



American Legion Post 177 **Fairfax, Virginia**

LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

APR-MAY 2010

NEW MEMBERS

MAR-APR 2010

Robert S. Adams

Berhard J. Burke

Kenneth C. Carlson

Bruce F. Hanneman

Joseph J. Scavetti

Kelly J. Soderquist

Ronald D. Speakman

2010 MEMBERS = 982

2009 MEMBERS = 1020

PAID-for-LIFE

MEMBERS - 84

HONORARY

LIFE MEMBERS

Harold L Cenedella

Lehman H. Young Sr.

William J. Anderson

Louis C. Frank

Charles A. Lane

Jerome A. Gabriel

John W. Price

Edward N. Heitchew

Anthony F. Osborne

Mark R. Duke

George L. Lamborn

Fairfax Post 177 Color Guard opens The Eleventh Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington D.C.



Once again this year Fairfax Post 177 was afforded the honor of presenting the colors at the Eleventh Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington D. C. Members of the Fairfax Post 177 Color Guard in the photo are, from Left to Right, Asst. 2nd Vice Commander Jeff White, Legionnaire Bob Goldsmith, Honorary Life Member Bill Anderson and Sergeant at Arms John Price (Past Commander and Honorary Life Member). This is the third time that our Post has been honored to furnish a color guard for this important event.



POST ELECTIONS

May 12th, 2010 at 7PM

**THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES
FOR POST OFFICERS
CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 5**

Post OfficersCommander

Robert B. Sussan
703-328-7691
BSussan@FairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Gerald L. Whipple
703 855-8625
JWhipple@FairfaxPost177.org

2nd Vice Commander

Robert L. Parli Jr.
703 403-9900
BParli@FairfaxPost177.org

3rd Vice Commander

John A. Gluffling
202-744-7524
JGluffling@FairfaxPost177.org

Adjutant

Michael F. Kimlick
202-329-9940
MKimlick@FairfaxPost177.org

Finance Officer

Alvin W. Doehring
703-273-6893
Allinacres1@msn.com

Chaplain

Jon R. Banks
804-721-0035
JBanks@FairfaxPost177.org

Sergeant-At-Arms

John W. Price
703-307-3332
JPrice@FairfaxPost177.org

Service Officer

John Kushner
703-978-8942
JKushner@FairfaxPost177.org

Judge Advocate

Thomas R. Devaney
TDevaney@FairfaxPost177.org

Historian

Thomas E. Hovis
703-447-5032
THovis@FairfaxPost177.org

Junior Past Commander

William B. Patton II (Bill)
BPatton@FairfaxPost177.org

Executive Comm. Members-At-Large:

James C. Brown, Charles E. Camper and Richard Casciato

Legionnaire of the Year

ALVIN W. DOEHRING

Corporation Board:

Charles E. Camper, Secy. Stanley L. King Jr., Treas. Robert L. Parli Jr., John W. Price, Kenneth J. Strafer, Dean R. Strong, Robert B. Sussan, and Pres. Jonathan C. Thacher

Building & Grounds Chairman

John W. Price

Sons of the American Legion

Ken E. Self, Commander
703-307-0671
KSelf@FairfaxPost177.org

Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra K. Price, President
703-591-2107
SPrice@FairfaxPost177.org



Commander's Corner



Wow, this year has flown by! By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be nearly time for our election of officers at the May General Membership Meeting. We have scheduled the installation of new officers for Sunday, June 6th at 11am.

In accordance with the Post Constitution, Article XI, Section 11, the Corporate Board (newly elected) will meet within two weeks after the election. Directors newly elected to the Corporate Board will be installed at the same time as the Post officers but will meet and act in their official capacity PRIOR to their formal installation.

Let's take a bit of time to reflect on the past year. This year we continued to cut expenses wherever possible at the Post Home without affecting either the services we provide our members or our banquet facilities. No staff members have received any raises, in fact, a recent review of salaries revealed that no raises have been given since the time when Jerry Sitter was 3rd Vice Commander (God rest his soul)! Our dedicated employees continue to do a good job for us even with these constraints - be sure to thank them for their hard work and commitment. Our banquet facilities are heavily booked for the busy season and it appears that we will end the fiscal year in a good financial posture. Fortunately, we have been able to keep a reasonable balance in our "emergency" or "rainy day" fund and we should be

able to add considerably to that account through the heavily booked banquet season. We hosted the Northern Regional oratorical contest and supported Challenger baseball. Unfortunately, no Legion Baseball this year, but there has been some re-districting and we hope to field a strong team next year.

Soon, the 18 boys selected to attend Boys State will be gathering at the Post home to join the other delegates from the 17th District in the buses that will take them to Liberty University for an exciting and educational week long program.

On April 8th we held a Candidates' forum at the Post Home in the large banquet hall for all candidates running for Mayor and City Council seats in Fairfax City. The event was well attended and was also televised. It will be aired numerous times on the Fairfax City Cable Channel. Please join me in thanking Mr. Walt Potock for organizing and executing this event in a very professional manner.

Our challenges with the Post Website (a previous officer was unwilling to relinquish control of the url www.post177.org) were overcome, and I am happy to report that our new web presence www.FairfaxPost177.org is doing well, updated frequently and very informative to the members. Despite www.post177.org not being returned or forwarded to us (it is being forwarded to an unre-

lated veterans' website) we have been able to garner sufficient web presence to cause random web searches to find our new website rather than being tricked into linking into the old one. Your Executive Committee has many lessons learned from this exercise.

The month of May will bring not only the Post elections but also Memorial Day and Rolling Thunder. On Memorial Day we will once again be joining together with our comrades in the VFW to honor fallen Veterans in Fairfax City. Additionally, many members will be participating in Rolling Thunder and Ride2Recovery. Please check our website for more details: www.FairfaxPost177.org.

This will likely be the last newsletter in which I address you as Commander. I would like to thank each of you for your support and help over the past few years - we have come a long way. To those of you who have not gotten involved in our Post programs, I encourage you to donate some of your time so we may further our mission of helping our Veterans, their families and our community. I wish the newly elected officers the best of luck and ask all of you to join together to give them the support they need to further our mission. May God Bless our men and women in uniform and this great nation of ours.

For God and Country

Bob Sussan , Post Commander



Big John

Time is just flying by, it seems we were in the deep throes of winter and here it is almost summer. The social quarters has been perking up as we have shaken off all the snow and cold.

would like to see happen. WE NEED YOUR INPUT !

Looking ahead for the next couple of months, we will be having our big Memorial Day weekend for Rolling Thunder. As crabs seem to making a come back, we are looking to do a Crab Feast. Please let us know if that is something you all are interested in. Mother's Day is also around the corner so come in and support the legionnaire's All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet.



Doug

A big topic of discussion not only around the Post Home but around the state is the "Queen of Hearts". Well, much to our chagrin the game has been ruled "illegal gaming" by the Charitable Gaming Commission and the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board has been shutting down establishments across the state that are still running the game. There seems to be some controversy regarding whether or not the ruling was correct and it is being challenged. Until further notice there will no more Queen of Hearts. As soon as we have more information we will pass it on. We are putting our heads together for another activity to run on Saturday nights. If you have some ideas let us know.

3rd Vice Commander & Club Manager's Report

As always please take advantage of your Post Home, so many Posts do not have the luxury of having one. We offer Breakfast and Lunch daily and a nice, reasonably priced and very delicious Friday Night Dinner. Bring your friends; better yet bring a new member. So many people right here in the City of Fairfax are not aware of what this Post and Membership have to offer. It is up to you to tell them. It's ok, brag a bit.— you are entitled to!

We would also like to establish some regular activity for some weekday evenings. Have some ideas? It's your Post what would you like to see us do? Please let us know. Send us an email and let us know what you

Your suggestions are always welcome !

John A. Gluffing
3rd Vice Commander

Doug Wilson
General Manager

Service Officer



VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) OFFICE FOR SURVIVORS – OPEN

Recently, the VA has staffed an office that will create or modify benefits and services on all matters affecting the survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and service members and will serve as the primary advisor to the VA Secretary. This office will see to the VA delivery of benefits, make referrals to VA offices for survivors seeking benefits, and find ways and means in reaching eligible survivors who have not applied for VA benefits. Under the program, eligible survivors could receive education assistance, home-loan guaranties, and health care insurance. Due to the many facets of the Dependents and Survivor programs, it advised to seek additional assistance for individual benefit services. **For more information, call 1-800-827-1000.**

If not enrolled into the VA health system, call for VA form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, at any VA health care facility or regional office. Apply online at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Improved1010ez.asp> or call 1-877-222-8387.

Regional office: 703-360-8633

John Kushner
Service Officer



Spring greetings everyone.

With spring flowers, birds singing and the Easter Bunny bringing his goodies around it's time to get ready for a couple of busy months.

April 24th is Spring Clean-up Day for the City of Fairfax. The auxiliary has adopted Kutner Park on Jermantown Road so come by at

11:00am and help to pick-up/clean-up the park. Rain date is the 25th.

May 4th - General Election Day for City of Fairfax, City Council so if you live in the city make sure you vote.

May 11th - Our Miss Poppy Zoie Shook will be visiting Fairfax City Council to distribute poppies to the City Council Members.

May 15th - HUGE YARD SALE 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, Va. 8:00am till 1:00pm. If you are interested in donating items to the auxiliary or maintaining a table of your own, please see Unit President-Sandy Price at the club or contact me by phone @ 703-591-2107.

May 28th thru 30th - Rolling Thunder Week-end. There will be numerous events taking place at the post and also at Patriot's Harley Davidson.

Also this week-end will be the **RIDE 2 RECOVERY**. This event starts at Post 139, with wounded veterans riding spe-

cial bicycles all the way to Virginia Beach, their final destination. They will have scheduled stops at different locations and they need donations and our prayers. The auxiliary is doing 50/50's on Saturday night along with Queens of Hearts.

We are trying to make this a nice donation, so dig deep in your pocket and buy some 50/50 tickets.

Auxiliary membership is at 90% as of this publication, we need a few more to pay their dues so we can reach 100% by May 28th. We are a good organization and the unit of ladies is having fun working together and meeting our obligations.

Please bring in a food item for the needy in our city. We are collecting for Fairfax United Methodist Church this month.

We are collecting items for our soldiers, and the box is in the social quarters.

Remember - everyone needs to recycle.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
SANDRA K. PRICE
UNIT PRESIDENT



Sons of the American Legion



True heroism is remarkably sober, very un-dramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.--Arthur Ashe

The SAL would like to remember those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, as we prepare for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. I challenge everyone to take a moment and reflect upon the meaning of this somber holiday and revisit the original intention of Memorial Day as being a sacred day of remembrance to honor the fallen. As the fast pace of our day to day lives gain momentum, it is often too easy to take for granted the gift that you are given every day as a result of our Veterans. Set aside one day out of the year to get together to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service to their country.

The SAL will once again be participating in the Memorial Day Activities in and around our Post home this year. This weekend has historically been a special weekend that is filled with revisiting friendships while making new ones that

are bonded together in the true meaning of the Memorial Day Holiday. As in past years, the SAL hopes you will show your support. Please watch the social quarters for more details as they become available.

As we prepare for the end of another year, I want to take the time to thank everyone for the support you have shown to the SAL this past year. This year has presented challenges that we were always able to overcome through our unity and commitment to be as one. I ask that this support continues in the coming year as we welcome new officers and members. I thank my Executive board and my Squadron for a successful year; you have shown a commitment that exemplifies what it means to be a Son.

For God and Country
 Ken Self, Squadron Commander



2010-2011 SAL Squadron Slate of Candidates

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Commander | Ken E. Self | Finance Officer | Jason J. Jenkins |
| 1st Vice Commander | V A C A N T | Sergeant at Arms | Todd L. Chmielewski |
| 2nd Vice Commander | John J. Jenkins | Chaplain | V A C A N T |
| Adjutant | Gary D. Weaver | Historian | V A C A N T |

1st VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER



The Legion year is quickly coming to a close. The rosters and dues cards for 2011 are being printed as of this writing. I would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership this year and ask if any of you have relatives, friends, or neighbors who are eligible for membership to ask them to join us. As of this writing, Richmond lists us as having 990 members or 96.96%. We have lost many members from last year due to active duty first year members being transferred out of the area and did not renew their Post 177 membership.

Again, I'll ask our loyal Post 177 members to help me bring in new members for the remaining year and for the year 2011. With your help I'm sure Post 177 will be able to pass the 100% goal set by National each year. Thanks for your help in advance.

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 | (Gulf War / War On Terrorism) |

To join, DD Form 214 or equivalent form must be submitted with the application along with a check for \$35.00, payable to Fairfax Post 177. This allows you to join for calendar year 2010. Membership applications are available at the Post Home, on the Nation website (www.Legion.org) or soon to be on our website — www.FairfaxPost177.org .

You may call me with any questions on membership. Cell: 703-855-8625 or you may call Post 177 at 703-273-2250.

There is only one class of membership in The American Legion. Honorary or social memberships are not authorized.

Jerry Whipple, 1st Vice Commander

LEGION YEAR 2010-2011 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

(* denotes incumbent)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Commander | Robert L. Parli, Jr. | Sergeant at Arms | John W. Price * |
| Adjutant | Michael F. Kimlick * | Service Officer | John Kushner* |
| 1st Vice Commander | Gerald L. Whipple * | Member at Large | William F. Hendricks |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Jeffrey R. White | Legionnaire of the Year | Leo L. Enterline |
| 3rd Vice Commander | John A. Gluffling * Joel W. Gentry | (in alphabetical order) | Michael F. Kimlick John Kushner |
| Chaplain | Joseph J. Boyle | Corporate Board Director | Jonathan C. Thacher * |
| Finance Officer | Alvin W. Doehring * | Corporate Board Director | Stanley L. King, Jr. * |
| Historian | Thomas E. Hovis * | Corporate Board Director | Blaise X. Schmidt |
| Judge Advocate | Thomas R. Devaney* Richard D. Sullivan | | |

Post Ever-lasting

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

ROBERT H. HUNTER, Jr.

ERIC E. LARSEN

JOHN J OSNER

ROBERT J SAXTON

WISTER R. STEPHENS

Farewell our fellow Legionnaires



May they rest in peace

POST 177 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Purpose: Post 177's Educational Assistance Program (EAP) is intended to help our Legionnaires, their spouses, widows and other immediate family members, advance their education and gain new skills. EAP's goal is to help members qualify for new jobs or to advance professionally in their careers by taking additional courses of instruction either academic or vocational-technical.

2. Eligibility: All Legionnaires of Post 177 in good standing (dues paid for current year and two years preceding,) their spouses, widows and immediate family members are eligible for EAP. This program is not intended for young persons, just graduated from high school, for which a separate Post 177 scholarship program exists.

3. Venue: Eligible members may pursue academic courses at two-and four- year colleges and universities, acquire vocational and technical skills at qualified specialized centers, or complete courses at recognized on-line colleges. To verify qualifications check with the Post Education Officer for guidance.

4. Limitations: The EAP is not intended to cover all expenses incurred, but only those pertaining directly to the course of instruction. The EAP will not "double reimburse" an individual who is already receiving a full or partial scholarship or tuition rebate for the course attended. The EAP sets a limit or cap per person of \$ 500.00 per calendar year. Awards will be made payable to the educational institution, not to the individual

5. Application Process: The individual will send a letter to the Post Education Officer with the following information; name of institution, course title, number of credit hours (if applicable), cost of course (or of credit hours), and reason for taking the course. The application must contain a statement by the applicant affirming that he or she is not receiving a full or partial scholarship or tuition rebate for the course of instruction.

A PANEL OF THREE LEGIONNAIRES, CHAIRED BY THE POST EDUCATION OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW EACH PROPOSAL.

American Legion Riders News



Now that spring is officially here, the American Legion Riders are thrilled to be back on the road now that the weather is nice once again. We are looking forward to another great year of riding, and serving our Post.

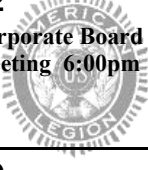
This will be my last posting as the Legion Rider Director. We have our elections this month and will soon have a new Director. I wish them lots of success. Fortunately, we have a great bunch of committed Riders who are more than willing to work with and support our new leadership.

Next month, we will be hosting the annual Run to the Thunder at the Post over Memorial Day weekend. This event coincides with the Annual Rolling Thunder Event. As you know, Rolling Thunder attracts hundred of thousands of motorcyclists to our local area. Started in 1987, Rolling Thunder (named after the bombing campaign against Northern Vietnam in 1965 - Operation Rolling Thunder). was originally established to bring recognition and attention to the POW/MIA's from the Vietnam War. While this is still one of the main themes of Rolling Thunder, it has evolved into an organization that serves and remembers veterans from all wars.

This will be the fourth year that Post 177 Run to the Thunder has been held. As with last year, in 2010 we are jointly hosting it with the SAL. However, this is first and foremost a Post event, and the entire Post family is encouraged to participate. We will have various activities throughout Memorial Day weekend. We are looking forward to a great event and welcoming fellow American Legion Riders from around our great nation to our Post home here in Fairfax.

In closing, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the Post as last year's American Legion Riders Director. We had many great accomplishments and opportunities to provide Service. I am looking forward to working with the new leadership team. We are all very proud to be part of one of the best Post's in the country.

For God and Country
 Todd L. Chmielewski, Director
 Post 177 American Legion Riders

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 6 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 7 Executive Board Meeting 7 PM | 8 | 9 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 10 |
| 11  | 12 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 13 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 14 General Membership Meeting 7 PM | 15 | 16 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 20 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 21 | 22 Corporate Board Meeting 6:00pm  | 23 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 27 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |
| May 2010 | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 2 | 3 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 4 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Fairfax City Election Day | 5 Executive Board Meeting 7 PM  | 6 | 7 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 8 |
| 9  | 10 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 11 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 12 General Membership Meeting 7 PM Post Elections | 13 | 14 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 18 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 19 | 20 | 21 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7 PM | 25 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 \$12.00 Friday Night Dinner "Best Deal inTown" 5:30—8:00 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 MEMORIAL DAY | May 12: Post Elections May 29-30: Rolling Thunder Weekend | | | | |



Legion News is published bi-monthly and is the 1st Place Winner of the 2007 VALPA "Best Papers Award" and 1st Place in the Nation for Large Posts winning the 2007 Al Weinberg Publication Award.

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For God and Country

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WWW.FairfaxPost177.org

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



WWII Air Corps History

The well known aviation writer, Robert F. Dorr, is interested in contacting veterans who flew missions to Berlin and Magdelburg on Feb 3, 1945. He is writing a book titled "Mission to Berlin" scheduled to be published by Zenith Press in March 2011. He would like to talk with pilots, aircrew members, and ground support troops. This is an opportunity to help preserve the memory of all those who served and to tell this tale to a new generation of young readers. To contact Mr. Dorr, Google: Robert F. Dorr. or contact the Post Historian, thovis@mindspring.com

Tom Hovis, Post Historian

