



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

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Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

The American Legion, a venerable institution founded in 1919, serves as a critical support system for veterans and their families. Its mission is multifaceted, encompassing advocacy for veterans' rights, community service, youth programs, and a dedication to national security. While the Legion has made great strides over the past century, change is essential for any organization to remain relevant and effective in addressing new challenges. Individual members, whether new recruits or long-standing participants, can play a vital role in shaping the future of the

American Legion.

Here's how one person can help effect change within the organization.

1. Engage Actively in Local Posts

Every American Legion post serves as a community hub where members come together to discuss and implement initiatives. Joining a local post isn't just about attending meetings; it's about becoming an active contributor. One person can push for the adoption of innovative ideas by leading committees, participating in discussions, and proposing new programs.

For example, if your post lacks diversity in programming, you might introduce new events that target younger veterans, women, or those from different ethnic backgrounds. Hosting outreach programs or digital events could help engage younger veterans who often find traditional Legion activities less appealing.

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2. Champion Modernization Efforts

Many veterans' organizations, including the American Legion, face the challenge of staying current in a rapidly changing world. Younger generations of veterans expect modern, streamlined processes and digital platforms. If you have a background in technology or digital communications, you can advocate for better online services, including upgrading websites, social media engagement, and implementing virtual membership options.

You could also introduce ideas for improving the way the Legion communicates with its members. Suggesting the use of mobile apps for event notifications, digital newsletters, or even a mentorship program that pairs older veterans with younger ones through digital channels can breathe new life into the organization.

3. Promote Inclusivity and Diversity

The demographics of the U.S. military have evolved dramatically, and the American Legion must reflect these changes. Whether it's women, minorities, or LGBTQ+ veterans, all should feel welcome and valued within the organization. As one person, you can become a strong advocate for inclusivity, helping to shift the Legion's culture to ensure it is more representative of the modern military experience.

You could initiate programs or campaigns to raise awareness of the contributions of diverse groups in the military and promote their full integration within the Legion. Hosting events that honor the achievements of underrepresented groups and fostering safe spaces for discussion on issues affecting them can help the Legion embrace a more inclusive culture.

4. Focus on Mental Health Initiatives

Many veterans continue to struggle with issues such as PTSD, depression, and other mental health challenges. You can play an important role in expanding the American Legion's focus on mental health by promoting more support systems within your local post. This could involve setting up partnerships with local mental health professionals, organizing workshops, or facilitating peer-to-peer support groups where veterans can discuss their mental health challenges in a safe environment.

By bringing these issues to the forefront, one individual can help the Legion increase its focus on this critical area and provide more resources to help veterans and their families manage mental health concerns.

5. Advocate for Legislative Change

One of the Legion's primary missions is to advocate for veterans' rights at the local, state, and federal levels. As one person, you can still have a voice in shaping the future of veterans' policies. Get involved in the Legion's advocacy programs by working with local representatives, organizing letter-writing campaigns, or even speaking at town halls.

Legion members who are informed about legislative priorities can inspire others in their posts to become politically active, ensuring that veterans' issues such as healthcare, education, and employment are addressed in meaningful ways.

6. Mentor and Inspire the Next Generation

One of the American Legion's longstanding commitments is to nurture the next generation of leaders through programs like Boys State, Girls State, and the Oratorical Contest. One person can make a profound impact by mentoring young participants, volunteering in youth programs, or organizing educational events that connect young people with veterans' experiences and history.

Mentoring the next generation is crucial for the survival and growth of the organization. By sharing your expertise, you ensure the Legion's traditions and values continue while allowing for fresh perspectives that can carry the organization into the future.

7. Lead by Example

Leadership can inspire change more effectively than words. Whether you hold an official position within the Legion or simply participate as a member, embodying the values of service, patriotism, and community is a powerful way to inspire others. If you are proactive, inclusive, and enthusiastic about the Legion's mission, others will follow your lead. Show others that change is not only necessary but possible, and they may feel empowered to take action themselves.

Conclusion

While the American Legion is a large and complex organization, the actions of a single member can still ripple out and make a significant impact. By engaging with local posts, pushing for modernization, advocating for inclusivity, supporting mental health initiatives, promoting legislative change, mentoring youth, and leading by example, one person can help steer the American Legion into a bright and sustainable future. The key to success is recognizing that change, even at the individual level, can foster a more vibrant and adaptive organization that continues to serve the needs of veterans for generations to come.





INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 20, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. today issued his gratitude to Congress – and thanks to members of the nation's largest veterans service organization for rallying support – after Thursday's passage of an emergency spending bill that covers a nearly \$3 billion shortfall for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Had the measure not passed, more than 7 million veterans stood likely to see delays in VA disability benefits payments after Oct. 1.

"We are pleased that our elected representatives and senators did the right thing for our nation's veterans by passing legislation to cover a \$3 billion gap in VA's budget," LaCoursiere Jr. said. "Without the last-minute approval, veterans would have stopped receiving their benefits within days. We are also grateful for our members who pressed the issue with Congress by sending more than 44,500 emails, calling for the emergency spending bill to be approved. The American Legion is also thankful for our brothers and sisters in other veteran service organizations that have largely been on the same page regarding the budget crisis. Now that Congress has provided the benefits veterans have earned, they should also fix the issue and ensure proper oversight within the VA to prevent another accounting crisis in the future." VA Secretary Denis McDonough told Legionnaires at the organization's 105th National Convention in New Orleans Aug. 27 that the department will also need an additional \$12 billion or more beyond its current budget recommendation for the next fiscal year to meet fast-rising demand. VA enrollment increased 34% in 2024, attributable largely to the increased number of veterans eligible for benefits and care under the PACT Act of 2022, which opened the system up to more than 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic contamination while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

National Commander’s Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. will award his national commander “Be the One” dog tag coin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2025 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2024 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. New Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members do not count toward this incentive. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one coin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the coin directly to the person who earned it. (See page 10 for Request form)

As a membership organization, American Legion Auxiliary members make a difference every day for our veterans, military, and their families.

Our membership numbers change from year to year for various reasons, which can impact the outreach we are able to do.

The American Legion Auxiliary has seen in recent years that small-town rural environments are struggling, leadership capacity is dwindling, membership is aging and churning, and infrastructure is weakening.

These reasons related to our membership have led Ward to an ALA national focus on helping reinvigorate our organization through membership — from the ground up.

Ward is visiting ALA departments (states) during her term as national president to share a content enablement experience to help departments help their units succeed. Leveraging her deep business acumen as a senior lead project manager and corporate trainer, Ward looks to bring her skills to empower departments to build organizational excellence. During the visits, she will focus on how to build leadership capacity and share knowledge on how to stop the trend of units surrendering their charters.

To help motivate and guide departments, Ward established the Department Merit Medallion Recognition. There are five established areas of focus that, if achieved, will drive business and operational excellence:

- Achieve 85% membership benchmark goal by June 30, 2025.
- Submit department impact report.
- Governance excellence (Constitution & Bylaws annual review, board responsibilities, disciplinary process, meeting and voting authority).
- Financial policies and process (990 compliance, audit standards).
- Financial donation obligations (ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund, Auxiliary Emergency Fund).

Members are also invited to join the Renew Crew. These are the people who get things done — with or without a title; people who, when asked, will jump in to help; people who are looking for actionable items and want to make an impact; people who are interested in moving the needle for our organization; and people who are positive, innovative, and visionary.

Looking forward to another great SAL year

Hello, American Legion Family.

When I took the stage in New Orleans as the new National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, I was honored to have so many members of my family there with me to celebrate. But I was also honored to have so many members of my Legion Family celebrating with me as well.

My slogan is “*Todo es posible con Dios y la familia,*” or “Everything is possible with God and family.” I firmly believe that emphasis on family is going to make this year a great one for the Legion Family as a whole.

I look forward to serving with and supporting American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. and American Legion Auxiliary National President Trish Ward this year. As Commander LaCoursiere said in his speech at the National Convention, we will let the world know that we are *the* voice for veterans.

I look forward to visiting detachments across the country over the next year and seeing how the SAL is supporting our veterans and our communities. I can't wait to see your stories and successes in person, but also to follow those stories and successes through our monthly national e-newsletter, which includes the printable *Millennium*; online at Legiontown.org/Sons and Legion.org/Headlines/Sons; and on the SAL Facebook page. Remember, it's important we share our stories so that the Legion Family and those outside our walls realize all we do for our veterans and communities.

And I look forward to all of us continuing to find ways to Be The One to end veteran suicide. If you haven't taken the Be The One training being offered by The American Legion and Columbia University, I encourage you to look at the upcoming schedule and find a session that works for you. Ninety minutes to save a life. Go to Legion.org/BeTheOne to register for a session.

Let us continue to grow. Let us continue to contribute to the Veterans & Children Foundation, the Child Welfare Foundation, and The American Legion's other programs that help our veterans and youth. And let us make 2024-25 yet another historic year for the Sons of The American Legion.

“Everything is possible with God and family”

Joseph Navarrete
SAL National Commander

I am happy once again to be able to share the highlights of this past month with our Legion Family members.

Although several of our members contacted Covid during our National Convention in New Orleans, we are happy to report that they all returned to good health soon after.

Being able to attend and participate in the Annual POW/MIA Ceremony on the USS Massachusetts was such an honor. I was so proud of being asked to help with the Memorial Wreath placement, and assisting the Department Commander with tossing one of them overboard in remembrance of those we were honoring.

On Sept. 12th, Ann Fournier and I went to the Hartford, CT airport to pick up National President Trish Ward for her official visit to our department. We made a little side trip on our way back to the hotel in West Springfield to the Dr. Suess Museum. That evening, several other members joined us for dinner. The next day, we took her to the "Big E" at which time she was asked by PDP Maureen Cragen to join her and the other members of the Legion Family in the POW/MIA Ceremony they have at which Trish was very honored to accept.

Later on, President Trish was very happy to spend time meeting so many members of our Legion Family from not only MA, but the other New England States. She also had a great time touring so many of the exhibitions. We did take the time for a much-needed lunch at which we were treated to by a Past Department Commander. The next day, we escorted Trish to the Auburn Post for a Meet & Greet with members from all over the department. She gave a great presentation, which included her membership theme, **"Leading the Way"** and her hopes for our organization's growth. We thank Mary Ellen Levesque for her assistance in helping set up the equipment. After that event, we traveled to Paxton Post 306 as they were having a Steak Dinner. Our National President had the opportunity there to not only interact with the adult members but also with some Juniors and a local Scout group. And the food was delicious! The following morning, we escorted Trish back to the airport for her next journey.

Along with attending my Unit and District meetings, your Dept. President is proud to report she has had time to volunteer at the Chelsea Soldiers Home. She was honored to be asked to install the members of Winchendon Unit 193 assisted by Sofia Blake on Sept. 24th and to make her visitation to District Five at their County Meeting Sept. 28th in Malden.

