



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 15 Issue 12

May 2025

Commander's Corner



Commander Nelson Isaack Blake

One Veteran Can Be the Change: Revitalizing the American Legion from Within

The American Legion, long regarded as a cornerstone of support and advocacy for America's veterans, faces a pivotal moment in its history. With membership numbers fluctuating and a growing generational gap, many are asking how the organization can evolve to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world. The answer may be simpler than expected: change starts with one.

The Power of One

It only takes one veteran—one voice, one vision, one act of leadership—to inspire

transformation within a post. Whether it's by modernizing events, embracing diversity, advocating for mental health, or creating programs that attract younger veterans, a single member's initiative can ignite a ripple effect.

Take, for example, a veteran who returns from service with a passion for community outreach. By starting a food drive, organizing a mental health awareness event, or leading a local mentorship program, they breathe new life into their post. Their energy inspires others, and soon what began as a one-person effort becomes a movement.

Breaking Down Barriers

Many younger veterans hesitate to join legacy organizations like the American Legion, assuming it's only for older generations. But when one veteran steps forward to bridge the gap—welcoming post-9/11 service members, LGBTQ+ veterans, women veterans, and others—walls come down. Inclusion becomes the new tradition.

Inside this issue:

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT	3
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT	4
MEMBERSHIP	5-6
AMERICANISM	7
MARKETING	8
LEGION COLLEGE	9
SCOUTING	10
EDITORIAL	11
BASEBALL 100	12
VA	14
AROUND THE DEPT.	15-21
MEMBERSHIP	22
AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP	23
SAL MEMBERSHIP	24
POST EVENTS	25-27

AMERICAN
LEGION
**BE
=THE
ONE**

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

LEARN MORE
BETHEONE.ORG



Innovation from the Inside

Today's American Legion posts need fresh ideas. A single veteran with tech skills can update a post's social media presence, launch a website, or organize hybrid events that include remote participation. Innovation doesn't require an overhaul—it requires a spark, often lit by just one person daring to do something differently.

Leadership That Listens

Change doesn't mean abandoning tradition—it means evolving with purpose. A veteran who listens to others' needs, advocates for reform, and builds consensus becomes a beacon for what the American Legion can be: a dynamic, responsive, and powerful force for good in every community.

A Call to Action

Are you that one veteran? Do you have a vision for how your post—or the organization at large—could serve better, reach farther, or speak louder for those who served? Don't wait for change. Be the change. Because sometimes, all it takes is one.

Department Convention

Friday June 6, 2025—Sunday June 8, 2025

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel

181 Boston Post Road West

Marlborough, MA 01752



AMERICAN LEGION **BE THE ONE**

American Legion
Department of Massachusetts
Pre-Convention Get Together

Get Together

Thursday June 5, 2025
Social Hour Starts at 5:00 PM
Dinner Served at 6:00 PM
Entertainment Begins at 7:00 PM – Sarah the Fiddler
Call the Department for more Information
617 727 2966
Tickets \$35.00

Seems like I never have the time to sit down and share all the wonderful ways we have been working our Mission. I just cannot believe that it has been two months since I have! In the last issue that I participated in, I mentioned our Legion Family interacting with our Congressional Delegates. Well, I just want to let you all know, we do not have to go to our Nation's Capital to do this. We can follow it on Facebook, usually on a weekly basis, and let them know how we feel about any actions that come up regarding our Veterans. Once you do this, you will get a notice by email with a notice for you to act on any Legislation in the works. I am proud to participate in this way thanks to this site. grassroots@legion.org

The first Sunday in March, I was very honored to attend Mass at St. Michael's Church at the Veteran's Home in Chelsea when they honored PDC Bill Chisholm. As they do every year in March, SAL Squadron 227 sponsored a bingo at the Veteran's Home in Chelsea.

Thanks go out to the many Legion Family Groups statewide that have held some great activities to raise funds for our programs. One of those was the Mini-Golf Tournament that raised funds for our Dept. C&Y Program, Feronia Forward led by Chairperson Lisa Gauthier. What a fun time we all had! This is always a busy month as well with County Meetings being held. I was pleased to be invited to District 3 along with several other Dept. Officers.

I was so proud to represent the Dept. of MA American Legion Auxiliary at the Banquet honoring our National Commander James LaCoursiere. Thanks again to the Dept. of MA, American Legion for this awesome opportunity. I was also pleased to bring the greetings of our National President Trish Ward and those of our NEC Deb Lyons as well as our Candidate for National President Coral M. Grout. As I said that evening, Commander LaCoursiere's theme of Loyalty, Unity, and Valor touches every area of what it means to lead this organization forward.

The last weekend in April, many of us had a great time participating in the Bowling Tournament, which is held every year by the Detachment of MA SAL to raise funds for hospitalized children. I am always happy to raise funds for this program, but another special part of this day is interacting with old friends and making new ones.

I want to thank the American Legion again for all their courtesies, and for inviting me to attend the Convention Meetings along with our committee. And, Frank, thanks for another chance to "brag" about our awesome members.

Heading for Indianapolis in the morning to join others in a reception for our Candidate for National President Coral M. Grout.

I want everyone to know I have been very proud to lead this great organization and work with the entire Legion Family as "**WE**" continue to care for the needs of our Veterans, active-duty military and their families and always try to "**Be the One.**"

God Bless all of you and God Bless America.

Donna Blattenberger
Department President 204-2025



The American Legion Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street, State House Room 546-2 Boston, MA 021133 (617) 727-2966

May 1, 2025

The Department of Massachusetts next month will hold its 106th Department Convention in Marlborough, MA at the Best Western Royal Hotel Plaza & Trade Center. You may notice some small differences from years prior. We will have a couple of vendors this year. First, we will have Sarah the Fiddler at our Pre Convention Get Together. The American Heritage Museum will be there on June 6th which is the anniversary of D-Day. The Heritage Museum located in Hudson, MA is dedicated to all things military. If you can visit their museum and may even drive a tank while there. Patriots Heart, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring exceptional Americans through their educational story quilt exhibits. This vendor will bring their traveling exhibit, Sacrifice: The Heart of the Military. Neurolumen a company that uses low level lasers, electrical stimulation and LEDs to help relieve pain will have a table. This company will also be in Tampa at the National Convention as well. Habitat for Humanity from Metro West/Greater Worcester will be at the Convention to discuss their Veteran's Build Initiative. June 6th is National Donut Day with the Salvation Army continuing their tradition at our Convention. The Salvation Army Lassies who during WWI served donuts to the troops on the front lines. Salvation Army will discuss their donut tradition and give out free donuts. Dave Cardin will return to promote his book as he did last year. Finally, the promised Convention Store hit a snag with problems with vendors, but the Department will have a small store as we did last year to sell uniform patches, minute man pins, tumblers, and other items. The Convention is a perfect time to kick off your summer. I hope to see you all there at the convention.

On the road again, the Department Office has hit Stoughton and Newton thus far on our traveling office. If you Post would like to host the Department office, please contact that us at the office. The requirement of a Post is Wi-Fi, place to set up a printer and computers. We love to visit you all on the road. We are here to serve you the best way we can.

Forms, forms, forms, and more forms, deadline for Annual Post Reports has pasted. If your Post planned on dues increase for the 2026 membership year. The increase will not be reflected in the first dues notice sent out in July. Post Roster, Commanders and Adjutant, Certification of Post Officers, and Consolidated Post reports are coming due, please submit timely. The office cannot update the Post Roster book until all information has been submitted.

The National Convention in Tampa is on the horizon. If you plan on attending please submit your housing form to reserve your hotel reservations.

-Department Adjutant Lisa A. McPhee

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

The Good: 25 Posts are within 1/2 renewals/new members from 100%, 16 Posts have reached 100%+ retention. D8 leads the pack with 88.9% retention, and D7 leads with 93.26% goal.

The Bad: Only 40 Posts have reached 100% goal today, whereas 86 did by this time last year. Just 97 of 274 Posts opted to submit their Post Data Report by April 15th, thus forfeiting a chance for a Post Retention prize.

The Ugly: The Department of Massachusetts has slipped to number 43 on the National Membership Report.

Press on for the Commander. We made a bet with the Department of Connecticut that we would beat them in the membership stakes. We are currently 1.10% behind them, they sit at 35. Not sure what we bet, but let's make up some ground and give them a go!

Department still has a bucket load 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 95%, we did have 7 of 9 Districts make it to 90%+. Let's look under every stone and carpet for renewals and new members. Let's get a solid 95% before our convention.

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). 12,230 members do not have an email listed, 7,861 do not have a phone number listed, and when you shake the bush, 5,768 current members do not have an e-mail or phone number listed on MyLegion.org. Please help.

As soon as Post Elections are complete (if you're having them) submit the Commander and Adjutants report, PLEASE. This is the form used to provide permissions on MyLegion.org. No change in Post Leadership, turn in your paperwork today!!

You in the game for the Retention contest? Read the the rules and make sure the required forms are submitted by May 31.

Recent review of D4 rosters located 62 members that had passed and were not marked deceased. Please re-view your rosters for accurate Post Everlasting events.

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.

Honoring Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future: The Spirit of Americanism in May

As the vibrant hues of spring paint our landscapes and the anticipation of summer fills the air, May offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on the very essence of what it means to be American. It's a month that bridges solemn remembrance with a renewed appreciation for the freedoms and opportunities we cherish. For members of the American Legion, this spirit of Americanism isn't just a sentiment; it's a guiding principle that shapes our actions and strengthens our communities, right here in Massachusetts and beyond.

At its core, Americanism is a multifaceted ideal. It encompasses a deep respect for our nation's history, acknowledging both its triumphs and its struggles. It's about understanding the foundational principles enshrined in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights – the cornerstones of our democracy that guarantee liberty, justice, and equality for all.

May serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made to protect these very principles. As we approach Memorial Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation. Their unwavering dedication and selfless service are the embodiment of Americanism in action. It's our duty to remember their valor and to ensure that their sacrifice was not in vain. This month, let us actively participate in Memorial Day ceremonies, visit veterans' graves in Massachusetts Cemetery's and beyond, and share their stories with younger generations, ensuring their legacy lives on within our community.

However, Americanism is not solely about looking back. It's also about actively engaging in the present and shaping a brighter future for Milton and our nation. It calls upon us to be responsible citizens, to participate in our civic duties, and to contribute to the well-being of our communities. This can take many forms, from volunteering time and resources at local organizations to supporting Massachusetts initiatives and engaging in respectful dialogue on the issues that matter to our State and our country.

The American Legion plays a vital role in fostering this active Americanism. Through our various programs and initiatives, we empower youth, support veterans, and promote patriotism within our communities. Here in Massachusetts we are committed to upholding

In the spirit of "For God and Country," let us make May a month where the true meaning of Americanism shines brightly throughout Massachusetts. By honoring our heritage and actively embracing our future through these various activities, we can ensure that the flame of liberty and opportunity continues to burn strong for generations to come in our community and across the nation. Let's make this May a testament to the enduring spirit of Americanism in Massachusetts.

Our Devotion to mutual helpfulness

Bob Jerdan DVC 24-25

Americanism Chairman 24-25

Candidate for Department Sr Vice Commander 25-26

Greetings, American Legion Family. I hope this edition of the publication finds you and all your loved ones in good health and spirits as the spring season is in full bloom.

With May comes the near close of our American Legion year as our department convention just about one month away. With this in mind, I would like to focus this article solely on our last marketing-fundraising efforts of this year, specifically our online 50-50 raffle and our traditional convention sweepstakes, both of which will be drawn on June 8th at the close of convention.

The online 50-50 raffle is available for access on our department website and is easy to participate via a QR code or by visiting the provided website link. All proceeds for this raffle go to support your department youth programs.

The traditional department sweepstakes tickets should either be in your mail now or arriving shortly. As always you have the chance to win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 while helping support our programs.

Please, consider donations to one or both as not only can you win money but you also support our pro-

grams.

As always if you have any marketing plans or ideas that fit within our budget and capabilities, do not hesitate to bring them to the attention of the marketing committee.

Mike Davis PNEC
Marketing Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

50/50 RAFFLE

Online 50/50 Raffle
Now through June 8, 2025

Enter as many times as you'd like

Invite family and friends to play!

Drawing Date
At End of Convention
June 8, 2025

Raffle open to public
Must be in Massachusetts to play

Visit: masslegion.5050raffle.org

Or Scan here

Proceeds Benefit Local Posts and Massachusetts American Legion Youth Programs

The American Legion is dedicated to inspiring leadership, good citizenship, and excellence in America's future leaders through a variety of youth programs.

Scouting Baseball Boys State Oratorical Jr. Law Cadet Fastpitch Softball JROTC

AMERICAN LEGION Grassroots Information

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>

The logo for the American Legion, featuring a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" stacked vertically.

AMERICAN LEGION

MASSACHUSETTS

Department

Legion College

Saturday

May 17th

9:30 AM

Quinsigamond Post 318

180 Greenwood St, Worcester

Topics include:

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

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

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

This Father's Day weekend (2025) the Department of Massachusetts, The American Legion will host the 54th Anniversary of their annual Scouting Camporee at Camp Collier, Gardner, MA.

TAL, as a Veterans Service Organization (the largest in the USA) encourages Veterans to join our organization - - - Be the One!

Here's a story of two Scout Troops in the very same town.

Each troop or Scouting unit prepares youth for life - strong character, self reliance, patriotism, team building, achievement, competition, citizenship, and leadership.

The bottom line: over the past several decades one unit had three Scouts go into the military..... The other unit had 43 Scouts join the Armed Forces.

Can you figure out which unit was Chartered by an American Legion Post !??

Scouting is the best Youth Leadership Development Program out there.

Do you know personally of any Scouting units in your area ? "Be the One" to help encourage our youth to step up to service like you did.



Thank You for Your Service and Support !



AMERICAN LEGION Legion Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is awarding over \$1.7 million to 559 military children for higher learning, a record amount for both in its 23-year history. Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis announced this significant achievement to members of the National Executive Committee gathered at National Headquarters on May 7 for the annual Spring Meetings.

Eligible recipients of the scholarship are children of veterans who died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, or children of post-9/11 veterans who have a combined Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The needs-based scholarship supports the expense of graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans and other supplies. The grant amount each scholarship recipient receives is based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Legacy Scholarship recipients have a year

to use the grant, and those eligible can reapply up to six times.

For the 2025 scholarship, 724 completed the application, with 559 demonstrating a financial need.

Past Legacy Scholarship recipient Colton Clay of Colorado Springs, Colo., said, "This scholarship is special because it helps honor my dad and his service and sacrifices that he's made. It's awesome that I'm able to represent him going forward through this scholarship. I want to say thank you to The American Legion. I really am appreciative of this opportunity and the support, and the belief that I can go on and do good things."

Since its inception in 2002, The American Legion Legacy Scholarship has provided 1,331 military children of fallen and disabled post-9/11 veterans over \$7 million in aid for higher learning. The 2026 American Legion Legacy Scholarship application will open Jan. 1, 2026. [Learn more here.](#)

Finally, Spring is here. And as usual, May is a busy month. We have Armed Forces Day and then Memorial Day; along with school graduations, parties, cookouts, vacation planning. The Legion calendar moves along with upcoming Department and National Conventions. This year and next we also look to America's 250 celebrations of the beginning of the Revolution and next year anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

There are those who want to tear apart our country, opposed to our way of life, wanting to turn America into a socialist state. History has shown that capitalism has worked to make this country great and allowed people of varied backgrounds to succeed. We are not perfect but continue to strive to get better. In my opinion, there is too much of a trend toward bitterness and antagonism to those who have different viewpoints. And much of this comes from some of our political leaders. Instead of looking to compromise and do the work of those who elected them, time is spent tearing down the opposition. We the citizens of this country need to let our elected officials know how we feel. This needs to be done in a consistent and constructive manner in terms of phone calls and emails. Any form of violence is unacceptable. Please join me in regular communication with our elected officials.

As I note each year at this time, I remember a poem, The Dash, by Linda Ellis. It is worth repeating in my opinion. You can find the text in an internet search. The basic point is that when we go to a cemetery, we focus on the name and years of birth and death. What is most important is the "dash" between the dates. How a person lived and the contributions they made to society. It makes me think of what I am doing with my life. How am I interacting with family, friends and people overall. Personally I continue to work on being better at "buddy checks" with family and friends. Especially since having lost some family members and friends in the last year. Wishing I could see and talk with them one more time. All I can do is minimize any regrets in life.

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

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





In honor of the centennial of American Legion Baseball, fans can vote for the All-Centennial Team.

A total of 92 nominees, including all of the 86 former American Legion Baseball players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as players or coaches, were presented to the American Legion Baseball Committee, which pared the list down to 60 for a fan vote.

Beginning April 27, go to x.com/LegionBaseball to vote by position. The All-Centennial Team will be announced July 11 in conjunction with the Centennial Classic in Milbank, S.D., the birthplace of American Legion Baseball.

The finalists are as follows:

Catchers: Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Gary Carter, Carlton Fisk, Mike Piazza, Iván Rodríguez

First Basemen: Jeff Bagwell, Harmon Killebrew, Albert Pujols, Eddie Murray, Willie Stargell, Jim Thome

Second Basemen: Roberto Alomar, Paul Molitor, Joe Morgan, Ryne Sandberg

Shortstops: Barry Larkin, Pee Wee Reese, Alan Trammell, Robin Yount

Third Basemen: Wade Boggs, George Brett, Chipper Jones, Eddie Mathews, Brooks Robinson

Outfielders: Barry Bonds, Tony Gwynn, Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline, Ralph Kiner, Stan Musial, Frank Robinson, Ted Williams, Dave Winfield, Carl Yastrzemski

Starting Pitchers: Bert Blyleven, Jim Bunning, Steve Carlton, Roger Clemens, Don Drysdale, Bob Feller, Bob Gibson, Roy Halladay, Greg Maddux, Phil Niekro, Jim Palmer, Gaylord Perry, Tom Seaver, Warren Spahn, Justin Verlander

Relief Pitchers: Rollie Fingers, Trevor Hoffman, Lee Smith, Bruce Sutter, Hoyt Wilhelm

Coaches: Sparky Anderson, Bobby Cox, Tony LaRussa, Joe Torre, Earl Weaver

The 32 remaining nominees, considered honorable mentions to the team, are: Dick Allen, Richie Ashburn, Harold Baines, Lou Boudreau, Roy Campanella, Bobby Doerr, Nellie Fox, Tom Glavine, Joe Gordon, Bryce Harper, Whitey Herzog, Gil Hodges, Catfish Hunter, George Kell, Bob Lemon, Jim Leyland, Don Mattingly, Joe Mauer, Fred McGriff, Joe Medwick, Jack Morris, Mike Mussina, Hal Newhouser, Tim Lincecum, Jim Rice, Robin Roberts, Scott Rolen, C.C. Sabathia, Ron Santo, Ted Simmons, Dick Williams, and Early Wynn.

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.

National American Legion College (NALC) Application

We're pleased to share that the updated 2025 National American Legion College (NALC) application is now available!

View the application and full details here: [American Legion College | The American Legion](#)

Be The One -As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. **Goto [Legion.org/advocacy](https://legion.org/advocacy)** for additional information.

Upcoming Training Dates

May 13, 2025: 5:30-7 p.m. Eastern

May 15, 2025: 2:30-4 p.m. Eastern

June 4, 2025 : 2:39-4 PM Eastern

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and servicemembers apply for and receive VA benefits and services.

Specific improvements include:

Starting this month, VA's [Office of Survivors Assistance](#) will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy. Starting this month, VA will create a "white-glove" survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) claims process.

- Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors. "The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That's why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support and compassion they've earned," said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

Background information on the changes VA announced today is below.

Relocating OSA

In 2021, the Biden administration moved OSA from the Office of the VA Secretary to the Veterans Benefits Administration, creating a siloed system at odds with the intent of the [Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008](#). Starting this month, VA will reverse this decision and move OSA to the Office of the VA Secretary, where a staff of five full-time employees will advise the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs and legislative issues affecting survivors and dependents.

"White-Glove" Survivor Outreach Team

Under previous administrations, there were gaps in the survivor claims system and no defined outreach process for VA employees to gather information from survivors navigating the benefit process. VA's "White-Glove" Survivor Outreach Team will begin operations in May 2025 and consist of experts based out of the Philadelphia VA Regional Benefit Office. These experts will receive specialized training and guide and assist eligible survivors throughout every step of the DIC claims process with the goal of getting to "yes" on DIC claims decisions for eligible survivors.

Automation Improvements

VA now automates more than 1,000 DIC claims payments or adjustments per day and is in the process of ongoing enhancements to increase automation that will expedite survivors' claims and improve their experience. VA will also be identifying additional areas where automation can be used to make all benefits delivery processes easier to navigate for eligible surviving dependents.



Photo's by District Three Historian Garret Chandler



The Nonantum Auxiliary Unit #440, has continued to successfully support Veteran's and Veteran's Programs this year. Along with our Post 440 Legionnaires and the Sons of The Legion, we've celebrated Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and our Flag Retirement events. For the holidays we helped to gather gift cards for The NE Veterans Homeless Shelter in Boston and presented them with songs and Santa! We helped with the Police Appreciation (& the Firefighters too) dinner and entertained the members of the Post and local community with an Elvis Tribute Night.

This year the Post 440, City of Newton, and our Auxiliary recognized member Elaine Maxwell LaCoste for her 75+ years of membership to American Legion Auxiliary. Elaine, at 16, signed the AL Charter her mother established in Chicopee MA. She is a treasure trove of information and is considered "gold standard" by Auxiliary measures.

While some of our events have been changed to meet the criteria of our supporters, donors, and attendees, that covid forced upon us, we have continued to group our communities and include them in our events. Much has changed or disappeared, like some of our members and local Veterans. So, we've adapted and found new ways to Honor our Fallen, support the living and make aware the importance and respect for our Veterans and Military.

Continued on Page

Our Auxiliary gathered and provided, clothing and blankets for The Bedford VA, toiletries, snacks, games and handwritten cards to the Care Packs for Soldiers. Donated to Operation Elf, Tunnel to Towers & The Salvation Army. We are sponsoring two girls for Girls State and will once again be bowling for our district. We have named our team "The Gutter Gals", clearly it is about supporting our causes and not winning a trophy!

This year, along with our Annual Holiday Gift Fair, Turkey Shoot, Valentine's Night Out, and Ham-O-Rama, we have added a "Bingo Blast for the Post" night and will be hosting "Counterfeit Cash and Friends" a Johnny Cash Tribute Band with Johnny, Patsy Cline and Hank William on June 6th, the Anniversary of D-Day. While we do not have many WW2 Veterans around today, we can not and should not forget those men and woman who did their part to protect America and her Allies from destruction of country, people, freedoms and dignity. In Newton MA over 8000 of our community served in WW2 and 269+ perished. The citizens here at home bought bonds, made bandages, rationed everything they had, and kept close - especially to the families with casualties. The Post 440 Legionnaires, The Auxiliary, The Sons, and our DAV group are currently assembling stories and artifacts for our new WW2 display.

Also, this past fall we sent three Veterans on Honor Flight New England and sponsored a guardian. In the spring another group will be going to enjoy a great day in Washington DC. This is a small thank you to those who risked so much. We have once again sponsored a Service Dog for Veterans with the NEADS program. Our pup was born Jan 2nd and he has been named "Chief". A Chief is an extraordinary leader of an ordinary group. Over 50 Navy Chiefs have received the Medal of Honor. It is a respected rank. Chief will make a fine service companion.

Our Auxiliary Unit members just like other units, comprises of dues paying members, donators of time and resources, volunteers at events, and raffle ticket sellers. They are literally the best group, they show up, help out, and bring their friends along. There is Sondra and her fabulous cheesecakes and handmade creations, Maria's endless supply of homemade cookies, Beth and Genia who keep us socially engaged and make our flyers, Sande, Ginny, Ora and Lydia who give countless volunteer hours, Kathy who coordinates our holiday fundraisers, and Louise who connects us to Bedford VA events, Community programs and other District happenings. We continue to be grateful for all these ladies.

We are proud to support our Veterans, Military Families, First Responders, the local community & our neighbours.

Donna Cottens, President

Helen Caudill, Sr. Vice

All Members of The American Legion Nonantum Auxiliary Unit #440, Newton MA

We are stronger than we know, more resilient than we think, and steadfastly determined to do our best.



Around the Department 50/50 Raffle



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS



Online 50/50 Raffle
Now through June 8, 2025

Enter as many times
as you'd like

Invite family and
friends to play!

Drawing Date
At End of Convention
June 8, 2025

Raffle open to public
Must be in Massachusetts to play

Visit: masslegion.5050raffle.org

Or Scan here



Proceeds Benefit Local Posts and Massachusetts American Legion Youth Programs

The American Legion is dedicated to inspiring leadership, good citizenship, and excellence in America's future leaders through a variety of youth programs.



Scouting



Baseball



Boys State



Oratorical



Jr Law Cadet



Fastpitch
Softball



JROTC

Sheffield American Legion Post 340 has had a busy spring this year, continuing its tradition as a vital part of the Sheffield community. Starting on Saturday, May 17th, Post members will be selling poppy pins in the center of town. Give generously—the money raised from poppy sales is used to help support veterans in need. Veterans residing in area nursing homes are provided with clothing, toiletries, and magazines. The money also helps veterans that have financial crises due to loss of employment, illness, or death in the family.

Once again, Post 340 is sponsoring a baseball team for which Jesse Carpenter, principal of Mount Everett High School, is recruiting team members. The season starts early in May and a detailed schedule will be available in a couple of weeks.

The Post is also helping to financially support a Gold Star Monument in Lenox. This is the first monument of its kind in Berkshire County and is dedicated to the families of veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Construction will start this summer and the monument will be dedicated within the year. Locally, Post 340 honors deceased veterans, providing military funeral honors, and ensuring a dignified send-off for veterans, including the folding and presentation of the American flag.

On Monday, May 26th local veterans will once again participate in the local Memorial Day Parades. The Ashley Falls Parade will begin at 8 a.m. at the Ashley Falls Post Office and march to a ceremony at the Ashley Falls Cemetery on Clayton Road. This parade is hosted by the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society and several Post 340 members will participate in it.

In Sheffield, the parade kicks off at 11 a.m. starting at the Sheffield police station at the junction of Route 7 and Berkshire School Road, and ending at Barnard Park, Route 7 and Miller Ave. This year's speaker will be Drew Pajak, American Legion Department of Massachusetts Vice Commander. (Rain location is the Pavilion in the Sheffield Town Park.)

As always, members of the Post will ride in open cars or walk on foot to honor and remember those who have died in military service. This year, however, there will be a little more excitement because, for the first time, American Legion Riders will be among the participants.

Two new Post 340 members, Neil Raymond and wife Cindy, both bikers, have launched a Sheffield Riders program with the full support of Post 340. This strategic initiative leverages the physical resources and prime location to better support the Riders' mission, while also aiming to ignite broader interest in the American Legion. Even if they don't have a motorcycle, any veteran can become a member of the Riders by providing support vehicles in the event of emergency or breakdowns. There are currently over 110,000 American Legion Riders in over 2,000 chapters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors, and raised millions of dollars for many charities.

Spearheaded by Neil and Cindy, the Sheffield Memorial Day Parade will be the inaugural event for the Sheffield Riders group, and is a significant milestone for the Chapter. They eagerly anticipate contributing to Post 340 by attracting new members and sharing the joy of riding. Any veteran interested in riding with the Legion in the upcoming Parade should contact Neil and Cindy at sheffieldlegionriders@gmail.com.

Dr. Gillian Hettinger



SHEFFIELD LEGION RIDERS

The Sheffield Legion Riders (ALR) is a motorcycle group within The American Legion, focusing on patriotism, charity, community, and country, with a strong emphasis on supporting veterans, their families, and the community.

Are you a Veteran, a spouse, child, or grandchild of a Veteran?

Do you ride a motorcycle?

Join the Sheffield Legion riders to support Veterans and the community!

Email for more information

Sheffieldlegionriders@gmail.com



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



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

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



Executive Committee Women Mary Standish as Debrah Sampson in the Lexton/Concord 250 Parade and at the Easton Post 7 Meeting



Executive Committee Women Mary Standish and Department Adjutant Lisa McPhee at Wareham ROTC Awards Night.

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
May 17	9:30 AM	Massachusetts Legion College	Quinsigamond Post 318 Worcester, MA
May 18	12:00 Noon	District Ten Get Together	Post 230, Bourne, MA
Jun 5	2:00 PM	Department Executive Board	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlboro, MA
June 6-8		Department Convention	Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel Marlboro, MA

**AMERICAN
LEGION** 2025 Membership Standing *as of May 9, 2025*

Department Membership Standings 2025 Membership Year

District 7: Suffolk 95.10%

District 4 Worcester 93.48%

**District 3 Hamden/Franklin/
Hampshire 91.80%**



	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1195	1084	91.63%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/ HAMPSHIRE	3422	3118	91.96%
4	WORCESTER	4432	4111	93.48%
5	MIDDLESEX	3623	3265	90.51%
6	NORFOLK	2319	2117	91.81%
7	SUFFOLK	1142	1067	95.10%
8	ESSEX	2442	2219	91.32%
9	BRISTOL	2475	2144	87.19%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3573	3254	91.80%
297	CAPITOL HILL	423	399	94.22%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1689	751	44/46%
	National Quota	26,576	23,707	89.20%

Members helping members – that’s the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission of Service Not Self in action. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That’s when the American Legion Auxiliary is committed to help. AEF is a national grant assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

Established in 1969, the AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. To carry on the AEF for members in need of assistance, we need your generous support.

Resources: **www.ALForVeterans.org**, The ALA website has resource information for military service-members and their families, including organizations that provide community and social support, health and wellness services, career and education resources, and legal and financial aid.

www.operationhomefront.org Operation Homefront provides emergency financial assistance for service-members, their families, and wounded warriors when they return home.

www.211.org Website links people with resources for basic needs, physical and mental health services, jobs.

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	190	200	105.3%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	670	601	89.7%
4	WORCESTER	1037	1022	98.6%
5	MIDDLESEX	940	911	96.9%
6	NORFOLK	337	326	96.7%
7	SUFFOLK	103	92	89.3%
8	ESSEX	612	601	98.2%
9	BRISTOL	268	239	89.2%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	765	724	94.6%
462	HEADQUARTERS	184	117	
	National Quota	5,106	4,833	94.7%

How large is the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)? Currently, there are more than 397,000 Sons of The American Legion members in the United States and abroad.

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

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

When was the SAL founded? The American Legion established the Sons of The American Legion in 1932.

Who runs the SAL? The governing legislative body of the SAL is its National Convention. Detachments (states) send representatives to the National Convention each year to elect national officers and conduct the business of the organization. Between conventions, authority is vested in the National Executive Committee (NEC), also made up of elected representatives from each detachment. The NEC meets three times annually.

2025 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of May 9, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	228	225	96.68%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	748	632	84.49%
4	WORCESTER	983	932	94.81%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	1210	96.33%
6	NORFOLK	835	752	90.06%
7	SUFFOLK	196	159	81.12%
8	ESSEX	442	416	94.12%
9	BRISTOL	280	246	87.86%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	720	91.14%
	National Goal	5758	5292	91.91%



Post Events



Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break

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



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



*Coffee
Hour*

Last Friday of the Month
09:00 - 12:00

Free

American Legion North Adams



American Legion North Adams Post 125

FUNday !!!
4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch	Meat Tables Begins at 3PM	Queen Of Hearts
We will service a simple lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win.2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.	The QOH with begin 15 minutes after the last Table is raffled.





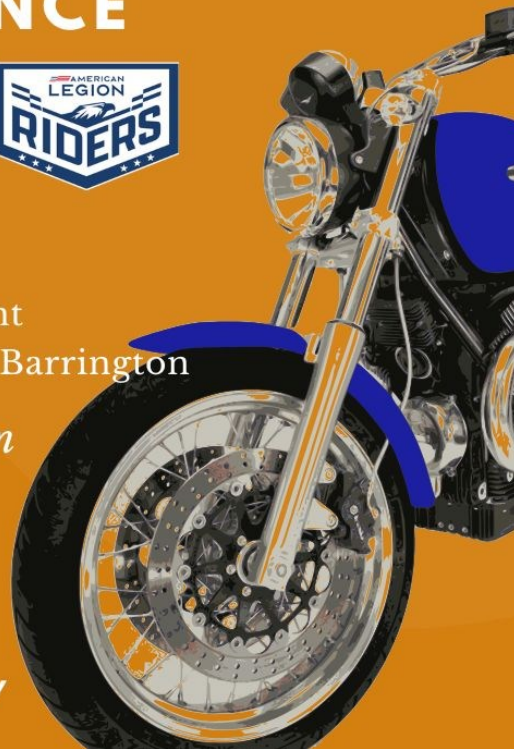
REMEMBRANCE RUN



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

Saturday, May 10th 2025



267 Providence St.
Worcester, MA 01607



Bastards Never Die

50 ⚡ 50
RAFFLES
DRINKS
FOOD

In Loving Memory of
RAYMOND G TOURVILLE
6/16/97 - 9/15/24

5:30 - UNTIL THE
LAST BIKE LEAVES
THE LOT

BIKE NIGHTS

EVERY THURSDAY
POST 188

20 Main St. Sandwich, MA

All proceeds going to the
**RAYMOND G TOURVILLE MEMORIAL
FUND**



Post Events

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.

Granby Post 266 The American Legion Inc.



PayPal

Granby Post 266 The American Legion Inc.

@GranbyLegionPost266



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: deptaddjutant@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