



Tardiff-Belanger Post #39 Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue III

March 2016

Happenings...

Meetings, Bingo & Cribbage

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Social Hr. 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Mar 7, 2016

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 now
NON -
SMOKING

LEGION UPDATES.....

From your Commander

Comrades,

Another month has gone by and Spring is getting closer!

The Valentine Dance went well. There was good attendance and everyone had a great time.

The Post is doing well for this time of year.

The new oil tank has been installed and we are up to code.

The first nomination of Officers was held and are the following:

Commander: H. Ralph Withee
1st Vice: Vinnie Santoni, Jr.
2nd Vice: John Ziacoma
Adjutant: Leroy Welch
Finance Officer: John Bryant

The 120 Club starts up again on April 1st. For more information contact me at 696-3375 or inquire at the Post - 696-5848.

H. Ralph Withee
Commander

Chaplain: Rich Robinson
Historian: OPEN

Sgt at Arms: Phil Daigle
Americanism: Steve Ireland
Service Officer: Bob Washburn

Executive Committee Members:
Ron Page, Gene Dube and Robert Demchak.

At our February meeting we voted to donate \$100 to The Moving Wall.

On Friday, February 26th, 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm, The Old Liberty String Band will be performing at the hall. Come down and hear some good old, new and whatever you want music. There is NO CHARGE!

**Please join us for Social
Hour prior to the meeting
on March 7th for cake
and coffee to
celebrate the
American
Legion's
Birthday.**



SAL Squadron #39

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

Greetings,

The winner of the 5th Annual Bob's Cash Fuel Raffle is Gary McGlaughlin of Bingham. Gary asked if the Squadron could find a local family in need that the 100 gallons of oil could be given to as a donation. Gary, your request has been granted. We thank you for your generosity, support of the Squadron and our community.

You may purchase Detachment of Maine Lobster

Bake Raffle tickets at the Legion Hall, see a SAL member or call Mark Long 858-3855 or Mark Brown 634-5782 for more information. I mentioned the details of this raffle in last months newsletter.

The Squadron voted to donate \$200 to the Child Welfare Foundation. We also paid our portion of the fire extinguisher update at the Legion hall.

Lucas Baron who is the acting SAL Commander for the State of Maine sat in on

our last monthly meeting. He said we needed a couple more members to pay their dues to reach 100% for 2016. This matter has been addressed and goal attained.

The Sons of the American Legion nominations for 2016-2017 are as follows:

- Commander: Mark Long
- 1st Vice: Peter Graves
- 2nd Vice: Jimmy Pinkham
- Finance Officer: Paul Turek
- Adjutant: OPEN
- Sgt at Arms: Mike Adams
- Chaplain: Randy Wyman

Historian: Jeff Ireland


Have a nice day,

Joseph "Mark" Brown,
 SAL Adjutant
 Mark Long,
 SAL Commander
 Ron Page,
 Chairman of SAL

Post Everlasting

Emil Kenney

1-29-16



Dates to Remember!

- April 26th - Phil Amidon (fiddle player) performs 7:30-10:30 pm NO CHARGE
- March 6th - US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Annual Inspection @ 10 am
- March 7th - Next Regular Meeting @ 7 pm
- March 19th - St. Patrick's Day Dance - See "Dances"
- March 21st - Executive Meetings @ 7 pm
- **March 23rd - DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS!!!**
- March 28th - Put together newsletter for mailing @ 12:30 pm



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,

Your 2016 membership is due! If you have not paid your dues for 2016, please do so as you are now delinquent. As of the writing of this newsletter we have 123 paid out of 131 members. We need just 8 more paid dues to reach 100%!!! Come on ladies get those dues in! We can do it!

The first nominations of Officers was held at our February meeting and are the following:

President: Robin Turek
 1st Vice: Sandy Ingalls
 2nd Vice: Tena Ireland
 Secretary: Sharon Mellows
 Treasurer: Harriet Bryant
 Sgt at Arms: Merrilyn Vieira
 Chaplain:
 Historian: Lynn Boucher

Executive Committee:

Betty Dow
 Kathleen Randall
 Marie Wing

Maxine has mailed out over \$20,950.19 worth of coupons since our last newsletter. Thank

you, Maxine, Barbara Wyman, Marie Wing and all those who continue to collect coupons! Great work! Keep the coupons coming in ladies!

We're are selling Calendar Raffles. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year! If you see Harriet, Maxine or any of the other members of the Auxiliary please make sure you ask about the Raffle. Remember you get 31 chances to win!!

Ladies....it's that time of year again where the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps - NCB39 Battalion (whom we sponsor) will have it's Annual Inspection! Please come down and support these phenomenal young men and women who have worked very hard!

Also, The Veterans Creative Art Show is coming up and The Moving Wall will be here soon. Please note the fly-

ers included within this newsletter. Let's show our support, Ladies!!

At our February meeting we voted to donate \$25 in memory of Geraldine Thibodeau to the Somerset Humane Society, \$50 to a fire victim in Norridgewock, a table caddy for the Legion's Birthday,\$50 to a fire victim on Horseback Rd in Anson, a \$15 Bingo Package to be raffled at a benefit for the same family.

We distributed \$46.20 worth of Box Tops for Education and 975 points of Labels for Education to 5 local Elementary Schools.

****PLEASE REMEMBER****

We continue to collect aluminum tabs for Shriners Children's Hospital as well as Box Tops and Labels for Education!

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



Yours in Service,
Robin Turek
Auxiliary President

Want to know what's going on at YOUR Legion? Come to the meeting on **March 7th!**

Legion Riders ~ Chapter 39

Greetings All,

We already have 9 members who have paid dues for this year! Please get it in to Sharon or John as soon as you can. We want to try to have more rides together (last year we only got to ride one time together, so it shouldn't be too hard to have more than that!).

We voted to donate \$100 toward the Moving Vietnam Wall coming to Thomaston over Memorial Day (also trying to have a ride down there!).

We voted to follow the state in that if you are a member of ALR for 5 years continuously, and you are no longer able to ride, then you can be a Legion Rider as long as you are an active Legion Family member (Sons, Aux., or Legion). If you want to remain an active member, than you must still pay your dues.

We took nominations for next year. Elections will be next month. If you would like a position, then please let one of us know. It was moved that all current offi-



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 !

cers remain on for a second year, with the addition of Brad Farrin as Road Captain.

Even though it is forecast to snow today, it will not be long till we can start riding again.

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Washburn
Secretary

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

Dances

St Patrick's Day Dance
March 19th
Band: Midnight Rose
8 pm - 12 am
Tickets: \$7 per person
Call the Hall for advanced tickets or
table reservations 696-5848






US Naval Sea Cadet Corps - NCB 39 Battalion



Greetings,

Our Drill of 29-31 January 2016 was normal. Friday evening started our weekend with homework and/or Correspondence Manual study.

Saturday started with an 0600 reveille, PT and breakfast. After chow clean-up, the morning was filled with classroom time covering the Eleven General Orders of a Sentry and Military Drill. After lunch, classroom time covered Rates & Ranks, Drill & Ceremony, Watch Standing, Core Values and a uniform/ribbon

check. The evening was filled with homework and/or Correspondence Manual study.

Sunday started normally; reveille followed by PT, but no mile run was done. After morning chow, classroom time consisted of Communications, Navigation and Knot-Tying training. Following our noon chow, classroom time covered uniform care and a final check of uniforms. Final formation, awards presentations and dismissal ended our weekend drill.

The full weekend's activi-

ties were in preparation for our upcoming Annual Inspection scheduled for 1000 hours on 06 Mar 2016 in the main hall of the post. The Inspection of the cadets is open to the public. Please join us.

I, on behalf of the entire battalion, wish to thank the local communities, the entire Legion membership, cadet's families and friends for their untiring support of this unit.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps program is open to 11-17 year old males and fe-

males. Please visit our website: <http://ncb39bn.sharepoint.com> for more information.

Respectfully,

*MAJ Robert E. Demchak,
USAF (Ret)
Commanding Officer
NCB 39 Battalion*

**If anyone wants to book
the hall,
you MUST contact
Sheila Moody
at the Legion
696-5848
after 3:00 pm
on Wed and Thurs.**



**Happy Birthday
to all members
born in March
and the
American Legion**

Notes from the Service Officer

VA Claims Vs Appeals

This is information from a VA blog, I think you will find useful. It has been edited for clarity. ~Bob Washburn, Post Service Officer.

What's the difference between a claim and an appeal?

Often you hear something like, "I have had a claim pending for 10 years." Almost always, they have an appeal pending and not a claim. Using the correct term can help your VSO know where to look, or advise you when discussing your case.

Claims defined

You submit a claim when seeking VA pension or disability compensation benefits (or increased benefits) for one or more medical conditions you believe are related to military service.

These claims can be filed online through eBenefits, submitted by mail or in person at the nearest VA regional office. The claim submission, the military service and health care records and any other evidence associated with the claim are reviewed in order to provide you a rating determination.

Every claim in the VA's inventory is as distinct as the Service member, Veteran or survivor who filed it. A complex set of laws, regulations and court decisions govern how, and to whom, VA administers benefits. The laws and the process allow Veterans and their survivors ample opportunity – and even assistance – to provide VA the evidence necessary to approve their claims.

Under those laws, VA grants service connection and pays disability compensation (if warranted) for a disability when evidence shows three things: injury or illness in service, a current disability and a link — usually medical evidence — connecting the two. The laws also allow for service connection for conditions caused or aggravated (permanently worsened) by conditions that are already service connected.

Once the decision is made to grant service connection, VA examines the medical evidence and assigns a level of disability under the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities. You are always afforded the benefit of the doubt. This means that if the evidence is weighed equally, 50 percent in your favor and 50 percent against, the claim is granted or the higher of two evaluations is assigned.

The Appeals Process

The multi-stage appellate process is available to you after you have already received one or more decisions on your claim, but disagree with all or some aspect of VA's decision. During the appellate process, an appeal undergoes additional independent reviews, often multiple times and by different adjudicators, as you or your representative submit new evidence and/or a new argument. You need to keep a close eye on the appeal time limits; be sure to discuss them with the DSO.

(Local Reconsideration/Local DRO Review/Washington VBA Appeal)

An appeal is different from a claim. Sending one or the other to VA can seem like the same thing, but understanding the difference and using the right terminology will help VA and your designated representative provide the best information in the quickest amount of time.

There is currently a big backlog at the VA Board of Veterans Appeals!

Therefore it is critical to provide all the evidence "up front" when you submit your claim.

Once an appeal has been filed, a Veteran may also engage an attorney, at his or her own expense. Attorneys' fees are typically taken straight off the top of any retroactive award received from VA.

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

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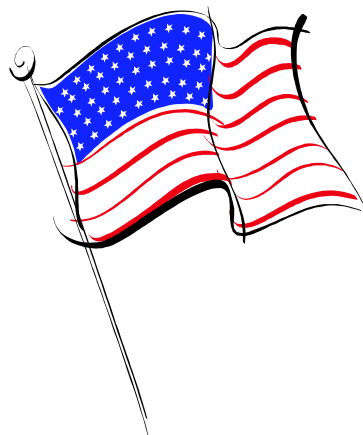


March 7, 2016

6:00 PM LEGION RIDERS MEETING

6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR

7:00 PM MEETING



Our Email address and website are:

post 39@beeline-online.net

*****<http://www.mainelegionpost39.org>*****