

# Massachusetts e-Legionnaire



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 12 Issue 1

July 2021

## Commander's Corner



Dear Comrades,

**Get ready! Get set!  
Get going!**

To date its been one hell of a ride with the 42 years of my service to the American Legion, here in Massachusetts. I would like to thank the many legionaries, just too many to mention, but for one very special person who needs to be recognized, who is honorary Past Department Commander,

Billy Dolin, my father-in-law for all his love, help, understanding and guidance over the years. He is now a member of Post everlasting!

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Anthony (Tony) Dias, and I am your American Legion State Commander for 2021-2022. I look forward an opportunity to meeting as many legionaries as I can possibly meet as I make my visits throughout the Commonwealth.



Just to set the tone, as to what my term will look like; To begin with, I was honored as being invited and presence during the

swearing of officers in at the Chinatown Post 328, on the very same day I was sworn in. Delighted to be at the Sutton Post for Flag Day, a great event. Attended the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Veteran's Appreciation Day with an award going to one of our own. Attended the knick-off to our Boys and Girls State program at Stonehill College, with a second visit to witness the newly elected slate of officers which will represent the body of girls and boys. Presented a Law and Order Award at the Dighton Police Department to a brave police officer.

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## Commander's Corner (Continued)

And finally, attended the Sons of American Legion Bowling Classic, which donates to the Boston Children Hospitals (A super program).



My calendar is filling quickly as I plan to attend and participate in as many events of our great organization as possible, now that we can see each other without fears of Covid-19.

As your new Commander I would once again like to thank Jodi Pajak (Past Department Commander) for the outstanding job she has done as Commander for the past two years. This past year, especially, was a difficult one for all Legion officers. Instead of meeting in person, Zoom meetings were her main focus. This makes it particularly difficult as Commanders rely on the personal contact with someone, that Zoom doesn't provide. A special thanks to her aide, Drew Pajak for all the technical assistance provided in preparations and during our meetings. We would not have been able to do it without you, thanks. Jodi you are most worthy of moving on up the ladder, with a Red Hat, representing our great state of Massachusetts at the National level. We all wish you the very best.

As I assume the prestigious role of Department Commander, I promise to every Legion member, that I will do the absolute best I can. As a unit, we will resolve any problems that may arise in a timely and efficient manner. I look forward to working with every Post throughout the state. I look forward to working with our Department officer, all my appointees, and our employees that work on our day to day operations. We depend on you!

As we face many challenges in the upcoming year, I don't believe there is anything that we can't overcome. As we move forward as I am grateful for the men and women that I am part of as our Department of Massachusetts team. To quote Teddy Roosevelt, "We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."

Tony Dias  
Commander

# James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

We're all friends and family here. We're all on the same team to support our nation's veterans, military families and America's youth.

But a little competition never hurt anyone. Right?

That's why I was so pleased to hear that the Department of California is challenging all American Legion departments to a contest throughout July. The premise is pretty simple: all departments are categorized by their population. And the department in each category that raises the most money for the **100 Miles for Hope** via Kilter and 100 Miles for Hope merchandise purchases during the

month of July is deemed the winner.

Of course, the disabled veterans and military families who receive support from the **Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF)** are the real winners, or beneficiaries. This competition will help ensure that funds are available for our network of 3,000 accredited American Legion service officers who help disabled veterans and their families navigate the challenging VA system to ensure they receive the benefits they've earned through their service. Donations to V&CF also support our Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. TFA provides grants to military families with young children who have fallen upon financial hard times through no fault of their own.

So how you can help support our nation's disabled veterans military families in need?

There are instructions at <https://www.legion.org/100miles/departmentchallenge>. Once you are in, you can also [customize and download a special cheer card](#) to show your support for your department. Share your activity and encourage others to join and/or support your department by posting a photo on social media (use hashtag #100MilesForHope) and publish it on our [Legiontown web page](#) ([legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org)).

During the pandemic, our American Legion Family showed how we move mountains to support our communities in tough circumstances. We don't necessarily have to hike mountains to support departments in the breakout challenge, though we could.

No matter if you walk, hike, ruck, bike, do yoga, garden, ride your motorcycle or do any one of more than 40 other activities, what matters most is that you are participating in the 100 Miles for Hope Breakout Challenge. Our nation's disabled veterans and struggling military families are counting on all of us.

This is one big way that we in the American Legion Family can continue to show the nation and each other what it means when we say: Veterans Strengthening America.

## Auxiliary President



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July Legion Family!

I finally made it, after waiting an extra year to become Department President, it happened on June 5<sup>th</sup>! I am super excited to get started working with all of you. Some of you know, but in case you don't know my theme this year is "American Legion Family Strong". In the past year and a half, we have had to overcome a lot. We have seen some posts close, which is a shame. Many Auxiliary Units have supported their posts financially, some members have used their own money and volunteered hours to make meals in order to keep their posts open and survive. That being said, I feel my theme is appropriate this year, we have worked as a Legion Family and we are STRONG! Let's keep that communication, hard work and support going and make our FAMILY Stronger!

Over the last few years, we have seen our member numbers drop, whether they passed away or didn't renew. Maryann and Maureen have done a terrific job getting members to renew. Let's all help them and reach out to members in your Units that haven't paid, also ask the Legionnaires if their spouse or children are members and get them signed up, I'm sure there are quite a few that could join. We all need to pitch in and keep the American Legion Auxiliary Alive for many years to come. Remember that we are here for the same reason, to help support our Veterans and their families. Without those Veterans, we would not have the freedoms we have. When you see veterans, thank them for their service. You may not realize it, but it means a lot to them.

So, on this July 4<sup>th</sup>, let's celebrate! It's Independence Day! We celebrate the birth of our nation and the joyful anniversary of freedom for America! Celebrate with flags flying high, barbecues, family and friend gatherings, good old baseball and apple pie, and let's not forget colorful fireworks lighting up the sky. Let's celebrate our freedom and honor those who fought and pledged to live free or die.

Please join me in wishing America a very Happy Birthday!!!!

God Bless you all!  
Cindy Kelley  
Department President

## "American Legion Family Strong"



# JUST ASK

As we start a new membership year I want to share some ideas about **MEMBERSHIP TEAMS**. Each post and district should have a membership team and a round table like the one held at convention should be considered as soon as possible. This would be to discuss ideas to promote membership.

Areas that your membership team should be considering are:

Retaining current members – consider continuing the buddy checks. Make sure our current membership knows that they are appreciated. Find out how they think they can help. It might be making phone calls, chairing a program or chairing a fundraiser. Don't overwhelm someone but they will be more apt to renew their membership if they feel needed.

Work the 462 and DMS list to bring new members into your posts. Call and speak to them regarding transferring to a local post and the benefits of doing so. These members recruited by the national organization are told they will be contacted. We have many who are just waiting to be ASKED to participate.

Renew lapsed members - you can make buddy checks for those who have not renewed off your own current post roster or the 462 list. Sometimes people don't realize they are appreciated or that their membership matters make sure they know. There might be a hardship reason why they didn't renew. Make sure you know how your posts handle this situation.

Most important though is new members from your own area. **JUST ASK** your neighbors, hold membership booths or strike up conversations with others. Most people are waiting to be asked they don't realize that membership matters.

Now that we can get out and be with others again we need to let the Veteran's in our communities know they matter. Don't forget the Women you see they are a fast growing Veteran's population and are also waiting to be asked.

## SO LET'S JUST ASK

### Final Department Membership Standings 2021 Membership Year

**District 9: Bristol 102.33%**

**District 4: Worcester 98.63%**

**District 10: Plymouth/Barnstable/Dukes and  
Nantucket 95.50%**





## From the Service Officer—Congress adds new presumptive condition to VA's List

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 was passed by the United States Congress recently, adding three presumptive conditions to the list of Agent Orange connected disabilities.

These conditions include Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms. As with other previously service connected disabilities, this ruling makes it much more likely for veterans with these illnesses to secure VA Disability Benefits.

Bladder Cancer is a common type of cancer developed in the urinary bladder, with early symptoms such as back pain and painful and frequent urination. Hypothyroidism is a condition in which the thyroid gland does not produce enough of certain crucial hormones. Hypothyroidism symptoms include speech problems, depression, muscle weakness, and swollen legs and feet.

Parkinson's –like symptoms such as tremors, slow movement, and impaired speech but not formally diagnosed as the disease itself is the third disability granted presumptive connection.

Certain lab tests will be ordered for those who experience any symptoms for these newly recognized Agent Orange diseases, when they file a new or supplemental claim for a disability. Any previously denied claims should be granted under this new law. As always contact a service officer for assistance with VA claims

Semper Fi

Mike Whalen



## Marketing—ANEC Mike Davis

Dear American Legion Family, I hope this edition of the E Legionnaire finds you all healthy and in good spirits as summer is upon us. July also brings us our first department marketing fundraiser of the new American Legion year and that is our annual address label program. The labels are distributed on behalf of the department by national this month. As stated in previous articles but it warrants repeating here, all profits from this program are specifically earmarked for the department rehabilitation fund which supports the first of our Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Proceeds are used for the VA Hospital canteen books and other such donations that support the care of our disabled veterans and comrades. I humbly ask that when you receive your labels to consider a donation to this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you in advance and thank you all who have donated to all of our fundraisers in the past as your funds are certainly put to good use.



## Community Service—DVC Nelson Blake

The community service committee would like to congratulate the 2020-2021 winners for the Claudius G. Pendill and the Howard Schreiber Awards.

Claudius G. Pendill Award given to the post that exemplifies community service this year is it presented to:  
The Roger P. Warfield Post 373 Baldwinsville

The Howard Schreiber Award was presented to: Post 124 Westfield

The Joseph J. Conway Community Service Award went to: Isaiah Thomas – Blaze French - Isaiah has taken an idea to help homeless Veteran's to a community call to action with the assistance of those in his 4H group, SAL squadron 189 and the American Legion Post 189. Isaiah saw a need and works to fill that need

This year's Mulkern educator of the year award was presented to: Christine Lavine is a teacher at East Brookfield Elementary School. Christine is noted for her volunteer work with students to promote understanding of local, state and national government.



## Legionnaires hit recruiting goals despite pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges for Legionnaires nationwide when it came to recruiting new members into the organization for the 2020-2021 membership year. Despite those challenges, 88 Legionnaires recruited 5,769 new members into The American Legion to earn Gold Brigade or Silver Brigade status.

There were 65 Gold Brigade winners who recruited 50 or more new members (not counting transfers), and 23 Silver Brigade winners who recruited 25-49 new members (not counting transfers) by the 100 percent membership target date.

The top Gold Brigader was Martha Bigbie, commander of American Legion Lester Keate Post 90 in St. George, Utah. She recruited 359 new members, which also earned her American Legion National Recruiter of the Year for 2021.

Silver Brigade and Gold Brigade awards cannot both be awarded to a recruiter during the same membership year. Silver Brigade recipients receive a silver pin and certificate.



