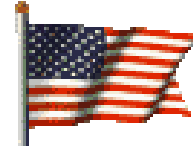


AMERICAN LEGION  
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976  
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Annandale, VA 22003  
Post Info Line: 703-941-9608  
Email: [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com)  
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*If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send your email address to [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com) and we will email it.*

# American Legion Post 1976

## Winter 2025

### NEWSLETTER





## Post 1976 Officers

### POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2024–2025

**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):** Vacant (Contact the Commander if you are interested in filling this role)

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

**Finance Officer:** Bill Walters; [walters\\_bill@hotmail.com](mailto:walters_bill@hotmail.com)

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

**Historian:** Amanda Fowler; [asfl1158@aol.com](mailto:asfl1158@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 the 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 the 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:** Tom Uglietta; [tomug@verizon.net](mailto:tomug@verizon.net)

**Adjutant:** Gary A. Indre

MEETINGS: 1st 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; [catnap520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnap520@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Vacant

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:** Gretchen Trujillo;  
[thegretch61@verizon.net](mailto:thegretch61@verizon.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Joyce Landry; [catnap520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnap520@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Sharon Ogle; [share2520@gmail.com](mailto:share2520@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Patti George; [georgpjw@aol.com](mailto:georgpjw@aol.com)

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

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

**Sgt. At Arms:** Susan Bodnar; [selikhova@verizon.net](mailto:selikhova@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; [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

#### **New Non-Smoking Policy, Relaunch Party, and Increase of Family Breakfast Price**



Based on a recommendation by the House Committee and the 2025 Post Survey results, the Executive Committee has approved a change to the House Rules. On February 4, 2025, the Executive Committee

agreed to ban smoking at our post and allow the change to the House Rules effective February 11, 2025.

What drove this decision? Revenue for the post is at an all-time low due to two factors: low attendance and the new Virginia Gaming Commission regulations stating that we must give 20% of our gaming proceeds to charity. This means we are running \$5k on average in the red a month. This is not sustainable.

Attendance must improve in order for the post to survive. We conducted a survey to figure out why our members are not coming into the post. The survey revealed that 64% of the respondents (Legionnaires) do not come into the post due to smoking. Both the SAL and Auxiliary surveys agreed that smoking needs to stop.

Thank you all for participating in the post survey. We listened and will take the comments and other suggestions to heart. **Many of you made a commitment to attend more events and volunteer with these new changes. We are counting on YOU to come in more often and keep our post afloat.**

**March 1st Post Relaunch Party:** On March 1st, we will be celebrating a “relaunch party” for the post as a non-smoking facility. We need your support! We will have Karaoke that night, food, and fun. And no, you do not have to sing. Please

make plans to attend this event and other events to get us back on track financially.

**Family Breakfast:** I am sure I don't have to tell anyone that there is an egg shortage. Our SAL works very hard to keep the breakfast reasonably priced, but this is out of their control. Effective immediately, they need to raise the price from \$12 a person to \$15. Although we regret this change, it must be made.

For those members who have not heard, we were told by the Fire Marshall in 2024 that our sprinkler system heads had to be replaced, ASAP. The sprinkler heads have been installed in the bar and we have passed inspection!

There is some drywall work that must be completed, smoke eaters removed, and a complete paint job with a cigarette smoke retardant applied.

Again, we will be asking for donations, with a target of \$3,500 to complete this work. If you are at a post event, you can donate then or send a donation made out to “American Legion, Post 1976” with “drywall donation” in the memo section.

In closing, please consider volunteering at the post with whatever talent and time you have. We need volunteers to help set up for events, serve food, and clean after events. We cannot function without your help.

*Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Commander*

#### 1st Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

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

#### 2nd Vice's Report

*This position is currently vacant—please contact the post for more information. Check out our post's calendar of events at [www.post1976.org](http://www.post1976.org).*

### 3rd Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

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

### Finance Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

*Bill Walters, Finance Officer*

### Chaplain's Report

The District 17's Four Chaplains Memorial Service was on Sunday, Feb. 2, at Post 177 Fairfax. The guest speaker was active duty Army Chaplain (COL) Eddie Cook.

The Four Chaplains were four World War II chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as the second-worst sea disaster of WW II. The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by the Coast Guard. During the early morning hours of February 3, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

**Valentine's Day**, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. The Wikipedia website states that it originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the

hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange.

**A Valentine's Day Prayer** (credit goes to [hydeparkumc.org](http://hydeparkumc.org)):

Lord, in your very being we discover the essence of true love. You are the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love that flows between us and among us. Empower me today to be a person of deeper love, encompassing heart, soul, mind, and strength, both for you and for those around me.

- **Teach me to love those dearest to me**, those with whom I am most vulnerable and most guarded. Help us to rebuild trust and authenticity with each other.
- **Enable me to forgive and to ask for forgiveness**, that I may share in the reconciling work of Jesus. May the impact of hurtful memories wane over time, along with ill will and resentment of others.
- **Grant me deeper friendships** with those who can help me be the best version of myself. May they help me be accountable for my actions, offer me godly advice, and speak the truth to me without judgment.
- **Sharpen my awareness of those who feel unloved and unlovable**. Strengthen my resolve to be an agent of hospitality to the lonely, of comfort for the frightened, and mercy for the hurting.
- **Open my heart to a greater sense of your love for me**. A love that is tenacious, patient, and unconditional. Remove the barriers that I have built that block the free flow of your love in my life.

Loving God, in you I find my truest and best self, as one created in your image. Thank you for your grace, and thank you for your love. Amen.

*Paul McComb, Chaplain*

### Historian's Report

As we start a new year, we are reminded of how the American Legion started in 1919. During March 15–17 of that year, the American Legion

was founded by members of the American Expeditionary Force at a meeting in Paris. Two months later, the American Legion adopted its official name and the preamble to the organization's constitution was drafted. And on June 9, 1919, the emblem was adopted.



To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the American Legion, the U.S. Postal Service officially issued a 6-cent commemorative stamp in March 1969 to honor the end of the Paris Caucus that formed the organization.

*Amanda Fowler, Historian*

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

No report this quarter.

*Carl Menge, Service Officer*

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

No report this quarter.

*Allison Hoopes, Sargeant-at-Arms*

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

I'm sad to report to you that our post is in an unfortunate predicament. Through no fault of anyone, we are at a crossroads and do not make enough funds to support the post. Since Covid, we have lost around 250 members.

We used to make a good amount of money on the gaming machines but, due to a new Virginia Gaming Commission regulation introduced last year, we now have to give most of it away. We have to give 50% to the company that owns the machines (Grover Gaming) and 20% to charities, per the law. So, we have to give 70% of it away—and this is based on the gross that we make before taxes, not the net.

You might be asking, what are the other clubs doing? Not all of them are doing so well, either. The ones that are doing well are the ones that rent out their hall for lots of money. Also, the bigger ones that are not in this predicament have about three times the members.

So, some solutions are to push harder to rent our hall and get new members, which are not easy tasks with so many other clubs in the area. I have advertised everywhere that I know to do so. We have also sent out 3,000 postcards asking veterans in the area to join. Tommy Kemp helped me with that and helped me send out renewal letters this year.

After a recent employee meeting discussing ways we could come up with more money to keep the post afloat until it is in a better situation, I decided to take a pay cut and three of our bartenders have offered to work off the clock as volunteers to get the payroll down.

Here are some other ways we have cut costs and brought in new revenue sources for the post:

- The cleaning crew no longer comes in on Sunday and Monday nights. Our commander Dorothy Vigano does the cleaning on Monday mornings.
- Worked with the trash company to reduce the bill by \$200.
- Got the Verizon bill lowered by \$200.



- We now rent the hall three days a week—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday—and the 2nd Saturday of the month to Doug Adair of ORS for \$550 a month. ORS is the company that gives the food handlers class, test, and license.

I certainly welcome any suggestions and potential solutions you all may have to help out our post and get back to a better financial situation. We all love the post and do not want to see it this way.

I would be most grateful if you all could help by getting people to rent our hall for \$25 per hour, trying to recruit new members, volunteering to run an event, and/or just coming in, bringing your friends, and supporting the post.

*Diane Ramsey, Club Manager*

### **American Legion Auxiliary Report**

No report this quarter.

*Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President*

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

All right, Winter is now here, having had some very cold weeks and a couple of snowstorms totaling about a foot of snow. And the groundhog predicted that we will have many more cold days in the near future.

The 2025 membership year is in full swing, and the Squadron has already received 112 member renewals for 2025. That is a great accomplishment for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron. The department goal for the 2025 membership year is 129, and we expect to meet that goal—so let's get 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 2025, 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 2025 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 soon—preferably before the Spring of 2025.

The post continues with the monthly Trivia Contests, on the third Tuesday of the month, with food beginning about 6 p.m. So, come out to the post and enjoy a great meal, and also participate in the interesting Trivia Contest, and have lots of fun answering the multiple-choice questions with a chance to win gift cards for the pair with the most correct answers.

SAL also participates in the monthly Legion Breakfast, held on the third Sunday of the month. SAL and Legion members do 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 an 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.

SAL participates with other post functions in donations to veterans events and supports many veterans' activities. Recently SAL provided a \$500 check to the Annandale High School PTSA, specifically the food pantry, which provides needed food to many of the high school families who are in financial need. It is a beneficial and much-needed donation and can be sent by any organization in our post at any time; just designate the donation for the AHS Food Pantry.

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 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 just before the meeting.

So please place the SAL meetings on 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**

Winter is here, and we have had a very cold spell in early January, with temperatures down to single digits at night, and a couple of snowfalls with over ten inches of snow. We are expected to get a bit of warmer weather soon, so this is a good time to get some rides in before cold weather hits us again.

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

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 several box loads of toys for distribution to many needy families for Christmas gifts to their children.

We will be looking into things to do at the post as additional fundraisers. One of the plans Chapter 1976 is proposing is to schedule a BBQ over Memorial Day weekend—specifically to have our chapter continue with the Thunder Bash celebration on Sunday, May 25, 2025. This has been a highly successful effort in the past, and we feel we can accomplish this celebration with a large turnout, as we have had in the past. We will be providing more details as the date approaches, and we will receive participation from the other

functions in our Post 1976 to make this a very enjoyable celebration.

The Chapter 1976 Riders meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be February 20, 2025. We would like to hear any recommendations for events or other worthwhile endeavors that we can undertake which would benefit our chapter and post.

And even though cooler weather is here, let's get out and ride when we can.

RIDE SAFE!

For God and Country,

*Mike Trujillo, ALR Director*

## **You're Invited: Wounded Paw Project Pet Painting Fundraiser**

The Auxiliary is hosting a Pet Painting Fundraiser for Wounded Paw Project. The event is on March 29th from 1-5pm. Cost is \$50 which includes your pre-sketched pet on a canvas, all the paint supplies, 1 drink ticket, and light snacks.

To Sign Up for Pet Painting: You will need to mail in a picture of your pet and check for \$50 made out to Auxiliary Unit 1976. OR you can email a picture to Susan Bodnar

at [selikhova@verizon.net](mailto:selikhova@verizon.net) and then give your check or cash to a bartender at the post (please put your name and Attn: Susan Bodnar for pet painting). **ALL PICTURES AND PAYMENTS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1st.** This is open to the public so please invite your friends and family.



Post 1976

Relaunch Party

Post 1976 has become a non-smoking facility. Come join us on **March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00!** There will be karaoke, food and prizes!



# ~ February 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2						<b>1</b> DAR Meeting 9–12:30 <b>Karaoke 7 p.m.</b>
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         House Committee Meeting 6:30                     </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff;">                         Executive Board Meeting 7 pm                     </div>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         SAL Meeting 7 pm                     </div>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>7</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffe6e6; text-align: center;">                         Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm                     </div>	<b>11</b> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #e6f2ff; margin-top: 10px;">                         General Membership Meeting 7 pm                     </div>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>14</b> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> Auxiliary Pasta Dinner 5-8 p.m.
<b>16</b> Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	<b>17</b> Presidents' Day	<b>18</b> Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         ALR Meeting 7:00 pm                     </div>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>21</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>28</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	

# ~ March 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2						<b>1</b> DAR Meeting 9–12:30 <b>Post Relaunch Party/Karaoke 7 p.m.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>6</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m. SAL Meeting 7 pm	<b>7</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Daylight Saving Time Starts	<b>10</b> Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	<b>11</b> General Membership Meeting 7 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>14</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	<b>17</b> HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY	<b>18</b> Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Queen of Hearts 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>	<b>27</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>28</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>29</b> National Vietnam War Veterans Day Pet Painting Fundraiser 1-5 p.m.
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

# ~ April 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  SAL Meeting 7 pm Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>4</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> DAR Meeting 9-12:30 Karaoke 7 p.m.
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> General Membership Meeting 7 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>11</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	<b>15</b> Tax Day Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  ALR Meeting 7:00 pm Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>18</b> Good Friday Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Live Band 6:30-9:30 p.m.
<b>20</b>  Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	<b>25</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2		