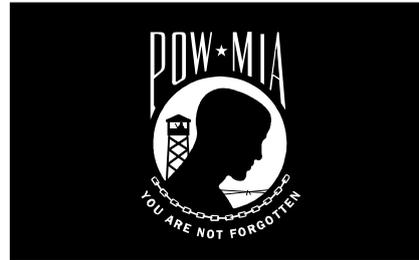


**ADJUTANT'S
NEWSLETTER**
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951
EMAIL:
ADJUTANTNH@LEGIONNH.ORG



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

I want to thank everyone that took the time to come to the Mid-Winter Conference this year. This was the first year since I have been adjutant where we distributed every one of the Mid-Winter packets to the Post or Districts and did not have to haul them back to be mailed out. I appreciate it and so does the staff that put a lot of hard work into putting those packages together.

The highlight was having our National Judge Advocate, Phil Onderdonk conduct a class on various issues that affect each of our Posts directly. The emphasis was on tax requirements and membership eligibility, however there was also a lot of other information handed out and if there are any Posts out there that are looking for a specific handout or brochure, the majority of them can be found on mylegion.org, or let us know what you might be looking for and we will try to get it for you.

Thanks to the judge for taking the time out of his busy schedule with national to come to New Hampshire for our conference.

Announcements were made for Department officers for the 2016-2017 period. The following is a listing those that have announced their intent to run for office up to this point.

Department Commander:	Gerry Bernard Tom Wiley
Department Vice Commanders:	Sherman Philbrick Charlie Arkwell Emil Ouellette Mark Grimshaw
Department Treasurer:	Robert Dionne
Judge Advocate:	Doug Micklon

Historian: George Boddie

Auditor: Mark Vatcher

Further announcements for office can be made at the next DEC and of course at convention.

We also held our annual Mid-winter Raffle and the following are the names of the winners. Thanks to all for your support of this raffle which makes up almost a quarter of the Departments annual budget.

2500 WINNER
Urban Landini

1000 WINNER
Clayton E. James, Jr.

500 WINNER
Jarid K. Bond, Sr.

200 WINNERS
Michael J. McKenna
Edward E. Buskey
Harold F. Duffin
Francis H Laskey
Robert A. Lafleur

Thanks again to all those that participated and supported this Department.

MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER JOHN GRAHAM

Still serving America

I am often asked why I belong to The American Legion, with the implication that the only reason one belongs to a veteran's service organization is to have a place to go for cheap drinks.

While I do not discount the value of having a place to gather and socialize, the reason that I am a member of The American Legion is for what we do for our communities and our fellow veterans.

Since New Hampshire currently has 100 posts with more than 18,000 members, much of what we accomplish is done at the local level.

Let me highlight just a few of the things that The American Legion accomplished in the Granite State during 2015.

In support of our fellow veterans, we donated more than \$5,500 to the VA Medical Centers that serve our state, and provided more than 5,000 volunteer hours there. We provided \$50,000 in emergency aid and other financial assistance to our fellow veterans. And in that final time of grief and need, we provided personnel for more than 500 funeral details.

We also know that our next generation of veterans, those currently serving, need our support now. In 2015, we provided close to \$10,000 to programs and activities that benefit these men and women.

We are also heavily involved with programs that benefit the youth of our great state. Legion posts sponsored 43 American Legion baseball teams at a cost of \$175,000. We supported Scout troops and Scouting activities with donations worth more than \$20,000. Our posts provided more than \$77,000 in scholarships to New Hampshire students. And we donated another \$18,000 to other educational programs that benefited students. Our posts have been supporters of our Special Olympians and in 2015 gave \$3,500 to support NH Special Olympics.

Additionally, we raised and donated more than \$5,000 for the Children's Miracle Network; and that does not count the thousands of man-hours necessary to coach, fundraise or mentor.

Last June we conducted our annual Boys State program at Rivier University. This is a week-long program in the essentials of local and state government, during which the students in attendance learn the fundamentals of our government process. The costs of the program, \$25,000 last year, are borne totally by The American Legion with no fees charged to the students.

This quick recapitulation of some of what The American Legion does here in New Hampshire only scratches the surface of what I could say. For example, we gave more than 23,000 volunteer hours to various community service events. It also does not touch on what the Legion has done nationally, such as lobbying Congress for better accountability at the VA, or the thousands of dollars provided in educational grants. So this is why I belong to The American Legion; it is a way for me to continue to serve my community, my state and my nation. Won't you join me?

John A. Graham is the NH state commander of The American Legion and can be reached at 738-4553 or by email at commandernh@legionnh.org.

John A. Graham
Department Commander
Commentary

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

REGISTRATION:

Please be reminded that our registration period has started for the 2016 season. Our registration deadline is February 15, 2016.

Please be on time and please make sure that all your volunteers do their background checks as soon as they can.

Testimonial Dinner in Honor of

John Graham & Jessie Bernard

Saturday, May 14, 2016
At Hidden Hills Banquet Facilities
Rindge, NH

5:00 pm Cocktails
6:00 pm Dinner

Country Western Buffet

Hind Quarter of Beef with Western Sauce
Barbecued Chicken, Hickory Ham, Chili
Country Style Garden Salad
French Fried Potatoes
Sour Dough Rolls, Condiments
Coffee and Punch

Dress: Western Motif

\$25.00 per Person

RSVP by April 23, 2016

*****Name:

_____ # of Tickets _____

Mail checks to: Karyl Horn, 20 Bunker Lane, Madbury, NH 03823

Make checks payable to: Gerard Bernard (in the memo line put "Testimonial")

Tickets will be held at the door.

GET OUT AND VOTE

IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHERE New Hampshire is the center of attention and the First in the Nation Primary starts the long road in determining who our next President is going to be. Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent your vote is important and how you vote may determine down the road how veterans are treated and what benefits continue for those that deserve them. All of us have an opinion as to what candidate is best for this country and they all have said they support veteran rights and benefits to a certain degree. However there are some that say it because it is part of the campaign in telling Americans what they want to hear. Others are true to their word and really want to continue the process of ensuring veterans continue to receive those benefits already established and improve on medical care through the Veteran's Administration.

However you interpret those that say they are for veterans is up to you, but it is important we vote to make sure veterans are protected and receive everything they deserve in the future.

I have included the following for your information about your civic duty during this time in our nation's history.

This is to inform you that the *Vote America* booklet has been updated and is available online at <http://www.legion.org/publications/230202/vote-america> to assist posts with their Get Out The Vote efforts. While The American Legion advocates that all eligible citizens register to vote and vote in all elections at all levels, many posts have found this publication particularly useful during presidential election years.

Please help spread the word to your posts and membership about the importance of this civic duty and the resources available from the national organization. More information, including sample news releases and public service announcements can be found at www.legion.org/vote.

I certainly have my own opinion as to who would be the best candidate as do all of you. However, the message I want to get out is that regardless of which side of the aisle you are on the important thing to remember is this country cannot continue down the road it currently is on and it is up to us to make sure it gets changed.

Thanks to all of you for what you do and have done for your country.

