



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 17 Issue 5

November 2026

Commander's Corner



Department Commander
Robert Jerdan

Legionnaire Comrades, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion, and Legion Family,

It is hard to believe that November is already upon us, meaning my term and time as your Department Commander is officially halfway done. Looking back on the whirlwind of travels, post visits, district meetings, and monumental community events across our Commonwealth, I am continually humbled by the unwavering dedication and patriotic spirit of the Massachusetts Legion family.

As the calendar turns toward November, our focus naturally centers on our nation's veterans, the upcoming Veterans Day commemorations, and the critical

grassroots work that sustains our organization every single day.

Our strength as The American Legion lives and breathes inside our local Posts. Everything we accomplish—from legislative advocacy on Beacon Hill to supporting youth programs and veterans in need—depends directly on the strength of our numbers.

If you haven't renewed your dues for 2027 yet, please log into MyLegion or reach out to your Post Adjutant today. Beyond renewal, I challenge every Post to practice active outreach: pick up the phone, knock on a door, welcome a new or transferring veteran into your hall, and remind them why membership in the world's largest veterans service organization matters. When we speak with a united, robust voice, our elected officials listen.

November is a sacred time on our calendar as our nation pauses to honor all

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 **AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY**

who have worn the uniform. Whether participating in local parades, school assemblies, or memorial ceremonies, let us wear our caps with pride and remind our communities that the American Legion family never stops serving.

With the holiday season fast approaching, it is also a vital time to step up our Buddy Checks. For many veterans and their families, the holidays can bring isolation and heavy challenges. A simple phone call, a text, or a warm cup of coffee with a fellow comrade can make all the difference. Let us ensure no veteran in our community feels forgotten.

During my term, I have made championing the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF) a central pillar of our charitable mission. The VCF provides immediate emergency financial assistance to military families facing sudden hardships and ensures our Department and National Service Officers are fully equipped to guide veterans through the complex process of securing their rightful VA benefits.

Please consider supporting the VCF through individual donations, Post contributions, or specialized events. Every dollar raised goes directly toward lifting up those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Thank you all for your relentless commitment to our four pillars, your tireless service to our communities, and your brotherhood. Let's keep our momentum strong through the second half of this term as One Team, One Fight!

For God and Country

Robert "Bobby" Jerdan
Department Commander (2026–2027)
Department of Massachusetts



The official seal of the American Legion, featuring a central star with "US" inside, surrounded by the words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" in a circular border.

VETERANS
COMMUNITY
YOUTH
A STRONGER
TOMORROW

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

COMMANDERS BANQUET

 SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026

 POST 440
NONANTUM • NEWTON, MA

 SOCIAL HOUR 3:00 PM
DINNER 4:15 PM

COMMANDER'S CHARITY
VETERANS AND CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The logo for the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF), featuring a silhouette of a soldier and two children holding hands, with the letters "VCF" in the center.

VETERANS • CHILDREN • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

 TICKET PRICE
\$50.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS PURCHASED FROM DISTRICT TICKET CHAIRMAN ONLY

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT

SERVING VETERANS • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES • SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH



American Legion National Commander Jay Bowen shared the tasks during his opening remarks to the National Executive Committee at National Headquarters.

Send messages to Congress, visit military bases to support servicemembers, promote Get Out the Vote, recruit and be part of the solution were five tasks American Legion National Commander Jay Bowen presented to the National Executive Committee (NEC) during his remarks Wednesday morning at National Headquarters for Fall Meetings.

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), the GI Bill Parity Act and SHIPS for America Act are a few of The American Legion's [legislative priorities](#) and important issues facing today's veterans, Bowen said.

Bowen encouraged the NEC and other Legion leadership at The American Legion National Headquarters to send messages to their members of Congress through the Grassroots Action Center about these issues affecting veterans. Legion Family members already have sent more than 91,000 emails in support of TCAVA. [Click here to send your message now.](#)

The Grassroots Action Center "allows you to easily relay your support for our priorities to Congress," Bowen said. "Our priorities and our support for the military are essential given the dangers we face today."

Bowen referenced how last week, British authorities arrested five men for allegedly planning an explosive attack on U.S. Air Force personnel at the Fairford Royal Airbase. "Even though the threat isn't always obvious, our troops are always in harm's way," Bowen said, adding this is why The American Legion has always advocated for a strong national defense as part of its National Security pillar. "The American Legion will always fight for our military to receive the firepower, training and resources it needs to succeed on the battlefield. And today's battlefield isn't always a 'field.' It includes

the sea, air, cyber and space."

American Legion staff and the Department of Florida recently visited Patrick Space Force Base as part of the Legion's Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience (BASE) program.

"These BASE visits are enormously helpful to our efforts as advocates. Not only do they help with our communications to Congress, but they also send an important message to members of the military that they have friends in The American Legion who care about their wellbeing and success," Bowen said. "In an all-volunteer force, quality of life is essential."

Bowen recommended for Legionnaires who live nearby military bases to also check on the needs of today's servicemembers whether it's with housing, food or childcare.

"If housing isn't up to par, if daycare isn't readily available and if the pay cannot keep up with the local economy, the best and the brightest will leave the service and join the private sector," he said. "The services must constantly seek to improve military life if they want to compete with the salaries that are available in the corporate world."

Election Day is Nov. 3, and Bowen

asked NEC members to promote The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" efforts that date back to the 1920 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

"The founders of The American Legion recognized the sacrifice that so many veterans made while defending freedom abroad," Bowen said. "The least we can do is participate in our democratic process here at home. So please vote and encourage all American Legion Family members in your department to do the same."

Bowen ended his remarks with a membership reminder that strength comes in numbers and any Legionnaire who recruits two new members will receive his BPOTS (be part of the solution) membership incentive pin. A new member is any eligible veteran joining for the 2027 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2026 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

"We will always be a service-first organization, but we also recognize that there is strength in numbers. The larger we are, the more effective we can be with our advocacy and programming," Bowen said.

Bowen's BPOTS theme as national commander aligns with The American Legion's Be the One suicide prevention mission to ask, listen and save lives.

"I know that you are just as committed as I am to being part of the solution," he said. "BPOTS. Be The One."

Army/Navy swag through The American Legion



The word for MY YEAR is.... **MELIORISM**

Meliorism □ □ The Beautiful Belief That We Can Make the World Better

□ Meaning: The belief that the world can be improved through human effort and positive actions.

□ Meliorism reminds us that love, creativity, compassion, and kindness can contribute to a better future. Every small positive action matters.

We need to all work together with a feeling of MELIORISM if we want our organization to continue & succeed.

“Service not self”should always be exercised. However...sometimes we see more “service to self”. We don’t all need to get along to work the mission together. If we learn to like each other and or become friends, THAT is a huge BONUS!. But, it isn’t required to work the mission. We are all VOLUNTEERS. We are all here for the same propose. We are all here to help our Veterans, their families & our communities. Let’s stop the pettiness, personal differences and ugliness and get back to what’s really important.

Our MISSION .

As soon as we start focusing on THAT and ONLY THAT....our organization will flourish.

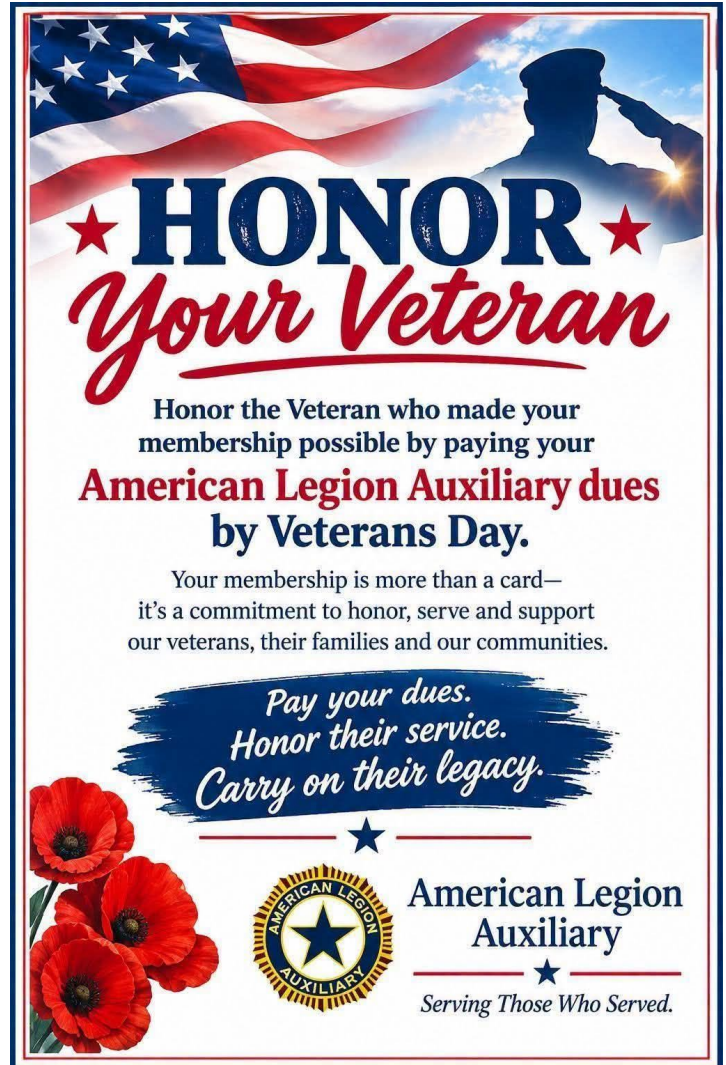
Read the PREAMBLE.....mean it when you say it. Don’t just say the words.....MEAN IT! Words mean NOTHING until you put them into action. Until then....they’re just words.

Let’s ALL make a conscious decision to work together for the mission. Don’t let personalities get in the way. Keep moving forward. And, if you don’t like something....try to make a difference for change. Don’t quit or run away. That never solves anything.

Member to member.....work together & get along

Auxiliary to Legion.....work together & get along

REMEMBER...THE PREAMBLE.....MEAN IT WHEN YOU SAY IT. Otherwise....their just empty words





Detachment
Commander
Jesse Limanek

"Last night for the first time since August in the first year of the war, there was no light of gunfire in the sky, no sudden stabs of flame through darkness, no spreading glow above black trees where for four years of nights human beings were smashed to death. The Fires of Hell had been put out."

This declaration was included in a story by Philip Gibbs, printed in the evening edi-

tion of the New York Times on November 11, 1918, announcing an end to what was once referred to as the Great War. Whenever I reflect on the significance of the day now memorialized as Veterans Day, these words often come to mind. As one who did not serve, I can only imagine the range of emotions the "doughboys" must have felt when the deafening silence descended onto the trenches of the Western Front. They made it; they survived. They served the nation, and it was time to go home. They were now veterans. Since so-called "War to End All Wars" the United States has engaged in seventy-five wars and military actions and roughly 40 million men and women served our nation during this time. Of these, only about 17.5 million veterans are alive today. Sadly, the ranks of WWII and Korean War veterans serving in Post Everlasting will soon be complete, and the Vietnam Era veterans are joining them in ever increasing numbers. This reality is reflected in the membership of the American Legion, which has seen a decrease of about 20% in overall membership in just the last five years alone. And it has contributed, at least in part, to the closure of many American Legion Posts across

the country.

This is why the Sons of the American Legion is such an important organization today. We, as male descendants of veterans of all wars, were born to serve our nation's veterans. Because of the unique conditions of eligibility to join the SAL, our membership can continue to grow exponentially in both the near and distance future.

Through our membership and participation in Post activities, we have the opportunity to promote and support veteran causes and fulfill our obligations as established within the Preamble. We can help swell the numbers of the American Legion Family by recruiting new members to join our brotherhood. And we can assist in keeping the doors of our American Legion Posts open for the next generation of veterans who answer the nation's call during both times of peace and war. It goes without saying that, as Veterans Day nears, I am hopeful that all members in the Detachment of Massachusetts will become active in their Squadrons and Posts. I also hope that every Son makes a special effort to help any veteran in their community, whether they are a Legionnaire or not, who is in need. I cannot think of a greater way to show our appreciation on this Veterans Day than to serve and assist those who served our great nation.

To all of the veterans who make the American Legion the greatest veteran's advocacy group in the nation and to all who have yet to find their way into our family, thank you for your service. God bless,

Jesse Limanek
Commander
Detachment of Massachusetts



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Greetings Legionnaires,

The Department is heading into November after finishing the Department Legion College held at Post 58 in Oxford and thank you to Post 58 for hosting the Department Legion College. There were plenty of new and old faces. The Department is also returning from the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. The Fall Meetings is where all Department Commanders and Department Adjutants receive important information regarding their roles as a Department Commander and Adjutant but also to have a little fun at the Department Commander's expense. It is at the Fall Meetings where Ye Stevios (Department Adjutant's Club) Dinner Play Date is held. At this the Dinner all Department Adjutants fine their Commander and other Department representatives at the fall meetings. I am happy to report that our Department Commander was duly fined for the offenses of busting in on Department Adjutants only meeting and watching and not assisting his Department Adjutant (me) stuff envelopes for the Department Commander's Banquet. All fines go to American Legion Charities. You will also be happy to know the Department of Massachusetts Fall Meetings Delegation also fined Department Commander Jerdan an additional fine for losing his cover/hat not once but twice.

November is also the month we celebrate Veterans Day. The Department of Massachusetts will march in the Boston Veterans Parade on November 7, 2026, with kick off at noon. Anyone wishing to participate in the parade let the office know or just show up around 1030 am at the Boston Public Library.

Finally, Grace, John, Michael, Dana and I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving. All leftovers can be dropped off at the Department Office.

