

Massachusetts e-Legionnaire



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 9 Issue 1

Summer 2017

Commander's Corner



Comrades,

To begin with, I am both humbled and extremely proud that you elected me Department Commander at the 99th Annual Massachusetts Department Convention on June 10th, 2017.

I want to first thank all the posts and Legionnaires throughout this great department for the support that you have shown me, not just at the most recent convention but all the conventions prior in which I was both a district and department level candidate and officer.

To begin with, I would like to let you know that my Motto/Slogan for the year is "Serving American Youth". Keeping in line with this, my Department Command-

er's Charity is The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation which was founded in 1954 with the primary objective of "contributing to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through support of research, studies, surveys, projects, or in other ways, such as youth activities and programs that benefit children." This charity has always been a special one to me as whenever a member of my post passes away and joins Post Everlasting we made a donation to the foundation in that legionnaire's name.

I would like to concentrate on moving forward with making this a successful full year for all of us in the Department of Massachusetts. Please, let us all remember as we state in our preamble which we recite at each meeting that as Legionnaires we have an "obligation to the community, state and nation". We all served our country honorably in the uniform of our choice. Let us continue to serve her well as Legionnaires.

Continued on next Page

NOTICE

New Department Email Addresses

Adjutant-
deptadjuant
@masslegion.org

Treasurer-
depttreasurer
@masslegion.org

Membership-
deptcoordinator
@masslegion.org

Note

There will not be an August edition of the e-Legionnaire. I will publish the September edition shortly after I return from National Convention.

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Commander Corner *(Continued)*

This service is of course facilitated through our numerous programs which fall under our Four Pillars:

- 1) Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation 2) National Defense 3) Americanism 4) Children and Youth. Such programs include Baseball, Boy Scouts, Boys State, ROTC, Blood Donor, Operation Comfort Warrior, Halloween Safety, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement just to name a few. Any support that a post can give to any program is a worthwhile endeavor. It is at the post level that we are best exposed to the local community. Our participation in programs not only supports our Four Pillars and community, state and nation but it also gives our organization positive exposure.

Please, let the public and department know that you are working the programs. There are many ways to do this whether it be local newspaper and television, Vets News, or this very publication—the E Legionnaire. If you are doing something good, let people know.

If we work these programs, the programs will work for all of us. I would like to make a special appeal to post adjutants and commanders: The most important way to report our service is via the CPR or Consolidated Post Report. This report is due July 1st each year and can be filled out either manually or online via My Legion.org. It should include all activity from June 1st- May 31st. The information compiled via these are taken by our national commander and reported before congress. The importance of submitting the CPR cannot be stressed enough.

Department, District and Post Officers, I have full faith in each and everyone of you. Your dedication to our organization is shown by your willingness to accept your position and I know you will work hard to represent us with pride.

Blue cap Legionnaires, you are the most important asset to The American Legion and the bedrock of our organization. The blue cap is where we all begin and also where we all finish. Your help in our programs at the post level is most important and also most appreciated.

In closing, I want to once again thank you all for your dedication to our great organization. Let's all move forward with making 2017-2018 a very successful year for our department.

Yours in comradeship,

Mike Davis Department Commander

Community Service—Al White Award - DVC Sally Nay

Reminder that the Al White Award is presented for all 12 months of the year and that any projects done in the summer months still need to be submitted within 45 days. Let's show what we do for our communities and submit for the Al White Award.

Rules and Guidelines

1. An award shall be given each month to a Post, Unit or Squadron judged to have performed an outstanding Community Service project for the betterment of the community or the people therein.
2. Entries for this award must be submitted by a Legion Post, Unit of Squadron of the Department of Massachusetts, with a letter or resume of accomplishments, signed and attested to by the Post Commander and Adjutant, Unit President and Secretary or Squadron Commander and Adjutant. Documentary proof of accomplishment shall be made to the committee where possible.
3. All entries must be submitted within 45 days of the project
4. Entries will be judged at the regular Department Community Service Committee meeting.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

My time as your national commander is soon coming to an end and since membership has been a focus of mine all year, I must ask – for all the Legionnaires who are no longer a part of our organization, who’s going to fill their shoes?

And who is going to fill all of your shoes – leaders in your communities and departments of The American Legion? The American Legion is better because of what you have contributed.

I am asking this because of the decline in American Legion membership.

Everywhere I go I tell Legionnaires that if each of them would recruit just one new member, we would double our membership. And when someone recruits three new members, I call or email them, and they are awarded with my Carry the Legacy Forward pin. I still have many left and look forward to awarding them.

I called Monica Trujillo, a member of Post 29 in Port Angeles, Wash., for her recruiting efforts and she emailed me back and said, “I’m honored to have served this great nation ... I look forward to reinvesting my efforts to garner younger veterans into volunteerism.”

I’m glad there are Legionnaires like Monica, who are working to get new members and mentoring younger ones to someday fill our shoes. But what about the rest of us?

For all the members that have left our great organization, find out why they left the fold and find a way to fix it. If people feel wanted and appreciated, they will renew.

I have reinforced that www.mylegion.org is a great avenue for accessing members who are either expired, new in the area or in a holding post. We can provide the information but it is up to all of you, your departments, posts and membership chairs to provide the tender loving care to these members so that they feel part of The American Legion Family.

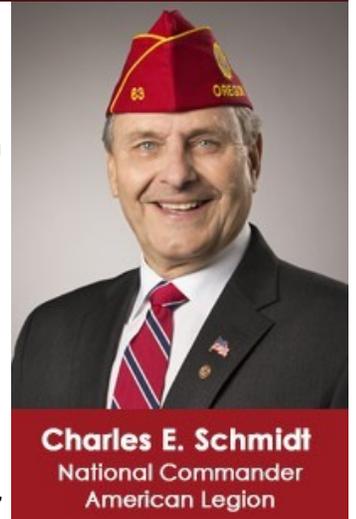
Now, I’m calling on all of you to take action.

Since my election as national commander, I have asked Legionnaires to carry the legacy forward. But who is going to fill our shoes in order to do that?

Carry the legacy forward.



Charles E. Schmidt
National Commander



Membership—DSVC Fred White

Membership, membership, so how are we doing on membership? No District made the 100% membership goal for 2016-2017. Although District 9 and District 10 had a good battle during the year, for the best membership per cent, District 9 did win by .29%. Only 61 posts reached the goal of 100%, that means that less than 23% of posts in the Department made the goal of 100%. 81 posts failed to make the 90% goal, More posts failed to make the 90% goal than those that made the 100% goal. We have to do a better job than we have been doing. How did the Department of Massachusetts compare with the rest of the Country? After starting the year in good shape we finished in 46th place Nationwide. Pretty bad isn't it, but there is more bad news, we finished in last place in the Northeast Region. I know we can do a better job on membership. We all know the trouble posts in our Districts. Now is the time to start to give aid to whatever they need to compete. Maybe you can get names off Post 462 roster that will help a post that is trouble with membership. Unfortunately we all know some time, no matter how hard you try, you just can't make the 100% membership goal. But, that doesn't mean you stop trying. The slate has been wiped clean on membership. This is a new period. Let us all work together to insure that the Department of Mass. is not embarrassed next year. We expect to put together a membership team, that will address membership but will be available for any problems a post might encounter., more information next newsletter.

You may not make the 100% membership goal, but there is no reason that your post can't submit a Consolidated Post Report. The report period is May 31, to June 1. You can turn in the report any time until July 1, but don't wait that long, the report ends May 31, get it in as soon as you can. The paper report is mailed by the Department Adjutant to all posts around the first of the year, and can also be found on *mylegion.org*. When you submit it on line a copy goes to National Headquarters, Department Headquarters and your Post. All posts do something that they can report, march in a parade, attend a wake, sponsor a Boys State/Girls State participant,. Scholarships, Junior Law Enforcement, Boy Scouts. There are a number of things we do for the Community, State and Nation. Only 39.56% of Posts in the department submitted a "CPR" by June 2017. The final figure isn't in yet, there is a big last minute push, and the final figure could be closer to 65%. There are many line items in the Consolidated Post Report, if you can't find your particular project , then find a line item that is close to your project. We must all work together to achieve our goals. Remember, there is no I in we. We can collectively make the Department of Massachusetts, one of the best Departments in the American Legion. Yours in Comradeship.

WE CAN DO

New Membership Training e-Newsletter

A new American Legion membership training e-newsletter is available to sign up for at legion.org/newsletters. The bi-monthly newsletter highlights best practices and ideas shared by Legionnaires throughout the country.

Reminder: CPR Due Now!

Consolidated Post Reports, which document a post's activities from June 1 to May 31, are due at National NOW!. The 206-2017 CPR forms can be filled out and submitted online through mylegion.org or downloaded at legion.org/publications under internal Affairs and submitted by mail to the Department Office, Room 546-2, State House, Boston, MA 02133.



ATTENTION!



2018 Legion & SAL Membership Cards Update

The three-part American Legion and SAL cards have been updated for 2018 and future years. The department/detachment and national portions of the card have been enlarged to capture more information than in the past. New fields that have been added to the **Legion's National Card** include: **Phone #, Gender, Date of Birth, Email, and Branch of Service.** The SAL National Card now includes: **Phone #, Date of Birth and Email.** Only minor changes have been made to the department/detachment cards.

In addition to the new fields, **you'll also be able to report address updates on the National Card**, which has previously been prohibited. Be very careful to avoid the scanner code fields and make sure all changes are **noted neatly and clearly so that membership processing isn't delayed. If you're adding or updating information, please place an "X" in the box labeled "Update record changes as noted" on the National Card; if you make a change without X'ing this box, it will not be caught by our scanning equipment. Make sure to mark only the boxes that apply. Complete instructions for membership card processing are included in each post/squadron membership card package.**

Since this is the only form that is received at national annually for every member, it will be the easiest method of verifying and reporting member updates on a routine basis. Record changes throughout the remainder of the year should continue to be reported on a *Member Data Form* or updated through the *myLegion* and *mySAL* sites **as they're received from your members.**

Because of the additional fields, the entire 3-part card is two inches longer than in the past; however, only the department and national portions were expanded.

The image displays four sample membership card forms arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left form is the '2018 THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CARD', the top-right is the '2018 THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CARD', the bottom-left is the '2018 SAL NATIONAL CARD', and the bottom-right is the '2018 SAL DETACHMENT CARD'. Each form contains fields for member name, address, phone, email, and date of birth. The national cards also feature checkboxes for 'Update record changes as noted' and various membership categories like 'Active', 'Inactive', and 'Life'. The SAL national card prominently displays the 'SAL' logo.

The **member's** card, which this year features the *Women in Military Service for America Memorial* in Washington, DC, did not change.





FREE On-Line Access to Post Membership

myLEGION.org is a secure website designed to assist post adjutants with everyday membership duties and to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership and other American Legion members. myLegion.org can be accessed from any computer with an internet browser.

- ✚ View and Edit Legion and SAL membership.
- ✚ View members who have renewed on-line.
- ✚ Generate membership rosters, reports, and mailing labels.
- ✚ Increase membership using list of expired and DMS members in a selected area.
- ✚ Print pre-written invitation letter to IIQ post members.
- ✚ Complete and submit Consolidated Post Report. Copy will be sent to your Department HQs.
- ✚ Global member look-up. Find basic information to assist with post transfers.
- ✚ Download Membership Materials and Brochures.
- ✚ Communicate with other officers through MyLegion Officer's Forum

**An authorization form must be submitted to National Headquarters prior to registering a post site. This form is available at www.mylegion.org. There is only one site per post and is registered with post adjutant's information.



mySAL.org

FREE On-Line Access to Squadron Membership

mySAL.org is a secure website designed to assist squadron adjutants with everyday membership duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to National Headquarters' membership system.

- ✚ View and Edit SAL membership.
- ✚ Generate membership roster and reports: Current Paid, Expired, Undeliverable, and Deceased
- ✚ Submit annual Squadron Report electronically.
- ✚ Squadron Inquiry

**An authorization form must be submitted to National Headquarters prior to registering a post site. This form is available at www.mysal.org. There is only one site per squadron and is registered with squadron adjutant's information.

Payment process for individual membership dues does not change.
Both Post and Squadron must continue to transmit membership cards and
dues payments to the State Headquarters.

The American Legion Coin Bill



An Honor Worth Coining

[Take Action!](#)

(June 29, 2017) The American Legion has a golden opportunity. Well, silver and gold actually. With your help, we can encourage Congress to mark The American Legion's 2019 Centennial with limited edition, exquisitely crafted commemorative coins. Not only will these coins raise public awareness about the greatest veterans organization in the country, proceeds from their sale will raise funds for our outstanding programs.

A bipartisan group in Congress is now gathering support for [The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act](#). This legislation, if passed, would honor the Legion for its 100 years of service to our nation's heroes by directing the U.S. Mint to issue a variety of special limited edition commemorative coins available for purchase during 2019. Congress only authorizes two coins per year and one has already been awarded for 2019, so there's only one left.

But the Legion has strong competition and we need your help to get this done!

