



District 17 Communicator

Volume 3 – Issue 10

APRIL 2022

Commander's Corner

I want to start by thanking all the 17th District members who participated in the 17th District Spring Conference last month. We had a great showing of Post Commanders and representatives from the District attending. Lots of useful information was passed by the District Chairman's while presenting their reports. April will still hold a list of activities for us with the following:

District Nomination Committee

On Monday, April 18, we will have our District Nomination Committee meeting at Vienna Post 180 at 7:00 PM. Any Legionnaire in good standing in the Seventeenth District is eligible for nomination to any of the elective offices set forth in ARTICLE II at the District Nominating Committee Meeting. But you must submit your resolution to be eligible and your resolution must be approved by your Post and signed by your Post Commander. District positions require a lot of work and time so I suggest that you consider the time and effort you must put in when you consider putting your name forward. At the Nomination meeting, someone from your Post must be at the meeting to present your resolution!

Department Convention Meeting

The next 17th District Department Convention Planning Meeting will be held on April 23, 10:00 at Vienna Post 180.

Consolidated Post Reports

Department reports: Every post should have received a packet from department containing Post Reports. Three of very important and must be submitted by their respective due dates.

1. **Post Data Form** – due to Department **no later than April 15.**
2. **Consolidated Post Report** – due to Department **no later than May 1.**
3. **Post Certification of Officers** – due to Department **no later than June 24.**
4. The other forms are for your Post to show what you have done over the year to support our Veterans, Americanism, Children and Youth, Post History, and Post Service Officer. When you do this set of reports, check to due dates on the form. This is your chance to brag about what you have done.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH PREPARING YOUR REPORTS, LET US KNOW. MYSELF, THE ADJUTANT OR YOUR VICE COMMANDER ARE HERE TO ASSIST.

When you forward your information to Department, please scan a copy and email them to me at michael.kimlick@gmail.com, and the Adjutant at glassmanj@verizon.net. This will be your back up in case your info gets lost in the mail and we can also track submissions.

PLEASE TAKE THESE REPORTS SERIOUSLY and meet the due dates.

Looking ahead on the calendar, the 17th District Convention will be held on Sunday, June 12 at Post 177. The Department Convention will be held at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport from July 14-17.

Next topic is membership. We are maintaining 5th in the Department, but I still expect to finish first. We are less than 5% from being #1. As a District we are over 94%, which puts us ahead of the Department benchmark of 90% by March 2. There are 7 Posts (44, 85, 123, 130, 177, 1775, 1995) over 100% and 14 Posts over 90%. Our Membership Chair has done a great job reaching out to several Posts having issues with their membership and assisting to bring them up to speed. Several Posts are still lagging in the 80% range, if you need any assistance for help, contact our Membership Chair or your Vice Commander. Continue working on your membership. With your continued support and effort, we will keep moving up to our goal of being #1.

Lastly.....

Keep doing your Buddy Checks!!!

Be safe!!!

Thanks for all that you do.

Michael Kimlick

Commander

Adjutant's Corner

We have moved up to 4th place in the Department Membership Race.

1. District 1 – 101.38%
2. District 2 – 97.62%
3. District 10 – 91.57%
4. District 17 – 95.37%

We are at a disadvantage against the top 3.

District 1's goal is 508 members

District 2's goal is 2508 members

District 10's goal is 1428

District 17's goal is 5768

You can see why Department counts on us to make our renewal goal.

I know it's hard now. But we must bear down and keep moving forward.

Congratulations to our 9 posts who have reached their goals.

Post 44 – 108.89%

Post 85 – 102.26%

Post 123 – 103.57%

Post 130 – 100.46%

Post 176 – 100.34%

Post 177 – 100.71%

Post 1775 – 104.76%

Post 1995 – 103.18%

Post 225 will join them next week!

Break down by posts:

Post 24 95.99%

Post 44 103.57%

Post 85 102.26%

Post 123 103.57%

Post 130 100.46%

Post 139 **81.73%**

Post 162 **84.62%**

Post 176 100.34%

Post 177 100.71%

Post 180 **81.90%**

Post 184 90.06%

Post 194 94.44%

Post 225 96.77%

Post 270 94.32%

Post 1775 104.76%

Post 1976 92.16%

Post 1995 103.18%

Several posts have a lot of renewals still awaiting National adding them to their list.

Some posts need to step up big NOW! Last week, I made 47 phone calls to members who have not renewed. So far, 18 have renewed on line. Do what needs to be done now. Call, email, or send letters!

Again, if you need help, just let me know or reach out to you assigned District Vice Commander. We are here to help you!

WE can do this if every post steps up!

Jim Glassman
District Adjutant/Membership Chairman

Legislation Chairman – Bill Aramony

The National Legion needs YOU as an advocate. Our legislative strength is 1.8 million American Legion members. Here is how: Sign up for alerts at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

That is all for now. When you are needed, National will send you an alert. That alert will have a link to electronically sent a pre-written letter to your Representative or Senator; you also can write your own. Call Bill Aramony or email him with any questions.

VIRGINIA VETERAN NEEDS HELP?
Dial 2-1-1 This is Virginia Department of Social Service www.211virginia.org food, rent, other assistance . . .

Bill Aramony 703-299 8496
<http://williamaramony.com/>

National Security Chairman – Guillermo Guillén

1) Over the past nine months, I have attempted to contact each post commander to inquire about their posts National Security (NS) chair (if they have one), programs, support, and reporting. Of the 17 posts in the 17th District, eight responded; 24, 123, 130, 176, 180, 184, 270, and 1995. Posts 44, 85, 139, 162, 177, 194, 225, 1775, and

1976 did not respond by the time of this report.

2) Post input:

Post 24, Alexandria – Post 24 has a robust Homeland Security Support Program (HSSP)—program details are located at: <http://valegionpost24.org/index.php?id=98>.

The HSSP encourages Post 24 members to support local organizations supporting homeland/hometown security such as Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps, Alexandria Community Emergency Response Team, Alexandria Volunteer Reception Center, and the local American Red Cross organization. The following bullets describe HSSP-related activities that occurred after 1 July 2021:

- Multiple Post 24 members actively supported Alexandria’s Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and have served the community during COVID response (vaccine administration, processing, etc.)
- Multiple Post 24 members actively supported Alexandria’s Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) which stands up during disasters to screen, manage and assign local volunteers to disaster response positions.
 - o One member organizes and develops materials for VRC training events.
- Multiple Post 24 members actively supported Alexandria’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which stands ready to support the community during disasters.
- One Post 24 member deployed and supported the American Red Cross mass feeding station—at the Dulles Airport Emergency Repatriation Center—serving evacuees during the Afghan Repatriation Disaster Relief Operation in September 2021.

- One Post 24 member regularly supports the local American Red Cross by ensuring its Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) is maintained and stands ready to deploy during a national disaster. This ERV was deployed to the large-scale Tornado disaster in Kentucky in December 2021.

- Post 24 also supports National Security subcommittees (POW/MIA, Blood Donor, and Law & Order/Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program) through speakers, members blood donations, and maintaining a relationship with local law enforcement offices.

Post 180, Vienna – Post 180 Chair is also the Chair for the 17th District and the Department of Virginia. Post 180 reports and discusses National Security affairs on the global scale and their impacts on the NATO alliance, commerce, and homeland security. Post 180 also supports National Security subcommittees (POW/MIA, Blood Donor, and Law & Order/Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program) through speakers, members blood donations which totaled over 110 units in a six-month collection period, and maintaining a relationship with local law enforcement offices.

Post 270, McLean – Post 270 carefully watch's National Security Affairs and Discusses at the General Post meeting. Further we had an expert, Col Ret Dan Roper speak to our Distinguished speaker series at Vinson Hall in Mclean. Department Vice Commander and Department National Vice Chair Glenn Yarborough sits on the National Security committee of Legion National.

Post 1995, Centerville – Post 1995 actively supports the local fire and police

departments, and has a member that is an active Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member.

Veterans Strengthening America
For God and Country,

Guillermo Guillén, USA, Ret.
National Security Chair, 17th District

CHAPLAINS CORNER - Chaplain McComb

Spring brings many things including warmer weather, more daylight, and more time outdoors. Spring also brings us the Easter season.

The overwhelming message of Passover, Holy Week, and Easter is of God's deep love for humanity. Easter reminds us of God's never-ending love for us. God's love calls us into freedom to work for justice, peace, and love in the world. That doesn't mean we are safe from all harm, but it does mean that this love surrounds us and upholds us, no matter what happens.

For the Spring and the Easter season find ways to make that love visible in the world. That might mean planting a garden, bringing groceries to someone who needs assistance, including prayer in your Post meetings, donating to those in need, making calls and sending emails to check on friends, family, neighbors, and fellow veterans; or finding ways to center yourself in love. Easter brings Happiness, Easter brings God's endless blessings, Easter brings love and the freshness of Spring.

Easter blessings to you and your family.

Paul McComb, pmccomb98@gmail.com

Update to the Department Website

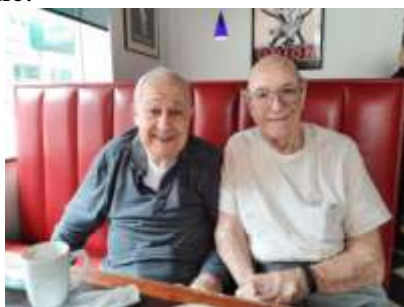
The Department website and the Youth Cadet and Law Enforcement Program page has been updated with all the important information. The date is Sunday, June 26 to Friday, July 1. That is the week after Boys and Girls State. There is nothing that says those great kids cannot do both. We have had some do both and they have excelled.

What's Going on at your Post
(Thank you to the Posts that submitted their input!!!!!!)

Alexandria Post 24 – Commander Dorton

MARCH

4 Buddies-3 Wars Buddy Check - Adjutant Jim Glassman and Past Post Commander Doug Gurka, both Vietnam War Veterans, initiated an emotional reunion between *best buddies* H. Warden Foley and Charlie Euripides. Foley is a veteran of World War II and Euripides is a veteran of the Korean War. These Post 24 members have been close friends for seventy plus years, and this was their first visit together prior to the start of the national pandemic.



Charlie Euripides Warden Foley

Post 24 Women Veterans Celebration - March has the designation as *Women's History Month*, and Post 24 held a celebration for women veterans on Sat. 12 March in the post home. Veterans representing the various service branches provided remarks. The well-attended event included raffles and refreshments.



Coordinator Mona Espinosa (ctr)

Post 24 St. Patrick's Day Event - Sat. 19 March

The Post 24 Clubroom held a traditional St. Patrick's Day party and cookout in the Gadsby's Tavern Courtyard on Saturday 19 March.

Vietnam War Veterans Celebration Sat. 26 March

- Post 24 observed *National Vietnam War Veterans Day* with a "Welcome Home" for Vietnam War Veterans in our post social quarters. Honorees included attendees from Post 24, other posts in Virginia and Maryland, and other Vietnam Veterans visiting from other states. The guest speaker was Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, whose A-6 Intruder aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. He was captured and spent six years as a POW in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". About 30 attendees who were Vietnam War Veterans were presented personalized Certificates, and Presidential Proclamations by the Prince William Resolves Chapter of the *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*.



Guest Speaker Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel **George Washington Birthday Run, Walk & Roll Challenge Wrap-Up Event**- Post 24 held a wrap-up event on 27 March to show appreciation to the Sponsors, Donors, and Participants of this 2nd annual fitness challenge which covered the entire month of February. This fundraiser event was in tribute to our favorite founding father—George Washington, and participants were required to run, walk, or roll a combined total of at least 24 miles. Participants received a Completion Certificate and a custom-designed George Washington Birthday Commemorative Coin. The event was held at the **G34.3 Brewing Company** (Lorton, VA), who was the top “Titanium” level sponsor. Other sponsors included: **Solution Foundry LLC** (HQ Georgia) and local sponsors **First Command Financial Services**, and the **OMO Salon & Spa**.



Cdr Henry Dorton w/ G34.3 Brewing owners Tom and Nick



RWR Committee Mbrs with Sponsors
RWR Wrap-Up Event Attendees at G34.3 Brewery

Post 24 Hosts Visit by Ft. Belvoir Fire Chief - Tues. 29 March - Post 24 hosted Ft. Belvoir Fire Department reps at our post headquarters. Fire Chief Kevin Good of the *USAG Fort Belvoir Directorate of Emergency Services*, along with one of his Operations Chiefs came for Taco Tuesday and a tour of Post 24 facilities within the Gadsby’s Tavern complex. The visit was arranged by Post 24 HSSP Chairman Mike Mixon, after one of the Ft. Belvoir Firefighter/Medics was selected by Post 24 as a 2021 Public Safety Officer of the Year.



Fire Chief Kevin Good & Operations Chief with commemorative coins

APRIL

100th Birthday Celebration for WW2 Veteran - Tues. 5 April - Post 24 will be one of the presenters at the City of Alexandria’s Centennial Birthday ceremony for **Mr. J. David Bailey**, WW2 veteran and oldest living survivor of the *Battle of the Bulge*. The event, hosted by Mayor Justin Wilson, will be attended by Alexandria City Staff, Members of the U.S. Congress and the Virginia Assembly, City Council, Color Guard of the City of Alexandria, and Senior Services of Alexandria.

Falls Church Post 130 – Commander Wayne Hines

Post 130 Hours of Operation are
Monday - Saturday Opens 12pm noon to 10pm.

Sunday Opens 1 pm to 10pm

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH POST 130 HAS 8 BALL POOL EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH POST 130 HAS 8 BALL POOL TOURNAMENT DOUBLE ELIMINATION. With high turnout we have luck of the draw for partners.

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

The **DMV hours** for April is

April 4 - 8, 2022

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Closed for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

April 11-15, 2022

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Closed for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Contact us to receive by email the monthly DMV Connect Legion dates.

Appointments available on-line at:

www.dmvnow.com, click on " Book an Appointment ", select a " Transaction " & " Falls Church American Legion ". 400 N Oak St., Falls Church, Va. 22046

Call the COR Office 703-248-5450 or email: commissioner@fallsvhurchva.gov

Springfield Post 176 – Commander Pfeifer

Post 176 continues to be active hosting events and sponsoring groups during the month of February with approximately (66) events on our E-Calendar. Among the groups we have hosted are the Fort Meyer Fife and Drum Corps for their practice sessions and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles that provides services at our location to customers who make an appointment online. The Northern Virginia Players, a youth group that performs music from a variety of genres, had a cabaret performance of American show tunes that was used as a fund raiser and was well received by the audience. The Fairfax County Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of volunteers that provide emergency response assistance to critical

incidents to augment our first responders. They are using Post 176 for their training sessions and maintain their trailer here. If you are interested in scheduling an event at Post 176, please contact us ASAP. The calendar, especially for weekends, is filling up fast.

We continue working on Boys State for 2022. No transportation for the boys selected to attend Boys State will be provided. Parents must assume this responsibility. We look forward to sending an outstanding group to Boys State again this year.

The Legion and Post 176 Auxiliary are hosting a “Spring Fling” Friday night dinner on April 8, 2022, from 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM. The Northern Virginia Players will be performing, there will be door prizes, a silent auction, and a 50-50 to benefit the Auxiliary VA&R Fund. Cost is \$20.00 per ticket available at Post 176 or just walk up and buy a ticket the night of the event.

The Riders hosted a “Blessing of the Bikes” and Poker Run. Despite the cold and uncooperative weather, the riders and their followers persevered and had a very successful event. The Sons hosted a St. Patrick’s Day celebration in our social quarters that was very popular. Thanks to the Riders and Sons for hosting these great events.

Working together, the ALR, SAL, and Auxiliary, that are all members of the “Legion Family” improve the lives of Legionnaires and our community. I encourage every post to support their Legion Family members. Their participation and contributions do make a difference.

Check our website at post176.org and click on the calendar to stay up to date with what’s happening at Post 176. Visit our café for breakfast or lunch, have a beverage in

the social quarters, or attend an event. We look forward to seeing you soon. Stay safe and remember the Post 176 motto: "Forward Together"



Fairfax Post 177 – Commander Jeff White

So, March came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. I'm looking forward to a warmer April.

Post 177 had good representation with 5 members going to the Department Spring Conference in Portsmouth: Commander White, 1st Vice Commander Lemnah, Adjutant Mann, Judge Advocate Osborne, and Finance Officer (17th District Commander) Kimlick. This was the first time attending a Dept. function for Lemnah and Mann. A lot of good info and training, especially in the membership area, took place and it was really good to be together in-person again.

We are hosting a couple honor flights in April. Central and Southwest Virginia will be at the post on Saturday 23 April for dinner provided by Auxiliary unit 177. The Post is providing box lunches for them that day and ALR 177 is delivering them to the Air Force Memorial. The following week on Thursday, 28 April, Alaska Honor Flight, another regular, will come to the post for dinner. It is always a great time welcoming these fellow Vets when they come to see the national monuments.

Second Sunday breakfast is on 10 April. 0930-1100, still only \$10. I look forward to seeing you!

Arlington Post 194 – Commander DeWanda Mintz

Post 194 participated in the Presidents Day Parade with Post 24 on February 21, 2022.

We attended the Spring Conferences in Portsmouth, Va. March 4th-6th. March 20, 2022 we attended the District Spring Conference at Post 177.

March 26, 2022 our post met at the home of Auxiliary Units Poppy Chair, Ms. Yvonne Lockett's home for our Recommitment meeting and it was very informative and we are committed to helping and serving veterans and their family. We also support our community events.

We've submitted a Resolution for a Dorie Miller Day to the American Legion 17th District. There are 10 Dorie Miller Post across the states and we are all working together for a common cause, Dorie Miller Honors.

We've submitted a Resolution for Shirley Gaines to be re-elected for 17th District Vice Commander.

Most importantly we have done Buddy Checks!

We have 3 new Members to join. Congratulations to us!

Let's continue prayers for our Post, Auxiliary and family members.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Della Lockett. | Gene Moore |
| Linda Day Turner. | Leroy Nance |
| Joyce Morton family | Wesley White |
| James Duhart. | Donald Burke |

McLean Post 270 – Commander Marshall Hyman

As many of you know the Post has received a Notice of Violation (“NOV”) from the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning regarding the use of our building. We will have a hearing regarding our appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals (“BZA”) on April 27th. The BZA convenes their meetings at 9 am at the Fairfax County Government Center but the Post does not know where we will be placed on the schedule for that day. I would like you to be there displaying your support, wearing your American Legion cap and whatever other gear you might have to demonstrate the fact that you are attending as a concerned veteran, citizen, and voter supporting Post 270. However, you must not disrupt the meeting in any way.

This newsletter is not the appropriate place to explain the County's charge in the NOV nor our response which is 14 pages. The Post has a lawyer, Michelle Rosati from the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP, representing us. Ms. Rosati successfully represented us on a related matter about three years ago. We feel strongly that our legal position is correct, but you can never be sure of the outcome of a legal proceeding. Therefore, the demonstration of support is extremely valuable and important. I would like Post members to have a basic understanding of both the allegations being made against us and our response. You should also be aware of why the Executive Committee thinks that Post 270 must vigorously defend itself. To accomplish this,

I have planned for Attorney Rosati to be the speaker at our General Meeting on April 12th at the Post. The meeting will begin at the regular time of 7:30 pm. Ms. Rosati will explain the charge, the response and the legal procedures surrounding the issue. Of course, you will be able to ask questions.

At the meeting the nominating committee will announce the officers they have selected to serve next year. You may still speak to Glenn Yarborough if you would like to volunteer for a position. The elections will be held in May and the officers for the next fiscal year will be invested in June.

See inside for all our April program information and a reminder about membership.

Have a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Centreville Post 1995 – Commander Steve Hunter

Centreville Post 1995's Flag Retirement Ceremony in the News

Post 1995 held a flag retirement ceremony back in November 2021. The article was submitted in a timely manner but was published on 17th of March. The moral of this story is to submit your Americanism, community service, and/or Children and Youth articles to your local news channels for publication, but be patient. Here is the link to the Reston-Herndon-Chantilly-CentreView Connection 17 March 2022 edition: (copy and paste the link into a browser)

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2022/031622/Reston.pdf>

Women's Veterans Week

March 20th through the 26th was Virginia's Women Veterans Week. Are we doing all we can do to include women Veterans in our organization? Probably not....so how can we do a better job of reaching out to more than 100,000 Veterans in Virginia; the highest percentage of any state in the country? We need all Veterans to help build our Posts,

programs, and impact we have in our communities. Share your ideas and efforts to build a stronger and inclusive Legion with your District leadership. Know any women Veteran?...if they aren't Legionnaires, ask them to join to help us make a difference.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Program Overview

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/virginia-women-veterans/vwvp-overview>

Ceremony for Virginia Women Veterans
Week Held in Richmond - Local news
station coverage.

<https://www.nbc12.com/2022/03/22/ceremony-virginia-women-veterans-week-held-richmond/>

VA Center for Women Veterans:
<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

Legion Auxiliary – President Sandra Price

The Units in the 17th District are very busy right now with elections and year end reports. The reports are due April 15 so everyone is scurrying around to get the information on all of our programs and projects written and ready to turn in to the Department and District Officers and Chairpersons.

We had four members attend the Northern Zone Workshop in Charlottesville on March 19, 2022. Information was given on preparing reports and copies of the report forms were also handed out.

The Units are also very busy right now in getting their delegates for Girls State turned in and processed so they will be ready to head off to Longwood University on Father's Day. It has been a struggle for some of the Units to pay for their delegates as fund raising the past couple of years has been non-existent and is still not real healthy. I don't know at the present time whether the 17th will meet the quota of

delegates we were allotted by the Department or not. There are always some alternates that have to be used although I think the alternates are going to be few and far between this year.

I hope everyone has a proposed slate of officers they can vote on shortly. Try to get some of the new members to take an office and help them along so they won't feel like they are out in left field. If we don't mentor our newest members, they will quit the Auxiliary and that is not what we want right now.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope that you are able to enjoy family gatherings more this year than in the past couple of years. Easter is such a pretty time of the year and we need to embrace it with all of our might.

SAL - Tyler Vanice, Detachment Vice Commander

Fellow Sons,

March 4-6 was the Spring Conference which was held in Portsmouth, VA. Some squadrons from our district were in attendance, but all should be represented.

After a successful meeting, Detachment Vice Commander Tyler Vanice went to the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery with other Sons to participate in the Flying Flags for Heroes project. The Sons National Commander, Michael Fox, was in attendance all weekend and assisted the Detachment with his project.

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. If you haven't renewed yet for the 2022 year (your card will show 2022 in background) then please do so. The Legion year is almost over and we need your help to continue our programs. We are doing good as a District, but please continue pushing renewals and new members.

Most squadrons should be considering officers for the upcoming year this month.

I would like to encourage other squadrons to do write ups for this newsletter. It's not just me who gets to write stuff.