She is looking forward to welcoming many members of the Legion Family at her Banquet Sept. 29th at Middleton Post 227. Having her daughter and son-in-law here from CA make this event even more special.

Thank you again to every member for all they do to continue our Mission to assist our Veterans and their families in so many ways. We all can **"Be the One"** to make a difference.

Donna Blattenberger
Department President.



Membership—DSVC Scott Connor

You did it, the Department made the 50% membership goal by deadline. We are currently just shy of 53.5% (9-27-2024). Next deadline October 16, 55%. 5 of 9 Districts have already made the 55%. Great job folks! Winter is coming, let's close that drafty backdoor!

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

462 Post: This is our "cloud" of members, most know what it is and how it works. I will be sending this list out, want to get on an exclusive e-mail list, send me a note. Prepared as an Excel spreadsheet, it will be distributed to your District Membership Team (DMT). The DMT's are being requested to send it to their Posts. Take a look for potential new members not only in your community, but surrounding cities and towns as well.

Membership Sources: Yellow ribbon events are a great place to spread the word of The American Legion. Community based events, especially Veteran centric events, such as 5k family fun Run/Walk, and many other events. Be armed with information brochures and pamphlets. "Why Belong" is a great brochure to have in your tool bag, need some? Drop me a line.

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

Tool Bag: Most know what Vimeo is, everyone should know. Vimeo is a video library where you can locate an incredible 276 videos (legion themed). Not only membership topics, but across The American Legion spectrum. **WWW.VIMEO.COM/AMERICANLEGION**. Try it today! Don't forget ***MyLegion.org*** - reports/labels has letters you can use to send to members. ***legion.org/training*** has a tremendous library of materials you can use, not just to look for members, but how to welcome them once you have them.

CPR: The Consolidated Post Report can be found on MassLegion.org, under forms. Yes, I know it's last year's form, but consider using it a rough template. It is a .pdf fillable form, use it during the course of the year, save it as you go along, then transcribe the information over when the new form comes out.

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

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

The American Legion

Department of Massachusetts

2025 Membership Retention Contest

Scope: To promote and sustain increased growth through the retention of current members of The American Legion. Encouragement is to be achieved through financial awards. Retention is a forefront goal of our National Commander.

Discussion: To effectually sustain growth, current members need to renew their memberships. Providing incentives and goals as targets with a financial reward has proven to be an effective means. DMS/Holding Post 462 and the Capitol Hill Post 297 are not eligible for this program.

Eligibility: The District must have a Membership Team appointed.

Post must physically meet a minimum of 4 times per year.

Post must attain a 95% renewal/retention rate.

Post must submit "Post Data Report" by April 15th of the contest Year.

Post must submit "Consolidated Post Report" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Post Roster" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post must submit "Certification of Service Record" by May 31st of Contest Year.

Post Membership designee must be registered in MyLegion.org.

Bonus point considerations: 1/2 point for each percentage point over 95%

Commander and Adjutants Report - 2 pts

100% Retention by 31 December - 5 pts

Awards: Post Membership Categories:

- 20 to 50 Members
- 51 to 125 Members
- 126 to 200 Members
- 201 Plus Members

Award: \$500.00 each category

This Retention Award program is coordinated by the Department of Massachusetts Membership Chairman. Please Contact Dept Sr. Vice Cmdr Scott Conner, scottscpo@gmail.com or at 774-239-6162 with questions.



NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES A. LACOURSIERE, JR. 2025 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DOG TAG COIN CERTIFICATION FORM



Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

MAIL TO RECRUITER MAIL TO POST

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION.

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE VETERAN JOINING FOR THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2024 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). **TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS.**

NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND SAL MEMBERS DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THIS INCENTIVE. PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. COINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE.

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30, 2025, OR UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE EXHAUSTED.

(3) NEW MEMBERS:
(Include full name, ID number, department, post)

