



Volume 3
Editor
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AMERICAN LEGION
Suitland Post #196
5716 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, Maryland 20747
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Issue 10
Assistant Editor
Towanna Mitchell

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2014

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Our Post will be hosting the County Meeting on OCT 6th from 6-9pm. All officers are requested to be present and we shall have some light food items for our guests.

We are going through some personnel changes and we need to keep the lines of communication open from each officer and all members. If you have ideas to make this post home better, write it down and place it in the Commander's Box at the end of the bar.

Lastly, we are looking for motivated members to head up one of a dozen programs/committees. A list of the American Legion Programs and Committees will be found at the end of this newsletter.

"For God and Country."
Post Commander
Jesse Simmons

FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER:

We are off to a great first quarter of the membership year. So far we are over the 50% renewal count and I truly thank each one of you! Now for the other 50%, it is not too late to send in your dues. We will be happy to get your dues in pennies if that is what you have to pay!

Membership cards will be checked at the door and at the bar at random. If you do not have your CURRENT 2015 membership card on event nights, you MUST pay at the door! Also, the bar staff can deny service without your VALID and CURRENT membership card, so please help me get rid of the remaining 2015 member cards!!!

Let's all welcome new members **DeAnna Sprools**, **Chadrenna Edmonds** and **Jimmy Jennings** to our post!!!!

FROM THE 2ND VICE COMMANDER:

Greetings Legionnaires, Auxiliary & SAL members!! This is our 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.

There are a host of activities coming up for the post so keep an eye out on our Facebook page calendar and on the post electronic calendar!

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER:

The position for Finance Officer is currently vacant due to Thurnell Outlaw resigning his position. There will be a special election on the 1st of October to fill the vacancy. Currently the Assistant Finance Officer is **Jon Marshall** (Big Jon) and he has done an excellent job to date stepping in to tackle the job!!! He has volunteered to run for this position. "I look forward to serving this Post and the American Legion and would appreciate continued support as we go through some growing pains in the coming months but all is necessary to move Post 196 Forward..."

FROM THE JUDGE ADVOCATE:

The position for Judge Advocate is currently vacant due to James Bullock resigning his position for health reasons. There will be a special election on the 1st of October to fill the vacancy. Currently Will Speight has volunteered to run for this position.

FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER:

The VA has commenced issuing new ID cards for free, removing the personal data from the one id cards. Please take a moment to visit the VA and get your new cards.

FROM THE SARGENT-OF-ARMS:

All members are reminded that Legion covers are required to be worn during General and Special Post Meetings and events designated by the Commander. Cost is approximately \$45.00 and it will take 4-8 weeks for delivery.

If you need to order a Legion hat you can look on line at the following website: www.emblem.legion.org

FROM THE HISTORIAN:

The Post website: www.mdpost196.org is up and running. There is still work needed to be done but the basic site is up and links, contact information and photos will be forthcoming.

Definition of a Veteran

A Veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

-- Author Unknown

What is the American Legion?

- The largest veterans organization in USA
- Dedicated to God & Country
- Pursuit of better veteran benefits
- Community involvement
- Youth education & involvement in government
- Evolvement of comradre through social events & charitable activities

What can the American Legion offer you?

- A voice in protecting veteran benefits
- Involvement in community and youth
- A monthly magazine about the organization
- Rights & Privileges to all posts throughout the USA

How is the American Legion Organized?

- Post - smallest, organized into geographic and organizational entities
- Department - state level, many posts
- National - located in Indianapolis, Indiana

CHAPLAIN:

Prayers, great health, and blessings to our members, families, and friends! 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.

Just a friendly reminder that flu and pneumonia vaccines are now available. I know that we can all move forward together in making this a Post we can be proud of. Keep up your faith. May God be with you all.

FROM THE HOUSE MANAGER:

The position for House Manager is currently vacant due to Thurnell Outlaw resigning his position. There is a job announcement attached to this newsletter. Interested applicants must apply by the closing date of **15 OCT 2014**. This is a hired position not an elected one! Currently the Acting House Manager is **Sharonda Lyles**. She has taken over the position with little to no turnover and has done a superb job!!!

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 bartender.

Pool table is secured during the hand dance classes, Mondays and Thursdays from 7-9pm.

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

Greetings Auxiliary Members, it's that time of the year again! Membership! Membership! The Auxiliary needs your help in order to make our GOAL! We can DO IT! Please renew your Membership by October 31, 2014. You can renew your membership in person at the Post 196 every Wednesday and Friday. Please see me, Maggie Thompson or Sherry Carruth. You can also renew membership online and/or by mail. Last year, we received a gold ribbon, notoriety and praise in the American Legion Auxiliary's District and Department Newsletters. Let's work together and make our GOAL! Go 2014-2015 Membership!

We are involved in a lot of new American Legion Auxiliary Programs, i.e. Poppies, Community Services and Veteran Rehabilitation programs to name a few. Come and renew your commitment to the Auxiliary. We need your participation and involvement in order to make these programs a success! Please come and join us, as we continue to support our Veterans. As always, please check the Auxiliary Bulletin Board for Updates.

Towanna Mitchell, Auxiliary President
Remember there is No I in **TEAM**

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.

Good of the Order:

We are reviewing all members military status in accordance with the guidelines established by the National regulations in reference with the IRS Audits. Every member is requested to show and prove military service to be a member of the American Legion. This also goes for

CURRENT members. If there is no proof of military service then your membership is in jeopardy of termination. Letters will be mailed out to all of those who are missing service information in the National data base. To ensure termination does not happen, you can drop off your DD-214 or other proof of honorable military service to the post. For safety purposes, darken out all but the last 4 digits of your social security number and any other personal identifying information.

Washing the Vietnam Memorial Wall

Looking for members to participate in the Washing of the [Vietnam Memorial Wall](#) monthly from April to November. An open invitation is extended to all to join other posts each month; departure time is 5:30AM from Post 196. For additional information contact Norman Jones, 1st Vice CDR. Scheduled Dates are: July 6th , August 3rd , September 3rd , October 5th , and November 2nd.

Operation Welcome Home

This is a great program to show your support to our Returning Troops at [Operation Welcome Home - Maryland](#). Here is the [information](#) link for events at BWI. We encourage you to visit the Operation Welcome Home website frequently or call their hotline at (410) 630-1555 for updates on incoming flights. If you would like to coordinate a group trip please let us know and we will post the information.

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS:

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to REGISTER and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (USO) is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit charitable corporation and endorsed by the president and the Department of Defense. USO's mission is to provide welfare, recreation and morale-raising services to U.S. military members.

More than 12,000 members in the USO international corps of volunteers provide an estimated 450,000 hours of service annually. From welcoming home deployed troops to helping entertain soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, the volunteer contribution in delivering a "Touch of Home" is USO's primary asset.

To learn how to become a USO volunteer, call (202) 610-5700 or visit www.uso.org.

ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS:

Post Commander	Jesse Simmons
1 st Vice Commander	Norman Jones
2 nd Vice Commander	Ray Hopfer
Judge Advocate	
Historian	Mike Riddick
Sgt-at-Arms	Will Speight
Chaplain	Shirley Witcher
Service Officer	Joe Brown
Finance Officer (Assistant)	Jon Marshall
Post Adjutant	Stephanie Wells
House Manager (Acting)	Sharonda Lyles

AUXILIARY OFFICERS:

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

SAL OFFICERS:

Commander	Ray Hopfer
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Beware of fake emails:

CLEVELAND -- Recently, some myPay users received a fake email asking for the answers to myPay security questions. Officials at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service advise myPay users to never share the answers to myPay security questions with anyone.

Officials stressed that emails from DFAS, myPay or SmartDocs will never ask for this information. Sharing the answers to myPay security questions may allow someone to access a person's myPay account.

The fake SmartDocs e-mails came from smartdocs@dfas-mil.org and smartdocs@dfas.mil.org. Customers who may have responded to the email request with the answers to myPay security questions should log into myPay and change their security questions immediately.

People who received one of these emails but did not respond should delete the message immediately.

DFAS officials offer the following tips to determine if email received from SmartDocs is legitimate:

-- The official SmartDocs email address is

SmartDocs@dfas.mil.

-- SmartDocs will never ask anyone to directly respond to an email.

-- If provided a link to SmartDocs or myPay sites, use the mouse to hover over the link. The text that appears should show mypay.dfas.mil, and match the link in the email.

(Courtesy of DFAS News)

Joke of the Month:

The chief of staff of the US Air Force decided that he would personally intervene in the recruiting crisis affecting all of our armed services. He directed a nearby Air Force base that will be opened and that all eligible young men and women be invited.

As he and his staff were standing near a brand new F-15 Fighter, a pair of twin brothers who looked like they had just stepped off a Marine Corps recruiting poster walked up to them. The chief of staff walked up to them, stuck out his hand and introduced himself.

He looked at the first young man and asked, "Son, what skills can you bring to the Air Force?"

The young man looks at him and says, "I'm a pilot!"

The general gets all excited, turns to his aide and says, "Get him in today, all the paper work done, everything, do it!"

The aide hustles the young man off. The general looks at the second young man and asked, "What skills to you bring to the Air Force?"

The young man says, "I chop wood!"

"Son," the general replies, "we don't need wood choppers in the Air Force, what do you know how to do?"

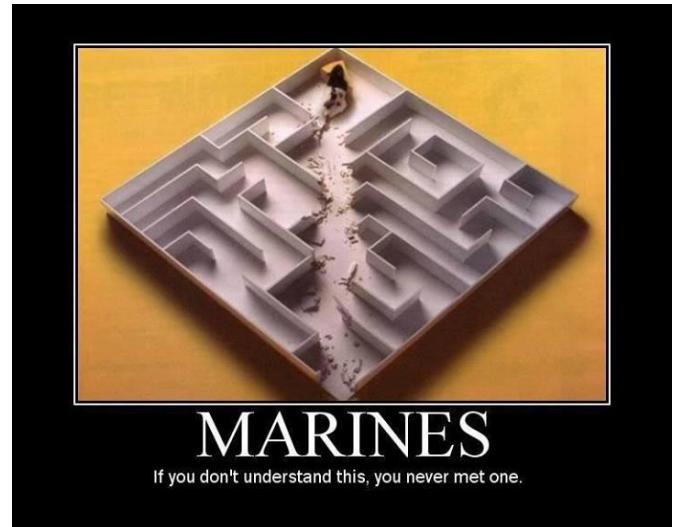
"I chop wood!"

"Young man," huffs the general, "you are not listening to me, we don't need wood choppers, this is the 20th century!"

"Well," the young man says, "you hired my brother!"

"Of course we did," says the general, "he's a pilot!"

The young man rolls his eyes and says, "So what! I have to chop it before he can pile it!"



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.

American Legion Benefits:

American Legion membership can save you money. Discount programs for products and services such as travel, health care, personal finance and COMPUTERS are offered exclusively to members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion.

American Legion members save up to **20%** off the "Best Available Rate*" at over 7,500 participating Wyndham HOTEL GROUP properties worldwide. With 14 brands, ranging from economy to upscale, Wyndham has the right hotel for you. So whether you are looking for a beach-front hotel, an all-inclusive resort, or just somewhere to stay along the way, call the special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today.

The following is a list of the participating hotels: • Wyndham Hotels & Resorts (including Wyndham Grand and Wyndham Garden) • BAYMONT INN AND SUITES • Days Inn • Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham • TRYP by Wyndham • Dream Hotels • Night Hotels • Howard Johnson • Knights Inn • Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham • Ramada • Super 8 • Travelodge • Wingate by Wyndham

The American Legion Suitland Post 196
5716 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, Maryland 20747
301-420-9492

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: House Manager

CLOSING DATE: 15 OCTOBER 2014

REPORTS TO: Executive Board

SUPERVISES: Hourly Personnel

PURPOSE OF POSITION: Responsible for the overall operation of the Post Canteen including record keeping, inventory control, kitchen usage, training and supervising employees and other duties as the Executive Board may direct. A high degree of independence and initiative are required while performing these duties in accordance with post policy/by-laws, local ordinances, state and federal laws.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

This position has a high degree of access to confidential information. Before placing an individual in this position, an extensive background and criminal history check is required.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, AND ABILITY:

Candidate must have working knowledge and experience in the food and beverage industry. Must have knowledge of basic book keeping, payroll accounting, and keep accurate inventory records. Have good communication skills and be able to properly supervise, train and schedule personnel for appropriate work assignments. Be willing and available to assist employees when customer demand dictates.

Work with and assist the Post Commander and Executive Board on all issues concerning the Post Canteen.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Light to moderate lifting, carrying, bending, kneeling without assistance. Occasionally work in outdoors conditions which may require exposure to heat and humidity as well as cold, wind, and rain.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND OR LICENSES:

Pleasant demeanor and "Customer First" attitude is required. Candidates must have no felony convictions and be able to acquire all necessary liquor licenses, gaming licenses, and special liquor licenses that may be required for special events.

Knowledge of marketing strategies and event promotions a plus.

A member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and or Sons of the American Legion is preferred.

Note:

The statements herein are intended to describe the general nature of the level of work being performed by employees assigned to this classification, and are not construed as an exhaustive list of responsibilities, duties and skills required of this position. Further, they do not establish a contract for employment and are subject to change at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTES:			1 SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS KARAOKE 8PM-MIDNITE	2 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	3 DJ 8PM-1AM Yom Kippur	4
5 FOOTBALL SUNDAY DRINK SPECIALS	6 COUNTY COMMANDERS MEETING 6PM	7 POST CLOSED	8 KARAOKE 8PM-MIDNITE	9 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	10 DJ 8PM-1AM	11 OLD FASHION BRUNCH 11AM-1:30PM JERSEY NITE
12 FOOTBALL SUNDAY DRINK SPECIALS	13 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM <u>COLUMBUS DAY</u>	14 Executive Committee Meeting 7pm	15 KARAOKE 8PM-MIDNITE	16 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	17 DJ 8PM-1AM	18 “BLACKOUT” NITE DJ 7PM-1AM
19 FOOTBALL SUNDAY DRINK SPECIALS	20 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	21 General Post Meeting 7pm	22 KARAOKE 8PM-MIDNITE	23 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	24 DJ 8PM-1AM	25
26 FOOTBALL SUNDAY DRINK SPECIALS SUPER KARAOKE 6PM-MIDNITE	27 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	28	29 KARAOKE 8PM-MIDNITE	30 HAND DANCING CLASS 7PM – 9PM	31 DJ 8PM-1AM  HALLOWEEN	

Notes:
 2 NOV: Daylight Savings Time Ends
 4 NOV: Election Day
 11 NOV: Veterans Day – POST CLOSED
 27 NOV: Thanksgiving Day
 28 NOV: Black Friday
 1 DEC: Cyber Monday
 7 DEC: Pearl Harbor Day
 24 DEC: Christmas Eve – POST CLOSED
 25 DEC: Christmas Day – POST CLOSED
 26 DEC – 1 JAN: Kwanza
 31 DEC: New Year’s Eve