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Robert L. Parli Jr., Walter Potock,  
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Commander's Corner

First, I want to report that American Legion Post 177 is doing GREAT! The past six months our social quarters and our banquet hall have made us a profit. We start 2012 with a healthy amount of money in our savings account. This was not the case last year. The six months leading to January 2011 saw slowing business in the social quarters and banquet hall rental. Come January 2011, and for the next three months we struggled to pay bills and we required help from the Corporation to fund programs we support. Some of our demise may have been a direct result of our nations declining economy.

Our financials started turning positive in May of 2011, and the trend of increasing revenue is continuing. What brought about the change? It is you, the member, the Sons of the Legion (SAL) and the Auxiliary patronage of our social quarters and more frequent banquet hall use. Members who frequent the social quarters know that we are continually tweaking our business processes to better meet our customer needs, which in turn help increase our revenue.

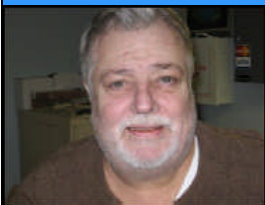
The second important ingredient to becoming more successful is the elected officers, and the management and staff who operate our social quarters and banquet hall. They are responsible for creating a friendly and professional environment that our members desire. While we are not perfect, it remains our goal to continually improve service; provide programs that support veterans, youth, and our community; and become a quality and model American Legion Post that all will want to join.

The third and most important reason for becoming more financially solvent is our members, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the Legion and the Legion Riders, and their involvement with our Post and the Legion activities we conduct and support. We have a small cadre of dedicated members including the SAL and the Auxiliary who actively organize and participate in activities and programs that support veterans, members, and youth. While this small cadre is doing a great job, they can always use more help. If you are a member and have some spare time please volunteer and become an active member. We can always use help with the members hosted Sunday breakfast done once every three months. As a Congressionally chartered non-profit organization we track our volunteer time and our Adjutant, Mike Kimlick, reports the volunteer hours to the National American Legion Headquarters. All Legion volunteer hours are consolidated in a report to the Congress, which helps us maintain our non-profit status.

Speaking of members, we have a membership goal of 993 members for 2012. Our membership goal is set by the Virginia American Legion Department headquarters and we are about 135 members short of meeting the goal. So, if you know a veteran who is not a member of our Post, ask them to join. Also, I ask all members to become an "active member" and show your support by attending a monthly meeting or getting involved with our American Legion programs. I hope to see you at our Post home soon.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
ROBERT L. PARLI, JR.  
COMMANDER

*"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."* - HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW



John Gluffling  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr

### SOCIAL QUARTERS REPORT

We want to thank all the members who helped and participated in the events at the club over the holidays, and the staff who worked the holiday shifts. And here is a special shout out and thank you to Mary-Nell and

Joan Rentzel for the awesome eggnog on Christmas Eve!

The main ballroom was packed for the Early Bird Dinner on Jan 14. Attendees had their choice of Prime Rib or Crab Cakes or both! This Early Bird thought most folks were going for both but that is an unscientific observation. The band started up about 7:00 and they were still rocking strong at 10:00. Let us and the 1st Vice know how you liked it.

Be sure to put **Saturday, Feb. 11** on your calendar so you don't miss the International Dinner sponsored by the Auxiliary. It will take place in the Social Quarters from 6 - 8. It's a good idea to arrive early rather than late so you can taste some of everything!

And here is another date for your calendar - **Saturday, March 17**. The SAL is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance. Your \$20 advance ticket includes green beer (till it runs out) a great dinner from 5 - 7, and live music for your listening and dancing pleasure 7 - 11. A cash bar will be open for the whole event. Ticket price goes up to \$25 after March 14 so make your plans now to celebrate St. Paddy's Day in style.

It's time to renew your locker if you have one. The locker rental fee of \$15.00 for the year is due by March 1st. For \$15 you can keep some of your favorite liquor at the social quarters so the bartender can mix up that tasty cocktail for a special occasion or when a beer just won't do. Talk to the bartender.

The kitchen hours are Mon-Fri: breakfast 0800-1100, lunch 1100-1400; Sat & Sun: Breakfast only 0800-1200.

*See you at the Post!*



Doug Wilson  
General Manager

### 1st Vice Commander Report

Well, it's a new year and it seems like it's going too fast already. At the time of this article, January is half over and we are well into the new year. I hope you all have the best year so far.

We are well on our way to meeting the American Legion Department of Virginia's goal for our Post. To date, we are at 85% toward gaining 100% membership from last year. That's good; however, we were down last year from the previous year and need to regain those lost members. We know that many members move, pass on or sometimes just lose interest, which occurs normally for most large, fraternal organizations, but the American Legion is not normal or average. We're made up

of veterans who have done the extraordinary. Our mission is to serve veterans and to do so, we must maintain our membership and only our membership can promote that.

Our personal goal for this year, prior to May is to gain 1500 members. For us to continue our support and service to veterans, the community and our country, we need your help. So, it only takes one existing member to find one new member. That's your goal; one new member.

Thanks for your membership and service. Happy New Year!

Brad Watkins  
1st Vice Cmdr.

#### Membership Eligibility Dates

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918	(World War I)
December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	(World War II)
June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955	(Korean War)
February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975	(Vietnam War)
August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984	(Lebanon/Grenada)
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990	(Operation Just Cause - Panama)
*August 2, 1990 to today	(Operation Desert Shield/Storm)

Membership applications are available at the Post Home, on the National website ([www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org)) or on our website – [www.FairfaxPost177.org](http://www.FairfaxPost177.org)



Greetings!

With the holidays passed I want to say THANKS to so many people for the support given over Christmas. So many donated to make every event successful and they are too numerous to list by name. We held a Christmas party for the children of the Legionnaires and a second party for the Challenger Baseball League. The many donations from the gentlemen who come to play cards at the post and the Legionnaires who gave generously made the party a lot of fun. Our face painting elves did an outstanding job as usual. We donated 125 Christmas stockings to the Salvation Army along with 118 crocheted hats for needy children. The toys collected went to Sgt. Johnson at the Fairfax City Police Department. He delivered them to the Senior Center, they wrapped them and they went under the tree for Santa to give to the children that attend Main Street Child Development Center, which is a center for less fortunate children from the city. Thanks to Santa for his time given to the children.

To the workers who worked the Early Bird Dinner, it was well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to everyone involved.

February 5th is the 17th District Memorial Service for the 4-Chaplains Service held at Post 176 at 10:30am in Springfield.

FEBRUARY 11th the Auxiliary will serve an International/Valentine Dinner at 6:00pm to 8:00pm with music and dancing.

February 12th Breakfast served by the Legionnaires at 9:30 am till 11:00am. Plan on attending, it is a nice meal for only \$7.00.

February 20th the 17th District/Post 177 Honor Guard will be in the President's Day Parade sponsored by Post 24 in Alexandria.

March 4th 17th District Spring Conference held at Post 180 in Vienna, starting at 1:00pm.

March 16th-18th Departmental Spring Conference held in Virginia Beach.

We look forward to working with the Legion Family in the coming year. If you have any ideas of things that we can participate in let us know.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
SANDRA K. PRICE  
UNIT PRESIDENT



## Sons of the American Legion



*Don't let what you can't do stop you from what you can do. -John Wooden*

It may still be cold outside but the SAL is starting to heat things up at Post 177.

I want to thank all of the people who joined us for breakfast on Sunday, January 8, 2012! All 112 of you! The SAL has set the bar high for the start of 2012 Breakfasts, and are excited for the strong start we had.

When you have a great start to the year like this, we can't just stop there. We are working to keep the energy high this year. Our next event is going to take place on St. Patrick's Day as we host a Dinner/Dance in the Banquet Hall facilities on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Tickets will be available soon. Please see ad on the website for additional details.

Just as the summer heat starts to build, the Sons are going to turn up the heat even more this summer. We have booked the Wayne Mills Band to perform a concert at our Post on July 28, 2012. As their website says "Wayne Mills by definition is one that is a stiff-necked, country troubadour with an affinity for Honky-

tonks and possessing a style of rustic simplicity." It is not too early to mark your calendars to have fun with a Son.

As the saying goes, "if you build it they will come". The SAL is doing the building this year; it is now up to you to come! Our success can only be as great as the support shown to us.

Our squadron continues to make progress with 2012 membership; however, there are still many people who have yet to renew their memberships. For those of you who have not, it is not too late. The SAL welcomes all members new and old alike to be part of our Squadron in 2012.

I want to take a moment to thank my executive board for keeping things running and being so active while I was not around during recovery. Your dedication to our mission and the Sons exemplify the core principles of our squadron.

For God and Country  
Ken Self  
SAL Commander



*editor's note: Below is the main text of an email from John H. Gilbert, Ed.D. Chairman, Clark Veterans Cemetery VFW Post 2485, Angeles City, Philippines. He also provided the picture at right of the Memorial Plaza at the cemetery.*

The Clark Veterans Cemetery is a 12,000 plot cemetery with 8600 Veterans and family members interred to date.

It covers over 20 acres and we maintain it with a staff of 5 local hire employees, with occasional assistance from visiting U.S. Military units performing community service.

It is an active cemetery and we conduct 3 - 4 Burial Services per month, as well as Holiday Ceremonies and Memorial Services.

Our current costs to maintain the cemetery are approximately \$2000 per month, which shows the importance of large donations such as yours.

VFW Post 2485 assumed responsibility for the Clark Veterans Cemetery in 1994, following the departure of the U.S. Air Force in 1991. With our resources we are able to maintain the cemetery in a condition that the National Park Service would term "a state of arrested decay"; we are able to keep the jungle from reclaiming it, but barely. We have never received funding from either the U.S. or Philippine governments.

Major improvements are beyond our resource availability, but of late several major donor companies have assisted with a new fence and gate area, parking lot, and a Memorial Plaza (in one of the pictures).

Please ask your membership to visit [www.cvcra.org](http://www.cvcra.org) which is a lobbying effort to have the U.S. government reassume responsibility. This site has much additional information as well as photos of the Clark Veterans Cemetery, as does our Post website, [www.vfwpost2485.com](http://www.vfwpost2485.com)

All are welcome to join our support organization, Clark Veterans Cemetery Grave Diggers, which can be accessed from either website.

Hope the above is sufficient. Please contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Thank you for your interest and support,  
John



above: Memorial Plaza at Clark Veterans Cemetery.  
below: View of the cemetery with the Memorial Plaza in the distance.



## Post Everlasting

Since the last newsletter the following members have transferred to Post Everlasting. Gone from this life but not forgotten.

Harold L. Cenedella

George Rhodes

Farewell our fellow Legionnaire

May they rest in peace



### Corporate Board Notice - HVAC Replacement Project

In accordance with Post 177 Constitution Article XI, Section 8, notice is hereby given that at the April General Membership meeting a vote will be taken to transfer \$200,000 from the Trust Fund into the corporate checking account to fund the project. This notice constitutes the required minimum 10 day notice prior to the general membership meeting at which the vote will take place.

Post 177 needs to replace the upstairs rooms HVAC due to the rapid disintegration of the current system that could negatively affect our sales and revenues. The Corporate board has hired Sustainable Designs (and our consultant) to conduct a survey and to estimate the cost to replace the HVAC. The cost of the HVAC is approximately \$170,000.

The corporate board will brief the project during the March meeting. This project was approved previously by the general membership when the corporate board detailed the annual capital budget. A quorum of 7% will be required to vote on this matter.

Blaise X. Schmidt  
Corporate Treasurer

### 45th Eagle Scout Awarded

Quinn Nystrom is Troop 1887's newest Eagle Scout. Quinn, who completed his first marathon last year, built outdoor fitness stations in a park for his Eagle project. He is the forty fifth scout to earn Eagle with Troop 1887 - an impressive achievement and as you will see in the next paragraphs the success continues.

Jack Rizek has finished his Eagle project at the City of Fairfax Fire Department Training Center. He fixed an erosion problem at the Center by building a brick patio and laying down sod on an exposed area. Jack extends thanks for all who helped with his project with special kudos to Fire Department Captain Richard Miller, Assistant Chief Andrew Wilson and Volunteer Vice President Tom Olander for their assistance in planning and their overall support.

Steven Kool has been reworking the landscaping around the Old Ca-boose, a Vienna landmark, for his Eagle Scout project. He and his troop mates have replaced the boards around the perimeter of the garden and also the area's plants. Kool said he is using all native plants.

### HOMELESS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY Volunteers of America:

<http://www.voaches.org/default.aspx>, Tom Nichols, (703) 820-7621.

### Reston Interfaith:

[http://www.restoninterfaith.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=5801](http://www.restoninterfaith.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=5801), Greg White, (571) 323-9592.

### New Hope Housing:

<http://www.newhopehousing.org/>, Susan Keenan, (703) 799-2293 x 713.

### Fairfax FISH:

<http://www.fairfaxfish.org/services>

FISH services require a referral from the Fairfax County Department of Human Services (703/222-0880)

### James Mott Community Action Program:

<http://jmcaponloine.org>

JMCAP is a delegate agency of the Fairfax County Dept. of Housing & Community Development | 11215-D Lee Hwy, Fairfax City, Phone 703/591-1600, Fax 703/591-6965

### Final Salute, Inc.:

<http://www.finalsaluteinc.org>

The mission of Final Salute Inc. is to provide homeless female Veterans with safe and suitable housing. Phone 1-866-720-9171.

## February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2/5, 10:30: Four Chaplains Service @ Post 176 2/11, 6 - 8 pm: International Dinner in Social Quarters 2/12, 9:30 - 11 am: Buffet Breakfast by Legionnaires 2/20, 1 pm: Presidents Day Parade in Alexandria (Post 24)			1 7:00 PM Ex. Comm. Meeting	2	3 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	4
5 <b>FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE</b>	6 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	7 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	8 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	9	10 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	11 International Din- ner by Auxiliary 6 - 8
12 Buffet Breakfast by Legionnaires 9:30 - 11:00	13 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	14 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	15	16	17 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	18
19	20 <i>Presidents Day Parade - Alex- andria Post 24</i> Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	21 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	22	23	24 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	25
26	27 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	28 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	29 <b>LEAP YEAR</b>			

## March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3/4, 1 pm: 17th Dist. Spring Conference @ Post 180 3/11, 9:30 - 11 am: Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 3/16-18: Departmental Spring Conference @ Virginia Beach 3/17, 5 - 11 pm: St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance, Post 177 Banquet Hall <i>Coming in April on 4/8, 8 -11 am: Easter Breakfast Buffet by SAL</i>				1	2 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	3
4 17th District Spring Conference - Post 180	5 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	6 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	7 7:00 PM: Exec. Comm. meeting	8	9 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	10
11 Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 9:30 - 11:00	12 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	13 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	14 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	15	16 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i> Departmental Spring Conference	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance</i>
18  Dept. Conference	19 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	20 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	21	22	23 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	24
25	26 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	27 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	28	29	30 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	31



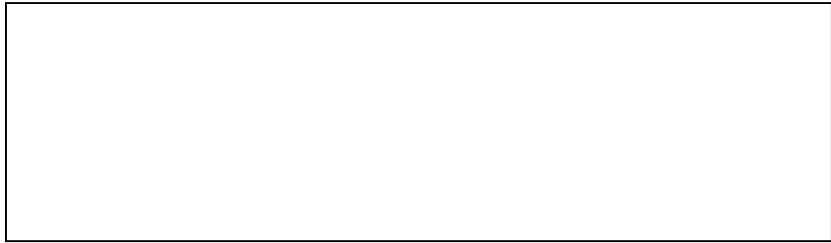
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**WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**FAMILY**

