

POST 177



A shot of the Post at the start of the pandemic shut down

THE POST DURING THE PANDEMIC

Our post has survived some pretty significant historical events over the last seven or so decades. Enduring this environment over the last couple months has been a challenge, and thanks to our five full-time essential workers, the Post remains in good standing. RJ's Jeep Liberty in the parking lot is an all-to-familiar sight. Without Doug, Mike, Lynne, RJ and Alvero, our ability for the slightest escape from reality to grab those delightful weekend special dinners, or the occasional breakfasts, we wouldn't have had much else to escape to. From all of us at the Post, thank you guys for keeping the Post going, and giving us the slightest semblance of normalcy over a very bizarre time.



The American Legion Post 177

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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Summer 2020

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Special points of interest

- Kerry Kirk's *A Personal Mission* write-up as a bonus feature.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Since the corona virus pandemic crisis hit the US in March, much has changed in all of our lives. Nearly every event that The American Legion is part of has been cancelled. Honor Flights through 2020 cancelled. Boys State and Girls State 2020 cancelled. National Oratorical Contest cancelled, though we did have Post, District, Regional, and Department contests before everything went down. District Convention, Department Convention, and National Convention cancelled. Only a science fiction writer could have imagined something like this.

Here are some things that weren't cancelled: Your Executive Committee and Corporate Board did not cancel any meetings. We carried on doing the business of the Post without any pause. We learned to use Zoom to hold virtual meetings and relied more on the phone, text, and email than we had in the past. We have also held all regularly scheduled General Membership meetings, again using Zoom. In July we combined Zoom with meeting in-person for the Executive Committee and General Membership meetings and expect to continue that practice for the foreseeable future.

In March we reached out to city and county and state officials asking how we could help in the fight against the virus. Fairfax County Health Dept. asked if they could use our space as a warehouse and receiving location for citizens to donate supplies like masks, gowns, sanitizer, etc. Members of the Medical Reserve Corps have been manning the upstairs ballroom since then to receive and catalog items donated by the public. Legionnaire Tejas Patel, who was elected an Executive Committee Member-at-Large in May, works for Volunteer Fairfax and is our coordinator for the warehouse effort.

We had to close the social quarters for a little while and lay-off employees. We very quickly adapted to a take-out only food and beverage model and were able to change hours and thereby keep our full-time employees employed. Doing so also enabled us to take advantage of the CARES Act passed by congress early on in the crisis. We received a small PPP loan and expect it will be fully forgiven when the covered period is complete. Doug, our Club Manager got creative and came up with the idea for weekend meal boxes as part of our take-out program. These consist of everything you need for a family meal for 4 for a fixed price. We advertised it on our webpage and Facebook group and you had to order ahead of time and choose when to pick it up. It has been a well-received and successful program and we will probably keep it up even as we inch toward what normal used to be.

We were still in phase zero on Memorial Day weekend and so could not have any of the usual Memorial Day events but that didn't keep us from observing the holiday with appropriate ceremony. On Monday, Honor Guard members Gerry Lemnah and Earl Seay joined me on our front lawn at noon to raise the flag back to full staff in accordance with US Code Title 4, The Flag Code. City Councilmember and Legionnaire Sang Yi attended and spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day. Bonnie Hobbs from the Fairfax Connection covered this event and tagged along when we went to Amos Chilton's grave to lay a wreath as we always do on Memorial Day. Here is a link to the Connection story: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/may/30/today-we-honor-those-made-ultimate-sacrifice-fairf/>.

We are now in Phase 3 of the Virginia Covid-19 recovery plan. This means 50% outdoor seating and 50% indoor seating in the social quarters, practicing social distancing, and wearing a face mask except while eating or drinking. The table and chairs have been removed and re positioned in order to comply with the Department of Health requirements. Also, if you come to the club, you must enter your name and phone no. on the contact sheet so if we learn that someone who has been in the Post becomes Covid-19 positive we can alert all who may have been exposed. The virus is still here and as we have seen in reports from other parts of the country it will come back strong if we let our guard down.

Please behave safely so we will all be here and able to enjoy each other's company when the pandemic is over.

For God and Country,
Jeff White, Commander

CORPORATE BOARD REPORT

First and foremost, we hope that you and your family and friends are well as we work on many things that must continue to sustain the American Legion and its mission.

1. The Development Project for the New Post Home is entering the city zoning process.
 - a. Our final drawings include a new Post Home, approximately 16,000 sq. ft, all one floor, an outdoor patio, surface and under ground parking retaining our 139 spaces +/- (+/- is added as we work with Fairfax City Zoning and Elected/Appointed Officials all get a say in the final product). This number is equivalent to our present surfaced parking spaces.
 - b. The project provides for a total replacement/modernization of Chilcott Little League Field.
 - c. Replacing the existing antenna field with a single antenna pole near the left field wall of the ballfield.
 - d. There will be public Zoom Meetings in July and August to share with our community the development of the Post Property.
2. BUCKMAN Rd. Property – Our post has owned a piece of land on the Route 1 Corridor near Fort Belvoir for years. We are in final negotiations with a land development company to sign a lease agreement that will include an option to buy the property. If the contract is signed details will be presented at the July or August General Membership mtg.
3. The Corporate Board is now moving forward to establish a long term (30 years +) financial management plan to support the new Post Home and our mission. Our efforts in the months ahead will be to interview various financial institutions and establish a financial strategy for investment of funds.
4. Financial Performance this past year was on target for revenue and expenses. Final numbers will be reported at the July meeting.
5. Legion Year 2020-2021 Budget. We are finalizing the new budget and will present that for approval at the August meeting. Key line items include fiscal support for Social Quarters as we rebound from the COVID-19, increase in post cleaning services to protect members and guests, support of the development project along with our normal expenditures for the upkeep of the POST.
6. Your Post 177 Corporate Members for Legion Year 2020-2021 are: Jonathan Thacher, President, Gary Welschenbach, Secretary, Tony Osborne, Treasurer, Rand Gaber & Hank Waters, Co-Chairs Building & Grounds, John Kinzel, Russ Combs, and Commander Jeff White. Additionally, Hank Waters is the Program Manager for the Post Development Project.

Please be safe, wear a face mask and Please respect social distancing.

Post Officers

Post Commander

Jeffrey White

703-591-0298

JWhite@FairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Gary Mesaris

mesaris@verizon.net

2nd Vice Commander

Joe Schmidt

2ndvice@fairfaxpost177.org

3rd Vice Commander

Reid Griffin

Adjutant

Rich Strauss

Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick

Chaplain

Joseph Boyle

Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price

Service Officer

Tony Poulin

Judge Advocate

Tony Osborne

Historian

Earl Seay

Executive Committee Members at Large

Russ Combs

Tejas Patel

Corporate Board

John Kinzel

Rand Gaber

Jonathan Thatcher

Gary Welschenbach

Hank Waters

Tony Osborne

Russ Combs

SAL Squadron 177

Jim Price, Commander

American Legion Post 177

Riders

Tom Pike, Director

Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra Price, President

Post 177 General Email

Info.@fairfaxpost177.org

New Members

Bradley L. Bowman

Stephen A. Bucher

John H. Grimes

Marta I. Nazario

Michael G. Nicholas

Tejas Patel

Michael Semenec, Jr.

Jack L. Sine II

Chester R. Smith, Jr.

Luzanne G. Trotter

Harry D. Croft

James Minor

Mark A. Ritter

Harvey Wells, Jr.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS NEWS

Covid-19 is requiring us to wear masks, wear gloves, and keep at least six feet apart; sounds perfect for a bunch of motorcycle riders.

While Covid-19 it has shut down Run to the Thunder and Honor Flights, it hasn't stopped the Legion Riders from riding.

As the craziness started on March 20th we hopped on our bikes and rode down into DC to see the Cherry Blossoms. They were in full bloom. Then maintaining proper social distancing we rode over to the neighborhood of Kenwood, MD where they have over 1,500 Cherry Trees lining the neighborhood.



On March 18th we lead a parade of over 250 vehicles past the home of "Fred" on his 100th birthday. Fred was a veteran of WWII and Korea.



Legion Rider Tom Pike leads the Parade.



Fred looks pretty happy

In May the Legion riders held their annual election. Tom Pike was elected as Director, Huet Landry as Assistant Director, Forrest Lingenfelter as Secretary, Elsie Mersereau as Treasurer, Wilbur Scales as Sgt at Arms, Nate Compton as Chaplain, and Bruce Mersereau as Road Captain/Safety Officer. Congratulations to the new ALR executive board members.

What was once known as Rolling Thunder, and is now called Rolling To Remember, was canceled for 2020, but the organizers called on riders to make a 22 mile motorcycle ride on May 24th to raise awareness of veteran suicide. Post 177 was joined by Post 176 and some others, but we couldn't do just 22 miles. We planned a route of eight legs, each about 22 miles. Then at the last minute we heard about Ed Meshuock. Ed worked with the Johnny Apple Seed Association, a trade school that helps veterans and others in need gain skills for higher paying jobs. Ed has been diagnosed with cancer and it doesn't look good. So we interrupted our ride and joined a large group of veteran riders and car clubs to swing by Ed's house and wish him well. Then we went back to our scheduled ride.

Most of you already know the American Legion Riders are big supporters and fund raisers for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Legion Riders of Post 177 raise money on Memorial Day Weekend by hosting Legion Riders from around the country. Most of you already know the American Legion Riders are big supporters and fund raisers for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Legion Riders of Post 177 raise money on Memorial Day Weekend by hosting Legion Riders from around the country. Unfortunately the Covid-19 virus put a stop on our big weekend. The American Legion has canceled their annual convention, and the national Legacy Run. That leaves only the Virginia Department still having their In State Legacy Run on July 16, 17, and 18. So several members of Post 177 ALR will make the nearly 600 mile ride around Virginia raising awareness of the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

As social distancing requirements are lowered and we can begin to gather again look forward to seeing more of the riders ever popular booze raffles to help raise money for the Legacy Fund.

Ride Safe
Tom Pike



Post Everlasting

Charles H. Attmanspacher

Patrick E. Russell

Arthur O. Schlosser

Benjamin F. Wiles

Rand Gaber

Honorary Life Members

William Anderson

Alvin Doehring

Edward Heitchew

Michael Kimlick

George Lamborn

Anthony Osborne

John Price

Robert Sussan

Sick Call

Miscellaneous

Thank you to **Weber Tire** in Fairfax City for donating new tires for our trailer. Because of them we were able then to use the trailer for the City of Fairfax Fourth of July Wave Parade.

Also now we will use the trailer for the Lions Club Labor Day Car Show parade by having some Color Guard members on board with flags. Watch for info on this in the City Scene from Fairfax.

And by the way Weber Tire is offering a 5% discount on all products and services to Post 177 family members.

Ashburn Chase is a Luxury Affordable Tax Credit Apartment Community located in Ashburn, Virginia. This community has a Veteran Preference and is currently accepting applications for Mid-October Move-ins. The community does income minimums and

A PERSONAL MISSION

By Kerry D. Kirk

All veterans of military service know what it means to have a mission. The idea of having a central, guiding purpose and then deliberately striving to accomplish your objective is foundational to the military ethos. When we wore the cloth of our country you could say we didn't exactly have to wonder too much just what we were aiming to do and what we were about.

Veterans also know that the accomplishment of any mission is highly correlated with the clarity of the objectives and the communication of the particulars. This is what enabled everyone in the unit to understand properly their role and to act accordingly.

So, what does the warrior do when the "battle is over", when our service is completed and our beloved uniform has been replaced with civilian clothes? When a DD-214 is now stashed away in a desk drawer and a shadow-box of memorabilia hangs on our wall reminding us of when "we were someone" and things really just kind of mattered?

You probably remember when you left the service. Aside from perhaps some initial elation, soon enough you might have felt that life isn't quite as cut and dried as it once was. In a way, mission, purpose and meaning had come to us pre-packaged. It was easy and useful to identify ourselves with the group, with the "tribe". Then, you find yourself having to redefine mission and meaning in unfamiliar territory; such as the private sector, the neighborhood, even in our own homes. In short, many of us were faced for the first time with the task of defining our mission *personally*. As "I/me" not as a member of the U.S. military service.

It is in this personal realm that I share with you a simple acronym that I lit upon many years ago and found to be a very powerful tool. Acronyms are ubiquitous in the military. They are very handy ways to call to mind any number of matters of significance (not to mention a few matters of humor and insignificance!)

I decided to see what use I could make of the word mission itself.

I picked the first four letters. M-I-S-S. MISS-ion. In surprisingly short order, four words arose in my mind as useful categorical representatives for each letter: Moral, Intellectual, Social, Spiritual. These words became the four foundation stones, the legs of the proverbial stool, to help guide my post-military personal growth and continued sense of purpose.

Each leg of the "mission stool" is summarized below at a very high level:

M- Moral development – How can I be a better person than I was yesterday? What am I doing that I shouldn't be? What am I not doing that I should be? Can I find a new home with a group that works this space? Church, Knights of Columbus, Freemasonry, Salvation Army...

I - Intellectual development – How can I pursue fresh content to keep my mind sharp and renewing? What fields of knowledge have I never really examined that could serve my growth? What new tricks can the old dog learn?

S - Social development – How can I better relate to my family, friends, new civilian colleagues and strangers? Am I going through the routines of life without truly living in the present with others? Can the American Legion and/or VFW play a key part in my staying connected to meaning and purpose socially? How can my own networking and social activity create and expand opportunities that serve me and others?

S - Spiritual development – How do I view and process personal value and purpose in the face of matters of ultimate concern like certain death? Can I learn to embrace the ambiguity of my future path and live fully in the questions that daily present themselves, knowing that a benevolent spirit abides with me?

Naturally, the MISS-ion you develop will be your own. The questions, the path and ultimate answers will be your own. But this “personal MISS-ion” acronym provides a convenient and robust framework for pursuing this exercise. Give it a shot!

Kerry D. Kirk is a Managing Director at Cambridge Associates and is founder of KDK WriteWorks a freelance writing & editing service. Kerry serves on many nonprofit boards including the Northern Virginia Veterans Association. He is a Marine Corps veteran and a proud Legionnaire at American Legion Post 177.

2ND VICE COMMANDER

All, it has been a pleasure to be a member of this Post for the last two years. I feel like there is so always so much going on, and I really enjoy the ability to volunteer where I can, and if I can't, it's ok too. I took notice to the fact that I generally needed to be at the Post enjoying a frothy beverage to learn of these opportunities. Something tells me I'm not the only member with that mindset. I asked to be in the role of 2nd Vice in order to be able to share these opportunities to all of you as well.

I ask you all to give me the opportunity to serve, and if you know of a side project, or a sub-committee meeting or anything that may be going on just give me a heads up so I can get the word out. I am very passionate about communication, and as much as I'd like to be, I can't be at the Post every day prying into what volunteer opportunities are available. If you have a Facebook account, and haven't joined yet, join the *Members Of American Legion Post 177*. Lynne is very good about posting the daily menu, we can either share in camaraderie we're missing in this odd environment virtually, but more importantly I plan to use it to push out information that's pushed to me.

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming months, and thanks again for this opportunity.

For God and Country,
Joe Schmidt
Post 177, 2nd Vice Commander
Joe.ch46@gmail.com

Miscellaneous

maximums. For more information contact their Leasing Center at 703.713.5678 or ash-burnchase@tmamgroup.com. Please make sure to let the Leasing Consultant know you are a Veteran.

Announcements

- We are currently operating in Phase III of reopening and require face masks.
- To-Go food continues to be available for purchase.
- We are currently having hybrid meetings-meaning you may attend in person or join us on Zoom. Meals cannot be served currently. If you wish to join via Zoom email your info to the Post Commander.
- We now have 2 vacancies in the post Leadership. One (of 3) Member-at-Large position on the Executive Committee (1 year term), and a Corporate Board Member to fill the rest of Rand Gaber's 3 year term. Interested Legionnaires should contact the Commander at jwhite@fairfaxpost177.org or Corp. Bd. Secretary at Welschenbach@cox.net. Our organization needs volunteer leaders in order to function.

AUXILLARY NEWS

Greetings,

As most of you are already aware, the auxiliary doesn't meet during July and August, but our next meeting will hopefully be in September. The Department Convention is being held through zoom, and those of you who expressed a desire to attend will be notified by the Department President, Dr. Lisa Chaplain. I hope this finds everyone in good health.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Hello everyone, my name is Jim Price. I am very honored to the Squadron 177 Commander. I would like to say thank you all veterans for your service and our freedom to live our lives as we choose. Also to our front line workers and first responders, Thank You for taking care of us and protecting us in these trying times we are living in.

We will be looking out for any opportunities to host some events when it is safe to do so. I look forward to seeing you all around the post, hopefully in the not so distant future. If anyone has any questions or input for our squadron feel free to call me or send an email.

Thanks,

Jim Price

571-237-7597

Squadron 177 Commander

Jpmustang1967@yahoo.com



August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Ex Comm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Gen Mem	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ex Comm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Gen Mem	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Ex Comm	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Gen Mem	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29




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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS OF THE POST.

"The #1 Legion newsletter in the Nation!"

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WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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