### **Reduce the Backlog of Veterans Claims and Appeals**

A severe backlog of VA benefits claims and appeals continues to exist. For each one of these claims, a Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examination must be performed to determine if a disability is connected to military service. Recently, VA turned over 100% of its C&P exams to vendors in the private sector, except in certain cases, such as those who are currently admitted to VHA facilities.

In January 2020, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) reported that the BVA had set a goal of performing 50,000 hearings for veterans who have appealed their cases. The chairman believes that such a goal can be met through the widespread use of virtual hearings – a new option introduced by the board last year as an alternative to in-person or videoconference hearings. Through this online technology, veterans’ hearings can be scheduled more quickly and will significantly alleviate veterans’ travel expenses.

VA has worked diligently to reduce its backlog of new disability claims from its peak of 611,000 in March 2013 to its all-time low of 64,000 in December 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impaired VA’s ability to process claims as it was forced to suspend in-person C&P exams for several months, and the amount of VA personnel able to work on claims was limited to mitigate exposure of staff to the virus. VA must redouble its efforts again to bring the backlog back down to a manageable level.

#### **KEY POINTS**

VA’s Undersecretary for Benefits reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a backlog of about 300,000 disability claims.

New virtual tele-hearing options provide veterans with the flexibility and convenience of attending board hearings from personal computers or mobile devices.

#### **WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?**

- Expand virtual board hearing options for veterans to ensure they receive benefits earned through their service and to reduce the backlog of claims and appeals.
- Reassign C&P exams to VA as a temporary measure to reduce the C&P backlog.
- Establish interim benefits for veterans awaiting action on claims for service-connected disabilities if no action is taken within the first 125 days of the claim’s submission.



**SAVE THE DATE**

***SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021***

**POW/MIA CEREMONY**

**Chester P. Tuttle, Post 279**

**88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA**

**1:00 PM**

**Come help the Committee inaugurate a new  
Program and a new Location**



## Editorial—John Lenotte, PDC

The Fourth of July holiday is just around the corner. We are all looking forward to cookouts, fireworks and patriotic events. We should not forget the true meaning of this holiday. Celebration of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the 13 colonies breaking away from the reign of Great Britain and becoming the United States of America. This did not come without sacrifices then and even up to today. Over 1 million men and women have given their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy.

Regretfully, there are those who want to rewrite our history. The founding fathers were not perfect, nor have any of our leaders since then been perfect. All of them put their lives and fortunes on the line to establish the USA. There does seem to be a lack of education in our schools about our history and how government functions. And this is made worse with those trying to rewrite history all in the name of political correctness. Even much of the media is distorting history. I personally find it disturbing that there are elected officials and educators promoting the idea that America was founded on slavery. They seem to forget that we were a British colony and it was British traders who brought slavery to our shores. This does not make it right that slavery existed for so long. Nor is it right that many choose to ignore that slavery still exists today in our country.

All through my education and life experiences, I have been taught and promoted that there should not be discrimination of any kind. As pretty much everyone in their lifetime, I have seen discrimination based on age, race, sex, ethnic background and religion among many other types. I have been discriminated against, not as much as others but it is never a pleasant or welcome experience. We seem to have lost sight of the Ten Commandments as guiding principles.

One facet of history is learning from our mistakes. As I have noted, we have had an imperfect past as have all nations. But we continue to improve. In my opinion, we live in the greatest country on Earth. Look at those who continue to do all they can to come to the United States from all over the world. We will continue to prosper and grow but only if we step back and let God, the rule of law and respect for authority come back into our communities.

May God Bless America and the troops and their families who sacrifice so much to keep us free.

John Lenotte, Past Commander American Legion Post 4 Haverhill MA; Past Commander District 8/Essex County MA; Past Commander Department of MA. I may be reached by email at: [JPLEnotte@gmail.com](mailto:JPLEnotte@gmail.com)



"Let's Stick Together"

THAT is the slogan which you will see on The American Legion posters in every section of the country. It was selected because it epitomizes the story of the Legion. Sticking together means a number of things, all of them wholesome and vital in the sense that The American Legion applies the phrase. It means co-operation and help among Legion members, one for another, in the readjustment now going on; a constructive helping hand wherever and whenever the helping hand can be applied. It means a community of interests among the men and women who in service had the most trying common experience in the history of mankind. A community of interest which can be depended upon to be less selfish than patriotic; that will put country first in the future as it has in the past. It means a leavening that insures the stability of democracy and country. Sticking together means just those things, and The American Legion means sticking together. Let's stick together!

## Mutual Helpfulness

MUCH concrete good is being accomplished by posts which are conducting re-employment campaigns through their members. Lists are secured of unemployed members and men eligible to membership. Each employed member of the post then undertakes to find a suitable job for an unemployed comrade. He canvasses every possible opening at his own and adjoining places of employment. In this way hundreds of men are being placed in jobs. The same principle, applied by every Legion member, ought to go a long way toward supplementing the work of the various organized re-employment mediums in solving the whole problem of employment. Every member of the Legion is urged to join in this simple campaign of mutual helpfulness.





# The American Legion

Mortimer G. Robbins Post 215, P.O. Box 82, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908-0082

## In Memory Honor Roll coming to Nahant with The Wall That Heals How to have your loved one memorialized

NAHANT – When the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial replica The Wall that Heals (TWTH) rolls into Nahant for display on July 15-18, it will be accompanied by a mobile video compilation of photos of those who went to Vietnam and survived their tours there, only to come home and die due to a service-related illness.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called In Memory that features more than 4,700 Vietnam veterans who died under these circumstances. Currently, there are more than 200 such veterans from Massachusetts memorialized for all time on the website: <https://www.vvmf.org/Honor-Roll/>. A portable scrolling video monitor version of the Massachusetts Honor Roll will accompany TWTH on its two Massachusetts stops this summer. In addition to Nahant, TWTH will be in Townsend July 1-4. These two stops are the only New England appearances for TWTH this year.

TWTH is a three-quarters size replica of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is part of the programming offered by the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Fund. TWTH and In Memory were scheduled to be in Nahant and Townsend last year but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Anyone who wants to submit a profile of a loved one for the In Memory Honor Roll should do so by June 30.

“This is a great opportunity for Massachusetts families to add a loved one’s name to the Honor Roll,” said Bob Fields, Commander of American Legion Post 215, the Nahant sponsor for TWTH. “As we honor those who died in Vietnam with The Wall That Heals, it’s important for the public to know that the war took a lot more of our brothers and sisters after they came home.”

In order to submit a loved one’s profile, applicants should visit the website <https://www.vvmf.org/IM-Application2021/>, or download a written application from: <https://www.vvmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/In-MemoryApplication-2021.pdf>

Other helpful links:

About In Memory: <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/>

The Wall That Heals schedule: <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/2021-Tour-Schedule/>



# Department Convention



Commander Jodie Pajak



National Leadership Visits the Department Convention



# Department Convention







# Department Convention





Boston Chinatown Post 328 Installation of Officers



Nonantum Squadron 440 Installation of Officers



## Around the Department



Department Commander Tony Diaz, PDC, PNEC Louie Brault, PDC Jodie Pajak, Treasurer Steve Souza, Adjutant Milt Lashus at Women's Veterans Day ceremony in Sharon, MA.



Dighton Police Officer Gregory Steel received the American Legion Law and Order Award from Department Commander Tody Dias, Taunton Post 500 Commander/Adjutant Gene McCaffrey and District 9 Senior Vice Commander Paul Romanelli, today. Photo by District 9 Adjutant Lisa Borges.



## Around the Department



American Legion Post 124 raised \$2,200 for the March of Dimes with their spaghetti dinner and meatball grinder lunches.



Awesome start to the Legion Rider support a post monthly meet at post 101 Woburn. Thank you all for attending.



## Around the Department



J.W. Conway Bunker Hill Post 26 Commander participates in Bunker Hill Day festivities



Commander Tony Dias blocks his eyes as he draws the winning number at the Berkley Post 121 Auxiliary Fundraiser BBQ Picnic.



# Around the Department



Scouts USA and others present flags for retirement to Wrentham  
Post 225 Commander Joe Manning





## Northeastern Division National Vice President



It is Time

Time to Relieve the stress of the global pandemic

AND

Time to **Celebrate**

After many delays, due to pandemic concerns, we are rescheduling the celebration of Carolyn Baranowski as our Auxiliary Northeast Division Vice President

So, without further delay . . .

Let's **Celebrate** our Eastern Division National Vice President

## *Carolyn Baranowski*

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Storrowtown Carriage House, 1305 Memorial Drive (Eastern State Exposition grounds) West Springfield, MA. 01089. Cocktails will be at 12:00 noon and sit-down dinner at 1:00 PM.

Please join us to help celebrate and honor Carolyn as she continues to serve the American Legion Auxiliary.

The dinner choices will be chicken francaise or prime rib or baked scrod. Also included will be fruit cup with sherbet, Caesar salad, twice baked potatoes, honey glazed carrots and ice cream puff for dessert! Coffee and tea and a cash bar. Keep an eye out for further details!

Sincerely,

The Committee to Celebrate Carolyn



## Around the Detachment of Massachusetts



The Dalton-Lavallee Squadron 224 of Easthampton, Massachusetts was the recipient of the 2021 Detachment of Massachusetts Commander's Award. The Commander's Award is presented to the squadron that contributes the most to the Detachment Commander's Charity National Emergency Fund during the membership year. Pictured left to right: Ernie Laberge, Detachment Commander & Squadron 224 Commander, Mark Subocz (dual-member), Kevin Miller (dual-member), Charles Duffy (dual-member) of Squadron 224, and Gary P. Nelson, Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander of the East.



Joseph Brill of Morrissette Squadron 294 who was awarded the Blue Brigade award for recruiting over 50 new members into the S.A.L. Pictured: Ernie Laberge, Detachment Commander, Joseph Brill, Gene Theroux, Vice Commander and 2020-2021



## Around the Detachment of Massachusetts



Whitman Squadron 22, the 2021 Detachment of Massachusetts Thomas W. "Wiggy" Wigmore Four Pillars of Service Consolidated Squadron Report Memorial Award recipient. Pictured: Ernie Laberge, Detachment Commander, William Sheehan, PDC and Alternate NEC of Whitman Squadron 22, Diedre Wigmore, widow of Thomas W. Wigmore, and Gary P. Nelson, Sons of The American Legion, National Vice Commander of the East.

Congratulations to Isaiah French of the Hiram O. Taylor Sons of The American Legion Squadron 189 (Sterling, MA), the 2021 Department of Massachusetts Joseph J. Conway Memorial Award.





## VA Secretary Denis McDonough statement on department's extension of moratoriums on foreclosures and evictions.

As the nation emerges from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated millions of Americans remain in need of mortgage and rental assistance.

