



Tardiff-Belanger Post #39 Newsletter



Volume XIII, Issue II

March 2019

Happenings...

Meetings, Bingo & Cribbage

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Social Hr. 6:00 p.m.
March 4, 2019

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

Big Cribbage (Singles)
March 23rd
Sign up - 8am-10am
Game starts @ 10am

Bingo: 2:00 Sundays
Doors open at 12 pm

HALL HOURS:

Mon - Sat
3 pm

**The Post is
NON-SMOKING**



LEGION UPDATES.....From your Commander

Comrades,

At our February regular meeting we had nomination of Officers. They are as follows:

Commander - Bob Demchak
H. Ralph Withee
Vinnie Santoni, Jr.

1st Vice - Vinnie Santoni, Jr.
Robert Washburn

2nd Vice - Robert Washburn
Richard Robinson
Aaron Rollins

Adjutant - Steve Taylor
Finance Officer - Bob Demchak
Chaplain - Wayne Parks
Service Officer - Bob Washburn
Historian - OPEN

Americanism - Brad Farrin
Sgt at Arms - Phil Daigle

The Election of Officers will be on Monday, March 4, 2019.

Everything is going well at the Post.

God Bless the Veterans.

H. Ralph Withee
Commander

**DON'T FORGET TO
PAY YOUR DUES!!**



Please join us for Social Hour (6 pm - 7 pm) prior to the meeting on March 4th for cake and coffee to celebrate the American Legion's 100th Birthday.

SAL Squadron #39

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

Greetings,

Eddie Cowan of Starks won this year's Bob's Cash Fuel raffle. There's something elegant about Eddie being the winner: he's the guy who cheerfully donates the use of that big, trailer-based propane grill when the Sons need to cook up steak, chicken or lobster for the squadron's frequent feasts. Now, thanks to fellow SAL member Bob Shibley, Eddie gets something in return.

The Sons donated \$200 to area high school undergrad

Ethan Knox to help him attend the Youth Summit on the Environment, to be held in late June in Washington, DC. We're always looking for worthy charities, so keep us abreast of those closest to your heart.

We're closing in on 100 percent renewal of our 2019 membership, but we're also on the hunt for new members, too. Who do you know that might enjoy the camaraderie of Post 39? Do they have a DD Form 214? Send them our way.

Two other quick reminders:

- Ice and snow can be dangerous if you don't salt and sand your walks and driveways — especially for the elderly and infirm. After a storm, please consider looking in on vulnerable folks to make sure they're safe.
- The Post 39 web site and Facebook page will keep you informed about all Post developments. The URL: mainelegion-post.39.org. Of course

there's an SAL 39 tab on there, too.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sam Whitmore,
Adjutant
Pete Graves,
SAL Commander
John Bryant,
Chairman of SAL*

Post Everlasting



Dates to Remember!

- March 4th – Next monthly meeting @ 7pm (Cake & Coffee @ 6:30 pm)
- **March 15th - American Legion 100th Birthday**
- March 18th - Executive Meetings
- March 23rd - Special Big Cribbage (singles)
sign up 8am-10am
- March 25th - Put newsletter together @ 12:30 pm



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

Auxiliary News...

Hello Ladies,



Remember, dues are collected in advance and are payable annually for the succeeding calendar year. A member failing to pay their annual dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended from all membership privileges which include voting on Unit business, holding of-

office, participation in Unit activities, receipt of member benefits and all other privileges of membership.

We have 126 members paid out of 141. We are only 15 members being paid away from reaching 100% for the 2019 membership year! Every member and membership counts! Please, if you haven't paid your dues, do so now!

There are three ways to renew...by phone by calling 317-569-4536, online at [https://](https://www.alaforveterans.org)

www.alaforveterans.org, by mailing to the Unit's address (PO Box 325, Madison, ME 04950) or dropping it off at the Legion! Remember our dues are now \$25 for Seniors and \$5 for Juniors.

The **first nomination** of Officers was held at our February meeting and are as follows:

President - Robin Turek
1st Vice - Wanda Kranz
2nd Vice - Nancy Misiaszek

Secretary - Pat Santoni
Treasurer - Harriet Bryant
Chaplain - Sharon Ziacoma
Sgt At Arms - Lauraine
Mercier
Historian - OPEN

Executive Committee:
Betty Dow
Ann Cody
Tena Ireland

We will take last nominations and vote at our March 4th meeting.

Our March regular meeting will also have our Department President, Joan Caron and our 4th District President, Michelle Colby as guests. Let's pack the meeting room with members and bring your questions! These ladies are the ones to ask!

Maxine Dube has mailed out \$20,262.23 worth of coupons since our last newsletter. A great big **THANK YOU** to

Maxine and Barbara Wyman for their hours of gathering and cutting coupons. A special **THANK YOU** to all those who donate coupons.

Since our January meeting we voted to donate : \$100 to a high school student who has been chosen as a National Youth Delegate to represent Maine to attend Washing-

ton Youth Summit on the Environment for 6 days in June, \$15 Bingo pkg for Luck of Draw Benefit for a women who has undergone two brain surgeries, \$50 to help an elementary student diagnosed with acute flaccid myelitis and Hopkins syndrome towards medical and travel expenses, \$50 to VAVS for Comfort Items and \$200 to a

Madison High School student scholarship recipient.

****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 4th at 7 pm. ~ ALL ALA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

Yours in Service, not self,



Robin Turek
Auxiliary President



Legion Riders ~ Chapter 39

Greetings!

The Legion Riders will not be holding any meetings until April 1st.

I have not heard back from anyone regarding the officers so the officers will remain as follows:

Director: Bob Washburn
 Assistant Director, Gene Dube
 Secretary/Treasurer: Sharon Mellows-Ziacoma
 Sgt-At-Arms: Pete Petersen
 Road Captain and Safety: Brad Farrin
 Chaplain: John Ziacoma
 Historian: None

Web Master: None

The officers will be submitted to Department by May 1, 2019. Along with our Charter Members and By Laws.

If you have any questions or concerns you may call Bob Washburn at 634-2515 and/or Sharon Mellows-Ziacoma 696-4938.

Reminder, please pay your dues of \$20; they may be sent to ALR, PO Box 144, Madison, ME 04950. Please provide any updated information (address, new phone #, new Bike info). If you are over age 70 you no

longer need to pay dues. We will also need a current copy of your registration and insurance once you register your motorcycle in March.

The following dates are the ALR Beano's on the last Sunday of February, April, June, August, October December. Please mark your calendars because we need your help. Doors open at noon and Beano starts at 2:00 PM.

Service not self,

Sharon Mellows-Ziacoma
Secretary/Treasurer
Sharon.mellows@myfairpoint.net



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

Sick Call

Steve Vieira - Maplecrest



Want to know what's
 going on at YOUR
 Legion?
 Come to the meeting
 on
March 4th



US Naval Sea Cadet Corps - NCB 39 Battalion



Greetings from
NCB 39 Battalion

In February, in preparation for our annual inspection, we ironed all uniforms and polished all the dress shoes. The cadets will be looking sharp at inspection. The inspection is open all to attend. The cadets would like to see some of you there on Saturday, March 2nd at 9am sharp, at the Legion.

The Alford Pool in Waterville was our noon destination for swim qualifications. We had 4 first class swimmers and 1 second class swimmer.

We put our winter survival to practical use during our February drill. The cadets had to build a shelter in the snow, find fire wood and build a fire. They then had to find and cook their dinner over the fire.

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: www.ncb39bn.org

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

"The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American people the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions to the national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities ...

The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of our country as intended by these programs and activities"

Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011,
National Executive Committee

**If anyone wants to
reserve the hall,
you MUST contact any
bartender
at the Legion - 696-5848
after 3:00 pm Mon - Sat
An application must be
completed in order to confirm
your reservation!**

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



American Legion moves to open up membership

“Finally!!

***This is something
I’ve been working
for!”***

Commander Ralph Withee

Oct 17, 2018

“The American Legion”

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is determined by Congress through the establishment of specific dates of declared hostilities in which U.S. military personnel were activated. Since its founding in 1919, membership in The American Legion has been open to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama and Gulf War/War on Terrorism.

There are at least 12 known combat operations that required an activated military personnel, such as the Cold War, Libyan Conflict and Persian Gulf Conflicts, and resulted in about 1,600 U.S. military men and women casualties. However, because these operations are unrecognized by the U.S. government as a period of war, those who served during these timeframes are not eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee passed a resolution during its annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis Oct. 17 to change that.

Resolution No. 1, "Unrecognized armed hostilities recognition," calls on Congress to declare that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to present, and for Congress to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify a wartime veteran as any military service personnel who served honorably under Title 10 for at least one day from December 7, 1941 to present.

Following the passing of Resolution No. 1, the NEC adopted Resolution No. 2, "Unrecognized armed hostilities membership date change," which will change membership dates for The American Legion. This resolution will only be put in motion once the actions of Resolution No. 1 are approved by Congress. Once approved, membership in The American Legion will be open to the following war periods: April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government.

The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during the hostile events that are not seen as a period of war.

Notes from the Department Service Officer

Excerpts Taken From "The Maine Legionnaire"

One of the bills I have been tracking for you is H.R. 299. This bill would have granted blue water Navy the ability to claim presumptive conditions of Agent Orange exposure. This Bill did not pass through the Senate. In January after that happened a veteran won a case in the US Court of Appeals of the Federal Circuit. As you may know this level of court does set precedence. This is very good news, but remember that the VA has the option to appeal this ruling. It could be tied up in court action for a while.

The Appeals Modernization Act goes into effect this month, but we still have many traditional appeals still pending. I can tell you that the appeals process has slowed down here at the Togus Regional Office because of the RAMP program. The VA has Identified 4 regional offices that handle only RAMP appeal. This has influenced this regional office because the traditional appeals from those offices have come here. This affects not only traditional appeals but remands as well.

The office has been working on creating an effective outreach program. We started last fall at the Fryeburg Fair in collaboration with the ALR chapter now out of the Bridgeton Post. We learned a lot from that event. The office now can upload a claim to the VA straight from the computer. We will soon be able to digitally sign documents and we are working with the IT folks to get access to the websites we use every day while we are out of the office. What this will enable us to do is go to a remote site out of the office and be able to do the exact same thing we do at the office.

RAMP

Rapid Appeals Modernization Program continues to be fine-tuned. As an update there are only a few Regional Offices that conduct the RAMP reviews. Togus is not one of them. So, all RAMP reviews leave the state. The denial rate for this program is still very high, around 75% for both lanes now.

VA Comp and Pen examinations!

The Comp and Pen location is now on the third floor next door to my office. They also have a full time psychologist on staff now. This in the long run will be good for our veterans. If a veteran complains to you about a compensation and pension exam, let me know. It could affect the rating for the veteran. I have a fix for that but I need to know what is going on.

State of Maine Veterans

The VA provided this following information.

Total number of veterans 116,782

Total number of veteran over 65 57,792

Based on these numbers 49.49% of all veterans in Maine are over 65 years old.

Total number receiving disability Compensation 26,862

Based on these numbers less than 5% of all veterans in Maine are receiving disability compensation.

*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

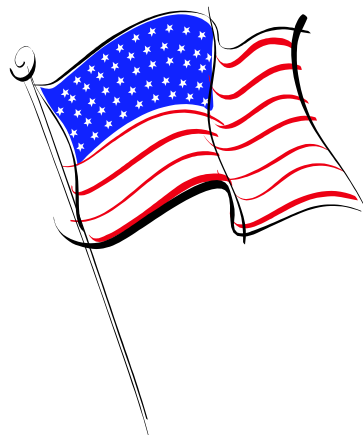


March 4, 2019

6:00 PM LEGION RIDERS MEETING

6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR

7:00 PM MEETING



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY
AMERICAN LEGION!
March 15th
1919 ~ 2019

Our Email address and website are:

post 39@beeline-online.net

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