



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 6

November 2024

Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

How the Boy Scouts are Boosting American Legion's Community Presence.

The American Legion, a cornerstone of veteran advocacy and service in the United States, has long been dedicated to supporting veterans, promoting patriotism, and engaging communities. In recent years, one of the organization's strategic goals has been to increase its presence and relevance within local communities, and a key partner in this effort is the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

The Boy Scouts, known for their emphasis on leadership, civic responsibility, and community service, share a mission closely aligned with that of the American Legion. Together, these two organizations are working to foster a stronger sense of service, patriotism, and community engagement, while also ensuring that younger generations are connected to and supportive of veteran causes.

Strengthening the Bond Between Two Iconic Organizations

The American Legion and the Boy Scouts have enjoyed a long-standing relationship, dating back to 1919 when the Legion became one of the first organizations to charter Scout troops. Today, more than 2,500 Scouting units are sponsored by American Legion posts across the country.

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

NATIONAL COMMANDER	4-5
SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER	6
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	7
FROM THE ADJUTANT	8
MEMBERSHIP	9
MEET THE CANDIDATES	10
MARKETING	11-12
AMERICANISM	13
COMMUNITY SERVICE	14-18
BOYS STATE	19-20
LEGISLATION	25-26
EDITORIAL	27
AROUND THE DEPT.	31-33
HOLYOKE VETERANS HOME	35
VA	36
MEMBERSHIP	37
AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP	38
SAL MEMBERSHIP	39
POST EVENTS	40-46

However, this collaboration is being renewed and expanded, with a sharper focus on how the Scouts can actively increase the Legion's visibility and impact in local communities.

By working together, the two organizations leverage their shared values and large, multi-generational membership bases. The Scouts, through their civic-oriented programs, provide the manpower and youthful energy needed for community service projects, while the Legion offers leadership, mentorship, and access to veteran networks that can inspire young people and deepen their understanding of national service.

Community Service Projects

One of the most tangible ways that the Boy Scouts are helping to increase the American Legion's community presence is through joint community service projects. From organizing flag retirement ceremonies and helping maintain veterans' memorials, to leading community clean-up efforts and coordinating care packages for deployed troops, Scouts are taking an active role in honoring and assisting veterans.

Eagle Scout projects, in particular, offer opportunities for young leaders to collaborate with Legion posts on meaningful initiatives that directly benefit their communities. These projects not only promote the Scouts' commitment to community improvement but also shine a light on the work of the American Legion, reminding local residents of the organization's contributions and mission.

Veteran Mentorship and Leadership Development

One of the most valuable ways the American Legion supports the Boy Scouts is through mentorship. Veterans in Legion posts serve as role models for young Scouts, instilling in them lessons of leadership, teamwork, and resilience. This mentorship bridges the gap between generations, allowing young people to learn directly from those who have served the nation.

These interactions help to create a stronger bond between Scouts and veterans, leading to greater participation in Legion events such as parades, veteran commemorations, and civic celebrations. The visibility of Scouts at these events enhances the American Legion's profile, attracting more families and younger members to join in future activities.

Promoting Patriotism and Civic Education

Patriotism is a core value for both the Boy Scouts and the American Legion. Together, they promote respect for the American flag, understanding of the nation's history, and appreciation for the sacrifices of those who have served in the armed forces. Boy Scouts often participate in ceremonies that honor veterans, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, where their presence reinforces the importance of these national observances.

Continued on Page 3

The American Legion's oratorical contests, youth programs, and educational initiatives around citizenship are greatly enhanced by the participation of Boy Scouts, whose members already engage in similar efforts to learn about civic duty. This shared focus on education strengthens the community's perception of both organizations as champions of patriotism and civic responsibility.

Expanding Membership and Engagement

By collaborating with the Boy Scouts, the American Legion has the opportunity to connect with a broader demographic. As Scout families become more familiar with Legion programs and activities, many are likely to take a more active role in their local posts. This can help attract new, younger members to the American Legion, which is crucial for the organization's long-term sustainability and growth.

Moreover, as Scouts age out of the program and some go on to serve in the military, they are more likely to join the Legion later in life, bringing with them a deep respect for the organization's mission and a readiness to contribute to its efforts.

A Partnership for the Future

The American Legion's partnership with the Boy Scouts represents a powerful alliance for increasing community engagement and service. As these two storied organizations continue to collaborate, their combined efforts will not only benefit veterans and their families but will also instill in younger generations a lasting commitment to civic duty and service.

In the long term, the continued partnership between the Boy Scouts and the American Legion will play a crucial role in fostering strong, resilient communities that honor the contributions of veterans while nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. This collaboration ensures that both organizations remain vibrant and relevant, playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of American civic life.





American Legion National Commander LaCoursiere Jr. spoke to members of the National Executive Committee during Fall Meetings about pressing topics such as natural disasters, the Middle East and VA funding.

Hurricanes, the anniversary of a surprise attack, 44,500 emails, election year and membership. These were topics that American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. addressed to members of the National Executive Committee and other national leadership Wednesday morning during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.

As Hurricane Helene and flooding devastated parts of Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, residents in Florida brace for Hurricane Milton. LaCoursiere shared a reminder that The American Legion stands ready to assist Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, impacted by the hurricanes with [National Emergency Fund grants](#). Temporary Financial Assistance grants, which help Legion members and active duty servicemembers with minor child(ren) in the home, are also available at the local post or department level.

“Keep in mind that we are truly an American Legion Family, and we are there for you – hearts, minds, prayers and physically, we are there for you,” LaCoursiere said. “The Legion will continue to do what they have always done during emergencies like these. They will put service before self. They will gather supplies, collect donations and give to the areas that are hurting.”

Monday marked the one-year anniversary of the deadly attack on Israel by Hamas; the battle continues in the Middle East. Since the attacks, Iran has launched hundreds of ballistic missiles toward Israel. As a result, an estimated 43,000 U.S. troops and at least a dozen warships are currently deployed to the region, though some were there prior to last year’s attack.

“The American Legion will always believe in defending America’s interests but, at the same time, we understand the need to avoid unnecessary or poorly planned combat deployments,” LaCoursiere said. “Mission objectives and exit strategies must be clear to avoid escalations that could lead to our troops being bogged down in another forever war. Regardless of the policies or circumstances behind any military mission, The American Legion will always and unequivocally support the men and women who are sent in harm’s way.”

Support for troops also means supporting their needs after the uniform comes off. A \$3 billion stopgap was required a few weeks ago so the Department of Veterans Affairs could continue funding veteran service-connected payments.

Continued on Page 5

The American Legion joined with other VSOs in calling for Congress to immediately fund a \$15-billion VA budget shortfall, and more than 44,500 emails were sent to Congress through our [legislative action web page](#).

“This is just the latest instance of The American Legion being the voice for veterans,” he said.

A presidential election is less than a month away and LaCoursiere read Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The American Legion: “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment.”

“Our neutrality when it comes to elections is not only mandated by our constitution but serves us well in a practical sense,” he said. “It’s the reason why The American Legion works well with Democrats, Republicans and Independents in Congress. The fact is, nearly every successful veteran’s bill of consequence has had bipartisan support. Our nonpartisanship also helps us maintain a productive relationship with the White House, regardless of which party is in the Oval Office.

“At the same time, we want veterans to vote. Veterans have fought for, and in many cases, died for this constitutional right. Let’s get out the vote.”

LaCoursiere’s goal for new traditional members recruited into posts for 2025 is 75,000. He will reward his Be the One dog tag coin to any Legionnaire who recruits three new members into The American Legion who was not a member in 2024. And his retention goal is 90%.

“I truly believe that the more people learn about The American Legion, see our programs in action, and understand the power we have in setting public policy – the more they will want to join us and the more they will want to stay.”

In closing, LaCoursiere thanked NEC members for keeping the Legion’s suicide prevention mission, Be the One, at the forefront and for supporting the Veterans and Children Foundation through donations.

“My primary focus is quality of life for all of our veterans and their families. We need to be more engaged with the communities to allow the communities to see and believe in The American Legion. Let’s let America know who The American Legion is.”



SAL National Commander Navarrete encourages Sons to support the Buddy Check and Be The One missions.

Hello, American Legion Family.

As we move on from the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, we are well aware of the challenges our Legion Family in the Southeast faces in the aftermath of two powerful hurricanes.

Hurricane Helene's historic impact on Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia will be felt for a long time. Some areas will take months to recover from the record rainfall that left such terrible damage behind.

Then came Hurricane Milton, adding even more devastation as it crossed Florida.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by these and other natural disasters. But as American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere said at the Fall Meetings, we must support those thoughts and prayers with "tangible acts of generosity."

Many of you have already done so by joining your Legion posts in collecting donations to help support relief efforts in those communities directly impacted by Helene and Milton. Please continue to do so, and continue to share your efforts with National Headquarters through Internal Affairs and the Media & Communications Division.

I would also encourage you to participate in your post's Buddy Check efforts, whether you're in an area affected by these disasters or not. Your American Legion post is likely participating in Buddy Check Week. Please join them, and be prepared by using the resources available at [Legion.org/Advocacy/Be-The-One/Buddy-Check](https://www.legion.org/Advocacy/Be-The-One/Buddy-Check).

Thank you again for all you do to support The American Legion, the Legion Family, and your communities.

*"Todo es posible con Dios y Familia"
Everything is possible with God and family*

Joseph Navarreté
SAL National Commander

First of all, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the members of our Legion Family who made my Banquet such a special occasion. It did not take our members long to get their share of that awesome cake that was made by Mary Ellen Levesque once they found out it was real and edible. Enough about me.

The month of October began with an outing at Middleton Post 227 for the Veterans from the Chelsea Soldiers Home. The highlight of this event was having volunteers from Goldy's Farm in Ipswich bring several animals, namely a miniature horse and a couple of donkeys, for our Veterans to pet and feed. They really enjoyed this. We are hoping to get permission to take some of these animals up to the Home.

As the month pushed on, events such as meat raffles, psychic fairs, yard sales and car shows were being held all over the department to raise funds for our many programs. Working the Corn Booth at the Topsfield Fair is an annual event for many Legion Family members in District 8. Operation Troop Support also had another wrap for the troops. Just recently a very successful Trunk or Treat event was held at Dra-cut Post 315 in District 5. Congratulations.

I was very proud to collect and deliver over \$1200.00 worth of needed items for the hurricane victims from Methuen Unit 122, Manchester Post 113 Legion Riders and several other members in the Department of MA, ALA.

The merger of the 20 Units formerly known as Franklin-Hampshire District 2 and Hampton District 3 into one District in keeping with the American Legion became final. The new name is Hampton, Franklin, Hampshire County Council District 3, Dept. of MA, ALA. A new slate of officers has been elected and installed. We want to thank Easthampton Post 224 for the use of their facilities to hold this meeting and for the help of members Kevin Miller and Chuck Duffy.

The following day, I participated in the Annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Road Race. We have been actively getting donations for this event for many years.

As I write this, we are looking forward to our Fall Conference; a time to learn more about our programs and how to better implement and share them with all members, especially the new ones. This is when we call on our older members to follow our National President's lead and invite members to join the **Renew Crew**. These are members who do not have a title but are great at advancing the Mission of our organization.

Proud of all the great things we do to keep our Mission alive to help our Veterans, their families and our communities and for **Being the One** whenever we can. Thank you.

I want to close by sharing this heartwarming message I recently read from our Department Commander Nelson Blake. I feel sorry for people who are incapable of feeling the joy of helping others. Years ago, we were all like family. Everybody looked out for one another. We need to go back to that. We have to do better at looking out for each other instead of breaking each other down. This is so true. Thank you.



The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street—State House Room 546-2 Boston, MA 02113 (617) 727-2966

Legionnaires,

Simple request from your adjutant and membership coordinator regarding Department Banquets, Testimonials, and Parties that have booster sheets, ads, and tickets please, please make out the checks separately. Each goes into a different accounts. It is difficult to keep track accurately if the office has to divide your checks.

Chain of command, we are all past military and understand the concept. If your Post has an issue your first line in your chain of command is your District Commander. Any and all complaints received by the Department or the National Organization is sent right back to the District Commanders. Efficiency is a beautiful thing. Let us all be more efficient and use the structure already in place to handle issues. Problems get solved quicker that way. If a person makes a complaint it must be in WRITING and SIGNED! Or it goes in the Adjutant’s filing system.

Forms, forms, forms, forms, forms, forms, forms, forms, yes forms. We still have Posts that have not turned in their forms. Posts will be precluded from Department awards if Post forms are not turned in. I hate to see a Post that deserves an award not receive one because they have not turned in a form.

There seems to be confusion regarding Calendar Year and Membership Year. Calendar year is January 1st to December 31st. Legion Membership Year is July 1st to June 30th. Why is this important? See below.

Article 7 Section 4 states in The Department Constitution and By-Laws, “Election of all Post Officers shall be held before July 1st, and the Post Commander, as the Post shall prescribe, shall appoint such other officers before July 1st, and the Department Adjutant shall be notified, of all officers on or before July 15th.” All Posts that have elections after July 1st are in violation of our Department Constitution & By-Laws. Why this is important? FORMS and COMMUNICATION. Department & District Officers cannot plan their visits if they don’t know when Posts meets. Department cannot contact a Post with questions or issues such as correct addresses for PUFL checks and if we don’t know have the most current information. Which is found on what? THE FORMS.

Posts need to make every attempt to send a representative to their respected District meetings. This is where the information concerning the Legion is shared. We cannot share it if you are not there. Posts call constantly saying “I didn’t know that”. Did you go to your District Meeting?

Holiday season is fast approaching and I wanted to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Please remember all those who are struggling this year due to natural disaster, mental health, and homelessness. If possible a random act of kindness during this holiday season goes a long way.

Okay your Adjutant is done with agitating.

Veterans Straightening America since 1919 and into the Future

*The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today:
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth*

Great Job!! We reached the October 16th goal of 55%. Actually we cruised in with 56.88% The next two deadlines are some of the toughest (short period - Highest percentage jumps. Next deadline November 14th - 65%. 8 of 9 Districts made the 55%. Great job folks! Winter is coming, let's close that drafty back-door! Congrats to the 95+ Posts that are 65% or better.

Looking at Posts: D1 - 4, D3 - 10, D4 - 15, D5 - 13, D6 - 10, D7 - 5, D8 - 15, D9 - 4, D10 - 9

These are the number of Post/District that just fell shy of the 55% goal.

Paid on Line: Got your permissions to work membership on MyLegion.org? If not, let us know, we can help. Before you call, make sure the Post Commander and Adjutant form is current. 46% have not submitted this form.

