



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 11

April 2025

Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

The Youth of America: The Future of the American Legion

For over a century, the American Legion has stood as a pillar of support for veterans, their families, and communities across the United States. Founded in 1919, this organization has played a crucial role in advocating for veterans' rights, fostering patriotism, and promoting programs

that benefit American society. However, as the landscape of military service and veteran affairs continues to evolve, so must the American Legion. To ensure its longevity and continued impact, the organization must invest in and engage with the youth of America—the future leaders, servicemembers, and veterans who will carry forward its mission.

A New Generation of Patriots

Today's youth, including Junior ROTC members, young veterans, and children of veterans, are the next stewards of American values. Many young Americans are deeply patriotic and eager to serve their country, whether in the military, through community service, or by advocating for veterans' issues. The American Legion must actively welcome and mentor these young individuals, helping them understand the importance of service, sacrifice, and civic responsibility.

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT	3
MEMBERSHIP	4-5
LEGION COLLEGE	6
AMERICANISM	7
COMMUNITY SERVICE	7
MARKETING	8
YOUTH CADET	9
SAL "CLIFF NOTES"	10
PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS	11-13
EDITORIAL	14-15
VA	18
AROUND THE DEPT.	19-24
MEMBERSHIP	26
AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP	27
SAL MEMBERSHIP	28
POST EVENTS	29-32



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



Programs like Boys State, Girls State, and the Oratorical Contest have long been effective in educating youth about government, leadership, and public service. Expanding and modernizing these programs to align with the interests and concerns of younger generations can help build a pipeline of future Legionnaires who are invested in the organization's mission.

Engaging Young Veterans

As World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans age, the American Legion must prioritize engaging younger veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan conflicts. These individuals bring fresh perspectives, experiences, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing today's military personnel and veterans.

Younger veterans often seek organizations that are adaptable, inclusive, and actively addressing modern issues such as mental health, employment opportunities, and support for military families. The Legion can appeal to them by expanding its outreach efforts, embracing technology, and creating more opportunities for involvement in local and national initiatives.

Modernizing for the Future

To remain relevant and appealing to younger generations, the American Legion must continue evolving.

This includes:

1. **Enhancing Digital Engagement** – Many young people and veterans rely on social media, websites, and apps for information and community engagement. Strengthening the Legion's digital presence can help attract and retain younger members.
2. **Promoting Inclusivity** – The military has become more diverse, and the Legion must reflect this diversity by welcoming all eligible members, regardless of background, gender, or service era.
3. **Focusing on Key Issues** – Mental health, post-service career support, and veteran homelessness are critical issues for younger veterans. The Legion's continued advocacy and support in these areas will resonate with them.
4. **Strengthening Community Involvement** – Engaging youth through volunteerism, mentorship programs, and family-friendly events can create lasting connections between young people and the Legion.

Conclusion

The American Legion's future depends on its ability to connect with and inspire the next generation. By engaging young people—both those who will serve in the military and those who will support veterans—the organization can ensure its continued impact for decades to come. The youth of America are not just the future of the nation; they are the future of the American Legion. Now is the time to empower them, involve them, and pass the torch of service to the next generation.



WE'RE ON THE ROAD!



The first Department mobile office will be in
Stoughton, MA

at

Post 89

April 2nd, 2025

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

**14 Seaver Street
Stoughton, MA**

Department number: 617-727-2966

In an effort to provide a more convenient service, without the Boston parking headaches, we'll set up once (or twice a month) at different Posts across the state to help Posts with:

- Post Paperwork -
(6 forms are required to be filed by every post, every year, by very important deadlines)
- Processing Membership Transmittals -
- MyLegion.org -
etc., etc., etc.

BRING YOUR FORMS, RENWALS, QUESTIONS, OR JUST STOP BY AND SAY HEY!

Any Post interested in hosting the Department mobile office, contact us at:

DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

or

Phone: 617-727-2966

Hours requested in Post: 10am - 6pm
The Post must have internet and easy parking

As of 3/21/2025 the department reached 86.07% of the desired goal of 95% membership levels for April 9th. Department retention rate is hovering right around the 83rd percentile also. We have 30 Posts with 100% Membership goal, but only 82.69% (85.18% without 462) or so retention, let's close that back door. Kudos to those that have attained 100% goal, many are on the cusp only needing 1 or 2 or 3 new members or renewals to get there.

