



MASSACHUSETTS E-LEGIONNAIRE

Volume 14 Issue 10

April 2024

Commander's Corner

Inside this issue:



Hey did you know that April is The American Legion Children & Youth Month? During this special time, Posts are encouraged to show local community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth. To get started, check out Children & Youth Month resources available online at <https://www.legion.org/publications/160931/april-children-youth-month>. This year, American Legion

Family Day is April 27th and Post are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary. The day is also an opportunity to bring awareness to the organization's [Be the One](#) mission to reduce the rate of veteran suicide and destigmatize the need to ask for help. Helpful links to online Family Play Day resourcesà<https://www.legion.org/publications/247440/legion-family-play-day-toolkit> and latest Family Day informationà <https://www.legion.org/dispatch/261368/legion-family-day-april-27> .

Monday, April 1st, is the next American Legion Be the One day. On the first day of

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Commander's Corner (Continued)

every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear Be the One gear to show our commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. Start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Be sure to check out the latest Tango Alpha Lima-Be The One podcast featuring Marine Corps veteran Juliana Mercer, Veteran Advocacy and Public Policy Director of Healing Breakthrough, discusses her work in advocating for the adoption of MDMA-Assisted Therapy in the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

à <https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm/talbto-07>. The mental health struggle is real and can have very dire consequences. It is up to us to help. **Be the One to Make it Personal!** Be the one to ask a veteran how they are doing. Be the one to listen when a veteran needs to talk. Be the one to reach out when a veteran is struggling. It is up to us to have the courage to be the ones to stop veteran suicide. The life you save may be the next great leader of the free world, the veteran next door or your own. Visit BetheOne.org for more information and find out how you can help.



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

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

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



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**





American Legion Family:

If the trend continues, the 2024 membership year can be a special one for The American Legion. Departments and posts have recruited and renewed about 15,000 more members than we had at this time last year. While our direct mail efforts have been less successful, this only demonstrates the proven success of personal contact, even if it's by phone.

A larger American Legion benefits all Americans. This means more Legionnaires to engage in Buddy Checks, as we commit to "Be the One" to stop veteran suicide. It means more Legionnaires to operate great programs such as Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, ora-

torical contests and American Legion Baseball.

Trends can be deceiving, however. In the past, we have started the membership year strong only to lose momentum in the final stretch. "Wait till next year," has been the battle cry for many losing teams. I reject that mentality. There is no time like the present and our membership year runs through June 30.

"Rocky" fans of a certain age are familiar with the song "Eye of the Tiger." The chorus is meant to channel the passion and commitment it takes to win. Generations ago, it took Eye-of-the-Tiger dedication to make The American Legion the largest and greatest veterans organization in the country. We still are. My predecessor set a goal to recruit 75,000 new members during the 2023 membership year. We surpassed that. The goal for 2024 is 78,000 new members and it is perfectly achievable.

Any Legionnaire who recruits two new members to our organization will receive a "Be the One" dog tag coin from me.

If you are not a current member, you can join simply by [clicking here](#). You can [renew just as easily here](#). If you want to beat inflationary dues increases, consider a [Paid Up for Life membership](#). You could also join more than 10,000 other Legionnaires and try our [new three year membership option](#).

As I said earlier, personal contact matters. Legionnaires who are welcomed by active and engaged posts in their communities are more likely to stay Legion. One of the highlights of my time in The American Legion was when my post, 157 in Horicon, Wis., was recognized for "100 percent" and "All Time High" membership awards during years that I served as its commander and adjutant. It was never about "me." It was always about "we."

As The American Legion observes its 105th birthday, I can think of no better manner of celebrating than to put our organization on the path for growth. With your help, I know that we can do just that.



In a new video, SAL National Commander Don “JR” Hall encourages American Legion posts to not only participate in American Legion Family Day, but to publicize the event at the end of April.

“Get your local press to promote American Legion Family Day in advance and invite them to cover your event. We

need to let the community know we are here to support them in addition to the veterans and their families,” Hall said.

A Legion Family Day press release template is available [here](#). Download the document, update it with your post’s details and submit it to your local media.

The National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day](#) at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April — this year, that is April 27.

For Legion Family Day, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary.

“No two posts will do it the same,” Hall said. “Some may have cookouts, welcoming the community to come in and visit the post. Others may have blood drives, dinners, or other events within their communities.”

American Legion Family Day also is an opportunity to bring community awareness to the organization’s [“Be the One” initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

Share your event

American Legion posts are encouraged to share details on their Legion Family Day events, either in advance or afterward, at Legiontown.org.



Membership—DSVC Nelson Blake

Hello to all of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion family I want to congratulate the legion for reaching the 90% goal that was given to use from national which we reached before the March 13th cutoff date. I am happy to say that we have half the department that made the 90% goal while the other half was very close to reaching it. We as a department have plenty of room for growth over the remaining few months of this legion year. The Sons managed to exceeded there 80 percent goal by over 3% and have a few district that have reached or accessed the 100% goal and others that are closing in on the 90 % goal they have coming up in April. I would also like to thank you all for helping the department on reaching the goals set for us and for keeping me in the red sox bowtie for almost the whole year. Lets hope we can reach the 95% goal and maybe even the 105% goal before department convention.

As I have been saying this whole year “Just do your Job”.

A big pat on the back of district 4 and district 7 for leading the department in membership.

Nelson Izaak Blake

DSVC/ Membership Chair



Multiple Year Membership

Ready to lock-in a three year membership before the national per-capita dues increase goes into effect? It's easy. Here's how:

For renewals, visit legion.org/renew and select the three-year membership option.

For new joins, visit legion.org/join and select the three-year membership option.

“We have wanted this multiyear option for our members, and now that it's here, the excitement for it shows in the number of Legionnaires who have taken advantage of it,” National Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Matt Jabaut said. “The multiyear membership option saves members from receiving renewal notices every year, and it's another great benefit to being an American Legion member.”

The American Legion's national per-capita dues will increase from \$18.50 to \$23.50 starting with the 2025 membership year. The \$5 increase will go into effect July 1, 2024.

Reminders about multiyear membership: Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website (legion.org/renew and legion.org/join). Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a three-year membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.

- Payment for the three-year membership is upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Don't Abandon your Comrades.....Shut the Back Door

It's a perpetual conversation, you got to help us get new members. Well, my magic wand is broken, so how about the next best thing. We keep the ones we have! Yes we all want new, younger members. Someone to pass the torch to. And The American Legion has many tools to help, and you need to know how to use the tools. Let's look at your membership roster. This is a conversation I have all to often:

Post "We need to find new members, we need to get to 100%." "What can you do to help us?"

Me "Did you renew all your current members?" "What's your membership percentage right now?"

Post "I think we are at 96%, we need 6 more members to make a 100%". "Memberships have stopped trickling in."

Me "Have you looked at your Post Roster from MyLegion?" "Log onto MyLegion, do a roster inquiry using the Expired filter from the drop down box on the right side of your computer screen."

Post "Oh, ok." "Wow, must be 20 - 24 names there, and at least 14 that haven't renewed since 2023."

Me "Exactly!" "Don't let them out the back door, reach out to the members, their are many reasons they have not renewed, and quite often they just forgot." "So reach out and contact them."

Yes, we realize that not all are going to renew, some may be what we call 1 year wonders. They came from the "462/DMS" list and they are not feeling it. But many, you will notice have a vested interested, just look at the continuous years. When you see a member with 5-10-15-25 yrs of continuous membership, you need to reach out to them. Consider getting a group together, develop a script, and make some calls, you may find that 100% is not so far off. And please, when a new face walks through the front door, approach and be welcoming, you never know when your Post is being interviewed by a veteran looking to reconnect with their comrades.

Scott Conner
Dept Vice Commander
Department off Massachusetts
Scottscpo@Gmail.com

Mentoring.....

Creating Solid Footing for the Future

We are reminded to train our replacement, who's going to be the Junior-Vice Commander, or Finance Officer, maybe a new Sgt-at-Arms. So what's training, "Here's the new Post Officers Guide, let me know if you have any questions." Though it may be considered training, is it truly effective? To some degree. Maybe send the newly appointed officer to a District or Department training seminar. Great! Not only effective training, but also developing a network to help answer questions.

We are well on our way to creating a strong Post Officer. Add a dash of MENTORING and you're more apt to have a better trained and more effective individual.

Mentoring is a protected relationship which supports learning and experimentation and helps individuals develop their potential.

The purpose of mentoring is to facilitate the personal and professional growth of individuals by providing guidance, support, and knowledge transfer from experienced mentors to mentees.

With Post elections coming up, and new people filling officer positions, mentoring is extremely important. All too often, we have individuals taking a post position under duress, they get "talked into" a position they don't really understand. The Post leadership should make every effort to provide that person with a mentor. Maybe you didn't have time to train your replacement, such as the Post Finance Officer passed away, or the Sr Vice quit because of a personal issue. Sound familiar? And again, training is provided, but you really need to also provide a mentor. The mentor, though sage, does not need to be a subject matter specialist (financial background), but it certainly helps. An effective mentor needs to be a good listener and supporter, and answer questions, regardless how mundane. In a nutshell, do not hover, be overbearing, etc.. Be a good solid constructive supporter, pass on the info for the member to succeed. Match up mentors with mentees that will enrich the Post, it's worth the investment.

Scott Conner
Dept Vice Commander
Department of Massachusetts
Scottscpo@Gmail.com

Department Membership Standings 2024 Membership Year

District 4: Worcester 96.16%

District 7: Suffolk 94.78%

District 1: Berkshire 93.53%



The American Legion Department of Massachusetts busy season is soon approaching. Reminder Post Data Reports are due to National by April 15th. This form is vital this year with the National and Department per capita dues increases in July. Posts who want to increase their dues need to submit this form by the due date. This form also provides the Department with your Posts vital information such as meeting dates, times and location. The form also provides mailing address, phone numbers, emails, and websites to the Department. If you need help to complete this form do not hesitate to contact the office.

Training, training, and training. The Department will be providing training during our 105th Department Convention in Marlborough on Saturday June 8th. The training is tentatively scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM prior to the elections. Please stop in we will have the National Chairman of Membership & Post Activities Matt Jabout as a guest speaker. The training will be a brief overview of several subjects to include membership, Post community engagement, proper ways to complete all forms, and fundraising to name a few subjects.

If there is something in particular you want to see please contact the Department.

Yours in Service,

Lisa A. McPhee

Department of Massachusetts Adjutant





**The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts**

RM 546 - 2 STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MA. 02133-1044
(617) 727-2966

Email – deptadjutant@masslegion.org

Website – masslegion.org

March 27, 2024

Re: Opposition to Housing Illegal Migrants at old Chelsea Soldiers' Home

Good Day Madam Governor Healy,

American Legion Department of Massachusetts Executive Committee voted unanimously via email to write a letter indicating our dissatisfaction with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts plan to give illegal migrants precedent over homeless veterans and Massachusetts citizens in placement in the old Chelsea Soldiers' Home emergency shelter.

Recently at a press conference you spoke on the Commonwealth's plan to implement housing of illegal migrants at the old Chelsea Soldiers' Home on an emergency basis. During the press conference Secretary of Veterans Services Dr. Jon Santiago stated, "Massachusetts has proven that we can take care of veterans and families experiencing homelessness in our state," he said. "While EOVS formerly operated the building slated for demolition, this project operates independently and will not impact the daily routines or services at the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea." This is not entirely correct for according The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress Point in Time (PIT) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has 545 homeless veterans. The American Legion Department of Massachusetts firmly believes and opposes precedent and placement of illegal migrants over homeless veterans or Massachusetts citizens in emergency housing. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts spends approximately \$75 million dollars a month on illegal migrants or \$10,000 a month per illegal migrant family. The American Legion Department of Massachusetts steadfastly believes this money should be earmarked for homeless veterans and homeless Massachusetts citizens first prior to any disbursement of money or resources to illegal migrants or their families. The American Department of Massachusetts while empathic towards the plight of illegal migrants we as an organization understand that with rising inflation and cost of basic needs escalating our state's priority should be dedicated to our own homeless veterans and Massachusetts citizens first and foremost.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Davis".

Sandra Davis
Department Commander

"Veterans Serving America"
Yours Comradeship

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. McPhee".

Lisa A. McPhee
Department Adjutant

Cc: Speaker Ronald Joseph Mariano
Senate President Karen E. Spilka
Secretary Jon Santiago
Senator John C. Velis Chairman Joint Committee on Veteran & Federal Affairs
Representative Gerard J. Cassidy Joint Committee on Veteran & Federal Affairs

WHAT CAN I DO?

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, The American Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state, and local levels. In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we encourage each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth. Each year the Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern. They may include: **Child health, Child safety, Family support**

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

To start, consider:

- Obtaining speakers to talk about concerns or topics within your community.
- Asking local law enforcement to do a bike safety demonstration, finger printing or to talk about internet safety.
- Conducting a community project with and for children.
- Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then act.
- Sponsoring a carnival or talent show featuring young people to raise money for a community project.
- Featuring a youth panel at a local school where participants can discuss some of their concerns.
- Using videos, if applicable, enlisting the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing.
- Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, but get involved. Remember, the only limitation you have for youth programs and activities is your own imagination!

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Legislation to improve conditions for children is a focal point of The American Legion's Children & Youth program. By working on behalf of sound legislation, The American Legion, in accordance with mandated positions, strives to bring into enactment the laws necessary to meet the needs of all children. Whether the legislation involves a local matter, pertains to a problem of a particular state or is an item of national concern, it requires the efforts of all interested in the wellbeing of children and youth if it is to become law. Most state assemblies begin their sessions early in the year. This is the best time to present legislators with any new legislation or changes needed in current laws.

Within each community, there is a great deal of local legislative action, which deserves continued attention: city ordinances affecting children and youth, appropriations for schools and school budgets, immunization, child abuse and neglect statutes, juvenile courts, local public welfare departments, playgrounds, traffic regulations and other such matters relating to the health and welfare of children. There is a great need for informed public participation in local government matters. And when it comes to local matters affecting our children and youth, The American Legion should make itself heard.

PROMOTE YOUR ACTIVITIES

You should publicize your programs and activities. Have the mayor or another local official issue a proclamation declaring April as Children & Youth Month. The post commander should issue a news release proclaiming April as Children & Youth Month and list what the post will be doing for this annual observance. Remember, programs supporting the children and youth of your community are news! Invite the news media to your activities and keep them informed.

REPORT SUCCESSES

Following the observance of Children & Youth Month, the Children & Youth chairmen need to turn their attention to the annual reporting of expenditures and activities. Be sure you have an accurate record of all money spent for the benefit of children and youth by your post/unit during the current year, as well as the number of children who received services and assistance. Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion departments receive copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) for later distribution to posts. This form has been developed to track necessary information about The American Legion's overall program. It is the responsibility of the post Children & Youth chairman to report his/her program activities to the individual designated in the post to complete the Consolidated Post Report. The CPR can be done online at MyLegion.org by the post adjutant.

As we celebrate children and youth month, we think of the four pillars of the American Legion. One of the four pillars is mentoring our youth. The American Legion believes it is the right of every child to attend a school that is safe, secure, and conducive to learning. We encourage children to achieve their highest potential by living a drug free lifestyle. We try to help pass appropriate legislation aimed at the prevention and prosecution of child exploitation and victimization. We set up programs for youth that provide education, encourage an understanding of fair play, and provide instruction in civic responsibilities.

The American Legions children and youth program has been around almost as long as the American Legion. Prior to 1939 the American Legion observed May as child welfare. However, because May was traditionally Poppy month, the American Legion Auxiliary always observed April as Child welfare month. In 1938, a major program change designated April as child welfare month, and started a cooperative venture between the legion and the auxiliary to celebrate the children and youth of this nation.

Temporary financial assistance is the landmark program of the American Legion's national commission on children and youth. Established in 1925, as a form of direct aid to children, the TFA is unique in the social work field. Through the TFA, a post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veteran children. Funds are granted over a temporary period to eligible children in need when all other local resources have been exhausted. TFA is used to assist families in meeting the costs of food, shelter, utilities, and health expense items when the parents are unable to do so, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable home environment. The funds for the operation of this program are provided from a share of the earnings of the American Legion endowment fund. The veteran does not have to be a legionnaire for the child to be eligible.

The American Legion has many child safety programs such as child abuse and neglect, suicide, child safety, school safety, missing and abducted children, accident prevention and substance abuse. These are just a few of the programs for children and youth.

Most of you are more familiar with the Americanism programs. Post 17, (Tennessee), is very fortunate to have dedicated Americanism chairman and have highly respected programs. Every program is not only a worthwhile activity but a strong catalyst for increased knowledge, healthy competition, the development of character and a bona fide appreciation of the American Legion's contribution to the betterment of life in each home community.

Young Americans benefit through the value of your diligent efforts in promoting American Legion baseball, the national high school oratorical contest, school medal awards, American Legion Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports program, Boy Scouts, flag etiquette, education, JROTC and scholarship activities related to the finest in citizenship training. Through the Americanism programs we work to achieve our goals for God and country as outlined in the preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

We must develop plans to bring in children that don't have easy access to our programs. We must try to get the children involved at an early age. As they get older it will be harder to change their attitudes and habits.

Our children do not have any control over where they were born or who their parents are. Many times, children are born into loving families that teach strong home values, but their friends have a greater influence on them than their families do. The peer pressure is so great that it overrides the positive influence at home. So, what can we do?

It would not be realistic to think we can go into their environment and have as great an impact as we would if they are away from the negative influences on them. If we can gain their confidence and trust. If we can give them a vision and hope then we can not only have a positive influence on them, but hopefully they will have a positive influence on others.

We have learned from history that our children that are born into desperate conditions and receive no support, or an effort to make them stronger, turn to violence, drugs and gangs. We must get to these children at an early age and get them into our youth programs and try to educate them and put something positive in their life. If we can do this, we can make a difference.

As Americans we need to remember amid the problems we face daily with the environment, crime, unemployment, and financial uncertainty, the one constant that makes or breaks this nation is our young people. They are our future, and our dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow rest in their hands. They are our greatest natural resource.

Thank you.

Drew Pajak
DVC, Americanism Chairman

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

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

Contact your congressional representatives

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



National Commander Seehafer to Congress: Be the One is 'a mission'

The American Legion, Mar 13, 2024



During testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer delivered some of the organization's areas of focus on its legislative agenda. (view the testimony [here](#))

But once such item, Seehafer clarified, is more than just an item on an agenda: The American Legion's **Be the One** mission to reduce veteran suicide.

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer address the Joint Session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs

"I've heard it described as a marketing campaign and cool slogan, to a catchy phrase and even a worthwhile initiative. None of these words appropriately reflect what Be the One is to The American Legion," Seehafer told members of Congress. "It's a mission, our mission, to change lives and save lives. There is no single deed that The American Legion can accomplish that outweighs the prevention of a veteran from taking their own life. Nothing."

Seehafer noted there are instances that show Be the One is working in preventing suicide. He shared the story of California Legionnaire and suicide survivor Jeff Freeman, who shared at a Be the One event last year that "The Legion saved my life."

"That's what Be the One is," Seehafer said. "It's our mission to be the one to save one."

Doing so, Seehafer said, means "destigmatizing the issue of mental health. Veterans value courage, and it takes courage to ask for help. However, The American Legion does not sit back and wait. Instead, we take a pro-active approach and ask veterans if they are OK. That's the Buddy Check."

Seehafer thanked Congress for passing legislation that directed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct its own national Buddy Check Week, which took place last October.

"Without a doubt, it made an impact," Seehafer said. "Personal contact changes lives, and personal contact saves lives."

Seehafer shared some chilling facts: that more veterans have died by suicide since 9/11 than those who died serving in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism combined; and that a veteran is 50 percent more likely to take his or her life than a person who has never served in the military.

To assist the Legion's efforts, Seehafer urged Congress to:

- Enhance the military experience by supporting quality-of-life legislation expanding access to affordable childcare, increasing funding for barracks and family housing, and ensuring timely access to mental healthcare.
- Improve oversight of military sexual trauma claims, and ensure that both VA and the Department of Defense provide timely, meaningful and sensitive treatment for those who have experienced it.
- Expand research and access to alternative treatments and therapies. He noted the National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that in 2021, approximately 2.8 million veterans experienced an illicit drug or alcohol use disorder and 92.4 percent did not receive treatment. "We urge you to consider legislation that would effectively address TBI and PTSD," Seehafer said.

Seehafer shared the success of a VA policy enacted in 2023 offering free emergency suicide prevention care in and outside the VA system. More than 49,000 veterans accessed this benefit, saving a projected \$64 million in health-care costs.

He also [shared another story](#), that of a veteran who came up to him during his visit to Tennessee and spoke of the trouble he'd had after leaving the military and was dealing with both a TBI and PTSD. Dealing with a variety of issues, he had considered ending his own life.

After failing to find any assistance or sympathy, the veteran did try to kill himself. Somehow, the gun failed to fire twice.

The veteran ended up going to American Legion Post 172 in Georgia, where he was provided with that "caring embrace" and was connected "with the right people, which not only saved his home and family, but him," Seehafer said. "Also, so this veteran would realize his purpose and relevance in life, he now leads his post as their commander. This, ladies and gentlemen, is why we have Be the One."

Shifting to other items on the Legion's legislative agenda, Seehafer highlighted some of those:

- "Criminally punishing companies that prey on veterans and their families is extremely important, as we see a constant barrage of advertisements from unaccredited actors who charge excessive fees for services on claims that should be provided at no cost."
- "Requiring all separating servicemembers to participate in a robust Transition Assistance Program, which would cover employment and business opportunities, educational resources, housing options, health benefits and other quality of life topics that can improve mental wellness and reduce suicide."
- "Ensuring that every branch of our military is paid in the event of a government shutdown. The last long shutdown caused a pay interruption for the U.S. Coast Guard. This should never happen again."

Seehafer said that members of Congress have shown they unify when it comes to veterans' issues, and that they have an opportunity to do that again through passage of a complete budget.

"Today, Russia is on the march, illegal crossings at our southern border remain high and veterans continue to fight the plague of suicide," Seehafer said. "Any member of the military will tell you that you cannot move forward without a plan. You may win a fire fight, but you will not achieve your overall mission without a strategy.

"For the sake of veterans, their families, for all Americans, put partisan politics aside and give us your plan."

After delivering his remarks, Seehafer and American Legion national leadership and staff answered questions by members of the committee. Those questions included:

- House Committee Chairman Mike Bost asked what could be done to increase accountability within DoD to ensure servicemembers leaving the military are given the best possible transition assistance. "The TAP program is essential. We have the resources, but we're not implementing and giving the time," Seehafer said. "The resources are there. Let's use them. Give our enlisted the time."
- Senate Committee Chairman Jon Tester asked if VA has included The American Legion in conversations about what the new presumptive conditions will be included in relation to toxic exposure during military service. "They do ask us for our input, and it feels like they're really receiving it," Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Director Tiffany Ellet said. "As far as I know, we're working pretty well together." Tester also asked if the Legion supported The GUARD Act, which would impose criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals and businesses who charge to file veterans benefits claims. "Without a doubt, we support that legislation," Seehafer said. "It pains me to know that there are predators out there."
- House Committee Ranking Member Mark Takano asked if the Legion would support moving congressional oversight of the TAP program from the Armed Services committees to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. "We love this committee. We trust this committee," American Legion Executive Director Chanin Nuntavong said. "We would support that." Takano also asked about Legion support for The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act, which addresses disparities in educational benefits between veterans of the Guard and reserves, and those from the active-duty component. "This is near and dear to our hearts," Seehafer said. "This leads to gainful employment. That's what we want for our veterans."
- Senate Committee member Angus King asked if the Legion would be open to having its posts serve as safe storage facilities for the firearms of veterans who may be in crisis. "We would love to be able to partner with anyone, especially you, on this," Seehafer said. "A lot of people don't realize how many posts we have."
- House Committee member Chris Pappas asked what consequences have resulted in the failure to pass the Major Richard Star Act, which has Legion support and would allow combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service to concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

“We classify it in our circles as a tax, a veteran’s tax,” Seehafer said. “Is it their fault that somehow they get disabled, and now they’re penalized? It is wrong. When we talk about changing a life, passage of that bill would definitely change a life.”

- Senate Committee member Richard Blumenthal thanked the Legion for its support of the PACT Act and asked for its support of the GUARD Act. Seehafer reiterated the Legion’s support for the legislation.

- Senate Committee member Maggie Hassan asked how important it is that veterans now eligible for VA care and benefits under the PACT Act enroll in the health-care system. “(VA) is the center of care – not just adequate care, but the best,” Seehafer said, adding veterans he’s talked with during his travels reference VA care as “top notch’. We will continue to get the word out: this is the place to go.”

- House Committee member Delia Ramirez asked what a solution might be to prevent veterans from possible deportation before they become U.S. citizens. “We see this all the time. Veterans ... are not aware they can apply for expedited citizenship,” Nuntavong said. “We need to take every opportunity to educate servicemembers about their responsibility to apply for the paperwork that needs to be to help expedite, provide education and make it part of the culture of ... being a part of an organization to serve and honor the United States of America. We have to do a better job of helping those. Most of them don’t know that opportunity’s there.”

- House Committee member Greg Landsman asked for Legion feedback on legislation that would create a pilot program to employ veterans in the agricultural, conservation and nutrition sectors. “Absolutely we believe in this,” National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Jay Bowen said. “Veterans ... a lot of them are outdoorsman, and some of that is what drove them to go into the military. It’s just a natural migration for them when they get out to seek those types of careers. We certainly support that and would advocate for that.”



What's in that Bill?

You may have noticed some of our automated posts recently going something like this:

"Provisions of S. 2131 by Sen. Martin Heinrich [D-NM] were enacted on 03/09/24 (via H.R. 4366). Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024."

How do we know?

Starting in 2016, we introduced a [text incorporation tool](#) to analyze what percentage of any one bill got incorporated into another that passed. The link in the previous sentence explains:

"All too often Congress cuts bills apart and pastes them back together... The bills that finally get a vote are an amalgam of provisions from other bills that either can't or won't get a standalone vote themselves. The most important legislation is crafted this way."

FYI, the ellipsis in the quote above is to eliminate our use of "omnibus" bills because since 2016, including just last week, Congress has also regularly passed "minibus", "megabus" (smaller than omnibus, but bigger than minis; yes, it's goofy, but that's jargon for you) and various other big chunks of legislation that get their very own neologisms.

Since the titles of these big chunks of legislation are typically uninformative (for example, "[H.R. 4366: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024](#)"), we thought it would be a good idea to get into the guts of the bills that passed and see how their contents compared with other introduced legislation.

How Do I See Exactly What Passed?

On the page for the bills that passed such as the Consolidated Appropriations, if you scroll down, you'll see everything we think was incorporated and the percentage of that incorporation. So, for example, for S. 2131 noted above, we believe that 90% made it into the Consolidated Appropriations and we provide a link to let you compare the two texts. Differences are indicated with color.

Old Business

Last week, the most party line vote in the House was a rule to allow for votes on two bills - one on expanding access to capital and one that would add penalties for immigrants charged with or convicted of crimes on 3/6. We guessed that that it was the immigrant penalties bill that caused the split, but the access to capital bill was voted on this week and was purely party line. Go figure.

[H.R. 2799: Expanding Access to Capital Act of 2023](#) passed on 3/8 by [212-205](#). The immigrant penalties bill - [H.R. 7511: Laken Riley Act](#) - passed on 3/7 by [251-170](#). All Republicans and 37 Democrats voted for the Laken Riley Act giving it more bipartisan support than the access to capital one.

Over the past couple months EOVS and Women Veterans Network (“WVN”) has been posting info on both their website and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MAWomenVets> regarding the many events and services available in our state. It is the mission of EOVS and WVN to ensure that the necessary services are available to all veterans from all wars, conflicts and branch of service. If you haven’t joined the WVN, please take a moment to visit the site and sign in to receive email and newsletter updates. EOVS recently relaunched the **Women Veterans Network website** featuring an easier-to-navigate design, enhanced accessibility features, quick links to federal, state and nonprofit veteran resources, plus ways to stay connected to the WVN with events and news sections. Their website is: [Massachusetts Women Veterans Network](https://www.masswomenvets.org/)

Coming soon is the largest of the WVN events, the 16th Annual Women Veterans Conference, which will be held from 9:00am to 4:00 pm on May 4th at the Doubletree Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA. Registration is now open at <https://form.jotform.com/240645203461044> . There will be Veteran-Services Organizations, a dedicated room of VA professionals, multiple break-out sessions with presenters, vendor tables and wellness offerings. Come out and enjoy a relaxing day with your sisters-in-arms. It is always an informative and fun event.

Another event from EOVS for all Veterans being held from 6-8:00pm April 11th, is “**Bridging the Gap**” a social event for transitioning service members. Veterans will find resources and services to aid in transitioning to civilian life. Guidance will focus on benefits, from healthcare, to employment and community connections. It will be at UMASS Lowell North Star Campus, 55 Old Bedford Rd., Suite 100, Lincoln, MA.



It is time to **Nominate a Female Veteran for the 2024 Deborah Sampson Award**. Each year, the **Deborah Sampson Award** recognizes a Female Veteran who has gone above and beyond to serve her fellow Women Veterans. The deadline for nominations is April 26, 2024, so download the application today! For inspiration, **read more** about last year's winner, Jenny D'Olympia.

[Download the Nomination Form](#)

Remember always pass the word, we have services in our state that can benefit those in need.
Thank you, Cindy Lacoste, DECW

!



Women *All Eras*
Veterans *All Branches*
Network *All Gather*

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9:00am to 4:00pm

DoubleTree by Hilton
99 Eardman Way
Leominster, MA



16th ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS NETWORK CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION



HIGHLIGHTS

- Veteran-Serving Organizations:** Learn about programs and services including a dedicated room of VA professionals
- Presenters:** Multiple information sessions
- Wellness:** Various offerings such as chair massage and therapy dogs

www.mass.gov/veterans

Reminder: The American Legion National Commander, Daniel Seehafer will be in MA the dates of April 4 – 7. He will be visiting several Posts: #155 Dalton (April 4); #294 Quincy (April 5); and #234 Northboro (April 6). There is also a banquet at the Best Western – Marlboro on April 6.

If you are unable to attend one of the Post meetings or have not purchased your ticket for the banquet, I highly encourage you to go online to www.legion.org to watch a video of one of his speeches. He is a great speaker, very motivational.

Back to the topic of the year. Elections. In MA, the following dates are critical. August 24, voter registration deadline; August 26, vote by mail application deadline; September 3, state primaries; and November 5, elections. The primaries in September are for US Senator, US Congress, Governor's Council, State Senators and Representatives along with other positions. Be sure you are registered to vote. Be an informed voter – forget the ads, look at what votes and policies the candidates have. And make sure to VOTE !!! Every vote counts.

Note that you do not have to wait until the election to make your voice heard. One way is to go to www.legion.org, Legislative Action Center. This will give you information on current American Legion Legislative Priorities. You can sign up for email notifications and send email directly to your Congressional Representatives. I do this on a regular basis, takes about a minute once you have registered.

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

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



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it has processed its one millionth Veteran [benefits](#) claim in fiscal year 2024. VA reached this milestone March 4 — the earliest in VA history and nearly six weeks faster than the previous all-time record (from fiscal year 2023). VA has completed almost 35% more claims than at this point last year.

This increase in Veteran benefits is largely due to the PACT Act, which has empowered VA to expand health care and benefits to millions of Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country. “We’re proud to be delivering more benefits, more quickly, to more Veterans and survivors than ever before – but we’re not slowing down,” said **VA Under Secretary for Benefits Josh Jacobs**. “We won’t rest until every Veteran and every survivor to get the VA benefits and care that they’ve earned. So, to any Veteran or survivor out there: don’t wait, [submit your claim today](#).”

Whenever a Veteran files a claim, our goal is to work with them every step of the way to get to “yes.” As a result of this approach, VA has been able to grant benefits for 60.4% of claims filed in 2024 — including 75.1% of PACT Act claims — a sharp increase in the grant rate from pre-PACT Act levels.

As a part of reaching one million claims, VA processed 221,592 disability compensation and pension claims during January 2024 alone – making it VA’s highest single month of claims production ever, surpassing the previous monthly record of 193,411 from May 2023. VA’s top 11 best claims production months in agency history all happened in the last 12 months. Additionally, the organization continues to achieve single day processing milestones – VA processed between 9,000 and 10,000 Veteran claims 43 times in fiscal year 2024 and more than 10,000 Veteran claims 35 times during the same time period. February 7, 2024 was the best single production day ever in VBA history with 10,997 claims completed. Before fiscal year 2024, VA had only had three 9,000 claim production days in history.

As a result of this record pace, Veteran claims pending over 125 days – known as the backlog – has decreased by more than 42,000 claims over the past three months. Due to [record numbers of claims applications](#), the backlog is still [expected to grow in 2024](#) before decreasing at the end of this year – and VA will continue to hire new claims processors, invest in continuous learning for all claims processors, and make technology improvements to ensure that Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors receive the benefits they’ve earned and deserve as quickly and accurately as possible.

VA remains focused on hiring and training new claims processors and has grown the claims processing workforce more than 50% since fiscal year 2021. This growth, along with new technology to assist those processors, has allowed VA to meet the historic demand for benefits precipitated by the passage of the PACT Act in 2022.

To learn more about VA disability benefits, visit VA’s [website](#) and [apply](#).



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

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

**Place:
Leo C. Roth Post #315
574 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826
Donation: \$35.00
Please mail checks payable to
Nelson I. Blake
21 Freda Lane Lowell MA 01854
or venmo @captblake82
(978) 201-7821
RSVP by 4/10/24**



The American Legion Family

13th ANNUAL “PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS” BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 2024
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

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

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

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

50/50 Raffles | Food provided during tournament

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

Make checks payable to: Whitman SAL Squadron 22

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



**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
“PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS”
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

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

\$25.00 PER PERSON / \$125.00 PER TEAM

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

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

**SEND PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
BILL SHEEHAN
296 Hancock St. Abington, MA 02351**

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

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



Around the Department— Partnership for Kids



Department of Massachusetts The American Legion Family

Post, Unit, Squadron, Riders Number: _____

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

Contact Person: _____

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

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

Donation Amount: \$ _____

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

Please circle the organization the donation is from:

POST UNIT SQUADRON RIDERS INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS

Baystate Children's Hospital

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

Boston Children's Hospital

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

UMass Memorial Healthcare

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



Around the Department— Bourne National Cemetery



“Thank you” to friends, State Commander James Morrissey, Veterans of Foreign Wars Massachusetts, Past Department Commander & Past National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald, The American Legion Department of Massachusetts, and the MA Patriot Guard Riders, who all came out to help honor a friend’s Dad receiving military honors yesterday. It was short notice for all, but they came.

Thank you comrades





Around the Department— Plymouth Post 40



🇺🇸 🍀 Scituate St Patrick's Day Parade 🍀



Around the Department— Post 260 South Hadley



CONGRATULATIONS to the South Hadley St Patrick's Parade Committee for its 1st Place win in the Most Patriotic Float category for this year's Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade! It was an honor for the South Hadley American Legion Post 260 Honor Guard to escort the float as well as being one of the proud sponsors. A special honor. A very special "THANK YOU" to the members of the committee who worked so hard honoring South Hadley's 8 service members missing in action from WWII. Thank you too for letting us hold the trophy...! 🏆



Around the Department— Post 338 Southwick

The American Legion Post 338 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 338 responds to help an elderly couple who were displaced by a fire in December 2023.

Elderly couple displaced following Southwick house fire



The Southwick Post 338 decided to help this couple and later learned that the husband was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Southwick Post 338 Commander Darcie Rock accompanied by Post 338 Adjutant Marie Falcetti visited the elderly couple on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, and provided the veteran with a two-thousand-dollar donation to assist them. A week later, the squadron donated one thousand dollars to the elderly couple.

Video of fire covered by WWLP channel 22 news is available [HERE](#)

A fantastic job by the team at the Southwick American Legion Post 338.



Darcie and Marie with U.S. Navy veteran Anthony Grabowski



Around the Department— Post 435 Vernon Hill



Acknowledgement to the members of Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435 and the community for their presence at the Vietnam Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony at Green Hill Park, Worcester, MA. [Vernon Hill American Legion Post 435](#)



Around the Department— Auxiliary Unit 162



Trudy Tervo works on a blanket during a recent Berlin Auxiliary meeting.

BERLIN – Berlin American Legion Auxiliary Unit 162, is an organization dedicated to supporting veterans and their families, focuses in assisting families in distress and championing various causes. Global activities encompass:

Community Service: Engaging local initiatives to benefit the community

Funding Cancer Research: Contributing to advancements in cancer treatment

Advocating for Elderly Rights: Supporting the well-being and rights of senior citizens

Locally, Berlin American Legion Auxiliary Unit 162 has made significant contributions. During the challenging holiday season, they took action to alleviate loneliness:

Gift Cards for Veterans: In 2023, the women of this unit sent gift cards to Veterans Affairs Hospitals in West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain;

Cash donations to Veterans Inc: A cash donation was made to Veterans Inc located in Worcester;

Active participation in Wreaths Across America: Members honored fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their grave stones;

Support for Berlin's Food Pantry: Countless volunteer hours are dedicated to the local food pantry;

Veterans Day Cards and Memorial Day Tributes: Veterans received heartfelt cards, and flowers were planted at Legion Auxiliary grave sites;

Poppy Coloring Books: Donations to the local Berlin Library and 19 Carter; and

"No Sew" Blankets: The ladies of the Auxiliary crafted blankets for not only veterans in Berlin, but to local homeless women veterans' shelters in neighboring towns.

Dedicated members include: Jane Sawyer, Susan Seed, Cindy DeLeo, Janet Lamy, Susan Giroux, Trudy Tervo, Ellen Ororato, Jen Butler, Tracy Hill, Diane Barter, Clarie Pond, Peg Stone, Miki Patterson, Diane Wilson and Linda Shute.




Working on a blanket during a Berlin Auxiliary Meeting are Cindy DeLeo, Susan Giroux, Peg Stone and Yvette Prayor.



2024 Membership Year 100% Posts

Post 2 Barre	Post 123 Ware	Post 255 Topsfield
Post 8 Andover	Post 144 Scituate	Post 266 Granby
Post 10 Fitchburg	Post 147 Rockland	Post 280 Mattapoisett
Post 16 William E. Carter	Post 149 Hanover	Post 287 Wellfleet
Post 17 John F. Kennedy	Post 151 Leominster	Post 291 East Lynn
Post 22 Whitman	Post 159 Westford	Post 293 East Longmeadow
Post 24 Canton	Post 162 Belin	Post 294 Morrisette
Post 25 Holyoke	Post 163 Westboro	Post 298 Housatonic
Post 30 Lt. Lawrence J. Flaherty	Post 174 Westminster	Post 302 Rehoboth
Post 33 Uxbridge	Post 175 Longmeadow	Post 303 Swansea
Post 41 North Brookfield	Post 185 Agawam	Post 306 Paxton
Post 46 Beverly Farms	Post 202 Hopkinton	Post 309 Salisbury
Post 47 Holliston	Post 204 West Boylston	Post 310 Rutland
Post 50 Clinton	Post 210 Saugus	Post 313 North Chelmsford
Post 57 Swampscott	Post 217 Plainville	Post 341 Main South
Post 74 Framingham	Post 223 Duxbury	Post 343 Northbridge
Post 75 Franklin	Post 225 Wrentham	Post 361 Ashby
Post 76 Jamaica Plain	Post 226 Hanson	Post 366 East Chelmsford
Post 79 Weymouth	Post 228 Somerset	Post 373 Baldwinville
Post 88 Marshfield	Post 231 Essex	Post 388 East Somerville
Post 102 Athol	Post 234 Northboro	Post 391 Charlton
Post 107 Natick	Post 241 Monson	Post 398 Boylston
Post 109 Sturbridge	Post 247 Tyngsboro	Post 405 Rayham
Post 117 Oliver Ames	Post 249 Littleton	
Post 121 Berkley	Post 253 Chatham	

4/6/2024	9:00 AM	Finance Committee	Best Western Marlboro, MA
4/6/2024	10:00 AM	Membership DEC to Follow	Best Western Marlboro, MA
4/6/2024	3:00 PM	National Commander's Banquet	Best Western Marlboro, MA
4/13/2024	12:00 PM	D3 Banquet	Westfield Elks
4/21/2024	12:00 PM	Appreciation DVC Nelson Blake	Dracut Post 315, Dracut MA
5/5-5/9/2024		Spring Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
6/6/2024	2:00 PM	Membership DEC to Follow	Best Western Marlboro, MA
6/7-6/10/2024		Department Convention	Best Western Marlboro, MA
8/23-8/29		National Convention	New Orleans, LA



2024 Membership Standing as of March 28, 2024—Next Target Date 4/10/24 95%

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1236	1156	93.53%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1275	1187	93.10%
3	HAMPDEN	2438	2085	85.52%
4	WORCESTER	4422	4252	96.16%
5	MIDDLESEX	3807	3457	90.81%
6	NORFOLK	2422	2196	90.67%
7	SUFFOLK	1112	1054	94.78%
8	ESSEX	2531	2269	89.65%
9	BRISTOL	2736	2381	87.02%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	3709	3413	92.02%
297	CAPITOL HILL	392	402	102.55%
462	HEADQUARTERS	1000	955	95.50%
	National Quota	27,080	24,807	91.61%

ALA ACADEMY LIVE

Lunch & Learn



**Celebrating
National Poppy Day®
in your communities
April 18 at noon ET**

2024 Membership Standing *as of March 28, 2024*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	204	183	89.7%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	260	248	95.4%
3	HAMPDEN	347	340	98.0%
4	WORCESTER	1039	924	88.9%
5	MIDDLESEX	906	849	93.7%
6	NORFOLK	377	298	79.0%
7	SUFFOLK	110	89	80.9%
8	ESSEX	607	547	90.1%
9	BRISTOL	279	210	75.3%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	802	707	88.2%
462	HEADQUARTERS	583	106	18.2%
	National Quota	5,514	4,501	81.6%

New options for 1st-time SAL Blue Brigade Award recipients

First-time recipients of the SAL Blue Brigade Award will now have an option on which jacket they wish to receive to mark their efforts.

The revised SAL Blue Brigade Award Certification Form is available at [Legion.org/sons/publications](https://legion.org/sons/publications) or directly by clicking [here](#). The award is presented to SAL members who enroll 30 or more new members into the SAL by July 31.

First-time recruiters will be able to select a three-season fleece jacket or lightweight soft shell jacket for their Blue Brigade Award. All jackets are custom made and embroidered with the recruiter's name and membership year.



2024 S.A.L. Membership Standing as of March 28, 2024

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	206	220	106.80%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	234	212	90.60%
3	HAMPDEN	392	437	111.48%
4	WORCESTER	948	823	86.81%
5	MIDDLESEX	1224	1041	85.05%
6	NORFOLK	941	649	68.97%
7	SUFFOLK	167	180	107.78%
8	ESSEX	394	364	92.39%
9	BRISTOL	237	236	99.58%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	689	673	97.68%
	National Goal	5432	4835	89.01%



Post 98

Saturday morning



Coffee break



Veterans, Aux, and Potential Members

American Legion Hall

32 Beach st

8:00—10:30

Come on down



**The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts, District Ten
Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties**

**Annual Get Together
Sunday
May, 19, 2024
12:00 PM
\$25.00**

Chicken Bake

Split Chicken, Baked Potato
Corn on the Cob
Salad and Desert

Contact JVC Paul Lemieux
Phone: (508) 330-4767
Email: MSGLeMieux@comcast.net

Location

Lewis V. Dorsey Post 112
1027 Washington Street
Abington, MA 02351





Freedom Ride

**Dalton American Legion
258 North Street
Dalton, MA**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Registration 9 -10:30am

KSU 11am

Breakfast by the Auxillary

POST RIDE ACTIVITIES

Food - Drink - Raffle

Live music by the HOT SHOT HILLBILLIES

Vendors ~ Public Welcome



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

Editor

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr.

2023-2024 Officers

Commander

Sandra Davis

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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:

Send your email address to: deptsecretary@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
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