To provide continued relief to the Veteran and service member community — the Department of Veterans Affairs is extending by an additional month — the foreclosure and eviction moratoriums through July 31. Extending the COVID-19 moratoriums on foreclosures and evictions will allow households that may have fallen behind on their mortgages more time to recover. Ultimately the extension will help thousands of VA home loan borrowers stay in their homes, and provide those hard-hit by the pandemic, the time needed to get back on a regular monthly mortgage payment schedule.

In addition to the multiple ways VA already helps borrowers avoid foreclosure, the department is implementing a short-term mortgage repayment assistance program via the [VA Partial Claim Payment program](#), to bring certain borrowers current on their mortgage as they resume regular mortgage payments. VAPCP will be available for COVID-19 impacted borrowers to help them remain in their home and continue to enjoy the benefits of homeownership.

Once the moratoriums end, VA will take additional steps to prevent foreclosures on VA-backed mortgages until borrowers are reviewed for COVID-19 home retention options that are affordable.

VA will announce additional steps in July to offer borrowers payment reduction options that will enable more homeowners to stay in their homes. Additionally, VA will also continue to allow homeowners who have not taken advantage of forbearance to date to enter into COVID-related forbearance through Sept. 30 of this year.

The [VHA Homeless Programs Office](#) offers a wide range of resources and services for Veterans facing housing crises, having helped more than 850,000 Veterans and their families exit homelessness or remain in stable housing since 2010.

The VHA Homeless Programs Office Supportive Services for Veteran Families program gives homeless prevention assistance and has taken a proactive approach to reach Veterans at risk of homelessness during the pandemic. The SSVF program's [Shallow Subsidy](#) intervention initiative will also assist by providing a modest subsidy for two years to extremely low-income Veterans who are at risk of homelessness.

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless can **call or visit their** [local VA Medical Center](#) or contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID VET 877-424-3838 for help.

The [White House](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#), and the Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development also have resources for homeowners and renters needing help.



# American Legion e-Newsletters



### ONLINE UPDATE

The American Legion Online Update includes timely stories, a poll, video links, and advance notices that relate to veterans affairs, Legion programs and activities, and members of the Armed Forces. The weekly publication also features links to Emblem Sales, and advertisers who provide discounts and special offers to Legionnaires.

[Subscribe](#)



### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The national commander sends out regular e-mail letters, usually twice monthly. The topics focus on important American Legion initiatives and programs, and items of general interest to the veterans community.

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### FLAG ALERT

The American Legion Flag Alert provides an e-mail notification when the flag of the United States is to be displayed at half-staff. You can sign up for the emails on this page.

To subscribe to the Flag Alert text notifications, follow this simple two-step process. First, text Flag to 534466. You will be asked to verify with "Y". Once that is complete, you will receive the text alerts.

[Subscribe](#)



### TANGO ALPHA LIMA



### THE DUGOUT



### LEGION RIDERS

The American Legion has a variety of free e-newsletters to keep veterans, military personnel and their families updated on messages from the national commander, podcast episodes, flag alerts, job fairs, American Legion programs and more.

Subscribe to the following e-newsletters by going to [legion.org/newsletters](http://legion.org/newsletters). Click the "Subscribe" tab at the top. You will be re-directed to MyLegion.org to opt in/out of the e-newsletters. To manage your e-newsletter subscriptions, click the "edit" button.



## 2021 Membership Standing *as of June 24, 2022—Last Report of the 2021 Membership Year*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1339	1244	92.91%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1336	1254	93.86%
3	HAMPDEN	2763	2542	92.00%
4	WORCESTER	4751	4686	98.63%
5	MIDDLESEX	4212	3980	94.49%
6	NORFOLK	2624	2415	92.04%
7	SUFFOLK	1301	1169	89.85%
8	ESSEX	2777	2555	92.01%
9	BRISTOL	2659	2721	102.33%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	4270	4078	95.50%
297	CAPITOL HILL	346	370	106.94%
462	HEADQUARTERS	2343	2098	89.545
	TOTAL	30,721		
	National Quota	31,476	29,112	92.49%



## American Legion Auxiliary—Woman of the Year Award



2019 Recipients (from left to right) Marsha Four, Patricia Harris, and Leslie Lightfoot

Established in 1984, the Woman of the Year Award recognizes outstanding women who exemplify the values and ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary, particularly those whose contributions advance the quality of life for America’s military, veterans, and their families. Recognition and presentation of the award occurs at the national convention.

### Criteria & Selection

- Recipients may be an Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not necessary for consideration.
- Their contributions should be high profile in nature and therefore have had a wide-ranging effect and/or impact.
- The recipient should display the ideals and values defined by the mission of the organization.
- The recipient serves as an inspirational role model and/or spokesperson for the organization and membership.

Selection is at the discretion of the national president.



## Auxiliary Membership *as of 5/28/2021*

	No. of Units	Name	2021 Goal	Present Membership	District Percentage	No. Quota Units
1	4	BERKSHIRE	221	198	89.59%	1
2	9	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	295	287	97.29%	5
3	12	HAMPDEN	419	319	76.13%	
4	26	WORCESTER	1072	958	89.37%	6
5	27	MIDDLESEX	980	890	90.82%	6
6	11	NORFOLK	395	361	91.39%	2
7	7	SUFFOLK	214	159	74.30%	2
8	12	ESSEX	588	564	95.92%	5
9	13	BRISTOL	302	270	89.40%	4
10	13	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	808	849	105.07%	9
462	1	HEADQUARTERS	139	139	100.00%	
		TOTAL	5,433	4,994	91.92%	



## Detachment Commander's Message



I was both honored and humbled to be nominated for Detachment Commander by William "Bill" J. Murphy III, the National Executive Committeeman and a Past Detachment Commander. Bill has 40 years continuous membership in the Sons of The American Legion and has served the Detachment in several important positions that included Detachment Commander, Chaplain, and National Executive Committeeman and has volunteered to serve the Detachment as the Adjutant. When Bill Murphy was the Detachment Commander in 2013-2014, he was a tremendous help in advising, guiding, and assisting with the reactivation of the inactive Westfield Squadron 124 charter. Then Vice Commanders Ernie Laberge and Marvin P. Nay were there to help train, advise, coach, and mentor me as the Westfield Squadron 124 Commander. These two gentlemen came to Squadron 124 meetings, they assisted with recognizing and presenting awards to squadron members, for installation of squadron officers, and we traveled together to Department, Detachment, and National Sons of The American Legion events.

I would like to both congratulate and to thank Past National Commander Clifford A. Smith for his many years of dedicated service to the Detachment as Adjutant and Finance Officer. I would like to thank and to commend Past Detachment Commander Mark B. McCue who has volunteered to be the Detachment Finance Officer. As previously mentioned, PDC Bill Murphy will become the Detachment Adjutant with Past National Adjutant Brian J. O'Hearne to serve as the assistant Adjutant. It is important to note that Brian J. O'Hearne served as the National Adjutant for nineteen consecutive years and has volunteered to assist Bill Murphy in his new position as Detachment Adjutant. Brian J. O'Hearne was bestowed the title of Past National Commander from SAL Resolution 1 from the Past National Commanders from the fall 2017 NEC. Between Bill Murphy and Brian O'Hearne there is 84 years of continuous membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

The Detachment has a strong team that will be working as a cohesive unit to build for the future. We have a unified membership team of Vice Commander Jason Kelly who will work the east. Past Detachment Commander William L. Sheehan and alternate NEC will assist Vice Commander Jason Kelly with membership. Vice Commander James Blake will work membership for the central region with assistance from Detachment Adjutant Bill Murphy (PDC & NEC). PDC Mark B. McCue will assist with squadrons that reside in Department's District 4. Justin Foley will work membership for the west with assistance from Detachment Commander Gene Theroux. In addition, Justin will serve as the Membership Chairman and be the editor of the Detachment Membership Newsletter. Joseph A. Poplaski of North Adams Squadron 125 and a former Detachment Vice Commander will assist with squadron membership for Berkshire County.



## Detachment Commander's Message (Continued)

The Detachment membership team will be focusing on improving membership numbers with the goal to meet and exceed all National Membership Targets. After all, it began in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775, and our membership theme will be "Where it all Began" based upon that memorable date in history at Lexington and Concord in Middlesex County, hence, why we have a Minuteman silhouette on our SAL caps).

We are hoping to have a Detachment Executive Committee meeting hosted by the Bedford Post 221 in September.

The Bedford Post 221 is in proximity of the Lexington Green and Battle Road to Concord which provides us reinforcement of the beginnings of the American Revolution. The Bedford Post 221 proudly displays the Bedford Flag at their Post home. The Bedford flag was present at the battles of Lexington-Concord and is America's oldest historically attested flag.

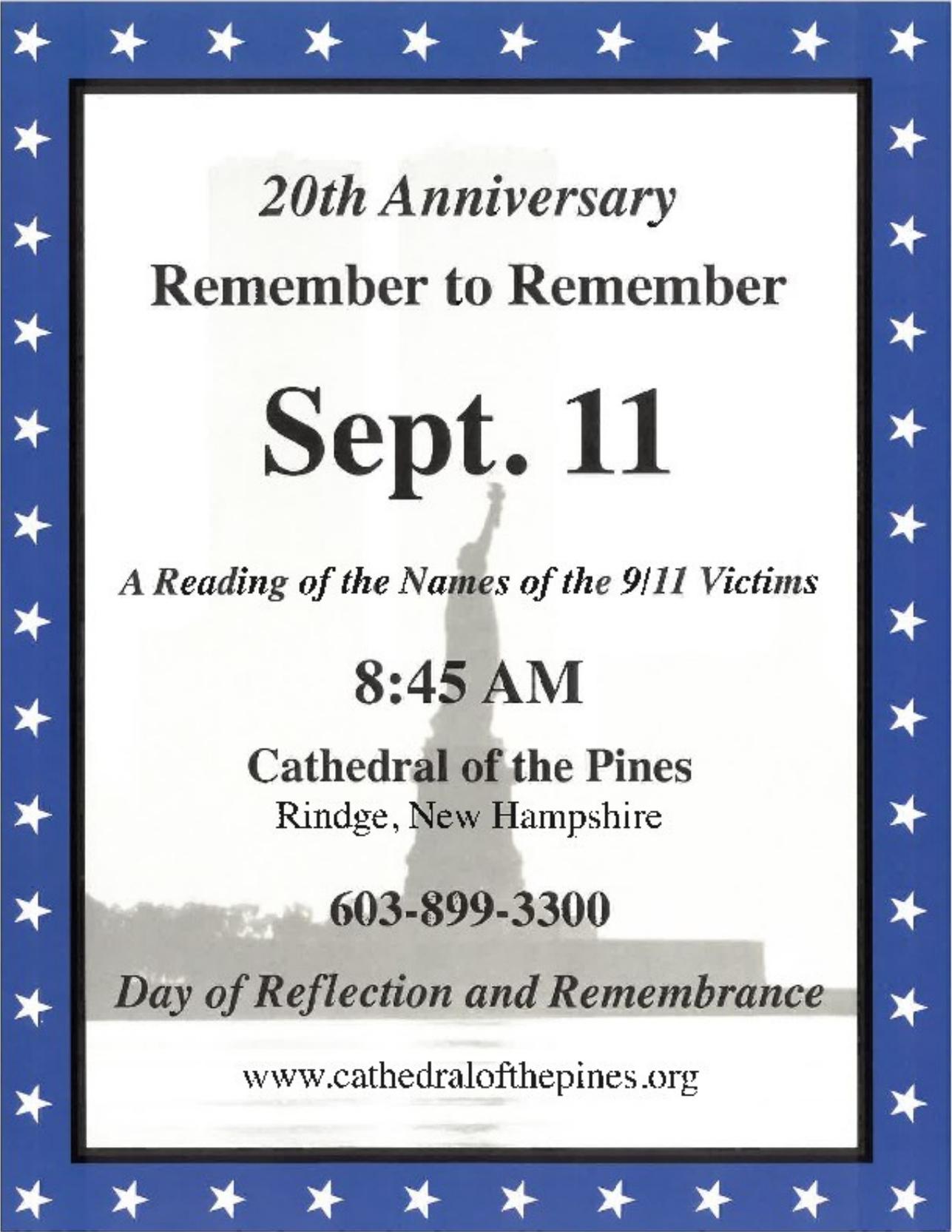
The Detachment Commander's project for the 2021-2022 program year will be The American Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation. The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation provides vital support for military and veterans parents during an unexpected financial crisis and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities of disabled veterans and families.

I would like to thank each member for their support and for what each of you do for our veterans and for the American Legion.



## 2021 S.A.L. Membership Standings as of 6/24/2021

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	181	180	99.45%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	275	251	91.27%
3	HAMPDEN	372	309	83.06%
4	WORCESTER	998	900	90.18%
5	MIDDLESEX	1269	1109	87.39%
6	NORFOLK	794	802	101.01%
7	SUFFOLK	131	136	103.82%
8	ESSEX	446	329	73.77%
9	BRISTOL	248	221	89.11%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	641	600	93.60%
	Capital Hill	9	9	100.0%
	TOTAL	5364	4846	90.34%



*20th Anniversary*

**Remember to Remember**

**Sept. 11**

*A Reading of the Names of the 9/11 Victims*

**8:45 AM**

**Cathedral of the Pines**

Rindge, New Hampshire

**603-899-3300**

*Day of Reflection and Remembrance*

[www.cathedralofthepines.org](http://www.cathedralofthepines.org)

The National Twenty & Four, Honor Society of Women Legionnaires  
Cheri Stanton, National Director



## 65th Annual Bivouac Banquet

Friday, August 27, 2021

Kyatt, 122 North Second Street in Phoenix, AZ

No Host Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm at Kyatt Barrel & Bushel Lounge  
(Located in the main Lobby)

Program & Dinner: 6:00 pm in the Kyatt Cowboy Room

(Attire: After Five or Legion equivalent)

---

RSVP

Mr \_\_\_\_\_

Has reserved \_\_\_\_\_ seats at

The 65th Annual Bivouac Banquet on Friday, August 27, 2021

Cost of dinner per person (pp) will be \$70.00 postmarked by August 1, 2021. Please remit the section below dotted line together with your payment to: G. Callaway, PO Box 525, La Grange, IL 60525. (E: 20and4echeloneight@gmail.com)

- \* Provide names if more than one person
- \* Provide email and phone if you desire confirmation of receipt
- \* Five seats per Table are due to current State's Covid policy



**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

**FREE  
EVENT**

**THE  
VETERAN'S VOICE  
NETWORK**  
presents the

★ **JOB FAIR** ★  
★ **RAFFLES** ★

**VETERAN'S**  
★ **SECOND ANNUAL** ★

★ **LIVE MUSIC** ★

★ **FREE  
HEALTH  
SCREENING** ★

**Music Festival & Expo**  
**FOR VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

Join us for a fun-filled day with Live Music, Free Food, Games for the Kids,  
Sport Competitions, Guest Speakers and Veteran Support Professionals

★ **MILITARY  
VEHICLES** ★

**Saturday, July 24, 2021**

★ **SPECIAL  
GUESTS** ★

Pageant Field, 1 Merrymount Parkway, Quincy, MA

★ **GAMES** ★

**10 AM - 3 PM**

Special Appearance by

★ **SPEAKERS** ★

FOR EVENT INFORMATION:  
**781-985-1551**  
OR EMAIL: [greggbrasso@aol.com](mailto:greggbrasso@aol.com)



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**AND MORE!**  
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**CALL 781-985-1551**

Veteran's Voice is a tax exempt not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

# AMERICAN LEGION

## POST 225

## BBQ COOK-OFF

592 SOUTH STREET, WRENTHAM MA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021

NEBS TAILGATE: WING AND RIBS  
KIDS Q: PORK CHOPS

AWARDS AND CASH PRIZES



BBQ Cook  
Out  
Raffles  
Music and  
much more!



**Contact Kathy at:**  
**[inclusivebbqevents@gmail.com](mailto:inclusivebbqevents@gmail.com)**



# **Ride for the Holyoke Soldiers Home**

Sponsored by Cherry Valley & Baldwinville ALR

**PUBLIC EVENT – ALL RIDERS WELCOME**

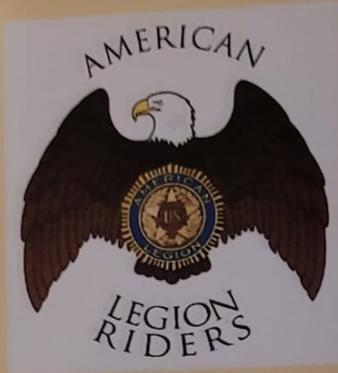
**Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> (Rain date July 18<sup>th</sup>)**

**Cherry Valley Post 443 – 167 Main St., Cherry Valley, MA  
\$20 Rider - \$10 Passenger**

**Registration: 9:00 am  
Kickstands up: 11:00 am Sharp**

**Food & Raffles**

Proceeds to the Soldiers Home  
Holyoke, MA



Post 221

# Charity Ride

Benefit of



**JEANNE GEIGER**  
CRISIS CENTER

Empowering individuals and engaging communities to end domestic violence

## Saturday, August 21

Registration - 9:30 am; KSU - 11:00 am

American Legion Post 221

357 Great Road

Bedford, MA

Riders - \$25

Passengers - \$15

Non-Riders - \$15

Food

Raffles

SAVE THE DATE!



**LAKE LEGION RIDERS  
POST 313  
N. CHELMSFORD, MA**

**HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS**

**SELF-PACED  
MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN**

**SATURDAY,  
SEPT. 18, 2021**

**Riders: \$20  
Passengers: \$5**



**Alberton W. Vinal American Legion Post 313  
90 Groton Road, North Chelmsford, MA**

**Registration Starts at 9:00 AM  
CASH PRIZE TO THE WINNING HAND!**

**Questions? Go to [www.LakeLegionRiders.com](http://www.LakeLegionRiders.com)  
Begins and ends at Post 313 with a scenic ride and three stops in between.**



A.P. GARDNER POST 194



# Military Service Day

At Patton Homestead, Hamilton Massachusetts



**Saturday July 17, 2021 10am-4pm RAIN OR SHINE**

**1943 M4A1 Sherman & M10 Tank Destroyer  
and Driving Demonstrations!**

**US ARMY UH-60 BLACKHAWK Helicopter &  
State Police EC135 Helicopter Landings, Displays!**

**Massachusetts National Guard Units Invited Include:**

**The Mounted Horse Lancers Historic Cavalry, Bomb Disposal Unit,  
WMD Command Com Unit, Combat K9, Guard Marching Band**

**!!! SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS !!!**

**Military Re-enactors, Equipment Displays,  
Military Vehicles Including Half Tracks, Heavy Trucks,  
Artillery, Memorabilia, The Boston Park Rangers Mounted Horse Patrol Unit,  
State Police K9, State Police Mounted Horse Troopers**

**Children Welcome! Food Truck Refreshments!**



**At Patton Homestead, General Patton's home,  
650 Asbury St, Hamilton, MA**

**SUGGESTED \$10 PARKING DONATION for the NONPROFIT POST 194-THANK YOU!**

Event pending Massachusetts and Town of Hamilton COVID-19 active protocols.

Thank you to Senator Tarr, Representative Brad Hill, Lt. General Keefe, TAG, Massachusetts National Guard and the Town of Hamilton.  
Helicopter landings pending final mission changes or weather, check our Facebook page for times, confirmations.



A.P. GARDNER POST 194

Information: Email: [petergwinnIMC@gmail.com](mailto:petergwinnIMC@gmail.com) or 978-317-1234

[www.apgardnerposthamilton.org](http://www.apgardnerposthamilton.org) Find us on Facebook as: American Legion: Post 194 (Hamilton MA)

# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



## CHAPTER 101



## SERVICE DOG PROJECT MOTORCYCLE RIDE

**Help us support our veterans!**

**\$25  
for  
Riders**



**\$10  
for  
Passengers**

FOOD-RAFFLES 50/50-MUSIC

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH  
REGISTRATION 9:30AM - KSU 11AM  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 101  
194 LEXINGTON STREET, WOBURN, MA

# Save the Date

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Ashburnham American Riders 142  
1st Annual Poker Run  
**August 7th 2021**

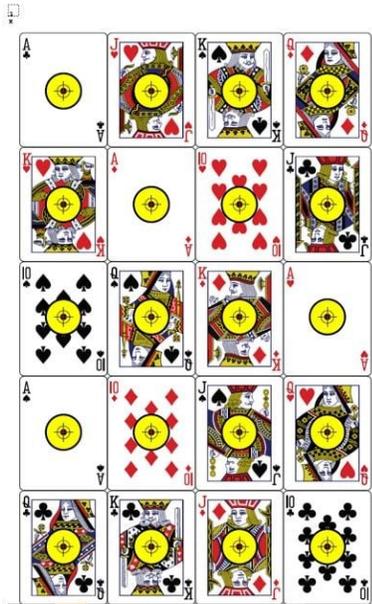


Ashburnham American Legion Post 142  
32 Williams Rd  
Ashburnham, Ma 01430

Proceeds Benefit Local Veterans and Charities

**\*\*\*\* More details to come \*\*\*\***

# SAVE THE DATE! NORTHBORO ALR ERIK'S RIDE – AUG 28, 2021



## One Target, Five Shots, Best Hand Wins!

- Join us for the 4th annual Erik's Ride
- 5 different Gun Clubs
- 1 Target
- 1 Shot at your target at each club
- Best hand wins
- Cookout after the ride at the Northborough American Legion Post
- Raffles/Prizes/Music



Scan for  
Info and  
Registration

SAVE THE DATE - JULY 17, 2021

CHESTER P TUTTLE CELEBRATION RIDE



After more than 2 years  
the Chester P Tuttle Post

is being rebuilt . Please save the date to  
join us in our celebration ride. Further details  
will follow.



## 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

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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.



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