



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 14 Issue 9

March 2024

Commander's Corner



Hey did you know The American Legion celebrates its Birthday this month? 2024 marks 105 years of service to our veterans, families, communities, states, and nation. March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary

Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 – for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born – March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. A perfect way to celebrate is to make Buddy Checks. The American Legion's Buddy Check program initially started for posts to conduct them twice a year — the week of American Legion Birthday and Veterans Day. So if there's someone you haven't seen around lately, reach out and say hello.

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Commander's Corner (Continued)

Buddy Checks are an opportunity to ask our Legion family and other veterans about their wellbeing and how the post can support them. To get started, check out online resources available to assist in performing Buddy Checks (<https://www.legion.org/buddycheck/tools>).

Friday, March 1st is the next American Legion Be the One day. On the first day of every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear Be the One gear to show our commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. Start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Be sure to check out the latest Tango Alpha Lima-Be The One podcast featuring Tim Jensen, founder of Grunt Style Foundationà <https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm/talbto-06>. The mental health struggle is real and can have very dire consequences. It is up to us to help. **Be the One to Make it Personal!** Be the one to ask a veteran how they are doing. Be the one to listen when a veteran needs to talk. Be the one to reach out when a veteran is struggling. It is up to us to have the courage to be the ones to stop veteran suicide. The life you save may be the next great leader of the free world, the veteran next door or your own. Visit BetheOne.org for more information and find out how you can help.

Sandra Davis
Department Commander



**TO ASK VETERANS
IN YOUR LIFE
HOW THEY ARE DOING**

**TO LISTEN WHEN
A VETERAN
NEEDS TO TALK**

**TO REACH OUT
WHEN A VETERAN
IS STRUGGLING**





Obituary

BICCHIERI, Anthony J., Jr., of Holbrook, formerly of Waltham, known affectionately as Tony by his loved ones, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2024, at the age of 77. Born in Boston, Tony grew up in Waltham and was the cherished son of the late Anthony and Mary (Russo) Bicchieri.

Tony was the beloved husband of the late Linda (Lentini) Bicchieri, and together they built a life filled with love and devotion. A loving father, he leaves behind his daughter Jennifer Sweet and her husband Raymond of Brockton. His warmth and guidance will be profoundly missed by his family, including many in-laws, nephews, cousins, and friends, as well as his "Grand Dogs" Bailey and Milo, who brought him immense joy and companionship.

A proud graduate of Waltham High School, Class of 1964, Tony's work ethic and dedication to his community were evident early on. He served as the Head of Maintenance Services for Met Life in Boston for many years, ensuring the smooth operation of facilities with his keen eye for detail and unwavering reliability. Following a fruitful career, Tony retired but remained active, working at Bagnell Auto and later dedicating 15 years to O'Brien Car Care in Holbrook.

Outside of work, Tony was an ardent supporter of the American Legion. His dedication to serving veterans and their families was recognized when he was honored with the title of State Commander, a role he undertook with great pride and responsibility. A true car enthusiast, Tony's passion for automobiles knew no bounds. He could often be found tending to his own vehicles or admiring the craftsmanship of classic cars at shows and parades.

An avid sports fan, Tony's enthusiasm for Boston's teams was infectious. Whether it was the thrill of a Red Sox game, the intensity of a Celtics match, or the excitement of a Bruins face-off, he was there cheering them on. His love for football extended beyond the Patriots to Boston College and Notre Dame, where he watched games with the same fervor as if he were in the stands.

Above all, Tony was a family man. His most treasured moments were those spent surrounded by his loved ones. His kind, loving, and generous spirit was a beacon of light in the lives of those who knew him. Tony's ability to bring laughter and joy into a room was unparalleled, and his absence will leave a void that cannot be filled.



Prior hundreds of American Legion Family members heading to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress and their staff, American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer stressed how important those members were as a voice for the nation's veterans, military and their families.

But he also had another message: don't let the advocacy end with the Washington Conference.

During the Feb. 27 Commander's Rally, Seehafer urged Legionnaires to take advantage of [The American Legion Grassroots Action Center](#), which allows members to directly reach out to their members of the House and Senate. The web platform lists the Legion's top legislative issues, along with

pre-written text that can be sent directly to the representative or senator.

"It is time, now, to make legion.org/action a part of our daily lives," Seehafer said. "Why? Well, it could mean the difference between life and death. That's why.

"You can remind Congress that it can Be the One to save the lives of our veterans. For example, Congress can Be the One that improves access to mental health treatment. Congress can Be the One to improve the quality of life for our military and their families. Congress can Be the One indeed, but it's through you. Remember: Don't underestimate your power."

Seehafer stressed that "it has never been easier to message your members of Congress. You don't even have to write the words. Simply click one of our legislative priorities, filling out the appropriate information, like name, address and ZIP code, and it automatically finds your representative and/or senator, and press the highlighted red button: SEND MESSAGE.

