



# MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 14 Issue 12

June 2024

## Commander's Corner



Summer is knocking at our doors already and the Department Convention is right around the corner. It is hard to believe an entire year is in the rearview mirror. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your Department Commander. THANK YOU for all the love, friendship, hospitality, support, and putting up with me over the years. It's truly been an amazing experience.

In retrospect this year, we laughed a little, cried a little, gave a little, took a little, had fun and worked hard to bring our Legion family, veterans, and communities closer together. United in thought and deed, we are

stronger together.

As the next leadership team takes the helm our future is bright; let the Four Founding Pillars of the American Legion be your guide. To our future leadership, these immortal words from Admiral McRaven come to mind: "Don't be a sugar cookie" and "make your bed". To all, have the courage to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

For one last time, REMINDER: Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, is the next American Legion Be the One day. On the first day of every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear Be the One gear to show our commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. Start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Be sure to check out the latest Tango Alpha Lima-Be The One podcast featuring Army veteran George Eshleman who set

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out to hike the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail with one purpose: taking his own life. His story inspired the movie "The Keeper" released May 27, 2024.

à <https://www.legion.org/betheone/261619/%E2%80%98keeper%E2%80%99-chronicles-veteran%E2%80%99s-path-recovery>. The mental health struggle is real and can have very dire consequences. It is up to us to help. **Be the One to Make it Personal!** Be the one to ask a veteran how they are doing. Be the one to listen when a veteran needs to talk. Be the one to reach out when a veteran is struggling. It is up to us to have the courage to be the ones to stop veteran suicide. The life you save may be the next great leader of the free world, the veteran next door or your own. Visit [BetheOne.org](https://www.betheone.org) for more information and find out how you can help.

Hope to see you all soon at our Department Convention!

Sandra Davis  
Department Commander



TO **ASK** VETERANS  
IN YOUR LIFE  
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO **LISTEN** WHEN  
A VETERAN  
NEEDS TO TALK

TO **REACH OUT**  
WHEN A VETERAN  
IS STRUGGLING



DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

DUES INCREASE

Starting July 1, 2024

Department per capita - The American Legion - \$35.00

National portion - \$23.50

Department portion - \$11.50

Detachment per capita - Son of American Legion - \$12.00

National portion - \$5.00

Detachment portion - \$7.00

Hello Massachusetts American Legion Family! This year has far exceed my goals that I had placed on myself, as your DSVC and Membership chair, I would like to thank all the districts for pushing membership this year. I would like to thank my DVC for all the work they have done on pushing the districts and to the DECW I would like to thank you for all that you have done for women veterans this year. I know I have been saying it all year but “Do Your Job” and that job is to bring members in to this outstanding organization of veterans and their families. Without the family aspect there would be no legion. I would like to thank District 4 and District 7 for the big push they have done in this part of the year.

As a whole department we are currently sitting in 37 place out of 55 departments with a total of 94.15 % as of the 16th of May.

I would like to thank all of the officers and office staff that have made this year a great year and I hope to see all of you at the department convention in June .

Yours in service

Nelson Izaak Blake

DSVC / Membership Chair



## Department Membership Standings 2024 Membership Year

**District 4: Worcester 98.60%**

**District 7: Suffolk 98.20%**

**District 10: Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket 95.42%**





More than 21,000 American Legion members have selected the multiyear membership option to renew or join since its launch in early December 2023. The multiyear members locked in the current national per-capita rate of \$18.50 for the next three years to beat the \$5 dues increase that goes into effect July 1. You too can beat the dues increase by selecting a three-year membership now. Here's how:

- To renew your membership for 2025, visit [legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew) and select the three-year membership option.

- To join the Legion, visit [legion.org/join](https://legion.org/join) and select the three-year membership option.

The American Legion's national per-capita dues will increase from \$18.50 to \$23.50 starting with the 2025 membership year. The \$5 increase will go into effect July 1, 2024.

"It's exciting to see the number of renewals and new joins who have selected the three-year membership option as this is what our members have been asking for," National Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Matt Jabaut said. "They are saving money, renewal notices in their mailbox and using a great benefit to being a member of The American Legion. I know our multiyear membership numbers will continue to grow before the July 1 dues increase, which I look forward to seeing."

# CONNECTICUT

Proudly Presents



## James A LaCoursiere Jr For National Commander 2024 - 2025

Loyalty ★ Unity ★ Valor

James “Jim” earned his eligibility to The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force during the Grenada/Lebanon conflict. He served his time working in Patient Affairs and was trained to help support the Med Evac at Tactical Air Command, Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta Georgia.

He is a 29-year member of The American Legion and a member of Post 91 in Moosup, Connecticut. A 15-year member of The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91 Moosup, assistant director of The Legion Riders Chapter 91, and the founding “Father” of Connecticut’s American Legion Riders Program.

Jim has served The American Legion at all levels:

Nationally, Jim has served on numerous committees and commissions including Chairman of the Legislative Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission, Foreign Relation Committee and many other committees and commission. He serves as the National Vice Commander 2008-2009

Jim Served as the Commander Department of Connecticut from 2006-2007. He served in many committees including the Director of Legion College, Director of Legion Riders, Children & Youth Committee, Commanders Advisory Committee and Chairman of the Membership, Leadership & Learning Commission.

At the District Level Jim served as Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander.

At the Post Level Jim served as Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander.

Jim is married to his wife Lisa. Jim has two children, Patrick and Meghan and three step children, Jason, Kaylene and Johnathan.

# **“TEAM KANSAS”**

**Proudly Presents**



**DAN K. WILEY**

**For National Commander  
2025-2026**



Dan was born in Lawrence, Kansas. He graduated from Lawrence High School in 1983. He then attended Kansas State University from 1983-85.

Dan entered the US Air Force in 1986 and was stationed and spent his entire enlistment with the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls, MT, where he was twice named Airman Administrator of the Quarter.

Upon discharge returned to college and received his Bachelor’s degree in business from the College of Great Falls in Montana. He attended Law School at the University of Kansas.

He then joined a law firm in Leavenworth, Kansas which would eventually become Murray, Tillotson & Wiley.

Dan was appointed a Municipal Judge in 1997. He was appointed a District Court Judge in 2008. Dan helped establish and presided over the Leavenworth County Veterans Treatment Court.

Dan has served The American Legion at all levels:

Nationally, Dan has served on numerous committees and commissions including the Subcommittee on Resolutions, Citizens Flag Alliance, Magazine Commission, and the Media and Communication Commission. He also served as the National Executive Committeeman.

Dan served on many Department Committees and was the Department Judge Advocate, Vice Commander and Commander.

Dan is married to his wife Sonia, they have two children, Austin and Christy who are members of the American Legion Family.



U.S. Navy veteran Daniel S. Wheeler announced his retirement Wednesday, effective May 9, from his constitutional office. He was the 13th national adjutant of The American Legion, chief administrative officer of the nation's largest organization of U.S. military veterans.

Wheeler's announcement before The American Legion National Executive Committee and American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehaf-fer ends a 45-year career at The American Legion National Headquarters.

Following his 2008 appointment as national adjutant, Wheeler led and oversaw hundreds of breakthroughs for the organization – from massive advances in communications technology to legislative victories that delivered relief, care and disability benefits for millions of veterans exposed to toxic contamination in military service. He guided national staff in the development of programs, services and advocacy to address post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and veteran suicide at the same time he led initiatives to establish a permanent home for The American Legion Baseball World Series and raise awareness of such causes as The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, Operation Comfort Warriors and the Be the One mission to reduce veteran suicide. His leadership over nearly 15 years as national adjutant also ushered in a new Post-9/11 GI Bill and multiple improvements in education benefits for the newest generation of wartime veterans that followed.

A member of American Legion Post 137 in Richmond, Va., Wheeler served as president of the Citizens Flag Alliance between 1994 and 2009, fighting for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from deliberate acts of desecration.

Wheeler's first position at National Headquarters was as an assistant editor at *The American Legion Magazine* in 1979. Following promotions, ultimately to editor and publisher, he was named executive director of the Indianapolis-based National Headquarters in 1995.

Surrounded by American Legion volunteer leaders, national staff and his family, he told the NEC that "It has been the greatest honor of my life to be selected to serve in this capacity for the last 15 years."

Wheeler told those gathered at National Headquarters in Indianapolis about the mentors who have helped him throughout his career. "I sincerely thank all of those for their mentorship and much more so, for their friendship. There have been good times, and there have been not-so-good times, some of them right here in this room. But my long-suffering wife Kathy has been by my side through it all, and I want to thank her for that and ensure her that I love her even more because of it."

He thanked national staff who he described as "best in the business who have faithfully carried out all of your directives.

“it’s been a fantastic journey,” Wheeler added, choking back emotions. “The memories will last a lifetime.”

Following the announcement, the NEC passed two resolutions in honor of the long-serving officer of the organization, one electing him as a Past National Commander of The American Legion, another to name Room 301 – the main third-floor conference room at National Headquarters in Indianapolis – as the Daniel S. Wheeler Conference Room.

Past National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger thanked Wheeler Wednesday “for your dedicated service, loyalty and leadership, that have elevated the bar for all that follow.”

Past National Commander John P. “Jake” Comer of Massachusetts administered the oath of office to Wheeler on his election as a past national commander.

“This is the greatest honor of my life, and I want to thank all of you,” Wheeler said following the unanimous vote to elect him to the office of past national commander.

National Commander Seehafer helped bring the announcement proceedings to a close by congratulating Wheeler for having “joined the national staff 45 years ago, giving you the longest combined tenure on staff of any national adjutant. These honors are well, well deserved.”

“This has been the greatest day of my life, other than the day my wife said, ‘Yeah, I’ll marry you, you rascal,’” Wheeler told the crowd before the NEC adjourned. “I just thank you all very much, from the bottom of my heart.”

## Marine Corps veteran named American Legion National Adjutant



U.S. Marine Corps veteran and longtime American Legion National Headquarters staff member Rodney K. Rolland was appointed American Legion national adjutant on May 9 during the final day of the 2024 Spring Meetings. Rolland’s appointment was approved unanimously by the Legion’s National Executive Committee (NEC) and came one day after [Daniel S. Wheeler announced his retirement](#) following 16 years in the same position.

Rolland both worked in and led National Headquarters’ Human Resources Division for more than 17 years before being named assistant national adjutant on May 1, 2022. As national adjutant, he serves as the chief administrative officer of the nation’s largest veterans service organization.

“I am honored, humbled and inspired to assume this important responsibility for the nation’s largest and most influential organization of U.S. military veterans,” Rolland said. “As a new generation joins and becomes more involved in The American Legion’s programs, services and advocacy,



I look forward to expanding our reach and evolving in the years ahead, guided by time-honored values.”

A member of American Legion Post 333 in Columbus, Ga., Rolland’s previous responsibilities as assistant national adjutant included leadership in the areas of staffing, policy, strategic planning, national resolution fulfillment, technology, budget, communications, event management and others. He has also worked closely with American Legion national commanders and other constitutional officers of the organization, as well as commission leadership, staff executive directors and division directors. He continued to simultaneously serve as Human Resources director at National Headquarters, a position he held from 2013 to 2024.

“I thank National Commander Daniel Seehafer and the National Executive Committee for trusting in my leadership. And I thank Daniel S. Wheeler for mentoring me over the years,” Rolland said. “Foremost, The American Legion is much more than National Headquarters. We operate with a shared sense of purpose through ‘individual obligation to community, state and nation,’ as the Preamble to our Constitution states.

“This is one big team, from every Legionnaire in every local post to the top officers and staff fighting every day for veterans and their interests in Washington. It is an honor and a privilege to help lead our talented, dedicated staff in the important work we do every day.”

Rolland earned a master’s of business administration degree in 2007 from Indiana Wesleyan University, where in 2005 he also received a bachelor’s degree in business. His wife, Sandy, served more than 20 years before retiring from the U.S. Army.

“As you leave here today, what I want you to take with you is that I am committed to making you feel proud about your decision today,” Rolland told the NEC. “I am committed to putting my best foot forward each and every day.”

Prior to Rolland’s appointment, Seehafer delivered closing remarks to the NEC, urging its members to continue advocacy through the Legion’s [Grassroots Action Center](#) and promoting its [Be the One](#) suicide prevention program.

“Let America know that we mean business when it comes to changing lives and saving lives, especially with our veterans and their families,” Seehafer said. “This is our mission: Being the one as we continue to change lives and save lives.”



*The American Legion  
Department of Massachusetts*

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Greetings Legionnaires,

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts has our foot to the floor as far as Department events are concerned. The Department Convention begins with our Pre Convention Get Together on June 6<sup>th</sup> with the Department Convention kicking off on June 7<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see all of you there at the Best Western Royal Plaza and Hotel in Marlborough. We are shaking things up a little this year. There will be a focus on training with an intense 2 hour session on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 2 PM. We will have a book signing and Emblem Sales will be at this year's Department Convention. Check out our new Department of Massachusetts store. I would appreciate any and all feedback regarding the Department Convention.

The Department of Massachusetts pivots from the convention to Boys & Girls State at Stonehill College, June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>. I encourage all to attend the American Legion Night on Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> and watch students' campaigns for various Boys & Girls State political offices. If politics is not in your wheelhouse we do have 51<sup>st</sup> Scouting Camporee on June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup> at Camp Collier in Gardner. Come see the Scouts display their Scouting skills during the Camporee. American Legion Baseball and the inaugural season of Lady's Fast Pitch will lead off once the high school teams conclude their seasons. The Senior Baseball Tournament will be held at Fitton Field at The College of the Holy Cross on July 27<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Junior Baseball Tournament takes place at the Middleboro High School Varsity Field starting August 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>. If politics, baseball, or scouting is not your cup of tea maybe Youth Law Cadet/Student Trooper program fits the bill. The Youth Law Cadet/Student Trooper begins on July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> at Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree, MA. Watch young cadets learn from the State Police Cadre as the cadets learn to become resilient, and confident young adults. It is truly inspiring to see.

Finally, the summer comes to end with our National Convention in New Orleans, LA from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup>. As the saying goes it's a dry heat. Come join the Massachusetts delegation in New Orleans, see the sites with an event at the WWII Museum, Color Guard Competition, National Commander's Banquet, and the General Session are among some of the things to do at our 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention. The American Legion Department of Massachusetts continues to lead the way in successful youth programs and as our motto states, "Where It All Began-Massachusetts".

***"Veterans Strengthening America"***

Yours in Comradeship

*Lisa A. McPhee*

Lisa A. McPhee  
Department Adjutant

***Our Mission: Inspiring America by strengthening and supporting our military, veterans and their families***

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS INC.  
RM 546 - 2 STATE HOUSE  
BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS

**OFFICIAL CALL TO THE CONVENTION**

In conformity with Article XI, Section 1a of the Constitution and By Laws, the Department Executive Committee voted to hold the 105<sup>th</sup> Convention of The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts Inc. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8-9, 2024 at Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA. Where all business sessions will be held. Convention will be called to order at 9:00 AM on Friday, June 7, 2024.

**PURPOSE**

- To elect Department Officers for the ensuing year.
- To amend the Department Constitution.
- To elect delegates and alternate delegates to the (One Hundred and Fifth) 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The American Legion to be held in New Orleans, LA Aug 23-29, 2024
- To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitutions of The American Legion.

**REPRESENTATION**

The convention shall be composed of delegates from all Posts. Each Post shall be entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major faction thereof. Each Post shall be entitled to alternate delegates in a number not to exceed the number of authorized delegates.

Upon payment of registration fee to the Department of five dollars (\$5.00) for each qualified delegate authorized herein and in Article XI, Section 3, credentials shall be issued by the Department to each such delegate. All registration fees must be turned over to the Convention Committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. If not paid **10 days prior (May 27, 2024)** to the opening of Convention (**on June 7, 2024**), Article XI, Section 2, #1, fees will be doubled and the Department will invoice said Post for delegate fees.

**ALL Posts are required pay the delegation fee whether or not the Post is attending Department Convention.**

For the purpose hereof, members are those, whose dues are paid at Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to any convention.

The delegates and alternate delegates to a Department Convention shall be elected by each post from membership of said Post, by a plurality vote of those present at meeting called for that purpose, unless otherwise provided by the by-laws of the Post Article XI, Section 2b.

**Paid up membership shall be determined as of May 7, 2024; Article XI Section 3d. (formula chart is on the enclosed sheet). This is also explained under Article XI, Section 2c.**

All elected Department Officers shall be additional delegates to the Convention, their votes to be credited to the Posts of Which they respective members. The District Alternates shall be, by virtue of their office, Alternate Delegates of the Convention. In the absence of the District Delegate, the District Alternate Delegate shall be the representative of the District Delegate in all matters that vote to be credited to the Post in which the District Alternate Delegate is a member. (Article XI, Section 2.)

All Posts which have been extended official recognition prior to **May 27, 2024** and which are in good standing are entitled to representation.

All Past Department Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall have the privilege of the floor at all conventions as Delegates with vote (except those with vote because present members of the Department Executive Committee). Their vote to be credited to the Post in which said Past Commander is a member.

## DELEGATES

Only Paid-up members of the Post are entitled to act as Delegates and Alternates. A member shall be a paid-up member when twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) in payment of National and Department per capita tax for the current year has been received at Department Headquarters.

## CREDENTIALS

The Committee on Credentials shall be appointed in advance of the Convention by the Department Commander.

Upon Payment of registration fee to the Department of five dollars (\$5.00) for each qualified delegate authorized herein, credentials shall be issued by the Department to each such delegate. All registration fees must be turned over to the Convention Committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. If not paid at the time of registration (**by May 27, 2024**), **fees will be doubled, and the Department will invoice said Post for delegate fees.**

**ALL CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AT THE DELEGATES RESPECTIVE DISTRICT REGISTRATION DESK.** The Committee on Credentials shall consist of four (4) delegates from each District to be nominated by the District Executive Committeeman and appointed by the Department Commander. This committee shall sit at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA.

Thursday	June 6		3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Friday	June 7	8:30 AM to Recess of Convention	
Saturday	June 8	10:00 AM to Recess of Convention	5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Individual delegates will report to the Committee on Credentials.

Authenticated credentials will act as a pass to Convention Assembly. The Credentials Committee will examine all credentials received by it and will at the proper time announce to Convention the total number of delegates to be seated and the total number of delegates registered. All contests concerning the seating of delegates will be referred to the Credentials Committee and be decided by it, subject to the approval of the Convention.

## COMMITTEES

The Committee on Resolutions, Constitutional Amendments and Elections and such other committees as may be determined to be necessary by the Convention to facilitate business shall be composed of those appointed by the Department Commander on the recommendation of the District Executive Committeeman, each District to recommend two to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, two to the Election Committee and two to the Committee on Resolutions.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions must be submitted and received by the Department Adjutant, in proper form, **prior to 4:00 PM, Sunday, April 27, 2024** (40 days prior to convention). Resolution must be endorsed either by an individual Legionnaire, a Post, a District, the Department Executive Committee or The Department Commander. Only resolutions that are germane to the principles and policies for which The American Legion is organized will be considered by the Standing Resolutions Committee, provided it is in conformity with the Department Constitution and By Laws.

## DISTRICTS

In conformity with the Department Constitution, for purpose of business of the Department, Massachusetts will be divided in to ten (10) Districts. (Article IX, Section 1.)

## RULES

The Rules of the Convention shall be determined by the body. For the convenience of the Convention, the Following rules are recommended:

1. The author of any motion or resolution shall be allowed five minutes for presentation and each subsequent speaker shall be allowed not more than three minutes, and in addition to said presentation not more than three speeches will be permitted on either side of the motion or resolution.
2. No Delegate shall be allowed to speak more than once on any subject unless by unanimous consent of the Convention.
3. The Australian ballot system shall be used as is provided by the Constitution in the election of Department Officers and Delegates-at-Large to National Convention. (The term Australian ballot should be construed to include the use of voting machines, Article XI Section 8.) On the other subjects, a vote may be taken by voice vote or standing vote, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

## NOMINATIONS

4. Nominations of candidates for Department Office will take place on Friday, June 7, 2024 (approx. time) 12:30 PM, unless otherwise designated by the Convention.

## NOMINATING SPEECHES

5. Nominating speeches for the Office of Department Commander shall be limited to three minutes and seconding speeches to two minutes, unless otherwise designated by the Convention.

All candidates for other Department Offices and Delegates-At-Large and Alternate Delegates-At-Large to the National Convention shall be nominated in the regular manner.

## ELECTIONS

The election of Department Officers will be held on Saturday June 8, 2024 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough MA. The polls will open promptly at 5:00 PM and close at 6:30 PM Alternates will be permitted to vote in the absence of delegates at 6:00 PM.

**HADICAPPED DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

- 6. Handicapped delegates and alternates, so desiring, will be allowed to go to the head of the line during appropriate voting hours, thereby allowing them to cast their votes with a minimum of waiting time (Resolution 1971 Department Convention).

**FIREWORKS**

- 7. The use of fireworks is prohibited (Resolution 1966 Department Convention)

**OTHER**

- 8. All subject matter not covered by these rules shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order Revised.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution may be revised, altered, amended or repealed at any convention of the Department by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Proposed amendments to the Constitution **MUST** be submitted in proper form, and received by the Department Adjutant prior to April 27, 2024, forty (40) days before the Convention. All proposed Constitutional changes will be mailed to all Posts and Department Executive Committee.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

BUSINESS SESSIONS

BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL

ELECTIONS

BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL

Miscellaneous instructions covering matter involving time and place changes and other subject matter arising between the issue of the call and the closing of convention will be issued from time to time. **NOTICE:** All details contained in this Call to Convention are subject to change and/or modification by Convention delegates assembled.

Attest:

Lisa McPhee



Department Adjutant

Sandra Davis



Department Commander

Here are 10 things to know about The American Legion's Boys State program:

1. The first Boys State program was founded in 1935 in Illinois by Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, in an effort to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps.
2. There are Boys State programs in every state except Hawaii. There are, however, 50 Boys State programs, with a program held each July in the District of Columbia.
3. At Boys State, participants learn government from the township to state level. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.
4. While Boys State programs reflect the two-party system, they don't use "Democrat" and "Republican" designations — many programs divide parties into "Federalists" and "Nationalists." And it's up to the participants to decide their party platforms.
5. While the recommended guidelines for Boys State programs suggest that only males who have completed their junior year of high school and have at least one semester of high school remaining should be considered for the program, that doesn't have to be the case. In a memo to American Legion departments, Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson noted that Public Law 112-66, passed in 2011, amended the Legion's federal charter so that "American Legion departments possess the authority to establish their own criteria for Boys State program eligibility, selection, participation and operation and should proceed with their respective programs accordingly."
6. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to represent their respective states at American Legion Boys Nation in the Washington, D.C., area each July. The 2021 edition of Boys Nation will be the 75th, after the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of Boys Nation in 2020.
7. There is no cost to attend Boys State, as expenses are covered by sponsoring American Legion posts, local businesses or other community organizations.
8. With few exceptions, the staff at every Boys State program are unpaid volunteers, giving a week (or more) of their summer to help educate and support Boys Staters.
9. Prominent Boys State alumni include President Bill Clinton; Vice President Dick Cheney; Senators Richard Lugar and Joe Lieberman; basketball legend Michael Jordan; and many more.
10. There is also a Girls State program, sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary. All 50 states sponsor Girls State programs, and just like their male counterparts, two girls from each program are selected to represent their respective states as senators at American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation each July.

If you do not already sponsor someone to Boys/Girls State, consider doing so today

Drew Pajak, Children and Youth Chairman

Greetings American Legion Family. I hope this edition finds you all in good health and good spirits as winter is behind us and spring is in full bloom.

I am happy to report that our department has received its yearly royalty check from National Emblem Sales and that it was over \$3,200. As you may be aware each department receives a royalty check each year based on purchases from Emblem Sales shipped to that department. Thank you all who purchased in 2023 for making this possible.

As the book closes on another American Legion year with department convention just days away please remember that our final marketing fundraiser will be the convention sweepstakes drawn the last day of convention. Please if you have not already done so consider remitting your tickets to the department office with a donation as not only can you win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 but your donation supports our department programs.

In closing as always please bring any marketing ideas you may have to the committee for consideration. If it is within our budget and capabilities the committee will certainly consider it.

I hope to see many of you at department convention soon and would like to wish all of you a safe, pleasant and healthy summer.

Mike Davis PNEC  
Marketing Chairman



**AMERICAN LEGION MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE**

## The Boys State Store is Open!



[store.maboysstate.org](https://store.maboysstate.org)

Use Code **PICKUP24** before June 1st  
for free pick up during Boys State 2024.

Starting June 1st, all orders will be shipped directly to the shipping address.



The 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee was re-established during the 2017 Fall Meetings by the National Executive Committee to review the original 21st Century Report approved by the NEC during the 1997 Fall Meetings. The re-establishment of the committee was to update the report's recommendations for current and future needs to ensure The American Legion continues to serve community, state and nation.

The report focuses on three areas: Legacy and Vision; Membership and Member Engagement; and Training. And it is to be implemented at all levels of the organization. [Download the report here.](#)

The following information on training came from the report as stated by the committee members:

"Training must be recognized as an important element to the success of The American Legion. It is essential to have a direct focus on training at all levels to continually improve the effectiveness of the organization, as well as ensuring that all members are good stewards of our legacy and vision. The ultimate goal is to engage, educate and empower American Legion Family members. It is our duty to provide a conduit for American Legion Family members to obtain the institutional knowledge that they need to grow within the respective Legion Family organizations and to engage and promote Legion programs.

"We have concluded that if we do not train and mentor future generations of Legion Family members, then there will be no Legion Family. It is an investment in our future that we must make – we can't afford not to.

"To this end, the committee makes the following recommendations."

### **Departments must take ownership of training and mentoring. Every department should have:**

1. An active training committee
2. A mentoring program.
3. A Legion College that consists of the following subjects (at a minimum): leadership, how to conduct a meeting properly, resolution writing, train-the-trainer
4. A training cadre.
5. District commander training

### **Districts are responsible for getting the right training out to the posts. Districts should:**

1. Include training in all district events.
2. Have an active training cadre.
3. Bring training to the post level.
4. Provide post officers training.

### **Posts need to actively support training opportunities for their Legion Family. Posts should:**

1. Have all members take the American Legion Basic Training course.
2. Send post leadership to district and department training events.
3. Bring back what is learned to the post level and implement it.

### **Legion Family members should progress along four levels of training.**

1. Basic: knowledge of the organization, introduction to programs
2. Advanced: Informative (post and district officers) on operations of a post, resolution writing, who we are/what we do, mentorship, trainer at basic level.
3. Senior: Implementation (district and department officers); fluency in The American Legion, trainer through advanced level, district/department training leaders, community engagement training, mentorship/mentor to empower lower levels.
4. Professional: Execution - trainer/train-the-trainer for all levels, mentorship/mentors-empower all levels, legislative, public relations.

### **All levels of The American Legion must be committed to mentoring:**

1. Every level of the organization should be responsible to nurture and mentor the future leaders of the organization.
2. All districts/departments/post should have a mentorship program.
3. Trial by fire does not work. Legion Family members should be nurtured and coached.
4. Continuous leadership focus on training year after year at all levels:
5. Develop evaluation program.
6. Ensure training initiatives are funded.
7. Accountability.
8. Recognize if we do not invest in our future – Who will?

### **Pathway to the future:**

1. Establish training committee with the intent to develop train-the-trainer instruction and instructional material—this needs to be a priority resourcing item at all levels.
2. Promote post development training at district events.
3. Establish department Legion colleges that meet minimum criteria.
4. Create and maintain multiple paths to deliver training at all levels.





The 2023-2024 American Legion Annual Report is now available at [legion.org/annualreport](https://legion.org/annualreport) and [legion.org/publications](https://legion.org/publications). As it has done since 2011, the report covers the organization's programs and priorities in a format designed for public view.

The newest edition has been redesigned to better align with the state of media consumption and social sharing today. The photos are larger; there is more emphasis on metrics and less on text; and QR codes are embedded on

some pages, so visitors can use their mobile phones to access more information on [legion.org](https://legion.org). The full financial report of The American Legion is now also accessible via a QR code published in the document.

The American Legion Family is encouraged to share the report as widely as possible. View the new Annual Report in flip-book format [here](#).

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

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

### Contact your congressional representatives

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



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Greetings!

It's that time again; we will be ramping up our efforts to raise some money using our 100 Mile Walk fundraiser. As many of you may be aware the national organization ended the One Hundred Miles for Hope initiative. However, I see no better way to raise awareness of The American Legion's BE THE ONE campaign than to continue our ONE hundred mile walk. This year we will be leaving North Adams Friday Night August 2<sup>nd</sup> and arriving at American Legion Post 306 in Paxton, MA Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>. This massive undertaking requires 40 hours of active participation and months of planning. Last time we had an RV (gas & rental fee), snacks & meals, drinks, shirts and raffle prizes that were needed to be paid for. It cost us nearly \$2,000 to hold this event and we were able to raise \$5,000 in total. Our dedicated team lived a barebones lifestyle that weekend to keep our spending at a minimum and averaged 15 miles per walker.

Please consider donating this year by filling out the donation form as all monies raised will be going towards Department Commander Sandra Davis' American Legion charity of the year, the Child Welfare Foundation.

All donations should be made out to American Legion Post 125 (Memo: 100 Mile Walk) and can be sent to:

ATTN: 100 Mile Walk Committee  
American Legion Post 125  
PO BOX 667  
North Adams, MA 01247



Yours in Comradeship,  
Mitchell Keil  
100 Mile Walk Committee Chair

!

Child  
e n t u r y  
Welfare  
a l k  
F oundation  
u n d r a i s e r

# Donation Form:

Please mark the area next to the donation you would like to make and add the corresponding names to the bottom

You can also RSVP for the 100 Mile Walk Reception at the Paxton post below

Donation must be in by June 30<sup>th</sup> to be on Banner/Shirts

I would like to contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 per person and have my/our names added to the shirts the team will be wearing

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 and have my name or organization on the banner attached to vehicle that will be with the walkers

Names:

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\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will be in attendance at American Legion Post 306 in Paxton, MA for the reception

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This year's expected route follows Route 8 South through the Berkshires, crosses Skyline Trail to link with Route 20 East, various back roads to meet with Route 67, more back roads to Route 31, then a left turn on 122/Pleasant St to the final post.

#### Rest Locations:

American Legion Post 155 Dalton, MA

American Legion Post 124 Westfield, MA

American Legion Post 207 West Springfield, MA

American Legion Post 244 West Brookfield, MA

#### RECEPTION:

American Legion Post 306 Paxton, MA  
(885 Pleasant St. Paxton, MA)





STARTS  
AT NOON

**WOMEN VETERANS  
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15 2024  
FREE EVENT | REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT  
THE BILLERICA TOWN HALL - AUDITORIUM  
AT 365 BOSTON RD, BILLERICA, MA 01821**

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS LUNCHEON VISIT  
[www.BillericaVeteransServices.com](http://www.BillericaVeteransServices.com)  
or call 978 - 671 - 0968**

Hosted by Massachusetts Women Veterans Network, VA Bedford Healthcare System,  
Lowell Vet Center & Billerica Veterans Services

# Western Mass Woman Veteran Event Series

MONTHLY EVENTS FOR FEMALE VETERANS ONLY

ARE YOU A FEMALE VETERAN OR ACTIVE DUTY?  
THEN WE INVITE YOU TO COME TO ONE OR ALL!

*Join us on the last Monday of every month*

EACH NIGHT WILL BE BROKEN DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

- ★ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | GROUP ACTIVITY
- ★ 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM | SPEAKER/RESOURCES
- ★ 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM | TEA TIME

## *Tentative List of Events*

- Feb 27 - Paint and Sip
- March 26 - Game Night
- April 30 - Yoga
- May 28 - Corn Hole
- June 25- Zumba
- July 30 - Paint/Craft and sip
- August 27- Corn Hole
- September 24- Yoga
- October 29- Game Night
- November 26 - Holiday Sign/Board Paintings
- December 17 - XMas Party

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

74 PLEASANT ST, GRANBY MA 01033    <https://WMVSOA.org/events>







*Women Veterans*

# RECOGNITION DAY

WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

11:00am to 1:30pm

Quincy Marriott

DEBORAH SAMPSON AWARD CEREMONY

Thursday, June 13, 2024

11:00am to 12:30pm

State House

TO REGISTER:

Women Veterans  
Recognition Luncheon

Deborah Sampson  
Award Ceremony





This past Sunday, May 19, the very first American Legion Softball team in Massachusetts, Cherry Valley Post 443, played its first two games. Both were scrimmage games against two travel teams at Lemansky Park in Auburn, MA.

In the first game, Cherry Valley Post 443 defeated the Shrewsbury Vortex 3 – 1. The second game, a slug fest, against the Webster Wrath, was called due to darkness with the game tied 10 – 10.

There are three other teams that are organizing and have sponsors, Framingham Post 117, Chester-Tuttle Post 279 in Auburn, and Franklin Post 75. There are two more that are organizing and will need sponsorships.

Give the girls from your communities a great opportunity and help launch American Legion Softball here in Massachusetts. The cost of fielding a softball team is at least half that of a baseball team. These girls and their coaches are very motivated and will gladly help with any fundraising. For more information and if your Post is interested please contact Sue Sears at 774-922-2843.





## DOD expansion of Exchange Benefits

My name is Chris Provan, and I am the Veteran Outreach Manager with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). I would like to request your assistance with distributing some important information to the veterans within the American Legion Northeast Region regarding their benefits and access to quality-of-life programs. Are there any newsletters or publications that we could place an advertisement in, perhaps you have upcoming events that we could support with sponsorship?

We are excited to share the expansion of benefits available to our nation's heroes and their families, thanks to changes made to DOD policy. Please see below for a summary.

The Department of Defense is proud to expand on-installation Exchange, commissary and morale, welfare, and recreation program retail eligibility to:

- All Veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Purple Heart recipients
- Former prisoners of war

Individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans enrolled under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Additionally, the Exchange's Veterans Online Shopping Benefit allows all honorably discharged Veterans to shop tax free for life.

To learn more about both programs, please go to [www.shopmyexchange.com/vets](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/vets) or scan the QR code below.



[ShopMyExchange.com/vets](http://ShopMyExchange.com/vets)

Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding this expanded benefit.

Vr

**Chris Provan**

Strategic Marketing - VSO/MSO Outreach Manager

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

Work (214) 312-4965

Cell (469) 439-3761

Email: [provancm@aafes.com](mailto:provancm@aafes.com)

Email: [veteraneeengagement@aafes.com](mailto:veteraneeengagement@aafes.com)

In early May I attended the Legion National Spring Meetings which are held in Indianapolis IN. In addition to the National Executive Meeting, I also attended the Media & Communications Commission Meeting.

There was a lot of good information that came out of the Media & Communications group. This included the following:

**National magazine.** There is no intention of going digital only. With postage increases, there is continual review of revenue and costs.

**Website.** Looking to improve, expect changes to be implemented this coming September. More print material will be digitized. The SAL platform will be strengthened. In August there will be information on the American Legion Baseball Centennial.

**Be The One.** A physical tool kit has been produced and will be distributed to all Legion Departments.

A digital tool kit is available at [www.legion.org/betheone/resources](http://www.legion.org/betheone/resources). A post card with these resources will be mailed to every post. “How to” videos are being produced. Training continues in person and online, including a symposium to be held at the National Convention in New Orleans LA. Members are encouraged to share on [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org).

**Membership video.** Link is [vimeo.com/910849192](https://vimeo.com/910849192). Well worth watching.

**Other resources.** This includes the Tango Alpha Lima podcasts; Instagram; Facebook; LinkedIn; YouTube; Regiment Gaming and Twitter (now X). There is a Netflix special with Jerry Seinfeld titled “Unfrosted” which is a collaboration with Ganassi Racing and The American Legion.

In summary, there are a lot of resources available to all.

Let’s not forget that our Department Convention is in Marlborough, June 7 – 10. It is not just about the election of officers for 2024 – 2025. There will be Committee Reports; Voting on any Resolutions; as well as Awards and Training. The 2025 Legion membership cards will also be available. Hope to see many of you there!

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

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



# Freedom Fish LYNN

4th Annual

[www.facebook.com/freedomfishlynn](http://www.facebook.com/freedomfishlynn)

Join us for a free day of salt water fishing or if you do not want to fish, take an ocean cruise along the coastline to Boston and back!

**July 20, 2024**

rain date July 21

- A cook-out lunch will be provided
- Spots are limited, please sign-up by **June 1st**

For more information please call or email:  
(781) 581-9399 ~ [jdelacruz@ediclynn.org](mailto:jdelacruz@ediclynn.org)



Thank You  
  
VETERANS



Sons of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Committee Chairman Mark Nave speaks during the spring 2024 National Executive Committee meetings.

At the 2022 SAL Spring Meetings, SAL Child Welfare Foundation Committee chairman Mark Nave [praised the SAL](#) for reaching \$9 million in donations to CWF and set the next goal.

“We’re ‘fine at nine,’ but now it’s time to reach ‘the perfect 10,’” he said.

Mission accomplished. The SAL this month reached \$10 million in donations to CWF since 1988, continuing as the program’s largest donor.

SAL National Commander Don “JR” Hall broke the news with a post on his personal Facebook page: “How about them Sons!!!”

“We had a goal to raise \$407,000 this year to reach the \$10 million mark for the years of work,” Hall wrote. “Congrats to all of our membership that has had fundraisers, bought CWF merchandise and worked hard to get to and exceed the goal.”

Hall added, “Thanks to every blue cap member that made donations over the years.”



The 56th Annual Detachment Convention will be held in Marlborough on Friday, June 8, 2024, through Saturday, June 9, 2024. Detachment Commander Jim Blake extends his greetings to all the members of the Detachment of Massachusetts and is looking forward to meeting all the attendees this year. The Call to the Detachment Convention is available [HERE](#)

## FROM THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT

There is a lot of information that is attached to this mailing. Please read all the information carefully and present this at your next Squadron meeting. There are specific cut off dates concerning some of the reporting procedures that must be abided by.

There are still rooms available at the Best Western Royal Plaza. You must use the link for reservations: [Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Ctr. | Hotel Rooms](#) with the code American Legion.

The link for the annual Squadron Consolidated Report Forms is available [HERE](#) and an electronic file has been previously sent to everyone on the Detachment E-Mail List. Our goal is to have a report from every Squadron this year. We all know that every Squadron has helped a veteran in your local community and the children in your area. These reports are extremely important to let everyone aware of all the great programs we are involved with. Please just take a few minutes to fill them out and send to the Detachment Adjutant.

We are all working very hard to make the Annual Detachment Convention an informative and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

All the above information will be available on the Detachment Web Site in the 2024 Convention page, available [HERE](#). We look forward to seeing many of you at the Detachment Convention in June.

Yours in Comradeship,

William Murphy

Detachment Adjutant

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## Around the Department— North Adams Post 125



On May 11, 2024, a combine effort was made by the American Legion Post 125 Riders and Honor Guard. They gathered at the Old East Hoosac First Congregational burial grounds, a lost cemetery in North Adams. This team of dedicated individuals gathered on this day to clean up the forgotten cemetery. Several fallen trees were removed from the area along with years of growth of leaves and debris by the Legion Riders.

The North Adams American Legion Community Honor Guard conducted Military honors for all the veterans that may be laid to rest in this cemetery. It has been confirmed that Captain Reuben Hinman is buried here, a veteran of the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.

The team that gathered today made an oath, that this cemetery and those laid to rest here would never be forgotten again!!!









# Around the Department— National Cemetery Bourne, MA





# Around the Department— National Cemetery Bourne, MA





## Around the Department— Haverhill Post 4



Under the direction of NCOIC Paul Blinn the US Flag is attached by Toby Lynch (Post 4 Sr Vice) and raised by Artie Gauthier (Post 4 Jr Vice) with the assistance of members of the Post 4 family and other members of the schools scouting program.

In celebration of Children and Youth month Post 4 planned to conduct a US Flag raising and Reveille ceremony for a local school on April 5<sup>th</sup>, unfortunately, Mother Nature dropped 4.5” of snow on the area the day before. The Post and the school were able to bring together the resources to rescheduled the date. As April was the designated month for Children & Youth, we assembled at the Post 4 family at the Haverhill Hill View Montessori Charter Public School on April 26<sup>th</sup> to conduct this ceremony and present the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that assembled around the flagpole a new US Flag as a well as distributing over 100 each of the American Legion Patriotic rulers, Our Country’s Flag and Our

Country’s Veterans Comic books, each child received a copy of each item. Many months ago, Facilities Director Dennis Solano and the Dean of Students Ginger Whitson contacted the Post about the possibility of disposing of their old tattered flag and replacing it. Chris Manning, Post 4 Commander assembled his team and a nice hour-long ceremony was developed. The newly elected Mayor of Haverhill was invited and graciously, Mayor Melinda Barrett attended and participated, by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The event began with Chapter 4 American Legion Riders riding their motorcycles onto the school grounds with Sons of The American Legion Squadron 4 Commander Joe White and District 8 Vice Commander Fred Simmons transporting the new US Flag. Post 4 Commander Chris Manning was the MC for this event.



Scouting members from the Hill View Montessori school carry the US Flag from American Legion Riders Joe White and Fred Simmons to the NCOIC of the detail, Paul Blinn.



## Around the Department— Haverhill Post 4 (Continued)

Upon arrival of the Riders, they were met by some of the schools Boy & Girl Scouting members who received the flag from the Riders and carried it over to the NCOIC of the reveille detail. As Andre Breton (ALR Chapter 4) played reveille on the bugle, NCOIC of the flag raising detachment, Paul Blinn directed the flag to be attached and raised. The school was very grateful for our presence and the conduct of this solemn ceremony, with Dean Ginger Whitson writing: *“What a beautiful day we had for the wonderful event you brought to Hill View Montessori school! We are so grateful for the gift of the beautiful new American Flag to display at the front of our school and a meaningful Reveille ceremony that I know our students will remember for years to come”.*



(L to R - front) Dean Ginger Whitson, Director Dennis Solano, Executive Director Phil Arnold of the Hill View School, District 8 SAL Vice Commander Fred Simmons, Haverhill Mayor Melinda Barrett, Post 4 Commander Chris Manning, Sr Vice Commander Toby Lynch, Past Commander Paul Blinn and SAL SQD 4 & ALR Chapter 4 bugler Andre Breton standing in front of other Post 4 Family members.



Haverhill Jr ROTC placed 2nd Nationally in Raiders Competition



## Around the Department— District Seven



Memorial Day District 7 at Mount Hope Cemetery

## Around the Department— 26th Yankee Division Post 230, Bourne



- 6/6/2024            2:00 PM    Membership DEC to Follow    Best Western Marlboro, MA**
- 6/6/2024            6:00 PM    Department Get Together    Best Western Marlboro, MA**
- 6/7-6/10/2024                    Department Convention    Best Western Marlboro, MA**
- 6/15-6/20                    Boys State                    Stonehill College**
- 8/23-8/29                    National Convention            New Orleans, LA**


**2024 Membership Standing** *as of May 30, 2024*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1236	1179	95.39%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1275	1215	95.29%
3	HAMPDEN	2438	2149	88.15%
4	WORCESTER	4422	4360	98.60%
5	MIDDLESEX	3807	3548	93.20%
6	NORFOLK	2422	2271	93.77%
7	SUFFOLK	1112	1092	98.20%
8	ESSEX	2531	2400	94.82%
9	BRISTOL	2736	2479	90.61%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3709	3539	95.42%
297	CAPITOL HILL	392	403	102.81%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1000	978	97.80%
	National Quota	27,080	25,613	94.58%



It's hard to believe a year has gone by already. All year units and post have been spreading the "Be the One" mission. From training, to bringing awareness, to listening. That's how a family does it! Together! I would like to thank each and everyone of you for making my year wonderful. See you in June at convention.

Monique



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	204	186	91.2%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	260	264	101.5%
3	HAMPDEN	347	382	110.1%
4	WORCESTER	1039	979	94.2%
5	MIDDLESEX	906	923	101.9%
6	NORFOLK	377	304	80.6%
7	SUFFOLK	110	101	91.8%
8	ESSEX	607	594	97.9%
9	BRISTOL	279	248	88.9%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	802	746	93.0%
462	HEADQUARTERS	583	109	18.7%
	National Quota	5,514	4,836	87.7%

# New video aims to help SAL membership grow



Sons of The American Legion member Matt Chastain is the voice of a new video which details the history of the SAL and highlights what SAL and the Legion Family do.

Chastain previously shared the story of how he joined the SAL and, along with former Detachment of Georgia commander George Gray, encouraged those eligible to join to do so.

The new video, available to download here, elaborates on the SAL’s history and what the SAL, American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Riders do to support the Legion itself.

The video also serves as a tool to help grow membership in the SAL and the Legion Family.

“As you talk to a potential member, it’s encouraged to provide information on the other aspects of the American Legion Family,” Chastain said. “It may make your membership efforts more successful.”

## 2024 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of May 30, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	206	223	108.25%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	234	233	99.57%
3	HAMPDEN	392	471	120.15%
4	WORCESTER	948	941	99.26%
5	MIDDLESEX	1224	1169	95.51%
6	NORFOLK	941	735	78.11%
7	SUFFOLK	167	185	110.78%
8	ESSEX	394	418	106.09%
9	BRISTOL	237	270	113.92%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	689	751	109.00%
	National Goal	5432	5396	99.34%



Post 98

Saturday morning



Coffee break



Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members

American Legion Hall

32 Beach st

**8:00—10:30**

**Come on down**

Rockport, MA



## Supporting

Our Homeless Veteran's and  
Marvin's Program to Help  
Veterans



# REVOLUTIONARY RIDE OR DRIVE

## WHO DONE IT

**COST PER PERSON \$15 (Under 12 free)**

**July 28, 2024**

**Starting at: Merrill L. Simons American Legion Post 130  
1010 Thorndyke Street, Palmer**

**Groups may register and start from 9:30 am to 11:00 am  
(no registrations after 11:00)**

**Ending at: Dalton-Lavelle Post 224  
190 Pleasant St. Easthampton, MA**

**Groups need to be back to post by 1 pm**

**Lunch to follow at 1pm – Lunch only \$15**

**Raffles to support  
Our Homeless Vet-  
eran's and  
Marvin's Program  
to Help Veteran's**



### Sponsored by:

American Legion Family Post  
130

American Legion Family Post  
224



Proceeds to Benefit



Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM

Whitman American Legion  
33 Legion Parkway, Whitman, MA 02382  
781-447-5253

\$10 per entry  
Two Person Teams  
Teams Will Be Drafted Randomly  
Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Side Raffles



# Freedom Ride

Dalton American Legion  
258 North Street  
Dalton, MA



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**

Registration 9 -10:30am

KSU 11am

---

**Breakfast by the Auxillary**

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**POST RIDE ACTIVITIES**

**Food - Drink - Raffle**

**Live music by the HOT SHOT HILLBILLIES**

**Vendors ~ Public Welcome**

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## Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



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