



Tardiff-Belanger Post #39 Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue II

February 2017

Happenings...

Meetings, Bingo & Cribbage

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Social Hr. 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb 6, 2017

Cribbage: 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays, partners

Bingo: 2:00 Sundays
& 6:30 Tuesdays

HALL HOURS:

Tuesday - Beano
Doors open at 4 pm

Mon, Wed through
Fri - 3 pm
Saturday - 2:30 pm

Sunday - Beano
Doors open
at 12 pm

The Post is
NON -
SMOKING



LEGION UPDATES..... From your Commander

Comrades,

It's 2017 and the Post is off to a good start.

Before our January meeting began, 8th grader Kayla Drake, a student at Madison Junior High, stepped on the stage with her flute and played a wonderful version of the National Anthem for all member to enjoy. Thank you Kayla for the wonderful performance.

Donations were \$25 to Madison Business Alliance and \$1500 in scholarships to three Madison and Carrabec High School Graduates.

The New Year's Eve party was good and didn't cost much at all. Approximately 35 people attended. Thank you to everyone who made or brought something.

Remember that the February meeting is the 1st nomination of Officers!

The 2016 Yearly Finance Report is included in this newsletter.

WE ARE DOWN TO 35 UNPAID MEMBERS. LET'S GET YOUR DUES IN!

The Somerset Public Health project, in partnership with the Redington Fairview General Hospital and the Legion will start a "Mug Up" Senior Gathering. This will take place at the Legion Hall and is for Seniors to have a place to meet. More information to follow.

I wish the best for all in 2017,

H. Ralph Withee
Commander

**If anyone wants to reserve the hall,
you MUST contact any bartender
at the Legion - 696-5848**

after 3:00 pm

Mon & Wed - Sat

**An application must be completed in order to confirm
your reservation!**

SAL Squadron #39

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires

Hello Squadron 39 members!

The Sons kicked off their new year on Jan. 2 with a fun meeting. Lots of members came to share stories about their holidays.

Before things got started, all of Post 39 was regaled by 8th grader Kayla Drake, a student at Madison Junior High. Kayla stepped on stage holding her silver flute, took a deep breath and played a wonderful version of the National An-

them. Upon hearing that final majestic note, the crowd burst into applause.

The good feeling continued right into the meeting. We learned that 94 percent of our S.A.L. squadron membership is already paid up for 2017. And it's looking like we will earn another banner for 100 percent fully paid membership very soon. That says a lot.

Treasurer Paul Turek reports that our bank account is looking good for 2017. Al-

ready the squadron is assessing the charitable causes to which we'll be donating this year. Get in touch with Commander Mark Long if you'd like to nominate one.

We received a thank-you note from the Travis Mills Foundation, to whom we contributed \$250 last year. We're always proud to support returning vets.

Finally, we thank Bob Shibley of Bob's Cash Fuel for his support of the S.A.L. annual heating oil raffle. If you haven't bought your tickets yet (\$5 each, 3 for \$10),

move fast — the drawing takes place Feb. 7.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sam Whitmore,
Adjutant
Mark Long,
SAL Commander
Ron Page,
Chairman of SAL*

**Want to know what's going on at
YOUR Legion?
Come to the meeting on
February 6th!!**

Dates to Remember!

- February 6th – Monthly meeting
- February 18th – Valentines Dance
- **February 20th - NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE**
- February 20th - Executive Meeting
- February 27th - Put newsletter together



Auxiliary News...

The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and her ideals

Hello Ladies,

As of January 23rd, we have 115 members out of 134 paid. That puts us at 85.82% of our membership paid. It also means we've surpassed January's and February's membership goals. We only need 19 renewals to be at 100%! Please keep the dues coming in!!

At our January meeting, we voted to donate a \$15 Bingo package to a Luck of the Draw fundraiser, \$50 to

NEADS - Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans and \$25 worth of items to Camp Tall Pines and 25 back packs filled with necessary items for the Foster Children program. We have also paid out \$600 to our 3 scholarship recipients.

Since the last newsletter, Maxine Dube has mailed out \$33,000 worth of coupons. A great big **THANK YOU** to Maxine and all who donate coupons. A special **THANK YOU** to all those who help to cut them for shipping.

Tena Ireland, Merrilyn Vieira and I attended Mid-Winter Conference last weekend in Bangor. The theme for membership this year is Super Hero's in which 4th District is Wonder Woman. The three of us geared up in our Wonder Woman apparel for a great time of learning and camaraderie. Our National Eastern Division Vice President, Patti Lach attended in her "Silver Flash" persona touting how Maine continues to

lead the Eastern Division in Membership! **Maine is currently at 78.81% !!** There are many pictures of the conference posted on our Facebook page and a synopsis of the conference can be found in this week's ALA Chatter.

At our February meeting we will be discussing new fundraising ideas. Bring your ideas to the meeting! In addition we will have our 1st

nominations for Officers. Like to volunteer? Like to help our veterans? Come to the meeting and see if one of the Officer positions is for you!

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 6th at 7 pm. ALL ALA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

Remember to check out our Facebook page for upcoming

events and information! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAUNIT39/>.

Yours in Service, not self,

*Robin Turek
Auxiliary President*



Legion Riders ~ Chapter 39

Greetings All,
Happy new year! One look out the window will tell you that it's definitely NOT motorcycle season. My driveway is about 3 inches thick of solid ice, so I guess I won't be riding any time in the immediate future.

Now is the time to do any work that your bike needs (because you can't ride it now anyway): paintjobs, new add-ons, etc. Then it will be all ready when the weather cooperates.

Don't forget: Dues are due in February. Still \$20. Also nominations for officers and elections for the coming year will be at the

meeting. Nominations were supposed to be in January, but there were only three of us at the meeting. We figured we should wait. So if you want to hold a position, let us know.

And even if you don't want to hold a position this year, come to the meeting to help decide who those officers should be. Participation is key. The more people we have the more we can do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Washburn
Secretary




THE RIDERS CREED

- R**ider dedicate themselves to the success of the American Legion. I know that through my efforts I can make a difference.
- I** Alone am responsible for myself and to my fellow riders. I will conduct myself with the highest degree of integrity and honor.
- D**eeds not words create change. I will persevere against any and all things that prevent my success. My resolve and strength will overcome all obstacles.
- E**ach rider is first a member of the American Legion family. I will actively participate in and willingly support their endeavors.
- R**eally will join other riders in activities and events which support missions. I will do so gladly knowing I volunteered to be an American Legion Rider.
- S**uccess is the only acceptable conclusion. I will allow nothing to dissuade me or impede me from service to my family community country and especially to our Veterans.

Riders Lead The Way !

Dances

 Valentine's Day Dance
February 11th
Band: Night Moves
8 pm - 12 am
Tickets: \$5 per person

St Patrick's Day Dance
March 18th
Band: 38 Degrees
8 pm - 12 am
Tickets: \$5



Sick Call



Phil Daigle
Roland Allain, Jr
Bob Douin
Sharon Holt (Aux)

Post Everlasting



GIBERSON FUNERAL HOMES
PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH COMPASSION,
CARING AND RESPECT.
JEFFREY S. SPROUL FUNERAL DIRECTOR
GFHB@MYFAIRPOINT.NET

18 RIVER STREET BINGHAM, MAINE 04920
40 MAPLE STREET MADISON, MAINE 04950
207-696-8081-207-672-5563



US Naval Sea Cadet Corps - NCB 39 Battalion



Greetings,

January drill found the cadets very busy studying for the PT Leadership Challenge which is coming up in April. Some of the topics they need to learn include: the Preamble, the Bill of Rights, the Code of a US Fighting Soldier, the 11 General Orders of a Sentry and the names of those from our state who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Our Drill Instructor, Lance Corporal Rick West, USMC, spent 3 hours each day covering mil drill and rifle drills. A

portion of this training is for Maine Maritime Academy as well as our annual inspection.

We had two recruits attend our drill, and both have expressed an interest in joining the unit.

Our annual inspection will be held on 4 February, 2017, at 10 am sharp. Everyone reading this is invited to attend and observe the inspection and to show support for our unit. We may be a small unit, but when the cadets see the pride shown by everyone

in the Legion family, it certainly helps boost morale.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps program is open to 11-17 year old males and females. Unit growth is now our priority and we are actively recruiting within the Central Maine area. If you know any young male or female students that might be interested, please have them look at our FB page and/or our website.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NCB39BN/>

Website: <http://ncb39bn.sharepoint.com>

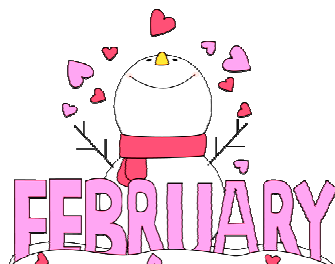
The officers and staff wish to thank the local communities, the entire Legion membership, cadet's families and friends for their untiring support of this unit.

Respectfully,

The Officers and Staff
NCB39 Battalion



**THANK YOU
TO OUR
SPONSORS
PLEASE
SUPPORT
THEM!!**



**Happy Birthday
to all
members
born in
February!**

Notes from the Service Officer

Taken from the newsletter of the Department Service Officer.

Update your contact information!

Every day the DSO calls veterans and Legion members to notify them of their VA decision only to find out their mailbox has not been set up or is full, or the phone does not have an answering machine attached to it or it has been disconnected and no longer in service.

Due to the volume of calls, we only call once, you need to call us back if you want the status of a VA decision, otherwise you will receive it in the mail when the VA produces a notification letter.

The best number to give us is your cell phone number, however, once again, please set up your voice mailbox or we cannot leave a message.

It would be good to provide us with your email address, so we can contact you if we can't reach you by phone.

Regarding your mailing address, if you change it you must notify both the VA Hospital, for healthcare, and the DSO or the VBA to ensure you receive any correspondence pertaining to your claim.

Please note, the VA has stopped benefits for veterans or family members when VA mail is returned and the VA cannot contact the beneficiary

Filing an "Intent to File"!

If you come in or call the DSO and are told that we are filing an "Intent to File" for you this means you must follow up to file an actual claim.

The intent to file holds your date of claim on the date it is filed; in most cases. It is NOT a claim.

Always call the DSO eight days after you file a claim to ensure it has been completed and has been accepted and is being worked by the VA. Any of the office personnel will be happy to let you know the status of your claim. You do not need to speak with a specific service officer.

Veterans or Widow on a PENSION (not compensation or DIC) MUST notify the VA, in writing, through the VSO if possible, when receiving ANY new income from other sources, to

include Social Security, or risk incurring a debt to the Government. We are seeing more and more of this and the debt can be SUBSTANTIAL!! Call if you have any questions!

Ensure veterans understand the rules of compensation and pension; and for what they are being compensated for; disability, spouse, children. Failure to understand the "why" may result in overpayments and financial hardship for the veteran and his/her family. Example: A veteran divorces and does not remove spouse from compensation/pension this will incur a debt.

Always dial 911 first in a medical emergency. Except in a medical emergency, eligible veterans must go through the VHA when obtaining healthcare. Do not get stuck with medical bills by not getting pre-authorization for all but true emergency healthcare. You also MUST meet VHA eligibility. (You must notify the VHA within 72 hours of release from medical emergency treatment)

It is important to note that the VA has pretty much gone paperless, so the Department Service Office no longer gets copies of all correspondence going to veterans in regards to claims. You MUST call when receive any paperwork from the VA to ensure the best service.

Remind your post members that it is always best to make an appointment to talk with a Service Officer at the DSO. While we may take walk-ins; appointments have first priority for service.

Stay up to date, by checking VA.gov on a regular basis.

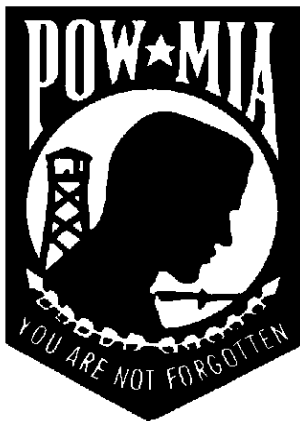
Remind veterans to file for travel, if eligible, within 30 days of their health care appointment to the VA or they may lose out! They should file, if eligible, before they leave Togus or the VA Community Clinic. Don't forget to file for eligible trips to VA referred health care providers as well.

Respectfully submitted,

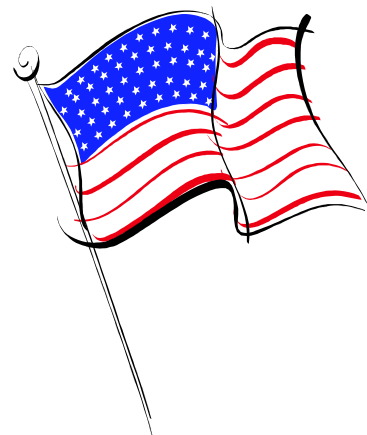
*Bob Washburn,
Post Service Officer*

Tardiff-Belanger Post #39
American Legion
P.O. Box 144
Madison, ME 04950-0144

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, Maine
Permit No 6



February 6, 2017
6:00 PM LEGION RIDERS MEETING
6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR
7:00 PM LEGION, AUXILIARY
& SAL MEETING



Our Email address and website are:
post 39@beeline-online.net
<http://www.mainelegionpost39.org>