



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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September 2022 Bulletin

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

- Vermont Vets Town Halls
- Military Appreciation Day
- National Executive Committee message
- Fall Conference Agenda
- And more....

Department Commander



Tom Scanlon

The annual National Convention in Milwaukee is now behind us, and I was proud to represent our great department. I met old friends from other states and made some new ones. I attended wonderful workshops and listened to speakers who were captivating to say the least. Overall, it was a wonderful experience, and Vermont was well represented by a great delegation.

We now have a new National Commander V. James “Jim” Troiola. He is a Navy veteran and hails from New York and is a life member of the Rockland County Post 1682. He was in Vermont mid-June, as the Leading Candidate, and visited over half a dozen posts, went to the car show at the Veterans Home in Bennington, as well as other events during the brief time he was here. Jim is scheduled to visit us as the National Commander during the week prior to our Fall Conference which is set for October 20th at Vergennes Post 14. More information will be forthcoming on his visit and itinerary. Commander Troiola’s theme for the year is “BE the ONE.” This is in response to the increasing number of veteran’s suicides.

Suicide awareness is important for all of us, and it is not just a monumental tragedy affecting our veterans, but it is also an increasing problem with emergency services personnel and our youngest citizens who have had to deal with the problems associated with the pandemic and the oftentimes isolation. The stigma of asking for help and mental illness specifically must be overcome. We must watch, listen, and talk to our children and grandchildren to ensure that all is well. We must also check in on your neighbors and do “buddy checks” to ensure all are well and safe. We must become a society of caring responsible adults willing to take that extra step to ensure others are well and cared for. Mental illness and suicide specifically, are increasing in all aspects of society. It has no boundaries and affects all and at any age.

September is Suicide Awareness Month

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.

We all could have influence in the lives of those we know and care about. Let us work to take down the wall. We must remove the stigma of asking for help particularly as relates to suicide and mental health. Remember 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.

I have just from the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This was a great convention and was filled with some great speakers providing some great information.

One speaker that I found interesting was VA Secretary Denis McDonough. One question that he asked is *"Are we fighting like hell for those who fought for us?"* He then mentioned, *"That is our Northern Star, that question is how we have gotten where we are, and how we'll get where we're going in the future."*

Secretary McDonough talked about some of the victories that the VA has seen over the last year and praised The American Legion for its support and advocacy on behalf of veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

He then went on to talk about the passing of the PACT act that was signed into law. This legislation now provides a comprehensive framework to improve the presumptive process for burn pit veterans by streamlining access to health-care benefits for those who have served in areas of known toxic exposure, regardless of disability status, and provides healthcare for veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits.

He then mentioned that the conditions in the PACT act were supposed to take effect over the next few years. To Quote the secretary "I want to be very clear on this point because it's an important one," he said. 'The conditions in the PACT Act were supposed to take effect over the next few years, but we're not going to do that. Veterans have waited too long for this care and these benefits already, and we're not going to make them wait any longer.'

Please folks if you have or know someone that has been exposed to airborne hazards or burn pits please contact the VA and get registered. Here is a link to the secretary's complete speech. <https://www.legion.org/convention/256752/va-secretary-focuses-implementing-pact-act-reducing-veteran-suicide>

He also talks about veterans' suicide and the new Be the One Campaign. This is a great campaign that I plan on supporting this year. <https://www.legion.org/betheone>

Next up is Fall Conference and this should prove to be a good one as there will be some good training provided. This will be held at Vergennes post 14 on October 22nd. Hope to see you there. Be safe and stay healthy!

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

Mark Cloutier

Military Appreciation Day

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian

The Champlain Valley Fair, celebrating its 100th year of operations, opened its doors on August 29th to all of those who are serving or have served in the various branches and departments of the United States Armed Forces. Throughout the day the Fair's staff members were gracious and considerate hosts.



The Fair's Vermont State Building was the place to be if you wanted to talk to Veterans. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans, Veterans Administration, Vets of Hope and, of course, the American Legion all had a significant presence. Elsewhere at the Fair the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club manned a booth to raise money for their various programs.