The Text-em-All experience: I am still interacting with some that received the text. A few are requesting transfers, some still want to know what happened to the dues they paid. More importantly, I have a few that have requested to be relocated to the Capital Hill Post. Though they may not be happy with their current situation, they feel a sense of loyalty to the American Legion, and though not an active participant, they want to support the TAL.

Department still has a bucket load of Legionnaires that have not renewed from 2024. We have plenty of work to do. Please pick up the phone, text, snail mail a letter to help close that drafty door.

Though no one made it to 90%, our next goal of 95% is 9 April. Let's look under every stone and carpet for renewals and new members. Let's get a solid 90% before the National Commander visits.

A little MyLegion.org homework for the Posts. Please print a copy of your post roster, give it a sweeping review and fill in the voids, Addresses/E-mail Addresses/Phone Numbers (preferable cell, not land line). Good, accurate information will assist you in the future.

Still Can't say this enough: Got your permissions to work membership on MyLegion.org? If not, let us know, we can help. Before you call, make sure the **Post Commander and Adjutant form is current**. 27% have not submitted this form.

What is Membership doing to help: The M&PA Committee has authorized the release of the New Member Tool Kit "Your Guide to Welcoming New Members" Each membership team will receive a copy at DEC. You can download your own copy from the Dispatch. Need assistance, give me a call.

POST DATA REPORTS - You in the game for the Retention contest? Your PDR must be turned into Department by April 15th.

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

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.

The American Legion logo, consisting of a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a bold, sans-serif font.

MASSACHUSETTS

Department Legion College

Saturday

May 17th

9:30 AM

Vernon Hill Post 435

Topics include:

- **Leadership**
 - **Conducting a Meeting Properly**
 - **Resolution Writing**
 - **Train-The-Trainer**
 - **Programs**

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Sandra Davis
skeeisme@hotmail.com or (978) 879-8682

The Spirit of Americanism: Honoring Our Heroes and Preserving Our History April is a significant month for American Legionnaires, as it marks the anniversary of the American Legion's founding in 1919. As we reflect on our organization's rich history, we're reminded of the importance of Americanism and the values that have guided our nation since its inception. Americanism is about more than just patriotism; it's about preserving the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy that have made our country great. It's about honoring the sacrifices of our veterans and their families, who have selflessly served to protect our way of life. As Legionnaires, we have a unique opportunity to promote Americanism in our communities.

We can do this by:

1. ***Supporting veterans' services***: Providing assistance to veterans, their families, and survivors through programs like the American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee.
2. ***Promoting patriotism***: Organizing events like Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, flag-raising ceremonies, and patriotic parades.
3. ***Educating youth***: Sponsoring programs like the American Legion's Oratorical Contest, which encourages high school students to learn about the Constitution and develop public speaking skills.
4. ***Preserving history***: Partnering with local historical societies and museums to preserve the stories of our nation's heroes and the history of our organization. As we celebrate our founding anniversary this April, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of Americanism. Let us continue to honor our heroes, preserve our history, and promote the values that have made our nation great. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of Americanism continues to thrive for generations to come.

Bob Jerdan DVC 24-25

Americanism Chairman 24-25

Candidate for Department Sr Vice Commander 25-26

We are moving into Spring and warmer weather. The committee is looking forward to seeing more great things from our post across the Department. Please keep in mind the different Community Service awards. With St. Patrick's days just behind us and different parades and events taking place at our post we look forward to seeing many AL Whites submissions. The committee is still looking for submissions for the Pendill award, Conway award and the Mulkern award. The committee is looking forward to continue meeting and review the great things post are doing throughout the Department. Please goto our website www.masslegion.oprg for additional information and forms.

Ryan Howe

Chairman Community Service

Greetings, American Legion Family. I hope this edition finds you all in good spirits as Winter is behind us and Spring is finally here.

Our marketing partnership with The Springfield Thunderbirds and "The Veteran of The Game" partnership continues to be a great success in building brand awareness of our organization. Many thanks are due to all who have helped present the coins at home games and to all who have staffed our numerous information tables as well.

A new online 50/50 Department Raffle will be starting soon. Please, watch for details in this publication as well as Facebook and the department website, MassLegion.org. Proceeds will benefit the department youth programs.

The traditional convention sweepstakes will be held again this year and drawn on the last day of Department Convention in June. Tickets will be mailed shortly. Please consider donations to both as your contribution helps the department and you can win some good cash prizes.

