

**AMERICAN LEGION  
BICENTENNIAL POST 1976**  
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Annandale, VA 22003  
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Email: [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com)  
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*If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send your email address to [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com) and we will email it.*

# American Legion Post 1976

## Fall 2023

### NEWSLETTER



# AMERICAN LEGION BICENTENNIAL POST 1976

ANNANDALE VIRGINIA



VOLUME XLIII ISSUE #3

Fall 2023

## Post 1976 Officers

### POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2023–2024

**Commander:** Dorothy Hennessey Vigano  
703-898-6627; [dorothyvigano@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothyvigano@yahoo.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cdr. (Membership):** Diane Ramsey  
703-941-9608; [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cdr. (Events):** Lance Kent; [lancekent17@aol.com](mailto:lancekent17@aol.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cdr. (House Comm):** Tommy Kemp;  
[tomar1025warren@hotmail.com](mailto:tomar1025warren@hotmail.com)

**Finance Officer:** Tom Ritchie; [ritchiefamily@ymail.com](mailto:ritchiefamily@ymail.com)

**Chaplain:** Paul McComb; [pmccomb98@gmail.com](mailto:pmccomb98@gmail.com)

**Historian:** Robert Plaughter; [mouseydee@aol.com](mailto:mouseydee@aol.com)

**Service Officer:** Carl Menge,  
[amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com](mailto:amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Allison Hoopes; [adlhoopes@yahoo.com](mailto:adlhoopes@yahoo.com)

**Adjutant:** Dan Vigano

#### MEETINGS:

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

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### SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 1976

**Commander:** Tom Uglietta; [tomug@verizon.net](mailto:tomug@verizon.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice (Membership):** Mike Trujillo  
[mrt.mike@verizon.net](mailto:mrt.mike@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** Mike “Red” Lowe

**Adjutant:** Gary A. Indre

**MEETINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

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### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 1976

**Director:** Mike Trujillo; [mrt.mike@verizon.net](mailto:mrt.mike@verizon.net)

**Adjutant:** Joyce Landry; [catnaper520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnaper520@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Dick George; [hndymndick@aol.com](mailto:hndymndick@aol.com)

**MEETINGS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

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### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 1976

**President:** Pam McCarthy; [pmccarthy@new-age-inc.com](mailto:pmccarthy@new-age-inc.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Membership:** Megan Hayes-Thum;  
[megan\\_hayes@gmail.com](mailto:megan_hayes@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Joyce Landry; [catnaper520@yahoo.com](mailto:catnaper520@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Sharon Ogle; [share2520@gmail.com](mailto:share2520@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Laura Werner; [laurawer@yahoo.com](mailto:laurawer@yahoo.com)

**Chaplain:** Susan Dudding; [susan.dudding@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.dudding@yahoo.com)

**Historian:** Patti George; [georgpijw@aol.com](mailto:georgpijw@aol.com)

**Sgt. At Arms:** Suzanne Weeden;  
[weeden.suzanne@gmail.com](mailto:weeden.suzanne@gmail.com)

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

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**Club Manager:** Diane Ramsey  
703-941-9608; [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Stephanie Kern; [slk04@hotmail.com](mailto:slk04@hotmail.com)

**Website Manager:** Heather Pressler,  
[heather@blurhuki.com](mailto:heather@blurhuki.com)

**Want to get the newsletter emailed to you? Email Diane Ramsey at [rpcomm6759@aol.com](mailto:rpcomm6759@aol.com).**

### **Commander's Corner**

Dear fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders:

Let me start off by saying we have the most amazing volunteers here at Post 1976. I just wanted to highlight all they do to make our Post a welcoming home for our veterans, their families, and the community.

If you have not been involved, now is the time to become active as a volunteer. Come experience the joy of service or just come to enjoy the esprit-de-core we feel here at our Post.



SAL, ALA, and Riders ROCK Breakfast!!!!

We have also made Post 1976 a little more inviting and comfortable. Come see all the changes we hope you enjoy. We've installed a new pool table, faster internet speed, new TVs, new podium, modified the configuration of our tables, updated our restrooms, and much more. The SAL has worked diligently at stabilizing, protecting, and preserving our Cannon. Drive by to see the amazing transformation of that space!

There are many events scheduled in the next couple of months (see the 2nd Vice's section) where we can use your help. For example, the Veterans Thanksgiving meal on the 18th of November: We have 15 donated turkeys and we can use some help getting them cooked and sliced. Please let me know if you can help with that operation before or on that date. A clean-up brigade is always, ALWAYS appreciated.

As the holidays approach, we wish you Joy, Peace, and Safety.

Veterans Strengthening America!

For God and Country,

*Dorothy Hennessey Vigano, Commander*

### **1st Vice's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Diane Ramsey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander*

### **2nd Vice's Report**

Coming up at Post 1976 Annandale:

\*Texas Hold'em tournament is every Friday until December 8th, except for November 24th (Thanksgiving Weekend). The quarterly tournament will be on Saturday, December 9th. Signups will start at 2:30 p.m. and the tournament will begin at 3:30 p.m.

\*Karaoke Night will be on November 4th, December 9th, and January 6<sup>th</sup>—all starting at 7 p.m. Come on out and enjoy the show.

\*Veterans Day Ceremony and Meal is on November 11th at 10 a.m., at the Cannon, then back to the post for a free lunch.

\*General Membership Meetings will be on November 14th, December 12th, and January 9th starting at 7 p.m. sharp. Come see the changes we've made at the post!

\*Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner, in partnership with Cook for Vets, November 18th, at no cost. Please return your RSVP in the self-addressed envelope that we are sending to your home address or call/email Diane Ramsey with your headcount.

\*Our next three Legion Family Breakfasts are scheduled for Sunday, November 19th, December

17th, and January 21st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—we hope to see you there!

\*Post 1976 Trivia Night will be held on Tuesday, November 21st, December 19th, and January 16th starting at 7 p.m. Teams of 2 people; prize for the winning team. SAL will be selling food (wings, hotdogs, fries).

\*Post Christmas decoration will be on Saturday, December 2nd, starting at noon. Bring as many elves as you can to help with the decorating.

\*Army Navy Game will be shown on Saturday, December 9th. Kick off will be at 3 p.m.

\*Post 1976 Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 16th. Stay tuned for the details.

*Lance Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander*

### **3rd Vice's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Tommy Kemp, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander*

### **Finance Officer's Report**

No report this quarter.

*Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer*

### **Chaplain's Report**

As we head into Autumn, a prayer to celebrate.

*God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.  
We thank you:  
for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a  
new burst of energy,  
-for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity  
of the Divine Artist,  
-for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of  
the branches,  
-for the hues of fields that bring peace to our  
souls,*

*-for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to  
children,  
-for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude  
for the bounty of our land,  
-for this change of seasons that reveals the circle  
of life.  
God of all seasons, as you transform the earth,  
transform us by your Spirit.  
Amen*

— Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

[[www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-autumn.php](http://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-autumn.php)]

Take care of each other. May the Lord provide you encouragement and comfort always, but especially if you are enduring difficult times. May the Lord be a constant companion to us all.

*Paul McComb, Chaplain*

### **Service Officer's Report**

**Happy October!** Here are some useful links that you might want to look through and bookmark. As always, we are here to help—give us a call or email.

**VA Caregiver Support Program** (As of Oct. 1, 2022)

Veterans of all service eras are eligible to apply. There is a VA Caregiver Support Line (1-855-260-3274) for caregivers, family members, friends, veterans, and community partners to contact for information related to caregiving and available supports and services. It's a fairly large VA program. One segment is entitled "General Caregivers." This is a person who provides personal care services to a veteran enrolled in the VA health care who requires daily living assistance or supervision due to the result of a neurological impairment or injury. [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

### **VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals**

The VA's board of appeals provides two main types of appeals: 1) Filing a supplemental claim such as the veteran having some new evidence, or 2) The veteran doesn't agree with a previous VA decision and believes the VA made a mistake

about their claim. The appeals board has added many new lawyers, however they still have a significant backlog to fulfill since all new employees have to undergo training. They continue to support a legacy appeals process as well as newer ones that are supposed to be faster. You can track your appeals online from the VA website: [www.bva.va.gov](http://www.bva.va.gov).

### **Records Request**

[www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index)

### **Veterans and Mesothelioma: VA Benefits | Mesothelioma Guide**

[www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans](http://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans)

*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 that the Auxiliary continues to be very busy. We continue to rely upon the creativity, support, and time of our amazing volunteers!

### **June**

In June, we installed our new officers with the Legion. Thank you to Karen McDaniel, who was a faithful officer for many years! Additionally, congratulations to Sharon Ogle for being Unit 1976's Member of the Year! We are so grateful for her continued service to our Unit and our Post.

We donated our June breakfast tips to the [Irreverent Warriors](#) (National Capital Area

Chapter). June is also Girls State, and one of the girls that Unit 1976 sponsored was chosen to be a Senator at National Girls State. We are so proud of Miss Anika Holder!

### **July**

July is the Auxiliary month off from meetings, but that doesn't mean that we didn't do anything! Tips from the July breakfast were donated to [Soldiers Angels](#). Thank you to all of the volunteers that make the monthly community breakfast such a huge success!



