



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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November 2022 Bulletin

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

- National Commander's visit overview
- Front Porch Forum
- Oratorical
- Mid Winter Hotel information
and much more

Department Commander



Tom Scanlon

With Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving around the corner, and with the days getting shorter and the temperature going down, we must keep our attention on membership, as well as our current members and veterans in general. We all know from experience that membership gets harder and harder during the holiday season and beyond. Please keep working membership. As relates to our current members and other veterans we must remember "Buddy Checks" particular with wintry weather coming in.

It has been busy since our annual convention, at least for me. Collaborating with National officers on matters of concern here in Vermont, The National Commander visiting as the "leading candidate", National Membership meetings in Indianapolis, Annual Commander, and Adjutant's Meetings in Indianapolis, visit by the National Commander and a banquet in his honor, and finally, our Annual Fall Conference. Least I forget, the Mid-Winter Conference is the next important event coming up and our new National Vice Commander will be here. He is Paul Kennedy from Pennsylvania. It has been quite busy and now hopefully I can get around to visit more posts.

Our Senior Vice Commander, Mark Cloutier, will be setting up membership and revitalization events and efforts throughout the Department to help us meet our membership goals. Please participate and support him in any way possible.

The Department of Vermont now has a charitable 501c3 foundation. It is the "Vermont Veterans and Children's Foundation." This should improve and enhance our fundraising capabilities and that of our programs. This could also be utilized by Post, Sons of the American Legion, and Auxiliary for fundraising. More complete information will be forthcoming from our Finance Officer.

I have a few important "Thank You" notifications. Primarily, to Melodie, for all your help and making sure the National Commanders accommodations and gifts were coordinated. A thank you goes out to our Department Adjutant for keeping the flow of required forms and documents moving in all necessary directions. Thank you PDC Cathy Tester for taking on and publishing our monthly newsletter. Thank you again PDC Tester who, along with Will Bickham prepared the delicious meal for the National Commander's Banquet. And of course, a big thank you to my friend, Commander Henry Lingo of Post 91 for allowing us to have the National Commander's Banquet at his post and for all the assistance and coordination he provided. I would be remiss if I did not include the thanks to Vergennes Post 14 for hosting the Fall Conference and providing lunch. And, lastly my thanks go out to all the Department Officers and members, as well as PDC's who attended, contributed, and participated in and at the Fall Conference.

Lastly, the National Judge Advocate will be coming to Vermont to conduct training on Constitution and By-Laws, as well as Department and Post operations. Notice will go out to all when date confirmed. This is important for all to include the Sons and Auxiliary.

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free." -- Dan Lipinski

Thank you for your service and

Thank you for being a member of the American Legion

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.



Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires.

The fall conference has come and gone. It was a good conference loaded with information. We had decent attendance.

My membership theme this year will be a couple of things that will be in line with National Commander Troiola's project, which, if you haven't heard by now is the BE THE ONE campaign. The other part has something to do with another project that the commander is working on which is a part of The Strong Act by asking congress to dedicate a week to National Buddy check week.

The BE THE ONE campaign is a program that will destigmatize asking for help with mental health issues and build peer-to-peer support and resources. This program is designed to help all veterans. Here are a few guidelines that are intended to help a fellow veteran before a crisis develops. You can be the one that could save the life of a fellow veteran just by talking to them and asking them how they are feeling. Let them know that family and friends are there for them and they can ask for help whenever they need it.

H.R 6411 – The **S**upport **T**he **R**esiliency of **O**ur **N**ation's **G**reat (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022. This is one of the most comprehensive veteran's mental health packages that address mental health care provided by the VA. Buddy Check Week is included in this bill.

How do these fit into my membership theme you ask? Look at it this way. For membership, we all know that we should be reaching out to our members by calling or visiting someone. With my membership theme, I plan on holding meetings for all 5 districts. These can be used as your district caucuses. During part of the meeting, you can take care of district business, and then we can hold a district revitalization event. For each meeting, we hope to have the Department Service Officer present, and I will have DMS lists to call from. These lists will have expired members as well as members that are in Post 100 that we should be able to transfer into a local post. At each meeting, there will be a contest. The first-person making calls that either renews an expired member or transfers a member out of post 100 to a local post will receive a gift card. The person that gets the most at the end of the day will also have their choice of a gift card. Making these calls off the DMS lists can serve two purposes. You are not only calling members to talk about membership, but you are also doing buddy checks, and most people can usually tell if something is bothering someone. This is

where BE THE ONE comes into play. This is where you could save someone. I am looking forward to attending these meetings.

I have sent emails out to all five district commanders asking them to find a few dates that work best for them and their respective districts and let me know so we can schedule. So far, I have only heard from two of the districts about planning. Please district commanders please find a few dates that could work for you. Please try to get something back to me by at least 18 November, as I would like to get these sessions completed by the end of February. As always, my contact information is included in this message, also the Department Directory.

The membership slide has started, and we need to stop it. We need to start climbing the ranks not dropping. We have dropped from 14th nationally to 17th. I ask that post commanders and adjutants print up rosters and call or pay a visit (Buddy Checks once again) and call those that have not yet renewed. We are currently at 62.82% and need to be at 65% by 2 November. I appreciate all the hard work that you have all done with membership so far. We just need to apply ourselves to get the numbers up to meet our goal of 65%

Be safe and stay healthy!

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at post7adj@gmail.com

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

Department Adjutant Brian Markwell

Fall is here and the seasons are changing. The national convention and Department Fall meeting has passed. Mid-winter is coming up on January 22-21 at the Doubletree in South Burlington. Prior to that, we will be having Adjutant and Commander training on how to use the on-line Legion.org system. We will review how to process membership as well as update member information such as email, telephone numbers and address information. We'll also show how you can create spreadsheets and sort information to create lists to assist you. The workshops are tentatively scheduled on January 7 in Castleton Post 50 and January 14 in Waterbury Post 59. They will be held from 10am to 2pm with lunch provided. Other subjects to be determined will also be discussed. More information will be coming out in future newsletters and direct correspondence. Everyone who has access by position or has been granted access such as membership coordinators is encouraged to attend one of these workshops.

Northern Area Commander Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

We all know the importance of membership. I hope that by the time you read this, you will all have done your part to help us meet the November membership goal. However, you go about it, signing up new members and retaining existing members is one of our most important jobs. I've said it before and I'll say it again, we are caretakers of this organization. We have a responsibility to keep it vital and viable for future generations of members. To accomplish that, we need to keep new and current members engaged. All members need to be made to feel valued and RESPECTED. Each and every one of us needs to look at our own behaviors at our Posts and at our conventions and conferences. When our members see us losing sight of our mission, sacrificing service to veterans, their families, and our communities for our own self-aggrandizement we start losing them. I've had more than one member look at some of the things that have been happening in recent history and asking why they should even want to continue to support an organization that allows these things to happen. I don't have an answer for them. Maybe those who put self above service might be able to explain their actions, but I sure can't.

I fully intend to fulfill my obligations as Northern Area Commander for the remainder of my term but may well wind up committing "career suicide" in the process because I don't intend to just sit idly by and watch these things continue to happen. I am just as dismayed as the people asking me, "Why?". I may not be able to answer their question, but I can work to create change. This organization has a lot of people who still believe in the mission of service to our veterans and communities. The self-serving are far outnumbered. Lead by example, folks. Treat your fellow Legionnaires respectfully and with compassion. Treat your veterans, their families, and your communities in the same fashion. Pay attention to your leadership at every level, from Post to Department and beyond. You have a voice and a vote that you can use to make it clear that deviations from the mission of The American Legion will not go unanswered. We are indeed caretakers of a great organization. Let's not leave it in a shambles for the next generations of veterans. Let's keep it strong for them, as was done for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lou Furry

Southern Area Commander Lew Graham

Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members,

I had planned on getting around to most of the posts this fall but I am recovering from surgery that will not let me drive for a while. I have been keeping up with the membership reports and am pleased that Vermont met the 55 percent target date. If my numbers are right District 4 is number 3 and District 5 is 4th in our Vermont tally. Great work folks! Keep it up.

