

MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

THE DEPAERTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 16 Issue 6 November 2025

Commander's Corner



Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Fall meetings have come and gone, there's just something special about sitting at the Massachusetts desk in the PNC John P. "Jake" Comer National Executive Committee room. I'm sure I was sitting in PNC Morin's seat. Great conference with many classes and forums to participate in. Grace and I participated in the Ye Steivos event. Dinner was good, and the gruel from the mad scientists capped a fun-filled night.

Trunk or Treat, what a blast! Enjoyed a couple of opportunities to participate in local Trunk or Treat events. Great to see the kids enjoying themselves and some of the costumes were incredible. My favorite: A young man was dressed up as Doug from Liberty Mutual, and of course, he was accompanied by Lemu the Emu.

As we roll into Veteran's month, please participate in some of the many events held in honor of veterans. Maybe your Post has a Veterans Dinner, or even a parade. Can't march in a parade, consider filling a car with fellow legionnaires and driving in the parade. Enjoy the camaraderie of a veteran's dinner or luncheon. Many businesses have discounts, especially around Veterans' Day; take advantage of them. Price Chopper/Market 32 has a veterans' appreciation discount of 11% off your shopping cart, really, Google it. Veteran's Inc. has a great Harvest Fair where a veteran can shop for their holiday fixins, including the turkey.

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EGION Commander's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

BUDDY CHECK!! Consider doing a Buddy Check today, or tomorrow, or next Thursday, but do one or two. Just pick up the phone and make that call, or text a message and cheer someone up. Consider going retro - knock on a door and pay a visit to someone who's shut in. Remember, that's what we do, watch out for each other. "BUDDY CHECK!!, hope you're doing well. With the temperatures dropping and the season changing, just checking to make sure you're ready for winter".

Everyone in the 250 Challenge!! A nice opportunity to do some cool stuff. Either solo or with a group. Check it out at <u>legion.org</u>.

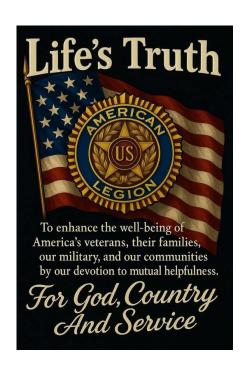
Get involved. Many District and Department committees have vacancies, and there are many great opportunities to be found. Reach out to your District Commander and find out what's available. Did you know that any Legionnaire can attend a District Meeting, or a Department Meeting. Unless you are an Officer, you may not have a voice or vote during the meeting, but great information is passed. Check out what we do. Does everyone at your Post get E-Legionnaire? If not, sign them up, please.

My Commander's Charity is Operation Comfort Warrior. Consider having an event with proceeds to support this incredible program. A heartfelt thank you to Riders Chapter 204 with a considerable donation.

CHANGE OF VENUE ******* DEC - November 15th, Post 443, Cherry Valley

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

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





Department President

Honoring Our Legacy of Service – Veterans Day & the Auxiliary's Birthday

As we enter November, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts proudly celebrates two meaningful occasions—Veterans Day and the birthday of our Auxiliary. Both remind us why we serve and who we serve.

Veterans Day is a time to pause and give thanks to the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform. Their courage and sacrifice have preserved the freedoms we hold dear. Each of us, as Auxiliary members, carries the responsibility and privilege of ensuring that their service is never forgotten. Whether we are marching in parades, visiting veterans in care facilities, or simply saying "thank you," every gesture matters.

We also take this month to celebrate the founding of our beloved Auxiliary. Since 1919, generations of members have lived our motto of "Service, not Self." Our birthday is a reminder of the strong women—

and now men—who came before us, whose compassion and patriotism built the foundation we stand on today.

As Department President, I am deeply proud of the work being done across our Commonwealth. Each Unit's efforts—large and small—carry forward the heart of our mission: to honor veterans, support military families, and serve our communities for God and Country.

Let us celebrate our proud history, honor our veterans, and continue our work with gratitude and purpose. Together, we make a difference—yesterday, today, and always.

In service and appreciation,

Sofia Elizabeth Blake Department President American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Massachusetts





Detachment Commander



Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek

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

This declaration was included in a story by Philip Gibbs, printed in the evening edition of the New York Times on November 11, 1918, announcing an end to what was once referred to as the Great War. Whenever I reflect on the significance of the day now memorialized as Veterans Day, these words often come to mind. As one who did not serve, I can only imagine the range of emotions the "doughboys" must have felt when the deafening silence descended

onto the trenches of the Western have the opportunity to promote and support veteran causes and They served the nation, and it was time to go home. They were now veterans. have the opportunity to promote and support veteran causes and fulfill our obligations as established within the Preamble. We can help swell the numbers of the veterans.

Since so-called "War to End All Wars" the United States has engaged in seventy-five wars and military actions and roughly 40 million men and women served our nation during this time. Of these, only about 17.5 million veterans are alive today. Sadly, the ranks of WWII and Korean War veterans serving in Post Everlasting will soon be complete, and the Vietnam Era veterans are joining them in ever increasing numbers. This reality is reflected in the membership of the American Legion, which has seen a decrease of about 20% in overall membership in just the last five years alone. And it has contributed, at least in part, to the closure of many American Legion Posts across the country.

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

have the opportunity to promote and support veteran causes and fulfill our obligations as established within the Preamble. We can help swell the numbers of the American Legion Family by recruiting new members to join our brotherhood. And we can assist in keeping the doors of our American Legion Posts open for the next generation of veterans who answer the nation's call during both times of peace and war.

It goes without saying that, as Veterans Day nears, I am hopeful that all members in the Detachment of Massachusetts will become active in their Squadrons and Posts. I also hope that every Son makes a special effort to help any veteran in the community who is in need. I cannot think of a greater way to show our appreciation on this Veterans Day than to serve and assist those who served our great nation.

