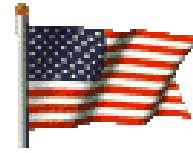


**AMERICAN LEGION
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976**
4206 Daniels Avenue
Annandale, VA 22003
Post Info Line: 703-941-9608
Email: rpcomm6759@aol.com
Website: www.post1976.org



If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send your email address to rpcomm6759@aol.com and we will email it.

American Legion Post 1976

Fall 2022

NEWSLETTER





VOLUME XLII ISSUE #3

Fall 2022

Post 1976 Officers

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2021–2022

Commander: Gretchen Trujillo; Thegretch61@verizon.net

1st Vice Cdr. (Membership): Jeremy Powell
jmpowell78@gmail.com

2nd Vice Cdr. (Events): Vacant

3rd Vice Cdr. (House Comm): Lance Kent;
lancekent17@aol.com

Finance Officer: Tom Ritchie; ritchiefamily@ymail.com

Chaplain: Paul McComb; pmccomb98@gmail.com

Historian: Robert Plaughter; mouseydee@aol.com

Service Officer: Dorothy Hennessey Vigano
703-898-6627; dorothyvigano@yahoo.com

Sgt. At Arms: Ryan Thum

Adjutant: Dan Vigano

MEETINGS:

Executive Board: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

General Membership: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

House Committee: 1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 1976

President: Tom Uglietta; TomUg@verizon.net

1st Vice (Membership): Mike Trujillo
MrT.Mike@verizon.net

Treasurer: Mike Lowe

Sergeant at Arms: Scott Pratt

Historian: Doug Oneill

Adjutant: Gary Indre

Chaplain: Steve Smith

MEETINGS: 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 1976

Director: Mike Trujillo; MrT.Mike@verizon.net

Treasurer: Dick George; hndymndick@aol.com

MEETINGS: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 1976

President: Pam McCarthy; iamsome12@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Karen McDaniel;
karensmdaniel@verizon.net

2nd Vice President: Joyce Landry; catnaper520@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sharon Ogle; Share2520@gmail.com

Treasurer: Laura Werner; laurawer@yahoo.com

Chaplain: Susan Dudding; Susan.dudding@yahoo.com

Historian: Patti George; georgpiw@aol.com

Sgt. At Arms: Megan Hayes-Thum;
megan_hayes@gmail.com

Membership: Karen McDaniel;
karensmdaniel@verizon.net

MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., except June, July (no meeting)

Club Manager: Diane Ramsey
703-941-9608; Rpcomm6759@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Stephanie Kern; Slk04@hotmail.com

Website Manager: Heather Pressler,
heather@capitalpractice.com

Want to get the newsletter emailed to you? Email Diane Ramsey at rpcomm6759@aol.com.

Commander's Corner

Dear Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders:

I can't believe it's already fall.

We are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Legion Family Breakfasts are all-you-can-eat, dine-in only, and are on the third Sunday every month from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; the cost is \$10.00. This event is open to the public. We thank our volunteers from the SAL, Legion, and Auxiliary for their continued support.

It is highly encouraged that our members join us at meetings as this is a great forum to address issues, bring up ideas, and discuss legion business. The Executive Board and House Committee need your support—please let us know what we can do to help encourage participation at our meetings.

The planning of a “Legion Family Fun Day” is on hold for now. We are playing with ideas of what we can do. Our post is in need of a day where we can get together and have a great time. We've discussed having a BBQ, playing corn hole, having a dunking tank, and having fun activities for kids.

Honorable Mentions

Stephanie, we applaud you for always taking care of the newsletter. Kudos to Karen McDaniel and all who have helped put it together.

Thank you, Lance Kent, for organizing Texas Hold em' and Trivia. Lance is very instrumental working with Patricia Ness on legion events such as the luau, Halloween, Christmas parties, and more.

Thank you Tom Uglietta, Red, Tennessee, and Scott Pratt for taking the lead on the Legion Family Breakfast. Paul, thank you for helping set up on the mornings of breakfast in addition to everything else you do to support our post. Thank you servers Dorothy Vigano, Patsy Ducker, Suzanne Weeden, Megan Thum, Susan Dudding, and Sharon Ogle for your help. Thank you, Mike Trujillo and Lance Kent, for being our cleanup crew. Stephanie Kern, thank you for keeping the cleanup crew in line and helping us. Please forgive me if I left anyone off as it wasn't intentional.

For God and Country,

Gretchen Trujillo, Commander

1st Vice's Report

To start off, I want to thank everyone for their patience during the first few weeks of the 2023 membership campaign. Typically, cards are delivered to the post prior to the July 1st kickoff. This year we didn't receive the cards until nearly the end of July due to an issue with the printer at the national level, which got us off to a slow start. I also want to apologize for the additional delay on my end. Life sometimes has a way of getting in the way, and I was not able to start processing membership until the weekend of August 20th—my sincere apologies for the extra wait. That said, I processed 95 renewals and new memberships that weekend alone! The following week I processed an additional eight, so we are already above 100 renewals for 2023. To put that into perspective, our goal for the entirety of 2023 is 264, so we are nearly half way there already! That is truly incredible! Thank you all so much for those who have already renewed! Those of you who haven't, I have all the new cards and I have managed to beat life back (for now), so please send in your dues! I would love to see us blow through the monthly goals from District this year—especially since we ended up four short for our total goal last year. It would be a great way to rebound from that.

I also want to ask everyone to please continue your recruitment efforts to bring in new members. Remember, we pay the first year's dues for any

new active duty member so there is no cost for them to give us a try and see what the Legion has to offer! I would also ask/beg that you please have new applicants pay close attention to the membership application. Most of the applications I receive have either incomplete or illegible information on them. Oddly enough, most don't even check what branch of the military they served in! Also, please remember I need to verify an applicant's DD214 or current active-duty status in order to issue them a membership. This is an incredibly important step! Signing off as a recruiter is not enough! The recruiter block is not an "honor system" or for vouching for someone's eligibility, it is only to track our members who assist in bringing in new membership so that they can be recognized. By all means, please PRINT the recruiter's name legibly so that I can read it and give you the credit you deserve as the membership year goes on. However, I still need to see the required proof of eligibility! This is a national requirement.

Also, we have had several requests for transfers to our post—and why not? We are pretty awesome! However, I typically have been getting just a handwritten note in the membership bag. Sometimes it includes the information I need like current post number or membership number, and sometimes it doesn't. If you know someone who wants to transfer, please have them see the club manager or bartender on duty to pick up a "Member Data Form" to fill out. If they are an in-state member, I can only transfer them myself if they are paying their dues for the upcoming year—but I still need all the info on that form. If they have already paid up their dues or are transferring from out of state, I need to be able to send their SIGNED Member Data form to Richmond for processing. I cannot process any other transfers myself unless it is a renewal of dues for a member at another Virginia post. There have been a couple of transfer requests that I have not been able to process or even contact because all I received was a name—no contact info, no POC from our post to follow up with, no membership number or current post number, etc. It could have been the difference in us meeting our goal last year, so please, see a staff member to ensure your applicant for new membership or

transfer has completed the required paperwork and provided the required documentation! Help me to help them!

Stepping off my soapbox, again I want to thank all of you for your continued membership and the very strong showing so far for the 2023 campaign! Lance Kent and I will be getting together soon to finalize plans for the early bird party, and with such a strong showing already I imagine it will be a great time! Make sure you get that stamp on your 2023 card so you don't miss out on the fun!

Jeremy Powell, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

Even though the position is "vacant," we are still trying to fulfill the responsibilities of Second Vice.

This season of Texas Hold 'em has one week remaining (Sept. 16) to qualify for the quarterly tournament on Sept. 24. You must play in two weekly tournaments to qualify for the quarterly tournament. The quarterly tournament will be Sept. 24; sign-ups to start at 2 p.m. and the tournament will begin at 3 p.m.

Tuesday Night Trivia will still be the third Tuesday of every month. The next three will be Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15. The trivia contest will start at 7 p.m. and, as always, the SAL will be providing wings, hot dogs, and French fries.

Karaoke night will be the third Saturday of every month. The next three will be Sept. 17, Oct. 15, and Nov. 19.

The Post's Halloween party will be Saturday, Oct. 29. Stay tuned for details.

Come on out and enjoy the fun!

Lance Kent (temp fill-in for Second Vice)

3rd Vice's Report

Last quarter, I stated that the noise within the post was starting to get out of control. Although it is getting better, there are still instances of loud

conversations across the social quarters. Please be mindful of others. We are all there to have a good time and relax.

We had an incident involving someone within the Post scribbling on a flyer pertaining to the new Veteran's Hotline number (988). Unfortunately, we will probably not know who scribbled the message on the flyer. The act and the message that was written showed blatant disrespect to everyone within the Post. As members of the American Legion, we should know better. As a reminder, members are responsible for the conduct of their respective guests.

I understand that there are personality conflicts within members of the Post. Some people will not get along with other people, for whatever reason. That's fine. What isn't fine is getting into a shouting/name calling match where all involved will create drama that, quite frankly, doesn't belong in our Post. Please, don't poke the bear.

On the good news side of the house, we are continuously making improvements to the Post. The roof was repaired and the parking lot near the dumpster was power washed. We have a few more improvements that are pending approval before proceeding.

I'll end this quarter's report the same way I ended last quarter's: Please, be respectful to your fellow Legion members and to the Post itself.

Lance Kent, 3rd Vice Commander

Finance Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

As we head into Autumn, a prayer to celebrate:

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn. We thank you: for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy, -for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

-for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches, -for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls, -for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children, -for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land, -for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life. God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

Amen

— Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

[www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-autumn.php]

Take care of each other. May the Lord provide you encouragement and comfort always, but especially if you are enduring difficult times. May the Lord be a constant companion to us all.

Paul McComb, Chaplain

Service Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Service Officer
dorothyvigano@yahoo.com; (703) 898-6627

Historian's Report

No report this quarter.

Robert Plaughter, Historian

Club Manager's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

Hello Dear Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! We are back to our regularly scheduled program with our monthly meetings. We invite all members to attend. We would love to see you.

I am happy to report that Debbie McComb has volunteered to be our Education Chairman. Thank

you very much, Debbie! As such, she is leading the charge to support three local elementary schools. If you wish to purchase any school supplies, we have a list of items needed located at the Post as well as a box at the entrance of the Post where these supplies can be dropped off. For those who do not wish to shop, we are accepting donations and would be grateful for any contribution. We have some volunteers that would be happy to go shopping.

While speaking of Debbie, this summer we were proud to support her in her efforts to raise funds for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. I'm pleased to say she met her goal. This is a wonderful organization dedicated to assisting military and veteran parents that face unexpected financial crisis. They help cover the costs of necessities such as food, rent, and medical care.

Many thanks to Joyce Landry for spearheading an effort to buy and deliver much needed curtains to the Shelter House. They are always grateful for our support. Joyce also took the lead in creating birthday baskets for two Armed Forces residents that each turned 100 years old. They were very pleased. Happy birthday!

As always, I'd like to thank everyone that continues to volunteer and/or support the Auxiliary in our efforts. I continue to be honored to know such wonderful people.

Please continue to stay safe!!!

Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Membership

A warm welcome to our newest members: Blake Thomas, Mildred Hartman, Mary Hukill, Suzanne Weeden, Valerie Millineaux, and Vicki Indre. Please make them feel at home! Renewal notices for 2023 are sent out by National in mid-September, but you don't have to wait for that! Dues are still \$35, payable to ALA Unit 1976 and sent to Post Home at 4206 Daniels Ave. Annandale, VA 22003. OR you can renew directly to National: www.alaforveterans.org or call them

at 317-569-4500. You can use a credit card, and will need your membership number. Be an "Early Bird": Pay your dues by Sept. 30 and you will be able to participate in the Post 1976 free-drink day. AND, if you pay by Oct. 31, your name will be entered in a drawing to have your dues for 2024 paid by the Auxiliary. Last year's winner was Mollie Swicegood.

Your dues do much more than just admit you into Legion posts. We have many programs we support for veterans, children, community service, national security, etc. You honor the veteran you joined through with your support.

Our total membership for 2022 was 123. We have 4 PUFL (paid up for life) members, and now might be a good time to consider this. National organization has already alerted us that there will be a large increase in the amount we have to send forward, and this probably will affect our dues for 2024. The cost is based on your age and the amount of dues.

Although we don't have an active junior unit, we do have two juniors. I would like us to increase our junior membership. Cost is only \$5 and there are activities that are available to them.

Our goals are all officers paid by Sept. 1, 50% by Oct. 21, 75% by Dec. 7. We were very pleased to receive our certificate for 100% at our annual convention in July. Thanks to all of you.

*Karen McDaniel, Auxiliary Membership
Chairman*

Sons of the American Legion Report

Well, Summer is almost over, but it's still a little warm out so enjoy shorts and t-shirt weather for a for a few more weeks.

The 2022 membership year has completed, and we have met our Department goal of 110 renewals, by even going one over for 111 renewals for 2022. I think that has been a tremendous accomplishment for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron, considering the

restrictions we have been under for the past couple of years!

We have now started our 2023 membership year and have already received 19 member renewals for the 2023 Early Bird season. The Early Bird period lasts until Sept. 30, 2022. The Post will sponsor an Early Bird celebration in October, which the date will be announced shortly. Drinks will be on the house for Early Birds for a portion of the day! Renew early and come on out and enjoy the celebration with many other members of our Post.

The renewal cost is still \$30 for SAL members. Dual members pay only the state membership cost of \$15 for their dual SAL membership. If you would like to renew for 2023, you can place your renewal request in an envelope addressed to Mike T, with the \$30 renewal fee. The bartender on duty will provide the waiting renewals to me when I come into the Post home for meetings or just to visit, which I will then process and provide a 2023 membership card for the member renewing; most likely it will be mailed to you unless you are a frequent member that I can hand it to.

So please turn in your renewal in a timely manner, so you can participate in the Early Bird celebration in October.

The Post is continuing with the monthly trivia contests, on the third Tuesday of the month. SAL also cooks chicken wings and hot dogs on the day of the trivia contest, with service beginning about 6 p.m. So, come out to the Post and enjoy a great wing or hot dog snack, and also participate in the humorous trivia contest, and have lots of fun answering some of the Jeopardy-style questions Lance comes up with to throw out to the participants.

SAL also participates in the monthly Legion Breakfast, held on the third Sunday of the month. SAL members do most of the cooking and are assisted by other Legion and Auxiliary members to distribute the breakfast plates and clean up after the breakfast is over. This is a very fun occasion we can be proud of in our Post/Squadron, and the number of folks who come out for the Legion

Breakfast is very significant. We are extremely proud of turning out this breakfast each month.

The SAL meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. 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.

The Squadron now has most members participating in person at the monthly meetings; but we also understand that some folks would rather participate remotely, so participation in the SAL meetings can be accessed using Zoom connectivity on your home computer. If you so desire to join us in the monthly meeting through Zoom, please respond to a message we will be sending out to all Squadron SAL members a day or so before the meeting, and we will send you a Zoom invite just before the meeting.

So please place the SAL meetings in your calendar, and hopefully you will join us for the next meeting.

Remember to be careful and stay safe.

For God and Country,

Mike Trujillo, SAL 1st Vice

American Legion Riders Report

Hey, it's still Summer, but cooling down a bit; still a good time to get our bikes out and get in some rides!

Here are the current efforts we are involved in:

We had our ride to the Shanksville area on Saturday, Sept. 10, and returned on Sunday, Sept. 11. This year we decided to visit the Jonesburg Flood site instead of the Flight 93 Memorial, which we have already visited each year. We saw some movies on the Jonestown Flood last year and decided it would be a good choice to visit them this year. We had some Riders from Post 290 in Stafford riding with us this year and we dropped in at the Bedford and Rockwood Legion posts.

Post 290 in Stafford will sponsor a Rally Oct. 7–9, details to follow on that schedule.

Our chapter has made donations this Summer to different ALR functions, to Wreaths Across America, to the Legion POW/MIA XFINITY race car, and to the Va. ALR Legacy Run Scholarship program. Can't forget Toys for Tots—the boxes will be out soon.

We will be looking into things to do at the Post as additional fundraisers. With the cooler weather moving in, let's get out and ride. RIDE SAFE!

Mike Trujillo, ALR Director

IN OTHER NEWS



American Legion Family Leadership College Graduation, District 17 graduates, July 31. Post 1976 graduates: Pam McCarty, Debbie McComb, Paul McComb. Glenn Yarborough was a grad but isn't in the picture.

Combined Americanism Conference

Annually, the Americanism Commission of the American Legion national headquarters gets together with our department counterparts combining all the Americanism programs into a single conference. This conference focuses on sharing ideas and best practices and rolling out program updates, and allows department program directors an opportunity to provide needed feedback to our national programs.

The Combined Americanism Conference consists of eight segments which occur as either in-person or virtual meetings. These conferences occur in September of each year. In 2022, there are three segments that will occur in person including American Legion Oratorical, Boys State, and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. All other segments will occur virtually.

- Boys State (in person)
- American Legion Chaplain (virtual, Sept. 17)
- American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain (virtual, Sept. 17)
- Children and Youth (virtual, Sept. 17)
- Junior Shooting Sports (virtual, Sept. 17)
- Oratorical (in person)
- Scouting (virtual, TBD)
- Girls State

Conference program agendas will be available on the website. Register at www.legion.org/cacregistration. Questions may be directed to americanism@legion.org or 317-630-1203.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| American Legion Day | Various | Sept. 16 |
| POW/MIA Recognition Day | Various | Sept. 17 |
| Department Fall Conference | Williamsburg | Oct. 21–23 |
| 17 th District Fall Conference | Fairfax Post 177 | Oct. 30 |
| Four Chaplains Service | Fairfax Post 177 | Feb. 5, 2023 |
| Department Spring Conference | Portsmouth | March 3–5, 2023 |
| 17 th District Spring Conference | Springfield Post 176 | March 19, 2023 |

Post 1976 Sponsors Therapy Horse



Taffy's Misty Breeze

Cloverleaf Equine Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps individuals realize their highest potential by providing equine-assisted services to people with disabilities, youth from marginalized communities, recovering military personnel, and others in need.

Services include therapeutic riding and horsemanship lessons, physical or occupational therapy, equine-assisted learning, and psychotherapy incorporating horses.

The center manages a herd of 18 horses—including Taffy's Misty Breeze, or Taffy for short. Taffy was born in 2007 and joined the Cloverleaf herd in the summer of 2017. **American Legion Post 1976 is currently sponsoring Taffy.**



You don't have to go through a crisis alone.

Dial 988 then Press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line day or night.

There's a new, easy-to-remember way to reach the Veterans Crisis Line—**Dial 988 then Press 1**. Millions of Veterans have called when they needed crisis support. We're here if you need us.

For more information, visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net). You can still call the original Veterans Crisis Line number—**1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**—to reach responders.

COWBOY KARAOKE

September 17th at 7pm



Join us in "REAL" Cowboy Fashion

Prizes for :

Best Cowboy over all &

Best Country Song

Food will be served at 6:30pm

Join us around the Chuck Wagon for some

Kielbasa, Potato salad,

Cornbread & Dessert



We will have:

50/50

Prizes & Raffles

Jello Shooters

Happy Trails



Halloween Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th



Food will be served at 6:30 pm

Ham, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans & Dessert

*There will be prizes for
1st, 2nd & 3rd favorite
Halloween costumes!!*

Raffle prizes, 50/50 & Jello shooters



~ September 2022 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1  SAL Meeting 7 pm | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Labor Day | 6 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm | 7 | 8  | 9 Texas Hold Em' 7 p.m. | 10 |
| 11 Patriot Day | 12 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm | 13 General Membership Meeting 7 pm | 14 | 15  ALR Meeting 7:00 pm | 16 Texas Hold Em' 7 p.m. American Legion Day | 17 Cowboy Karaoke 7 p.m. POW/MIA Recognition Day |
| 18 All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 19 | 20 Trivia Night 7 p.m. | 21 | 22  | 23 | 24 Texas Hold Em' Quarterly Tournament 2 p.m. |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29  | 30 Early Bird Deadline | |

~ October 2022 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 <div>House Committee Meeting 6:30</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting 7 pm</div> | 5 | 6 <div>SAL Meeting 7 pm</div>  | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 <div>Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</div> Columbus Day | 11 <div>General Membership Meeting 7 pm</div> | 12 | 13  | 14 | 15 <div>Karaoke 7 p.m.</div> |
| 16 <div>All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</div> | 17 | 18 <div>Trivia Night 7 p.m.</div> | 19 | 20 <div>ALR Meeting 7:00 pm</div>  | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27  | 28 | 29 <div>Halloween Party 6:30 p.m.</div> |
| 30 | 31 <div>Halloween</div> | | | | | |

~ November 2022 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|-----------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 1 <div>House Committee Meeting 6:30</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting 7 pm</div> | 2 | 3 <div>SAL Meeting 7 pm</div>  | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Daylight Saving's Ends | 7 | 8 <div>General Membership Meeting 7 pm</div> | 9 | 10  | 11 Veterans' Day | 12 |
| 13 | 14 <div>Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</div> | 15 Trivia Night 7 p.m. | 16 | 17 <div>ALR Meeting 7:00 pm</div>  | 18 | 19 Karaoke 7 p.m. |
| 20 All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Thanksgiving | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |