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

May and June 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) 655-0376

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

News Highlights:

POST ELECTIONS are coming ! We expect to have a complete slate of candidates by election day, Tuesday, 26 May 2026. Remember: you must vote in-person between 4 pm and 6 pm. ALL members in good standing may vote with a valid membership card. Membership meeting follows at 7 pm with the election results.

Our Accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO) is Andre Hunt.
His new (updated) contact information is:
Telephone: (804) 655-0376 E-Mail: VSOAHunt@gmail.com
Please call (between 4pm and 6pm) or e-mail to make an appointment.

Dr. Robert Staley, Director of Secondary Education in Hanover County Public Schools has invited ALL veterans and their families to attend the **Hanover Salutes** ceremony honoring the 231 High School graduates entering military service this year. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 7th at Patrick Henry High School beginning at 6:00 pm.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

Our SAL has received new air pistols in support of our Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP), courtesy of a National Rifle Association (NRA) grant. Therefore, we are expanding our program to include air pistols.

Remember: any child or youth between ages 12 and 18 can join our JSSP program. Contact Jim Oliver (804 754-5860) for details.

Our next fundraising Friday Fish Fry is scheduled for 17 July from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Eat-in or Take-out. Must pre-purchase tickets, which will be available soon. Thank you for supporting our programs!

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Hello everyone! ALR175 riders have again signed up for the High Mileage and Safety Program this year. Of all of the rider groups that signed up with Department last year, we came in 2nd place for mileage. We strive for no accidents or mishaps on each and every ride. I would like to thank Ed Johnson for coming up with lunch rides. As we prepare for the Virginia Legacy Run on June 18,19,20 in Colonial Beach, we still have Gun and 50/50 raffle tickets available. If you would like to Donate to the Virginia Legacy Fund, see Tom Esker or Jack Barbour for the flyer to do so. On May 2nd, we are planning to escort Army SSG Brian Pearce and family to his beautiful new home provided by Homes For Our Troops.

We will also support our Auxiliary with Poppy Day along with other events that arise.

1972 Honda CB 750

Remember when…?

1942 Harley-Davidson WLA

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 on June 07-12, 2026. 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.

Candidates Slate:

The following are the candidates for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Post positions at our May election:

Commander: Robert (Bob) White
1st Vice Commander: Kelly Schips
2nd Vice Commander: William (Bill) Todd, Jr.
Adjutant: Robert (Bob) Marsland
Adjutant: George Navas
Finance Officer: Lyn Spencer
Judge Advocate: Jack Barbour
Judge Advocate: Warren Rice
Sergeant-at-Arms: Thomas (Tom) Bynum

American Legion Auxiliary

From the Unit President:

Our Unit completed and sent our Annual Impact Reports to the Department of Virginia. We had an amazing year to report on. As we reported, we contributed 1,500 hours and 24,371 miles to Veterans and their care; 834 hours and 13,539 miles to Youth; and 667 hours and 10,831 miles to representing the ALA in the Community.

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

Your Auxiliary continues to honor our Post's Veterans each month as our Honorable Veterans, awarding our certificates and placing a sign and flags in the yard or on the door. To date, we have honored over 30 Veterans. When we started this program, one of our main objectives was to ensure that our Post 175 Veterans are not forgotten. If you know of a member who hasn't been seen in a while, check in on them. Perhaps they would like to come back for a visit.

Homes for Our Troops

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, Homes for Our Troops will host a Key Ceremony to hand the keys to SSgt Brian Pearce and his family for their state-of-the-art Smart Home. Our Auxiliary will be there to welcome SSgt Pearce and family as they settle into their new home with a housewarming basket of donated supplies that help will make our visit a community.

IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, NOT SELF

Quilts of Valor

Thank you to everyone who made our March Sit and Sew for Quilts of Valor a success! Along with our guests from VFW 9808 and the QOVF sewists, we completed 10 quilt tops. We are currently working on the third of the 5 quilt tops we will finish. Some of our Veterans have been notified that they will receive their quilt in a ceremony here on June 9th during Commander's Coffee. I hope you can all be here for that. It is a very moving ceremony.

USA 250

We have ordered 250 flags to install on our lawn on Friday, 12 June at 6:00 pm. Tony Nelson has agreed to ensure that the front lawn is trimmed and ready for our flags. We need volunteers to help install the flags. If you would like to help, please bring an old screwdriver with a long barrel and a hammer to drive it into the dirt. The sticks on the flags are not strong enough to push into hard ground.

Parking Lot Beautification

Some of our long-time, dedicated volunteers who have maintained our parking lot and building grounds have become unable to continue working as they have for so many years. The best way to handle this work is to divide it among us. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers to claim parking lot "islands". Please see Tony Nelson.

It's Election Time Again

We have a full slate of officers for consideration for the 2026/2027 Fiscal year. We want to thank Gail Ellis for all her hard work in preparing the slate for us. If you are interested in running for an office you may self-nominate from the floor or you can come vote and make your voice heard on May 26.

President: Janice White
Vice President: Gail Ellis
Secretary: Fayth Heath
Treasurer: Elizabeth Navas
Chaplain: Patsy Lassiter
Historian: Pat Edmunds
Sergeant-at-Arms: Dora Sydnor & Janet Williamson (combined)
Membership: Linda Bohanon (volunteered for appointment)

Our Unit will host a reception following the Post 175 Legion Family Installation of Officers for the new Legion year 2026-2027, which begins July 1st. The Installation will take place at the Post 175 General Meeting on 23 June at 7:00 pm.

Our next Bake Sale will be held June 27th at the Community Breakfast. Please sign up to bring goodies for sale. The money helps to fund the various programs that are so enjoyed by our community.

Poppy Sign Up is coming… Don't miss out on your favorite spot!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY VIRGINIA Girls STATE

While the deadline for Girls State has passed, we are still in the throes of our selection and orientation process. We had five talented applicants; however, only four Delegate positions were available.

Interviews were held on April 11th, and the young ladies were impressive. I congratulate them all for their efforts. I also want to thank the ladies of the Auxiliary who participated in the interview process: Fayth Heath, Dora Sydnor, Janet Williamson, Wanda Tharp, and Patsy Lassiter. This was not an easy decision, but I am proud of the professionalism and exemplary selection of highly qualified applicants.

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 **June 1**.

One scholarship for **$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. The administration of the scholarship award will be the responsibility of the educational institution accepting the award.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

MAY 2026

02 (Saturday) - **Homes for Our Troops** house presentation for SSG Pearce, 9:30 am at 6101 Green House Court, Mechanicsville. Home tour follows presentation.
05 (Tuesday) - **Veterans Celebration**, 10 am to 12 noon. Hanover Arts and Activities Center (Ashland) . ALL are invited. AARP will serve a free lunch at 11 am.
07 (Thursday) - **Hanover Salutes**, 6 pm, Patrick Henry High School (PHHS). Celebrating the 231 members of the graduating class entering military service. **ALL are invited**.
13 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner, 5 pm social, 6 pm dinner. Member Quarters
25 (Monday) - Memorial Day. Hanover County Veterans **Memorial ceremony** begins at **10 am** in the Hanover Wayside Park (Route 301).
26 (Tuesday) - **Post Elections**, 4 pm to 6 pm. Must vote in-person with a valid membership card.
26 (Tuesday) - **Membership Meeting**, 7 pm. Election results announced.
30 (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
30 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11 am (Following the Community Breakfast)

JUNE 2026

10 (Wednesday) - Pot Luck Dinner, 5 pm social, 6 pm dinner. Member Quarters
13 (Saturday) - **13th District Convention, Elections and Officer Installations**, 10 am, **Post 175**. Lunch provided. Come out and vote for our Post members seeking District office.
23 (Tuesday) - **Membership Meeting and Officer Installations**, 7 pm.
27 (Saturday) - **Community Breakfast,** 7:30 am to 10 am, Main Hall, Public Welcome $
27 (Saturday) - ALR and S.A.L. Meetings, @ 11 am (Following the Community Breakfast)

LOOK AHEAD

03 July - Independence Day Celebrated
09-12 July - Department of Virginia Convention, Midlothian
25 July - Community Breakfast
28 July - Membership Meeting

25 August - Membership Meeting
28 August to 04 September - National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
29 August - Community Breakfast
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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.