

MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPAERTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 16 Issue 7 December 2025



Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner **Department Commander**

As we bring the unofficial/ official Veterans month to a close, most of us can reflect back at the opportunities abound to serve our cause. Wander through social media, and you can see that many of you, individually, and your posts represented

The American Legion through various events. The ANEC, DVCs, District and Post Commanders went to the classroom and brought the good word of Veterans and those they serve. You held ceremonies to celebrate those who have served, many spoke at community events, and many others either participated in various formations or just attended to support the program—a heartfelt thank you. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and fellow veterans.

Now that we are invigorated for the season, let's segue into the greatest time of the year. Many holidays are celebrated during December, Bodhi on the 8th, Hanukkah on the 14th

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EGION Commander's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

through 18th, Christmas on the 25th, and Kwanzaa on December 26 through January 1st. Regardless of the event, please remember our veterans and their families during the season of giving. Though many of us, yes us included, suffer from increased stressors during the holidays, remember **Be the One!** and make a difference. Let's keep an eye on each other and make December the most joyous month of the year.

When is the last time you participated in a tree lighting, kids' holiday party (don't have children the "right" age, everyone can use help), visited a veterans center, or called bingo at a veterans holiday party? Consider getting out into the Veterans community. And please get out and enjoy a community event, let them know you're from The American Legion. Many will participate in Wreaths Across America, First: thanks to all who are a part of it both financially and physically, Second: Bring a Buddy, it will make you feel great, promise. December isn't the only month our neighbors need help, but it can certainly help stimulate programs for the rest of the year.

Yes, I know you're thinking, wait for it...... **BUDDY CHECKS!!** Pick a day, either morning or afternoon, get some Post or District members together, and have a Buddy Check telethon event. Make it a holiday event, think holiday treats and other refreshments, and a Post party later in the day or evening. You just cannot feel good about that. And fellow Legionnaires, "you may think it's a movement. And that's what it is, the Buddy Check Be the One movement, and all you have to do to join is pick up the phone". Hey! That sounds like "Alice's Restaurant?" Arlo and I wish you and your family the absolute best during the season of giving.

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

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

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

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

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

Scott M. Conner Commander Department of Massachusetts 774-239-6162 Scottscpo@gmail.com



Department President

Holiday Giving - American Legion Family

As we gather for another holiday season, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our American Legion Family for the kindness and generosity you continue to show throughout Massachusetts. This time of year highlights what makes our organization so special: the way we come together to support veterans, military families, and our communities with open hearts.

Many people face challenges during the holidays, and your efforts—whether preparing meals, donating gifts, hosting community events, or simply

checking in on someone who may be alone—make a real difference. These acts of giving embody the very best of Service Not Self and remind others that they are remembered and valued.

Thank you for all you do, not only during the holiday season but year-round. Your compassion is truly the spirit of our American Legion Family. Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful, warm, and meaningful holiday season.

Sofia Elizabeth Blake Department President



National Leadership at Arlington National Cemetery



Detachment Commander



Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek

Greetings Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family,

On October 3rd, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation that would set the stage for an American national day of Thanksgiving. In spite of the horrors of the Civil War, the president noted:

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly en-

joyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God." And, he called upon "citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwellth in the Heavens."

This sentiment rings as true today as they did 162 years ago. Even though life at times may seem chaotic, we have much for which to be thankful and should take pause to appreciate our good tidings. Our nation is at peace abroad, and our economy is strong. Awareness of and respect for our veterans is high. And, membership in the Sons of the American Legion nationally is growing every day.

As Detachment Commander, I am thankful for the many blessings that the Supreme Creator of All has bestowed onto me: my own family and friends, my Post

Family, and the opportunity to serve all those who served on the local, state and national levels.

I am also hopeful that your prayers are heard and graciously answered, and that you and all of your loved ones find health and happiness during this Holiday Season.

And if you are struggling in this moment, please remember – you are not alone. You are part of the American Legion Family, a national organization with a passionate membership that is always ready to assist those in need. Whether you are a Legionnaire, a Son, or a Unit Member, you are part of a family that is here for you.

May God continue to guide us all in our service to community, state and nation, and watch over our active duty enlisted men and women serving overseas and their families waiting for their eventual return.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year

Jesse Limanek
Commander for the Detachment of Massachusetts







The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

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

December 2025

Legionnaires,

Happy Holidays! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work you do for the American Legion Department of Massachusetts. You are the unsung heroes of our organization. Let us all remember how blessed we are to live in the greatest nation on the planet. Our work is never done. Let us all continue the good work of all the Legionnaires who have come before us. Let's work together to make sure our community, state, and nation continues the values of which this nation was founded on, life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Grace and I have made changes hopefully to improve communication between the Department and the Posts. Extra mailings, Department on the Road, Post Adjutant forum, hopefully allows you to do the important work of your Posts. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, ideas, and complaints. We are here to serve you.

If any of you want to be included in the membership weekly email let me know and I will add you to the email. Do not forget that E-Legionnaire is an awesome tool for Posts to communicate Post events and activities.

Reminder a Post mailing will be going out in January. If your Post has had an address change in the last six months, please make sure we have the correct address for your Post.

Please have a safe and happy holiday. Don't forget Post Adjutant Forum in December will get the date to you all. I am looking at the 3rd Monday of every month.

Yours in Comradeship

Lisa A. McPhee Lisa A. McPhee Department Adjutant Massachusetts

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

The American Legion was built on and committed to four key pillars that still stand today: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth

Office on the Road



Where: Post 294 Quincy

81-83 Liberty St Quincy MA

When: December 11, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Bring your questions, problems, and computers (if you have one).

Department will be there to help you!



Membership—DSVC Robert Jerdan

The Power of the Final Push

The end of the calendar year is the deadline for us to meet our national membership goals, ensuring that the Department of Massachusetts is positioned as a strong advocate for veterans at the state and national levels in the coming year. Your 2025membership card is more than just a token; it is the fuel for our success. Dues collected now immediately fund the critical programs that define the Legion's commitment to Veterans,

their families, and the community. By renewing today, or by sponsoring a new member, you are directly supporting Veterans Outreach and Assistance: Ensuring our Service Officers can continue to help veterans access the benefits they've earned. Youth Programs: Funding our local American Legion Baseball teams, Boys State, and oratorical contests for the next generation of leaders. The December Difference: Directly enabling the holiday initiatives outlined below.

If you know a Post-eligible veteran who hasn't yet joined, or a current member who hasn't renewed, December is the time to reach out. Remind them that membership is the ultimate gift of service, connecting them to a community that understands their journey.

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)
Senior Vice Commander 25-26
Department Of Massachusetts
Candidate for Department
Commander 26-27



"As we close out another year it is always nice to look back and see where we came from! The American Legion has stood for over 100 years and will continue to protect and care for Veterans! Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a Happy New Year!"





EGION Americanism—DVC Chris Manning



We are fast approaching one of our most important holidays, we will spend much time with friends and family celebrating the winter season with great meals and gift giving. There are many who can't

be part of this because of homelessness or unable to venture out due to illness. These folks many are Veterans could use a most wanted visit **Buddy Check** to share quality time with them, whether sharing a meal or time well spent with something as simple as a cup of coffee. A good conversation about what we can do as the American Legion to support and better their day in some way. Make them a part of your day! There are many Posts that open their doors to Seniors and Veter-

ans for a Holiday Meal, this is a great time to step up and help out with your efforts to bring Holiday Joy to our Veterans and their fami- all in attendance! lies.

A Big Birthday Celebration goes to our own Revere Legionnaire Arthur Minichiello, Our District 7 Commander Mary-dith Tuitt and Department Vice Chris Manning were on hand to help him celebrate his 100th birthday. Arthur is a WWII Navy Veteran who served aboard the USS New Jersey, his ship played a large roll in the war. Police, Fire and US Post Office workers held a personal parade at the Pheasant Woods facility in Petersborough NH. A certificate was presented to him by District 7 Commander on behalf of our National Commander Dan K Wiley. A Great Time was had by

Marketing—PNEC Mike Davis

Greetings American Legion Family. I hope this edition of this publication finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits as the Holiday Season is upon us.

Every December brings the annual Army-Navy collegiate football game. This year The American Legion will once again be a cosponsor of the game for the second year in a row and the game's official veterans service organization. Many posts will be hosting

"watch parties" for the game. Also, official American Legion Army-Navy Game merchandise can be found on Emblem Sales.Remember that all purchases made on Emblem Sales support The American Legion and its programs.

This winter will see the return of our traditional winter sweepstakes. Tickets will be mailed soon and the drawing will take place at the January Department Executive

Committee Meeting. Please, consider returning your tickets with a donation as your contribution helps the department and its programs. Also, you can win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000.

As always, if you have any marketing ideas, please do not hesitate to contact the committee.

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman.

Post 40 Legion Family in Massachusetts



(Danielle Pizzi Photo)

Around 300 people show up for funeral of veterans with no family, thanks to the efforts of members of Post 40's Legion Family in Massachusetts

What started as a simple color guard assignment at a veteran's funeral turned into much more, thanks to members of American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth, Mass.

U.S. Air Force and Army veteran Francis M. "Frank" Dobrynski, who passed away earlier this year, was going to be buried with little fanfare because no one could locate any members of his family. But when Post 40's color guard was asked to render honors at the funeral, two of its members decided more could be done.

The result: On Oct. 17, hundreds showed up at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne to

provide Dobrynski with the proper sendoff, including various military and veteran groups, state politicians and members of the community who had never even met the veteran.

Jay Beauregard, a corporal in Post 40's color guard, said a previous experience providing honors at a veteran's funeral motivated him to urge others to attend this one.

"We were the rifle detail and were at the Bourne national cemetery. The hearse showed up and the Air Force detail was there, but there was nobody else there," Beauregard said. "No family, no friends, nobody. That was the saddest thing I've ever participated in. In fact, the Air Force pulled me out of the firing detail to accept the flag from the Air Force. That was very, very sad. I was hoping that would be the last time I would ever see that."

Post 40 got involved when Heidie L. Grant, a funeral director at Cart-

mell-Davis Funeral Home in Plymouth and a member of Auxiliary Unit 40, told Commander Brad Freeman about Dobrynski's situation and asked if Post 40's honor guard would be available to provide a rifle salute at the veteran's funeral, to which Freeman said yes.

"A few months went by, and she gave me a date," Freeman said. "I called Jay. He got his daughter Danielle involved. She's in the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, and she was like, 'Hey, let's spread the word.' We went back to the funeral and got their permission to post about it on social media to get more than a half a dozen of us (at the funeral). And it kind of went viral. It was an amazing thing."

Beauregard put a request for attendance at funeral on what he said were 10 or so Facebook pages that he frequents, hoping "to get a couple people to show up." But then his daughter, who also is a member of Unit 40, got involved.

"She called me and said, 'Dad, I put your post up on 127 more sites," Beauregard said. "After that, she was the contact person for all the groups that wanted to attend. The people I think should get most of the credit are Heidie at the funeral home and Danielle for reaching out to so many more other organizations."

LEGION Post 40 (Continued)

By the time the funeral rolled around, so many people were expected to attend that the service had to be moved to the cemetery's largest venue. Among the roughly 300 in attendance were members of Post 40 and its Riders chapter, the Marine Corps League, Patriot Guard Riders and other veteran service organizations. Also paying their respects to the Korean War veteran were State Reps. Steven Xiarhos, Justin Thurber and John Gaskey, as well as State Sen. Kelly A. Dooner.

"People just wanted to be there for him. It was amazing," said Freeman, Post 40's color guard sergeant. "I think the veteran community right now, they're looking for something to do with their brothers and sisters. They're looking for something to bring us together.

"And it's what we do. My color guard is the only color guard in our county that provides this service. It's something we do, but I think this particular service was ... to show some respect for our brother and show some camaraderie with our veteran brothers and sisters."

Freeman praised Beauregard for his dedication to the color guard. And for Beauregard, seeing the turnout made him feel "the opposite of being so depressed from having nobody there. It was pure satisfaction. Hopefully this guy was looking down from heaven. It made me feel so good that these people showed up. They didn't have to be there."

Beauregard said it didn't matter whether or not he'd ever met Dobrynski. "This person was a veteran. He deserved it," he said. "I don't know exactly what he did other than serving in the Army and Air Force. I don't need to know that. All I know is this person was in the military, did his time and deserved some respect."



Grassroots Information



Interested in what The American Legion is advocating for in Congress on *The Veteran's Role in Sup- porting the Military?* Check out our information paper in the <u>Legislative Toolkit</u>. This is a great starting point for a conversa- tion 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.

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



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133 617-727-2966

To: All Post Commanders and/or Boys State Chairmen From: Mark Avis, Chairman Massachusetts Boys State

Massachusetts Boys State 2026 - Sponsor Form

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

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

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

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



Scan QR Code to Complete Sponsor Form

Form Link: sponsor.maboysstate.org

Payment Options: Check by Mail or Debit/Credit Card

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

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

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



MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE 2026

Sponsor Supplement Form (Check by Mail)

DIRECTIONS (Must complete all 4 steps)

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

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

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

Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069

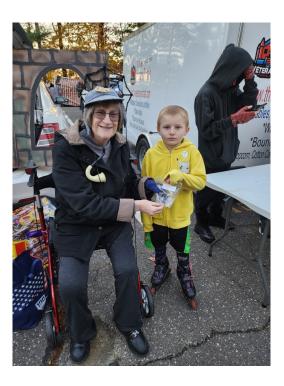
LEGION An America 250 Event in Palmer!

On October 24, 2025 the town of Palmer held there annual trunk or treat. i made 250 bags with a flag pin in it and the pledge of allegiance on it.

The comments from the kids receiving them was. "This is the best yet" - a mother said the girl could give it to her dad and she replied "no this is mine.

This was just a few of the positive comments parents also asking for pins.







December 6, 20251:00—2:00 PM Burial Hill Tour Series—Revolutionary Connections The

Plymouth Antiquarian Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum announce their continuing partnership in a free public tour series of Plymouth's historic Burial Hill for the 2025 season. Each first Saturday of the month a thematic tour of the ancient burying ground will reveal facets of Plymouth's evolving story over generations. This year honors the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution with a series theme of "Revolutionary Connections." Each monthly tour highlights the Revolutionary era in Plymouth with insights into South Shore connections to America's contest for independence. Presenters include local historians and authors who share their expertise on a range of topics, highlighting art, history, and culture atop the open-air history museum in the heart of downtown Plymouth, Burial Hill.

December 5, 2025 11:00 AM—3:00 PM HANDMADE CRAFT DEMONSTRATION AND SALE

Erich and Janice Steinhagen bring their 18th century craft techniques all the way from Connecticut for a two-day holiday season residency as they demonstrate redware pottery production and the fiber art of spinning in our Revere Room. Erich will be throwing pots on the wheel while Janice spins sheep's wool or flax into yarn. Finished products will be available for sale!

While the crafters share their techniques on the ground floor of our Visitor Center, R.P. Hale will provide an 18th and 19th century Advent soundtrack in the second-floor exhibit space, playing the harpsichord and virginal, he meticulously crafted himself based on period originals.

December 13, 2025 2:00 –4:00 PM NOT YOUR BOSTON TEA PARTY

Residents of Charlemont and beyond will remember the Boston Tea Party with a talk by Emily Dickinson Museum director Jane Wald. Wald will touch on the social functions of tea in 19th-century America (and at the end of the 18th century with the Boston Tea Party) and show photographs of tea paraphernalia in the museum's collection. At the end of the afternoon, tea will be dumped nearby. Singing may ensue.

Tea will of course be served. Cookies are welcome. Admission is free.

This event is co-sponsored by Museum on Main Street: More Voices, More Votes; Mohawk Trail Regional School; and the Friends of the Tyler Memorial Library, with support from Mass Humanities and the Charlemont-Hawley Arts Council.

DECEMBER 16, 2025 1:40—4:30 PM BOSTON TEA PARTY ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Join Hub Town Tours for an anniversary tour marking 252 years since the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773! We'll travel along the Freedom Trail in Downtown Boston and the North End, sharing the gripping story of a small colonial town careening toward war with the British Empire. Along the way, your historian guide will explain the defiant local protest against the Tea Act, placing this pivotal event in the broader context of the beginning of the American Revolution. This historic walking tour highlights Boston's principal role in colonial agitation against taxation without representation, concluding in time for guests to enjoy the annual commemorative reenactment at the Old South Meeting House, site of the momentous town meeting held just prior to the shocking Destruction of the Tea.

Goto Massachusetts250.org for more information



Lawrence A. Connors

Past National Executive Committeeman

This year we were extremely fortunate The J. B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc of Massachusetts has been selected to receive The Veterans Employment & Education 2025 Employment awards in the Large Employer Category.

Many thanks to Cindy Lacoste efforts and reaching out to The J. B. Hunt Transport Inc.

Thanks also to Our Adjutant, Lisa McPhee. And to Oliva E. Bassier of The National Staff.

In addition J. B. Hunt a second nomination was submitted By the Vernon Hill Post # 435 for The Wyman- Gordon Company. Although not awarded we encourage to all to revise and resubmit for next year.

Attached below are the Instructions & Award Categories for Awards

If you know any company's who are qualified for these awards Please either contact them directly the directly, or send me their contact information, I will forward all needed paperwork.

Thank you very much Larry

136 Pilgrim Trail Plymouth, MA 02360 774-404-1779 I_connors@comcast.net



THE EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD

Information Sheet

History: The Veterans Employment and Education Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program in 1969 when it created an award category for employers of veterans. Originally, departments were permitted to submit one nomination each for a large and a small employer of veterans. In 1992, the number of awards for employers of veterans was increased. Today, departments may submit a total of 3 nominations for this category for national consideration.

- One nomination for a small company with 50 or fewer employees
- One nomination for a medium sized company with workforces of 51 to 200
- One nomination for a large company with 201 or more employees

National Awards: These awards, one in each of the three employers of veterans size categories, are presented at the National Convention. In order to be eligible for the Employer of Veterans Awards, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- 1) At least 10 percent of the nominee's workforce must be veterans.
- 2) The nominee must have been in business for at least five years.
- 3) The nominee cannot restrict employment to veterans only.
- 4) The nominee must be a private sector employer. In other words, the nominee cannot be a city, state, or federal employer.

A department that submits a nomination for an employer of veterans that does not meet the above criteria will receive a plaque for presentation. However, that nominee will not be eligible for a national award.

Selections of the Employer of Veterans Awards are made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission Award Subcommittee, which meets during the annual Washington Conference.

The purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one small, one medium and one large employer in each state for outstanding records in the hiring and retention of veterans.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of nominations of employers of veterans is no later than January 15th. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.



THE NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION AWARDS

The first American Legion Veterans Employment and 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 were added to the current nine award programs.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards that are available to The American Legion. We implore all departments to continue to submit award nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400 + possible nominations. We are striving to reach 100% participation in this program.

- 1. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (SMALL)
- 2. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (MEDIUM)
- 3. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (LARGE)
- 4. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (DVOP)
- 5. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (LVER)
- 6. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (LOCAL OFFICE)
- 7. EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
- 8. ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED PERSON AWARD
- 9. MICHAEL GUTY HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH AWARD

To be considered for the National Award, the deadline for submittals to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission in Washington, DC is <u>January 15</u>, of the following year. Example: To be nominated for the 2018 awards the nomination must be in by January 15, 2019. 2026.

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. Each of the national winners receives a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative's travel to the convention city to accept the award.

We ask that you submit written correspondence or send an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to our national headquarters office. Please title your letter '[Title] Awards- [Department name]'.

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form (see the following pages) and must not be longer than two pages of narrative. Supporting documents, which may also be submitted with the nomination, must not exceed ten pages.

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION 1608 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006

E-MAIL A SCANNED COPY VE&E@LEGION.ORG

DEPARTMENTS MAY REPRODUCE ALL FORMS FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION



TRAINING FOR TODAY. LEADERS FOR TOMORROW.

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

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

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

REGISTER HERE

LEGION Editorial - NEC John Lenotte

Time continues to fly by. Here we are again with the Christmas and New Year's holidays quickly upon us. Let us not forget the men and women in our military, many of whom will not be with their families this season. This is a sacrifice that most cannot imagine unless they have been through it. Some of them are your family and neighbors. They deserve our kindness and appreciation and perhaps some help. Ask what you can do to help them and their families, some of whom may be in need at this time of year. Perhaps a good time to contribute to the Department Commander's charity – Operation Comfort Warrior!

We must not forget that we still have troops who are making the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. With the ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world, more of our troops are in extremely hazardous areas. Freedoms that way too many take for granted.

As we look to a new year, I personally hope that Congress – both House and Senate: Independents, Democrats and Republicans, will do the job we sent them to do when we voted for them. That is to compromise and to LEGISLATE. Too much time is spent attacking each other. I noted this a year ago and not much seems to have changed in Washington, DC.

Does all of this make you frustrated? As I have noted in the past, you need to contact your elected officials and let them know. We voted them into office and we can vote them out of office. They should be addressing our concerns. But they don't know what those concerns are unless we tell them. We need to make our voices be heard. Again I continue to encourage everyone to go to www.legion.org, legislative and sign up for the grassroots action center. It takes but a few minutes and then you can easily send emails to Congress on pending legislation.

This time of year is also a great time for buddy checks. Don't forget to reach out to family and friends. The holidays can be a depressing time for many. Let's connect. No regrets.

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

John Lenotte, National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com



Legion Leadership at the Connecticut Commanders Banquet Sopia Blake Department President, PNC John P. "Jake" Comer, Jessie Limanek Detachment Commander and Scott Conner Department Commander

LEGION

Auxiliary National Vice President



Dr. Coral May Grout was elected and installed as National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary on August 27, 2025 at the annual National Convention in Tampa, Florida. She resides in the Department of Massachusetts and is a member of Eugene M. Connor Unit 193in Winchendon, Massachusetts.

Coral's eligibility is through her father, Charles E. Grout, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines and Australia during WWII. Also she adds military service of her grandfather, Stanislas Laplante, who served in the U.S.

Army during WWI.

Throughout her more than 70 years of membership, she has served several unit-, district-, and department-level chairmanships and offices, including the district Education chair for 25 years and department president three times. At the National level, she has served as chair of Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Education (twice), Americanism, Constitution & Bylaws, Public Relations, Legislative, Leadership, Community Service, and Junior Activities committees. In addition, she served on the National Executive Committee, and as national secretary and national historian.

from Mount Holyoke College, Coral earned a Master of Education degree from Boston College and then took her love for learning to the next level by graduating with a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts.

Coral is a retired superintendent of Charles and Rachel Grout schools, former assistant superintendent for curriculum and in-

struction, middle school administrator, and middle school teacher. She was an adjunct faculty at Franklin Pierce University and Worcester State University. For the last 14 years, Coral has been a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education consultant for underperforming school districts and RETELL. She is a national presenter on grant writing and leadership topics, and also on the board of directors for Trusted Financial Life Insurance Corporation in Milwaukee. She was the treasurer for the Mount Holvoke College Class of 1975 multiple times and is a Leader and Eucharistic Minister for the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. She was After receiving a bachelor's degree town moderator for Winchendon, Mass, ending her nine years at the helm in May, 2025.

> Coral lives in Massachusetts and Florida with her cat, Chloe. Her favorite pastimes include traveling, playing golf, exercising, and gardening. She is an only child to (deceased).





DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS PNC "CLIFF NOTES"

PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

A new fillable donation form for those who want to donate directly to the hospital in your area. Is available on the Department Website and the following page. We have a new contact person, Bryanna Grimes at Boston Children's Hospital. I spoke with her and explained the program to her. She is looking forward to working with us.

Remember: It's All About the Kids

DETACHMENT WEBMASTER

We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking over the duties of the Detachment Webmaster. The web site is currently shut down as we are looking to retool and modernize the site. If there is any member in the Detachment who has expertise in setting up and maintaining web sites, we would greatly appreciate you joining our Detachment Team. You would also be maintaining our Detachment Facebook page and be involved in setting up any other social media platforms that may be deemed appropriate.

Maintaining the site would be at your own home and at your own leisure. When we have the site once again up and running it would require only a few hours a month of editing for various items. The website is a crucial part of our communication process. Taking on this position would be a tremendous help to the Detachment and help provide many benefits to all our members here in Massachusetts.

If anyone is interested in becoming the Detachment Webmaster, please contact Mark McCue at the following:

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY -

Chairman Mark B. McCue,

878 Stafford St., Rochdale, MA 01542 Cell: 508-328-0970 Home:

e- mail markbmccue@gmail.com

Keep carrying on for God and Country.

Clifford Smith
Past National Commander
cliffpnc@gmail.com









Department of Massachusetts The American Legion Family

Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders Numb	ber:	
Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders, Indiv	vidual, Business Name:	
Contact Person:		
Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders, Indiv	vidual, Business Address:	
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Baystate Children's Hosp	bital Boston Children's Hospital	UMass Memorial Healthcare
Baystate Health Foundation	Boston Children's Hospital	Office of Philanthropy
280 Chestnut Street, 6 th Floor	401 Park Drive, Suite 602	UMass Memorial Health Care
Springfield, MA 01199	Boston, MA 02215	365 Plantation Street, Biotech One RM 301
ATTN: Maria Gorecki	ATTN: Bryanna Grimes	Worcester, MA 01605

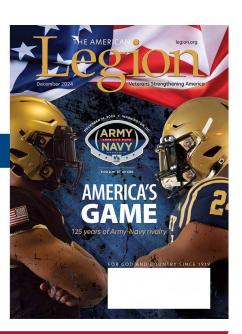




OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

2024 ARMY-NAVY GAME RECAP

- US Viewership at 9.4M*; up 31% from 2023 and highest on record since 1989
- 9th highest ranked regular season college football broadcast
- Sold Out Attendance: 60,726
- 25M digital and social media impressions
- Radio resulted in 2.3 RTG(rating) across 309 affiliates
- Most streamed game with 929K overall streams



THE AMERICAN LEGION @ ARMY-NAVY GAME: BY THE NUMBERS

- 4M Viewership across local market media buy
- New York, Boston, LA and Dallas
- Over 500K reach across Legion social media platforms
- 61M+ potential audience reach as participants in USAA Media Row – CBS Eye on Veterans, Sirius XM, FOX News, Task & Purpose

BONUS ASSETS (NON-CONTRACTUAL)

- Ticket delivery emails
- Inclusion in host city (Washington, D.C.) welcome branding and awareness campaign – billboards, dedicated light post signage, DC metro digital signage, DC metro buses, merchant window clings, etc.
- Army-Navy Game Mobile Application Assets

NEW FOR 2025

- National media buy with CBS Sports Network delivering season-long Armed Forces in-game assets, Army-Navy pre-game in studio presence and strong CBS Sports Digital support noting that the buy does not include the \$2M in-game :30 TV sport for the 2025 game
- Enhanced visibility through integration into USAA assets as Presenting Sponsor
- Expanded fan engagement with additional on-site activation areas on game day
- Membership recruitment focused ticket incentive
- Clear alignment with a defined 'Partnership Mission Statement' to guide a multi-channel activation strategy

PARTNERSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

Through its partnership with the Army-Navy Game, The American Legion aims to strengthen and grow strategic relationships with key partners, lawmakers and veteran advocates; through focused storytelling that captures the elevate brand national awareness heart of our mission; rally public support for veterans through purpose-driven fundraising across all engagement touchpoints; and re-energize the pride and unity within our Legion Family.

In uniting the Army-Navy Game with The American Legion, we reaffirm our commitment to honoring the past, supporting the present, and building a brighter future for our veterans.



