



LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA

January - February 2017

703-273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

Earl Belcher
Jean Boyle
Brian Bristow
Roy Burgess
Bernard Dailey
Kenneth Davis
Thomas Esterrich
Bernard Goletz
Henry Hendrix
John Hoffmann
John Kiefer
Terry McGraw
Joseph Momorilla
Chester Perlinski
Christopher Thien
Patrick Wallace
Kelly Yarnall

Honorary Life Members

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

Children's Christmas Party



We had another great turnout at this year's Children's Christmas party. Everyone had a good time and ate plenty of food with great company. There was face painting, games and presents for all of the kids. Of course, it wouldn't be a children's Christmas party without a visit from Santa and some of his elves. Many thanks for all that helped.



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Commander's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! We made it through 2016 and it's now on to 2017. Got several things coming up in January and February.

8 January is the second Sunday of January and that means the Sons are serving breakfast! Always the best deal in town. This Sunday will be tinged with sadness though because we've lost Dave Shook, who transferred to Post Everlasting on 25 December. Dave was a great Son of the Legion and Legionnaire and served on the Son's executive committee and the Legion's executive committee and the corporate board. We will miss him greatly.

On 8 January, after breakfast, we will hold our Post 177 Oratorical Contest. Dusty Hamacher is running the program again this year and we are excited to hear what this year's high school student speakers will have to say about the U.S. Constitution. The contest will start at 1 pm on Sunday. All are invited to attend.

2 weeks later on 22 January the 17th District Oratorical Contest will take place. This will also be at Post 177, but this will be a contest between the winners of the various posts that had post level contests. The winner of the District advances to the Regional competition. The Oratorical Contest is one of the American Legion's signature youth programs helping to develop young Americans into good citizens with the confidence to speak publicly on matters of importance.

5 February is Four Chaplains Sunday. The annual 17th District commemoration of the heroism and selfless sacrifice of four US Army chaplains as their ship sunk in the North Atlantic Ocean will take place at Post 177 in the upstairs ballroom. On 3 February 1943, the USAT Dorchester, steaming in convoy taking US Army soldiers to England, was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank in the northern Atlantic. Among those being transported were 4 chaplains, 2 of Protestant faiths, 1 Roman Catholic, and 1 Jewish. The ship went down quickly. Most of the troops were young. The four chaplains on board comforted the troops and gave up their life jackets to save others. This is a very short synopsis of the story. Please come to the service on Sunday, 5 Feb, 10:30 and be part of this important service of remembrance.

12 February the Legionnaires will serve 2nd Sunday breakfast. Please join us for the best buffet in town.

The post elections will be in May which may seem a ways off but is really not so far away. Now is a good time to consider if you would like to serve on the executive committee or the corporate board. Talk to any board member if you want some more info, or email me at jwhite@fairfaxpost177.org.



The American Legion Family

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
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Chaplain

Joseph Boyle
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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

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

Once again, we find ourselves at that time of year where gift giving and receiving seems to be the all-encompassing passion. The old year is winding down and the new year is dawning, and with it the shedding of bad habits and the making of new resolutions to do better. The Christmas and New Year's season seems to bring out the best of us, at least for a short time.

It is an opportunity to reflect and contemplate about what we've done and what we will do, and whether our efforts have made a difference. Should we work harder to make a difference, or accept the status quo? Does Christmas really mean anything, or is it just another holiday to get through? Whatever this season brings, it does provide a special opportunity; to serve others.

As veterans, many of us understand the meaning of service. The Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary were set up to assist the American Legion with its service to veterans and their families and the families of those who didn't survive. Many veterans remain homeless. Some are sick and infirmed due to disease, injury or just old age. Many people suffer stress and distress due to personal problems or other issues. The holidays are particularly hard for those who suffer these types of problems.

But, for those of us who are the lucky ones, it's an opportunity to serve. Sometimes, just the simple things; "hello", or "hi"; a shake of the hand; "how are you?" or just listening to one's problems will make a difference. Sharing a toy or a can of food can bring light to someone's Christmas. Donating a little bit of our wealth can improve a charity's efforts to help others. Participating or helping out with a charitable activity may make the difference in that activity's success. Laboring to make things better for others is not only honorable, but necessary for our own well-being. We're better persons for serving others.

Service comes in many forms for many people. At the American Legion, we need your service to help us make the lives of veterans, our community and its youth better. Come to a meeting, join an activity, and socialize with others in our social quarters. Drop in for breakfast or lunch, or Friday night dinner. Join a special committee, or attend meetings. As members, everything we do at our American Legion Post works to the benefit of others. Thanks for your service.

Merry Christmas, and have a Happy New Year!

Brad Watkins,
Service Officer



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Post Everlasting

Eugene Baker
John Delaney Jr.
Ronald Harp Jr.
**Alexander
Macnabb**
David Shook



Auxiliary

Greetings,

Christmas has come and gone as of this writing, hoping everyone had a good day. The Children's Christmas Party was a lot of fun for the children. It was a busy day for Santa and his helpers. The Toys for the Fairfax Police Department was a great day for the children of Main Street Child Development Center. We received a very nice letter of Thank You from Police Chief Carl Pardiny. Thanks to the ones that brought in toys for the children.

January

- 11th: Regular Membership meeting at 7:00pm; dinner at 6:00pm.
- 21st: Auxiliary serves Italian International Dinner at 5:30 until 7:00pm

February

- February 1st: Executive Board meeting at 7:00pm
- February 5th: Four Chaplains Service
- February 8th: Regular Membership Meeting at 7:00pm; dinner at 6:00pm
- February 12th: Legionnaires serve breakfast at 9:30 until 11:00am
- February 18th: Auxiliary serves International Dinner at 5:30 until 7:00pm

It is with a heavy heart that we say "Rest in Peace" to our very dear friend Dave Shook, who was truly one of the greatest individuals I had the pleasure of knowing and working with. He was truly a great veteran, friend to all and he will be truly missed. Dave passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2016.

For God and Country,
Sandra K. Price, Unit President

Corporate Board

The CB has finalized the lease with LePort School and we are moving forward. In addition, we have begun the termination of the lease with Pulte Co. for the trailer pad and spaces near the little league field. Pulte was unable to get the appropriate zoning approval from the City of Fairfax. As you have seen over the past weeks there is plenty of brick work being done to the exterior of the Post Home! This is a contract was let to do what is called pointing to the mortar around the whole building, a process to fill all the cracks, crevices, breaks and bricks with new mortar and stop the moisture seepage. Speaking of improving the Post Home the CB and the Building & Grounds team could certainly use the help of all members using the Post to clean up after themselves. We do have a janitorial contract for cleaning, but sometime we get messy just socializing in the area. If we all pitch in and help clean up our areas and storage rooms we would have a better club to socialize in. We have placed butt disposing containers and trash receptacles outside all entrances, Please use them. Additionally, a lot of money has been expensed to try and have smoke free and smoking areas. The system works best when the door to the smoking area is closed, so how about making every effort to ensure this and help keep the airflow movement at peak efficiency. Thanks for all your efforts.

JANUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	5	6	7
8  SAL Breakfast 9:30am	9	10	11  General Member meeting 7pm.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21  Auxiliary Italian Dinner 5:30pm
22  District oratorical contest @ Post 177	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Dinner every Friday Night 5:30 - 8:30 Club Hours: Sat - Th 8:00 am - 11:00 pm Fri 8:00 am - midnight			

FEBRUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	2	3	4
5  4 Chaplains Service @ Post 177 10:30am	6	7	8  General Member meeting 7pm.	9	10	11
12  Legionnaires B-fast 9:30am	13	14	15	16	17	18  Auxiliary International Dinner 5:30pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



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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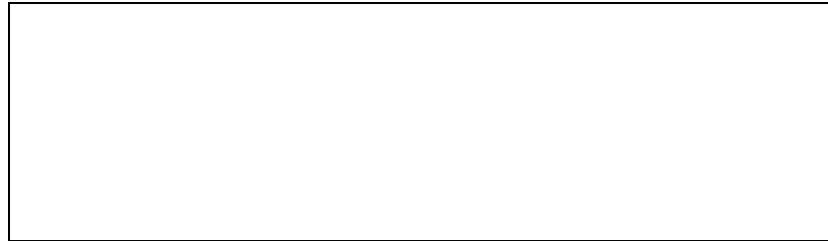
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