### **August**

At our first meeting back for the new membership year, the Auxiliary agreed to match August breakfast tips up to \$300 for [Luke's Wings](#). We also donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to support those suffering from the Hawaiian wildfires.

### **September**

In September, the Auxiliary kicked off a very successful school supply drive and was able to collect and deliver over 3,300 school supply donations and faculty snack packs to help two local elementary schools. Thank you to everyone at our post home who supported this amazing effort!





Our September breakfast tips were donated to the [Wounded Paw Project](#)! Not only did the Post match our breakfast tips, but, at the October meeting, they donated even more to this worthy cause, and the Wounded Paw Project brought two sweet dogs to the October General Membership Meeting!



### **October**

Finally, the Auxiliary is planning a meet and greet for Oct. 21 from 4–6 p.m., and we hope that all of our Auxiliary members can join us for an afternoon of fun, comradery, and food! As part of our planning for this year's activities, we are conducting a membership survey. We hope that all of our Auxiliary members will respond to the [survey](#) to provide us with ideas for engagement, donations, and service.

Unit next time, please enjoy the cooler weather, and I hope that you and your families have an amazing holiday season!

### **Auxiliary Membership**

In this new membership year, we are so happy to report that we are already over 60% of our

membership goal (147 members). Last year, we were lucky to welcome more than 25 new members to our unit, and we are off to a good start this year with 7 new members already! In this new role, I'm happy to receive any advice and input on making sure that we are engaging our existing members, and welcoming to our new ones. Please feel free to reach out to me ([meganhayes@gmail.com](mailto:meganhayes@gmail.com)) if you have any questions about Auxiliary membership.

*Megan Hayes Thum*

### **Sons of the American Legion Report**

Well, Summer is over, and it is now getting cool with Fall weather.

The 2023 membership year has been completed, and we have exceeded our Department goal of 117 renewals, by getting 121 renewals for 2023. That is a tremendous accomplishment for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron!

The problem is we have now started our 2024 membership year with a Department goal of 128 renewals, due to the large number of renewals we achieved in 2023. We have already received 31 member renewals for the 2024 Early Bird Season, which ended on Sept. 30, 2023.

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 2024, 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 2024 membership card for the member renewing; most likely 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 Family 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. We are extremely proud of turning 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 most members participating 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 just before 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 1<sup>st</sup> Vice*

### **American Legion Riders Report**

Hey, Summer is over but still a warm enough time to get our bikes out and get in some rides!

We will be looking into things to do at the Post as additional fundraisers. With the cooler weather moving in, let's get out and ride!

RIDE SAFE!

*Mike Trujillo, ALR Director*

### **MIA Update**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

- ❖ Army Pvt. 1st Class Charles A. Dickman, 17, of Cashton, Wisconsin, was a member of Mike Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He went missing in action on July 12, 1950. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 13, 1953. He will be buried in his hometown on Oct. 21, 2023.
- ❖ Navy Seaman 2nd Class Stanley C. Galaszewski, 29, of Steubenville, Ohio, was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941, resulting in the death of 104 crewmen including Galaszewski. He will be buried in his hometown on Nov. 3, 2023.
- ❖ Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Gilbert H. Myers, 27, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was assigned to the 381st Bombardment Squadron, 310th Bombardment Group. He went missing in action on July 10, 1943. He will be buried in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Nov. 10, 2023.

*-Paul McComb, Post 1976 Chaplain*



# 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.**





# ~ 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 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	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 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	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 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	21 Auxiliary Happy Hour 4–6 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26 	27 Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	28 Flag Retirement Ceremony 1:30 p.m. Halloween Party 6:30 p.m.
29	30	31 Halloween				

# ~ November 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  SAL Meeting 7 pm	3  Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	4 DAR Meeting 9–12:30  Karaoke 7 p.m.
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	7 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Election Day	8	9 	10 Marine Corps Birthday Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	11 Veterans Day Ceremony 10 a.m.
12	13 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	14 General Membership Meeting 7 pm	15	16  ALR Meeting 7:00 pm	17  Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	18 Thanksgiving Meal 2–6 p.m.
19 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	20	21 Trivia Night 7 p.m.	22	23  Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28 Giving Tuesday	29	30 		

# ~ December 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	<b>2</b> DAR Meeting 9–12:30 Legion Xmas Decorating @ noon
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> SAL Meeting 7 pm  Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	<b>8</b> First Day of Hanukkah Texas Hold 'Em 7 p.m.	<b>9</b> Army Navy Game 3 p.m. Quarterly Poker Tournament 3:30 p.m. Karaoke 7 p.m.
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	<b>12</b> General Membership Meeting 7 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Christmas Party
<b>17</b> Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Trivia Night 7 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> ALR Meeting 7:00 pm 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> Christmas	<b>26</b> First Day of Kwanzaa	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve						