

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

Spring 2025

NEWSLETTER





Post 1976 Officers

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2024–2025

Commander: Dorothy Hennessey Viganò
703-898-6627; dorothyvigano@yahoo.com

1st Vice Cdr. (Membership): Diane Ramsey
703-941-9608; rpcomm6759@aol.com

2nd Vice Cdr. (Events): Vacant

3rd Vice Cdr. (House Comm): Tommy Kemp;
tomar1025warren@hotmail.com

Finance Officer: Bill Walters; walters_bill@hotmail.com

Chaplain: Paul McComb; pmccomb98@gmail.com

Historian: Amanda Fowler; asfl158@aol.com

Service Officer: Carl Menge,
amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com

Sgt. At Arms: Allison Hoopes; adlhoopes@yahoo.com

Adjutant: Dan Viganò; daniel.vigano@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

Executive Board: 1st Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
General Membership: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
House Committee: 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 1976

Commander: Tom Uglietta; tomug@verizon.net

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

Treasurer: Tom Uglietta; 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

Adjutant: Joyce Landry; catnaper520@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Vacant

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 1976

President: Pam McCarthy; pmccarthy@new-age-inc.com

1st Vice President, Membership: Gretchen Trujillo;
thegretch61@verizon.net

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

Secretary: Sharon Ogle; share2520@gmail.com

Treasurer: Patti George; georgpjw@aol.com

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

Historian: Suzanne Weeden; weeden.suzanne@gmail.com

Sgt. At Arms: Susan Bodnar; selikhova@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: Dan Viganò; daniel.vigano@gmail.com

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

Commander's Corner

First of all, I would like to say what an honor it has been to serve as your Commander. This role has been one of great pride and responsibility. I am truly grateful for the trust and support you've shown me during my time here.

As many of you know, my husband Dan—who has faithfully served as your Adjutant—is preparing for his well-earned retirement. In the next couple of years, we plan to relocate to Florida. The frequent travel between Annandale and North Hutchinson Island simply does not allow me to continue serving you in the capacity you deserve.

With that in mind, I would like to introduce the new slate of officers for your consideration. **Voting will take place on May 13th, between 11:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.**

Commander—Lance Kent
1st Vice—Gretchen Trujillo (Past Cmdr)
2nd Vice—James Pierce
3rd Vice—Tom Kemp
Finance Officer—Bill Walters
Chaplain—Paul McComb
Historian—Allison Hoopes
Service Officer—Dorothy Vigano (Past Cmdr)
Sgt. At Arms—Andi Duskie
Adjutant—Appointment by in-coming
Commander

Attendance Is Crucial for Our Post to Thrive

As we look toward the future of our post, one thing is clear: Attendance must improve in order for us to survive and grow. In an effort to understand what's been keeping our members away, we recently conducted a survey.

The results were eye-opening: 64% of our Legionnaire respondents indicated that smoking inside the post is a primary reason for not

attending. Similar feedback came from the SAL and Auxiliary surveys; the message was loud and clear: Smoking needed to stop if we want to bring our members back. We stopped smoking in the post as of February 10, 2025.

We want to thank each of you who took the time to participate in the survey. We heard you! Your comments and suggestions are being taken seriously and will guide us as we make necessary changes to better serve our members and our mission.

I'm happy to report that—for the first time in a year—our post was in the black and profitable! This is a huge step forward and a testament to the efforts of everyone who has supported, volunteered, and participated in our events. Let's keep this momentum going. With continued commitment and teamwork, we can build on this success and create an even stronger future for our post.

In closing, I kindly ask each of you to consider volunteering at the post—bringing whatever time, talent, or skill you can offer. Whether it's helping set up for events, serving food, or lending a hand with cleanup afterward, every bit of help makes a difference. Our post simply cannot function without the support of dedicated volunteers like you.

Together, we can continue to build a strong, welcoming community that honors our mission and serves our members with pride. Thank you for all you do—and all you will do.

For God and Country,

Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Commander

1st Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

This position is currently vacant. Check out our post's calendar of events at www.post1976.org.

3rd Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

Tommy Kemp, 3rd Vice Commander

Finance Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Bill Walters, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

Blessings to you, your family, the American Legion family, veterans, and our military this summer. I hope this summer brings you some rest, relaxation, and time with friends and family! Please check on your fellow veterans as well.

June is PTSD Awareness month. During June, and throughout the entire year, help raise awareness of PTSD and mental health. Everyone with PTSD—whether they are veterans or civilian survivors of sexual assault, serious accidents, natural disasters, or other traumatic events—needs to know that treatments really do work and can lead to a better quality of life.



Confidential and available every day, 24/7. A trained responder will answer your call or text and will ask you a few questions. You can decide how much you want to share. For more information see the website at www.veteranscrisisline.net.

Throughout the summer America is celebrating 250th Anniversary events such as the battles of Lexington & Concord, Bunker Hill, etc. The 250th events are listed at www.america250.org. In the spirit of our 250th, here's part of a prayer attributed to George Washington:

Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind; which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion.

I pray for your health, happiness, well-being, and faith. Blessings,

Paul McComb, Chaplain

Historian's Report



On June 22, 1944, president Franklin Roosevelt signed the G.I. Bill into law. Work on this bill started in December 1943, when the national commander of the American Legion wrote the first draft. Did you know that it was originally called the “Serviceman’s Readjustment Act”? The Legion’s acting director for public relations believed they needed a catchier title to sell it, so in January 1944 the Legion revealed its proposal for a “Bill of Rights for G.I. Joe and Jane.” It quickly was shortened to G.I. Bill of Rights.

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

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

No report this quarter.

Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President

Sons of the American Legion Report

Winter is over, and that warm weather is feeling much better. We only received a couple of snowfalls this past Winter, but we had one accumulation of about eight inches—which took a little bit of shoveling to get it off the sidewalks. We are assuming there will not be any more snow until Winter arrives again.

The 2025 membership year is ending soon. At the current time, our Squadron has a total renewal count of 124 members for the 2025 membership year. That's getting close to our Department goal of 129 members for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron, which Virginia increased slightly last year. But let's push to achieve this year's goal! 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 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 then it can be posted on the board.

This year the SAL Squadron is co-sponsoring with the Riders Chapter the return of ThunderBash, a BBQ which we will hold over the Memorial Day weekend. The BBQ will be 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. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members will be helping with this endeavor, and we should have a great celebration.

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 hot dog snacks 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. It is a great game to participate in.

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 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.

SAL participates with other post functions in donations to veterans events and supports many veterans activities. Recently, SAL provided a donation to the 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 over the Memorial Day weekend.

The SAL meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m.; the next meeting will be June 5, 2025. 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 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 1st 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:

Chapter 1976, in conjunction with the SAL function, will be hosting a BBQ over Memorial Day weekend, specifically to have our post continue with the ThunderBash celebration. We will have it 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've had in the past. Other functions in our post, including the Auxiliary and Legionnaires, will be helping to make this a very enjoyable occasion.

A few 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 VA Legacy Run will be held in mid-June, and the Riders in our Chapter will be joining a larger group on June 19, 2025, in the Natural Bridge area in Southwest VA. Several riding functions are scheduled over that weekend, and the final celebration will be Saturday, June 21, 2025. 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. Then we will be returning to our home area on Sunday, June 22. It will be a great ride.

The Chapter 1976 Riders meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 15, 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.

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



AMERICAN LEGION POST 1976

4206 Daniels Avenue Annandale, VA 22003



THUNDERBASH 2025

SUNDAY MAY 25 NOON - 9 PM

LIVE BANDS: COLD NORTH 1-5 PM

EDDIE POCKEY 6-9 PM

FOOD TRUCK: GRANT'S FAMILY KITCHEN

**\$20 CHARGE INCLUDES ENTRY TICKET FOR
DOOR PRIZE AND A BEER TICKET**



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

~ May 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2				1  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	2 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	3 Karaoke 7 p.m.
4	5	6 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	7	8 Victory in Europe Day  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	9 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	10 Swing Dance Party 6-9 p.m.
11 Mother's Day	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	13 Voting for Post Officers 11 a.m.-6:45 p.m. General Membership Meeting 7 pm	14	15 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	16 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	17 Armed Forces Day
18 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	19	20 Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	21	22  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	23 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	24
25 ThunderBash 12-9 p.m.	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	30 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	31

~ June 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5 SAL Meeting 7 pm Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	6 D-Day Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	7 Karaoke 7 p.m.
8	9	10 General Membership Meeting 7 pm Officer Installation	11	12 Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	13 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	14 Army Birthday Flag Day
15 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Father's Day	16	17 Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	18	19 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	20 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	21
22	23	24	25	26 Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	27	28 Poker Quarterly Tournament 7 p.m.
29	30	Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2				

~ July 2025 ~

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