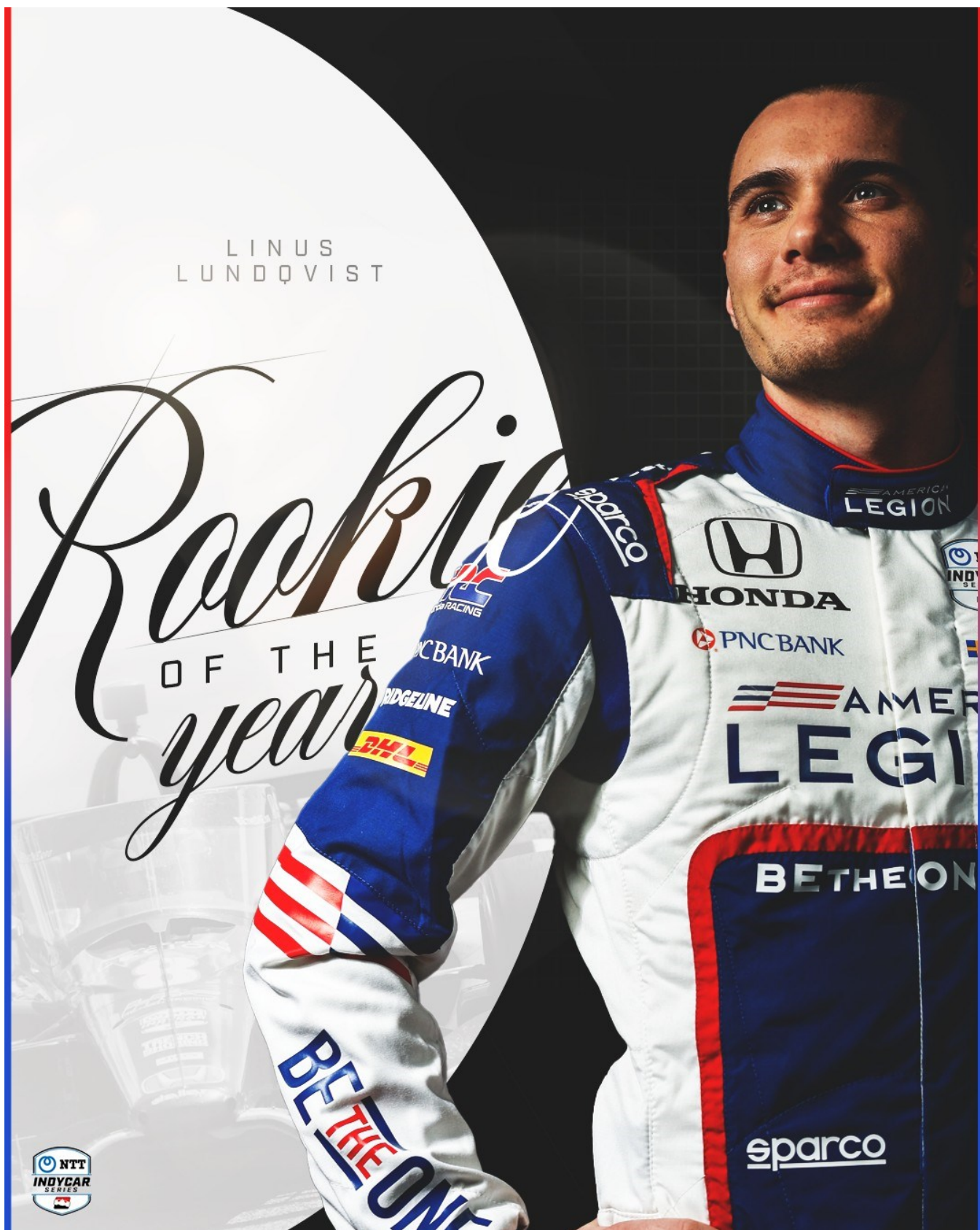
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Return completed forms to:
The American Legion
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: kadams@legion.org

LINUS
LUNDQVIST

Rookie
OF THE
year





Marketing—PNEC Mike Davis

The marketing year kicked off as always with our annual fundraising label program. As always these personalized address labels are distributed by national on behalf of department in July. Please if you have yet to already do so consider a donation to department as this fundraiser and its funds help our department and our programs.

I am pleased to announce that we will continue our partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League with our Veteran of the Game Challenge Accepted campaign. The team will show our public service announcement videos on the scoreboard prior to presenting the veteran of the game with the challenge coin which has met with the approval of the committee and looks impressive. This campaign provides us valuable brand awareness for and enables us to host information tables at games providing us invaluable exposure to the general public and veterans alike as we hosted numerous tables last season and look forward to many this season. Many thanks to all who helped staff the tables last season. If you have a veteran in mind for a veteran of the game you can nominate the veteran on the team website.

As you may remember last year we sponsored old friend of The American Legion Wayne Soares' veteran based cooking show "The Mess Hall". The show aired for 8 weeks from July 13th-August 30th with our PSA's airing 4 times per show. The show was highly rated according to NBC Universal with an average of 18-20 thousand households and taped from the Berkshires to Cape Cod providing us great exposure and brand awareness. Wayne reported that The American Legion "Be The One" PSA proved to be very popular. Veterans whipped up a wide variety of food items on the show as it turned out to be a great success. Wayne hopes that we will be able to further sponsor the show going forward.

The committee has decided this year to hold an online 50-50 raffle fundraiser. This 50-50 raffle will be in lieu of our usual sweepstakes that is drawn at the January Department executive committee meeting. We will still hold our convention sweepstakes at department convention in June of 2025.

As always if you have any marketing ideas feel free to bring these to the committee's attention.

Mike Davis PNEC
Marketing Chairman



Be The One—How Posts are Leading the way!

American Legion posts and members are raising awareness about PTSD and veteran suicide by providing resources, hope and camaraderie for those at risk.

VETS 4 VETERANS Who: American Legion Post 171, Crystal Lake, Ill. What: The day-long event, which debuted in 2021, connects local veterans to dozens of local service providers that offer different resources related to mental wellness. Impact: More than 100 veterans turned out for the most recent event. By connecting these veterans directly with service providers, the nonprofits are able to assist more veterans and, in turn, veterans are able to receive the help they need.

OPERATION IRON RUCK 2.2 FOR HEROES Who: American Legion Burrows-Young Post 114, Volga, S.D. VETS 4 VETERANS and 22 pounds, representing the estimated number of veterans who die by suicide daily. Impact: In 2021, an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant paid for the items in the rucks. After the march, those items – toiletries, socks and other comfort items – were distributed to homeless veterans.

BIGFOOT SCAVENGER HUNT What: A 2.2 for Heroes event was held at the Volga Veterans Memorial where participants walked, ran, biked, roller bladed or even rode a motorized scooter, for 2.2 miles. When participants crossed the finish line, they received a dog tag that featured the American flag, 2.2 for Heroes and the Legion emblem. Impact: In its inaugural event, the post rallied its community to raise \$7,000 toward local programs that assist veterans in crisis.



Veterans Employment and Education Awards PDC Larry Connors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Baseball—Dick Paster Department Baseball Chairman How to start an American Legion Baseball Team

Department of Massachusetts Baseball Rules authorize two divisions of teams based upon players' age. The Senior Division, for players aged 19 and under, and the Junior Division, for players aged 17 and under. Thirteen is the minimum age for players to participate in American Legion Baseball, "ALB".

The process of forming a team that did not participate in the Program the previous year begins with the team securing an American Legion Post willing to sponsor the team. In most cases the Post Commander will be contacted by an individual who is interested in forming an ALB Team in the Post's community. Recruiting players for the team generally will come from the local high school although players who reside in the community and attend a school outside the local community generally will be able to play on the team. Thus, ALB is an Americanism Program that Posts can offer to the local high school and community.

Sponsoring a baseball team does not in and of itself require the Post to assume any financial responsibility for the team. The vast majority of teams engage in some type of fundraising including charging the players a user's fee to participate on the team. Some Posts pay all costs associated with operating their teams while others provide little to no financial support. However, finances should be fully discussed before the Post agrees to sponsor a team. It is suggested that a separate "Post Baseball Fund" bank account be established where funds for the operation of the team will be deposited and used solely for the Team. What the Post does agree to when it sponsors a team is to oversee the operation of the team pursuant to the ALB rules. The Post Commander begins by appointing a Team Manager who will serve as the Commander's representative to ALB and will be the person responsible for the day to day administration of the team. The Team Manager is an annual appointment who serves at the pleasure of the Post Commander. It is suggested that the Team Manager be invited to attend at least one Post meeting to report on the operation of the team.

Appointments to the coaching staff is generally made by the Team Manager. Once a Post agrees to sponsor a team, the Commander signifies the Post's assent by signing a New Team Application. The Team Manager is then authorized to submit the New Team Application to the local District Baseball Chairman who will begin approval process. The deadline to submit New Team Applications to the District Baseball Chairman is January 31st of the year in which the team intends to begin operation, although some District Rules have an earlier date, thus it is important to contact the local District Baseball Chairman as soon as after the Post agrees to sponsor the team.

Department Baseball Rules establish certain criteria for New Teams to show before they may be admitted to the Program, i.e.: 1) permission from the local authority to use a playing field satisfactory to the local District Baseball Chairman; 2) satisfactory financial ability to fund the team; and 3) satisfactory ability to recruit sufficient qualified players to fill its roster without adversely affecting existing teams. New Team Applications that are found to be able to meet the established criteria by the local District Chairman are submitted to the Department Baseball Committee for final approval. Questions about the process should be referred to the Department Baseball Chairman, Dick Paster, rpaster@prclawoffice.com.



Grass Roots Information

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

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



Voter Voice

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

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

Contact your congressional representatives

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



AMERICAN LEGION voter voice



Washington Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Next month we will be heading to the local polling booths (minus those taking advantage of early voting or absentee ballots). The last few months I have been listing various websites where one can become an educated voter. Personally, I ignore the ads. And I believe that all that money could be better spent than sometimes vicious and unnecessary attacks on those running for office.

Ballotpedia.org is one website that continues to improve. They have recently come out with what they call their 2024 toolkit. The site includes the following: Sample ballot lookup tool; Presidential election coverage; Election help desk – FAQs on all levels of government; State election info sheets – you can download (PDF files) individual state election information; Candidate survey; Weekly podcasts about the elections; Daily and weekly newsletters that you can choose to subscribe to; and you can check on when polls open and close by state.

As a reminder, some of the sites mentioned previously are: aarp.org/electionguides; Ballotpedia.org; opensecrets.org; vote411.org; usa.gov/voting-and-elections; and votesmart.org. Please join me in voting this November 5th. It is a precious privilege that many have given their life and treasure. And a reason so many in the world want to come to the USA and become citizens!

Let us not forget that next month we will have Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. Is there a veteran, family member, friend or neighbor to check on to see if they are ok?

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

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

WESTERN MASS WOMAN VETERAN EVENT SERIES

HOSTED BY WMVSOA

Cafender



SEPTEMBER 30TH

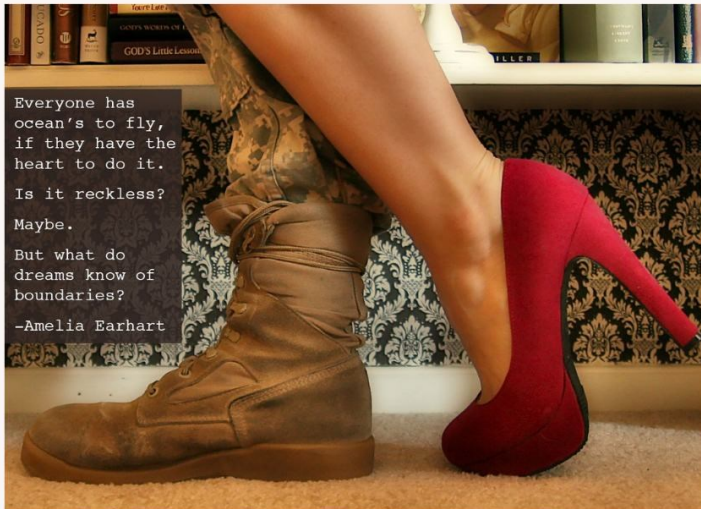
6-7
Yoga with Jane
7-7:30
Guest Speaker
Massachusetts
Behavioral Health
Partnership
7:30-8:30
Tea Time
(Social Hour)

OCTOBER 28

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

NOVEMBER 25

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



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

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

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



Women Veteran Perspective: How is the VA meeting or not meeting the needs of women veterans?

Volunteers are needed for Women Veterans Research

Are you a woman veteran who has utilized a VA Medical facility in the last 12 months?

There will be no compensation for participation in this study

Participation will include a short survey and a 60-90 minute interview in person at Rowan University in Glassboro or Via Zoom

We want to hear about women veteran's experiences at Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities.

Study has been approved by Rowan's IRB (PRO-20240204)



Scan for Survey



Around the Department— Department Commander's Banquet



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

Email: deptadjutant@masslegion.org

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER NELSON IZAAK BLAKE BANQUET

July 16, 2024

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders,

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

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

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

Tables will be set for 10.

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

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

Best Western Hotel, 380 Winter Street, Waltham MA 02451

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

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

The code is **American Legion**

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

Extra person in room - \$10.00 each

Free Breakfast Buffet and free parking

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

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

Yours in comradeship:

Co Chairman: Robert Desrosiers and Robert Lewis

Ticket Chairman: Lisa McPhee Dept. Adj.

Ad Book Chairman: Louie Brault PNEC

Members: 10 District Ticket Chairman



Around the Department— Department Commander's Banquet



District Ticket Chairperson

Department Commander's Banquet

All tickets sales need to be in the Department Office

Deadline for tickets October 28, 2024

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT 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
413-519-2755

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

Milton Lashus
15 Parker St
Charlestown MA 02129
miltonlashus@gmail.com
774-766-8960

District 8

Sandra Davis
PO Box 95
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

Rachel Perron
1 Ocean Dr
Mattapoisett MA 02739-2329
rachellperron@yahoo.com
207-632-2831



**Department Commander's Banquet
Honoring Nelson Izaak Blake**

Saturday - November 16, 2024

Copy deadline is October 28, 2024

Check Ad size

District # _____

Post # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Squadron # _____ ALR # _____

**Advertising rates for the commander's book
Check Ad Size Desired**

Printing area

7 1/2" x 5" \$60.00 Full Page _____

3 1/2" x 5" \$40.00 Half Page _____

1 1/2" x 5" \$25.00 Quarter Page _____

MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT

Email Ads to: deptcoordinator@masslegion.org

Please enclose check with Ad Payable to:

"The American Legion Dept. of MA"

Mail checks to:

**The American Legion
State House Rm 546-2
24 Beacon St
Boston MA 02133**

Check # _____

Amount \$ _____



Around the Department— Department Commander's Banquet



Department Commander Nelson Izaak Blake

Booster Sheet **Deadline is October 28, 2024**

District # _____

Post # _____

Unit # _____

Squadron # _____

ALR # _____

\$1.00 per person

\$2.00 per Mr. & Mrs.

*******PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MISS-SPELLINGS*******

Check # _____ Amount\$ _____

1 _____	16 _____
2 _____	17 _____
3 _____	18 _____
4 _____	19 _____
5 _____	20 _____
6 _____	21 _____
7 _____	22 _____
8 _____	23 _____
9 _____	24 _____
10 _____	25 _____
11 _____	26 _____
12 _____	27 _____
13 _____	28 _____
14 _____	29 _____
15 _____	30 _____

Post can also type names and send on a separate paper.

Mail to: The American Legion Department of MA
State House Rm 546-2
24 Beacon Street
Boston MA 02133



Around the Department— South Hadley Post 260

The South Hadley American Legion Post 260 was honored to participate in a South Hadley Scouts Eagle Scout Board for a very deserving youth man. Congratulations Owen, now an Eagle Scout! With youth such as this, the future of America is bright.



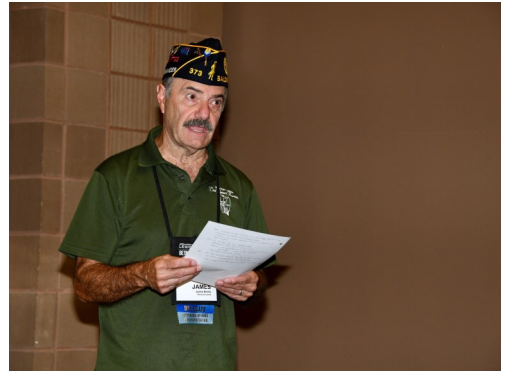


Around the Department— Some Convention Pics





Around the Department— Caucus





Around the Department— Candidate Visits





Around the Department— POW/MIA Ceremony





Around the Department— VCF Donation



During the 105th American Legion National Convention in New Orleans (From Left to Right), Department of MA Historian Mitchell Keil, Dept. of MA Vice Commander and Chairman for Veterans and Children Foundation Andrew Pajak, Past Dept. of MA Commander Sandra Davis, National Commander Dan Seehafer, National Executive Committeeman Jodi Pajak and Department Commander Nelson Blake commemorate the Department of MA's Donation for the Veterans and Children Foundation with a photograph, August 27, 2024.

Other photos include Keil on the stage announcing the amount his North Adams Post 125 assisted in raising with the 100 miles of Hope Walk and District 4's contribution raised with their project trivia night which totaled \$10,225. Davis announced the grand total as \$37,033.20. As the Dept. Commander of 2023-2024, she selected this fundraiser as her personal charity. (photo





Around the Department— National President's Visit



National President's Visit to Massachusetts at the Big E— Department Secretary Sukey Blake, PDC Ken Starks, Department Treasurer Ann Fournier, PDP Coral Mae Grout, National President Trish Ward and Department President Donna Battenberger.





Around the Department— Post 124 at Big E



Members of American Legion Post 124 represented the The American Legion Department of Massachusetts at Military Appreciation Day at The Big E during the daily parade. Members included Eleven members of the Post Riders, Two members of the Post Color Guard and One member from the Sons Squadron 124.





Around the Department— Post 130 9/11 Ceremony



The South Hadley American Legion Post 260 Commander was the keynote speaker at the annual 9/11 Ceremony in Palmer host every 9/11 by American Legion: Post 130 Palmer, MA. This ceremony pays tribute to those who fell on 9/11 with a special honors given to those Western Massachusetts service members who made the supreme sacrifice post 9/11 in the Global War On Terrorism. Our hometown heroes NEVER FORGOTTEN





Around the Department— POW/MIA on the Big Mami





Around the Department— ALR Chapter 373



Congratulations to the Town of Barre on their 250th birthday celebration! Our riders represented ALR 373 for Barre and our Brother Flounder!!



Private First Class Edwin Shaftsbury King, WWII

Family members said it's nothing short of a miracle that a WWII veteran was laid to rest on Tuesday. It was the 82nd anniversary of his passing Private First Class Erwin Shaftsbury King was laid in his final resting place surrounded by his remaining family and members of the community. Judith Richard said King was her mother's baby brother and it's been overwhelming. The Marine, from Clarksburg, M.A., had just turned 18 years old when he was killed in Guadalcanal – an island in the Pacific Ocean, northeast of Australia.

"It's 82 years to the exact day. He was killed on September 24, which is why I chose to have the burial today," said Richard.

When Richard got the news King would finally return home she called Mitch Keil who is a Veteran Service Officer with the City of North Adams. He said there are more than 87,000 P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s

Richard summarized how her family is feeling. "That it's a miracle and that the expression no man left behind, very true, very true. They never stopped looking."

King was the youngest of six. The family never lost hope and had purchased this lot for him next to his parents. Because he passed away in 1942, Richard feared no one would show up to his celebration of life. "And I said, 'Ma'am, this community, you don't have to worry about that. We'll ensure that he gets the welcome home he deserves'," said Keil.

And he did. Marines, veterans American Legion Riders, Honor Guard Units up and down Berkshire County, Members of Wreath Across America and students from Drury and McAnn High School showed up to Southview Cemetery to pay their respects.

"And it's that faith and hope I think everybody needs to hold onto, to be able to celebrate the men and women that are still missing," said Keil. "Never give up."

Another niece who spoke at the funeral shared some words on behalf of her late uncle and simply said 'Thank you for bringing me home'.



Massachusetts
VETERANS HOME *at* HOLYOKE

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

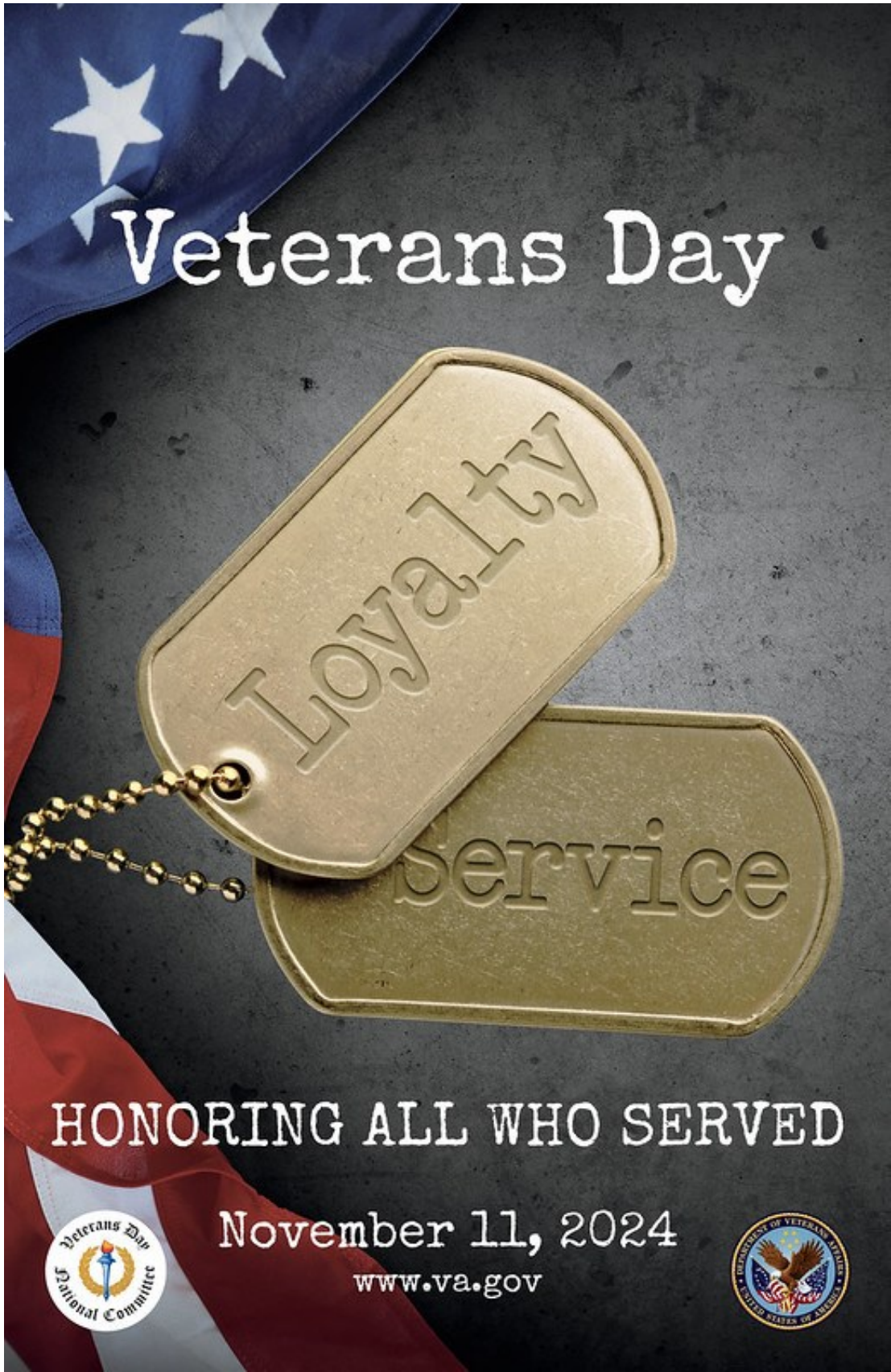
We need:

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



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

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



Veterans Day

Loyalty

Service

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 11, 2024

www.va.gov



10/7-10/10		Fall Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
11/16/2024	3:00 PM	Dept Commander's Banquet	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	10:00 AM	Finance Committee	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	11:00AM	DEC & Membership	Nonantum Post 440 Newton
11/16/2024	TBD	Convention Committee	Nonantum Post 440 Newton

AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Membership Standing as of September 25, 2024 55% Goal 10/15/2024

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 7: Suffolk 60.33%
District 1: Berkshire 58.91%
District 9: Bristol 55.49%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	704	58.91%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	1894	55.35%
4	WORCESTER	4432	2453	55.35%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	1983	54.74%
6	NORFOLK	2319	1176	50.71%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	689	60.33%
8	ESSEX	2442	1202	49.22%
9	BRISTOL	2496	1385	55.49%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	1881	52.64%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	351	82.98%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	449	26.58%
	National Quota	26,756	11,971	44.74%

Fundraiser!

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



*American
Legion
Family pins
\$25 ea*

See any committee member or contact
978-729-6773

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	38	20.0%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	268	31	11.6%
3	HAMPDEN	402	56	13.9%
4	WORCESTER	1037	96	9.3%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	73	7.8%
6	NORFOLK	377	47	13.9%
7	SUFFOLK	103	24	23.3%
8	ESSEX	612	42	6.9%
9	BRISTOL	268	45	16.8%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	186	24.3%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	15	8.2%
	National Quota	5,106	653	12.8%

How large is the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Currently, there are more than 379,000 members of the SAL in this country and abroad.

What is the administrative structure of the SAL?

The squadron is the basic level of membership in our organization. Different states (detachments) use different ways of grouping numbers of squadrons together. In most states, squadrons are grouped geographically and report to their own districts (also called areas or divisions). All districts (or areas or divisions) report to the state headquarters, referred to as a detachment. All state detachments report to the National Headquarters. In addition to the 50 state detachments in the U.S., there are also detachments in France, Mexico, Philippines and Puerto Rico.

What is the main purpose of the SAL?

The mission of the SAL is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the SAL could be grouped under three areas: 1) support for veterans and their families, 2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and 3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of September 25, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	61	26.75%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	134	17.91%
4	WORCESTER	983	145	14.75%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	33	2.63%
6	NORFOLK	835	90	10.78%
7	SUFFOLK	196	74	37.76%
8	ESSEX	442	46	10.41%
9	BRISTOL	280	35	12.50%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	126	15.95%
	National Goal	5758	744	12.92%



★  ★

Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break 

 **Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members**

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

Coffee Hour

Last Friday of the Month

09:00 - 12:00

 **Free**

American Legion North Adams

American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!

4th Sunday of the Month

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





The American Legion Post 40

STUFF A BUS

Sunday November 24th 12:00-2:00

The New England Center & Home for Veterans

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

Things that are needed:

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

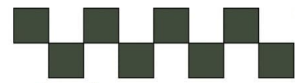
Giftcards: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Roche Brothers, Shaws, Stop & Shop, TJ MAXX, Marshalls, Master Cards or Visa Cards

Please Bring Donations to:

American Legion Post 40
199 Federal Furnace Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360

First  Student





THE SHARON AMERICAN LEGION
OPEN HOUSE PRESENTS:



SIP & SHOP

YARD/CRAFT SALE



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

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

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



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 279 3RD ANNUAL CRAFT
FAIR



RENT OUR TABLE \$35
BRING YOUR OWN TABLE \$30

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27TH 2024 9-3PM
POST 279 88 BANCROFT ST AUBURN MA
EMAIL: TSUNDENCPTAUX@GMAIL.COM



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION



Saturday, October 5th from 12-5 PM

Hanson Athletic Association

171 Reed St, Hanson, MA 02341

Proceeds will be donated to the



Sign up at the Whitman American Legion, Post 22

33 Legion Pkwy, Whitman, MA 02382

\$100 for a team of 5

Pay by cash or make checks payable to SAL Squadron 22

Checks can also be mailed to the Whitman American Legion - Attention: John Cameron

**Please print the full names of your team of 5 if you mail a check or add names to the sign-up sheet
at the Whitman American Legion**

We will also have a 50/50 Raffle and Side Raffles at the Bowling Tournament



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

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Sr. Vice Commander

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Service Officer

Mike Whalen

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

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

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

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02133



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