

**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 2024

NEWSLETTER





Post 1976 Officers

POST 1976 LEGION OFFICERS 2023–2024

Commander: Dorothy Hennessey Viganò
703-898-6627; dorothyviganò@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 Plaughter; mouseydee@aol.com

Service Officer: Carl Menge,
amlgn1976vetservices@gmail.com

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

Adjutant: Dan Viganò

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

This is the year of the volunteer!

We have the most amazing and dedicated 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 our community.

Post 1976 had a Thanksgiving dinner for our local veterans while teaming with Cooks For Vets (CFV), the DAR, SAL, Riders, and our spectacular Auxiliary. CFV is an organization much like Meals On Wheels for our local veterans. They provide hot meals and groceries for veterans that are "food insecure." Turkeys, potatoes, and the fixings were provided by the DC Kitchen, CFV, Wegmans, Nothing Bundt Cakes, the Auxiliary, and the Annandale DAR.

Post 180 in Vienna volunteered to cook 6 of the 15 donated turkeys while Tennessee, Gary Indre, Pam McCarthy, Tom Uglietta, and Dan Vigano cooked the rest. This event was a super success serving around 126 people in our beautifully decorated hall.



In December, the Auxiliary decorated and hosted a Christmas dinner with music provided by D.J. Jingle Dan. While the post provided ham and turkey, ALL the sides and desserts were provided by our members. It was absolutely delicious! But wait, there's more...The next morning, the SAL provided a stunning Family Breakfast with our volunteer waitresses using their tips to raise \$351 for the Northern Virginia Veterans Association.

In addition, our volunteer waitresses raised enough tips to purchase 51 wreaths for the Wreaths Across America and the Riders headed up the Toys for Tots drive, collecting 7 JUMBO sized boxes! Your generosity and willingness to serve says so much about the members of our post.



We are eternally grateful for our volunteers.

Please consider volunteering here at the post whenever you can, with the talent you have.

Happiest of New Years to you all!

For God and Country,

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

No report this quarter.

Tommy Kemp, 3rd Vice Commander

Finance Officer's Report

This is the biggest year for the post in regards to donations. Our contributions with our gaming monies amounted to \$119,000, all of which went to veteran service organizations or active duty and their families.

Here is a partial list of the organizations: Gary Sinise Foundation; Shelter House; Cook for Vets, The Final Salute; Wounded Paws; Veterans Fishing Adventures; Fisher House; Children of Fallen Patriots; Honor Flight; Four Chaplains Foundation; TAPS; Tunnels to Towers; Boulder Crest; and Wreaths Across America, to name a few.

Tom Ritchie, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Report

Winter brings us several holidays: Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year. For all or any that you celebrate, I pray for you and your family's health, solace, peace, joy, happiness, and love.

In the New Year, I encourage you to

(1) Plan now on how you can surround yourself with friends, family, and situations that bring you Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

(2) Challenge yourself on how you can support (time, talent, treasure, or prayer) our veterans, the American Legion, the military, and our country.

(3) Celebrate how the light of God has been given to you, how it is present in your life, and how to share that light and love with others.

(4) Take the time to reflect upon what good memories God blessed you with in 2023.

As another example of what to celebrate during the holidays, let's look at New Year's Eve. On New Year's Eve, it is almost inevitable that you will hear (and possibly try to sing) "Auld Lang Syne." Translated literally, it means "old long since," but the meaning is more like "old times" or "the olden days." As the song goes, "For auld lang syne, my dear; For auld lang syne. We'll take a cup o' kindness yet; For days of auld lang syne." As we celebrate the New Year, let's celebrate cherished memories, and family and friends of past and present.

During this New Year's beginning, enjoy the themes of Advent (hope, love, joy, and peace), give cheerfully, recall fond memories of 2023, and look forward to 2024. May the Lord bring you many blessings.

Happy New Year!

Paul McComb, Chaplain

Historian's Report

No report this quarter.

Robert Plaughter, Historian

Service Officer's Report

As we start the new year, remember to file or request any copies of medical records from 2023 so if something happens in 2024 you are not scrambling to find them.

Good info about this year's VA Payment rates:

<https://youtu.be/-RIK3kgVGfg?si=kPWQEC12sTLCu6io>

Ever think about opening or starting your own business? Your VA benefits can help with that.

Vetpreneur Franchise Workshop—Online

This Franchising Bootcamp teaches you the basics and benefits of franchising, including the different types of franchises, how to identify which one fits you best, and financing.

Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, 12–1 p.m. ET

[Events - Vetpreneur](#)

Free Online Gaming Leagues for Veterans

The VFW has new Combat Tested Gaming leagues online: [VFW Gaming Leagues - KC Crew Sports and Events](#). Scroll to the end of the page to get on their mailing list for updates on upcoming gaming dates.

Job Search

If you find yourself looking at a contract end date or are just looking, this site lists jobs specifically for veterans: <https://www.hiremilitary.us/s/>

Records Request:

[Request Military Service Records | National Archives](#)

VA Benefits | Mesothelioma Guide

www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans

Please take care of yourselves as we start the new year. Make it a fresh start. If you have ever thought about filing a claim, there is no time like the present. Send me an email or call, gather up all your records and meet me at the legion to see what we can put together. Wishing you all the best and a healthy 2024.

Carl Menge, Service Officer

Sargeant-at-Arms Report

On Oct. 28, 2023, American Legion Post 1976 held a flag retirement ceremony, with the help of scouts and leaders from Scouts USA Troop 1525. Flags were prepared the previous day, with the

help of Post 1976 members, Auxiliary members, as well as members of the Henry Clay Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Three well-stuffed boxes of flags were retired, and the participants were lucky to have had such good weather for the retirement ceremony.



Troop 1525 meets at St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, and the scouts who participated were able to earn service hours, applicable to both troop and school requirements, for their help with the event. Plans are underway to hold the next event in June—close to Flag Day. June 15 is our planned date. This would be an appropriate time not only for the significance of the holiday, but the timing around the end of the school year would free up kids from sports and other school activities.

Allison Hoopes, Sargeant-at-Arms

Club Manager’s Report

No report this quarter.

Diane Ramsey, Club Manager

American Legion Auxiliary Report

No report this quarter.

Pam McCarthy, Auxiliary President

Sons of the American Legion Report

All right, Winter is now here; but we are enjoying some nice warm days every once in a while, even though we have had a few days where it got downright freezing. We'll have many more cold days in the near future, so enjoy the warm weather when we get it.

The 2024 membership year is in full swing, and the Squadron had already received more than 65 member renewals for the 2024 membership year at the end of 2023. That's a great accomplishment for our Post 1976 SAL Squadron.

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; it will be mailed to you unless you are a frequent member that I can hand it to.

So, please get your renewal in if you have not already done so.

The post continues with the monthly Trivia Contests, on the third Tuesday of the month. SAL 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. Lance says he is going to change the format of the trivia game; come by and see the surprise new format.

SAL participates with other post functions in donations to veterans events and supports many veterans activities. Recently, SAL provided toys and donations to the Toys for Tots program, which delivers many toys to young kids for Christmas.

SAL also provided a donation to Fort Belvoir veterans in financial need over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

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 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 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 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

As Winter is full-blown for the Chapter 1976 area, the rides have been a little limited. But there's always a stray warm day here and there.

As far as the events our chapter has been involved in, here's what we have accomplished:

Donations have been provided to our Legion Riders chapter by the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and the Riders themselves, for the Toys for Tots organization. Our Chapter Riders were able to purchase numerous box loads of toys for distribution to many needy families for Christmas gifts to their children.

The Riders received donations from all the post functions for gift cards that are provided to needy service families for Christmas expenses. Combined with the Riders' donations, we were able to purchase 10 gift cards at \$300 apiece. These were provided to a chaplain from Ft. Belvoir prior to Christmas, but this year we were informed that the gift card donation was no longer officially acceptable; but the chaplain provided another official method of uploading the donation amounts from the gift card to a program at Ft. Belvoir that was an acceptable solution. That was accomplished, and the Ft. Belvoir chaplain verified that the donations were officially delivered, and they were distributed to these service families in need of an enjoyable Christmas.

