

**AMERICAN LEGION
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976
4206 Daniels Avenue
Annandale, VA 22003**
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Non-profit Organization
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Annandale, VA
Permit No. 179

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TO:

*If you wish to receive your newsletter earlier in the month please send your email address to:
georgepjw@aol.com and we will email it.*

Winter 2017

NEWSLETTER





VOLUME XXXVII ISSUE #4

Winter 2017

Officers' Call

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2017-2018

Commander—Roy McCracken

1st Vice Cdr.—Gretchen Trujillo

2nd Vice Cdr.—Eugene Kimbrell

3rd Vice Cdr.—Tom Ritchie

Finance Officer—Frank Buckley

Chaplain—Julie Simoni

Service Officer—Dorothy Vigano

Sgt. At Arms—Bob Thomas

Historian—Ellen Ayers

Adjutant—Vacant

Commander's Corner

Welcome to the winter edition of Commander's Corner. Hopefully you have survived the last few months and enjoyed the fall leaves changing colors and you have prepped yourselves for the coming arctic blasts. The weather so far has been very seasonable, but make sure you prep for the coming months. Snow removal items are always in short supply once it's too late.

Now that the colder weather has set in, what better time to stop on by the post and warm up with great friends and great times? Maybe sit back and enjoy some warmed up hot toddies and come up for some of our food nights like Thursday. There are plenty of

activities and special nights coming up in the next three months, so read the articles from your 2nd Vice Commander and Auxiliary President.

I'd like to once again invite all of you to attend the now infamous "Commander's Breakfast" on the third (3rd) Sunday of each and every month. Where else can you get an \$8, all-you-can-eat, made-to-order breakfast? Also, as an added bonus for reading this far into my column, ****Spoiler Alert**** December's breakfast special of the day will be none other than "Steak and Eggs"! The steak and eggs special will actually be \$10, but will still be all-you-can-eat with the exception of steak, which can be bought for \$5 per steak. Where are you going to be on December 17th? 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—don't miss it!!

Volunteerism as of late has been much better and I sincerely appreciate it. That makes it much easier to keep planning events if we know we have a great support staff. It's what makes our Post home run much smoother.

Lastly, a personal heartfelt thank you to everyone who either patronizes our Post home or volunteers their precious time to make everything work at our American Legion Post 1976.

Until the next edition of Commander's Corner,

Roy McCracken, Commander

1st Vice's Report

I hope that everyone is either having or had a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas, and may your New Year bring you joy, peace, and prosperity. I pray everyone will be safe.

We are ahead of the game in membership, which is fantastic. I process memberships on Fridays unless I am out of town.

We supported the Taste of Annandale, which was a success. Thanks to Dorothy Vigano for organizing this event. Thank you Dorothy and Tennessee for preparing food. A lot of hard work went into this event. Thank you Auxiliary Unit for always coming through. We couldn't perform a lot of our functions without your support, and I appreciate you all. Thank you all who came to the event and helped support the Taste of Annandale.

It is always an honor on Veteran's Day to go to the Methodist Church and place flags on our veterans' graves. Many families came up for our ceremony and some placed flags on their loved ones' graves.

We celebrated Thanksgiving with our veterans at Bethesda. This is always heartfelt as we spend time with our active duty folks. I enjoy listening to their stories and how much has changed since I was on active duty.



In the photo above, Julie Simoni is supervising while the men load Thanksgiving dinner on Mike Trujillo's truck to take to Bethesda.

Gretchen Trujillo, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

Well here it is winter again. Not much going on at the post right now, but we do have our Christmas party on December 16th starting at 4 p.m. going until? There will be karaoke with DJ Joe Clay so come on out and sing us your favorite Christmas tunes. We will also be doing the White Elephant gift exchange again this year,

so if you would like to play just bring in your gift of no more than 15 dollars and you're in; game will start at 8 p.m.

The monthly Karaoke will be starting back up in the near future. This is always a great time. So warm 'em up and come sing us a tune.

I want to thank everyone that helps out and works so hard at our events. Without these few people willing to work, they would not happen. So thank you so much. If anyone has any ideas of something fun we could do at the post please let us know.

That's about it for now, so I am out. Thanks again!

Eugene Kimbrell (aka Cornbread), 2nd Vice Commander

3rd Vice's Report

Welcome to our new bar managers—all are working out very well so far. Thanks to our current bar managers for their continued service to the post.

The club is running very smoothly thanks in part to all of you and our wonderful club manager.

Tom Ritchie, 3rd Vice Commander

Finance Officer's Report

Here is a quick overview of financial activity for the period of August-October 2017: Net income for the period was -\$11,628; of note during this period we replaced the HVAC unit for the Hall at a cost of \$14,000 and we also participated in "Taste of Annandale" for a net cost of \$2,381. Mortgage principal payments for the period totaled \$15,956 (includes \$9,000 of "extra" principal payments) which brings our mortgage balance to \$261,642 as of October 31, 2017.

Frank Buckley, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

I want to thank each one of you for serving our community. Every Legionnaire, Sons, and Auxiliary member should be eager to make their community a good place to live. We do this by serving the whole community. American Legion Bicentennial Post 1976

serves its community. Here is a list of how we are doing this (but not a complete list):

- Our Service Officer assists Veterans with VA applying for or upgrading their VA disability benefits.
- The Executive Board vets (with the Service Officer doing all of the research) and financially assists Veterans under financial straits.
- Other members provide Veterans with transportation to the VA or to other medical appointments.
- The Post, Auxiliary, and Sons donating money to nearly all events, as well as to Boys and Girls State.
- The Riders (Auxiliary helping with the cooking) along with many others—members and non-members—served an early Thanksgiving dinner to wounded warriors and their family members at Walter Reed.
- The Riders (and others) have served a Christmas/Chanukah meal to a local assisted living center (and are again this year—ask me for details if you are interested).
- Many of you have donated money or toys for our annual Toys for Tots collection to the U.S. Marine Corps.
- Many have donated clothing items for the Washington D.C. VA medical center to give to homeless Veterans.

Please forgive me if I did not include your efforts. If you would like me to mention what you or your group is doing to serve our community, please email me at jaglo.simoni@gmail.com. I would be honored to include that information in our next newsletter. The more who know, the more we grow. And, of course, you can call me for spiritual matters at (931) 302-2504.

Julie Simoni, Chaplain

Service Officer's Report

With the Jan. 1, 2018 changes to [new stateside regions and contractors](#), you may need to update your [payment option](#) to guarantee continued payment of your TRICARE enrollment fees and monthly premiums.

There are currently three TRICARE regions in the United States. In the New Year, TRICARE North and TRICARE South will combine to form TRICARE East. TRICARE West will largely remain the same.

Humana Military will manage the East region contract. Health Net Federal Services LLC will manage the West contract.

TRICARE Is Changing. Here Is What You Need to Know:

You will no longer be able to make payments via paper check. Acceptable [methods of payment](#) will continue to be allotment, electronic funds transfer, and debit or credit card. If you sign in to your regional contractor's website to make payments online, this option will also still exist.

If You Pay By Allotment Directly from Your Paycheck

If you currently pay your enrollment fees or premiums by allotment through a Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS) or other Uniformed Services Pay Center, you will not need to update your payment information. Your payments will automatically transfer to the new regional contractor on Jan. 1, 2018. Unless you cancel your allotment, TRICARE will continue to deduct your enrollment fees and premiums.

If You Pay Through Electronic Funds Transfer or Via Debit or Credit Card

If you live in an area where a new regional contractor will be delivering services, you'll need to update your payment information to go to your new regional contractor. This applies if you currently pay enrollment fees or premiums by electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account or via a debit or credit card. Your new regional contractor will contact you with instructions on how to update your payment information.

You must proactively update your payment information to make sure payments start going to your new regional contractor and stop going to your previous regional contractor. This action will help you avoid disenrollment from TRICARE.

Dorothy Vigano, Service Officer

Historian's Report

No report this quarter.

Ellen Ayers, Historian

Adjutant's Report

This position is currently vacant. Please contact the Post for more information.

Club Manager's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

The good news is that the Auxiliary has been really busy since the fall newsletter. The other good news is that we have a great group of members who have supported our projects and Legion activities!

We sent school supplies to the Virginia Beach/Norfolk area for military children and also took a bag of supplies to a Springfield elementary school. The principal was very grateful.

We helped with two 17th District projects at the Washington VAMC. They are having baby showers for 5 women veterans at the hospital, and our Auxiliary purchased a combo stroller/carseat, diapers, and onesies for this. Our 2nd project was collecting gifts for the Holiday Gift Shop. The patients can pick gifts for their families at no cost. Our members outdid themselves! We donated over \$1,000 worth of gifts, many of them for women, and children's toys. In addition, thanks to money gifts from JoAnn in Florida and the DAR, we purchased 124 pairs of socks and 24 T-shirts to go into the patients' Christmas gift bags. We also have been sending comfort items, magazines, cards, and such that our members bring in, about once a month. We supported Martinsburg VAMC with a donation for their holiday needs.

We sent \$500 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to help members who live in the disaster areas in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Thanks to the DAR for their help.

Our members assisted the Legion in the Taste of Annandale on Oct. 14th, and they played a BIG part in cooking and serving at the USO Thanksgiving dinner. Also helped the Riders with their BBQ. And we thank our members for preparing and serving the Thursday night Thanksgiving dinner at our Post. Many members helped, but we especially thank MaryAnna. We "make it happen"!

Our next meeting is Dec. 11th and we will be decorating the Christmas tree. Our annual Legion family Christmas party is Saturday, Dec. 16th, and we will be providing the hams. There is a sign-up sheet for potluck food—bring anything that you specialize in. Starts at 4 p.m., music/karaoke by Joe Clay, and an optional white elephant gift exchange. We also are planning a Valentine's steak dinner on Feb. 10th, door prize of box of candy.

I am extremely proud of our members and their participation this fall. And I know many plan to help with the Wreaths of America project at Arlington Cemetery. Our meetings are on the second Monday of each month, and all are welcome. Please join us.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

We have a new membership chairman, Rosa Ketterling. Thank you to Jennifer, and we understand why she cannot continue at this time. Thanks to Jennifer and Rosa and our members, we achieved the 65% goal by Oct. 15th and received a certificate and some recognition at the Fall Department Conference. I did not think that goal could be met, but you surprised me! We are using the Post Home address from now on. Dues to be sent to Am. Legion Auxiliary, 4206 Daniels Ave. Annandale VA 22003.

At the November meeting, we drew a name from our Early Birds, those members who paid by Oct. 31st. Mollie Swicegood will have her 2019 dues paid by the Auxiliary. What are the odds of this? Mollie was our winner the last time we did this!

A very warm welcome to our newest members: Rhonda Stevens, Mary Strickler, Julie Henry, Savannah Pinnata, Karen Late, Kathy Buckley, and junior member Alexandra Scroggins who has rejoined. We have already seen them working or visiting around the Post.

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

Our condolences to member Cheryl McDonald upon the death of her husband, Greg. There will be a "party," per Greg's wishes, on Dec. 9th at 6 p.m. at the Post. Greg was also stepfather to our newsletter editor and Post bartender Stephanie Kern, and brother to SAL member Pat McDonald.

Karen McDaniel, Auxiliary President
karensmdaniel@verizon.net

Sons of the American Legion Report

Winter is almost upon us. The leaves are just about all fallen; we will soon be shoveling snow instead of mowing lawns! Hope you all stay warm and comfortable this Winter.

The SAL Squadron is continuing our Movie Nights; we sponsor a movie on the third Friday evening of each month. The turnout has not been tremendous the last couple of months, but hopefully that will increase in the near future as the weather cools down, and folks find it enjoyable to come inside and relax at the Legion Post. It is a chance for Post friends to spend a nice enjoyable evening together. The movies selected will be adventurous shows. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes food and a drink from the bar; along with an enjoyable couple of hours with members of the Post, watching a good movie chosen by the majority of the viewers. Our Movie Night is advertised by flyers set up throughout the Post lounge, and a message will be sent out by the facilities manager. The movie screen will be set up in the Tom Weston Hall. So come on in and enjoy a nice evening at the Post.

The 2018 membership year has been going strong for the 2018 Squadron Year. We have already received 49 member renewals for the 2018 session; almost 50% of our Department goal. The Early Bird celebration on October 13 was enjoyed by many members of our Squadron! Let's keep those renewals coming in; the end of the year is approaching quickly, and you will have to show your 2018 membership card upon entering the Legion Post after the New Year. So get your renewal in before the end of December. The renewal cost is still \$30 for SAL members. Dual members pay only the State Membership cost of \$12 for their dual SAL membership. If you would like to renew for 2018, you can place your renewal request in an envelope addressed to Mike T, with the \$30 renewal fee. The bartender on duty will pin the renewal on the bulletin board, which I will pick up, and then provide a 2018 membership card for the member renewing; either I will mail to you or place it in an envelope on the bulletin board for your retrieval.

