



January 2023

Madison, ME 04950

Telephone (207) 696-3806

POST COMMANDERS REPORT

Greetings Comrades,

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

The Kids Christmas gifts went well. A special thank you to Michelle Steward for purchasing all of the gifts and getting them ready to wrap. Thank you to all the Auxiliary members and volunteers that helped her wrap all of them. Michelle delivered gifts to Norridgewock for 13 families, and I delivered the gifts for 10 families in Madison and gifts for 8 families in Anson. Again, thank you to all that helped us raise money to purchase these gifts, to those who donated all the toys that we were given and to all that helped get them wrapped up and ready to go, good job. Any monies that were left over will go towards gifts for next year. Not sure how much money was left over but it will give us a good start for next year.

We had a small New Years party at the bar on New Years eve with finger foods and appetizers. We had a nice crowd of about 40 people. It went very well and plan to do the same Next year.

We had a veteran try to make the men's bathroom a drive thru causing a bit of damage to the inside wall. We are getting bids to make the repairs so we can submit to the insurance company.

The raffle for the Rock Island 45 Auto ACP Pistol is still available. We still have tickets available at the bar. The next raffle will be a rifle, not sure what it will be yet, watch for new fliers. Good luck to those who have bought tickets. These raffles go towards our building fund as we have many projects coming up in the next year. We hope to get the roof completed this spring as well as new vinyl siding and some repairs to the bar area ceilings. We are also working on quotes to replace the old sign out front with a digital sign. More to come about that this summer.

We have 3 comrades on Sick call, Gary Price, Ken Franzose and Jim Morin. Get well soon. Sadly one of our comrades has deceased, Aaron Rollings. RIP Aaron. A celebration of life for Aaron is planned sometime next month. We will keep you posted as soon as we hear a definite date.

As everyone knows, the minimum wage is increasing starting this month. Unfortunately, we will have to raise our prices a bit to compensate. Trying to keep it in line with the Legion and other nonprofits. We are going to have Kids Christmas meals on Saturday's instead of Sundays this year since we have Texas holdem on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Texas holdem is doing good and we appreciate those who come to play. Would be nice to see some of the old players come back and join us. Reminder to support our sponsors and shop local when you can. Without their support and yours we would not have a post to come too. Next month you will see a few changes to the newsletter, we will be contracting with Bromar Printers to print and mail for us starting next month. Hope you will enjoy the new format.

Respectfully yours, Lou Padula, Commander

PS: May our fallen comrades rest in eternal peace.

Top 3 posts in District, Madison is #1 with 104.14% of membership. Top Ten Highest post by %, Madison is #1 with membership at 104.14%, 2nd only to Old Orchard who is at 101.44%. Overall district 5's top standings are at 96.39% for membership. Thank you to all our new members, we are happy to have you on board.

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

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



Veteran Support

VFW and Auxiliary members Spent some time During the Christmas season with some of our Veterans at the Woodlawn Center in Skowhegan.

