



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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## November 2024

### Bulletin

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

**Department Commanders Message – Joseph Zickmund**

**Department Historian Message & Photos – Carl King**

**Summarized Fall Conference Notes – Wayne Goulet, Washington Cty. Cmdr.**

**Post 1819 Thank You Letter**

**Mark Your Calendar Info**

## Department Commander

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*Joseph Zickmund*

What a fantastic Fall Conference weekend. The information was useful, the attendance was grand and the comradery on point. I was proud to be your Department Commander as we hosted our National Commander James LaCoursiere.

Commander LaCoursiere talked about the Four Pillars of the American Legion – which fit perfectly with our topic of “Back to Basics”. He also made a special presentation to an 80-year member of The American Legion. Others spoke on topics to include The Pact Act, legion College, parliamentary procedure, and the need of keeping our IRS form 990 current.



There were presentations on Consolidated Reporting, the Law-and-Order Cadet program, the Be the One mission, the Oratorical Program, Boy Scouts and the “Four Rules” of the American Legion. Be sure to read County and Post Commander Wayne Goulet’s excellent summary of the conference that is included with this bulletin.

Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to attend and/or take part in community observances for this important day. It is a day dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, an armistice was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I. After the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veteran Day. Veterans Day 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.

Thank you for your service to our great nation and our American Legion.

For God, Country and the American Veteran,

Joe Zickmund  
Commander, Dept. of VT

## **Senior Vice Commander – William Brothers**

Hope all is well with everyone. As you all know we had a great conference, and a lot of great information was presented and what we all will be working on for our up-and-coming Mid-Winter Conference. If any of you have anything you would like us to help you with, let me know and we can get together and work on it as a group and make it happen.



I hope you all had a great Halloween and safe one, with all the kids out and about let's keep them safe and hopefully they enjoyed the spooky night.

As you all know I have held two District Membership Round Tables so far with some great help from a few other fellow members, I want to thank you all for your time and what we did accomplish during these events, we have had 20 transfers from the DMS list so far. I did have another Roundup scheduled for District 3 at Montpelier Post 3, but I had to cancel due to a family emergency. I will be rescheduling it for another date so we can work on membership in that District as well. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Now we are in the "Holiday" months, please remember about our membership and let's do our Buddy Checks on our fellow members that have or might not be able to get out and about to our Post or events that are happening. Let's let them know that we are thinking of them and miss seeing them. Ask how they are and if they need anything.

The next scheduled Membership Roundup is coming up Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at Hardwick Post 7, I hope to see a lot of District 2 there. We will see what we can do for membership and retention, during this scheduled time. Please bring any new ideas to improve our retention of our members, let's work together to make this a successful event.

Just a quick note on PDC Don Tetreault, we hope he has a speedy recovery from his fall and his broken hip, let's let him know we are thinking of him and if he needs anything we are here for him. Equally, if any other of our members are down, let us know so we can reach out to them and their family. We can let them we are here to help in any way we can.

I want to thank PDC Mark Cloutier and PDP Corrinna Colson, PDC Cathy Tester, Melodie and my home Post Fair Haven 49 for all they have done when my family was going through a difficult situation with my wife's health, from the bottom of my heart thank you all so much. This has really shown me what a great family and organization we have and that no matter what we are going through people are there to help in every way possible.

We also had a great visit from our National Commander at Fall Conference and he did speak on our main goal, "BE THE ONE", so let's all keep up what we are doing, also on Tuesdays on

[www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) training is available for all to attend, this is a great way to learn what we do and to how we do it, there are many topics to explore, take a look!

My fellow Legionnaires, thank you for all that you do.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander

### **Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl**

Greetings,

I belong to numerous organizations and interest groups that send me their monthly magazines and informational papers every month. Most of the information is usually interesting. The trouble is there are so many of them that I often don't get all of them read. This month, first off, I made sure to read the American Legion magazine cover to cover and found this article about the Four Chaplains titles:



*No Greater Love - George Fox, "Immortal Chaplain" receives a memorial marker at Arlington.*

The article is very interesting and informative. It does mention in an effort to preserve the church of George Fox, *"local American Legion members led a fundraising campaign to buy it." Including "American Legion Posts and Departments, Auxiliary Units, SAL Squadrons, various Veterans service organizations, and individual donors across the Country."*

The following, on behalf of the American Legion Family, were those determined to make this happen and thanks to them it did happen.