The SAL meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, so the SAL meeting in December will be December 7, 2017. We would like to hear any recommendations for events or any other worthwhile endeavors that we can undertake during the year which would benefit the Post. Please schedule this meeting in your calendar, and hopefully we will see you there.

See you at the December meeting.

Mike Trujillo, SAL 1st Vice

American Legion Riders

The Riders had a good season. We had good turnouts for our events. So we were able to donate to some really good charities. And we will be doing some fundraisers inside the post so we can get a head start on next season. So please join us in some of these—all help is greatly appreciated.

We are doing TOYS for TOTS and again this year there are two ways you can help: you can bring in a new gift and put it in one of the boxes here at the post or we have a jug sitting on the bar by the serving area that you can just drop your change into and donate that way.

We are looking into feeding the folks at Millwood again this year—date and time TBD. We will let everyone know so if you would like to help, you're more than welcome.

That's about it for now, so everyone stay safe and THANK YOU ALL for the support you all give the RIDERS.

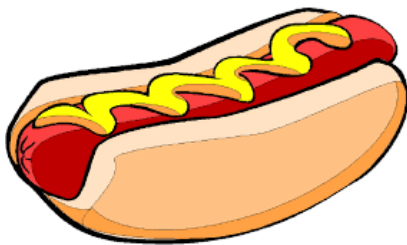
*Eugene Kimbrell (aka Cornbread)
ALR Director*



MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for Movie Night on the Third Friday of each Month

Only \$5.00 for All-You-Can-Eat Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Chips, and Popcorn, plus One Free Drink from the Bar



Food served at 7:00 p.m. - Movie at 8:00 p.m.



Movie is chosen from a selection by a majority of those in attendance.



Post 1976



***Annual
Christmas Party***

Saturday

December 16, 2017

4 – 7 p.m.

Meat provided

Bring a Dish to Share

Sign-up sheet at Post

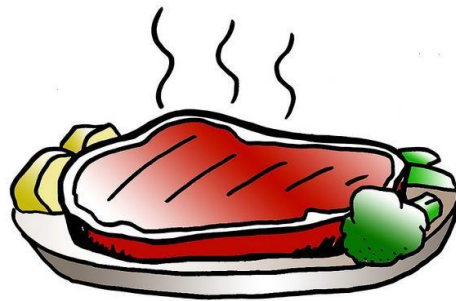
Music/Karaoke by Joe Clay

Post 1976 Auxiliary

Steak Dinner

Saturday

February 10, 2018



6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Steak, Baked Potato,
Salad, Bread, Dessert**

\$10.00





~ December 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 DAR Mtg 10-12
3	4	5	6 <div>House Committee Meeting 6:30</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting 7pm</div>	7 <div>SAL Meeting 6:30pm</div> 	8	9
10	11 <div>Auxiliary Meeting 7pm</div>	12 <div>General Membership Meeting 7pm</div>	13	14 	15 <div>Movie Night 7:30 pm</div>	16 <div>Post Christmas Party 4 p.m.</div>
17 <div>Commander's Breakfast 9am – 1pm</div>	18	19	20	21 <div>ALR Meeting 7:00pm</div> 	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28 	29	30
31	Notes:					

~ January 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7pm	4 SAL Meeting 6:30pm 	5	6 DAR Mtg 10-12
7	8 Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	9 General Membership Meeting 7pm	10	11 	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ALR Meeting 7:00pm 	19 Movie Night 7:30 pm	20
21 Commander's Breakfast 9am – 1pm	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

~ February 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 SAL Meeting 6:30 pm 	2	3 DAR Mtg 10-12
4	5	6	7 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	8 	9	10 Auxiliary Steak Dinner 6 p.m.
11	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	13 General Membership Meeting 7pm	14	15 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm 	16 Movie Night 7:30 pm	17
18 Commander's Breakfast 9am – 1pm	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28	Notes:		