American Legion  
Department of Vermont  
Monthly Bulletin  
August 2020  
“For God and Country”

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT COMMANDER  
Ronald LaRose

I keep repeating myself with my opening line, that we are still enduring this pandemic. I echo the thoughts of our Governor by reminding you about social distancing and continue to wear a mask whenever you go to public places. Remember: the best way for this virus to spread is by mouth and nose.

The Department Service Office is in transition. Alaina has retired, Milt Willis said he will be retiring June 2021 and we are looking for Milt's replacement. We hope to have someone selected within the next couple of months. There will be a flyer sent out to all Posts looking for someone initially and then advertising beyond our Legions, if necessary. If you know of someone that might be interested in this position, have them contact either Keith Arlund or myself. For now, the office will be open mornings, Monday-Thursday following Milt's existing schedule. We are working on forwarding calls to Melodie at Department Headquarters when the office is not covered. We ask for your patience during this transition period.

I want to visit your Post, whether it be in a formal setting or informal setting. Contact me to tell me what your Post is doing either at your Post or within your community and I will do my best to visit with you.

Starting this fall, we will have ZOOM/teleconferencing with personnel at your Post. I will call it for now, our 'Skull Session'. Just chat about what is going on in your Post or with the Department good, bad or anything in between. I will take constructive criticism about whatever you want to chat about. More information to come on this. We will try this 3-4 times during the next year.

I ask that you continue to check on your senior members, senior citizens within your community and your own senior family members to insure they are safe and healthy and have all they need. Use common sense and use a mask!!

I thank you for your patience and understanding. I can be reached by email, ronaldllarose@gmail.com, 802-453-3818 (w) or 802-453-7663 (h).

For God and Country,

Ron LaRose  
Department Commander
PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,

and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation,

under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all
# DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT MONTHLY BULLETIN

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That other Virus

There is a virus in America that could cause more long-term destruction than COVID-19. Just as the novel coronavirus can quickly devastate a healthy body this other virus threatens lives, neighborhoods and infrastructures. No person or place is truly safe. It can embed itself inside a peaceful protest and turn it into a nightmare of violent rioting and retribution. It turns Americans against Americans. This virus is called anarchy.

Perhaps no one should be more concerned about this virus than those who justly fight for civil rights and equality. Their cause has been hijacked. George Floyd and Breonna Taylor receive only occasional mentions on the evening news while footage of statue-toppling, tear gas and batons dominates. One network’s description of a live event will usually have the opposite perspective of another network. Division is a symptom of this virus and its cancer has reached a stage unseen since the Civil War. The patient is quickly approaching stage 4.

At our 1962 National Convention, American Legion delegates defined “Americanism” in such an eloquent manner that we still adhere to it. It stated that the essence of Americanism is class, religious and racial tolerance. Written as if it were a vaccine against our current anarchy virus, it further states “law and order are essential to the preservation of Americanism while lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American.”

That’s worth repeating. “Lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American.” Peaceful protests racism are just, admirable and constitutionally protected. It’s ok if protests make people feel uncomfortable. A good protest is supposed to do that. But many people feel unsafe. This is what distinguishes protestors from anarchists and rioters.

Whether generated from the extreme left or the extreme right, the cracked skulls and burning buildings don’t care. They are damaged, sometimes permanently.

Instead of fighting this virus like good scientists, public officials are failing us. People are being killed while local, state and federal agencies fight over jurisdiction. Add partisan politics to the growing list of symptoms.

Most police officers are brave and honorable. Some are not and those who abuse their positions should be held accountable. In the fog of a riot, it is sometimes difficult for officers to distinguish between a peaceful protestors and a violent anarchist. Again, police officers who commit crimes should be prosecuted. Same with a brick-throwing anarchist.

Federal agents are charged with enforcing federal law and protecting federal property. State and local law enforcement officers have parallel responsibilities in their respective areas. Mayors, governors and the federal government must work as one when it comes to public safety. Agencies at every level must collaborate. People are dying. The enemy is not each other. It’s the violent anarchist. Unity is the cure.

Building a foundation for the future

James W. “Bill” Oxford National Commander
Hello Legionnaires,

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying safe.

I attended seven of the eight sessions of the National Virtual Membership training August 3 – 6. I do know several Vermonters from the Legion as well as from the Legion Family also attended. National taped the training sessions and will be sharing in the near future. While we are talking about training, how many have completed the Online Basic Training Course? This basic training course is free to any legionnaire and covers five topics: history and organization; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth. Check it out at legion.org/training.

You never know who you might run into visiting posts. Over the last several weeks, I have visited St. Johnsbury Post 58, Hardwick Post 7, and Montpelier Post 3. I was enlightened talking with a husband and wife visiting from New Hampshire, a Legion rider, a VFW member, who is also a Legionnaire, and caught up with some Auxiliary members. The American Legion TRULY is a family.

Membership quota’s from National are in and we have a quota of 9,766. Your county / district commanders will be contacting each post to share the post quota with you. We are hoping to have District Membership drives again this year, however, we not sure what they might look like due to COVID-19.

Although COVID has put a damper on many things over the past four months, there are some good things to come from it. One being using ZOOM for meetings and trainings. There will be membership training on four different occasions in September and October run by our Membership Director PDC David Woodward. These are open to all Legionnaires and each training will be the same. Check out the schedule in David’s article.

While this national Pandemic is creating what we are all calling the “new normal”, our Legion Posts are trying to navigate these new restrictions. Posts are slowly reopening around the state, more and more Legion meetings are being held in person, bars are opening with limited capacity, social distancing, and other precautions, and some Posts are even trying meals and bingo’s. I encourage you to try and visit your Post and patronize them when you can, but please, always err on the side of caution. Wear your mask, practice social distancing, and stay home if your not feeling well. Working together, the Legion family can make our organization stronger and better, and beat this dreaded virus, so we can all get back to the “old normal”!

Let me know if you have questions or need assistance.

Stay safe and hope to see you in person soon.

For God and Country,

Catherine
It seems like you just put something together for this newsletter and it’s a new month and it’s time to find something to write about again. Not that there isn’t a lot of subject matter concerning veterans, American Legion programs, etc., but I attempt to find something unique and interesting. At first blush I was going to do an update on the legislative issues of the American Legion nationally. However, something just happened that preempted that.

I’ll rewind to a couple of years ago. I was on the local Selectboard and a friend and colleague on the board started asking me about Boys State, particularly what it was, and what was involved. His son was just completing his junior year at Middlebury Union High School and heard about it. Well, my friend on the board became very enthused about it after I gave him a stack of information about the program and spoke to him at length. I told him Post 27 would be happy to sponsor his son, which it ultimately did. Zach, my friend’s son attended the program in 2019 which he enjoyed enormously.

Fast forward to 2020 the Covid-19 era. I received a call from my friend who indicated that both his sons, Zach who remotely graduated from high school and his younger brother Gabe, an underclassman at the same high school, are both out of school and work and have started an auto detailing enterprise, Dunn Brothers Detailing. They wanted to give back and asked if it was all right to donate a portion of their proceeds to the American Legion. It was a great idea. Within the past week I received a call from Zach who wanted to drop off a check. He asked who it should be made out to. I suggested Boys State and he thought that was great. He arrived at my home, check in hand, and very proud. He presented me with a check for $230 payable to Vermont AL Boys State.

There is no doubt in my mind that Zach’s attending Boys State gave him the leadership ability to start a business, and want to give something back. His actions, leadership, and ambition made me proud of both he and his brother, as well as American Legion Boys State. I am sure we will be seeing Gabe Dunn in the program in the near future.

I had Zach, when he dropped off the check, look at my car and give me a price. I gave him the green light, but it will be a week or two out to have it done. They are booked up pretty solid. I might add that rave reviews have been posted in Front Porch Forum as well. What a testament to these two young men. Mom and dad must be proud. I am sure there will be another check for Boys State in the near future.

“Most people see problems as burdens and barriers. Leaders see them as opportunities to make things better” Michael Josephson, Character Counts! 2017

For God, Country & Community

Tom Scanlon
Southern Area Commander

PDC Royal Sheeley

August is here and we are still operating in a mostly virtual world. The Department Membership Chairman, Sr Vice Cdr. Catherine Tester, will be working up the 2021 Membership Quota assignments and communicating with the Area, District, County and Posts Commanders regarding membership issues for the coming year.

Recruiting of new members with so many posts still in a shutdown/reduced operational status will be a challenge that requires some ingenuity. I expect that Sr. VCdr Tester will be providing us with suggestions for recruiting new members and retaining current members.

Continued COVID-19 Guidelines may prevent us from having our usual Early Bird dinners in the fall and require rescheduling that event as well as other traditional Post Membership activities. However, that means that we must increase our attention to the use of communication tools such as Monthly/periodic Post Newsletters, Post FB Pages, Post WEBSITES, and local media to publish key post milestones. Use whatever resources you have to keep our members and the public informed and aware that the American Legion is still alive and well in VT.

For God and Country

PDC Royal E Sheeley,
Southern Area Cmdr

Caledonia County Commander

David Perron

August is here and nights and early mornings since a touch of fall. Hope you all had time to enjoy the great training from National.

As your Post open and you start gathering for meetings please let me know for would like to visit and sit in on one,

Please stay safe and take care of your families, we can and will get thru this for we are Vermont Strong.

Please feel free to call or text me if anyone needs help with anything and will do whatever I can to help. We all need to be strong and pray together, God and Country

Please keep up the wonderful work throughout are Community’s.

Thank you all for serving.

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

David W Perron
Greetings from Green Mountain Boys’ State!

July ended as a quiet month for our program. We’ve been working on filling several positions on the Boys’ State Committee. We have representation from District 1 and District 5, and currently have positions open in Districts 2 (Essex, Caledonia, Orleans counties), District 3 (Lamoille, Orange, Washington counties), and District 4 (Bennington & Rutland counties).

Committee membership responsibilities include learning about Boys’ State and representing the program in your geographic region to area Legion Posts and schools. The Committee meets three times a year at our two American Legion major meetings, and on Wednesday afternoon during the Boys’ State program.

(Continued on page 9)
Welcome fellow Legionnaires. I hope you all are staying safe and Healthy.

I hope you all are safely starting to open your posts to members. If you are, please keep in mind the mandates that Governor Scott has put in place, 50% capacity, face coverings, social distancing and those posts with bars, no patrons can sit at the bar. Vermont is still one of the safest states in the United States and lets please try to do our part to keep it that way. While there are some that may not agree with me, I feel that our Governor and the Vermont Department of Health are doing the best job that they can do.

The new membership year is in full swing so let’s please get them submitted so we can meet the goal dates that National has set forth. Once we finally get our membership quotas and when I find out what these goals are, I will share them. There are still members out there that have not paid 2019 and 2020 dues yet. Please also work on getting those caught up as I would hate to see long time members lose their years of service.

Take care 2nd district, be safe and stay healthy, and I hope to see you soon.

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

Mark Cloutier
Department of Vermont
2nd District Commander

For God and Country
Hello Legionnaires,

Hope everyone is well during these trying time. We are closing on membership for 2020 and are ramping up membership for 2021. Does your post use mylegion.org to process membership? If not, I am happy to help get your post online and processing membership with mylegion.org. It is easy and another benefit is all of the reports you can run to keep up with your post over the course of the year.

Please try to keep an eye on each other. Take care if you need anything please call.

Christina Moore
4th District Commander

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Barbara Bushaw PDC

Hi Legionaries,

The news we received yesterday announced that Vermont National Guard and the Vermont Air are going to be deploying again. A total of around 1000 Soldiers.

This means that we need to look out for our Soldiers family members while they are away for a year. We have done this in the past. Our young community members have a real hard time when family members are sent on active duty. The last time this came about we worked with the Family Out Reach program at Camp Johnson. Some assistance will be volunteering and donation of items they might need. Let’s keep these Soldiers and their families in our prayers as they begin their tour of duty.

Colchester Post 91 is testing playing Bingo the first Sunday of the month and the third Sunday for our Members only at this time from 1 – 3pm.

We are also experimenting with serving breakfast on Sundays for our members. It is slow starting but we are seeing more members as we go along.

As your Children and Youth Chairperson we only received 14 Reports and the Committee worked with what was sent to the Department. I would like to thank the Children and Youth Members; Karlene DeVine, Frank Killey, June Kelly and our new member Pam Norton. This year we worked this program thanks to Melodie Ashford. Melodie sent all the materials we needed to do our program to each member and set up a Zoom meeting so we could meet. Worked out extremely well and I would recommend using zoom to hold meeting to all chairperson.

Please be safe, wear your mask, wash the hands and keep the social distance.

God Bless America
PDC Barbara Bush
Children and Youth Chairman

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Christine Moore

Hello Legionnaires,

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Children and Youth Chairman

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DISTRICT FOUR COMMANDER

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Christine Moore

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4th District Commander
Howdy Legionnaires,

Holy Moly, it’s 8 o’clock in the evening and it’s still 98 degrees, Thank the Lord for air conditioning.

Had the pleasure of being a part of Commander LaRose’s presentation of checks in the amount of $11,100 dollars to the Vermont Veterans Home Official on 14 July. The presentation was made to administrator Jackson and deputy Faxon on the front porch of the home due to COVID-19. They were extremely pleased to get this money which will be used to help build the Veterans Trail which will circumvent the Vets Home property.

We have a lot to be thankful for here in the state of Vermont, and especially here at the Home. Praise the Lord we are still free of the COVID virus, but it is causing a lot of sacrifice on part of the Veteran's and everyone who cares for them. The house cleaning folks deserve lots of credit for keeping the place free of germs. Surely the Lord is in their midst.

We must continue to pray for God’s presence, for our patience and confidence that he will resolve this terrible pandemic soon, but in his time not ours. We must keep the faith and remember that God causes all things to work for good to those who are called for His purpose.

Father Holden and I are bringing God’s message to the Vets Home residents via Video each week. These videos are transmitted through a closed-circuit television system. This is good, but we are anxious to get back to worship in our wonderful Chapel.

Please pray for our troops.

God Bless and stay well.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Ken

Sorrell Maynard Post 63 in Northfield

Annual Chicken BBQ, Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7th, 12 to 2 p.m., take out only. $12.00 includes 1/2 chicken, homemade potato salad, coleslaw & a roll. Reserve by sending a check for $12 per meal to The American Legion, 48 Depot Square, Northfield, VT 05663
AMERICAN LEGION POST 9 PRESENTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 29, 2020

MONTAGUE GOLF CLUB

48 RANDOLPH AVE. RANDOLPH, VT 05060
ENTRY FEE $60 PER PERSON | $45 FOR MONTAGUE MEMBERS
LUNCH INCLUDED IN FEE
PAY AT THE DOOR | 9 AM SHOTGUN START

TO REGISTER EMAIL: TIMHARMONYE@GMAIL.COM
August 4 is the birthday of the Coast Guard, founded in 1790 with congressional authorization to build the first set of vessels aimed to help combat smuggling and enforce tariffs and taxes. Here are some things you might not know about the service branch that operates under the Department of Homeland Security.

1. Alexander Hamilton can be considered the father of the Coast Guard. In Federalist No. 12, published in 1787, the then-Secretary of the Treasury posited that a “few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws.” (via Mental Floss)

2. Actors Lloyd, Beau and Jeff Bridges, as well as Cesar Romero, all served in the Coast Guard, as did golfer Arnold Palmer. But perhaps the most famous of them all? Popeye. (via Mental Floss)

3. Bruce Melnick was the first guardian selected by NASA to serve as an astronaut. He flew on the space shuttle Discovery in 1990, and on the maiden voyage of Endeavour in 1992. Daniel C. Burbank is the other Coast Guard astronaut. (via Mental Floss)

4. The Coast Guard Aviation Association is a fraternal organization whose membership includes guardians and members of other military branches (of the United States and other countries) who have flown Coast Guard aircraft. Until 2007, it was known as the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl. (via Mental Floss)

5. Boston Light on Little Brewster Island is the only lighthouse still operated by the Coast Guard. (via Military1)

6. Sinbad the dog was adopted by the crew of the cutter Campbell in 1938 and was considered a literal member of the crew – including official paperwork, uniforms and his own bunk. He retired to Barnegat Light before passing away on Dec. 30, 1951. (via Military1)

7. The first chief journalist of the Coast Guard was “Roots” author Alex Haley, who served 20 years that included World War II and the Korean War. (via USO)

8. From 1942-1944, the Coast Guard had a championship hockey team, the Cutters, that played in the Eastern Amateur Hockey League, considered to be one of the most competitive of its time. (via USO)

9. The Coast Guard is smaller than the New York City Police Department. (via U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division)

10. The Coast Guard also patrols and maintains U.S. inland waterways, from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. The June 2018 American Legion Magazine featured an article on one inland-fleet cutter.
JOIN US NEXT SUMMER FOR AN IMMERSIVE, ENGAGING & CAREER DEFINING SUMMER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
As a member of the 2021 Summer Internship Class, you will receive a unique combination of project-based and role specific work experience, exposure to executives from across the company, and an ongoing series of professional development, community service, and exceptional networking events.

As a member of the 2021 Student Veteran Intern Cohort, you will be paired with Mentors and Office Buddies from your business group. Members of the cohort can also participate in a curated suite of veteran focused programming that spans the 10-week internship program.

APPLICATION PROCESS
2021 summer internship opportunities are currently posted at jobs.prudential.com/students. To be eligible for the Veteran Intern Cohort, you must "opt-in" when applying.

FIND YOUR PLACE
Not sure where you fit in? Next month, we’re offering an information session hosted by leaders from PGIM’s Veterans Leadership Team representing our Equities, Fixed Income, Investments, Private Capital and Real Estate businesses.

PGIM INFO SESSION
Friday, August 14th
12:00pm EST

If you have any questions related to the Veteran’s Internship Program, please reach out to steven.dupre@pgim.com.

To learn more about the firm, visit www.pgim.com.

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Hello All,

As the newly appointed membership director for the state of VT I have been working with Sr. Vice Commander Tester on many subjects. One important one is training and we have come up with the following dates for on line training. All members within the department from blue caps to white caps should try to attend one of these meetings and of course anyone is welcome to attend. Please put these dates in your calendars and let other members know about this training.

- September 6th at 7-8 pm
- September 27th at 2-3 pm
- October 6th at 7-8 pm
- October 17th at 9:30-10:30 am

As you can see these are an hour long. Basically National has put together “training in a box” that has 12 topics. We are going to start out focusing on 5 which are:

- Membership Development and Retention
- Membership recruitment
- Mentorship
- myLegion.org
- This is The American Legion

Training is important, we are having these classes to educate all members about Recruitment, Retention and helping new members and the basics of our organization. With this training we are hopeful that we will have a stronger more engaged department, which should mean less loss of members by non renewal.

As many of you know we lost the position of our assistant DSO at the VA hospital in White River. That was a very difficult, painful decision for myself and many on the DEC. That decision was directly related to our loss in membership. Our loss in membership is now affecting our employees and programs. Because I feel working membership is like sales I believe that if we know what we are selling we will do better with recruitment. I also believe visibility is very important to recruitment. We need to be working our 4 pillars, do you know what they are? Do you want to know? Attend a training session.

PDC Dave Woodward
Membership Director

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**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.
For the month of July the commander did not have any visits, however, he did visit Headquarters and conducted the DEC meeting via Zoom on July 12.

I hope that everyone is safe and staying home in this time of a medical virus. This is a good time for any of the Historians to work on a book for your post so the members in the future can see what has happened this year. If you know of any post in your area that wants to submit a book for judging, please advise them to get it to Headquarters by Mid-Winter because National changed the meeting to the Spring meeting in May 2021.

Again, I am asking all the Post Historians to PLEASE try to do a legacy / scrapbook of their Post Home to let the Members know what you have done this year.

Some history for the legion members that are former Marines:

Aug. 7, 1953 - SSgt Barbara Barnwell, Naval gunfire instructor at Fort Schuyler, NY, became the first female Marine too be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps medal for Heroism. She saved a fellow Marine PFC Frederick Roman from drowning.

Aug. 24, 1814 – Captain Samuel Miller’s 100 man detachment from Marine Barracks, WA fought in the Battle of Bladensburg for the defense of the national capital. After helping to fight back three British charges. Cpt. Miller was wounded and the enemy began to work around both flanks of the American force. Almost encircled, the force of sailors and Marines was forced to retire to avoid capture. The Marines lost eight killed and 14 wounded.

Raymond St John
State Historian

American Legion online resources

Visit legion.org to keep informed on news about The American Legion’s mission, programs and services that are vital to engaging and recruiting members.

Don’t forget to check your department website as well for news and updates. A listing of department links may be found at https://www.legion.org/departments.

Looking for guides, manuals or brochures?
Check out our publications page at https://www.legion.org/publications
Why the Star-Spangled Banner is Played at Sporting Events?

It began on September 5, 1918, during Game 1 of the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs.

Since entering World War I a year and a half earlier, more than 100,000 U.S. soldiers had died. And just a day before the game, a bomb had exploded in Chicago, (the city in which the game was held), killing four people and injuring dozens more. In addition, the U.S. government had recently announced that it would begin drafting major league baseball players.

All this sat heavy on the shoulders of both the players and the smaller-than-usual crowd of fans that day. But during the seventh inning stretch, the U.S. Navy band began to play the Star-Spangled Banner; and something changed.

As the song began, Red Sox infielder Fred Thomas—who was in the Navy and had been granted furlough to play in the World Series—immediately turned toward the American flag and gave it a military. Other players turned to the flag with hands over hearts, and the already-standing crowd began to sing. A

At the song’s conclusion, the previously quiet fans erupted in thunderous applause. The song would be played at each of the Series’ remaining games, to increasingly rapturous response. And patriotism played a part right from the start, as the Red Sox gave free tickets to wounded veterans and honored them during the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner before the start of the decisive Game 6. Other baseball parks began to play the song on holidays and special occasions, and Red Sox owner Harry Frazee made it a regular part of Boston home games.

The Star-Spangled Banner officially became the U.S. national anthem in 1931, and by the end of World War II, NFL Commissioner Elmer Layden ordered that it be played at every football game. The tradition quickly spread to other sports, aided by the introduction of large sound systems and post-war patriotism.
### Department Officers

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<td>Department of Vermont Commander</td>
<td>Ron LaRose</td>
<td>19</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronaldllarose@gmail.com">ronaldllarose@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>NEC Man</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Senior Vice Commander</td>
<td>Catherine Tester</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keitharlund@yahoo.com">keitharlund@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Dennis Minoli</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cdminoli@charter.net">cdminoli@charter.net</a></td>
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<td>Kenneth Conradt</td>
<td>13</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howdydoo57@hotmail.com">howdydoo57@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Service Officer</td>
<td>Milt Willis</td>
<td>67</td>
<td><a href="mailto:milton.willis@va.gov">milton.willis@va.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Judge Advocate</td>
<td>Rebecca Otey</td>
<td>19</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oteyrebecca@yahoo.com">oteyrebecca@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt. NEC Man</td>
<td>PDC David Woodward</td>
<td>13</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwalvt@gmail.com">dwalvt@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Raymond St. John</td>
<td>03</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stjohnray@hotmail.com">stjohnray@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. At Arms</td>
<td>Frederick Stebbins</td>
<td>33</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stebbinsf1@gmail.com">stebbinsf1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Area Commander</td>
<td>Thomas Scanlon</td>
<td>27</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tscanlon@aol.com">tscanlon@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Area Commander</td>
<td>PDC Royal Sheeley</td>
<td>50</td>
<td><a href="mailto:root98@comcast.net">root98@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Department of Vermont Headquarters

126 State Street / P.O. Box 396  
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-0396

800-501-7131 / 802-223-7131  
vtlegion.org

Melodie Ashford, Executive Administrator - alvthq@myfairpoint.net
### District Commanders

- **District 1 Commander**
  - Edwyn Flynn
  - Post 19
  - skflynn@accesstv.com

- **District 2 Commander**
  - Mark Cloutier
  - Post 7
  - cloutier.mark@gmail.com

- **District 3 Commander**
  - Harold Breer
  - Post 10
  - breerharold7@gmail.com

- **District 4 Commander**
  - Christina Moore
  - Post 87
  - skittlestaz65@gmail.com

- **District 5 Commander**
  - PDC Richard Farmer
  - Post 67
  - ida9999@vermonttel.net

### County Commanders

- **Addison County (D1)**
  - Alan Smith
  - Post 19
  - amssr@hotmail.com

- **Bennington County (D4)**
  - Joe Bump
  - Post 90
  - make57@comcast.net

- **Caledonia County (D2)**
  - David Perron
  - Post 30
  - perrondavid323@yahoo.com

- **Chittenden County (D1)**
  - Jessica Blanchard-Patenaud
  - Post 91
  - jessblanchard64@gmail.com

- **Essex County (D2)**
  - Vacant

- **Franklin County (D1)**
  - Brian Markwell
  - Post 60
  - bdkmarkwell@gmail.com

- **Lamoille County (D3)**
  - Roland Cleveland
  - Post 33
  - bcleland813@gmail.com

- **Orange County (D3)**
  - Larry Hart
  - Post 78
  - larryhart64@gmail.com

- **Orleans County (D2)**
  - John Hurlburt
  - Post 21
  - bjhurlburt3@gmail.com

- **Rutland County (D4)**
  - William Ferman
  - Post 49
  - bill956bf@gmail.com

- **Washington County (D3)**
  - Christopher Wood
  - Post 59
  - chriswood0869@gmail.com

- **Windham County (D5)**
  - VACANT

- **Windsor County (D5)**
  - Ronald Farr
  - RonFarrar@hotmail.com

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**Sons of the American Legion**

Detachment of Vermont
salvermont.com

- **Detachment Commander**
  - Dave Hendee
  - splashbbd@gmail.com

- **Sr. Vice Commander**
  - Marc Colety
  - colety@gmail.com

- **Adjutant**
  - Norman Scolaro
  - norbsco@comcast.net

**American Legion Auxiliary**

Department of Vermont
vtalauxiliary.org

- **Department President**
  - Corrinna Colson
  - Ccolson.alavt@gmail.com

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[Logo of Veterans Crisis Line]

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
Sons of the American Legion – Lyndon Squadron 30

“911 Remembrance Ceremony”

Friday, September 11th, 2020

Lyndon Post #30 – 4845 Memorial Drive, Lyndonville, VT

Squadron Commanders, Adjutants, Members are

Encouraged to Attend!

5 PM to 7 PM - Hot Dogs, Corn on the Cob, Salads
(By Donation)

Indoor and Outdoor seating will be available with Social Distancing

7 PM Ceremony

Masks Required!

Point of Contact – Darrell Degreenia 802-535-5145
The American Legion is working for you and all our veterans. Here is a Legislative activity update.

**HR 6800, the Heroes Act:** Allows VA to provide transport and purchase food, shelter, phones, clothing, blankets and toiletry items for homeless veterans; Authorizes VA to set up temporary encampments on the grounds of VA Medical Centers to allow homeless veterans to shelter on VA parking lots temporarily; Allows VA to provide reimbursements to social service providers receiving grants for the costs of services for minor children.

Resolution No. 324: Support Funding for Homeless Veterans

**HR 2224:** To direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize services to homeless veterans with dependent children in carrying out homeless veterans' reintegration programs and for other purposes.

Resolution No. 326: Support Funding for Additional Housing for Homeless Veterans with Families

**S. 2594:** To amend title 5, United States Code, to modify specific requirements concerning service and retirement for veterans’ preference for federal hiring.

Resolution No. 317: Enforcing Veterans' Preference Hiring Practices in Federal Civil Service

**HR 1196, Jobs for Veterans Act of 2019:** This bill allows an increased work opportunity tax credit for employers who hire veterans who have been certified as discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and who begin working for the employer after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2024. This increased credit is in addition to any work opportunity tax credit allowed to a veteran with a service-connected disability.

Resolution No. 354; Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program

**HR 7010, Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020:** This bill significantly changes the terms of the PPP loans to be more advantageous to small businesses. Including more flexibility in applying the loan to other expenses besides payroll and benefits and extending the time frame for expending the loan.

**HR 4625:** To require education programs to be approved by the VA to abide by the Principles of Excellence to include a ban on deceptive or misleading recruiting, clear information about total costs and program requirements, accommodation for deployments, ensuring a point of contact for veterans, and not being under a punitive action by an accreditor.

Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education
HR 6957: To direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to treat a period of full-time National Guard duty, performed in response to the national emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President concerning COVID-19, as not shorter than 90 days.

HR 4941 Veteran Employment Transition Act” or the “VET Act”: was sponsored by Representative Andy Kim. The last action on the bill was in the House on 12/02/2019; it was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The bill's goal is to improve the Transition Assistance Program. The bill would allow certain veterans' service organizations to contact veterans regarding benefits and to better inform veterans of employment opportunities. The Service groups would inform veterans of the benefits and employment opportunities with the Federal, State, and local governments. The groups inform veterans of events for in the area.

Resolution No. 70: Improve Transition Assistance Program
H.R.7003 is a bill sponsored by Rep. Takano, Mark D-CA-41 and was introduced 05/22/2020. The bill would authorize a pilot program in the Department of Defense to enhance efforts to provide job placement assistance and related employment services directly to members of the National Guard, Reserves, and veterans of the Armed Forces. The last action on the bill was 05/22/2020 and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Resolution No. 81: Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops for National Guard and Reserve Members

HR 7111: Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020: Require the Secretary of VA to carry out a rapid retraining program that provides eligible veterans up to 12 months of retraining assistance for in-demand occupations. These 12 months of benefits would be equivalent to payments made to students and schools through the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

This bill was submitted for the July 23, 2020 testimony.

Resolution No. 316: Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce

H.R. 4920, Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020: is a bill that would allow Ability One companies to keep their preferential treatment at the Department of Veteran Affairs after 2016 with some compromises. The Senate initially sent it back to the House after it was passed for changes. Those changes have been reconciled and the bill cleared its last hurdle before it is sent to the White House.

Draft Bill: Home loan benefits for national guard to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for home loans from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

This draft bill was submitted for the July 23, 2020 testimony.

Resolution No. 329: Support Home Loan Guaranty Program

Draft Bill: JSF - To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the scope of procedural rights of members of
the uniformed services concerning their employment and reemployment rights, and for other purposes.
This draft bill was submitted for the July 23, 2020 testimony.

Draft Bill: USERRA Protections for State Active Duty - To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend cer-

tain employment and reemployment rights to members of the National Guard who perform State active duty.
Submitted written testimony to the Legislative Division. (Ariel)

This draft bill was submitted for the July 23, 2020 testimony.
Resolution No. 315: Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Re-

turning from Deployment

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**Membership and mylegion**

Membership quotas from National are in and you will soon hear about what your quota is for 2021. As I look at the quota’s I am taking into consideration your deceased members who had paid in 2019 or 2020 and the members that were not renewed. When you receive your quota, if you have any questions, please give me a call.

New Report Undeliverable Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Member Addresses Annually we review the list of PUFL members. An “Undeliverable” address of a PUFL member on our system suggests the addressee (member) no longer resides at the address reflected on National’s records.

As stewards of the Paid-Up-For-Life Trust, it’s National’s fiscal responsibility to ensure that the monies withdrawn to pay for annual dues are correct. With that in mind, we need assistance in locating these members or advising us if they’re now deceased. This effort is helpful to ensure timely payment to your department and posts.

A new report has been added using Report Server. The PUFL Undeliverable report located in the Post Reports folder will identify these members. We’ve asked the Post’s assistance using this report.

Please provide National with a corrected address and telephone number for these PUFL members or indicate if they are deceased.

Responses can be mailed to THE AMERICAN LEGION, PUFL SPECIALIST, PO BOX 1954, INDIA-

NAPOLIS, IN 46206 or faxed to 317-860-3130 or scanned and emailed to pufl@legion.org. If National Headquarters can verify the member’s location, we will update their mailing address and make prompt payment of his/her PUFL dues to the post and/or department.

Catherine Tester
Sr. Vice Commander / Membership Chairman
GRAHAM, ROBERT 01
SHARROW, CHRISTOPHER M 01
McGOWAN, BURT C 01
BERNADINO, SAMUEL 07
LECOURS, RICHARD 07
BLANEY, RANDALL 12
SMITH, WILLIAM 13
GREENE, ARMLE F 13
KRIZAN, SR., MICHAEL S 13
ELWELL, ALBERT R 13
ROY, FRANCIS C 13
MICRCHAND, HENRY R 13
BARTLETT, ROBERT M 13
LYON, RICHARD M 13
BESSETTE, ROBERT B 14
BITLER, DAVID F 14
HAYES, ROGER W 14
STEADY, A. THOMAS 14
TENNIEN WILLIAM M 14
MERRILL, RICHARD E 19
BALSER, VERNON 19
DARAKJY, DAVID H 24
DITCHEOS, JOHN 24
KELLY, BYRON K 24
MACE, FORREST D 26
ECCHER, CARMEN C 26
DRAPER, KEVIN 27
MORRISSEY, EUGENE 27
WALSH, JOSEPH L 29
BELANGER, RAYMOND R 33
THOMPSON, CLARK 33
PARKER, JR., RICHARD A 46
JACKSON, PAUL B 47
WILLIAMS, JOHN T 55
MONGEON, KENNETH 57
LORIMER, SR., COLLYN 58
AMMEL, ROBERT E 84
CORVILLE, GEORGE 91
MONGEON, JOE 91
OSE, ROBERT 91
PAPPACENO, HARRY 91
BORA, RODNEY 91

“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.”
Senate passes bill to cover more Agent Orange conditions

From Legion.org July 23

On July 22, the U.S. Senate voted 94-6 to pass a measure to be included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to expand the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) list of conditions presumptive of Agent Orange exposure.

