



The American Legion Family News

Welcome to a new "year" with Post 157

The American Legion:
Commander: Robert (Bob) Nowak
1st VC: Gene Brockman
2nd VC Eric Stevens
Adjutant: (filled by appointment temporarily, special election at August meeting)
Finance Officer: I. Cecil Beeler

The American Legion Auxiliary
President: Dottie Stephenson
Vice President: Vickie Parker
Secretary: Kim Johnson-Smith
Treasurer: Jeanne Bruton

The Sons of The American Legion:
Commander: Darrell Lee
1st VC Richard Schmitt
2nd VC Bill McDermott
Adjutant. James Lillard
Finance Officer Robert Nowak

The American Legion Riders
Director: Bob Nowak
Asst. Director: Ron Bechtle
Treasurer: Gene Brockman
Adjutant: Sherry Brockman

Commander's Corner:
Greetings,

As you are reading this, we have started the 2015 – 2016 year. At the July Meeting, the new officers were sworn in by Lewis Field from Post 2003. At that time I accepted the position of Post Commander and was also sworn in. This is the second Post I am having the privilege to serve as their Post Commander. I thank everybody for this opportunity and at the same time I am asking every member for their support as we go forward continuing supporting our Veteran's and their families and our community.

The changing of the officers is a time honored tradition. Along with the new faces supporting the proven way of doing business in the past comes some fresh ideas.

One of the greatest challenges to any new group of leaders is the "RC" factor. The "RC" or Resistance to Change factor. There are many ways of doing "things" and they can be considered correctly done, but done differently. And that is "O.K.," what is not O.K. is when you do something which is illegal, immoral or goes against what the American Legion represents.

One of the new things we are going to do is starting on August 4, 2015; The American Legion Meeting will still start at 7:00 pm. But at 6:00 pm, one hour before the scheduled start of the monthly meeting, we will have the Post BBQ fired up so anybody can bring something to grill/cook for themselves to eat and we can have some time to socialize and eat before the meal. The Sons will once again have some drinks available for sale as will the Coke Machine out front. If our members start bringing in some side dishes, this can turn into a great Pot Luck Social Event.

In the past we have gained some new members, they have come to a meeting or two. They have seen the business side of what we do, they have not had a real chance to see the social side of who we are. We need to give them a chance to really know us and most of the best ideas have started over a cup of coffee or a glass of tea.

Bob Nowak

Post Commander

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July 7, 2015
General Membership Meeting, Madison Post 157
Dept Membership Chair Lewis Field installed new officers with the exception of Eric Stevens (installed later during meeting).

Commander Nowak presented Lewis Field with a bottle of Prince Michel wine as a thank you for

coming and performing the installation. Reported that during the month of August, all fees collected for their wine tastings will be donated to the Post.

Membership: Gene Brockman reported that we have 27 members renewed for 2016. 21 of those are Paid Up for Life (PUFL). There were conversations regarding the benefit of signing up as a PUFL and how to look into it. Report accepted as given, no motion necessary.

ALR: Ron B, Asst Director, reported that the meeting has changed to third Monday at 19:00. 1 Ride planned for end of August. Bob reported that there is 1 injured Rider-David Cronk, pushed off the road by a vehicle 6/6/15. Spent 6 days at UVA, is unable to work, no insurance, no income.

Americanism: Gerry S.- Boys State chair Richard Eaton reported that all of our boys went and successfully completed the program. Dot Stephenson reported that Gerry is sending an invitation to recognition dinner and yes they have been asked to assist at Fall Catfish Dinner. Recognition Dinner: need to set a date as the Hall is rented 9/12/15 which is the Saturday usually reserved for it.

Cecil added a report on the Junior Law Enforcement Cadet (JLC) program. His niece was an attendee, reported that it went well. Both girls had a great time and successfully completed the program.

Flag retirement: held on 6/14/15, Boy Scout Troop 116 with Scout Master Puryear retired flags in pavilion fireplace. PAO put article w/pictures in the paper. Did not mention # of flags retired.

Chaplain: Gerry S. Visited Jr. Strother and James Arthur. Al Cuppett received a donation of \$300. Split the funds equally between Jr. Strother and James Arthur. James A has a catheter. Arlene and his daughter appreciate what the Post has done and will be sending a Thank you letter. No new names. Member Cecil Brown passed on Friday (7/3/15). Funeral 13:00 at Preddy's with internment at Culpeper National Cemetery. Also reported that last D-day Vet at Post 74 died, funeral was day of meeting. Rifle Squad: in reference to training by National Guard to funerals, (not done here or at Post 74) once

that is done we could provide this service to the families at a small fee.

Vince Falter: has 150 tickets left of initial order of 1,500. (Has ordered another batch). He and Gerry S went to 2 location on July 4th. JSSP needs new rifles for shooters. Pump rifles are causing issues, having to move to pump breaks concentration. In the Summer doldrums right now. Please recruit 12 to 18 year olds.

Old Business: Round Tables, executive committee approved purchasing 4 new tables, asking ALA and SAL to also purchase 1 each for a total of 6 new tables. Ron was unable to get price at SAM's Club, no stock. Costco is coming 7/30/15, Tabled until then. Eric Stevens commented that rental attendees prefer the round tables.

Richard and Judy Schmitt donating tableware sleeves to use instead wrapping with napkins.

"Sin Tax" Richard S explained informal fine system for cross talking during meeting, telephone ringing during meeting, etc. Got out the can and demonstrated by collecting fines from some members, including his self. Will be referred to as Civility Fines in the future.

Bill Harvil reported that he got an invitation for Aug 22 breakfast and the times were weird like 12 to 4 or something like that. No one is certain how he received that invitation, but Sherry B stated that the time issue occurs when sender and recipients calendars are set up in different time zones. Bob announced that the ending time for the breakfasts has been changed to 10 am for lack of traffic. Stragglers will be served if food is still available.

New Business:

Gerry S: 1. County Fair is July 15-18, parade is 15th. Aux declined to participate. [comments deleted due to political connection] Post is doing the colors on Friday 7/17 at 18:00. Gerry will not be here (dept convention) work with Jimmy Fox, need at least 4 due to size of flag. Need to contact Sonny Shirah (sp?) re booth. Jimmy Fox indicated will help with colors and booth on Friday. Gene B will be there. Tina Copeland is contact for passes.

2. Jim Lillard is hosting Mountain Memories presentation 7/26/16 at Fairview Christian Church at 15:00. This is about the families displaced by Shenandoah National Park.

Gene B: 1. Reports that Bill Campbell, winner of the breakfast 50/50 raffle, returned those funds. We had decided in the past to use the 50/50 raffle to pay for members in distress, currently we have 5 members. Gerry S. motion to pay national/dept. portion for those members. Richard S second. Motion passed.

2. Motion to repair the little sign at entrance. One of our neighbors has offered to assist financially with replacing. Eric S. to provide \$ figure as he is working on it already.

Bob N: 1. November meeting is on Election Day, typically we poor attendance. Gene motion to move to Monday Nov. 2. Eric S. seconded. Motion carried. This allows us to actively “get out the vote” more by seeking those who need transportation, ect.

2. The post is infested with “parasites”. Packages are growing legs and walking away. This needs to stop. The sodas and bottled waters in the fridge are \$1.00 each. The SAL has lost funds. Foods and items in the supply room have disappeared. The Lock on the Front door is being changed at end of tonight’s meeting. Will need to justify need for a key to get one. Eric reported that the appearance of the interior of the Post affects potential renters. Needs to look good all the time.

3. Stressing personal safety, told of 19 year at party in Louisa. All were drinking, friends left him alone at the dock. The rescue dive team found his body in the water 6-8 feet from the dock. Please, don’t leave others alone, use the buddy system.

Sick Call: John Miska was in hospital, is still very out of it, Dr changing meds, leg operation postponed again. He has overdone it, really wanted to be here tonight.

Due to the length of meeting and in the spirit of brevity, Commander Nowak dispensed with the closing benediction.

Meeting adjourned for cake and ice cream at 20:36

Quilts of Valor. Our quilt will be donated at the upcoming Department Conference.

This was all done despite our President, Dottie Stephenson, being on the injured list for part of the time. Special thanks go to Vickie Parker, Vice President of the Auxiliary, who ably served in Dottie’s stead.

The quilt deserves special mention. Quilts of Valor is a national organization that awards quilts to those who have served in the military and earned a Purple Heart - all wars. The national selects the awardees, and the Department of Virginia asked all Auxiliary units to help by donating at least one quilt. Sherry Brockman, our quilt guru, headed up the effort and did the lion’s share of the work. Thank you, Sherry!



NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary continues its service to the Legion and other “family” members as well as to our community and does so with having met an early 100% membership goal. From helping with various events – Pearl Harbor/World War II remembrance, adopting two veterans’ families for

Christmas (with the help of Social Services), the Four Chaplains



ceremony (Gerry and Dottie attended the funeral of Cecil Brown, the Bronze Star recipient, on Thursday), the Catfish Supper, the Legion breakfasts , supporting our terrific high school band, the Memorial Day ceremony (Lisa, Ellie and Kim were all out of town this year – so a huge thanks to Cecil Beeler for heading up this program!), the Flag Retirement, and even helping with Junior Shooters to our most recent initiative, participating in the

Many of these events have been captured for posterity by our wonderful photographer, Rusty Love. She is busy making collages of these events for all four parts of the “family” and sends Auxiliary materials to *The Madison Eagle* to insure that our community is aware of our activities.

Our current Junior (girls under 18), Sierra Weaver, is about to depart for college – so we wish her well.

And on a fun note, our members decided we work too hard – so ¼ of our meetings will be held at an area restaurant. All female veterans or immediate relatives of those who have served during the Legion-designated time periods are welcome to join us!



The American Legion
Post 157
310 Thrift Road
Madison, VA 22727

SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD AT AUGUST MEETING to fill the Position of Adjutant vacated by resignation.

Calendar of Events for rest of Month – Please see calendar on Website (www.vaalpost157.org) for updates and/or changes

Sat: July 25	07:00 – 10:00	Breakfast	All are at the Post Home
Mon: July 27	19:00 – 20:00	Executive Committee	
Tues: July 28	19:00-20:00	Sons of the American Legion meeting	
Tues: July 28	19:00-20:00	The American Legion Auxiliary meeting	
Tues: Aug 4	19:00-20:00	The American Legion meeting	

Jimmy Fox, Gene Brockman, Al Cuppett and Richard Schmitt posted the Colors at this year's county fair. Vince Falter, Gene and Sherry manned the booth to sell M1 Raffle tickets and do some membership recruiting.. The Surprise 3rd prize is no longer a surprise – we have a Blue Ribbon Winning Quilt (titled “The Land of the Free Because of the Brave.) At the executive committee, the Auxiliary requested “something for the Ladies”.

We will be supporting Wreaths Across America again this year.

Prince Michel Wineries will be donating all Wine Tasting fees collected during the Month of August, 2015 to Madison Post 157. Pass the word to your friends so they can support us if so inclined.