

AMERICAN LEGION  
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976  
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Annandale, VA 22003  
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# American Legion Post 1976

## Spring 2024

## NEWSLETTER





VOLUME XLIV ISSUE #1

Spring 2024

## Post 1976 Officers

### POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2023–2024

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cdr. (Membership):** Diane Ramsey  
703-941-9608; [rpscomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpscomm6759@aol.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cdr. (Events):** Lance Kent; [lancekent17@aol.com](mailto:lancekent17@aol.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cdr. (House Comm):** Tommy Kemp;  
[tomar1025warren@hotmail.com](mailto:tomar1025warren@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

**Service Officer:** Carl Menge,  
[amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com](mailto:amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Allison Hoopes; [adlhoopes@yahoo.com](mailto:adlhoopes@yahoo.com)

**Adjutant:** Dan Vigano; [daniel.vigano@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.vigano@gmail.com)

#### 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

**Commander:** 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 “Red” Lowe

**Adjutant:** Gary A. Indre

**MEETINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 1976

**Director:** Mike Trujillo; [mrt.mike@verizon.net](mailto:mrt.mike@verizon.net)

**Adjutant:** Joyce Landry; [catnaper520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnaper520@yahoo.com)

**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; [pmccarthy@new-age-inc.com](mailto:pmccarthy@new-age-inc.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Membership:** Megan Hayes-Thum;  
[megan\\_hayes@gmail.com](mailto:megan_hayes@gmail.com)

**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; [georgpijw@aol.com](mailto:georgpijw@aol.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Suzanne Weeden;  
[weeden.suzanne@gmail.com](mailto:weeden.suzanne@gmail.com)

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

**Club Manager:** Diane Ramsey  
703-941-9608; [rpscomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpscomm6759@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Stephanie Kern; [slk04@hotmail.com](mailto:slk04@hotmail.com)

**Website Manager:** Dan Vigano; [daniel.vigano@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.vigano@gmail.com)

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

### **Commander's Corner**

This is the year of the volunteer!

We have the most amazing and dedicated volunteers here at Post 1976. I just wanted to highlight all they do to make our post a welcoming home for our veterans, their families, and our community.

The Brunch Bunch (aka GSD Crew) served up some awesome chow during the Post Family Breakfast. Our volunteer waitresses donated their tips toward a "turn-out blanket" for Taffy the therapeutic horse at Cloverleaf.

Come join us every third Sunday of the month to enjoy a made-to-order plate of deliciousness!



I cannot tell you how much appreciation I have for the unwavering support and dedication the SAL, Riders, and Auxiliary have toward our post. Thank you very much—YOU ALL ROCK!

As always, please consider volunteering here at the post whenever you can, with the talent you have.

**News Flash:** Tom Ritchie is hanging up his blue suede shoes. After 30 years of service to Post 1976 he has decided (actually he is giddy about it) to retire from the Executive Committee. He has held positions as 3rd Vice and Finance Officer.



We are also losing Past Commander Robert Plaughter (Mousey), who is currently serving as Historian. I thank them both for their service and patience breaking in a new Commander.



Elections for new officers will be on the 14th of May, so swing by, vote, and have a beverage!

For God and Country,

*Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Commander*

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

Currently our post is at 93% for membership. We only need about 7 more new Legionnaires to get our 100%. If you know anyone who is prior military, send them my way.

Also, most people don't know that they can join the American Legion under a family member.

Let's get the word out and improve our membership.

Commander Dorothy Vigano and I are working on membership and hope to gain some new members this year.

If you have ideas or would like to help with membership, please let us know.

You can bring them to our post or to any of our functions to show them how much fun we have. The Memorial Day celebration would be a good time to bring them. The food and music is free and you already know that our beverages are cheap. All the fun is free.

*Diane Ramsey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander*

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

No report this quarter.

*Lance Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander*

### **3rd Vice's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Tommy Kemp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander*

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

Last year we donated \$119,000, and so far this year we have donated \$22,000. Numerous charities were donated to, all of which are mandated by state gaming laws. There is a list of charities at the legion that have been donated to

*Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer*

### **Chaplain's Report**

May 14th is Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers across the American Legion family. Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as

motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

The end of May brings Memorial Day. Memorial Day honors the country's military members who died in service. The holiday offers the American Legion and all Americans a chance to reflect on the countless individuals who served and lost their lives and come together with the families and communities left behind. We are forever grateful for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for America. May they rest in peace.

A Memorial Day prayer: "Almighty God, let us pause to pay tribute to our dearly departed. Let us honor the memory of the valiant service men and women who made the supreme sacrifice so that we may live in a country that is free. Cause us never to take for granted their devotion to liberty. May they rest in peace. Keep their families in your good graces. Give them peace and comfort. In the memory of the fallen, let us dedicate ourselves anew to you, Almighty God, and our country. Amen."

Blessings to you and your family.

*Paul McComb, Chaplain*



### **Historian's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Robert Plaughter, Historian*

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

No report this quarter.

*Carl Menge, Service Officer*

### **Sargeant-at-Arms Report**

American Legion Post 1976 in Annandale is planning its next flag retirement ceremony for Saturday, 15 June (the Saturday closest to Flag Day). Last fall's event was a success, with the help of scouts and leaders from Scouts USA Troop 1525. Flags will be prepared the previous day, with the help of Post 1976 members, Auxiliary members, as well as members of the Henry Clay Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. At our last event three well-stuffed boxes of flags were retired, and the participants were lucky to have had such good weather for the retirement ceremony.

*Allison Hoopes, Sargeant-at-Arms*

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

I would like to send a special thanks to Stephanie Kern, who is in charge of creating, editing, and publishing the newsletter. She does this on her own time and does not charge us to do it.

Stephanie is also the bartender who makes your special mimosas and bloody marys at breakfast. Big shout out to you, Stephanie. Thank you!

Also, thank you to the Auxiliary, SAL, and the riders for all you help with the post.

*Diane Ramsey, Club Manager*

### **American Legion Auxiliary Report**

Happy Spring to all! I hope 2024 has been thus far good to one and all. I am pleased to share that we have been very busy during the past six months.

We are going strong on renewals, but we are also increasing our membership. We are currently at 95% and continue to climb. I encourage all our members to introduce our unit to an acquaintance or friend for membership. As a unit and a Post, we need to grow membership.

A big thank you to Sharon and Tinker for the Bolognese dinner we had in January. It was delicious and we raised over \$500 for the Auxiliary's general fund. We delivered 50 baskets to the Armed Forces Retirement Home. We are so grateful to Joyce for spearheading this effort.

We also did a winter coat drive in February and had a great response. We are so thankful to SAL and the Riders for their incredible donations and to all the members that donated a total of 238 items. This was a huge success. Thank you to all!

We delivered goodies to our local Annandale fire department and plan to deliver more goodies to our local police department. We thank them for their service and pray for their safety.



We are currently in the midst of our Poppy Drive. On Saturday, April 20, several members assisted in our mailing effort, so be on the lookout for your personal invitation to donate. As you know, all the funds we raise are in support of our veterans and their families.

Also, we are selling Military Emblem bracelets. They are beautiful and we are selling them for \$10 each. Please consider purchasing one or two to show your support.



April is “Purple Up! For Military Kids” month. Several of our members gathered to show support by wearing their purple.



For those that ordered Auxiliary shirts, they have arrived and are in the Auxiliary office. Please see an Auxiliary officer to get your item(s) when you are next at the Post.

It was truly an exciting year for Girls State. We partnered with four high schools this year: Annandale, Lake Braddock, Thomas Jefferson, and Falls Church. I am delighted to say we had a great deal of interest in Girls State this year—even before our information packets ever went out. We are sending six young ladies this year. The Auxiliary thanks the Post, SAL, and the Annandale Women’s Association for their donations in support of this amazing event.

