



ALA CHATTER

Your source for all things Maine American Legion Auxiliary



The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine
886B Kennedy Memorial Dr., Oakland, ME 04963
Tel. (207) 465-4966 Fax (207) 465-4967

Email: aladepsecme1@myfairpoint.net www.maineala.org Facebook: Maine American Legion Auxiliary

November 25, 2015

“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.” ~Charles H. Spurgeon

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Department Headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.

November 30 – December 4 – Department Headquarters will be open 1 – 3 p.m.

DEADLINES:

ALA CHATTER deadline: 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

PINE TREE NEWS: November 25, as this is the day before Thanksgiving, please consider sending it earlier. I will be working on it over the weekend, so no late submissions will be included.

WANTED

Members who want to supply a Christmas Gift Bag for a veteran!! These “bags” may be the only gift under a Veteran’s tree, so let's get behind this program and start supporting it. The bags are filled with daily necessities to help the veteran, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, socks. They are not extravagant gifts, just a small way to help with things we take for granted.

Spend no more than \$20.00. Suggested items are a \$10.00 gift card to Dunkin Donuts or McDonalds so they can go out and have a treat, then body wash, deodorant, razors, shaving cream. Use your imagination of what a veteran may need.

Anyone can do a bag, Auxiliary members, Legionnaires, SAL members, your family members, co-workers. Anyone wishing to do this, I need them back to me, or Michelle at Headquarters, by Dec. 15th. Not a shopper, donate \$20.00 and we'll do a bag for you. Send donations to Michelle at ALA, Dept. of Maine, 886B Kennedy Memorial Dr., Oakland, Maine 04963. Be sure to mark your check VAVS - To-gus Christmas.

Mary Jane McLoon, VA&R/VAVS Chairman, P.O. Box 25, Walpole 04573 (563-5316; c: 446-5329)
mjmcloon@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S YARD

Happy Thanksgiving Ladies!!

I wish everyone the joy of Thanksgiving, sharing with Family, Friends and Veterans. Many of you have seen on TV or heard from an Auxiliary Member that our daughter, Sgt Amanda Yates, surprised all of us by her arrival home from her 13 month long deployment in Africa. We are truly blessed she is here, on American soil, safe and grateful. What better joy could we have than to have her home to celebrate such a wonderful day! Amanda will be joining me at Post 1 Rockland to help prepare and serve Thanksgiving Dinner.

Thank You to everyone who has welcomed her home. She is very grateful for all the support and well wishes she has gotten via the Department Facebook page.

I thank everyone who has supported this holiday for our Veterans, whether it is by preparing a Thanksgiving dinner for a Veteran or by donating towards the meal for a Veteran to have at his or her home. You make me proud to be part of this awesome organization.

With that being said, until next week, I remain,

Yours in Service,

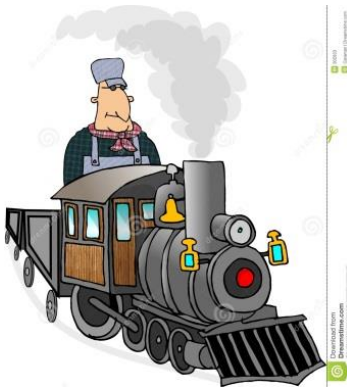
Deb Marr, President, (aka "The Track-master") 1779 Hotel Rd, Auburn 04210 (701-9676)
debra.ann.marr@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP ENGINEER

MEMBERSHIP GOAL #5 - 2015-2016 is 70% by DECEMBER 20, 2015.

"I promise to give the Gift of Membership..."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL.



GIVE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP ... We give generously to each other during the holidays. Why not seriously consider paying membership for 2016 for a member as a surprise, who is having a difficult time, a member who is ill, a member who is rejoining or a new member's first year's dues!

National Goal: The Department needs to hit 60% in membership by December 7, 2015 to reach our next National goal. We need 1,227 more paid members to reach this goal. We currently have 4,308 paid members and 47.96%.

Department Goal: The next Department goal for Units is 70% by December 20, 2015. Several Units have already reached their goal. Will your Unit make it? Remember, awards are available.

I recently asked Units to change how they submit dues and to mail them in more frequently. THANK YOU very much to those Units who have started doing this. It has shown in the mail received at Department and it helps us to reach our Unit, Department and National goals more efficiently. This week we received 247 dues, much better than the 100 or so in the past few weeks. There are still Units who have not submitted any membership. District Presidents, please reach out to them and ask them to send in their dues, or if they need any assistance with it.

Thank you for all you do. *See you on the Membership Tracks!*

Veronica Gurney, Department Vice President/Membership Chairman, 3 Mt. Pleasant St., Waterville 04901 (692-3417) polka58@roadrunner.com

[EDITOR'S NOTE: See the new membership statistics and other pertinent membership information further down in this issue of the ALA Chatter.](#)

CHAPLAIN'S TRACK

Our God is a giving God. Are you thankful for those things and people God puts in your path?

With Thanksgiving Day upon us, remember to thank God for all you have. Both the people and things you love but also for the people and things that give you work or angst. All things given to us by God help us to grow and become whom we are even if we don't know God's plan or the reasoning behind it. Be thankful for everything and praise Him daily.

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Psalm 100:4

As always, should you need any assistance from me, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am honored to lift you up in prayer.

For God and Country,

Ann Durost, Department Chaplain, P.O. Box 211, Seal Harbor 04675 (669-5686)

anndurost@gmail.com

HISTORIAN'S RAIL

Hello Ladies.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! As we sit around our dining room table with friends and families, let's not forget all our military personnel who make the sacrifices everyday so we can enjoy being home with our families.

God Bless and stay safe.

Yours in service,

Joan Caron, (aka Laborer), P.O. Box 76, Sabattus 04280 (375-4639) joancaroon52@gmail.com

BRAVO

Lillian Frace, 4th District DVP, for volunteering at Department Headquarters again this week.

BACK TO THE BASICS

If a junior member turns 18 during the 2016 calendar year, is she considered a junior or senior member? Any member who turns 18 prior to December 31, 2015 is considered a senior member for the 2016 year and is billed at the senior dues rate. Any member who turns 18 AFTER January 1, 2016 will be considered a junior member for the 2016 membership year and billed at the junior dues rate.

Can a member pay her 2016 dues if she hasn't paid her 2015 dues? Yes, as of July 2015 a member can choose to pay her 2016 dues even if she's not paid her 2015 dues, and many members may want to do so now that we are collecting dues for the 2016 membership year. Please note, however, that a member who skips a year paying dues would not be eligible for programs such as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund as she would have lost her continuous years. After January 2016, any member who wishes to pay back dues must be a current member in good standing (i.e. their 2016 dues are paid) before any back dues payments can be applied.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please note the following corrections in your 2015-2016 Directory:

Pg. 6, 11, 33, Madeline Sweet, P.O. Box **1613**, Bucksport, ME 04416

APPRECIATION

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me cards, flowers, plants, and hugs during my recent illness. Your thoughtfulness really means a lot to me. I am out of the hospital and on the mend, slowly. I'm happy to be back at the office.

Barbara Flanagan, Department Volunteer, Member of Oakland Unit 51

AMERICANISM

What is the Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA)?

The Citizens Flag Alliance is a broad based, nonpartisan, nonprofit, national organization, which was formed to persuade Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect the flag.

Background - More than three million people have signed petitions asking Congress to pass a flag protection amendment and send it to states for ratification. Surveys since 1989 have consistently shown that

75-80 percent of the American people support a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. More than 140 organizations, representing millions of Americans, have joined the CFA since it was incorporated in June 1994. All fifty state legislatures have passed Memorial Resolutions asking Congress to pass a flag amendment and send it to the states for ratification. This is twelve more than is needed to ratify an amendment. No other symbol so readily and clearly says, "America." We are a nation of diversity. The one unifying symbol of American in war and peace is the United States flag. Please contact your state and federal representatives and let them know how you feel about this issue.

Brenda Roberts, Americanism Chairman, 29 Meulendyk Ave., Brownville 04414 (965-3631; C. 943-6271) brenda_roberts@email.com

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

The Juniors will be having basket raffles at Mid-Winter Conference. Any units with junior members that would like to put one together would be helpful. Please contact me for more information.

The Department Junior President's Project, Nickels for Noah, is doing well. The juniors have collected \$23.00 in quarters so far. All juniors are asked to collect nickels for this project. Noah donates the money to the Children's Miracle Network to help other children like him who have been affected by a medical condition.

Cathy Jordan, 7 Forest Ave., Apt. D., Brownville 04414 (279-4033; c: 212-0207)
ciluvmms2@yahoo.com

LEADERSHIP

What is Leadership? Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it. – Dwight D. Eisenhower. The word "leadership" can bring to mind a variety of images.

It's impossible to respect, value and admire great leadership if you can't identify what makes a leader great.

Women leaders invest in themselves and become knowledge seekers. They are not afraid to ask questions when given a safe platform to express themselves.

Successful women leaders don't rely on favors; they earn respect and truly believe they can influence their own advancement by serving others.

Consummate team players, they also seek to prove their value and self-worth by exceeding performance expectations.

Looking for respect more than recognition, the most successful women leaders don't seek to become the star of the show — but they enable others to create a great show. In other words, being in the spotlight is not what drives them — but rather it's the ability to influence positive outcomes with maximum impact.

Charlotte "Kitty" Doyle, Leadership Chairman, 111 Ridge Rd., Bath 04530 (837-8722)
wingkittie@comcast.net

NATIONAL SECURITY

Christmas is on its way -- **In view of that, we, Maine, have more than 67 Military families who need our help.**

Project Christmas Across Maine is a Military project, where the American Legion Auxiliary members can get involved through the National Security Committee.

This project is called CHRISTMAS ACROSS MAINE. Please reach out to help a military family. My thanks go out to Unit 43, Belfast, and Oakland Unit# 51 for reaching out their hand to a Military family. If there are other Units that want to help, please, please call me as I have information for you and to make a Military family have a nice Christmas.

In the Spirit of Goodwill, please call to help these Military families,
Nancy Ronco, (the welder), 25 Back Winterport Rd., Winterport 04496 (223-5950, c. 949-4442)
nrrquilting@myfairpoint.net

PINE TREE NEWS

PTN subscriptions for 2016 are \$10.00 + .55 tax = \$10.55 per person. **Anyone** may receive a copy of the PTN be paying the \$10.55. The more members who receive it, the more informed our membership will be. Please help spread the word. **2015 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE EXPIRED.** If you have not paid, you did not get the November issue.

TOM BRADY AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL RAFFLE



Do you have your raffle tickets yet for this “priceless” prize? They are going out the door at a very rapid pace. Tickets were distributed to all Units who attended Fall Conference and are in the mail to all other Units. Tickets are \$5 .00 each or 3 for \$10.00.

Think Christmas gifts!

The drawing will be held at Mid-Winter Conference on January 17, 2016.

All proceeds from this raffle will be used towards welfare programs, which include all veteran, active-duty military, and children’s programs. This can include any of our programs at the Togus VA, the Maine Veterans Homes, homeless veterans, Children and Youth, etc.



Note: this football was donated by the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation and has a letter with it authenticating it.

MAINE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

STUFF MY SUV



Below is a list of items needed at Camp Tall Pines. The Auxiliary is instrumental in supplying a large amount of the items needed at the camp each year, and I need your help to do it! Please bring items to Mid-Winter Conference and help stuff my SUV! Wouldn't it be awesome if my vehicle was so full I could barely fit in it? Remember to keep track of the dollars spent and include it on your mid-year and year-end reports! If you prefer, you may call me (653-3886) or e-mail me (dtrue5@maine.rr.com) if you'd like to get items to me before or after Mid-Winter Conference. Thank you!!!

Camp Tall Pines 2015-16 Winter Kitchen/Shower List

General Needs

Paper Towels	Toilet Paper
Liquid hand Soap (dispensers & re-fill)	Hand Sanitizer
All Purpose cleaners (not bleach)	Bathroom cleaners (toilet & disinfectant)
Napkins	Sponges
Tin Foil	Plastic Wrap
Energy Efficient Light Bulbs	DVDs
Trash Bags – 13 Gal & 55 Gal	(5) Swiffer handles
Swiffer wet pads	Mattress Covers
Cutting Boards	

Big Ticket Items

Pots & Pans	DVD Players
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Nancy True, 220 Shaker Rd., Gray 04039 (657-2661; c: 653-3886) dtrue5@maine.rr.com

WAYS AND MEANS

Do you craft? Sew? Knit? Crochet? Quilt? Cook? Jar? If so, we need you. The new look for our Ways and Means program is hand-made items.

We have some material that has been donated that we are looking for sewers or crafters to be creative with. Call me and I'll make sure you get some. Anyone who has any hobby that is willing to donate an item or two for this program is asked to let us know. Quilts are always a big seller of tickets.

Deb Marr, President, (aka "The Track-master") 1779 Hotel Rd, Auburn 04210 (701-9676)
debra.ann.marr@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP – WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE MATTER

MEMBERSHIP – THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Centennial Plan Goal 1, Strategies A&B

Units are encouraged to share their ideas on how to get members to renew their dues, sign up new members or rejoin former members. Please send us your ideas to share with other Units.

Who would not want to be a member of this wonderful Unit. Below is a list of events for Machias Unit 9, just for the month of December. These are very active, hardworking ladies whose only intent is to serve others.

American Legion Unit 9 Machias December Events

Dec. 2: wrapping Christmas gifts for the Veterans at the Machias Veteran's Home. Each Thursday we play beano with the Veterans and the last Thursday of the month we share a birthday party with them with dancing and dessert. We also attend Marshall Manor and Davis Estates (local nursing homes) for beano each week.

Dec. 5: monthly visit to Togus VA Center by Unit members.

Dec 13: Children's Christmas Party at Elm St. School in Machias. Each year we make their Christmas great. We have an auxiliary member, Flora B, who makes scarves, hats and mittens for each of the children, along with that a gift, a large stocking filled with coloring books, crayons and candy and pictures with Santa. Last year we served 102 children, with each year growing.

Dec. 19: is the Adult Christmas Party with Alan Cook playing and finger food served.

Dec. 20/21: we will be bringing fruit baskets and baked goods to each of the nursing homes for Veterans and non-veterans and to wish them a Merry Christmas.

Dec 31: we will be celebrating at the Legion with Alan Cook from 8 p.m. -1 a.m. ringing in the New Year.

If anyone would like to attend any of our events but travel is long, there is a motel in Machias. We would be happy to get the prices and number for you. Just give us a call at (207) 255-8665. Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wood

YEAR OF THE UNIT

MEMBERSHIP GOAL #5 - 2015-2016 is 70% by DECEMBER 20, 2015.
“I promise to give the Gift of Membership...”

Membership Challenge: A member who Recruits a NEW member during the month of December and through January 8, 2016 will be entered into a drawing for \$10.00 “Cold Hard Cash” (2 winners) Units need to send recruiters names to Veronica Gurney at polka58@roadrunner.com

URGENT – HELP NEEDED

URGENT: District Presidents, please reach out to the following Units in your District who are currently below 50%, or have not transmitted any membership (those with 1, 2, 3 are most likely PUFLs). Find out if they need help any in way and ask them to transmit all membership they have collected weekly.

WHAT CAN UNITS DO TO COLLECT MEMBERSHIP?

- Form a group of members to start a calling chain, to review the roster, and reach out to those members who have not paid by visiting or calling
- Create a letter to send to all your unpaid members asking them to pay their dues. Share information in the letter about what your Unit has done recently, upcoming events, anything members may be interested in. Encourage them to attend a Unit meeting or other event you have coming up. Thank them for being a member, whether they are able to send their dues at this time or not.
- The next national renewal notice will not be until January, this is the perfect time for the Unit to reach out to its members.
- The unit or a unit member could consider paying a member’s dues as a Christmas present.

100% UNITS HAVE THEIR BOXCAR ATTACHED TO THE DISTRICT'S ENGINE



Waldoboro 149

Camden Unit 30

District 3
Coastal Railroad



Athens Unit 192

District 4
Central Railroad



Bethel Unit 81

District 2
Mountain Railroad



Ellsworth Unit 63

Bucksport Unit 93

Blue Hill Unit 85

District 5
Moosehead Railroad



Harrison Unit 139

No. Berwick Unit 87

Westbrook Unit 62

District 1
Atlantic Railroad

YEAR OF THE GRASSROOTS MEMBER

ONE IN A MILLION

Each member is "One in a Million". Please share individual member's activities with us showing what we are doing to promote our programs for veterans, children and our communities. You may have a member that volunteers at a local hospital or school; members who volunteer at Togus, the Maine Veterans Home or a local nursing home; other community events. Let us know and we will highlight their activities in the Chatter.

Monica Gorman, Oakland Unit 51, recently won a turkey basket and rather than keep it for herself she donated it to an elderly member of the Unit who is raising her grandchildren.

COMMUNICATIONS

Department webpage: www.maineala.org If at any time you don't receive the Chatter via email, it is also on our webpage, on the News Release page.

Facebook: search for: Maine American Legion Auxiliary or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MaineALA/>. Please feel free to share Unit events, photos, etc. either by emailing this office or posting directly to the page. We look forward to your participation.



Save The Dates:

Veterans Creative Arts Show

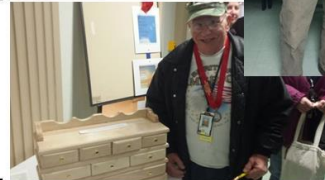
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

VA Maine Healthcare Theater

Come Support Your Local Artists!

10am-2pm Visual Arts Display

2pm-5pm Performing Arts Show



Any Questions, Call:

**Main Number:
207-623-8411**

**Toll Free Number:
877-421-8263**

Performing Arts:

**Liz Marrone, CTRS, ATRIC
207-623-8411 x5371
Elizabeth.Marrone@va.gov**

Visual Arts:

**Courtney Oliver, CTRS
207-623-8411x4589
Courtney.Oliver@va.gov**



JOIN US

MAINE VETERANS HOME MACHIAS – American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop: Wednesday, December 2, 9 a.m., volunteers are needed

Gray Unit 86: is taking reservations for tables at for our annual craft fair! Date has been set for Saturday, December 5th! For more info email dsmall6@maine.rr.com (Debra Small) or kelseypeanut0728@yahoo.com (Kym Small).

Hancock County Auxiliary and 12 District: December 8, Northeast Harbor Post 103 at the Seal Harbor Fire House, 6:30 p.m. Dinner with Meeting and Christmas party to follow at 7:30 p.m. (please bring a gift for the swap)

Mechanic Falls Unit 150, Santa's Parade of trees: Win a Christmas tree with decorations and presents. Come see the trees and get your raffle tickets. The Post will be open Dec. 10th, 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.; Dec. 11th, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.; Dec. 12th, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Dec. 13th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This fund raiser brings all three groups plus area businesses together to raise money to support veteran's programs throughout our area. We will have fourteen beautiful trees on display this year. Drawing for the trees will be held on Dec. 13th following breakfast with Santa.

1st District: *December 13, 2015, Westbrook Post 197, 12 noon (Special Olympics Christmas Party)

1st District: December 20, 2015, Naples Post 155, 2:00 p.m. (District Christmas Party)

4th District: Madison Post 39, Jan. 10, 2016, 1 p.m. followed by refreshments (696-5848), Nominations

Mid-Winter Conference: January 16, 2016, Spectacular Events, Bangor, more info. to follow

Maine Veterans Creative Arts Festival: March 1, 2016, Togus VA. The visual art will be on display in the afternoon by the theater at Togus and the performing art show will start at 2:00 p.m. Donations to help with the cost of this show may be sent to Department earmarked Maine Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

6th District: March 13, 2016, Cherryfield Post 8, 2 p.m.

Department Testimonial: May 14, 2016, Old Fashioned BBQ to be held at the Legion Family Home Headquarters in Winslow! More info to follow.

RECIPE SWAP

Use your imagination biscuit meal

I like to buy the large Pillsbury biscuits (honey is wonderful, but any will do)

Take whatever left overs you have or start fresh. Take out your muffin tin and grease and set aside. Now open that fridge and browse. Set ingredients on counter. 'Pop' open your biscuits and flatten a little to round them better. Tuck one in each of the muffin bays, the better you tuck, the more you'll fit. Make sure you leave some above the hole so it will 'puff up' around the edges. Put in your meat, veggie, and a table spoon of gravy. Put into a 350* oven and cook 15-20 minutes or until its golden brown.

I figure the combinations are endless. I fried up onions and mushrooms, had some moose meat left and boiled a potato. Ham and cheese; Pepperoni and cheese; chicken pot pies; veggies.

Enjoy. This recipe makes 8, so make sure you put water in the bays that are empty.

Karen Wood, Machias Unit 9

RECIPES NEEDED. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO SHARE.

To be added to the mailing list for the ALA Chatter, email name and address to aladeptsecme1@myfairpoint.net

Michelle McRae
Department Secretary

SEE SHIRT ORDER FORM BELOW – DEADLINE COMING SOON

“ONE IN A MILLION” shirt order form

Please fill out this order form and return it with payment to the ALA Department of Maine at
886B Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, ME 04963 on or before **December 28, 2015.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Shirts are women’s sizing please consider ordering a size up as the run small.

	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	Price	Total
Red Short Sleeve							\$15	\$
White Short Sleeve							\$15	\$
Blue Short Sleeve							\$15	\$
Red Long Sleeve							\$20	\$
White Long Sleeve							\$20	\$
Blue Long Sleeve							\$20	\$
Red polo							\$25	
White polo							\$25	
Blue polo							\$25	
SHIPPING *							\$3 Per shirt	\$
							TAX @ 5.5%	\$
							TOTAL	

Pick Up – Check box to choose a date

Mid-Winter Conference

* No shipping charged for orders that are picked up.

Shipping is \$3 per shirt. If ordering more than 5 shirts please contact Michelle McRae at 465-4966 Opt. 1 to discuss shipping.

