



LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

November - December

703-273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

- Samuel Acosta
- Thomas Affourht
- Larry Easkins
- Donald Hunter
- Willis Lothrop Jr
- Tom Loyle
- James Martin
- Ryan McNamara
- Robert Mizer
- David Navia
- Samip Shrestha
- Austin Sundman
- Jonathan Whitesman
- Chong Yi
- Burt Zwibel

Honorary Life Members

- William Anderson
- Alvin Doehring
- Edward Heitchew
- George Lamborn
- Anthony Osborne
- John Price
- Robert Sussan

Honor Flight Visits



The Honor Flight Network was created in 2005 solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. The network has 131 hubs in 45 states to transport veterans to Washington D.C. where they can visit and reflect at the memorials. Since 2005, they have transported 180,261 veterans (6,727 WWII, 8,453 Korea, 5,119 Vietnam, and 259 Other) along with 125,729 guardians. However, there are still 27,272 veterans on their waiting list. In October, Post 177 was privileged to host Honor Flights from Illinois, Tennessee, and Alaska for dinner and story telling.



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Commander's Corner

We had a busy October with Honor Flights from Alaska, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Illinois all being hosted by your post for dinner and comradeship. The Honor Flight Program brings Veterans to The Nation's Capital to see the monuments and memorials that have been erected in their honor. When it started it was just WWII Vets and now it includes Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. You can learn more about the program by visiting www.honorflight.org.

On October 22 your post provided our banquet halls and tables to Rise Against Hunger, an organization working to end hunger in the world. This is the 3rd year we have provided space for their volunteers to set up and have a meal packing event. They used to be called Stop Hunger Now. This year they packed up 50,000 meals for distribution to places in the world where families do not have enough to eat. They also send food to disaster-affected areas. Look up their website for more info: <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org>.

At the same time, the Challenger Baseball league had their final game of the fall and then had "trunk-or-treat" in the lower part of the parking lot. The players dressed up in their costumes and had a scary good time going trunk to trunk for treats.

Coming up in November we have the Early Bird dinner on the 5th. This is our annual Membership drive event and your 2018 membership card with the early bird stamp is your ticket. You will be able to renew at the door if you have not already done so. Dinner is free for members of Post, Unit, and Squadron 177. Non-member guests may accompany you at \$10.00 each. Check out 1st Vice Hodgson's article on page 5 for more details about the dinner.

Since Veterans Day, 11 November, falls on Saturday this year, we are going to observe it a little differently. We will not conduct a Flag retirement ceremony. We will have our observance in the social quarters starting at 10:45 so we will be able to have a moment of silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I which gave rise to the formation of The American Legion. We will serve lunch after the ceremonies.

You can stay home and cook and clean on Thanksgiving or come have dinner with your American Legion family. Dinner will include Roast Turkey (of course), all the fixin's and expect to be served about 1 pm or so. Price is \$18.00 per person.

Take a look at Auxiliary President Sandy Price's article on page 3. As always, she has a comprehensive list of upcoming post activities. Thanks Sandy!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year to you all! See you at the Post.

Jeff White, CMDR

Post Officers

Commander

Jeffrey White
703-591-0298

JWhite@fairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Sean Hodgson
shfire2000@gmail.com

2nd Vice Commander

Shawn Fiebiger

3rd Vice Commander

Luke Munson
lukemnsn@gmail.com

Adjutant

Mary Grace McAlevy

Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick
michael.kimlick@tsa.dhs.gov

Chaplain

Joseph Boyle
703-646-5576
jdboyle@aol.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price
703-307-3332
JPriceAdvertising@yahoo.com

Service Officer

Bradford Watkins
571-233-0985
bradwatkins@consolidatedsafety.com

Judge Advocate

Anthony Osborne (Tony)
703-934-8915
anthonyosborne437@yahoo.com

Historian

Earl Seay
dolphins113@netzero.net

Exec. Comm. Members at Large

John Skoglund, Stan Verrocchio, Cal
Salch

Legionnaire of the Year

Brad Watkins

Corporate Board

Rand Gaber, Jonathan Thatcher, Gary
Welschenbach, John Kinzel, Mike
Kimlick, Russ Combs, Tony Osborne

Building & Grounds Chairman

Rand Graber

Sons of the American Legion

Jerry Miller
info@fairfaxpost177.org

Post 177 Legion Riders

Bruce Mersereau
mersereaub@gmail.com

Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra Price

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Post 177 Auxiliary

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2017. This year certainly has gone by way too fast. The unit has been awarded the trophy for the Most Outstanding Unit in the 17th District. We also received the Citation for Meritorious Service from the Department meaning we met all the requirements for the year with reporting on time and making all the required payments. We are working on the projects for the children: Christmas Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, Christmas Stockings for the Salvation Army, and of course the Children's Christmas Party for the Challenger Baseball League. They look forward to this party each year, so any donations toward this party will be appreciated. We will be collecting TOYS for the City of Fairfax Police Department. They will be looking for all the toys we can gather to make some children very happy. Please remember when a police officer hands a small child a toy it shields a more positive view toward our police officers.

SCHEDULE DATES:

- 1 November: Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 5 November: Early Bird Dinner @ 4:00pm (remember to pay your dues or you can pay at the door)
- 8 November: Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00 with dinner at 6:00pm
- 11 November: Veteran's Day Ceremony followed by lunch @ 10:45am
- 12 November: Legionnaires serve Breakfast from 9:30 - 11:00am
- 19 November: Sons of the American Legion annual chili cook off
- 23 November: HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- 6 December: Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 9 December: Northern Zone Workshop, Charlottesville, VA @ 9:30am
- 10 December: Auxiliary Serves Breakfast 9:30 - 11:00am
- 13 December: Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00 with dinner at 6:00pm
- 17 December: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY @ 1:00pm
- 25 December: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On October 13th and 14th we hosted our friends, veteran's and guardian's from Tennessee; it was a beautiful weekend. We had a nice dinner for them and had lots of dancing, good music and most of all great friendship. They will return in April.

Looking forward to the holidays. Get ready, they are coming fast. Thanks for all the help and work to make 2017 a great year. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For God & Country

Sandy Price, Unit President

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Corporate Board

This month (October) there will be no Corporate Board meeting. The next CB meeting will be Wednesday November 15 6 PM at The POST.

During the October General Meeting the following information was provided by the CB and the Building Initiatives Committee. We have reached NO and that is spelled NO decisions on the Building or remodeling for our future POST Home. All options are on the table and being formulated.

However, as you read below we have developed strategy, give you the latest in actions, some next steps and Points of Contact for you to provide feedback to or ask questions thereof.

Strategy

- In 1956 the American Legion sold a strip of land (now Panther Place) for \$5 to allow traffic access to then Fairfax High School
- Paul the VI High School is moving and the land will become a private development 2019-2020.
- Panther Place as an access road into the development will significantly impact the American Legion, the LePort School, and our Little League field operations.
- Post 177 seeks the return of the land to preserve our ability to develop our land for the benefit of this Post and its mission

Latest events

- Presented a letter to the City of Fairfax stating our desire to have Panther Place returned to the Post.
- Met with City Manager and delivered letters for City Council and Mayor
- Attended City Planning meeting - no actions affecting the Legion
- Attended Joint session of City Planning Commission, City Council. The briefings are available on line: http://fairfax.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=11&event_id=1468
- IDI developer, presented general plan for 550 Unit development. City Council general questions and planning commission. IDI is now in its next round of redesign. No indication of where they are specifically going:
- IDI presented a traffic study which shows significant overall increase on Oak street via Panther Way. Impacts to our post in our daily operations and weekend operations.

Next Steps

- Visits with the Fairfax City Council members
- Ask our membership to contact city council
- BIC committee has no recommendations for the membership on a refurbish, renovate or replacement of the Post building. We are 3 months into a 18-24-month process.

POC

Hank Waters BIC member
Rand Gaber BIC Chairman
Jeff White Post Commander

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Sons of the American Legion

Greetings to all! As the summer is now behind us we enter November with our thoughts going to Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and a brief rush leading into Christmas. Let me first pause to thank everyone who was able to join us at the Oyster and Bull Roast on October 7th. Those in attendance really enjoyed the great food, wonderful camaraderie, and the donation will go to the Youth Hockey program. Thanks also to all the workers who helped for this new event. Additionally, I would also like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for those great deserts.

Next on the horizon will be Veteran's Day, (on your calendar that will be the day after the Marine Corps Birthday). The Sons of the American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of the Legionnaires who came before us. As the SAL Commander I would like to say Thank You to each of the Legion members reading this article for your service, and I would ask that every SAL member utilize this Veteran's Day especially to simply thank any Veterans you come in contact with for their service. If you are in the area I will look to see you at the post for the Veteran's Day ceremony

Moving forward in November the Sons will be hosting our 8th Annual Bear Bowl Chili Contest. This year it falls on November 19th during halftime of the Saints/Redskins game. Game is scheduled to start at 1 so the contest will start at halftime. This contest is open for any member to enter, just have your entry there by 1pm. There is always some serious competition for the top prize, and I expect the same this year. If you bring a chili entry the admission is free, however if you just want to come down and enjoy sampling the great chili, a mere \$5.00 will give you three votes and the opportunity to really treat your tastebuds.

As we quickly move forward toward the end of the calendar year I also need to remind everyone about renewing their membership. I realize your current card is good until midnight December 31st, but it would really be great if you could start sending those dues in now. I can also say that getting your dues in now will also be appreciated by our 1st Vice Jim Price as it will give him the time to get everyone their 2018 cards well before you need to show them on January 1st.

Beyond that I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas safe and Happy New Year and thank you for your support.

For God and Country, and Thankful for your Service,

Jerry Miller

Commander, Squadron 177

First Vice

I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership for the 2018 year, so far. Your money helps the American Legion do good, in too many different ways to list. Also, those that have not renewed, you have until the night of the early bird dinner to get the early bird stamp, and be eligible to attend the early bird dinner on November 5th at 1600 (4:00pm).

This year the theme for the early bird dinner is New York Mobsters of the 1920's. Please join us in costume, if you wish. Cocktails start at 1600. I hear that Jeff and Mike are already working on their award winning cocktails. The money made from the cocktails will be donated. We also have a live band booked for the dinner. The early bird dinner is free for post 177 early bird legionnaires, SAL, and Auxiliary. Members may bring guests at \$10.00 each. Spouses that are not members are guests and must pay, or join and pay dues at the dinner. So, renew now and join us for a night fun and entertainment, while making memories at the early bird dinner.

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Post Everlasting

Raymond Anderson



VA Home Loan Program Benefits Seminar - [Cash Out Refinancing Tips](#)

When: Saturday, November 17, 2017, from 10:00 to 12:00

Where: American Legion, Post Grill meeting room, downstairs

The seminar will focus on [Cash Out Refinancing Tips](#) and cover available VA home loan program benefits including loan options for disabled service members, Veterans, their spouses, and grants for disabled veterans. In addition, two copies of a very informative booklet below published by the VA will be on hand for review during the seminar. Other VA booklets such as Summary of VA Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits and VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans will be on hand for your review.

"Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors" covers

Veteran's Data Record

Veterans' Benefits Timetable

Filing for a Benefit

Health Care Benefits

Women Veterans

Alcohol and Drug Dependence Treatment

Homeless Veterans

Readjustment Counseling After Combat

Non-VA Emergency Care (Private Hospital

Housing Assistance

Burial Benefits

HOW TO GET HELP

An RSVP is appreciated but not required.

Presenter: Debbie Young, Realtor, Military Relocation Professional (MRP)

ry5058@gmail.com



American Legion Riders

Summer has really gone by fast and that means that the Riders have completed some major events. We started off the summer with the 6th annual Run to the Thunder event and most recently participated in the 12th Annual American Legion Legacy Run.

This year the Legacy run started at Dodge City, KS and finished in Reno NV. The 6 day run went through Kansas, Colorado, and Utah before finishing up in Reno. The ride went through some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. The altitude and temperature changes were challenging at times, but thankfully we did not get caught in any rain or heavy winds.

Riders from post 177 lead a group of Virginians (as well as some that wish they were Virginians) for the 5th year in a row. Mike "Nick" Nicholas and Bruce Mersereau were Road Captain and Assistant Road Captain for Group "E", the Virginia group. David and Madeline Windmiller also rode with group "E". Brad Watkins and Devin Bright provided outstanding support on the advance team.

Along the way the riders made donations to the National Commander for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, and each day the total continued to rise. The Post 177 Riders made a donation of \$12,000. This donation was raised during Run to the Thunder weekend, a fundraising event sponsored by Addictions Tattoo & Art Studio, along with a generous donation from Post 177. The total amount raised for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund was just over 1.2 Million Dollars.

Although summer is all but over, the Riders will continue to ride with Dignity, Discipline and Respect to support and honor all of our Veterans, and pay respect to our fallen.

Bruce G. Mersereau

Director, Post 177 ALR

NOVEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
Dinner every Friday Night 5:30 - 8:30 Club Hours: Sat - Th 8:00 am - 11:00 pm Fri 8:00 am - midnight			1	 2	3	4
5		6	7	8	 9	10
Early Bird Dinner 4pm.			Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.		General Member meeting 7pm.	
12		13	14	15	16	17
Legionnaires Breakfast 9:30am			Veteran's Day Ceremony 10:45am			
19		20	21	22	23	24
SAL Chili Cook-off						
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6		7	8
			Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.			
10		11	12	13		14
Auxiliary Breakfast 9:30am			General Member meeting 7pm.			
17		18	19	20	21	22
Children's Xmas Party 1pm						
24	25		26	27	28	29
31						



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 AI Weinberg Publication Award.

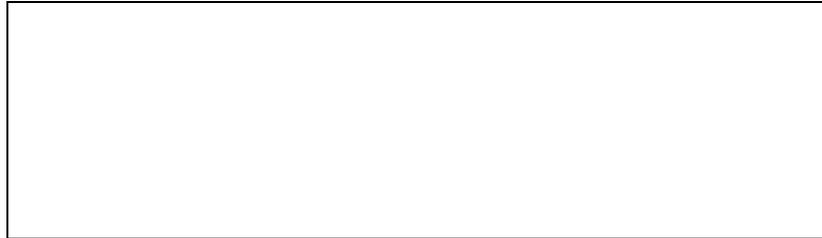
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