As some of you know, as sad as I am to say, two of our Auxiliary officers will be stepping down this coming year: Megan Thum, our First Vice, and Laura Werner, our Treasurer. I would like to thank both women for stepping up when we needed these positions to be filled and doing such an incredible job.

As First Vice, Megan has done such a truly amazing job with membership from changing our internal processes to improving communications with our members. Her injection of new ideas to support our vets and this Post as well as so many other things in between has had a big impact. Thank you, Megan!

Being Treasurer is sometimes an unsung-hero position, but one of the most important positions to the health and success of our unit. I’m so grateful to Laura for stepping in when we needed it. She’s managed the role and our finances beautifully these past few years. I am so grateful to her. Thank you, Laura!

While I am not happy to say goodbye to Megan and Laura, I am happy to report that Patti George has kindly agreed to step in as Treasurer. She has served in this role before and I am so happy she has agreed to serve again.

We are still in need of a First Vice. If there are any members interested—even if it’s just discussing the role—please do not hesitate to reach out to Megan or me at any time. This is an extremely important role within the Auxiliary so please consider joining us!

Elections will be held next month. Our nominees are:

President – Pam McCarthy  
First Vice – Vacant  
Second Vice – Joyce Landry  
Secretary – Sharon Ogle  
Treasurer – Patti George  
Chaplain – Susan Dudding  
Historian – Suzanne Weeden  
Sgt At Arms – Vacant

I hope those members that do not come regularly to the Post consider coming to our monthly meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month. We are planning a social for members and those that are thinking of becoming members in the Fall. We will update you as soon as possible with the date and time. I’d love to see you there.

If there is anything you believe we should be doing as an Auxiliary, I urge you to come to our meetings and assist us in our efforts on behalf of our veterans, active military, and community.

Stay safe and enjoy Springtime in Virginia.

*Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President*

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

Winter is over, and that warm weather is feeling much better. We actually only received a couple of snowfalls this past Winter, with a max of two inches of accumulation. We are assuming there will not be any more accumulation until Winter arrives again.

The 2024 membership year is ending soon. At the current time, our Squadron has a total renewal count of 107 members for the 2023 membership year. That's getting close to the Department goal of 128 members for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron, which Virginia increased significantly last year since we went a bit over last year's goal. But let's achieve that goal soon. If you haven't yet renewed, please get your renewal in soon. 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 2024, 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 2024 membership card for the member renewing; it will be mailed to you unless you are a frequent member then it can be posted on the board.

The Post continues 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 some great wings or a hot dog snack, and participate in the humorous Trivia contest, and have lots of fun answering some of the questions Lance comes up with to throw out to the participants. By the way, this year Lance has made a change to the Trivia contest; the answers are now multiple choice, so you have a better chance of guessing the correct answer if you don't actually know the correct answer. It is a great game to participate in.

SAL participates with other Post functions in donations to veterans' events and supports many veterans' activities. Recently, SAL has provided a donation to Girl's State, for high school students

to participate in camping activities learning government functions, which is a good start toward preparing them for their adult careers.

SAL has also provided a donation to the 40X8 Memorial Day conference, scheduled at Lorton American Legion Post.

SAL 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 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. Our Post is proud to turn 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 May 2, 2024. 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 substantial 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 follow the Zoom instructions sent in a message to all Squadron SAL members a short time before the meeting, and you can log in to the Zoom meeting that way.

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**

Well, Spring has arrived, and warmer weather is now here! In the past couple of weeks, we have had temperatures in the high 70s and even low 80s! Hopefully, many of you have had a chance to get out on the road for some rides on these warm days.

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

Several Riders and supporters from our chapter will be riding in the Virginia Legacy Run, which is a local run prior to the National American Legion Riders Legacy run held in the summer. The Virginia Legacy Run will be held in mid-June, and the Riders and supporters in our chapter will be in the northern region portion of this run.

We will start the run by riding to Winchester, VA, on June 13, and joining a group of Northern Virginia Riders on June 14, for a trip throughout the Northern Virginia area, and arriving in Richmond that evening. June 15 will have several official functions going on, including a ride to the Virginia War Memorial, and participation in the Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony. Donations are collected for the National Legacy Run; last year the Virginia Legacy Run participants collected \$121,000 for our contribution to the National Legacy Run, who set up the scholarships for veterans' children. Hopefully we can collect as much as last year; it is for a very worthwhile cause. We will stay in Richmond Saturday night and return to Annandale Post on Sunday. It will be a great ride.

In addition, the Riders have a small dinner on Thursday night, in conjunction with the Post's Queen of Hearts activity. It varies from week to week but is always a good meal.

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

For God and Country,

*Mike Trujillo, ALR Director*

## Karaoke Trifecta - May 4th 7pm

**Celebrating: Cinco De Mayo,  
Kentucky Derby &  
May the 4th Be With You (Star Wars)**

Mexican Inspired food served at 6:30pm

## Refreshing Starter Cocktails (for donation & Limited)

*There will be 3 Prizes for the Most Inspirational Outfit in each Category: 🏆👗👟*



# Cinco De Mayo

*Dress in your Best Fiesta Wear*



Kentucky Derby—*Ladies & Gents wear your Best Hats*



May the 4th Be With You  
(Star Wars) Go Crazy



# Memorial Day BBQ

## Sunday May 26th 11am-5pm

There will be Free Ribs, Coleslaw & Corn  
with Dessert from 11:30-2:30pm

We will have Music, Raffle Prizes & Jello Shooters.

Please sign up by the Front Door to help with food planning



*You will be allowed  
to sit outside in the  
Parking lot  
and enjoy a beverage,  
Please bring a chair  
for your comfort*

# ~ May 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>2</b> SAL Meeting 7 pm  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>3</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>4</b> DAR Meeting 9-3:30 Karaoke Trifecta Party 6:30 p.m.
<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> House Committee Meeting 6:30  Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	<b>8</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>9</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>10</b> Military Spouse Appreciation Day  Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	<b>14</b> General Membership Meeting 7 pm	<b>15</b> Lunch 12 p.m.  Peace Officers Memorial Day	<b>16</b> ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>17</b>  Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>18</b> Armed Forces Day
<b>19</b> Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Trivia Night 7 p.m. (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	<b>22</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>23</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Memorial Day BBQ 11 a.m.-5 p.m.	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>30</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>31</b>  Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	

# ~ June 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> DAR Meeting 9–12:30 <b>Karaoke 7 p.m.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Independence Day	<b>5</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>6</b>  D-Day Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m. SAL Meeting 7 pm	<b>7</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> General Membership Meeting 7 pm	<b>12</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>13</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>14</b> <b>Army Birthday/Flag Day</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> <b>Flag Retirement Ceremony 2-3 p.m.</b>
<b>16</b> Father's Day <b>Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Trivia Night 7 p.m.</b> (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	<b>19</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>20</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m. ALR Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Poker Quarterly Tournament 7 p.m.
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Lunch 12 p.m.	<b>27</b>  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	<b>28</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

# ~ July 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	3 Lunch 12 p.m.	4  SAL Meeting 7 pm Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	5 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	6 DAR Meeting 9-12:30 Karaoke 7 p.m.
7	8	9 General Membership Meeting 7 pm	10 Lunch 12 p.m.	11  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	12 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	13
14	15	16 Trivia Night 7 p.m. (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	17 Lunch 12 p.m.	18  ALR Meeting 7:00 pm Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	19 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	20
21 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	22	23	24 Lunch 12 p.m.	25  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	26 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	27
28	29	30	31 Lunch 12 p.m.			