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

March and April 2026

VETERANS SERVING VETERANS

LEADERSHIP

Commander
Warren Rice
(804) 852-8108

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

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

Adjutant
Robert (Bob) White
(804) 240-4220

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
Jack Barbour
(804) 690-1863

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

Sergeant-at-Arms
Myrtle Starling
(540) 809-2861

Service Officer (VSO)
Andre Hunt
(804) 613-8405

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

News Highlights:

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Comcast (and other) e-mail services being used by our members are “throttling” our messages. Meaning: you may not be receiving important information from the Post as your e-mail service will not deliver our messages to you. Therefore, we will be posting the Newsletter and minutes for the Executive Committee (ExCom) and general Membership meetings to the Post website as soon as they are available. You will no longer be receiving e-mail notifications of their posting.

We will continue to provide Post closing and/or event/meeting delays or cancellation notices to our website and distribute notifications via e-mail. However, please note that your e-mail provider may not deliver those e-mail notifications to you. **Please check the Post website for updates**. Thank you.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

Our 4H team continues shooting. In the January Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) postal match our top shooter, Nadia Maxfield, missed qualifying for the regional round by only three points and her younger sister, Miriam, by only 11. Congratulations to those young ladies on a strong effort.

We have been contacted by another school to present our flag program in May. I will ask for volunteers as we near that date.

Our next Fish Fry Fundraiser dinner will be Friday, March 20th. Price and times remain the same as last year. Please see Jim Oliver, Art Aumock, or Jack Barbour for tickets.

Hello from ALR 175 Riders:

Due to ice and snow conditions, we've been hunkered down trying to stay warm as many of you have. We did manage to make 45 gallons of our Brunswick Stew January 16th. Had a great t urnout to help slice, dice and stir the big pot. We sold all of the stew in 21/2 weeks. Several of our members were able to get a lunch ride in to a Lake Anna restaurant on February 18th. If you would like to support this year's Virginia Legacy Run it is on June 18, 19, 20. We have 50/50 & gun raffle tickets for sale. See us in the social quarters at coffee and donuts on Tuesdays.

Looking forward to warmer weather!

American Legion Rider's Creed

Riders dedicate themselves to the success of the American Legion. I know that through my efforts I can make a difference.

I alone am responsible for myself and to my fellow Riders. I will conduct myself with the highest degree of integrity and honor.

Deeds, not words, create change. I will persevere against any and all things that prevent my success. My resolve and strength will overcome all obstacles.

Each Rider is first a member of the American Legion Family. I will actively participate in and willingly support their endeavors.

Readily will I join other Riders in activities and events which support our missions. I will do so gladly knowing I volunteered to be an American Legion Rider.

Success is the only acceptable conclusion. I will allow nothing to dissuade or impede me from service to my family, community, country and especially to our Veterans.

RIDER'S LEAD THE WAY!

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

2026 American Legion Membership Renewal & Membership Cards

American Legion membership is annual, with the Legion year running from January 1 through December 31. Dues are payable in advance beginning October 20. If dues are not paid by January 1, a member becomes delinquent. If dues remain unpaid by February 1, the member is suspended, retaining no privileges except reinstatement by Post vote and payment of dues. If dues are still unpaid by June 30, the member is dropped from the rolls by constitutional mandate and membership is forfeited.

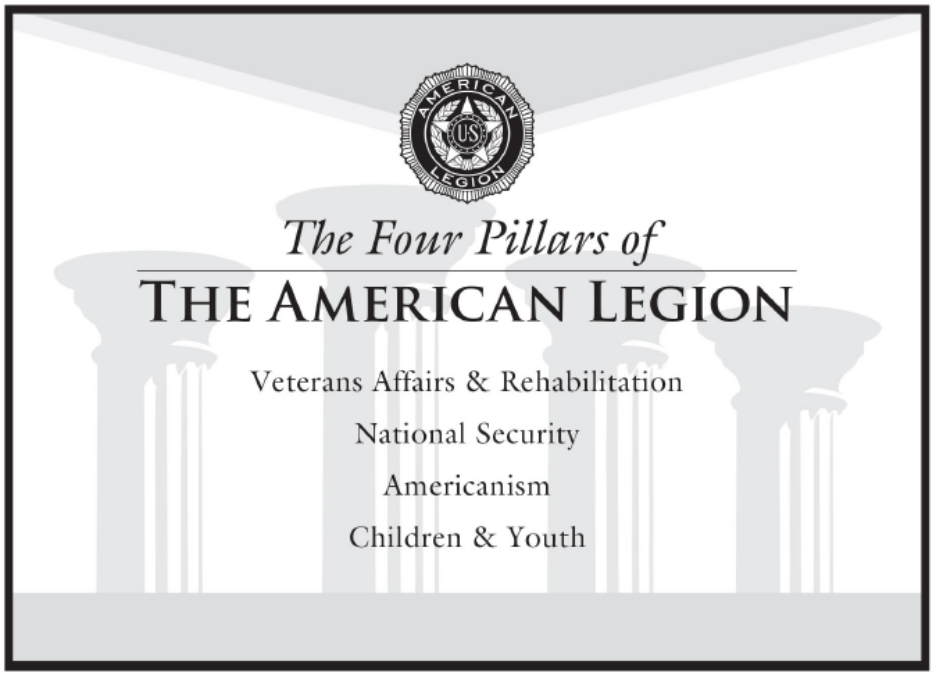
If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2026, it is not too late. Renewing is quick and easy online at https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew. All you need is your last name, membership number, and a credit card to complete the process.

We are currently sitting at 85% membership. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. If you have not yet done so, please take a few minutes today to renew and continue supporting the mission of the American Legion. Your membership directly supports veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

For those who have renewed, membership cards are now available for pick-up. You may pick up your card during Tuesday morning coffee and donuts or before any General or Executive Committee meeting. Members may also download a digital copy of their membership card at mylegion.org.

If you would prefer to have your membership card mailed to you, please let me know and we will gladly send it. However, we are encouraging members to pick up or download their cards whenever possible. With just over 300 members, mailing all membership cards would cost the Post nearly $220 in postage. By picking up or downloading your card, you are helping us reduce expenses and keep more of our funds focused on the mission.

If you need any assistance renewing or accessing your membership card, please contact me at kelly.l.schips@gmail.com. Let's finish strong and reach 100%



Post 175 Middle School Essay Contest: A student from Grace Christian School won the Post 175 contest with an essay that begins with: “I like Living in America because…” A student from Oak Grove Middle School came in second place. A homeschooled student came in third place.

Virginia Boys State: Post 175 is seeking outstanding high school male juniors to attend the 2026 **Boys State at Hampden-Sydney College on June 21-27, 2026**. Students get hands-on experience of state and local government. Candidates are selected in April-May 2026. Contact Doug Snell at (804) 441-4114.

Virginia Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Academy: Post 175 is seeking high school male and female juniors to attend the 2026 academy at the Virginia State Police Academy in Chesterfield, VA in June 2026 (actual dates pending). Students drive police vehicles, shoot pistols, and compete in athletic events. Need a school athletic physical. Candidates are selected in April-May, Contact Doug Snell at (804) 441-4114.

Post 175 Oratorical Contest: A student from Atlee High School won the Post 175 Oratorical Contest and came in second at the District 13 Oratorical contest. He is scheduled to present a speech on the Constitution at the beginning of the 24 February 2026 Membership Meeting.

Remember...

The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
August 21, 2017
Resolution

No.:
Title: Law Enforcement and Tolerance
Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Reno, Nevada, on August 21, 2017, That The American Legion considers any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion considers such action by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.

American Legion Auxiliary

President
Fayth Heath
(540) 809-2454

Vice President
Janice White
(804) 730-1775

Chaplain
Janice White
(804) 730-1775

Historian
Patricia Edmunds
(804) 401-3423

Membership
Lynn Barbour
(804) 614-5085

Secretary
Lynn Barbour
(804) 614-5085

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

Treasurer
Jeannie Rummel
(804) 310-7200

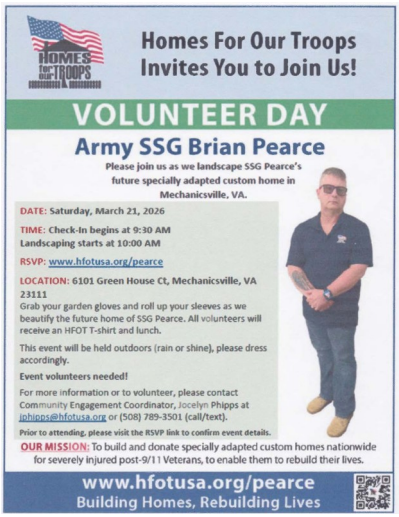
IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, NOT SELF

From the Unit President:

Our Auxiliary paused to honor the memory of two members who passed earlier this year, **Lisa Forsyth** and **Shirley Smith**, with the draping of our Charter. Shirley Smith faithfully served the Auxiliary for more than 40 years, and her dedication and commitment will be long remembered.

Despite several weather-related delays, the Auxiliary has experienced a strong and productive start to the year. A Four Chaplains ceremony was held and led by Auxiliary Chaplain **Janice White**. The service was well attended and received with many complimentary remarks from members of our Legion Family for its thoughtful and moving presentation.

A fundraising campaign has been launched to support the Auxiliary's ongoing efforts on behalf of veterans and the local community. Fundraising letters will be personally delivered to community leaders, business owners, and churches connected to our membership.



Volunteers are requested for a Homes for Our Troops landscaping project on March 21 at the home of **SSGT Brian Pierce**. Members of the Post, Riders, and Auxiliary were honored to participate in the home dedication ceremony in October, and continued support for this deserving veteran and his family is encouraged.

Preparations are underway for **National Poppy Day**, scheduled for May 22, 2026. Additional details, including distribution locations, will be shared in April.

The Auxiliary will host a **Quilts of Valor Sit and Sew** event on Monday, March 23, and Tuesday, March 24, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in partnership with the VFW Auxiliary. During this two-day event, participants will create quilt tops that will be completed by volunteer long-arm quilters. The finished quilts will be presented to local veterans during a formal ceremony in recognition of their service and sacrifice.

Quilts of Valor®
Quilts = Healing!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY VIRGINIA Girls STATE

The deadline for **Girls State** applications is April 1, 2026. Under the leadership of **Elizabeth Navas**, information has been distributed to 66 teachers, counselors, and administrators across three high schools, as well as through social media channels. Interviews will be conducted during the second week of April. Members are encouraged to share application information with qualified candidates.

But That's Not All!

We are happy to announce the MILES Program.

We are pleased to report additional positive developments. The **Mastering Inner Leadership and Education Scholarship (MILES) Program** has been released to career counselors and other appropriate educational contacts.

Scholarship applications for students attending Hanover County high schools are available from Elizabeth Navas at: elizabethnavas18@yahoo.com, with a submission deadline of **May 1**.

One scholarship in the amount of **$1,500** will be awarded based on academic achievement, a required essay, demonstrated community involvement, and the completeness of the application.

Applicants must reside in Hanover County for the entire calendar school year, be scheduled to graduate during the summer of that academic year from an accredited high school, vocational education program, homeschool program, or religiously affiliated educational institution.

Applicants must also possess an acceptance letter from an institution of higher learning, including a traditional college or university, trade school, technical school (nursing or technical fields), or an accredited online institution, and must meet all established eligibility requirements. Administration of the scholarship award will be the responsibility of the educational institution accepting the scholarship.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

MARCH 2026

01 to 04 March - Washington DC Conference (National Commander Testimony to Congress)
07 March (Saturday) - Legion College (Eastern Region), 8 am to 5 pm, Post 284, Colonial Heights
14 March (Saturday) - **Legion College** (**Northern Region**), 8 am to 5 pm, Post 176, Springfield
20 March (Friday) - **Fish Fry Fundraiser**, 5 pm to 6:30 pm, Take-Out or Dine-In, Tickets required
21 March (Saturday) - **13th District Conference**, 10 am to @2:30 pm, Post 74, Keswick
24 (Tuesday) - Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Post Main Hall
28 March (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
28 March (Saturday) - Legion College (Western Region), 8 am to 5 pm, Post 3, Salem
28 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11 am (Following the Community Breakfast)

APRIL 2026

25 (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
25 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11 am (Following the Community Breakfast)
28 (Tuesday) - Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Post Main Hall
28 (Tuesday) - Nominations for 2026-2027 Post officers finalized

LOOK AHEAD

04-07 May - National Spring Meetings
25 May (Monday) - Memorial Day (Ceremony at Hanover County Veterans Memorial, 10 am)
26 May (Tuesday) - Post Officer Elections, 4 pm to 6 pm, Main Hall (In person)
26 May (Tuesday) - Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Post Main Hall (Election results)
30 May (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $

13 June (Saturday) - 13 District Convention (District Officer Elections and Installations)
9:30 am to 2:30 pm, **Post 175, Mechanicsville** (Main Hall)
23 June (Tuesday) - Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Post Main Hall
23 June (Tuesday) - Combined Officer Installations for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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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?

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 !

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.