

# COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Volume 23-24

August 2023

Post Convention

Legionnaires of The Department of Connecticut,

Thank you all so much for the trust you placed in me to lead this outstanding organization. I pledge that no one will work harder than I will. As I said in my speech to the convention, the Blue Cap Legionnaire is the backbone to what we accomplish. You are the boots on the ground, those who run the programs, work with your communities, offer opportunities to young people that they might not otherwise have. My theme this year is Veterans, Family, Community. Our Four Pillars reflect these three ideas. Americanism, Children & Youth, National Defense and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are the foundation of The American Legion.

In my visits throughout the state in the past two years, I have met many members who do a wonderful job supporting these Pillars, in many ways. Each community is unique, so you are limited to your imagination as to how to accomplish the goals you want to achieve. Keep up the great work. Remember to publicize your good works, because that is how people learn who we are/what we do. Don't be afraid to share your success with other Posts, this is best done at district meetings. Using the 3<sup>rd</sup> District as an example, when our Posts report, they share these stories and other Posts have tried these ideas. They don't always work, but when they do, it lifts everyone up.

You will hear me talk about getting back to the basics of the Legion: run whatever programs your Post is able; focus renewing your membership early in the year, integrate with your community, including an Open House (where feasible), and submit all required Post/District reports.

My Commander's Project this year is the Kick for Nick Foundation. Nick was killed by an IED in Iraq, was an outstanding soccer player, coach, and referee in Wilton. His last time home on leave he wanted his family to send soccer balls to him to hand out to children affected by the war, using anything available to kick around. After his death, a Wilton Legionnaire suggested a foundation to send balls to troops. Since the Fall of 2006, more than 55,000 balls, uniforms, cleats, and equipment have been sent to over fifty countries worldwide. To donate, checks payable to: Kick for Nick, mailed to 52 Tucker Street, Danbury, CT 06810-5133 will be gladly accepted. Go to [kickfornick.org](http://kickfornick.org) for more.

I am always available to talk, answer questions, offer ideas, and make Post visits.

Tom Moore, Department Commander  
203-918-3767 (cell)  
[tommooarmy@gmail.com](mailto:tommooarmy@gmail.com)



Fellow Legionnaires,

I must begin by thanking the delegates to the 104<sup>th</sup> American Legion Department of Connecticut Convention for placing your trust in me to serve as the Department Senior Vice Commander for 2023 – 2024. The Officer Installation ceremony obligates new officers to “vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you.” You have my promise that I will work hard to do just that throughout the year.

We are coming off a busy five weeks in the life of our American Legion and its programs. We have seen a successful semi-joint presentation of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. We joined with our friends in law enforcement to sponsor the State Police Youth Week program. Throughout this time, we also had many posts engaged in American Legion Baseball. I congratulate the four State Championship teams and for those teams that are moving forward to regional play, I wish them well. Of course, we also hosted our Department Convention and had members attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Conference in Indianapolis.

My question to you is, “Did you or your Post engage in any of the above programs or meetings?” If not, “Why not?” As I travel the Department this year, one of my recurring messages will be simply “Get Involved!” We need individual Legionnaires to get involved in their Posts and Districts. We need Posts to get involved in their communities by sponsoring the above mentioned American Legion programs among many others. Then, after your Post gets involved, we need you to tell people about it through traditional media, social media, etc. Let everyone know that our American Legion Posts are an important part of the fabric of our communities.

Lastly, I ask you to immediately begin making Buddy Checks on your members. Information about how to conduct a Buddy Check can be found at [www.legion.org/buddycheck](http://www.legion.org/buddycheck). There will come a time in the not-too-distant future that I will be asking you to call on your members to ensure that they renew their membership. We do not want the first, or only, time our members hear from anyone is when we are looking for money. Reach out now to check in on our fellow members. Find out how they are doing and see if The American Legion can be of any assistance to them. Simply put, show our members that we care about them as people.

