



## District 17 Communicator

Volume 4 – Issue 5

NOVEMBER 2021



### Commander's Corner

Legionnaires,

For those who were able to make it to the Department Fall Conference, it was great seeing everyone. Lots of good information was passed by the Department. One of the emphases was on getting activity back in your Post and starting up your Programs. The 17<sup>th</sup> District is already doing a good job in those regards. Being a Chili Cook Off, Family Picnic, Tailgating, a Trivia Night or one of my favorites, the Lizzie Borden Axe Throwing Contest, it good to see our Posts being active and having events to engage their members.

This month will also be busy with Veterans Day activities, Thanksgiving and gearing up for the Christmas holidays. The Veterans Day activities is extremely important, as it allows your Post to stay relevant with your veterans and community.

Membership is coming along at a steady rate. The District is at 65.79% and hitting all the goals. As good as we have done, the tough work is still ahead of us. Getting the last 35% becomes more labor intensive as you are trying to renew and engage members who might have not been active the last year. Renewals will be the key in meeting our goals. If there is anything you need to assist in membership, please contact our District Membership Chair, Jim Glassman.

As a reminder, we are taking donations from each post to raise money to support a local school (St Rita's School) replace their flagpole. If each post can donate \$50, we can do this. Make your checks out to District Finance Officer Tommy Powell address them to 1623 Woodmoor Lane, McLean, VA 22101 - mention flagpole. As

a reminder, you can add this on your end of year Consolidated Post Report! This is a worthwhile cause. Let's all support it. It would be great when the flagpole is installed, we go to the school as a District group, so everyone knows who supported them.

Below are a few other take bullets from the Department Fall Conference:

- Department Spring Conference will be March 4-6 at Portsmouth, VA
- The National 2022 Conference will be August 26-September 1, in Milwaukee, WI
- Legion College will be in person this coming August 2022 (more to follow)

Lastly.....

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Keep doing your Buddy Checks!!!

Be safe!!!

Thanks for all that you do.

Mike Kimlick  
Commander

## MEMBERSHIP

We have dropped to 9th place!

District Standings

14<sup>th</sup> 74.55%

10<sup>th</sup> 73.81%

8<sup>th</sup> 72.29%

3<sup>rd</sup> 68.29%

6<sup>th</sup> 67.61%

9<sup>th</sup> 66.90%

13<sup>th</sup> 66.38%

15<sup>th</sup> 65.81%

17<sup>th</sup> 65.79%

It's time for us to make our move up chain. The last two years, we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state. There is no reason why we can't do it again and shoot for #1.

As Department Commander Hillyard said at our Fall Conference, "as the largest District in the state, they are counting on us to lead the Department."

We can do this if everyone does their job with a purpose. Do not hold your renewal submissions, get them in at least once a week.

Post 24 – 71.12%

Post 44 – 48.89%

Post 85 – 70.68%

Post 123 – 73.21%

Post 130 – 72.22%

Post 139 – 57.21%

Post 162 – 28.67%

Post 176 – 71.49%

Post 177 - 69.69%

Post 180 – 57.92%

Post 184 – 67.96%

Post 194 – 74.07%

Post 225 – 25.81%

Post 270 – 61.08%

Post 1775 – 83.33%

Post 1976 – 69.40%

Post 1995 – 69.79%

Total: 65.79%

Several posts are holding us back from moving forward. They need to step up. One of our posts last year received a letter from Department reminding them to follow the rules in the Adjutant's manual and get their membership in on a timely basis and were warned that their Charter could be pulled if it continued.

No one wants that to happen in the 17<sup>th</sup>. How do you explain that to your membership?

Please have your membership chairman to keep working hard. Send emails out reminding members that it's time to reinvest

in The American Legion. Every renewal member counts and ask your members to recruit new members to your post. As Post 24, we have a program where if a member recruits 5 new members during the year, we pay the recruiters dues for the next year. It's only costing your post \$29 to do this.

If you need help, please send me an email at [jimglassman@verizon.net](mailto:jimglassman@verizon.net) and I will be there for you.

November 6<sup>th</sup> is the next goal – 65%!!!

### **District Legislation – Bill Aramony**

Call or email or write Senators Warner and Kaine, and your Representative to co-sponsor S.Con.Res.3 and H.Con.Res.7. Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor all those who served in WW II and the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death. We need something unifying in these divided times

### **District Service Officer – Kelly Niernberger**

The Northern Virginia Veterans Association and the Dulles Area Transportation Association have been awarded federal funding for a joint project to provide veterans who are disabled or over age 65 transportation to COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

The program offers round-trip, no-cost taxi service to COVID-19 vaccination appointments for eligible veterans, including those who need wheelchair accessible transportation.

The program has expanded and now offers free transportation to medical appointments. This includes rides to appointments at the VA Hospital in Washington, DC.

Veterans who live in the following areas may be eligible for this program: Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park and Prince William.

**AARP New Tool for Veterans and their Caregivers.** AARP recently released a new, free online tool that helps veterans, and their caregivers easily review health care benefit options offered by the VA and Department of Defense. To learn more, click on New AARP Tool Helps Veterans and Caregivers.

### **District Chaplain's Corner**

Blessings to you as we enter the month of November. With Thanksgiving Day arriving soon, please take the opportunity to pause and consider what you, your family, and your Post have to be Thankful for in 2021. As you celebrate Thanksgiving, here's a prayer to consider:

"Loving God, We turn our hearts to you on Thanksgiving for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts. For each one we are grateful. For each one we are blessed. For each one we are opened to your abundance of love. We are thankful for our country, the American Legion, our military, and our veterans. May you continue to bless us. May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous and forgiving of others, as you are with us. We praise you. We rejoice in you. We give you thanks. Amen."

Happy Thanksgiving and may the Lord bless you--

Paul McComb

District 17 Chaplain

[pmccomb98@gmail.com](mailto:pmccomb98@gmail.com)

## Congratulations!!!

Department Northern Region Vice Commander and Past District 17 Commander Glenn Yarborough was awarded the **Anthony J. Drexel Biddle award by the Association of the United States Army**. Awarded annually to the individual who has contributed most significantly to the advancement and mission of the Association of the U.S. Army into the current calendar year.

Also, Glenn and District Judge Advocate Bill Aramony were appointed by Governor Northam to the **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**. The mission of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) is to provide advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on matters of concern to the veteran's community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veteran's service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

Congratulations to Glenn and Bill. We know you will do a great job!

### What's Going on at your Post

#### Alexandria Post 24 – Commander Henry Dorton

#### September/October

**2020 Public Safety Officer of the Year** – Each year the Post 24 Homeland Security Support Program (HSSP) recognizes a local outstanding firefighter or law enforcement officer. On Friday 24 September 2021 Post Cdr Henry Dorton and HSSP Chairman Mike Mixon presented the *2020 Firefighter Medic of the Year Award* to Roberto C. Martinez of the USAG Fort Belvoir Fire & Emergency Services. In addition to

awarding FF/M Martinez the Army Achievement Medal for Civilians, Fire Chief Kevin Good promoted him to Lieutenant. The location for the awards and promotion ceremony was Fire Station #466 by Davison Army Airfield on Fort Belvoir.



Mike Mixon, FF/M Roberto Martinez, Commander Henry Dorton

**Boys State 2021-** Post 24 sponsored (4) delegates to attend Boys State last June. One of the Delegates, “CJ” accepted the post’s invitation to be a guest at our 13 October General Membership meeting and provide feedback about what the experience meant to him. CJ gave a detailed account of the Delegates’ daily schedule and discussed his favorite activities. He also provided his overall take-aways from the learning experience. CJ’s comments about Boys State were most positive. (CJ’s mother, Joanna Pineda, also attended the meeting as a guest.)



Boys State Chair Patrick Hawley, Delegate “CJ”, Commander Henry Dorton



**Post 24 Oktoberfest** - Post 24 held its annual Oktoberfest fundraiser on Saturday **October 16<sup>th</sup>** in the historic Gadsby's Tavern Courtyard. Traditional German fare included brats, kraut, red cabbage, potato salad, and strudel. The event was open to the public and included prizes for the best beer steins, and best costumes.



**Doug Gurka (rt) #1 Winner of "Best Stein" Contest**



**Contestants in "Best Dressed" Contest**

## **November**

### **Post 24 Holiday Food Drive (On-going)** -

During November and December, Post 24 will collect donations for a local food pantry. In addition to non-perishable food, requested items include kitchen supplies (e.g., Ziploc bags) and personal care items. Donations can be dropped-off at the Post 24 social quarters.

**Afghan Refugee Support** - On behalf of *Volunteer Alexandria*, Post 24 has offered to collect toiletry and hygiene products for Afghan refugees throughout the remainder of the year. Donation boxes are at the entrance to the Post 24 social quarters.

### **AVDL Memorial community service** -

Post 24 volunteers' monthly cleaning of the *American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial* (AVDL) in Washington, D.C. will be on **Saturday 6 November**. This will be the last opportunity this calendar year to volunteer for this community service. If interested in volunteering, contact Mona Espinosa [monaespino81@gmail.com](mailto:monaespino81@gmail.com) or Bill Aramony [bill.aramony@aol.com](mailto:bill.aramony@aol.com)

**Veterans Day Week** - Post 24 purchased (800) patriotic comic books from the American Legion Emblem Sales and will distribute them to local elementary schools during Veterans Day week. The comics instruct students about American history, flag etiquette, and other topics of Americanism. In addition, a Zoom session is tentatively scheduled to instruct school children (Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) about Veterans and the purpose of Veterans Day.

### **Funeral Arrangements for Past Post**

**Commander-** Post 24 members will attend the interment for a past post commander on Thursday **18 November**. Kim W. Ching, a retired Air Force officer, served as the Post 24 Commander in 1997. The funeral is at *Arlington National Cemetery* with attendees convening at the Administration Building at 1215 hrs. A *Celebration of Life* reception will immediately follow the funeral.

### **2021 Wreaths Across America (WAA)** -

The annual WAA wreath laying at *Alexandria National Cemetery* will be Saturday 18 December at 0930. Post 24 members will assist VFW Post 609 by providing volunteers for crowd control and helping with the wreath laying on thousands of graves. Wreaths can be purchased for \$15 by visiting the following link and <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/166956/Overview/?relatedId=17241> clicking on the red "Sponsor Wreaths" button. Deadline for this year's sponsored wreaths is 30

November (donations after that will roll over to next year). For questions, contact Marty Menez at email: [Martin.Menez@att.net](mailto:Martin.Menez@att.net) or 703-609-4560.

**2022 George Washington Birthday Run, Walk & Roll Challenge Event** - Advance announcement regarding the second annual George Washington Birthday Run, Walk & Roll challenge event during **February 2022**. Participants will be encouraged to run, walk and/or roll at least 24 miles (in increments they choose) during the month of February in tribute to our favorite founding father—George Washington. The event's commemorative coin is being designed; and details on the registration process will be forthcoming. (Participation is open to *all* in The American Legion Family, as well as the public.)

**Example of a Veteran Serving his Community:** Post 24 member James Piece is a decorated Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient after being wounded in the line of duty in 2012. James now is a National Park Ranger who works as a volunteer coordinator for the National Mall and Memorial Parks. He volunteers his time with Veteran Service Organizations in the DC and NC area, to include sponsoring a scholarship for 514th Military Police Company members and Chairing the Board of Luke's Wings in addition to running his own real estate company.

**Arlington Post 85 – Commander Eric Clinton**

Veterans Day Post 85 will be open at 1200 and have sandwiches etc. avail to patrons.

**Falls Church Post 130 – Commander Wayne Hines**

Post 130 Hours of Operation are Monday - Saturday Opens 12:00 noon to 22:00 Hrs. (12 PM to 10 PM)

Sunday Opens 13:00 Hrs to 22:00 Hrs. (1 PM to 10 PM)

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH POST 130 HAS 8 BALL POOL TOURNAMENT DOUBLE ELIMINATION. We play singles with low turnout. With high turnout, we have luck of the draw for doubles. It is double elimination.

So come on down show us what you got Pool Players.

**Regular DMV Connect Dates**

**November Regular Dates: 8#, 9#, 10# and 12#**

9:30am to 3:00pm. Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30pm

Try to book an appointment yourself at: [www.dmcnow.com](http://www.dmcnow.com) under visit a DMV Connect, walks-ins may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**November Remote Knowledge Testing dates for Learner's –**

**November Dates: 15-18 November**

9:30am to 3:00pm. Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30pm

By appointment, they can be booked via an email sent to Lily Riehn at:

**[dmvconnecttysons@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:dmvconnecttysons@dmv.virginia.gov)**



TURKEY BOWL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday November 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

7:00pm

The American Legion Post 130

400 N Oak St.

Falls Church, VA 22046

(703) 533-1945

### **Springfield Post 176 – Commander Marty Pfeifer**

Post 176 is hosting a Veterans Benefits round table on November 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:30. Congressman Connolly will be giving an update on current veteran legislation, veterans/disability casework and current events. There will be additional speakers:

Supervisor Victor Angry – served in the USA for more than 23 years and retired as a Command Sergeant Major with the distinction of serving as the Command Sergeant Major of the entire Army National Guard.

Tanya Bradsher – Chief of Staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nathan Naylor from Philips – ATLAS remote exam room was installed in our post last year.

Michael Heimall – Medical Center Director, Washington, DC VA Medical Center.

Mark Igutti – Outreach Specialist at the Alexandria Vet Center.

Ryan Barnett – Associate Director of the Military Services at George Mason University.

#### Presentation Schedule:

10:30-10:40: Congressman Connolly  
 10:40-10:47 – Tanya Bradsher  
 10:47-10:54 – Michael Heimall  
 10:54-11:01 – Supervisor Angry  
 11:01-11:08 – Nathan Naylor  
 11:08-11:15 – Ryan Barnett  
 11:15-11:22 – Mark Ingutti  
 11:22-11:45 – Open Discussion  
 11:45-12:00 – Q&A  
 12:00-12:30 – Tour Phillips Atlas Room

### **Fairfax 177 – Commander Jeff White**

Post 177 had a blood drive on Oct 6 in cooperation with INOVA Blood Services. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> blood drive since

the beginning of the pandemic. We will continue to schedule these at approximately 4-month intervals.

SAL Squadron 177 held the annual “Bear Bowl” Chili Cook-off on October 10 after skipping last year due to Covid-19. We didn’t have the pre-covid participation of 20 entries and a completely packed social quarters, but it was good to get together and enjoy some comradeship. Congrats to Gregg Holden (SAL) who won the competition. By the way, he also brought his (now) famous grits to the second Sunday breakfast that morning before the chili cook-off.

#### **Coming in November:**

November 6, 1200: Post 177 will conduct a Veterans Day Observance and flag retirement ceremony at the Post starting at 12 noon. Lunch in the social quarters following the ceremony. All are invited.

November 10, 1600: Post 177 will be conducting their annual Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony. All are invited.

November 11, 1030: Post 177 and VFW Post 8469 are conducting a Veterans Day program at Fairfax Old Town Square. This will feature music by Sound Advice, an female acapella barbershop quartet, remarks from local political leadership and Veteran leaders. We will highlight the display of hometown hero’s banners in the city of Fairfax.

### **Centreville Post 1995 – Commander Steve Hunter**

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade in Manassas**

For a great parade, go to Old Town Manassas, VA on Saturday, November 6, at 11 am. Visit [VetPar.org](http://VetPar.org) for more information. This year is dedicated to Cpl. Nason, USMC.

## Centreville Day

Each year Post 1995 coordinates the American Legion Parade and for the past six years the Safety Expo at this yearly community event promoting Centreville's history in its historic district. This year's event attracted more than 2,750 people to visit the various historic buildings/grounds, talk with first responders, and enjoy the children's activities. Vendor booths help to financially support the costs of holding this event. This year the Safety Expo included numerous units of the Fairfax County police department (forensics, bomb squad, and water unit), the FBI, and the Fairfax County's Sheriff's Department which made IDs for parents with attending children. Fairfax County's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program also participated. Two awards were presented to groups in the parade that displayed the most enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The Post staffed an informational/recruitment booth for the entire day. I am happy to report that two new members joined Post 1995, with another transferring in from National, and we had one renewal. The day was perfect until storms rolled in about 2:30 so the event was close down a couple hours early. However, it was a great day to bring members of the community together to Centreville's largest non-church/school event.



## State of Virginia License Plates

Did you know that the State of Virginia offers 58 military related license plates to personalize your vehicle(s). Sadly, the American Legion does NOT have one available yet, but the Department does have a page on its website to show your interest in getting one. The state requires a minimum of 450 requests for a license plate with the Legion emblem on it to move forward. There is no cost to add your name to the list. So, if you would like a new plate with the Legion emblem visit this link to add your name to the list. You can further personalize the new plate with up to six characters (letters/numbers) of course it costs a bit extra. The cost for all plates is \$10 with an additional \$10 fee yearly for personalization (\$20 yearly for both). In your application you will need to provide proof that you earned the award/medal and/or you were in the service/unit with a copy of your DD214 (Honorable Discharge) or a copy of the award/medal certificate and/or other evidence of association proof.

## Legion Auxiliary (President Sandy Price

The 17<sup>th</sup> District, American Legion Auxiliary is alive and well. We had 9 Units out of 12 attend the Fall Conference in Williamsburg, October 22-24. We are also very well represented at the Department level with 5 Past Department Presidents, 2 Department Officers and one Department Chairperson.



While the District did not win any awards at National Convention this year, the Department did come home with some awards. Edna Eagle received an acknowledgement for having perfect attendance at VAVS meetings for the year.

We have not received any information on a Northern Zone Workshop for the year, but the 17<sup>th</sup> District is going to have its own workshop on **November 20, 2021, from 9-12 via zoom.**

We have very few Units in the District that have up-to-date Constitution and By-Laws so that will be the focus of this workshop. We hope to be able to get the message out that it doesn't take a rocket scientist to do a correct document that should serve the Unit very well.

At the present time, both Sallie Rossman and Lisa Chaplin have agreed to help with this subject as it seems that not that many of us in the 17<sup>th</sup> know all of the rules and regulations as to what constitutes a viable C&BL. Information will be going out to the Units short with the zoom connection, etc. We hope to have all of the Units in the District participate as we feel it will be most helpful to the Units to have an updated document.

We have a couple of dates in the month of November that should be properly celebrated. The first is Veterans' Day on November 11. I'm sure that most Posts and Units will be having ceremonies of some sort to honor our veterans and the service they have provided for us throughout the years. The second is Thanksgiving on November 25. Please take the time to be thankful for all of the blessings we have been given throughout the years. Not all people are as lucky as we are to have such freedoms and privileges. Then we can think about the Christmas holiday season.

### **Sons of The American Legion - Tyler Vanice, Department Vice Commander**

The Sons held their Fall Conference on October 22-24. Only two squadrons were represented from the 17<sup>th</sup> District; Squadron 176 and 1976 were present. It is important that each squadron attends the three main conferences each year. Each post and squadron should urge the Son's officers to attend. Squadron 176 received their National Award for Snapshots of Service at the conference.

Membership in the district is LOW. Please start turning in memberships ASAP. Our district is ranked second lowest out of 17 districts! We are the lifeblood of membership in the state since we have the most members. It's important to get ahead on this. If you need assistance with membership, I will be happy to help! Likewise, if you need to learn how to use [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) for membership, I will do my best to show you how to use it. Adjutants and Commanders have access to this platform for processing memberships (if your post and squadron had sent in the paperwork) and no one else can currently use it. I will be happy to talk if need be.

SAL National Commander Michael Fox has as his special project for his year **Flying Flags for Heroes**. The project is simple. Let's Honor our fallen Veterans located in local private cemeteries that are often overlooked. Place a flag at their gravesite wearing your SAL cover or SAL apparel. Have photographs taken and then go to the website to record the number of Veterans honored and upload any pictures.

The National Commander is asking that each Squadron and Detachment to place at least two (2) flags per capita. The ceremony does not have to be on Memorial Day or on Veteran's Day. It can be any event you desire as long as the Veterans are properly

honored. If you need flags, you may use the vendor high-lighted on the website or any other source you may choose. The National Commander would like to place 1 million flags this year. If every-one participates, we can easily reach that goal.

Detachment Commander Joseph Gallagher has made his special project known. Each year the Commander chooses a project and asks all squadrons in the Detachment to support the project. This year his project is one that combines Children and Youth with Americanism.

He is asking each Squadron in the Detachment of Virginia to raise a few bucks and buy small American flags on pencil size sticks (only flags made in the U.S.A.). Then reach out to an elementary school close to your post home, contact the Principal, and ask if your squadron can come in and do a program for the entire first grade class on Flag Etiquette and Education, while doing so, leave one of the flags with each 1st grader.

The goal is to build and shape respect for our flag, and in doing so, to mold our next generation starting with these first graders. He asks that we give them info as well about the S.A.L. and how they might consider joining our organization.

Please just drop me a quick email telling me that your squadron has made this happen. If you need to know where to get the flags and handout booklets on Flag Etiquette, just go to [Emblem Sales](#).