The addition to the NDAA, introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Jon Tester, adds bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's to the 14 illnesses already covered by VA for their links to the toxic herbicide. While not yet signed into law, the passage of this bill brings many veterans who’ve been impacted from exposure to the chemical defoliant a step closer to having their conditions covered by VA.

“This is a historic win for thousands of Vietnam veterans who have been suffering from illnesses after being exposed to Agent Orange, but who have been unjustly denied benefits for decades,” said Tester. “With the inclusion of my amendment in this must-pass defense bill, we are now one step closer to providing our Vietnam War heroes with the treatment and benefits they deserve from VA.”

The American Legion previously joined with 16 other veteran service organizations in issuing a joint letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie that urged VA to add these three additional conditions — as well as hypertension — to those covered by VA for exposure to Agent Orange.

“For too long, our Vietnam veterans have had to fight for and have been denied the critical health care they need to treat medical conditions resulting from exposure to Agent Orange," American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford said. "We have made significant strides in ensuring that these veterans are given the care they deserve for their service and sacrifice to our nation. However, there is still more work to be done and these veterans continue to suffer the detrimental effects of their exposure each day. This amendment would provide a presumption of service-connection for Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism for veterans exposed to certain herbicide agents while serving in Vietnam.

"The American Legion is proud to support this amendment and believes the evidence overwhelmingly supports adding these diseases to the presumptive list.”

Rutland donation to Veterans Home

Thank you, Donna and Carl Brown for delivering donations from the Rutland American Legion Post 31 totaling $580 for the Vermont Veterans’ Home Members Assistance Fund! Thank you for all that you do!
Condensed Minutes DEC July 12, 2020

The Commander opened the meeting at 12:00 noon with invocation by the Chaplain.

Adjutant completed roll-call. Quorum present.

1. Tom Scanlon reported that Chief Facos of Montpelier PD received the Law Officer of the Year.
2. Dave Cobb reported that letters had been sent to all Boys State candidates. He also stated that the committee needs reps from Districts 2, 3, and 4. Steve Burgess will act as rep for District 4 and the SAL.
3. Scott Stevens reported that some baseball teams were playing without any support by the American Legion.
4. Keith Arlund reported that convention/mid-winter conference planning will continue when we able to meet.
5. Dick Farmer reported that any bills relating our activities were still in committee.
6. The Eagle Scout of the year in on active duty and the commander will present when he is home.
7. Commander Rose’s committee appointments for the year were ratified. Barb Bushaw will be Chairman of the Convention Comtee.
8. Commander Rose reported that members of Post 4 and 38 were transferred to other posts as they requested. Earl Brock Post # 78 is need of assistance. Post #15 and 17 are “on the bubble” and probably need assistance. The Adjutant will inquire.
9. Dennis Minoli reported that the year ended with an approximately $4,000 positive balance. The annual auditor review costs $6,000.
10. The FY 2021 budget was removed from the table. Discussion of the budget continued with the elimination of the secretary position at the VA. This will result in saving approximately $35,000 in the budget. Otherwise the budget will have a deficit of over $28,000.
11. Motion was made to accept the revised budget with the position elimination. Roll call ballot was conducted by the Adjutant result 19 in favor 6 in opposition. Motion carried.
12. The next DEC meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2020 at Barre Post #10. This will also be the Fall Conference if we are allowed to meet.
13. Various members reported that posts have opened under strict guidelines and continue to work on American Legion programs.
14. The Chaplain gave the benediction and the Commander closed the meeting at 1:11 PM.

Keith O. Arlund
Adjutant
Department of VT.
New Date Due to Covid-19

Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Vermont
Golf Classic

September 19, 2020

22nd Annual Sons of The American Legion State Golf Tournament

The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Vermont are pleased to announce the 22nd annual S.A.L. Benefit Golf Classic. All proceeds to benefit Veteran’s and Children’s programs in Vermont.

DATE: Saturday, September 19, 2020
PLACE: Neshobe Golf Club Brandon, VT
TIME: 8:00 am Shotgun Start
FORMAT: 4 PERSON CAPTAIN AND CREW

ENTRY FEE: $320.00 PER TEAM, entry fee includes: four (4) greens fees, 2 carts, a gift, lunch and prizes. (Mulligans will be available 2 for $10.00)

THE TOURNAMENT IS LIMITED TO 25 TEAMS. FIRST 25 TEAMS PAYED ARE ENTERED.
Complete the application below in FULL with a check payable to:
SAL DETACHMENT OF VERMONT

SEND APPLICATION AND CHECK TO:
Henry Cleveland
912 Coburn Hill Rd
Craftsbury, VT 05826

All names to be filled out to completely or it will be sent back...

(Please Print)
Player’s Name  SAL/Post/Aux.*  Phone Number
________________________  ______________________  ______________________
________________________  ______________________  ______________________
________________________  ______________________  ______________________
________________________  ______________________  ______________________

TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.

*To be eligible for the Rotating Trophy, a team must have a Legion Family Member on the team.
Any Questions, Call Henry Cleveland 802-793-4315 or 802-586-7536H