

Legion Post 157

Auxiliary Unit 157



Riders Chapter
157

Sons of the
American
Legion
Squadron 157

Family News

From the Commander

Welcome and thanks.

June has been a busy month and with the election of new officers done and installed, I would like to first and foremost thank last year's officers for their time and talents while serving.

We look forward to the new post year with the anticipation of the returning members and the new membership year. Take a moment to review this year's officers and different Legion family groups. Come down to the meeting and introduce yourselves to us and other members.

July has always been a bit of a slower month with families on vacation but we did have a showing at the county fair and the Legion riders will be having their breakfast July 23rd and again August . The calendar should give an idea of what we have planned for August and we hope to see the whole family as well as new potential members at the **Bring-A-Dish Picnic** at the Hall on August 7th. We are getting a head count now for this.

We are building our committees now for the next year and would love to have too many members signing up for our programs. If we need to we will start additional programs. When we join the American Legion, many do it for a myriad of reasons. Our membership card is more than just a card, for some it is just a number on a sheet to give the post a head count but for most it is a personal commitment to give of our time which is well spent helping our Vets, families and youth within our community.

Thanks again and I look forward to meeting with you.

Regards, Eric Stevens your Post Commander

Your Post Officers

Commander, Eric Stevens

1st Vice Commander, Gene Brockman
(membership)

2nd Vice Commander—Lisa Davis

Adjutant—Jim Smith

Finance Officer, Vickie Parker (Finance)

Post Historian, Scootie Lillard

Chaplain, Gerry Stevenson

Judge Advocate , Mike Fisher (Legal)

Service Officer (Vacant) (Veterans Benefits)

Athletic Officer (Vacant) (Athletics)

Sergeant at Arms, Vickie Black

Sergeant at Arms, Ron Bechtel

Sergeant at Arms, Richard Schmitt

Sergeant at Arms, Michael Horrocks

Executive Committeeman., Vince Falter

Executive Committeeman, Ron Montgomery

Executive Committeeman, Randall Lillard

The Junior Past Commander, Bob Nowak

Communications—Lisa Davis, Coordinator

Buildings and Grounds and Rentals—Ron Bechtel

Awaiting Appointment

Programs, Social and Special Events

Awards

Nominating

WELCOME NEW AUXILIARY OFFICERS

After seven years of the same leadership, we have a new group of officers for the Auxiliary. The program, chartered by Congress in 1919, welcomes all women who are either veterans themselves or spouses, daughters, granddaughters of veterans to further the work of the Legion. We also have wonderful programs of our own!

Please welcome our new hard-charging women:

President, Rusty Love
Vice President, Heidi Ludke
Chaplain, Vickie Parker

We need a few more volunteers—Secretary (Dottie Stephenson has volunteered to serve as Acting Secretary) and a new Treasurer!

We also extend our thanks to those who are “retiring”:

Dottie Stephenson—Past President
Jeanne Bruton—Exemplary Treasurer
Kim Smith—Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS TO HEIDI LUTKE

LADY OF THE YEAR

Auxiliary 2016

Congratulations to our own Heidi Lutke for her recent award given at the Department Convention this summer.

Her tireless efforts on behalf of the Post Family (she’s a wonderful cook at the Rider’s Breakfasts) and stepping up to the plate to assume the responsibility as Vice President of the Auxiliary are only part of the reason!

Schools Americanism Programs 2016-2017

We have conducted at least four major programs in the schools for the past year or more, so we are simply listing them and their dates. More information will be provided as we get closer to the actual dates. Most of the contests have a month lead-time.

Constitution Day Contest. (September 17th).

Veterans Day Contest. (November 11th) Plus, encourage middle and high school assemblies to remember Veterans Day.

Black History Month Contest (New last year—month of February)

Memorial Day Contest (May 29th)

In response to Commander Stevens’ challenge, we, under the direction of Lisa Davis, are exploring two new competitions to stimulate our youth—and their understanding of what it means to be an American.

American Freedom Essay Contest. I recommend the respective teacher of the student(s) send electronically or we can collect the best essays the teachers select from their classes and send forward. However, if we take the lead and collect all the essays and forward, the teachers must keep their selection to no more than one per class. We must have all the contact information as stipulated in the rules, and we would collect essays on 12 October.

Picture Freedom. There is a Black History Month art contest sponsored by Toyota for grades 9-12 with cash prizes from \$100-\$5,400. I would recommend the same procedures as for the American Freedom Essay Contest. If we collect and send, our due date would be 16 February. This would be a great contest for History/ Art teachers.

As always support starts from the top. I look forward to another great year working with the schools.

Lisa Davis, Lt Col USAF (RET)

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25—Executive Committee Meeting (7 p.m.)

August 2—Post, (7 pm) Auxiliary, Sons, Riders Meetings (6 pm)

ALL ARE WELCOME

August 7—1 p.m. until? Bring a Dish Picnic at the Post

Bring a Side Dish to Share. (Post will provide meats)

The Whole Family!

RAIN DATE : August 14th

RAFFLES !!!

Fundraising is an important part of the work of the American Legion Family. Such activities not only put us out in the community, but they fund our community programs such as

- ◇ Junior Shooter Sports
- ◇ Youth Americanism Activities (see p. 2)
- ◇ The Oratorical Competition
- ◇ Boys and Girls State, Junior Law Cadet
- ◇ Improvements to the Post Home for the comfort of our member veterans and community

We currently have two raffles underway.

M-1 Garand

Junior Shooter Sports members Vince Falter, Ron Montgomery, Gerry Stephenson are once again raffling off an M-1 Garand. Tickets are available. The rifle will be awarded at the October Catfish Supper.

Quilt

Thanks to Sherry Brockman’s superlative sewing skills, the Auxiliary is also raffling a quilt—a queen size topper. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available through Dottie Stephenson (948-5019).

Quilt money has historically supported our work for the troops (pillows for the wounded being transported from Landsdau, blankets for our veterans or their spouses in nursing homes, visits and programs to nursing homes, adopting a vet or a whole family for the holidays, and our work with youth Americanism programs).

Tickets are enclosed for snail mail recipients and can be obtained from Dottie Stephenson (948-5019) for e-mail recipients of the newsletter.

COMMANDER’S CHALLENGE

Commander Eric Stevens has challenged each member organization (the “Family”) to develop a new program or fundraiser.

Our Schools Americanism Chair, Lisa Davis (dual member of the Post and Auxiliary) has risen to the occasion—and we will be hitting the ground running. (See her article, prior page.)

We are all brainstorming ideas as to how we can be more proactive in our outreach to local veterans or troops and their families. According to the last half-census, there are 1,111 veterans in Madison County.

RETIRED FLAGS

We now have an official receptacle for holding those worn and tattered flags during the year. Look for it at the Post!



CELEBRATE VETS WITH BREAKFAST

RIDERS' BREAKFASTS

July 23rd and August 27th

The Legion Riders are doing yeoman's labor in the Post kitchen. The fourth Saturday of every month (except possibly November and December), they, other Legionnaires, members of the Sons and Auxiliary, prepare a breakfast of champions for the community.

The hours are 7 until 10 a.m., the menu is delicious, the cost is \$8.00, and the funds go to Riders' programs.



PAY YOUR DUES FOR LIFE OR PAY EARLY AND YOU GET FREE BREAKFAST IN JULY.

HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED. Contact Ron Bechtle (434) 806-2602.

VOLUNTEER FOR TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS

September 3, 2016

We will have a booth and be doing parking at the high school—so we would be grateful for your help.



REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 17, 2016.

E-MAIL UPDATE

- The minutes and newsletter will be sent via e-mail, so please keep the Adjutant current on your e-mail address.

He can be reached via e-mail:

jimsmith.adjutant@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

This starts now! Please renew early with your applicable "family" organization, recruit new members who wish to help veterans, active duty military and their families—as well as our community!

SUGGESTIONS

The leadership wants this to be your Post—and an important part of your life. Suggestions for improvements are important—so please let our officers know what you'd like to see. Remember, the buck stops with the Commander and change can only happen if we know! Eric prefers e-mail: es59@live.com because of reception, but can also be reached at 540-718-2111.

The Newsletter

Our goal is to publish a newsletter monthly, with quick e-mails in the interim if necessary.

Articles should be sent to Lisa Davis at e-mail don.lisa.davis@hotmail.com or suggestions can be phoned to her at 540-661-0454.



Written articles can be submitted to the assembler, Kim Smith, at jadam@comcast.net.

LEGION FAMILY CALENDAR

JULY

- 23—Riders' Breakfast 7-10 a.m.
- 25—Executive Committee Meeting

AUGUST

- 2— Legion, Auxiliary, Sons meeting at Post Home
- 12-14 Legion College
- 27—Riders' Breakfast 7-10 a.m.
- 29—Executive Committee

SEPTEMBER

- 3—Taste of the Mountains
- 6—Legion, Auxiliary, Sons meeting
- 10 or 17—Girls State, Junior Law Cadet dinner
- 17—Constitution Day
- 24—Girls State, Junior Law Cadet dinner
- 26—Executive Committee
- 27—Riders' Breakfast 7-10 a.m.



Calendar continued

OCTOBER

- 4—Legion, Auxiliary, Sons Meetings
- 15—Catfish Supper
- 22—Riders' Breakfast 7-10 a.m.
- TBD—Pumpkin Carving or Painting
- 31 (Halloween) Executive Committee

NOVEMBER

- 1—Legion, Auxiliary, Sons meeting
- 8—ELECTION DAY
- 11—Veterans Day (competition in schools)
- 11—Veterans Day (ceremony at Post)
- 28—Executive Committee Meeting

DECEMBER

- 3 - Pearl Harbor Day Dinner
- 6—Legion, Auxiliary, Sons meeting
- 7—Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, WWII

This is a snapshot calendar, one that will undoubtedly get much fuller as time goes on. Suggestions are always welcome—and volunteering for some of these events would be especially appreciated!

THIS JUST IN!

The BURNT TREE GRANGE

Is hosting a patriotic hot dog dinner on Monday, July 25th from 6:30 p.m. until -



Members of the Legion Family are invited to join them.

The Grange is located at 4709 Orange Road

Bring a covered dish if you would like

RSVP to Don Gerhart at

540-672-4806