462 Post: This is our "cloud" of members, most know what it is and how it works. I will be sending this list out, want to get on an exclusive e-mail list, send me a note. Prepared as an Excel spreadsheet, it will be distributed to your District Membership Team (DMT).

Membership Sources: With Veterans "Month" approaching, many Posts will have veteran open houses, luncheons, dinners, and other programs. Make sure that you have Why Belong brochures available. Casually place them on the tables during luncheons and dinners. Consider displaying videos on a lap top or up on the big screen, no need for overwhelming sound, they are closed caption. WWW.VIMEO.COM/AMERICANLEGION - Welcome to The American Legion.

The Snowbirds are Coming: Massachusetts enjoys a large number of transient "Snowbirds" that head south for the Winter. We know who they are, if the member has not renewed, reach out to them and highly suggest that they renew before they go. A nice new 2025 membership card will help them get into the southern Posts in January, a bit easier.

CPR: New CPR being crafted, with a focus on size and being user friendly.

Membership Retention Contest - Check with your District and make sure they have a membership team in place. Please read over the the complete info flyer, any questions, please contact either your District Membership Team, or myself.

Things to REMEMBER!

Change your clocks next weekend

Change the Batteries in your Smoke Detectors

Take the time and do 2 Buddy Checks in November (texting is a great way to check in)

Scott M. Conner,
Sr. Vice Commander, Membership Chair
scottscpo@gmail.com
774-239-6162

“TEAM KANSAS”
Proudly Presents



DAN K. WILEY
For National Commander
2025-2026



Dan was born in Lawrence, Kansas. He graduated from Lawrence High School in 1983. After graduation Dan attended Kansas State University.

He is married to Sonia Hamm who he met while serving a internship with the American Angus Association.

He served in the U.S. Air Force with the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, MT.

After discharge Dan completed his bachelor’s degree in business at the College of Great Falls in Montana, He returned to his hometown and attended law schools at the University of Kansas.

He joined a law firm in Leavenworth KS which would eventually become Murray, Tiltson & Wiley, Dan was appointed the City of Leavenworth Municipal Judge in 1997 and a State of Kansas District Court Judge in 2008.

He and his wife Sonia, have two children, Austin and Christy, who are members of the American Legion Family. Sonia has been an active and dedicated member of the Auxiliary and has served in numerous leadership positions at the unit and District level.

Dan is a Past Department Commander for the Department of Kansas and is currently serving as the National Executive Committeeman for the Department.

“TEAM COLORADO”
Proudly Presents



JOHN W. “JAY” BOWEN
For National Commander
2026-2027



Jay was born in Wynne, AR and moved to Memphis TN when he was three months old. Jay married his childhood sweetheart, Jackie Walker while he was in the U.S. Army. When he retired for the Army the family moved to Blytheville, AR.

After retiring from the Army he moved to Blytheville AR where he worked as the Distribution Manager for Bush Brother and Company. After leaving Bush Brothers, Jay and family moved back to Memphis TN where he worked as a telecommunication engineer. It was at this time that Jay and Jackie joined and become active in the American Legion Family. Jy’s and Jackie's work in the community resulted in being named the “Key to the City of Bartlett” prior to relocating to Colorado Springs.

Jay and Jackie have two sons; John Jr. and Robert and four grandchildren; Brandon Kyle, Morgan and Parker. All are members of the American Legion Family.

Jay graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arkansas State University with a Bachelors of Science degree and a Masters of Arts degree from Webster University.

Jay is a paid up for life member of the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 . He is a Past Department Commander for the Department of Colorado and has served in many positions at the national level. He is currently the Chairman of VA&R Commission.

Hello American Legion Family. I hope this edition finds all of you in good health and spirits. With Fall in full swing and winter approaching, so is the annual Army-Navy collegiate football game. I am pleased to inform you, if you were not already aware, The American Legion is sponsoring the game and will be the game's The Official Veterans Service Organization. This is a great opportunity for marketing our great organization to the entire nation.

Our partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League continued at the team's home opener on Saturday night October 12th as Department Vice Commander Ryan Howe presented The Veteran of the Game with the "Challenge Accepted" coin. Many thanks are due to District 4 Commander Adam Doud and District 3 Commander Cindy Lacoste for staffing our information table at the game.

As has been reported previously, the department is holding an online 50-50 raffle which will be drawn at The Department Executive Committee Meeting in January. The attached flyer (Next Page) has the raffle information and is very user friendly. Please consider participating as your donation helps the department fund our many programs.

As always if you have any marketing ideas please contact the marketing committee.

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Massachusetts



Save your stamps! Save your envelopes! Save the Environment

Just enter online for our new 50/50 replacing our Winter Sweepstakes

Go to <https://www.rafflebox.us/raffle/al-mass> select find a raffle

Supports the Department of Massachusetts Programs



Student Trooper



Oratorical



Boys State



Ladies Fast Pitch



Scouting



American Legion Baseball

The American Legion, a veteran-led organization, has been championing Americanism for nearly a century. This core value promotes patriotism, citizenship, and community service, fostering a stronger, more united America.

What is Americanism?

Americanism encompasses:

1. Patriotism: Pride in our nation's history, values, and symbols.
2. Citizenship: Active participation in democratic processes.
3. Community Service: Selfless volunteerism.

How American Legion Americanism Works*

Through various programs and initiatives, the American Legion:

1. ***Promotes Youth Development***: Programs like Boys State, Girls State, and the American Legion Oratorical Contest empower young leaders.
2. ***Fosters Community Engagement***: Legionnaires participate in local events, volunteer, and support veterans.
3. ***Advocates for Veterans' Rights***: The American Legion ensures veterans receive the benefits and care they deserve.
4. ***Educates on Citizenship***: Legionnaires teach civic responsibility and American history. **Impact on Our Community***

American Legion Americanism:

1. ***Unites Citizens***: Fosters community cohesion through shared values.
2. ***Develops Young Leaders***: Prepares future generations for civic responsibility.
3. ***Supports Local Veterans***: Provides critical assistance and advocacy.

Impact on Our State*

American Legion Americanism:

1. ***Promotes State Pride***: Celebrates state history and heritage.
2. ***Fosters Collaboration***: Partners with state organizations to address community needs.
3. ***Empowers Veterans***: Ensures state-specific benefits and support.

Impact on Our Nation*

American Legion Americanism:

1. ***Strengthens National Unity***: Unites Americans across diverse backgrounds.
2. ***Inspires Patriotism***: Honors national symbols and values.
3. ***Advances Veterans' Interests***: Advocates for national policies supporting veterans. **Get Involved**

Join the American Legion's mission to build a stronger America:

1. Become a member.
2. Participate in local events.
3. Volunteer for community service.

Together, we can foster a more patriotic, civic-minded, and compassionate nation.

Bob Jerdan DVC 24-25

Americanism Chairman 24-25

Military Benefits and QOL National 24-25

Candidate for Department SR Vice Commander 25-26



Community Service

The holiday season is right around the corner which means busy season for our communities. With several different holidays coming up what are the post doing to stay relevant within their community. Posts have already started their planning for different community events so don't forget the different Community Service awards: Al White (Monthly) Award, The Conway (Yearly) Award, The Pendill (Yearly) Award, Mulkern (Educator of the Year) Award. Even though the school year has just begun, now is the time to start looking for nominations. The submission date for Conway, Pendill, and Mulkern is March 31st.

Sean Ryan Howe



Community Service—Mulkern Award



Department of Massachusetts, Inc.

State House, Room 546-2

Boston, Massachusetts 02133

John Mulkern Educator of the Year Award

Criteria:

Must be endorsed by an American Legion Post.

Accomplishments of the Individual must be over and above his/her usual vocation.

Consideration will be given to someone whose activities in the field of education is far in excess of what one would expect in that field.

Applicants may be Male/Female, Veteran/Non-veteran, Legionnaire/Non-Legionnaire.

A majority vote of the Community Service Committee will be final.

The Post that is submitting a candidate must have a current CPR and Post Roster on File for their candidate to be considered for this award.

Submission due by: March 31st, 2025

Community Service Committee

Chairman

Mail all Entries to:

DVC Ryan Howe

P.O. BOX 186

Ludlow, MA 01056 or Email: Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com



**Nelson Blake
Commander**



Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
State House, Room 546-2
Boston, Massachusetts 02133



**Lisa McPhee
Adjutant**

Community Service – Al White Award Application

POST: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIPCODE:** _____

Criteria:

An award may be given each month to an American Legion Post judged to have performed an outstanding Community Service project for the betterment of the Community or the people therein.

An award may be given to any combination of The American Legion Family provided proper documentation is provided. Signatures must be included that of the Post Commander and Adjutant as well as any other officers as required from the combined American Legion Family from the post.

Narrative:

Please provide a narrative with proper documentation to include description of activities, proof of activities (pictures/newspaper articles) designed to enrich your Legion Family and/or your community.

Submission:

This form, with attachments must be submitted to:

Department Community Service Committee Chairman

DVC Ryan Howe

P.O. BOX 186

Ludlow, MA 01056

Or email Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER EVENT

Submitted by: _____, Post: _____

All Entries will be judge by the Community Service Committee.



Community Service Pendill Award



**Nelson Blake
Commander**



Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
State House, Room 546-2
Boston, Massachusetts 02133



**Lisa McPhee
Adjutant**

CLAUDIUS GRANT PENDILL

Claudius G. Pendill was born May 12th, 1891, in Marquette, Michigan. He graduated from Northern Michigan University, Marquette in 1911. He married Gertrude E. Wollaeger on September 17th, 1921. They had four children and thirteen grandchildren.

He enlisted as an apprentice seaman in the United States Navy on May 8th, 1917, at Great Lakes, IL. He served in the service during WWI, WWII, and Korea. He retired August 31st, 1951.

He established the “Claudius G. Pendill Trophy for Civic Achievement” for the Department of Wisconsin in 1930.

He established the “Claudius G. Pendill Trophy for Community Service” in the department of Massachusetts in 1930.

He was one of the first Scoutmasters in the United States with a troop in Racine, Wisconsin in 1916 until he entered the Navy.

He has been in Civic matters most of his life and especially has served “The Anna Jacques Hospital in Newbury port as president of the board of trustees since 1955.

Claudius and Gertrude lived in Newbury port since 1924 and since October 1st, 1927, in the same house at 44 Broad Street which was said to have been built in 1797.

Claudius passed away on November 19th, 1984, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Submission due by: March 31st, 2025

Chairman

Community Service Committee

Mail all Entries to:

DVC Ryan Howe

P.O. BOX 186

Ludlow, MA 01056

or

Email: shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com

ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND POST ACTIVITY REPORT AND CLAUDIUS G. PENDILL TROPHY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Annual Community Service and Post Activities Report:

- Each Post is expected to have an Annual Community Service and Post Activities report submitted for the “record” and will cover March 1st through February 28th of the following year.
- The report form gives the Post an easy way to record all the work done within the Community by its members.
- This form may also assist when reporting the Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)

Facts about the Claudius G. Pendill Trophy:

- In order to be eligible for the Claudius G. Pendill Trophy the Community Service report **MUST** be submitted with supporting evidence of the activities.
- This should include a brief description of the event and any newspaper clippings or pictures. **ONE PAGE PER EVENT IS SUFFICIENT.** No minutes to meetings accepted.
- Each page will be numbered, and that number placed in the Index page number on the Annual Community Service and Post Activity Report.
- The book will follow the Index numbers with the report as your cover pages and all index pages to follow. The Index numbers should start in area 1 and be sequentially numbered regardless of the order in which the events were held during the year.
- **Each post will have a current CPR and Post Roster on file with the Department.**

First place winner

- Posts may receive the Pendill Trophy more than once.
- The winning Post receives the Pendill Trophy with their name on it to be displayed at their Post for one year.
- The first-place banner is also displayed at the Post for one year.
- The Post will also receive a permanent plaque for display

Second Place Winner

- Will receive the second place Howard E Schreiber banner for display for one year.
- The post will also receive a permanent plaque for display.

Third Place Winner

- Will receive “The Community Service Committee Award Plaque”

All other entrants receive a citation.



**Nelson Blake
Commander**



**Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
State House, Room 546-2
Boston, Massachusetts 02133**



**Lisa McPhee
Adjutant**

The JOSEPH J. CONWAY Memorial Award

Rules and Guidelines:

- The recipient would have a continuing contribution to the betterment of his/her community or the people herein.
 - Youth: Work done with the community organizations. Examples: hockey, baseball, scouts, musical and marching units etc.
 - Elderly and Handicapped: Services to and fore: Examples: having parties, at your post, parties at rest homes, sightseeing trips, movies, entertainment, etc.
 - Hospitalized Services: Voluntary services: Examples: beano parties, dances, off station parties, entertainment and other services to veteran Hospitals or to any type of hospital.
 - Any other possible community service activities.
- Nominations for consideration of a Legionnaire, Auxiliary member, Sons of the Legion, or junior member for this award must be made by the Legion Post along with the Legion Family organization requesting submission of this award.
 - Submissions will include letter or resume of accomplishments
 - The submission will be signed by the Post Commander and Adjutant
 - The submission will also be signed by the Legion Family organization president/secretary or squadron commander/adjutant submitting the request.
 - Proof of accomplishments shall be made to the committee where possible.
- No Legionnaire, Auxiliary member, squadron member or Junior Auxiliary member may receive this award while serving on their respective department Executive Committees.
- No person serving on the Community Service Committee is eligible for consideration of this award.
- The Post that is submitting a candidate must have a current CPR and Post Roster on File for their candidate to be considered for this award.
- The judging of the applications submitted will be by a panel of three (3) judges appointed by the Department Community Services Chairman.

Submission due by: March 31st, 2025

Community Services Committee

Chairman

Mail all Entries to:

DVC Ryan Howe

P.O. BOX 186

Ludlow, MA 01056

or

Email: Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133
617-727-2966

To: All Post Commanders and/or Boys State Chairmen:
From: Mark Avis, Chairman Massachusetts Boys State

The 2025 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from **Saturday, June 14, 2025 to Friday, June 20, 2025**. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy will be **\$400.00** for the regular tuition, or **\$375.00** for those who pay for students by the **“EARLY BIRD”** registration date of **APRIL 15, 2025**, after the cost is **\$400.00**. **Please make your check payable to “The American Legion” and designate “Boys State” in the lower left corner of the check. Please use the tear-off sheet at the bottom of this notice (page 2) indicating your Post Chairman, as all future correspondence will be mailed directly to them.** All checks for the 2025 Boys State Session must be in the hands of chairman by **May 20, 2025**. The first 400 applications will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. politicians, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State must be interviewed by the Post Chairman, and his signature attesting to this must appear on Citizen Applications. Each Post Chairman should explain Boys State in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them during their stay. The Boys State website (<http://www.maboysstate.org/>) contains a wealth of information, 2025 interest application, including video, photographs, program books, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.

Beginning in January 2025, we will have applications available via email or regular mail. Please select the email option on the tear-off sheet if that is how you would like to receive the paperwork.

Once we have received payment for your 2025 Boys Stater

- 1. Detailed instructions will be provided in the application packets that are sent to the Post if by regular mail.**
- 2. Or emailed to the address provided on page 2**

DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #
1	George Oleen	gao1964@gmail.com	413-229-6670
1	Dale Alden	aldewndale@hotmail.com	413-229-8163
3	Ryan Howe	Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com	413-875-5923
4	Lisa McPhee	Lredsox1964@aol.com	978-230-6208
5	Nelson Blake	captblake82@gmail.com	978-726-8272
6	Dick Hynes	dickhynes.dbassociates@gmail.com	508-735-5509
6	Wendy Eng (CONS)	48 Payne St Quincy MA	617-584-0078
7	Matt Seto	mmseto@gmail.com	781-789-7347
8	Bruce Heisey	bbheisey@hotmail.com	978-526-4880
9	Richard Mangels	richmangels@gmail.com	774-301-0164
10	Francis MacDonald	fmacdonald53@comcast.net	508-477-0955
Chairman	Mark Avis	avis14@comcast.net	413-535-9234

TEAR OFF SHEET TO RECEIVE YOUR BOYS STATE APPLICATION

Send this form to:

Mark Avis
 14 Shaw St
 Palmer MA 01069

POST _____ DISTRICT _____

NUMBER OF BOYS _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

Sponsors Name _____

Post Chairman _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

High School _____

High School Contact _____

Please send the **APPLICATION** for Boys State via **email to this address**:

Email: _____



LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD

NAME: _____
(Applicants will be assessed based on previous year(s) accomplishments)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

POST NAME & NO: _____

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: _____ CONTINUOUS YEARS: _____

POSITIONS HELD IN LEGION: _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: _____

WHAT EXEMPLIFIES THIS PERSON AS A LEGIONNAIRE: (use additional sheets as needed)

IS THE PERSON A LEADER IN WHAT HE/ SHE DOES: _____

DOES LEGIONNAIRE INTEND TO ASPIRE TO HIGHER POSITIONS WITHIN THE AMERICAN
LEGION: _____

IS THIS PERSON WELL RESPECTED IN HIS/ HER POST AND COMMUNITY: _____

WOULD YOU AS A CITIZEN LEADER RECOMMEND THIS PERSON FOR ADVANCEMENT IN
THE AMERICAN LEGION (explain): _____

This form must be submitted to: **Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer MA 01069** no later than **April 15**.

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Complete with attached recommendations. Do Not submit more than eight (8) pages of additional documentation.

RULES AND DEADLINES

FOR DEPARTMENT BLUE CAP / LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

OBJECTIVE: THE DEPARTMENT “BLUE CAP” OF THE YEAR is designed to recognize a Legionnaire who exemplifies the goals and objectives set forth by The American Legion. Nominees **MUST** be a “Blue Cap”

ELEGIBILITY: for this award requires that the candidate cannot be in an elected position authorized to wear a half white or a white cap; nor at the time of the award, have been elected (though not yet installed) to any such position. (Therefore, to prevent embarrassment, it shall be incumbent upon the recommending Post to report the ineligibility of the individual prior to the Department Convention.) This is the only restriction.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE: Any post, District or County may recommend any qualified member. Submissions should include this form (reverse side completed) and supporting documents as necessary for the committee to judge the qualifications, character and dedication of the nominee. **Nominee should be present at the Department Convention.**

Supporting documents MUST be included: They may include letters from civic groups, churches, other veteran organization; testimonials from fellow veterans, news clippings, etc.

DEADLINES: Blue Cap/Legionnaire Committee Chairman must receive **submissions no later than April 15, 2025.**

FINAL SELECTION OF one Department of Massachusetts BLUE CAP/LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR will be determined by the Legionnaire of the year Committee **no later than May 1, 2025.** There will be no honorable mentions. The winner will receive a plaque and Legion cap.

WINNER will be honored and a guest of the Massachusetts American Legion State Convention in **2026.**



2024 History Contest Information

In 2024, the National History Contest will include a digital component. The judging standards listed in the 2023 Officers Guide will be used for judging all entries in 2024. There will be three categories in 2024:

- **Digital Department History:**
 - Online only
 - Entry may be a narrative OR yearbook.
 - Entry is limited to a single PDF file not to exceed 50MB in size (smaller files are preferred).
- **Digital Post History:**
 - Online only
 - Must be different than the one entered in the physical contest.
 - Entry may be a narrative OR yearbook.
 - Entry is limited to a single PDF file not to exceed 50MB in size (smaller files are preferred).
- **Physical Post History**
 - Must be different than the one entered in the digital contest
 - Entry may be a narrative OR yearbook.
 - Certification forms with submission information will be sent to department adjutants in May.

Digital entries in the 2024 History Contest must be submitted by department adjutants no later than August 1, 2024, at <https://www.legion.org/history-contest>.

Please remember:

- Only department adjutants can access and upload material to the contest website.
- Submissions are to be a single PDF file not to exceed 50MB in size (smaller files are preferred).
- There is no certification form for digital entries since access to this site is limited to the department adjutant's credentials.
- Once a digital entry is successfully submitted, the department adjutant and National Headquarters will receive an email confirmation.
- Each department may enter one post history and one department history in the digital contest, and one post history in the physical contest.
- The national historian will appoint judges prior to the National Convention.
- Beginning in 2025, there will continue to be a digital department history contest. Physical and digital post histories will be showcased online and at National Convention.

For further assistance, please email the Library Division at library@legion.org.

American Legion posts throughout our country go above and beyond the call of duty every year and particularly after natural disasters such as tornados, floods, hurricanes, and snowstorms. Those posts in impacted areas typically step up and extend a helping hand to those in need, even if their post home, and personal homes, may have sustained damage. Posts do this work and put forth this effort, not for the recognition, but because it is the right thing to do.

Posts that have handled logistics, became an emergency action center, provided shelter and extended support to their communities in times of natural disasters are shining examples of The American Legion at its best, and every one of them deserve to be recognized for that.

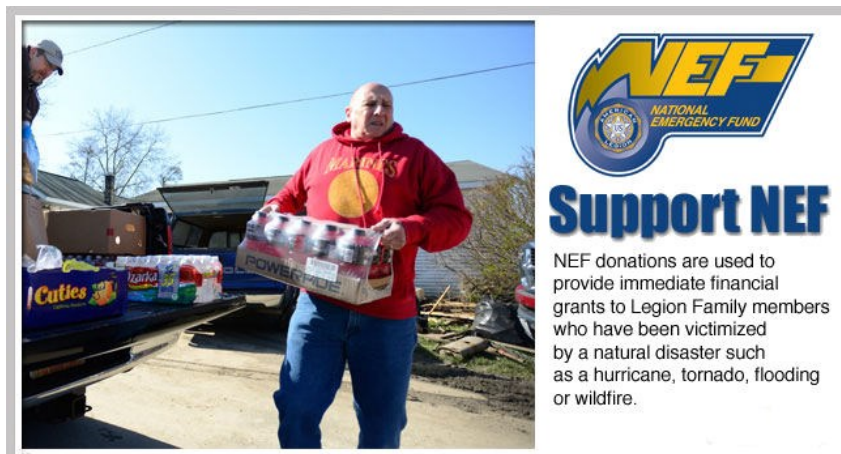
To give these posts their proper recognition, the National Emergency Fund Post Excellence Award was established in 2009, and it is once again being offered to those posts that helped their communities impacted by a natural disaster during 2024. At the National Executive Committee meetings in the Spring of 2019, the name was changed to National Emergency Fund Excellence Award.

Departments may submit to the National Internal Affairs Division posts that should be considered for this recognition of service award by the National Commander. You must submit a written narrative (no more than 500 words), along with documentation which may include newspaper clippings, links to photos or videos, to: The American Legion,

P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, ATTN: Internal Affairs. Please have your input to Internal Affairs no later than May 1, 2025. Bottom-line, the posts that go above and beyond need to be recognized.

At the 2025 Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee, the Internal Affairs Commission will review these submissions and validate the recipients to the National Executive Committee. Award recipients will be mentioned on stage at the National Convention in Tampa Bay.

Questions can be directed to Michele Steinmetz, NEF Coordinator, Membership & Internal Affairs Division at (317) 630-1379 or msteinmetz@legion.org, or to Matt Herndon, Director, Internal Affairs.





Veterans Employment and Education Awards PDC Larry Connors

The first American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Commission award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories have been added to the award program. The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards. We implore all departments to submit nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. Each department is encouraged to participate in this program.

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards. We implore all departments to submit nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. Each department is encouraged to participate in this program.

1. Employer of Veterans Award—Small
2. Employer of Veterans Award—Medium
3. Employer of Veterans Award—Large
4. Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award
5. Employer of Older Workers Award
6. Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award
7. Employment Service Award a. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
8. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)
9. Employment Service Local Office

The deadline for submission to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission in Washington, D.C., is January 15. It is important that the Department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention.

Please submit written correspondence AND/ OR an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to the Washington, D.C. National Headquarters office. Please title your e-mail and letter: '[Title] Awards-[your state name]'

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form and the narrative must not be longer than two pages. Supporting documents may be submitted but must not exceed ten pages. Nominations from posts, or sources outside The American Legion, must be sent to Department headquarters. The Department then selects one nominee as its winner and sends the nomination form for the winning employer to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. That nomination form must be signed by either the Department Adjutant or Department Employment Chairman. Selection of the national winners will be made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission during the annual Washington Conference. The national winners will receive a stipend for travel expenses and are presented award plaques at the National Convention.

Lawrence A. Connors
connors@comcast.net
(774) 404-1779



Grass Roots Information

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on *The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military*? Check out [our information paper](#) in the [Legislative Toolkit](#). This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org.



Voter Voice

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

In 2023, The American Legion conducted action alert campaigns that resulted in nearly 48,000 emails sent to Congress by Legionnaires and advocates.

Contact your congressional representatives

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our Legislative Action Center, votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home. Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While you are there be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.



AMERICAN LEGION voter voice



Washington Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 2-5, 2025 – The American Legion's 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This conference provides an opportunity for Legionnaires to meet with their respective lawmakers and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally. More details, such as agendas and schedules, will be updated [here](#).

In October, I had the opportunity to attend Legion meetings in Indianapolis, IN. As a member of the Media and Communications Commission, we had several presentations. This included updates on how the staff is both looking to control costs and increase revenue. Think of all the new ads in the monthly Legion magazine. There is a digital magazine available on the national website (www.legion.org) but no plans at this time to go all digital.

The Media and Communications Division works closely with the Marketing Division and IT folks at National. If you have not been to the national website recently, check it out. Personally, I found it better looking and easier to navigate. There is still some work to be done to complete the project.

There are new podcasts available along with a upcoming quarterly mini-series on Be The One. In the near future, toolkits will be mailed out to each Department for distribution. A certificate of achievement will be made available as a download to acknowledge individuals active in the BE The One program. There is a movement to partner with the VA on this mission.

YouTube also has Past National Commander Seehafer's message to the 2 main presidential candidates, as neither attended our National Convention in New Orleans, LA this past August.

As noted previously, next year is the 100th anniversary of American Legion Baseball. There are currently 87 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame that played Legion Baseball. There will be a documentary, toolkit, social media, a "bookazine" (similar to the one done for the Legion's 100th anniversary), displays and "shout outs" from Professional Baseball Players to note the occasion.

Two other items of note were the following: 1. Army vs Navy football game. The Legion is now a sponsor (5 year term) and the ONLY veterans service organization being allowed to do so at this time.

2. America 250. The American Legion is a member of the US Commission. The expectation is that a toolkit (to involve Flag and Civics education) will be forthcoming.

Last but not least: **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!**

Remember: BE THE ONE. Saving lives. Changing lives. One at a time.

John Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA;
Past Commander, Post 4 Haverhill MA; Past Commander District 8 Essex County and Past Commander, Department of MA. Member American Legion National Media and Communications Commission. Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com

WESTERN MASS WOMAN VETERAN EVENT SERIES

HOSTED BY WMVSOA

Cafender



SEPTEMBER 30TH

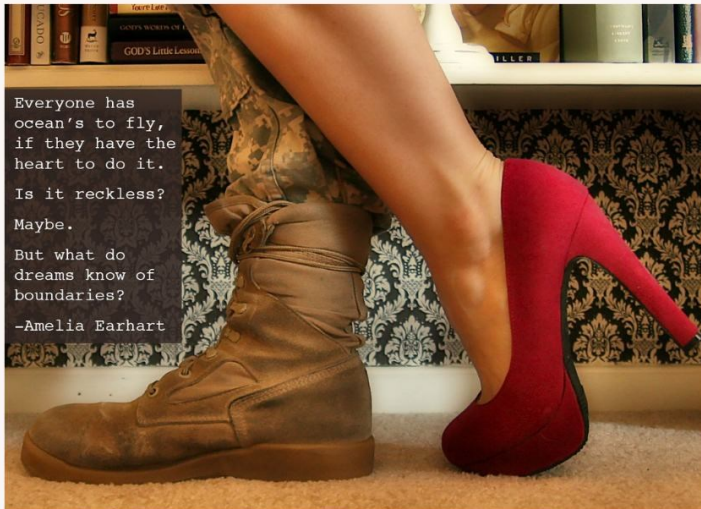
6-7
Yoga with Jane
7-7:30
Guest Speaker
Massachusetts
Behavioral Health
Partnership
7:30-8:30
Tea Time
(Social Hour)

OCTOBER 28

6-7
Game Night
7-7:30
Guest Speaker
TBD
7:30-8:30
Tea Time
(Social Hour)

NOVEMBER 25

6-7
Holiday
Board/Sign
Painting
7-7:30
Guest Speaker
TBD
7:30-8:30
Tea Time
(Social Hour)



Please join us on the last Monday of every Month at the Granby American Legion Post 266 (74 Pleasant St. Granby, MA) These events are free of charge and open to all women veterans and active military. Each night will be broken into 3 parts and everyone can choose to come to one or all!

OUR MISSION IS TO BRING FELLOW WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES TOGETHER IN A SAFE ENVIROMENT WHERE WE CAN BOND, NETWORK, AND LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

PLEASE WATCH FOR FACEBOOK INVITATIONS BY WMVSOA AND GRANBY AMERICAN LEGION POST 266



A Nationwide Call to Action Two Lights for Tomorrow April 18 – 19, 2025

What Is Two Lights for Tomorrow

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred on the overnight of April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of that shining light today as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

How to Participate, Part I

On April 18, 2025, we’re calling for two lights to be displayed in every statehouse in the nation. They will be a reminder that the visual of a light shining out in the darkness on Revere’s ride is not just something that mattered then; it’s something that matters today, and for our collective tomorrow.

Some commissions are planning a public program as two lights are lit at the statehouse. This is an opportunity to not only raise public awareness of the upcoming 250th and how that visibly will be marked, but also to communicate the meaning of Revere’s ride as history and remind our citizens of their part in the perpetual building of a “more perfect union.”

How to Participate, Part II

The day following, states can promote a day of service on April 19th. At the community level, citizens will be called to serve their communities with volunteer projects ranging from park and cemetery clean-ups (especially with the close proximity to Earth Day) to community builds, food drives, and card writing to residents of care facilities, etc. The possibilities for service can be tailored to the needs of our citizens and in partnership with service organizations.

Projects Are Scalable for Communities and Individuals

From two spotlights at a state capitol building beaming in the darkness to smaller displays at municipal buildings, and lights in individual homes, every citizen can participate.

For state-level displays, there isn’t a specific kind of light, duration of display, or location because we want it to be approachable and achievable for everyone given that each state-level commission will need to coordinate the approval processes within their own systems.

Some governor’s offices are considering issuing executive orders to encourage government department buildings, municipalities, and every citizen to participate.

We encourage participation at as many locations as possible – community centers, municipal and county administrative buildings, and private residences.

Tool Kit

A toolkit is in development to include:

- logos for print and digital use
- media alert/press release templates
- proclamation language templates
- public programming suggestions

Website

A website is in development to host:

- toolkit
- lesson plans
- interactive map of participating entities across the nation
- TwoLightsForTomorrow.org and Two-Lights.org

Information Contact

Kevin Hampton, A250WI Program Coordinator

Kevin.Hampton@dva.wisconsin.gov

wisvetsmuseum.com/america250





Around the Department— Department Commander’s Banquet



The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
RM 546 – 2 State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133-1044
(617) 727-2966

Email: deptadjutant@masslegion.org

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER NELSON IZAAK BLAKE BANQUET

July 16, 2024

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders,

Department Commander Nelson Blake’s banquet, will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Nonantum Post 440, 295 California St, Newton MA 02458.

A social will be held at 3 PM - Opening of program 3:45 PM - buffet will be open at 4:15 PM

Ticket donations are \$ 50.00 per person and you need to purchase from your District Ticket Chairperson. Please make checks payable to “American Legion Department of MA” and mark “Tickets Only”

Tables will be set for 10.

Cutoff date for Banquet Tickets is **October 28, 2024 (Tickets required at door)**

Audience Business Casual (trousers and collared shirt for men and appropriate apparel dress for women - **please no jeans**)

Best Western Hotel, 380 Winter Street, Waltham MA 02451

Call Hotel (781) 890-7800 or use the link below

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22009.html?groupId=3M1JY5V9

The code is **American Legion**

Room rate King or Double \$129.00 plus tax 11.7% = \$144.10

Extra person in room - \$10.00 each

Free Breakfast Buffet and free parking

The cutoff date for reservation is **November 9, 2024**

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for your co-operation.

Yours in comradeship:

Co Chairman: Robert Desrosiers and Robert Lewis

Ticket Chairman: Lisa McPhee Dept. Adj.

Ad Book Chairman: Louie Brault PNEC

Members: 10 District Ticket Chairman



Playing Ball at 103 Years Old



103 years old Phyllis Gallant and a 66 year member of Chester P. Tuttle Post 279 Auburn, MA proudly wears her American Legion uniform during an on the field Ceremony at Fenway Park. Phyllis is a WWII veteran joining the WAVES in 1944 as a Pharmacist Third Mate at Norfolk Hospital during the war. Phyllis married and raised 4 children after the war including Past District Commander Steven Gallant. We salute you Phyllis for a life well done.



Around the Department— Post 344 Hatfield Installation



Around the Department— 26th Yankee Division Post 230



Members from the Bourne Post are joined by some of the Patriot Guard Riders at the Massachusetts National Cemetery No Veteran Left Behind Ceremony



AHEC SCHOLARS

Berkshire Community College

VETERAN CARE TALKS Open to the Community!

**4
NOV**

**BATTLEMIND PLUS:
TRANSITIONING FROM
COMBAT TO HOME**
2-4pm BCC K111

What to expect:

BattleMind Plus describes the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, the changes caused by military training and immersion in a combat setting, and the cultural challenges in the transition home. Kevin Lambert, Iraq Army veteran offers a first-person account of his experiences and wisdom gained in his transition home.

**18
NOV**

**HEALING SOUL WOUNDS:
MORAL INJURY IN COMBAT VETS
AND OTHER PROFESSIONS**
2-4pm BCC K111

What to expect:

Moral Injury is the term used for the emotional and spiritual wounds of combat veterans when under difficult circumstances, they violate their own moral code or witness this violation. Some public service providers, such as health care professionals, teachers, firefighters and police officers, also experience moral injury. This workshop will cover how moral injury happens and will describe pathways for healing moral injury.

Following Both Events :

A networking hour, including veteran resources, will take place in the Koussevitzky lobby (4-5pm).

Who are these talks for :

Social workers, nurses, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, substance abuse counselors, and the public: students, educators, clergy, service members, veterans, and military families



**Free
Presentations**

Questions? Reach out to Sheila Dargle, Center Director



413-842-5160



sdargle@berkshireahec.org



berkshireahec.org

Berkshire Area Health Education Center
397 Main Street • Dalton, MA 01226



This project is supported by HRSA Grant No. 1777-PCS219 from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. This information should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the US Government. Berkshire AHEC is a member of the MassAHEC Network, a program of UMass Chan Medical School



Massachusetts
VETERANS HOME *at* HOLYOKE

**We're looking for volunteers....
CARE to Join Us?**

We need:

- Ambassador Greeters
- Recreation Volunteers
- One-to-One Visitors



**If you are interested in volunteering to make
a difference in the lives of our veterans,
call us at 413.552.4781
or email us at colleen.strunk-ackerley2@mass.gov**


*The Massachusetts Veterans Home at Holyoke
Providing Care with Honor, Dignity, and Respect*



★ ★ ★

VETERANS DAY

CELEBRATION
11TH NOVEMBER



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VA Bedford Healthcare System is seeking
Special Event Escorts. Please contact CDCE
at 781-687-3076 or VHABEDCDCE@VA.GOV

DANCE START AT 1PM

200 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730
Gym

★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU VETERANS

NOVEMBER 11TH AT 9:30AM

The Bedford VA Hospital is seeking Chapel
escorts for Veteran's Day Ceremony.
Please contact CDCE at 781-687-3076 or
VHABEDCDCE@VA.GOV

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



11/16/2024	3:00 PM	Dept Commander's Banquet	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	11:00AM	DEC & Membership	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	TBD	Convention Committee	Nonantum Post 440 Newton

AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Membership Standing as of October 31, 2024 65% Goal 11/14/2024

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 7: Suffolk 63.92%
District 4 Worcester 63.85%
District 1: Berkshire 63.77%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	762	63.77%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	2173	63.50%
4	WORCESTER	4432	2830	63.85%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	2250	62.10%
6	NORFOLK	2319	1374	59.25%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	730	63.92%
8	ESSEX	2442	1461	59.83%
9	BRISTOL	2496	1540	61.70%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	2160	60.45%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	361	85.34%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	523	34.66%
	National Quota	26,756	16,164	60.82%

Fundraiser!

Dr. Coral May Grout Leadership run for
National ALA President 2026-2027



*American
Legion
Family pins
\$25 ea*

See any committee member or contact
978-729-6773

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	113	59.5%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN			
3	HAMPSHIRE	670	190	28.4%
4	WORCESTER	1037	310	29.9%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	283	30.1%
6	NORFOLK	377	104	30.9%
7	SUFFOLK	103	39	37.9%
8	ESSEX	612	214	35.0%
9	BRISTOL	268	121	45.1%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	401	52.4%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	53	28.8%
	National Quota	5,106	1,828	35.8%

Membership Target Dates



Membership Target Dates

NOVEMBER 14, 2024	35%
DECEMBER 11, 2024	45%
JANUARY 15, 2025	60%
FEBRUARY 12, 2025	75%
MARCH 12, 2025	80%
APRIL 9, 2025	90%
MAY 14, 2025	100%
** JULY 22, 2025	105%

****Delegate Strength Target Date**

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of October 31, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	76	33.33%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	195	26.07%
4	WORCESTER	983	263	26.75%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	110	8.76%
6	NORFOLK	835	248	29.70%
7	SUFFOLK	196	78	39.80%
8	ESSEX	442	71	16.06%
9	BRISTOL	280	75	26.79%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	218	27.59%
	National Goal	5758	1334	23.17%



★  ★

Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

American Legion Hall
32 Beach st
8:00—10:30
Come on down

*Coffee
Hour*

Last Friday of the Month

09:00 - 12:00

 **Free**

American Legion North Adams

American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch	Meat Tables Begins at 3PM	Queen Of Hearts
<p>We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.</p>	<p>1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win.</p> <p>2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.</p> <p>3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.</p>	<p>The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.</p>





The American Legion Post 40

STUFF A BUS

Sunday November 24th 12:00-2:00

The New England Center & Home for Veterans

Is a multidimensional service and care provider dedicated to assisting Veterans who are facing or at risk of being **HOMELESS...**

Things that are needed:
 Bring NEW Items such as ... Winter Coats (M-XXXL), Blankets, Shower Shoes, Men's Sneakers (10.5-UP), Belts, Socks, Scarves, Hats, PJ's, Turtlenecks, Sweatpants & Sweatshirts (M-XXXL), Shaving cream, Razors, Body Wash ...

Giftcards: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Roche Brothers, Shaws, Stop & Shop, TJ MAXX, Marshalls, Master Cards or Visa Cards

Please Bring Donations to:
 American Legion Post 40
 199 Federal Furnace Rd.
 Plymouth, MA 02360

First Student

AMERICAN LEGION
 3 CENTRAL STREET
 BALDWINVILLE

CRAFT FAIR

20 full tables of Crafters
 BAKE SALE
 RAFFLE

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 SPONSORED BY THE
 AUXILARY UNIT 373

**WILL HAVE ITEMS
 AVAILABLE FOR LUNCH**

www.401-bostonwall.com



**CHERRY VALLEY
AMERICAN LEGION**

POST 443

COMMANDER'S CUP CHILI COOK OFF

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10TH AT 12 NOON



Email:

**cvamericanlegionpost443@gmail.com
to sign up**

BRING YOUR BEST CHILI FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

*AMERICAN LEGION
THANKSGIVING MEAT RAFFLE*



Saturday November 23, 2024

6:00 pm

167 Main St. Cherry Valley, MA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



7 Meat Raffles
2 Complete Turkey Dinners
2 Spiral Ham Dinners
50/50 Raffle

Friday, November 22nd at 7:00 PM
American Legion, Post 22
33 Legion Parkway, Whitman, MA 02382
781-447-5253

Proceeds will be donated to various local foundations

Granby American Legion 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

Your chance to win a prize each day for 12 days in December!
A winner drawn every day, from Wednesday the 11th of December to Sunday the 22nd of December, and your ticket goes back in for another chance!

\$10 for 1 ticket, \$15 for 2 tickets, \$20 for 3 tickets, \$25 for 4 tickets, or \$30 for 5 tickets!

It's Snowing Prizes!

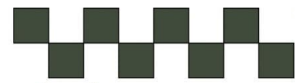
Tickets are available in the Lounge so please see the bartender.

1. Steve Cayer - Custom Made Cedar Deck Planter
2. American Specialty Design - Art Class Certificate & A Wine Gift Basket
3. Brian Marsh - 30 Minute Professional Photo Shoot
4. Diamond Automotive - Oil Change Up To 7 Qts Of Oil
5. Dressell's Service Station - Vehicle Wheel Alignment
6. The Whiskey Barrel - \$100 Gift Certificate
7. Ebenezer's Bar & Grill - \$100 Gift Certificate
8. Granby Liquors - \$75 Gift Certificate & \$25 Delaney's Market Gift Certificate.
9. Atkins Farms - \$50 Gift Certificate & \$50 Delaney's Market Gift Certificate.
10. The Wine Haus at Jameson Farms - \$100 Gift Certificate & A Wine Gift Basket
11. D.Hotel Suites - 1 Night Hotel Stay & \$75 Delaney House Dinner Voucher
12. Brunelle Fuel LLC - 100 Gallons of Home Heating Oil Delivered

Please support your local American Legion Post and have a chance to win some great prizes & stocking stuffers!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from The American Legion Family

The Granby American Legion Post 266 is a member of the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce and is also a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (19)



THE SHARON AMERICAN LEGION
OPEN HOUSE PRESENTS:



SIP & SHOP

YARD/CRAFT SALE



Indoor & Outdoor spots available (app. 10'x10')
\$25/table (tables not provided)
Call Alyssa @ (339)206-4264 to reserve a spot

NOVEMBER 2ND
10AM - 3PM
(RAIN DATE NOV. 3RD)
727 S. Main St. Sharon, Ma.

With Special Guest:
RICK KELLER (10-1pm)
of Perfect Pastime 617
Collectibles Appraisal
Call (617) 680-8560
(Or scan) to register



*AMERICAN LEGION
THANKSGIVING MEAT RAFFLE*



*Saturday November 23, 2024
6:00 pm
167 Main St. Cherry Valley, MA*

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02122-1099
email: fmacdonald53@comcast.net

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2023-2024 Officers

Commander

Nelson Blake

Sr. Vice Commander

Scott Connor

Vice Commanders

Robert Jerdan

Drew Pajak

S. Ryan Howe

Historian

Mitchel Kiel

Executive Committee Women

Mary Standish

Sergeant-at-Arms

Robert Desrosiers

Photographer

Lisa Borges

National Executive Committeeman

Jodie Pajak

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

John Lenotte

Service Officer

Mike Whalen

Dana Sheehan

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us. • **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

Send your email address to: deptsecretary@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.

Room 546-2, State House

Boston, MA 02133



Massachusetts e-Legionnaire is a member of
The American Legion Media Alliance
TALMA



Follow the Department of Massachusetts on Facebook @

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts