

MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPAERTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 16 Issue 8 January 2026

Commander's Corner





Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Did you Buddy Check today?

I got a story to share. I received a random call at the Veterans Office I man, in my community, and I was asked to assist an older couple in town. Ok, it's the season, let's see what I can help with. I made the call, got the address and let them know I was coming. And Oh Boy, was I in for a treat! The wife answered the door (she's 91) and invited me in to meet her husband (who's 98), a WWII veteran of the US Army. And what a couple these two were. I spent the afternoon talking, laughing and listening to his years of service as part of the occupational forces in Germany. We have gotten together with them numerous times over the past month (even brought Grace), incredible! Oh ya, what did they need assistance with. She needed help buttoning up his shirt. You just never know, priceless!

Did we have a great month or what!! I see many of you attended holiday events in your community and area. Many Post's sponsored holiday parties, and lent support at our VA Hospital's and extended care facilities. And to those that called on the shut-ins in your community, your Buddy Checks are inspiring. A special thank you to all the Legion family members

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that participated in the numerous events and supported programs for the less fortunate across the Department, thank you.

As we venture into the New Year, let us not only be thankful for what have, but may we remain vigilant to keep our veterans relevance high within our community. The holiday season seems to be the time when we put extra efforts to help. But as we all know, those at risk need our support all year. Please **Be the One!** and remember that **Buddy Checks** are one of our best tools to stay connected.

Membership hint: During January you can filter your post roster on MyLegion to isolate those in the "grace" period. Print it out, pick up the phone and (as the Dept Adj says), hit em hard and often!

Ah, a New Year, time to hit the refresh button and tout our great programs, to include, but certainly not limited to: Oratorical, Boys/Girls State, Youth Law Cadet, Scholarship Programs, Eagle Scout of the Year. And you TAL members with daughters, the Legion Auxiliary has some great programs (scholarships, etc.) also. The SAL is ramping up to have quite a year also, keep an eye on there calendar. Please consider attending a **Four Chaplains** event in your area, early February.

Everyone in for the 250 Challenge!! Our 250 committee has put together some great things. Check it out!

Get involved. Many District and Department committees have vacancies, and there are many great opportunities to be found. Reach out to your District Commander and find out what's available. Did you know that any Legionnaire can attend a District Meeting, or a Department Meeting. Does everyone at your Post get E-Legionnaire? If not, sign them up, please.

My Commander's Charity is Operation Comfort Warrior. Consider having an event with proceeds to support this incredible program.

NEXT DEC - January 3, 2026 via ZOOM - Confirmed time will be sent to Department Officers and friends .

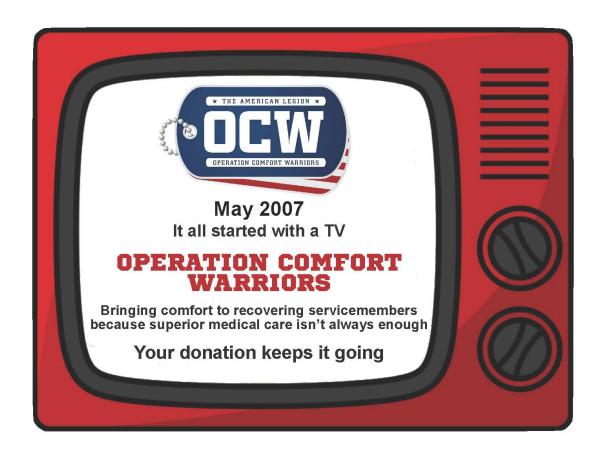
Commanders Banquet ~~ Plainridge Park Casino, February 21st. Tickets are available \$50.00 ea. Hope to see you there.

Did you Grass Root today!

Scott M. Conner Commander Department of Massachusetts 774-239-6162 Scottscpo@gmail.com Thank you for the generous donations during the first half of my term made to my chosen American Legion Charity,

Operation Comfort Warriors!

-Scott Conner, Department Commander 2025-2026



West Boylston ALR Chapter 204 - \$3000.00

Roseanne and Mark Armstrong - \$125.00



Department President

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts — Be the One

As we move forward together as the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts, I keep coming back to one simple but powerful message: Be the One.

Being part of American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts is about more than meetings, programs, or reports. It's about people. It's about choosing—again and again—to step up for our veterans, our military families, and our communities. It's about being the one who notices when help is needed, the one who raises a hand, the one who says, "I can do that."

Every day, Auxiliary members across Massachusetts are already being the one. You are mentoring children, supporting veterans, honoring service, advocating for those who have worn our nation's uniform, and strengthening the American Legion Family. Those actions—big and small—matter more than

you may ever realize.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to ask yourself:

Where can I Be the One?

Maybe it's attending a meeting, volunteering at an event, reaching out to a fellow member, supporting a program, or inviting someone new to join our mission. No effort is too small when it comes from the heart.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts is strong because of you. Together, when we choose to Be the One, we ensure our organization remains relevant, compassionate, and ready to serve—today and for generations to come.

Thank you for all that you do, and for all the ways you continue to Be the One.

Sofia Elizabeth Blake Department President

BETHEONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Commander



Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

Happy 2026! The New Year is upon us! This means that all members of the Detachment who have yet to renew (nearly 48%): your2025 memberships are now expired. To every Son who has already renewed, thank you! The Detachment has successfully met our reporting goals for both November and December, and we are very close to reaching it again in January. Let's see if we can make it three months in a row!

To those who have yet to renew, all of the benefits of being a member of the Sons of the American Legion, including the ability to use your membership to enter other Posts and participate in a Riders chapter, have also expired. It has

never been easier to keep your membership up-to-date. Simply log-in and renew on MyLegion.org. Your membership matters! It makes it possible for your squadron and the Detachment to fulfill its obligations to our National organization. It also helps fund each of the American Legion programs created to support veterans and their families across the country. Please add it to your list of New Year's Resolutions and check it off as soon as possible.

Looking ahead, here are a few items that may be of interest to you:

National Commander Bill Clancy is encouraging all squadrons to participate in the Four Pillars Challenge started by PNC JR Hall. To become a Four Pillars Squadron, all you need to do is donate \$1 per member to the Child Well-Being Foundation, Operation Comfort Warriors, Boys State, & the American Red Cross. Any squadron that completes the challenge will receive a special citation from National. See the attached flyer below.

The next Detachment zoom call is scheduled for Monday, January 12th at 7pm. All members of the Sons are invited to Zoom-in. If you would like to attend, contact me directly at command-

er@salmass.org.

On Saturday, February 7th, Mission 22 will be hosting a two-hour suicide awareness program at the Point Independence Yacht Club in Onset, MA starting at 9:30am. This program will be run by Columbia University, the same group responsible for the "Be The One" training sessions offered to all members of the American Legion Family. If you have yet to take the Be The One training and are interested, see the attached flyer below.

Lastly, have you completed my challenge to you yet? If you recall, I selected the American Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation as my charity for this membership year and challenged each squadron to raise \$1 per member in support of VCF. Your support in this challenge is greatly appreciated.

My God bless the United States of America and continue to watch over all those currently serving under its flag in the New Year, all those who have served this nation with honor and distinction, and their families,

Jesse Limanek Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts



For God and Country Office of the National Commander

PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

www.legion.org/sons

P: 317-630-1205

Sons of The American Legion,

We have been doing an outstanding job so far during the 2025-2026 membership year. It has been a true honor to serve as your National Commander. Every time we sign a membership card or welcome a new member, we reaffirm our commitment to honor and respect our family members' military service.

I strongly believe in the Four Pillars of our organization and what they represent. The American Legion was founded on the principles of **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**, **Americanism**, **Children & Youth**, **and National Security**. These pillars are the foundation of what the American Legion Family stands for. I am proud to continue the initiative started by Past National Commander, Donald "JR" Hall, through the National Commander's Challenge - encouraging every Squadron to support the Four Pillars and earn recognition as a **National Four Pillar Squadron**.

Participation is simple. Each Squadron is encouraged to raise just **\$1 per member** in each of the following areas:

Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) - Children & Youth

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Department (State) Boys State Program - Americanism

Host a Blood Drive and/or Donate to the Local American Red Cross - National Security

After completing these efforts, the Squadron should submit the **Four Pillar Squadron Award Form** (attached for reference) to National Headquarters. Once processed, the Squadron will receive a **National Four Pillar Squadron Citation**. With planning and teamwork, this is an achievable goal for every Squadron.

The Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and break records for volunteer hours and donations. It will take all of us working together and believing in our mission to support veterans, children, and our communities. Let us stand for what is right and show that our family's service inspires us to be the best Sons we can be in every way.

William "Bill" Clancy
National Commander 2025-2026
Sons of The American Legion
"Community, State, & Nation...
...Live Your Obligation"





NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON AWARD FORM

CHILDREN	AND YOU	TH (C&Y)
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Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's current membership for Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF). [include donation check with this form]	
Make check payable to: The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation	
Check# Amount: \$	
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)	
Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's current membership for Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW). [include donation check with this form]	
Make check payable to: The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors	
Check # Amount: \$	
AMERICANISM Donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's current membership. Check box below to certify donation was sent to the Department (state) American Legion headquarters office.	
[Please do not send payment to National Headquarters]	
Donation to the Department (state) American Legion Boys State Program.	
NATIONAL SECURITY Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for the Squadron's current membership. Check one box below to)
Certify. [Please do not send payment to National Headquarters]	
Option 1: Blood drive held locally on	
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy - click inside above box	
Option 2: Donation made to the local American Red Cross.	
he below section to be completed by the squadron authorized representative:	
Detachment: Squadron No Date: Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy	
Squadron Auth. Rep: Title: Type First and Last Name to serve as digital signature	
Return award form and applicable donation checks to:	
The American Legion Attn: SAL Awards 700 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 Questions: email SALawards@legion.or	<u>'a</u>

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Fishing for the Mission 22/The Columbia Protocol





Turning Conversations into Lifelines: Identifying and Helping Veterans and Those in the Community Who Need Immediate Support





Saving Lives of Veterans, Servicemembers, their Families, and our Communities with the Columbia Protocol

Open to all that are interested Saturday, February 7, 2025, 9:30AM-11:30AM



Point Independence Yacht Club 15 Independence Ln. Onset, MA

WHAT IS COVERED IN THE TRAINING BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

After the training participants will be able to:

- ·Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at risk individuals
- ·Identify risk factors and warning signs.
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and behaviors that indicate imminent risk
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk

For more information, or to register: info@fishingforthemission22.org (774) 810-2223

LEGION Adjutants Corner



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966

January 2026 Greetings Legionnaires,

Welcome to 2026. I hope you all have recovered from all the Holiday Festivities'. The Department of Massachusetts has a busy schedule coming up. The Department Commander's Banquet is February 21, 2026, at Plainridge Park Casino in Plainville. I hope to see you all there. If looking for a ticket, please see your District Ticket Chairman and if unable to contact please call the office.

Information regarding our programs (Boy's & Girl's State, Jr. Law Cadet, Scouting Jamboree, and Oratorical should be coming out shortly.

Thank you all for attending the Post Adjutant Zoom meeting. I hope many of you are getting great information. Reminder we will meet in January to discuss forms with due dates. If there are any other subjects you want to cover just drop me an email with the subject matter.

Reminder, the Department on the road will be in Plymouth Post 40 on January 15th for all those looking for Department help stop by, bring your computers, bring your problems (post problems), or just stop by to have lunch.

If you send Post membership to the Department for processing, please include a check in with the membership cards or if the check is coming directly to the bank, please put a note stating the check is coming. The office has been returning memberships without checks only to have the check arrive a couple of days later.

The latest trend from Post is to send in membership cancellations. The reasons vary, such as we don't know who the member is, they don't attend meetings, or because the person has moved. This is a big no go. We don't cancel memberships for any of those reasons listed above. We only cancel memberships if the member in writing asks for their membership to be cancelled and even then, we will try to get them to join our Capital Hill Post. The member will remain on your roster for minimum of two years to allow the member to catch up on dues or if the member moved to join another post.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee Department Adjutant

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



Need help processing membership correctly, updating member records, or completing required annual Legion forms?

Need help with MyLegion?

Come on by, we'd be happy to help you!

Place: Plymouth Post 40

199 Federal Furnace Rd

Plymouth, MA

Date: Thursday, January 15th, 2026

Time: 10 am - 7 pm

Bring your forms, questions, membership renewals

MyLegion help?...bring your laptop, and we'll happily help you navigate through it



Department Phone #: 617-727-2966

LEGION Membership—DSVC Robert Jerdan

Beyond the Card: Why January is the True Test of Our Strength

As we settle into 2026, many view January as a time for personal resolutions. For the American Legion, January is about something much larger: Legislative Leverage and Local Lifelines.

The Mid-Winter Milestone: 80% by Jan 14

In the world of American Legion administration, the January 14, 2026, National Target Date is one of the most significant. National Headquarters aims for every Post to reach 80% of its goal by this date.

Why does this number matter?

The American Legion's influence on Capitol Hill is directly tied to our membership numbers. When our National Commander speaks to Congress about veteran healthcare, PACT Act implementation, or military housing, the first question asked is: "Who do you represent?" A strong January showing proves that our base is active, engaged, and growing. It gives our advocates the "ammunition" they need to fight for the benefits we earned.

The "Grace Period" Strategy
Technically, 2025 memberships

expired on December 31. We are now in the Grace Period. If you know a fellow Legionnaire who hasn't renewed, January is the month for a "Buddy Check" with a purpose.

The Mission: Reach out to those who haven't walked through the door lately. The Message: "We missed you at the last meeting, and we need your voice to keep our Post programs running. "The Incentive: Remind them of the 3-year renewal option. It's the easiest way to "set it and forget it," ensuring they remain "Always Ready" through 2028 without the hassle of annual notices.

"Be The One" – More Than a Slogan

In January, the post-holiday season can be a difficult time for many veterans. Our Be The One mission takes center stage this month.

Training: Encourage members to take the free 90-minute suicide prevention training through the Columbia University Lighthouse Project (available at legion.org/betheone).

Action: If you recruit or rejoin just two members this year, you qualify for the National Commander's "Be The One" pin. It's a badge of honor that shows you are actively growing the family that looks out for one another.

Building the Next Generation

January is also the time when we begin scouting for Boys State and Scholarship candidates. High schoolers are looking at their spring semesters, and our Post needs to be visible. By maintaining your membership, you are directly funding the Oratory Contests and Junior Shooting Sports that shape the leaders of tomorrow.

A Call to Action: The "Plus One" Challenge

We challenge every member of Post [Number] to bring one guest to our January meeting. Whether they are a veteran who has never joined or a former member who let their dues lapse, let's show them the camaraderie and purpose that defines us. Your 2026 membership card is more than a piece of paper—it is a commitment to the veteran next to you and the generations yet to serve.

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)

Senior Vice Commander 25-26 Department Of Massachusetts Candidate for Department Commander 26-27

AMERICAN LEGION



MASSACHUSETTS Department Legion College

Saturday May 16th

9:30 AM

Quinsigamond Post 318

180 Greenwood St, Worcester

Topics include:

- Leadership & Gaining Momentum
 - Team Building & Mentorship
 - Eliciting Change & Change Management
 - Oddities of Post Operations (The stuff not in the book)

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Department Office DeptAdjutant@masslegion.com or (617) 727-2966





TRAINING FOR TODAY. LEADERS FOR TOMORROW.

MISSION TRAINING AND JUNIOR MEETINGS ARE MORE THAN CONFERENCES, THEY'RE A MOVEMENT.

TOGETHER, WE'RE EQUIPPING TODAY'S MEMBERS AND INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TO CARRY FORWARD THE VALUES OF THE LEGION FAMILY.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 THE WESTIN ATLANTA AIRPORT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST

REGISTER HERE

Consolidated Post Report (CPR)

The Consolidated Post Report and Consolidated Squadron Report are on Legion.org and in MyLegion.

The fillable 2025-2026 American Legion Consolidated Post Report (CPR) is now <u>available on legion.org</u> and in <u>MyLegion</u>. This form provides posts an opportunity to document external activities, such as volunteer hours, fundraising efforts, Be the One events, funeral honors, youth programs and more.

For example, according to the 2024-2025 CPR data, 7,223 Be the One suicide prevention events were held by 2,917 posts; 4,652 Legion posts conducted Buddy Checks, contacting 36,187 veterans; 62,997 Legionnaires donated 107,175 pints of blood; 1,256 posts participated in Vets in the Classroom; and much more.

This data is collected by National Headquarters to help quantify – for Congress, American Legion media, national leadership and more – the good that American Legion posts do in their communities every year.

The goal is 100% reporting from every department. For the 2024-2025 reporting year, 13 American Legion departments and three Sons of The American Legion detachments achieved the goal by the July 1 dead-line. The 2024-2025 Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) also is <u>available here</u> and in MyLegion.

The reports can be updated throughout the year and finalized when complete. Submission deadline is July 1, 2026.

Get started

Adjutants can follow these steps to access the reports in MyLegion:

- 1. Begin in My Groups. The dashboard will display a link for consolidated reports.
- 2. Click "Edit Reports" or "View/Edit Reports" from the left menu. Then view dashboard. The dashboard with consolidated report options is restricted to post and squadron adjutants.
- 3. My Consolidated Post Reports window will open. This window provides information for open and closed reports. Click "Edit" to open the report.
- 4. Click "Edit" in Preview and Final Steps to open the report fields to enter data.

Report information provides field boxes to include data. The number located at the lower right indicates the maximum characters allowed. Tab to go from one field to the next or scroll and click. Please note that the report is no longer completed in sections; it is one continuous form.

Save or Submit

At the bottom of the form are buttons to "Save as Draft," "Next" or "Cancel."

- Save As Draft saves draft and allows you to return and make future entries.
- Next provides "Submit Final" button to finalize. Finalizing the report closes the report for additional updates.



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

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

Massachusetts Boys State 2026 - Sponsor Form

The 2026 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from Saturday, June 13, 2026 to Friday, June 19, 2026. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy is \$400.00 for the regular tuition, or \$375.00 for the early bird discount before APRIL 1, 2026.

Regardless of how you choose to pay, you must complete the sponsor form online at **sponsor.maboysstate.org.** There are two payment options, **Debit/Credit Card** or **Check by Mail**, follow the instructions when promoted on the online form. If you are paying via Check by Mail, please also complete the form on page two of this letter and include it with your check.

All payments for the 2026 Boys State Session must be received by May 31, 2026. The first 400 students will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. local elected officials, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State should be interviewed by the Post. Each Post should explain the Boys State program in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them through their participation. The Boys State website (**maboysstate.org**) contains a wealth of information, including videos, photographs, program schedule, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.



Scan QR Code to Complete Sponsor Form

Form Link: sponsor.maboysstate.org

Payment Options: Check by Mail or Debit/Credit Card

Cost: \$400 (\$375 before April 1st)

Please email info@maboysstate.org for issues filling out the form.

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM ON PAGE 2, IF YOU SELECTED CHECK BY MAIL



MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE 2026

Sponsor Supplement Form (Check by Mail)

DIRECTIONS (Must complete all 4 steps)

- 1. Complete the Sponsor Form via sponsor.maboysstate.org
- 2. Fill out all the fields below.
- Make your check payable to "The American Legion" and designate "Boys State" in the memo of the check.
- 4. Mail this form and check to Massachusetts Boys State Chairman, Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

NUMBER OF BOYS SPONSORED	CHECK AMOUNT
District #	
Sponsoring Post # or Organization	
Post Point of Contact	
Post POC Phone #	
Post POC Email	

All fields above are required Please mail this page and check to Boys State Chairman

Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069





2026 WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

EMPOWERING HER VOICE. HONORING HER SERVICE

Saturday, March 14, 2026 11:00am to 2:30pm Andover Country Club 60 Canterbury Street Andover, MA 01810

Join us for lunch, laughter and camaraderie! We will have a quest speaker and time to network.



TO REGISTER: https://bit.ly/4rkSrEY



Around the Department—Commanders Banquet



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Plainridge Park Casino

301 Washington Street Plainville, MA

Saturday, February 21st, 2026 Social - Noon Dinner Buffet - 1:00 pm

Dress Code - Casino Casual

Tickets - \$50 pp Tables are rounds of 10

For tickets: Contact your ticket chairman or the Department Office at

617-727-2966 or DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

Checks payable to: TAL Dept of Mass

Ticket sales cutoff date - January 24th

Commander's Charity
Operation Comfort Warriors





Department Commander's Banquet Honoring Scott M. Conner

Saturday - February 21st, 2026

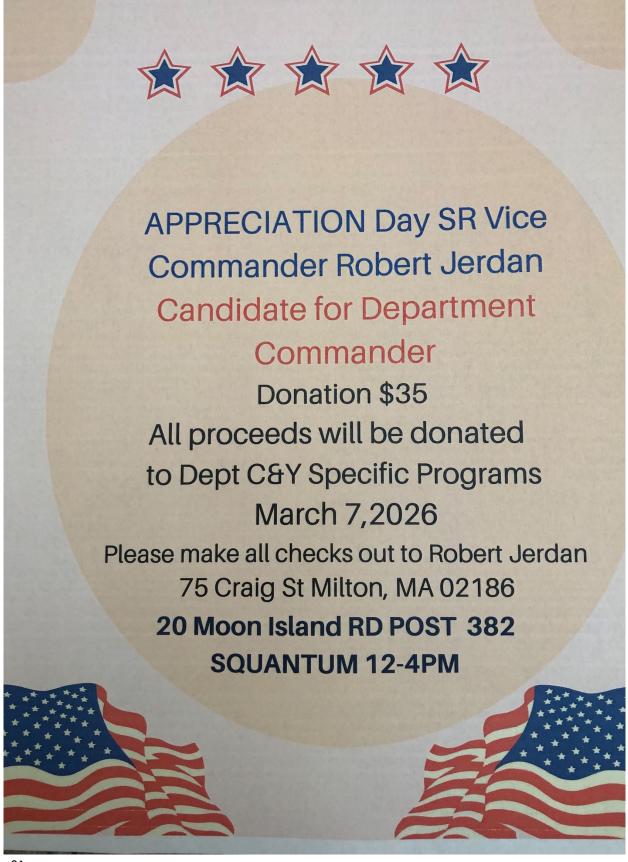
Copy deadline needs to be received (<u>not</u> postmarked by) in the Department office by January 24, 2026. Please plan for USPS delivery time

District #			
Post # Auxiliary #	Squadron #	_ ALR#	_
Check Ad Size Desired:			
7 ½" x 5"	\$60.00	Full Page _	
3 ½" x 5"	\$40.00	Half Page _	
1 ½" x 5"	\$25.00	Quarter Page _	
Microsoft Word Format Email PRINT READY Ads to: De We are unable to create ads for y the AdBook if a check is received print. Please see the deadline inf Make check payable to: The A Mail checks to: The American Legion State House Rm 546-2 24 Beacon St Boston MA 02133	you. We will, howed without a printed o above. Please	ever, place the d ad by the time note: We are no	the book is submitted for
Please plan early and avoid dis Ads with payments received a and your payment received will Thank you for understanding a Any questions, feel free	fter the deadline Il be considered and respecting th	e date will not a donation to ne importance	the Commander's Charity. of the printer's deadlines!
Check#	Amo	ount \$	
Contact name and #			



Department Commander Scott M. Conner Booster Sheet **Deadline is January 24, 2026**

	District	Г	
Post #	Unit #	Squadron # L	ALR#
	\$1.00 per person	\$2.0	0 per Mr. & Mrs.
PLEAS	E PRINT <mark>VERY</mark> CLEARL	Y 🍑 NOT I	RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSPELLINGS
1 _		21	
2 _			
3 _		23	
4 _		24	
5 _		25	
6 _		26	
7 _		27	
8 _		28	
9 _		29	
10 _		30	
11 _		31	
12 _		32	
13 _		33	
14 _		34	
15 _		35	
16 _		36	
17 _		37	
18 _		38	
19 _			
Check #		Amount\$	







District 10

Four Chaplains Service



First Baptist Church 111 Plymouth Street North Middleborough, MA





Lt. John P. Washington Roman Catholic Newark, New Jersey

The story of The Four Chaplains is one of courage and selflessness

On February 3, 1943, during the sinking of the USAT Dorchester, a troop ship carrying military personnel and civilians, four Army chaplains demonstrated extraordinary bravery and sacrifice. They linked their arms and prayed together as they sank to their deaths.

Amid the chaos and panic, these four selfless men exemplified the true essence of heroism and unity. They quickly moved to calm the frightened passengers and distributed life jackets, offering words of comfort and prayer, regardless of their own chances of survival.

The Four Chaplains Day observance, Feb. 1, 2026, marks 83 years since Fox, Washington, Poling, and Goode selflessly sacrificed themselves to save the lives of the servicemen they traveled with.

For information contact D10 Chaplain Mary Standish (339) 309-9521

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OF DISTRICT 3

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Presents

The 2026 Four Chaplains Memorial Service



In association with

The Central Western Mass VA in Leeds MA

Please join us on Sunday February 1st for the 84th Four Chaplains Memorial Service

The service will be held at the Leeds Mass VA Chapel.

Memorial Ceremony will begin at 2:00 pm, for those who are participating in the ceremony please arrive no later than 1:30 pm.

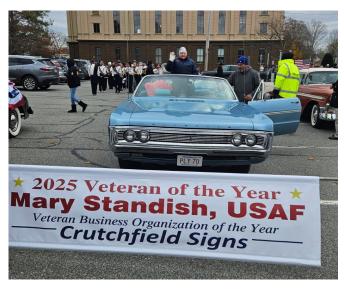
For more information please contact the District 3 Commander or Adjutant





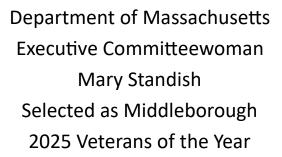


Around the Department—Post 64 Middleboro











Around the Department—American Legion 20&4



Around the Department—Holliston Post 47



Earlier this month Walter McGrath, Post 47 Adjutant (middle) was awarded the humanitarian of the year award by the Holliston Select Board for his work with veterans and the Holliston Food Pantry. McGrath was nominated by Ben Spurrell Select Board Chair. Photo, L to R Martin Spellacy Post 47 Commander, Steve Bradford Past Commander, Walter McGrath Adjutant, Ben Spurrell Select Board Chairman and David DeGanne VFW Post 8507 Commander.



Town celebrates 'Light Up Ludlow' By Amanda Munson, Staff Writer

LUDLOW – "May the beautiful spirit of Christmas be with you all!" On the evening of Nov. 30, the day after Sun. after Thanksgiving, the Celebrate Ludlow Committee hosted a successful Light Up Ludlow event at Town Hall that surrounded the 22-foot Christmas tree made available by Celebrate Ludlow and the Friends of the 250th Committees.

Speaking with Sue Corjay of the Celebrate Ludlow Committee, who manned the table to buy and decorate ornaments to put on the tree on the lawn, shared what residents were writing on their decorations yo be featured on the tree in the future for years to come.

"After we finished the 250th celebration, the parade and picnic, we wanted to get something to remember the work that we did and all the people that came out, so we purchased a 22-foot Christmas tree with a star on it and these ornaments are for the tree. They are five dollars each and you can have what you want to put on it and they'll be attached to the tree. It'll be permanent because the tree will go up every year and the ornaments are going to stay there. It's a nice heritage," said Corjay.

The immediate response from Light Up Ludlow attendees purchasing the ornaments was good, said Cor-Corjay, who shared that many were purchasing them in memory of someone who has passed on. The ornament fundraiser will continue for future years and become a tradition to directly support events like Light Up Ludlow.

Under one of the tents near the lighting, Shirley Flebotte was joined by her granddaughter and resident

Around the Department—Ludlow Post 52

Emma St. Pierre, who both helped create and build the letters to Santa mailbox that can now be seen in front of Town Hall. While speaking with Flebotte, children were writing their wishes and gift ideas, with the help of their parents and guardians, onto letters and were dropping it into the box for Santa.

Flebotte began, "We have a little booth here where kids fill out post cards that they put in the mailbox that I made, they keep the candy cane pens, and the parents and guardians leave their name and address so they get sent back a postcard from my granddaughter in the future.

St. Pierre's mother-in-law is in the Rotary Club, and I built a lot of things. I am very crafty, and St. Pierre knew who to call to build Santa's mailbox for this event. The children just love it! Referring to St. Pierre, she's been a big part of it because she's the one that did all the postcards and pens. It's just been a lot of fun getting involved and everything. We decorated Harris Brook Elementary for breakfast with Santa, and I hope to get more involved in other events," ended Flebotte.

St. Pierre shared that it was a blast watching the kids question what they wanted for the holiday season and see the grown-ups try to help with the gift process. When both were asked why residents who didn't attend should come out next year, Flebotte and St. Pierre both agreed that even with the pouring rain, people were still making the most of the tradition and hope it continues to grow.

The Celebrate Ludlow committee extended their gratitude to the following Ludlow Sponsors Rotary Club, DPW, LPD, LFD, Veterans Service, and American Legion Post 52.



LEGION Around the Department—District Ten





Christmas Gift Shop at Brockton VAMC







Around the Department—District Five



A fulfilling Day at the VA......

What a great day spent with Legionnaires, Legion Family members and other veterans at the Bedford VA Hospital. With the support and help from many Posts around District 5, to include a little help from some friends. We ascended on our primary Veterans health care facility in the District 5 for a great opportunity to bring cheer to the many patients in Bldg 4. We all met in the first floor function room, where we support bingo and other events through the course of the year. Through the committed efforts of Sandy Desrosiers ALA District 5 director and Wife of District 5 Commander to create 124 gift bags, we worked on sorting them for each ward to deliver them. After checking our list, and determining that everyone had been "nice", we set off in groups, including a reindeer and couple of elves, with our carts for good 'ole gift giving. What an afternoon! With a hearty *Ho*, *Ho*, *Ho*, we brought nothing but smiles to the veterans we visited. Many wanted to chat, tell some stories, and we wanted to listen. Some wanted to talk about there service, or there family, or just life in general, some expressed disappointment (or joy lol) in Army Navy football Game, but regardless of the topic, we enjoyed spending time with them.

You cannot feel anything but good when supporting our veterans in health care facilities, or anywhere for that matter. Again, a special shout out to my wife Sandy, Chief of visitor services Casey Sloan, Dept of Mass Commander Scott Conner, Dept SR Vice Bob Jarden, Sal SQ 315 Commander Mike Scarpo, Bedford post 221 commander John Cooper, The Nam Knights MC, the Federation of Riding clubs Mass, and the many Post Legionaries, Aux and volunteers. A special tip of Santa's hat to our fellow Veterans organization who not only donated money to purchase these gifts, but also came to the event to help The American Legion support our Veterans.

Bob Desrosiers, Commander, District 5





Around the Department—Sandwich Post 188

Local civilian partners with American Legion Post 188 in Sandwich Massachusetts to open a very successful food market with free luncheons for veterans.

Amy Bradford of Sandwich Massachusetts stand 5' and weighs 95lbs, and like the old saving goes Dynamite comes in small packages. Amy approached Post 188 Sandwich MA, in May of last year with an idea of not only opening a food market on the third Friday of each month yet a free luncheon for all Veterans and one Guest as well. Since May the numbers have tripled on Amy working with Commander participants for the luncheon and Ray Tourville and Adjutant Mike shopping in the market.



Amy Bradford awaits the shoppers every Third Friday of the month after lunch is

Ms. Bradford comes from a long

line of Veterans, her grandfather served in WWII and her Father (who is very active with Massachusetts Veterans Alliance Corporation) the nonprofit Amy started back in May, served in the Army.

"I have always felt that I should do as much as I can to improve a Veterans life for the sacrifices they have made for us" One can access all of the information about this nonprofit and to donate by visiting

www.massvaf.org

On the third Friday in November Walsh hosted a traditional Thanksgiving Day luncheon. from the beginning to the end donations poured in from local folks. The Kitchen staff were all professionals who wanted to volunteer for the Veterans. (90% of the food was donated by a local food distributor. Volunteers showed up to serve a delicious freshly prepared on site hot meal to the Veterans and guest. Legion

members donated money, time and energy without being asked. Volunteers ran food from the kitchen, served soft drinks, and cleaned up the entire event after dessert was served.



State Steve Xiarhos Sdelivers a Citation to Amy from the State House Representative

Lunch started at 11 AM with appetizers and ran till 1PM with freshly made deserts. At 1PM the food market doors were open and approximately 70 veterans shopped for items needed for everyday as well as Holiday meals at their homes. Special thanks to Jim Soltis and the Raymond G Tourville Memo-

rial Foundation for gracious do-

nations and all the volunteers

that helped that day.





Start Date	Time	Event	Location
1/3/2026	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	ZOOM
1/3/2026	11:00 AM	Department E-Board	ZOOM
1/10/2026	9:30 AM	District 4 Meeting	Zoom and Paxton Post 306
1/11/2026	1:00 PM	District 1 Meeting	Adams Post 160
1/11/2026	2:00 PM	District 5 Meeting	Bedford Post 221
1/17/2026	10:00 AM	District 3 Meeting	Granby Post 266
1/18/2026	10:00 AM	District 10 Meeting	Sandwich Post 188
1/18/2026	2:00 PM	District 8 Meeting	ZOOM
1/19/2026	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
1/22/2026	7:00 PM	District 9 Meeting	New Bedford, Post 1
1/24/2026	10:00 AM	District 7 Meeting	Boston Post 76

EGION

2026 Membership Standing as of December 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1125	895	79.56%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3169	2443	77.09%
4	WORCESTER	4303	3387	78.71%
5	MIDDLESEX	3347	2567	76.70%
6	NORFOLK	2206	1662	75.34%
7	SUFFOLK	1123	903	80.41%
8	ESSEX	2313	1864	80.59%
9	BRISTOL	2260	1530	67.70%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3404	2666	78.32%
297	CAPITOL HILL	405	537	132.59%
462	HEADQUARTERS	848	423	49.88%
	National Quota	24503	18877	77.04%

Next Target Date 1/14/2026 80%



ALA—Spirit of Youth Scholarship

National Headquarters will award each department/state one recipient a scholarship of \$1,000. From the potential 52 department/state scholarship recipients, the National Education Committee will select five recipients (one per division) who will receive a \$5,000 scholarship in lieu of the \$1000 department/state scholarship.

Eligibility and Rules:

- Candidates for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years and must be a paid member for the current (2026) membership year.
- Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school or be a senior equivalent.
- This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants must be of good character and have grades that meet entrance requirements at the institution of their choice. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA using a 4.0 scale.
- Essay answers must have a minimum of 600 characters in length. This requirement ensures that responses are detailed enough to fully address the question given. All essays will be reviewed using Altools to help ensure originality. These tools assist in identifying potential plagiarism and detecting Algenerated content. Applicants that rely heavily on Al will be disqualified.

Go to www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships/Sppirst-of-youth for additional information



2026 Membership Standing as of December 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	167	82.67%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	390	61.22%
4	WORCESTER	1064	706	66.35%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	553	58.27%
6	NORFOLK	365	197	53.97%
7	SUFFOLK	95	57	60.00%
8	ESSEX	629	460	73.13%
9	BRISTOL	263	149	56.65%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	754	498	66.05%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	95	63.76%
	National Quota	5,107	3,272	64.07%



December Edition of The Millennium



Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy



2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of December 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	231	190	82.25%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	772	400	51.81%
4	WORCESTER	1020	642	62.94%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	526	41.88%
6	NORFOLK	835	714	85.51%
7	SUFFOLK	196	117	59.69%
8	ESSEX	442	238	53.85%
9	BRISTOL	280	140	50.00%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	798	437	54.76%
	National Goal	5830	3404	58.57%

Next Target Date:1/14/2025 60%







FUNDAY !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

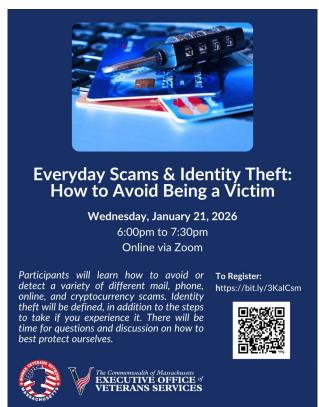
Lunch

We will service a simple Lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.

2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.

3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.





LEO C ROTH POST AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT

PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL

FILL YOUR FREEZER RAFFLE

30lbs of Brown & Budnicks Meat

LIMIT 100 TICKETS

TICKETS \$25.00

DRAWING WHEN ALL TICKETS SOLD OR ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE WILL HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES THE AUXILIARY SUPPORTS

GIRLS STATE
ORATORICAL
BASEBALL
SOFTBALL
STAR SPANGLED KIDS
ASSORTED SCHOLARSHIPS
GIVE 10 FOR EDUCATION (SCHOOL SUPPLIES)



QUESTIONS CONTACT SUKEY BLAKE PHONE OR TEXT 978-710-1432

"Veterans Strengthening America"



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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- 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.



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