Howdy Legionnaires,

COVID-19 has got its second wind and we all need to be safer than before. There is no end in sight. I wish each and every one of you good health through these times. Continue to check on your elderly relatives and Legion members and other senior citizens in your community. I hope Thanksgiving gatherings followed the Governor’s directives, if not, we will know much more about Vermont’s numbers in the early part of December.

Across the state, many Legions, VFWs, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and many other organizations took the time and properly recognized and thanked all men and women who have served our great country. I had the opportunity to speak in Bristol at our Veterans Memorial and watch the local Boy Scout Troop place flags they made at the memorial with names of family members, neighbors and other community members who had served their country. These Boy Scouts learned a lot that evening about the price of freedom and what our flag stands for.

Many kudos to the many people who manned the telephones to bring our membership to nearly 75% and maybe by the time you read this we will have reached or exceeded the 75%. Many thanks to Linda Perham for leading us by the hand to make this telephonic recruitment a very successful venture.

What does membership mean to the Dept and individual Legions? First, additional funding and probably more importantly the more members each Post has the stronger that Post will be in its community. We are not done! We need to extend ourselves a little more for each Post to reach 100%. There is still many Legionnaires who have not renewed for 2021. Start with these people and try to bring them back into the fold.

As we take a deep breath on what we have accomplished to date on membership, I cannot thank you enough for your efforts.

The Dept of Vermont American Legion and the VFW have teamed up with a joint venture in holding veteran registrations for Veterans Affairs in Vermont. I will be publishing letter in December identifying the schedule of this registration at various Legions and VFWs across Vermont from January through June at one weekend per month.

(Continued on page 6)
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
May the warmth and love that is all around us at Christmas time fill your heart with joy; today and always. Best Wishes in the New Year – 2021!

From the Officers and Staff of The American Legion
Department of Vermont

Ron LaRose, Dept. Commander
Catherine Tester, Sr. Vice Commander
Thomas Scanlon, No. Area Cmdr. & Royal Sheeley, So. Area Cmdr.
PNVC Linda Perham, Adjutant
NECman— Fred Latour & Alt. NEC— David Woodward
Milton Willis, Dept. Service Officer
Dennis Minoli, Finance Officer
Kenneth Coonradt, Dept. Chaplain
Melodie Ashford, Exec. Admin
### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Commander</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Veterans Day Celebration</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Christmas Card</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Christmas in November</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Commander</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Post Everlasting</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Vice Commander</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Raymond St. John</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Area Commander</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Legion Trivia</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reconnect Program</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Events</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you Renew for 2021</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to Directory</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledonia County Commander</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Membership Targets</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington County Commander</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Executive Update</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Reaches 75% Membership</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chaplain</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Enrollment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your American Legion</td>
<td>15-16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oratorical State Contest</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oratorical Speech Contest Application</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Kindness Matters</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Blue Post Assistance</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip Ganassi Racing Partnership</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family, as we close out 2020, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. I know it’s been a difficult year for many. It’s been a year of loss, whether that of a loved one or a job; separation from family and friends; political and racial tensions; and devastating hurricanes.

In the midst of this difficult year, there is an abundance of gratitude.

I have sincere gratitude for the entire American Legion Family. I have been inspired daily by the selfless actions of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, American Legion Riders and Auxiliary members who have served their communities during these challenging times. American Legion Family members have rallied to provide food to those in need, organized special birthday recognition drive-bys for World War II veterans, hosted blood donation drives in their communities and provided other services.

We have chronicled hundreds of stories on www.legion.org/coronavirus that demonstrate how American Legion posts have served communities, states and nation during the pandemic.

I also am thankful for our brave men and women who are protecting us at home and abroad. Many of our troops will not be able to see their families this Christmas. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Additionally, I am thankful for every veteran who has served our nation with honor. As deeply troubling as 2020 has been, our democracy is strong. Our nation has withstood challenges before and we will come out of this challenging year even stronger than when it began.

Most of all when I consider the blessings 2020 has provided, I will think of The American Legion. I am honored to be your national commander. I am inspired by all the community service you have performed in the past year. And I am truly grateful for your friendship, dedication, patriotism and membership in the nation’s largest, most influential and greatest veterans service organization.

I end this year with holiday greetings for all of you. Please listen to them and share with other fellow members and veterans at www.vimeo.com/americanlegion.

Have a safe and blessed holiday and New Year.

James W. "Bill" Oxford, National Commander
Dear Legionnaires,

What a year, and it’s not over yet. Our Posts are closed and we are all trying our best to shelter in place until this pandemic is over. As has been said by many people on many occasion, we are all in this together, and together we will adapt and overcome.

With the vaccine on the horizon, I am confident that we will have brighter days ahead and things will once again return to normal. I have been so impressed with our Legion family during this crisis as they have continually supported food drive programs and been out in our communities helping where they can when they can. We are truly a family, and taking care of our veterans, their families and our community has always been, and will always be, job 1.

My husband John and I want to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season. It is our hope that you and your family celebrate Christmas in your own special way and enjoy the blessings of this time of year. Thank you for all you have done and all that you do.

I am here to help, give me a call or send me an email. Stay well and stay safe.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester
Sr. Vice Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Catherine M. Tester

Dear Legionnaires,

What a year, and it’s not over yet. Our Posts are closed and we are all trying our best to shelter in place until this pandemic is over. As has been said by many people on many occasion, we are all in this together, and together we will adapt and overcome.

With the vaccine on the horizon, I am confident that we will have brighter days ahead and things will once again return to normal. I have been so impressed with our Legion family during this crisis as they have continually supported food drive programs and been out in our communities helping where they can when they can. We are truly a family, and taking care of our veterans, their families and our community has always been, and will always be, job 1.

My husband John and I want to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season. It is our hope that you and your family celebrate Christmas in your own special way and enjoy the blessings of this time of year. Thank you for all you have done and all that you do.

I am here to help, give me a call or send me an email. Stay well and stay safe.

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester
Sr. Vice Commander

It has already been decided that the Mid-Winter Conference will be by ZOOM due to the existing situation and the protocols of the Governor. We are still on track for our Annual Convention in Rutland in June. Keep your fingers crossed!

Christmas is just around the corner. Be sure to follow all protocols in place to insure we keep this virus from spreading any more than it has.

My family and I extend to you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a most prosperous and Happy New Year!

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

For God and Country,

Catherine M. Tester
Sr. Vice Commander
RELEVANT…. Directly related, connected, pertinent, not out of date, current, meaningful, or purposeful in current society or culture.

This is an important word (and action) during these troubling times. How does the American Legion stay relevant and viable? Will our posts survive? How do we let our community know we are there for them? These, and many more are great questions, and problems, that all of us have to try to answer and solve. We have to use our imagination and ingenuity while we are still helping our veterans, our children, and our communities. We have to let them know we are still there for them.

We should make better use of press releases in letting the media know what we are doing or have done. This is even true now, while most posts are closed. We are still supporting what is important to us. Due to the changing media consumption habits of many we have to ensure we keep the word out on social media. “If you do something, say something”. And don’t forget, the local radio station. They are very often looking for stories and someone to come to the station and tell it. This could also be a tremendous platform for the acquisition of new members.

Speaking of MEMBERSHIP remember, it is the backbone of any organization, to include the American Legion. Membership is everyone’s business in the organization. Think of the catch phrases that we have often heard; “I never leave home without it” and ”What’s in your wallet”. Hopefully, these phrases are referring to the membership applications we are all carrying while we are spreading the word about what we have done and what is important, our FOUR PILLARS.

To increase our membership, it is also important that we are relevant to the times. Generation Xers are being followed by the millennials. Millennials are often characterized as digital natives that grew up with computers, internet, email, social media, downloading their music, and always having a cell phone handy. We have to recognize the generational differences, as well as the important role millennials play, in that they offer out of the box thinking, adaptability and technological knowhow.

These were just a few of my thoughts on two important words, RELEVANCE and MEMBERSHIP. But as most of you know by now, I love quips and quotes to drive or highlight an important issue, word, or trait. So I would like to use a quote from the legendary coach, John Wooden; “Be more concerned with your CHARACTER than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is what others think you are.” This is also true for organizations as well, which often reflect the character of their leadership. What is the character of your post, and what is its reputation?…..Enough said.

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY
For God, Country & Community
Tom Scanlon
The Department has been busy with upgrading our computer system prior to MyLegion changes at National HQ. We hope you will be patient as our technicians complete all the changes. We are hoping there will be minimal inconvenience.

Our goal will focus on more zoom and hopefully an in-house training opportunity for Post Adjutants. If you are an adjutant and are not getting our emails, please contact us ASAP. We will be putting together packets with important new information you will need to see. Please contact me if there is something you like to see explained on the zoom meeting we will be scheduling for January 10, 2021.

DMS, (direct mail solicitation), members are veterans who joined The American Legion, through a mailer or online. They WANT to belong to the Vermont American Legion. When they join National’s, expectation is for the Department or local post to call them, let them know they are currently in a “holding post” and that you would like to welcome into your post. Many dedicated Department officers and Past officers having been making calls to these members and transferring them to local posts in need of membership. These members will strengthen your post, provide you with a larger pool of volunteers and possibly donor support. If you would like a list of these members for your post team, we can provide them to you and even a phone script to go by when calling.

Remember, they are veterans and want to join. They just don’t know the process on how to transfer to you!! That’s where you come in. We have hundreds of names....so contact us for lists.

The Department Convention will be held in Rutland in June. All adjutants will be asked to pre-register all delegates prior to June 11th. We will credential the list at Headquarters. We will not register or credential members at the convention. Due to COVID, we do not want to congregate in hallways waiting to register. We currently have 70 posts and need 36 posts pre-registered for a quorum. So, please register at least one delegate per post. There will be NO registration fees this year. Please be on the zoom adjutants call for January for more details.

ALL chairman that wish to have zoom meetings, please contact Melodie to schedule them. If chairman have a report for midwinter, please contact us by Jan 10th, so we can place you on the agenda. If you can not attend, provide Commander Ron or a member of your committee with your report. We want the zoom DEC/conference to be accomplished in a 2-hour window, so please have your remarks prepared prior. This keeps everyone moving along.

Special mention, of two very dedicated Legionnaires that have been suffering from end stage cancer, PDC Les Howe and Department Historian, Ray St John. Both, of these courageous men have called us to offer help in any way possible. Both, making calls to veterans, working membership rosters, and wanting to make a difference. Please keep them in your prayers. It’s hard to give up when you see men like them never stop working for others. God bless all of you that keep working for this organization, no matter what.

Please take time to go to legion.org/training/ and see all the videos you can share with your post officers, Facebook, web site etc. they are worth watching. You may find just what you’re looking for.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event/meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Adjutants Training</td>
<td>via ZOOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adjutants Training</td>
<td>via ZOOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mid-Winter Conference</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>via ZOOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Oratorical</td>
<td>Post 27 Middlebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oratorical</td>
<td>Post 27 Middlebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald visit</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald visit</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Leadership Training</td>
<td>Post 27 Middlebury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Leading Candidate Paul Dillard visit</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Leading Candidate Paul Dillard visit</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>Annual Convention</td>
<td>Holiday Inn, Rutland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did you renew for 2021?**

Don’t let your membership benefits lapse. With post closed due to due COVID-19, you can renew your membership online at Ad-members.legion.org/renew


**Changes for the Directory**

PDC – Frank Killay has a new email: franciskillay@gmail.com

*If you have changes for the Directory, please call Melodie at the Department office.*
December is here with snow on our mountain tops. Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, as nice as it could be. Hopefully, it will be a little better at Christmas time.

Post are shut down again just when we all had a handle on all the other restrictions. We are still using the phone and reaching out there for membership. We are all doing well but let us be that energizer bunny and keep going and going.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all the Legion families.

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 our community’s. Thank you all for serving.

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

Thank you
David W Perron

2021 Membership Target Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2020</td>
<td>75 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2021</td>
<td>80 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10, 2021</td>
<td>85 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2021</td>
<td>90 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2021</td>
<td>95 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 2021</td>
<td>100 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FREE Pool Table

Post 36 is giving away a 7-foot pool table to anyone that wants to pick it up from our post in Ludlow...all the accessories included. If interested contact Scott Stevens at 802-228-9807 Post or cell 802-282-6697.
Greetings from Washington County with my first contribution since March. The world has been a little crazy this year, and I just finished my master’s degree. I am hoping things slow down a little for 2021! The posts in Washington County are doing their best to make their way through this pandemic thing, and everyone is being as creative as possible to make things work and keep their post alive. It has not been an easy task, and I applaud every post that is doing everything they possibly can to stay active.

My October was kept busy after Post 59 hosted a paint and Sip and then had a couple of positive COVID-19 cases that were not related to the event. Public relations became huge, and our little post suddenly became the talk of the town. November brought our Veterans Day ceremonies, and we were very pleased with the support for these events along with how respectful people were about protecting each other’s health and safety. In the month of December Post 59 will start up the drive through meals on Thursday evenings. As we close in on the end of calendar year 2020, let's redouble our efforts to get members renewed and support Vermont posts.

Chris Wood
Washington County Commander

---

**National Executive Update**

Resolution #1

Title: #48 IndyCar Team Sponsorship

Origin: Marketing Commission

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in special meeting assembled virtually on November 17, 2020, That The American Legion be authorized to enter into a two-year sponsorship agreement by and between Jimmie Johnson / Chip Ganassi #48 IndyCar Team with the option to renew for three additional years if deemed desirable by the National Executive Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion be authorized to expend $3.5 million per year in sponsorship fees payable to the Ganassi organization plus reasonable promotion expenses limited to $750k per year for approval by the Marketing Commission and approved by the national Finance Commission; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement and the national adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same.

This resolution was adopted.
Give the Gift of Life: Holiday Blood Drive
Runs Nov. 26 through Dec. 31

The American Legion
Nov 17, 2020

Nov. 26 marks the start of the annual American Legion Holiday Donor Blood Drive that lasts through Dec. 31. During this time, American Legion Family members are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives as part of the American Legion Blood Donor Program – an organizational effort that has existed since 1946 to help a lifesaving cause.

As the coronavirus continues to affect communities nationwide, there is an urgent need for blood donations. American Legion posts have been stepping up to host and assist with blood drives, while adhering to safety protocols established to halt the spread of the deadly virus. The Red Cross has enhanced safety precautions to keep donors, volunteers and others safe in this era of social distancing. For example, donors are kept at a distance in waiting areas. Additionally, Red Cross volunteers sanitize chairs, tables, equipment, and other items between donors.

If your American Legion post, district or department is interested in convening a blood drive in your community, the Red Cross recommends visiting this link to learn more about how to start the process. Learn more about the American Legion Blood Donor Program at legion.org/security/blood.

Department of Vermont reaches 75 Percent Membership

As the saying goes "It takes a village"; well, many past department commanders, county and district commanders and post commanders/adjutant and legionnaires stepped up to the plate and made phone calls, sent emails or letters, and made a few house call to transfers Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) members to Posts. I would say we hit a “hit a home run”. A special thank you to Department Adjutant Linda Perham and Secretary Melodie Ashford for running reports, processing membership, and sending membership updates.

The fight is still not over and we still need over 2,000 members to reach 100 percent. If we all work together, we can make a difference with membership. Every renewed or new member helps the community, posts and department maintain the Legion programs.

Catherine M. Tester
Membership Chairman
Ken Coonradt

Howdy Legionnaires,

I realize that by the time you get the bulletin, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. Hope everyone remembered to be thankful for God’s abundant, overflowing, loving, generosity to us. Even in this terrible pandemic we must be thankful for our lives, food friends, and even in sickness we should feel God’s underlying joy because of His presence.

Just around the corner a more important holiday greets us. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus, the son of God. God felt so bad about the fallen world, that He bundled himself up and came down to earth in a basket of hay to show us how to get back on track and worship Him. So, Thanksgiving should remind us that God’s gift of a Savior was the greatest gift ever.

Wife and I have felt the impact of COVID-19 on a personal basis. She was in Albany Medical Center for five days, on the day of discharge we found that her roommate had COVID-19. That put us into a 14-day quarantine. Last Tuesday after 7 days in quarantine we got in line at the local hospital COVID-19 test line where they did the nose thing. Two days later we received word that we were negative, praise God. Oh, that nose thing isn’t so bad, it’s a slight sting for about one second.

We must pray for an end to this terrible pandemic and an aggressive effort to get the vaccine to the general public. Pray, pray, pray.

Please remember our comrades who are ill, some gravely ill, and be thankful for those on the front lines caring for our population and our Hero’s at the Vermont Veterans Home.

Pray for our troops all over the world.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Ken

---

**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.
Open Enrollment is happening now!

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is here to help with Health Insurance & Medicare Supplement

VISIT
WWW.THELIT.COM
TO LEARN MORE & SIGN UP
Your American Legion

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
Veterans Hospital - White River Junction  802-295-9363   www.whiteriver.va.gov
Department of Vermont Headquarters  802-223-7131   www.vtlegion.org

Department Officers

Department of Vermont Commander  Ron LaRose  Post 19   ronaldllarose@gmail.com
NEC Man  PDC Fred Latour  Post 33   fredericklatour41@gmail.com
Senior Vice Commander  Catherine Tester  Post 50   ctester2663@gmail.com
Department Adjutant  PNVC/PDC Linda Perham  Post 31   adjvt@my fairpoint.net
Department Finance Officer  Dennis Minoli  Post 10   cdminoli@charter.net
Department Chaplain  Kenneth Conradt  Post 13   howdydoo57@hotmail.com
Department Service Officer  Milt Willis  Post 67   milton.willis@va.gov
Department Judge Advocate  Rebecca Otey  Post 19   oteyrebecca@yahoo.com
Alt. NEC Man  PDC  David Woodward  Post 13   dwalvt@gmail.com
Historian
Sgt. At Arms  Frederick Stebbins  Post 33   stebbinsfl1@gmail.com
Northern Area Commander  Thomas Scanlon  Post 27   tscanlon@aol.com
Southern Area Commander  PDC Royal Sheeley  Post 50   root98@comcast.net

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  bdmarkwell@gmail.com
Lamoille County (D3)          Roland Cleveland  Post 33  bcleveland813@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

Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Vermont
salvermont.com

Dave Hendee - Detachment Commander
splashbbd@gmail.com

Jeremy Revell - Sr. Vice Commander

Marc Colety - Adjutant
coley@gmail.com

Norman Scolaro - Finance Officer
norbsco@comcast.net

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Vermont
vtalauxiliary.org

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

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
Oratorical State Contest

There are potentially 4 candidates for the 2021 Oratorical Contest. The students are from District 3, District 4, and District 5 with applications so far. The deadline for application submission will be Dec. 14.

National HQ Americanism Chairman Anderson has stated that the April 2021 Oratorical Contest will be “in person”. Based on the Legion regulations, the Department contest must follow the same format. Post 27 has agreed to hold the Department contest Sat. Mar.6.

Local and District contest formats are at the Oratorical Committee’s discretion. Depending on the COVID situation in January (local contest time) and February (District contest time), the contest format will be set up the best interest of everyone’s health and safety.

If you know a student that would be a good competitor, contact a District Point Person or me. Have them complete the application and return it to Dept. HQ by Dec. 14.

District Point Person:

District 3    Harold Breer  breerharold7@gmail.com     (802) 272-5327
District 4    Chris Moore   skittlestaz65@gmail.com   (802) 236-9091
District 5    Ron Farrar    ronfarrar5327@hotmail.com (802) 875-2274
District 1 & 2 Karlene DeVine  kdevine@myfairpoint.net (802)877-6392

2019 Vermont State Oratorical winner, Avery Carter. Avery was sponsored by Castleton Post 50.

L-R: Post 50 commander Richie Baptie, Post 50 2nd Vice Si Loomis, Avery’s mom Jamie, Avery, Avery’s dad Phillip, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander and Post 50 Historian Catherine Tester.
ALA Department of Vermont "#kindnessmatter - Color me American"

Tie Dyed T-shirt Fundraiser.

Please help us spread a culture of Kindness throughout our Auxiliary and show your pride for our flag and the LOVE of our Country & organization, now when we need it more than ever.

If you would like to order a shirt please send payment to ALA Dept of Vermont, PO Box 192 Montpelier VT 05601-0192 & call 802-223-3141 with any questions. Please be sure to include the quantity, size, and shipping cost with address. T-shirts may also be picked up at Department HQs.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the ALA Dept of Vermont General fund. We thank you for your support during these trying times. Let’s show some ALA pride, order your shirt today!

Shirt can be viewed at ALA Department HQs and are much nicer in person!
Mission Blue Post Assistance Program

Legion posts affected by COVID can apply for $1,000 grant

Public health mandates in response to the coronavirus included stay-at-home orders and business closures. Those mandates financially impacted American Legion posts nationwide as member and community outreach efforts were limited, resulting in a loss of revenue.

To provide some relief during these challenging times, financial grants are now available for eligible American Legion posts.

Resolution No. 36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, will provide $1,000 grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities, and insurance.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 Oct. 14, during its annual Fall Meetings. Funds for the approved grants will be provided through The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.
4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.
5. A financial need.
6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.
7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant application will be a fillable PDF. Please stay tuned for its release. American Legion posts applying for a grant will be required to first submit the completed application to their respective department for approval before it can be sent to National Headquarters. This application procedure is the same as the NEF.

American Legion posts have until Dec. 31, 2021, to apply for an Operation Blue PAP grant.

Download application at
https://www.legion.org/documents/.../Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf
Chip Ganassi Racing and The American Legion Announce
Multi-Year NTT INDYCAR SERIES Relationship
The American Legion to sponsor the No. 48
driven by racing legends, Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan

INDIANAPOLIS (December 1, 2020) – Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) announced today a multi-year agreement with the nation’s largest veterans service organization, The American Legion, as a sponsor of the No. 48 Honda in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES represented by a combination of Seven-Time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson (street and road courses) and former Indianapolis 500 Winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan (ovals).

“We’re excited about this new relationship with The American Legion as it allows us to further the sponsorship program on the No. 48 team with Jimmie and Tony, while also representing a very important relationship with an organization dedicated to supporting veterans,” said Chip Ganassi, team owner of Chip Ganassi Racing. “Jimmie in particular has a long-standing appreciation for the service of veterans, so it was just another reason why partnering with The American Legion on his debut in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES made sense.”

The American Legion will be featured prominently on Johnson’s No. 48 Honda during every race in the 2021 and 2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES. The organization will also be the primary paint scheme for two races in 2021, including, “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. Kanaan, winner of the 2013 Indianapolis 500, will be behind the wheel for those races.

“This is truly a win-win for all involved,” said James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. “Teaming up with Chip Ganassi Racing allows The American Legion to showcase how it strengthens America every day through its programs, advocacy and support of veterans and their families. We’re looking forward to bringing that message and our mission to race fans across the country.”

The announcement comes on #GivingTuesday, a day of global giving designed to help change communities and the world. As a result, Johnson, who has family members that have served in the military, will be making a $10,000 donation to The American Legion. Johnson hopes his donation will motivate fans and the public to support our veterans by donating $48 to The American Legion. The $48 pays homage to the number 48 car that he and Kanaan will drive. Donors can visit legion.org/48 to make a gift and help celebrate this new relationship and veterans across the country.

“Our family knows firsthand how important it is to recognize our veterans,” said Johnson, who’s grandfathers and brother-in-law served in the military. “It’s exciting to be partnering with The American Legion to be able to show our appreciation to veterans and to continue to raise public awareness and support for this special organization. Giving Tuesday is a great day to announce this partnership and a way for fans to show their appreciation for our veterans.”

-MORE-
About The American Legion
The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

About Chip Ganassi Racing
Chip Ganassi has been a fixture in the auto racing industry for over 30 years and is considered one of the most successful as well as innovative owners the sport has anywhere in the world. Today his teams include four cars in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, two cars in the NASCAR Cup Series, and one car in both the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship and Extreme E. Overall, his teams have 20 championships and over 225 victories, including four Indianapolis 500s, a Daytona 500, a Brickyard 400, eight Rolex 24 At Dayotas, the 12 Hours of Sebring and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Ganassi boasts state-of-the-art race shop facilities in Indianapolis and Concord, N.C., with a corporate office in Pittsburgh. For more information log onto www.chipganassiracing.com

###

Department of Vermont Commander
Ron LaRose and several boy scouts from
the area attending a Veterans Day
Program in Bristol.
CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER.......  

Christmas came early to a few veteran and service organizations as well as to local civic clubs due to the generosity of Middlebury American Legion Post 27. At their last regular meeting in October the membership unanimously voted to help various organizations and causes that have been adversely impacted financially by the current Covid-19 pandemic. The awards totaled $7,750.00.

Checks in the amount of $1,000 were given to: American Legion Department Commander Ron LaRose for his project which is assisting the two Vermont Boy Scout camps; The Veteran’s Place in Northfield; The Dodge House, a Project of the Veteran’s Assistance Office, in Rutland; the Middlebury Rotary Club; and, the Middlebury Rotary Club. These organizations were severely impacted wherein there regular fundraising efforts were not available. These were unsolicited donations which put big smiles on the recipients. Additionally, $2,750 was presented to the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department to fully fund the New Year’s Eve fireworks display. These donations come on the heels of what Post 27 donated the previous month where they awarded $1,000 to the local K of C Council in that they lost their major fundraiser due to the pandemic. Additionally, they prepaid the balance of their pledge ($10,000) to the Memorial Sports Center for their recent building expansion, as previously reported in the local news. It should be noted that this latest donation brings the total to $200,000 given to the Memorial Sports Center by the local Legion post.

The Middlebury American Legion is very proud that they are able to assist such great organizations and contribute to veterans, as well as to other local needy causes. Post 27 has reaped the benefits of the hard work of past post leaders, such as Joe DeGray and Ernie Cyr. They raised funds and invested wisely creating the ability of the post to be so generous during this period of time when help is so desperately needed. Their hard work was built upon by the current Commander, Laura Flint, and her keen business acumen. Middlebury American Legion Post 27 is a shining example of veterans helping veterans, children, and their local community.

Tom Scanlon, Adjutant –

Middlebury American Legion Post 27

Pictured from top left, clockwise: Ron LaRose, State Commander of the American Legion; Karen Boyce, Director of The Soldier’s Place, Inc.; Maureen Conrad, President Middlebury Rotary Club; Chris Morgan, Executive Director of the Dodge House; Jesse Gillette, President, Middlebury Lions Club; and, Dustin Hunt, Superintendent of Middlebury Parks and Recreation.
“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.”
Raymond St. John

The Department of Vermont is sad to report that our Department Historian, Raymond St. John has been called home to post everlasting. Ray was a legion member for 64 years with 60 years serving local veterans and the community at Montpelier Post 3. Ray over the years was County Commander, Post Adjutant and the Department of Vermont Historian for more than 10 years. He was a staple at all department conventions, conferences and events capturing the time in pictures for history to live on.

Please keep his wife Trish and his family in your prayers.

Rest easy, brother. Semper Fi!

Legion Trivia

Let’s have a little fun!

Time to have fun!! I’ve been updating the www.centennial.legion.org page for Department of Vermont Post Headquarters.....found some interesting trivia....so I want to see who knows the Vermont American Legion best!!

• What was H. Nelson Jackson’s real first name? What was he famous for doing before entering the military?

• What Past Department Commander went to Ohio Federal Prison for embezzlement of a WWI veterans’ pension?

• What Past Department Commander was President of Middlebury College?

• Why did our Headquarters office stay in Burlington so long, before moving to Montpelier?

(Continued on page 26)
• What PDC ran Selective Service and President of Norwich University?

• What Post did the first Department Commander come from?

• Who was the youngest Past Dept. Commander at age 32?

Look and see how much you know......good luck!!

Linda Perham, Dept. Adjutant

**RECONNECT PROGRAM**

Tom Scanlon, Chairperson

As many, if not all of you, are aware, members of the Vermont Air Guard have recently deployed. The Department was represented at the Deployment Ceremonies, wherein each was presented with a Blue Star Banner as well as information on Temporary Financial Assistance. In the coming year hundreds of individuals from the Vermont Army National Guard will be deployed as well.

Both the Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance play an integral role in the American Legion Reconnect Program. Through the Family Support Network, the American Legion provides a broad range of services to help families cope with the unique challenges of deployment. Temporary Financial Assistance provides for immediate, short-term financial needs, for families of deployed personnel who have minor children at home, upon application for cash grants. Local posts play an integral role in both these programs. More information can be found at [www.legion.org/fsn](http://www.legion.org/fsn) and [www.legion.org/financialassistance](http://www.legion.org/financialassistance). It would be worth ones while to be familiar with these programs in the event you may get a call for assistance.

During this period of deployments many posts will be sending care or comfort packages to individuals or units. This is also an integral part of the Reconnect Program. Anything, or any interaction, with active duty personnel, even at a NG or Army Reserve facility counts for Reconnect and as such is reportable to National Headquarters. If you or your post, to include the Sons, and Auxiliary, are doing anything in this area give me a call or an email and I will do the reporting though Department to National. I just need the who, what, when and where. This is important for the Department’s involvement and to facilitate tracking. I can be reached at (802) 989-0486 or at tscanlon@aol.com. Please put “Reconnect” in the subject box to call my immediate attention to the correspondence. Remember, reconnect efforts are important.