

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Connecticut



105th
DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION

The Trumbull Marriott
Hotel

Trumbull, Connecticut

JULY 12, 13, 14, 2024



Daniel J Seehafer (WI)
National Commander

To my fellow Legionnaires in Connecticut,

The Department of Veterans Affairs conducted its first annual Buddy Check week October 16-20, 2023. This needed outreach was intended to enhance mental wellness and, most importantly, assist veterans in crisis. It was inspired by The American Legion, and we expect it to continue for many more years.

“What the Legion has shown us here is that from Buddy Check, there are going to be certain organic connections that continue no matter what. Because what we’ve seen with The American Legion doing it the last several years is that rekindles connections, and those connections are very meaningful for our vets,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said.

Establishing meaningful connections is something American Legion Family members do every day. From the services that you provide in your communities to the programs conducted by your department, veterans and families in your towns and cities are blessed by your efforts. The American Legion *changes* lives and The American Legion *saves* lives through our youth programs, public advocacy and veteran service work.

When a veteran takes his or her own life it is a national tragedy. The loved ones left behind are often saddled with guilt, wondering if more could have been done. This is why we, in The American Legion, have made it our mission to Be the One to do everything possible to save veterans from making this horrific choice.

The year 2024 will be significant not just for The American Legion but our entire nation. Americans will go to the polls and elect the next leader of the free world. We will also decide who should represent us in the U.S. Congress and in local offices across the nation. The American Legion is nonpartisan, and we make no endorsements. But we do encourage all Americans to vote. We also hope that you make an informed decision based on the issues that are important to veterans, active military and their families. These are the very issues that are addressed every year at American Legion department conventions. Issues that *save* lives and *change* lives.

I hope that you have a productive and enjoyable convention.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Seehafer', written in a cursive style.

Daniel J. Seehafer
National Commander

**GREETINGS FROM
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**



**Thomas K Moore (Post 143)
Department Commander**

Greetings, American Legion Family:

As I finish my year as Department Commander, I want to thank each Legion Family member that made this year so memorable. You have made this happen, and I am eternally grateful.

A very special thank you to Butch Hansen, Jessica Alba, Sue Daigle, John DeBisschop, Mike Kellett, Joe Jackson, and Jeff DeClerck for all your guidance and help.

To each and every Post who greeted me warmly, took heart to my message and worked your hardest to make The American Legion the very best it could be.

Most especially, to my closest advisor, my best friend, and my wife Nancy. The journey we had this year was as much fun as we could have imagined!

At this ending, it is also a beginning. I plan to remain active and available to every Legion Family member, so remember I am always available to talk, answer questions, offer ideas, and make Post visits.

Thomas K Moore
American Legion
Department Commander
2023-2024

**GREETINGS FROM
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**



**Robert Murray (Post 196)
National Executive Committeeman**

Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Fellow Legionnaires and Guests:

I am pleased to bring you the greetings of our National Commander Dan Seehafer who welcomes you to your 105th Department Convention. Over the next two days you will conduct the necessary business to enable the Department of Connecticut to transition smoothly into the 2024-2025 term. You will hear reports from your various committees and commissions who have been working continuously throughout this past year to help keep the Department going. You will also hear from a variety of guest speakers who will introduce you to topics which we hope you will find interesting. And you will also hear comments from Connecticut's leading candidate for the position of the next National Commander, Jim LaCoursiere.

This promises to be a great Convention and we hope that each one of you will return home equipped with the tools and knowledge you need to carry on the business of the American Legion at your own local Posts.

Thank you all for coming and enjoy your Convention!

Robert S. Murray
National Executive Committeeman

**GREETINGS FROM
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT**



To The American Legion Family,

Welcome to the Department of CT Convention. This is the culmination of a very exciting year. As the American Legion Auxiliary President, I want to personally thank all the family members for their support and encouragement. It has been rewarding getting to work with you all and getting to know one another better.

It has also been wonderful having the family back together and working as one. I want to extend my best wishes to those who are running for elected office.

As our conventions begin, may we move forward with open minds and continue to:

“BE THE ONE”

For God and Country,
Jennifer McLeod
President
ALA Department of Ct

**GREETINGS FROM
PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT**



Dear American Legion Members,

It is an honor to send greetings to the American Legion as you begin your Department Convention.

Commander, Tom, you have done a wonderful job and have represented the Connecticut Legion Family with dignity and respect. I hope you had a year you will never forget.

To all the Legion delegates and guests, have a wonderful Convention. Thank you for all you do for our military, veterans, our communities, and our youth. Keep up the good work and have some fun doing it.

This year's theme is so necessary, please continue to **“Be The One”**

Janet Jefford
Past National President

**GREETINGS FROM
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**



American Legion Family Members,

This will be my last message to you as your National Executive Committeewoman. It has been a long and fantastic seven years. I want to thank all the units, posts, districts, and members, for all the courtesies, hospitality, and camaraderie that you have shown to me. I hope that I have given you an insight into what the National Organization is all about, as I kept you informed of what was happening. It has been an honor, and a privilege to serve the Department of Connecticut in this position and I hope I have made all of you proud of what I've done over the years. I wish the incoming NEC great success in their future. Madam President Jenniffer, and Commander Tom, I wish for both of you a successful convention.

Debra Kuickerbocker

National Executive Committeewoman

**GREETING FROM
DETACHMENT COMMANDER**



Greeting from Detachment of Connecticut Sons of the American Legion.

This year was my first year as your Detachment Commander for the Sons and I hope we made Connecticut proud, with us making 100% membership. Hopefully by the time your Department Convention starts we will have exceeded the 105% Goal that our National Commander J.R. Hall set. I wish both our Parent Organization, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary a great convention. And the Sons look forward to another year working as a Legion Family.

Thank You all again.

J.P. Licari

J.P. Licari

Detachment Commander

Sons of the American Legion

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DIRECTORS

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Connecticut American Legion Department Convention. Thank you very much for participating in the very important business of our great organization. We are excited to be able to expand our convention to a full day on Friday, and reinstate our Youth luncheon. Please enjoy the hospitality of the Trumbull Marriott. Your Convention Committee with your Department Adjutant and Department Treasurer have worked diligently planning and preparing this event.

Best Wishes,

Everett G. Shepard III

American Legion
Department Convention Director

To The American Legion Family,

How fast a year comes and goes. May we Thank our outgoing President, Commander, Detachment Commander, Officers, and Chairman for their dedicated service to our organizations. With their Leadership and Commitment to our Veterans, their Families, and our communities, we can continue our Mission.

As we close out this year of service, may we Welcome the Newly elected Officers. With everyone's encouragement and guidance, we wish them a productive year.

If you have any issues or concerns, please notify me, or the Legion's Department Convention Director, Everett G. Shepard III.

Don't take anything for granted. Make every day, a Great Day.

Yours in Service,

Jeanne A Berry

Jeanne A. Berry
American Legion Auxiliary
Department Convention Chairman

Officer	Name
Department Commander	Thomas Moore
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander	John DeBisschop
Vice Commander (1 st)	Joseph Haney
Vice Commander (2 nd)	Dawn Applegate
Vice Commander (3 rd)	David Meade
Vice Commander (4 th)	Frank Poirier
Vice Commander (5 th)	Dennis Lisee
Vice Commander (6 th)	James Brandt
Vice Commander (7 th)	Robert Washington
Adjutant	Harry R Hansen
Treasurer	Chuck Berry
Asst. Treasurer	Rodger Anderson
Judge Advocate	Brett Connolly
Chaplain	Thomas Honyotski
Historian	Tim McLeod
Service Officer	K Robert Lewis
Asst. Service Officer	Richard Linnon
National Executive Committeeman	Robert Murray
Alt. Nat'l Exec. Committeeman	Jeff DeClerck
Imd. Past Commander	Richard Linnon
Sgt. at Arms	Mike Kellett
Asst Sgt at Arms	James DeBisschop

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN		
Richard Fitzgerald	1st	Ken Lewis
Bruce Carlson	2nd	Vacant
Rich Olsen	3rd	Nick Cabral
Mike Mitchell	4th	John Barry
Jim Robertson	5th	Sandra Spedaliere
Barbara Lamontagne	6th	Ted Sweeney
Vacant	7th	Jack Scherban

105th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF
CONNECTICUT**

Friday, July 12, 2024

9:00 A.M.

OPENING SESSION

Salon DEFG

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tom Honyotski (Post 17)
Department Chaplin

PRESENTATION – POST AWARDS

Mike Mitchell (Post 14)
Awards Committee Chairman

11:00 A.M. Introduction of Youth Leaders

Department Oratorical Winner
Bruce Carlson (Post 25) Director

Department Eagle Scout of The Year
Jonathon Whetton (Post 26) Director

American Legion Baseball
Dave Greenleaf (Post 2) Director

Boy's State Governor and Leaders
Dave Greenleaf (Post 2) Director

State Police Youth Week
Steve Pintarich (Post 72) Director

12:00 P.M. **BREAK FOR LUNCH**

2:00 P.M. **CALL TO ORDER**

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Department Officers
American Legion Auxiliary

Jennifer Mcleod, Department President
Debra Knickerbocker, Nat'l Executive Committeewoman
Lydia DeGumbia, Distinguished Guest Chairman
Jeanne Berry, Convention Director

**APPOINTMENT OF CONVENTION
COMMITTEES**

GUEST SPEAKERS / EXHIBITORS

Jeff DeClerck (Post 91)
VJ Day Parade

Steve Pintarich (Post 72)
State Police Youth Week

Roberto Santos
Danbury Vet Center

Nicole Shea
Veterans Suicide Awareness

Jeff Arnson
Take a Vet Fishing

Don LaChance
Project Healing Waters

Harold Skelton
Fishing for the Mission 22

Saturday, July 13, 2024

9:00 A.M. **OPENING SESSION**

Salon DEFG

CALL TO ORDER

Thomas Moore (Post 143)
Department Commander

INVOCATION:

Tom Honyotski (Post 17)
Department Chaplin

CALL TO CONVENTION:

Harry Hansen Jr., PDC (Post 165)
Department Adjutant

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Thomas Moore (Post 143)
Department Commander

Everett Shepard (Post 111)
Convention Director

Paul Giannotta
Trumbull Marriott Hotel

REPORTS OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES:

Rules Committee:

Credentials Committee:

Constitution & By-laws Committee

Resolutions Committee:

PRESENTATION
SPECIAL DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Mike Mitchell (Post 14)
Awards Committee Chairman

Post Commander of the Year Award

District Commander of the Year Award

District Sr. Vice Commander of the Year Award
Law Enforcement Officer of The Year Award

Fire Fighter of the Year Award

Legionnaire of the Year Award

PRESENTATION
DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD

Mary-Ann Bergeron
Americanism Commission Chairman

INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUEST:

Robert Murray (Post 196), PDC
National Executive Committeeman

FEATURED SPEAKER

Dan Wiley (KS)
Candidate for National Commander

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT TREASURER:

Charles R. Berry (Post 96)
Department Treasurer

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR, Soldier', Sailors' and Marines
Fund:**

Charles R. Berry
Administrator

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

K. Robert Lewis (Post 128)
Department Service Officer

12:00 P.M. **BREAK FOR LUNCH**

2:00 P.M. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Thomas Moore (Post 143)
Department Commander

**INTRODUCTION OF
PAST
DEPARTMENT
COMMANDERS**

Robert Murray, President
Past Department Commanders Club

FINAL REPORTS OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES:

Rules Committee:

Credentials Committee:

Constitution & By-laws Committee

Resolutions Committee

RATIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS'

RATIFICATION OF DEPT. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

RATIFICATION OF NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER
Thomas Moore**

**ELECTION OF 2024-2025
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

OBLIGATION OF NEWLY ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:

ATTENDANCE PRIZES:

BENEDICTION:

RETIRING OF COLORS:

Department Color Guard

ADJOURNMENT: *Sine Dei*

6:00 PM – INSTALLATION & END OF YEAR CELEBRATION DINNER

**The Department Executive
Committee will meet Sunday
July 14, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Concord/Hartford Room**

**PAST NATIONAL OFFICERS
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Arthur J. Connell (1954)

NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

Philo C. Calhoun (1919)
Thomas J. Bannigan (1921)*
Eugene P. Armstrong (1925)
Edward L. White (1929)
Raymond F. Gates (1936)
Arthur J. Connell (1943)
Edward J. Kelly (1949)
Edward H. Lynch, Jr. (1965)
John N. Roberto (1974)
Neale V. Cabral (1988)
Erwin "Gus" Williams (1998)
James A. LaCoursiere (2009)
Paul I. Spedaliere (2019)

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Fr. Robert G. Keating (1962)

NATIONAL HISTORIAN

W. Frazier Brinley (2005)
Edward DeGumbia (2024)

*Completed term of John G. Emery who became National
Commander upon death of Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT**

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

*1919-19	Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.....	Darien
*1919-20	Philo C. Calhoun.....	Bridgeport
*1920-21	John F. Pickett.....	Middletown
*1921-22	Clarence W. Seymour	Hartford
*1922-23	Edward L. Kelly.....	Bridgeport
*1923-24	Eugene P. Armstrong**.....	Waterbury
*1924-25	Edward L. White	New Haven
*1925-26	Harry C. Jackson.....	New Britain
*1926-27	Kenneth F. Cramer.....	Wethersfield
*1927-28	Earle F. Richards	West Haven
*1928-29	Paige A. Seaton	Torrington
*1929-30	Wilford S. Alexander	Meriden
*1930-31	Edward L. Newmarker	Rockville
*1931-32	James E. Breslin	Hartford
*1932-33	Joseph A. Treadwell.....	Danbury
*1933-34	Sydney A. Finer	Clinton
*1934-35	Arthur L. Baldwin	Milford
*1935-36	Morgan B. Haven.....	New London
*1936-37	William J. Miller	Wethersfield
*1937-38	James A. Weir	Stamford
*1938-39	William C. Kruser	Torrington
*1939-40	Bernard J. Ackerman.....	Rockville
*1940-41	John R. Feegel	Meriden
*1941-42	Arthur J. Connell.....	Middletown
*1942-43	Edward J. Kelly.....	Taftville
*1943-44	Louis J. Blaschik	West Hartford
*1944-45	Herbert L. Emanuelson	Orange
*1945-46	Joseph G. Leonard	Stamford
*1946-47	Louis J. Chevallier.....	Glastonbury
*1947-48	Arthur E. Daly	West Haven
*1948-49	Arthur J. Kelley.....	Thomaston
*1949-50	Howard I. Jacobs.....	Willimantic
*1950-51	John P. Griffin	East Hartford
*1951-52	John W. Clarke.....	Norwich
*1952-53	Sydney P. Simons.....	Bridgeport
*1953-54	James H. Steinson	Westbrook
*1954-55	George D. Baron	Westville
*1955-56	LeRoy B. Butler	Willimantic
*1956-57	John F. Spain	Southington
*1957-58	C. Russell Day.....	Norwalk
*1958-59	Charles J. Majewski.....	Thomaston
*1959-60	Edward H. Lynch, Jr.....	Waterbury
*1960-61	Arthur G. St. John	Jewett City
*1961-62	Earle S. Crooks	Cromwell
*1962-63	Louis E. Molinaro	No. Grosvenordale
*1963-64	Francis G. Garris.....	Wethersfield
*1964-65	Hugh C. Graham	West Haven
*1965-66	John N. Roberto.....	Norwalk
*1966-67	Henry S. Bialoglowy.....	Litchfield
*1967-68	Neale V. Cabral.....	Quaker Hill
*1968-69	Richard J. Heath.....	West Hartford
*1969-70	Morris L. Robin	Waterbury
*1970-71	John R. Silvey	West Hartford
*1971-72	Chet D. Hirsch.....	Stafford Springs
*1972-73	Milton E. Moritz	Deep River
*1973-74	William Mager	Norwalk
*1974-75	Joseph F. Mardu	Cheshire
*1975-76	Lionel F. Dugas	Bristol
*1976-77	Leo M. Hindsley	Baltic
*1977-78	Henry Mayer.....	Woodstock
*1978-79	Joseph W. Tarrant, Jr.....	Bethel
*1979-80	John S. Babes	Torrington
*1980-81	William J. Lucas.....	Hamden
*1981-82	Eugene W. Freeman	Manchester
1982-83	Richard W. Anderson	Cromwell
*1983-84	Frank D'Angelo	Shelton

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

(Continued)

*1984-85	Elliott N. Morris	Branford
*1985-86	George R. White, Jr.	Norwich
*1986-87	William J. Rich	Southington
1987-88	Raymond R. Bigelow	Willimantic
1988-89	D. Joseph Jackson	Winsted
*1989-90	Charles E. Haas	Norwich
*1990-91	E. Guy Miller	Stratford
*1991-92	William J. Pomfret	Middletown
*1992-93	William H. Jordan	Willimantic
1993-94	Erwin L. Williams	Derby
*1994-95	Lewis E. Waller	Stratford
1995-96	K. Robert Lewis	Niantic
*1996-97	H. David Smith	Middletown
*1997-98	Richard Wm. Anderson	Bristol
*1998-99	Elliot Meccico	Norwalk
1999-2000	Everett G. Shepard, III	Woodstock
2002-01	W. Frazier Brinley	Clinton
*2001-02	Edward F. Barry	East Haddam
2002-03	Boyd Saxton	Sandy Hook
*2003-04	Lawrence F. Duffany	Thomaston
2004-05	Jean C. Lafontaine	N. Grosvenordale
*2005-06	Edward J. Carney, Jr.	Guilford
2006-07	James A. LaCoursiere	Old Lyme
*2007-08	Andrew Barylski, Jr.	Putnam
*2008-09	Harvey E. Daggett	Ashford
*2009-10	Charles R. Morrissey	North Haven
2010-11	Daniel C. Thurston	Harwinton
2011-12	Mary-Ann Roczynski	East Hartford
2012-13	Wayne A. Morgan	West Haven
2013-14	Robert S. Murray	Milford
2014-15	Harry R. Hansen Jr.	Wolcott
2015-16	Paul I. Spedaliere	Lebanon
2016-17	Louie C. Robinson	Hartford
2017-18	Edward A. DeGumbia	Plantsville
*2018-19	Thomas C. Flowers	Milford
2019-21	Dennis P. Beauregard	Southington
2021-22	Jeffrey DeClerck	Moosup
2022-23	Richard Linnon	Newington

*Deceased

**Resigned January 3 of term 1924-25

HONORARY PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

*Frank S. Butterworth	New Haven
*Anson T. McCook	Hartford
*Clarence C. Scarborough	West Hartford
*James B. Moody	West Hartford
*William J. Malone	Bristol
*Henry S. Dorsey	New London
*Edward A. Stillman	Hartford
*Rev. Henry R. Cassidy	Norwalk

*Deceased



CONVENTION PROGRAM

SONS of THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT CONVENTION

Saturday, July 13, 2024

9:00 AM	Opening with T.A.L
10:00 AM	S.A.L. Elections
11:00 AM	Post-Convention D.E.C.
12:00	Lunch

**RECIPIENTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD**

*1956	JUSTICE RAYMOND E. BALDWIN
*1957	SENATOR WILLIAM A. PURTELL
*1958	MAYOR RICHARD C. LEE
*1959	HON. MILDRED N. ALLEN
*1960	REV. ROBERT G. KEATING
*1961	DONALD H. POTTER
*1962	WILLIAM J. CLANCY
*1963	SENATOR THOMAS J. DODD
*1964	JOHN R. REITEMEYER
*1965	GOVERNOR JOHN N. DEMPSEY
*1966	JUSTICE JOHN H. KING
1967	FRANCIS J. SWEENEY
*1968	FRANCIS E. MINER
*1969	HON. FRANCES BURKE REDICK
*1970	MATTHEW MORIARTY
1971	ANDY ROBUSTELLI
*1972	CHARLES T. McQUEENEY
1973	CONGRESSMAN ROBERT H. STEELE
*1974	MRS. LILLIAM B. YERRINGTON
*1975	GOVERNOR ELLA T. GRASSO
*1976	JUDGE ROBERT M. ROBBINS
*1977	WILLIAM M. SAVITT
1978	NO AWARD
*1979	JAMES PEDACE
*1980	DR. WILLIAM L. TAYLOR
1981	FRANK W. SCHADE
1982	NO AWARD
1983	JOHN T. DOWNEY, ESQ.
*1984	DANIEL J. O'CONNOR, ESQ.
*1985	GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL
1986	NO AWARD
1987	LAWRENCE D. McHugh
1988	NO AWARD
1989	CONGRESSMAN JOHN G. ROWLAND
*1990	BERNIE FIELDS
1991	RICHARD L. TRAYNER, JR.
1992	WILLIAM T. O'BRIEN
1993	NO AWARD
1994	DR. DAVID G. CARTER
1995	NO AWARD
1996	JAMES CALHOUN
1997	JOHN A. QUINN
1998	NO AWARD
1999	NO AWARD
2000	NO AWARD
2001	NO AWARD
2002	NO AWARD
2003	CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS
2004	ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
2005	STATE SENATOR LEN FASANO
2006	STATE REPRESENTATIVE TED GRAZIANI
2007	CATHERINE RICCIO
2008	CHRISTOPHER D. COUTU
2009	ANDI GRANT
2010	ALFRED MEADOWS
2011	MICHAEL S. MASTRONI
2012	KATHY GRANFIELD
2013	REVERAND THOMAS BERBERICH
2014	LT. GOVERNOR NANCY WYMAN
2015	LEESA PHILIPPON
2016	SENATOR CARLO LEONE
2017	THEODORE C. SWEENEY
2018	WILLIAM J. MADARAS & SHALINI S. MADARAS
2019	DONALD PERRAULT
2020	DANN POMPA
2021	NO AWARD
2022	LT. GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSIEWICZ
2023	CT STATE TROOPER KYLE KAELEBERER



*Preamble of the Constitution of
The American Legion*

For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:

*To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our associations in All Wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good-will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to Posterity
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*