



The American Legion
Madison Post 157
Newsletter, December 2018

Website: www.vaalpost157.org

YOU'RE INVITED! Pearl Harbor/Christmas Dinner Raffle Drawing. December 9th at 6 PM . This is a covered dish affair. Post is providing the meat(s). Legionnaires are asked to bring a “side” dish. Auxiliary are asked to bring a dessert.

Please RSVP to Sherry Brockman email: bmwridr@gmail.com, call or text: 540 718-1516 by 12/5 if possible.

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE JUNE:

July – new officers installed, annual audit forms distributed.

August – Mike Fisher proposed display case for the Foyer to be paid for by the Jane Walrond memorial fund.

September – Vince Falter, citing health reason, resigned as Committee member at large from Executive Committee

October – Fall Catfish supper was moderately successful. For reasons of his own, Jim Smith resigned as Adjutant. Executive Committee selected his replacement and Bill Harville agreed to serve as an At Large member.

November – Veterans Day commemoration event, combined with recognition of students who attended Boys State/Girls State/Law Cadet programs. Followed by Family Fun day. The display case is almost finished. Glen Aylor's workmanship is a thing of beauty.

December – (not a recap, but what is planned) meeting on the 4th. Meeting at 7, Coffee and snacks at 6:30. Dinner on the 8th at 6 PM.

Memberships should be renewed this month if haven't already been done. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

November Executive Committee Meeting recommendations and actions:

1. In the interest of conserving gas (and funds by extension), the heat will be turned off in the main hall, only the areas containing water pipes will be heated when unoccupied.
2. By extension of #1, any group planning to be in the building and need heat/AC please email (adjutant@vaalpost157.org) or call/text Sherry at 540 718-1516 the day before to make arrangements.
3. The Spring Catfish supper for 2019 falls on Easter weekend. Topic of whether to

move or not will be discussed at the December membership meeting.

4. Storage concerns for the shooting program is/are being addressed by cleaning out old, unused for ages, stuff. The storage room on the stage is being converted to an armory to hold their firearms and our ceremonial rifles which did not have a good home before this.

From Unit 157 AL Auxiliary:



Sons Of The American Legion (Sal)
Squadron 157
Garold E. Stephenson, SAL Squadron 157
Commander

Veterans Day, November 11, 2018 was a special day because it marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and the soon-to-be 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion. At 11:00 AM (Paris time) on November 11, 1918, fighting on land and sea, and in the air between the Allies and their opponent, Germany, ended with an Armistice. The “Great War” in Europe that had begun in 1914 and had cost more than 20 million lives, ended. The Armistice marked a victory for the Allies and a defeat for

Germany, although not formally a surrender. The American soldiers and Marines who were in France and Belgium did not begin returning home until 1919, because of uncertainty whether Germany would agree to the terms of a peace treaty with the Allies. In early 1919, some American veterans of World War I met in Paris to begin a process that led to the formation of The American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) was established during the 14th National Convention of The American Legion held during September 12-15, 1932, in Portland, Oregon. The SAL was the third member of The American Legion family – the second member was The American Legion Auxiliary, which was founded in 1919 to assist The American Legion by performing those Legion activities that were more suitably performed by women closely associated with the members of the Legion. Since its founding, the Auxiliary has helped the Legion with Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children and Youth, and National Security programs (The Legion’s Four Pillars). The Auxiliary is responsible for the Girls State/Girls Nation and the Poppy Programs.

The SAL is a Legion program and it has its own membership. At the end of the 2017 membership year, the SAL national membership was 365,167 members in 6,148 squadrons in 54 detachments. Each squadron exists through sponsorship of the individual post of The American Legion and many Posts do not have a SAL Squadron. Squadron 157 is affiliated with the Madison American Legion Post 157, Inc. and is part of the SAL Detachment of Virginia. Squadrons members volunteer to assist older veterans, and participate in patriotic holiday observances and other civic functions with Legion members, not only to help expand the post’s representation but to also develop an awareness of the Squadron’s purpose “to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of

Americanism.” Some members of SAL Squadron 157 provide adult leadership for the Post 157 Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Membership in the SAL is open to male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service.

I am a charter member of SAL Squadron 157, which was established in 2013. I became a SAL member through the eligibility of my grandfather, who served honorably in the U.S. Army as an infantryman in France during World War I. I am also a Legion member because of my honorable service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, making me a dual member of the Legion and the SAL. The majority of SAL members are not veterans. Some are veterans who did not serve during a wartime period that would make them eligible for Legion membership but had a father or grandfather who served during a wartime period. The annual membership dues for SAL Squadron 157 are \$15. The membership year is January 1 through December 31, and anyone joining now will be 2019 member. There is an application process to join SAL Squadron 157 and anyone interested in membership in Squadron 157 may contact me at (540) 948-5019 or garoldstephenson@hotmail.com, or come to our monthly membership meeting at 7:00PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Madison American Legion Post Home, 310 Thrift Road, Madison, VA 22727. Other Squadron 157 officers include Lonnie Tuthill, Vice Commander, and Jim Lillard, Finance Officer. SAL Squadron

157 currently has 12 members who are paid up for 2019 and is seeking more members.

(The next SAL meeting will be December 12.)

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS:

Another program of The American Legion, membership is open to members of The Legion Post, The SAL, and the Auxiliary. We do not charge any money for dues, instead it's a lot of sweat equity. We host a monthly sit down breakfast on the 4th Saturday skipping November and December due to the holiday weekends.

From the proceeds of the breakfast, among other things, we have purchased a new stove, replaced the ice maker in the refrigerator. We have donated to End22 (a program to help prevent the 22 veterans a day who commit suicide), Wreaths Across America.

A Word from your new Adjutant:

It's been a tumultuous past few months, but I hope we can move forward in the spirit of "Service, not self" that is an underlying principle of The American Legion Family. By working together for the greater good, The American Legion, supporting each other and other Veterans, we can live up to the promise of comradeship we are supposed to have by joining The American Legion. In that vein, we have planned more social activities that don't come with a price tag to attend.

The first of these was the Veterans Family Fun day held on Veterans Day this year. Not many came, but those who did had an opportunity to meet members of the Post and the community on a social level. The next is the Pearl Harbor/Christmas Dinner on December 8th at 6:00 PM.



Glen Aylor's work in progress. Mike's Glass and Mirror will be installing glass doors. This is being build with the funds from the Jane Walrond Memorial.

Wreaths Across America:

On Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 12:00 PM, Madison American Legion Post 157 (VA0028) will be helping Culpeper National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. This Year, as of 12/1/18 we have 117 wreaths being sent to the cemetery.

While we did better than last year, we did not meet our goal of 150 wreaths. We participate in this program as a buy 2 get 1 free sponsor. It is not a fund-raiser for the Post.