



Feb 2026

Madison, ME 04950

Telephone (207) 696-3806

POST COMMANDERS REPORT

Greetings Comrades,

We hope everyone is staying warm. January has presented us with some unique challenges on the grounds. When it's so cold that the Salt will not work, it proves difficult to keep our parking lot clear. We are sanding and salting as much as we can, so be careful when you come into the Post.

We had a great COA this year in January. Our Post has reached the 101% recruitment goal that the National VFW Commander set for us. We are on track again to receive the "All-State Post" and "All-American Post" awards for our Post. Thank you to all that are helping us in our journey to receive these awards again this year.

Scholastic update: Our Post winner for Voice of Democracy Emily Richards, which also won at the District 5 level, made it to State. Unfortunately, she didn't win for the state of Maine, but she showed us in her words what a patriotic young lady she is, and we hope the best for her in her future endeavors.

Scholarship news: Every year we award (4) \$500 scholarships to deserving seniors. We will be contacting the local high schools with the application, but students can stop by or call the Post to pick up an application as well.

Canteen news: The "Queen of Hearts" game has officially started! We have had three drawings so far, no Queen of Hearts yet. Tickets must be purchased no later than 6:45PM on Friday. We draw the name at 7pm. Our "Shake of the Day" dice game is back as well. Roll the dice and see if you win the jackpot. We have a cribbage tournament every Wednesday and Corn Hole tournament on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays of the month. Stop by, have some fun and thank you for supporting your local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization.

Please, if you know of a Veteran in need or their family, please have them reach out to us, or please reach out for them. We can't do anything huge for jobs, but if we can help, we will.

Veterans serving Veterans

Respectfully,

Mike Carter

Post Commander Madison VFW 7865

Newsletter will now be available at the below website

Website: www.vfwpost7865.com Email: vfwpost7865@outlook.com

Facebook page: [Madison VFW 7865](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonVFW7865)





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Feb 2026

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers;

Hello everyone, hope you have been keeping warm with this cold spell and foot of snow we had this past month. This Winter is in full swing and it has turned out to be quite a cold one. January has been a quiet month. We did attend the January COA where the winners of the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy were celebrated and the winners that will go on to National's were Picked. We had a great group of kids and I was quite impressed with the winner of the Voice of Democracy. I hope she does well at Nationals. I want to congratulate all the winners and those who will move on to the National competition. Good luck to all.

Well February is here and as we work our way thru the deepest part of winter months, I am sure we are all looking forward to spring, I know I am. At the COA our Auxiliary won a Double Basket deep fryer and it is now being re-raffled at the Bar. Stop by and buy a ticket, 1 for \$1 and 6 for \$5. We will be drawing a winner on Feb 10th at our regular monthly meeting. Please consider joining us.

Not much going on this month except Auxiliary members will be meeting February 1st to sign 96 Valentines cards that we will be sending down to Togus for National Salute to Veterans Week.

March 8th will be our District 5 meeting here in Madison. Also the April's District 5 meeting will be April 12th in Dexter. Next COA will be April 11th at the Merry Manor Inn in South Portland.

Winslow post will be having another Quilt of Valor Sew Day Monday February 9th from 9:30 to 3pm. If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Brenda Blair, 207-426-8423

As always, if you know of a veteran in need, especially as the winter progresses, please reach out to the Auxiliary or the Post and we will see what we can do. If you are a member and you have volunteered your time helping a veteran, let us know. We know so many of you out there are doing your part, please let us know so we can give you credit for the things you do. Thank you for all you do.

Membership: We did make 93.01 % Membership as of typing this newsletter and I want to thank all those who made the effort to get it done. We do encourage you to consider getting your lifetime membership.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Steward
Auxiliary President

Our Next Regular Monthly Auxiliary Meeting is Tues. Feb 10th, 7pm, at the Post! Pennies for cancer bucket is located in the Hall, please consider dropping in your extra change as you walk by. All proceeds go to the Jackson Lab here in Maine. Care and comfort items are always welcome. Can tabs are also being collected in the Hall.

Other going's on at the Post :

- Cribbage every Wednesday, stop in an play, also try your luck at the Yahtzee game.
- New Queen Of Hearts game to start in January
- Dice game to continue in January as well.
- Post Scholarships are available for High School seniors, if you know of a Senior Student that has a Veteran family member, stop by and pick them up a application.
- Nursing Home Visit Saturday February 21st at 1 pm. Please consider joining us and bring some cheer to a our Veterans.

Heartwarming Story of Veterans serving Veterans and their Families

When the Skowhegan VFW closed, the Madison Post ended up with a few things, one of which was a Jacket that was Dedicated in the Memory of Donald L Brough, Post 3198 Commander. Post Quartermaster recently found this coat hanging in the closet and reached out on Facebook to see if any of his family was still around. His Daughter, Sarah Luce reached out and was very appreciative of Post 7865 for keeping it. Post decided to give back to his family. The power of Facebook is sometimes a good thing.



Commander Carter has been honored to be appointed to be Department Assistant Legislative Chairman for State of Maine And will be leaving Feb 28th to go to Washington for a week to meet with our State congress men and women about Veterans affairs and benefits. Good Luck Commander.

If you know of a veteran in need this winter season, please reach out to the Post. They would like to help in anyway that they can and the Auxiliary will do whatever they can do to help out as well

Happy New year to you all!



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UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Thank you to all our Auxiliary Members that participate and do all you can for our Veterans. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you!

Quilts of Valor Sew Day At Winslow Post



"Quilts of Valor Sew Day"
at
Mac Crillis – Rousseau
VFW Post 8835

175 Veteran Drive,
Winslow Maine

Monday
February 9th, 2026
9:30 am – 3 pm

RSVP to Brenda Blair at
207-426-8423

Sponsored by the VFW Post 8835 Auxiliary



What to bring: your sewing machine and thread for piecing
Provided: fabric and patterns to make squares and tops for Quilts of Valor!!
– coffee and lunch provided

If you know someone Interested in joining the Auxiliary You can use this QR Code for Application



Auxiliary Raffle

Dual Basket Deep Fryer

Tickets 1 for \$1 6 for \$5 on sale at the Bar
Come on down and buy your tickets, Drawing will be Feb 10th at our Monthly Meeting, come on in and Join us

Spread the word that the VFW and Auxiliary is always looking for new Members.

Join us in helping Veteran's and their Families

Auxiliary will meet February 1st to sign and send out Valentine Card to be sent to Togus.

Week of Feb 8th—Feb 14th is National Salute to Veterans Week. During this week the VA System will be honoring our Veterans and pay tribute to those brave military Veterans who receive medical care at the V.A. medical facilities. During this week the Auxiliary and volunteers will be Passing out Valentines cards as well as gift cards along with other activities throughout the week. We will be signing 96 Valentine cards and be bringing them down to Togus to be passed out.

Auxiliary—Veterans and Family Support and Community outreach over last few months

I don't have the data yet for January, will update Next month

Deceased Roll Call

"May Our Comrades Rest In Eternal Peace In Post Eternity?"



Assistance is available

No veteran should ever have to face homelessness or housing insecurity. The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS) is committed to ensuring that veterans and their families have access to the resources and support needed to secure stable housing and essential services. Whether you are currently homeless or at risk of losing your home, help is available.

Veterans who have become homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless should call our Homeless Veterans Coordination Team at 207-287-7019 or email HVC.maineBVS@maine.gov

The Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services in partnership with FEDCAP, provides financial assistance to Maine veterans facing unexpected financial hardships. This program helps eligible veterans cover essential expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repairs, and other urgent needs to prevent financial instability. VEFAP aims to support veterans in maintaining their independence and well-being during difficult times. To qualify, veterans must meet specific eligibility requirements, including residency and service criteria.



PTSD Information Voice Mail: (802) 296-6300
Email: ncptsd@va.gov
Also see: [VA Mental Health](#)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Harvell – Bishop - Arnold Trail Post 7865 Officers: Elected VFW Officer's for 2025-2026



Post Commander: Mike Carter - Senior Vice: Joe Conlon

Junior Vice : Dave Foss - Adjutant: Rick Petersen - Quarter Master: Chad Steward

Judge Advocate: Bill Lytle - Surgeon: Jessica Carter - Chaplain: Gary Kucipak

Service Officer: Dale Bickford - Trustees: Phil Daigle, Everett Rodgers, David V Trask

Post Bar Manager: Pam Dicky



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Elected Auxiliary Officer's for 2025-2026

Auxiliary Officers: President: Michelle Steward - Sr. Vice President: Sue LeHay -

Jr. Vice President: Lorie Swift – Conductress: Lisa Switzer – Guard - Diane Pinkham

Chaplain: Karen Lytle - Treasurer: Brenda Flanagan - Patriotic Instructor - Sue LeHay - Secretary Anne Drawdy-Kucipak - - Trustee # 1 Lorie Swift - Trustee # 2 Lisa Switzer Trustee # 3 Yvonne Brooker

February 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2 pm Auxiliary meeting to Sign Valentines for Togus	2 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	3	4 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	5 Post Meeting 7pm House committee meeting 6pm	6	7 Function 2-6
8 Super Bowl Sunday Pot Luck VFW, Legion, Both Auxiliaries, and Friends welcome	9 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30 UBM Meeting 6pm	10 Post Auxiliary Meet 7PM	11 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	12 Corn Hole 7 Pm	13	14 
15	16 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	17	18 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	19 Corn Hole 7 Pm	20	21 MCL State Meeting 10-4 Nursing Home visit 1 Pm
22	23 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	24 MCL Meeting 6-7 Committee 6PM Honor Guard Practice 7pm	25 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	26 Corn Hole 7 Pm	27 Birthday Party 6-9	28
		<p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Troop 351 meets Every Monday 5:30-7 2. Cribbage Tournament Wednesdays at 6pm 3. Cornhole Tournament Thursdays 7-9pm No Tournaments on the 1st Thursday of the month 4. Post meeting 1st Thursday of the month 5. Aux Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month 6. Marine Corp League Last Thursday at 6 PM 7. Honor Guard Practice 3rd Tuesday at 7PM 8. UBM 2nd Monday of the month 				



Cribbage Tournament

Every Wednesday
Sign in at 5:30

Tournament starts at 6PM



Corn Hole Tournament

Every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays of the month

Tournament starts at 7PM

~Draft Beer Specials~

Days to Remember in Feb & March and other Services and Events

February 1, 2026 - National Freedom Day
 February 2, 2026 - Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)/ Groundhog Day
 February 3 USO Incorporated
 February 13 Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established (1943)
 February 23 Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
 February 27 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day

March 3rd Navy Reserve Birthday
 March 4th Hug a G.I. Day
 March 5th Seabee Birthday
 March 13th K-9 Veterans Day
 March 15th American Legion Birthday
 March 17th St Patrick's Day
 March 25th Medal of Honor Day
 March 29th Vietnam War Veterans Day



Heating Fuel

Disabled Maine Veterans with a valid ID card, a financial need, and an account with RH Foster. To establish an account, please call 947-3835 and tell them you are setting up an account for the MVP heating fuel program. **Who is eligible:** Any veteran in need of assistance with a valid DD214 or ID card

Events and Raffles happening at Post and around area

 **Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States**
 Harvell-Bishop-Arnold Trail Post #7865
 58 Public Avenue
 P.O. Box 47
 Madison, ME 04950 Telephone (207) 696-3806

American Red Cross

Blood Drive dates for 2026

Jan 5

Feb 2

Mar-No drive

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

Aug 3

Sept 14*

- second Monday due to Labor Day holiday

Oct -No drive

Nov 2

Dec 7

Hours of blood drive: 12pm - 4pm

Veterans & Immediate Family Ski Free!

Vets in the Valley Winter Session Saturday, Mar 14th, 9am-4pm

*All Military Veterans & Gold Star Families, regardless of length of service, receive free ski lift tickets. Additionally, immediate family, dependents, receive a free lift tickets. Offers valid the day of this event only. Veteran & families must show proof of eligibility. **MILITARY RATE** on all Rental Equipment. **RESERVE IN ADVANCE ONLINE** at shop.lostvalleyvalley.com



Schedule of Events

9am-4pm (0900-1600) Free Ski/Snowboard

10am-2pm (1000-1400) Meet & Greet with Veterans Service Organizations

2pm (1400)Appetizer Buffet

1pm-4pm (1300-1600) Live Music

LOST VALLEY

200 Lost Valley Rd.
 Auburn, ME
LostValleySki.com



American Legion Tardiff-Belanger Post 39 \$100 Meat Package Raffle

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 5 lbs Hamburger, 2 Ribeye Steaks, 1 Stew Beef
- 1 Chuck Roast, 1 Package Shaved Beef,
- 1 Package Boneless Chops,
- 1 Package Chicken Thighs
- 1 Package Bratwurst Sausage Links



Drawing - March 1st

Tickets can be obtained:

in the Canteen at the VFW Harvell-Bishop Arnold Trail Post 7865 58 Preble Ave in Madison or at Sunday Bingo at Northern Star Masonic lodge#28 173 N Main Street in North Anson.

Events from House in the Woods

FEBRUARY

1 MONTHLY HITW 2026 Gun of the Month DRAWING LIVE ON FB

TBD - 250TH ANNIVERSARY TSHIRT FUNDRAISER

14 - BOOTH Topsham American Legion will be hosting the annual Winter Classic Softbal

12-15 STURGEON SPEARING RETREAT - WISCONSIN *apply online*

18 COFFEE WITH VETS - HITW *everyone welcome- every 3rd Wednesday*

21 TRAPPER EDUCATION CLASS - 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. *Click here to register with IFW*

28 ICE FISHING DAY (single day, open to all Military families)

DATE TBD VETERAN COYOTE RETREAT *apply online*

TBD VETERAN DOG SLEDDING UP NORTH *apply online*

MARCH

1 MONTHLY HITW 2026 Gun of the Month DRAWING LIVE ON FB

TBD - ROLL OUT ENDOWMENT WALL/MEMORIAL GARDEN CONCEPT END. FUNDRAISER

TBD - 250TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION COFFEE BLEND PATRIOT BOX

5-8 QUILTS OF VALOR RETREAT at HITW *special event register with QOV*

14 MAPLE SYRUP BOILING - HITW *Open to all - details to come*

18 COFFEE WITH VETS - HITW *everyone welcome- every 3rd Wednesday*

20-22 ORONO - EASTERN MAINE SPORTSMAN'S SHOW *Community event*

27-29 PROJECT HEALING WATERS - for more information call Carolyn Braly 207-341-2174 with Bangor Chapter

29 MARINERS HOCKEY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT - Portland, Maine *special event- limited Veteran tickets available. Call Angie at 920-517-6749 if interested.

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Zoom Meetings

Would you attend a meeting if we offered Zoom Meeting you could attend?

Comrades,

Comrades, the post is considering using ZOOM to allow those who may not be able to join our monthly meetings to participate remotely in post conversation and decisions. We have over two hundred members, but only about 15 attend meetings. Job and family commitments can make it hard to join meetings in person. Your inputs are valued as we continue to support veterans in our area. We would like to know, for those who do not join us at our monthly meetings, if ZOOM was available would you participate (we can educate you on how to use ZOOM, just need a computer or smart phone)? Please direct thoughts and comments to me at joepen@comcast.net. I would appreciate your comments on this new way of post meeting participation. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely

Joe Conlon
Sr. Vice

Helping Veterans



As of January 2026

the [Major Richard Star Act](#) (H.R. 2102/S. 1032) is actively pending in the 119th Congress, with advocates pressing for its inclusion in the 2026 defense budget.

The legislation aims to end the unfair "offset" that forces over 50,000 combat-disabled veterans with less than 20 years of service to forfeit retirement pay for VA disability compensation.

The Major Richard Star Act would fix this unfair treatment. But right now, the bill cannot move forward unless Congress takes the next step.



TAKE ACTION
Tell Congress to Pass the
Major Richard Star Act



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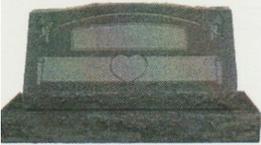
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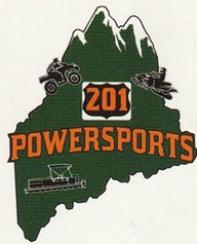
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VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
Harvell-Bishop-Arnold Trail Post #7865
58 Preble Avenue
PO Box 67 Madison, Maine 04950
Telephone (207) 696-3806



Volume 29

Feb 2026

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

Post Monthly Meetings: First Thursday @ 7pm
Auxiliary Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each Month @ 7 pm
Marine Corps League Meetings: Last Tues of Month 6 pm
Post Bar Opened Sunday - Saturday @ 2pm to Close
Cribbage Tournament Every Wednesday @ 6 - 8 pm
Cornhole Tournament Thursdays @ 7 - 9 pm Except 1st Thursday

Guests Welcome



Never Forgotten



Telephone (207) 696-3806

Forever Grateful

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