

**AMERICAN LEGION
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976**
4206 Daniels Avenue
Annandale, VA 22003
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 and we will email it.

American Legion Post 1976

Spring 2026

NEWSLETTER





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; 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 Vigano; daniel.vigano@gmail.com

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

Commander's Corner

As I reflect on my time serving as your American Legion Post commander, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride. It has been an honor to stand alongside each of you—veterans, families, and community members—who give this Post its strength, spirit, and sense of purpose. Your support, dedication, and willingness to step forward—whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply showing up for one another—have made all the difference. Together, we have continued the mission of service to veterans, support for our community, and preservation of the values that define the American Legion.

No commander serves alone. Every success we've achieved has been a shared effort, powered by your commitment and belief in what we do. For that, I am sincerely thankful.

As we look ahead, I ask that you extend that same enthusiasm and support to the incoming Post commander and executive board. They will carry forward the responsibility of leadership and, with your continued involvement, they will undoubtedly guide the Post to even greater accomplishments. Strong leadership thrives on strong membership, and your engagement remains the cornerstone of our success.

Though my time as commander is coming to a close, my commitment to this Post and to all of you remains steadfast. I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you in new ways and supporting the future of our organization.

Thank you for your trust, your service, and your unwavering support.

For God and Country,

Lance Kent, Commander

1st Vice's Report

We are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

Seventeenth District is in first place with Post 1976 being in 10th place district-wide. Please remember that we are all responsible for membership. I truly appreciate everyone who brought in new members.

Legionnaire membership has dwindled over time and many members have not renewed. We have 216 current members including Paid Up For Life (PUFL). We highly encourage you to renew and come out and see us.

Legionnaires—we highly encourage you to attend our General Membership meetings. I hear a lot of good ideas around the bar, It was impressive to see many legionnaires join us at our April General Membership meeting. Please continue to come to these meetings so that you will know what is going on at Post 1976. We need our Sons and Auxiliary to join us, too.

Your great ideas will fall on deaf ears unless you use the Suggestion Box, and most importantly, attend General Membership meetings.

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.

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.

Throughout the summer America is celebrating 250th anniversary events. The 250th events are listed at <https://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

No report this quarter.

Allison Hoopes, Historian



988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Dial 988 and Press 1. Also available by text: 838255.

Confidential and available every day, 24/7. The Lifeline has received more than 7.1 million calls. A trained responder will answer your call or text and will ask you a few questions. Your call is free and confidential, and you decide how much you want to share. For more information see the website at www.veteranscrisisline.net.

Service Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Service Officer

Sargeant At Arms' Report

No report this quarter.

Andra Duskie, Sargeant At Arms

Club Manager's Report

Elections of new officers are on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.—**please come out and vote, and remember to bring your membership card.**

Here is the slate of officers running for their positions:

Commander: Gretchen Trujillo

1st Vice Commander: None

2nd Vice Commander: Alan Kravitz

3rd Vice Commander: Tom Kemp

Finance Officer: Luis Cruz

Chaplain: None

Historian: Allison Hoopes

Sergeant At Arms: Ed Crowley

Service Officer: Carl Menge

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

Elections will take place at Unit 1976 on Monday, May 11, 2026. Please come and vote for your Auxiliary officers. Installation will occur June 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Unit 1976. We hope to see all of you there.

I, Gretchen Trujillo, will not be running for an office as I am running for Post commander. Please let the Auxiliary know if you are interested in being the membership chairman.

Thank you all who showed up to prepare poppies to be mailed to everyone requesting donations.

I have really enjoyed working with all of you as you are a wonderful group of people. I highly encourage all of you to attend General Membership meetings. You have two dual members, Allison Hoopes and Gretchen Trujillo, who are on the executive board and we are in your corner.

For God and Country,

Gretchen Trujillo, Acting Auxiliary President

Sons of the American Legion Report

Winter is over, and warm weather should be here for quite a while.

The 2026 membership year is ending soon. At the current time, our Squadron has received 105 member renewals for the 2026 membership year. The Department goal for the 2026 membership year is 134, so we need to get many more renewals in the near future in order to meet that goal.

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.

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. In April, the SAL approved a \$500 donation to Boy's State, and a \$575 donation to Girl's State. These are beneficial and much needed donations which allow 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 May 7, 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.

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

Spring has arrived, with temperatures in the mid 70s and 80s!

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

Our previous finance officer, Dick George, was scheduled for internment at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) on April 13, 2026. Several Riders from our Chapter 1976, and several Riders from Chapter 290 in Stafford, provided the escort from Dick's wife Patti's house to ANC. We had about fifteen motorcycles, and several four-wheel autos in this procession. We had a Fairfax County Police escort at the beginning of the escort to the Beltway, and when we got off I-66, an Arlington County Police escort took us close to the cemetery. It was a good ride, and the funeral was very solemn. It was a very appropriate ceremony at the cemetery, with full colors and a 21-gun salute. Dick is now settled on very holy ground at Arlington.

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 beginning June 18, 2026, in Colonial Beach, with several riding functions scheduled over that weekend, and the final celebration will be Saturday, June 20, 2026. Donations are collected for the National Legacy Run; last year the VA Legacy Run participants collected about \$120,000 for our contribution to the National Legacy Run, who set up 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 21. 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 May 21, 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.

With much warmer weather moving in, let us get out and ride.

RIDE SAFE!

For God and Country,

Mike Trujillo, ALR Director


~ May 2026 ~

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

~ June 2026 ~

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

~ July 2026 ~

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