



The American Legion Department of Maine

P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903

Tel: (207) 873-3229

E-mail: legionme@mainelegion.org

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Weekly Update



August 9, 2012



The problem with retirement is that you can't leave all your problems at the office.

State Veterans Home Bill

Dear Lloyd,

President Obama just signed a bill I wrote into law that helps state veterans homes in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Scarborough, South Paris and Machias. This new law will help ensure these homes no longer have to deal with inadequate reimbursement rates for the care they provide to our nation's heroes. Now Maine's severely disabled and elderly veterans can be confident that the care they deserve will be there when they need it. Click [here](#) to learn more about the bill.

Thank you for allowing me to share this update with you. I hope that you'll continue to share your concerns and insights with me by contacting my office or connecting with me on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.

Sincerely,

Mike Michaud, Member of Congress

Run For The Fallen

On Sunday August 19, Run for the Fallen Maine will have its 5th and final tribute run from Ogunquit to Portland. This year's run will honor all 81 servicemen and women from the State of Maine that died in the service of our country since 9-11-01. All legionnaires are encouraged to participate. Representing a fallen hero at the kilometer markers along the route would be an ideal tribute. We will start with a ceremony and reading the names of our Fallen Heroes at 7:45 a.m. in Ogunquit Center. The route will be primarily the same as last year with some small variations. It mostly follows Route 1 from Ogunquit. The route is available along with the serviceman and women represented at each kilometer and the times we expect to be there at www.runforthefallenmaine.org This year's finish will be at the Ocean Gateway complex on Thames St. on the Portland Waterfront.

There will be a performance by the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill platoon and a tribute jump by a Navy Seal and US Army Golden Knight at the finish. We will have t-shirts available at the finish as well as our

final tribute to Maine's Fallen Heroes. FMI, visit our website or call 251-1254. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Missy Freeman at bonzaimf@maine.rr.com ---

**National Convention
Attendees**

National Convention Attendees,

On Sunday, August 26, 2012, at 12:30 p.m., following the Memorial Service at the National Convention, Barbara Kranig "Barbies Dolls" and Tony Jordan "Tony's Tigers" will be having a luncheon at the Westin Hotel, Congress Room, 1st Floor which is near the Convention Center. The cost will be \$30.00 per person, tax and gratuity included. The deadline for reservations is August 16, 2012. Please forward your name, address, number of reservations and amount enclosed to: Barbara Kranig, 3317 Algoma St., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Lloyd

Scam

"Veterans should not provide bank account information over the phone." The Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) has learned of a potential scam targeting veterans' bank accounts. Veterans who have either signed up or have been approved for the new Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) have been specifically affected. VRAP provides a \$1,473 monthly stipend to enrolled veterans attending an approved community college or technical training school. MDOL's manager of veteran programs, Dennis P. Wellman, was first alerted to the scam. He advises veterans not to provide banking account information over the phone to anyone. Veterans report having received a phone call from an individual who congratulated the veteran on his or her VRAP approval. The caller, who might refer to himself as a "James," advises the veteran that he knows the dollar amount of the training for which the veteran has been approved. The caller then tells the veteran that an amount of money matching that figure will be deposited directly into his or her bank. To receive the bank deposit, the veteran is directed to call a phone number with a 202 area code, give his or her bank account number and routing number to a person named "Kelly," and pay \$205 for the service fee.

The phone number was called, and it is answered by a standard answering machine. Labor Commissioner Robert Winglass, who himself is a veteran, emphasized, "Veterans need to be aware of scams such as these that target benefits they have earned through their service.

However, all of us, even if we are not a veteran, are well served by these reminders to keep our financial information private and never provide it to people we have not directly contacted ourselves." The Maine Department of Labor's CareerCenters offer specialized employment and training services for veterans. Veterans and eligible spouses are given priority of service under most Maine Department of Labor-funded programs. A CareerCenter veterans' representative can help returning service members find a job, get new skills or access other state or federal resources. For more information about employment and training services for veterans, including the VRAP program, contact the CareerCenter at (207) 623-7981 (TTY users dial Maine Relay 711) or visit <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/> [<http://www.mainecareercenter.com/>]. Veterans who think they might have been targeted should contact Dennis Wellman at (207) 623-7900.

**Feedback From Women
Veterans**

Department is in receipt of a request for feedback on the top three challenges affecting women veterans care at VA Medical Facilities from the National office in Washington, DC. Our System Worth Saving Task Force will be conducting a comprehensive review of women veterans programs in its visitation of VA Medical Facilities in the fall of 2012. They would like to hear from all women veterans across the country and have them respond with their three challenges women veterans face with their VA Healthcare. Please respond to Department with your Challenge 1; Challenge 2; Challenge 3. Please respond no later than 8/8 if possible to Department. You can email your responses to lloyd@mainelegion.org if that is easier.

Lloyd Woods
Department Adjutant

Quilt Raffle

The winner of the Brunswick Post 20 quilt raffle was Michelle McRae who purchased the ticket at State Convention.

District Meetings

District 6 – Knox: Aug. 11, Thomaston Post 37, 11 a.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Aug. 21, Veterans Home, BBQ for residents and Legion family members, 4:30 p.m.

September meetings

District 14 – Piscataquis: Sept. 8, Guilford Post 119, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. mtg.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Sept. 9, Auburn Post 31, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: Sept. 9, Etna-Carmel Post 107, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.

District 9 – Kennebec: Sept. 12, Oakland Post 51, 7 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: Sept. 16, Brooks Post 183, 2 p.m.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Sept. 16, Stockholm Post 136, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.

District 5 – Oxford: Sept. 18, Oxford Post 112, 7 p.m.

What's Happening?

The Marketplace Vendor & Craft Fair” to Benefit the Maine Military Kids Programs: Aug. 11, Augusta Armory, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This will be a fun event for a great cause and I’m hoping you might be able to support us in any way possible, whether by passing along this email to others, donating an item or service for our Raffle or joining us on Aug. 11th for a day of shopping and fun, purchasing some tickets for the 50/50.

100% of the monies raised from the Raffle and 50/50 will go to benefit the Maine Military Kids Program. I also have vendor spaces available so if you know anyone who makes handmade crafts, is an independent Rep or a small business who would like to join us please pass along the attached information. FMI, please call Melanie Rounds, Independent Wildtree Rep & Event Sponsor, 577-8457 melanie.rounds@gmail.com

Blood Drive: Aug. 15, Augusta Post 205, 12 noon – 5 p.m.

Milo Post 41 Re-dedication of Lauren Cowallis Gravesite: Aug. 15, 12 p.m. Lyford Rd., Orneville Township. If you have any questions, please call Milo Post 41 Commander Terry Knowles, 965-8120. Members of Post 41 will meet at the Legion Hall at 11 a.m. to load equipment and prepare for the event.

Commander Robert S. Fant, U.S. Navy (Retired) Presentation on His Experiences as a Former POW:

Aug. 15, Carrie Ricker School Gymnasium in Litchfield, 7 p.m. Commander Robert S. Fant, U.S. Navy (Retired) will give a presentation on his experiences as a Prisoner of War in Viet Nam. Commander Fant was held captive by the North Vietnamese for 4 years and 8 months in the Hoa Lo Prison, better known as the Hanoi Hilton POW Camp. This event is sponsored by Litchfield Post 181.

Concerts in the Park: Aug. 21, 6:30 p.m., Oxford Veterans' Memorial Park, Rt. 121 in good weather, Oxford Ice Rink on rainy evenings. Record Family Band. Hosted by Oxford Post 112. FMI, please call 539-4102. Please bring own chairs. Refreshments are available. Post will present awards for Fire, Police, EMT's and also post awards for 2012.

50th Vietnam Anniversary Party in Conjunction With A Welcome Home Party For All Veterans: Aug. 24 – 26. You are welcome to bring a tent or camper and spend the weekend. For more information or to RSVP, email: AmericanLegionPost47@gmail.com. You can also call 532-9046.

First Annual PUB 56 Pig Roast: Aug 25, York Post 56, 4 p.m. \$10 per person ...Limited tickets are available. Includes: Corn on the cob (Zach's – a local farm noted for its corn), B.L.T salad, pasta salad and stuffing. Live entertainment is scheduled. Tickets available at the canteen but we can also mail them with a pre-payment. Send ticket requests to: American Legion Post 56, Attn: Facility Manager, 9 Hannaford Drive, York 03909.

Western Maine Veterans Advisory Committees Golf Tournament: Aug. 25, Fairlawn Country Club in Poland. Shot-gun start at 9 a.m. To benefit the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. Tournament is a scramble format. Entry fee is \$65.00 per person which includes golf, cart, meal and grab bag. To purchase a ticket, sponsor a hole, donate a prize or for more info, please contact Dick young at 890-3600.

15th Annual Northern New England Retiree Day: Aug. 25, Augusta Armory, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hosted by the Northern New England Retiree Council and Maine National Guard. The purpose is to provide retired service members with information about military and civilian entitlements and benefits. The POC for the event is LTC Rick Darveau, 430-5463.

Sick Call

Six District Auxiliary President Joan Smith has been in a car accident. Cards may be sent to her at 24 Estate Rd., Apt 22, Cherryfield 04622.

Condolences

DSO Robert "Ki" Owen's brother has passed away. Cards may be sent to Ki at 338 Cathance Rd., Topsham 04086.

Thanks

Thanks to everyone for the cards, letters and calls in regards to my recent escapade with the motorcycle.

PDC Dan Ayotte

Pittsfield Post 32 wishes to thank Fairfield Post 14 for their donation of a POW/MIA flag, Legion Riders of Maine for 100 stamps, Brunswick Post 20 for sending minutes of our meeting to all our members, Peter Ogden for presentation of certificates to local veterans and Meridian Lodge #125 Masons for the use of their lodge.

Commander Harold Goodridge, Pittsfield Post 32

Letters

Members of The American Legion,
Thank you very much for the award you presented me at graduation. I really appreciated it. Also, thank you for the card you gave me. It was really nice to be recognized. Thanks again.

Emma Begin

Dear American Legion, Dept. of Maine General Fund,
We greatly appreciate your donation of \$630 to the Beals House. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Mary Duquette, Secretary Board of Directors, Beals Hospitality House

Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer, enjoying the weather, family and friends!

Our first DEC meeting will be on August 19th at Post 5 in Waterville. Unless a committee wants to meet at 11 a.m., our meeting starts at noon. Please make contact with me if you are unable to attend.

Don't forget how important membership is! Keep all applications on hand and continue to ask! September 12th is the first target date. We need 10%. Let's keep up the good work making these targets.

Please continue to support the Beals House! This is a wonderful project that greatly appreciates our help. Please send donations for this cause to Dave Raymond, 976 Riverside Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330 and earmarked Beals House.

To schedule a visit from an officer, or have any questions or concerns, please contact me!

Richard Huntley, Detachment of Maine Commander
dickie_huntley@hotmail.com
Home phone: 255-5885 Cell phone: 735-8430

Auxiliary Corner

As I write this message I am reminded of how close fall is. It's fog up to my window as the temp is 64 with the promise of the 80's later today. Is everyone ready for a busy fall?

Please take time to order your POPPIES at your first opportunity. Department needs to be able to figure out how many poppies we need for the whole state. Next please mark your calendars for September 8 as the National Commander's dinner in Mechanic Falls. Let's show him Maine cares and every officer show up. Information on menu and time will be available later.

I hope everyone has made their plans to attend Fall Conference in Millinocket by now. I know our chairmen have been busy planning their programs for a very informative day.

Let's see how many Units can be at 50% by Fall Conference. It can be done with everyone working together. Each membership chair will receive the Angel Halo Award and every unit will be put into a drawing for \$50 that will be drawn at Fall Conference.

Till next time,

Mary Jane McLoon Department President
Your Angel of Warm Wishes 207-563-5316 mjmcloon@yahoo.com

Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant

TO: DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Date _____

Please notify National Headquarters that renewal notices should not be printed or mailed to the following members of this Post:

LIFE

