

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



*Reverend Joseph  
Lamarre Memorial  
Post 2197  
Topsham, Maine*

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

*Post Trumpeter*

**February 2024 - Pg #1**

**Volume VIII, Issue #1**

**Scholastic Program Winners**



Proudly, we announce that our Post winners in scholastic programs represented us well in state competition. On the left teacher Abigail Svenson was named teacher of the year at the elementary school level in both District & Department levels. Abigail teaches at Harpswell Community School. At the right, Joshua Langworthy won at the District in the high school level "Voice of Democracy" program and went on to place 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Department level. Joshua is home schooled & lives in Bowdoinham. Both CO Stevens & QM Brown, as well as JVC Harmon were at the Department banquet to witness their success with pride.

*We do make a difference!*

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**Membership**



Post membership is at 93%, needing only seven more members to hit 100%. We still have eleven members coming due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. We're confident we'll be over 100% for the eleventh year in a row. A new member has joined since our last newsletter.

Welcome to Bruce Freeman. Tell people about us, show your pride in your post. Tell them we are rated as the #1 community service post in Maine. Challenge yourself to bring a new member in.

**Friday Dinners**

We will be back in the Legion kitchen in March. Our plan is to have our typical deep fried haddock, & grilled steak in Dr. Pepper marinade. The plan is to have a German night & a pot roast. Lobster rolls & baked scallops are also in the plan. Check our face book page for final selections, dates, & side dishes. We can always use a little extra help whether it's cooking, serving, doing dishes, or purchasing stuff. These dinners are our principal fund raiser so come down to help if you can, but do come to eat. March is a five Friday month, so we are giving the last Friday to Boy Scout troop 202 to allow them to fund raise.

**Taps**



This past year has not been kind to our Post. Since the December issue, we have to announce the passing of three more of our members. Regrettably, we have lost Robert Buck, Eric Cifelli, & Stephen Pitcher. Donations in their memory have been made to the V. E. T. S. Inc. mobile homeless shelter program.

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**A Great Day at Freeport H. S.**



At left, Frank Slinger, Roger Stevens, & Archie Pelley had a truly enjoyable visit with students & teachers at Freeport High School. The teacher at the right in the first photo, Becky Peterson, contacted our post, asking if we would be interested in being interviewed by her students. Each member sat at a table & let the students ask questions. The students rotated so each person met with two groups. The students wanted to know about our experiences, what we did in the service, & our perspective on the history they are studying, especially Vietnam. We were amazed at the quality of the questions, & how much they paid attention to our answers. The teachers remarked that they seldom see them so attentive. If the opportunity rises again, think about participating. It was a fun session!

**Rifle Raffle – Drawing Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Fri Night Dinner**



Raffle tickets for this beautiful VFW Tribute rifle are still available. \$10ea, only 300 tickets. Proceeds to support our local VFW District. Contact us.

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**Post Giving**

\$150 to V. E. T. S. Inc. in memory of departed comrades.

\$200 to Maine Paws for Veterans.

\$100 to YMCA Camp Sunshine for military children.

\$600 in hygiene items to Vets Inc.

\$200 to Dept CO's Special Project, Make a Wish Foundation.

2277hrs volunteered at V. E. T. S. Inc & community projects.

**Safety & Well Being**

Wow, there has already had several deaths on the lakes this winter. The temperature has been bouncing all over the place. If you're going fishing, snowmobiling, or 4-wheeling on the lakes, please make sure the ice is safe. We want everyone to be here come spring. Below is info from Maine Inland Fisheries concerning safe ice.

**GENERAL ICE THICKNESS GUIDELINES**

These guidelines are for new, clear (blue) ice on lakes and ponds. Ice is never 100% safe! White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice.

**Under 4" – STAY OFF**

4" – may allow for Ice fishing or other recreational activities on foot

5" – 7" – often allows for a Snowmobile or ATV

8" – 12" of good ice supports most cars or small pickups

12" – 15" will likely hold a medium sized truck

The first thing you should do before stepping on a frozen waterbody is to check the color and thickness of the ice. Knowing how to read ice color is a useful indicator of ice health, though color alone cannot guarantee "safe" ice.

- Light gray to dark black – Melting ice, this can occur even if the air temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius). This ice is not safe, it will be a weak density and cannot hold weight, **STAY OFF.**
- White to opaque – This is water-saturated snow that froze on top of the ice which forms another thin ice layer. This can often lead to air pockets from being so porous.
- Blue to clear – High density, very strong, safest ice to be on if thick enough, you should stay off if under 4 inches (10cm) thick.
- Mottled and slushy or "rotten" ice – when judging this type of ice, it won't be so much the color but the texture. You can tell by the ice thawing and slushy. This type of ice can be deceptive as it might seem thick at the top, however it is "rotting" away at the center and base. Most prevalent to see this kind of ice in the spring, it may even show signs of mud, debris, and plant matter surfacing from the bottom of the water body.

