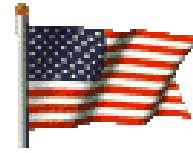


AMERICAN LEGION  
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976  
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Post Info Line: 703-941-9608  
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*If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send your email address to [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com) and we will email it.*

# American Legion Post 1976

## Winter 2022

## NEWSLETTER





**VOLUME XLII ISSUE #4**

**Winter 2022**

## Post 1976 Officers

### POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2021–2022

**Commander:** Gretchen Trujillo; [Thegretch61@verizon.net](mailto:Thegretch61@verizon.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cdr. (Membership):** Jeremy Powell  
[jmpowell78@gmail.com](mailto:jmpowell78@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cdr. (Events):** Vacant

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cdr. (House Comm):** Lance Kent;  
[lancekent17@aol.com](mailto:lancekent17@aol.com)

**Finance Officer:** Tom Ritchie; [ritchiefamily@ymail.com](mailto:ritchiefamily@ymail.com)

**Chaplain:** Paul McComb; [pmccomb98@gmail.com](mailto:pmccomb98@gmail.com)

**Historian:** Robert Plaughter; [mouseydee@aol.com](mailto:mouseydee@aol.com)

**Service Officer:** Dorothy Hennessey Vigano  
703-898-6627; [dorothyvigano@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothyvigano@yahoo.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Ryan Thum

**Adjutant:** Dan Vigano

#### MEETINGS:

Executive Board: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

General Membership: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

House Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

### SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 1976

**President:** Tom Uglietta; [TomUg@verizon.net](mailto:TomUg@verizon.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice (Membership):** Mike Trujillo  
[MrT.Mike@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:MrT.Mike@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** Dick George; [hndymndick@aol.com](mailto:hndymndick@aol.com)

MEETINGS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 1976

**President:** Pam McCarthy; [iamsome12@gmail.com](mailto:iamsome12@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Karen McDaniel;  
[karensmdaniel@verizon.net](mailto:karensmdaniel@verizon.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Joyce Landry; [catnaper520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnaper520@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Sharon Ogle; [Share2520@gmail.com](mailto:Share2520@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Laura Werner; [laurawer@yahoo.com](mailto:laurawer@yahoo.com)

**Chaplain:** Susan Dudding; [Susan.dudding@yahoo.com](mailto:Susan.dudding@yahoo.com)

**Historian:** Patti George; [georgpiw@aol.com](mailto:georgpiw@aol.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Megan Hayes-Thum;  
[megan\\_hayes@gmail.com](mailto:megan_hayes@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Karen McDaniel;  
[karensmdaniel@verizon.net](mailto:karensmdaniel@verizon.net)

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

**Club Manager:** Diane Ramsey  
703-941-9608; [Rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:Rpcomm6759@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Stephanie Kern; [Slk04@hotmail.com](mailto:Slk04@hotmail.com)

**Website Manager:** Heather Pressler,  
[heather@capitalpractice.com](mailto:heather@capitalpractice.com)

**Want to get the newsletter emailed to you? Email Diane Ramsey at [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com).**

### **Commander's Corner**

Dear Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders:

Welcome to winter. We are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Legion Family Breakfasts are all-you-can-eat, dine-in only, on the third Sunday every month from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and 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 these 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.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a joyous New Year. Please be safe during the holiday season and always.

For God and Country,

*Gretchen Trujillo, Commander*

### **1st Vice's Report**

The Post started out extremely strong in pursuing our membership goals this year. We had nearly 60% of our TAL members renew between July and the end of September, which is outstanding!

While we started off with a bang, things have since tapered off significantly.

Last year we met every membership milestone for 2022—until the very last one. We ended up falling short of our goal by only 4 members (again, thank you to all of our members who stuck with us in 2022, our new members and transfers who joined us, and especially those that have already renewed for 2023!).

Our goal for 2023 is 264 Legionnaires and we are currently standing at 190. Our December goal is 75% renewals, but we are falling short currently at 72%. By January we are expected to be at 80%.

We seem to be renewing at a much slower pace this year than last year, which is a bit concerning to me since we ended up falling short in 2022. Now that we are in our final push, if you haven't renewed your membership for 2023 please do so as soon as possible. If you know anyone who is eligible for Legion membership, please bring them in to show them what we have to offer. If you are considering allowing your membership to lapse for any reason, please reach out to me first so we can talk about your concerns and see if there is anything we can do.

Our members remain the lifeblood of our Legion. I'm hopeful that we can all continue to serve, support, and socialize together in 2023 and we can all help to recruit new members and transfers to keep our Post going strong. I wish a happy and safe holiday season, and a very healthy and Happy New Year, to each of you and your families!

*Jeremy Powell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander*

### **2nd Vice's Report**

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

### **Finance Officer's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer*

### **Chaplain's Report**

Winter brings us several holidays: Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year. For all or any that you celebrate, I pray for you and your family's health, solace, peace, happiness, and peace.

As an example of what to celebrate during the holidays, let's look at the theme of the Advent. Advent is a season of the church calendar observed by most Christians as a time of celebration of the coming of Christmas. The themes of Advent are Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

During the holidays I encourage you to:

- (1) Plan now on how you can surround yourself with friends, family, and situations that bring you hope, love, joy, and peace.
- (2) Challenge yourself on how you can support (time, talent, treasure, or prayer) our veterans, the American Legion, the military, and our country.
- (3) Celebrate how the light of God has been given to you, how it is present in your life, and how to share that light and joy with others.
- (4) Take the time to reflect upon what good memories God has blessed you with in 2022.

As another example of what to celebrate during the holidays, let's look at New Year's Eve. On New Year's Eve, it is almost inevitable that you will hear (and possibly try to sing) "Auld Lang Syne," a song whose melody is synonymous with the new year. The phrase "auld lang syne" is from the 18th century Scots. Translated literally, it means "old long since," but the meaning is more like "old times" or "the olden days." As the song goes, "For auld lang syne, my dear; For auld lang syne. We'll take a cup o' kindness yet; For days of auld lang syne." As we celebrate the new year, let's celebrate cherished memories, and family and friends of past and present.

During the holidays enjoy the themes of Advent (hope, love, joy, and peace), give cheerfully, recall

fond memories of 2022, and look forward to 2023. May the Lord bring you many blessings.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Paul McComb, Chaplain*

### **Service Officer's Report**

Greetings my fellow veterans,

If you need assistance applying for VA benefits from exposure to Camp Lejeune toxic water, please contact me. This also includes increases to your current VA benefits through a new claim. I can help you with this!

This is for health care and compensation benefits from VA, not the lawsuit advertised on TV.

If you think you are eligible or want to put in a new claim in addition to your existing VA benefits, give me a call at (703) 898-6627. If you are not sure, please go to this VA web link for more information:  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/CLPoster.pdf](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/CLPoster.pdf), or just call me and we will work together to figure it out.

As always, when applying for VA health care and compensation benefits, you will need your DD-214. If you cannot find yours, go to: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>, or contact me to help you order it online together.

Remember, you are eligible for burial benefits; plots are free at national cemeteries and headstones are free at both national and private cemeteries.

Do your family a big favor and have your DD-214 available with your important papers.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays,

*Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Service Officer*  
[dorothyvigano@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothyvigano@yahoo.com); (703) 898-6627

### **Historian's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Robert Plaucher, Historian*

### **Club Manager's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Diane Ramsey, Club Manager*

### **American Legion Auxiliary Report**

Hello Dear Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving!

Christmas is just around the corner, and we have been busy. We have decorated the Post and planned the Christmas Party. It will be held on December 17, starting at 5 p.m. We have a sign-up sheet for our potluck dinner. We will have several raffles for gift baskets as well as 50/50...and as a special treat, we will have karaoke for all to enjoy. I hope you will be able to attend. We would love to celebrate with you.

We have been very focused this year on membership and I would like to ask all of you to please help us with this challenge. Over the years, membership has decreased, and we need all hands on deck. Please think of people in your circle (family members, friends, and co-workers) who might have an interest in joining. Invite them to our Post. We would love the opportunity to show them who we are and what we do.

A big thank you to everyone that donated school supplies as well as clothing. It was greatly appreciated by the elementary schools. A special thanks to Debbie McComb and Jen Boyer.

This year the President's Special Project is the MK9 Service Dogs for Veterans located in Vienna Virginia. We are pleased to be able to support such an important organization. MK9 provides highly trained service dogs tailored to meet the specific needs of a veteran at no cost. I am also

pleased to report that in addition to supporting our VA hospitals and the Armed Forces Retirement home, we continue to support organizations like the Fisher House, Toys for Tots, as well as our local food pantries.

We are planning to have an Auxiliary dinner in February. Please be on the lookout for an email with all the details. We would be delighted to have you join us!

As 2022 comes to a close, I'd like to thank everyone for a great year. I'm very grateful for our tight knit family of volunteers and supporters. As we approach Christmas, I pray we all remember the reason for the season and spend quality time with all our loved ones. God Bless you, each and every one.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President*

### **Auxiliary Membership**

Post 1976 trivia: I have been asked many times "Who in the Auxiliary has been a member the longest?" No, not me, but a mother-daughter duo. Cheryl McDonald joined in 1989, and her daughter Stephanie Kern was signed up as a baby in 1990. And later on, Stephanie was our Little Miss Poppy and rode in the Annandale parade. There is a picture of Steph in our display case. And now she is one of our "always smiling" bartenders!

Many thanks to all of you who have sent in your renewals. We now have 105 (goal 125), which includes 14 new members. A warm welcome to our newest members: Christina Price, Jennifer (J.J.) Rochefort, Maureen Krczynski, Debra Morgan, Jerrie Williams, Casey and Mikaela Thum, Tracy Dellibove, Amy Zawawi, and Adrienne Collis. We have some amazing recruiters in our DAR friends!

Reminder that your dues for 2022-2023 expire in January and you will not be admitted on Jan. 1st if you are delinquent. The winner of our Auxiliary Early Bird drawing is Debbie McComb. We will

pay her dues for next year (2024). Please join us for our regular meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m. Our next meeting is Jan. 9th.

*Karen McDaniel, Auxiliary Membership  
Chairman*

### **Sons of the American Legion Report**

All right, we are enjoying some nice warm days even though we have had a few days where it got downright freezing. We'll have many more cold days in the near future, so enjoy the warm weather before Winter actually gets here.

The 2023 membership year is in full swing, and the Squadron has already received 64 member renewals for the 2023 membership year. That's a great accomplishment for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron, but it's getting close to the end of the 2022 membership year, so we expect to get quite a few more renewals in the near future.

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; it will be mailed to you unless you are a frequent member that I can hand it to.

So please get your renewal in, preferably before New Year's Day 2023.

The Post continues with the monthly Trivia Contests, on the third Tuesday of the month. SAL 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 participates with other Post functions in donations to veterans events and supports many veterans activities. Recently SAL has provided toys and donations to the Toys for Tots program, which delivers many toys to young kids for Christmas.

SAL has also provided a donation to Fort Belvoir veterans in financial need over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These will be provided to a chaplain from Ft. Belvoir prior to Christmas, who will come out to pick them up from the Riders Chapter 1976 in an official presentation.

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.; the next meeting will be January 5, 2023. 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 a significant number of members who participate 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 to 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 1<sup>st</sup> Vice*



## American Legion Riders Report

As Winter is fast approaching the Chapter 1976 area, let's get out for some rides before it gets so cold our rides may be very limited. We always schedule our Polar Bear Ride for New Year's Day, which is just a few weeks away. That is an enjoyable ride, though it could be limited to a short ride depending on the weather.

As far as the events our chapter has been involved in, here are the current efforts we have accomplished:

Donations have been provided to our Legion Riders Chapter by the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and the Riders themselves, for the Toys for Tots organization. Our Chapter Riders were able to purchase a carload of toys and delivered them to the Quantico Museum, in a Motorcycle Escort provided by the Stafford American Legion Riders, for distribution to many needy families for Christmas gifts to their children.

The Riders have received donations from all the Post functions for gift cards that are provided to needy service families for Christmas expenses. Combined with the Riders' donations, we were able to purchase 11 gift cards at \$300 apiece; they will be presented to a chaplain from Ft. Belvoir before Christmas, for distribution to these service families in need of an enjoyable Christmas.

We will be looking into things to do at the Post as additional fundraisers. And even though cooler weather is moving in, let's get out and ride when we can.

For God and Country,

*Mike Trujillo, ALR Director*



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

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



*Annandale American Legion Post 1976*

*Christmas Party*

*Saturday, December 17th – 5pm*

**Please Bring a Dish to Share-**

**Sign up sheet by the front door**

**Food will be served at 6:30pm**

**Karaoke Begins at 7pm**

**Wear your favorite Ugly Sweater or  
holiday hat**

**White Elephant Exchange Max \$25,  
starts at 6pm in the back hall.**

**50/50 , Raffle Prizes &  
Jello Shooters**





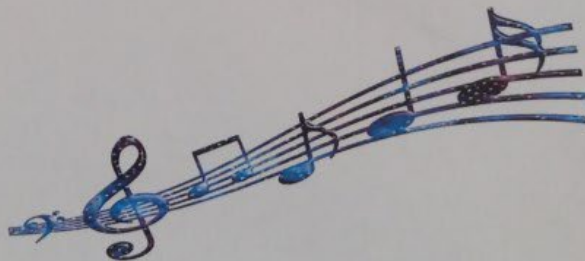
# Karaoke Night



**Come and Join the  
American Legion Post 1976  
for Karaoke, 1st Saturday of  
Every Month—Starts at 7pm**

**Food is served at 6:30 pm**

**Free Food, Raffles, 50/50 and Jello Shooters**







# ~ December 2022 ~

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

# ~ January 2023 ~

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

# ~ February 2023 ~

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