Around the Department—Commanders Banquet



Scott M. Conner Department Commander

Plainridge Park Casino

301 Washington Street Plainville, MA

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

Dress Code - Casino Casual

Tickets - \$50 pp Tables are rounds of 10

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

617-727-2966 or DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

Checks payable to: TAL Dept of Mass

Ticket sales cutoff date - January 24th

Commander's Charity
Operation Comfort Warriors





Department Commander's Banquet Honoring Scott M. Conner

Saturday - February 21st, 2026

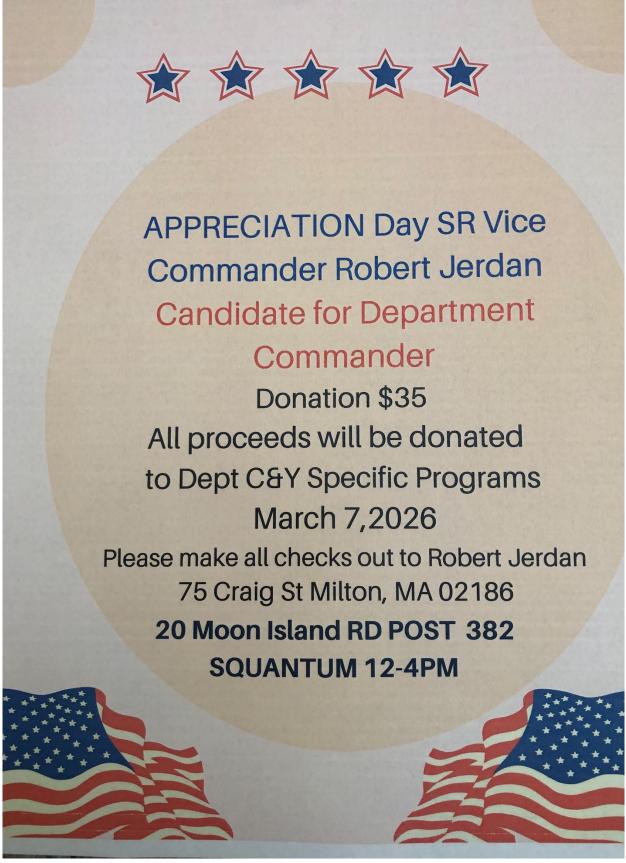
Copy deadline needs to be received (<u>not</u> postmarked by) in the Department office by January 24, 2026. Please plan for USPS delivery time

District #			
Post # Auxiliary #	Squadron #	ALR #	
Check Ad Size Desired:			
7 ½" x 5"	\$60.00	Full Page	_
3 ½" x 5"	\$40.00	Half Page	_
1 ½" x 5"	\$25.00	Quarter Page	_
Microsoft Word Format Email PRINT READY Ads to: De We are unable to create ads for y the AdBook if a check is received print. Please see the deadline inf	you. We will, how I without a printed	ever, place the Pos d ad by the time the	book is submitted for
Make check payable to: The A	merican Legior	Dept of MA	
Mail checks to: The American Legion State House Rm 546-2 24 Beacon St Boston MA 02133			
Please plan early and avoid dis	sappointments!		
Ads with payments received a and your payment received will Thank you for understanding a	I be considered	a donation to the	Commander's Charity.
Any questions, feel free	to call Lisa or G	race at (617) 727-2	!966. Thanks!
Check #	Am	ount \$	
Contact name and #			



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

	District	Г	
Post #	Unit #	Squadron # L	ALR#
	\$1.00 per person	\$2.0	0 per Mr. & Mrs.
PLEAS	E PRINT <mark>VERY</mark> CLEARL	Y 🍑 NOT I	RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSPELLINGS
1 _		21	
2 _			
3 _		23	
4 _		24	
5 _		25	
6 _		26	
7 _		27	
8 _		28	
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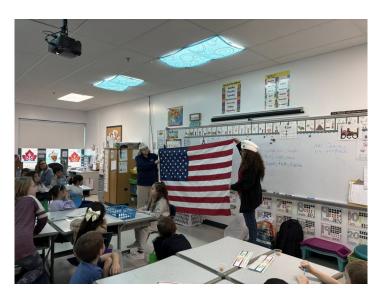


EGION Around the Department—Flying Flags for Heros



TEGION Around the Department—Flags for First Graders





Around the Department—Uxbridge Unit 33



Unit 33 in Uxbridge held a drive to collect necessities for soldiers serving over seas. We arw happy to work with <u>Thanks To</u> <u>Yanks</u> who will be sending our goodies to service men and woman from the Massachusetts <u>National Guard</u> stationed in Africa. Thank you to everyone who donated, and thank you to our Soldiers.

LEGION Around the Department—Salute to Service Clinton Post 50





Around the Department—Vernon Hill Post 435







Around the Department—Oxford Unit 58









WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 FUND RAISER RAFFLE FOR CORAL M. GROUT FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2026 ~ 2027



25 ~ \$30 SCRATCH TICKETS OR \$500 CASH

DRAWING SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026 DONATION \$10

CONTACT
CYNTHIA KELLEY
FOR EXTRA TICKETS

1-978-257-3251

OR

ckelley0719@gmail.com

Please Mail to: Cindy Kelley, 98 Carruth Rd. Templeton, Ma 01468



Start Date	Time	Event	Location
12/7/2025		Pearl Harbor Day	
12/14/2025	1"00 PM	District 1 Meeting	Dalton Post 155
12/25/25- 12/28/25		Merry Christmas Office Closed	
1/1/2026		Happy New Year	
1/3/20026	11:00 AM	Department E-Board	ZOOM

EGION 2026 Membership Standing as of November 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1125	819	72.80%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3169	2184	68.92%
4	WORCESTER	4303	3054	70.97%
5	MIDDLESEX	3347	2301	68.75%
6	NORFOLK	2206	1523	69.04%
7	SUFFOLK	1123	792	70.53%
8	ESSEX	2313	1678	72.55%
9	BRISTOL	2260	1405	62.77%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3404	2341	68.77%
297	CAPITOL HILL	405	506	124.94%
462	HEADQUARTERS	848	390	45.99%
	National Quota	24503	16993	69.35%

Next Target Date 12/10/2025 75%



ALA—Spirit of Youth Scholarship

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

Eligibility and Rules:

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

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



2026 Membership Standing as of November 28, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	160	79.21%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	337	52.90%
4	WORCESTER	1064	541	50.85%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	435	45.84%
6	NORFOLK	365	165	45.21%
7	SUFFOLK	95	36	37.89%
8	ESSEX	629	390	62.00%
9	BRISTOL	263	127	48.29%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	754	432	57.29%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	89	59.73%
	National Quota	5,107	2,712	53.10%



November Edition of The Millennium



Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy



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

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	231	144	62.34%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	772	333	43.13%
4	WORCESTER	1010	509	50.40%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	303	23.12%
6	NORFOLK	835	630	75.45%
7	SUFFOLK	196	114	58.16%
8	ESSEX	442	195	44.12%
9	BRISTOL	280	109	38.93%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	795	327	41.13%
	National Goal	5817	2664	45.84%

Next Target Date:12/10/2025 45%





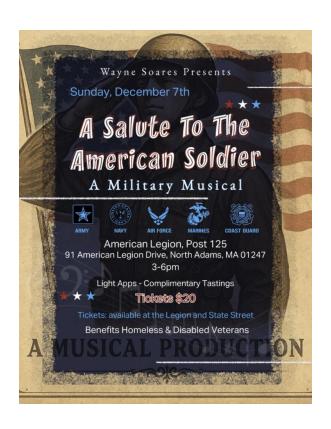


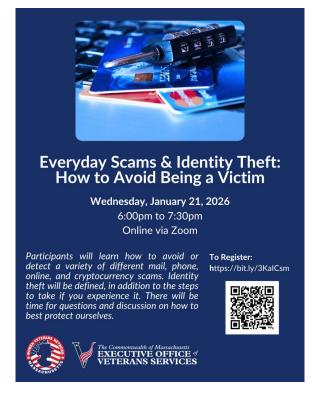


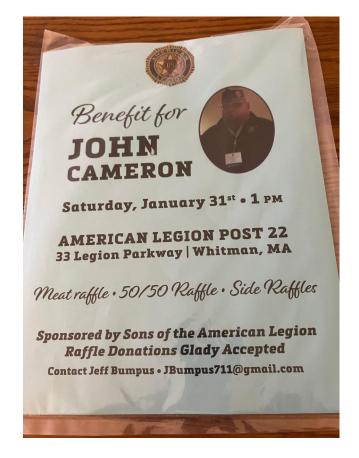


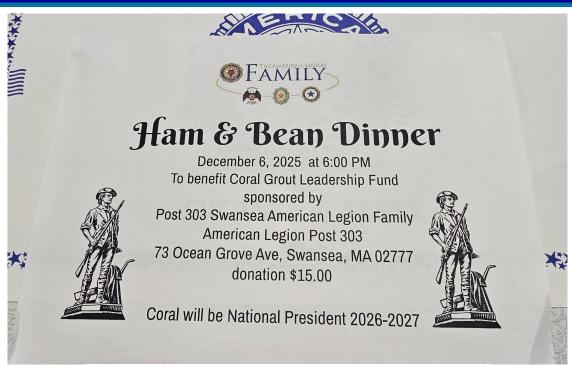












LEO C ROTH POST AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT

PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL

FILL YOUR FREEZER RAFFLE

30lbs of Brown & Budnicks Meat

LIMIT 100 TICKETS

TICKETS \$25.00

DRAWING WHEN ALL TICKETS SOLD OR ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

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

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



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

"Veterans Strengthening America"



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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

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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:

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