



American Legion Post 177 Fairfax, Virginia

LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

Spring 2020

New Members

William J Brininstool
John B Foley
Dwight L Hubbard
Malcolm J Murray
Roger N Rosenberger
Ronald C McKown
Enrique G Hernandez
Kerry D Kirk
Thomas D McKuin
Danny R Michael
Kevin N Moran
Barry Newman
Travis White
Frederick C Belen
Joseph J Draham
Jonathan G Duval
Daniel G Edmundson
Michael R Kneipp
Stuart J Williams
Kenneth Wire
Rebecca Brinker
Steven Crump
Samuel Hardman
Tymesha A Whitehead
Jake Zaer
Kenneth Beissner
Steven Cribby
Marvin Gene Carder III
Louis M Lombardi
Herman R Pablo
Baldave Singh
Bradley L Bowman
Stephen A Bucher
Marta I Nazario
Michael Semenech, Jr
Luzanne G Trotter

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

William J. Anderson
Alvin W. Doehring
Edward N. Heitchew
George L. Lamborn
Anthony F. Osborne
John W. Price

UNCERTAIN TIMES

The Corona Virus and the disease it causes, COVID-19, and our nation's response to this threat is making life for all of us difficult. Perhaps the hardest part of it is the uncertainty. At this time there are more questions than answers.

National Commander Bill Oxford begins his "urgent message about corona virus" this way:

"The enemy we are facing isn't hiding in the bush. Nor has it buried a roadside bomb unbeknownst to us. Yet the enemy is just as dangerous and deadly."

He goes on to recommend we follow the guidelines put forth by the CDC (cdc.gov) and WHO (who.int). Wash hands frequently, practice social distancing.

The Honor Flight Network has cancelled all Honor Flights through April 30. Sports Leagues have suspended seasons. Schools and colleges are closed.

At the time of this writing we have not changed any of Post 177's scheduled activities but that may change. We will do our best to make everyone aware of event changes through our website, www.fairfaxpost177.org, and our facebook page.

Stay calm and be prudent.

National Commander Oxford's entire message may be found here:

<https://www.legion.org/commander/248549/urgent-message-about-coronavirus>

From the Judge Advocate:

Please make every effort to attend our Regular Membership Meetings in March, April and May this year and be sure to vote on May 13, 2020.

There will be at least one motion of critical importance to vote on regarding Corporate initiatives. One is addressed in this Newsletter, but there are likely to be additional ones as well. Keep an eye on the printed and electronic newsletters.

The Corporate Board is currently addressing viable future Banking, Financial Management, and Investment Opportunities in conjunction with the Building Initiatives Committee and the sale of part of our Post Property, as was authorized last year. Management of out years will not be as straightforward as has been our history since the 1940.s. It is likely that the Constitution and By-Laws will have to be modified soon to both allow for and provide accountability of future financial practices.

V/R Anthony (Tony) Osborne
Judge Advocate Emeritus

News - p 1
Judge Advocate - p 1
Commander's Corner - p 2
A Newbie's Perspective - p 3
Auxiliary Report - p 4

Adjutant - p 4
Post Everlasting - p 5
Corporate Board Report - p5
ALR - p 6
Calendar - p 7 & 8

Post Officers**Commander**

Jeffrey R. White
703-591-0298
JWhite@FairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Gary Mesaris
703-385-0538
mesaris@verizon.net

2nd Vice Commander

Rich Strauss
919-761-0645
strauss.rich@gmail.com

3rd Vice Commander

Reid Griffin
703-385-6538
frgriffin@juno.com

Adjutant

Brad Watkins
571-233-0985
bjhime1@aol.com

Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick
202-329-9940
michael.kimlick@dhs.gov

Chaplain

Joseph J. Boyle
703-646-5576
jandjboyle57@aol.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

John W. Price
703-307-3332
JPriceAdvertising@yahoo.com

Service Officer

Tony Poulin
847-505-6122
poulinm@yahoo.com

Judge Advocate

Anthony F. Osborne
703-934-8915
anthonyosborne437@yahoo.com

Historian

Earl Seay
703-246-9576
dolphins113@netzero.net

Executive Comm. Members-At-Large

Russ Combs, Cal Salch

Legionnaire of the Year**Corporate Board**

Russ Combs, Rand Gabor
John Kinczel, Tony Osborne
Jon Thacher, Hank Waters
Gary Welschenbach

Building & Grounds Chairman

Rand Gabor
rginva2@gmail.com

Sons of the American Legion

Jerry Miller, Commander
info@FairfaxPost177.org

Post 177 Legion Riders

Bruce Mercereau, Director
mersereaub@gmail.com

Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra K. Price, President
703-591-2107
jpriceadvertising@yahoo.com

It's been an oddly warm winter so far and with spring officially only a few weeks away I'm waiting for the big snowstorm. Not to say looking forward to it, just waiting.

We lucked out weather-wise for the annual George Washington's birthday parade in Alexandria on Feb 17. The 17th district Color Guard, composed of Jeff White and Earl Seay (Post 177), Kevin Gaddis (Post 176), and Kelly Niernberger (Post 24), led the way behind only the Police Motorcycles and the Marine Corps band. I have to say that it was nice to march behind the Marines because they were always in step. All we had to do was follow. Behind the Color Guard were Legionnaires, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders from most of the Posts in the 17th District. Thanks to all who participated.

SAL 177 is having a Bull & Oyster Roast on Saturday, 28 March from 4 – 6 PM. Advance tickets are on sale now in the Social Quarters for \$20 per person. Tickets will be \$25 at the door on the day of the event. This is a fun way to support the SAL so come on and enjoy!

Membership. As of 26 Feb., we are at 93% of our 2020 department goal. Only 67 renewals away from our goal of 948 to make 100%. There are still about a hundred Post members who haven't yet renewed for 2020. Please check your card and make sure it's a 2020 card. If it isn't, go online to www.legion.org/renew, renew and print your card off the website.

All the articles in the newsletter are informative and you should read them all. Pay particular attention to the Judge Advocate and Corporate Board sections because we have important votes coming up in May which will be discussed at the March and April meetings.

Thanks for your service and all you do to continue serving our country.

See you at the Post!

Jeff White, Commander

Announcements:

- Congratulations to Joe Schmidt and his wife Anne on the birth of their first child, a baby boy named Liam
- Congratulations to Jessica Orlando for her work organizing Clark Construction Group's donations to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Belvoir. She and the group were awarded a letter of commendation at the February 2nd Sunday Breakfast.

Better Late Than Never: A Newbie's Perspective

Greetings from a newbie. Six months ago, I finally joined the American Legion at Post 177. This comes some 25 years after I left military service. Why it took me this long is a good question, a mystery. But I will use it as a premise in sharing with you how, in just a half-year as a Legionnaire, I can say with some confidence that the old adage "better late than never" is very true.

First, I have made more new friends in six months than I have in the previous 20 years. That's not an exaggeration. This has occurred mainly as a result of my (mostly) daily visits to the Post Social Quarters (SQ). Even a newbie knows that a good SQ is a key element of Legion membership. In the Post 177 SQ, I have been pleasantly surprised by the extraordinary value of the meals and drinks. I also have noted a friendliness and attentiveness by the staff that is authentic. Like the '80s TV show Cheers, everybody knows your name (and your favorite drink!). It is fair to say there is a sense that those who work at and frequent the SQ are "extended family". This is different from what is usually the case in many local breweries and restaurants around Fairfax. Many are great, but the "extended family" aspect is not found at most of them.

Naturally, being a membership organization has a lot to do with this, but it is also the unique nature of veteran-related organizations. Despite varying backgrounds, the 25 or so people I can now name as new friends are people with whom I have a couple crucial things in common. Those are military service to our Country and solidarity with and support for our veterans and their families. There is no denying the strong sense of self-validation one has in knowing that you belong to a special cohort like this. And, I'm finding that true to a stated intention of the American Legion, membership is turning out to be a good way to recapture some of that old camaraderie and sense of purpose.

Aside from the SQ experience, I have been invited to engage in broader aspects of the Legion's mission. I was alerted to an online "boot camp" tutorial about the history and purpose of the American Legion, which I took one night and learned quite a bit. I have been able to attend meetings with the Fairfax County City Council and the Fairfax County Planning Commission regarding the Post's plans for revitalization of our property. Other activities have included three membership meetings (at which, two of my friends joined). I have been able to watch the Oratorical Contest, attend the Four Chaplains service, and was recently asked to help out with our Post's Boy's State program.

Sure, some of this positive experience results from my showing the initiative to engage. Perhaps 'newbie enthusiasm' can be tempered over time by routine or cynicism. For sure, Post activities should not be shoved onto anyone. Membership experience must reflect our interests, time and ability. But it is certainly reassuring to me, as someone who sat on the sidelines for a quarter-century, to know that the Post I finally joined is one that is by all appearances relevant, active in the Legion's programs, and financially well-capitalized. It is nice to know that new members are welcome to be a part of the Post's future. While I'm still 'getting my sea legs', it has been a pleasant six months. I've had an experience which finds me grateful to the membership of #177 that I've met thus far. And it is an experience that hopefully is being emulated by other American Legion Posts.

Kerry D. Kirk is a management consultant, freelance writer, and Marine Corps veteran.





Greetings,

Sunday, March 8th, 2020 Auxiliary serves breakfast @ 9:30am thru 11:00am

Sunday, March 15th, 2020 17th District will hold their Spring Conference Post 176 Springfield @ 1:00pm. The Auxiliary is not scheduled to attend this meeting.

Sunday, March 22nd, 2020 Auxiliary will hold the Girls State Interviews @ 1:00pm

Sunday, April 12th, 2020 EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 12th, 2020 Sons of the American Legion will serve breakfast @ 9:30am thru 11:00am

Saturday, April 25th, 2020 Auxiliary serves International Dinner @ 5:30pm thru 7:00pm. Menu to be determined

Sunday, May 10th, 2020 Legionnaires serve breakfast @ 9:30am thru 11:00am

Saturday, May 23rd, 2020 Auxiliary serves International Dinner @ 5:30pm thru 7:00pm. Menu to be determined

The members are collecting items for the National Baby Shower held at Washington DC VA Medical Center for the 25 expecting mothers. The date to be determined.

Time is moving fast and so will be planning on Honor Flights to begin again in April and May, also planning for Run to the Thunder.

Come by the post, visit with the members and plan on attending the meetings.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Sandra K. Price
UNIT PRESIDENT

From the Adjutant

The American Legion is chartered by Congress as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. "Service" is our middle name. The American Legion's family spends many hours serving 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 spend much time in many programs for youth and veterans that include Challenger Baseball, Little League Baseball, oratorical contest, boys and girls state, Legacy Scholarship Fund, Honor Guard, Heroes to Hometowns, Cadet Law Enforcement Academy, and many others too numerous to list. The point is that WE do what we say and spend the time doing it.

The American Legion is required by Congress to report what it does nationally. The National American Legion asks its Departments through local Posts to report their respective activities. The Consolidated Post Report is filed each year. It details what activities our Post is involved in; how much time we spend in those activities and how much money we spend.

I encourage you to get involved with the American Legion, Auxiliary, ALR or SAL beyond just paying your dues. But we need to know what you're doing. If you spend time, miles or money in a program that can be linked to your membership with the American Legion, please report your time and effort. You can send that information to the Post Adjutant at bjhime1@aim.com. Our total membership of nearly three million, but your dues are not enough. Post 177 is blessed with many resources, 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 putting in the effort. Please join me in stepping up in whatever way you can to offer your service to the American Legion. Again, report your effort to bjhime1@aim.com

Brad Watkins
Adjutant

Post Everlasting

Charles H
Attmanspacher

Avon R Blevins

Donald E Boyd

James N Coates

Casto J DeBiasi

Leo L Enterline

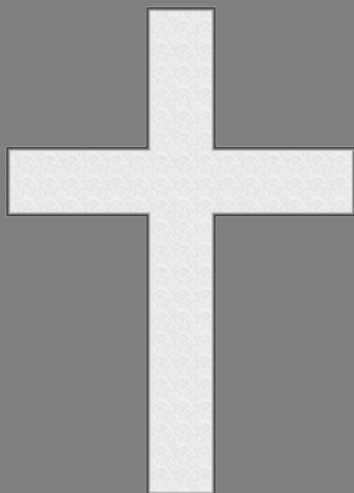
Ronald C Lemnah

Frank D Marcinkowski

John P McAnaw

Earl W Riley

Martin J Williams



SICK CALL

Send Sick Call
notices to

info
@fairfaxpost177.org

Item #1.

The following motion was made at the January 14, 2020 Corporate Board Meeting, with the understanding that it shall be presented to the General Membership during the February 12., March 11, and April 8 meetings for informational purposes, and be voted upon on May 13, 2020.

Motion moved by Tony Osborne, seconded by Jeff White and passed unanimously. It stated that:

"The General Membership authorizes the Corporate Board to sell the Buckman Road property at the best value they can obtain."

To become effective the General Membership must also pass the motion, within the constraints of our Constitution Article XI, Section 5. Acquisitions, Sales, Encumbrances, or Proposals. Please refer to that Article in our Constitution for additional details.

Since it is almost impossible to attain such a 7% quorum at a regular membership meeting, except during the annual meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of May, it is proposed that this motion be placed on the ballot on that day. A motion to that effect shall be moved during the regular membership meeting on April 8, 2020. Placing a motion on the ballot on that day is authorized by By-Laws, Article VII, Section 4, Part3. "Questions that may appear on the Ballot."

This action is required in order to override a previous motion that required the Corporate Board to sell the property at a much higher price; at one time hopefully \$1,000,000. That proved to be speculative for both us and the company that was trying to consolidate and rezone properties in the neighborhood. VDOT is now involved on Route 1, adjacent to our property and that of the consolidator, and if we do not sell it soon, we will be even more at the mercy of VDOT. Should they issue a 'take' our bargaining position will be considerably weakened.

The Corporate Board will obviously obtain the best price it can, but the VDOT assessment will be very likely much lower than what we would like. The Property is currently assessed at \$373,000, down \$50,000 from last year.

Item #2.

The Corporate Board has a cemetery plot available in the City of Fairfax Cemetery. If you, as a veteran, have any interest in it please get in touch with the Corporate Board secretary.

Item #3

• The Post Development Plan was briefed to a working session of the Fairfax City Counsel (7 Jan 20)

• The Post Development Plan was briefed to a working session of the Fairfax City Planning Board. (13 Jan 20)

- Briefing begun with our neighbors and partner using organizations
 - o 21 Jan 20 briefed the Fairfax Host Lions Club
 - o 22 Jan 20 briefed the Historic Fairfax Neighborhood Association (HFNA)
 - o 27 Jan 20 briefed the Mount Vineyard HOA

• All contracts/Work agreements {Toll Brothers, Good Works/TMA Associates & DCS (architects) being fine-tuned.

• Post 177 Member Jule Szabo volunteered to be the head of the committee to search out our temporary operating location, The CB appointed him to this position at its 14 January meeting.

- o We are looking for more volunteers to assist on the committee
- o The committee is also receiving suggestions and ideas regarding space and operations needs for the temporary location

The Corporate Board meeting is Wednesday March 18 @1800

American Legion Riders

Our annual Run to the Thunder event will take place on Memorial Day weekend and Post 177 will again host American Legion Riders from far and wide.

Last year Rolling Thunder announced that 2019 would be the last demonstration Ride that they will hold on the National Capital.

This year the American Veterans (AMVETS) will hold the first National Rolling to Remember Demonstration Ride. There will be several activities throughout Memorial Day weekend and the event will finish with a large motorcycle demonstration ride through DC to raise awareness for the unaccounted POW/MIAs and the national Veteran suicide crisis. It will take the place of the Rolling Thunder ride we have known for so many years.

The American Legion and the American Legion Riders have been identified as one of the organizations that will help support the ride!

We have begun our Planning for Run to the Thunder 2020 and are excited to host American Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary members Nationwide, and support the first National Rolling to Remember Ride.

This is our biggest event of the year and a great opportunity to meet Legionnaires from all over the country. We also plan to continue hosting Gold Star families at our post for the weekend.

More information will be forthcoming, but things will be very similar to our past eight years. There will be a Friday Night Dinner with POW/MIA Ceremony and Guest Speaker, a Saturday Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery, and a very early Sunday morning motorcycle lineup and breakfast. After breakfast we will depart to join up with Ride of the Patriots for their ceremony before departing for the Pentagon Parking Lot.

Please come out and join us for this great event.

Bruce Mersereau

Director

Post 177 ALR



Membership Eligibility Dates

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I)
December 7, 1941 to PRESENT

The passing by Congress and signing by the President of the LEGION Act last July allowed The American Legion to extend eligibility to all honorably discharged and retired Veterans and currently serving members of the US Armed Forces.

Membership applications are available at the Post Home, on the National website www.Legion.org or on our website – www.FairfaxPost177.org





Follow us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/post177.

Our handle is @post177.

#post177

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 7:00 - Exec. Committee Meeting 	5	6 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	7
8 Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 	9	10	11 7:00 - General Membership Meeting	12	13 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	28 SAL Bull & Oyster Roast 1600-1800
29	30	31	Executive Committee Meeting: Mar 4, 1900 2nd Sunday Breakfast - Auxiliary: Mar 8, 0930 General Membership Meeting: Mar 11, 1900 Corporate Board Meeting - March 18, 2020 - 1800 SAL Bull & Oyster Roast 3/28, 1600-1800, \$20 in advance \$25 at thdoor Vietnam War Veterans Day @ Mission BBQ Greenbriar: Mar 29, 1200			

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Executive Committee Meeting: Apr 1, 1900 General Membership Meeting: Apr 8, 1900 2nd Sunday Breakfast - SAL: Apr 12, 0930 Executive Committee Meeting: May 6, 1900 2nd Sunday Breakfast - Legionnaires: May 10, 0930			1 7:00 - Exec. Committee Meeting 	2	3 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	4
5	6	7	8 7:00 - General Membership Meeting	9	10 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	11
12 Breakfast by SAL 	13	14	15	16	17 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	25
26	27	28	29	30	1 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner LAW DAY	2



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.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS
OF THE POST.**

Non-profit
Organization

U.S. Postage

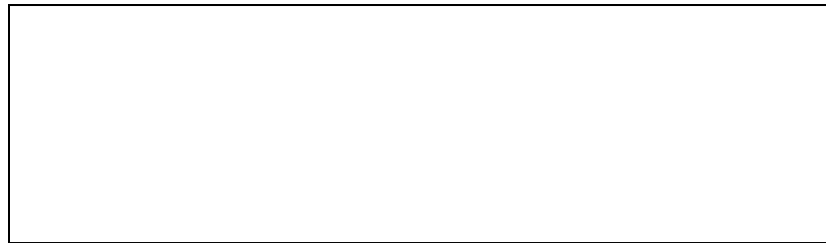
PAID

Fairfax, VA
Permit Number 17

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Email: info@fairfaxpost177.org

The #1 Legion Newsletter in the Nation.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



For God and Country



We're on the Web:
www.FairfaxPost177.org
[www.facebook.com/
LegionPost177](https://www.facebook.com/LegionPost177)
www.twitter.com/post177

Dated Material

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6 7:00 - Exec. Committee Meeting	7	8 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	9
10 Breakfast by Legionnaires 	11	12	13 7:00 - General Membership Meeting 	14	15 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29 5:30 - 8:00 Friday Night Dinner	30
31	General Membership Meeting: May 13, 1900 Post 177 Run to Remember: Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25 AMVETS Rolling to Remember Ride: May 24					