

**AMERICAN LEGION
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976
4206 Daniels Avenue
Annandale, VA 22003**
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Non-profit Organization
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TO:

*If you wish to receive your newsletter earlier in the month please send your email address to:
georgepjw@aol.com and we will email it.*

MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER





Officers Call

Commanders Corner

April showers have seemingly brought May flowers. That means getting out and making the outside of our Post home look good. Have a look around outside on the grounds and maybe pick up a cigarette butt or any loose trash to lend a hand. We also need some people who have a green thumb to put in some flowers and such. If that's you, let us know.

April was a really good month with lots of activities, good times and great fun around the Post home. Have you come by on Thursdays for food and fun? Swingin Blues Review on a few Fridays? Karaoke with Babs? Commander's breakfast? If you answered no to any of these questions, you are missing out.

May is now upon us and that means thanking Mom's and thanking Veterans. We will be having the Commander's Breakfast on May 18th from 9am to 1pm. The breakfast is now a monthly event that is becoming known as the best deal in town!! There is no other "made to order" "all you can eat" \$8 breakfast in town. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors in for some incredible chow.

It's that time again. It's time to come out and vote for new officers. Are you up to the task of helping us run our Post? Anyone can submit his or her nomination up to the day before election, May 12th. Voting will be open on May 13th from 10am

until 6pm, so stop by and add your name or at least vote even if someone is running unopposed.

Volunteerism as of late has been much better and I sincerely appreciate it. That makes it much easier to keep planning events if we know we have a great support staff. It's what makes our Post home run much smoother.

Just in case you are one of the ones who read this and falls asleep before the Chaplains section, please keep Wilma Ranck's and Dave Reel's families in your thoughts and prayers as both passed away last month.

Lastly, a personal heartfelt thank you to everyone who either patronizes our Post home or volunteer's their precious time to make everything work at our American Legion Post 1976.

Until next month's "Commanders Corner",

Roy McCracken, Commander

1st Vice's Report

On behalf of American Legion Bicentennial Post 1976, I would like to thank all of you who renewed your membership for 2014, and to thank in advance all of you who have yet to do so but will.

Please welcome our new Post 1976 members:

Philip H. Dintruff (USN)

Garrett Fellenz (USA)
Zachary D. Gilland (USMC)
Andrew D. Klimkowski (USAF)
Machequnnaysh Parisien (USMC)
Franklin "Ralph" Moore (USA)
John Scanlan (USA)

As of April 22, we have reached 104.9% of our annual Department of Virginia membership goal. The Department has us at 102.7% as of the 16th due to the time required for administrative processing.

We need at least another 37 members to meet our internal goal of 110% of last year's membership. If one in ten of our current members would bring in one new member, we are there.

As a component of our active membership campaign, the Veterans of Northern Virginia MeetUp group, an arm's-length social network facility, has been activated and utilized for our past few events. **50% of the 20 members of the group are not members of the American Legion, but could be: they are all veterans.**

Please feel more than free to develop ideas for compelling new events and pass them on to Eugene "Cornbread" Kimbrell, our 2nd Vice Commander and leader of the Entertainment Committee (and Director of the Post 1976 Legion Riders), and make sure to attend the excellent events which the Post and its members provide.

You can check out and join the MeetUp group at <http://www.meetup.com/Veterans-of-Northern-Virginia/>. 'Meetups' are neighbors and communities getting together to learn something, do something, share something, and just have a good time. Joining will help the group attract new members and increase participation in Post-related events: please sign up!

American Legion membership year 2012-2013 cards expired on December 31st. Paid-up membership is required for admittance to the Post. Remember that *the cost of membership is small compared to the price you paid to be eligible.*

Renewals, New Members and Transfers

You can renew for the 2013–2014 Legion year in person at the Post or send your annual dues to us at:

American Legion Bicentennial Post 1976
P.O. Box 1976
Annandale, VA 22003-0976

Current Legion members can renew online at www.legion.org/renew. You will receive an electronic fulfillment form with a thank you note from the National Adjutant, a temporary membership card and payment receipt, and an instruction to the Post Commander and Adjutant to issue you a new membership card. You should carry a copy of the temporary card and payment receipt until you have received your new card.

New members can join online at www.legion.org/ or fill out a paper form available from the Post.

Currently active Legionnaires who are members of the general pool (e.g., Post 0141) or currently affiliated with another Post can transfer to Post 1976 by filling out a Member Data Form requesting such transfer. Forms are available at the Post or can be mailed to you by writing to Post1976Community@gmail.com.

If you have ideas for increasing membership, please pass them on in writing to any Officer or the Manager on Duty (the bartender), or contact me at Post1976Community@gmail.com. Thank you in advance!

Peter W. Atkinson, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

May is here and the post is moving right along. The special events going on this month are the Annual Sock Hop on May 3rd with Roy (The Milkshake Man) mixing up some Shakes for your enjoyment and DJ Aaron spinning some tunes for y'all, and May 25th is the Thunder Bash kicking off at 1:00pm with live music, great food and cold drinks. \$20.00 gets you in for the whole thing (3 bands and food). So come on out and have some fun with the Legion Family and guests.

Then of course there's the regular monthly events, Queen of Hearts every Thursday, the drawing is at 2000 (8pm), free pool all day every Friday, May 17th is Armed Forces Day, Karaoke W/Babs the 24th at 8pm. Memorial Day is the 26th. Come on out to the Post home and enjoy the fun.

Eugene Kimbrell, 2nd Vice

3rd Vice's Report

No report this month.

Tom Ritchie, 3rd Vice Commander

Adjutant's Report

Here are the nominations for the 2014-2015 Executive Committee:

Commander: Roy McCracken

1st Vice: Peter Atkinson

2nd Vice: Eugene Kimbrell

3rd Vice: Tom Ritchie

Adjutant:

Chaplain: Gretchen Trujillo

Service Officer: Robert Stanley

Historian: Tim Coennen

Finance Officer: Frank Buckley

SAA: Jamie McCloud

Want to get your copy of the monthly newsletter earlier? Send an email to georgepjw@aol.com and sign up today to receive it electronically. Not only will you be saving a tree, you are saving the Post some money also, especially since postage just went up!

Tim Coennen, Post Adjutant

Chaplain's Report

TAPS: Wilma Ranck and Dave Reel

Sick Call: Keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers

Gretchen Trujillo, Chaplain

Service Officer

NOVA Education Benefits Session:

Military Education Benefits Session

Services Offered through NOVA's ACP Program:

- Navigating NOVA's Admission Process
- Applying for Military Education Benefits
- Financial Aid, Grants, Scholarships & MyCAA Benefits for Military Spouses
- Getting College Credit for Your Prior Learning & Military Experience
- Flexible Advising to Fast-Track Your Education
- Internship and Job Seeking Services for Veterans

Services for:

- Active Duty
- Veteran
- Reserve
- Spouses



ACP is building a Veteran Community at NOVA. Join us!

Upcoming Session Dates:

April 22nd, 6:00-8:00pm, 7630 Little River Turnpike, 6th Fl., Annandale, VA 22003
May 6th, 6:00-8:00pm, 7630 Little River Turnpike, 6th Fl., Annandale, VA 22003
May 20th, 10:00-12:00pm, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Suite 327, Alexandria, VA 22309
June 3rd, 11:00-1:00pm, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Suite 327, Alexandria, VA 22309
June 19th, 3:00-5:00pm, 7630 Little River Turnpike, 6th Fl., Annandale VA 22003



Free Parking/Metrobus Accessible
RSVP Required to Valerie Palmer,
202-309-9961 or vpalmer@nvcc.edu



VA Makes Specially Adaptive Housing Grant Eligibility Automatic for Veterans and Service members living with ALS:

Veterans and active-duty military personnel with service-connected amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease are now presumed medically eligible for grants up to almost \$68,000 to adapt their homes, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today. Under the change, Veterans and Service members with service-connected ALS will be determined medically eligible for the maximum grant. The program provides grants to eligible service-connected disabled Veterans and Service members to construct or modify a home to meet their unique housing needs. Grants are also available to help eligible individuals purchase adapted homes or pay down mortgages on homes that are already adapted. VA estimates this change will save approximately 12 months in the overall process of a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant. For more information, visit: <http://benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp> # # #

Robert Stanley, Service Officer

Historian

No report this month.

Vacant

Club Manager Report

May birthdays are:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Tom Hilsheimer | May 1 |
| Pamela Barnes | May 7 |
| Bob Eberly | May 9 |
| Mike Strickler | May 10 |
| Beth Winslow | May 14 |
| Joseph Vaughan | May 17 |
| Diane Adams | May 19 |
| Juanita Hollister | May 20 |

If anyone has a wheelchair that is in decent shape that you no longer want, how about donating it to our Legion.

Diane Ramsey, *Club Manager*

American Legion Auxiliary Report

At our April meeting, the following 2014-2015 slate of officers was announced:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| President | Kay Rutkowski |
| 1 st Vice Pres. | Micki Welsh |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | Jennifer Cave |
| Chaplain | Donna Martin |
| Historian | Karen McDaniel |
| Secretary | Joyce Landry |
| Treasurer | Patti George |
| Sgt. At Arms | Nancy Economou |

We will vote at our next meeting on **Wednesday May 7th, 7 p.m.** Additional nominations can be made from the floor. Please note that this meeting is on the first Wednesday of the month, not Thursday. We have had a conflict with the Legion needing the room for the Queen of Hearts participation. I will ask for a change in the Standing Rules to change the meeting night permanently. Installation of Officers will be at the Legion General Membership meeting on Tuesday, June 10th.

End of Year reports have been filed. Thanks to all for their work in our programs this year.

The Girls State delegates are registered to attend at Longwood University June 15-21. Due to a misunderstanding, we will only be sending two girls from Thomas Jefferson. The total is 10: Annandale HS, 3; Falls Church HS, 2; Thomas Jefferson, 2; Lake Braddock, 3. Thanks to the Legion, Riders and Annandale Women's Club for helping with the finances. I will meet again with them at our District 17 group orientation at Fairfax Post 177 on May 4th.

Karen McDaniel, *Auxiliary President*

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Wilma has handled our membership for many years and her shoes will be hard to fill. For now, I am the interim Chairman. After elections in May, I will be training a new 1st Vice and I will stay on as her assistant. Please send any renewals/new members to Karen McDaniel, 7831 Winona Ct. Annandale VA 22003 or leave at the Post Home.

A warm welcome to our new members: Jennifer Longauer, Erica Baldwin, Sharon Robinson and Christa Baldwin. We also missed mentioning our transfers from Unit 176, Delores Meyer and her kin, Stacey Meyer and Anna Tanner.

Our membership total is 155. 159 puts us at 100% and 161 is our goal. We have had 14 new members and 4 transfers. It's great to see some of you coming in to the Post.

Karen McDaniel
Interim Membership Chairman

Auxiliary Chaplain

It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Wilma Ranck on 11 April 2014. Wilma was an active member of the Auxiliary for 21 years and District VA&R chairman. She was chairman of the Membership Program and involved with the Poppy Program. Wilma had many friends at Post 1976 and across the State and District; she will be truly missed. Please remember the family in your prayers. The family requested that memorial contributions be sent to our Unit 1976 Auxiliary.

We will put the donations towards a veteran's project that Wilma would have liked. If you wish, send to our Post Home at 4206 Daniels Ave. Annandale VA 22003.

Please keep Dennis Martin, and his family in your prayers as he was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

Let us remember those who need our prayers and let them know we care.

"A life well lived is never ended".
Donna Martin, Chaplain

Sons of the American Legion

Post 1976 SAL Squadron has 96 members updated by mid-April for 2014 Membership; almost at the department membership goal of 102. Let's get there soon. Remember, you must have a 2014 Membership Card to be allowed entry to the Post home. If you would like to renew, you can place your renewal request in an envelope addressed to Mike T or Pat McDonald, with the \$30 renewal fee. Dual members who pay only the State Membership cost will pay \$11 for their SAL membership. The bartender on duty will pin it on the bulletin board, and we will provide a 2014 membership card; which will be either mailed to you or placed on the bulletin board for you.

The SAL Squadron is going to sponsor a Father's Day Dinner again this year. Remember, any Father who is brought in by his son will receive a free meal, and enjoy the Camaraderie of a family get together. There will be more information in the June Newsletter, but we wanted to get this notification out early, so you all can reserve that day for an enjoyable family occasion.

The May SAL meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1st. We would like any recommendations for events or any other worthwhile endeavors that we can undertake during the year, which would benefit the Post. Please schedule this meeting in your calendar, and if you are interested in renewing that night, you will receive your 2014 card immediately.

Mike Trujillo, SAL First Vice

American Legion Riders

The weather has finally turned nice and it is time to start the rides. We have plenty planned over the next few months and all are welcome to join in, whether on 2 wheels or 4. In May we have our 1st annual Thunder Bash. We are hosting it here at the Post home on May 25th from 1300 until the lights go out. \$20 (\$10 for under 18) gets you your food and music, we have 3 live bands performing! Come out and help us make this a legendary event that will continue for years to come.

On June 21-22 we are headed up to Shanksville to pay our respects at the Flight 93 memorial. We are overnighing near Somerset, PA. There will be an after party at Rockwood Post 279. July 11-13 we are headed back up to PA to Gettysburg bike week. Rooms are available for both events. August 9th we are having our 5th annual BBQ. More rides will be set up to try to win the traveling trophy as well. Lastly Honor Flights are happening nearly every weekend now through the fall. This is a great opportunity to honor those who have served.

Keep the tires down and the pretty side up!

Cornbread (Eugene Kimbrell), Director - ALR Chapter 1976

For our calendar, click Riders logo on the post website www.post1976.org or visit us on Facebook: Legion Riders, Annandale, Va

FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields was written during World War I by Canadian LCOL John McCrea. He was inspired to write it by viewing poppies blooming in the war-scarred fields in Belgium. It is our symbol of remembrance for our veterans. Our poppies are hand-made by veterans in our Virginia Medical Centers, and distributed on Memorial and Veterans holidays by the American Legion Auxiliary.



IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

*God, do we keep the faith, and hold the torches high
they flung to us? Or does each lie in Flanders Fields
and turn and toss, finding no rest beneath His cross?*

**American Legion Post 1976
Presents**



"A Sock Hop"

May 3, 2014

8:00 PM

With dj "Aaron"

**Milkshakes by "Commander
Roy"**



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 1976
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA
PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL**



THUNDER BASH!!!



Sunday May 25th, 2014

Join us for a day of food, fun, and music!

**\$20 for adults, \$10 for 18 and under
That includes all food and music.**

Festivities start at noon!

1pm to 4:30pm – Swingin' Blues Review

5pm to 8:30pm – The David Kitchen Band

8:30pm to 12:30am – Slider

All Proceeds to benefit the Missing in America Project.

~ May 2014 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 SAL Meeting – 6:30pm Queen of Hearts – 8pm | 2 Free Pool All Day | 3 Annual Sock Hop – 8pm |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Executive Board Meeting 7pm | 7 Auxiliary Meeting – 7pm | 8 Queen of Hearts – 8pm | 9 Free Pool All Day | 10 |
| 11 Mother's Day | 12 | 13 Gen Membership Meeting 7pm – Post Elections | 14 | 15 ALR Meeting – 7pm Queen of Hearts – 8pm | 16 Free Pool All Day | 17 Armed Forces Day  |
| 18 Commander's Breakfast 9am – 1pm. \$8.00 All You can eat! | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Spiced Shrimp Queen of Hearts – 8pm | 23 Free Pool All Day | 24 Karaoke w/Babs 8pm |
| 25 Thunder Bash 1pm - ??? | 26 Memorial Day  | 27 | 28 | 29 Queen of Hearts – 8pm | 30 Free Pool All Day | 31 |