New: The Riders are now cooking on Thursday nights for Queen of Hearts, with service beginning about 6 p.m. So, come out to the post and enjoy a great meal (recently we've served chicken parmesan sandwiches and Italian sausage sandwiches).

We will be looking into things to do at the Post as additional fundraisers. And even though cooler weather is here, let's get out and ride when we can.

For God and Country,

Mike Trujillo, ALR Director

DISTRICT 17 FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Join us! The District 17 Four Chaplains Memorial Service starts at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 4th, 2024. The memorial service will be at the American Legion Post 177: 3939 Oak St. Fairfax, VA 22030.

Of the many thrilling incidents of World War II, probably none stirred the nation more deeply than the story of these four men of God whose heroic efforts were credited with the saving of more than 200 lives. These four—a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic Priest, and two Protestant Ministers—calmly issued life vests to American servicemen aboard the troop transport after it was torpedoed on February 3, 1943. When the supply of life preservers was exhausted, the four Chaplains removed their own life vests and gave them to four soldiers and then stood calmly on the sinking ship, their arms around one another's shoulders, and their heads bowed in prayer.



The memorial service includes a guest speaker and live music. Post 177 will provide food following the memorial service.

-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.



~ February 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  SAL Meeting 7 pm Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	2 Groundhog Day  Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	3 DAR Meeting 9–12:30 Karaoke 7 p.m.
4 District 17 Four Chaplains Memorial Service 10:30 a.m.	5	6 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Lunch 11 a.m.	7 Lunch 12 p.m.	8  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	9 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	10 Steak Night 2-6 p.m.—RSVP
11  6:30 p.m. (Food)	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	13 General Membership Meeting 7 pm Lunch 11 a.m.	14 Lunch 12 p.m. ♥HAPPY <i>Valentine's</i> DAY ♥	15 ALR Meeting 7:00 pm  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	16 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	17
18 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	19 Presidents Day	20 Lunch 11 a.m. Trivia Night 7 p.m. (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	21 Lunch 12 p.m.	22  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	23 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	24
25	26	27 Lunch 11 a.m.	28 Lunch 12 p.m.	29  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.		

~ March 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	2 DAR Meeting 9-12:30 Karaoke 7 p.m.
3	4	5 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 7 pm Lunch 11 a.m.	6 Lunch 12 p.m.	7  SAL Meeting 7 pm Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	8 Texas Hold 'Em 7:30 p.m.	9
10 Daylight Savings Starts	11 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	12 General Membership Meeting 7 pm Lunch 11 a.m.	13 Lunch 12 p.m.	14  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day Dinner 2-5	18	19 Lunch 11 a.m. Trivia Night 7 p.m. (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	20 Lunch 12 p.m.	21  ALR Meeting 7:00 pm Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	22	23 Poker Quarterly Tournament 3 p.m.
24 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	25	26 Lunch 11 a.m.	27 Lunch 12 p.m.	28  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	29 Good Friday	30
31 						

~ April 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Lunch 11 a.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">House Committee Meeting 6:30</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Executive Board Meeting 7 pm</div>	3 Lunch 12 p.m.	4  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">SAL Meeting 7 pm</div> Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	5	6 DAR Meeting 9-12:30 Karaoke 7 p.m.
7	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</div>	9 Lunch 11 a.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">General Membership Meeting 7 pm</div>	10 Lunch 12 p.m.	11  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	12	13
14	15	16 Lunch 11 a.m. Trivia Night 7 p.m. (with food starting at 6 p.m.)	17 Lunch 12 p.m.	18  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">ALR Meeting 7:00 pm</div> Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	19	20
21 Legion Breakfast 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	22 	23 Lunch 11 a.m.	24 Lunch 12 p.m.	25  Queen of Hearts Food 6-8 p.m.	26	27
28	29	30 Lunch 11 a.m.				