"And remember to do this every day," Seehafer said. "Again, legion.org/action. This website allows you to do this every 24 hours for every issue listed. You can also post these messages on Facebook, X and other social media if you want.

"It's easy, but more importantly, two to three minutes of my time, your time, is worth a life, don't you think?"

Seehafer will testify in person on March 13 before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. He hopes on that day to hear a specific message from those who will hear his testimony.

"My goal is for senators and representatives to tell me, 'Commander, Commander, Commander, we've been hearing from your members, and we've been hearing from them a lot,'" Seehafer said. "I think we all know the old saying: 'vote early, vote often'. Well, I'm asking you to email early and email often, through our Grassroots Action Center."



Membership—DSVC Nelson Blake

Hello to all of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion family I want to congratulate the Legion for reaching the 85% goal that was given to use from national which we reached well before the February 13th date for the cutoff. We still have three districts that are struggling to reach the goals I am hoping to see this department reach the goals that Commander Davis has given us to reach which is 90.01%. Let's hope we can reach it or even succeed past it the now famous quote by former patriots coach . "Do Your Job" which as legionnaires it is membership. So let keep up the great work we have been doing and push to reach all the goals.

As I said at the beginning of the year if this Department reach 100% by national convention I am going to wear Boston Red Sox's ties for the whole convention.

I would like to thank all the districts that have reached goals all year long and I would like to thank all of the Department of Massachusetts for allowing me to serve this year .

Nelson Izaak Blake

DSVC/ Membership Chair



Annual Post Data Report

The Annual Post Data Reports have been distributed to all Posts. Although, these forms are due to the department headquarters by April 15 and to National by May 1 (what is printed on the form). We are asking all Post to submit as soon as they have set there 2025 Membership Dues! With the dues increase just about every Post will need to increase there dues this year. Lets' work together and get these forms completed and into the Department as soon as possible!

Department Membership Standings 2024 Membership Year

District 4: Worcester 93.67%

District 7: Suffolk 92.63%

District 2: Franklin/Hampshire 91.61%





Membership— 2025 Membership Dues Increase

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.
STATE HOUSE RM 546-2
BOSTON, MA. 02133-1044
(617) 727-2966
email – deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Post Commander/Adjutant and Members

September 20, 2023

DUES INCREASE FOR THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

1. At the National Convention held on Aug 25- 31 in Charlotte NC it was voted to increase Nationals per capita - **\$5.00.**
2. At the Department Executive meeting held on Sept 16 in Haverhill MA it was voted to increase Departments per capita - **\$2.00.**
3. The increase will take effect on **July 1, 2024** for the **2025 Membership Year.**
4. Starting July 1, 2024 post will need to send \$35.00 for each member.

Membership year 2025 Per capita **\$35.00**

National will now get \$23.50 (was \$18.50)

Department will now get \$11.50 (was \$9.50)

When the Annual Post Data Report 2025 Membership Year #4 on form - Current Annual Post Dues make sure; your post has enough to cover the \$7.00 dues increase. \$28.00 increased to **\$35.00**

Yours in Comradeship

Lisa A. McPhee

Department Adjutant

Our Mission: Inspiring America by Strengthening and supporting our military, veterans and their families.



Contestants were Michael Borowski (D4), Erin McDonald (D10) & Mason Alvarez (D10)
 Judges were State Representative Kenneth Gordon, Historian Ryan Howe, DSVC Nelson Blake, DVC Drew Pajak and PNEC/PDC Mike Davis. Also pictured are Department Commander Sandra Davis and Department Adjutant/ Oratorical Chairwomen Lisa McPhee





BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
RM 546-2 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MA 02133

617-727-2966

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

The 2024 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from **Saturday, June 15, 2024 to Friday, June 21, 2024**. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy will be **\$375.00** for the regular tuition, or **\$350.00** for those who pay for students by the **"EARLY BIRD"** registration date of **APRIL 1, 2024**, after the cost is **\$375.00**. **Please make your check payable to "The American Legion" and designate "Boys State" in the lower left corner of the check. Please use the tear-off sheet at the bottom of this notice (page 2) indicating your Post Chairman, as all future correspondence will be mailed directly to them.** All checks for the 2024 Boys State Session must be in the hands of chairman by May 20, 2024. The first 400 applications will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. politicians, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State must be interviewed by the Post Chairman, and his signature attesting to this must appear on Citizen Applications. Each Post Chairman should explain Boys State in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them during their stay. The Boys State website (<http://www.maboysstate.org/>) contains a wealth of information, 2024 interest application, including video, photographs, program books, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.

Beginning in January 2024, we will have applications available via email or regular mail. Please select the email option on the tear-off sheet if that is how you would like to receive the paperwork.

Once we have received payment for your 2024 Boys State

Detailed instructions will be provided in the application packets that are sent to the Post if by regular mail.

Or emailed to the address provided on page 2

Continued on page 12



Boy's State (Continued)

DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #
1	George Oleen	gao1964@gmail.com	413-229-6670
1	Dale Alden	aldewndale@hotmail.com	413-229-3163
2	Leo Barber	Debbie_barber2002@yahoo.com	413-336-1273
3	Ryan Howe	Shawn.r.howe.yf@gmail.com	413-875-5923
4	Lisa McPhee	Lredsox1964@aol.com	978-230-6208
5	Nelson Blake	captblake82@gmail.com	978-201-7821
6	Charles Hurd	Hurdcharles63@gmail.com	857-258-9945
6	Wendy Eng (CONS)		617-584-0078
7	Mike Davis	chickendaveus@yahoo.com	617-335-0241
8	Bruce Heisey	bbheisey@hotmail.com	978-526-4880
9	Richard Munger	RMunger@gmail.com	401-465-5311
10	Francis MacDonald	fmacdonald53@comcast.net	508-477-0955
Chairman	Mark Avis	avis14@comcast.net	413-535-9234

TEAR OFF SHEET TO RECEIVE YOUR BOYS STATE APPLICATION

Send this form to:

Mark Avis

14 Shaw St

Palmer MA 01069

POST _____ DISTRICT _____

NUMBER OF BOYS _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

Sponsors Name _____

Post Chairman _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

High School _____

High School Contact _____

Please send the **APPLICATION** for Boys State via **email to this address:**

Email: _____

—



The 2023 [Samsung American Legion scholars](#) were honored for their achievement in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with The American Legion's annual Washington Conference. to be recognized by American Legion Family members for their achievement.

During their stay in the nation's capital Feb. 24-27, the scholars toured the National Mall and Arlington National Cemetery with Legion Family members and attended a special recognition dinner with National American Legion

Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, National Sons of The American Legion Commander Donald "JR" Hall Jr., and Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson, and their state senators.

The 10 scholars were eligible for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship for their participation in either American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State in 2023, being the direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. military veteran, and for their academic achievement and community service.

"I am extremely grateful to be here. We've had the opportunity to explore D.C. and meet with delegates of The American Legion," said Charles Hiatt of San Diego, Calif., whose late great-grandfather, a World War II bomber pilot, made him eligible for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. A favorite story of Hiatt's that his great-grandfather would share was about flying in formation and watching his fellow soldiers get shot down. But he stayed in formation. "He decided to continue onward. His dedication and bravery to his country continues to inspire me today. He showed that it's important to do the right thing, even when it's difficult. I was more than happy to write about him in my scholarship application."

When Sydney Kirages of Lake Forest, Ill, answered her high school and local Legion post's competition of "What Does Veterans Day Mean to You?", she formed a relationship with the post. "I absolutely fell in love with everything the Legion is and does, and from there I became super involved in my Legion (Post 264)," she said. "I've been able to create amazing connections with my Legionnaires, and they sponsored me to Girls State."

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship honors her "Pop Pop," who served in the Army during the Vietnam War. "He never spoke of his military experience until I became close with my Legion," Kirages said. "When we visited the Vietnam War Memorial (on Feb. 25), he asked me if I would find one of his ROTC friends. When he visited the Vietnam memorial he walked up, saw all the names, and had to step away. For him to ask me, it was honestly one of the biggest honors and a big jump for him. So while I was finding one of his good friend's name on the wall, which I did, he was meeting with one of his Army friends who he hadn't seen in about 10 years. Being involved in the Legion has allowed him and I to grow together, and I love getting to hear more and more of his stories as he's been opening up with me."

Kirages gifted her grandfather a membership in The American Legion last year. She also wrote a children's book called "Stories with Pop Pop: Women in Disguise, the Civil War" that highlights her relationship with him and his service, both in uniform and with the Legion.

Jordan Smothers of Monroe, Ga., didn't know his grandfather, an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. But when he visited the Korean War Memorial, "I took the time to think about my grandfather" and all servicemembers. "I feel a lot of times today that veterans are not given the honor and recognition that they deserve. They were willing to fight for us, fight for our freedom. Not everyone can say they would do that, but they did. That's something special. It's something we should truly recognize and be grateful for."

Being named a National Samsung American Legion scholar and receiving \$10,000 for higher learning because of it has been life-changing for Adrianna Hutton of Delaware.

"I am really so grateful for this opportunity because since winning (the Samsung American Legion) scholarship I was so amazed that I could do something like that, that I decided to apply to another scholarship, and I am so proud to announce that I'm going to Princeton University on a full ride scholarship. Being able to receive this award has already pushed me into so many opportunities that I could never have imagined myself in.