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

God bless,

Jesse Limanek

Commander
Detachment of Massachusetts



The American Legion Department Of Massachusetts

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

November 2025

CALLING ALL POST/DISTRICT ADJUTANTS

Greetings Legionnaires,

I am asking for all Post & District Adjutants to sign up for my monthly <u>Adjutants Only</u> Monthly Zoom Meeting. The first Zoom meeting will be on November 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The goal of this forum is to build a good foundation for all Post & District Adjutant to learn, to disseminate information and have fun. I am kind – of – sort – of mimicking after Ye Steivos, which is the National Society of Department Adjutants. There will be no drinking out of the Calderon of Blood to be part of this Society. Please RSVP to <u>deptadjutant@masslegion.org</u> or <u>deptaccountant@masslegion.org</u>. This includes all current or past Adjutants. I don't want to leave anyone out.

I am looking for a Post to have the Department on the Road at their Post. The Post must have internet. The Department has gone to District 5 & District 6 already looking for a Post in the other Districts.

Boston Veterans Day Parade is November 8, 2025. We moved the Department Executive Committee meeting to November 15, 2025, as to have full participation from all Department Officers, District Officers, and Posts members for the parade.

Yours in Comradeship

Swa A Mo Phee Lisa A. McPhee Department Adjutant Massachusetts

Veterans Straightening America Since 1919 and into the Future

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



ON THE ROAD AGAIN! We Mond

Westfield Post 124

Monday November 10th, 2025

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

38 Broad Street Westfield, MA

In an effort to provide a more convenient service, without the Boston parking headaches, we're setting up once (or twice) a month at different Posts across the state to help with:

- Post Paperwork -

(5 forms are required to be filed by every post, every year, by crucial deadlines)

- Processing Membership -
 - MyLegion.org etc., etc., etc.

BRING YOUR FORMS, RENEWALS, QUESTIONS, OR JUST STOP BY AND SAY HEY!

Stay tuned to
MassLegion.org
and
FB's Dept Page
for future locations



Any Post interested in hosting the Department mobile office, contact us at:

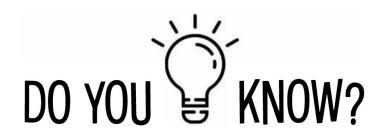
DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

or

Call us at: 617-727-2966

Hours requested in Post: 10am - 7pm (can be adjusted)

The Post must have internet and easy parking and be a non-smoking building



The American Legion

YOUTH PROGRAMS?



Support our youth to develop leadership and good citizenship through the second-to-none American Legion programs

The American Legion Dept of Massachusetts YOUTH PROGRAMS

ORATORICAL
JR LAW CADET
BOYS STATE
SCOUTING
BASEBALL
FASTPITCH SOFTBALL
SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact Department office for more information 617-727-2966 or DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

EGION Membership—DSVC Robert Jerdan

As November arrives and the yearend membership push intensifies, The American Legion Department of Massachusetts proudly recognizes the exceptional commitment and tireless efforts of its District Membership Teams.

Across the Commonwealth, from the Berkshires to the Cape, our District Commanders, Vice Commanders, and dedicated Membership Chairmen are putting in the vital work to ensure The American Legion can continue its mission of service to veterans, their families, and the community. This isn't just a membership drive; it's a testament to the dedication of our volunteer leaders who understand that a strong membership roster is the foundation for all our programs—from local youth sports and community support to advocating for veteran benefits in Washington D.C.

This month, Post and District

membership teams are on the ground: Knocking on Doors (and members and eligible veterans to share the Legion's story and bring them back into the fold. Hosting Events Organizing community activities and informational sessions that highlight what makes belonging to the Legion so impactful. Mentoring Posts Providing guidance and support to Posts in their respective districts to help them meet and exceed their membership goals.

The hard-won successes we see in retention rates and new member recruitment are a direct reflection of the long hours, strategic planning, and genuine passion of these community of veterans. district-level teams. Their work ensures that every veteran in Massachusetts knows they have a place in our organization and that the voice of the Legion remains strong.

We urge all members to join the effort! A single renewal or a new making calls): Reaching out to past recruit can make the difference for your Post and your District. Contact your District Membership Chairman today to see how you can lend a hand and help us achieve our next major target. Let's finish this membership year strong and celebrate the collective hard work that makes Massachusetts a national leader in veteran support.

> As we gather with family and friends this month, the Department of Massachusetts sends its warmest wishes for a peaceful and reflective time. We are grateful for all who have served and for our

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



EGION Historian—Cindy Lacoste



Have you ever wondered how the idea of the Department Convention for Massachusetts came about? I did and after digging through the archives of The American Legion, I found the article in *The American* Legion Weekly, Vol. 3. No. 28, dated July 15, 1921, describes exactly when, and why Massachusetts holds its annual convention. The article "The Value of Department Conferences" by Leo A. Spillane, Adjutant, Dept of MA, laid out the reasoning, which mirrors why we continue to hold these conventions and various other Department meetings. Below is an excerpt of the article which still holds true today:

"Since the Department of Indiana originated the idea of the state conference of post officials many other departments have found it a worthwhile plan in assisting local organization and developing post enthusiasm. In this account of one such gathering, Adjutant Spillane of Massachusetts outlines the plan adopted and the results achieved results which prove the value of the conference and mark a definite milestone in Legion progress in the Bay State."

"REALIZING that in the element of personal contact lies the secret of organization strength and cohesion and the essence of a welllubricated and smoothly running machine, the Department of Massachusetts recently adopted the plan of bringing together the commanders of its 266 posts at an informal meeting and banquet. For want of a better name the meeting was called "the get-together of post that would make the commanders commanders and department officials." It proved to be such a success that a series of these gatherings with the additional attendance of the post adjutants—three or four times a year perhaps—will undoubtedly become a prominent part of the Massachusetts department's activities.

The post commanders were brought together primarily because the success or failure of an individual post depends largely on their skillful leadership and activity. A poorly-led post is generally a poorly-functioning post, and an organization, business or enterprise—any line of endeavor—is only successful in proportion to the efforts and direction of the man at the helm.

So it was that the call went out for the meeting—a call to every post leader for a heart-to-heart talk designed to better the administration.

It was the plan to have the event as informal as possible—a sort of family affair, a gathering around the chow table where the men who had been entrusted with the management of Legion affairs in their communities would be afforded an opportunity under favorable circumstances to meet one another, to find out what the other fellow was doing, to exchange views on Legion problems that perplexed and to talk over matters vital to the wellbeing and successful conduct of their posts. We wanted the affair to be, above everything else, one more fully conscious of their duties and responsibilities.

We wanted it to be an affair that would put more life into some posts, one that would be the means of inspiring the commander of a backward post and imbue him with the proper Legion spirit if by any chance it were lacking, so that he could go home with a bunch of ideas and a firm determination to put his post back on the map where there is no reason it should not be—a credit and a bulwark to the community and a shining example to other posts. We wanted it to be an affair that would make for a more complete cooperation not alone between the post and the department but between neighboring

EGION Historian (Continued)

posts and counties. We wanted the idea of co-operation in its fundamental phase to get in and stay in for the good of the organization. In that a bigger, better, stronger and other words, and in general, we wanted the conference to be one where the troublesome parts of the machine might be oiled and lubricated, so that it would run more efficiently. We believed at the time that we succeeded in the above objects, and we recommend that other departments, if they have not entertained the idea, hold similar gatherings, mixing the social with the business end. Fundamentally, the value of these conferences to a department organization is inestimable. At least one a year, besides the annual convention, should be held. Bring together the post commanders and adjutants. They are the men who are responsible for

the conduct of the local post. Give them a feast of information as well as eatables— and it is only natural livelier department will result, all of which will make the national outfit so much more powerful.

The Department of Massachusetts was not content with having its own post commanders and department officers get together. It invited the department commanders and adjutants of the neighboring Departments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island to come and see how the thing was done and to get the benefit which it was felt would most surely be derived in the way of helpful ideas and suggestions. The conference to all appearances met with great favor on the part of these visiting comrades, who left

convinced of the great value of the conferences and of the splendid results to be derived. We feel that our conference and the attendance of representatives of nearby departments has brought us all closer together, has effected a finer liaison and has enhanced considerably Legion spirit and enthusiasm."

The truth in this article is still seen in today's American Legion. The more we work together and communicate among our posts, districts and departments, it will strengthen our organization and continue its mission in the years to come. It was amazing to see in the last paragraph of the article that the idea of inviting Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island dated back to 1921, a tradition that continues to this day.

AMERICAN

Community Service—DVC Ryan Howe

As we start the holiday season, the committee is looking forward to seeing the different children in youth holiday events starting with Halloween trunk or treats and Halloween parties. The committee is working hard to get the post in their district to put forth their submissions for the AL White award while also asking for posts to start looking for Mulkern award nominees, along with Conway award nominees. Even though the deadline for the Pendill, Conway, award is March 31st, 2026, and the Mulkern is March 1st, 2026. It is the hope of the committee that post start looking at those who might be receiving a teacher of the year award in their community.

Link to the Department Community Service award applications:

https://masslegion.org/programs

EGION Marketing

ily. I hope this edition of this publication finds you all in good health and spirits as the fall season is upon us.

The marketing committee will have two fundraising efforts this winter. One will be the return of our winter sweepstakes traditional mail in raffle. Look for your tickets in the mail and please participating with a donation. Not only will you be helping to fund our department programs but you'll have a chance to win prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000. The second fundraiser will be our online 50-50 raffle. Information on how to participate can be found on both the department website and in this publication.

Greetings, American Legion fam- Both will be drawn at the January Department Executive Committee Meeting.



Our partnership with the Springfield Thunderbirds of The American Hockey League and the "veteran of the game " program continued this season on opening night October 11th. Many thanks to Department Senior Vice Commander Robert Jerdan for presenting the challenge coin to the selected veteran on the ice during the first period. Thanks are also due to SVC Jerdan and Department Historian Cindy Lacoste for staffing our information table at the game.

In closing, if you have any marketing ideas or suggestions, please contact the marketing committee.

Mike Davis PNEC Marketing Chairman

Grassroots Information



Interested in what The American Legion is advocating for in Congress on The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military? Check out our information paper in the Legislative Toolkit. This is a great starting point for a conversa- tion with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide Grassroots Training tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org.

Register for Action Alerts today at https://www.votervoice.net/ AmericanLegion/Register

EGION Americanism



The Americanism Committee met via zoom this past month, we covered many topics about what we can do reach out to our Youth. The team is working hard to help the new Americanism Chair get his feet wet "So to Speak". I am very fortunate as I have so many talented people to turn to for guidance and experience to share with me. For each month

we would like to report on events happening that give us insight into our youth and each program that we participate in.

This month we would like to report on Scouting, we have a Post in the northeast that is working tire-lessly with our own leader of the pack O.C. O'Connor. He has stepped in to assist in the Post developing a team utilizing First Responders, FEMA/MEMA national guard and most importantly our Legion involvement in the program. Post 4 will host several open houses that will have these agency's reach out to the scouts and educate them on various topics that will assist each one of the scouts to reach their goals both personally and as a group **Emphasizing Team.**

The Team voted on a Secretary for the committee and our zoom meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month. Those in attendance were District 3,4,8 and 10, the committee addressed several items concerning youth and veterans. We will make a time to have an in person meeting in a central location. A reminder there are many Veterans Day events in all our Districts, take the time to remember this day with your communities, **Make it Personal!** Flags for 1-4 Graders make the connection with schools in your area. The Americanism Committee can assist in getting you the script we use and assistance in where to buy the books and flags. The cost for each child is \$1.00 per, hopefully your Post can make the purchase or reach out to the public businesses to offset the cost of the program.





Government Shutdown Resources

Compiled by The American Legion | Updated October 13, 2025

AMERICAN LEGION RESOURCES

The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program provides emergency grants to military families with young children. legion.org/tfa

Need assistance filing your benefits claims?

Find an accredited service officer near you: legion.org/serviceofficer



RESOURCES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: nmcrs.org

Army Emergency Relief: armyemergencyrelief.org/assistance

Air Force Aid Society: afas.org

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance: mycgma.org/programs/shutdown-loan

Military OneSource: militaryonesource.mil/government-shutdown

Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA): asymca.org
United Service Organizations (USO): uso.org

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Navy Federal Credit Union: navyfederal.org/about/government-shutdown

USAA: usaa.com/support/government-shutdown-program

Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund: feea.org/emergency-loans

PenFed: penfed.org/furlough

United States Senate Federal Credit Union:

ussfcu.org/federal-government-shutdown-assistance.html





CONTINGENCY PLAN PER DEPARTMENT

Department of Veterans Affairs:

department.va.gov/contingency-planning/human-capital-contingency-plan

Department of Defense: war.gov/Lapse-In-Appropriations

Department of Homeland Security:

dhs.gov/employee-resources/lapse-appropriations

Department of Health and Human Services:

hhs.gov/about/budget/fy-2026-hhs-contingency-staffing-plan

STAY UP-TO DATE AS THE SHUTDOWN CONTINUES AT LEGION.ORG

LEGION America 250 Holiday Challenge

Your America250 Team met on Thursday, October,16 2026 via zoom. One of the proposals that came up was for posts, units, squadrons and riders to utilize their great works around the upcoming holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah etc.) and expand it into a 250 challenge. Some ideas are to change donations to food pantries, so you donate 250 items, prepare and serve meals to 250 people, maybe provide gifts to 250 people less fortunate than you. You get the idea. Keeping in mind we do not think that many of our posts can do this alone but if you make it a family affair it becomes doable, or maybe a couple of smaller posts can join forces! Very important we are planning a video array (For the National Commanders Banquet and the Department Convention) of these events. Please send some pictures of your event to us to be included.

Remember to be a part of the Massachusetts 250 challenge you must register with the National 250 challenge, Just click the join the 250-challenge button on the National website homepage.

Let's see how much we can better our communities and support the 250 challenges along the way!







Heads Up! Mitch and his Weary Travelers from North Adams will be walking to support Legion Programs again this year with a new twist. They are planning to walk from the Race Point Lighthouse in Provincetown to North Adams via many of the Massachusetts Revolutionary monuments and byways. The exact route has not been determined but if your Post is along the Cape, Route 3A or Route 2 chances are they will be in your communities. Please come out and cheer them on or if you are up to it join them on the walk for a few miles!! More information will be forthcoming, but it is planned for the weekend of June19th so mark our calendars and be ready to get out and support them!!



November 8, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Awake, Rise, Act: Contemporary Broadsides at the

Museum of Printing: Haverhill's Museum of Printing this summer is featuring broadsides, essentially posters, created by local artists to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the "Shot Heard Round the World." "Awake, Rise, Act

November 8, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM Calling All Kids, Patriots and Sailors: Revolutionary

Summer Saturdays: Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport, FREE outdoor and indoor activities for kids all summer long. Building on the success of the Road to Revolution partnership programs, each Saturday from now until the end of September, the museum will host children's outdoor and indoor programming. The hugely successful Discovery Center experience will extend out onto the lawn with 15 new activity stations.

November 8, 2025 4:30-11:00 PM 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Plymouth 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Plymouth, MA. In conjunction with a Marine cake cutting ceremony, there will be a showcasing of Plymouth's connection to the Continental and Privateer Marines of the Revolutionary War by reenactors. From the first Continental Marine Recruiter in Plymouth 1776, Lieutenant Seth Chapin. To Plymouth's own Continental Marine Lieutenant James Warren Jr, who served aboard the USS Alliance until wounded in May 1781. He is also the son of James Warren and Mercy Otis Warren. Then the Privateer Marines who perished aboard the General Arnold in a storm in Plymouth Bay on Christmas 1778. This event is a collaboration between the Marine Corps League Detachment 1306 in Plymouth and Volunteers of America Massachusetts in Plymouth. Guest of Honor for this Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Barrow USMC Ret .

November 9,2025 1:00 PM—3:00 PM "Spies Among Us" The exhibit will recall the story of General Gage's spies who visited the Tavern in 1775, explore examples of espionage on both sides, and examine the many ways of spying that were used during the American Revolution. Spy craft played a pivotal role during the American Revolution, with both the Continental Army and British forces using intelligence operations to gain strategic advantages. The Golden Ball Tavern and its proprietor Isaac Jones, played host on a few occasions to British spies sent, by General Thomas Gage, to survey the towns that were scattered around the area from Boston to Worcester. This was just one of the British military's tactics for keeping the Patriots in line. On the American side, espionage was essential in countering the British military's superior resources and manpower.

November 12 7:00-8:00 PM Concord Museum: Declaring Independence: Why 1776

Matters Join Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward Larson for a timely forum on his forthcoming book, Declaring Independence: Why 1776 Matters. As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, Larson offers a powerful reexamination of the ideas, debates, and military turning points that made independence possible. From Common Sense to the Declaration itself, and from Boston to Trenton, Larson explores how 1776 transformed colonial resistance into a revolutionary movement—and why its lessons remain urgent for America today.

December 6, 20251:00—2:00 PM Burial Hill Tour Series—Revolutionary Connections The Plymouth Antiquarian Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum announce their continuing partnership in a free public tour series of Plymouth's historic Burial Hill for the 2025 season. Each first Saturday of the month a thematic tour of the ancient burying ground will reveal facets of Plymouth's evolving story over generations. This year honors the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution with a series theme of "Revolutionary Connections." Each monthly tour highlights the Revolutionary era in Plymouth with insights into South Shore connections to America's contest for independence. Presenters include local historians and authors who share their expertise on a range of topics, highlighting art, history, and culture atop the open-air history museum in the heart of downtown Plymouth, Burial Hill.

Goto Massachusetts250.org for more information



Lawrence A. Connors

Past National Executive Committeeman

This year we were extremely fortunate The J. B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc of Massachusetts has been selected to receive The Veterans Employment & Education 2025 Employment awards in the Large Employer Category.

Many thanks to Cindy Lacoste efforts and reaching out to The J. B. Hunt Transport Inc.

Thanks also to Our Adjutant, Lisa McPhee. And to Oliva E. Bassier of The National Staff.

In addition J. B. Hunt a second nomination was submitted By the Vernon Hill Post # 435 for The Wyman- Gordon Company. Although not awarded we encourage to all to revise and resubmit for next year.

Attached below are the Instructions & Award Categories for Awards

If you know any company's who are qualified for these awards Please either contact them directly the directly, or send me their contact information, I will forward all needed paperwork.

Thank you very much Larry

136 Pilgrim Trail Plymouth, MA 02360 774-404-1779 I_connors@comcast.net



THE EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD

Information Sheet

History: The Veterans Employment and Education Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program in 1969 when it created an award category for employers of veterans. Originally, departments were permitted to submit one nomination each for a large and a small employer of veterans. In 1992, the number of awards for employers of veterans was increased. Today, departments may submit a total of 3 nominations for this category for national consideration.

- One nomination for a small company with 50 or fewer employees
- One nomination for a medium sized company with workforces of 51 to 200
- One nomination for a large company with 201 or more employees

National Awards: These awards, one in each of the three employers of veterans size categories, are presented at the National Convention. In order to be eligible for the Employer of Veterans Awards, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- 1) At least 10 percent of the nominee's workforce must be veterans.
- 2) The nominee must have been in business for at least five years.
- 3) The nominee cannot restrict employment to veterans only.
- 4) The nominee must be a private sector employer. In other words, the nominee cannot be a city, state, or federal employer.

A department that submits a nomination for an employer of veterans that does not meet the above criteria will receive a plaque for presentation. However, that nominee will not be eligible for a national award.

Selections of the Employer of Veterans Awards are made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission Award Subcommittee, which meets during the annual Washington Conference.

The purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one small, one medium and one large employer in each state for outstanding records in the hiring and retention of veterans.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of nominations of employers of veterans is no later than January 15th. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.



THE NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION AWARDS

The first American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Commission Award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories were added to the current nine award programs.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards that are available to The American Legion. We implore all departments to continue to submit award nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400 + possible nominations. We are striving to reach 100% participation in this program.

- 1. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (SMALL)
- 2. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (MEDIUM)
- 3. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD (LARGE)
- 4. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (DVOP)
- 5. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (LVER)
- 6. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD (LOCAL OFFICE)
- 7. EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
- 8. ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED PERSON AWARD
- 9. MICHAEL GUTY HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH AWARD

To be considered for the National Award, the deadline for submittals to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission in Washington, DC is <u>January 15</u>, of the following year. Example: To be nominated for the 2018 awards the nomination must be in by January 15, 2019. 2026.

It is important that the department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention. Each of the national winners receives a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative's travel to the convention city to accept the award.

We ask that you submit written correspondence or send an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to our national headquarters office. Please title your letter '[Title] Awards- [Department name]'.

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form (see the following pages) and must not be longer than two pages of narrative. Supporting documents, which may also be submitted with the nomination, must not exceed ten pages.

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION 1608 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006

E-MAIL A SCANNED COPY VE&E@LEGION.ORG

DEPARTMENTS MAY REPRODUCE ALL FORMS FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION

At The American Legion National Convention in Tampa, FL, there was a lot of information distributed and discussed. I am sharing some of what I found out, listed below.

Media & Communications. Push information out to Post members. Does your Post have a Facebook page and/or website? We all know that only a small percentage of members show up to Post meetings. What about a Post newsletter (electronic is the way to go). I suggest that you collect email addresses from members when they pay their dues. List past and upcoming activities. And find where you can let the community know what your Post is doing. Remember that the first step in membership recruiting is RETENTION.

Is your post doing any of the following: Buddy Checks; Be The One awareness activities; Blood Drives; watch party for the Army/Navy game; enrolled in the Legion "Flag Rewards" program; sponsoring a Scouting group; Baseball team; Oratorical Contest; sponsoring local high school students to Boys or Girls state; support for local ROTC program; fundraising for any of the Legion charities; reaching out to local colleges that have a Student Veterans group;

Let us not forget that The American Legion has a loud voice in Washington. Congress and the Administration are often looking to us for input. Have you signed up for the Voter Voice Platform? To date, there are 13,095 Legion members in MA who have registered. Registration is the first step but then we – you and I – have to be active in sending emails to our representatives in the US House and Senate. It all counts! Please join me in doing this on a regular basis.

Congratulations to the Sons of The American Legion in reaching 400,000 members!

National Commander Dan Wiley has set the following priorities:

Be the One – betheone.org; Columbia Protocol training; Eliminate the stigma.

Better Together – The American Legion Family (successful Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters). Working together as a family. We got your back/We got your six.

Legislative Agenda – legion.org/action; Legion.org/advocacy/legislative.

The 3 C's – Communications (what methods do you use); Community (What is your Post known for?); Camaraderie (Buddy checks – week of Veterans Day & week of Legion Birthday, March 15).

Veterans and Children's Foundation – Accredited VSO Training; Temporary Financial Assistance.

America 250 – Legion.org/usa250/challenge

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. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com

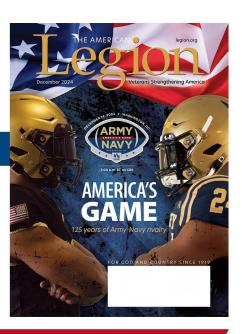




OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

2024 ARMY-NAVY GAME RECAP

- US Viewership at 9.4M*; up 31% from 2023 and highest on record since 1989
- 9th highest ranked regular season college football broadcast
- Sold Out Attendance: 60,726
- 25M digital and social media impressions
- Radio resulted in 2.3 RTG(rating) across 309 affiliates
- Most streamed game with 929K overall streams



THE AMERICAN LEGION @ ARMY-NAVY GAME: BY THE NUMBERS

- 4M Viewership across local market media buy
- New York, Boston, LA and Dallas
- Over 500K reach across Legion social media platforms
- 61 M+ potential audience reach as participants in USAA Media Row – CBS Eye on Veterans, Sirius XM, FOX News, Task & Purpose

BONUS ASSETS (NON-CONTRACTUAL)

- · Ticket delivery emails
- Inclusion in host city (Washington, D.C.) welcome branding and awareness campaign – billboards, dedicated light post signage, DC metro digital signage, DC metro buses, merchant window clings, etc.
- Army-Navy Game Mobile Application Assets

NEW FOR 2025

- National media buy with CBS Sports Network delivering season-long Armed Forces in-game assets, Army-Navy pre-game in studio presence and strong CBS Sports Digital support noting that the buy does not include the \$2M in-game:30 TV sport for the 2025 game
- Enhanced visibility through integration into USAA assets as Presenting Sponsor
- Expanded fan engagement with additional on-site activation areas on game day
- · Membership recruitment focused ticket incentive
- Clear alignment with a defined 'Partnership Mission Statement' to guide a multi-channel activation strategy

PARTNERSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

Through its partnership with the Army-Navy Game, The American Legion aims to strengthen and grow strategic relationships with key partners, lawmakers and veteran advocates; through focused storytelling that captures the elevate brand national awareness heart of our mission; rally public support for veterans through purpose-driven fundraising across all engagement touchpoints; and re-energize the pride and unity within our Legion Family.

In uniting the Army-Navy Game with The American Legion, we reaffirm our commitment to honoring the past, supporting the present, and building a brighter future for our veterans.



WINNERS WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17.
ONE PURPOSE. ONE TEAM. ONE LEGION.



LEGION Commander's and Adjutant's



2025-2026 Department Commanders



2025-2026 Department Adjutants



Department of Massachusetts
Commander's Banquet

Honoring
Scott M. Conner
Department Commander

Plainridge Park Casino

301 Washington Street Plainville, MA

Saturday, February 21st, 2026 Social - Noon Dinner Buffet - 1:00 pm

Dress Code - Casino Casual

Tickets - \$50 pp Tables are rounds of 10

For tickets: Contact your ticket chairman

the Department Office at

617-727-2966 or DeptAdjutant@MassLegion.org

Checks payable to: TAL Dept of Mass

Ticket sales cutoff date - January 24th

Commander's Charity
Operation Comfort Warriors





Department Commander's Banquet Honoring Scott M. Conner

Saturday - February 21st, 2026

Copy deadline needs to be received (<u>not</u> postmarked by) in the Department office by January 24, 2026. Please plan for USPS delivery time

	District #					
	Post # Auxiliary #	Squadron #	_	ALR #		
	Check Ad Size Desired:					
	7 ½" x 5"	\$60.00		Full Page		
	3 ½" x 5"	\$40.00		Half Page		
	1 ½" x 5"	\$25.00	Qu	arter Page		
i i	Microsoft Word Format Email PRINT READY Ads to: De			gion.org er, place the Post name and address in		
	the AdBook if a check is received	without a printe	d ac	by the time the book is submitted for e: We are not graphic designers		
0	Make check payable to: The American Legion Dept of MA					
E	Mail checks to: The American Legion State House Rm 546-2 24 Beacon St Boston MA 02133					
	Please plan early and avoid dis	sappointments!	9			
	Ads with payments received after the deadline date will not be included in the ad boo and your payment received will be considered a donation to the Commander's Charity. Thank you for understanding and respecting the importance of the printer's deadlines!					
	Any questions, feel free	to call Lisa or G	Brac	e at (617) 727-2966. Thanks!		
	Check #	_ Am	our	nt \$		
	Contact name and #					



Department Commander Scott M. Conner Booster Sheet **Deadline is January 24, 2026**

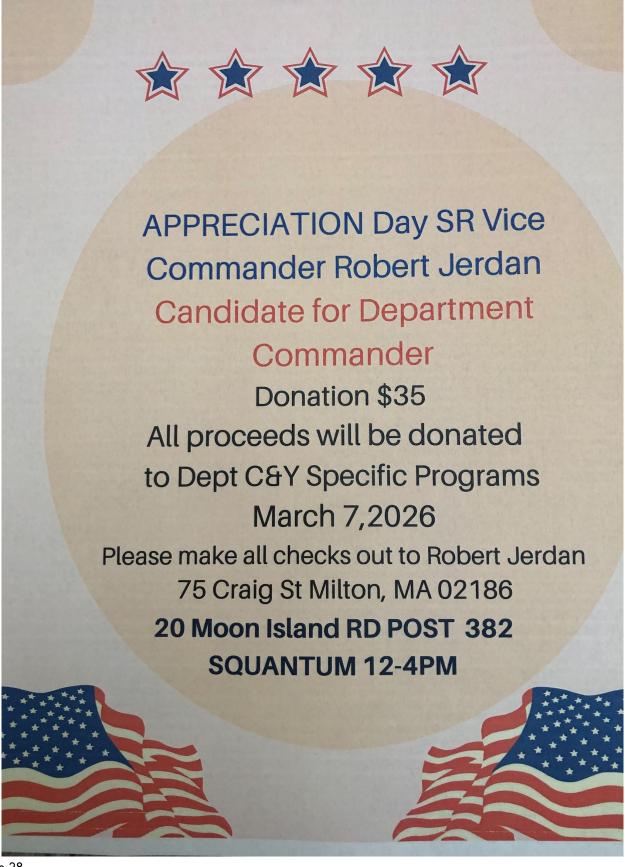
	District	Г	
Post #	Unit #	Squadron #	ALR#
	\$1.00 per person	\$2.0	0 per Mr. & Mrs.
PLEAS	E PRINT <mark>VERY</mark> CLEARL	Y 🍑 NOT I	RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSPELLINGS
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15 _		35	
16 _		36	
17 _		37	
18 _		38	
19 _			
Check #		Amount\$	

Around the Department—Free Concert



FGION Around the Department—National Veterans Small Business Week





Around the Department—Sheffield Post 340 Riders







On Thursday, October 16th, the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts presented the official charter for the American Legion Riders (Chapter 340) of Sheffield's Post 340. The charter was personally delivered to the Riders by Lou Brault and accepted by Chapter Director Neil Raymond. Post 340 members were present along with other members of the Riders of District One to witness the presentation and share the moment with the new-

Bristol Community College Veterans Day

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) has selected **Bristol Community College** as the official regional host site for **Veterans Day 2025**, a prestigious honor that recognizes the college's deep commitment to veterans and community engagement. Bristol's **Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter** was recognized as a **2024 SVA Chapter of the Year finalist**—a monumental achievement for a small community college. This national recognition reflects the chapter's outstanding leadership, advocacy, and support for student veterans on campus and beyond.

This year's celebration will bring together the entire **Southcoast Massachusetts veterans community** to honor the men and women who have courageously defended the Constitution and the citizens of the United States. Veterans, families, and supporters are invited to gather at Bristol for a day of reflection, pride, and fellowship. The year **2025** marks a powerful convergence of history: it is **America's 250th anniversary** and **160 years since the end of the Civil War**. This Veterans Day is a special opportunity to reflect on our shared legacy, honor those who have served, and show **solidarity, community, and pride in one Nation**. Bristol Community College is proud to host this meaningful celebration at such a pivotal moment in our national story.

The event will feature a **short speaking program** with distinguished guest speakers:

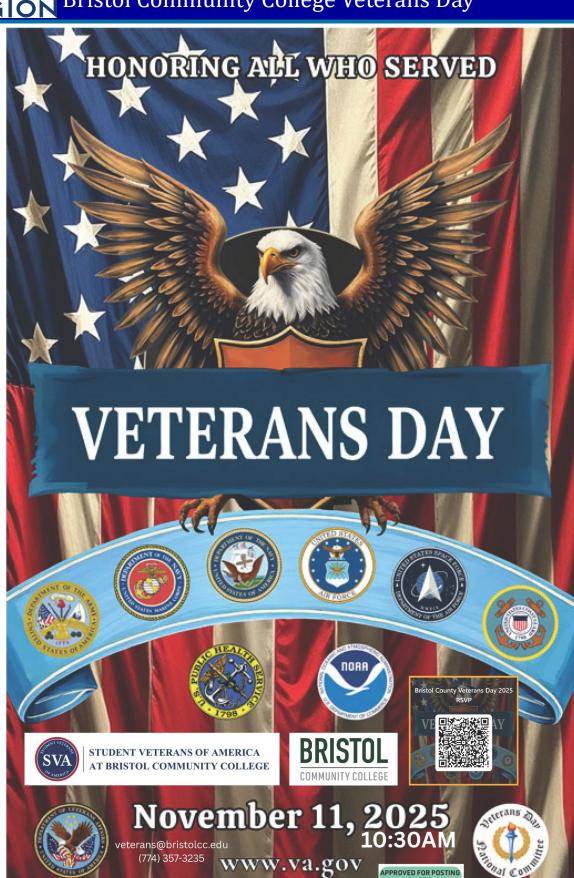
Justin Hsu, Naval Aviator Daniel Goulart, Navy SEAL

Following the program, attendees are invited to enjoy a **luncheon** provided by Bristol Community College. To ensure adequate food preparation, **please RSVP in advance**.

All members of **American Legion District 9** and **VFW District 6** are strongly encouraged to wear their **member caps** to the event. This visible show of solidarity and pride will highlight the strength and unity of our veterans community and demonstrate your ongoing commitment to service and civic engagement.

Join us in celebrating the legacy, sacrifice, and strength of our veterans. Let's make Veterans Day 2025 a powerful reminder of the values we share and the heroes who protect them.

RSVP here: https://forms.office.com/r/exYAv00r2C





Start Date	Time	Event	Location
11/8/2025		Boston Veterans Day Parade	Downtown Boston
11/9/2025	1:00 PM	District 1 Meeting	Post 125, North Admas, MA
11/15/2025	10:00 AM	Finance Committee, Membership Meeting, Department Executive Committee, Convention Meeting	Post 443, Cherry Valley, MA
11/16/2025	10:00 AM	District 10 Meeting	Post 223, Duxbury MA
11/16/2025	2:00 PM	District 8 Meeting	Post 113 Manchester, MA
11/17/2025	7:00 PM	All Adjutant's Meeting	Zoom—Call office for access
11/20/2025	7:00 PM	District 6 Meeting	Post 106 Sharon, MA
11/20/2025	7:00PM	District 9 Meeting	Post 302 Rehoboth, MA

EGION 2026 Membership Standing as of October 24, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1120	745	66.52%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN/HAMPSHIRE	3142	1992	63.40%
4	WORCESTER	4265	2709	63.52%
5	MIDDLESEX	3312	1995	60.24%
6	NORFOLK	2190	1402	64.02%
7	SUFFOLK	1112	687	61.78%
8	ESSEX	2294	1467	63.95%
9	BRISTOL	2247	1268	56.43%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3373	2110	62.56%
297	CAPITOL HILL	476	482	101.26%
462	HEADQUARTERS	867	367	42.33%
	National Quota	23055	15224	62.13%

Next Target Date 11/13/2025 65%



ALA—Why Join?

If you value patriotism, responsible citizenship, volunteerism and advocacy for veterans and their families, you will feel right at home in the American Legion Auxiliary. You can teach school children about our nation's flag, assemble care packages to send to our troops, or volunteer at your local VA Medical Center. As a member of a local unit, you'll have a ready made support system and many hands-on opportunities to serve in ways that truly make a difference.

Patriotism and veterans advocacy are so important to us that for more than nine decades we've been serving, educating, and giving to America's finest - our servicemen and women. We're individuals who answer the call of Service, Not Self.

We are more than 850,000 grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of veterans who served our great country during times of war. Some of us are veterans ourselves. We are the American Legion Auxiliary, and we are passionate about making a difference. You will find us in more then 9,500 communities in the USA - 434 units in Illinois alone, and 11 foreign countries.

Founded in 1919 during the first National Convention of The American Legion, we have grown to be the largest women's patriotic organization in the world. We would love for you to be a part of our outreach

Join Now



2026 Membership Standing as of October 26, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	202	109	53.96%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN HAMPSHIRE	637	207	32.5%
4	WORCESTER	1064	409	38.44%
5	MIDDLESEX	949	288	30.35%
6	NORFOLK	365	130	35.62%
7	SUFFOLK	95	31	32.63%
8	ESSEX	629	225	35.77%
9	BRISTOL	263	68	25.86%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	754	361	47.88%
462	HEADQUARTERS	149	72	48.32%
	National Quota	5,107	1,900	37.20%



September Edition of The Millennium



Go to Masslegion.org/newsletter for your copy



2026 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of October 24, 2025

	District	Goal	Current	%
1	BERKSHIRE	231	85	36.80%
3	HAMPDEN/FRANKLIN / HAMPSHIRE	772	184	23.83%
4	WORCESTER	1010	310	30.69%
5	MIDDLESEX	1256	205	16.32%
6	NORFOLK	835	359	42.99%
7	SUFFOLK	196	86	43.88%
8	ESSEX	442	90	20.36
9	BRISTOL	280	59	21.07%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	790	171	21.65%
	National Goal	5812	1549	26.65%







FUNday!!!

4th Sunday of the Month

Lunch

We will service a simple Lunch starting at 12:00pm until sold out or 3pm.

2. Win various cuts of meat or other prizes.

3. Tickets are randomly drawn, and winners receive their prizes.

Post Events









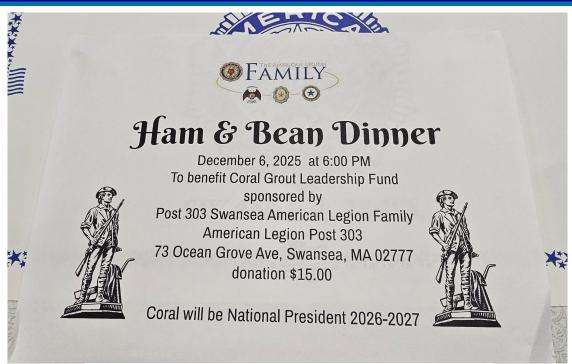
Massachusetts Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 (NSDU) Presents

Do you Think You Have a Civil War Ancestor?

- Meet with SUVCW and NSDU members who will help you begin the search to see if your ancestor fought for the Union in the Civil War
- Learn about the SUVCW and the NSDU
- Learn some genealogy basics

Date: 23 November 2026 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm William E. Carter American Legion Post No. 16 1531 Blue Hill Ave Mattapan, MA 02126

Open to the Public!



LEO C ROTH POST AUXILIARY UNIT 315 DRACUT

PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL

FILL YOUR FREEZER RAFFLE

30lbs of Brown & Budnicks Meat

LIMIT 100 TICKETS

TICKETS \$25.00

DRAWING WHEN ALL TICKETS SOLD OR ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

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

GIRLS STATE
ORATORICAL
BASEBALL
SOFTBALL
STAR SPANGLED KIDS
ASSORTED SCHOLARSHIPS
GIVE 10 FOR EDUCATION (SCHOOL SUPPLIES)



QUESTIONS CONTACT SUKEY BLAKE PHONE OR TEXT 978-710-1432

"Veterans Strengthening America"



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

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

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John Lenotte

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Sandra Davis

Service Officer

Mike Whalen Dana Sheehan

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:

Send your email address to: deptaddjutant@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

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



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