



LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

March - April 2017

703-273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

Brian Burns
David Hudak
Billy Jensen
Clayton Kelly
Dan March
Ronan Martin
Caleb Nicholson
Donald Perryman
David Semendinger
Travis Turner
James Woodall

Honorary Life Members

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

Service Officer

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Happy Spring! Or, so it seems. Without seeming too optimistic, it seems winter is slipping into another memory and spring is upon us. It's time for us to wake up from our winter slumber, get out into the community and begin a new year of service. There are many programs within our American Legion that you can take advantage of by providing help to others. As it's mentioned on our national website, <https://www.legion.org/programs>, "Legion programs change lives: families and children in need, youth mentoring, veterans' assistance and advocacy; from the local community to Capitol Hill". The programs are almost innumerable, but here are a few:

- American Legion Riders (ALR) – Legion family motorcycle enthusiasts supporting veterans and American Legion programs
- Baseball – Healthy competition, good citizenship and sportsmanship
- Boys State / Nation – Students learning firsthand about how government and democracy work
- Oratorical – A speaking challenge that teaches leadership and our nation's history
- Junior Shooting Sports – Marksmanship, safety and competition that produces Olympians
- Youth Cadet Law Enforcement – Law enforcement education that instills respect for law officials

Scholarships:

- Samsung Scholarship - Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War
- Legacy Scholarship – Ensuring higher education is possible for children of post 9/11 veterans
- Baseball – American Legion Baseball players are eligible to apply
- Oratorical Contest – Scholarships are awarded to the three national finalists
- Eagle Scout of the Year – Eagle Scout of the Year is awarded a \$10,000.00 scholarship
- Nurse Scholarship – Sponsored by the 8 & 40, through the National Lung & Respiratory Scholarship fund
- National Emergency Fund – Helping displaced veterans in the aftermath of a natural disaster
- Operation Comfort Warrior – Supplying wounded warriors with comfort items and assistance

American Legion Post 177 includes service to many more localized programs in the community and for veterans. These and other services are available to you and others. More importantly, they provide an opportunity for you to serve, whether it is as a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. All that the American Legion does is of no value without those willing to provide the service to get them done.

You may not know this, but 100% of all money donated to a Legion charity/program is used by that program. There are no administrative costs borne by the programs. All work is voluntary.

Think about how you can serve, today.

Brad Watkins, Service Officer

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Commander's Corner

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is about halfway through. Post 177's winner Eric Rasmussen went to the District 17 contest and came in 3rd. District 17 2nd place went to Olivia Kloster from Post 270 and 1st place to Ryan Huck representing Post 162. The Northern Region Contest was held in Woodstock, VA on 11 Feb. It pitted winners from the 13th, 15th, 16th, and 17th districts against each other (14th district did not have a speaker). The competition gets tougher at each successive level. The contestant from the 13th district took first place honors at the Northern Region and advances to the Department contest on 10 March in Virginia Beach to compete against the Eastern and Western Region champions. Congratulations to all who participated, and thanks to all who help run this program.

We have 4 months left to achieve our department set membership goal of 988. As of the 22 February report we had 929 members, just 59 shy of our 100 % mark. There are 120 of you with 2016 cards that you haven't renewed. Check your wallet! Your membership is important, not just for you but to the American Legion locally and nationally. You can renew online at www.legion.org/renew or stop by the post to do it. Your Post needs you, The Legion needs you, and your fellow veterans and your community needs you.

Building and Grounds is having new awnings made and installed on the balcony and club entrances. The weather is just about right for sitting outside to enjoy your beverage and conversation. The balcony is open for social quarters patrons to use if there is not a rental customer using it. If the gate to the stairs is closed, check with the bartender before you go up there. Also, clean your table and bring any trash back down for disposal. Help keep the place clean so all can enjoy!

Upcoming events

Auxiliary serves second Sunday breakfast on 12 March, 9:30 to 11:00 in the main ballroom, \$10 all you can eat. Their baked goods are the best.

In April, The Sons serve breakfast (the 9th). Same time, same price but they will give you a dollar off if you one of their coins. More good food and fellowship.

On March 22 we will conduct the Boys State interviews. The 5 high schools in our area nominate up to 6 boys for Boys State and we accept 2 nominations each from our Boy Scout troop, the CAP, and our Sea Scout ship. We potentially will interview 36 boys in one night in order to select 21 to send to Boys State. We need volunteers to do the interviews. There is a sign-up sheet in the social quarters.

On 1 April Fairfax Little League Baseball kicks off. Hard to believe it's almost baseball season!

For God and Country,

Jeff White

Post Officers

Commander

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2nd Vice Commander

Shawn Fiebiger

3rd Vice Commander

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Calton Salch, Sean Hodgson

Legionnaire of the Year

Rand Gaber

Corporate Board

Rand Gaber, Jonathan Thatcher, Gary
Welschenbach, Dave Shook

Building & Grounds Chairman

Rand Gaber

Sons of the American Legion

Jerry Miller
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Post 177 Legion Riders

Bruce Mersereau
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Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra Price

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Post 177 Auxiliary

Greetings,

Time seems to be flying by and before we know it, it will be time for the Honor Flight from Tennessee. After that it is time for Memorial Day and all the festivities. The Auxiliary is thinking of ideas for these activities.

Upcoming Schedule:

- March 1st: Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- March 8th: Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm with dinner @ 6:00 pm
- March 10th - 12th: Department Spring Conference at Virginia Beach, VA
- March 12th: Auxiliary breakfast at 9:30 - 11:00 am
- March 18th: Auxiliary International dinner (Mexican Menu) 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- April 5th: Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- April 9th: Sons of the American Legion breakfast 9:30 - 11:00 am
- April 12th: Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm with dinner @ 6:00 pm
- April 15th: Auxiliary International dinner 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- April 16th: EASTER SUNDAY

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Sandra K. Price

Challenger Baseball

Our Post is again sponsoring the Fairfax Little Challenger Baseball League for special needs children. This will be the 9th year we have supported the league.

The league for this spring season will consist of a Junior Challenger Division for players age 5-18 and a Senior Challenger Division for players age 15 and up. There are six teams with over 70 players participating. Games are played every Sunday at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 on Chilcott Field.

The league will also travel to Virginia Beach for the Challenger Little League Baseball World Jamboree on Mother's Day weekend. Three teams with 35 players will make the trip. The Challenger Jamboree will consist of 84 teams from 6 states. This trip is the highlight of our spring season, and it would not be possible without the support from our Post and its members.

Come on out and support our players.....



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Greetings All,

With winter hopefully coming to an end the riders of Post 177 will be putting their summer tires back on their bikes and preparing for the 2017 riding season.

We have been able support several events throughout the fall and winter, but I think the best was the children's Christmas party at the Post. Santa's three wheeled sleigh was a big hit with the kids (and some adults). One of Santa's best elves attended to the sleigh during the party and helped the kids hop on and get a picture. Thank you to Jamie Scott for bringing the sleigh, Roger Easterling (Santa's elf), and David Windmiller for all of the great pictures.

We have started the planning for our sixth Annual Run to the Thunder Event. This is our biggest event of the year, and we are thankful for all of the help and participation we receive from Post 177 and all of the members. Michael "Nick" Nicholas is heading up the planning and has scheduled the second planning meeting for 25 February. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Last year's event helped to raise over \$13,000 that was donated to the American Legion Legacy Fund. The Run to the Thunder event would not be possible without the dedication of the staff, and the support we receive from the Auxiliary and SAL. We are looking forward to another great event where we can host Legionnaires that travel from all parts of the United States to visit our Post and participate in our Run to the Thunder Event, as well as the Rolling Thunder Demonstration. in Washington DC.



As the weather gets warmer and drier, the Riders look forward to riding with Dignity, Discipline and Respect to support and honor all Veterans, and pay respect to our fallen.

Bruce G. Mersereau

Director, Post 177 ALR

mersereaub@gmail.com

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Social Quarters News

Your social quarters is a great place to hang out. It's open every day starting at 8:00 am. The kitchen serves breakfast Monday through Friday till around 10:30, then lunch till 2:00 pm. On Saturday and Sunday, it is breakfast only from 8 to 12. After the main kitchen closes the "after hours" menu kicks in with items that the bartender can basically just heat up, like pizza or hot dogs. It varies a little day to day.

The prices are very reasonable, both for food and beverages. We have 4 beer taps with a couple dedicated to old school classic American beers and a couple pouring newer craft style beers. And of course there is a good selection of bottled beers and soft drinks. If you prefer spirits, you may bring your favorite bottle in and give it to the bartender to make drinks for you.

The Club is a great place to watch sports! Yes, football is over and we are all sad, but there is basketball, NASCAR, golf, and soon baseball season starts! March Madness begins in a couple weeks.

Use of the club is one of the benefits of your membership and you should take advantage of it. It is also one of the ways to keep in touch with Post events and activities. Often when volunteers are needed for a project, there will be a sign-up sheet posted on the wall. Right now, there is a sign-up sheet for Boys State interviews (see Commander's Corner).

I'll see you at the Post.

Jeff



American Legion Membership Eligibility Dates

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

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VA Home Loan Program Seminar

When: Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 10:00 to 12:00

Where: American Legion, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax, VA 22030

Post Grill meeting room, downstairs

VA Loan Limits for High-Cost Counties: Updated/Increased for 2017

GOOD NEWS! The VA Home Loan limits have INCREASED! Residents of Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Prince William, Fauquier and other high cost counties, now enjoy an even higher benefit limit than the rest of the country. These limits apply to all loans closed January 1, 2017 and afterwards. Join us for a discussion about the new loan limits.

This seminar will also cover available VA home loan program benefits including loan options for disabled service members, Veterans, their spouses, and grants for disabled veterans. All are welcome! An RSVP is appreciated but not required. If you would like to receive informative emails of changes in VA Housing Benefits, please send your email address to ry5058@gmail.com.

Informative VA Housing Benefits Websites:

How to Apply for Housing Benefits:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/learn/housing>

Apply for or check the status of your Specially Adapted Housing claim:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/learn/housing>

Calculate your VA Home Loan benefit and entitlement to get a Certificate of Eligibility:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=cert-of-elegibility-home-loan>

Access Your VA Benefits:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

Presenter: Debbie Young, Realtor

Keller Williams, Falls Church, VA

ry5058@gmail.com

703-475-8317 Cell

MARCH

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	2	3	4
5	6	7	8  General Member meeting 7pm.	9	10	11
12  Auxiliary Breakfast 9:30am	13	14	15	16	17	18  Auxiliary International Dinner 5:30pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	Dinner every Friday Night 5:30 - 8:30 Club Hours: Sat - Th 8:00 am - 11:00 pm Fri 8:00 am - midnight		

APRIL

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	6	7	8
9  SAL Breakfast 9:30am	10	11	12  General Member meeting 7pm.	13	14	15  Auxiliary International Dinner 5:30pm
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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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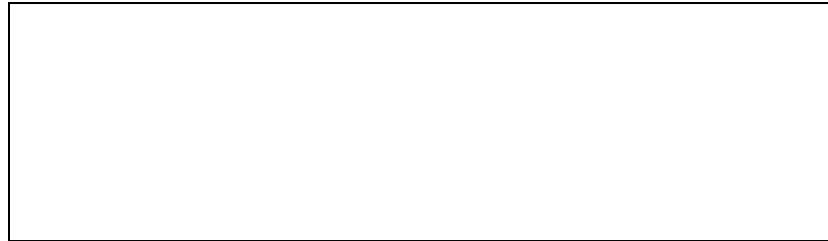
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Dated Material

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY

