



# The American Legion Family News

*Welcome to Post 157*

Post Address:  
310 Thrift Rd  
Madison, VA 22727

Building Phone: 540 547 6160  
(leave message, the appropriate person will respond asap)

Email: [info@vaalpost157.org](mailto:info@vaalpost157.org)

website: [www.vaalpost157.org](http://www.vaalpost157.org)

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The American Legion:  
Commander: Robert (Bob) Nowak  
1<sup>st</sup> VC: Gene Brockman  
2<sup>nd</sup> VC Eric Stevens  
Adjutant: Sherry Brockman  
Finance Officer: Temp – Special  
Election at Sept. meeting

The American Legion Auxiliary  
President: Dottie Stephenson  
Vice President: Open  
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

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RENEW ONLINE save postage  
[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)  
Renew by October 1 for Early Bird  
breakfast in October.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION (If you read nothing else, read this):

1. If you are a vineyard visitor and of a mind to go to Prince Michel, please do it during August. The tasting fees for August are being donated to the Post.
2. Service Officer, starting with the upcoming August 22 breakfast, John Miska will be available during Breakfast and for one hour immediately after. He will be able to assist in all areas of Veterans Claims and Military and Veterans Benefits. Issues will be researched for Veterans and answers found for all questions if possible.
3. Mr. Beeler resigned as Finance Officer at the Executive Committee meeting in July, Commander Nowak appointed Vickie Parker as the Interim FO. This appointment was affirmed at the August membership meeting. There will be a special election at the September 1 meeting. Nominations are being accepted from the floor at that meeting.
4. We will also need a Legionnaire to act as Historian, focal point to collect photos taken at events and create a scrapbook.
5. Beginning with the August Meeting, at 18:00 (6:00 pm) there is a Social Hour before the monthly membership meetings. Bring food to grill, a side dish to share would be nice, but is not required. If you need buns, please bring your own as well. Condiments are provided. Would like this to stay a no cost meal.
6. The Auxiliary has decided to cancel the Candidates Forum mentioned in the following minutes of The American Legion meeting of Aug. 4, 2015
7. There is a strong possibility the Dues will increase on January 1, 2016. They are currently \$30. If, as expected, this is passed at the National Convention, the dues will go up \$5.00 to \$35.00. Please, renew before December 31, 2015 and look into becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members.

Commanders Corner – Bob Nowak

Greeting, as Post Commander I would like to share a couple of thoughts with you.

The first being before the last General Meeting we had about eight members join me for dinner and we shared some warm butter French bread. It was a good start hopefully we will see more members join us at about 6:00 pm. We will have the grill fired up and you can bring something to cook and if you would like a side dish to share with your friends. There will be drinks available to purchase, and stories to share.

The second thought is about the upcoming election in November. I hope every member of our Legion Family is register to vote, as is their spouse. Next, is there any members going to need help getting to the polls on Election Day? Then, we are looking for members willing to provide transportation on Election Day? Remember, every vote counts! Make your voice heard.

August 4, 2015

General Membership Meeting

Madison American Legion, Post 157

Meeting called to Order at 19:00. Opening protocols observed. Quorum present.

Guests: Josh Hilliard (Eleanor Montgomery's grandson), From the Auxiliary, President Dottie Stephenson, Kim Johnson Smith and Eleanor Montgomery; From the SAL Jim Lillard.

Minutes were published in July Newsletter, call for additions/corrections. Motion to accept as published Vickie Parker, seconded by John Miska. Motion carried.

Kim Smith and Eleanor Montgomery presented information on the planned Candidates Forum. Purpose is to inform the voters and hopefully register voters. Falls under Pillar of Americanism. Moderator selected is from Culpeper Co (non-partisan). Sending invitations to all registered candidates. Will be open to the public. Was planned for the same Saturday as the Legion Breakfast but there is a community conflict so has been rescheduled to 29 September. Questions: John Miska – doesn't having all other candidates present during each candidate's answer give an unfair advantage to following candidates. Kim Smith-Doesn't feel that this will give them any edge. First person to respond changes with each question. John Miska—what about Kim's relationship to one of the candidates? Kim-that is why she is distancing herself from the actual event. She will only attend as an observer. The registrar is checking with the Board of Elections to see if attending and registering voters at event is an issue. Gene Brockman—what about having someone outside the county vets the questions? John Miska as a Greene County resident volunteered. Kim still wants someone with County background to be present to prevent inflammatory questions out of the picture. Commander Nowak asked if the Sheriff's office has been asked if a deputy can be present. Kim will check with Eric Weaver about this. Commander Nowak reported that he has spoken with candidate Jim Smith who will minimize his connection to the Post to protect non-partisanship of Post.

Short recess for guests to leave.

Commander Nowak read letter of resignation from Finance Officer. Mr. Beeler has been removed as cosigner from accounts. Has appointed Vickie Parker as interim Finance Officer. Have approx. \$7K at Union Bank and \$1K at Wells Fargo. Utilities are auto paid monthly. Finances are being handled. The Finance report given by Commander, no motion needed. Randall (Scootie) Lillard: Why temporary? 2nd Vice Eric Stevens, the constitution calls for notice to members for election of replacements. Gerry Stephenson asked about the cost of the Post's Insurance for the coming year. Increase is less than 10%.

1st Vice Gene Brockman: Membership report. Introduced new member, Charles Turner. Department shows that we have 75 members, our records show 81. This discrepancy is not unusual. We paid dues for 5 members in distress. We are at approximately 56%, this puts us in good shape for target dates.

Commander Nowak: Presented Awards earned at Dept Convention. Legionnaire of the Year pin to Gene Brockman. Post Commander of the Year to Jr. Past Commander, John Miska. This award is based on points earned for programs done during the previous year. John commented on how much more we could do as a Post if we put the same energy into all our programs as we did Project Healing Waters and Americanism.

Gerry Stephenson – District 1st VC – commented that Dues are most likely to increase by \$5.00 effect 1 January 2016. Will be voted on at National Convention. Regular members should consider becoming Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL). At least pay dues now to avoid an increase in January. There is a \$100 discount on PUFL amount available.

Hall (Building & Grounds) Breakfast here on 22nd. Calendar events listed. No rentals in August. Magic Jack installed, number rings at Post 540 547 6160. Rekeying all interior locks to use same key.

Replacement of sign at entrance progress: Waiting on decals.

Veterans Day: John Miska has contacted several people. Most are already booked. Still working on speaker. Commander Nowak reminded that this is something we need to lock in early.

Sick Call: James Arthur, had a stroke is recovering at home now. Joe Dudley had a triple bypass 24 July, is at home now.

Americanism: John Miska, has been asked why we don't sponsor a scout troop, there are 2 scout troops, we work closely with them already. The Proactive Donor letter is in process. Lisa Davis: starting with Constitution Day, will be requesting for \$120 for this event. Commander Nowak requested this be presented at next Executive Committee Meeting. There is funding in the budget for Americanism/Youth programs.

Breakfast committee: Ron Bechtle- total amount \$477. Tuesday 18 August, planning/inventory meeting. All volunteers welcome.

Service Officer: another new veteran contacted John about getting copies of his discharge papers. John explained the process and handed out copies of the SF180 form used to order these. If you have your discharge papers, please pass the form to a veteran who needs it.

End of standing reports.

Commander Nowak: Calendar is on the Website, contact Sherry Brockman if anything is missing. There will be social time before meetings. Bring food to grill. Hoping to have potluck with side dishes.

Adjutant correspondence: Thank you notes were sent out to: Mrs. Browning for the Gas Stove, The ALA for the \$700 towards the floor, Pat Fray for the \$400 to replace the sign, The Brockman's for the Electric Stove and the Stephenson's for the other Gas Stove.

Election of Adjutant: Call for Nominations from floor. Eric Stevens motion to close nominations. Ron Bechtle second. Motion carried. John Miska motion for unanimous vote for Sherry Brockman to be Adjutant. Randall Lillard second. Motioned carried.

Moving Brockman to Adjutant leaves opening for 2nd Sgt at Arms, Nomination of Richard Schmitt. Vickie Parker motion to close. Ron Bechtle second. Motion carried. John Miska Motion for unanimous vote. Eric Stevens second. Motion carried.

Financial Officer replacement - John Miska – Motion to suspend rules for elections and elect replacement officer at this meeting. Seconded, VC Eric reminded members of need for members to be informed and there is no reason to rush the process. Motion withdrawn. With Vickie Parker acting as Finance Officer, we need to replace historian who keeps scrapbook of what we do as a Post. There is a competition at Department convention. Does need to be a Legionnaire. Please post in Newsletter.

Old Business:

Gerry Stephenson:

Jr. Shooters are competing 15 August at the Cedar Mountain 4H North Regional Match.

Taste of Mountains: yes to traffic/parking at High School. Question about having cold drinks there. Space downtown: Vince is working on that.

M1 raffle is being held at several locations. Ticket sales are going well.

New Business:

Ron Bechtle: Motion to place contact info on message board sign on Main Street covering Pool/Tennis Courts info. John Miska second. Eric Stevens indicated there would be enough materials left over from entrance sign to take care of this. Motion carried.

Today is Coast Guard birthday, there is cake following the meeting.

Following benediction by Chaplain Stephenson, meeting adjourned at 20:18.

**Cake did follow the adjournment**

## The Auxiliary Prepares for a Busy Fall Season

As the summer season winds down, the American Legion Auxiliary is gearing up for its busiest season – Fall. In mid-August, the storage room was the focus of reorganization and an inventory of what we have and what we'll need for our various activities.

The Auxiliary also voted to have ¼ of our yearly meetings at a restaurant to increase our abilities to socialize with one another. The August meeting will be at Olive Grill in Ruckersville starting at 6 p.m. so food orders may be placed (8/25).

After the Legion breakfasts (8/22 and 9/26), where Auxiliary members help if they're available, and the Taste of the Mountains street festival (9/5), our first big event is the Boys State, Girls State and Junior Law Cadet Dinner (9/19) where we honor our young delegates and learn about their activities at the three programs. The menu is set. Our invited guests are the youth and their families as well as individuals associated with the school and the programs. All Legion Family members are invited to attend as well with RSVPs appreciated/required so that we have a head count. Auxiliary members will bring side dishes and Legionnaires are asked to contribute a dessert. Contact Dottie Stephenson to reserve a spot – 948-5019.

The fall activities will wrap up with the Constitution Day poster competition (9/17)(Lisa Davis – contact), the Catfish Supper (10/17), the Veterans Day school competition (Lisa Davis – contact) and service (11/11), the Pearl Harbor/World War II commemoration (12/5), and Wreaths Across America (12/12).



Editor: Please note: all program chairs and Legion Family Organizations have been asked to send something. Since I don't have to leave space for advertising, if there isn't an article you hoped to see in here, it's because it wasn't submitted.



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

**SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD AT SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
**to fill the Position of Finance Officer vacated by resignation.**

Calendar of Event – Please see calendar on Website ([www.vaalpost157.org](http://www.vaalpost157.org)) for updates and/or changes

Mon: August 17	19:00 -- 20:00	American Legion Riders Meeting	
Sat: August 22	07:00 – 10:00	Breakfast	
Mon: August 24	18:00 – 20:00	Executive Committee (note time change)	
Tues: August 25	19:00 - 20:00	Sons of the American Legion meeting	At the Post Home
	19:00 - 20:00	The American Legion Auxiliary meeting	
Tues: September 1	18:00 - 19:00	Social Hour/Meal	
		The American Legion meeting	
Sat: September 5	All day	Taste of The Mountains	Downtown Madison
Sat: September 19	18:30 - ?	Recognition Dinner	At the Post Home

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