



LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA

July - August 2016

703-273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

Edward Asten

Richard Clement

Timothy Davison

Kenneth Earley

Victoria Long

James Mullins

Timoth Wissinger

Honorary Life Members

William Anderson

Alvin Doehring

Edward Heitchew

George Lamborn

Anthony Osborne

John Price

Robert Sussan

5th Annual Run to the Thunder



Memorial Day marked our 5th annual Run to the Thunder event and we would like to thank the entire post membership and staff for making this the best year so far. The support and teamwork was outstanding and we heard nothing but compliments and thanks throughout the weekend from all who attended.

With the Generous support from Post 177, Auxiliary unit 177, Annandale Post 1976, Clinton MD Post 259, and private donations from Dave and Madeline Windmiller we were able to sponsor five Gold Star Families for the weekend. For these families who have lost a Son, Daughter, Spouse or Parent every day is Memorial Day and it was an honor to be able to support them and have them at our post.

Dr. Bruce Heilman joined us for the second year after completing his 6,000 mile cross country motorcycle ride to raise money and awareness for Gold Star Families and Veterans. Just days away from his 90th birthday, Dr. Heilman who is a WWII Veteran wrapped up his month long coast to coast adventure by spending the weekend at our post with fellow riders and Legionnaires. Dr. Heilman is an inspiration to us all, and we are honored to have him spend Memorial Day with us.

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Commander's Corner

Hope everyone had a happy Independence Day celebration. The rain held off so we had a good parade. Most of you know that Dan Marks has been our chairman of the float committee for many years. This year he passed the baton to John Skoglund who represents Post 177 on the Fairfax Independence Day Celebration Committee. John (with support and guidance from Dan) did a great job and I thank him for all his work organizing and running the committee. I also want to thank Dan for his years of service and expect he will still be around to assist us. And thanks to all who helped assemble and decorate the float.

Your Executive Committee and Corporate Board are working hard preparing budgets and plans for the new fiscal year which runs from 1 July 2016 through 30 June 2017. On the Executive side we have budgeted \$52,200 in donations for Veterans, Community, Youth, and Education programs. It includes things like support for Honor Flights, Legacy Fund, City of Fairfax first responders, Boys and Girls State, Challenger Baseball and Oratorical contest.

On the Corporate Board side we are busy keeping up with the developments happening all around us to ensure that the Post is positioned to take advantage of the changes that are occurring. The apartments next door have been demolished and we are in contact with the developer should we have concerns as the project goes forward. There will be a wall and new plantings made along the line between our properties. Paul VI High School plans to move out to Loudoun County after June 2019. When that site is redeveloped it will be a big change in our neighborhood so we are maintaining contact with that company to ensure we protect our assets which enable us to advance the American Legion mission. Building and Grounds chairman, Rand Gaber, is focusing on making the best Post home in Virginia even better. You've seen the new balcony railing and stairway from the social quarters to the balcony making it convenient to sit outside on a nice day. There is a gate at the bottom on the stairs, which if closed indicates the balcony is in use by a private party and therefore is off-limits to the membership. Remember our house rules make it your responsibility to clean your table, not just on the balcony, but throughout the social quarters as well.

We have now entered the 2017 membership year. You should have received your renewal notice from National in the mail. Although the American Legion membership is on a calendar year basis, meaning all memberships expire on Dec 31 each year, we start selling and renewing next year's memberships on July 1 of this year. Your 2016 membership is good through the end of this year so don't be alarmed by the renewal notice. Membership is the life's blood of the organization and early renewals help us meet our goals, so feel free to renew early. Just don't stress about it.

We ended the 2016 period at 987 new and renewed members which is a 1.1% increase over last year. That is 97.241% of the goal set for us by the department. Only 1 post in the state with membership over 500 achieved 100%. I am proud of our achievement and commend 1st Vice CMDR Colin Waldroup for a job well done.

I'm looking forward to another year as Commander and working with the excellent leadership team you have elected to both the Executive and Corporate bodies. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

For God and Country,

Jeff White, CMDR

Post Officers

Commander

Jeffrey White
703-591-0298

JWhite@fairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Colin Waldroup
colinwaldroup@yahoo.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
anthonyosborne@yahoo.com

Historian

Earl Seay
dolphins113@netzero.net

Exec. Comm. Members at Large

Calton Salch, Dave Shook, 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
info@fairfaxpost177.org

Post 177 Legion Riders

Bruce Mersereau
mersereaub@gmail.com

Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra Price

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Service Officer

The American Legion is a veterans' service organization. We were chartered by Congress as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. You might even say that our middle name is "service". The American Legion family members serve each other, the community, youth and veterans in various forms. We provide an inexpensive place to gather, eat and enjoy each other's company. We fund many programs for youth and veterans that include challenger baseball, Little League Baseball, the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team and their annual Kids' Camp, oratorical contest, boys and girls state, Sgt. Mac foundation, family picnic, ALR Run to the Thunder (Memorial Day weekend), the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Honor Guard, Heroes to Hometowns, Cadet Law Enforcement Academy, and many others that are too numerous to list here. The point is that WE provide service. Service is what we do, and we're glad to do it.

I encourage you to get involved with the American Legion, Auxiliary, ALR or SAL beyond just paying your dues. We have a collective membership of nearly three million. Your dues allow us to exist, but it is SERVICE that gets us where we need to be. Post 177 is blessed with many resources that other Posts don't enjoy. But, without members who are willing to perform the service, our resources alone are insufficient. Our success depends wholly on willing, active participation and volunteerism.

We remember those who have gone before by providing service to those who are still with us and to our community who we have sworn to protect. Please join me in stepping up in whatever way you can to offer your service to the American Legion.

Brad Watkins,
Service Officer



In June, Post 177 Supported the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Kids Camp.





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Okay, so now another fantastic year has come to a close and in addition to those that have stepped up as officers for the upcoming year we have a lot of people to thank for our success in the last year. Initially let me thank our 1st Vice Jimmy Price. As of this writing we stand at 130% membership and first in Virginia. That is a fantastic accomplishment and if you see Jim please say thanks for his great work! A strong, active membership is key to the success of any organization and Jimmy has our growth is on the right path.

The second group I want to acknowledge is those volunteers that gave up their time on the Memorial Day weekend and volunteered to make sure the Post and all of its visitors truly experienced the best side of American Legion Post 177 with memories that will keep them coming back to visit us in the future. From the Friday night dinner through the Sunday breakfast, (yes there is electricity at the post at 3:15 in the morning so we could see the eggs we were cracking) we were a steady force, contributing to the success of the weekend. So thanks to SAL members Jimmy, Sparky, Bucky, Brian, Dave, John and Erik as well as our assistant volunteers Kent, Grady, Cindy, Arlene, Sandy and Shanna, (How many Jello shooters??). If I missed anyone, all I can say is please call me out on it, you deserve the recognition for your hard work, and I will at least know someone read the article.

As we move into this new Legion year we need to continue our great work supporting the programs and more importantly those that helped secure our freedom. July 4th will have passed by the time you are reading this article, but I hope that as each of celebrated that holiday, you also took a moment to reflect upon the sacrifices of our forefathers that secured the independence each of us does enjoy. Feel free to just say "Thank You" next time you greet a veteran, it just might make their day and you won't feel too bad either.

For God and Country, and Thankful for your Service,

Jerry Miller

Commander, Squadron 177

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 Today





Post Everlasting

Norman
Damulis

Sherry
Davenport

William
Patton

Newman
Shackelford

Benjamin
Wescott



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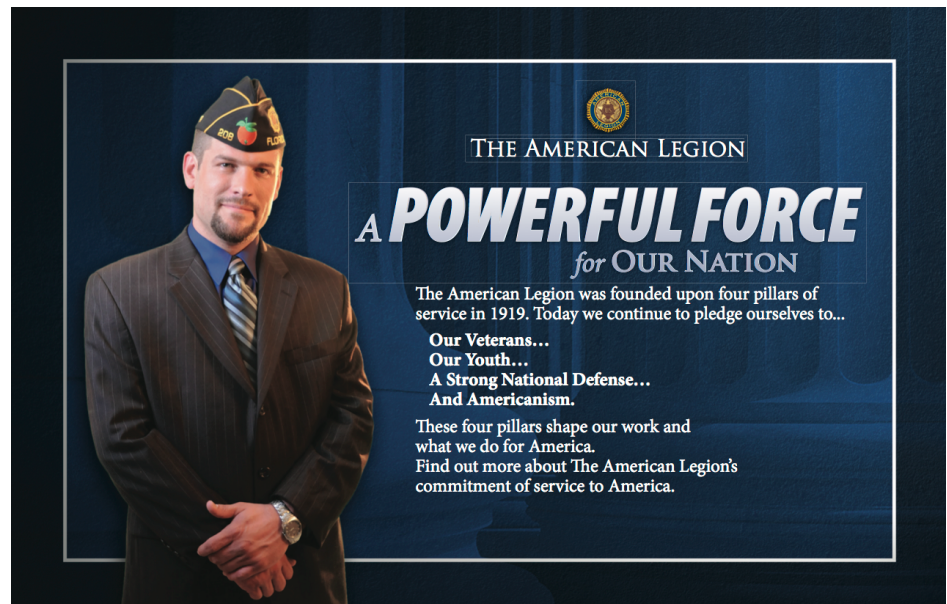
Although we had riders begin to arrive as early as Thursday afternoon, the official start of the weekend was Friday night dinner served at the post. The dinner was followed by a ride into DC for the candlelight vigil at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Saturday's events included a wreath laying ceremony at the Civil War Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery and a delicious BBQ prepared and served by the Sons of the American Legion along with assistance from the Auxiliary. There was live entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening to help dance away some of the extra calories from the great food and desserts.

Sunday started dark and early as riders began to arrive at 0430 to line up and have breakfast at post 177. At 0630, 227 riders were escorted by Fairfax Police to line up with the Fairfax Harley Owners Group (HOG) to participate in the Ride of the Patriots. We were honored to be invited to participate with the HOG and given space for our entire group at the front of their formation.

Throughout the weekend we had close to 500 riders from all over the county visit our post and received many thanks and compliments. Once again, we would like to thank the entire post for making this our best Run to the Thunder so far. Now it is time to start planning for Run to the Thunder 2017.

I would like to thank the American Legion Riders of post 177 for electing me as director for this awesome group. I have some big shoes to fill and will do my best to continue all of the great events that the riders participate in.

Bruce Mersereau
Director, ALR Post 177





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Greetings,

Can't believe today is the first day of summer, this year is flying by. The American Legion Family just finished a very busy week and it was one of the greatest ever. We were instrumental in supporting the WFAST Wounded Warriors Softball Team. What a great opportunity for young children to be able to spend time with wounded warriors, and for them to share experiences with each other. GOD Bless Bucky Weaver and the other individuals involved for sharing his talent with these special people. It was a privilege to spend time with them. Special THANKS to all.

Special thanks to the Legionnaires and the Sons of the American Legion for the supporting our Girls State Program. On Sunday June 19th, 2016 the buses left for Farmville, thanks to Maya White for being a counselor again, hope she has a great week. Special thanks to Elly Burton for stepping up and being President for the 2015-2016 year.

Fairfax Unit 177 was awarded trophies first place for Children and Youth, second place for Americanism and second place for National Security. Way to go ladies, let's start our new year with the goal to continue to support our programs.

- July 7th through 10th, 2016 Department Convention Richmond, VA
- July 16th, 2016 Auxiliary will serve Italian Menu 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- August 21st, 2016 American Legion Post 177 annual picnic, time to be announced; the auxiliary is responsible for the desserts, brownies, cookies, cupcakes
- Remember the auxiliary doesn't have meetings in July or August

Looking forward to 2016-2017 to work together with the legion family and to implement new projects and to maintain the programs we already have.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Sandra K. Price

VA Home Purchase Financing Seminar

When: Saturday, July 30, 2016, from 10:00 to 12:00
Where: American Legion, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax, VA 22030
Post Grill meeting room, downstairs

Myth: My VA Benefits expired long ago

Fact: Benefits do NOT expire. The VA updates and changes their benefits policies annually. Do you know the latest policies on your benefits?

Myth: The VA doesn't lend enough to cover housing costs in WDC area.

FACT: If you qualify, the VA will lend over \$400,000 for a purchase and requires no down payment.

There will be a discussion of the most up to date information on VA home financing benefits. It will include information on options for disabled service members, Veterans and their spouses. Refreshments will be served so an RSVP would be appreciated but is not required

Debbie Young
c: 703-475-8317
ry5058@gmail.com

JULY



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

3	4	5	 Exec Cmte meeting 7 pm.	7	8	9
10	11	12	 General Member meeting 7 pm.	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST

sun mon tue wed thu fri sat

	1	2	 Exec Cmte meeting 7 pm.	4	5	6
7	8	9	 General Member meeting 7 pm.	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Post Family Day						
28	29	30	31			