Last but not least, I am pleased to report that our department's yearly royalty check from Emblem Sales has been received. The amount this year was \$3,813.64. This royalty is based upon purchases from Emblem Sales shipped to Massachusetts. This amount is by far the highest I have seen as chairman and tops last year's check by almost \$700. Thanks to all who made this possible by purchasing Legion clothing and items.

In closing and as always, if you have any marketing ideas big or small that fit within our financial reach and capabilities, do not hesitate to contact the marketing committee.

Happy Easter to all and your loved ones!

Mike Davis PNEC
Marketing Chairman

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out our information papers 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.

You can find relevant legislation and the Legion's stance on them in the [key legislation section of VoterVoice](#).

Register for Action Alerts today at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register>

July 15 - 19, 2025

Massachusetts State Police
STUDENT TROOPER
Program



Apply Before Monday, May 5

[Mass.gov/student-trooper-program](https://www.mass.gov/student-trooper-program)

Email questions to student.trooper@pol.state.ma.us



Co-sponsored by the American Legion



**DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
PNC “CLIFF NOTES”**

PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

I am proud to report that the 14th Annual Bowling Tournament is sold out. Donations can still be made directly to the hospital or if your Post Unit or Squadron has sponsored a team you can give any donations to them.

DETACHMENT CONVENTION

CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Once again we are having our raffle for the Child Well-being Foundation, formally known as the Child Welfare Foundation at the Detachment Convention. We will be raffling 6 tablets and ten, \$10.00 lottery tickets. You could become a millionaire with the purchase of a ticket. The tablets are an Android 15 Tablet 10 inch, 18GB RAM+128GG ROM/2TB Expandable Tablet, 2 in 1 Tablets with Keyboard Case Mouse Stylus, 2.0GHz Quad-core CPU, 1280*800 IPS HD Screen, 5G WiFi6 BT 5.0, 8MP Camera Tablet PC.

THE MILLENNIUM

The latest copy of the Millennium our National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion is available on the Legion website www.masslegion.org/news. Check out Legiontown.org and see what people across the country are doing also.

MEMBERSHIP

There are still a lot of members who have not renewed for 2025. Please be advised those members currently have no rights and privileges of a member. Also, if their membership in the Riders is solely based on their membership in the Sons of The American Legion their Rider membership is also suspended. They are prohibited in taking part in ant Rider events.

Keep carrying on for God and Country.

Clifford Smith



The American Legion Family

14th ANNUAL “PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS” BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th, 2025
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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

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

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

50/50 Raffles | Food provided during tournament

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

Make checks payable to: Detachment of Mass SAL

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
“PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS”
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

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

\$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

POST NO. _____

UNIT NO. _____

SQUADRON NO. _____

RIDER CHAPTER NO. _____

BOWLER NO.1 _____

BOWLER NO.2 _____

BOWLER NO.3 _____

BOWLER NO.4 _____

The American Legion Family “Pin Points for Partnership”

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

AWARD PRESENTED FOR MOST PIN POINTS PLEDGED

Partnership Pin Points Pledge Sheet

Make Checks Payable To: Detachment of Mass SAL

Please Return Pledge Sheet and Donations To: Clifford Smith, 53 Messenger St. Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Pledge's Name	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone	Amount Pledged Per Point



At the annual Washington DC Legion Conference, I had the opportunity to sit in on a presentation of several staff from the Veterans Health Administration. They are doing some great work. This is a summary from a report that was available.

VHA's Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning unites the VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE), the Simulation Learning, Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Network (SimLEARN), the VHA Office of Advanced Manufacturing (VHA OAM), and the Center for Care and Payment Innovation (CCPI). Embrace a world of possibilities as we pave the way for cutting-edge advancements, foster growth through immersive learning experiences, and drive transformative changes in health care.

VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE) is the catalyst for enabling the discovery and spread of mission-driven health care innovation that exceeds expectations, restores hope, and builds trust within the Veteran community. VHA IE leverages the collective power of innovation champions from across VA, academia, non-profit and industry to operationalize innovation in the Nation's largest integrated health care system. This includes: Fellowships to develop health care leaders and Community Engagement to encourage collaborators across industries to accelerate innovation. One example is remote temperature monitoring for early identification of foot ulcers to prevent amputation.

The Simulation Learning, Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Network (SimLEARN) is the VHA's program for simulation in health care training. Serving the largest integrated health care system in the world, SimLEARN provides an ever-growing body of curricula and best practices that improve health care for our nation's Veterans. The use of innovative technologies in a safe learning environment enhances diagnostic, procedural and communication skills to support quality care and the best possible outcomes. One example is the Assessment, Collaboration and Outreach center which focuses on client centered education that is adaptable using simulation based training and best practices improving utilization of resources and minimizing cost.

The Center for Care and Payment Innovation enhances value for Veterans and VA by designing and testing new ways to deliver and pay for care that efficiently use resources and improve healthcare outcomes. CCPI partners with VA Health Care systems, VA Integrated Service Networks, VA program offices, and industry leaders in executing three core capabilities: Pilot programs; Strategy and Analytics.

Office of Advanced Manufacturing (OAM), where we lead the way in harnessing cutting-edge technologies such as 3D printing for health care applications. OAM provides an unprecedented and individualized approach in providing high quality, safe and effective innovative care to Veterans. Notable accomplishments to date include the establishment of an FDA-compliant Quality Management System, in-house production of patient-matched medical devices, and strategic collaborations with government agencies, academia, and industry partners to expedite the journey from promising product to clinical market.

VA Immersive is defining a new reality in Veteran health care by leading the nation in the clinical implementation of immersive technology and uncovering new ways to embrace employees' whole health. By engaging the senses of sight sound, and touch, immersive technology cultivates a new level of engagement to each Veteran's health care experience. For example, VA has now deployed more than 3,500 virtual reality (VR) headsets across more than 170 VA medical centers and outpatient clinics in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and American Samoa—advancing VA's commitment to connecting Veterans to the soonest and best care. The program also engages with industry, academia, and other Government agencies to co-develop content and engineer devices that are beneficial for our Nation's Veterans.

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

John P. Lenotte, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Past MA Department Commander; Past District 8 Essex Commander; Past Commander Post 4 Haverhill 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

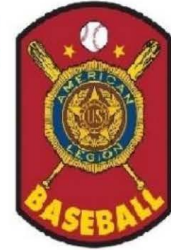
SAVE THE DATE – September 26 – 29, 2025 Combined Americanism Conference

We are pleased to announce that this September the Americanism Commission will again be hosting its annual National Americanism Conference. This year's segments will be offered in-person in Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration for conference segments will open June 1, 2025. A link to book your stay at the Sheraton Circle Centre Hotel will also be provided. Detailed agendas regarding each conference segment will be made available on the Legion website by early September. The point of contact regarding conference registration is Americanism staff Stacy Cope or Steve Cloud. Inquiries regarding program agendas may be directed to each respective Program Manager in the Americanism Division. Department Program Directors, Chairmen, staff, and volunteers across the entire nation are invited to participate in the 2025 National Americanism Conference. Conference attendees will be responsible for their own lodging, meals, and transportation costs associated with attending the conference.

Post 397 Shrewsbury



American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Fundraiser



Drawing on
August 8th



To support our team with hosting the American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Tournament, we are raffling a signed, numbered, framed limited-edition print of "The Homecoming, A Snapshot of History" by John D. Shaw. Not only is it signed by the artist, it is also signed by eight veterans of the Pacific Theater of WWII. This print depicts F4U Corsairs of VMF 214 flying over the Golden Gate Bridge in 1945 while Navy ships and troop transports pass underneath as troops returned home. A certificate of authenticity comes with it.

Tickets are one for \$5 or three for \$10.

For more information, contact Post 397
post397ma@gmail.com

VETS TOWN HALL



STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA
AT BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BRISTOL

Joseph A. Marshall
Veterans Center



By Denny Cosmo, Legion Post 303

Bristol Community College is proud to host a Vets Town Hall, providing a unique platform for veterans to share their stories and experiences with the community. This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th at 10 AM at the VA Vet Center in Fairhaven, MA. All community members are welcome to attend, and advance registration is encouraged.

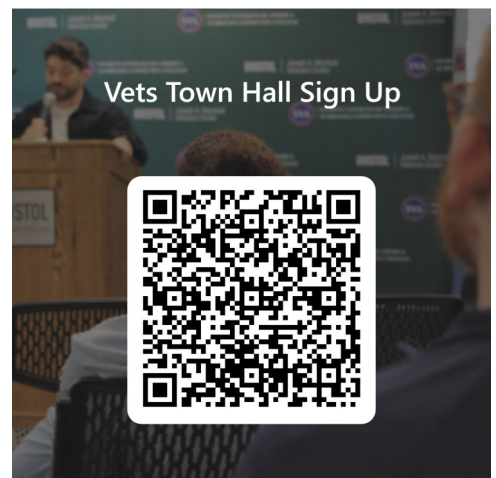
Vets Town Halls are designed to bridge the gap between veterans and civilians, fostering understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military. These gatherings offer veterans a safe space to speak openly about their service, challenges, and triumphs, while also allowing the community to listen, learn, and express their gratitude.

The initiative, inspired by the belief that every veteran's story matters, aims to create a supportive environment where veterans can connect with others who have shared similar experiences. It also provides an opportunity for civilians to gain insight into the realities of military life, promoting empathy and solidarity.

Attendees can expect heartfelt and candid discussions, with veterans sharing personal anecdotes and reflections. The events are not only a chance to honor those who have served but also to build stronger, more informed communities. Wearing your American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League, Disable American Veterans, or affiliated Auxiliaries member cap is highly encouraged.

These events are hosted by the Student Veterans of America chapter at Bristol Community College and the Master of Ceremonies will be U.S. Coast Guard Veteran Sarah McCaskey of American Legion Post 121. To participate in these meaningful events, please register in advance at Vets Town Halls. Your presence and support can make a significant difference in the lives of veterans and contribute to a more connected and understanding community. Here is the link to register: <https://forms.office.com/r/987YR96m9G>

You can follow Bristol student veterans and Vets Town Halls on social media at [@bristolccveteranscenter](https://twitter.com/bristolccveteranscenter) and [@vetstownhall](https://twitter.com/vetstownhall). Are you a Bristol CC alum? We would love more military connected alumni on the Steering Committee to ensure Bristol is always veteran-inclusive. For more information, email veterans@bristolcc.edu.





The 2025 Veterans Benefits Guide is now available

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers 2025 Edition

As part of our commitment to provide world-class care and benefits to those who have served our nation, VA is pleased to present the “[2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers.](#)”

Have you applied for VA care, benefits and services? Unsure what else you may be eligible for? Don't miss out on what you've earned—check out this handy reference guide to learn more.

The handbook will help Veterans, service members and their families understand the full scope of VA resources available to them to help them make the most of life after service. It provides details on eligibility requirements for each benefit, and because VA serves different generations of Veterans, it also outlines the qualification guidelines for distinct periods of service to clarify eligibility for Veterans with service spanning both peace and wartime periods.

The VA Federal Benefits Guide is available in both print and digital formats. Veterans and family members can access the booklet on [VA's website](#), providing instant and convenient access to the wealth of information it contains. A limited number of printed copies may be available at your local medical center, Vet Center or regional office. To find the nearest VA facility, go to www.va.gov/find-locations. The information in this guide is validated by VA as of Oct. 10, 2024. For the most up-to-date information, Veterans and family members should visit www.va.gov, or go to the specific links provided in this publication to access information on the program that they're interested in, as regulations, payments and eligibility requirements are subject to change. You can also call VA at 800-827-1000 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday to speak with a representative.





Post 279, during their weekly meat raffle paused to celebrate a huge birthday for Phyllis Gallant. Phyllis joined the post in 1957 when the Worcester All Women’s Post 419 closed.

She was born in Fall River, MA in 1921. She moved to Worcester at an early age and graduated from South High in 1941. After graduation, she trained to be a Licensed Practical Nurse at the former Holden Hospital for Nursing, graduating in 1943 at the height of World War II. She joined the WAVES of the U.S. Navy in 1944. She said “ I had to do something. My father was in the Navy in World War I. I had two uncles in the service, one in the Army and one in the Navy and an aunt in the Navy.” She served in the Hospital Corps in Norfolk, VA as a Pharmacist 3rd Class working as a corpsman on the wards, treating the wounded and injured soldiers returning from the war.

She not only helped treat the men’s wounds, but heal their souls by also serving as an entertainer. Phyllis was an acrobatic dancer. When the war was over she continued to serve them for another year before returning home.

When she got home she connected with an old friend and schoolmate Seymour Gallant, who had been serving in the Merchant Marines.

Most people recognize her as the petite carrier of the American Flag in the Memorial Day Parade for 50 years.

For 25 years she worked with the Auburn District Nurses taking blood pressures at the Senior Center. For the same 25 years she helped her son Stephen teaching students at the Mercy Center in Worcester to learn Square Dancing right up to the age of 81.

She was a volunteer at the St Joseph’s Thrift Shoppe for 10 years and sung in the St. Joseph’s choir for 30 years.

Phyllis has received the John E and Ethel E Riley Outstanding Citizen Award for 2002. Phyllis is in possession of the Boston Post Cane for being the oldest resident in Auburn. She still gets around with help of a walker, lives in her own home with the help of her daughter, Joan Gulick, and still gets up to the post on occasion to have a beer with the guys.





POW/MIA Ceremony

September 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm
Aboard the USS Massachusetts
Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA



All are Welcome!
Collation served after ceremony at
American Legion Post 303
73 Ocean Grove Ave, Swansea, MA
Contact Ken Starks @781-708-7934 or
Tony Dias @ 508-369-4223



**Department of Massachusetts
50/50 Raffle!**

NEW GAME STARTING SOON !

**Watch for details in
eLegionnaire, FB, and MassLegion.org**

**Proceeds benefit
American Legion Dept of Massachusetts
Youth Programs**



Around the Department— DSVC Conner Appreciation

*We're
having a*

BACKYARD BBQ SHINDIG!

Supporting

Scott Conner

Candidate for
Department Commander

**SATURDAY
MAY 10TH 2025**

Social 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Chow 2:00 pm

**Paxton Post 306
885 Pleasant St
Paxton, MA**

Tickets
\$25 per person

For tickets or more info
call or text Grace at:
774-239-2028



Dress Code - Wicked Casual



Around the Department— District Ten Get Together

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT 10
ANNUAL GET TOGETHER



50/50 Raffle
65in Flat Screen
TV Raffle

Basket Raffle
150 Raffle Club

SUNDAY | MAY 18TH, 2025 | 12 PM
\$20.00

Split Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Salad and Cake

Bourne Post 230
77 Valley Bars Road
Monument Beach, MA 02553

CONTACT JVC RACHEL PERRON
PHONE: (207) 632-2831
EMAIL: RACHELLPERRON@YAHOO.COM



Around the Department— Women Veterans Get Together



Women Veterans Get Together

Join us for a SHEROES special gathering to celebrate and connect with fellow women veterans!

This event is hosted by the Middleboro American Legion and the Veterans Association of Bristol County.

Enjoy lunch, a guest speaker, camaraderie, and the opportunity to meet other women who have served our country.

Sponsored by: Middleboro Lodge of Elks

RSVP to Mary at 339-309-9521

We look forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

MIDDLEBORO LODGE OF ELKS

24 HIGH ST, MIDDLEBORO, MA 02346



Department of Massachusetts at the Saint Paddy's Day Parade South Boston.



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
4/5/2025	10:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
4/5/2025	3:00 PM	National Commander's Banquet	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
4/6/2025	10:00 AM	Convention Committee Meeting	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlborough, MA
5/8/2025		Spring Meetings	Sheraton City Center Indianapolis, IN

AMERICAN LEGION 2025 Membership Standing *as of March 27, 2025 95% Goal 4/9/2025*

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 4 Worcester 90.43%
District 1 Berkshire 89.79%
District 7: Suffolk 89.75%



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	1064	89.79%
	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE			
3		3422	3023	89.10%
4	WORCESTER	4432	3963	90.43%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3171	88.38%
6	NORFOLK	2319	2052	88.96%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	1014	89.75%
8	ESSEX	2442	2136	88.21%
9	BRISTOL	2475	2053	85.09%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	3109	88.13%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	396	93.62%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	731	43.28%
	National Quota	26,576	22,989	86.50%



High school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The participants are assigned to mock cities and either the “Federalist Party” or “Nationalist Party.”

Assistance from dedicated ALA volunteers ensures the program’s nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

Candidates should be keenly interested in government and current events, and show strong leadership abilities. Because the structure of state and local government varies, ALA Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values.

2025 Membership Standing *as of March 28, 2025*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	196	103.2%
3	HAMPDEN/ FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	670	577	86.1%
4	WORCESTER	1037	946	91.2%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	847	90.1%
6	NORFOLK	337	318	94.4%
7	SUFFOLK	103	87	84.5%
8	ESSEX	612	593	96.9%
9	BRISTOL	268	231	86.2%
10	PLY/BARN/ NAN/DUKE	765	709	92.7%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	108	58.6%
	National Quota	5,106	4,612	90.3%

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Volume 2 | Issue 3 | Number 1 | March 2025

Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/newsletters

**Top Ten Detachments
Membership Percentage**

1. Latin America 100%
2. South Dakota 94.56%
3. South Carolina 94.41%
4. Hawaii 93.28%
5. New Hampshire 89.04%
6. Florida 88.27%
7. Wisconsin 87.91%
8. Ohio 87.35%
9. Virginia 87.17%
10. Maryland 86.87%

Statistics as of 03 March 2025

BE THE ONE

Inside *YOUR*
SAL Newsletter this Month

National Commander's Message
Editorial: March and April are busy months

100th Anniversary Committee Report

Washington Conference Wrap-up

Maryland: SAL Mid-Winter Conference

Illinois: Sons are hard at work
Membership Training and Development Report

ANEC Mike Pook (MN), Contributor to *The Millennium*

American Legion Family attends the 91st annual Lincoln Pilgrimage in Illinois

If you were going to experience something unbelievably memorable, then you should consider going to the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois held on Abraham Lincoln's Birthday each year. The Department of Illinois has hosted the Lincoln Pilgrimage for 91 years. It's only two days of activities and remembrance as we gather to honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Springfield has over fifteen Lincoln-related museums, the tomb of our 16th President, and much more to visit. There is a lot more to do in Springfield than you can fit it into two days!




Submitted Photo: American Legion wreaths placed to honor President Lincoln at his tomb

The Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield has been conducted by Post 32 every year since 1935, making it the longest running annual event honoring his birthday. "This annual pilgrimage is now an American Legion Family tradition, and one that would please President Lincoln were he to join us today. Our Family is reunited once again," said Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 Commander James Peters, Jr. The Detachment of Illinois hosted the Tuesday, February 11 reception with the National SAL Commander as the keynote speaker.

"Lincoln's promise to take care of our veterans is reflected in the great works of the Sons of The American Legion," Joseph Navarrete said. "The Sons' mission is to support our veterans, as well as their families. We have done so through record donations to the Veterans and Children Foundation and the Child Well-being Foundation."

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joseph Navarrete said that the SAL is committed to delivering on Lincoln's legacy.

The Lincoln Pilgrimage hosting department is The American Legion Department of Illinois.



Facebook Photo: National Commander Joseph Navarrete, National President Ward, and National Commander Navarrete bringing the snow to rub Lincoln's Nose for good luck at Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield, IL—something some 200,000 visitors do each year.

Continued on Page 4 ...

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion 1

Available on our website www.masslegion.org/news

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of March 27, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	214	97.37%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	577	79.55%
4	WORCESTER	983	849	90.13%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1103	89.72%
6	NORFOLK	835	635	80.00%
7	SUFFOLK	196	135	69.90%
8	ESSEX	442	343	80.54%
9	BRISTOL	280	206	86.07%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	621	79.11%
	National Goal	5758	4782	84.35%



★  ★

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>





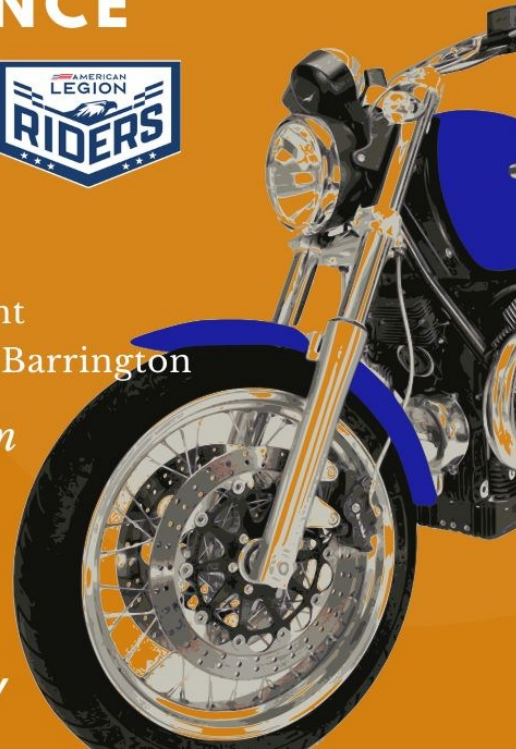
REMEMBRANCE RUN



Date: May 24, 2025
Registration 10am
Ceremony 11am
Guest Speaker - Dan Sargent
KSU 12pm - to Agave in Gt Barrington

*Dalton American Legion
258 North Street
Dalton Ma*

Breakfast by the Auxiliary



Help us bring the Pony Express

TO MASSACHUSETTS
Pony Express
Motorcycle Run
2025



Save the Date

ALR Pony Express Massachusetts
June 7, 2025

All proceeds and sponsorships will go to
Veterans and Children's Foundation



The ride will start from 3 points within the state, then we will converge at a central point, and then all proceed together to the American Legion Convention in Marlborough, MA.

All Chapters are encouraged to participate.



If your chapter would like to be involved, please contact:
Bernie 508-873-2426 or Dave 508-801-6379

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY MAY 10TH

MASQUERADE BALL AMERICAN LEGION POST **40**



7:00PM COCKTAIL HOUR WITH APPETIZERS

8:00 PM OUR BAND WHISKEY PRINCESS WILL HAVE YOU
ON THE DANCE FLOOR TILL 12:00AM

\$20.00 PER PERSON

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND THANK
YOU FOR ALWAYS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS POST.




*Blessing
OF
THE Bikes*

Vernon Hill American Legion
Riders Chapter 435



267 Providence St.
Worcester, MA 01607

Saturday, May 10th 2025



Spring Meat Raffle



Hosted by

The Vernon Hill Post 435 American Legion

267 Providence Street • Worcester, MA 01607

Sunday, April 6, 2025

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Early Bird Tickets 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
6 Ticket in Total - Can be Used on 1st 3 Tables

Food for purchase

50/50 Raffle

Meat Raffle for Clinton Bulldogs



The American Legion Baseball is back!!!!

When:	April 13, 2025
Where:	Break - Away Billiards 104 Sterling Street Clinton, MA 01510
Time:	1:00 to 3:00 PM

Tons of fun, plenty of meat, raffle baskets galore

And

A chance for Red Sox Tickets against Cincinnati Reds

For More Info Call 978 230 6208



The 11th Annual Granby American Legion Post 266 Scramble Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Our golf tournament fundraiser proceeds go towards our high school scholarship fund, our building/kitchen remodeling fund, and to our continued support of veteran and community programs that the American Legion Post 266 so proudly supports!

Friday, May 23, 2025

Chicopee Country Club, Chicopee, MA.

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPENS – 9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

Registration Fee: \$125 per person - 4 person team, scramble format

Team Registration:

Player 1 _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

Registration fee includes green fees, cart, lunch and a buffet dinner! There will be cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, closest to the pin on all Par 3's and for longest drive for male and female. The Golf Air Cannon by Golf Tournament Solutions will be on course, and we'll also have a great raffle table and a 50/50 raffle!

Tournament Sponsorships Available

Gold – Business Sponsor w/foursome - \$1000	_____	Longest Drive Sponsor - \$300	_____
Silver - Dinner Sponsor w/foursome - \$800	_____	Closest to the Pin Sponsor - \$300	_____
Bronze - Lunch Sponsor - \$600	_____	Golf Balls & Tees Sponsor - \$200	_____
Golf Ball Cannon Sponsor - \$500	_____	Tee Box Sponsor - \$150	_____

All sponsorship levels will come with special recognition and signage, along with extensive social media recognition of your generous donation! All sponsorships will also be displayed on a sponsor banner that will hang proudly inside the Granby American Legion Lounge, all year long, for all to see!

If choosing to be a sponsor, please let us know the wording for the sponsor sign.

Wording for sponsor sign: _____

Please contact Rob Chauvin at 519-6636 or Jen Bernatchez at 335-2390 for tournament info or email at us at legionpost266@comcast.net. If paying by check, please make payable to the Granby American Legion Post 266. Payment options for team and sponsors are: (1.) Mail or drop off registration form & check at the Post Lounge, 74 Pleasant St., Granby, MA. 01033. or (2.) Pay via PayPal or Venmo.





Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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

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

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2023-2024 Officers

Commander

Nelson Blake

Sr. Vice Commander

Scott Connor

Vice Commanders

Robert Jerdan

Drew Pajak

S. Ryan Howe

Historian

Mitchel Kiel

Executive Committee Women

Mary Standish

Sergeant-at-Arms

Robert Desrosiers

Photographer

Lisa Borges

National Executive Committeeman

Jodie Pajak

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

John Lenotte

Service Officer

Mike Whalen

Dana Sheehan

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

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

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

The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.

Room 546-2, State House

Boston, MA 02133



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



Follow the Department of Massachusetts on Facebook @

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts