

**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 Winter 2026 NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN LEGION BICENTENNIAL POST 1976

ANNANDALE VIRGINIA



VOLUME XLVI ISSUE #1

Winter 2026

Post 1976 Officers

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2025–2026

Commander: Lance Kent; lancekent17@aol.com

1st Vice Cdr. (Membership): Gretchen Trujillo; thegretch61@verizon.net

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: Allison Hoopes; adlhoopes@yahoo.com

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

Sgt. At Arms: Andra Duskie; aduskie@gmail.com

Adjutant: Vacant

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

Acting President: Gretchen Trujillo;
thegretch61@verizon.net

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; georgpiw@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 Vigano; daniel.vigano@gmail.com

Want to get the newsletter emailed to you? Email Diane Ramsey at rppcomm6759@aol.com.

Commander's Corner

Fellow Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary Members: I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Here's to 2026 to be better than 2025!

We are striving to host more events for our post members to enjoy. Events that we are currently hosting are:

- **Karaoke**—We now have two nights for our inspiring singers: the first Saturday and fourth Wednesday of every month. Start time for each is 7 p.m.
- **Texas Hold 'Em tournament**—Every Friday starting at 7:30 p.m. In order to qualify for the quarterly tournament, you must play in 4 weekly tournaments. The next quarterly tournament will be held on Saturday, March 28th, starting at 3 p.m. Thanks to Susan Bodnar for serving as tournament director.
- **Trivia Night** is held on the third Tuesday of every month. Bring a partner to win a chance of winning two \$25 gift cards. A thank you goes to Wade Leonard as the post's trivia master.
- **Game Night** will be held every third Wednesday at 7 p.m. It is BYOG (Bring Your Own Game). If you don't have one to bring, that is fine. If there is a call for a specific game, we may be able to accommodate the request.
- We are starting **Bar Bingo** every Wednesday night starting at 7 p.m. We are currently refining the rules and type of games for Bingo. Please come on out to help us play test.
- Stay tuned for more events that will be coming soon.

We are also striving to provide a stronger presence within the community. If you are aware of a possible volunteer/donation opportunity, please let us know.

Let's keep this momentum going—reach out to a veteran, invite them to a meeting, and remind them what it means to be part of the American Legion family. Together, we're building something stronger than ever.

Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions to help improve our post, please join us for the General Membership meeting held on the second Tuesday of every month.

For God and Country,

Lance Kent, Commander

1st Vice's Report

Happy New Year! We are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Seventeenth District is in first place with Post 1976 being in 5th place district-wide.

Legionnaire membership has dwindled over time and many members have not renewed. We have 194 current members including Paid Up For Life (PUFL). We highly encourage you to renew and drop in to see us.

Assistance is needed in recruitment of new members. We've signed up new members during our Legion Family Breakfast, yet more outreach is needed. We truly appreciate all who have stepped up to volunteer.

We highly encourage you to attend our General Membership meetings. I hear a lot of good ideas around the bar, but your great ideas will fall on deaf ears by not using the Suggestion Box and—most importantly—not attending General Membership meetings. Attendance is extremely poor to the point of embarrassment.

In February, we'll be looking for potential officers to participate on the Executive Board. Please consider running for an office.

For God and Country,

Gretchen Trujillo, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

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

Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.

Need a ride? Call the NOVA Veterans Association at 703-659-0788 or email info@novavets.org.

3rd Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

Tommy Kemp, 3rd Vice Commander

Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Service Officer
703-898-6627

Finance Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Bill Walters, Finance Officer

Sergeant At Arms' Report

No report this quarter.

Andra Duskie, Sergeant At Arms

Club Manager's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

Chaplain's Report

No report this quarter.

Paul McComb, Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary Report

President Pam McCarthy stepped down as our Auxiliary president effective January 18, 2026. Thank you, Pam, for serving as our president for many years. We wish you the best in your new endeavor.

I (Gretchen Trujillo) will be your acting president until further notice.

The Auxiliary performed a coat drive and they were delivered. Thank you, Sharon Ogle.

In February we'll be looking for Auxiliary officers. Please let us know if you are interested.

Membership: We are 96 members strong, including PUFLs. I believe we have a few more current members than what the report reflects. Assistance in recruitment is highly encouraged.

Please join us at our General Membership meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions on how to make our legion better.

For God and Country,

Gretchen Trujillo, Acting Auxiliary President

The Northern Virginia Veterans Association and the Dulles Area Transportation Association have been awarded federal funding for a joint project to provide veterans who are disabled or over age 65 transportation to medical appointments. The program offers round-trip, no-cost taxi service for eligible veterans, including those who need wheelchair-accessible transportation. The program has expanded and now offers free transportation to medical appointments. This includes rides to appointments at the VA Hospital in Washington, DC.

Veterans who live in the following areas may be eligible for this program: Alexandria, Arlington,

Sons of the American Legion Report

All right, Winter is now here—and we've been having some really cold days!

The 2026 membership year is in full swing, and the Squadron has received 85 member renewals for the 2026 membership year. The Department goal for 2026 membership year is 134, so we need to get 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 2026, please 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 2026 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 in a timely fashion—preferably before the Spring of 2026.

The post continues with the monthly Trivia Contests, on the third Tuesday of the month. So, come out to the post 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. At January's meeting, the SAL approved a \$500 donation 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 this donation for the AHS Food Pantry.

The SAL meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m.; the next meeting will be February 5, 2026. 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.

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

Winter is here, and we have had some very cold spells in January.

Here are the current efforts our Chapter has been involved in:

Our Chapter decided to have a Polar Bear Run on New Year's Day, which we have not had in a couple of years. We had six participants for the ride. However, it was so cold we all showed up in four wheelers this time. But we did have a nice trip to enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant, so it turned out to be an enjoyable occasion.

Our Legion Riders Chapter did take the lead in collecting donations for the Toys for Tots organization. We received donations from the

Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and the Riders themselves. 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 took those toys to the Marine Museum in Quantico, for collection and distribution of toys collected by other Chapters in our region.

We will be looking into things to do at the post as additional fundraisers. The VA Dept. Riders scheduled a kick-off meeting on January 25 in Hopewell, VA, for the Virginia Legacy Run—which will be held in the middle of June 2026. Our Riders Chapter participated in that event.

The Chapter 1976 Riders meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be February 19, 2026. 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 us get out and ride when we can.

RIDE SAFE!

For God and Country,

Mike Trujillo, ALR Director

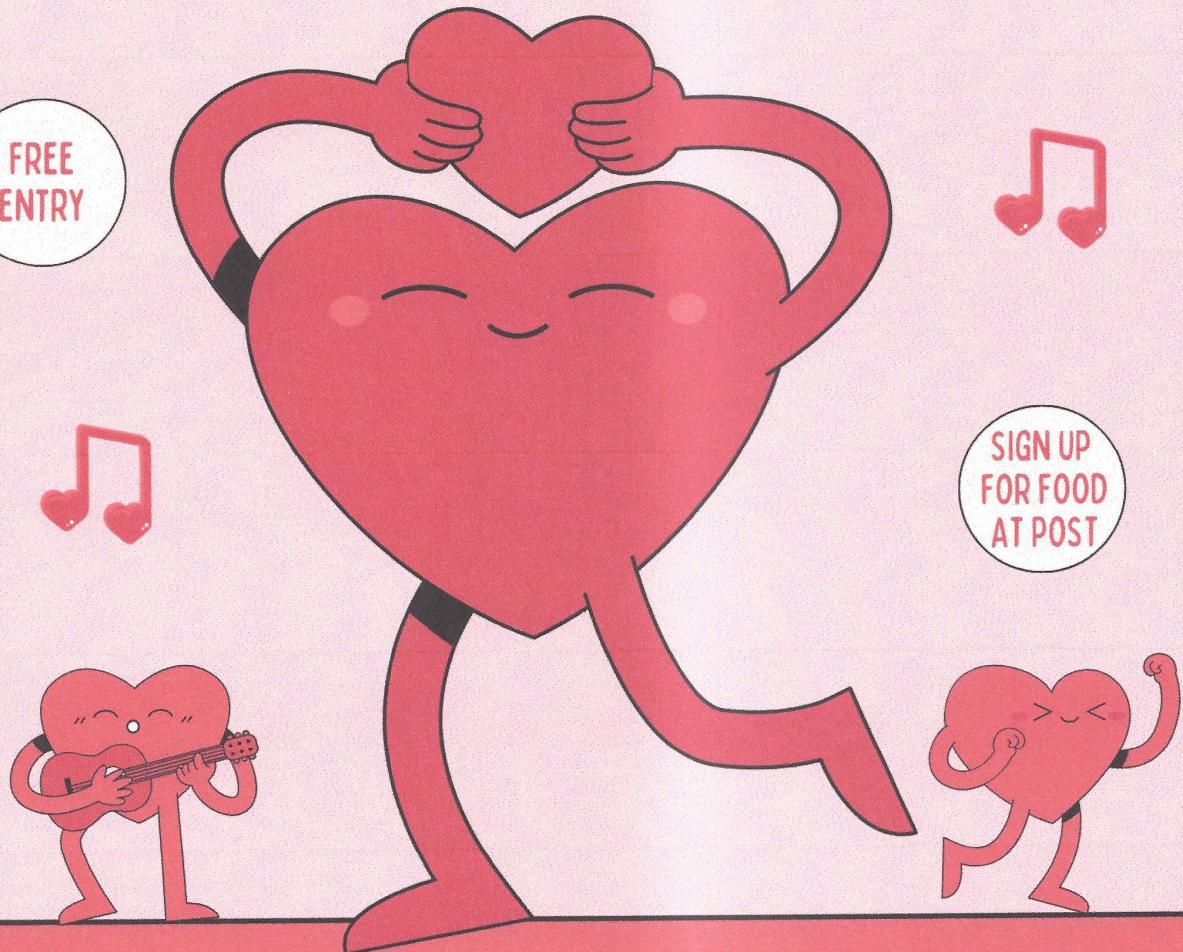
ANNANDALE
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 1976

VALENTINE'S KARAOKE

FREE
ENTRY



SIGN UP
FOR FOOD
AT POST



DINNER \$10

LASAGNA, SALAD, BREAD,
AND DESSERT

DINNER
MUSIC
SWEETS

7

FEBRUARY

FOOD AT 6:30PM

KARAOKE AT 7PM

~ February 2026 ~

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

~ March 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	4 Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	5 SAL Meeting 7 pm  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	6 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	7 DAR Meeting 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Karaoke 7 p.m.
8 Daylight Saving Time	9 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	10 General Membership Meeting 7 pm	11 Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	12  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	13 Blood Drive 10 a.m. Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	14
15 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	16	17  St. Patrick's Day Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	18 Game Night 7 p.m. Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	19  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	20 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	21
22	23	24	25 Bar Bingo 7 p.m. Karaoke 7 p.m.	26  Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	27	28 Quarterly Poker Tournament 3 p.m.
29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30	31	Lunches are served at the post Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11-2			

~ April 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	2 SAL Meeting 7 p.m. Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	3	4 DAR Meeting 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Karaoke 7 p.m.
5 Easter	6	7 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 p.m.	8 Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	9 Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	10	11
12	13 Auxiliary Meeting 7 p.m.	14 General Membership Meeting 7 p.m.	15 Tax Day Game Night 7 p.m. Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	16 ALR Meeting 7:00 p.m. Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	17	18
19 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	20	21 Trivia Night 7 p.m. (food 6 p.m.)	22 Karaoke 7 p.m. Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	23 Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.	24	25
26	27	28	29 Bar Bingo 7 p.m.	30 Queen of Hearts 8 p.m.		