



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIIONNAIRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 16 Issue 9

February 2026

Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Did you Buddy Check today?

Hope everyone is doing a couple of Buddy Checks a week, call, text, or knock on a door, we need to watch out for each other. We recently got in Buddy Check door hangers which we are distributing throughout the Department. If you knock on a door, and no one is home, leave a door hanger so the veteran knows somebody stopped by. It's a great, subtle, membership tool also.

So what is on your Post's calendar? As we hunker down for the middle of the winter season, many of us have some great events, maybe a Chili Contest, or a Jiggle's and Giggle's jello mold contest. Post

community dinners, and meat raffles abound. Let us know about them. Ask to be placed on the Department Calendar, District website or E-Legionnaire. Get the word out. To those not doing anything, or have the night free—!ROADTRIP! Go check out what someone else is doing and meet great legionnaires in the process.

Let's start gearing up for some of our biggest youth programs: Oratorical, Boys/Girls State, Youth Law Cadet, Scholarship Programs, Eagle Scout of the Year. And you TAL members with daughters, the Legion Auxiliary has some great programs (scholarships, etc.), as well as some events this spring also. The SAL is ramping up to have quite a year, owling tournament oming soon.

We have all heard the story of the USAT DorchesterPlease consider attending a Four Chaplains event in your area,

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BE THE ONE

February 1st. Leeds VA Chapel (out west), Manchester (northeast), North Middleborough (southeast).

We hit our goal of 80% for membership, thank you to all that put in the effort to get us there. 85% is next, February 11th. And we are about -700 on the over and under.

As we venture into the New Year, let us not only be thankful for what have, but may we remain vigilant to keep our veterans relevance high within our community. The winter is brutal, make sure our greatest assets are not snowed in, or struggling to get to the grocery store or pharmacy. Please **Be the One!** and remember that **Buddy Checks** are one of our best tools to stay connected.

Everyone in for the 250 Challenge!! Our 250 committee has put together some great things. Check it out! Met with Congressman Richard Neal while he was traveling the General Knox Trail, talking up America 250.



Get involved. Many District and Department committees have vacancies, and there Are many great opportunities to be found. Reach out to your District Commander and find out what's available. Did you know that any Legionnaire can attend a District Meeting, or a Department Meeting. Does everyone at your Post get E-Legionnaire? If not, sign them up, please.

So you ask, what happened to the WWII vet that was having trouble with his shirt buttons? Bought him a oxford shirt with velcro closures, he looks great!

My Commander's Charity is Operation Comfort Warrior. Consider having an event with proceeds to support this incredible program.

NEXT DEC - 21 March - Marlboro

Commanders Banquet ~~ Plainridge Park Casino, February 21st. Tickets are available \$50.00 ea. Hope to see you there.

Did you Grass Root today!

Scott M. Conner
Commander
Department of Massachusetts
774-239-6162
Scottscpo@gmail.com





Department President



As we begin the month of February, I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your continued dedication to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Your service, leadership, and commitment strengthen both our organization and the communities we proudly support across the Commonwealth.

February is recognized as Americanism Month—a time to renew our focus on patriotism, responsible citizenship, and respect for the values that define our nation. I encourage all units to actively participate in Americanism initiatives by promoting the Americanism Essay Contest, themed “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom.” This is also an ideal time to emphasize flag education, support youth and school programs, and engage in activities that honor our country and its cherished freedoms.

This month also calls us to pause in remembrance on Four Chaplains Day, honoring the courage and sacri-

fice of four chaplains whose selfless actions continue to inspire unity, faith, and service to others. Their legacy reminds us of the profound impact compassion and courage can have—even in the most challenging circumstances.

As we observe Presidents Day, let us reflect on the leadership that has shaped our nation and recommit ourselves to being informed, engaged citizens who uphold the principles upon which our country was founded.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our veterans, military members, and their families. Your volunteerism and compassion remain the foundation of our success and a true testament to the values of the American Legion Auxiliary. Together, let us continue to serve with purpose, pride, and respect—For God and Country.

Sofia Elizabeth Blake, Department President



105th ALA Department Convention



June 5-7, 2026

BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL
181 Boston Road W
Marlborough, MA

Hotel Reservations - Must be made with **American Legion**

State Convention Get Together Must be made with **American Legion**



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street · State House Room 546-2 · Boston, MA 02133 · (617) 727-2966

February 1, 2026

Hello Legionnaires,

February promises to be a busy month for the Department of Massachusetts. First, our beloved Patriots will be playing in the Super Bowl, what a difference a year makes. Second, I will be traveling to Atlanta to attend the National Regional Information Conference put on by the National Organization. I am hoping to bring back plenty of great information to share with you all. Third, the Department will be sending a contingency to the 66th Annual National Washington Conference. It is at this conference that our contingency will “storm the hill” if we are still allowed to use that phrase to talk to our Massachusetts Congressional Representatives. Our contingency will bring the full forces of the 27,000 voices of all Massachusetts Legionnaires. We will be meeting with our Congressional Representatives to express (mildly) our concerns regarding veterans, particularly benefits, education, suicide, employment, and healthcare. A select few from our contingency will hear our National Commander Daniel Wiley give testimony to the Joint Committee of Veterans Affairs. Our National Commander will represent the largest veteran’s organization in the world with the American Legion Legislative Agenda. You can find information regarding the Washington Conference <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/meetings/washington-conference>. Fourth, the Annual Post Data Form should be delivered to the Department mid-February and mailed to all posts. Even if you do not have any changes, please submit them to the Department Office two weeks prior to when the forms are due to National. Fifth hope to see you all at the Department Commander’s Banquet on February 21st at Plainridge Park Casino 301 Washington St Plainville, M, Social Hour at 12 noon and dinner at 1 pm. The National Commander will be in Massachusetts March 21st at the Best Western Royal Hotel and Trade Center in Marlboro, MA 181 Boston Post Rd W Marlboro MA 01752. Social Hour at 2 PM and Buffet at 3 PM. Come on down and meet National Commander Daniel Wiley from Kansas. Finally, LETS GO PATS!!!!

Sincerely yours,

Lisa A. McPhee

Lisa A. McPhee

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

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



Need help processing membership correctly,
updating member records, MyLegion, or completing required
annual Legion forms?

Come on by, we'd be happy to help you!

Place: Cherry Valley Post 443
167 Main St
Cherry Valley, MA

Date: Monday, February 2, 2026

Time: 10 am - 7 pm

All Posts are welcome! Bring your forms, questions, membership renewals
MyLegion help?...bring your laptop, and we'll happily help you navigate through it



Department Phone #: 617-727-2966

Title: Building Our Legacy Together: February is Americanism Month

February marks Americanism Month, a time dedicated to the ideals of God and Country and the preservation of the American spirit. In our community, we see this spirit reflected in the long-standing pillars that support us—from the veterans who served our nation to the local businesses, like Sneaker Junkies, that have anchored our streets for 15 years.

Why Your Membership Matters

The American Legion is more than just a social club; it is a powerful advocate for those who wore the uniform. When you join Post you aren't just signing a roster—you are strengthening our voice in Washington and our impact right here at home.

Your membership directly supports:

- Local Veteran Outreach: Providing a "home base" for resources and camaraderie.
- Youth Programs: Investing in the next generation through scholarships and American Legion Baseball.
- Legislative Advocacy: Protecting the VA benefits and healthcare you earned through your service.

A Community Built to Last

Longevity and commitment are the hallmarks of a strong community. Just as a trusted retail shop becomes a neighborhood staple over 15 years of dedicated service, the American Legion remains a steady hand for veterans. However, our strength depends entirely on the active participation of veterans like you.

Join Us This Month

This February, we invite all wartime veterans to stand with us. Whether you served decades ago or have recently transitioned to civilian life, your experience is an invaluable asset to our mission.

www.masslegion.org

Robert Jerdan (Bobby)
Senior Vice Commander 25-26
Department of Massachusetts
Candidate for Department Commander 26-27

History is an important part of our lives. The greatest generation of veterans is slowly disappearing before our eyes, and the best way to honor their legacy is to say their names and show the world the amazing giants who have walked among us. I ran across three such veterans and wanted to share.



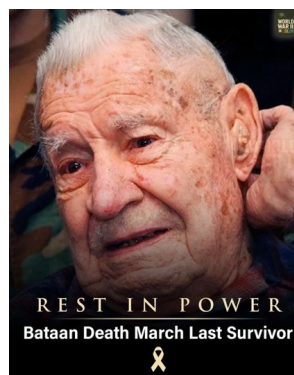
First, we have Anthony Murphy, a WWI veteran who turned 99 years young and celebrated his birthday on 1/10/26 at the Worcester Eagles Club,

joined by Cmdr. Scott Conner and others. “In 2024, at 97 yrs, presented by the office of the mayor, he received the Key to the City at the Woo Sox “In Debt to a Vet”. By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel, an award was given to Anthony who joined the service in January 18, 1944 for meritorious conduct as a member of the naval services, a ribbon bar with the star of the presidential unit citation award the USS Essex for heroism displayed by her crew in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific war area from August 31, 1943 to August 15, 1945. The USS Essex, whose crew claim for her the title “fightingest ship in the Navy”, amassed an impressive 68 combat operations supporting every major Pacific engagement from Tarawa to Tokyo Bay. During

her action in nine major invasions, she fought through 357 Japanese raids and was hit only once when a kamikaze took out a 20 mm gun position and tied up flight operations for half an hour. Anthony was honorably discharged from the Naval service of the United States on April 18, 1946. Tony Murphy is an incredible representation of the greatest generation, men and women who were true heroes who understood the real meaning of sacrifice and honor. Thank you to Tony for giving party of your life in service to our country.” (Taken from Lisa Carter post 8/19/24).



Next, an amazing story shown on Fox News on 12/20/24. “FREEDOM RINGS: 104-year-old World War II veteran Dominick Gritelli, who fought at Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge, wowed the crowd by performing the National Anthem on his saxophone at a New York Islanders Game. Critelli, a staff sergeant who immigrated to the U.S. from Italy when he was a child, spent 151 days in combat during WWII, earning three Bronze Stars.” Keep on playing Dominick!!!



Lastly, “We bow our heads in reverent sorrow as we remember Albert Henry Brown, the oldest surviving veter-

an of the Bataan Death March, who has passed away at 105. His life stood as living proof that the human spirit can endure even humanity’s darkest hours. Captured in 1942, Albert survived the infamous 65-mile march of starvation, brutality, and death — a road where thousands of his brothers fell. He then endured more than three years in Japanese prison camps, his body broken but his will unyielding. Doctors once said he would not live to see 50... yet he carried his scars, his memories, and his truth for more than a century. With his passing, a vital witness to unimaginable suffering falls silent. But Albert Henry Brown’s courage, endurance, and quiet strength will echo forever — a reminder of what was endured, and of what must never be forgotten.” (*World War II in color*, posted on January 17, 2026).

As Jake always reminds us – When we Hear...we Forget, When we See...we Remember...BUT When we Do...WE UNDERSTAND. Go find our brothers and sisters that hold our history and listen and understand.

My Time in the National American Legion College 2025



National Commander Wiley present Megan Chandler, Finance Officer, District Three with her diploma!

Thank you so much to everyone who encouraged me to attend the National American Legion College. From the moment we arrived on Sunday, we hit the ground running and spent the entire week learning the ins and outs of the American Legion and what it truly means to be a successful leader.

This was the first year that **servant leadership** was the primary focus of the curriculum, and I am incredibly grateful to have been part of that. Servant leadership is defined as leading by prioritizing service to others first focusing on the growth, well-being, and success of the people and communities we serve. Rather than leading through authority or position, a servant leader leads through empathy, humility, integrity, and by setting the example.

The experience was outstanding. It was inspiring to hear from past National Commanders and instructors from all over the world. Their knowledge, experience, and willingness to share made them invaluable resources.

One of the biggest takeaways from my week was the importance of **mentorship**. Every one of us should be mentoring someone to eventually replace us, and

we should also recognize that we are all teachable and should be willing to be mentees ourselves. Not having a replacement leads to posts becoming stagnant and resistant to change—often resulting in the stereotypes that the American Legion is “just a bar for old white men” or a “good ol’ boys club.”

Which brings me to my next point: **being willing to accept change**, rather than saying, “that’s the way we’ve always done it.” Resistance to change directly impacts recruitment and retention, especially among different demographics that could greatly benefit from a strong, welcoming, and well-run post. For example, there is currently an Airman at Westover who serves as the captain of the Air Force gaming team—*these are the new veterans*. We must be willing to adapt if we want to remain relevant.

Another highlight of the week—and my favorite day—was **finance day**. It is critical that posts stay current with their tax-exempt status. If anyone needs help obtaining or reestablishing that status, I am more than willing to assist. Sound bookkeeping practices and absolute transparency are essential. Members should know the who, what, where, and when of all post finances. If that transparency does not exist, an audit should be considered. Audits can be conducted internally or externally with an accountant, and annual audits are a best practice. Additionally, if the same individuals have always overseen finances, bringing in new people can help avoid conflicts of interest.

We also discussed the **Be the One** initiative. Every member here can take the available online course, it’s about an hour long and offered on various days and times. The information provided has the potential to save the life of a fellow veteran who may be struggling.

One of our first assignments was to write down three reasons why we joined the American Legion and three reasons why we stay. This exercise was incredibly meaningful because it reminds us of the purpose the American Legion serves—something we can easily forget.

I joined to find purpose again in my life. I have been disabled for a long time, graduated school, and felt unsure of what came next beyond my role as a single mom. I stay because I see the tremendous good that can come from this organization. I truly believe that our shared experiences, however different they may have been, shaped us into like-minded individuals in ways that not everyone can understand.

So remember your *why*, and let's continue working together to make the American Legion stronger every day.

Megan Chandler
District 3

We have begun a new year as the largest Veterans group in America, this year we celebrate our Nations 250th birthday. There is much to do on all our part to ensure we are ready to reach that July date. We can work steadily together to reach our goals and make this our finest moment, one that remembers all those brave men and women who fought to give us our freedom. The many who stood up and together, we had much needed victories that helped us become a new country under one flag. There were many great leaders, George Washington who became the Father of our Country, John Hancock who penned our Declaration of Independence and Paul Revere who

gallantly rode to alert all, **“the British are coming”!**

Our country has come a long way in these 250 years, we have since fought many battles during this time. Too many lives have been lost and we remember them each year during our Memorial Day ceremonies as we mark our Veterans graves with our flag. All Veterans of our country stand together and honor those fallen heroes, the ones that never came home. We tell stories of brave men and woman who fought for us to protect our liberty our home.

Later this year we will again have parades and ceremonies to celebrate all our men and woman

on Veterans Day, these are the ones who make this Country so great by their positive actions daily helping our Veterans and their **Love for Country**. It is important to have these events where we honor our comrades who gave their time in our armed forces and fought to keep us free from tyranny.



 AMERICAN
LEGION**MASSACHUSETTS****Department****Legion College**

Saturday

May 16th

9:30 AM

Quinsigamond Post 318**180 Greenwood St, Worcester****Topics include:**

- Leadership & Gaining Momentum
- Team Building & Mentorship
- Eliciting Change & Change Management
- Oddities of Post Operations
(The stuff not in the book)

Lunch & Coffee will be provided

To register contact Department Office
DeptAdjutant@masslegion.com or (617) 727-2966



Mid-Winter Conference

March 29, 2026, 10 am to 3 pm

Post 443 Cherry Valley
167 Main Street
Cherry Valley, MA 01611

Lunch & Beverages Provided
RSVP BY 03/21/2026 to
deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Learn about our programs: Boys State, Oratorical, Scouting, ROTC, Be the One, VCF, CWF, TFA, NEF, JR Law Cadet, Riders, SAL, Softball and Baseball

- Post, District, Department & National Schedules
- Meeting Protocols
- Processing Dues Online (this will be required shortly)
- Recruiting, Fundraising, Conflict Resolution
- Federal & Tax Requirements
- Question & Answering Session

There is no registration fee. All welcome.

Please RSVP to help us to determine packets, food, spacing
deptadjutant@masslegion.org



MASS LEGION RIDERS

WHEN

February 22nd
10am – 2pm

WHERE

Auburn Legion

88 Bancroft St, Auburn, MA 01501

Please contact Riders Department Chairman Louie Brault with any questions louisbrault@yahoo.com. Lunch will be provided. All riders chapter members in good standing are invited to attend and participate.

**WINTER
RIDERS
MEETING**

**SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

**MEET AND
GREET**

**CHAPTER
MEETING**

LUNCH

**RIDE
PLANING**

**STATE
SPONSORED
RIDES**

**CONVENTION
PONY
EXPRESS
EVENT**



BOYS STATE COMMITTEE

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

Massachusetts Boys State 2026 - Sponsor Form

The 2026 Boys State Program will be held at Stonehill College, North Easton, from Saturday, June 13, 2026 to Friday, June 19, 2026. This year, the cost of sponsoring each boy is **\$400.00 for the regular tuition**, or **\$375.00 for the early bird discount** before **APRIL 1, 2026**.

Regardless of how you choose to pay, you must complete the sponsor form online at **sponsor.maboysstate.org**. There are two payment options, **Debit/Credit Card** or **Check by Mail**, follow the instructions when promoted on the online form. If you are paying via Check by Mail, please also complete the form on page two of this letter and include it with your check.

All payments for the 2026 Boys State Session must be received by May 31, 2026. The first 400 students will be accepted. We encourage you to actively seek outside co-sponsors (e.g. local elected officials, businesses, or banks) to help pay for these boys to attend.

Boys chosen to attend Boys State should be interviewed by the Post. Each Post should explain the Boys State program in detail to the boys and their parents so that they will know what is expected of them through their participation. The Boys State website (**maboysstate.org**) contains a wealth of information, including videos, photographs, program schedule, and program descriptions. Students and parents should be directed to this resource for information and announcements.



Scan QR Code to Complete Sponsor Form

Form Link: sponsor.maboysstate.org

Payment Options: Check by Mail or Debit/Credit Card

Cost: \$400 (\$375 before April 1st)

Please email info@maboysstate.org for issues filling out the form.

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM ON PAGE 2, IF YOU SELECTED CHECK BY MAIL

 AMERICAN
LEGION
MASSACHUSETTS
BOYS STATE**MASSACHUSETTS BOYS STATE 2026****Sponsor Supplement Form (Check by Mail)****DIRECTIONS (Must complete all 4 steps)**

1. Complete the Sponsor Form via sponsor.maboysstate.org
2. Fill out **all the fields below**.
3. Make your check payable to “**The American Legion**” and designate “**Boys State**” in the memo of the check.
4. Mail this form and check to Massachusetts Boys State Chairman, **Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069**.

NUMBER OF BOYS SPONSORED _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____

District # _____

Sponsoring Post # or Organization _____

Post Point of Contact _____

Post POC Phone # _____

Post POC Email _____

All fields above are required***Please mail this page and check to Boys State Chairman*****Mark Avis, 14 Shaw Street, Palmer, MA 01069**



USA 250 Challenge participants can now receive special awards for fundraising for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

America's 250th birthday is only six months away and The American Legion is helping to celebrate this milestone with its USA 250 Challenge.

The USA 250 Challenge consists of three categories – fitness, mental health and community service – where participants can participate in one or all three to log 250 miles or hours. Register for The American Legion USA 250 Challenge [here](#). Your \$30 registration fee will support The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation that benefits disabled veterans and military families in need.

Participants in USA 250 Challenge can now earn special items by achieving various fundraising tiers.

The platform used for registering and tracking miles has been updated with a [peer-to-peer fundraising tool](#) to make it easier to generate donations. All donations received through this portal go to The American Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation.

There are three fundraising tiers with incentives:

- \$250 in donations raised: USA 250 Challenge hat pin.
- \$500 in donations raised: USA 250 Challenge coin and a personalized certificate of appreciation.
- \$2,500 in donations raised: Personalized plaque signed by National Commander Dan K. Wiley.

Please allow up to six week for delivery once a tier level has been reached.

For assistance or questions, please email donorservices@legion.org.

New merchandise available

New American Legion USA 250 Challenge branded apparel is available to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Items include hoodies, polos, crewnecks, long sleeves, quarter zips and more. [Buy here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

18th Annual Women Veterans Network Conference

Saturday, May 16, 2026
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

The conference includes: guest speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at empowering and uplifting women veterans. Attendees will have the chance to connect with fellow veterans, share stories, and gain insights into navigating post-military life.



REGISTRATION OPENS IN
FEBRUARY. STAY TUNED!

It is my distinct privilege to present the first edition of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (EOVS) Transition Toolkit. This guide will serve as a handy reference as you make your transition to civilian life in Massachusetts, helping you understand and navigate the myriad programs, services, and benefits available to you and your family. To keep this guide concise and navigable, each section highlights some of the top benefits and programs by theme, from housing and education to employment. If you wish to conduct further research on a given topic, links to additional resources can be found at the conclusion of this Toolkit.

Download [EOVS Transition Toolkit \(PDF\)](#) or goto mass.gov/doc/veteran-transition-toolkit./download

Basic Training.

No, not going back to Fort Jackson, Parris Island, Great Lakes or Lackland AFB.

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images and video. The topic areas are: History and Organization; Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Children & Youth and Americanism.

At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material.

When you've completed each section quiz, you'll be able to take the final exam. The exam will take roughly ~30 minutes.

You will need a MyLegion account which is simple to set up.

This is appropriate for all American Legion members who: currently hold office; want to move into an officer role; want a refresher; or just want to learn more about our organization. If you had taken the older paper version, this is all revised.

For additional information go to www.legion.org and search for basic training. You may also contact me at jplenotte@gmail.com or ANEC Sandra Davis at skeeisme@hotmail.com

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

John Lenotte, National Executive Committeeman Department of MA; Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians. Local Board Member, Selective Service System.



2026 WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

EMPOWERING HER VOICE, HONORING HER SERVICE

Saturday, March 14, 2026
11:00am to 2:30pm
Andover Country Club
60 Canterbury Street
Andover, MA 01810

Join us for lunch, laughter and camaraderie! We will have a guest speaker and time to network.



TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/4rkSrEY>



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

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
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 Number:

UNIT Number:

SQUADRON Number:

RIDER CHAPTER Number:

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

The American Legion Family “Pin Points for Partnership”

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

AWARD PRESENTED FOR MOST PIN POINTS PLEDGED

Partnership Pin Points Pledge Sheet

Make Checks Payable To: Detachment of Massachusetts S.A.L.

Please Return Pledge Sheet and Donations To: Clifford Smith, 53 Messenger St., Apt C, Plainville, MA 02762

Pledge's Name	Address	City, State, Zip	Phone	Amount Pledged Per Point



Many veterans face challenges meeting basic needs such as heating and household expenses during the winter months, particularly after the holidays. In response, Jay Beauregard and the Post Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary members, the Post Color Guard Team, and members of Post 40 came together to raise more than \$3,000. The funds were proudly presented to the Town of Plymouth Veterans' Services Officer Roxanne Whitbeck, in the presence of Department Officers Senior Vice Robert Jerdan, Adjutant Lisa McPhee, Asst. Adjutant Grace Conner, Plymouth Post 40 Commander Brad Freeman, Post Adjutant Michele Alegria, and SAL Commander Dana Maxim to support local veterans in need.

Pictured from left to right





January 16, 2026 American Legion Post 188 20 Main Street Sandwich MA was oozing with excitement and loads of camaraderie when 60 Veterans with a guest from the local community attended the Veterans Alliance Foundation,(VAF) third Friday of each month free luncheon and market.

VIP's present at the event were Carver Massachusetts Veterans Service Officer [Celestine Crews](#) and from the Executive Office of Veteran Services Deputy Secretary Cory Ahonen along with Nick Charette the Deputy Chief Engagement Officer. Mr Ahonen and Charette presented the CEO and founder of Veterans Alliance Foundation, Ms. Amy Bradford with a citation of accomplishment and gratitude as VAF has over the past seven months distributed 1600 pounds of food from their market and through the third Friday of every month luncheon event served over 450 veterans.

VAF was created by a citizen and wife of a Marine Veteran Amy Bradford, Amy wanted to find a way to honor those that have served and since March if 2025 been doing so in a fulfilling and engaging way.

Luncheons are fun filled events with music, raffles, prizes and friendships.

Amy and her crew of 10 volunteers serve hot delicious meals and provide table side service if need be.

For more information about VAF or to donate/volunteer or attend an event click on www.Massvaf.org



American Legion District 3 hosted our annual holiday party for the residents of the Leeds VA, and it was a great success! There was an amazing turnout, with residents receiving bags of essential items and enjoying lunch together.

Coral Grout Leadership

Team Massachusetts
17 Porter Street
Berkley, MA 02779



To the Members of the American Legion Family of Massachusetts

Team Massachusetts wishes to thank all of those members who have already assisted Coral in her journey to National President,

In eight short months Coral will be installed as National President in Louisville, Kentucky. She will be the third National President from Massachusetts. It has been 85 years since Mary Murrill served as National President. We hope all of the members who will be attending the National Convention will attend Coral's installation on Wednesday September 2, 2026, in the afternoon.

Coral's Homecoming will be held at Sturbridge Host Hotel September 24 - 26. It will be a weekend of fun events highlighting special places in Massachusetts. It will culminate with a gala banquet on Saturday Night. The National Commanders of the American Legion and the Sons will be present along with members from all over the United States.

Fundraising is ongoing at multiple levels. The American Legion Family of Post 207 West Springfield is holding a Pasta Night on February 2. Tickets (\$15 per person) are available from Mary Ann Ventulett.

Other units and districts will be hosting dinners, raffles and yards sales. Team Massachusetts will run a raffle at convention.

Fundraising and volunteer opportunities will be available at Homecoming.

If you wish to help, please contact:

Mary Ann Ventulett 413-355-0647

Donna Blattenberger 978-241-2508

Ann Fournier 508-942-2609

Start Date	Time	Event	Location
2/3/2026	7:00 PM	Americanism Committee	ZOOM
2/4/2026	6:00 PM	ROTC Committee	ZOOM
2/5/2026	6:00 PM	Community Service	ZOOM
2/15/2026	1:00 PM	District 1 Meeting	Housatonic Post 298
2/16/2026	7:00 PM	Adjutant Meeting	ZOOM
2/17/2026	7:30 PM	C&Y Committee	ZOOM
2/18/2026	7:00 PM	250th Committee	ZOOM
2/19/2026	7:00 PM	Reorganization Committee	ZOOM
2/25/2026	6:00 PM	ROTC Meeting	ZOOM
2/25/2026	7:00 PM	District 6 Meeting	Milton Post 114
2/26/2026	7:00 PM	District 9 Meeting	Acushnet Post 265


2026 Membership Standing *as of January 30, 2026*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1125	1004	84.00%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3169	2665	84.10%
4	WORCESTER	4303	3656	84.96%
5	MIDDLESEX	3347	2839	84.82%
6	NORFOLK	2206	1817	82.37%
7	SUFFOLK	1123	962	85.66%
8	ESSEX	2313	2001	86.51%
9	BRISTOL	2260	1652	73.10%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3404	2913	85.58%
297	CAPITOL HILL	405	460	136.79%
462	HEADQUARTERS	848	554	54.25%
	National Quota	24,503	20,523	83.76%

Next Target Date 2/11/2026 85%

The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Committee has an amazing award. Each year at National Convention, up to seven servicemembers are recognized with our Salute to Servicemembers Award. The goal is to have every branch of the U.S. military represented — Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard/Reserve. This is a highlight of the convention.

You may have submitted a servicemember before and think you are aware of the requirements. It is very important each year to check the national website and each program to look for any changes.

Did you know that anyone can submit the ALA Salute to Servicemembers Award NOW?

An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination — rather than the servicemember — to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is “head and shoulders” above their peers and worthy of this award.

A simple narrative (no more than 1,000 words), a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph), and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements.

Submit now — and right up until the June 1, 2026, deadline. The nomination form is [live](#).

This award acknowledges the servicemember’s contributions that go beyond their military career, displaying their impact on their community.

Want more info on the nomination form? You’re in luck, as there is a Zoom meeting open to everyone and will explain the entire form. You’ll have an opportunity to ask questions. The Zoom meeting is Tuesday Feb. 3, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. EST. Register for the Zoom meeting using [this link](#).

We look forward to sharing information that will lead to many applications.

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	182	90.10%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	480	75.35%
4	WORCESTER	1064	811	76.22%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	680	71.65%
6	NORFOLK	365	237	64.93%
7	SUFFOLK	95	63	66.32%
8	ESSEX	629	506	80.45%
9	BRISTOL	263	165	62.74%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	754	552	73.21%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	97	65.10%
	National Quota	5,107	3,272	73.88%

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

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Subscribe at: www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/e-newsletters

Special to The Millennium—Russell "Rusty" Myers III, Editor

Sons Across the Nation Spread Cheer to our Veterans and Children over the Holidays

The holiday season is perhaps the most visible time where the Sons of The American Legion showcases its work throughout our communities. Be it a holiday party, a visit from Santa, a trip to a VA or veterans home, or a toy or coat drive, the spirit of giving is evident in the programs our Sons run at the end of each year.

See over the next two pages some of the good deeds our SAL's have done to make the holiday a little more special for our vets, our kids, and our communities:

CONGRATULATIONS!
NEW ALL-TIME HIGH MEMBERSHIP!
404,941
FOR 2025
Surpassing the previous record of 397,243 set in 2024!

Editorial: Re-dedicate Ourselves to What We Do Best

SAL 100: Legacy Equals Strength

Illinois: Sons Conduct District and Division Leadership Training

New Jersey: Getting Our Veterans Outside

Victory Gardens: Growing Community

Detachment Spotlight: Puerto Rico

Legion.org: Host a Be The One Event in the New Year

Illinois: Make A Wish
Santa Claus was spotted bringing Christmas joy at Onarga American Legion Post 551 in Illinois. The Squadron hosts "Pancakes with Santa", where member Steve Sullivan had the honor of being Santa. The event raised \$1,000 which was donated to a local "Make a Wish Child" and family that needed help. - Eugene Gort (IL)

Pennsylvania: Holiday Tour
The PA Legion Family and Detachment Commander Mark Nave made 15 stops on their Holiday Tour. "It has truly been an honor and blessing to visit all the VA's and veterans homes in Pennsylvania ... Seeing the work our Legion Family does through volunteering time, treasure, and talents is inspiring. Its one thing to talk about it, it's another thing to see it in action!" - Mark Nave (PA)

California: Serving our Serviceman
Squadron 155 hosted a Christmas party at the Area 22 Air Wing and 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton. — John Mejia (CA)

Wisconsin: Caroling for our Vets
The American Legion Family of Post 375 at their holiday community service event ... Christmas Caroling at local nursing homes. 38 Legion Family members participated.

A National Newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion 1

Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy

2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of January 30, 2026

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	231	219	94.81%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	772	483	62.56%
4	WORCESTER	1020	749	73.43%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	8881	70.14%
6	NORFOLK	835	773	92.57%
7	SUFFOLK	196	148	75.51%
8	ESSEX	442	284	64.25%
9	BRISTOL	280	146	52.14%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	798	494	61.90%
	National Goal	5830	4177	71.87%

Next Target Date: 2/11/2026 75%




★ ★

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

Registration Now Open Veteran Stories

Hear from some of our amazing Veterans:



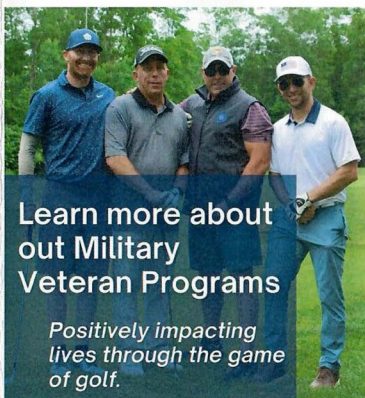
"It's not about me. It's about being together with other Veterans who all love the game."

-Rick Ferguson
United States Marine Corps
PGA HOPE Worcester



"Golf helped me overcome some personal challenges I was facing, and I've been loving this game ever since."

-Carlos Barbeiro
United States Army
PGA HOPE Lincoln



Learn more about our Military Veteran Programs

Positively impacting lives through the game of golf.

Registration Now Open



www.nepga.com/foundation/pgahope

Registration Now Open

PGA HOPE NEW ENGLAND



PGA
OF AMERICA
REACH FOUNDATION
NEW ENGLAND

Registration Now Open Locations



PGA HOPE New England is proud to host (23) locations across New England, with programs starting in May and continuing through October annually.

Registration Now Open About PGA HOPE

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH New England, the charitable foundation of the New England Section.

PGA HOPE introduces golf to veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. Participants of PGA HOPE New England program include military Veterans living with physical and cognitive challenges such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



PGA HOPE introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, taught and led by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency and include clubs and equipment if needed.

All programs are funded by PGA REACH and supplemented by PGA Section Foundations, so the cost of programming is free to all Veterans.

PGA HOPE has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which enables Recreational Therapists to refer Veterans to the PGA HOPE program as a form of therapy.

Through a robust program strategy, PGA HOPE aspires to create a physically and emotionally healthier Veteran and Active Duty community through the game of golf.



RIDE TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 113

★ **HELL OR HIGH WATER CREW** ★

Benefiting **OPERATION TROOP SUPPORT**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 ★

📍 **American Legion Post 113**
14 Church Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

★★ **🏆 COST** ★★

- **Rider: \$25**
- **Passenger: \$10**
- **Walk-ins: \$10**

🕒 **Registration: 9:30 AM**
🚩 **Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM**

★ **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS** ★

- Scenic group motorcycle ride
- Food & refreshments
- Raffles / 50-50 drawing
- Music & camaraderie
- Rain or Shine • All bikes welcome!

CONTACT: Sam Demao 1-978-808-9786

🇺🇸 Ride with Purpose. Ride with Pride. Ride for Our Troops. 🇺🇸



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02122-1099
email: fmacdonald53@comcast.net

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2025-2026 Officers

Commander

Scott M. Conner

Sr. Vice Commander

Robert Jerdan

Vice Commanders

Drew Pajak

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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 guide-lines for submissions.

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

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

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



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

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The American Legion, Dept. of Mass, Inc.
Room 546-2, State House
Boston, MA 02133



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