



# LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

3939 Oak Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

*May - June 2018*

703-273-2250  
[www.fairfaxpost177.org](http://www.fairfaxpost177.org)

## Commander's Corner

There is a lot of important information in this May-June issue of Legion News.

The election of Post Officers, Member-at-Large, and Corporate Board Directors is the first item of business. You will find the slate for Legion year 2018-2019 at the bottom of the page. There are no contested positions and there are no vacancies. It is still vitally important that you come out to vote on May 9th in order to fulfill our constitutional requirements and confirm the leadership positions. All day voting will be in effect on 9 May 2018 beginning at 0730. The ballot box will be set up in the Flag room in the social quarters.

Close to a year ago, the Corp. Board set up a Building Initiatives Committee (BIC) to look at the state and condition of our property and to consider what the needs of the Post will be in the future and how our property supports those needs. Property in this context includes our Post home building, parking lot, the antenna field, Chilcott field, LePort school, and McDonald's. Post 177 just celebrated our 73rd anniversary. The guiding principal for the BIC is ensuring that Post 177 remains a viable and effective organization that is able to fulfill the missions of the American Legion for another 50 years.

We are at an important point in our history. The decisions and actions we take now will set the course for our Post. The BIC report is on page 6. Additionally, there is a survey on page 7 which I urge you to consider, complete, and return by or on 9 May (election day). There will be copies of the survey at the post on election day for your convenience. Thank you for your help.

Now that the weather is finally warming up we can enjoy the outside seating areas at the post. Please help keep them clean, neat, and attractive by picking up after yourself. Let building and grounds know if you think something needs to be repaired.

And with the warm weather comes baseball at Chilcott field. The Challenger League, sponsored by Post 177 and led by Past Commander Mike Kimlick, plays on Sundays with games at 1300, 1400, and 1500. Come on out to watch and support them.

<b>Commander:</b> Jeff White	<b>Adjutant:</b> Brad Watkins	<b>1st Vice Commander:</b> Sean Hodgson
<b>2nd Vice Commander:</b> Shawn Fiebiger	<b>3rd Vice Commander:</b> John Skoglund	
<b>Chaplain:</b> Joseph Boyle	<b>Finance Officer:</b> Mike Kimlick	<b>Historian:</b> Earl Seay
<b>Judge Advocate:</b> Anthony Osborne	<b>Sergeant at Arms:</b> John Price	
<b>Service Officer:</b> Tony Poulin		
<b>Member at Large</b> (3 year term): Stan Verrocchio		
<b>Corporate Board</b> (3 year term, vote for 2): Hank Waters and Anthony Osborne		

I'll see you at the Post.

For God and Country,

Jeff White, CMDR

# LEGION NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

Page 2

## New Members

John Brown  
Rob Brown  
Julian Caraballo  
Joseph Caruth  
Joseph Harmon  
Dustin Hegwood  
Robert Johnson  
Jody Kaufmann  
Douglass Kay  
Terry Knutson  
W. Leonard  
Robert Lock  
Stephen Lornzetty  
William Lucyshyn  
Kendall MacGibbon  
William McKenna  
Kevin Morley  
Frank Nauheimer  
Kenneth Ochsner  
Paul Ownby  
Joseph Schmidt  
John Seaberg

## Honorary Life Members

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



## Post 177 Auxiliary

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. 2017-2018 has been a great year! It is due in part to the great assistance the auxiliary has received from the Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders and because of all the great auxiliary members belonging to this unit. I wish to give a big THANK YOU to each and everyone.

It is with sadness we report the passing of past 17th District President, and Past Fairfax Unit President Mrs. Hilda Lucille Schaeffer on March 9, 2018. The unit extends our deepest Sympathy, to the family and friends.

In a letter received from Department President Cheryl Shine we were informed that the National dues for the auxiliary had been increased starting in year 2019. The new amount to send to Department for Senior dues is \$ 21.00 and for Juniors \$ 4.00. After discussion during the auxiliary meeting the members present voted to increase the senior auxiliary dues starting in 2019 to \$ 35.00; and the juniors to \$ 7.00. I want to say thank you to each member that has renewed or rejoined this amazing organization for 2018 and hope that you will continue to support the unit for 2019.

During the meeting on April 11th, 2018 the nominating committee submitted the following members to the position of the 2018-2019 year:

<b>President:</b> Sandra (Sandy) Price	<b>Vice President:</b> Elly Burton
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b> Arlene Price	<b>Historian:</b> Donna Frank
<b>Chaplain:</b> Karen Hauck	<b>Sgt. at Arms:</b> Jean Hendricks
<b>Executive Board:</b> Elly Burton and Donna Frank	

Thanks to all the ladies for stepping up and agreeing to accept a position, looking forward to another great year. Up and coming events:

Wednesday, May 2nd: Executive Board Meeting @ 7:00pm

Saturday, May 5th: Past Commanders and Past Presidents dinner @ post 176

Sunday, May 6th: 17th District Orientation for Girl's State

Wednesday, May 9th: Regular Membership Meeting @ 7:00pm; dinner @ 6:00pm

Sunday, May 13th: MOTHER'S DAY and Legionnaires serves breakfast @ 9:30am

Saturday, May 19th: ARMED FORCES DAY

Friday, May 25th: NATIONAL POPPY DAY! Wear a POPPY, WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

Friday, May 25th: Riders arriving for RUN to the THUNDER, dinner @ the post

Saturday, May 26th: Sons of the Legion served BBQ starting @ 4:00pm, band @ 4 - 7 pm

Sunday, May 27th: AUXILIARY in front of PATRIOT'S Harley Davidson @ 5:00am serving coffee and donuts to the many riders before going to the Pentagon

Monday, May 28th: MEMORIAL DAY

Looks like we have a busy month and a half coming, remember to get involved, there is always something you can do, just ask.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,  
SANDRA K. PRICE, UNIT PRESIDENT

# LEGION NEWS

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

Page 3



### Legion Riders

Our annual Run to the Thunder event will take place on Memorial Day weekend and Post 177 will host American Legion Riders from far and wide. The schedule of events for the weekend is below.

This is our biggest event of the year and a great opportunity to meet Legionnaires from all over the country. We will also be hosting Gold Star families at our post for the weekend. Please come out and join us for this great event.

#### Friday, May 26, 2018

- 8:00 am Post Social Quarters open for breakfast and lunch until 1:00 pm
- 8:00 am American Legion Emblem Sales Opens inside Post 177 bldg. – open until 8 pm
- Noon Registration & Check-in opens @ Post 177
- Noon Vendors begin setup in Post 177 parking lot
- 2:30 pm ALR Riders support national “Run For The Wall” with flag line & salute at two overpasses on I-66: **Blake Lane** (near Oakton HS), and **Cedar Lane**.
- 5:00 pm POW Ceremony in Post 177 ballroom
- 5:30 pm Friday Night Dinner: Served in upstairs Ballroom
- 7:30 pm KSU 7:30 pm. Ride to the Candlelight Vigil at the Vietnam Veterans’ Mem –Safety brief at 7:00 pm. Lineup @ Paul VI High School parking lot. Lead by Maryland American Legion Riders.

#### Saturday, May 27, 2018

- 8:00 am Registration & Check-in opens – all day
- 8:00 am Breakfast at Post 177. Normal a la carte menu
- 8:00 am American Legion Emblem Sales open until 7 pm. (Last chance. No Sun hours)
- 9:00 am Post 177 OPEN HOUSE (Food and Vendors) open – all day
- 9:00 am “Bike Blessing” provided courtesy of Brothers in Christ Motorcycle Ministry
- 11:00 am Depart for Wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery (Ceremony 1:00pm). Secondary group meets at Rally Point near ANC. See website for details. Line-up in Paul VI HS parking lot. Commercial bus loads @ Post 177.
- 3 - 4 pm DJ Music: “Riptide”
- 3 - 6 pm Barbecue at Post 177, provided by Sons of the American Legion
- 4 - 8 pm Live Music Band: “Riptide”

#### Sunday, May 28, 2018

- 4:00 am Parking lot setup (see signs & flyer in registration packet)
- 4:30 am Motorcycle line-up in Post 177 parking lot
- 5 - 6 am Last-minute registration & Check-in at Post 177
- 5 - 6 am Buffet Breakfast at Post 177 (Donation to the Legacy Fund)
- 6:15 am Safety Briefing
- 6:30 am Riders depart to join Ride of the Patriots to participate in the Rolling Thunder demonstration ride
- 7 - 11 am Clean-up at Post 177



# LEGION NEWS

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

Page 4



### Sons of the American Legion

Hello again as summer is beginning and we are quickly winding down another Legion year. The nominations have been submitted and the following officers slate of officer will be seeking election unopposed at our May meeting;

Commander: Jerry Miller

2nd Vice: Norvell Sparky Cooksey

Finance Officer: Doug Schauss

Sgt at Arms: Kenneth Pless

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Jimmy Price

Adjutant: Gary "Bucky" Weaver

Chaplain: Mark Briley

Historian: Brian Drummond

We did have one other outside nomination for Designated Sister of the SAL and that went to Arlene Price. She has been a great worker at all of our events and I want to say thank you for that support.

As we do close out this year we are closing in on our 100% in membership, so if you have not renewed as yet please do so as quickly as possible. Among some recent events our 2nd Bull and Oyster feast in March was very successful. I looks like that will be continuing as a yearly event. Our breakfast in April (which felt more like our January breakfast based on the weather) was also well attended. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our events. That is what allows us to do some of the work and donations that we make to worthy causes.

Speaking of work we do... The SAL, continuing with a long tradition of cooking for various events at 177 such as the Memorial Day weekend and the Family Day picnic, has voted to purchase some new equipment to help us with that outdoor cooking experience. We will be replacing our long standing BBQ units, which have served very well over the years with some newer versions. Our first big test of these units will be the picnic on Saturday May 26th for our Annual Memorial Day picnic. Please come out for some great food as we give the new grill and new smoker a workout.

With all that said I do want to say a special thank all of the SAL members who continue to work these various events. Without all of you we would not be able to provide the great times that the SAL events are known for. Each of you provide that extra effort every time and I want you to know it is appreciated. Speaking of volunteers.. We are hosting the Ellie's Hats pancake breakfast on May 5th so if you have a couple of hours for a very worthy cause, your assistance would be appreciated.

For God and Country, and Thankful for your Service,

Jerry Miller

Commander, Squadron 177



### **Corporate Board Building Initiation Efforts**

Over the past 9 months the Building Initiative Committee (BIC) has been working to determine a path forward for our Post home. The BIC reviewed the existing structure and looked at the future needs of the post to assess would our building support the American Legion in 2047. As a result committee has been working to see if our land could be further developed to generate income for the Post to renovate, remodel or build a new Post Home. We, Post #177, have been fortunate in that significant income is generated for the operational costs of our Post by the development already in place: McDonalds, The LePort School, and our Antenna field. That said, over the last four years we have expended significant funds to repair the Post home.

The BIC was formed to address the fundamental questions: Is our facility appropriate for the years ahead and develop a fiscal plan that would support our path forward.

### **Background**

**Our Antenna Field and the radio station lease** – The radio towers themselves are owned by the American Legion. Currently, they are fully operational but are not vertically serviceable. The Radio station has been paying to repair the safety issues and other operational repairs required by their contract with us. Additionally, the Post is hiring an engineering firm to provide us a report on the viability of the towers for the long term and options for us to consider if we wish to invest in the repair or replacement of the towers.

**Chilcott Field - Fairfax Little League** – We have renewed the lease for Chilcott Field for the 2018 season. We have discussed with them the possible development of our lands and impact on the ballfield. The league is concerned over parking during the construction of the Paul VI campus, the future parking access for Chilcott field and the Pat Rodio park ballfields. Our support of Fairfax Little League and ballfield(s) are considered a core requirement of the Legion.

**LePort School** – We have a long-term lease in place with the school (7 years). The owners are aware of BIC efforts.

**McDonald's** – We have the BIC efforts with them and they are supportive of the general efforts.

**Buckman Road Property** – In reviewing the cost of ownership of the property, the Corporate Board has place this property in a scenario to create sale or lease. The objective is to either generate a sale of the land or lease of the property, thus creating additional funding to support our missions.

**Panther Place** - The Legion sold the land between the ballfield and LePort school back in 1956 to the county government for the purpose of road access to the then Fairfax High School. We requested that Fairfax City return the road/land to the Legion. The City of Fairfax has not denied the request but has asked the Legion to develop/consider alternative strategies.

**Your Support is Needed: See next page to give your input.**

# LEGION NEWS

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 177

Page 6

### YOUR Support is Needed

The BIC has met with various Fairfax City officials, attended planning and city council meetings, met with developers (IDI and Pulte), discussed our potential development with our current tenants (McDonalds, LePort, WDCT-AM radio) and the held reviews with our legal counsel.

As we continue to develop a fiscal plan for the Post and our future veterans we seeking your view on what path you would most support:

- A. Renovate the existing post home. The current post has key flaws in the infrastructure (electric, heat, AC and plumbing) and flaws that are marginal to unacceptable (handicap access, kitchen and bathrooms). **Investment cost is estimated between \$1 – 1.5 Million.**
- B. Remodel the existing post home. Would address the infrastructure issues and handicap access of the Post home. Would not necessarily provide the Post greater flexibility in meeting the needs of our membership and the community. **Major investment estimated between \$1.5 – 2.5 Million.**
- C. Build a new post home. Would provide the Post another 60 years of service, address the shortfalls of the current home and allow the flexibility to our membership to meet the needs of our future Veterans. Would require we further develop the Post's land areas to generate the income to afford a new Post home. **Major Investment estimated between \$4 - 5 Million.**

Please take the moment to give us your straw vote so the BIC is working in the right direction.

My preference would be [CIRCLE ONE (1)]:    A        B        C

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Post 117 Corporate Board Secretary

3939 Oak St, Fairfax VA, 22030

Please respond soonest but NLT 9 May 2018

# MAY

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

		1	2  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9  Elections 7am. General Member meeting 7pm.	10	11	12
13  Legionnaires B'fast 9:30	14	15	16	17	18	19  Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25  Run to the Thunder	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

# JUNE

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  Exec Cmte meeting 7pm.	7	8	9
10  Auxiliary Breakfast 9:30am	11	12	13  General Member meeting 7pm.	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30