



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 17 Issue 4

October 2026

Commander's Corner



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan

As the crisp New autumn air settles across the Commonwealth, our schedule shows no signs of slowing down. It has been an incredible honor representing the Department of Massachusetts over these past few weeks, meeting with dedicated members, visiting our posts, and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow veterans. The energy, dedication, and heart of our Legion family continue to inspire me every single day.

We recently gathered in Boston for the solemn and powerful POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony. Remembering those who remain unaccounted for is a sacred obligation, and seeing our members come together to

honor their sacrifice was a profound reminder of the core promise we share: You are not forgotten.

From Boston, my travels have taken me across the state to various Post events and installations. Whether welcoming new leadership, celebrating century milestones, or simply sharing a cup of coffee and conversation with members, the grassroots strength of our organization lives right there at the post level. Thank you to everyone who welcomed us warmly and continues to keep your local programs thriving.

One of the true privileges of this month was getting underway on board "Old Ironsides," the USS Constitution. Standing on the decks of the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, surrounded by history and shipmates, was an unforgettable experience.

We also had the distinct honor of celebrating a monumental milestone for our Department: the Gala Homecoming of American Legion Auxiliary

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 **AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY**

National President Dr. Coral May Grout, proudly hailing right here from Massachusetts! Having one of our own lead the National Auxiliary is a tremendous point of pride for our entire Department, and her homecoming gala was a wonderful celebration of service and dedication.

As we head deeper into autumn, let's keep our momentum strong by keeping up with our Buddy Checks. A simple phone call, a quick text, or a knock on a door can make all the difference in the world to a fellow veteran who might be struggling or feeling isolated. Reach out, check in, and let them know their Legion family is standing by.

Finally, please continue to support my Commander's charity, the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). Through your generosity, the VCF provides vital, immediate assistance to military families facing hardships and helps ensure that our service officers are fully equipped to advocate for veterans when they need it most. Every contribution directly impacts a life right here in our communities.

Thank you all for your tireless commitment, your leadership, and everything you do for our veterans, youth, and communities. Let's keep moving forward together!

For God and Country,

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)

Department Commander 26-27

Department Of Massachusetts American Legion

"ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT"

About The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation was established in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund. Since then, the donation-driven fund has helped millions of disabled veterans and military/ veteran families facing unexpected, threatening challenges. The foundation is a separate tax-deductible nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a dedicated board of directors and national steering committee. It was renamed The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation in 2019 to better reflect those it serves.

1. The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF) delivers needed aid for military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes. These one-time Temporary Financial Assistance grants are used to cover housing, utilities, food and other basic needs for families with minor children at home.
2. The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation also trains the organization's department and post-level accredited veteran service officers who are continuously working more than 750,000 benefits claims for disabled veterans and their families, free of charge.

Your Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Men and Women Who Have Sworn to Protect Our Nation and Their Children.

Safe, secure, tax-deductible contributions can be made online at: legion.org/donate

The official seal of the American Legion, featuring a central star with "US" inside, surrounded by a circular border with the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION".

VETERANS
COMMUNITY
YOUTH
A STRONGER
TOMORROW

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

COMMANDERS BANQUET

 SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026

 POST 440
NONANTUM • NEWTON, MA

 SOCIAL HOUR 3:00 PM
DINNER 4:15 PM

COMMANDER'S CHARITY
VETERANS AND CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The logo for the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF), featuring a silhouette of a soldier saluting and two children holding hands, with the letters "VCF" in the center.

VETERANS • CHILDREN • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

 TICKET PRICE
\$50.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS PURCHASED FROM DISTRICT TICKET CHAIRMAN ONLY

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT

SERVING VETERANS • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES • SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH



District Ticket Chairperson

Department Commander Robert Jerdan Banquet

Deadline for Tickets October 30, 2026

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

District 1

Dennis St. Pierre
18 Orchard St
Adams, MA 01220
beermansst@hotmail.com
413-652-5822

District 3

Gary Fontaine
404 Southwick Rd Trlr 43
Westfield, MA 01085-4856
Chieffont7@aol.com

District 4

Scott Conner
7 Meadowbrook Rd
Spencer, MA 01562
scottscpo@gmail.com
774-239-6162

District 5

Robert Desrosiers
441 Lakeview Ave
Lowell, MA 01850
Fishtruck15@aol.com
978-459-4260

District 6

James Fratolillo
374 Manet Ave
Quincy, MA 02169
jdftratt@comcast.net
617-792-7175

District 7

Neysa Wright
104 Cottage St
Chelsea, MA 02150
nwright41@hotmail.com

District 8

Sandra Davis
33 Maplewood Ave #215
Gloucester, MA
skeeisme@hotmail.com
978-879-8682

District 9

Stephen Souza
25 Billys Ln
Somerset, MA 02726
t5ssteve@yahoo.com
508-642-6660

District 10

James Richman
129 Andrews Lane
Hanson, MA 02341
katchie4us@yahoo.com
617-688-0303



We have closed out the Summer. And, we have moved onto Fall. Our monthly meetings have started back up. And, while we don't require our members to attend meetings, it is good to try and attend your Unit or District meetings periodically. You get to know what's happening and have a chance to volunteer. Or, help with suggestions of activities to encourage new membership & fundraising etc. Remember, without our members, we can't get anything done. And, we wouldn't be able to help anyone. I ask that you please get familiar with the times and dates of your Unit, District and, Department meetings. We would love to see you!

I was so honored this past week to participate in a 9/11 25th year Ceremony a POW/MIA observance Day Ceremony at the Swansea, MA Post and at the Big E. Thank you everyone for coming & participatingWe must never forget.

This season also brings Fall Conference. That will be at The Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA Halloween weekend. Our DEC meeting is Friday evening with a Halloween get together after. I hope to see everyone there.

Have you signed up for Mission Training? Check out alaforveterans.org for dates and locations.

Lisa Gauthier

Department President



Testimonial Banquet in honor of Department President

LISA GAUTHIER

Date: Saturday October 17, 2026
Time: Social time 4PM Meal 5PM 6PM "The Mighty King Snakes"
Place: Eugene M. Connor Legion Post 193
295 School Street
Winchendon, MA 01475
Donation \$45.00

Please make checks payable to: LISA GAUTHIER
Please mail checks to :
LISA GAUTHIER
139 ELM STREET, WINCHENDON MA 01475

For additional tickets contact your District Director
or call Sukey Blake 978-710-1432

RSVP BY: October 1, 2026





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

SERVICE NOT SELF

A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS SERVING VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES

*Honoring
Supporting
Empowering
Their Families*

Are You Eligible?

FAMILY ★ SERVICE ★ A STRONGER TOMORROW

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU ARE A:



GRANDPARENT



PARENT



SIBLING



SPOUSE



CHILD
(Direct or Adopted)



GRANDCHILD
(Direct or Adopted)

WITHIN TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY



RELATED TO A LIVING VETERAN
who is a current member of
The American Legion.

OR



RELATED TO A VETERAN
who served during eligible time periods
and died in the line of duty or
after honorable discharge.

★ **ELIGIBLE PERIODS OF SERVICE** ★



APRIL 6, 1917
— through —
NOVEMBER 11, 1918

AND

ANY TIME AFTER
DECEMBER 7, 1941

WOMEN VETERANS
who are eligible for membership
in The American Legion may also join
the American Legion Auxiliary.

*All Who
Support Our Mission
Are Welcome*

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

welcomes all eligible members!

VETERANS ★ FAMILIES ★ COMMUNITIES ★ BRIGHTER TOMORROWS



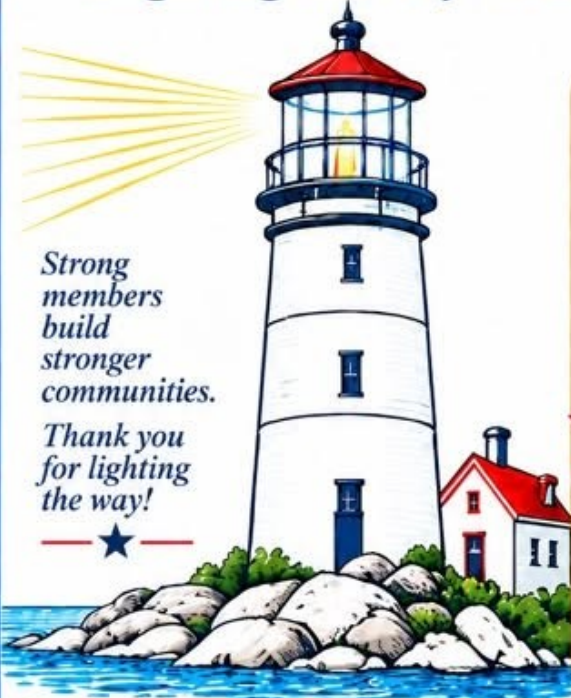
★ ——— ★

DEPARTMENT AWARD

NEW FOR 2027

THE BEACON OF GROWTH AWARD

"Lighting the Way in Membership Excellence"



*Strong members
build
stronger
communities.
Thank you
for lighting
the way!*

★



HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF
NEW MEMBERS
PER CAPITA

★

2 CHANCES TO WIN!



JANUARY 1,
2027



MAY 1,
2027



The Departments with the highest percentage of new members, per capita, will receive a **Citation Plaque**. That plaque will be presented to the winning department in person by the National Membership Chair at either their mid-winter conference (Jan. 1 deadline) or their annual convention (May 1 convention).

★



A SPECIAL
AWARD PLAQUE



NATIONAL
RECOGNITION



A LASTING LEGACY
OF LEADERSHIP

★ STRONGER TOGETHER. ★ GROWING THE ALA MISSION. ★



Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

The Detachment is once again behind the eight ball for membership. As you may recall, the membership cards did not arrive until the end of July and were distributed in August. At this point, all Squadrons should have their cards in hand. Because of the delayed delivery, we have fallen behind our first goal set by National. To all

membership officers - please start processing dues immediately upon receipt of payment either through MyLegion or by mailing them to the Boston office. Just as a reminder: you do not need to have membership cards in hand to process memberships through MyLegion. You can do so beginning on July 1st.

Speaking of membership, National is working hard to address how we handle our renewal process. I understand that there is a lot of confusion regarding our membership in the SAL. The most significant issue pertains to when we should renew. Yes! Our membership coincides with the calendar year, meaning - it runs from January 1st to December 31st, but the processing year follows the fiscal year - July 1st to June 30th. The challenge is, since the SAL is a corporate entity, budgetarily we run on the fiscal year not calendar year, which is why there is so much emphasis on getting dues processed for next calendar year prior to the expiration of the current one. The best solution is for us all to break the habit of waiting to pay dues until the current year expires in December. Meaning, we all should be prepared to pay the new year's dues on July 1st - not on January 1st - regardless of whether or not the new cards have arrived. If we do so, we still have an entire year before we have to pay again, but we would be taking pressure off of our membership officers who have to

constantly chase down delinquent members for months after December 31st passes us by.

Commander Skelley has announced his goal of increasing awareness of efforts around the globe to recover our POW/MIAs. He has challenged every Squadron to set up a POW/MIA table in a local restaurant. If the restaurant does not have the space for a table or you do not have the means to provide the proper setting, National has produced a poster that can be printed and hung anywhere there is wall space. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the poster file and you do not receive my Commander's Update email, please contact me directly at commander@salmass.org.

For all Squadrons who succeed in this challenge, a Commander's Certificate will be awarded by National. The criteria for being recognized is: 1) Placement of a POW/MIA Table or Poster; 2) have dedication ceremony, & 3) document the ceremony with time, date, location, and photos (while wearing SAL branded apparel). Documentation should be emailed to Mwoodsmall@legion.org. And, you can also submit pictures and details to our National SAL magazine - the Millenium - by emailing the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com.

The schedule for our Detachment Executive Committee's meetings for the remainder of my tenure has been set. The dates are: October 8th; December 3rd; March 4th; & May 6th (Pre-Convention). These meetings will be held on Zoom at 7pm. Contact me for the Zoom link at the Commander's email address. While this meeting is open to every member of the Legion Family in Massachusetts, only those elected to serve may participate in the business portion of the meeting. But, everyone who attends may freely participate during the For The Good Of The Sons portion of the meeting.

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Finally, as always, if your Post/Squadron/Unit/Chapter has an event and you would like me to attend, just let me know. While my calendar for the Fall is filling up fast, I will always do what I can to squeeze in Post visits whenever I can. And, just so you know, I do travel for work. If I am in the area and have the ability to do so, you never know when I may simply pop in and say hi!

May God bless all those who served, those who are currently serving both at home and abroad, and every member of the American Legion Family.

Jesse Limanek

Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts

The POW/MIA Table

We call your attention to this **small table** which occupies a place of dignity and honor. It is **set for one**, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POWs and MIAs.

We call them comrades. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join to pay humble tribute to them, and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The **table** is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors.

The **tablecloth** is white, symbolic of the purity of their

intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The **single rose** in the vase signifies the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return.

The **red ribbon** on the vase represents an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us.

A **slice of lemon** on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate,

The **salt** sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.

The **glass** is inverted. They cannot toast with us at this time.

The **chair** is empty. They are NOT here.

The **candle** is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.

The **American flag** reminds us that many of them may never return — and have paid the supreme sacrifice to insure our freedom.



Presented by your local American Legion Family of Post #####.

For more information contact XXXXXXXX.



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Good day legionnaires;

Fall is in the air. I hope everyone was safe during the Nor'easter that was forecasted at the end of September. September, I was in Indianapolis for the Combined Americanism Conference. Meetings for Oratorical, Boy's State, and Children Youth. I was there for the Oratorical meetings and learned plenty. October will prove to be just as busy for the Department, Districts, and Posts. The Fall meetings are October 1-8, 2026, in Indianapolis, IN. There are many committees such as Marketing, Finance, Department Commander and Department Adjutant and Americanism that have meetings. Our Department Commander will be in Indianapolis receiving New Commander's Training. There also will be New Department Adjutant training as well for all Department Adjutants who are in their first two years. I attend just to keep on learning. Speaking of learning, the **Department of Massachusetts Legion College is on October 24, 2026, in Post 58 Oxford** starting at 9 AM. Please contact the office via email or phone to sign up. This is an excellent opportunity for you all to get great training but also for us as Department Officers to disseminate all the information from Department Convention, Combined Americanism Conference, and the Fall meetings. The future is bright for the American Legion. There is also training in Albany (National Regional Information Conference) January 30, 2027. The information can be obtained via this link [NRIC](#). If Albany in January doesn't excite you National is holding NRIC in Las Vegas and Omaha as well, check the link for all the dates. Finally, the Department Commander's Banquet is November 21, 2026 at Post 440 please purchase your tickets from the District Ticket Chairmen. No tickets will be purchased through the Department. That is all I have, Grace and I looking to take the office on the road around the Cape and Islands, they get ignored too much. On a personal note, thank you for all the prayers for my sister Andera, she appreciated those prayers. Three brain surgeries down one to go. She is one tough nut.

Yours in Comradeship,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant
The Department of Massachusetts

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*



50% IS A MILESTONE — NOT THE FINISH LINE

First, **congratulations to every District for reaching the 50% membership goal!**

Reaching this milestone takes teamwork. It means our Posts are making calls, processing renewals, reaching out to expired members, and—most importantly—asking eligible veterans to become part of The American Legion.

A special congratulations and thank you needs to go to our **District Membership Chairmen**.

You believed in the membership program, you followed up on it, and you worked with your Posts to turn a plan into results. You made the phone calls, answered the questions, reminded Posts about upcoming targets, encouraged your membership teams, and kept everyone focused on what we are trying to accomplish.

That commitment matters.

Membership isn't just about reaching a percentage on a report. Every renewal we retain and every new veteran we welcome strengthens our ability to carry out the programs and services that make **The American Legion better and stronger**. Our District Membership Chairmen have demonstrated what can happen when we believe in the program, communicate with our Posts, and—most importantly—**follow through**.

NOW LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

We should be proud of reaching 50%, but let's remember: **50% is a checkpoint, not our destination**. This is not the time to become comfortable or assume we can make up the difference later in the year. The momentum we've created is valuable, and we need to keep building on it. Keep working on the membership lists. Keep contacting members who haven't renewed. Keep following up with expired members. Keep talking to veterans in your communities. And wherever you find an eligible veteran, remember the simplest membership program we have:

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JUST ASK.

Ask them if they belong.

Ask them if they know what The American Legion does.

Ask them if anyone has ever invited them to join.

Sometimes the only thing standing between an eligible veteran and membership in The American Legion is that **nobody has asked them.**

SUPPORT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN

Our District Membership Chairmen have done their part in getting us to this milestone. Now we need every Post and every member to continue supporting their efforts.

When your Membership Chairman calls, answer the call.

When they ask for an update, give them an update.

When they provide a list of members who need to be contacted, work the list.

When they ask for help recruiting, step forward.

A membership program only works when everyone participates. The Chairman can provide leadership, direction, information, and encouragement—but ultimately, **membership belongs to all of us.**

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

We also have another opportunity to encourage recruiting through the **National Commander's Membership Incentive Program.**

As we continue recruiting new members, let's make sure our Legionnaires know about the National Commander's incentives and recognition available for qualifying membership accomplishments. Use the incentive as another reason to challenge yourself and your fellow Legionnaires:

How many veterans can you personally bring into The American Legion this year?

Recognition is great, but the real reward is what those new members mean to our organization. Every new Legionnaire represents another veteran who can become involved in a Post, support our youth programs, advocate for veterans, serve the community, and eventually become one of our future leaders.

THE NEXT GOAL STARTS NOW

Every District reaching 50% proves that the program works when we **believe in it, follow up on it, and work it.** To our District Membership Chairmen: **thank you for your leadership, persistence, and belief in the program. Your accomplishments deserve to be recognized.**

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Membership

To our Posts and Legionnaires: **thank you for responding and doing the work necessary to get us here.**

Now let's keep going. Don't wait for the next target date.

Make the call. Process the renewal. Work the list. Talk to the veteran. JUST ASK.

Let's take the same energy that got every District to 50% and carry it forward to the next goal, and the next one after that. Because ultimately, this isn't about percentages.

It's about building a stronger American Legion for the veterans, families, and communities we serve.

For God and Country,

Drew Pajak

Department Senior Vice Commander

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

Membership New Post Pin



The pin is available to any individual who assists with the initial start-up of a new American Legion post.

Membership award: New Post Development Pin

For who: Individual Legionnaires

Recognizes: Any individual who assists in starting a new American Legion post.

Certification form: Page 29 of the National Membership Awards Points Guide (legion.org/publications under Membership)

Nomination: Department adjutants may nominate these individuals by name at any time once the temporary charter has been submitted.

Award: Specially designed cap/lapel pin

I recently attended The American Legion Committee on Children and Youth's 20th Annual National Children & Youth Conference held in Indianapolis, IN, Sep 18-20. The meeting was open to the Legion Family and started off with presentations by both the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Christine Henshaw, Sr. Program Coordinator of American Legion Children & Youth for the Auxiliary highlighted a few of their programs. April is the month of the Military Child, and April 15th is designated "Military Kids Purple Up Day". They dress up their military kids with purple shirts, or give them items such as purple pin-wheels, wrist bands, or other purple items to highlight them. Another program is KDH2 "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2", they celebrate them with parties, buttons they can wear, and just giving them a special day knowing they have it tough while the parent is away. They also have two very special awards that are given to military children for their acts of valor. The first is their Youth Hero Award. This is given to a child that demonstrates a physical act of valor. For example, a young boy under 10 years old had found his mother on the floor in their living room, he ran upstairs where his dad was working with headphones on, told him to call 911 and then ran back and did chest compressions until the EMTs arrived. They credited him for help-

ing to keep her alive. The second award is the Good Deed Award. This goes to a child who demonstrates leadership in community service. Such as organizing a lemonade stand and donating the proceeds to an animal shelter. This award is for kids that plan projects and perform them. They have a Junior Patches Program, which is like how the Scouts earn their badges. Some sew them on the back of a jacket, or a sweat-shirt, while others have them on their bulletin boards at home to keep track of them. This is open from ages pre-K to 12th grade. I found one item very moving, it is the Military Child Table, a reminder that their life is different from other children with the sacrifice of a parent being called to service. It was inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contribution of our military children. They have set these up in libraries or schools for kids of deployed parents. Kids will carry in one item at a time while someone reads what they represent. A tangible reminder that helps others understand.

We then had Jeff Trout, Americanism Chairman for the Sons of the American Legion, speak on their goals for this year, which included the Ronald McDonald House, Children Miracle Network, and the Boys Town Hotline. Also, for COTA "Children Organ Transplant Organization" they want to reach and pass the \$300,000 goal. He

spoke on Victory Gardens, how they are getting young people involved with the Legion Family and teaching them to plant and keep up the plantings, whether in a pot, in the ground or even small greenhouses. They also hosted a C&Y Academy at the Louisville convention and are looking forward to Kansas City to increase the number of kids participating next year.

After lunch we focused on TFA, Temporary Financial Assistance, what it is, who qualifies to receive the grant, what does it cover, what is not covered, what is our part in the process, and especially the form. Stacey Cope, Donor Stewardship & Foundation Coordinator, took us through the process in detail making it seem less intimidating once you worked it step by step. TFA is only given after all "other assistance" has been exhausted. That statement was broken down for us on the form. The more we understand what is being asked, the more we can help the family provide us with the answers and backup needed to complete the form and have it signed off by Department level and sent on to National for their review. The conference was well worth attending, and it was refreshing to learn about all the programs we have been working on across the country, in our Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion supporting our children. Keep up the good work!!

Thank you for all your hard work over the last three years

Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of serving alongside so many dedicated members of The American Legion Department of Massachusetts in support of our Children & Youth programs.

I want to sincerely thank every Post, District, committee member, volunteer, and member of the Legion Family who has given their time, energy, and support to our young people. Whether through youth programs, scholarships, community events, recognition programs, fundraising, or simply being there when a child or family needed help, your efforts have made a difference.

Over the last three years (2024–2026), the **American Legion Department of Massachusetts** has experienced an incredibly successful run, securing multiple prestigious national titles for Children and Youth Programs.

The **American Legion Department of Massachusetts** was awarded the Child Well-being Foundation (CWF) Excellence Award on September 2, 2026. The formal presentation took place during the 107th American Legion National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Why Massachusetts Won the Award

The CWF Excellence Award is a highly competitive fundraising honor. It is specifically granted to the department that achieves the **highest per capita giving** to the Child Well-being Foundation during the past program year.

The Board of Directors presented the award to Massachusetts for the 2025–2026 program year to recognize the immense generosity and outstanding fundraising support generated by the state's Legion members. This money goes directly toward national grants that support the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children.

Fundraising & Foundation Awards

The state reached its highest competitive peak at the national conventions, sweeping the Child Wellbeing Foundation (CWF) categories:

- **CWF Excellence Award (2025 & 2026):** Awarded back-to-back years for achieving the highest per capita giving nationwide to support children's physical and mental healthcare grants.
- **CWF Garland Murphy Award (2025):** Awarded for raising the highest cumulative overall dollar amount among all states for the foundation.

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- **CWF Meritorious Achievement Award (2025):** Awarded to Massachusetts for executing the highest year-over-year increase in per capita giving.
- **USA 250 Challenge Fundraising Champion Award (2026):** Won in its size category for raising maximum funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF), spearheaded by a continuous 250-mile cross-state walk by members.

Towns and posts in Massachusetts drove these record-breaking fundraising efforts, a few standout contributions from the 2025–2026 term include:

- **North Adams Post 125:** Mitchell Keil (Adjutant) and a 10-member family team mapped out and completed a grueling 250-mile continuous walk over three days. Starting from the Massachusetts coast, passing through historical sites in Boston, and ending in the northwest corner of the state, they raised \$2,800 specifically for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF). This individual effort directly secured the statewide USA 250 Challenge Fundraising Champion Award.
- **Granby Post 266:** Represented by William Ladue, whose young grandchildren uniquely got involved by raising \$250 on their own to add to the state's total donation pool presented on the convention floor.
- **Gloucester Post 3:** Made dedicated post-level donations directly to the National Commander's "Be the One" veteran suicide prevention initiative during the convention.

Total individual post turnouts—combined with centralized check presentations by The Department on-stage at the National Convention—ultimately pushed Massachusetts's combined annual veterans and Children's foundation fundraising over **\$12,340**.

Our commitment to Children & Youth is one of the most important responsibilities we have as Legionnaires. The work we do today helps build stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger future.

Thank you to the entire Department of Massachusetts for your hard work, your dedication, and your belief in this mission over these past three years. It has been an honor to serve with you and to see firsthand what can be accomplished when we work together for the children and youth of the Commonwealth.

For God and Country,

Andrew "Drew" Pajak

Children & Youth Chairman (2023-2026)

As we are getting back in the swing of thing of the new School year the ROTC committee will be having monthly meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm by zoom. The committee had a great year last year learning to watch what the different units are doing around the Department, and we are looking forward to seeing the continued growth of our current units and the new units started. One of the newest ROTC is a Coast Guard unit down on the Cape. The Committee is excited to see what this new ROTC has to offer this year. The committee will be working in the district to try and find a post that is willing to work in this new unit and hopefully be able to offer their support where it is needed. If anyone has any questions regarding the ROTC program the Committee is happy to answer those questions so, please reach out to your district chairman with those questions so the committee can help provide an adequate answer.

The marketing committee and department office are aware that the yearly address label fundraising program has yet to be distributed and we are getting in contact with national. As you may be aware, this fundraiser is handled by national on behalf of department and proceeds are earmarked for our department VA+R fund. We hope to have an answer and or a resolution soon. Hopefully, the labels will be distributed .

Our yearly partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds and The Veteran of The Game-Challenge Accepted will continue for the upcoming 2026-27 AHL season as the team's home opener is Saturday, October 10th. This partnership provides our organization with great brand awareness as our PSAs are shown on the scoreboard screen, the challenge coin is presented by a representative of our department and we are allowed to have information tables at home games. Many thanks in advance to all that bring this effort to fruition by either staffing the tables or presenting the coins.

I am pleased to report that our annual sweepstakes fundraisers are already in the works as the January sweepstakes will be distributed within the next few weeks. We have a bi-annual sweepstakes with the first drawing at the January DEC and the second at the close of convention in June. Please consider remitting your sweepstakes tickets with a donation as not only does this help department and its programs but you have a chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000.

In closing as always, if you have any marketing ideas that fit within our budget and capabilities, please bring the idea to the attention of the committee.



Community Service—DVC Ryan HOwe

My fellow Legionnaires,

First, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to last year's Community Service Committee for their dedication, hard work, and thoughtful review of all submissions. Your efforts in evaluating each entry and selecting the award recipients reflect great credit upon our organization and the spirit of service we uphold.

As we embark on a new year, I would also like to welcome our newly appointed committee members and welcome back those returning from last year. I hope each of you is looking forward to another productive and rewarding year. To our new members, I trust you will find your time on this committee meaningful and enjoyable. I am eager to see the outstanding work our Posts will accomplish in the months ahead, especially as we join the nation in celebrating our Country's 250th Birthday of Independence.

Together, I know we will continue to honor our mission of service and strengthen the impact we make in our communities.



Canine Support Teams

My name is Michael Cruciotti, and I am a board member of Canine Support Teams. Canine Support Teams is a national non profit that provides service dogs to disabled veterans and individuals. It is great to meet you.

I am reaching out because Canine Support Teams is currently seeking a Massachusetts Veteran who may benefit from receiving a professionally trained service dog at no cost.

As part of a special Veterans Day collaboration with the Boston Bruins, we would like to identify a local Veteran who can be considered for this opportunity and included as part of the initiative.

We are reaching out to Veteran organizations and community leaders across Massachusetts who may know a veteran within their network who could benefit from a service dog.

I would love to connect with you to discuss if you know of a Veteran who may be a good fit, and potentially helping me connect them with Canine Support Teams. To be considered, the Veteran will need to complete our full Service Dog Application.

Thank you for your time and for everything you do for the Veteran community. We would be grateful for any help in identifying the right Veteran for this special Veterans Day opportunity.

Here is a link to our website: <https://www.caninesupportteams.org/>

The logo for the American Legion, featuring the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized American flag graphic to the left.