Please remember to “Be the One” in the days ahead. Holidays are not always joyous occasions for veterans or even your neighbor if there has been some recent loss or continuing difficulty. The Military care givers network has some events coming up you may be interested in, especially the one for military and veteran children. Here is the info.

Dear Caregivers,

The Military and Veteran Caregiver Network at the American Red Cross appreciates all you do as caregivers. Our team is honored to connect you with peer support and wellbeing opportunities.

You can login to our secure, custom, caregiver only online community 24/7

<https://mvcn.force.com/MVCN/s/login/>

Resiliency Workshop for Military and Veteran Children in Caregiving Homes

The American Red Cross is piloting a special Resiliency Workshop for military and veteran children in caregiving homes. These children help care for wounded, ill, injured or aging active-duty service members or veterans. These workshops are scheduled to begin in 2023 and will be available in person and online. If you are interested in having your child participate, please fill out this interest form. Thank you. <https://www.tfaforms.com/5015891>

The new Legion directory is out and available at Headquarters. A phone call will probably get you one.

Please remember to plan on attending midwinter. I would appreciate any suggestions on information you would like or presentations we could make that would help our members become more familiar with the great work the Legion does in Vermont and nationwide as well as the benefits of Legion membership.

I wish you all happy holidays and if I can be of any help or answer any questions, I can be reached at 802-279-0441 and by email at lewgraham@charter.net or vermonter@charter.net.

For God and Country
Lew Graham, Jr.

3rd District Commander - Joe Zickmund

District 3 members,

Great job! Thank you to each of you who are driving membership renewals and finding new members. There is always more to do but so far, District 3 is leading the way! If I can help, please let me know.

It's November and we all know the 11th is Veterans Day. The holiday was first called Armistice Day and was established after World War I to remember the "war to end all wars," and it was set to the time that a cease-fire occurred in Europe on November 11, 1918 – with the first observance being in 1919. How fitting that our American Legion was founded that very same year to benefit veterans. In 1954 it was officially renamed Veterans Day and pays tribute to all American veterans – living or dead – but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Please know that you are appreciated, that your service matters and that without it, the world we live in would be a vastly different place. Thank you for your service.

Joe Zickmund

Did you know?

Nov. 10-12 First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington. A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. *Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.*

National and Department Commanders Visit Camp Ethan Allen Training Site

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian



On Tuesday October 18th Jim Troiola National Commander of the American Legion, and Tom Scanlon, Vermont Department Commander, traveled to the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site located in Jericho to receive a briefing and short tour of the facility. They were accompanied by Gary Schacher, Aide to the National Commander, Mark Cloutier, Sr. Vice Commander, and Victor Stone, Dept. Historian. Upon arriving at the Camp, also known as the Ethan Allen Firing Range, the group was given a briefing on the geographic layout of the facility, the various functions and services provided by the Site and the several Commands resident on this 11,291 acre military reservation.

This Site serves as the Headquarters for the Army Mountain Warfare School, 3rd Battalion 172 Infantry, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the world-class National Guard Biathlon Team training area. This Vermont resource serves roughly 140,000 soldiers, law enforcement officers, athletes and others in a typical year.

Two highlights of the visit included a tour of the Firearms Simulator and the new Army Mountain Warfare School facility. The Simulator offers a cost effective means for soldiers to practice weapons handling and marksmanship using realistic versions of typical weapons-pistols, rifles, and machine guns-and a variety of targets and engagement scenarios. The simulator emulates gun handling characteristics by model including realistic recoil and down range performance. Yours truly shot a few rounds from a small machine gun but it seems that old eyes and peep sights made for difficult targeting!

The tour of the Army Mountain Warfare School provided a glimpse into the investment the Army is making to assure it has units capable of fighting and winning in rugged, cold, difficult terrain (e.g. mountain bushcraft warfare). Clearly, this is not a specialty for the weak hearted.

This was an excellent tour for all involved and the staffs of the Site and School were informative and gracious hosts; they clearly enjoyed the opportunity to educate and inform our group. As a final note, the Camp welcomes visitors and has the capacity to host tours upon request. You might consider arranging a visit by members of your Post to this unique Site. The key point of contact is 1st Lt. Nathan Rivard, VNG Public Affairs (802-316-2999, Nathan.r.rivard.mil@mail.mil).



Mt. School climbing wall



Army Mountain Warfare School foyer. From left to right...Mark Cloutier, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander; Jim Troiola, National Commander; 1st Sgt Max Rooney, Mt. Warfare School; Lt Col. Matthew Wignall, Mt. Warfare School Commander; Tom Scanlon, Vermont Dept. Commander; and 1st Lt. Nathan Rivard, Site Public Affairs.

Check out photos from National Commander Vincent J. Jim Troiola's visit to the American Legion Department of Vermont [here](#).

2nd District Commander - David Perron

Hope this Newsletter finds everyone well and we all enjoyed fall Conference

Membership goal Veteran's Day Nov 9,2022 GOAL-65% Lets do this!!!!!!

As always membership is our big topic and lets all hit it hard, phone calls, knock on doors and a simple conversation in a grocery store could very well lead to a new member. It's all are jobs to recruit a new member, not just the leadership.

County commanders, please call your Post and start scheduling your evaluation visit it's important to do them early, it helps new Commanders, you can steer them in the right direction

Once an evaluation is completed and sent to the Department. Please text or e-mail me post # completed so I can fill in my tracker.

Post Commanders in District 2nd please reach out to me if you have any applicants for the Oratorical program.

Looking forward to serving as 2nd District Commander/Evaluation Chair.

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS!

Thank you all for serving.

David W Perron, Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793 Perrondavid323@yahoo.com
2nd District Commander/ Evaluation Chair

4th District Commander Bill Brothers

Hello, hope everyone had a great Halloween, and a safe one,

Another month has come and gone and what a month it was, we had a great visit from our National Commander, Vincent James Troiola and had a dinner for him at Colchester Post 91, and I want to thank Colchester Post and everyone that helped to make this a success.

We also had a great conference at Vergennes Post 14 and the Internal Affairs Committee did an outstanding job with the agenda. A lot of information was shared, and the presentations were very informative. Jeremy Revell, Detachment Commander outlined their upcoming year and the awards they received at National Convention. He said they are getting ready to present their yearly donation to the Dodge House in Rutland on Veterans Day and said everyone is invited to stop by for the presentation and the lunch following.

I want to say thank you to the Detachment of Vermont Sons for the great job that they are doing.

I am still planning on having a round table, still working on when and where, I am working with PDC Cathy Tester and Senior Vice Commander Mark Cloutier to have this coincide with the northern area of the state, so hopefully within next couple weeks, I can send out a email or message to let everyone know.

If anyone has thoughts or ideas, please come to this and let us work together and get it going.

Now also with holidays coming up we need to remember our shut ins and let them know that we are thinking of them by giving a quick call to check on them our go and see them, thank you.

Again, thank you for all you do for our legion family.

For God and country

Bill Brothers
4th District Commander

Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin

Greetings fellow Legionnaires:

As we enter November, the month to honor all of our veterans who have served our great nation, I wish to take this opportunity to give thanks for their service and sacrifice to our country, and to our current Legion members, who continue to serve our communities all across America. This past month, I have had the privilege to attend Post meetings in both Vergennes 14 and Bristol 19. I thank both Commander Brian Gebo (14) and Commander Ron LaRose (19) for allowing me to sit in for a visit and a Post evaluation. It was a pleasure to observe a couple of fully operational American Legion Post adhering to the established guidelines and objectives of our organization. It is not uncommon for a Post to put their personal stamp, or to accent one program over another from time to time. What is important is to support our four pillars with efforts and attention to each pillar. This is how we give the maximum amount of assistance to our veterans, their dependents, and our communities.

What is the life blood that allows us to be successful in our efforts? Membership—everything good happens with a strong member base. That is why you constantly hear our leadership encouraging detailed attention to our numbers. Just think, if every Legion family member would sign up one new member and retain one existing member, we would double our size in a year. Think how great we would be then! To date, I am happy to see the American Legion membership in Addison County at 65.2 percent, ahead of goal. Keep up the good work.

During my visitation in Bristol at Post 19, Adjutant Alan Smith (Past County Commander) gave me a tour of their state of the art “Virtual Living Room”. In partnership with Waitsfield Telecom, the Post has a dedicated space set up with an office typesetting that has access to computers and high-speed internet that can enable veterans to get any type of assistance with the VA, doctors, telecom chats, employment information and even zoom interviews. Adjutant Smith staffs this room and helps veterans navigate through it. Veterans just need to schedule a time slot for its use. It would be fantastic if we could have an access portal like this in all of our Post homes. I encourage anyone who thinks this is a good idea to contact Allen, he would be very happy to share information with interested members.

In closing, I thank you for the ongoing efforts you continue to make for the good of the American Legion, and I wish all of our veterans and their families a happy and safe Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Bruce F. Paquin

Addison County Commander, Paquinvt@comcast.net, 802 545 2800

Did you read the articles in the October Legion Magazine?

Check out the October American Legion Magazine for an in-depth look at how the PACT Act promises relief to generations of U.S. veterans exposed to toxicants, as well as features on newly elected American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, mustang therapy for PTSD, the origin of the Legion’s “Be the One” initiative and more. The clickable digi-mag is available through MyLegion.org.

- In “Act of Justice,” Ken Olsen outlines the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the most far-reaching hazardous exposure legislation for veterans in U.S. history. Millions are expected to receive VA health care and disability benefits for illnesses linked to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other toxicants. Plus, read how the Legion Family’s digital advocacy campaign helped lead to Senate passage.
- Meet American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, elected at the organization’s 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee. A native New Yorker and Navy veteran, Troiola believes service is the key to growing and strengthening the Legion. Showing new members around the post, making Buddy Check calls to ask how the post can help them, identifying at-risk veterans and connecting them to resources through the Be the One campaign – “the more people know what we do, the more will join the ranks,” he says.
- In “Saving George,” Henry Howard shares the story of George Kanaly, a Vietnam War veteran who found peace and healing through Operation Wild Horse, a nonprofit that pairs wild mustangs and burros with those struggling with PTSD. “There have been times I came in with a real bad attitude, and the horse mellow me out,” he says.

Upcoming Events

Department Open House	December 16, 2022 (11 am – 1 pm)	Department Headquarters
MyLegion Training	January 7, 2023 10:00am – 2:00pm	Castleton Post 50 (Tentative)
MyLegion Training	January 14, 2023 10:00am – 2:00pm	Waterbury Post 59 (Tentative)
Mid-Winter Conference	January 20-21, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington
Annual Convention	June 23-24, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington

Rutland County Richie Baptie

Greetings legionnaires,

I hope this finds you well and thriving. I was able to get to two more post this month and very nice to see both working on membership and community events. It is always good to see our posts getting involved with our community. Don't forget the buddy checks. I have made several this month and all were glad that I called.

As always remember membership, I carry several membership forms with me so I can be ready for new members. Until next month be safe and have a successful deer season.

For God and Country,
Rich Baptie
Rutland County Commander

National Commander's Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his national commander "Be Then One" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Certification form can be found at [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

Legion Riders Director Lou Furry

Greetings Riders,

As the riding season end, this is the perfect time to just pause for a moment and say Thank You, Riders, for all you do. You give of your time and funds to make Legion programs work and to enable them to continue to work. This is no small thing. You are to be commended for your efforts. You may be small in number but you have a huge impact.

I wish you a safe (and short) winter and look forward to getting out on the road again with you next season.

Ride safely,
Lou Furry, Director
American Legion Riders

Be The One Branding Materials

The approved logos for the Be The One initiative are subject to the same usage rules as The American Legion Brandmark. These guidelines, detailed instructions on proper use of the branding, and downloadable files can be found at legion.org/brand

BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** EVERYONE, TO INCLUDE VETERANS, IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, IS STRUGGLING.

Internal Affairs Committee PDC Fred LaTour, Chair

Thanks to PDC Tester, Department Adjutant Markwell, and Sr. Vice Commander Cloutier, a successful Fall Conference was held at Vergennes Post 14 on October 22. A big thank you to Vergennes Post 14 for hosting the conference and providing a delicious lunch.

A veteran helping a veteran submitted by PDC Fred LaTour

A walk-in shower was delivered to Dave Rice in West Charleston donated by Lowes in Essex Jct. Robert Larmay, a certified service officer for DAV, was able to make this happen. Thank you, Robert.

Happy Thanksgiving

Sending you warm wishes from home to home and from heart to heart to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving! Remember during the holiday season to check in our your neighbors and fellow veterans. I simple call or visit can change someone's life.

Sons of the American Legion Report – Bruce Paquin

As we enter this November with Veteran’s Day just around the corner, the entire Detachment of Vermont joins in honoring and giving thanks to all of our veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country. November 11th each year is set aside for this purpose, not only for our organization, but every man, woman, and child to recognize the contributions all veterans have made for our freedoms.

The Detachment of Vermont is very aware of their sacred duty in supporting our nation’s veterans, and the care and welfare of their children, dependants, and extended families. I am very proud of our Sons, as I know you are. Their commitment, dedication, and service to The American Legion’s programs can’t be matched. The Detachment is involved in numerous programs, activities, and celebrations this Veteran’s day. Commander Revell and SAL members will be continuing a tradition by presenting donation checks to the director of the Dodge House Veteran Center in Rutland on November 11. Last year, they present over \$15,000 and I expect they will go over that this year.

In my traveling around the Department, one area I find where the Post can give a little more support is in communications. Many of the SAL Squadrons are moving forward with what they are doing without much input from legionnaires in their Post. Not to say they can’t operate without it, but it makes for a much better cohesive family with everyone working together for the same goal. I proffer a simple solution that I know works well. Have a Post SAL advisor who is interested in the continued success of the Post and the Legion family. You would be surprised how much more help and participation you will receive in every phase of the Post operations. What do you have to lose? Trust me, this will work and you have everything to gain.

With that being said, I wish everyone and their families a happy and safe Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Front Porch Forum – *Helping neighbors connect*

What is Front Porch Forum (FPF)? PF provides free service in every Vermont community. Anyone can join their local

forum and read and post. For more information on how FRF might help your legion with marketing events, etc. Check out the presentation from Fall Conference [here](#).

Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course. The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online at www.legion.org/alei.

The American Legion's on Instagram



The American Legion National Headquarters has produced a new Instagram reel called “Vote America” that urges citizens to exercise their rights to cast ballots Nov. 8, election day. The reel can be viewed, liked and shared from The American Legion’s national Instagram platform. [@theamericanlegion](#) Other recently developed Instagram reels address:

- The Legion’s Be the One veteran suicide-prevention campaign
- POW/MIA Recognition Day
- American Legion Day
- Highlights from the 103rd American Legion National Convention
- And more

The American Legion National Headquarters Instagram audience has climbed to more than 16,000 followers and growing.

Post Everlasting

GRENIER, DONALD	01	BRASSARD, ROBERT	01
PIKE, DAVID H	03	NIMBLETT, RON	14
DEZAINE, WILLIAM	25	KENYON, THOMAS O	25
MARTELL, DONALD	60	CHAPOLA, RUDOLPH	60
BRISSON, LEOBARD O	60	BOGUSKI, BERNARD	60
MARQUIS, ALLAN A	80	LEFEBVRE, NELSON	91

Oratorical Program – Karlene DeVine

At the Fall conference regarding Legion youth programs, Clark “Sparky” Harris, stressed how important it is to reach out to individuals in schools—English teachers, Guidance counselors, History teachers, Administration. This is something that only individual Legion members can do. Post members are boots on the ground. Please be a presence in your local schools.

Each year, I e-mail high school staff members individually with information about the American Legion High School Speech program. This year, 735(and counting) school staff members and administration in 59 Vermont high schools have received that e-mail communication from me. Applications have been requested by 3 students so far. Off to a good start.

If you feel your youth opportunity programs are non-existent, gather no participants, first, remember we must circulate energy in the direction of what we wish to attract into our Posts. This mantra applies to your civic life and your personal life. If you have made no investment in

acknowledging (publicly) the efforts of those participating in your youth programs, there is nothing to attract the interest of others.

How does this apply to the effort put forward by your post? Listen to others on this subject.

“If you don’t like what you are reaping, you had better change what you have been sowing.”
Jim Rohn, American motivational speaker

“Life is an echo. What you send out, comes back. What you sow, you reap.” Unknown

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” —*Anne Frank*

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” —*Winston S. Churchill*
In the practical sense, this means that if your post does not have a budget item for youth recognition and youth publicity, you will receive little in return. If your post has a budget for recognition awards for youth participants, nice job! I want to hear from you.

Glossy program brochures are gone by the way. What can you do to make publicity more effective in your community? Can you provide something that is succinct, eye catching, portable? How about informative table tents for early bird supper, bingo, karaoke? Business card-size info for members to carry and pass out.

What is your post doing to attract participants to American Legion Youth Programs? What are you offering in the community? And, how do they know it?

- ❖ One Department distributes copies of the Constitution to graduating 8th graders. (free from 917 Society) <https://917society.org/constitution-education/>
Concentrates on educating 8th graders. “917” stands for the month and date the Constitution was signed. This organizations distributes copies of the U. S. Constitution (free with a suggested donation) Or, you can purchase from Emblem Sales.
- ❖ When your post sponsors a student, give the student a T-shirt identifying them as an American Legion Speech winner or Boys State or Legion Baseball participant or essay contest winner. Make sure your post logo is on it. Make it attractive so that they will wear it to school. Nothing like a walking billboard.
- ❖ Other organizations have speech contests. Find them in your community and distribute information about the American Legion program. A merit badge can be earned as an Eagle Scout for speech; 4-H has a speech competition; **Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development is the** Future Farmers of America speech competition; DAR, Rotary and Lions Clubs have forms of written and spoken speech competition.
- ❖ Avoid using the word “oratorical”. It is too esoteric. Several years ago, the American Legion coined “high school constitutional speech contest” (Leonard Normandeau’s words ring in my ears now.)

- ❖ For posts having trouble gaining entrance into schools, work through the school board president to gain entrance to the school for all your youth programs. Inform them of what your post does for the local school.
- ❖ Purchase an advertisement in your local high school student newspaper.
- ❖ Pizza party at the post or local Boys & Girls Club (they want new members, too). Partner with Boys & Girls Club for interactive games, History Trivia (local & National) with prizes.

Targeting other audiences

If you missed Fall Conference, be sure to watch the video of Michael Wood-Lewis describing how to use **Front Porch Forum** as a FREE resource to publicize your post events and programs.

Veterans of OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) “don’t like paper”, give it to them by TikTok or Instagram. Include subject matter with “#” to get their attention i.e., #Constitution#speechcontest#AmericanLegion.

Some Oratorical Programs successfully use Facebook, though it was noted Facebook was media of my generation (the over 70’s) and not the target audience of high school students.

The American Legion partnered with National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) several years ago. The NSDA awards points for participation in their program which in turn go towards scholarships. An oratorical participant is given double points for their effort in the Oratorical Program.

Do you have homeschools in your area? Those students have more freedom in subject matter.

******* *Each **post** has new leadership. You will be developing a calendar of activities. Please include plans for the Oratorical contest and let me know what dates you have selected for your local contest in January 2023. Whether you have a student(s) or not, select a date so when I call you, you will not be scrambling to put something together. Budget for an award for your participants.*

District Commanders (District 2, 3, 5) Set a date for your District Oratorical Contest anytime in February 2023.

In the absence of District Oratorical Chairperson, this responsibility falls on the District Commander. District 1 and District 4 have chairpersons.

DEC minutes from October 22, 2022 meeting

DEC Meeting October 22, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met after the Fall Meeting. Meeting was presided over by Dept Commander Tom Scanlon opening at 1437 hours.

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

Motion made and passed to accept the past two DEC meeting minutes.

Finance Officer gave the Finance Report. Motion made and passed to accept the report.

There was discussion about Commander and Adjutant information for the directory, Post and SAL, CPR vs CSR, T-shirts.

Unfinished Business:

Motion made and passed to accept the Foundation bylaws as amended.

Motion made and passed to authorize to seed the foundation with a \$.25 per member fee.

Motion made and passed to get a realtor to start looking into selling Milton Post 57 property. Dave Cobb and Adjutant Brian Markwell will work on this project.

Motion made and passed to approve SAL officers and committee chairmen.

NEC Ron LaRose updated the DSO investigation. He said the investigation is over and done with and the Department is back in good graces.

Motion made and passed to have the National Staff Judge Advocate visit Vermont to conduct educational and informational workshops.

Jay Peak Post 28 meeting will be on November 9.

Motion made and passed to table action on Post 28 and offer full support to the post.

Motion made and passed to collect stipend from Daniel Maniery for leaving National Convention early.

New Business:

National Commander visit highlights. Dept CDR Scanlon discussed activities attended by the CDR during his visit. Said the CDR was most impressed with the Mountain Warfare School.

Senior Vice CDR Cloutier discussed convention costs of \$10,540. Motion made and passed that the Legion pay for two days for meeting rooms rental. Was in comparison to previously paying for three days.

Motion made and then withdrawn pending further information to have the 2024 Mid-winter and Convention held at the Hampton Inn in Colchester.

The approval of Fred Wilson's appointment to the SAL Advisory committee was passed.

The SAL resolution to use Zoom for meetings was passed.

Next DEC meeting is January 21, 2023, following the Mid-Winter conference.

Closing ceremony conducted and the meeting was adjourned 1612.

For God and Country.

Brian Markwell

Department of Vermont Adjutant



American Legion Winter Conference 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Vermont

870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403

phone +1 802-865-6600

Room block reserved for January 20, 2023, through January 22, 2023. Booking your room is simple, just select [Book a Room](#) to receive your group's preferred rate or call 1 802-865-6600 and ask for American Legion Winter Meeting 2023. There are rooms starting on January 19th.

Rooms & Rates

- 2 Double Beds Larger Room - \$119.00
- 1 King Bed - \$119.00
- 1 King - Larger Room Additional 80 Sq Ft - \$119.00
- 1 King Jr Suite - Conference Table - Fridge - \$119.00
- 1 King 1 Bedroom Suite - Mountain View - \$119.00

Book by: December 28, 2022

Banquet – Friday, January 20

Banquet information will be forth coming. With the recent chain supply issues Double Tree is working to secure a menu for us. Stay tuned for more information. Tickets for the banquet are \$35.00 and will be a buffet dinner with coffee and dessert.

National Security Update National Guard and Reserves

- LTG Jensen, Director, US Army National Guard (NG) update on the influence and impact the NG has in local communities as “the face” of the US military. Additionally, LTG Jensen introduced the highly underutilized [Minuteman Scholarship](#) that provides a four-year ride to a university to any youth who agrees to join the guard or reserves.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS:

- Receive full tuition and fees (in-state) or room and board (\$10,000 per year) at the participating University of attendance
- Receive Cadet stipend monthly (\$420 Freshman-Senior)
- Receive a book stipend of \$1,200 annually (\$600 per semester)

REQUIREMENTS:

- SMP with USAR unit and drill monthly and receive E5/CDT drill pay
- Enroll in ROTC at University of attendance
- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA to accept the scholarship (if a current student) and 2.0 GPA to maintain scholarship eligibility
- To find the Army ROTC program near you, go online to www.goarmy.com/rotc.

POW/MIA

October 31, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from Korean War (Tuttle, A.)
- Airman accounted for from World War II (Triplett, J.)

November 1, 2022

- Airman accounted from World War II (Ropp, J.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated **168** servicemembers so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 11,160; Rifle – 10; Clips – 50; Static Display – 2
- Participants: Post – 8; Department – 7

Don Tetreault, PDC, PNEC
National Security Member