# THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 175

**8700 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-3867**
**Phone: (804) 789-8667 Web: www.Post175.org E-Mail: info@post175.org**

## July and August 2026
## VETERANS SERVING VETERANS

**LEADERSHIP**

**Commander**
**Robert (Bob) White**
(804) 240-4220

**1st Vice Commander (Membership)**
**Kelly L. Schips**
(804) 519-9932

**2nd Vice Commander (Hall Rentals)**
**William (Bill) Todd**
(804) 402-6636
(Rental Line)

**Adjutant**
**George Navas**
(804) 368-0100

**Building & Grounds**
**Anthony (Tony) Nelson**
(804) 295-2673

**Chaplain**
**Arthur (Art) Aumock**
(631) 807-2979

**Finance Officer**
**Lyn M. Spencer**
(804) 334-9036

**Historian**
**Doug Snell**
(804) 441-4114

**Judge Advocate**
**Warren Rice**
(804) 852-8108

**Legion Riders (ALR)**
**Jack Barbour**
(804) 690-1863

**Sergeant-at-Arms**
**Thomas Bynum**
(804) 982-0044

**Service Officer (VSO)**
**Andre Hunt**
(804) 655-0376

**Sons of The American Legion (SAL)**
**Jim Oliver**
(804) 754-5860

## News Highlights:

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our new Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Post and District Officers.

A special congratulatory note for our new Commander, Robert (Bob) White. Bob is a veteran of the Coast Guard and has been serving our Post as Adjutant for the last three years and is our Honor Guard Lieutenant. Bob will be concurrently serving as the First Vice Commander (and Membership Chair) for the 13th District, Chair of our Department of Virginia Prison Post Sub-Committee, and Chair of the Hanover County Veterans Committee. A man of many talents.

Congratulations on your election… boss! ☺

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

I would like to thank all of the members of the Legion family that participated in our first grade flag education program this past school year. Our final donations included **971 activity books** and **895 flags** while **visiting 10 schools** and **providing materials to one additional school**. All figures are an increase from last year. We look forward to continuing the program again next year.

Our next Fish Fry to raise funds for this program and our air rifle shooting team will be on Friday, July 17 from 5 - 6:30 pm. As always, you can pickup your meal and take home or join many others in the member social area. Tickets should be purchased by **Tuesday July 14** and are available from myself, Art Aumock, or Jack Barbour. I hope to see you there.

Jim Oliver, SAL Squadron Commander

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Hello everyone from your Legion Riders!

Well! Another Virginia Legacy Run is in the books! We had 17 riders from the Post to participate at Colonial Beach. Our first day started out with torrential rainfall. The sun came out, the rain stopped around 11am. The rest of the time, the weather turned for the better. We will still be collecting donations for the Veteran and Children's Foundation until August 10th.

I want to thank everyone for your support through sales of raffle tickets to raise money for the Legacy Run. If you were aware, rider members spend between $500 and $700 or more, of our own money to participate in the Legacy Run event.

Several members continue to ride after Tuesdays Coffee and Donuts to different locations for lunch. When we ride, we advertise Post 175. We ride for the cause, not the applause!

Post 75: Lunch and Rest Stop

Lynn and Jack Barbour

**Another successful Virginia Boys State ends at Hampden-Sydney University**

Boys, Counselors and families assemble before closing ceremonies.

Indoor ceremonies conclude.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Membership Renewal Season is Here!**

Membership renewals for the 2027 American Legion membership year begin on **July 1, 2026**. Please be on the lookout for your renewal notification and renew as early as possible.

First, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your support over the past year. Because of your dedication and commitment to Post 175, we had another successful year serving veterans, their families, and our community.

While we finished the membership year just shy of our goal, we have much to be proud of. Every membership matters, and every member helps strengthen our ability to continue our mission.

As we begin the new membership year, I am challenging our Post to reach **100% membership by December 2026**. With your help, I know we can achieve that goal. Renew early, encourage fellow Legionnaires to renew, and help us bring in new members who share our commitment to service.

RENEWAL LINK: https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew

American Legion Auxiliary

## From the Unit President:

### Wrap-Up

We kicked off May with a meaningful service project, participating in the Homes for Our Troops key ceremony for SSG Brian Pearce. Unit 175 collected and donated pantry essentials, cash, and gift cards. Members joined the motorcycle procession to welcome SSG Pearce and his family to their new home and assisted with the flag presentation.

### America The Beautiful

Our neighborhood Flag Replacement program continued, proudly raising Old Glory for a 96-year-old naturalized citizen from Greece, who warmly repeated “God Bless America” during our visit.

We proudly supported the final Flags for First Graders presentation with the SAL, distributing over 900 flags and Pledge of Allegiance booklets to local elementary schools. Elizabeth Navas, our Girls State Chair, hosted a successful orientation and reception featuring a returning attendee who shared her experiences.

### Serving the Memories

On National Poppy Day, we distributed poppies at four locations despite rainy weather. With strong support from the Legion Family we raised over $1,700.

Two Unit members also participated in the Virginia War Memorial’s “Say Their Name” program, reading names of Virginia’s war dead during the Memorial Day weekend marathon. The month closed with our attendance at the Hanover County Memorial Day Service

### Patriotism and Honor

June brought more meaningful events. On June 9, we hosted a Quilts of Valor Ceremony honoring nine Veterans with beautiful handmade quilts.

On June 12, we installed 250 flags on the Post’s front lawn to celebrate America’s upcoming 250th birthday.

**President**
**Janice White**
(804) 385-5123

**Vice President**
**Gail Ellis**
(xxx) xxx-xxxx

**Chaplain**
**Patsy Lassiter**
(804) 938-9448

**Historian**
**Patricia Edmunds**
(804) 401-3423

**Membership**
**Linda Bohanon**
(804) 920-2732

**Secretary**
**Fayth Heath**
(540) 809-2454

**Sergeant-at-Arms**
**Doris Sydnor**
(804) 221-4224

**Janet Williamson**
(804) 389-1964

**Treasurer**
**Elizabeth Navas**
(717) 586-1074


***IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, NOT SELF***

Our Auxiliary donated a quilt to the Virginia Legacy Run auction in Colonial Beach, raising $600 for the Veterans & Children's Foundation. We also hosted a reception following the Legion and Auxiliary Officer Installation Ceremony and wrapped up the month with the Community Breakfast and a successful Bake Sale.

## Hail to a New Year.

It has been an honor to serve as President of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 175 these past two years. With the support of a dedicated team, we strengthened our membership, launched new initiatives, and kept Veterans at the heart of our community. Thank you for your generous support. Please welcome our new President, Janice White, and continue standing strong together as one Legion Family.

**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:**

**JULY 2026**

03 (Friday) - Independence Day (Celebrated)
08 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner, 5:00 pm social, 6:00 pm dinner. Member Quarters
09-12 (Thursday to Sunday) **Department of Virginia Convention**, Hilton Doubletree, Midlothian
10 (Friday) - Hanover Tomato Festival, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Pole Green Park
11 (Saturday) - Hanover Tomato Festival, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Pole Green Park
17 (Friday) - **Fish Fry Fundraiser**, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, Eat-in ot Take-out. **Tickets Required** $
25 (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast**, 7:30 am to 10:00 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
25 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11:00 am (Following the Community Breakfast)
28 (Tuesday) - **Membership Meeting**, 7:00 pm.

**AUGUST 2026**

01 (Saturday) - **National Night Out Event**, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Green Top Sporting Goods
12 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner, 5:00 pm social, 6:00 pm dinner. Member Quarters
25 (Tuesday) - **Membership Meeting,** 7:00 pm.
27-31 (Thursday to Monday) - **The American Legion National Convention**, Louisville, KY
(Convention continues through Friday, 04 September)
29 (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10:00 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
29 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11:00 am (Following the Community Breakfast)

**LOOK AHEAD**

27 August to 04 September - The American Legion National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
07 September - Labor Day Holiday
26 September - Community Breakfast
01 October - Honor Flight Guardian Training
10 October - **Bell Creek Fall Holiday and Craft Show**
17 October - **Honor Flight, Mission #11**
31 October - Community Breakfast (Last for the calendar year)

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- Coffee and Doughnuts Social: Every Tuesday morning, holidays and weather permitting, in our member quarters from 9 am to 11 am.
- Executive Committee Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm.
- Pot Luck Dinner: 2nd Wednesday of every month, 6:00 pm
- General Membership Meeting: 4th Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm.

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Wish to be more active in our Post, or our community? Wish to support one or more of our Four Pillars? (Veterans, Defense, Americanism, Youth - VDAY)

**Looking for volunteers to serve in a wide variety of programs, projects and initiatives. A partial list on what we do as a "Legion Family" is on the next page. Check it out !**

**Volunteers**

# The American Legion Post 175

**8700 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116**

## Community Programs and Activities

Backpack Program – Providing school supplies to children in need
Blood Drives – In coordination with the American Red Cross
**Boys State Leadership Program** - Summer In-Residence program for High School Juniors
**Color Guard** – Participating in Ceremonial (Public) Events (Parades, etc.)
**Community Breakfasts** - Monthly Public Breakfast (Fundraiser)
**Community Food Banks** – Providing non-perishable food to local non-profits
First Responder Awards Program – Recognizing top Fire/EMT and Sheriff Deputies
Fisher House – Supporting military families in-need of temporary housing
**Flag Education Program** – Providing information to all First Grade students (In-school visits)
Flag Retirement Program – In conjunction with Scouts
**Girls State Leadership Program** - Summer In-Residence program for High School Juniors
**Hanover County Veterans Committee** - Honoring all Hanover veterans (Ceremonial events)
High School Oratorical Contest - Providing college scholarship money
Honor Flights - Honoring veterans with trips to D.C. to visit memorials
**Honor Guard** - Honoring veterans at funerals (Flag presentations to next-of-kin, etc.)
Hospital Support - Providing hospitalized veterans with needed supplies
Liberation Veteran Services – Providing meals and housing while undergoing treatment for addictions and homelessness (In cooperation with VFW Post 9808)
Lonesome Dove – Supporting physical therapy for wounded warriors
**Middle School Essay Contest** – Provides prize money to students, teachers, and schools
**Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** – Sponsor all county High School units
**Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP)** – Air rifle training and competitions (ages 12 to 18)
Poppies – Funding veteran needs (Rehabilitation, etc.)
Scouts USA - Sponsor for Troop 553
Service Dogs – Supplementing the purchase and training costs of service dogs for veterans
Troopster Program - Providing “care packages” for deployed (overseas) U.S. service members (In cooperation with VFW Post 9808)
United Service Organizations (USO) – Volunteer in support of service members with countless acts of caring, comfort, and connection
**Wreaths Across America** – Honoring our fallen with graveside wreaths during the holidays
**Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Academy (YCLEA)** - Summer In-Residence program for High School Juniors

Note: The above are only highlights of programs (past and present) provided or supported by The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), The Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.), and The American Legion Riders (ALR) at our Post.