"Of course, I have to thank my Pop Pop, who served in the Vietnam War in the Army," who served as Hutton's chaperone. "We've just had so much fun (in Washington, D.C., with Legion Family members). It's just been such an amazing experience for us. Winning this scholarship is an absolute honor. Words cannot express how life changing the Samsung (American Legion) scholarship has been for me and my future."

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting American Legion members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

In 2023, The American Legion conducted action alert campaigns that resulted in nearly 48,000 emails sent to Congress by Legionnaires and advocates.

Contact your congressional representatives

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our Legislative Action Center, votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home. Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While you are there be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.



As we begin the final stretch in completion of another dedicated year of service to our veterans, our communities, our children and the programs of the American Legion Family, below you will find information regarding processing of membership and documentation of donations and hours for our programs. You will also find information regarding the programs that have been such an important part of our success, as well as new programs created by our National Commander Donald "J.R." Hall of Maryland. The more you review this information, I assure you that you will find these programs would be a great way to show your community how much we are looking to reach out, now more than ever.

Enclosed you will find:

1. SQUADRON DATA REPORT (SDR)...This form MUST BE SUMITTED TO THE NATIONALORGANIZITON NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2024! This form makes sure the correct dues are paid by members now that they have the ability to renew online. It also provides your Detachment with the important contact information for your squadron as well as schedule of meetings. Please provide this information as soon as possible!
2. CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT (CSR)...This is the other form that provides important information so that the National Organization has an accurate total of our squadron's participation in programs as well as donations made to the various programs and organizations. This is also what determines the winners of awards at our Detachment Convention. I know that many squadrons don't believe in the importance of reporting their information, but this is how Massachusetts can show our country what we do and how we do it. On behalf of our Detachment Commander, Jim Blake, I request this form be submitted no later than May 15th so that we can accurately determine our award winners.
3. AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY...SATURDAY, APRIL 27,2024...National Commander Hall and the Americanism Commission call on squadrons to join with the American Legion Family to open their doors to members of their community for a day to celebrate our accomplishments and show them what we do and why we do it. The information provides suggestions as to how to make this a successful event for your squadron.
4. NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE – FOUR PILLARS SQUADRON AWARD...National Commander Hall has challenged all squadrons and their members to honor their family member's service that made them eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion...His challenge is for each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, \$1.00 per member to Operation Comfort Warriors, \$1.00 per member to the Massachusetts American Legion Boys State program and host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 per member payable to the hosting organization of a blood drive. The more squadrons that participate in this program will certainly show our National Commander how much we support our family member's service.
5. BOYS STATE APPLICATION and NATIONAL AMERICANISM ALERT...As in years past, we are reaching out to as many squadrons to sponsor a local High School Junior to attend Massachusetts American Legion Boys State, this year June 15-21 at Stonehill College in Easton, MA...Enclosed is the application with information regarding fees and deadlines. The more we can outreach to our schools, the more kids can take advantage of what is known as "A Week that Shapes a Lifetime!"

6. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION...Each year our Detachment awards 3 \$1,000 scholarships to SAL members attending qualified post-high school education, for each year of education. Please forward to any eligible members and be sure it is submitted no later than MAY 15, 2024.

7. CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION...Each year at this time, we begin to provide information for our upcoming Detachment Convention June 7 & 8, 2024 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, MA. Information for anyone who would be attending and looking for the discounted hotel reservation rates is provided. Reservations must be made online or by calling the hotel.

As we complete our year of service, and on behalf of Detachment Commander, Jim Blake, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to serving all those who benefit from our programs. Which is why, we sincerely ask that the required forms are completed, and your squadron looks out and participates in at least one of our highlighted programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at our new Adjutant's email, masal.adjutant@gmail.com

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Bill

WILLIAM MURPHY, III
Detachment Adjutant

PLUS, PLEASE DON'T FORGET OUR 13th ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS BOWLING TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY APRIL 13th, AT TIMBER LANES IN ABINGTON, MA! LIMITED TO 22 TEAMS...SEE www.SALMASS.org for REGISTRATION INFORMATION?



On February 26 & 27, American Legion members from all Departments met in Washington DC for the annual conference. There were committee meetings, training and a rally. The rally was to go over The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, 2nd Session. In attendance were 20 members from the Department of MA. This included PNC Jake Comer, PNC Paul Morin, Department Commander Sandra Davis, Department Adjutant Lisa McPhee, Department Treasurer Milton Lashus, Department Judge Advocate Louis Brault, NEC Jodie Pajak, ANEC John Lenotte, PNVC Mark Avis, PNVC Frank MacDonald and several others. Visits were made to the offices of the MA Congressional delegation.

The Legion agenda includes the following: Suicide Prevention & Mental Health (H.R. 2768 and H.R. 1639) ; VA Healthcare Modernization (H.R. 592) ; Safeguard Veteran Benefits (H.R. 1530) ; Guard & Reserve Bill Parity; Military Quality of Life (S. 2047) ; Pay the Coast Guard (H.R. 2693) ; and Protect the American Flag (Senate Joint Resolution 34). There are others as well. You can find these along with more details at: www.legion.org.

I would also encourage everyone to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center. Once you have done this (and sign up for alerts!) it takes about a minute to reach out to your member of the US House and the 2 US Senators on legislation. Sadly, not enough of us do this, even though it is really EASY. We can all complain about legislative action in Washington but unless we are contacting Congress to let them know how we feel, nothing will change. Personally, I am constantly emailing my representatives in the US Congress. Please join me in doing so and bringing about change. The other option – don't complain!

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

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



Klobuchar presented Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award

By [Steven B. Brooks](#)



After receiving The American Legion Distinguished Public Service Award on Feb. 26 during the Legion's annual Washington Conference in the nation's capital, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., mentioned someone who might be watching the presentation.

"It is such an honor to receive this award," Klobuchar said. "My dad served during the Korean War, and I know he's up looking down with pride right now."

The Minnesota senator was presented the award for being "a champion of important legislation that The American

Legion has prioritized year after year, and she has tirelessly worked to improve our national security."

She also was cited for dedicating "countless hours to bolstering our national security, improving military quality of life, and caring for our country's veterans. Your vigilant efforts to protect our United States Armed Forces and our allies across the globe have been critical to ensuring that the honor of the United States military is upheld."

Klobuchar said whenever she meets with U.S. military personnel, she's reminded that, "When we send them overseas, we make a promise. A promise of how we're going to treat them when they're there, with the equipment, with what they need. But also, how we're going to treat them when they come back."

That's why, she said, passage of the PACT Act was so important. "It wasn't just, as you know, about recent conflicts," she said. "It was also about those exposed to Agent Orange. It very important to us that those vets got covered, because that promise way back when wasn't kept. And it was our duty to continue that work and to make sure it was kept."

Klobuchar also spoke on the importance of working to ensure those Afghans who served as allies to U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan aren't forgotten.

"They put their lives on the line. Many of them lost their lives," she said. "Their families' lives are still on the line if they're still over there in Afghanistan. We must keep our covenant with our heroes. They bled Afghanistan. They live in limbo in the U.S. now. They live here, literally, with a trap door underneath of them. They have to apply and reapply just to stay here, without any clear path to citizenship.

"They deserve that permanent residency, followed by what is called the gold standard of vetting. I've so appreciated The American Legion leadership (on this issue). I cannot tell you how critical it's been with my colleagues."

Klobuchar closed her remarks by remembering her final visit with Sen. John McCain before he passed away in 2018. "He opened one of his books, and he pointed to this line," she said. "And this was the last thing he basically said to me by pointing to the line: 'Nothing is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself.' That, to me, is what service to our country is all about. And it is embodied by all of you."



Department Child Welfare Foundation Annual Fundraiser for the Commander's Charity



Color is Raspberry as chosen by the Commander. Cost is \$40.00 per shirt (for LeftChest Customization add \$5.00) Contact Drew Pajak, Department Child Welfare Foundation Chairman for more information. Make Checks payable to The Department of Massachusetts c/o CWF Shirt.



Department Of Massachusetts CWF Polo Shirt Fundraiser

Submitted by _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Name	Left Chest Personalization \$5.00	Size		Quantity	Price	Total Cost
		Mens/Women's	XS - XXXXXL			
					\$40.00	

Mail Checks to:
State House, Room 546-2
Boston, Massachusetts 02133



2024 National Veterans Day Poster Contest open for submissions

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a budding painter, here's your opportunity to show off your talent and use your artwork to honor Veterans. VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are now accepting submissions for the 2024 Veterans Day Poster Contest. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on April 1, 2024.

This contest is open to all. Your art should reflect this year's theme: "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service."

Eugene Russell, creator of the winning 2023 design, shared his thoughts, "My goal was to link the sight, sound and feeling of how we served our country. The pole and American flag in this image are the ones currently flying over VA headquarters in Washington, D.C. It flies for each of us and those Veterans to come."

The winning poster will be distributed to VA facilities and military installations worldwide and across cities and towns in our nation. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day National Observance at Arlington National Cemetery, scheduled for Nov. 11, 2024.

To ensure your submission meets the technical requirements, please review our [design submission guidelines](#) before engaging your creativity. Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage. To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to vetsday@va.gov.

Questions? Please email the Veterans Day Coordinator at vetsday@va.gov.





Around the Department—National Commander's Banquet

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
RM 546 – 2 State House
Boston, MA 02133-1044
(617) 727-2966
Email: deptadjutant@masslegion.org

NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL J. SEEHAFFER

December 18, 2023

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders,

Our National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer Testimonial will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
181 Boston Post Road West
Marlborough, MA 01752.

Time: **1:00 PM Buffet luncheon**

Ticket donations are \$45.00 per person and may be purchased from your District Ticket Chairperson. Please make checks payable to **"American Legion Dept. of MA"** and mark **"Tickets Only"**
Tables will be set for 10.

- Cutoff date for Banquet Tickets is **March 21, 2024**
- Head Table Business Dress (coat & tie for men – and appropriate apparel dress for women)
- Audience Business Casual (trousers and collared shirt for men and appropriate apparel dress for women)

All room reservations must be made directly through the Hotel - **Call Hotel or use the link**

- Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel at (508) 460-0700
- The American Legion code is **American Legion**
- Link: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=6X4IM0W1
- The room rate per night is \$129.00 plus 11.7% tax = **\$144.09**
- The cutoff date for room reservation is **March 5, 2024**
- **District Ticket Chairman listed on page 2 of 2**

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for your co-operation.

Yours in comradeship:

Co-Chairman:	John P "Jake" Comer PNC
	Paul A Morin PNC
Vice Chairman:	Jodie Pajak NEC
	John Lenotte ANEC
Ticket Chairman:	Lisa McPhee Dept. Adj.
Ad Book Chairman:	Louie Brault PNEC
Members:	Mark Avis PNVC
	Milton Lashus PNEC
	10 District Chairman

Page 1 of 2



National Commander's banquet
Honoring Daniel J. Seehafer
Saturday – April 6, 2024

Copy deadline is March 14, 2024

District _____

Post _____ Auxiliary _____ Squadron _____ Riders _____

Advertising rates for the commander's book
Check Ad Size Desired

Printing area

7 1/2" x 5" \$60.00 Full Page _____

3 1/2" x 5" \$40.00 Half Page _____

1 1/2" x 5" \$25.00 Quarter Page _____

- **Pictures will be accepted**
- **Email Ads to:**
deptcoordinator@masslegion.org
- **Make out checks to American Legion Dept. of MA**
- **MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT**

Name: _____



National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer Testimonial
Booster Sheet Deadline is March 14, 2024

District # _____

Post _____

Unit _____

Squadron _____

Riders _____

\$1.00 per person

\$2.00 per Mr. & Mrs.

*****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MISS-SPELLINGS*****

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Check # _____

Amount\$ _____



Around the Department— National Commander to visit Dalton American Legion Post 155

The National Commander of the American Legion, the largest veterans organization in the country, will be at the Dalton American Legion Post 155, 258 North Street, Dalton MA on April 4th 2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM to Visit with Veterans in Berkshire County for a meet and greet with Media availability and a lite luncheon to discuss the needs of veterans and the ongoing legion programs and initiatives like Be The One.

Seehafer likes to say, “It’s personal,” when it comes to The American Legion’s mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of “Be the One,” to prevent veteran suicide. “Nothing is more important than our effort to reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide. Seventeen, 22 or even more a day. Even one is one too many. With all this talk about numbers on this very subject, the only number I want us to push is ‘one,’ as in Be the One to save one, yes, one veteran, or even their spouse, from taking his or her own life.” The life of one veteran saved makes all the difference in the world.

That gets to the heart of the Be the One mission. While the initiative was only launched two years ago, it is already starting to make a difference. I can feel the momentum. It’s an honor to be part of this organization-wide effort.

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with about 1.7 million members in roughly 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Learn more at legion.org.

About Commander Seehafer:

Seehafer was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 31, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C., during the 104th national convention.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, he earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including National Chaplain and Commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor’s degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan’s son, Jacob and daughter, Emma are also members of the Post 157 family. Dan is the son of the late Lester Seehafer and Jean Sabatke.



**Department of MA.
Candidate
for
Commander
2024-2025
Appreciation Day
for
Nelson Izaak Blake**

**Date: APRIL 21, 2024
Noon-4P.M.
Social Hour –12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Dinner – 1:00 P.M.**

**Place:
Leo C. Roth Post #315
574 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826
Donation: \$35.00
Please mail checks payable to
Nelson I. Blake**

**21 Freda Lane Lowell MA 01854
or venmo @captblake82
(978) 201-7821
RSVP by 4/10/24**



American Legion Auxiliary

Children and Youth



Tournament

When: March 24 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Where: Trombetta's Farm

655 Farm Road

Marlboro MA 01752

Basket Raffles 50/50 Raffle Lots of different Contests

Gather your team of 4 or 5 players to play!

Cost: \$20.00 per player

Tee Sponsorship! \$50.00

**Join us for this fun event that impacts youth
in our community!**



American Legion Auxiliary

Children and Youth



Tournament

Team Registration

\$20.00 per player

Name of team _____

Minimum players per team 4 maximum 5

Team Members:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____



American Legion Auxiliary

Children and Youth



Tournament

March 24, 2024

Tee Sponsorship

\$50.00

Contact information:

Name, address, phone, email of sponsor:

Please make check out to: ALA Department of Massachusetts



The American Legion Family

13th ANNUAL “PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS” BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 2024
12:00 PM to 4:00 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 | Food provided during tournament

**Send payment & registration forms to:
Bill Sheehan
296 Hancock St., Abington, MA 02351**

Make checks payable to: Whitman SAL Squadron 22

*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, APRIL 13, 2024
12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 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:
BILL SHEEHAN
296 Hancock St. Abington, MA 02351**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Whitman SAL Squadron 22**

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



Around the Department— Partnership for Kids



Department of Massachusetts The American Legion Family

Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders Number: _____

Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders, Individual, Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders, Individual, Business Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip Code: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Make checks payable to the
Children's Hospital of your choice.

Please circle the organization the donation is from:

POST UNIT SQUADRON RIDERS INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS

Baystate Children's Hospital

Baystate Health Foundation
280 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor
Springfield, MA 01199
ATTN: Maria Gorecki

Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Children's Hospital
401 Park Drive, Suite 602
Boston, MA 02215
ATTN: Lauren Cellucci

UMass Memorial Healthcare

Office of Philanthropy
UMass Memorial health Care
365 Plantation Street, Biotech One RM 301
ATTN: Liz Parker-Gague



Around the Department— Post 4 Haverhill

During the February Members meeting of Post 4 – Haverhill, longtime member and Post 4 Legion Baseball coach, Larry O'Brien addressed the membership. He talked about our baseball team and their goals for the coming season. He also explained the costs associated with the team for equipment, travel as well as the costs for securing the field in Haverhill to play their home games. As a long time Post member, Larry also explained his annual speech to the baseball team players concerning the support from Post 4, as well as what The American Legion stands for so that they have a better understanding of what their patch truly means. He further went on to spell out the respect and discipline that the team is expected to have for the veteran community as well as all community members. After Larry's presentation, Post 4 Commander / District 8 Sr Vice Commander Chris Manning discussed the importance of our Post supporting our team as well as promising some attendance at their future games. Manning also presented the Post 4 annual contribution to our team with a check in the amount of \$3,000.

Play Ball; and good luck to all the teams in our Massachusetts American Legion Baseball program!



Post 4 Commander Manning presents a check from Post 4 to Coach Larry O'Brien to support our team for the upcoming season.



Around the Department— North Adams Post 125



On February 4th the North Adams Post 125 held a 4 Chaplains' Ceremony honoring the Chaplains that gave their lives on the USS *Dorchester*. They included [Methodist](#) minister the Reverend [George L. Fox](#), [Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode](#) (PhD), [Catholic priest Father John P. Washington](#), and [Reformed Church in America](#) minister the Reverend [Clark V. Poling](#).

District 1 Commander Mitch Keil narrated the proceeding. With other members of Post 125 and District 1 participating in the ceremony, along with the North Adams American Legion Community Honor Guard conducting the opening ceremony.

The **Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the **Immortal Chaplains** or the ***Dorchester* Chaplains**, were four [chaplains](#) who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship *SS Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as the second-worst sea disaster of [World War II](#).^[1]

The *Dorchester*, a civilian [liner](#), had been converted for military service in World War II as a [troop transport](#) of the [War Shipping Administration](#). The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche*.^[2] During the early morning hours of February 3, the vessel was torpedoed by the [German submarine U-223](#) off [Newfoundland](#) in the North Atlantic.^[3] The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own [life jackets](#) when the supply ran out.^[4] The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

The impact of the chaplains' story was deep, with many memorials and extensive coverage in the media. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the [Distinguished Service Cross](#) and the [Purple Heart](#).^[5] The chaplains were nominated for the [Medal of Honor](#), but were ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.^[5]



VIETNAM PINNING CEREMONY



*Please join the New England Patriots Foundation and Cross Insurance
as we honor, salute, and recognize Vietnam War Veterans.*

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

TIME: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Program will begin promptly at 11:00 AM

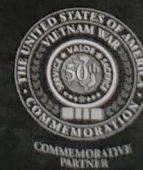
LOCATION: GILLETTE STADIUM — CROSS PAVILION

RSVP: CHARITABLEEVENTS@PATRIOTS.COM • BY MARCH 15

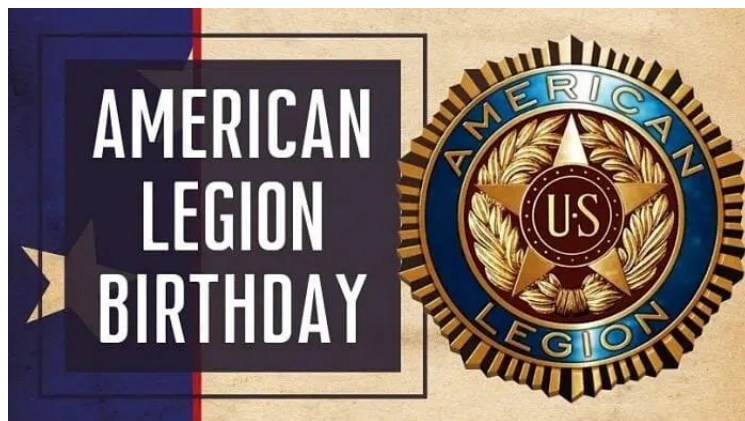
Please provide first and last name, rank, branch of service and years served

ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL (SERVICE APPAREL ENCOURAGED)

EACH VETERAN CAN BRING ONE GUEST



4/4/2024	10:30 AM	National Commander Visit	Dalton Post 155
4/6/2024	10:00 AM	Membership DEC to Follow	Best Western Marlboro, MA
4/6/2024	3:00 PM	National Commander's Banquet	Best Western Marlboro, MA
4/21/2024	12:-00 PM	Appreciation DVC Nelson Blake	Dracut Post 315, Dracut MA



**AMERICAN
LEGION** 2024 Membership Standing as of February 29, 2024—Next Target Date 3/13/24 90%

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1236	1117	90.37%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1275	1168	91.61%
3	HAMPDEN	2438	2019	82.81%
4	WORCESTER	4422	4142	93.67%
5	MIDDLESEX	3807	3377	88.71%
6	NORFOLK	2422	2156	89.02%
7	SUFFOLK	1112	1030	92.63%
8	ESSEX	2531	2170	85.74%
9	BRISTOL	2736	2320	84.80%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3709	3324	89.62%
297	CAPITOL HILL	392	396	101.02%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1000	930	93.00%
	National Quota	27,080	24,149	89.18%



2024 Membership Year 100% Posts

Post 2 Barre	Post 121 Berkley	Post 287 Wellfleet
Post 8 Andover	Post 123 Ware	Post 291 East Lynn
Post 10 Fitchburg	Post 147 Rockland	Post 293 East Longmeadow
Post 16 William E. Carter	Post 149 Hanover	Post 294 Morrisette
Post 17 John F. Kennedy	Post 151 Leominster	Post 298 Housatonic
Post 22 Whitman	Post 159 Westford	Post 302 Rehoboth
Post 25 Holyoke	Post 162 Belin	Post 303 Swansea
Post 30 Lt. Lawrence J. Flaherty	Post 163 Westboro	Post 306 Paxton
Post 41 North Brookfield	Post 174 Westminster	Post 309 Salisbury
Post 47 Holliston	Post 175 Longmeadow	Post 310 Rutland
Post 50 Clinton	Post 204 West Boylston	Post 313 North Chelmsford
Post 74 Framingham	Post 210 Saugus	Post 341 Main South
Post 75 Franklin	Post 217 Plainville	Post 343 Northbridge
Post 76 Jamaica Plain	Post 225 Wrentham	Post 366 East Chelmsford
Post 88 Marshfield	Post 226 Hanson	Post 373 Baldwinville
Post 102 Athol	Post 231 Essex	Post 398 Boylston
Post 107 Natick	Post 249 Littleton	Post 405 Raynham
Post 109 Sturbridge	Post 253 Chatham	
Post 117 Oliver Ames	Post 266 Granby	

2024 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of February 29, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	206	219	106.31%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	234	190	81.21%
3	HAMPDEN	392	391	99.74%
4	WORCESTER	948	758	79.96%
5	MIDDLESEX	1224	1009	82.43%
6	NORFOLK	941	559	59.40%
7	SUFFOLK	167	148	88.62%
8	ESSEX	394	337	85.53%
9	BRISTOL	237	197	83.12%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	689	544	78.96%
	National Goal	5432	4352	80.12%

2024 Auxiliary Membership Standing as of February 29, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	204	163	79.9%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	260	244	93.8%
3	HAMPDEN	347	317	91.4%
4	WORCESTER	1039	853	82.1%
5	MIDDLESEX	906	810	89.4%
6	NORFOLK	377	277	73.5%
7	SUFFOLK	110	66	60.0%
8	ESSEX	607	519	85.5%
9	BRISTOL	279	208	74.6%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	802	686	85.5%
462	HEADQUARTERS	583	103	17.7%
	National Quota	5,514	4,246	77.0%



Post 98
Saturday morning
Coffee break



Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members

American Legion Hall

32 Beach st

8:00—10:30

Come on down



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net *no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.*** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



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