1. PDC Mark Cloutier, assisted by PDP Corrinna Colson
2. SAL Detach. Cmdr. Brian Massey, Jr.
3. ALA President John Tester
4. PDC Catherine Tester and Family
5. Northland Post 47 of Canaan
6. Essex County Commander Scott Leigh

Thanks to all for a great job.

Also, it's great to hear that our fellow members are doing well in their recoveries after their recent medical procedures:

1. PDC Donald Tetreault
2. PDC Fred Latour
3. PDC Dave Woodward
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> District Cmdr. Roy "Buzz" McKinnon
5. SAL Washington Cty. Cmdr. Randall McGrath

Very respectfully,

Robert Pearl, No. Area Commander

### **Southern Area Commander – Fred Wilson**

Just finished the banquet for the National Commander at Hampton Inn by Hilton at Colchester on Friday October 18th, 2024.

The weekend started with a meet and greeting at Colchester Post 91 and then a banquet at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Colchester for the National Commander, James (Jim) A. LaCoursiere, Jr.



On Saturday, October 19th at 9AM we started the Fall Conference at Vergennes Post 14 with the theme "BACK TO BASICS".

Remarks by National Commander stressing "BE the ONE." At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. Call 988 then dial 1 or text 838255!

Our Commander, Joseph Zickmund restated his special projects for support: Legion Baseball, Department of Vermont Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts of America, American Legion Oratorical Contest, Green Mountain Boys State and Vermont Veterans for Paws and Boots.

"Back to Basics" theme was presented by PDC Clark "Sparky" Ferris, Ballard-Hobart Post 36. Presented Official Protocol Guidelines in full detail.

DSO Larry Thompson provided an update on "The PACT Act" or the Honoring our promise to address comprehension Toxic Act of 2022 that expands healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic hazard.

Senior Vice Commander William Brothers provided an update on "Legion College." One volunteer.

PDC Mark Cloutier provides us with a brief on Parliamentary Procedures.

Dennis Minoli, Finance Officer, provided the finance report and information concerning several types of 990 Tax Filings.

Brian Markwell stressed the importance of Consolidated Reports. One way we can tell Congress what we are doing.

Halloween is over, on November 10th we celebrate the 249th Marine Corps and 103rd American Legion Auxiliary birthdays, Veterans Day on November 11th and Thanksgiving on November 28th, 2024.

Any member of the Southern Area desiring to place input in the bulletin please text to [2fredwilson@gmail.com](mailto:2fredwilson@gmail.com) about a week before the end of the month.

Still looking for a Windsor County Commander!

Veterans have an enjoyable day and a happy Thanksgiving.

"BE THE ONE"

For GOD and Country.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr. Southern Area Commander,  
[2fredwilson@gmail.com](mailto:2fredwilson@gmail.com). Text or call 917-763-0354.

### **Dept. Chaplain – Stephen Frost**

Greetings, Fellow American Legion members, SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders!

Time seems to be flying by, as we enter the darker days toward Winter. I am aware that many will look upon "stick" season, as a dreadfully dark and dower time of year, something to be dreaded, yet, I remind you of the silver linings of God's Gift to ALL mankind, where the lights are low, and we are called to rest and reflect, forced inside with our families, and the warmth within.

Take advantage of the rare times, when He forces our hand to relax, In these shortened days.

Tis the season to enjoy the darkest evenings, to go outside and see, more clearly, His BRILLIANT night sky, and the cosmos of His Creation. During a time of increased disenchantment, of worry about preparedness for Winter, contentious political rivalries and a seemingly, declining civility, post Covid, He reminds us, through MANY celestial events, of His Divine Power and Presence in our lives!





We have been Blessed, with many, such signs, He is with us, given brilliant displays of Northern Lights, a comet, numerous, Super Moons and a patch of GORGEOUS weather to enjoy.

Find the silver linings, whenever you enter any season of doubt, or dread. Take stock of your surroundings and find gratitude in the small wins. Share this view with others, who may be struggling, as well.

I've been traveling for work, a lot, lately, but Cindy ELL, (my sweet bride), and PDC Mark Cloutier and PDP Corrina Colson have been doing an AWESOME job of bringing the Be The One program to numerous Legion and Auxiliary gatherings throughout Vermont, as they train others, to recognize those in need of suicide prevention, and ways we can help them. Good job, Dear Ones, and THANK YOU for this necessary work you are performing!

God Speed and God Bless you, ALL, my friends!

### **Dept. Historian – Carl King**

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Well, Fall is upon us and old man winter is on his way.

Outdoor activities are dwindling down and inside events are picking up. Please share photos and videos as well as advertise on our Facebook page the exciting events going on at your Posts.

We won't be able to attend if we don't know the when's and where's!!



The Department of Vermont was honored with the visit of National Commander James Lacoursiere. He was received by our State Commander Joe Zickmund who escorted him to Colchester Post 91 where he was met by several members and officers. Snacks and beverages were provided as the National Cmdr. shook hands and graciously provided photo ops for everyone. The National Commander also handed out his challenge coin and gave signed pictures for each Post.



*(First stop - Colchester Post 91, Adjutant B. Markwell, Dept. Cmdr. J. Zickmund, Nat 'l Cmdr. J. LaCoursiere and No. Area Cmdr. R. Pearl)*



*(Visit to Colchester Post 91)*

We then headed to the National Commanders Banquet at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Colchester VT.



*(National Commander J. LaCoursiere speaking at Banquet)*





*(L to R: Dept. Commander J. Zickmund, Nat'l Commander J. LaCoursiere, ALA Dept. President J. Tester, SAL Detach. Commander B. Massey, Jr.)*

The next day we had our Fall Conference at Vergennes Post 14.

The National Commander was received well and gave out challenge coins and photos for Posts. He was very interactive and engaging when speaking with fellow Legionnaires.

He was very kind in giving us information and provided a very motivational and inspiring speech. He also visited and spoke at the Auxiliary meeting and the S.A.L meeting. A very nice lunch was provided by Post. It was delicious and filling!



*(Dept. Commander J. Zickmund & Nat'l Commander J. LaCoursiere)*



We were also honored at Fall Conference to have as our special guest, George "Buddy" Taggart who was awarded his 80-year membership pin. Mr. Taggart joined the American Legion - Crippen Fellows Post 50 in 1944.

SIR WE SALUTE!!!

He was celebrated with pictures with the Commanders and his family and friends. What an inspiration!!!!



*(George Taggart, National Commander J. LaCoursiere & Dept. Commander J. Zickmund)*

We had several keynote speakers including, DSO Larry Thompson, F. O. Dennis Minoli, PDC Clark "Sparky" Ferris, Dept. Adjutant Brian Markwell, Sr. Vice Commander Bill Brothers, PDC Mark Cloutier and the Boys Nation Delegate – Grey Feron all who provided essential learning materials and "tools" we can put into action to build a better, stronger organization. We had our D.E.C. Meeting and concluded our celebrations, activities and training.

The ALA Auxiliary had a 2<sup>nd</sup> District workshop held at Post 21 in Newport.

Among the great training and information provided, there were two key speakers present. Auxiliary President John Tester and Department of Vermont Commander Joe Zickmund, who not only was guest speaker, but also stayed and participated in the workshop, furthering his knowledge and ability to be a better person and to be a better leader. Fine example in leadership!





*(Dept. Commander J. Zickmund speaking at the Aux District 2 Training)*



*(ALA Dept. President John Tester with District 2 Trainees and Presenters)*

Hopefully after the November 5<sup>th</sup> elections, we will have a better understanding of where The Legion stands and the direction our future goes. Remember to do your civic duty and get out and VOTE!!!

Respectfully,

Carl P. King  
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 carlking73@yahoo.com  
 802-323-7670



## **1<sup>st</sup> District Commander – Victor Stone**

Greetings from District One. The Posts in District One are moving forward in pursuit of the membership targets for this year. Overall, the District is at 59% of the goal being led by Bristol Post 19 which is at 68% of goal.

I had the honor of representing the Dept. of Vermont at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Colchester Post 91 on the 26th of October. Post Commander, Dave Cobb, and his 25th Anniversary Committee, fashioned a program that featured presentations by the first Post Commander, Rodney "Pat" Myers, and other original charter members. We were treated to a variety of stories and anecdotes about the creation and building of the Post. The dedication and devotion to the American Legion by these original Post members was clearly apparent from their recollections and memories of their past efforts. Now the Post is looking forward to what it can contribute to American Legion programs during its next twenty-five years.



Kudos to Vergennes Post 14, Vergennes SAL Detachment 14, and Bristol Post 19 for identifying a need and stepping up to make a difference. A member of Post 14, Garry Clark, has spearheaded an effort to help veterans affected by hurricane Helene. Having established contact with Grady Maddox, Commander of Haywood Post 47 in Waynesville, North Carolina, the local legionnaires and sons have collected upwards of \$2000 to provide veteran-focused aid and relief in that devastated area of North Carolina. Well done by all!

Good luck to those who will take to the woods this month and best wishes to all for an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander – Roy "Buzz" McKinnon**

Hello Second District,

First is Veterans Day and I know all Posts are planning events. Please reach out to all Veterans in nursing homes and those who may not be able to attend these events.

Second is membership. I would like to thank all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Posts for all of the hard work of getting their membership in. We have reached a percentage of 60.87%. I know we still have a long way to go but keep up the good work and keep membership coming in. To help with membership there is a membership "Round Up" to be held at Hardwick Post 7 on November 16th at 12:00pm. This training is open to all Posts and should be a great help to Post Commanders and Adjutants.



For God and Country

Roy McKinnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander  
(603)331-5000



### **3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander – Christopher Wood**

Hello from District Three. Fall is in full swing in our communities in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties and now that the Fall Conference has come and gone we start to really focus on membership. One thing that I thought about while at the fall conference was the old adage about “preaching to the choir.” The folks that show up to the fall conference don’t need to be reminded about the benefits of belonging to the American Legion, and likewise the people that show up to your Post meetings don’t need to be preached at either. You have to reach out to the members that are not at your meetings, and it is imperative that you reach out to the Veterans in your community that don’t fully understand the value of belonging to our organization. Also, encourage your members to keep doing buddy checks. As Adjutant for my post, I recently reached out to a Veteran that I had not heard from in the last year only to find out he had lost three family members in the last year. Knowing your post cares about you makes a world of difference.



Now is the time of year to clean up your renewals for 2024 while working towards the Veterans Day target of 75% of your quota. As of the last count sent out by Headquarters the leading posts in District 3 are Johnson Post 46 in Lamoille County which has held steady with 94% of their quota. Bradford Post 20 loses the second spot to Norwich University Post 1819 with 84% moving to the third spot with 79%. This makes representation of each County in the District for the top three spots. Norwich University Post 1819 continues to lead the district with 13 new members so far. So far the posts in Orange and Lamoille County have not been able to dig up some new members for their posts. This will be a place to put some focus over the coming months.

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

### **Caledonia County Commander – Jay Matthews**

Good day everyone, hope this finds you all in good spirits. The department meeting in Vergennes was quite eventful and the turnout was great, thanks to those who came. As always you can learn a lot from these meetings as I find myself doing at all of them.

Keep up on membership many Vets out there to sign up. Hope all is well and thanks for all you do.

Jay Matthews, Caledonia Cty. Cmdr.



## **Orleans County Commander – Carl King**

Orleans County is doing good.

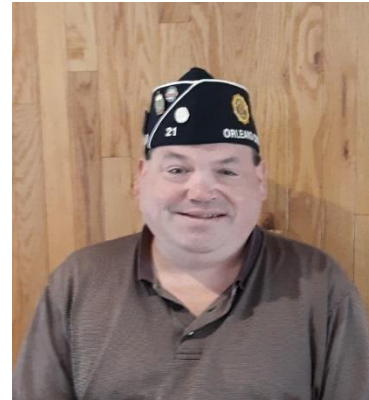
We are transitioning to the winter months and indoor activities are booming.

Post 28 (Jay Peak) very active

Post 21 (Newport) very active

Post 23 (Orleans) steady

Post 76 (Barton) steady.



Come on up to the Northeast Kingdom, have fun, see the beauty.

Carl P. King, Orleans Cty. Cmdr.

## **Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet**

Greetings,

The following paragraphs summarize the notes taken by Wayne Goulet, Washington County Commander and Harry N. Cutting, Post 59 Commander, during the 2024 Fall Conference. These notes are not the conference minutes.

Event: The American Legion Department of Vermont Fall Conference Date: 19 October 2024

Location: Vergennes Post 14

Host: Joseph Zickmund, Department Commander

### **1. Comments by the National Commander**

After an introduction by National Executive Committee (NEC) member Tom Scanlon, American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. provided opening remarks that focused on the Four Pillars of the American Legion (AL). The Four Pillars are:

A. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation - Includes programs like access to VA care, career opportunities, and support for veterans with special needs.

B. National Security - Includes programs like support for troops, homeland security, and quality of life.

C. Americanism - Includes programs like flag protection, voter registration, and the Boy Scouts of America.

D. Children & Youth- Includes programs like support for at-risk children, the Family Support Network, and temporary financial assistance.

James A. LaCoursiere Jr. was elected National Commander of The American Legion on 29 August 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention. He is a member of American Legion

Post 91 in Moosup, CT. You can read more about Commander LaCoursiere at the following link: <https://wilegion.org/national-commander>

## **2. Back to Basics - PDC Clark" Sparky" Ferris**

Clark "Sparky" Ferris, Past Department Commander (PDC), introduced the "Back to Basics" theme of the Fall Conference. The Back-to-Basics theme aims to renew the core values and principles of the AL. Sparky covered many topics to include a detailed history of the founding of the AL. He also discussed the AL's continuing commitment to fellow veterans and the definition of Americanism.

## **3. Introduction of Boys' Nation Delegate - Grey Fearon**

Grey Fearon, a Vergennes Union High School senior this school year, discussed his participation at Green Mountain Boys' State from 23-28 June at Norwich University. The main focus of Boys' State is to introduce high school students to the organization, policies and procedures of Vermont town, county, and state governments. As a result of his exemplary performance at Boys State, Grey was one of two Vermont students chosen to represent the State in Washington D.C. at Boys' Nation. Grey intends to study political science in college and enter politics after graduation. He recently completed his requirements for Eagle Scout.

## **4. Pact Act Update - DSO Larry Thompson**

Larry Thompson, Department Service Officer (DSO), discussed the Pact Act and associated VA benefits available to eligible veterans. The PACT Act is a law that provides VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act will bring additional benefits listed below according to the following VA website link: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

- A.** Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- B.** Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- C.** Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- D.** Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care

DSO Thompson also briefly mentioned Vermont tax benefits to veterans. The following State of Vermont website link provides a summary of these benefits: [https://veterans.vermont.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-benefits/tax-exemptions-veterans#:~:text=Does%20Vermont%20Exempt%20Military%20Retirement,%20and%20%2465%2C000%20\(joint\).](https://veterans.vermont.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-benefits/tax-exemptions-veterans#:~:text=Does%20Vermont%20Exempt%20Military%20Retirement,%20and%20%2465%2C000%20(joint).)

## **5. Special Presentation - PDC Cathy Tester**

PDC Tester and National Commander LaCoursiere recognized George "Buddy" Taggart for his 80 continuous years as a member of the American Legion. A member of Castleton Crippen-Fellows Post 50, Buddy enlisted in the Army in 1944 to serve in World War II. Buddy was honorably discharged from the Army as an E-5 and received

commendations and awards for First Cavalry Division, 271st Field Artillery Battalion, Liberation Ribbon 1-1 Bronze Star, Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and a Purple Heart.

**6. Legion College - Sr. Vice Cmdr. William Brothers**

Bill Brothers attended National American Legion College in Indianapolis last November. The purpose of the college is to teach the core values and contributions of the AL organization, its Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and many subordinate programs. The National Legion College prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. While at the college, Bill proposed a resolution to recognize the Gilman Church, also known as the Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel, as a historical building. Reverend Fox was a minister at the Gilman Church and one of the four chaplains that selflessly gave up their lives in 1943 to save others during the torpedoing and sinking of the USS Dorchester in WWII. The resolution proposed by Bill was adopted by AL National Headquarters. Currently, Bill is waiting for the Vermont State legislature to consider the resolution and also recognize the chapel as a historical building.

**7. Parliamentary Procedure - PDC Mark Cloutier**

PDC Cloutier discussed and clarified the essential elements of Parliamentary Procedure when conducting a meeting. Specifically discussed was the protocol when a meeting goes into Executive Session. In instances of Executive Session, the meeting notetaker will not take any notes. However, the meeting minutes must indicate the meeting went into Executive Session and include a reason why this was necessary...e.g., personal issue.

**8. Special Presentation - Department of Vermont SAL Detachment Commander Brian Massey Jr.**

Brian Massey's Project as SAL Vermont Detachment Commander is focused on the Four Pillars of the AL. In fulfillment of his project, Brian presented two checks to the AL totaling \$6,000 in support of the Americanism Pillar. Specifically, one check for \$4,000 is earmarked to support the Oratorical Contest while the second check for \$2,000 will be applied to overall Americanism program costs.

**9. Vermont AL Auxiliary President - John Tester**

For his President's project, John Tester intends to build a museum at Gilman Methodist Church. John has the unconditional support of the Fox family.

John is also the Executive Director of the Dodge House in Rutland. The house is a transitional housing program for homeless veterans, helping them find permanent housing. Total capacity is five beds for males and three beds for females. Unfortunately, the house did not receive any funding this year from the State of Vermont to support operations. As such, the Dodge House will be soliciting funding elsewhere to include contributions from AL Posts.

**10. Finance/ IRS Form 990 – Dennis Minoli**

Dennis discussed the three types of Form 990s (990-N, 990-EZ, and 990 Long Form) that tax exempt organizations, to include all AL Posts, must file annually with the IRS. What



type of Form 990 a Post files with the IRS depends upon the Post's gross receipts and assets as follows:

990-N: Gross receipts normally  $\leq$  \$50,000

990-EZ: Gross receipts  $<$  \$200,000, and Total assets  $<$  \$500,000

990: Gross receipts  $\geq$  \$200,000, or Total assets  $\geq$  \$500,000

Dennis also discussed Post gaming activities. Generally, if gaming is limited to AL members and guests, the activity is tax exempt. However, if the general public is allowed to participate, then the Post is required to pay taxes. Additionally, Dennis covered other topics to include gaming records, non-exempt activities, unrelated business income, and unrelated business income tax

### **11. Consolidated Reports- Department Adjutant - Brian Markwell**

Brian stressed the importance of every Post completing the annual Consolidated Post Report (CPR). The CPR shows what the activities and charities a specific post has supported during the twelve-month reporting period, June 1 through May 31. The CPR was established for posts to document external activities, such as volunteer and fundraising efforts, funeral honors and youth programs. This data is collected by National Headquarters to help quantify – for Congress, American Legion media, national leadership and more – the good that American Legion posts do in their communities every year.

### **12. Law & Order Cadet Program - June Kelly**

Vermont will host a Law & Order Cadet program for the first time in five years. The program will run for one week (22-27 June 2025) with a maximum of 26 cadets between the ages of 14 to 19. The cost for each participant will be approximately \$390. The Police Academy in Pittsford will host the program. Cadets will not shoot live ammunition during the training. Rather, cadets will use the virtual reality training simulator located at the academy.

### **13. Be The One - Stephen Frost**

Stephen Frost and PDC Mark Cloutier are initiating a "Be The One" program in Vermont to better educate posts on how to detect and prevent veteran suicide. Veteran suicide is 20-25% higher than the national average. The suicide prevention hotline is "988".

### **14. United States of America - 250th Birthday**

The U.S will turn 250 years old in 2026. The AL must start planning to properly celebrate this incredible milestone.

### **15. Four Rules of Four Rules of an American Legion Program**

In addition to Four Pillars, the AL has Four Rules. The rules control the actions and provide oversight of any program chartered by a post to ensure the program best meets the needs of the Post. The Four Rules are:

Rule #1 – "Leadership" – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.

Rule #2 – “Rules” – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.

Rule #3 – “Reports” – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.

Rule #4 – “Controls” – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) parental signatories appointed by the parent organization.

#### **16. Oratorical Program - Karlene Devine**

The Oratorical Contest was held at Hillsdale College in Michigan. The college provided free support to all competitors to include meals and lodging. Competitors were only responsible to pay for transportation to Hillsdale. The contest might move to another location because Hillsdale has not indicated whether they will provide the same support this year. More to follow.

Interestingly, 20% of Oratorical competitors are first generation Americans while another 20% are home-schooled.

#### **17. Boy Scouts - Ron LaRose**

The Green Mountain Council of Scouting America will hold the annual “Scouting Salute to Veterans” parade on Saturday, 9 November 2024 from 0900 to 1000 in Brandon Vermont.

Wayne Goulet, Washington Cty. Cmdr.





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## Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

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District #2 Membership Roundup – Hardwick Post 7  
Saturday 11/16 Noon to 2 p.m. – Bring your mobile phone!

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District #1 Membership Roundup – Middlebury Post 27  
Saturday 11/23 Noon to 2 P.m. – Bring your Mobile phone!

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*Department HQ's Legion Family Christmas Open House*  
*Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>! 11 – 2 PM*

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Mid-Winter Conference – January 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
Hampton Inn by Hilton – Colchester, Vermont  
(More Info to Follow)

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Mid-Winter Conference Banquet – Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
Hampton Inn by Hilton – Colchester, Vermont  
(More Info to Follow)

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*Post Everlasting*  
*Gone, but Never Forgotten...*

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Murphy, Richard.....13  
Davis, Orval .....14  
Waldron, John ..... 14  
Paquin, Paul ..... 14  
Szawerda, Jerry ..... 18  
Hodge, Herbert..... 20  
Simonds, Nelson ..... 20

Prairie, Roland ..... 21  
Lontine, Antonio..... 21  
Benson, Ronald ..... 21  
Clark, Albert ..... 26  
O'Dell, Larry ..... 41  
Christopher, Edward..... 60  
Wolcott, Eben..... 91





# Commander's Projects

*Joseph Zickmund*

2024-2025

Vermont



My projects for the year – raising funds to cover the unmet expenses, and hopefully to expand the reach of the youth programs – Oratorical, Boy Scouts, Boys State and Baseball. Also, I will be supporting and raising funds for Vermont Paws and Boots. An organization that pairs and trains service dogs with at-risk veterans and first responders.



The goals of American Legion Baseball are the development of team discipline, individual character and leadership development qualities in young people. Over ten million teenagers and over half of all major league players have played American Legion Baseball since its inception.



The Department of Vermont as well as the National organization recognized and provides scholarships for the Eagle Scout of the Year on the local and national levels. Additionally, the Department of Vermont also provides an annual banquet to recognize the achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout.



The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.



Vermont Paws & Boots mission is simple and straightforward, to save the lives of veterans and first responders who are struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma and physical disabilities.

Thank you for considering donating to these important and worthwhile programs. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to: **THE VERMONT FOUNDATION FOR VETERANS AND CHILDREN** and place in the memo line: **COMMANDERS PROJECT 24**

The mailing address :  
Department of Vermont HQ  
P.O. Box 396  
Montpelier, Vermont 05061

# **Oratorical Information**

## **Karlene DeVine, Director**

Greetings District Commanders aka District Oratorical Committee,

I am in the process of sending communication to VT high schools about the Oratorical Program.

Supposedly, there are 82 public high schools and 47 private ones. I target English and Social Studies teachers, drama and performing arts, school principals and guidance counselors if I can. Some school websites don't "give away" the email addresses of staff.

I will be leaving about Dec. 12th for Arizona and will be back just before the MidWinter Conference. Melodie and I will be in close contact as applications for participation come in.

My practice is to speak directly with the student after receiving the application. I want to determine if they know what they are committing themselves to. If they don't have an affiliation with a Legion Post, I contact a post that would be near their school location to ask the post to sponsor the student.

Please choose a tentative date and location for your District's contest--Feb-Mar. The Department contest will be on March 22, 2025. Location to be determined.

Below is the text I am sending to schools:

### **Scholarship Opportunities through the American Legion High School Constitutional Speech Contest**

**Please share this 5 min. video**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Io4ccmczHXc>**

**with your students and staff**

**Application attached. Return no later than Dec. 11, 2024**

[https://www.vtlegion.org/documents/oratorical\\_application\\_2024.pdf](https://www.vtlegion.org/documents/oratorical_application_2024.pdf)

Gr. 9-12

Contests at local American Legion Posts will be held Dec.-Feb. (2025) ***Student must be prepared to do the first competition January 10, 2025***

The 5 District contests will be held Feb.- Mar.(2025).

The Department contest will be in March, 2025.

Awards of **\$1500, \$750, and \$500** go to the first through third places in the March Department contest.

The winner of the Vermont Department contest goes to the National Contest, Hillsdale College. MI. **May 17-18, 2025.** The American Legion pays the travel and lodging expense of the state winner and chaperone to the national contest.

Questions, please contact Karlene DeVine , Department of Vermont American Legion Oratorical Program manager

[Karlene1350@gmail.com](mailto:Karlene1350@gmail.com) or call (802)377-7380

**Downloadable poster to put on your website for students.**

<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/311ACY0823-Americanism-One-Sheet-Oratorical.pdf>



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Department of Vermont**

**The American Legion High School Oratorical Program**  
**“A Constitutional Speech Contest”**  
**2025 APPLICATION**

(To be completed by student with sponsorship of American Legion Post)

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes, \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If no, are you a resident alien? (lawful immigrant)  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Time Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Time

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL REPORT**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I first became interested in the Oratorical Contest when:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will abide by all the rules of the Department of Vermont and The National High School Oratorical Contest Committee and follow the instructions of contest sponsors and chairman. I hereby attest that my Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic presentations are my original work.  
Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by American Legion Post or District: \_\_\_\_\_

Post or District Chairman or Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\***Must be postmarked no later than December 11, 2024**\*\*\*\*\*

Mail Application to:  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Or FAX to:  
**(802) 223-0318**

Department Oratorical Contest  
126 State Street, PO Box 396  
Montpelier, VT 05601-0396





### Norwich University Post # 1819

American Legion

P.O. Box 149

Northfield, Vermont 05663

[www.legionpost1819.org](http://www.legionpost1819.org)

#### Dear Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,

The newly elected & installed officers of Norwich University Post 1819 would like to thank everyone who helped make our 10 Year Anniversary dinner and 2024 Annual meeting a great success. Some of the highlights include:

- 65 members, guests & friends attending the 10 Year Anniversary celebration & dinner at Sugarbush on Thursday, with a fabulous guest speaker (and new member!) BG Tracey Poirier.
- 33 members & guests attending the annual meeting on Saturday
- 22 active members renewing their memberships, 10 NU veterans joining Post #1819 as new members, re-engaging/renewing two former members, and 2 transfers.
- Raising nearly \$6,000!!! for scholarships and service projects through the raffle of a commemorative NU Henry rifle, sale of the limited-edition 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Distillery bourbon and rye with etched Post 1819 logo, newly minted Post 1819 Challenge coin sales, apparel sales, membership renewals, and new memberships. Thanks to all of those who purchased raffle tickets and congrats to the winner, Rich Geisler, NU '94.

And a special thanks to Department Commander Joe Zickmund who performed the installation of the 2024-2025 slate of officers and drew the winning raffle ticket for us, and Washington County Commander Wayne Goulet for attending the 10 years Anniversary dinner.



BG Tracey Poirier, VTANG  
addresses the dinner guests



10 year Anniversary Celebration at Sugarbush



Dept. Commander Joe Zickmund Installing the 2024-2025 Officers



Selling hard on NU Henry Rifle Raffle

**DEPARTMENT HQ'S**  
**LEGION, SAL, AUXILIARY, ALR 's**  
**"CHRISTMAS OPEN-HOUSE"**



**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 to 2 P.M.**

**Drop in and have light refreshments and  
Holiday cheer with your Department St**

**All of us here at Department hope to see you!**





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STARTED BY  
**25 SOLDIERS**

**13 MILLION**  
MEMBERS AND GROWING

**100 YEARS**  
AND GOING STRONG

**1 MISSION**  
THROUGH IT ALL

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As long as there are those  
who serve, USAA will be  
there to serve them.



[usaa.com/join](https://usaa.com/join)

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