



American Legion
Department of Vermont
Monthly Bulletin

October 2021

"For God and Country"



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER

Catherine M. Jester

Happy fall legionnaires,

I just returned from the October Fall Conference. At the conference we had several meetings and speakers to include National Commander Dillard, leading candidate Jim Troiola, and commission chairs. It was a few days with my fellow department commanders from across the organization. It was interesting to hear about other states successes and also hear the issues. It is nice to know that we all are in the same boat and face many of the same challenges.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of visiting Waterbury Post 59, Ludlow Post 36, Vergennes Post 14 and Arlington Post 69. Thank you for the hospitality showed to me during my visits. I look forward to visiting your post. If you have an

event you would like me to attend, please reach out so I can add it to my schedule. If I am not able to attend, I will coordinate to have a Department Officer attend as my representative.

Our fall conference is Saturday, October 23 at Vergennes Post 14. National Vice Commander Cory Bates from Rhode Island will be in attendance and I hope we can have a representative from each post. If you are not able to travel, are quarantining for a health procedure or need to be home to take care of someone, please reach out to me. I would like to see everyone in person but understand that circumstances sometimes do not allow. I would like you to participate so you can join virtually via Zoom.

Our internal affairs committee along with chairman PDC Royal Sheeley have put together an agenda which is robust and engaging for the Fall Conference. I hope you will make plans to at-

tend. The agenda is in the newsletter.

As I write this article, I want to congratulate the posts who have reached or surpassed 50 percent membership. Now we need to get to work to keep the membership coming in. I know Sr. Vice Commander and membership chair Tom Scanlon and PDC David Woodward, our membership Director, are working together and are available to assist with membership. Together we can achieve our goals.

Do you have questions about mylegion.org, post concerns and questions? Our Department Adjutant Brian Markwell and Melodie Ashford, our department executive secretary, are here to assist. If they don't know the answer, they will find the right person to ask and get back with you.

Mark your calendar for our Mid-Winter Conference at the

(Continued on page 3)



PAUL E. DILLARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER

AMERICAN LEGION



On the same stage where he was elected the 2021-2022 American Legion national commander, Texas Legionnaire Paul E. Dillard shared his theme for his year: “No Veteran Left Behind.”

And then he shared why that sentiment is so critical. “There are many consequences for a veteran who is left behind,” said Dillard, who was elected unanimously by delegates at the organization’s 102nd National Convention. “Isolation, denied benefits, lost opportunity, lack of decent housing or employment are just a few. But the most tragic outcome for a veteran left behind is suicide. We must not let them down. Male, female, Iraq vet, Vietnam vet, Korean vet, World War II vet – it doesn’t matter. We all serve, and we must be there for each other.”

Dillard shared some statistics on veteran suicide that he researched online. “Veterans are at a 50-percent higher risk of suicide than their non-serving peers,” he said. “More than 114,000 men and women who have served in our armed forces have taken their own

lives since 2001. That is nearly double the American lives lost in Vietnam. By 2030, it is estimated that the total of veteran suicides will be 23 times the number of post -9/11 combat deaths.

“Each statistic represents a real man, a real woman, and impacts thousands of real families. That is why we must, folks, we must regularly continue our Buddy Checks – not just for past and present members, but for every veteran that we know. If you have any other ideas about what we can stop these tragedies, please share those ideas with your fellow Legionnaires and members of our national staff. There are many important issues facing veterans, but no issue is more important than this: to save a life. Real stories. Real people. No veteran – and I mean no veteran – left behind.”

Dillard said The American Legion will continue to advance the legacies of veterans “by sharing their love for this country with the next generation. We do this through our youth programs, such as Boys State, Boys Nation, Oratorical, Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, JROTC and supporting Scouting. We also reach out directly to veterans through our Veterans & Children Foundation, Operation Comfort Warriors, National Emergency Fund, Buddy Checks and many scholarship programs.”

Dillard said when he testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees during the 2022 Washington Conference, he wants to be able to paint a complete picture of what The American Legion does on a large scale.

“In order to give a full report in my testimony of The American Legion, we must strive for a 100-percent Consolidated Post Report,” he said. “I need to report on the hours donated, the monies raised to support our veterans and our programs. Although these are being done at the post level throughout the nation, we must complete the forms. The mission is not completed until the forms are filed.”

“It is indeed an honor and privilege to be elected as your national commander of this great organization,” Dillard said. “As we continue to build a foundation for the future, we will ensure ‘No Veteran Left Behind.’”



This article is an edited version of an article that appeared on-line by Steven B. Brooks on September 2, 2021.

Double Tree in South Burlington on January 21-22. I understand we will have national officers from the Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary as well as National Vice Commander Cory Bates.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance and I look forward to visiting your post home this year.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester

Department Commander



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

MYLEGION.ORG

ONLINE RESOURCES

Information and help with the new MyLegion.org platform, including registration and account resources, may be found **online here:**

<http://em.legion.org/c/1yU5ZJSGniJJ6BtPs74E9j>

National training opportunities at your fingertips and a click away at

<https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays>



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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tom Scanlon

Once again I want to comment on the Department 9/11 Ceremony and thank all involved. It was a touching event and hopefully we do it again at another post, in another area of the state next year.

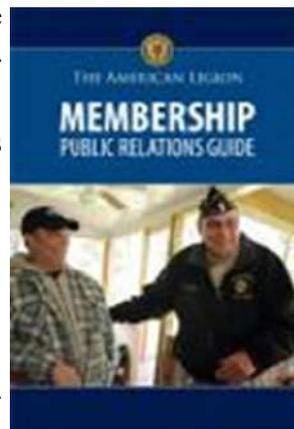
MEMBERSHIP: I have to give a big shout out to all those posts, counties, and districts that reached 50% in early September. Now the hard part comes, scratching and clawing for others to pay their dues, or recruiting new members. Covid has even made this annual event even harder, but we must not give up. Get on My Legion and check out potential members in your area. If you are not yet signed on to use this great tool, please do so, and if you need help call the Department Adjutant or your County or District Commander. There are DMS members on the list ripe for the taking. Give them a call and use your interpersonal skills to get them to transfer to your great post. Sell yourself and your post. That is something we all do not do enough of.

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS: In the film “Field of Dreams” there is a great line which states “If you build it, they

will come”. Your post is a great place and the American Legion is a great organization. They are there and if nobody knows about them they will not come in and join. It is everyone’s job to recruit and tell the story of the American Legion and what it does for veterans, children, and the community. We have to work harder at selling ourselves. Public Relations is primarily about our (The American Legion) image and how we relate and interact in our respective communities. Perception is reality for most and we must work hard to present that we really are and not what people think we are. There is a great tool, accessible to all on www.legion.org and it is the “Membership Public Relations Guide”. This can be downloaded from the web site and this would be an invaluable tool in any posts public relations program. Go to the header “Media” and then to “Publications” and you will find this great instrument to work with there.

ETHICS & INTEGRITY: What is Ethics?...Ethics concerns itself on how people should behave. It is not the same as values which concerns itself with how a people actually behave. Most values have nothing to do with ethics. I have heard individuals say I am ethical because I have integrity. Integrity is only one component

of what it is to be an ethical person. On top of this, the context in which the word integrity is used does not always fit its definition. Integrity is a component of Trustworthiness which includes honesty, integrity, promise-keeping, and loyalty. A “Person of Character” or ethical person embodies the value of Trustworthiness as well as Respect, Responsibility (includes; Accountability, Pursuit of Excellence, and Self-Restraint), Justice and Fairness, Caring, and Civic Virtue and Citizenship. They are more than words. They are values, or more aptly, Pillars of Character. An ethical person is not perfect, but rather, always trying to make the right decisions based on solid principles, and working hard to become a better person....All organizations, including ours should embody these values as well....Do what is right, because it is right....”There is no softer pillow than a clear conscious”.



For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Brian Markwell

And now it's October and we're just a couple weeks until our Fall Conference in Vergennes. Remember the address to plug into your Garmin or other device is 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491. We will be helping Legion Family members sign up for the **FREE** insurance from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. Remember, you can get up to \$5,000 of death benefit for death while involved with Legion related business or travel and \$1,000 benefit for any non-Legion related death. It's quick and easy to sign up at the website: www.theLIT.com. Quick and easy and the price is right. Plus, the Department of Vermont benefits from a percentage of the programs and policies members sign up to obtain the services of the LIT.

For those of you who are trying to utilize the online program to process your Post membership renewals and new memberships and are getting frustrated, National is aware of your challenges and is working diligently to address the situation. Each day they are getting closer to making it work and actually need your feedback when you have a problem. Every glitch is an opportunity for them to identify a problem and make an adjustment to improve the entire program. The IT Director has promised that the system will be completely up and running glitch free by the end of the year. I know some are working through the

problems and have seen the process getting better the past couple months. So, if you were scared off, give it another chance, and log in and see the changes for yourself. If you need some help with the process, bring your laptop, membership information to be processed and your bank account information and we can get you handling membership in no time.

National Fall Conference was the first of this month in Indianapolis. I'm looking forward to working with you using the things I learned while out there. The state Department Adjutants across the country are all working together with the people at National to make membership a better experience for our Family members. I look forward to working with you to bring better and new experiences to our family.

See you in Vergennes!!

As always, if you have any questions or need help with something, please feel free to contact me at adjvt@talofvt.com or 1-802-999-1026.

For God and Country,

Brian Markwell

Dept of Vermont Adjutant



NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER

Mark Cloutier

Welcome fellow Legionnaires.

It is that time of year again, cold nights, leaves changing color and shorter days. Where has the year gone? As we all know by seeing the news, COVID cases are on the rise again, as well as COVID related deaths. Please folks if you aren't vaccinated please consider it.

The Agenda for Fall Conference has been made and it should be a very informative conference. There is training scheduled on a few important topics and we will be having a visit from National Vice Commander Cory Bates. Lunch will be provided. Hope to see a representative from every post.

Membership in the Northern Area is looking good. We have met the September goal and are at

54.63%. Great job and let's keep the momentum going. There are a few posts that are well below 50% and hopefully will catch up soon. If you need help processing memberships online through mylegion.org, please reach out to me and I will be glad to help out.

If your post officers have not yet been installed please reach out to your County or District commanders to get something set up.

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

Mark Cloutier

Northern Area Commander, Department of Vermont
For God and Country



FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lewis Graham

Membership is coming in well and we are in 3rd place. I have taken an idea from Dave Woodward from a few years ago and carry applications for all the Legion Family organizations with me. Over time, I have been able to recruit several members just by striking up a casual conversation with someone at the grocery store or car wash etc.

Fall conference has been moved to Vergennes this year. They have a great post and it will be nice seeing another part of the state on the way over. I look for-

ward to seeing you there. There will be a Caucus for District 5 at the conference and we will consider making a change in the bylaws regarding the requirements for a quorum.

We are still in need of a Windsor county Commander. Please think about it. It is a fairly low key way to support our organization..

If your officers have not yet been sworn in, time is slipping by. Please call me at 802-279-0441 or email at vermonter@charter.net. I will be happy to come by and per-

form the ceremony.

I wish everyone well and hope you have a great autumn. Please plan on keeping our veterans checked on with the buddy system and keep an eye out for ways to help our vets coming home from deployment. It may be a difficult transition and we need to let them know we are there to help them and their families in any way we can.

For God and Country,

Lew Graham, Jr.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires,

We are entering another of God's four seasons,

Autumn (or Fall as most of us call it). Of course, we have five seasons here in Vermont, counting that wonderful mud season. The trees are starting to show their colors and morning temperatures are dropping slowly.

Elaine and I attended the Post 27 hosted 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony. This was the best planned and executed memorial I've seen. Our Commander and Vice Commander coordinated for the Post, Town of Middlebury, Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Techs, major industries, and members of The American Legion Family elements participation. Truly a great Remembrance occasion.

We are still coping with Covid-19 at the Vermont Veterans Home. Father Holden and yours truly are still doing services via closed circuit T.V. each

Wednesday so our Heroes and their spouses are reminded of God's presence. Please pray this Pandemic will soon be behind us.

On a personal note, I have been experiencing some issues with Lupus, but praise God for the doctors, specialists, and techs at the White River Junction VA Hospital. They have scheduled x-rays, CAT scans, bone marrow, blood evaluations to try and focus in on the root causes of my ailments. I know God has everything under control and will see this thing to a successful end.

Enjoy the wonderful fall colors and be thankful for Gods blessings every day.

Remember, God does not give us overcoming life, He gives us life as we overcome.

Keep the faith! God bless,

Chaplain Ken

CORY D. BATES

National Vice Commander - North Eastern Region



Cory D. Bates of Coventry, R.I., has been a life member of the Szlag-Peitrás-Rekus-Mageria Post 81 since 2000. Bates served in the Army and National Guard from January 1982 through July 1992. He served with the Yankee Division, 26th Air Cavalry then with the

2nd Infantry Division and the 1st Ranger Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment. He is also a member of Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders with West Warwick Post 2 in West Warwick, R.I. Bates has held many offices at the post level as well as being Post 81 commander for the last 12 years. At the department level, Bates has been the sergeant-at-arms, junior and senior vice commander. He was elected department commander in 2012 and achieved 100 percent membership for 2012-2013. He also served as Rhode Island's Alternate National Executive Committeeman and National Executive Committee-

man. He has held department chairmanships for the Oratorical, Children & Youth, and Finance commissions and is currently the American Legion Baseball chairman for Rhode Island. Bates is a 2010 graduate of the National American Legion College. He has served on national committees including National Security Council member, National Legislative Council member and as a current member of the Media and Communications Council. Bates has a daughter and five grandchildren. He has been employed at Coventry Lumber since 2005 and is currently the president of the PNA Golf League.



SECOND DISTRICT COMMANDER

Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

I guess you could say this particular Bulletin article has been years in the making. I have wanted to address this for a long time, but just could not seem to bring it all together until now.

I'd like to talk about a common 7-letter word, R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

As veterans, this is a concept that was drilled into our heads from Day 1 of Basic Training, Boot Camp, or whatever else your particular branch of the military may have called it. I distinctly recall having been told, "You may not respect the individual, but you will respect the rank!" As American Legion members, we recognize only one "rank", and that is "veteran". I have held that title for 48 years and have also held the title of Legionnaire for 21 years. I know that many have held both of those titles a great deal longer than that. Perhaps, as a Vietnam

Era vet, I may be a bit more sensitive to disrespect than some others. Sadly, over the course of my time as a Legion member, I have been noticing a degree of decline in respect among Legion Family members; not all, but some. Even our non-veteran Legion Family members, the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, who did not have the concept of respect pounded into their heads by the military have, by and large, a deep-seated respect for veterans. It's why they do what they do. It's why we all do what we do. We all have the same mission. We all serve veterans and their families, our children and youth, our communities, and by extension, the United States of America. Everyone involved in a mission such as ours deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Once upon a time, I had the "If you want my respect, you're going to earn it" attitude. Time, life experience, and my earlier years of American Legion mem-

bership have shown me that I was wrong to have that attitude. I have learned that everyone is deserving of respect unless/until they prove otherwise.

Between the Legion Act and the post-9/11 war eras, a new generation of veterans has begun trickling into our ranks. What sort of legacy do we want to leave to them? "Yeah, I know you're a veteran. I know you served during a 20-year period of war. But if you want to be a part of MY organization, you need to earn it." Really? I know the legacy I choose to leave. It says, "Respect, Brother! Respect, Sister! Welcome home to YOUR organization. I've tried to be a good steward for you. It is your turn now to do the same for those who follow you."

We can, and must, do better.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Furry

2nd District Commander

SUICIDE

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



upcoming
EVENTS

Dates	Event/meeting	Location
2021		
October 23	Fall Conference	Post 14, Vergennes
December 10	Open House Department of Vermont	
2022		
January 21-22	Mid-Winter Conference	Double Tree, Burlington
21	Mid-Winter Banquet 5:00pm	
22	Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	following Mid-Winter Conference
April 10	Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)	Montpelier Post 3



THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

Joe Zickmund

Greetings from District 3,

What a beautiful time of year we're enjoying here in Vermont. I recently traveled the southwest where the brown and seemingly lifeless looking desert is in great contrast to our lush and colorful state. It's easy to take for granted all that our state has to offer until you find the contrast when compared to others. I find this true with our American Legion as well. I think many members that aren't active are missing out on the satisfaction, the camaraderie, and the sense of purpose that the American Legion can provide. I encourage each of you to reach out to a less active or non-member veteran and invite them to attend an event or a meeting. Show them

firsthand what the American legion means to you and what it means to veterans the world over. I also encourage you to attend the fall conference. It's a great source of information and can help to create a desire to do more.

Dues are essential to our mission. If you've already renewed your memberships for 2022, thank you. If you haven't yet done so, please take a moment and send in that slip you received in the mail or you can renew online if you prefer.

My best,

Joe Zickmund, District 3 Commander



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Victor J. Stone

A Perfect Trifecta: Birthday, Reception, and Installation

The job of Department Historian is both interesting and enlightening. With a principle role of keeping track of important Department events and the comings and goings of the Department Commander there are ample opportunities to meet members of the American Legion family and to experience a variety of venues and settings. Most recently I was privileged to participate in, or rather more importantly, observe and record, three disparate events which illustrate the nature and joy of this assignment:

1200 hours Monday Sept. 20th at the Twin Valley Senior Center in E. Montpelier.... Commander Tester presented a 100 year birthday certificate and Membership in Post #50 to Charlie Vieth. Mr. Vieth is a WWII veteran of the European Theater of Operations, having served in France and Germany. On hand to assist the Commander were Silas Loomis, Dept. Sgt-at-Arms; Lew Graham, 5th District Commander; Mel McKnight, Post

#10 Commander; and yours truly. Also participating was Ron Tallman, Past State VFW Commander. Mr Vieth was delighted with the party, luncheon, birthday cake and presentations.

1700 hours Monday Sept. 20th at Harry N. Cutting Post #59 in Waterbury...Commander Tester arrived to participate in a reception and banquet in honor of Kathy M. Daudistel, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. Ms Daudistel, who hails from Kentucky, was in Vermont for several days and was ably escorted about the State by Auxiliary Department Sgt-at-Arms John Tester.

1200 hours Saturday Sept. 25th at Norwich University's Plumley Armory...Norwich University Post #1819 convened its annual meeting in conjunction with Norwich University's homecoming weekend. Commander Tester installed the 2021-2022 slate of officers for the post and delivered a few short remarks.

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Commander Tester presenting certificate and membership to Charlie Vieth. Looking on is Rita Copeland, Exec. Director of the Twin Valley Senior Center.



Commander Tester, Kathy Daudistel, National President of ALA, and Francisca Massey, President of ALA Dept. of Vermont.

Commander Tester installing the officers of Norwich University Post #1819



ADDISON COUNTY COMMANDER

Alan M. Smith

Completed evaluation of Middlebury Post 27, impressed with the turnout and participation of the meeting attendees. I will visit Vergennes Post 14 next month for their evaluation. The idea was presented at the Post 27 meeting of the three Addison County Posts holding a seminar at Post 27. Various groups would be invited to detail what they had to offer veterans

and their families. I will present the idea to Post 14 and Post 19 for their reactions.

If any Addison County veterans have questions or need assistance call your local Post or myself and we will do our best to help you.

Alan M. Smith



CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER

David Perron

October, Fall is in the air. With all the outside stuff happening in are Communities, let's get out there and meet and greet people and ask them if they ever served you may be very surprised with their answers. Invite them to a Post meeting. Membership starts with you!!!!!! Let's make are Post stronger and healthy.

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

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

COUNTY COMMANDERS- Time to get out there and visit your Post for Evaluations, I like to visit early so you have time to revisit and check their improvements.

WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving. Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793 Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Thank you,

David W Perron
Caledonia Country Commander



S.A.L. ADVISOR

Bruce F. Paquin

Greetings Legionnaires,

As we enter autumn your SAL is now hard at work with setting goals for programs and making visitation to squadrons all over the Department. Reachable target goals for membership have been set as a guidelines, and I'm sure with a little effort we should not only meet these goals, but surpass them. I know we are still dealing with the ongoing Covid threat, but with most Post reopened in some form, we have more opportunity with personal contact which will help to keep the membership efforts moving forward. I know I don't need to remind you, the number one goal for the whole Legion Family is to retain and the expansion of the entire organization. Only through membership are we able to gain the support of Legislative members to achieve success for the American Legion's programs and initiatives.

The Detachments leadership is now actively conducting visitations to Squadrons. I urge the American Legion Post where the visitations are taking place to be involved

in the meeting/visitation. Make sure your SAL Post adviser does attend. If he/she is not available, have a Post Officer sit in to participate with them. The Sons are your program and provide a valuable resource to your post. Find out what activities they are involved in and how the Post can best utilized their talents.

Take advantage of a dedicated Detachment leadership team that is eager to lend assistance to your Post and Squadron in any manor. In closing, I ask all Legion family members to remember our veterans and to conduct "Buddy Checks" on them. With so many still being isolated, we need to reach out to them, let them know they are not forgotten. You would be surprised what a difference that would make.

Thank you all for the work you do.

For God and Country,

Bruce F. Paquin



DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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802-223-7131

vtlegion.org

Melodie Ashford

Executive Administrator

Finalvt@talofvt.com

Department of
Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000

www.va.gov

American Legion
Headquarters

317-630-1200

www.legion.org

Vermont Office of
Veterans Affairs

802-828-3379

www.veterans.vermont.gov

VA Hospital

White River Jct., Vermont

802-259-9363

Benefits
800-827-1000 or,
802-296-5177

Scheduling
802-296-5160

Dept. Service Officer

Larry Thompson

479-3686

thompsonl@myfairpoint.net

The Dodge House 95 Crescent St Rutland, Vt 05702

Dear Fellow Veterans;

Winter is quickly approaching and many struggling and homeless veterans, come to our Veterans Assistance Office, located at the Dodge House. Many are in need of winter boots in various men and women's sizes. Keeping their feet warm and dry has made a significant difference.

Our supply has slowly depleted and we are reaching out to ask for your participation in providing new boots to needy veterans. We have secured a vendor that provides low cost boots for \$50.00 a pair. We are hoping to purchase 50 pair this year.

If you have any questions regarding our boot project or how to help us reach our goal, please feel free to contact me at dodgehouse_vao@comcast.net

God Bless our Veterans,

Christina Morgan

Executive Director



The National Commanders renewal incentive for non-paid members

Here is how it would work: Someone contacts a member who was last paid for 2020 (*only ones eligible for this offer*) and they had 5 years continuous membership at the time. If they were to pay for 2022 – their continuous years would now be 6 years. If they would like to also have 2021 as well, the offer would be as normal and they would have to pay for the 2021 year. If they do not care or do not want to get back 2021, but pay for 2022, then the adjustment on the continuous years would have to be made at the post by fill-ing out a Member Data Form (MDF) to correct the years or the department can correct it within Personify.

Things to remember – when transmitting the dues, unless the member is paying for 2021 and 2022, do not select 2021 as part of the payment. If 2021 is selected, the payment will come out for that portion of the per capita and it will be deducted as part of the eCheck payment processing.

* For this, only 2022 needs to be selected and then the adjustment should be made on that members record in Personify or send in the MDF to be processed at the National Headquarters. If the member wants both years to be added to their continuous years, then accept payment from them for both 2021 and 2022 membership years, and then process both years through PGO.

Also the application for **the National Commanders incentive pin** is available at: https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/three_new_members_certification_form.pdf

Remember these must be 3 new members who where not members of The American Legion in 2021.



FALL CONFERENCE



ATTENTION

**AMERICAN LEGION, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION,
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Saturday

October 23, 2021

Vergennes Post 14

100 Armory Lane, Vergennes

National Vice
Commander
Cory Bates will
be in attendance

JOIN US!

Legion Meetings

Check in at 8:30am

General Meeting 9:00am

Upstairs Meeting Hall

Auxiliary Meetings

DEC 8:00am

General Meeting 9:00am

Downstairs Dining Room

SON's Meetings

DEC 9:00am

Gen. Meeting 9:45am

Upstairs Bar Area

Lunch Served at 12:00pm

Come and join the legion family for the fall conference



Fall Conference – October 23, 2021

Vergennes Post 14

- 9:00am Opening ceremony – Department Commander Catherine Tester
- 9:20am Roll Call – Department Adjutant Brian Markwell
- 9:30am Membership Plan – Sr. Vice Commander Tom Scanlon
- 10:00am Protocol for Dinners/Official Functions – PDC Royal E. Sheeley
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Parliamentary Procedures/What is required in minutes – Northern Area
Commander Mark Cloutier / William Mattoon
- 11:30am Fall Conference Finance-IRS Presentation – Department Finance Officer Dennis
Minoli
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00pm Service Officer – Department Service Officer Larry Thompson
- 1:30pm Presentation by – National Vice Commander Cory Bates
- 2:30pm Good of the Legion
- 2:45pm Closing Ceremonies – Department Commander Catherine Tester
- Department Executive Meeting 15 minutes after the closing of the Fall Conference.

Note: Times may vary in between sessions



Lunch

Baked Ziti

Salad

garlic bread

lemonade or ice tea

apples, dessert

\$8 per person





LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

PDC Dick Farmer

Legionnaires:

Most of you know that Legislature is not in session and will reconvene in January. Committees are meeting at this time to get ready for the new session. There were many bills pertaining to Veterans left in several committees. What will happen to those bills is not known at this time. Several outstanding bills are as follows:

H185 A. Military Retirement Pay and surviving benefits be exempted 100% from State income tax. There are several of these bills in Legislature.

H146 B. Homestead Exemption for disability benefits. Exempt disability and pension income for Veterans who are totally disabled.

H328 & S.104 Child Transfer Enrollment. Legislation which would allow a child whose parent is transferring to Vermont on Military orders to be remotely enrolled in public schools, provided the parent is stationed in Vermont.

D. Veterans Database – H338 & 511C Endorse legislation which require intake forms used by department for Children and Families, Vt. Health Access and Disabilities, Aging 2nd Independent Living, See information as to whether an applicant or family member has ever served in the US Armed Forces (this will help establish the number of Vets in Vermont).

Now is the time to bring this Legislation to the attention of your local representative. Ask the Representative to come to a legion meeting and let them know how you feel. It's time the Veteran was heard.

As these bills change and more are added, I will keep you informed.

For God and County,

Legislative Chairman

Dick Farmer, PDC



Hannaford's Supermarkets
delivery trucks supporting
Veterans

Thank You



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"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. "



Rutland Post #31

Community Service Project:

The Dodge House Boot Program



Rutland Post 31, Community Service Chairman Kim Jarrait led the drive to raise funds for winter boots for needy veterans. Kim, USAF veteran, and new member also recruited two new members in the process.

Congratulations to a successful fundraiser.

WHAT IS THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST?

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

For over 50 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of the American Legion.

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

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



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



Provides financial support of over \$91 million to support state department activities and VA&R efforts



Provides financial recognition for departments' innovative membership development efforts



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