supportive of Scouting and insuring the American Legion is at the forefront in supporting our youth. This year's members are Frank Killay and Richard Harlow.

Respectively,

Ronald L. LaRose  
Committee Chairman

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## **EX-POW COMMITTEE REPORT – 2021**

The American Legion has an outstanding working relationship with the Vermont Chapter 1 Ex-Prisoners of War commanded by Mr. Richard Hamilton. Our primary mission is to host their annual banquet at one of our Posts.

For the past few years, Bristol American Legion Post 19 has hosted their annual banquet on the first Saturday of June. These EX-POWs are veterans of WWII and that puts their ages in their late-90s, and some are over 100. One of these gentlemen was a POW of North Korea when they seized the USS Pueblo. Not many drive anymore, but they bring a number of family members with them to enjoy the festivities. This group is very patriotic and proud of their military service.

Unfortunately, the EX-POW Annual Banquet was not held in 2020 and will not be held in 2021 due to COVID. Even with these heroes being fully vaccinated, they are at a vulnerable age for this disease.

A few years ago, it was determined the Chairman of the EX-POW Committee would be the hosting Post. Until Chapter 1 EX-POW decides to move to another geographical area in the state, Post 19 will continue to host these heroes.

These men are a very proud group of veterans and the Department of Vermont American Legion is very proud and honored to be able to host their annual banquet.

Post 19 is honored that Chapter 1 continues to use their facility for their Annual Banquet. I thank my committee members for their years of support in hosting this event. Some of these members are Denny Cota, Alan Smith, Steve Barsalou, Jeremy Revell (SAL Commander), and Post 19 Auxiliary members.

Respectfully,

Ronald L. LaRose  
Committee Chairman