



The American Legion
Madison Post 157
Newsletter, January 2019

Website: www.vaalpost157.org

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, 27 December instead of Christmas Eve. The January membership meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, 8 January. January's meeting will include an award.

Here's wishing all a Merry Christmas.

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



I reported at the December meeting that we had not met our goal – I was wrong!! Although part of those did go to Quantico's National Cemetery.

The public is invited to assist with the cemetery's wreath cleanup day on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 8 a.m. Next year's Wreaths Across America Day is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14. For details, see facebook.com/waaculpeper and wreathscrossamerica.org/vacnce.

[Full story of the day is written up in the Culpeper Star Exponent.]

Recent happenings:

- Post Audit has been completed. Details will be presented at January meeting – everyone can smile.
- The left hand storage room on the stage is being converted to an armory to hold Shooters firearms and our ceremonial rifles which did not have a good home before this. It is still a work in progress, but much progress has been accomplished under the guidance of Bill Walthall.
- The Pearl Harbor Dinner went well. Winning numbers and names have been posted on our website. About 35 members and guests came. The raffle winners have all been contacted. Second and Third prize winners graciously donated their cash prizes back to the Post.
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1Cdr Beeler presenting rifle to Boyd Carpenter' Scootie Lillard overseeing.

From the Post Commander's Desk:

A Time to Reflect

This is the time of the year or "so-called season" that people say that Christmas miracles happen.

Whatever your belief, let's make it "a time to reflect". Whether you have had a loss or a gain to your family, got a new job or lost one or know of someone impacted in such a way; and so on.

Regardless, of what has happened over this past year to you or someone else, we all need to stop during this holiday season and if nothing else, give everyone a "moment of silence" and say a special prayer for those in need.

My whole point of all of this is simple, "a moment could make a miracle happen". Don't miss "A Time to Reflect" on this past year, for the future.

Cecil Beeler
Commander, Madison Legion Post 157

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS:

Riders Service Officer.

Ask this question ...

"Do you have federal Paperwork to document your Honorable Service?"

VA Healthcare can be a valuable safety line for all Veterans in a time of need. When a situation arises where Civilian Care will incur a terrible burden upon families, many Veterans do not realize that the VA can be a bulwark to protect your financial health as well.

If anyone needs to track down paperwork, file a Standard Form 180 (SF-180) with the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
[https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-](https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center)

[center](#) . Then let your family know where such documentation is kept. It could save money, time and your life!

Additionally, do you suffer from Chronic Pain? Veterans recently have won awards with regards to Service Connected chronic pain and the health issues caused by that condition. If the VA has turned you down in the past, NOW is the time to reapply.

I recently met with a Veteran forced to wear Hearing Aids due to hearing loss and tinnitus. If you had a job in the Military in a high noise environment such as Aviation or Combat Arms, please file as hearing damage caused by such service does not manifest itself until after age 50. Hearing aids are not cheap and hearing has a 10 percent rating which can be a foot in the door for treatment.

Bigjohn
John Miska
Service Officer
American Legion Post 157 Riders

Summary of Minutes from the December membership meeting:

The opening protocol was observed. Mike Fisher offered the opening prayer. Before the business portion of the meeting, we watched the attack scene from the movie "Pearl Harbor" (2001). Finance report is attached to official copy of minutes. Membership is at 76%.

Mike Fisher gave status report on display case in front hall. Planned to have 4 plaques. All engraving done at time of order is included in the price of each plaque. The plaques for the ALA and ALR need donations to cover their cost. The other storage room by the stage needs to be cleaned/organized better. Mike Fisher would like to see the display room not used for storage space and much less cluttered.

Bill Walthall gave report on the Left storage room (aka The Armory). Glen Aylor helped move the safe on a ramp provided by Ron Bechtle. The shooters' equipment is moved into the storage room, a few more things need to be done. Bill also talked about the lack of publicity for the program. Eagle has a write up from the summer which hadn't been published as of this meeting. He wants the public to know what the Post has done for the Shooters program. Vince Falter on behalf of the Post has applied for 6 grants, all have been approved, including another safe.

The SAL and ALA have cancelled meetings for December. The next meetings will be in January.

ALR – Breakfast will be back January 26. Any and all assistance will be appreciated. Contact Ron Bechtle [434.806-2602]

The Rifle drawing will be 12/8/18. Scootie reported that we have sold 3,191 tickets for a total of \$13,762.

Mark Farmer reported that all audit documents have been turned in and called a committee meeting to review.

He also reported that as far as ABC is concerned we should apply for a license. Gerry Stephenson moved that we spend the \$195 application and \$145 yearly fees and apply for a Beer only license. Bill Harvill seconded. Discussion: this allows to sell to members only. Motion carried.

Final report on Veterans Day Ceremony – consensus that adding the Boys/Girls State and Law Cadet attendees to the program was a good thing. We got good publicity in the Eagle because of it. The Veterans Family day needs improvement.

Pearl Harbor dinner: Ron is purchasing ham. David Lewis, turkeys. Sherry has how many planned on attending, since only 2 members had RSVP's as requested. Roc has invited every ticket holder to attend. Asked about price to attend.

Since this is a covered dish event, anyone not bringing a dish who asks will be told – it will be by donation.

Good of the Legion – any one who has been emailing with Gerry Stephenson should probably check their computers thoroughly for viruses. His MacAfee antivirus let him down.

Discussion of the need for more storage included an estimate to build a room inside the main hall. After extensive discussion, it was brought up that we have 3 other construction/building related projects going on, and it was probably not a good idea to start another right now. The motion to build the room was withdrawn, to be brought up at a later date.

Wreaths Across America – Sherry reported that we fell short of our 150 goal, but we did exceed last year. Gene reported that member Johnny Price is one of the organizers and is looking for a Coast Guard veteran to lay a wreath. Sherry to send time of event once she gets if from local coordinator for Culpeper.

There as an anecdotal report on the Raffle selling at Lowes in Charlottesville. Due to the complaint about the rifle being there by one female, they had to shut down early. [Talk to Roc for a better telling of the story.]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherry Brockman
Adjutant