I look forward to meeting you and collaborating with you throughout the coming year. Should I be able to assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service,

John F. DeBisschop III

Department Senior Vice Commander



Greeting, fellow Legionnaires, friends, and the entire American Legion family in the Department of Connecticut!!!

As your candidate for National Commander 2024-2025, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and give you all a bit of an update as to how the campaign is going. I will start with a huge "THANK YOU," to everyone that supported, assisted, and turned out to support the campaign by your generous contributions and attendance at the "Salute to Summer" event. A wonderful evening was had by all that attended the event. It was YOU that made the evening memorable, as well as your financial support for the campaign. As we've stated before, it takes multiple financial resources, time, and commitment and support the campaign and my candidacy to become National Commander of The American Legion, for 2024-2025. With that being said, we are almost one year out from this vision becoming a reality for all of us, which means we still need to raise quite a bit more revenue. With the summertime upon us, I'm asking each of you to please consider reaching out to your Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, and/or District to please consider holding some sort of a campaign fundraising event. It can be a small or large event, as every dollar does count and matters.

My travels have been going very well, visiting various Departments and events, as well as trying to be visible around our own Department, as my schedule allows me to. Butch Hansen and I just completed a very full 5 days of orientation held at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana and rolled right into the annual membership workshop. Everything went extremely well for us, and we are really pumped up and excited about this journey. But this journey is only possible because of you and your support, commitment, and confidence. With that being said, "Thank You."

Just a reminder for everyone; we need to continue to keep our ears and eyes out for any veteran, family member, or individual that seems to be having a difficult time mentally, and be prepared to be supportive and ready to give them the proper guidance and direction, if they seem to be distraught or suicidal. The holiday season should be a joyous time, but for many, it's also a challenging time. YOU can "Be The One" to make a difference in someone's life, or even possibly save a life. Please take a moment to memorize the Veterans Crisis Line "988" then press 1. This will give them immediate and direct access to trained professionals to assist them in their time of need. I would also suggest to every Post, Unit, and Squadron to make Buddy Check phone to every single member on their respective rosters. This call would be to see how they are doing and to update them on what is happening at the Post and Department level. In closing, "THANK YOU." We are all "Team Connecticut."

James "Jim" A. LaCoursiere, Jr.  
Candidate for National Commander 2024-2025

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# ADJUTANTS

Tel: 860-436-9986

E-mail: [ctadj@ctlegion.org](mailto:ctadj@ctlegion.org)

Website: [www.ctlegion.org](http://www.ctlegion.org)

Fax: 860-436-9491

Volume 11-23

Post Convention

## Notes

### **Resolution to raise Membership dues passes**

All, a resolution to raise membership dues was introduced at the Department Convention and after much discussion, it was ultimately passed. What does this mean for everyone moving forward? Dues will increase by \$10.00 starting July 2024; Posts will be required to submit their Post Data forms in March 2024 reflecting their new Post dues with a minimum of \$39.50. Posts will need to determine what if any additional dues they will add to that amount. If your Post did not attend the convention, then you missed out on your opportunity to voice your opinion and or concerns concerning the increase. Please keep in mind that this is the first increase since 2005 at the Department level.

### **Department Budget**

We need all Department Committee/Commission chairmen who require funds during the year to start preparing your budgets to be submitted to the Department Treasurer **NLT** August 7, 2023. Our Department Budget meeting will be held on August 14, 2023, and any budget requests not submitted on time will not be considered during the meeting.

### **My Legion Training**

For all of the new Post Officers, if you are in need of some training, please call our office 860-436-9986 to make an appointment with Sue. All training will be conducted at our Department Headquarters or over the phone depending on your situation. Please keep in mind that this is the busy time of the year as we are processing membership daily, so appointments will be scheduled on Sue's availability.

### **Post Officer Forms**

Please ensure that you send in your Post election forms in a timely manner as these along with the Commander/Adjutant form are still required, regardless of if you are keeping the same officers for the upcoming year. We use these to update our Post contact information on the Department Website and My Legion.

### **Post Data Forms**

**Please copy and share all Bulletin information as widely as possible!**

We still have several Posts that have not turned in their Post Data forms, these are important to both the Department and National as the information is used to set your Post dues, change contact information, and update any other changes that you submit.

### **Membership Cards**

All Posts should have their 2024 Legion membership cards, if this is not the case, please contact our office immediately. SAL membership cards are being distributed by the Sal, please call our office if you haven't already received them.

### **PUFL & Online Credits**

PUFL and Online credits should be available by September 15, 2023, with the new My Legion system National now sends us individual checks for every Post. Once we receive those, they will be sent out to the Post address we currently have on file, so if you haven't sent us your Post Data Form and have changed your address you will not receive your check.

### **Department Raffle Drawing**

Thank you to all those who participated in the raffle, it was extremely successful. Please see the flyer inside the bulletin for the winners.

### **Potpourri**

The Department Convention was a great success this year, it was great to see so many familiar faces and meet many new faces. We are currently looking at new ideas to attract more participation, if you have any ideas, please submit them to our office. We look forward to the new year and seeing everyone out and about.

*Please remember to call or send an email to keep the Department informed as to the status of our Legion family members.*

**Please copy and share all Bulletin information as widely as possible!**



# *2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS*

**Commander  
Sr Vice Commander  
Historian  
Chaplain  
Judge Advocate  
Treasurer  
Service Officer  
Ass't Service Officer**

**Thomas Moore  
John DeBisschop  
Tim McLeod  
Thomas Honyotski  
Brett Connolly  
Charles R. Berry  
K. Robert Lewis  
Mary Harris**

**1st District Commander  
2nd District Commander  
3rd District Commander  
4th District Commander  
5th District Commander  
6th District Commander  
7th District Commander**

**Joseph Haney  
Dawn Applegate  
David Mead  
Frank Poirier  
Dennis Lisee  
James Brandt  
Robert Washington**

**Sgt-At-Arms  
Ass't Sgt - At- Arms**

**Mike Kellett  
James DeBisschop**

# 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

## District 1

### Delegates

Chuck Berry - Post 96  
Louie Robinson - Post 142  
William Gibbs - Post 142

### Alternates

Tim McLeod - Post 96  
Gladys Silva-Perales - Post 117

## District 3

### Delegates

Mike Kellett - Post 16  
Paul Niche - Post 86

### Alternates

Larry Kayfus - Post 16

## District 2

### Delegates

Bruce Carlson - Post 25  
Bob Murray - Post 196  
John DeBisschop - Post 17

## District 4

### Delegates

Jeffrey DeClerck - Post 91  
James LaCoursiere - Post 91

### Alternates

Archie LaPierre - Post 91  
Frank Poirier - Post 101  
Everett Shepard - Post 111

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# 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

## District 5

Delegates

Dennis Lisee - Post 104  
K. Robert Lewis - Post 128

## District 7

Delegates

Jack Monahan - Post 18

## Department Delegates

Richard Linnon  
Thomas Moore  
Harry R. Hansen  
D. Joseph Jackson

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# JULY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

\$5,000	Stephen Pastuszak from Berlin	★
\$1,000	Gary Zeller from Litchfield	★
\$500	Michael McDermott from Clinton	
\$250	Paul Orstad from Norwich	
\$250	George Mulvaney from Ridgefield	★

***Congratulations!***

The American Legion  
Department Dinner  
Honoring



*Thomas Moore*  
*Commander*

***Tashua Knolls, Golf Club & Banquets***  
*40 Tashua Knolls Lane, Trumbull, CT. 06611*

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Cash Bar Social 2:00 PM Dinner 3:00 PM \$45.00 pp

DRESS CODE IS LEGION CASUAL (POLO SHIRT & DRESS PANTS)

Family Style Dinner

Social Hour – Cheese & Crackers

Dinner – Penne Marinara, Homemade Meatballs, Italian Sausage, Broiled Chicken with Wine  
And Mushrooms, Roast Beef Au Jus, and Seafood Scampi.

Dessert – Ice Cream Bar, Coffee & Tea

Make checks payable to: The American Legion Dept. of CT

**No Reservations Accepted After Deadline of October 27, 2023**

Dinner Reservations to: The American Legion, Dept. of Connecticut  
864 Wethersfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114

Department Testimonial

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations. (\$ 450.00 for table of 10)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_ ) \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



# American Legion Department of Connecticut Annual Golf Tournament



**When:** Monday, September 18, 2023

**Time:** Registration @ 9:00AM – Shotgun Start @ 11:00AM

**Where:** Silo Point Country Club, 137 E Hill Rd #481C, Southbury, CT 06488

**Entry Fee:** \$140.00 per player, \$560.00 per team of four players

**\*Payment due by September 8, 2023\***

Includes green fees, cart, boxed lunch, buffet dinner, prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team, Closest to the Pin (2 holes) and Men and Women’s Longest Drive. Each paid registration receives 25 raffle prize tickets and coupon for 1 Mulligan. Hole-in-One prize on all Par 3 holes.

**Players (please print)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (team captain and phone #)
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose completed application & check made payable to: AL Department of Connecticut  
Mailing address: The American Legion, 864 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06114  
Point of Contact: Tom Moore, Tournament Committee Chairman, 203-918-3767  
Butch Hansen, Department Adjutant, 860-436-9986

*Proceeds fund the American Legion/Connecticut State Police Youth Week Program*



## American Legion Department of Connecticut Annual Golf Classic

**When: Monday, September 18, 2023**

**Where: Silo Point Country Club**

**Tee Sponsor/Dedication: \$100.00**

**TEE SPONSOR**

**Business Name and address (please print)**

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**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEE DEDICATION: (HONOR A VETERAN OR LOVED ONE)**

**Service Member or Loved one's Name:**

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**Branch and Dates of Service:**

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Mail completed application & check made payable to: **American Legion Dept of CT**, mail to:  
864 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06114.

Points of Contact: Tom Moore: 203-918-367, email [tommoorearmy@gmail.com](mailto:tommoorearmy@gmail.com)  
Harry Hansen: 860-436-9986, email [ctadj@ctlegion.org](mailto:ctadj@ctlegion.org)

***Proceeds fund the  
American Legion/Connecticut State Police Youth Week  
Program***

# MONDAY



# NIGHT

**BINGO**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156**

**33 NEPTUNE AVENUE**

**MOODUS, CT 06469**



**DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

**GAMES START AT 6:40 PM**



**SNACKS ARE AVAILABLE**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR FUN AND BRING A FRIEND!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION (860) 873-8042 OR [AMLEGION156@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMLEGION156@GMAIL.COM)**





**Come to the American Legion**

# **FAMILY BREAKFAST!**

**Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Toast,  
Coffee, Juice and "The Special of the Day"**

**Cooked to Order!**

**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Adults - \$10 donation**

**Kids under 12 - \$5 donation**

**Kids under 4 - Eat FREE**

**Post 66 Legion Hall, Rte. 1, Clinton, CT**



# Newtown Labor Day Parade

**Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

*Please come join us at our Labor Day Parade!*

The largest CT Labor Day parade and Newtown's largest annual event.

Let's show American Legion Family Pride as we celebrate together!

All are welcome! Bring your flags!



Wear your American Legion Shirt and cap and good walking shoes.

Vehicles will be available for those who want to ride.

Vehicle line-up in staging area begins at 8am and parade kicks off at 10am.

Participants need to be with our vehicles at about 9am.

Exact assembly location will be announced the week before Labor Day.

Please let us know ASAP if you will join us! We need to organize line-up!

Email Post Commander Donna A Monteleone at [DAMonteleone78@gmail.com](mailto:DAMonteleone78@gmail.com) or text or call 203 577-9568 before 7pm

**American Legion Post 202**  
*serving Newtown & Brookfield*