Don't forget the Department Commander's Banquet November 21, 2026, at Post 440 after the DEC meeting. If you want to attend let us know.

Yours in Service,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant
The Department of Massachusetts

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

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



Tip of the Spear: Every Veteran Deserves the Ask

November brings Veterans Day, a time when our communities pause to recognize those who have worn our nation's uniform. For The American Legion, it is also an opportunity to turn that recognition into a personal invitation.

"Thank you for your service" can open the conversation. "Have you considered joining The American Legion?" can give that conversation a future.

That is where each of us becomes the tip of the spear in membership. Our strength begins with Legionnaires willing to make a connection, share our purpose, and ask another veteran to stand beside us.

But we must be willing to ask everyone, regardless of when, where, or how they served.

Too often, we make a decision before a conversation even begins. We look for a particular hat, a familiar campaign ribbon, or someone whose experience resembles our own. Meanwhile, we may overlook the woman standing beside us, the younger veteran raising a family, the veteran who served stateside, or the person who has never spoken publicly about military service.

We cannot recognize every veteran by appearance. We cannot understand someone's service by making assumptions. And we should never make someone feel that their service matters less because it was different from ours.

All honorable service deserves respect.

The tip of the spear could only move forward because others supplied it, maintained it, transported it, communicated its needs, and cared for those who carried it. Every mission depended on people doing different jobs. That same understanding should guide our membership efforts: different experiences strengthen the team.

When a veteran says, "I only served stateside," or "I never saw combat," listen to what may be behind those words. They may be wondering whether they belong. Our response should begin with respect, followed by an invitation to learn about The American Legion and review membership eligibility together.

Let us stop allowing veterans to count themselves out before we have even welcomed them into the conversation.

This November, take that approach everywhere you go. At a Veterans Day ceremony, a community breakfast, a school program, a grocery store, or a neighborhood gathering, start with a simple question:

“Did you serve in the military?”

Then listen. Ask about their experience. Share what your post does and why you belong. Explain how they could help shape its future. Make the invitation personal:

“We would be glad to have you visit our post. Let me introduce you.”

Membership is everyone’s responsibility. Every Legionnaire can make an introduction. Every Legionnaire can carry an application or help someone find membership information. Every Legionnaire can make sure a visitor has someone to sit with and a reason to return.

And the work continues after the invitation. Follow up. Learn their name. Ask what interests them. Give them room to contribute their ideas and experience. A warm welcome should lead to a lasting connection.

Across the Department of Massachusetts, let us make November a month of action. Challenge yourself to speak with veterans you have not asked before. Reach beyond your usual circle. Reconnect with a member you have not seen lately. Help someone take that first step through the door.

The next member may be waiting for an invitation that nobody has offered.

Be the tip of the spear. Start the conversation. Extend the invitation.

No matter when. No matter where. No matter how they served.

Just ask.





PERSON COMPLETING THE CHALLENGE	PERSON THEY GOT TO JOIN
POST / POST NO.	DEPARTMENT

Fill in electronically or by hand. Print on US Legal paper (14 x 8.5 in), landscape, at Actual Size / 100%.

The CBG Challenge: **Call one. Bring one. Get one.** Thank you for showing your interest.

Please see the attached which explains the challenge. The PDF is what the member will email to me at Esmith@legion.org. I will track everything.

What I have in mind is simple: Issue and share the challenge. Have all that have completed the challenge email me, and I will send them a certificate like the shared example, and I will reply to them with the signed PDF copy of the certificate that they can print out on card stock and place in their portfolio.

But wait. There's more!

Whichever Department has the most members completing the challenge, I will send the winning Department a \$500.00 check for the purpose of treating your department staff and officers, etc. a free lunch or dinner! This is my own money, and I want to do this. I already have the money set aside in savings. So, let's go!

I think this is a neat challenge because if taken seriously and accepted, we could double our membership! Surely, one person can get one veteran to join?

Eric D. Smith
 The American Legion
 Internal Affairs Division

The American Legion has a proud history of service to veterans, their families, and communities throughout Massachusetts. For generations, our posts and districts have provided leadership, camaraderie, advocacy, and support to those who have served our nation.

Today, as we look toward the future, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to examine how our Department is organized and determine how we can better serve our members and strengthen our organization for the next generation.

The Department Reorganization Committee is exploring a comprehensive modernization initiative that would consolidate our current nine-district structure into seven districts.

This proposal is about more than changing district boundaries. It is about building a stronger, more effective, and more sustainable American Legion in Massachusetts.

Why Consider Reorganization?

Like many membership-based organizations, The American Legion faces changing demographics, declining membership in some areas, increasing administrative responsibilities, and the need to attract younger generations of veterans.

Our current organizational structure has served the Department for many years. However, as membership patterns and community needs change, we must be willing to evaluate whether that structure continues to provide the most effective support to our local posts.

The proposed seven-district model is intended to:

Strengthen local posts by improving access to district leadership, training, and administrative assistance.

Improve organizational efficiency by reducing duplication of responsibilities and making better use of available resources.

Support membership growth through coordinated recruiting, retention, and outreach initiatives.

Develop future leaders by creating more opportunities for mentorship, training, and leadership development.

Improve communication between local posts, districts, and Department leadership.

Preserve our traditions while positioning the Department for long-term success.

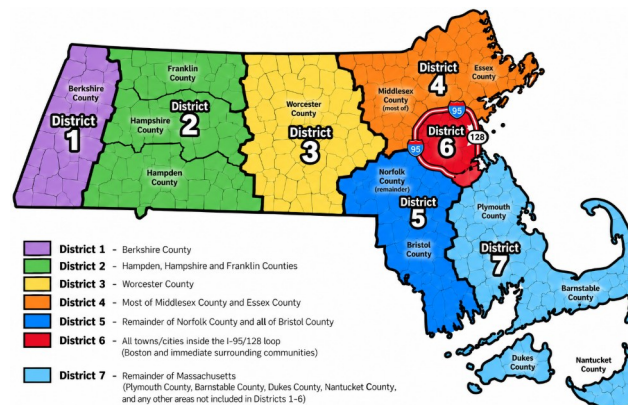
A New Approach to District Organization

The Committee is examining ways to establish seven geographically balanced districts while considering existing post locations, membership distribution, travel distances, county boundaries, and regional relationships.

Particular attention is being given to the Greater Boston area and the relationship between the current Districts 6 and 7, including the use of the Route 128/I-95 corridor as a possible geographic boundary.

The goal is to create districts that are practical to administer, responsive to local needs, and capable of providing meaningful assistance to every post.

An important principle of this effort is that reorganization should strengthen the local post—not diminish its identity, independence, or traditions. **Our posts remain the foundation of The American Legion.**



More Than Redrawing Lines on a Map

Successful reorganization requires more than combining districts or adjusting geographical boundaries.

The Committee is also considering opportunities to modernize how the Department delivers services.

These include enhanced district leadership training, regional membership initiatives, improved communications, more consistent post assistance, and greater collaboration among neighboring posts.

A modern district organization should serve as a resource center for its posts—helping them solve problems, recruit members, develop programs, and remain active and relevant within their communities.

Every Post Deserves a Voice

Any meaningful organizational change must be built on transparency, cooperation, and member participation.

The Reorganization Committee recognizes that each district and post has a unique history, identity, and set of challenges. Those perspectives must be considered as recommendations are developed.

District officers, post commanders, and individual Legionnaires are encouraged to participate in discussions, share concerns, and offer constructive recommendations.

The objective is not simply to reduce the number of districts. It is to develop an organizational structure that improves service and provides every post with an opportunity to succeed.

Any final changes must follow the Department's applicable constitutional, bylaw, and approval procedures.

Our Mission Remains Unchanged

Although district boundaries and administrative structures may change, our fundamental mission will not.

We remain committed to the Four Pillars of The American Legion:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

These principles have guided our organization for more than a century, and they will continue to guide our decisions as we prepare for the future.

Reorganization is an opportunity to reinforce those commitments by making our Department stronger, more responsive, and better equipped to serve Massachusetts veterans.

Moving Forward Together

The success of this initiative will not be measured simply by the number of districts established. It will be measured by stronger posts, increased membership, better leadership, improved services, and greater participation throughout the Department.

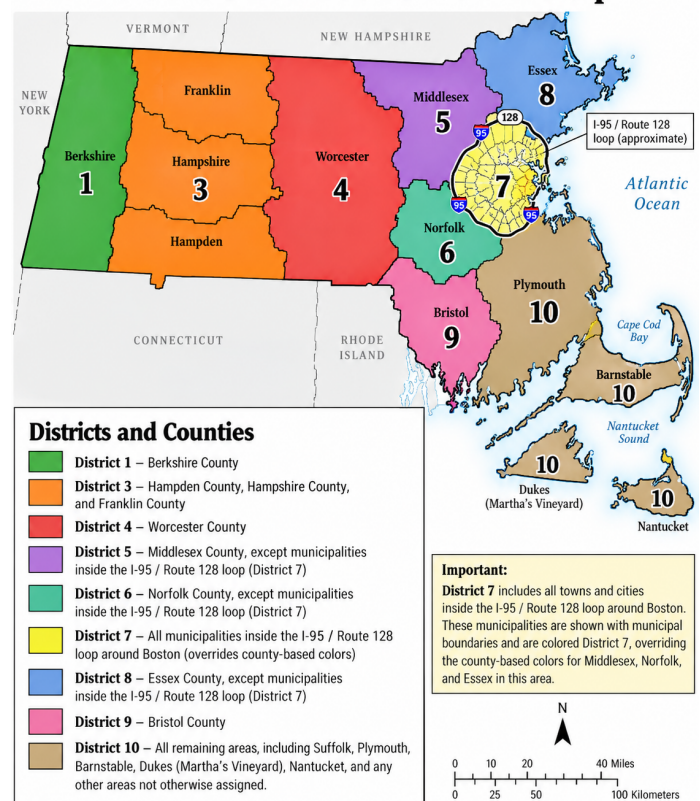
Change should never be undertaken simply for the sake of change. It should be thoughtful, inclusive, and focused on achieving meaningful improvements.

As the Reorganization Committee continues its work, we invite every Legionnaire to approach this initiative with an open mind, a willingness to participate, and a shared commitment to the future of our organization.

Our history gives us pride. Our mission gives us purpose. Our willingness to adapt will help secure our future.

Together, we can build a stronger American Legion Department of Massachusetts for today's veterans and generations yet to come.

Massachusetts Custom District Map



Please email maslegionreorg@gmail.com with questions or concerns.



Posts can share event details for the 2026 game on the Find a Watch Party calendar.

Last year, over 100 American Legion posts hosted an Army-Navy Game watch party in support of The American Legion serving as an associate sponsor of the Army-Navy Game presented by USAA. This year's game will take place at 3 p.m. ET on Dec. 12 in East Rutherford, N.J., and will be broadcast by CBS.

If your post is hosting a Army-Navy Game watch party for Legion Family and community members, [**submit details of your event here.**](#)

A list of posts hosting an Army-Navy Game watch party is available on the [Find a Watch Party calendar.](#)



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

★ ————— 2025–2026 ————— ★

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

Service in Action

Reported highlights • As of September 30, 2026

★ ————— SUPPORTING VETERANS ————— ★



\$78,801

Emergency aid from post funds



708

Cases handled by service officers



2,333

Volunteer hours at VA hospitals



1,216

Members contacted through
Buddy Checks

★ ————— INVESTING IN YOUTH ————— ★



\$93,900

Scholarship awards • 160 scholarships



147

Boys sponsored for Boys State



\$107,577.17

American Legion Baseball sponsorship



2,298

Children receiving cash or goods

★ ————— SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES ————— ★



18,012

Community service hours



\$75,953

Community service projects



855

Veteran wake, funeral or memorial honors



831

Blood units donated



Source: 2025–2026 Consolidated Post Report Summary, as of 9/30/26.
Selected reported totals; reporting counts vary by item.

Just imagine what we would report if all post submitted the CPR's



Boys Nation Volunteer Staff Sought



Members of the Legion Family interested in serving on the volunteer staff at American Legion Boys Nation are encouraged to submit an application.

[Click here](#) to download the fillable, printable application.

Applications must include your department adjutant's signature.

The 2027 session of Boys Nation will take place July 17-23, with staff arriving a few days earlier.

The application is not aimed at filling specific positions; rather, it's to have information on those who are interested in case there is a staff opening that meets the skills and education of those who apply.

Over 13,000 rising high school juniors became part of the operation of local, county and state government during Boys State last year with two delegates from each department program attending Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., for a week to receive an education on the structure and function of federal government. Learn more about Boys Nation at legion.org/boysnation.



Marketing—PDC Michael Davis

As Fall is upon us the marketing year is underway.

Our partnership with The Springfield Thunderbird's of The American Hockey League and the Challenge Accepted - Veteran of The Game is once again underway as the home opener was Saturday October 10th. This campaign provides us valuable brand awareness of our organization at a reasonable cost as our PSAs are played on the big screen and representatives of our department issue the award and its corresponding coin on the ice during a game break. We are also allowed information tables which further our exposure and knowledge of our organization and its programs.

Our 2026 Winter Sweepstakes have been distributed. The drawing will be held on January 9th, 2027 at The Department Executive Committee Meeting. Please, if you have yet to do so, remit your tickets and consider a donation. Your donation helps fund our programs and you can win cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

The Marketing Committee is also working with The Baseball Committee on placing a sign in the outfield of Fitton Field at Holy Cross, site of the 2027 American Legion Baseball Northeast Regional Tournament. More on this will be reported as the tournament approaches.

As always, if you have any marketing or fundraising ideas, bring them to the attention of the committee.

Mike Davis PNEC
Marketing Chairman



An updated brochure explaining the National Emergency Fund (NEF) is now available. Click [here](#) to download the brochure.

The brochure includes the history of the NEF, how to apply for an NEF grant and how to donate or raise money for the NEF.

Other publications about the NEF are available for download:

- The [NEF Preparation Guide](#) gives details on what to do before, during and after a natural disaster.
- The [NEF Checklist](#) lists items to bring into disaster areas when providing relief support.
- The [NEF Worksheet](#) helps maintain a list of NEF grant applicants.

For more information, go to Legion.org/Emergency.

This month we will be holding Veterans Day events in our respective areas, Cities and Towns as part of our ongoing strong support of all our Veterans. It will be a privilege and an honor to celebrate our many Veterans in our communities on the 11th Day of the 11th Month at 11 O'clock. It will mark the 108th anniversary of such an occasion at the end of the "War to end all Wars" originally known as **Armistice Day**. It is a national day of remembrance marking the end of World War 1, when France and it's allies signed a cease fire with Germany in a railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne. It honors soldiers lost in the war, especially the "Poilus",

ordinary men who endured the trenches' hardships. In 1920 the French enshrined an Unknown Soldier under the **Arc de Triomphe**, creating a lasting symbol for all fallen fighters. Over time the scope expanded to commemorate all **Military Personnel** who died in conflicts.

President Dwight D Eisenhower signed the legislation to make this change to recognize and pay tribute, to all who have worn the uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States. The American Legion much like all our Veterans group in this great country pause and remember all of our veterans both the ones who have passed but the ones who are with us each day.

Working with our communities, Scouts, JR ROTC Cadets alike to keep sacred our ties to all Veterans during this Day on the 11th of November. It is at this time that we keep an ever watchful eye on our Soldiers who are overseas in conflicts around the world. See a Veteran acknowledge them stop and shake their hand ask how they are and can we be of help in any way, "**Buddy Check**"!

Strength through Comradeship!



The training for members and non-members educates about the history and four pillars of The American Legion.

The American Legion's online Basic Training course is the official training program on the history and pillars of the organization for Legion officers, members, Legion College

applicants and others who want to expand their knowledge of The American Legion.

Basic Training has been recently updated to reflect all programs and missions of The American Legion like the Be the One suicide prevention initiative and legislative priorities. The course covers five topics: History & Organization; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth. Each topic will present information through text, images and video. At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material. It will take about two hours to complete the exam but there is no time limit. You may return and access the course as many times as needed.

Following a Course Conclusion step in the training program, a 40-question exam is provided. The exam will take about 30 minutes to complete.

How to take the Basic Training course:

1. Visit www.legion.org/training and click on Basic Training.
2. Sign in with any American Legion website login, including your MyLegion.org login.
3. Click "enroll." Legion Family members are free; cost is \$9.95 for non-members.
4. Download and print a Certificate of Recognition after completing the exam. A Basic Training graduate pin can also be [purchased through Emblem Sales](#). Cost is \$4.99.



The Countdown is on the the American Legion World Series in August 2027.



The 100th American Legion World Series takes place Aug. 9-14, 2027, at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. And The American Legion is looking to share memories of those who played and coached in the ALWS as we count down to next year's milestone.

If you played or coached in one of the previous 99 American Legion World Series, share your memories and photos at [Legiontown.org](https://legiontown.org) in the [Baseball](#) section.

We'll publish stories on Legion.org and share select ones on our social media channels.



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Have some news!

Share it in the E-Legionnaire

Monthly Deadline is the 25th
Email : Fmacdonald53@comcast.net

HELP WANTED

The Department of Massachusetts is seeking a member to assume the responsibilities of the editor of the Monthly Newsletter the Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs approved \$2.681 billion in VA infrastructure improvement projects in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026.

These projects are being funded by VA's \$4.8 billion non-recurring maintenance budget for FY2026, the largest in the department's history. The funds will be used by VA medical facilities for significant maintenance, replacements, and upgrades needed to maintain and improve operational capability and healthcare delivery.

"Under President Trump, we are rebuilding the department, so it puts Veterans first, and these historic investments underscore that fact," said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "The massive improvements we're making in VA healthcare and benefits are a big reason why more than 300,000 new Veterans have enrolled in VA care this year."

[View the complete list of fourth quarter projects here.](#)

VA obligated all the \$4.8 billion that was available in FY 2026. Maintenance projects approved in the fourth quarter of FY2026 include:

- **\$1.183 billion** to repair and upgrade outdated infrastructure systems in medical facilities.
- **\$938 million** for major building upgrades like elevators, electrical systems, and boiler plants.
- **\$560 million** for maintenance and modernization of facility infrastructure to support future electronic health record system updates.

These investments are one of many ways the Trump Administration is making VA [work better for Veterans](#). Since Jan. 20, 2025, VA has:

- Enrolled more than 300,000 new Veterans in VA healthcare in 2026.
- Opened [43 new VA healthcare facilities](#), expanding healthcare access for Veterans around the country.
- Completed a record high 82,083,918 direct care appointments in fiscal year 2025, up 4.1% from FY 2024.
- Completed a record high 59,989,662 community care appointments in FY 2025, up 12% from FY 2024.
- Offered Veterans more than 3.4 million appointments outside of normal operating hours, giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.

ALA Eligibility Changes: FAQs



Eligibility criteria to include spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren and female veterans.

Membership eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has expanded to allow more family members of veterans to join the organization and strengthen the American Legion Family.

On Sept. 2, at the 107th American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Ky., Resolution No. 19 was adopted by The American Legion to expand the ALA's eligibility criteria to include spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren and female veterans. This resolution changed "grandmother" and "mother" to "grandparents" and "parents," "sisters" to "siblings," "daughters" to "children," and "granddaughters" to

"grandchildren." The new eligibility criteria does not address gender in any capacity.

Eligibility criteria changes for the ALA are determined by The American Legion, and these additions went into effect immediately.

The Auxiliary has received questions regarding the new membership eligibility change. Below are a few of those questions and answers. If you have a question that's not answered below, email ALA National Headquarters' Membership Division at membership@ALAforVeterans.org.

What is the official new language of the eligibility change?

The following is the official new language:

Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

(1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all service-members who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and any-time after Dec. 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all service-members who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Does this mean my daughter could join since her grandpa was a veteran who served in the Gulf War?

Yes! In fact, granddaughters of veterans have always been eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

Prior to 2019, The American Legion's eligibility criteria listed seven war eras/time periods that the veteran must have served in, in order to be eligible for membership in The American Legion. These war eras were also a requirement for American Legion Auxiliary eligibility.

In 2019, the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) was signed into law which declared that the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The signing of the legislation changed the Legion's eligibility criteria from seven war eras to two (April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government) and expanded eligibility for membership in both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Are great-grandchildren eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?

The IRS defines a 501(c)(19) veterans service organization auxiliary degrees of relationship. Currently, the IRS limits the relationship to within two degrees, which is why we are unable to expand our relationships further.

Does the veteran need to be a member of The American Legion in order for their relative to join the Auxiliary?

Female veterans can join the American Legion Auxiliary without being a member of The American Legion. If someone is eligible under a deceased veteran, they are also eligible to join the ALA without a Legion membership.

Does this mean men can join the American Legion Auxiliary now?

The ALA ceased being an all-female patriotic service organization in 2019 when The American Legion voted at its 2019 National Convention to change "wife" to "spouse," opening the doors for male spouses to join the ALA.

Does this mean trans women are now able to be Auxiliary mem-

bers?

The ALA welcomes any and all persons who meet the established membership eligibility requirements to apply for membership. Gender identity, including transgender status, is not a factor in determining eligibility. All heartbeats fitting the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply for membership in the ALA.

Are ALA members eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion?

Only the eligibility criteria of the American Legion Auxiliary has been changed by The American Legion. Eligibility criteria for the Sons of The American Legion remains the same. Eligibility information for membership in the Sons of The American Legion can be found at legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion.

NOTE: The Sons and Auxiliary's eligibility are determined solely by The American Legion. If you have suggestions for updated Sons eligibility, you'll need to contact the Legion.



The American Legion Family

16th ANNUAL "PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS" BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th, 2027
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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

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

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

50/50 Raffles & Other Raffles | Food provided during tournament

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

Make checks payable to: Detachment of Mass SAL

For more info contact Cliff at: cliffpnc@gmail.com

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
"PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS"
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2027
12:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

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

\$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

POST NO. _____
UNIT NO. _____
SQUADRON NO. _____
RIDER CHAPTER NO. _____

BOWLER NO.1 _____
BOWLER NO.2 _____
BOWLER NO.3 _____
BOWLER NO.4 _____
BOWLER NO.5 _____

**SEND PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
CLIFFORD A. SMITH
53 Messenger St. Apt C. Plainville, MA 02762**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
The Detachment of Mass SAL**

**CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY FORMS
WILL BE SENT UPON RECEIPT OF COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM
MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO SECURE REGISTRATION**

When Skelley was leading candidate for SAL national commander, he encouraged his fellow Sons to purchase bricks to be placed around the monument, which stands at the center of Monument Circle just a few blocks from American Legion National Headquarters.

Following the SAL National Executive Committee’s Saturday session at their Fall Meetings, Skelley, the five SAL national vice commanders, SAL NEC members and others gathered on Monument Circle for the dedication ceremony.

Among the speakers was Kurt Eisgruber, president of the Indiana War Memorials Foundation board of directors, who pointed out a nearby section of 1,507 bricks commemorating Indiana’s MIA World War II veterans.

“As long as this stands, those bricks will be here. ... Those veterans will long be remembered here, right under our iconic Soldiers and Sailors Monument,” Eisgruber said.

The POW/MIA remembrance is special for Skelley, who has encouraged each squadron to ask a local restaurant to place a POW/MIA table in their business as his project for his leadership year.

Also special for Skelley: having a brick commemorating his father, Army veteran William M. Skelley Sr., at the foot of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, as Skelley’s son, Evan, served six years in the Navy.

“Any time we can honor a veteran, we should take the opportunity to do so, and to have these bricks here in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, especially where we meet, right in the heart of The American Legion headquarters city, was imperative. I could think of no better place to do it,” Skelley said.

“The history here, the history at the Indiana War Memorial, the ability to walk these grounds and see the monuments and the memorials to our veterans; there’s not a Son I know that doesn’t take every opportunity he can to reflect on, and it makes them think of their own veteran that gave them their eligibility for the Sons. I know I do.”

Among the other bricks dedicated by the SAL Saturday was one sponsored by the Detachment of Massachusetts. “We’re part of a national organization, we’re proud of our participation and our involvement,” said Detachment of Massachusetts Commander Jesse Limanek. “We just wanted to support Commander Skelley’s project when he sent this out when he was the leading candidate.”

The Indiana War Memorials Foundation supports the Indiana War Memorials Commission by providing financial, communications and program support. The IWMC oversees the Indiana War Memorial, the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, Veterans Memorial Plaza, American Legion Mall with the World War II, Korea and Vietnam Memorials, University Park, the USS Indianapolis National Memorial, the Medal of Honor Memorial, and the 9/11 Memorial.

For more information on the Bricks of Honor program, go to BricksOfHonor.org.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
IS NOT A
BAR**



IT IS A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

The American Legion: So Much More Than You Think

Many see the American Legion as just a place for Veterans to grab a drink. The reality? We are one of America's most powerful **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS!** 🇺🇸

Our mission is not social—it is SERVICE:



Advocating for veterans' healthcare and benefits



Supporting military families in need ❤️



Providing college scholarships for our youth 



Honoring fallen heroes with dignity and respect 🇺🇸



Fighting for legislation that protects those who served

Yes, our posts have social quarters where Veterans find camaraderie, but that is just a small part of our century-long commitment to Veterans, families, and communities.

The next time you pass by your local post, remember:

WE ARE NOT A BAR—WE ARE VETERANS CONTINUING OUR MISSION TO SERVE AMERICA.





**Thank you for
your service!**

The MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center is proud to thank Massachusetts Veterans for their service through a month-long series of free workshops and job-search assistance activities throughout November.



Microsoft
Excel

The MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center is presenting its popular Microsoft Excel workshop series in a **separate "Veterans Only" format** for the month of November only. This free four-part workshop series **will be offered via Zoom**. It will be taught by a veteran and open to U.S. military veterans only. Space is limited to the first fifty participants in each workshop. Early registration is strongly encouraged. Veterans may pick whichever workshops are of interest and appropriate to their needs; participation in all workshops is not mandatory.

Introduction to Excel (November 6th, 1:30 PM): This beginner- level introduction to Excel includes an Excel orientation and tour, a feature overview, basic spreadsheet creation, basic formatting, sorting, how to do an autosum, charts and graphs, and formatting to print.

[Excel 1 registration link](#)

Intermediate Excel (November 13th, 1:30 PM): This follow-on to the introductory course includes advanced formatting, freezing panes, hiding rows and columns, merging cells, basic functions and formulas (including =sum, =if, =vlookup, and =today), linking worksheets, conditional formatting, and a brief pivot table overview.

[Intermediate Excel registration link](#)

Pivot Tables (November 18th, 1:30 PM): Explore this powerful tool for analyzing data in Excel. Learn how to ask questions of your data, perform in-depth analysis with ease, add calculated fields, make pivot charts, and more!

[Pivot tables registration link](#)

Excel 3 (November 20th, 1:30 PM): Explore the more advanced features of Excel in this packed series conclusion. Learn to run scenarios using "goal seek", how to work with dates and date-related formulas, have Excel check your work with data validation, learn to convert units of measure, create and use macros, and gain a whole toolbox of advanced formulas.

[Excel 3 registration link](#)



Talk to a Career Coach. We are offering 30-minute appointments to Veterans-only on November 5th and 12th (between 1 and 3 PM) via Zoom. Whether you need help getting started on your resume, fine-tuning it, or talking about your job search strategy with a highly experienced job counselor, these sessions can jump start your job search.

[Coach of the Day registration link](#)



Translating Your Military Experience to Your Resume workshop. (Thursday, November 19th from 2-3PM)

In this 60-minute Zoom workshop, you will learn how to translate your military experience, skills, and accomplishments into clear, impactful resume statements that resonate with civilian employers. This workshop will help you highlight transferable skills, replace military-specific terminology with civilian-friendly language, and showcase your value to potential employers. [Registration link](#)



Veterans Priority Mini-Job Fair (In-person, 34 School St. Brockton MA). November 10th, 10:00-11:30AM. Come meet with area employers who are actively hiring. Share your resume and take advantage of this fantastic networking opportunity. [Job fair details link](#)
[Directions to the MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center](#)

* If you have never registered with the Massachusetts One Stop Career Center system, you may be contacted to complete the free registration prior to the activity.

MassHire programs and services are funded in part by US Department of Labor (US DOL) Employment and Training Administration grants and contracts as well as non-federally funded grants and contracts. Additional details available upon request.

A patriotic-themed poster for an Appreciation Day event. At the top, a man and a woman are smiling. The man is wearing a white American Legion garrison cap with "185" and "MASSACHUSETTS" on it, a dark suit, a striped tie, and a name tag that reads "DREW PAJAK". The woman is wearing a dark blue top. They are standing in front of a large American flag. Below the photo is a large, stylized banner that reads "APPRECIATION DAY" in gold, serif capital letters. Underneath the banner is a smaller banner that reads "A celebration of gratitude for the Legion Family." in a cursive font. Below this, the text "Hosted by Department First Vice President" is followed by the names "Ann Johnson and Drew Pajak" in large, bold, red serif font. Underneath their names is the text "Department Senior Vice Commander". To the left of the date "May 8, 2027" is a calendar icon. To the right of the date is a clock icon and the time "1:00 PM – 4:00 PM". To the right of the time is a location pin icon and the address "Chester P. Tuttle Post 279 88 Bancroft St, Auburn, MA". Below the date and time is a line of text that reads "Ann and Drew invite the Legion Family to join them as they show their appreciation for all of the support shown over the years." Below this line of text are two icons: a fork and knife icon and a beer glass icon. To the right of the fork and knife icon is the text "Food will be provided". To the right of the beer glass icon is the text "Open bar until the money runs out". The entire poster is decorated with stars and stripes.



**MASSACHUSETTS
VETERANS ALLIANCE**
FOUNDATION



SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVED

VETERANS ★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ COMMUNITY

★ LEGION WIDE ★ ★ FOOD DRIVE ★

— TO BENEFIT MassVAF —

Help us support local veterans by collecting non-perishable food items and essentials for the MassVAF Veterans Free Market.



1st

\$100

FOR THE POST
THAT COLLECTS
THE MOST!



2nd

\$75

FOR SECOND
PLACE



3rd

\$50

FOR THIRD
PLACE



PLUS

- ✓ Bragging rights!
- ✓ A spotlight on our MassVAF pages!

**DIFFERENT POSTS.
ONE MISSION.
STRONGER TOGETHER
FOR OUR VETERANS.**



Visit Our Website

MassVAF.org



Questions?
Call Us

508-296-0147



HONOR ★ COMMUNITY ★ SUPPORT ★ TOGETHER



SAVE THE DATE!

HOLYOKE SOLDIERS HOME

MOTORCYCLE RUN

RIDE TO HONOR OUR HEROES

FREEDOM
SUPPORT
HONOR
RESPECT
COMMUNITY

VETERANS
LIVE HERE.
HEROES
LIVE FOREVER.

ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 15TH, 2027

VETERANS HOME IN HOLYOKE
110 CHERRY STREET ★ HOLYOKE, MA

 AMERICAN
LEGION
Department of MA

★ ★ ★

RIDE ★ SUPPORT ★ REMEMBER

 **THROTTLE
ROCKER**
NATION

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
SPONSORS OF ALL KINDS!**

					
BUSINESS SPONSORS	COMMUNITY PARTNERS	PRODUCT DONATIONS	FOOD & BEVERAGE DONATIONS	RAFFLE ITEMS	MONETARY SUPPORT

Help us make a difference for the veterans who call Holyoke Soldiers Home their home.

★ RIDE TO HONOR OUR HEROES ★ ★

AMERICAN
LEGION



OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BIG GAME?

WHETHER YOU ARE
PLANNING A POST
WATCH PARTY OR YOU
ARE ON THE HUNT
FOR WHERE TO
WATCH, THE RIVALRY
IS BETTER IN A ROOM
FULL OF VETERANS



**DECEMBER 12, 2026
3:00 PM ET ONLY ON CBS**

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
11/4/26	6:00 PM	ROTC Meeting	Zoom
11/5/26	6:00 PM	Community Service Meeting	Zoom
11/9/26	6:00 PM	POW/MIA Meeting	Zoom
11/10/26	6:00 PM	Americanism Meeting	Zoom
11/12/26	7:00 PM	District Reorganization	Zoom
10/12/26	7:00 PM	POW/MIA	Zoom
11/16/26	6:00 PM	Adjutant's Meeting	Zoom
11/21/26	9:00 AM	Membership Meeting DEC to Follow	Nonantum Post 440, 295 California St, Newton MA
11/21/26	3:00 PM	Department Commanders Banquet	Nonantum Post 440, 295 California St, Newton MA

2027 Membership Standing *as of October 30, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	THE BERKSHIRE	1082	660	81.00%
3	PIONEER VALLEY	3004	1013	63.68%
4	CENTRAL	4054	2572	63.44%
5	NORTHEAST DISTRICT	3160	1907	60.35%
6	SOUTHEAST DISTRICT	2105	1415	67.22%
7	METROPOLITAN BOSTON	1096	658	60.04%
8	NORTHEAST SHORE	2252	1437	63.81%
9	SOUTHEAST SHORE	1852	1240	66.95%
10	SOUTHSHORE CAPE COD & ISLANDS	3316	2081	62.64%
297	CAPITOL HILL	926	723	78.08%
462	HEADQUARTERS	926	256	27.65%
	National Quota	23,773	14,862	62.52%

Next Target Date 10/12/2026 65%

District in Green have already meet or exceeded the next target!!!

MISSION

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

VISION

The vision of The American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

2027 Auxiliary Membership Standing *as of October 29, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	THE BERKSHIRE	210	111	52.88%
3	PIONEER VALLEY	622	144	23.15%
4	CENTRAL	1056	344	32.58%
5	NORTHEAST DISTRICT	984	304	30.89%
6	SOUTHEAST DISTRICT	325	102	31.38%
7	METROPOLITAN BOSTON	97	45	46.39%
8	NORTHEAST SHORE	659	167	25.34%
9	SOUTHEAST SHORE	243	125	51.44%
10	SOUTHSHORE CAPE COD & ISLANDS	709	273	38.50%
462	HEADQUARTERS	179	64	35.75%
	National Quota	5,084	1679	33.03%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION THE MILLENNIUM
A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Volume 3 | Issue 10 | Number 1 | October 2026
Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/e-newsletters

Inside YOUR SAL Newsletter this Month:

- National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- FAL NEC Wrap
- National Chaplain: "Chaplain's Corner"
- National Historian: Brick-by-Brick: "For the Families who carry their Legacy"
- PA: Florida Son plays TAPS at Gettysburg National Cemetery
- MN: Wreaths Across America unveils Monument
- Meet the new Emergency Preparedness Ad-Hoc Committee
- Americanism Committee: Flying Flags For Heroes

Top Ten Detachments 2027 Membership Percentage

- Hawaii 68.99%
- Philippines 60.00%
- France 53.11%
- Louisiana 50.05%
- Georgia 42.85%
- Utah 40.44%
- Wisconsin 39.39%
- Puerto Rico 39.33%
- Dist. Of Col. 36.89%
- Idaho 36.59%

Statistics as of 05 October 2025

BE THE ONE
A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion

Special to The Millennium—Thom Skelley (TX), National Commander
"This year, the message is simple... EVERY MEMBER MATTERS"

As we begin the 2026-2027 administrative year, I am humbled to be able to address you as your National Commander. Truth be told, the position really has not sunk in. To those that know me, our membership in the Sons has never been about titles, gold covers, or recognition. We are who we are and do what we do to honor the legacy of certain veterans(s) that gave us our eligibility.

This year, the message is simple. EVERY MEMBER MATTERS. Every member of our Armed Forces, past and present; those who are still amongst our ranks, those who have answered the final call, and those who are still missing and unaccounted for. Every Legionnaire, Son, Auxiliary and Rider... EVERY MEMBER MATTERS.

My first official visitation took me to New Jersey where that simple theme could not be more evident. The main focus of the weekend was the 36th Annual POW/MIA Watch Fire in Ocean County. While this event was sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion, it was a true family affair as it was attended by hundreds of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. When we come together, the results are astonishing. Earlier that day, I had the opportunity to enjoy some time at American Legion Post 321 in Union Beach, who put on a pig roast/BBQ with live music that was open to the public in order to spread the message of The American Legion. While there, I learned of the heart wrenching story that was uncovered by then Squadron Chaplain Bob LaCour that although veteran's headstones are paid for by the V.A., the cost to install them in a private cemetery falls upon the family. Bob found multiple grave markers in an office closet that were simply tagged, "NOT PAID, DON'T PUT". I encourage you to read the full story on TheAmericanLegion.org.

Before heading to the opening of the watch fire, NEC Joe Korba suggested we make a stop at The American Legion Leonardo Post 338 who were holding a fundraising auction and BBQ. While speaking with the Post Commander, I learned that the Post survived a complete closure just a few months ago. By bringing the "family" dynamics back to the Post and embracing both the Squadron and the Unit, the doors remained open and Post 338 is on its way back to its former glory days.

I am certain that as my travels take me from coast to coast this year, there will be many more stories to share. These stories will not be about what I did, but the accounts of how we are making a difference. Stories that are coming from within our family, stories that are coming from our members. Why? Because EVERY MEMBER MATTERS.

Editor's Photo: NC Skelley at the NJ POW/MIA Watchfire
Bob LaCour Photo: L to R—NJ NEC Joe Korba, Squadron 321 Commander Bob LaCour, and NC Skelley at Post 321 Union Beach, NJ

RECRUIT ONE. RENEW ONE. ENGAGE ONE!
ONE MEMBER. ONE CONVERSATION. A STRONGER TOMORROW!

RECRUIT ONE!
Invite someone eligible to join.

RENEW ONE!
Encourage a fellow member to renew.

ENGAGE ONE!
Invite a member to a meeting, event, or volunteer opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

JOIN TODAY
legion.org/sons

RENEW TODAY
legion.org/sal-renew

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

2027 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of October 30, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	239	126	52.72%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	640	200	31.25%
4	WORCESTER	1017	322	31.66%
5	MIDDLESEX	1303	144	11.05%
6	NORFOLK	970	443	45.67%
7	SUFFOLK	198	70	35.35%
8	ESSEX	523	107	20.46%
9	BRISTOL	237	53	22.36%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	695	112	16.12%
	National Goal	5822	1577	27.09%



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.





Post Events



LEO C ROTH POST AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT FALL FUNDRAISER

LIMIT 100 TICKETS TICKETS \$5.00

DRAWING DECEMBER 7, 2026

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

GIRLS STATE
ORATORICAL CONTEST
BASEBALL
SOFTBALL
SCOUTING
STAR SPANGLED KIDS
ASSORTED SCHOLARSHIPS
VETERANS OUTREACH



Charlestown "Hall of Heroes Exhibition"

Veterans Day Wednesday November 11th
11AM - 2PM

Knights of Columbus
545 Medford St Charlestown Ma



On display will be exhibits of Charlestown Veterans who served in WWI, WWII, Korea
and Vietnam. Come visit the exhibit and pay honor to the Heroes of Charlestown

Sponsored by the
Charlestown Veterans History Project
American Legion JW Conway Bunker Hill Post 26
Abraham Lincoln Post #11 G.A.R



For more information email Bill Durette at bill5195@hotmail.com



Post Events



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Fall Into Winter

508-746-0009
199 FEDERAL FURNACE ROAD
PLYMOUTH, MA

CRAFT FAIR 2026

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2026

9:00 AM
TO 2:00 PM

199 FEDERAL FURNACE ROAD
PLYMOUTH, MA

TALENTED CRAFTERS
AND RAFFLE TABLES

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE FROM OUR KITCHEN

ALL MONIES RAISED GO TO
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS
IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

INTERESTED CRAFTER CALL THE NUMBER ABOVE
OR EMAIL TSHA98@COMCAST.NET FOR APPLICATION



WORLD'S BEST

Veterans Coffee Hour

Veterans' Coffee Hour: Third Wednesday of each month
Please come and enjoy coffee, fresh pastries, donuts and fellowship.

American Legion Post 0234
402 West Main St Northborough Ma. 01532

Open to all local area Veterans.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11

ARMY MARINE CORPS NAVY
AIR FORCE SPACE FORCE COAST GUARD

★ ALL VETERANS WELCOME ★

Stop by for BBQ provided by
CATERING BOSS
Your first toast is on us!

★ OPEN AT 2 PM ★

★ HANSON AMERICAN LEGION POST 226 ★
92 Robinson Street • Hanson, MA



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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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 guidelines 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 embedded 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.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Massachu-



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