

# POST 177 LEGION NEWS



The American Legion  
Post 177

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*FOR GOD AND COUNTRY*

**May/June/July 2024**



American Legion Riders Post 177 Deliver lunch in Washington, DC to the Houston Honor Flight, 20 April 2024.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Throughout April, Post 177 hosted three Honor Flights; Southwest/Central Virginia, Houston, and Alaska. It is an honor to serve these veterans by providing dinner and entertainment after a long day of travel and visiting monuments, museums, and memorials. I am especially proud of the many folks that serve our Honor Flights including the Post 177 Honor Guard, the members that come out to greet the Honor Flight as they arrive and the Vienna Falls Chorus providing entertainment. Our staff goes above and beyond to provide a great meal and service to make the Honor Flight's visit an evening to remember.

Look forward to additional activities in the Social Quarters. Super Saturdays begin May 11, 2024. At least one Saturday each month will be Super Saturday with something different such as entertainment and games each event. May 11, Tim Anderson will perform 5:00-8:00pm. Tim, a Post 177 member, will provide an evening of acoustic guitar covering your favorite tunes from across the decades. If you have a talent or idea that you would like to donate your time to host a Super Saturday, please reach out to Third Vice Brian Burns for more info and scheduling.

This edition of the Newsletter is the election edition. Please review the ballot and consider your options to elect the 2024-2025 Officers and Corporate Board Committee members. Candidates running in contested positions were offered the opportunity to share a short campaign bio. Those candidates that provided statements are published on page 6. The elected officers and committee members will guide the post through the 2024-2025 Legion year through many important items and decisions.

The next three months will be busy months around the Post as we transition from Spring to summer. Memorial Day is our next big weekend as we host riders from across the country at our home for the weekend. We'll kick off the weekend with Friday Night Dinner. Saturday, the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 177 will host a BBQ. Early Sunday morning, riders will stage in the front parking lot to ride to Patriot Harley and join the Ride of the Patriots. We'll wrap up the weekend with a joint Memorial Day Service with VFW Post 8469 in the upstairs banquet room Monday at 10:30 am.

There will be many other activities and events going on at the Post throughout the summer. The July 4th parade will be here before you know it! Stay tuned on social media, Post 177 web site and text blasts so you don't miss out on anything.

For God and Country,  
**Eric Parkhurst, Commander**

# First Vice Commander

We are almost at the end of our renewal year. We are at 98% of quota and only need a few more members to renew their memberships to reach our goal of 920 members. I want to thank all of our members who have already renewed their memberships. It is much appreciated. Don't forget you can renew at our current dues rate of \$40 for 3 years even if you have already renewed for 2024 and save yourself \$15. You will have to renew online to get this discount. Yes you guessed it, National is raising the dues by \$5 beginning in the 2025 renewal year which begins in July of 2024.

For God and Country

**Gerry Lemnah, First Vice Commander**

## CORPORATE BOARD NOTES

The Corporate Board continues to keep up with the repairs around the Post home and grounds. We are over budget for these repairs by 12 percent with three months left in the Legion Fiscal year. What this is leading to is that there will not be any available funds to transfer to the Corporate Trust for the second year in a row. This affects our capability and chances to build, remodel or even upgrade the Post home as those costs continue to rise. The Board has begun the budget building process for the 2024-2025 Legion year starting 1 July, it is planned to have this budget ready for approval at the May General membership meeting.

Tentative meeting dates for Corporate Board through the summer are Thursday May 2, Thursday June 6, Tuesday July 9, and Thursday August 8. All meetings will start at 7:00 pm at the Post Home.

Gary Welschenbach, Corporate Board Secretary

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings

To each and everyone, Jim, Arlene and I wish to express a heartfelt thank you for all the kindness and love shown to us with the passing of John. Sunday's program showed us how the American Legion family can make our members really proud. I know John was so pleased and smiling through the whole program.

Coming up in May we have Memorial Day weekend, Miss Poppy will be distributing the memorial poppy so please be sure to support her, remember the proceeds help our veterans programs.

During the May meeting we will discuss the slate of officers for 2024-2025. Remember installation is scheduled for June. Auxiliary does not meet in July or August, enjoy the summer and stay safe!

For God and Country,

Sandy Price, Unit President

## Post Officers

### Post Commander

Eric Parkhurst

703-254-8375

Commander@FairfaxPost177.org

### 1st Vice Commander

Gerry Lemnah

gleannah@yahoo.com

### 2nd Vice Commander

Joe Boyd

2ndvice@fairfaxpost177.org

### 3rd Vice Commander

Brian Burns

Rugf16@gmail.com

### Adjutant

Jason Mann

### Finance Officer

Jeff White

### Chaplain

Max Hazell II

### Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price

### Service Officer

Advaith Thampi

### Judge Advocate

Tony Osborne

### Historian

Earl Seay

### Executive Committee

#### Members at Large

Kerry Kirk

Larry Snyder

Bruce Mersereau

### Corporate Board

Jonathan Thatcher

Tom Pike

Hank Waters

Gary Welschenbach

Jule Szabo

Anthony Osborne

Jeff White

### Sons of the American Legion

Jim Price, Commander

### American Legion Post 177

#### Riders

Tom Pike, Director

### American Legion Post 177

#### Auxiliary

Sandra Price, President



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## New Members

Paul Apuzzo  
Rocco Benevento  
Jaime Bobbio  
Rocky Burns  
Charles E Coates  
Patricia A DeGaetano  
Anthony L Durham  
Pamela Funk  
Daniel B Gammell  
John Giunta  
Susan Gainor  
Jonathan R Heesch  
Hunter Lambert  
Richard S Langille  
Phillip Lauri  
Richard Mahle  
Alan Mowbray  
Ahsan M Nasar  
Richard R Stone  
Carlos R Vargas  
John Terjelian  
Jordan Wardman  
Joseph Wittling  
Keith Younger  
Kevin Yusman

## SAL

Richard Marcy  
James Estep  
James Estep Jr.  
Earl Fox  
Robert Franklin  
Tommy Jaeger  
Braden Kiser  
Joshua Kiser  
Stephen Marshall  
Mathieu Wetmore

## Auxiliary

Katherine Attkisson  
Mary Braaton  
Laura Brinker  
Debra Jones  
Leah DePriest  
Dory Heesch  
Patricia Marcey  
Carol Manning  
Amy Newman-Crabill  
Debbie Nicholson  
Raphael O'Brien  
Jeri Ann Orebaugh-Martin  
Vesta Pearigen  
Mary Shackelford-Cameron  
Melissa Shinaberry  
Lisa Skoglund  
Nancy Tingen

## Honorary Life

### Members

William Anderson  
Alvin Doehring  
Edward Heitchew  
Michael Kimlick  
George Lamborn  
Anthony Osborne  
Robert Sussen  
Jeff White

Hello Legion Family, I would like to say Thank You for all of the support and love that you all have shown my family after the passing of my father CW4 John Price. As most of you know he was a huge part of Our American Legion Post 177 Family since he joined after Vietnam.

I would also like to thank our 17th District and Post 177 Honor Guard members who gave my Dad and Grandfather the best Farewell possible. I know my Father would be so very proud of every one of you.

Thank you Eric Parkhurst, Joe Boyle, Mike Kimlick, Jeff White, Hank Roeder, Matt Hendrick, Earl Seay, Gerry Lemmah, Bryan Rodgers, Jim Brown, Bob Goldsmith, Kevin Gaddis, Al Doering and our newest Honor Guard member Charles "CJ" Adams.

Thank you to our Squadron 177 Historian Casey Duffy for documenting the Service on Facebook.

Please make sure you have paid your 2024 membership dues. Squadron 177 dues have increased to \$40.

Thank You to all of our Legion Family Members for volunteering at our most recent SAL breakfast.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining The American Legion Family please let them know about our American Legion Post 177 Family and what we do for our Veterans and the community.

To any SAL member that wants to get more involved with post activities please come out and join us at our monthly general membership meeting which is held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 downstairs in the small dining room by the stairs. Dinner is served upstairs at 6:00 for 177 members for a cash donation.

I would like to ask any of our Squadron 177 members that volunteer in their community with Veterans, kids/special needs programs or any other community assistance please let myself or Bucky know so that we can report your volunteer hours for our Squadron. We report those hours annually in May.

Thank You to all Military Personnel and First Responders for keeping us safe as we live our lives.

Let us never forget the sacrifices our Veterans and First Responders have made for us.

**Jim Price, Squadron 177 Commander**  
571-237-7597 [Jpmustang1967@gmail.com](mailto:Jpmustang1967@gmail.com)

## **Marine corporal gets medal for saving drowning teen while on leave**

Reprinted from Military Times, By Irene Loewenson

A Marine corporal was surprised with a medal in January for having jumped into a river months earlier to save a teenager's life. Cpl. Jacob Cogswell, 23, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a battalion formation in Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12 for his "heroic actions," according to a Marine Corps news release.

A machine gunner from New York state, Cogswell was on leave in July 2023 ahead of his unit's deployment to Japan. One day during this time off, he was out in a boat on New York's Oneida River with his girlfriend and his parents when he passed under an old train bridge where groups of teens often are jumping from, he said in a Feb. 13 interview with Marine Corps Times. The father of Cogswell's girlfriend drove the boat close to the teen. The group aboard asked the teen if he was OK, but he didn't respond — he just bobbed up and down, clearly panicking. Cogswell jumped into the water in his T-shirt and shorts, taking decisive action he attributed in part to his training as a Marine. "You don't think about what could possibly happen to you," Cogswell said. "You're more concerned about the wellbeing of others." Cogswell told the teen to put both arms around his neck so the Marine could swim him toward the boat. For about five minutes, Cogswell pushed against a strong current to get the teen to safety. Once Cogswell and the teen were in the boat, he and his girlfriend's family made sure the teen wasn't hurt. It took a few minutes for the teen to be calm enough to speak, Cogswell said. When they got the teen back to shore and dropped him off with his friends, Cogswell had some advice for the group of youths: Quit jumping off that bridge. "We told them that hopefully from this they will learn and pass it on to people, the dangers of it, and spread the word so nobody does that," Cogswell said.

Unbeknownst to Cogswell, his girlfriend's father told the leaders of his unit, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, what had happened. The award came as a surprise to Cogswell, who was honored in January along with another Marine from the unit, Sgt. Aidan Blansfield — who, coincidentally, also had saved someone who was struggling in water during his predeployment leave. For Cogswell, receiving the medal from his command felt good. But what felt better, he said, was the hope that people who heard his story might be inspired to take action, should they find themselves in similar situations. "I didn't do it for publicity or acknowledgment," Cogswell said. "I did it in the betterment of that young teen's life." Cogswell added, "Hopefully, from that, people feel more confident in being able to take that step and possibly saving somebody's life, rather than taking a second guess at it."

# Post Elections

## Ballot

### Annual Post Elections

#### Sample Ballot

<b>Commander</b>	Eric Parkhurst*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Adjutant</b>	Jason Mann*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>First Vice Commander</b>	Gerry Lemnah*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Second Vice Commander</b> Vote for only ONE (1)	Joe Boyd*	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chelbi Cole	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jesse Shaw	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Third Vice Commander</b>	Brian Burns *	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Chaplain</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Jeff White*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Historian</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Anthony Osborne*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Earl Seay	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Service Officer</b>	Advaith Thampi*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Member at Large vote for (3)</b> Three, (1) One year term	Bruce Mersereau*	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Larry Snyder*	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kerry Kirk*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Corporate Board Vote for</b> Two (2) Three Year terms.	Kathleen Brady	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brian Burns	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Anthony Osborne*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR</b>	Earl Seay	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Post Everlasting

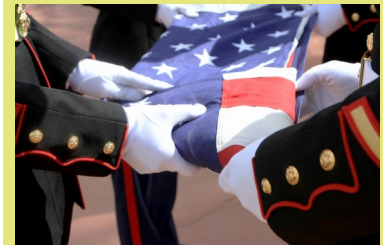
John W Price\*

Francis J Bohan

\* Denotes Legion & SAL member

SAL

Teddy Apostolakis

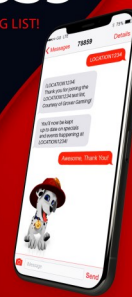


**TEXT**

## ALPOST177 TO 78859

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text STOP ALPOST177 to 78859)



GROVER  
GAMING

# Post Elections

## Announcements

**\*Friday Night Dinner Every Friday  
1730—200**

**1 May—Executive Committee,  
1900**

**2 May—Corporate Board, 1900**

**8 May—Elections 0800-1859,  
General Membership, dinner  
1800, mtg 1900**

**12 May—2nd Sunday Breakfast  
Buffet, 0930**

**25-27 May—Memorial Day  
Weekend**

**5 Jun—Executive Committee,  
1900**

**6 Jun—Corporate Board, 1900**

**9 Jun—2nd Sunday Breakfast  
Buffet, 0930**

**12 Jun—General Membership,  
dinner 1800, mtg 1900**

**3 Jul—Executive Committee,  
1900**

**9 Jul—Corporate Board, 1900**

**14 Jul—2nd Sunday Breakfast  
Buffet, 0930**

**10 Jul—General Membership,  
dinner 1800, mtg 1900**

*See Calendar (page 11) for more  
events! Check [fairfaxpost177.org](http://fairfaxpost177.org)  
and social media for up-to-date  
announcements.*

## Corporate Board—Kathleen Brady

About 3 years ago- I transferred from a MD post.  
I have been privileged to meet good people and want to step up my contribution to this Post.

I have volunteered at the Nat'L Zoo for over 20 years. I have stepped away from that commitment to commit time to Post 177. Post 177 is in my neighborhood, I have been lucky to meet good people when I visit. I want to do more than visit. I want to listen & learn what is important to the members. I want to 'role' up my sleeves and help all of us work towards a diverse, inclusive Post that reaches out to all.

I want to work with members and on the Board to sustain the Post for the future of current and new members.

I will ask for your help and input as we move forward.

I am asking for your vote to allow me to do more.

For God & Country  
Kathleen Brady

## Corporate Board—Brian Burns

Greetings to the greatest post in the country. I, Brian Burns, current 3rd Vice Commander, request your consideration as a member of the Corporate Board at Post 177 for FY 2024 to FY 2027 (note: I am seeking another term as the 3rd Vice). I served in the active duty Air Force, retiring in 2019 after 26 years. While in the Air Force I served operationally for several years, including operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan. During my staff tours, I ran international fighter sales programs with contracts totaling over \$3B over the course of three years. I currently help oversee a contract to sell fighter aircraft to Kuwait worth \$4.8B. This program has numerous contracts that I deal with on a daily basis, so I am familiar with accounting and cost justification for various items within the program. I have also been a member of the American Legion for 25 years and transferred my Membership to Post 177 in 2016 when I moved to Fairfax. I have been active in the Post for several years and have had the pleasure as serving as your 3rd Vice for the past 2 years. This allowed me to see firsthand the work of the Corporate Board and the critical role it plays in our Post's service to our members. In that time, we have had many challenges with infrastructure and maintaining our quarters but continue to operate at a level that always puts service to our members first. I appreciate the opportunity to assist with this effort as it will always be our number one priority.

Thank you,  
Brian Burns

## Corporate Board—Anthony Osborne

Why re-elect Tony as a Corporate Board Director?  
Tony has been an ACTIVE member of the American Legion for 33 years, is fully versed in the operations of the Corporate Board, with over 25-years-experience, having served as past President, past Treasurer, and currently Director. He is a Past Commander of the Post, and has also held the offices of Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Historian, acting Third Vice Commander, and is the current Judge Advocate Emeritus; one obligation of that office being to ensure that management activities within the Post and Corporate Board comply with the Post's Constitution and By-Laws, motions and House Rules. He has attended, and participated in almost all of the regularly-scheduled Corporate Board meetings over the past 6 years, and all but a few of the Regular Membership and Executive Committee meetings since 2014. He is an advocate of full member participation in management and initiatives of the Post. He is an Army veteran, and a retiree from the Federal Government (Federal Aviation Administration and Department of the Navy) with credentials as a Program Manager, Systems Engineer (through INCOSE), and National Security Emergency Responder. Among other academic credentials, he holds a BS degree in Technology and Business Management, and a MS degree in Contracts and Acquisitions Management and Administration (numerous components of which are applicable to the operations of Post 177). His primary goals (as always) are to ensure that we play by the rules established by the membership; to keep the membership informed and engaged; and to represent the Post 177 Legion family.

Tony Osborne

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30pm Taco Night 4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	2 7:00pm Corporate Board Meeting	3 5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm General Membership Meeting		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	5:00pm Super Saturday - Acoustic Night with Tim Anderson
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Second Sunday Breakfast Buffet		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	12:00pm SAL BBQ
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6:00am ALR Ride of the Patriots	10:30am Joint Memorial Day Service	4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Charityoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	7:00pm Corporate Board Meeting	5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Second Sunday Breakfast Buffet		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm General Membership Meeting		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
30						

# July 2024


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		4:30pm Taco Night 7:00pm Corporate Board Meeting	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm General Membership Meeting		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Second Sunday Breakfast Buffet		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Karaoke		5:30pm Friday Night Dinner	
28	29	30	31			
		4:30pm Taco Night	4:30pm Wild Wing Wednesday 7:00pm Charityoke			



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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

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

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

