

# POST 177

## LEGION NEWS



Riders stage at American Legion Post 177 Memorial Day Weekend, 2018.

Run to the Thunder is Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, 2022. The Post 177 American Legion Riders Run to the Thunder mission is to provide a friendly atmosphere for our brothers and sisters-in-arms, and to offer escorted rides, meals, and other activities over the weekend. On Sunday morning of Memorial Day Weekend, our plan is to link up with "Ride of the Patriots" in Fairfax, Virginia. From there, we'll be escorted to join the "Rolling to Remember" rally point at RFK Stadium in Washington DC.



### The American Legion Post 177

3939 Oak Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

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

*FOR GOD AND COUNTRY*

**May/June/July 2022**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Post 177 Family!

It's election time again. In this newsletter you will find slates of candidates for the Auxiliary on p 8, the SAL on p 9, and the Legion on p 10. There are statements from some of the candidates on p 4, 5, 8, and 9. There are 2 nominees for Legionnaire of the Year and their proclamations are on p 7.

For the Legion we will have early electronic voting by email this year like we did last year. Voting will start at 1900 on Wednesday 4 May 2022 and end at 2400 on Tuesday 10 May 2022. If you do not vote early, you may vote in person at the Post on 11 May 2022 from 0800 until 1900.

We are using an online voting platform called *election runner*. You will receive an email labeled from "TAL Post 177". The email address it comes from will be [noreply@electionrunner.com](mailto:noreply@electionrunner.com). You should make sure that this email address is in your email address book to ensure that the invitation to vote does not go into your spam folder. The subject line will begin "Your Invitation to Vote in the Election:"

If we have an email address for you on file you should receive an email with details about the email voting process by 25 April. If you have not received such an email then we don't have an email for you and you will have to vote in person on 11 May or register for email voting by sending an email to [votingregistration@fairfaxpost177.org](mailto:votingregistration@fairfaxpost177.org) with "register to vote" in the subject line and your name and member ID number as it is printed on your card in the body.

Events coming up include Memorial Day weekend when we will be hosting Riders from all over for ALR 177 Run to Thunder. This includes expanded Friday night dinner and a BBQ by our SAL Squadron on Saturday afternoon as well as special organized rides. We are doing a joint memorial day program with VFW 8469 at Old Town Square in Fairfax on Monday, Memorial Day. We will have some flyers out at the post and on the website and Facebook.

At the March General Membership meeting a resolution was introduced endorsing me for the honor of Post Commander of the Year for the 17th District and for the Department of Virginia. It was approved unanimously. I am honored and humbled by this expression of confidence given to me by the Membership. I will certainly be honored if the district and the Department gives me such an award but the fact that you, fellow members of Post 177, put me forward for it means the world to me. Thank you.

For God and Country,  
Jeff White, Commander

# CORPORATE BOARD NOTES

Spring and Summer greetings to all, hoping this finds each one of you, your families and friends continuing to be safe and healthy, as we work on many things that must continue to sustain the American Legion and its mission.

The development project Continues its regrouping to resolve City Council commentary on unit density of the project as presented. To date we can get no traction and any discussions with Council Members as to what the appropriate density would be. They have no response. Our present proposal is centering on Fifteen (15) units per acre. Very heartbreaking as Breezeway was just approved with a Density in the mid/high fourteens, and previously approved projects in the City of Fairfax were approved with the following numbers as density: Mt Vineyard 21.6, Moxley 48, Northfax 22.3, Paul the VI 16.12, Scout on the Circle 40.7, Moxley 48.4, and Capstone Collective 45. A question is should we just remodel/renovate/upgrade the present facility or build a standalone Post. This was part of the evaluation when the membership approved the current project, under the following conditions The Post had to remain financially sound through any project that was decided upon Second over three years ago the estimated cost of renovation/remodel was \$3.5 M ~, This would entail a loan of 10-15K per month payment. This also entails that once you put a hammer to a wall for this upgrade you must now meet the building codes and the all the ADA accessibility rules of today vice where we are with our 1965 standards. Additionally the cost of building a Standalone Post Home was estimate at 5-5.5M incurring a monthly payment of 20-25K per month. The CB income sources are used to pay all the utilities, repairs to the facility and equipment, equipment purchases, insurance as, well as numerous other monthly annual costs. Once these obligations are met there is not a quantity large enough to pay either of these mortgage payments.

Hopefully this information was helpful. Please ask questions of your ExCom or CB members to keep abreast of the financial Stability of your Social Quarters. Remember the goal given to the CB was with any type of upgrade or development of the Post was to be Financially Stable Forever. The CB as you are aware is not undertaking any major building maintenance or repair upgrading of the Post at present time has continued do unscheduled maintenance and repairs as required; through April of this Legion year it has spent over \$62.5k

BUCKMAN Rd. Property – As you know, we now signed a lease agreement that will include an option to buy this property. Appears to be on track for sale. The Corporate Board is meeting in person and offering a ZOOM alternative. Upcoming meetings are Thursday May 5, June 2, July 7 starting at 7PM.

Please be safe, wear a face mask and Please respect social distancing and you are encouraged to get a vaccination.

**Secretary Gary Welschenbach**

## Post Officers

### Post Commander

Jeffrey White

703-591-0298

JWhite@FairfaxPost177.org

### 1st Vice Commander

Gerry Lemnah

glemnah@yahoo.com

### 2nd Vice Commander

Joe Schmidt

Joe.ch46@gmail.com

### 3rd Vice Commander

Reid Griffin

### Adjutant

Jason Mann

### Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick

### Chaplain

Kerry Kirk

### Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price

### Service Officer

Tony Poulin

### Judge Advocate

Tony Osborne

### Historian

Earl Seay

### Executive Committee Mem-

#### bers at Large

Russ Combs

Tejas Patel

Bruce Mersereau

### Corporate Board

Jonathan Thatcher

Tom Pike

Hank Waters

Gary Welschenbach

Jule Szabo

John Kinzel

Anthony Osborne

### Sons of the American Legion

Jim Price, Commander

### American Legion Post 177

#### Riders

Tom Pike, Director

### American Legion Post 177

#### Auxiliary

Sandra Price, President

## First Vice Commander

You guys and gals are great. We have as of this writing reached 102.71% of our quota for the year. We could not have reached this lofty goal without you, our members, who have renewed your memberships, and who have invited your friends into our social quarters and invited those people to either join our post or transfer their Legion membership into our post. We still have quite a few members on the books who have not renewed their membership. If you know of someone who you haven't seen in awhile please remind them to check their membership card to make sure they have renewed for 2022. Thank you for all your efforts.

Gerry Lemnah

## Second Vice Commander

Hello all!

I'm sad to say this will be my last newsletter as your Second Vice Commander. With a growing family, pursuit of a graduate school degree, and a job taking that same growing family to California (for real this time); it is time to step down and pass on the reigns.

When I stepped in for Rich Strauss, I was excited to get into it and see how the "sausage was made" as Kerry Kirk says. The pandemic was at its peak with no end in sight. This post has been a home away from home for many including me. It has been nothing short of amazing to see it endure the challenges the pandemic brought on and persevere like nothing ever happened. Just about all of my great memories over the last two years took place in this building.

Thank you for being so loyal, so able to brighten my day, and so welcoming to this outsider from Philly.

Best wishes,  
Joe Schmidt  
Second Vice Commander

## ELECTION NOMINEE CANDIDATES

### **FINANCE OFFICER:**

#### **MIKE KIMLICK—Re-election of Michael Kimlick as Post Finance Officer**

I served in the Marine Corps for 23 years retiring as a LtCol. Has been an American Legion member for 15 years. My Legion experience holding include positions at the Post, District and Department Level.

As the Finance Officer I put in place a structure and deliberate planning approach. For the Donations Budget, a deliberate planning process was established to prioritize our donation spending with the emphasis on assistance to members and being veteran focused. The process developed into establishing the Post Donation's Committee. This established a process to review, validate, prioritize, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval by General Membership. This ensured return on investment by making contributions that put the Post in a positive image to attract new members.

I believe my well-rounded experience in the American Legion, not only in the District and Department level, as well as a member of both the Executive Committee and Corporate Board will serve the Post as value added. I view the role of Finance Officer to be a good steward of the Post's financial status, provide oversight and keep the members informed of the financial health of our Post. With this information, the members can make informed decisions.

I ask for your vote in the coming election to continue to serve as your Finance Officer.

Sincerely,  
Mike Kimlick

### **FINANCE OFFICER:**

#### **HANK WATERS**

The Post Finance officer election is here. My wife asked me "why would anyone would want to serve as the Finance officer? After all, the pay is terrible and the job is relentless. We operate a 200k, payroll and somewhere around 1 million in revenue each year. At this scale of fiscal operations a budget, fiscal planning and accurate forecasting are necessary. I offer 25+ years of financial operations in a variety of industries. We face a future that requires better fiscal plans and operations. We need to understand the impacts of our actions, and project our fiscal health each year. Be more than a report each month that we have money in the checking account.

I ask for your vote to establish fiscal management that reports our performance both in the past and into the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
Henry "Hank" Waters



## New Members

Joel Miller  
Kenneth Whiteside  
Victoria Hulick  
Richard M Wernli  
Colin H Dorrity  
Thomas Lee  
Rafael E. Marcial  
Dwight L Yarbrough

## Honorary Life Members

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

# ELECTION NOMINEE CANDIDATES

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE: BRUCE MERSEREAU**

Fellow Legionnaires, my name is Bruce Mersereau, and I am running for Member at Large in the upcoming Post elections. I have served in this position this past year and would like to continue to serve the post as a Member at Large.

I served in the US Army for 30 years from 1984 to 2014. I have been an active member of Post 177 for 11 years. I am also an active member of the Post 177 American Legion Riders. I have served in several officer positions in the Riders including five years as the Director, two years as the Assistant Director and three years as the Chaplain and I am the current Safety Officer/Road Captain. I am also a member of the Sons of the American Legion as my father served in WWII. My wife, Elsie is an active member of the Post 177 Auxiliary and the Riders. Together we have supported many Post 177 events over the years and look forward to supporting many more in the years to come.

Please consider voting for me for the Member at Large position in the next election.

Thank you  
For God and Country  
Bruce

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE: KERRY D. KIRK**

I respectfully ask for your support to fill one of the three Member-at-Large seats of our Executive Committee.

Being an effective Member-at-Large is consistent with my interest and experience. I have held leadership positions at several nonprofit organizations and still do including serving on the Board of the Northern Virginia Veterans Association, the Board of the VMI Foundation and an Advisory Council to the GMU Center for Well Being. I am a Past Chair of the Board of the historic Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22. Professionally, I have been a management consultant to nationally prominent organizations for 27 years. I earned my bachelor's degree at the Virginia Military Institute and my master's degree at the University of Virginia. I also hold the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

My service was in the U.S. Marine Corps (8 ½ years) during which I was deployed to 4 continents. After joining Post 177 I have been a near daily visitor to the Social Quarters. But the programs of the Legion are of great interest to me. Thus far, I have participated or helped with the Oratorical Contest, Boy's State, the Four Chaplain's Service, the District 17 Spring Conference, Honor Flights and a Memorial Service. In the past two years I've recruited more than 10 new Legionnaires to our Post. Currently I'm serving as Post Chaplain. Overall, I think I can be a solid and faithful contributor of ideas to the Post as successfully perform any duties assigned to the At Large members. Thank you for your consideration.

# LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

## Proclamation Honoring Gerald Lemnah as Legionnaire of the Year 2021-2022

**Whereas:** **Gerald Lemnah**, a United States Air Force veteran in the American Legion, has worked tirelessly on behalf of Post 177 of The American Legion during this past year from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; and

**Whereas:** ‘Gerry’ has been a member of Post 177 for 24 continuous years; and

**Whereas:** He assisted 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commanders Sean Hodgson (2017-2018) and Gary Mesaris (2019-2020) with processing memberships including looking up member status, entering data in the Post database and paper roster, completing renewal cards and mailing to members; and

**Whereas:** He used the national database, “MyLegion.org”, for processing and paying for memberships before the new version was rolled out in April 2021; and

**Whereas:** He was elected to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander in May 2021 and in that position guided Post 177 through the very rocky roll out of the new MyLegion.org membership processing platform; and

**Whereas:** He has achieved 100% of Post 177’s 2022 Departmental membership goal for the first time since 2014!; and

**Whereas:** Gerry has stepped up to fill in for the Post Commander to chair meetings and welcome guests on his and the Post’s behalf; and

**Whereas:** He has been a member of the Post 177 Honor Guard as well as the District 17 Honor Guard for over ten years; and

**Whereas:** He has participated in District meetings and other American Legion events including the Department Spring Conference; **Therefore, Be It So**

**Resolved:** That Legionnaire **Gerald Lemnah** should be honored as **Legionnaire of the Year 2021-2022** and be so duly elected by the Post Members at the Annual election in May 2022.

## Proclamation Nominating Hank Waters as Legionnaire of the Year for 2021-22

**WHEREAS,** Hank Waters is a United States Army Veteran who has been a member of the American Legion Post 177 for 11 years; and

**WHEREAS,** he has completed four years on the Post 177 Corporate Board of Directors holding various volunteer positions: and

**WHEREAS,** he has during these timeframes he has taken on the updating of the safety and operational inspections of the antenna field, as well as negotiating a new two-year lease for the antenna field; and transmitting room; and

**WHEREAS,** prior to his election to the Corporate Board and hence he has completed and Chaired six and one-half years on the Post 177 Building Initiatives Committee, whose mission was to research and develop possibilities for the Post Home thirty years from now: and

**WHEREAS,** in this position he led the BIC committee through the process of establishing the needs, the wants and all the requirements for a Post Home of the future that fulfills the mission of Post 177 and the values and ideals of The American Legion; and

**WHEREAS,** in this same leadership role, he took the committee thru numerous tasks of overseeing the search for appropriate developer to put our OAK St properties in a position to be financially stable forever and provide for the veterans of the future; and

**WHEREAS,** Hanks Waters personifies the ideal of “devotion to mutual helpfulness” as written in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** during the Post 177 Executive Committee Meeting on 6 April 2022, that Hank Waters be nominated for the honor of Legionnaire of the Year and that his name be placed on the ballot in Post 177’s May 2022 election.



## Post Everlasting

Duthard Butler  
Phillip Franklin  
Daniel Grossman  
Ralph Kerrick  
Bill Opfer  
James Sabatino  
John Unkle  
Gary Williams  
David Field

## ELECTION NOMINEE CANDIDATES

### SECOND VICE COMMANDER:

#### **Eric Parkhurst**

As a member of Post 177 for several years, I have sat in the background enjoying all that the post has to offer. I feel it's time to give back to our great post!

More than 30 years experience in the Information Technology field allows me to bring technology and experience to the many challenges of insuring our members are fully informed at all times. I am dedicated and committed to providing communications in many different media and print so no one misses anything at our Post. I look forward to building on the foundation our current 2nd Vice Commander, Joe Schmidt, has started with the various means of communication including the newsletter, web site and social media. My goal is to not only enhance the communication methods that we already have in place, but to add other means of communication that meets the needs of all of our members, tech-savvy or not.

-Eric

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings!

Spring has sprung, the flowers are blooming. The deadline issued by department, April 15th, 2022; for are annual unit reports was met. In our April meeting the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2022-2023

**President: Sandy Price**

**Vice President: Jessica Rodgers**

**Secretary/Treasurer: Arlene Price**

**Chaplain: Karen Hauck**

**Sergeant at Arms: Susan Snyder**

**Executive Committee: Elsie Mersereau**

We will once again be distributing poppies during Memorial Day weekend at the post and in front of Patriot's Harley Davidson. We will also be serving coffee and donuts to the riders of Run to the Thunder.

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend!

For God and Country,

Sandra K. Price, Unit President



# ELECTION NOMINEE CANDIDATES

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE: LARRY SNYDER**

I have been an American Legion member of Post 177 for 35 years. I have served as Judge Advocate, 3rd Vice Commander, and Corporate Board Treasurer.

I am retired Federal Narcotics Officer. Since I am retired I can contribute the time needed for the betterment of our Post. My wife was an officer in the Auxiliary for 5 years.

I would appreciate your vote.

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Hello everyone, I hope you and your families are well.

I would like to announce our Squadron 177 slate of officers.

Commander- Jim Price

1st Vice Commander- Jerry Miller

2nd Vice Commander- Craig Pinto

Adjutant- Bucky Weaver

Finance Officer- Jimmy Handlon

Chaplain- Mark Briley

Historian- Sparky Cooksey

Sgt @ Arms- Bryan Rodgers

Thank You to all Veterans, first responders and frontline workers.

You all continue to give us the freedom and security to live our lives as we want.

I want to send a big Thank You to all of our Legion Family members that came out to volunteer at our last SAL Sunday breakfast. I hope to see you all at next months breakfast.

If you would like to learn more about the American Legion Family, I would encourage you to get involved. Please come out to a general membership meeting on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm.

If you have not already, please pay your 2022 membership dues. Remember to leave updated information when you do so that we can keep our records up to date. Phone number, email, mailing address and whether you want your card mailed out or left at the social quarters for pick up. Our SAL dues are \$35 for regular members, \$15 for dual members and members under 18 years of age.

Let us never forget the sacrifices our military personnel and law enforcement have made for us.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. God Bless

Thanks,

Jim Price

Squadron 177 Commander

571-237-7597

[Jpmustang1967@gmail.com](mailto:Jpmustang1967@gmail.com)

## Announcements

4 May: Executive Committee meeting @ 1900

5 May: Corporate Board Meeting @1900

8 May: 2nd Sunday Breakfast by Legionnaires, 0930-1100

11 May: in-person voting from 0800-1900. General Membership meeting @ 1900

27-29 May: Run to Thunder weekend

30 May: Memorial Day event with VFW 8469 at Old Town Square, Fairfax @ 1030

1 June: Executive Committee meeting @ 1900

2 June: Corporate Board Meeting @1900

8 June: General Membership meeting @ 1900

12 June: 2nd Sunday Breakfast by Auxiliary 0930-1100

12 June: 17th District Convention @ Post 177 1230-1530

4 July: Independence Day

6 July: Executive Committee meeting @ 1900

7 July: Corporate Board Meeting @1900

13 July: General Membership meeting @ 1900

14-17 July: Department of Virginia Convention.

## Post 177 Slate of Officers for 2022-2023

COMMANDER: Jeff White\*

ADJUTANT: Jason Mann\*

1st VICE COMMANDER: Gerry Lemnah\*

2nd VICE COMMANDER: Eric Parkhurst

3rd VICE COMMANDER: Brian Burns  
Reid Griffin\*

CHAPLAIN: Max Hazel II

FINANCE OFFICER: Mike Kimlick\*  
Hank Waters

HISTORIAN: Earl Seay\*

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Tony Osborne\*

SERGEANT-at-ARMS: John Price\*

SERVICE OFFICER: Tony Poulin\*

MEMBER AT LARGE: Kerry Kirk  
Bruce Mersereau\*  
Tejas Patel\*  
Larry Snyder

*Vote for up to 3*

CORPORATE BOARD: Jule Szabo\*  
Jon Thacher\*  
Gary Welschenbach\*

*Vote for up to 3*

LEGIONNAIRE of the YEAR: Gerry Lemnah  
Hanks Waters

*\* indicates incumbent*

# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 ExCom 1900	5	6	7
8 BREAKFAST	9	10	11 Gen Mem Meeting 1900	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 ALR Run to the Thunder
29 ALR Run to the Thunder	30 Memorial Day	31				

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ExCom 1900	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Gen Mem Meeting 1900	9	10	11
12 BREAKFAST	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Juneteenth (Observed)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Happy Birth-day America	5	6 ExCom 1900	7	8	9
10 BREAKFAST	11	12	13 Gen Mem Meeting 1900	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30




3939 Oak Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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 [@fairfaxpost177](https://www.instagram.com/fairfaxpost177)

Legion News is published quarterly 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.**

*"The #1 Legion newsletter in the Nation!"*

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**WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!**



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**FAMILY**

