



Volume 2
Editor
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AMERICAN LEGION
Suitland Post #196
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Issue 4
Assistant Editor
Towanna Mitchell

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Let's not forget elections are coming on May 14th, to elect your post officers. Let's all VOTE, for the people that can do the job.

As always, there are a few people to thank for the work they do around the Post: Thurnell Outlaw and Shaunda Lyles!

"For God and Country."
Post Commander
Jesse Simmons

FROM THE 1st VICE COMMANDER:

We are slowly moving up to the 90% paid goal! We need 33 people to renew to make the goal. There seems to be a stubborn group of folks who have to be prodded to renew. Is that YOU??? Did you maybe just forget? Renew now and stay a part of the Post!!!!

FROM THE 2ND VICE COMMANDER:

Greetings Legionnaires, Auxiliary & SAL members!! This is our new newsletter that can be picked up at the Post or read online at [American Legion Post 196, Suitland Maryland](#) on Facebook. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please email your membership name & address to amlpost196vicecdr@gmail.com or leave your information at the bar & we will gladly mail you one each month. Otherwise, stop in your Post to visit your friends, have your favorite beverage & pick up a copy while you are here.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUXILIARY:

The American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a Easter Party for children ages 4-10 on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 1pm -3 pm. **You MUST use the Blue sign-up sheet at the Post to enter your name, Child's name, child's age and gender.** All children on the sign up sheet will receive a basket. MEMBERSHIP: Please contact the 1st Vice President, Towanna Mitchell for details on renewing/joining. She can be reached at mitchelltd01@gmail.com.

Congratulations Auxiliary Unit 196 for exceeding OUR membership goals! The Southern District Newsletter recognizes and commends the Auxiliary Unit 196 for a job well done with the membership.

Special Note: April is nomination month for officers, please give your nomination at the April 26, 2014 meeting at 2pm.

The voting will take place in May. Check the Auxiliary Bulletin Board at the Post for upcoming events and information. As always we appreciate your support.

President
Sherry Carruth

FROM THE HOUSE MANAGER

We have a new bartender, please welcome "Dwayne".

We are coming into spring/summer months, "spring cleaning we need all members' help on the inside and outside, anytime you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

"NOTE" When there is a problem in the social quarters, i.e., someone comes into the Legion without signing in, someone is dress inappropriate or any other violation to our Constitution and By-Laws please bring it to the attention of the House Manager, or the Asst House Manager, or the bartender.

There are too many individuals giving out the wrong information and we need to get a handle on it. So let us work together to make this Post a more pleasant environment. Any suggestion should be put in the "Commanders box".

CHAPLAIN:

Chaplains seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. For many, chaplains are the only ministers they will ever know, as they have no affiliation with either church, synagogue, or other religious institution. The role of the chaplain is ever increasing due to the aging of our membership. Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades. The

chaplain should be notified when there is death, illness, or special concern in the membership. At that point the chaplain should provide all ministry and service available.

One thing that would help me as your Chaplain is that if you know of a member that is sick, in a hospital, or has passed away, please contact me so I can send a card to our member or their family. I can only do this with your help as we don't get to know all of the members unfortunately. Thanks in advance.

ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS:

Post Commander	Jesse Simmons
1 st Vice Commander	Norman Jones
2 nd Vice Commander	Sam Horton
Judge Advocate	James Bullock
Historian	Mike Riddick
Sgt-at-Arms	Will Speight
Chaplain	Frank Anderson
Service Officer	Vacant
Finance Officer	Thurnell Outlaw
Post Adjutant	Rob Willett

AUXILIARY OFFICERS:

President	Sherry Carruth
1 st Vice	Towanna Mitchell
Secretary	Rita Rayfield
Treasurer	Maggie Thompson
Historian	Denyse Bennett
Chaplain	Velma Alston-Jones
Sgt-at-arms	Yvonne Irick

POST OPERATING HOURS:

The Post is closed on the 1st and 4th Tuesdays of each month. On months with a 5th Tuesday we will be open.

On Wednesday's through Saturdays The Post will open at 3:00 P.M. **If business warrants**, closing time can be as late as 2:00 A.M. on any given night.

On Sundays the Post will open at 12:00 P.M.

Post operating hours are totally dependent on member participation and **good business sense**. The Post can and will stay open as long as members and guests support it.

Joke of the Month:

An Air Force officer goes to heaven and at the gate St Peter asks him if he has ever done anything in his life that he believes makes him worthy of admittance to heaven. The officer flyboy replies; yes, I once went into a bar with four of my pilot friends and saw two Seal's harassing a young girl at the bar, so being a gentleman I went up to the biggest one and told him to leave this young lady alone. When he refused I told him again more forcefully. This time I slapped him across the face and told this Seal to stand down. St Peter said this was a very good thing to do and asked when the pilot did this great act. The pilot replied; about 5 minutes ago! My friends should be here shortly!

Good of the Order:

In accordance with the American Legion Constitution and By-Laws, the Post 196 Ladies Auxiliary is a charter unit at the location but is a totally separate entity. This means that there are no rights toward sharing of information about the operation(s) of the Legion NOR that of the Auxiliary.

In accordance with the Post Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, one of the duties of the Sgt. of Arms, is to ensure all members present for meetings are eligible to participate and guests are identified for acknowledgement. Due to the close quarters of Post 196, we do not have the ability to separate the meeting area from the bar area but during all general meetings, the bar is shut down and the post door is to be locked from all traffic. Something we at this post allow is for patrons to remain in the post during general meetings, however they cannot be in the close proximity of the meeting area.

It is up to the discretion of the Post Commander to allow guests into the general meeting of the Legion. As such, it is equally at the discretion of the Auxiliary President to allow guests at the Auxiliary meetings. However, unless specifically informed, both meetings are closed. So no information, be it verbal nor written should be observed. If and when the Commander/President allows guests, they are to be acknowledged at the start of the meeting, addressed for their participation and allowed to leave, so as to continue with the meeting as a closed unit.

Veterans Helping Veterans:

Compensation

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Benefit

The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

If you have dependents, an additional allowance may be added if your combined disability is rated 30% or greater. Your compensation may be offset if you receive military retirement pay, disability severance pay, or separation incentive payments. More information about disability compensation benefit amounts can be found on the Compensation Rates page.

Disability Compensation Eligibility:

- Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, OR
- Active duty for training, OR
- Inactive duty training, AND
- You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- You are at least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training

Note: If you were on inactive duty for training, the disability must have resulted from injury, heart attack, or stroke.

Evidence Required

- Medical evidence of a current physical or mental disability, AND
- Evidence of a relationship between your disability and an injury, disease, or event in military service. Medical records or medical opinions are required to establish this relationship.

Note: Under certain circumstances, VA may conclude that certain current disabilities were caused by service, even if there is no specific evidence proving this in your particular claim. The cause of a disability is presumed for the following Veterans who have certain diseases.

Presumed Disability

- Former prisoners of war
- Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service
- Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service
- Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam
- Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

Duties of the Post Officers

Commander: The Commander has the duty of teaching and protecting the cardinal principals of the American Legion throughout the entire Post. The Commander has supervision of the duties of all other officers of the Post, is the guardian of Justice and Freedom, and bears the full responsibility of the Post complying with the policies and the traditions of your Post and of the American Legion

Adjutant: The Adjutant is appointed as Assistant or Secretary to the Commander. The Adjutant is the “continuity” person in the post.

1st Vice Commander: The 1st Vice Commander is responsible for cooperating with the Commander, especially with the interest of the membership of the Post. The 1st Vice Commander has the duty of safeguarding the honor of the Flag of our Country and is the teacher of “Democracy.”

2nd Vice Commander: The 2nd Vice Commander shall assist the Commander with all duties. Particularly with interest in patriotic observances of all kinds, in developing Post activities, and in the entertainment features which mark all meetings.

Service Officer: The Service Officer is selected to perform the fundamental work for the benefit of the members of the Post, but also for those War Veterans particularly in need of service.

Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate is assigned the most important duty for which his legal training and/or past Legion experience may apply to you. The duties include the interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Post and may be called on to rule on the legality of the actions and decisions insofar as these affect the good of the American Legion.




Finance Officer: The Finance Officer is the keeper of the monies and in him is reposed the financial responsibility for the Post. The duty includes the year’s budget and the payment of all obligations when proper authorization has been given for such payment.

Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms is the outer guard of this post and will especially guard against the loss of The American Legion’s greatest possessions – our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. He will learn the identity and introduce to the Commander all visiting comrades and guests of the Post. Into his hands is given the charge of the stand of colors which you will properly display at all Post meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Chaplain: The Chaplain is given the spiritual leadership of the post and responsibility for religious ceremonies for the Post or a comrade. All such ceremonies are made more commemorative by the use of Legion rituals.

Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is charged with the management of the Post.

Children & Youth Month ~ April 2014 ~ Sexual Assault Awareness Month						
◀ March						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fool's Day POST CLOSED	2 KARAOKE WITH DOUG	3	4 DJ MASTER "T" FISH FRY	5 <u>NCAA FINAL FOUR</u> Ms. Bailey BIRTHDAY PARTY 
6 (1917) World War I	7 NCAA Men's CHAMPIONSHIP	8 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	9 KARAOKE WITH DOUG	10	11 DJ NIGHT FLIGHT FISH FRY	12 Easter Egg Hunt 1-3pm Ladies Night 8pm - Until
13	14	15 Passover GENERAL POST MEETING	16 KARAOKE WITH DOUG	17	18 Good Friday DJ UNC & POP FISH FRY	19 Ms. Colbert BIRTHDAY PARTY 
20 Easter 	21 Easter Monday	22 POST CLOSED Earth Day	23 KARAOKE WITH DOUG	24	25 DJ UNC & POP FISH FRY	26 LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING 2 - 3:30PM
27	28	29	30 KARAOKE	MAY: 8 th V-E Day; 11 th Mother's Day; 17 th Armed Forces Day; 20 th Post Officer's Elections; 26 th Memorial Day		