Please ask your representative and senators to join Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., Sen Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., Rep Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., as cosponsors of this important legislation by sending the prepared message below. The House bill is [H.R. 2519](#) and the Senate bill is [S. 1182](#).

[The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act](#) provides Congress with a valuable way to thank the Legion for its service to our nation, and to invest in our shared values.

We cannot afford to miss this vital opportunity for Congress to recognize the great work of The American Legion! Please contact your Members of Congress now.

Commander Michael Davis address delegates



Convention Assistant Judge Advocate Jimmy Brehio, Merrill Atkins and Judge Advocate James Fratolillo, Commander Mike Davis, Immediate Past Department Commander Kenny Starks, Assistant Chaplain Arthur Strafuss and our Stenographer

More convention pictures are available on our website www.masslegion.org

Too many to put in E-Legionnaire we would exceed the digital data allowed by most email servers.



NEXT STOP National Convention Reno, NV

August 19-24 2017

2017 Scholarships—PDC Louis Brault Chairman

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MET ON MAY 13, 2017 AND MADE THE FOLLOWING SELECTIONS

THE WINNERS FOR THE \$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE PNC JOHN “JAKE” CORMER SCHOLARSHIP IS KATELYN GEMMEL SPONSORED BY WILLIAM COMER FROM POST 78

THE PNC PAUL A. MORIN SCHOLARSHIP IS CAITLIN ANNE CLARKE SPONSORED BY RICHARD VAN AMBURCH OF POST 150

THE PNC DANIEL J. DOREERTY SCHOLARSHIP IS TYLER MORAN SPONSORED BY JOHN MORAN OF POST 78

THE PAST DEPT. COMMANDERS SCHOLARSHIP IS CONNOR MURPHY SPONSORED BY RICHARD MCKLUSKY OF POST 435

THE JOSEPH H. ELLINWOOD SCHOLARSHIP (NURSING) IS HANNA BROWN SPONSORED BY PHIL RYAN OF POST 40

THE FRANK R. KELLY SCHOLARSHIP IS GREGORY BABIN SPONSORED BY HIS FATHER PAUL BABIN OF POST 275

THE GRACE FULLER OLSON SCHOLARSHIP IS SHONNON BURNS SPONSORED BY SPONSORED BY TIM BURNS OF POST 40

THE MAYER/MURPHY/NEE SCHOLARSHIP IS MATTHEW DAVIEAU SPONSORED BY SPONSORED DENNIS OLSON OF POST 112

THE H.P. REDDEN SCHOLARSHIP IS DANIELLE POOLE SPONSORED BY GEORGE POOLE OF POST 101

THE ROBERT “SAM” MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP IS ANNA THORTON SPONSORED BY JACK THORTON THE 3RD OF POST 373

THE WINNERS OF THE \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS

REBBECA NGUYEN SPONSORED BY PAUL BORIS OF POST 58

JUSTIN GARCIA SPONSORED BY JOSEPH GARCIA OF POST 220

JILLIAN CRIMMNS SPONSORED BY PAUL SNYDER OF POST 101

DYLIN MCLAUGHLIN SPONSORED BY RUSSELL MCLAUGHLIN OF POST 435

ARON KATZ SPONSORED BY BRUCE KATZ OF POST 191

ARIEL NORUM SPONSORED BY NIEL NORUM OF POST 204

DAVID SINATRA SPONSORED BY JAMES SINATRA OF POST 61

ALYSSA CHRISTOPH SPONSORED BY THOMAS BLOOM OF POST 96

CASEY LUPO SPONSORED BY MIKE AND CHRIS LUPO OF POST 273

DREW KRESSLER SPONSORED BY NEIL NORUM OF POST 204

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS YEARS WINNER. THERE WERE 43 APPLICATANTS AND NARROWING IT DOWN TO 20 WAS VERY TRYING, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Library—Lisa McPhee, Department Historian

The National offices are asking that posts not contact the library directly with requests for post information. They do not store that data such as history of Post Commanders. Any requests for information should be given directly to the Department Historian. Time will be available when the Historian goes to fall conference in October and they may check the archives. There is no information regarding posts and limited information regarding departments available.

From the Service Officer—GRIT Freedom Chair

Mobility and independence, things we might take for granted until will lose them. For those veterans with a disability that requires them to use a wheelchair, there are always accessibility issues.

Most wheelchairs are not constructed to be used on any outdoor terrain other than pavement, and, of course extreme weather and soil conditions increase the difficulty substantially.

The Veterans Administration will provide an all-terrain wheelchair to qualified veterans at no cost. This is a lever operated, self-propelled chair that can be used by those dealing with a variety of disabilities.

The GRIT Freedom Chair can ordered by VA staff or a service officer can start the process. For additional information look at www.gogrit.us.

Mike Whalen



From the Service Officer—Veterans Grave Officer

Every city and town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is required to appoint a Veterans Grave Officer to a term not to exceed five years. He or she is charged with the maintenance and care of the veterans graves in their community. This position is sometimes also held by the veterans service officer, or a member of a veterans group in the district. Usually, the local DPW, cemetery department, or a private cemetery work force provides respectful and suitable care for the graves. However, the Veterans Grave Officer must coordinate the placement of the flag of the United States at each gravesite every Memorial Day. Every community has their own system of flag placement and removal, and eventually, the respectful burning of the old flags.

The current flag code requires the American Flag to be placed on the left side of the gravestone, and each veteran buried in that family plot would be recognized by an additional flag. If possible, the use of flag holders are encouraged, as they raise the flag off the ground, and keep the flag in an upright position.

Families of deceased veterans are always grateful when a new flag is placed on their loved one's grave. It shows them that their service to our country continues to be remembered by those left to carry on our traditions. Some might say that it is even more important to flag those graves of veterans who have no family left, and take a few moments to make a connection.

Mike Whalen

Boy Scouts Camporee

This year's American Legion camporee was once again held at Camp Collier in Gardner. Twenty Boy Scout Troops participated as well as Weblo's packs. Approximately 325 youth and adults were in attendance. Highlights of the camporee were troop level and patrol level events on Saturday. The Army National Guard, Marines, members of the USS Constitution, State Emergency Management and State canine unit were present with equipment and demonstrations. A flag retirement ceremony led by the Gardner American Legion and an evening camp fire program rounded out the day. On Sunday Department Commander Mike Davis as well as other department, district 4 and post members were in attendance for the closing ceremonies. Eagle Scout of the year Jonathan Huntley was presented a plaque for his accomplishment.

The American Legion Boy Scout camporee is held each year over Father's Day weekend and is open to all Boy Scout units sponsored or co-sponsored by an American Legion. For more information on how a Boy Scout Troop in your area can attend please contact the department chairperson or your district Boy Scout representative.

Sally Nay – DVC

District 3 Boy Scout chair



Troop 821 Sponsored by Post 124 Westfield at Camporee

Commander Mike Davis and OC from Post 221 (Acting Chairman for Boys Scouts) Present awards



Boy/Girl State



Memorial Day Services at General Mail Facility



DVC Fred White with Boston Postmaster, Nicholas Franciscucci At The United States Postal Service, General Mail Facility, Boston Ma. during the Memorial Day service on May 26th, 2017.

Vice Commander White performed the Invocation and Benediction, at the Service..

Alvan T. Fuller First Recipient of the Massachusetts Legionnaire of the Year



Jeff Brown & Richard Keith from the National Headquarter Staff (Both worked with Alvan on the Emblem Sales Committee) came to our Convention to congratulate Alvan.

Wall that Heals in Haverhill, MA



Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas



PNC John P. "Jake" Comer



Mayor James Fiorentini



MG Peter Alyward



Watch 91st American Legion World Series

The American Legion's 91st World Series in Shelby, NC August 10-15, will be available for viewing on television and online.

Games 1-4 on Thursday Aug 10 and Games 5-6 on Friday August 11 will be live streamed online at www.espn3.com.

Games televised live on ESPNU include games 7-9 on Saturday August 12, games 10-12 on Sunday August 13, the two semifinal games on Monday, August 14 and Tuesday's championship game.

All 15 games are available for viewing on ESPM3.

Visit www.legion.org/baseball for more details about the upcoming ALWS.

2017 Legion Baseball Scholarship



American Legion Baseball scholarships are available to the more than 65,000 players participating in the 2017 Legion Baseball season. The 2017 American Legion Baseball scholarship nomination form is available online [here](#).

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit a completed application form along with three one-page letters of recommendation from a Legion coach or manager, Legion post commander or adjutant, and a community leader (teacher, Scout leader, minister or church leader, principal, etc.). Applicants must also complete the authorization form

at the end of the application, including signatures from the player, parent or guardian, and post commander.

Applications and testimonial letters must be submitted to the department headquarters in the Legion player's state and post-marked no later than July 15. Applications should not be submitted to American Legion National Headquarters. Each applicant is considered for a scholarship of \$500 or more from the department headquarters.

Department headquarters must submit their department-level baseball scholarship winner to National Headquarters by Aug. 4 for consideration for The American Legion All-Academic Team scholarship, sponsored by Diamond Sports – the official baseball for American Legion Baseball tournaments. Eight players will be selected to receive an additional \$2,500 scholarship. A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.



DFAS address changes INDIANAPOLIS — Military retirees and annuitants corresponding with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) began using a new address May 1.

The old addresses in London, Ky., were discontinued and are replaced by addresses in Indianapolis to help speed up receipt and customer service.

The new mailing addresses are: Retired Pay correspondence: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay correspondence: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1300 Mail received at the old mailing addresses after May 1, 2017 will be forwarded to the new address.

The DFAS retired military and annuitants website at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>, provides additional information and ways to contact Retired and Annuitant Pay including self-service options or by phone (800) 321-1080.



THE AMERICAN LEGION *Centennial celebration*

*Remember the Date:
June 15, 2019*

100 THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration



100th
Anniversary Celebration

Hosted by
Gaudette-Kirk Post 138
Spencer, Massachusetts

First of what we hope will be many 100th Anniversary Celebrations for the Massachusetts American Legion .

Posts, District, Units, Squadrons, or members if you are planning on a 100th Anniversary celebration that will be open to all members of the legion send the info to me at fmacdonald53@comcast.net or if we are still using snail mail PO Box 81 Sandwich Ma 02563-0081 and I will put it in the next edition!

Post History Pages, by the numbers



Since the release of the Centennial Celebration website, numerous American Legion posts have started pages to share their history, whether chartered in 1919 or 2009. Here is how they stack up as of mid-June.

2,534: posts that have shared their history

6: departments with more than 100 post pages; Nebraska leads the way with 363

420: posts that were chartered in 1919

706: posts that were chartered in 1920

21: posts numbered 1 or 01

Those administrating pages – or wanting to start one – who will be at the 99th National Convention in Reno, Nev., in August are welcome to visit the Media & Communications booth in the exhibit hall, or attend

one of the Aug. 21 workshops, to get one-on-one instruction and assistance with the website. More details about these activities will be available in July.



WELCOME VETERANS!

Honorably discharged Veterans will be eligible to shop all online exchanges beginning November 11, 2017. Fill out our secure form to establish your eligibility.

VetVerify is a shared verification service of the four military exchanges (AAFES, NEXCOM, MCX and CGX) with the sole purpose of supporting the newly approved Veterans online shopping benefit.

To verify eligibility for this benefit, VetVerify relies exclusively on secure data supplied by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). For more information about DMDC, please goto <https://dmdc.osd.mil>.

For more information about the benefit itself, please goto vetverify.org and click on "Benefit" page linked in the navigation bar..

For more information about eligibility, please goto vetverify.org and click on the "Eligibility" tab linked in the navigation bar.

HONORED TO SERVE YOU AGAIN

On behalf of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Coast Guard Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange and Navy Exchange Service Command, we are excited to announce that the online exchanges will once again serve honorably discharged Veterans of all United States Armed Forces. Once you have verified your eligibility on VetVerify.org, this lifelong benefit will allow you to shop online at any and all of the exchanges beginning on November 11, 2017. Thank you for your service.

EXCHANGE™
YOU SAVE, WE GIVE BACK.

Manchester By The Sea Post 113 Activities



The rifle squad fires a salute at Pleasant Grove Cemetery on Monday's Memorial Day. Here Billy Bell oversees the salute by David MacDougall, George Nickless and Mike Kwedor. The plaintiff Taps was then played with the return echoing across the graves. Silently the parade re-formed for the march to the Rosedale Cemetery and continued services.

Photo by Paul Clark



Auxiliary member Jane Pearson and veteran Bruce Heisey lay wreaths at the Legion Lot at Rosedale Cemetery during Manchester's Memorial Day Observance. Participants stand at attention and the bugler waits his turn to play Taps.

Manchester By The Sea Post 113 Activities (Continued)

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Representatives

Massachusetts Girls State 2017

The American Legion Auxiliary of Massachusetts will hold its 71st Annual Girls State convention at Stonehill College in Easton, MA in June.

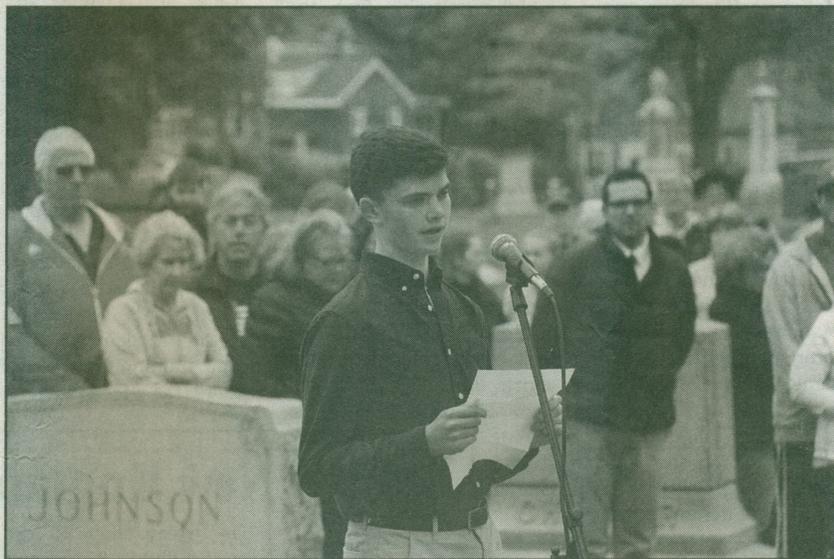
Representing Amara Baily American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113 and Manchester Essex Regional High School will be Juniors Gabrielle Allmendinger, daughter of Alli and Todd

Allmendinger, and Summer Burroughs, daughter of John and Julie Burroughs. The girls were nominated by the faculty, Beverly Low of the guidance department and by Principal Puglisi.

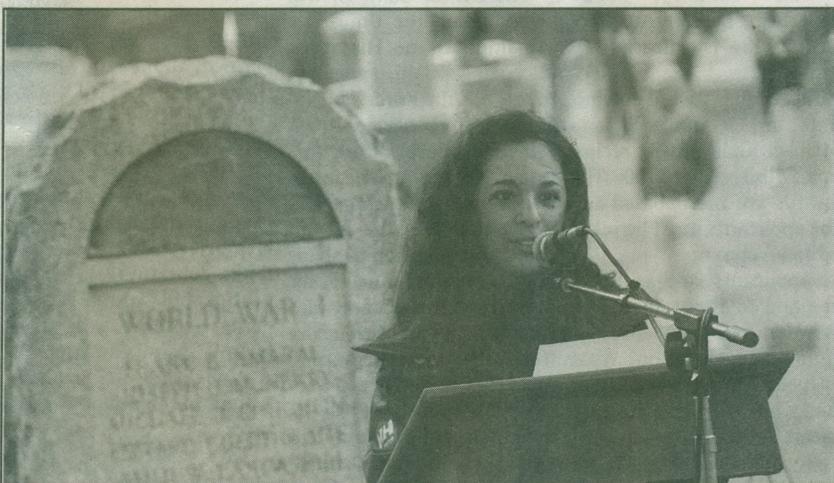
At Girls State, representatives will participate in the week's study of local and state government by establishing mock town and state offices, form two political parties, run for office, campaign and hold elections.

Girls State will be held during the same week in all 50 states. Two girls from each state (one elected as Governor and a back-up) will have the great opportunity to attend Girls Nation in July 2017 in Washington DC.

Auxiliary Unit 113 of Manchester does annual fund raising in order to pay for the fees of the event. We have been sending two girls every year for decades.



Manchester's Memorial Day services traditionally include the reading of The Gettysburg Address by a Manchester-Essex student. Here Benjamin Soulard reads the profound 272-word speech at the GAR site of the Rosedale Cemetery.



ME Sophomore Sirine Benali read the poem In Flanders Fields at the Legion Lot at Rosedale Cemetery during Manchester's Memorial Day Remembrance on Monday. Wet weather held off in the morning so that all activities for the day could be accomplished.

Department Calendar of Events

7/8	1:00 PM	District 2 Joint Installation	Easthampton Post 224
8/6	11:00 AM	District 5 Clam Bake	Hanscom AFB FamCamp
8/18-8/24		National Convention	Reno NV
9/16	11:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Beverly Post 331

2018 Membership Standings *as of 6/30/2017*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1573	1489	94.66%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1549	1445	93.29%
3	HAMPDEN	3267	3088	94.52%
4	WORCESTER	5747	5410	94.14%
5	MIDDLESEX	5420	5051	93.19%
6	NORFOLK	3134	2917	93.08%
7	SUFFOLK	1545	1433	92.75%
8	ESSEX	3182	3023	95.00%
9	BRISTOL	2356	2308	97.96%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	4315	4210	97.57%
297	CAPITOL HILL	232	289	124.57%
462	HEADQUARTERS	4033	3179	78.82%
	TOTAL 305 POSTS	36353		
	National Quota	37,000	33,842	91.46%



SAL 2017-2018 Commander's Project

First I'd like to say thank you to all of you for electing me Detachment Commander. Over the past years it's been great to meet and to work alongside all of you. I'd also like to thank all of the Detachment Officers. Without their help and support none of this would have been possible.

At this time I would like to announce that my charity of choice this year is the American Legion Child Welfare Fund. The Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) is a nonprofit that has two primary purposes: to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth and establish more effective uses of knowledge possessed by well-established organizations. To attain these goals, CWF raises donations and awards grants to organizations that help children. The CWF is governed by its board of directors and a national chairman. All administrative costs of the Child Welfare Foundation are borne by The American Legion so 100 percent of all money raised for the foundation is used exclusively for grants. I feel that our children are one of the most important areas to support because after all they are our future members and leaders. I hope you'll support this endeavor, let's show the rest of the nation what Massachusetts can do when it comes to supporting our children.

My goals for the upcoming year will be our membership, and the timely submittal of dues and the Squadron Consolidated Report Form (CRF). As a Membership Co-Chairman I know the challenges that are faced with membership. Please contact either Vice Commander Nay, Adjutant Smith, or contact me directly if you need any help with membership. The CRF is of great importance. This report not only shows the State House what all of us are doing to support the four pillars of the Legion it also shows the National Organization what the Detachment of Massachusetts has accomplished for the past year. If you have completed and submitted the CRF in the past thank you. If you have never filled one out the time to start is now. If you need assistance please contact any of the Detachment officers and we will be happy to assist you.

In closing I have set a personal goal to visit as many Squadrons as possible over the coming year. To attain this goal I need all of your help. I'm asking that you let me know when and where you have your Squadron meetings or events so that I can develop a schedule for visiting. Even though I call Western Mass home no Squadron is too far away to schedule a visit.

With all of your continued support I know we can make this another great year for the Sons and the Legion family as a whole. Once again I thank you for your support of our veterans, their families and our communities and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Regards

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Massachusetts

Commander

Ernest E. Laberge

Detachment Membership

Hello Everyone

The final National Membership Goal is approaching fast it's due by July 19th this goal is for 105% currently Massachusetts is sitting at 23 in the Nation we still need 244 members to reach 100%. At this time there are still several Squadrons sitting at 0% dues paid for the year this is unacceptable. The membership team will be contacting you directly to see what can be done to correct this situation. Some of you only need 1 or 2 to reach your goal so please keep pushing; reach out to your members and try to get those renewals and keep trying to bring new members into your squadrons one call can make all the difference.

For those of you who were not at the convention and have not completed and sent in your Squadron Consolidated Report form please do so soon if you have completed it and sent it in we thank you. If you are unsure about how to complete the report feel free to contact any of the Detachment Officers or you can contact Marvin, Cliff or me directly and we will help you through the process. I look forward to reviewing your reports and seeing all of the great things you are doing for our veterans and our communities.

Again if you need assistance and you would like Marvin, Cliff and I to attend one of your Squadron meetings or just meet to answer your questions please let us know and we would be happy to set up a visit.

Thank you for your continued support to our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Reminder: Our Detachment Executive Committee Transition meeting will be held at the Cherry Valley Post on July 15th at 11:00 AM everyone is welcome to attend. Feel free to contact us for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting or event.

Thank you

Ernie



2018 Sons of the American Legion Membership Standings as of 6/30/17

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	193	184	95.34%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	246	240	97.56%
3	HAMPDEN	392	422	107.65%
4	WORCESTER	1046	1064	101.72%
5	MIDDLESEX	1513	1400	92.53%
6	NORFOLK	933	754	80.81%
7	SUFFOLK	105	105	100.00%
8	ESSEX	431	435	100.93%
9	BRISTOL	231	271	117.32%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	665	652	98.05%
	TOTAL	5755	5527	96.04%



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- 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 by 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. We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Massachusetts e-Legionnaire!



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