AMERICAN LEGION

MASSACHUSETTS

Department Legion College

Saturday

October 24th

9:00 AM

Oxford Post 58
227 Main St, Oxford MA

Topics include:

- Leadership & Mentorship
- Running Effective Meetings
 - Communication & Conflict Resolution
 - Legion Programs
 - Practical AI

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

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



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

As the 2026 election nears, it is imperative for American Legion members and posts to remember that The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization that will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of any candidate or party. This includes the wearing of American Legion and Sons of The American Legion apparel when engaged in partisan activities.

As Legionnaires will cast their ballots on Election Day, The American Legion advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections through its "Get Out the Vote" program. Download the "[Vote, America](#)" brochure to see how your post can encourage more Americans to vote.

Legion posts, Legionnaires and SAL members should follow these dos and don'ts during an election cycle:

1. **Can I wear my American Legion cap to a political event or when promoting my political views in media?** No. The American Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion.
2. **Can we use our American Legion post for a political event?** When using post facilities to host any candidates, the post must remove American Legion emblems and American Legion flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented with equal opportunity to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.
3. **Can I get The American Legion at the local, state and national level to support a candidate running for Congress or any political office?** No. In 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 for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally, the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. However, you, as a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy.
4. **Can our post host a registration or voting drive to support "Get Out the Vote"?** Yes. Just remember that volunteers working on an American Legion-sponsored registration and voting drive should not wear campaign buttons or make their personal views about candidates, parties and issues known in any way while they are engaged in nonpartisan activities for their post. Any campaign materials or literature should be removed from areas where nonpartisan activities are taking place.

Agency has processed more than 3 million claims and this year has awarded more than \$207 billion in benefits to veterans, survivors.



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs processed more than 3 million disability benefits claims for veterans in fiscal 2026 as of Sept. 18, 2026, faster than ever before.

The prior record was set in fiscal 2025, when VA completed a record high 3.001 million claims at the very end of the fiscal year — a record VA has already surpassed this year.

With just a week left before fiscal 2026 ends, VA has already awarded more than \$207 billion in compensation and pension

benefits to veterans and survivors.

Since January 2025, VA has reduced the backlog of veterans waiting for VA benefits by more than 70 percent. VA also cut disability claim processing times nearly in half. The average time to complete a decision was 75.6 days in September 2026, compared to 141.5 days on Jan. 20, 2025.

Claims processing accuracy has improved despite the increased workload and is currently at 94 percent — the highest rate in two years. Additionally, VBA continues to grant more than 60 percent of the claims sub-

Have some news!

Share it in the E-Legionnaire

Monthly Deadline is the 25th
Email : Fmacdonald53@comcast.net

HELP WANTED

The Department of Massachusetts is seeking a member to assume the responsibilities of the editor of the Monthly Newsletter the Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs will save Veterans nearly \$150 million in insurance premium payments starting in November, when VA implements the first-ever premium holiday for the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program (VGLI). Under this initiative, VGLI enrollees will not have to pay insurance premiums for three months, starting in November 2026 and ending in January 2027.

VGLI is VA's term life insurance program that lets Veterans pay a monthly premium to maintain life insurance coverage after they leave the military. The self-funded program's financial performance has been incredibly strong under President Trump, making the holiday possible.

More than 457,000 Veterans participate in the VGLI program, and their monthly premiums vary depending on their age and the amount of insurance coverage they choose. On average, Veterans pay about \$110 per month for VGLI coverage and will save an average of \$330 during the premium holiday. Nationwide, the initiative is expected to save Veterans nearly \$150 million in insurance payments.

"VA is all about making life better and more affordable for Veterans, and this premium holiday will help the men and women who served this nation keep more of their hard-earned money," said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**.

VGLI Veterans are eligible for the premium holiday if they have a current policy that has not lapsed or been cancelled due to non-payment of premiums.

Eligible VGLI policyholders will automatically be exempted from three months of premium payments. Veterans will be notified in the coming weeks by letter or email if they are eligible, and no action is required by any VGLI participant.

Veterans who have paid in advance through the premium holiday period can either receive a credit on their policy for three months or can ask for a refund.

For more information about VGLI and updates about the premium holiday, visit www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vgli/.



VA Mobile app

More than 4.6 million Veterans already use the VA Health and Benefits mobile app to manage their care and benefits, and now, Veterans can view lab results and manage VA benefit overpayment debts directly in the app. These new features give you faster access to important information and make it easier to manage your healthcare and benefits from your phone.

You can now see your lab results as soon as they're available. You'll find them in the Health section of the VA mobile app, where you would typically message your care team and refill prescriptions. Just tap on "Medical records" and then you'll be able to select "Labs and tests." You'll be able to sort labs and tests by date range, as well as review detailed results.

Veterans: Avoid These Scams

It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3



Three Popular Scams

1. **Fake Benefits Assistance:**
Imposters claiming to be from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will charge high upfront fees to help you apply for benefits, disability compensation, or claims. By law, individuals must be accredited by the VA to assist with claims, and initial filings are always free.
2. **Overpaid Benefits:**
Scammers send official-looking postcards, texts, or emails claiming you owe a significant debt for an overpayment of government benefits. They demand immediate payment and pressure you for your Social Security Number (SSN) and banking details.
3. **Pension Poaching:**
Fraudsters offer to help you manage or qualify for VA pension benefits for an upfront fee, promising higher monthly payouts. They may convince you to hide your assets in trusts or annuity products so that your income appears low enough to qualify for benefits. These tactics can disqualify you from receiving benefits and may require you to pay back the government.

Three Ways to Protect Yourself

1. **Don't Pay for Help:**
The VA, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and accredited representatives will never charge you to apply for benefits. The VA will help you gather evidence to support your initial claim for free.
2. **Verify Before Acting:**
If you receive unexpected communications about benefits, debt, or extra payouts, do not call the number provided or click on links in a suspicious text message. Call the official VA benefits line at 1-800-827-1000.
3. **Guard Personal Information:**
Don't share personal or financial information over email or text. Only share required information over the phone if you initiated the call to a legitimate service. Never share your VA or military login credentials with anyone.

Three Resources to Get Help

1. **Veterans, Service Members, Families Fraud Evasion (VSAFE):**
Call 833-38V-SAFE or visit [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov)
2. **VA Office of Inspector General (OIG)**
Hotline: Call 1-800-488-8244
3. **Accredited Representative Search Tool:**
Visit [VA.gov](https://va.gov)



Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
Consumer Hotline: 617-973-8787 • Live language translation is available.
mass.gov/consumer | consumer@mass.gov



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**
DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

MEAT RAFFLE

HOSTED BY
WHITMAN SQUADRON 22
33 Legion Parkway, Whitman, MA 02382

BENEFIT FOR
BILLY MURPHY
IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
12 PM - 4 PM

6 MEAT RAFFLES

50/50
PLUS
SIDE RAFFLES

GIFT BASKETS
TO RAFFLE OFF
ARE MOST
WELCOME!

★ ★ *Let's Rally for Billy!* ★ ★



The American Legion Family

16th ANNUAL "PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS" BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th, 2027
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

WEBSTER TIMBER LANES
460 Bedford St., Abington, MA 02351

Proceeds to benefit Boston Children's Hospital, Bay State Children's Hospital
and UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center

Limited to 22 teams – First come, first served for team sign-ups
Five Person Teams
\$25 per person / \$125 per team / \$10 for non-bowlers

50/50 Raffles & Other Raffles | Food provided during tournament

Send payment & registration forms to:
Clifford A. Smith
53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Make checks payable to: Detachment of Mass SAL

For more info contact Cliff at: cliffpnc@gmail.com

*Confirmation of entry forms will be sent upon receipt of completed registration
Must be paid in full to secure registration*

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
"PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS"
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

**WEBSTER TIMBER LANES
460 BEDFORD ST., ABINGTON, MA 02351**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2027
12:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

**REGISTRATION FORM
TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL
POSTS - UNITS - SQUADRONS - LEGION RIDERS**

\$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

POST NO. _____
UNIT NO. _____
SQUADRON NO. _____
RIDER CHAPTER NO. _____

BOWLER NO.1 _____

BOWLER NO.2 _____

BOWLER NO.3 _____

BOWLER NO.4 _____

BOWLER NO.5 _____

**SEND PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
CLIFFORD A. SMITH
53 Messenger St. Apt C. Plainville, MA 02762**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
The Detachment of Mass SAL**

**CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY FORMS
WILL BE SENT UPON RECEIPT OF COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM
MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO SECURE REGISTRATION**



American Legion Department of Massachusetts Remembers. On September 13, 2026, Past Dept. of MA Commander Tony Dias and POW/MIA Chair hosted a ceremony at the Swansea Post 303. Past Department Commanders Scott Conner and Nelson Blake, Department Adjutant Lisa McPhee, Assistant Adjutant Grace Conner, and other Dept. Officers attended. The guest speaker was Vietnam Veteran Combat Medic Bruce Cotta from VFW Post 4487. Department Auxiliary President Lisa Gauthier, SAL Commander Jesse Limanek, and a AL Rider Rich Larson made opening remarks. A Missing Man Table Honor Guard presentation was made. Names of missing service members were read by District Commanders and Dept of MA Officers. South Coast Community Choral sang, "God Bless America" and other hymns. (Photos by Dept. of MA Photo Lisa Borges.)





SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVED

VETERANS ★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ COMMUNITY

★ LEGION WIDE ★ ★ FOOD DRIVE ★

— TO BENEFIT MassVAF —

Help us support local veterans by collecting non-perishable food items and essentials for the MassVAF Veterans Free Market.



1st

\$100

FOR THE POST
THAT COLLECTS
THE MOST!



2nd

\$75

FOR SECOND
PLACE



3rd

\$50

FOR THIRD
PLACE



PLUS

- ✓ Bragging rights!
- ✓ A spotlight on our MassVAF pages!

**DIFFERENT POSTS.
ONE MISSION.
STRONGER TOGETHER
FOR OUR VETERANS.**



Visit Our Website

MassVAF.org

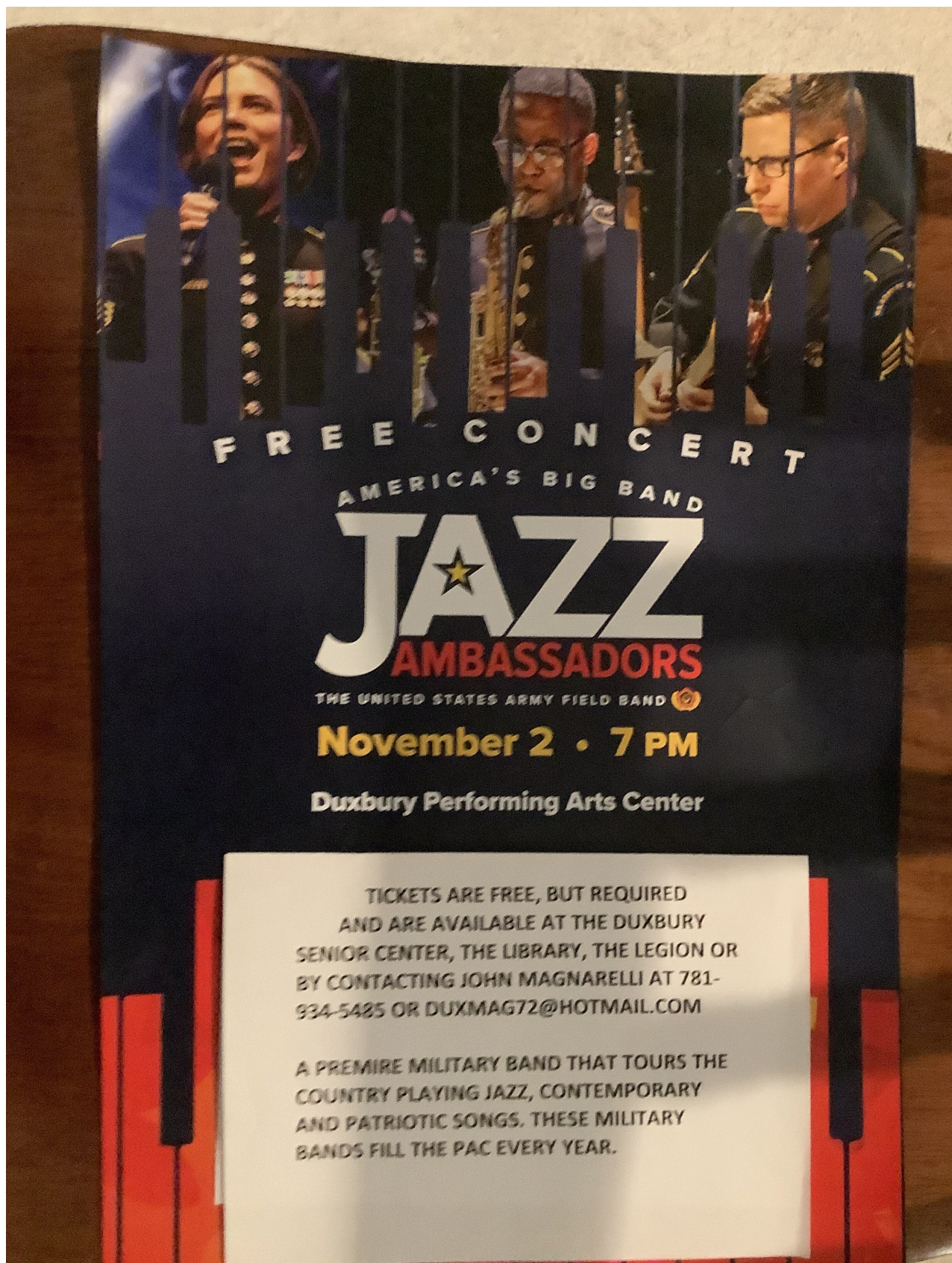


Questions?
Call Us

508-296-0147



HONOR ★ COMMUNITY ★ SUPPORT ★ TOGETHER

A poster for a free concert. At the top, there is a photograph of three musicians in military uniforms: a woman singing into a microphone, a man playing a saxophone, and another man playing a guitar. Below the photo, the text "FREE CONCERT" is written in large, white, spaced-out capital letters. Underneath that, "AMERICA'S BIG BAND" is written in a smaller, white, curved font. The word "JAZZ" is prominently displayed in large, white, bold capital letters with a yellow star in the center of the 'A'. Below "JAZZ", the word "AMBASSADORS" is written in red, bold capital letters. Further down, "THE UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD BAND" is written in small white capital letters, followed by a small circular logo. The date and time "November 2 • 7 PM" are written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below that, the venue "Duxbury Performing Arts Center" is written in white, bold capital letters. At the bottom, there is a white rectangular box containing text about ticket availability and contact information, followed by a paragraph describing the band.

TICKETS ARE FREE, BUT REQUIRED
AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DUXBURY
SENIOR CENTER, THE LIBRARY, THE LEGION OR
BY CONTACTING JOHN MAGNARELLI AT 781-
934-5485 OR DUXMAG72@HOTMAIL.COM

A PREMIERE MILITARY BAND THAT TOURS THE
COUNTRY PLAYING JAZZ, CONTEMPORARY
AND PATRIOTIC SONGS. THESE MILITARY
BANDS FILL THE PAC EVERY YEAR.



SAVE THE DATE!

HOLYOKE SOLDIERS HOME

MOTORCYCLE RUN

RIDE TO HONOR OUR HEROES

FREEDOM
SUPPORT
HONOR
RESPECT
COMMUNITY

VETERANS
LIVE HERE.
HEROES
LIVE FOREVER.

ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 15TH, 2027

VETERANS HOME IN HOLYOKE
110 CHERRY STREET ★ HOLYOKE, MA

AMERICAN LEGION
Department of MA

★ ★ ★
RIDE ★ SUPPORT ★ REMEMBER

THROTTLE ROCKER NATION

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS OF ALL KINDS!

 BUSINESS SPONSORS	 COMMUNITY PARTNERS	 PRODUCT DONATIONS	 FOOD & BEVERAGE DONATIONS	 RAFFLE ITEMS	 MONETARY SUPPORT
--	---	--	--	---	---

Help us make a difference for the veterans who call Holyoke Soldiers Home their home.

★ RIDE TO HONOR OUR HEROES ★ ★

AMERICAN
LEGION



OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BIG GAME?

WHETHER YOU ARE
PLANNING A POST
WATCH PARTY OR YOU
ARE ON THE HUNT
FOR WHERE TO
WATCH, THE RIVALRY
IS BETTER IN A ROOM
FULL OF VETERANS



**DECEMBER 12, 2026
3:00 PM ET ONLY ON CBS**



5K RUN & WALK

November 8th

10:00 am start

Polar Park, Worcester

Veterans register for FREE!

VETERANS
Inc.



WYMAN
GORDON
A FFL COMPANY

abbvie

Cumberland
FARMS

We can make a difference.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Panel Discussion & Education

Join local leaders and professionals for an informative and compassionate conversation focused on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Learn, connect, and gain practical tools and resources that can help you recognize the signs, start important conversations, and ultimately help save a life.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Central Middle School Auditorium
875 Hancock Street Quincy, MA

OPEN TO ALL — COMMUNITY MEMBERS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

REPRESENTATIVES FROM



PRESENTED BY
CITY OF QUINCY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



SOUTHBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER
153 Chestnut Street
Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550

FREE EVENT

ALL VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS (VENDORS)

- ★ Veterans Council of Southbridge
- ★ Veterans Council of Southbridge Auxiliary
- ★ Edward Jones
- ★ Tri-Valley, Inc.
- ★ Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services
- ★ Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital
- ★ UMass Memorial Health – Harrington
- ★ Southbridge Credit Union
- ★ Project New Hope
- ★ Southbridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- ★ Green Meadows

More organizations to come!

BENEFITS & SUPPORT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON:

-  VA Benefits & Claims
-  Aid & Attendance
-  Chapter 115 Benefits
-  Housing Assistance
-  Employment & Career Support
-  Healthcare & Wellness
-  Financial Resources
-  Community Programs & Services

Get your questions answered!



**Veterans
Council**
of Southbridge

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A TABLE,
PLEASE CONTACT:

Keith Roberts

Veterans Service Officer

☎ 508-764-5436

✉ kroberts@southbridgemass.org

David S. Adams

Veterans Service Officer

☎ 405-249-6724

✉ sbveteranscouncil@gmail.com

Serving Those Who Served ★ Stronger Together ★ A Stronger Community



Consumer Tips

Veterans: Avoid These Scams

It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3



Three Popular Scams

1. **Fake Benefits Assistance:**
Imposters claiming to be from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will charge high upfront fees to help you apply for benefits, disability compensation, or claims. By law, individuals must be accredited by the VA to assist with claims, and initial filings are always free.
2. **Overpaid Benefits:**
Scammers send official-looking postcards, texts, or emails claiming you owe a significant debt for an overpayment of government benefits. They demand immediate payment and pressure you for your Social Security Number (SSN) and banking details.
3. **Pension Poaching:**
Fraudsters offer to help you manage or qualify for VA pension benefits for an upfront fee, promising higher monthly payouts. They may convince you to hide your assets in trusts or annuity products so that your income appears low enough to qualify for benefits. These tactics can disqualify you from receiving benefits and may require you to pay back the government.

Three Ways to Protect Yourself

1. **Don't Pay for Help:**
The VA, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and accredited representatives will never charge you to apply for benefits. The VA will help you gather evidence to support your initial claim for free.
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Three Resources to Get Help

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Call 833-38V-SAFE or visit [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov)
2. **VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline:** Call 1-800-488-8244
3. **Accredited Representative Search Tool:**
Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)



Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

Consumer Hotline: 617-973-8787 • Live language translation is available.
mass.gov/consumer | consumer@mass.gov

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
10/1/26	6:00 PM	Community Service	Zoom
10/5/26	7:00 PM	Legin Gaming	Zoom
10/7/26	6:00 PM	ROTC	Zoom
10/8/26	5:00 PM	Children & Youth	Zoom
10/12/26	7:00 PM	POW/MIA	Zoom
10/13/26	6:00 PM	Americanism	Zoom
10/17/26	4:00 PM	Dept Presidents Testimonial	Winchendon Post 193
10/19/26	7:00 PM	Adjutants Meeting	Zoom
10/27/26	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Zoom

2027 Membership Standing *as of September 24, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	THE BERKSHIRE	1082	615	56.84%
3	PIONEER VALLEY	3004	1693	56.26%
4	CENTRAL	4054	2186	53.92%
5	NORTHEAST DISTRICT	3160	1669	52.82%
6	SOUTHEAST DISTRICT	2105	1252	59.48%
7	METROPOLITAN BOSTON	1096	572	52.19%
8	NORTHEAST SHORE	2252	1272	56.48%
9	SOUTHEAST SHORE	1852	1086	58.64%
10	SOUTHSHORE CAPE COD & ISLANDS	3316	1814	54.70%
297	CAPITOL HILL	968	669	68.29%
462	HEADQUARTERS	968	229	23.66%
	National Quota	23,857	13,049	54.89%

Next Target Date 10/14/2026 55%

District in Green have already meet or exceeded the next target!!!



Inside YOUR SAL Newsletter this Month

- National Convention Wrap
- Meet Your National Vice Commanders
- Chaplain's Corner
- Legion National Commander Shares Theme: "BPOTS"
- SAL 100: Preserve Your History
- Miller: "From the Blue Cap Up"
- National Veterans Employment and Education Committee Report
- Leading Candidate: Legacy Run in Iowa
- Snapshots of Service Contest Winners

Thank You Past National Commander Bill Clancy for your service and dedication to the organization this past year.

Congratulations to the two Sons of The American Legion Detachments which achieved 100% Consolidated Squadron Reporting by convention:

Delaware
Wisconsin
BE THE ONE

www.legion.org — 31 August 2026

Thom Skelley of Texas installed as the new SAL National Commander at Convention in Kentucky

Newly elected Sons of The American Legion National Commander Thom Skelley thanked the audience member who yelled, "Yay, Army!" as Skelley addressed the 54th SAL National Convention on Aug. 30 in Louisville, KY.

Skelley was in the process of thanking his wife of 26 years, Amy, for her support when the yell came from the audience. It served as a fitting reflection of something he had said earlier in his post-election speech: the passion that drives the emotion inside.

A 21-year member of the SAL, Skelley was elected as national commander for 2026-27 during the SAL national convention on Sunday, Aug. 30. The former Detachment of Texas commander has held numerous other leadership positions and earned his SAL eligibility through the service of his father William M. Skelley Sr., who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II from 1941 to 1945.

Skelley noted two things he carries everywhere with him: his father's dog tags and his father's 37th Division Infantry patch.

The patch, a red circle with a white border, is reflected in the design for Skelley's commander's coin and pin.



Editor's Photo

Editor's Photo

Continued on Page 2>>>

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

SAL MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH BRIEFCASE PROGRAM

EVERYTHING YOUR SQUADRON NEEDS TO PROCESS MEMBERSHIPS ANYWHERE.

A complete, affordable toolkit designed to help Sons of The American Legion Squadrons process memberships electronically using myLegion.org.

★ WHAT'S INCLUDED ★

 CHROMEBOOK Portable computer for accessing myLegion and managing membership records.	 BLUETOOTH BARCODE SCANNER Quickly scan membership cards and barcodes to save time.	 WIRELESS MOUSE Ergonomic and wireless for easy, comfortable navigation.	 MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH BACKPACK Durable and spacious to keep your entire membership office organized and ready to go.	 ROBERT'S RULES IN BRIEF A concise, easy-to-use guide to meeting procedures and parliamentary law.	 INDEX TABS FOR ROBERT'S RULES Color-coded tabs to quickly find the information you need.
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WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS KIT

 RENEW MEMBERSHIPS on the spot	 CONDUCT MEMBERSHIP DRIVES ANYWHERE
 PROCESS NEW MEMBERS instantly	 WORK ANYWHERE WITH WI-FI
 UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION	 SUPPORT RECRUITING EVENTS
 SCAN MEMBERSHIP CARDS	 ASSIST MEMBERS IMMEDIATELY

ESTIMATED STARTUP INVESTMENT*

APPROXIMATELY
\$400

*Actual pricing may vary based on current Amazon pricing, taxes, shipping, product availability, and any optional equipment substitutions. Scan the QR code to view the current recommended equipment list.

SCAN TO SHOP

VIEW THE COMPLETE RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT LIST

READY TO GET STARTED? Scan the QR code to view the complete recommended equipment list and build your squadron's Membership Outreach Briefcase today!

QUESTIONS? BRIEFCASE PROGRAM SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS	 GARY MANWELL Gmanwell2021@gmail.com	 MATT GRIFFIS MattGriffis.asal@gmail.com	POWERED BY THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SQUADRON ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
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2027 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of September 26, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	239	40	16.74%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	640	144	22.50%
4	WORCESTER	1017	182	17.90%
5	MIDDLESEX	1303	73	5.60%
6	NORFOLK	970	228	23.51%
7	SUFFOLK	198	27	13.64%
8	ESSEX	523	77	14.72%
9	BRISTOL	237	35	13.77%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	695	49	7.05%
	National Goal	5822	855	14.69%



Post Events



Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break

Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members
American Legion Hall
32 Beach st
8:00—10:30
Come on down



HINGHAM FRIDAY VETERANS' COFFEE
EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
9:00AM – 10:30AM
GRAND ARMY HALL 358 MAIN ST. HINGHAM
GUEST SPEAKERS FOR EACH EVENT
COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
MEETING DATES:
MAY 16TH, JUNE 20TH, JULY 18TH, AUG. 15TH,
SEPT 19TH, OCT. 17TH, NOV. 21ST, DEC. 19TH
TEMPORARY CONTACT: DAVE IRWIN
781-910-2377
FIRST COFFEE IS FRIDAY MAY 16TH



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





Post Events



**American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 58 Oxford**
227 MAIN STREET OXFORD, MA

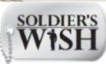
Craft Fair

Start your holiday shopping with us!

**Sunday October 25th
10am - 3pm**

Interested vendors contact:
Melissa 508-330-0153
unit58auxiliary@gmail.com
OR
Kelly
unit58auxiliary.vp@gmail.com

Proceeds from booth rental
to benefit:



**LEO C ROTH POST
AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT
FALL FUNDRAISER**

LIMIT 100 TICKETS TICKETS \$5.00

DRAWING DECEMBER 7, 2026

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

GIRLS STATE
ORATORICAL CONTEST
BASEBALL
SOFTBALL
SCOUTING
STAR SPANGLED KIDS
ASSORTED SCHOLARSHIPS
VETERANS OUTREACH




**World's Best
Veterans Coffee Hour**

Veterans' Coffee Hour: Third Wednesday of each month
Please come and enjoy coffee, fresh pastries, donuts and fellowship.

American Legion Post 0234
402 West Main St Northborough Ma. 01532

Open to all local area Veterans.

5th annual Sip and Shop CRAFT FAIR

AUBURN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 279

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH
9am – 3pm**

Meet the Makers:
Connect with the artisans and learn
about their craft and inspiration.

Unique Handmade Goods:
Discover beautiful, one-of-a-kind items
perfect for your home or as gifts.



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

**Chester P. Tuttle Post 279
88 Bancroft Street Auburn, Ma 01501**

Any questions please email auburntuttlettletcraftfair@gmail.com
or call Lori 508-494-1606, Millie 774-239-3199





Post Events



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY**



*Fall
Into
Winter*

☎ 508-746-0009
📍 199 FEDERAL FURNANCE ROAD
PLYMOUTH, MA

CRAFT FAIR 2026

📅 SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2026

🕒 9:00 AM
TO 2:00 PM

📍 199 FEDERAL FURNANCE ROAD
PLYMOUTH, MA

♥️ TALENTED CRAFTERS
AND RAFFLE TABLES

🍴 FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE FROM OUR KITCHEN

🎓 ALL MONIES RAISED GO TO
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS
IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

👤 INTERESTED CRAFTER CALL THE NUMBER ABOVE

✉️ OR EMAIL TSHA98@COMCAST.NET FOR APPLICATION

George P. Arsenault Memorial Ride

**Riders
\$20
Passengers
\$10**

Walk-ins
Welcome
\$10

REVISED DATE
Oct 11, 2026
John Alden Sportsman's Club
16 Minuteman Ln Plymouth MA

Scan here to
Pay online



Kickstands up at
11:00am
Raffles and Lunch
will be served



CHAPTER 40
AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS
PLYMOUTH
MASSACHUSETTS

★ **Proceeds go to American Legion Post 40 Riders Scholarship Fund** ★



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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.



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