The American Legion was represented by Colchester Post #91. Post Commander Henry Lingo and his crew consisting of Boys State Co-Director Dave Cobb, Dave Myers, Past Dept.

Commander Barbara Bushaw, and Dept. Historian Victor Stone were on hand to pass out literature, answer questions and advise interested Fair goers of the advantages of American Legion membership.



It was a great summer day with lots of good Fair food (maybe not so good for you but certainly fun to eat!) and top notch entertainment. To cap

it off the 40th Army band "Iron Sights" Jazz Band performed to the delight of the crowd.

From Left to Right...Dave Cobb, Henry Lingo and Dave Myers



Sons of the American Legion Vermont

Check out their webpage at <https://salvermont.com/> and see all the great things they do for the veterans of our state.

Southern Area Commander - Lew Graham

Greetings, Legionnaires,

I hope that you received the notice that the meeting on September 10 was canceled. I was unable to attend National due to medical issues and feel that it will be more useful to postpone the workshop until later this fall. Stay tuned. Since the workshop is a way to build connections and cooperation as well as provide answers to your questions about Legion processes and protocols, please feel free to let me know any items that you are interested in learning more about, or things that have worked well for you that others could profit from.

I plan on expanding my visits to posts as fall begins. My schedule is quite flexible, please let me know what would fit yours.

I was pleased to be able to attend the fellowship for Milt Willis and pay my respects to a comrade who provided years of dedicated service to veterans who deserve our utmost support. He will be sorely missed.

There have been a couple important statutes passed by Congress that significantly affect veterans and their benefits. I hope that our service officers can quickly learn the basics and guide our members to receive any assistance available.

Fall conference will be coming up soon. Please put the date in your calendar. Encourage any new officers to be sure to come. It is a time when we can make them feel welcome and give them support as they begin to serve the Legion families.

Many of our posts held commemoration services for 9-11. Thank you all for your dedication to honor our veterans and first responders. The country, and especially their families, appreciate knowing they are not forgotten.

For God and Country
Lew Graham
Southern Area Commander

P.S. Don't forget your Buddy checks.

Join us for FALL CONFERENCE – Vergennes Post 14

Saturday, October 22, 2022 – Check in 8:30 am

Northern Area Commander Lou Furry

Greetings Legionnaires,

This isn't going to be the usual harangue about membership. We all know how important membership is, both in acquiring new members and retaining and processing existing memberships. This is about our existing members, particularly our newer ones.

One of the things I notice as I have returned to service as a Department Officer and even prior to that as I've attended Conventions and Conferences over the past several years is that we do have some dedicated younger, or newer, Legionnaires who are attempting to step up and fill the much-needed roles to keep our organization moving and viable. They are interested. They are engaged. They are doing their best to do a good job but, sadly, are sometimes lacking the knowledge necessary to do, and to be, their best. This is NOT their fault. This is not a criticism of their efforts. They truly are trying. We, the "senior" Legionnaires, need to ensure that they have the knowledge they need to continue to improve and to fill the spaces we leave behind as we move on. I see lacks in Parliamentary Procedure, Post Commanders who don't know the proper way to open and run a meeting, Finance Officers uncertain of the standing of certain of their accounts, Adjutants uncertain of their duties, all just muddling along as best they can. BUT, they are trying, and for that, deserve all the credit in the world.

I am a great believer in mentoring, at all levels, beginning with the individual Posts. One of the greatest disservices we can do our Posts and our new members, is to take their dues payments and just leave them to figure things out on their own. Every Post out there has at least one member with vast stores of institutional knowledge. At my own Post in Hardwick, I have spent some time in almost every one of our elective offices, with the exception of Finance Officer, as well as having spent 10 consecutive years as Post Commander. My last term as Commander was 7 years ago, yet I have still held other offices since then, and I also still am willing to mentor anyone who expresses an interest in learning about the workings of The American Legion at any level in which I have experience. I like to think I make a difference for those who came after me and for those who want to move up within the organization.

Wouldn't it be great if each Post could have a designated mentor for their members to reach out to and learn from? Someone to make them feel welcome, valued, and engaged? Senior members, your junior members need you. Knowledge kept is worthless knowledge. Knowledge shared is knowledge multiplied. As the old saying goes, You Can't Take It With You. If you try to take it with you, it's lost forever. Share it. Pass it along to those who can make use of it, and in the process, keep our American Legion strong, vital and viable. Keep in mind the fact that as senior members we are caretakers of this organization for the specific purpose of passing it along, in good condition, to the next generations of veterans. Someone did it for us. We need to do it for them.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. My contact information is:

Lou Furry, PO Box 1286, Hardwick, VT 05843, Email: trollfur@yahoo.com

2nd District Commander David Perron

Legionaries,

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying are summer.

Hope National convention was a success and are Legion family brought back a lot of good information to share with all.

There's a good article on new training for service officers in the new Dispatch page 5.

Fair season is among us, good place to pick up new members or get so old ones back.

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. Its all are jobs to recruit a new member, not just the leadership.

County commanders, please call your Post and start scheduling your evaluation visits, it is 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 Department. Please text or e-mail me post # completed so I can fill in my tracker.

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

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.

Thank you all for serving.

David W Perron

2nd District Commander/ Evaluation Chair

Contact #'s Home-525-3895 Cell 272-2793 Perrondavid323@yahoo.com

Membership, Membership WE CAN DO THIS.

God and Country,

Dave Perron

3rd District Commander Joe Zickmund

District 3 Legionnaires,

The National Convention is behind us and we are well into the new membership year. Quotas have been set and we all have our goals. Although my home post membership quota is a little lower than last years, it is my hope that we can equal or surpass that number and reverse the trend. We talk a lot about membership and how important it is to find new members - and it absolutely is! It's also important to keep the ones we already have. I believe that in both instances, volunteerism is the key. Finding a new member and keeping a new member are two very different things. A new member needs a mentor who can introduce them, make them feel welcome and who can answer questions. A new member also needs something to do that

makes them part of the organization in a real way that can offer a sense of purpose. Otherwise, when year two or three rolls around and they have to write that dues check, they wonder why they should continue. I have no stats to support it but I think the lack of “why” is a main factor as to why we lose members. I have my “why” and I know many of you do, too. Let’s work together to help all of our members develop and nurture their “why”. Let’s encourage them to volunteer and participate.

FG&C,
Joe Zickmund

4th District Commander Bill Brothers

Another month gone, and back from national convention, it was a great experience this year and had a great time attending meetings and sat in on a few new ones this year and learned a lot.

Met some new people and talked about how they are doing on their membership, and I was surprised to see how many are going through the same issue as well and was told some of the different ways they are handling it and a couple new ideas they use.

I am back and I will begin to come around for visitations to meet you and see how we can help each other with membership and other things to help out the organization.

Hope you all are doing well and had a great holiday weekend.

We do have a new national commander, his name is Vincent “Jim” Troiola from New York, I had a chance to meet him at his luncheon after he was elected. He is a down to earth and will be a great asset to our organization and am looking forward to working with his team on our goals and more.

I am hope to set up a round-table meeting and conduct training in the near future, I have talked with our past commander Cathy Tester and she is working with me and is a great help and mentor. I look forward to this opportunity to learn more and help everyone that wants to learn more about our goals and what is coming in the near future.

Thank you for all for what you do and have done. Till we meet again, stay safe and remember to do buddy checks. Thank you!

Bill Brothers
4th District commander

Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin

I have just recently returned from the National American Legion convention recently held for the Legion Family in Milwaukee, WI, Aug., 26 – Sept. 1, 2022. I had the privilege to attend as a delegate for the Department representing my Post 27, and as the Addison County Commander. I was pleased to see the participation of Legion family members from my County, along with many other members of the Department, Auxiliary, and Sons. The Department's delegation was well organized by delegation Chairman PDC Tester, along with assistance from Adjutant Markwell, and NEC Man LaRose. Committees were covered and good reports were delivered at our Convention's Caucus.

I look forward to the Fall Conference in Vergennes 14 on October 22, 2022, where I'm sure all of this great information will be shared. Until then we still have a lot of work to do. We need to continue to pay attention to our membership numbers. It's great to continue to bring in the new members, but let's not forget to bring back the members we have previously signed up. If we can just raise our renewal rate by 20%, it would save us a lot of work and make our job much easier. It's double work to bring new members in the front door, then making little effort to keep them from going out the back door. I'd like to take some time in sharing a couple of activities and programs going on in Addison County. On Saturday, September 17th, Boy Scouts Troop 539 sponsored by Vergennes Post 14 is having a recognition celebration for the 75th year of their charter. The event will take place from 11 am to 3 pm at the downtown village green. All are invited to attend for the 1 pm ceremony. Middlebury Post 27 is still in the process of remodeling their Post home kitchen and hall, while still conducting their Wednesday night bingo. A completion date is expected before the end of September. They invite all in the Legion family to stop by and check out the progress. Bristol 19 is in the planning stages for their Early Bird dinner coming soon. More information will be available in the next bulletin. As always, if I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to contact me.

Bruce F. Paquin

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

Rutland County Richie Baptie

Hello to all Legionnaires,

I was all ready to get off to a running start last month but then I got sidelined by COVID, I hope this next month will be better. I got to meet our National Commander Troiola at our post when he came to one of our monthly breakfast as the leading candidate. It was a great honor to meet such a caring individual that puts veteran's first. I would like to thank the Vermont delegation to the National Convention in performing their duties that makes the Department of Vermont and all the legionnaires of Vermont feel proud.

For God and Country,
Richie Baptie

National Executive Committee – PDC Ron LaRose

Fellow Legionnaires:

Department of Vermont Delegation to the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, just returned after a week of meetings, interactions with other Departments, exciting speakers, and witnessing the swearing in of our new National Commander Vincent 'Jim' Troiola, member of the Department of New York.

National sponsors an Indy car owned by Chip Ganassi and two of the drivers are Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan. All three were in attendance and spoke to the convention. It was noted Chip and Jimmie were eligible to be members of the SAL and were given their memberships at the convention. I wondered who picked up the tab for their membership dues?! Jimmie assisted in giving out some awards with Commander Paul Dillard. Before Jimmie left the stage, he and his wife donated \$1.5 million to the American Legion programs. Not a bad visit to the National Convention by Jimmie Johnson.

Speaking of donations, Commander Dillard has set the all time record for raising funds during his tour as Commander – over \$12 million for Legion programs.

In 2022, Congress passed and the President signed off on the PACT Act to significantly improve healthcare access and funding for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service. The American Legion claims the PACT Act to be the greatest legislation since the GI Bill was passed 80 years ago. Commander Dillard gave a shout out to the many Legionnaires who called, texted and emailed their Congressional Legislators. This is proof that if we believe in legislation that will support veterans we can make it happen.

With what I said above, I encourage each of you to follow what legislation is being pushed by the American Legion through Congress and become active in voicing your support of it to your Congressional Delegation year in and year out. It should be noted there are few veterans in Congress and we need to be heard on what is important to those who have served their country.

The American Legion delegation in Washington, DC does all they can to promote legislation that directly effects veterans. Members of this delegation will call Department Service Officers to find out what their veterans are having trouble with and determine if there is a common issue to create new legislation to support it.

Our Consolidated Reports are a valuable tool for the National organization to use when discussing issues with Congress. For a Department as small as Vermont and not being able to muster 50% of our Posts to submit their CRs is a shame when we are trying to support veteran issues at the National level.

Our SAL was over 100% in their membership and I believe the only Detachment that was at 100% in Consolidated Reports. Give a shout out to your Squadrons for their efforts.

The National motto is “BE THE ONE”. This is our effort to stop one veteran suicide. Buddy checks are more important than ever. Monitor those people that appear to be struggling with anything. The suicide hotline is 988, ext. 1. Post this number close to your phone or put it on your cell phone.

They are developing plans and you should be thinking about plans locally for honoring our nation’s 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. What can our department do, what can your Post do to honor this historical moment? Give this some thought and share your ideas with Department.

Ron LaRose, Dept of VT NEC

Upcoming Events

Fall Conference	October 22	Vergennes Post 14
Mid-Winter Conference	January 20-21, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington
Annual Convention	June 23-24, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington

Sons of The American Legion Advisor - Bruce Paquin

Upon return from the National American Legion convention recently held for the Legion Family in Milwaukee, WI, Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022, congratulation are in order for our “*Sons of the American Legion*” program. This was the 50th anniversary of nationally held conventions for the “*Sons of the American Legion*”. Fittingly for the event, as I predicted in my last bulletin message, the Detachment of Vermont took away several prestigious awards. The first one being all time high in membership (over 105% and 90% in retention), to earn a recognition banner that will be placed on their flag. Your Sons took away the “*Child Welfare Foundation*” award for best in the Nation with per capita donations of \$2 per member. A special recognition is in order to the Detachment for their diligence and persistence that resulted in receiving an award for 100% Consolidated Report submissions. SAL Detachment Commander Jeremy Revell was presented with his certificate of recognition for completing and graduating from the nationally sponsored Commander’s class. The Department of Vermont commends Commander Revell and his leadership team for all of their hard work and efforts to make our SAL program here in Vermont one of the best in the nation. I thank the Department for their guidance and wisdom as we continue to work with our award-winning SAL program. I thank Commander Scanlon for appointing Fred Wilson, from Ballard Hobart Post 36 in Ludlow to the SAL committee and look forward to working with him. With Fred’s knowledge and expertise helping with the stewardship of Squadron 36 in Ludlow, I am sure we will continue to see

growth in the Sons program. We will strive to improve on this high standard that has been set for your SAL program.

Bruce F. Paquin

SAL Advisor, Paquinv@comcast.net, 802 545 2800

Legion Riders Director Lou Furry

Greetings Riders,

For those who may not yet have heard, The American Legion Riders presented just over \$1.3 million to the Legacy Scholarship Fund at National Convention. This is in addition to all the other causes supported by our organization and Chapters across the nation, from toy runs to supporting veterans' homes and everything in between. This is truly a testament to the efforts of Chapters nationwide. Even though my riding season ended on July 7 this year after a rotator cuff surgery, I still have opportunities to see you all out there doing what you do and doing it well! Keep up the good work. You are a part of something you have every right to take a great deal of pride in. Thank you for all you do! I'll see you all on the road again next riding season.

Ride Safely,

Lou Furry, Director, American Legion Riders

Veterans Crisis Line 3-digit number

As of July 16, 2022, Veterans and their loved ones are able to use a new, easy-to-remember number to reach caring, qualified responders 24/7. Key points are below, followed by additional suggestions.

- Callers may Dial 988, then Press 1
- Veterans will still be able to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, and text 838255 to reach responders.
- 988 can be used immediately Take action

Here are some steps you can take right away to ensure the transition from the existing Veterans Crisis Line to the new 988 number is clearly communicated to Veterans, and the public:

- If you have a voicemail message for incoming calls, please update the message to include the new number
- Update your briefing and publication materials such as flyers and newsletters with the new logo
- Use a "Dial 988 then Press 1" email signature image and video conference background
- Continue distributing Veterans Crisis Line promotional materials. **All current materials with the 1-800 number are still relevant and can be distributed.**

Veterans will still be able to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, and text 838255 to reach responders.

Sons of The American Legion Advisor – Bruce Paquin

Congratulations are in order for the hardest working program of the American Legion Department of Vermont. “*The Sons of the American Legion*” and I join with all of the American Legion family in Vermont to thank the Sons for their outstanding year, 2021-22 of all-time highs in membership (3780 to date, over 105%), total donations (\$200,000.00+), and volunteer hours (43,000+). A special recognition is in order for Detachment Commander Jeremy Revell for his Commander’s project, Pathways of VT, to assist veterans and their families, by raising over \$22,000.00 for them. A job well done, to the entire Legion family under the leadership of PDC Tester, Past President Massey and Commander Revell. I look forward to this National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, where I am sure the rest of the nation will be made aware of the abilities of a dedicated Detachment like the one, we support here in Vermont. I am confident a few awards will be returning with our delegation. As we move forward into the new administrative year of 2022-23, again under the stewardship of re-elected Commander Revell, I am sure we will continue to see growth in the Sons program. My well wishes, along with the Department’s go out to all of the newly elected and appointed Officers for the Detachment of Vermont and we look forward to working with you this coming year.

Bruce F. Paquin

SAL Advisor

Paquinvt@comcast.net 802 545 2800

Post Everlasting

SALIBA, NANCY	01	GARCEAU, RENE A	01
NEVILLE, ANNA	01	YOUNG, RALPH E	01
PAXMAN, LARRY P	01	GIULIANI, JOHN P	03
SAWYER, GARY	10	AJA, EUSEBIO	10
HEMOND, PAUL	12	ALDERMAN, SCOTT A	12
CHARRON, ART W	13	MORRIS, PETER W	15
MAYNARD, ROGER E	15	DUFFANY, WILLIAM J	19
LANGAN, WILLIAM J	19	KELIN, DANIEL REV.	25
BARROWS, ROGER A	25	FARNHAM, KEITH E	26
PAQUIN, ALBERT	28	MASLACK, FRANK	39
WRIGHT, PAUL D	47	PARADIS, MILTON	47
DE MERS, HARRIE S	50	O’BRIEN, CHARLES SR.	59
BELISLE, DAVID L	59	LAFAYETTE, ROLLAND W	59
SINER, JEFFREY C	59	O’BRIEN, WILLIAM R	59
HAYWARD, JACK	80	OVITT, WESLEY E	88
OVERTON, DONALD L	88	STRICKLAND, DONALD E	91
BOVE, STEPHEN	91		

VA Burn Pit Registration

Veterans and Service members who have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater or operations on or after August 2, 1990, as well as those who have deployed to Afghanistan or Djibouti after September 11, 2011 can use the registry. For assistance with registering call 888-607-8773.

Membership Target Dates for 2022/2023

Early Bird Kickoff	September 14, 2022	50%
Fall Meeting	October 13, 2022	55%
Veteran's Day	November 9, 2022	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	December 14, 2022	75%
Mid-Winter	January 19, 2023	80%
President's Day	February 15, 2023	85%
Legion Birthday	March 15, 2023	90%
Children and Youth	April 19, 2023	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 17, 2023	100%

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.

Vermont Vets Town Halls

VERMONT VETS TOWN HALLS

IT TAKES COURAGE TO STAND UP AND SPEAK. IT ALSO TAKES COURAGE TO SIT DOWN AND LISTEN.

Dear friends,

Registration is now open for this fall's Vets Town Halls in Vermont! At each of these events, veterans are invited to speak about what their service means to them. All community members - both veterans and nonveterans - are invited to

attend and listen. RSVPs are optional, but help us plan. Learn more and register at the links below:

- [Oct 9 in Rutland](#): 1pm at the Godnick Adult Center
- [Oct 16 in Lyndon](#): 1pm at Northern Vermont University–Lyndon
- [Nov. 6 in Colchester](#): 1pm at McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College

Read on to learn about speaking at a Vets Town Hall, and other happenings and resources.

Warmly,
Kristen

Speaking at a Vets Town Hall



Tell us what your service means to you.

Please tell us about your own experiences, whatever they may be, rather than speaking broadly about an issue or organization. You're a member of our community, and it's your stories, reflections, and insights that we're anxious to hear.

Each veteran will be given up to 10 minutes to speak. Veterans who would like to speak can contact vermont@vetstownhall.org, or mark that preference when registering on eventbrite. If you're considering speaking but prefer not to register, we encourage you to attend. After pre-registered speakers go, the host will take

speakers from the floor, time permitting. The goal is for every veteran who would like to speak to have a chance to do so.

Of course, veterans (and all community members) are also welcome to simply attend and listen.

If you're interested in speaking but aren't sure what to speak about, [click here for some questions that can serve as starting points](#).

Photo is Sherman Hunt at last summer's outdoor town hall in Burlington. Courtesy of Megan Humphrey.

News & Notes



Vermont Adaptive Veteran Ventures

Ongoing

Vermont Adaptive's programs are free for all veterans. September's schedule includes fieldcraft with Wild Roots Community Farm, mountain biking, rock climbing, apple picking, and more. [Learn more.](#)



Fieldcraft Weekend at Wild Roots Community Farm

September 23-25th

All skill levels welcome. Come hang out, camp out. Share knowledge & learn. Topics will include types of shelters, water procurement, firecraft, first aid, land

navigation and small projects to keeps the mind sharp. Follow [@wildrootscommunityfarm](#) to learn more. (Wild Roots Community Farm is operated by Jon Turner, the host of the Colchester Vets Town Hall.)



Vermont Veterans Outreach Program

Vermont Veterans Outreach Program - a program developed to care for the needs and reintergration issues of service members, veterans and combat veterans - will be present at this year's Vets Town Halls and available to offer peer support. [Learn more.](#)

2022 Vets Town Halls



Sunday, October 9th at 1pm

Rutland - Godnick Adult Center

Veterans are invited to stand before their community and speak about what their service means to them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Hosted and organized by Kyle Aines. This event may take place indoors or outdoors depending on weather.

[Learn more.](#)



Sunday, October 16th at 1pm

Lyndon - Moore Community Room on the Northern Vermont University - Lyndon campus

Veterans are invited to stand before their community and speak about what their service means to them.

Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen.

These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Hosted and organized by Marty McMahon.

[Learn more.](#)



Sunday, November 6th at 1pm

Colchester - McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College

At a Vets Town Hall, veterans are invited to stand before their community and speak about what their service means to them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are non-political, and all perspectives are valued. Hosted by Jon Turner.

[Learn more.](#)

Thank you:

2022 Vets Town Hall event hosts **Jon Turner, Kyle Aines, and Marty McMahon.**

Venue sponsors **Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University Student Veterans Association and Saint Michael's College Veteran and Military Community Services and Student Veteran Association.**

The **Vermont Veterans Outreach Program**, for being present and available to offer peer support at each event.

**The many other individuals & organizations
who have provided support & advice!**

**Department of Vermont American Legion
Fall Conference – October 22, 2022
Vergennes Post 14**

- 8:30am Registration
- 8:45am Opening ceremony – Department Commander Tom Scanlon
 Welcome Vergennes Post 14 Commander Brian Gebo
- 9:00am Out of the Box – PDC Fred LaTour
 - Revitalization of the American Legion through ideas
- 9:30am Membership – Sr. Vice Commander Mark Cloutier
 - Membership Plan & Goals
 - MyLegion.org Demo and Q&A
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Protocol and Etiquette – PDC Sparky Ferris
- 11:15am Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency – Sr. Vice Mark Cloutier
- 11:45am Morning wrap-up and take aways
- Noon Lunch *
- 1:00pm Green Mountain Boys State – Director Dylan McNamara
- 1:30pm Oratorical – Chair Karlene Devine
- 1:45pm Service Officer updates – Robert Pearl
- 2:00pm Front Porch Forum – Co-founder & CEO Michael Wood-Lewis
- 2:45pm Good of the Legion – Committee Chair updates
- 3:00pm Closing Ceremonies – Department Commander Tom Scanlon

Department Executive Meeting 15 minutes after the closing of the Fall Conference.

Note: Times may vary in between sessions

*Lunch – menu & price TBD

BE THE ONE

To ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
To listen when a veteran needs to talk.
To reach out when a veteran is struggling.

DEC Meeting 1900 August 16, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met at Post 3, Montpelier, VT. Meeting was presided over by Dept Commander Tom Scanlon.

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

Dept Finance Officer Minoli gave finance report. Action: Passed.

Department Cdr Scanlon reviewed the reason for the meeting to approve a request to the National SJA to ask for an extension to the deadline for a response. Motion made and seconded. Discussion followed as to why needing an extension and what lead to the charges needing to be responded to. ACTION: Passed.

Closing ceremony conducted and the meeting was adjourned 2006.

Sincerely submitted,

Brian Markwell