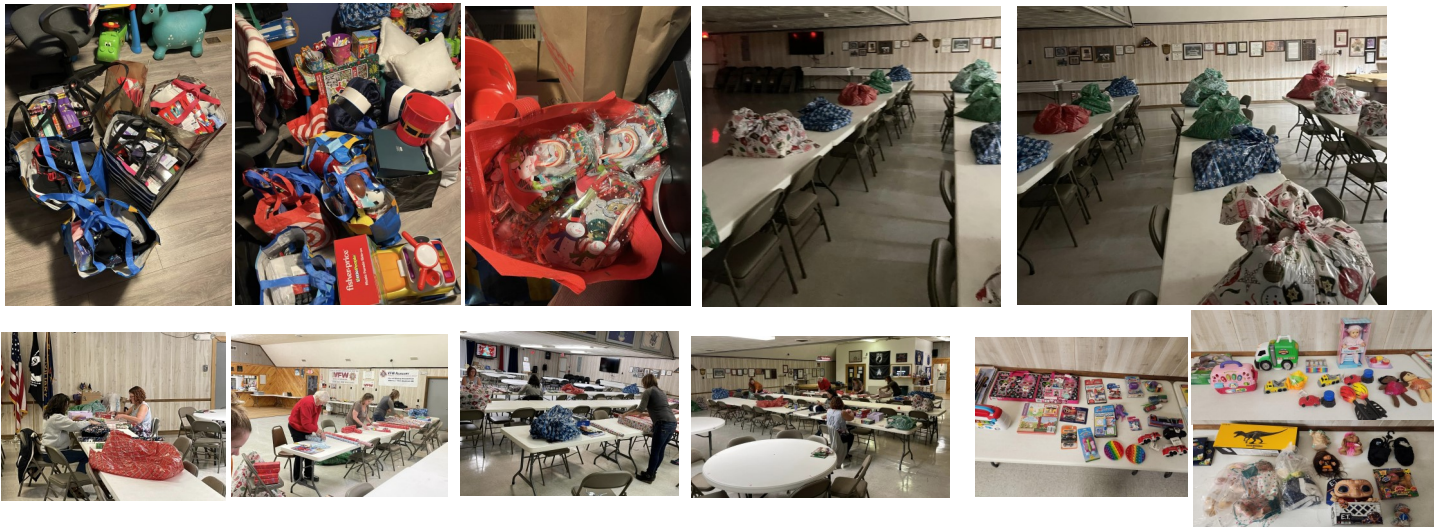
We had a great time visiting with the Veterans at the Woodlawn Center in Skowhegan!



Children's Christmas

Between the Efforts of both the VFW Post and the Auxiliary members we were able to support 31 children this year. This included children from Madison, Anson and Norridgewock. What a great job to everyone.

A huge thank you to Joyce, Linda, Dawn, Michelle, Angie, and our bar manger Jessica for getting it all wrapped up and ready to go. Thank you also to those who donated toys to help with the Children's Christmas. We used as much of these gifts as we could and the rest was donated to the St. Sebastian Thrift store to help them with needs for flood victims and other community members.



Auxiliary Sponsored Family for Christmas

In addition to above Children's Christmas, Auxiliary received a call from Carrabec High School to support an additional family with 5 children for Christmas. Thank you Sue Leahy and Yvonne Brooker for doing the shopping and wrapping. Great job.





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POST #7865

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January 2024

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As we move into 2024, take time to reflect, to hope and anticipate opportunities. The New Year brings a new chapter ready for writing and full of potential. Begin the New Year with a hopeful spirit and with the determination to make it joyful, successful, and full of meaningful connections. May your tender service orientated hearts reflect compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

The Auxiliary has many things to be proud of that occurred in 2023. Here is a short list that is certainly not all inclusive:

- Increased Auxiliary Memberships
- Veteran and Family Support
 - Transportation to Medical Appointments
 - Meal Preparation
 - Grocery Shopping
 - Sharing of Garden Produce
 - Transporting Veteran's Family to Church
 - Help in Attaining Disability
 - Quilts of Valor
 - Pajamas Made for the United Way
- Scholarship Offerings and Information Sharing (Local and National)
- Attendance at District meetings, Convention, President's Visit, Testimonials
- Support of the following by donation
 - Togus Comfort Care
 - Togus Ice Cream Social
 - Pine Tree Camp
 - Mid Maine Homeless & Services
 - A Secret Santa Family – North Anson Area
- Fundraising Efforts
 - Paint Nights
 - Toll Bridge
 - Car Show
 - Sale of Patriotic Pins
- Support of Post activities
 - Celebrations of Life
 - Texas Holdem Meal Preparation
 - Support at dances
 - Children's Christmas
 - Newsletter
 - Brickyard Hollow Restaurant Fundraiser
 - Veteran's Day Function
- Cards of encouragement sent to many members and families
- Patriotism
 - Flying American Flags (and maintaining the flags flown)
 - Purchase of patriotic themed bookmarks to handout at events
 - Members Worked the Voting Polls
 - Buddy Poppy Drive
 - Promoted Coloring Contests and Cards for Veterans



The Auxiliary is planning an "Auxiliary Meet & Greet" to be held in the Spring of 2024. Watch your mailbox for more information!

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?



For over 100 years the VFW Auxiliary has strived to improve the lives and wellbeing of veterans, service members and their families, and here you are doing just that in OUR COMMUNITIES! Thank you for ALL YOU Do.

My wish for each of you is that the new year brings you exciting opportunities, endless possibilities, the courage to chase your dreams, and safety. Happy New Year! Here's to a year filled with love, laughter, and memorable moments.

All my best, Eula



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Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

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WWW.VFWAUXILIARY.ORG

We are the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary.
For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, the military and their families in countless ways.
Millions of hours, millions of dollars and millions of tributes.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE.

VFW Auxiliary members are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat.

AMERICANISM



374,865

U.S. Flags were distributed



13,913

POW/MIA Flags were distributed

6,159

Number of certificates given to businesses and citizens for flying the flag

5,911

Number of patriotic programs conducted by Auxiliaries

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

413,296

Number of youths who participated in 2018-2019 Auxiliary projects and programs

6,267

Number of youth groups involved with Auxiliaries



Conducted thousands of patriotic programs with students



Hundreds of youth groups received citations for supporting veterans

LEGISLATIVE

119,613

Number of contacts made to help pass or block important bills



SCHOLARSHIPS

\$165,133

Total amount of scholarships awarded



- Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest
- Continuing Education Scholarship
- Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest
- Patriot's Pen Essay Writing Contest

HOSPITAL

\$2.7
MILLION

Amount spent by Auxiliaries on all hospital projects and items



632,493

Number of hours served in VA medical centers, hospitals, nursing homes and veterans homes



2,719

Number of Auxiliaries that hosted or sponsored events at VA medical centers, hospitals, nursing homes and veterans homes



44,638

Number of Auxiliary members who volunteered for the Hospital Program

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

\$6.2
MILLION

Value of goods and services Auxiliaries provided to veterans, active-duty service members and their families.



Auxiliaries provided aid to veterans, active-duty military, and their families in all 50 states



The majority of Auxiliaries took part in veteran and military suicide awareness and prevention education



Thousands of Auxiliaries nationwide participated in or sponsored events or projects for active-duty troops and their families

TAKE ACTION



- Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone
- Start a confidential online chat session at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat
- Send a text message to 838255 to connect to a VA responder
- Take a self-check quiz at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz
- If you or a Veteran you know is in crisis, find a facility near you
- Visit www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net if you are Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard
- Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are deaf or hard of hearing



Veteran suicide prevention

If you're a Veteran in a mental health crisis and you're thinking about hurting yourself—or you know a Veteran who's considering this—get help right away. You're not alone.

How do I talk to someone right now?

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with our caring, qualified Veterans Crisis Line responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This service is private, free, and available 24/7.

Here's how you can connect with a Veterans Crisis Line responder, anytime day or night:

Call [988](tel:988) and select 1.

Text: [838255](tel:838255).

Start a confidential chat.

www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/

If you have hearing loss, call TTY: [800-799-4889](tel:800-799-4889).

You can also take these actions:

Call [911](tel:911).

Go to the nearest emergency room.

Go directly to your nearest VA medical center. It doesn't matter what your discharge status is or if you're enrolled in VA health care.

Find your nearest VA medical center



The Maine Veterans Project offers a variety of programs and services for Maine veterans
<https://maineveteransproject.org/programs-services/>

Who is eligible: Disabled Maine Veterans with a valid ID card

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](tel:947-3835) and tell them you are setting up an account for the MVP heating fuel program.

Life-Essential Needs: Thanks to a great partnership with the Maine Military Supply's 'Hero of the Month' program, MVP is able to assist with life-essential needs such as utility bills, food and clothing. Use this link: <https://shop.mainemilitary.com/hero-of-the-month.cfm>



Harvell-Bishop-Arnold Trail Post 7865
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- *First & Third Sunday of each month*
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**John Morin
 Ken Fanzose
 Gary Price**

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Harvell – Bishop - Arnold Trail Post 7865 Officers:



Post Commander: Louis Padula - Senior Vice: Mike Carter
 Junior Vice : Everett Rogers- Adjutant: Rick Petersen - Quarter Master: Chad Steward
 Judge Advocate: Bill Lytle - Surgeon: Jess Carter - Chaplain: Gary Kucipak
 Service Officer: Dale Bickford - Trustees: Phil Daigle, Sandy Seymore, Vincent Santoni

Post Bar Manager: Jessica Carter



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Auxiliary Officers: President: Eula DeRocle - Sr. Vice President: Sue LeHay -
 Jr. Vice President: Lorie Swift – Conductress: Anne Drawdy – Guard - Yvonne Brooker

Chaplain: Linda Jo Andrews - Treasurer: Brenda Flanagan - Patriotic Instructor - Sue LeHay - Secretary
 Michelle Steward - Trustee # 1 Linda Jo Andrews - Trustee # 2 Yvonne Brooker - Trustee # 3 Lorie Swift

Jan 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4 Post Meeting 1900	5	6
7 Texas Hold'em 1200	8	9 Auxiliary Meeting 1900	10	11 Kennebec Val- ley Quilters 5:30	12	13
14	15 MLK Day	16	17	18 Marine Corps Meeting	19	20
21 Texas Hold'em	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Bar Mtg	30	31			



VETERAN AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS EXPO

Sunday, FEBRUARY 4th
10AM - 1PM

Veterans and Community Connection Expo 25 Campus Drive New Gloucester Maine

This will be a free family friendly event for Veterans, Service Members and their families to learn about benefits. **Sunday, February 4 - 10am - 1pm EST.**

Please join us for a family friendly event for Veterans, Service Members and their families to learn about benefits and resources available through the state and community. There will be a FREE lunch provide to attendees, as well as door prizes. Free Sledding, Ice Skating and other activities at a cost.



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December Storm Victims

This storm was rough on all of us. Please let us know if there is a member of the post, or a local veteran who needs some assistance with anything during this time. Leave any info on our messenger page or please let the commander or bar manager or bar tender know who is in need. Contact 696-3806 to call the post directly, after 2 pm. We are here for those who served and gave for our country. Veterans assisting veterans.

Here is some other information that might be helpful to all who have been effected by the storm

Officials are encouraging members of the public to report any storm damage to their property by calling 211.

The state of Maine has set up a website to help people affected by the storm to connect with potential resources. The website can be found at www.maine.gov/governor/mills/flood.

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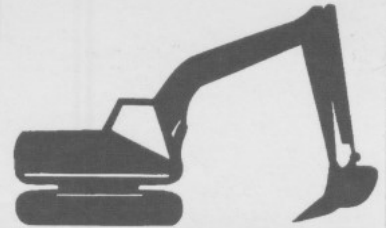


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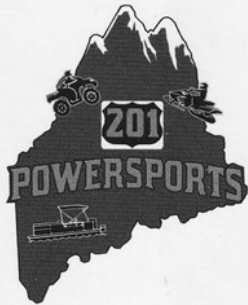
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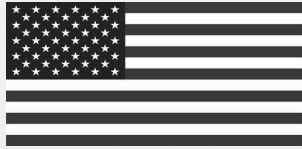


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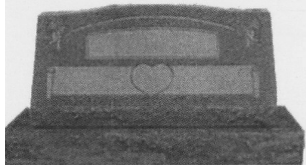
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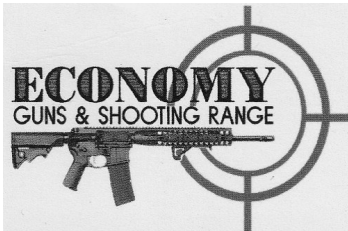
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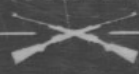
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Post Monthly Meetings: First Thursday @ 7pm
Auxiliary Meetings: The Tuesday Following 1st Thursday @ 7pm
Marine Corps League Monthly Meetings: Third Thursday @ 6pm
Post Bar Opened @ 2pm Monday–Saturday And Sunday @ Noon
Texas Holdem 1st & 3rd Sunday – Lunch & Buy In Start @ Noon

Guests Welcome



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