



District 17 Communicator

Volume 1 - Issue 8

March 2020

Commander's Corner

Legionnaires,

Membership: Ranked 2nd in Department

NORTHERN REGION--SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT-- (18 Posts)

Post	Location	Last Transmittal	Prior Year Mbrs	Curr Year Mbrs	3/4/2020 95% Target Goal	Curr Year Goal	New Mbrs	Ren Mbrs	Paid Up	FoOn-line	Per Cent of Goal
24 ***	ALEXANDRIA	2/26/2020	736	755	706	743	52	231	145	327	101.615%
44	ARLINGTON	12/18/2019	83	51	82	86	0	21	13	17	59.302%
85	ARLINGTON	2/18/2020	138	127	134	141	14	56	16	41	90.071%
123 ***	GREENSPRING	12/18/2019	56	61	55	58	3	40	15	3	105.172%
129 ***	ALEXANDRIA	1/15/2020	23	25	23	24	0	11	5	9	104.167%
130 *	FALLS CHURCH	2/25/2020	193	201	202	213	11	106	25	59	94.366%
139	ARLINGTON	2/12/2020	232	208	228	240	4	103	42	59	86.667%
162	LORTON	2/18/2020	338	274	326	343	0	140	40	94	79.883%
176 +	SPRINGFIELD	2/25/2020	1425	1396	1360	1432	108	562	256	470	97.486%
177	FAIRFAX	2/26/2020	939	881	901	948	38	414	148	281	92.932%
180	VIENNA	2/26/2020	678	605	652	686	37	319	79	170	88.192%
184	HERNDON	2/25/2020	208	185	202	213	0	85	43	57	86.854%
194	ARLINGTON	1/2/2020	47	46	47	49	4	31	8	3	93.878%
225 +	FALLS CHURCH	1/29/2020	30	30	29	31	2	17	8	3	96.774%
270	MGLEAN	2/26/2020	335	274	322	339	8	142	54	70	80.826%
1775	FORT BELVOIR	2/12/2020	53	44	52	55	1	20	16	7	80.000%
1976	ANNANDALE	2/19/2020	297	260	287	302	10	154	39	57	86.093%
1995 +	CENTREVILLE	2/18/2020	155	152	151	159	18	49	41	44	95.597%
CDR: JAMES GLASSMAN (24)			5966	5575	5759	6062	310	2501	993	1771	91.966%

Above is the last report posted by Department dated 26 February.

If your membership chair is not doing his or her job, get them help. Contact Membership Chairman Yarborough, your assigned Vice Commander, or me and will help you. I am available at any time to assist. We all need to step up and keep moving forward.

This is too important. I know we can meet our goal; but, every post needs to do their part and start doing it NOW.

We will have our **District Spring Conference** on March 15 at Springfield Post 176. The Executive meeting will begin at

1230 with the General meeting starting at 1 pm.

Prior to the start of our conference, PNC Dellinger will lead our 17th District Convention Committee meeting at 1130. Please come prepared to have photos taken of the volunteers for the convention program.

As a heads up, the **District Nomination Committee** will be held on 6 April at 1900 at Vienna Post 180.

Those interested in being put forward as a nominee for Vice Commander, start getting your resolutions together and voted on by your post at your General Membership meeting.

We seek persons who have an understanding of the purpose of The American Legion, knowledge of, and enthusiasm for Legion work; a high sense of justice, fairness and courtesy; open-mindedness, moral courage, and the ability to get along and work with others. The work is hard and the hours serving can be long as we expect everyone to carry their load by serving on various committees and leading some of our programs.

Put on your calendars, on 25 April, we will have our **Past District Commanders/Past District Presidents** dinner at Springfield Post 176. More information will be forthcoming.

MARCH 8 – DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME.
SPRING FORWARD. SET YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD!!

What's Going on at your Post

Recap of Post February Events and Upcoming March Events

Alexandria Post 24

February

Celebration of Life

Past District Commander Cordell Credit was known throughout the 17th District by many of us in the Legion family. Post 24 members were among the many attendees at the "Celebration of Life" hosted by Springfield Post 176 on 1 February.

Four Chaplains Service

Post 24 members attended and/or participated in the *Four Chaplains Service* hosted by Fairfax Post 177 on 2 February.

President's Day Parade - Monday Feb. 17th

The *George Washington Birthday Parade* in Old Town Alexandria was the nation's largest in recognition of the 288th birthday of America's First President and Commander-in-Chief. Led by Department Commander A.B. Brown, American Legion Post 24 had an impressive marching unit with Legionnaires carrying the flags of General Washington's headquarters and Virginia's militia. Post 24 was joined by Legion Riders from Springfield Post 176, Fairfax Post 177, and other local posts. Overall, at least 70 Legionnaire marchers and Riders participated in the parade.



Department of Virginia Spring Conference

Several members of Post 24 will be attending the Department's Spring conference in Portsmouth, Virginia.

March

2019 Public Safety Officer Awards

As part of its Homeland Security Support Program (HSSP), Post 24 will recognize three outstanding public safety officers during the March general membership meeting. Honorees include one firefighter and two law enforcement officers who have done so much to keep our community safe. The Firefighter of the Year and one Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will have their award packages submitted for the Department-level competition. All are welcome to attend this awards program & reception on 11 March.

NGO - Spring 2020 Veterans Service Organization Fair - (Springfield campus)

Post 24 is tentatively planning to staff a table at this (19 March) event.

General Billy Mitchell Post 85

Live music 7 March 2020

Auxiliary Meeting 16 March
Legion meeting 17 March Executive Session 1830
General meeting 1900
SAL Meeting 19 March 1830

Springfield Post 176

Post 176 continues to support Lorton Post 162 as a convenient location to meet and just hang out. In addition to our Warrior Café' being open to the public 7 days a week from 7 am to 2 pm, we offer meals every Friday evening from 5:30 pm to 7L30 pm. Most meals are less than \$15 and include the meal, a drink, salad, and dessert. Often, we have themed meals on Friday evening. In February we had a chili cook off and a Valentine's Day dinner. In March we will have a St. Patrick's Day party and a St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Project ATLAS is coming along nicely, <https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/244162/new-program-will-bring-health-care-veterans> and we expect it to open in March. Along with this we are celebrating 12 months tobacco free and are renovating the upstairs restrooms.

Like everyone, we are winding down our "membership season." We decided to no emphasize 100% membership goals, but emphasize quality programs that members will want to be a part of. That has brought us more than 110 new members this year. We have even more members this year than last year and continue to grow and lead the Department as the largest Post by more than 30%.

Vienna Post 180

We joined together for cheer and good times to watch 49ers face off against the Chiefs in Superbowl LIV.

Our Chartered Boy Scout Troop 1539 of Vienna, VA has been recognized by the post commander for five (5) Boy Scouts achieving the rank of Eagle Scout during this school year so far.

Post 180 JSSP shooter Andrew Morris, Robinson High School Junior Rifle Club received the highest score in the Precision discipline for the State of Virginia and is considered the State Champion in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament.

Post 180 hosted the 17th District Training on Saturday, February 23rd with 12 District members present for training.

Our members celebrated Fat Tuesday together marking the beginning of the season leading up to Easter as well as gathered together to cheer on our Washington Nationals Spring opener Against the Houston Astros.

Members of the Post Legion Family participated in the George Washington Day parade.

The Post continues to bond its relationship with the community of Vienna and has rejuvenated its connection with the Vienna Business Association.

We will be awarding one post scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 at our Joint Member Meeting with the ALA and SAL on 1 April 2020. At our JMM, we will also be recognizing the top police officer and volunteer fire fighter/EMT for the Town of Vienna.

Herndon Post 185

Coffee with Veterans - Post 184 members on Saturday, 1 February visited approximately 20 veterans and other residents at The Crossings, an assisted living facility in Herndon. Post members brought donuts and coffee and enjoyed the company of great veterans!

Dinner by Mission BBQ - During Post 184's Monthly meeting on 19 February, Mission BBQ attended and fed the group. Also, the South Lakes High School Junior ROTC gave a presentation on their JROTC Program. Eagle Scout Candidate Dave Mercado conducted a final preparation briefing for his Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Troop 1570-Post 184 Flag Retirement Ceremony - On Thursday, 20 February, Post 184 and Troop 1570 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony as part of Scout David Mercado's Eagle Project. Approximately 100 flags were retired with honor and respect with approximately 20 Scouts and Post Members present.

Boys State Interviews - On Wednesday, 27 February, Post 184 interviewed four local high school junior boys for Boys State. The candidates were impressive and the Post committee will announce the selectees in the coming weeks.

Post 184 also presented a check for approximately \$2,700 to a young veteran couple in Herndon to assist them in paying their medical bills. Their one-year old daughter had spina bifida surgery in November 2019 and she has a good prognosis.

For March, Post 184 will conduct their monthly meeting on Wednesday, 18 March with this month's focus on preparations for Memorial Day. Post 184 will also participate

in the Town of Herndon's Town Proclamation celebrating Vietnam Veteran's Day in which the Town Council will issue the proclamation honoring our Vietnam Veterans.

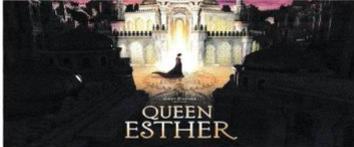
Arlington Post 194

On February 11th, Post 194 did Bingo at the Washington DC VA Hospital for the CLC.

Post 194 now has a FACEBOOK page!

Please Come and travel with us to see the wonderful play "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater" in Lancaster, PA. It's a wonderful 1 day trip with Lunch included. Please see attached flier and call names any of the names on the list.

American Legion Auxiliary, Dorie Miller Unit #194
Sight and Sound Theater – Lancaster, PA



Saturday, June 6, 2020

Departure: Hoffman-Boston Elementary School
1415 S. Queen Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Time: 7:00 AM

Cost: \$145.00 (Includes lunch at Shady Maple Restaurant)

Payment Plan: \$45.00 due January 20, 2020 (non-refundable)
\$50.00 due February 17, 2020
Final Balance due March 16, 2020

Tickets:

Betty Hardeman (703) 941-3956 Gladys Fleet (202) 678-3976
Joyce Morton (703) 933-0733 Marge Strother (301) 248-5865

SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE CALL NOW

Make Checks and Money Orders payable to American Legion Auxiliary #194
Mail to: Gladys Fleet, 1417 19th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020

Order form:
Name
Address
Home or Cell telephone number

McLean Post 270

Of course, I am writing this newsletter at the end of February and it has been a good month. Not quite the Spring that the groundhog promised but moderate temperatures and no snow. It is a good life

most for most of us in McLean, VA, be thankful but remain concerned for our environment.

Last year in March the Legion celebrated its 100th birthday so happy 101st.

We had two great speakers at our February programs, Larry Chalmer and Cynthia Watson, both individuals are coincidentally affiliated with the National War College.

Our speaker on March 10th at the Post home will be one you are not going to want to miss. John McGowan Ph.D. works at NIH and his topic will be "Coronavirus Not Just Your Ordinary Cold, The Latest Emerging and Re-emerging Disease." Come ask him if it is going to be safe to travel any time soon. There could not be a timelier and more important topic. Our Vinson Hall luncheon speaker on March 24 will be Helen Brohl, Executive director of the U.S. committee on Marine Transportation. See more details inside the newsletter about both speakers.

We had our February Citrus Sale but there might be some fruit remaining which you can still pick up at the Post Home. Call the main number on the letterhead above to check for availability and a convenient time for pickup. Don might give you a discount if you mention that you read about it in this newsletter. The last Citrus sale for the year will be March 20th and 21st. Please come out and help.

As I remind you monthly, please come by on Wednesday mornings from 10 until noon for our Open House programs complete with coffee, pastries and stimulating conversation. We need your opinions.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP. The District 17 Commander and the Membership Chair, both of whom read this letter carefully every month, know who you are, and you don't want Glenn Yarborough knocking on your door to collect.

If there is anything we can do at the Post to help you or any Vet please let us know. I can be reached at (703) 926 3101 or by email at CmdrALPost270@gmail.com.

Centreville Post 1995

Post 1995 held its monthly general membership meeting on the 11th of February with eleven members present.

We will be conducting our Boy State interviews on Saturday the 29th of February (yes, I'll be at the conference).

Currently we have 16 boys scheduled to be interviewed from Chantilly, Centreville, and Westfield High Schools.

Commander directed a Post member's son who won a Lucien Butler scholarship last year to send his school transcript to the Department to get a scholarship renewal.

Auxiliary

The 17th District has lost two Past District Presidents, both on February 21, 2020. Micki Barber (Unit 1976) was District President 1993-1994. She and her husband live in Korea with their daughter. There will probably not be any services for Micki in the States.

Geraldine (Jere) Vatter (Unit 176) was District President 2001-2002. She and Dick still lived in the Alexandria area. Visitation with Auxiliary Services will be March 5, 2020, from 2-4 pm at Demaine Funeral Home, Springfield, VA. Please keep both of these families in your prayers. Edna Eagle, 17th District Secretary

National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day) is March 2, 2020. This annual event is designed to encourage volunteers to read to children in elementary. If you have a school near you, please seek out that school and see if you can come in a read a

book. You can usually bring your own book, but if not, the school library has books you may choose from. This motivational and awareness day calls all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading. Many organizations all over the United States will be taking apart. Let the American Legion Family be one of them.

Don't you want to be a part of this wonderful celebration? You can, just contact a school.

The Washington, DC 3rd Annual Baby Shower will be held in May(exact date not established yet). This is an event all VA Medical Centers participate in, but on different dates. The 17th District has been a proud sponsor of this event and would like continue to do so. Any items your Unit can contribute to may be given to Edna Eagle, Associate representative, Washington VA Medical Center. If you have any questions, feel free to call her at: (703) 573-5464.

See Special Prom Project and VA Hospital Veterans Baby Shower info below.

Ardella Lockett
District President

Sons of The American Legion

March 15, the Sons are having their District Conference at American Legion Post 176 at 10 am. Each squadron is expected to have at least one representative, with ideally the Commander and Adjutant of all squadrons present. Please come and have questions, share updates from your squadron and spread ideas for next year's planning. We will also have Detachment Vice Commander Victor Graulau in attendance if you have any questions for our upcoming Detachment Commander. We will also be looking for next year's slate of officers. If you are interested in

running for a position, please attend the meeting. Please bring Legion Cap.

Next month is [Clint Bolt's Homecoming](#) event from April 17-19 at the Norfolk Waterside Sheraton Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. It is a great honor and privilege to have a National Commander in our State and we all need to support him and show up in abundance for this event as we do not want to be outnumbered by other Detachments.

On Saturday, there are two options for entertainment; Military Aviation Museum or the Norfolk's Military History Tour. Saturday Night has Cocktail Hour and Banquet and the Hospitality Room will be open Friday and Saturday. Deadline for Hotel Reservations is March 20, 2020 and the special rate is \$124.00 per night.

If you have any questions about the events, please contact me or Steve Gower, Past National Vice Commander, about the Homecoming at stevegower@cox.net.

For God and Country,

Tyler Vanice
S.A.L. 17th District Commander

Items of Interest

Veterans Benefit Service Office - Fort Belvoir

Get answers to questions about health benefits, disability compensation, VA pensions, survivor benefits, home loan guarantees, education benefits....and much more. Virginia's 35th Veterans Benefits Service Office is located in Building 1189, near the Bowling Center on Fort Belvoir. Business hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

How to Identify and Protect Yourself Against a Phishing Attempt

Have you ever received an email from a company or bank with which you do not have an account? How many spelling errors did that email have? Chances are it WAS a Phishing attempt. Also, beware of messages from an incorrect or unusual email address. Especially be wary of anything with a .ru extension, or any message that tries to introduce a sense of urgency with which you must click on a link, call, or send money. Don't do it!

Only open an email attachment if you are expecting it or know what it contains. Many email services allow you to preview a message without opening it and launching unknown apps (or worse). Be cautious about container files, such as .zip files, as these files can contain malicious content. Visit websites by typing the address into the address bar. Even copying and pasting the address could make you regret your next clicks. Check out links by hovering your mouse over the link to see the address before clicking on it. Finally, do not follow links embedded in an unsolicited email from an unknown sender....even if the message offers prizes or money.

Two great resources from which you can learn more:

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence at <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-know-the-risk-raise-your-shield/ncsc-awareness-materials> and the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency at <https://www.us-cert.gov/>

Special Prom Project (Auxiliary)

At the 17th District Fall School of Instruction, it was approved that the 17th District would

try to sponsor a prom for "Special Needs" children as most of these children do not get to attend the regular prom at their high school for a number of reasons.

Plans are moving along. The date for the prom is April 21. It will be held during the day time hours at a location to be announced. We are furnishing prom dresses for the girls along with jewelry and other accessories, but no shoes. For the boys, we will need white shirts, pants, ties, and belts. There will be 7 girls and 11 boys attending. We will be furnishing refreshments and a DJ for the music.

The youngsters will be given a "shopping day" to select the dress, etc., that they want to wear to the event. There are 3 of the youngsters who are in wheelchairs so they will select more than one outfit and take it home to see how it all fits. We are starting out small this year just to see how things go.

Since this is a 17th District project, we need the assistance from all 17th District Units. If you have a prom dress you would like to get out of the closet or any jewelry, hair ties, small clutch purses, etc. as well as any boys clothes listed above, please consider donating them to this worthy cause. On the other hand, if your Unit would like to make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of the DJ and refreshments, please make a check out to 17th District and send it to Edna Eagle, 17th District Treasurer, 7414 Marc Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041 and mark in the memo "Your Special Prom".

If any of you would like for me to come to a meeting to talk to you more about it, please let me know and I'll be there. My telephone number is 703-582-0528 and my email address is sherrybayb1@yahoo.com.

Let's all work together and make this a very special day for the very special people.

Sherry Lemnah, Prom Coordinator

DC VAMC Baby Shower



Shower Date: May, 2020
(exact day TBD)
Location: TBD

ITEMS NEEDED:

- See WISH LIST on the back
- Food & Beverages
- Monetary donations for decorations and supplies— GPF 1193

Hosting 25+ Expecting Mothers and 40+ Guest

Please contact: Cybil Mewborn, Voluntary Service (202) 763-5106
or via email Cybil.Mewborn@va.gov



- Crib sheets
- Sippy cups
- Teethers
- Monetary donations for other items

Thank you for the great input this month and for letting us know all the good things you do within your communities.

Let's keep it going and double down on our membership. We can be #1 in the Department if we all do our part!

PLEASE SEND THE COMMUNICATOR TO ALL YOUR MEMBERS.

National Baby Shower Wish List

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Wipes
- Bottles
- Receiving blankets
- Unisex clothing (all sizes – NEW)
- Baby socks and shoes
- Hygiene items (baby wash, lotion, shampoo, powder)
- Towels and washcloths
- Gift cards
- Diaper rash ointment
- Changing pads
- Bottle brushes
- Baby books and toys
- Car seats
- Walkers
- Playpens
- Strollers
- Bibs
- Hampers
- Burp cloths
- Humidifier