



LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

January - February 2018

703-273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

Ivan Andrews
Michael Arthur
Lloyd Cacner
Seth Jones
Robert Nelson
Egan O'Reilly
Oscar Wiygul

Children's Christmas Party



Honorary Life Members

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

On 17 December, Post 177 held the annual Children's Christmas Party. The kids had a great time and had plenty of food to eat. There was even a special visit from Santa and his elf.

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Commander's Corner

Happy New Year! Here's hoping that 2018 brings us all health, wealth, and happiness.

We will be hitting the new year running with Legion programs. The Oratorical contest is first up in January with our Post 177 contest being held on Sunday the 7th at 1:00 pm. Thank you to Legionnaire Erica Herzog for stepping up to run the contest. In addition to our contest, we will host both the District 17 contest on 21 Jan at 1:00 pm, and the Northern Region contest on 11 Feb at 1:00 pm. The purpose of the Oratorical contest is to develop students into responsible citizens through understanding the US Constitution and to develop skill in public speaking. You can learn more about it at www.legion.org/oratorical including videos of past national contestants giving their speeches.

The Four Chaplains service commemorates the service and sacrifice of 4 US Army chaplains of different faiths during the sinking of USAT Dorchester in the North Atlantic by a German U-Boat. This is a 17th District run program and all members of the American Legion family are invited. Post 177 is again honored to be the host for this year's event on Sunday, 4 Feb at 10:30 am.

We still have a vacancy in the Adjutant position on the executive committee. The Adjutant functions largely as an administrative assistant to the Commander. He or She records the minutes of meetings, deals with correspondence from department and national, co-signs or signs various post documents, and (of course) performs other duties as assigned. The Adjutant is a voting member of the Executive Committee.

The qualifications for Adjutant are: Be a member in good standing of Post 177; Be willing, able, and plan to attend all Executive Committee and General Membership meetings (1st and 2nd Wednesdays each month); Be computer literate enough to manage email communications with attachments and to type, save, and transmit minutes and other documents. If you are interested in serving please contact me at jwhite@fairfaxpost177.org.

I want to thank Tony Osborne, Shawn Fiebiger, Brad Watkins, and Mike Kimlick for their help with taking minutes of meetings while we have been without an Adjutant.

Please take a look at your membership card. If it is not a 2018 card you need to renew now! Go to www.legion.org/renew to renew online. You can print a card from there and we will see that you renewed and process your card from the post and mail it to you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Post.

For God and Country,

Jeff White, Commander

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
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Adjutant

Vacant

Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick
michael.kimlick@tsa.dhs.gov

Chaplain

Joseph Boyle
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Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price
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Service Officer

Bradford Watkins
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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 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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Post 177 Auxiliary

It is so hard to believe that 2017 has come to the end. When the Auxiliary gives the Children's Christmas Party that is the sign a new year is approaching. The Children's Christmas Party was on Sunday the 17th, it was a huge success once again. I want to say a BIG thanks to all that helped support us with this endeavor. To Commander, Jeff White; Past Commander and Coach Mike Kimlick; Fairfax Post 177 Honor Guard; American Legion Riders; Sons of the American Legion; Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Russell Mitchell Post 609, Legionnaire Chester Perlinski Jr; Patti Green and all the members of the Auxiliary. Thanks to Doug Mike and ahis crew for all their help in the kitchen. Special thanks to our VIP Santa, job well done. The special music is always delightful, thanks to all of the ladies that participated in providing us with the Christmas carols. The children always seem to enjoy themselves, and most of all the parents were very happy.

January Calendar:

- Wednesday, January 3rd, Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 10th, Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00, dinner @ 6:00pm
- Sunday, January 14th, Sons of the American Legion serve breakfast @ 9:30am
- Saturday, January 20th, Auxiliary serves Multi Cultural Dinner 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Menu will consist of dishes from all over the world.
- Sunday, January 21st, 17th District Oratorical Contest @ 1:00 pm @ Post 177

February Calendar

- Sunday, February 4th, Four Chaplains Service @ 10:30 am at Fairfax Post 177
- Wednesday, February 7th, Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Sunday, February 11th, Legionnaires serve breakfast 9:30 - 11:00 am
- Wednesday, February 14th, Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00, dinner @ 6:00 pm
- Saturday, February 17th, Auxiliary serves International Dinner 5:30 - 7:30 pm

The Auxiliary is looking forward to having another GREAT year in 2018. We look forward to working with everyone to keep our POST on of the best in the DISTRICT.

Thanks again to everyone, I'm sorry if I missed someone in addressing individuals. God Bless America.

For God and Country

Sandra K. Price, Unit President

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American Legion Riders

Although the weather has not been ideal for riding, the riders bundled up to ride to Quantico National Cemetery on 02 December and support the Sgt Mac Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The Sgt. Mac Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to honor the memory of Marine Sgt. Eric McColley. On February 17, 2006, Sgt. McColley gave his life for his country along with seven fellow Marines and two Airmen. This project was started when the parents of Sgt McColley went to Quantico National Cemetery to lay a wreath at their sons' grave and noticed many graves did not have wreaths. Through the years the project has grown and this year 10,500 wreaths were placed by volunteers. The riders of post 177 have supported this event with donations for wreaths and taking part in the wreath laying.



Most recently, the riders attended and support the post 177 Children's Christmas Party. Jamie Scott decorated his "Big Red Trike" for the event and the children really enjoyed sitting on it and having their picture taken along with our very own Elf (Meg Pike). Meg spent time welcoming the children and helping them on and off the trike. She even learned some sign language beforehand to be able to speak with any children that were hearing impaired. Both Meg and the trike were a big hit with the kids.



With the start of a new year we will begin our planning for our biggest event, Run to the Thunder 2018. We hope to continue this great event at our post by hosting Riders from all over the country who will be coming to ride in Rolling Thunder.

Bruce G. Mersereau
Director, Post 177 ALR

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Sons of the American Legion

Happy New Year! As we have now said goodbye to 2017 and hello to 2018, we enter the 2nd half of our Legion year. The first thought with the New Year would be our membership. Our membership renewals have been coming in at a very steady rate, but there are still some of you out there who have not yet renewed for 2018. If you do not have your 2018 card yet please either stop by the social quarters or put your payment in the mail. We are looking to extend our string of continuous 100% years, but we need your help to do so.

Looking back since our last article I would like to mention our 8th Annual Bear Chili Bowl. Although the Redskins did not fare so well against the Saints, and the results of the Chili Bowl were delayed by the overtime session of the game, everyone in attendance was treated to some excellent chili. Thanks again to everyone who participated and assisted in making the day a great success.

Moving forward we have the SAL Breakfast on January 14th. As always the SAL Challenge coin is good for \$1.00 off the admission price for breakfast, so if you do have the coin remember to bring it along and show it to the cashier at the door. Your support of our activities is always appreciated as it helps us in our yearly charitable donations supporting a variety of programs.

Beyond that I would hope that everyone had a safe and happy New Year season, and I look forward to seeing you at some of our events in 2018. 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 remind all legionnaires that renewing your membership online helps us out a whole lot. It's cheaper and easier for us to process your membership that way. It also allows you to keep an up-to-date address and contact information for us in case you move, etc. You can do this by going to "mylegion.org" or downloading the American Legion app for your phone. Yes, they have an app for that!

One last thing, if you haven't renewed yet, what are you waiting for? Go online and renew today!

Sean Hodgson
1st Vice Commander

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Corporate Board

There was no Corporate Board mtg in December 2017. The next CB meeting will be Wednesday January 17 @ 6 PM at The Post.

The following information is again provided by the CB and the Building Initiatives Committee. We have reached NO decisions on the Building or remodeling for our future POST Home. All options are on the table and being formulated.

We, however, as you read below we have developed a strategy, to 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. Awaiting reply
- 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

- Begin to schedule visits with the Fairfax City Council members
- We will in the not so far off future 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 5 months into an 18-24-month process.

POC

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

JANUARY

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	6
7 	8	9	10 	11	12	13
Post Oratorical Contest 1pm @ Post 177			Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.			
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 
SAL B'fast 9:30						Auxiliary Dinner 5:30 - 7:30 pm
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
District Oratorical Contest 1pm @ Post 177						
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7 	8	9	10
Four Chaplains Service 10:30am			Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.			
11 	12	13	14 	15	16	17 
Legionnaires Breakfast 9:30am Regional Oratorical Contest 1pm @ Post			General Member meeting 7pm.			Auxiliary Dinner 5:30 - 7:30 pm
18	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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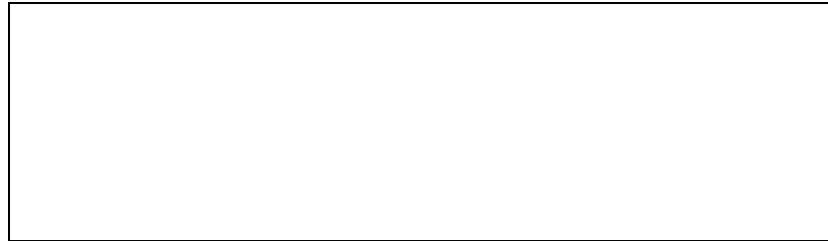
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WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY

