



Jan 2026

Madison, ME 04950

Telephone (207) 696-3806

POST COMMANDERS REPORT

Greetings Comrades,

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Years. We had a good Post Christmas party and New Years Eve Pre-Game party this past month. We had around 15-20 people attend our Post Christmas party (Yankee Swap gifts). As well as our Pre-Game New Years Eve party, we had around 50 people attend that party. Our January calendar is light, as we are extremely busy with all the Fall holidays and scholastic programs we do.

As far as our scholastic goes, our Post winner for Voice of Democracy won the District 5 and is now in competition with the other Posts for the Department winner. Go Emily, we are cheering for you. We would like to thank all the students who participated in our program this year.

BIG Canteen news: The "Queen of Hearts" game in the Canteen started January 1, 2026. The first drawing is being held on January 9th, and every Friday after that at 7:00pm. Also our daily dice game has started back as well.

Come try your luck with us. Stop by the see out rules.

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](#)





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Jan 2026

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers;

Well Christmas is over and a New Year has started. I hope that your new year has a great start.

I was very busy in December as some of you know. We had 24 children ranging in ages of 1 to 15 this year and there was quite a bit of shopping that I did to fulfill all their Christmas wishes plus a little extra 😊. I certainly hope they enjoyed all the Christmas gifts that we provided. Thank you to Joan, Rick, Irma, Kevin and Karen for helping me get all the wrapping done. We had pizza and Christmas music while we wrapped and we had a great time. Thank you commander Mike for getting all those bags distributed to the towns so that they could be given to our families this year.

I also helped the Athens Victory Club purchase and prepare and distribute Christmas stockings to elderly families in the Athens area. They like to let the older folks know that we think of them and try to do a little something to brighten their day.

Of course like all of you, I prepared and enjoyed the Christmas season with family and friends. Christmas time is always a busy time but worth the effort to enjoy the time with family and Friends.

January is looking to be a little quieter, hopefully. We do have COA and Patriots pen and Voice of Democracy banquet coming up on January 10th. I want to congratulate all the winners and those who will move on to the State competition. Good luck to all.

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.

We didn't reach our goal of 100% paid membership before December 31st but hope that remaining members will make the effort to get their dues paid in the next month or 2. We did make 91.61 % 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.

Hoping you all had a wonderful Christmas and New years and hope to see you in the next few months. Stop by and participate in a meeting and see what we are up to and if it is anything you would like to participate in.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Steward
Auxiliary President

Our Next Regular Monthly Auxiliary Meeting is Tues. Jan 13th, 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 :

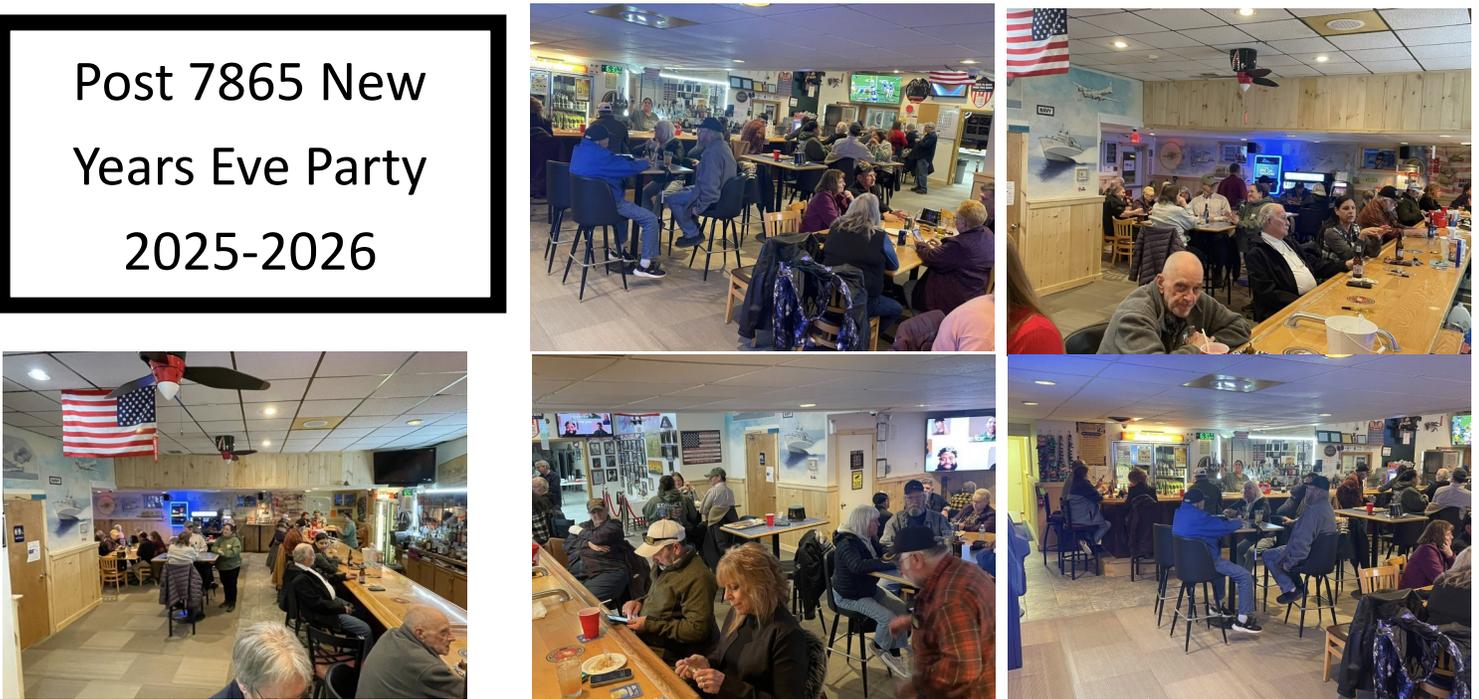
- Cribbage every Wednesday, stop in an play, also try your luck at the Yahtzee game.
- New Queen Of Hearts game to start in January
- Dice game to continue in January as well.
- There is a Senior meal every Tuesday at 11am at the VFW. It is free to all seniors, so stop by for some good food and company. I believe they will continue thru end of January.
-

Post Christmas Party and New Years Eve Party

Post 7865 2025
Christmas Party
Yankee Swap



Post 7865 New
Years Eve Party
2025-2026



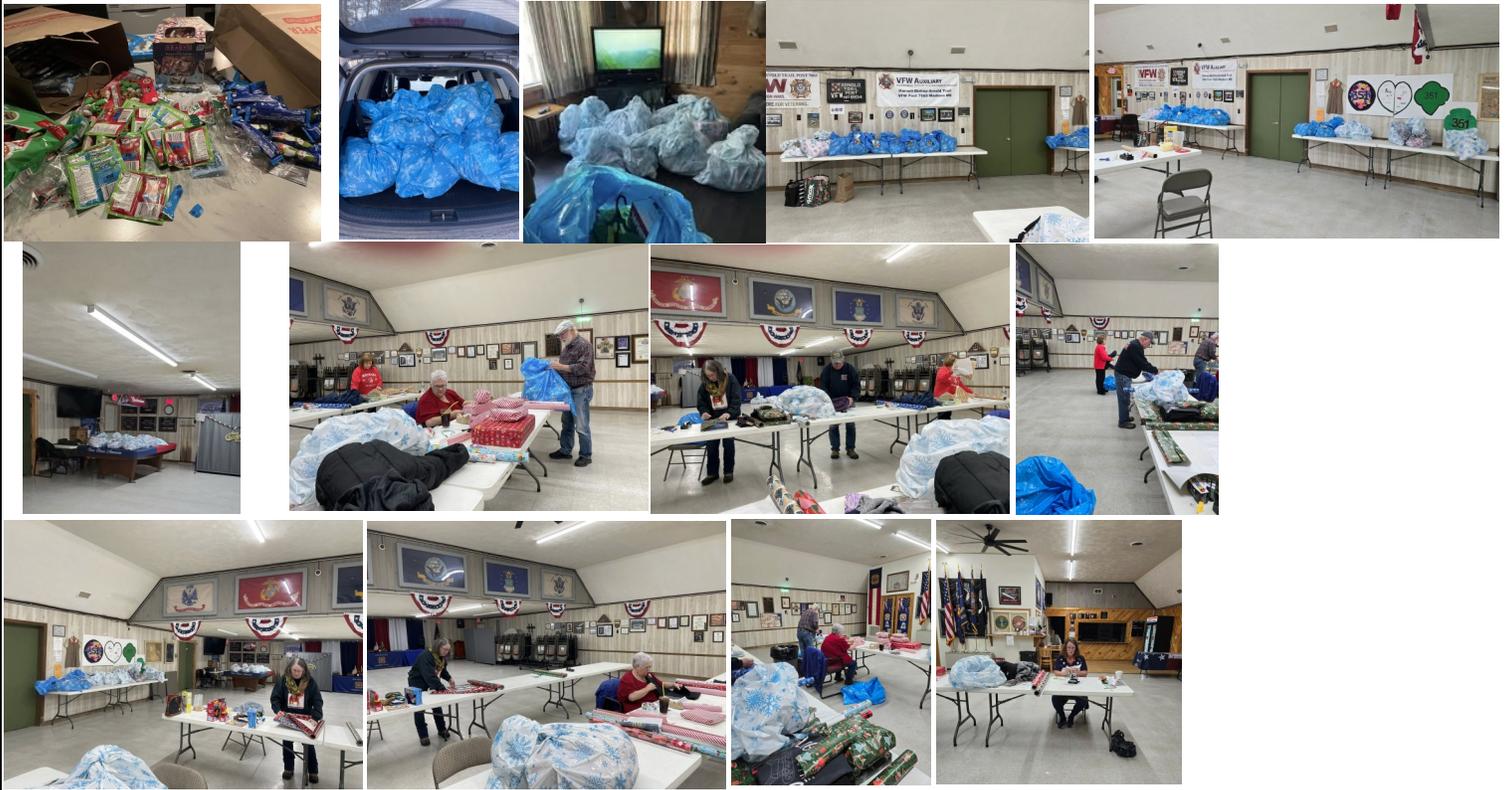
If you know of a veteran in need this winter season, please reach out to the Post. They would like to help in anyway that they can and the Auxiliary will do whatever they can do to help out as well

Happy New year to you all!



Kids Christmas wrapping Party

Thank you Joan, Rick, Irma, Kevin, Karen and Auxiliary President for helping with gift wrapping all the Children's Gifts this year. Thank you Auxiliary President for doing the Shopping and Commander for distributing.



Voice of Democracy Winner

Emily Richards is the winner for Post 7865

Emily has also won District 5 Level and will go on to compete at Department



Auxiliary Chaplin sends Christmas cards to Togus

Thank you Chaplin Karen Lytle for sending some Christmas cheer to the veteran's in VA Togus



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

Adopt a Veteran at Togus 435.00 for presents for 2 veterans at TOGUS

100.00 donated to veteran at Togus, 2 trips driving to and from TOGUS with a veteran, 18 hours taking veterans to their appointments at TOGUS, 1 hour helping veteran fill their propane tank, 8 hours to put up carport for a veteran, 16 hours to help veteran split and stack wood, 13 hours helping veteran with renovations, 30 minutes parade with Legion, 2 hours helped Legion with their Christmas Party, 11 hours for funerals, Veterans Day Ceremony: 3 hours x 3 people attended from the Auxiliary, Thanksgiving Day Ceremony: 14 hours x 6 people from the Auxiliary, One Auxiliary member volunteered 15 ½ hours at the polls in November, 2 hours Helping Athens Victory Club Prep and Deliver Christmas Stockings to older Folks in Athens area,

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.



Jack Greenhalge



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

January



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	6 Senior Meals 9:30-12	7 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	8 Post Meeting 7pm House committee meeting 6pm	9	10 COA Fairfield/ Waterville Banquet Winslow
11	12 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30 UBM Meeting 6pm	13 Senior Meals 9:30-12 Post Auxiliary Meet 7PM	14 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	15 Corn Hole 7 Pm	16	17
18	19 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	20 Senior Meals 9:30-12	21 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	22 Corn Hole 7 Pm	23	24
25	26 Girl Scout Troop meets at 5:30	27 Senior Meals 9:30-12 Marine Corp League Meeting 6PM	28 Cribbage Tournament 6-8	29 Corn Hole 7 Pm	30	31

Notes:

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 December and other Services and Events

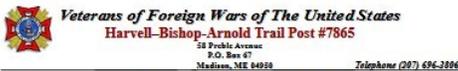
January 1, 2026 - Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)
January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Day
January 27, 2026 - Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)
January 31, 2026 - Panama Campaign Ended (1990)
February 1, 2026 - National Freedom Day
February 2, 2026 - Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)/Groundhog 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



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



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

Events from House in the Woods

JANUARY

1 MONTHLY HITW 2026 Gun of the Month DRAWING

LIVE ON FB

8-12 TEXAS VETERAN RETREAT *apply online*

13 STATE NONPROFIT DAY MAINE *open to public*

21 COFFEE WITH VETS - HITW *everyone welcome*

FEBRUARY

1 MONTHLY HITW 2026 Gun of the Month DRAWING

LIVE ON FB

TBD - 250TH ANNIVERSARY TSHIRT FUNDRAISER

12-15 STURGEON SPEARING RETREAT - WISCONSIN

apply online

18 COFFEE WITH VETS - HITW *everyone welcome*

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

? VETERAN COYOTE RETREAT *apply online*

? VETERAN DOG SLEDDING UP NORTH? *apply online*

Veterans Career Networking Reception

Time: January 14, 2026, 11am - 1pm

Location: 151 Jetport Blvd, Portland, ME

The Maine Department of Corrections is hosting a Veterans Career Networking Reception where you can meet fellow veterans currently working at MDOC and learn how your military experience can translate into a rewarding civilian career.

Career areas include:

- Security
- Adult Probation & Parole
- Juvenile Services
- Skilled Trades
- Social Work
- Education
- Business & Operations
- Healthcare
- IT
- And more

Registration requested by January 5, 2026 :

www.maine.gov/corrections/careers/veterans



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

\$5

Drawing - February 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.

Not much going on in January this year, please check out the Post Facebook page to see updated events.

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Zoom Meetings

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

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 (Joe Conlon Sr. Vice) @ joepen@comcast.net. I would appreciate your comments on this new way of post meeting participation.

Sincerely

Joe Conlon
Sr. Vice

Helping Veterans



December 2025

December was a busy month for all with Family gatherings and Christmas Activities.

Hope Everyone had a Wonderful Christmas and You have a great start to the new year.

As always, if you know of a Veteran that needs help, please let us know and we will do what we can. Thank you!

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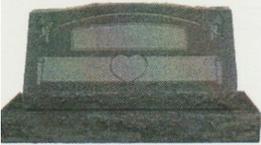
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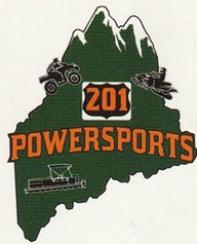
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VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
Harvell-Bishop-Arnold Trail Post #7865
58 Preble Avenue
PO Box 67 Madison, Maine 04950
Telephone (207) 696-3806



Volume 28

Jan 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



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Forever Grateful

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