

AMERICAN LEGION
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976
4206 Daniels Avenue
Annandale, VA 22003
Post Info Line: 703-941-9608
Email: rpcomm6759@aol.com
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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

Summer 2023

NEWSLETTER





Post 1976 Officers

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2023–2024

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

1st Vice Cdr. (Membership): Diane Ramsey
703-941-9608; rppcomm6759@aol.com

2nd Vice Cdr. (Events): Lance Kent; lancekent17@aol.com

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

Finance Officer: Tom Ritchie; ritchiefamily@ymail.com

Chaplain: Paul McComb; pmccomb98@gmail.com

Historian: Robert Plaugher; mouseydee@aol.com

Service Officer: Vacant

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

Adjutant: Dan Vigano

MEETINGS:

Executive Board: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
General Membership: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
House Committee: 1st Tuesday of each 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: Mike “Red” Lowe

Adjutant: Gary A. Indre

MEETINGS: 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 1976

Director: Mike Trujillo; mrt.mike@verizon.net

Adjutant: Joyce Landry; catnaper520@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Dick George; hndymndick@aol.com

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: Megan Hayes-Thum;
megan_hayes@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Sharon Ogle; share2520@gmail.com

Treasurer: Laura Werner; laurawer@yahoo.com

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

Historian: Patti George; georgpjw@aol.com

Sgt. At Arms: Suzanne Weeden;
weeden.suzanne@gmail.com

MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., except June, July (no meeting)

Club Manager: Diane Ramsey
703-941-9608; rppcomm6759@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Stephanie Kern; slk04@hotmail.com

Website Manager: Heather Pressler,
heather@blurhuki.com

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

Commander's Corner

Dear Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders:

I want to give a special "thank you" to our **first** female commander, Gretchen Trujillo. Her professionalism, joyous demeanor, and love for our post family will be greatly missed. She and Mike Trujillo have been dedicated members, volunteers, and leaders of our post for many years. We wish you safe and fun travels for all you have planned in retirement!

With the installation of new officers in June, I want to thank all of the outgoing officers for their support, dedication, and numerous hours of volunteerism to our post. We are grateful for your service.

The 2023 incoming officers are as follows:

Commander: Dorothy Vigano

1st Vice: Diane Ramsey

2nd Vice: Lance Kent

3rd Vice: Tommy Kemp

Finance Officer: Tom Ritchie

Chaplin: Paul McComb

Historian: Robert Plaugher

Service Officer: Carl Menge

Sgt-At-Arms: Allison Hoopes

Adjutant: Dan Vigano

On Sunday, Aug. 20 we will be having our next Legion Family Breakfast, hosted by the ladies of the Auxiliary and fantastic meals made by our

SAL chefs extraordinaire. Please come and join us for an awesome meal made just for you. We are also looking for two volunteers (breakfast on the house) taking the place of Gretchen and Mike to clean up the kitchen after breakfast, which ends at 1 p.m.

I am honored to be the Post commander and look forward to serving our Legion family.

Veterans Strengthening America!

Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Commander

1st Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice's Report

No report this quarter.

Lance Kent, 2nd Vice Commander

3rd Vice's Report

Everyone have a safe summer and enjoy!

Tommy Kemp, 3rd Vice Commander

Finance Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

Blessings to you, your family, the American Legion Family, veterans, and our military this summer. Challenge yourself this summer to Take Care of Yourself. I hope this summer brings you some rest, relaxation, and time with friends and

family! Given the chance, please check on your fellow veterans as well.

America's birthday started on July 4, 1776. America was founded as a nation under God. The signers of the Declaration of Independence intended the document to officiate the separation between America and Great Britain. They based the Declaration upon a greater foundational belief that God, or "Creator" as written in the Declaration, was the source for irrevocable rights.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, also believed "God who gave us life gave us liberty." I hope you enjoyed your 4th of July, comrades.

I pray for your health, happiness, well-being, and faith. Take care of each other.

Blessings,

Paul McComb, Chaplain

Service Officer's Report

No report this quarter.

Carl Menge, Service Officer

Historian's Report

No report this quarter.

Robert Plaucher, Historian

Club Manager's Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

Hello members! I am happy to report we continued to be busy. We've had some additional volunteers step up with creative ideas and as a

whole we've done some wonderful things together. I'm pleased to share our recent events.

In April we met a service dog we sponsored—please meet Virginia.

- Hero Dogs, Inc. improves the quality of life of our nation's heroes by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly skilled canines, free of charge, with lifetime support of the partnerships. Serving the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area
- Co-sponsorship with local DAR Henry Clay Chapter



Top Row: Nancy Hill (Auxiliary); Deb Banning (Auxiliary); DeeDee Walsh (Auxiliary); Denise Cook (Auxiliary)

Bottom Row: Paul McComb (Legionnaire); Virginia's handler; Dorothy Vigano (Legionnaire); Deb Larson (Auxiliary)

Also in April, we participated in the flags for the fire truck at our breakfast on the 16th. We were joined by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Edsall Road, Company 26. Post 1976 donated flags to them to proudly display on their trucks.





It was also on this day that we participated in the Final Salute fundraiser at our monthly Family Breakfast. Final Salute's mission is to provide homeless women veterans and their children with safe suitable housing. We raised \$653.

At the end of April, we had our annual Poppy mailer stuffing at the Post, during which many Auxiliary members came together to help. I'm happy to announce we exceeded our stretch goal of \$3,500 for this year.



In May, we purchased food for donation. Here are two of our volunteers—Auxiliary members Sharon Ogle (left) and Megan Thum (right)—that supported the effort:



Also in May, two of our volunteers—Auxiliary members Debbie McComb and Suzanne Weeden—baked and delivered 170 muffins to show our appreciation during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8–12, for one of our local schools—Braddock Elementary. It was greatly appreciated by the faculty.

Some of our members participated in the wall washing at the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, DC, with Alexandria Post 24 on May 13. This event only happens during the months of May through November.



An event was held for a Cook for Vets fundraiser event on May 20. We provided volunteers to sell t-shirts for donations to raise funds for Souls Feeding Souls. This organization is a resource for veterans and their households to ensure food security through the distribution of healthy meals and groceries.



Legionnaire Amanda Fowler (left) and Suzanne Weeden (Auxiliary, right)

We also were able to have an American Legion membership recruiting table. It was a great day!



Legionnaires Bill Walters (far right) and Paul McComb (Post 1976 and District 17 Chaplain, second from right), and Auxiliary members Debbie McComb (second from left) and Suzanne Weeden (far left).

We delivered food pantry items to the VA in Martinsburg. There is a constant need for food

items as well as comfort items, so I ask that members please consider making donations. It is greatly appreciated by the VA.

We are also grateful to Joyce Landry for preparing 6 baskets for the female veterans at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in DC for a summer event. They were delighted!

On Sunday, May 29, Auxiliary member Suzanne Weeden and Legionnaire Amanda Fowler volunteered at the Flower Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in coordination with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Foundation.

And lastly, please join us in welcoming our new officers for 2023–2024:

Pam McCarthy, President
Megan Thum, First Vice
Joyce Landry, Second Vice
Laura Werner, Treasurer
Sharon Ogle, Secretary
Susan Dudding, Chaplain
Patti George, Historian
Suzanne Weeden, Sergeant at Arms

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held on August 14. We would love it if more members would join us.

Until next time, enjoy the Summer!!!

Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Membership

Our membership greatly increased this year, and as of May 17 we have 144 members, up from 123 last year. We are at 115.20%! Thanks to all of you and especially Suzanne Weeden, our #1 recruiter. Since our Spring newsletter, we have the following new members: Kim Warzechi, Nancy Hill, Anita O'Connor, Pamela McIntosh, Marjorie Lillis, Laura Raspler, Madison Rubley, and Suzanne DeBlasio. Welcome to Unit 1976!

Your 2023 dues are good until Jan. 1, but our new membership year starts soon. You will receive a renewal notice in August from our National

organization. At the 2022 National Convention, delegates voted to increase the portion we must send forward to Department and National to \$32. At our April meeting, our members voted to keep our dues at \$35 and \$5 for junior membership. We hope to absorb administrative costs and be able to make donations out of our fundraisers throughout the year. So, everyone pitch in and help us accomplish this please!

This will be my last article on membership. Many thanks for the help. Our new chairman is Megan Thum and she will also be in contact with you as our Communications Chairman. (I'll still be around!).

Karen McDaniel

Sons of the American Legion Report

Our squadron has a total renewal count of 118 members for the 2023 membership year. That's over our Department goal of 115 members for our Post 1976 SAL squadron. Any new members we pick up now will be applied to our 2024 membership drive. Thank you all for helping us surpass our Department goal. Of course, we will still accept 2023 renewals, so if you still need a 2023 renewal card, please get your renewal in as soon as possible. The renewal cost is still \$30 for SAL members. Dual members pay only the state membership cost of \$15 for their dual SAL membership. 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 2023 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 is continuing 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 a great wing or hot dog snack, and also participate in the humorous Trivia Contest, and have lots of fun answering some of the Jeopardy-style questions

Lance comes up with to throw out to the participants.

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 the 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.

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 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 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 in 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

Hey, the scorching weather has tempered a bit; time to get back on our bikes and get on some rides!

Our chapter is rescheduling its annual trip to Bedford, VA, to visit the DDAY Memorial. The

trip will be scheduled in September 2023. It will still occur over a Saturday/Sunday weekend. We would be happy to have some cages (4-wheel vehicles) come along with us. Saturday afternoon we will visit the National DD Memorial, with many statues and memorials defining the DDAY battlefield, and on Sunday morning we will definitely visit the Bedford Boys Tribute Center for their presentation of the Bedford Boys story on DDAY.

We will be looking into things to do at the Post as additional fundraisers. Let's set up some local rides, and get out together on our bikes.

RIDE SAFE!

For God and Country,

Mike Trujillo, ALR Director



Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1. Also available by text: 838255.

Confidential and available every day, 24/7. More than 5.4 million calls. 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.



Karaoke Night



**Come and Join the
American Legion Post 1976
for Karaoke, 1st Saturday of
Every Month—Starts at 7pm**

Food is served at 6:30 pm

Food, raffles, Jello shooters, and more.



~ August 2023 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | 1 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 2 Hall in Use 9-5 | 3 SAL Meeting 7 pm  | 4 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 5 Hawaiian Luau Karaoke 7 p.m. |
| 6 | 7 Hall in Use 9-5 | 8 General Membership Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 9 Hall in Use 9-5 | 10  | 11 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 15 Trivia Night 7 p.m. Hall in Use 9-5 | 16 Hall in Use 9-5 | 17 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  | 18 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 19 |
| 20 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 21 Hall in Use 9-5 | 22 Hall in Use 9-5 | 23 Hall in Use 9-5 | 24  | 25 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Hall in Use 9-5 | 29 Hall in Use 9-5 | 30 Hall in Use 9-5 | 31  | | |

~ September 2023 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 2 Karaoke 7 p.m. |
| 3 | 4 Hall in Use 9-5 | 5 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 6 Hall in Use 9-5 | 7 SAL Meeting 7 pm  | 8 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 9 DAR Meeting 9-12:15 |
| 10 | 11 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 12 General Membership Meeting 7 pm Hall in Use 9-5 | 13 Hall in Use 9-5 | 14  | 15 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 16 |
| 17 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 18 Hall in Use 9-5 | 19 Trivia Night 7 p.m. Hall in Use 9-5 | 20 Hall in Use 9-5 | 21 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  | 22 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m. | 23 Final Poker Tournament 2-7 p.m. |
| 24 | 25 Hall in Use 9-5 | 26 Hall in Use 9-5 | 27 Hall in Use 9-5 | 28  | 29 | 30 |

~ October 2023 ~

| 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  | 6 | 7 DAR Meeting 9-12:15 Karaoke 7 p.m. |
| 8 | 9 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm | 10 General Membership Meeting 7 pm | 11 | 12  | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 16 | 17 Trivia Night 7 p.m. | 18 | 19 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |