The Clarion

St. Charles American Legion Post 312

January 2018

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mike Mudd, Commander
(636) 293-4750

There was a problem with the Post December meeting date. The Clarion listed the meeting on the 11th but it was moved to the 18th because of the Auxiliary's Christmas Party. So, the Post and Executive meetings both were held on the 18th. I would like to ***"Thank"*** all of the members that attended the December 18th Post meeting.

I would also like to ***"Thank"*** our legion Family for taking care of the various events we had at our Post and at other locations during the month of December.

Membership Dues

If you have not payed your 2018 dues by December 31, 2017 you will not be served in the Fox Hole.

Security Committee

A new Security Committee was recommended by the Executive Board and the Commander appointed three members to the Committee; Frank Hotmer, Kerry Humphreys, and Paul Rodgers. This committee will be in charge of making sure the Post security and fire systems are functioning, maintained, and the equipment is kept up to date. It will also investigate problems like theft, damage intentionally done to the Post or its contents, and other security issues. On completion of any investigations they will report to the Executive Board their findings.

35th Annual Glen Remington Memorial Christmas Dinner

This annual event was another success with turkeys, hams, and desserts provided by many contributors and lots of work by our volunteers. ***"Thank You"*** to all involved in helping to make this a huge success.

Friday Night Bingo

We still need volunteers for the Friday Night Bingo. If you would like to help, contact a bingo worker or ask one of the bartenders in the Fox Hole for the application form.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Larry Carron, 1st Vice Commander
(636) 345-6106

"Happy New Year" to all, and I hope you were able to join us as we rang in the New Year at the hall this year.

We had a great response in attendance, and hope to improve and make this one of our premier events to start each New Year.

Post Orientation

The dates for the first three Post Orientation sessions have been set. They are:

Tuesday, Jan. 23rd

Tuesday, Feb. 20th

Tuesday, Mar. 20th

These sessions will begin a 6:30 PM and should finish no later than 8 PM. From then on, these sessions will be held once a quarter. Please watch the newsletter for future session dates.

These orientation sessions are open to all Post members and is designed to:

- provide insight into the history of the American Legion
- explain the Post's operating By-Laws
- highlight the programs we supporting
- explain the basics of participating in membership meetings

It is here that you will gain an understanding of how the Post works and where you can "plug-in" and enjoy the fun. The ultimate benefit to understanding the Post is so you can help make it what you want it to be.

Membership

Current membership is at 87% of our goal. Please remember, if you did not renew your membership by Dec 31, 2017, you will not be served in the Fox Hole. Also, as a member, not in good standing, you will lose the privilege to use all other Post facilities.

Post Website/Social Media

We continue to work on the new website (***www.alpost312mo.org***), and post info on the Facebook page. Please check these sites and the flyers posted within the Post for upcoming activities.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

INSIDE.....

Commander's Corner 1
1st Vice Commander 1
Service Officer Report 2
Chaplain's Report 2
Americanism/Children/Youth ... 2
Auxiliary President 2
Auxiliary 1st Vice 3
Auxiliary 2nd Vice 3
VA&R Report 4
S.A.L. 4
A.L.R. 4
Retiree's Club 4
Fox Hole News 5

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Rich Middendorf, Service Officer
(636) 328-6996

Since the last meeting, there have been two inquiries regarding benefits, which the Post directed to the V.A. located on Page Ave. in St. Louis with names and telephone numbers.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Rich Middendorf, Chaplain
(636) 328-6996

Since the last Clarion issue, two Post 312 members have been called to The High Command:

Thomas Howard
Legion Service was held at Shrader Funeral Home, Ballwin.

Marion "Jack" Thro
No Legion Services were requested.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Please consider signing up for the Funeral Call List. You will be notified when a member passes, so you can pay your Final Respects to deceased Post members.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

AMERICANISM/ CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Larry Dufour, Chairman
Americanism/Children & Youth,
Public Relations,
Law & Order and Public Safety
(636) 441-7102

Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech" Contest

The winners of our St. Charles County contest held at our Post 312 on December 10, 2017 were:

1st Place – Uma Upamaka, a Francis Howell North, Sophomore

2nd Place – Mary Montgomery, a St. Michael the Archangel Home School Academy, Senior

3rd Place – Nawal Cheema, a Liberty High School, Sophomore

4th Place – Jeremy Sutterer, a St Dominic High School, Junior

5th Place – Chandler Westfall, a Fort Zumwalt West High School, Senior

Uma Upamaka, the 1st Place winner will advance to the 9th District contest at Post 323 in Wentzville MO on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1 PM.

The winner of the 9th District contest proceeds to the Zone 1 contest to be held a Post 55 in Hannibal MO on January 21, 2018 at 1 PM.

Post Commander Mike Mudd welcomed everyone to the contest and to our Post 312 home.

The judges for this contest were the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Jack Banas, the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Ted House, St. Charles County Prosecutor Tim Lohmar, and City of St. Peters Alderwoman Judy Bateman.

Our crew for the contest were Kris Marsden, who escorted the contestants in and out of the Hall; timekeepers were Jay Marsden and Rich Middendorf. The tabulators were Mary Middendorf, Jeannie Steinfoff and Georgia Backer.

Stay tuned for more exciting news about the outstanding Americanism program.

American Legion Boys State of Missouri Inc.

From January to June, I'm busy with this Americanism/Children & Youth program in which high school juniors recreate our entire form of city, county, and state government in just one week on the campus of Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg Mo. This year it is June 16th to June 23rd. Students completing the course receive 2 or 3 college credit hours.

Magazines, Books, and Puzzles

Magazines, books, and puzzles continue to be distributed to area nursing homes but on a limited basis. This is due to them reaching their limit on intake.

However, Albert of the St. Clair's Hearts Foundation is distributing some to the area homeless veterans.

All the residents look forward to your generosity.

"Thank You Very Much"

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Jan Irwin, President
(636) 699-9577

Welcome to a new year! A new year always brings feelings of a fresh start, renewed energy and a more focused sense of purpose.

What is our purpose? National has set forth a Missions Statement, Vision Statement, Purposes and Values to guide Units towards common goals. But to capsulize it into one statement, I think our Mission Statement says it best: "For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security."

We have lots of programs in place to help us to support these ideals. However, we are always looking for new ideas to reach out to those who need us. Here, in St Charles County, we have homeless Veterans. Here, in St Charles County, we have youth who have no idea you are supposed to stand with your hand over your heart for the National Anthem or when the flag passes them in parade. Here, in St Charles County, we have people who don't understand the
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

sacrifices made by our Veterans and their families.

These things just go to prove that, no matter how much we have done, there is still so much more to do. So with those feelings of a fresh start and renewed energy, let's continue to work together to educate our citizens of St Charles County, to promote patriotism, and – most important of all – advocate for our veterans until every one of them is properly taken care of in the manner which they deserve!

BINGO KITCHEN WORKERS

We are going to hold a short meeting on January 25th at 7:00pm at the Legion. Please try to attend. We just need to go over some policies and procedures that need to be brought in line with Health Code, and to make sure everyone is following the same guidelines. Thank you!

See you at the next meeting on January 8 at 7:30!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

AUXILIARY 1ST VICE

Lucille Armbruster, 1st Vice President
Membership Chairman
(636) 441-6419

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

In order for our Unit to be able to accomplish this mission, we need everyone's dues to be paid. If you have not paid by the end of December you will be considered delinquent. We still need 87 members to reach our goal which is set by National.

Please think about what your dues does to help us maintain all of our programs. If possible, try to attend one of our meetings to really see and hear of all we do. We know that not everyone is able to attend, but your dues is still very important.

Please send in your dues as soon as possible.

Hope all have a "Happy New Year"!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

AUXILIARY 2ND VICE

Tanya Bolen, 2nd Vice President
(314) 972-2977

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Auxiliary Christmas Party on Monday December 11, 2017. I would like to thank everyone who joined us for a fun filled evening of raffles, games, activities, food and great company!

I would like to give a BIG thank you for everyone who donated to our Socks, Hat and Gloves donation.

I would like to thank Justin Marsden, Jay Marsden, Jeff Kull, John Leonard and John Ince for serving our delicious drinks and dinner. You all did an outstanding job!!

I would like to thank Jan Irwin, Kris Marsden, Liz Carron, Jeanne Steinhoff, Lucille Armbruster, Denise Pallardy, Brenda Richarz, Katy Richarz and Valerie Garabanski for their help and support to make our Auxiliary Christmas Party a night to remember!

Thank you again for everyone who joined me and I hope to see you next year!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

2017 Childrens' Christmas Party

American Legion Women's' Auxiliary

The Children's 2nd Annual Christmas party was a great success! The feedback from the parents and kids have been all positive but I could not have done it without Auxiliary and post members. I especially want to thank Sharon, Kris, Cindy, Tonya, Larry, Jake and Jackie D. We had three special helpers with Alexis, Sharon's granddaughter working the entire afternoon decorating, and Jaxen Marsden and Maddie Weber, joining Alexi as they worked the kids' games, helped with the food, the gifts and cleaning up.

Of course, the stars of the afternoon were Santa and Mrs. Claus. Don Allen has been showing up as Santa in this region for years and anything we donate to him goes straight to the St. Charles Crisis Nursery so he is the real deal. Sue Carr was Mrs. Claus again and I think we can all agree the two made a great showing for the kids.

We served Mac-N-Cheese for the main dish with a veggie trays to look like an ornament and a Christmas tree. Back by popular demand we served the Grinch's fruit skewers and other goodies. Debbee Tucker donated her time and talent again to make cake pops for the party they were very good as usual.

We also had games for the kids including pin the nose on frosty, ring toss and we had sugar cookies made and the kids got to decorate their own cookies and color Christmas pictures. Serval aspiring stars treated us to Christmas karaoke with Jackie D.

When the Claus's arrived, the children really lit up and he gave each one a present with their name on it. That personal touch really made them believers of the Jolly big guy from the North Pole. Each family also got their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to Les Anderson for taking those great shots. We will get these processed to be able to send through email soon.

Faithfully,
Elizabeth Carron, Auxiliary

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

VA&R REPORT

Rich Middendorf
(636) 328-6996

Veteran's Home Bingo will be held on Thursday, January 18th. We could always use some more volunteers. You don't have to work Bingo, just visit with the residents, if you like. Please contact me at (636) 328-6996.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

S.A.L.

Justin Marsden, Commander
(636) 219-6475

Greets all, just some quick notes. First, the SAL meeting for January has been canceled due to the holiday. Second, I would like to extend an invitation to all, to join us for our annual party on February 4th.

Due to the NFLs shenanigans, we will be hosting our not so super bowl party at the Fox Hole with some alternative entertainment. However, the food, friends, and overall fun will be the same, and as always our meetings are on the first Monday of every month. Thanks for Listening.... uh reading.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A.L.R.

Kerry Humphrey, Director
(314) 603-2347

Welcome to 2018 and the beginning of another great year for Legion Riders, and new opportunities to help our veterans and our local prosper.

Kerry Humphrey has taken the position of Director and appointed Paul Rodgers as Asst. Director. Tim Marr has assumed the position of Secretary. Please join me in congratulating everyone, and give us the continued support we have enjoyed in the past.

Kat Hotmer met a lady, Vicki Hansen who just moved to the area and introduced her to Frank. Vicki runs an organization called MOM "Fudge for Troops". Vicki has been sending fudge to deployed troops for forty years. Frank in turn introduce her to Lenny who operates the St. Charles Mobile Troop Support. I went over to The St. Charles Music Box to collect raffle tickets Saturday the 16th where Lenny spoke to me at great length about having met Vicki and they are both excited about working together.

2nd Annual Bike and Car Show

The Riders are moving ahead for the 2nd Annual Bike and Car Show scheduled for May 2018. If anyone would like to participate or bring in groups to have booths, cars, or bikes, please contact Paul Rodgers, Frank Hotmer, or Tim Marr.

Gun Raffle

The Riders gun raffle was drawn on December 19th and the winners are:

His and Her Pistols - Kim Boldt
Liberty Gun Safe - Gary Patton
Cabela's Gift Card - Dave Hupe

Congratulations to the winners. We look forward to meeting them.

"Warriors to the Wall"

"Warriors to the Wall", sponsored by "the SSGT. Ron Bozikis, Memorial Organization" will hold a ceremony Saturday May 19th in Perryville MO. For more information you can go to the Facebook page "Warriors to the Wall". You can also call Russ Mckay (314-608-8204) or R.M. Hamann (314-420-8361).

As always:
"Ride as if your life depended on it!"
and be safe.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Post Field Day

In 2018, Post 312 will start holding "Field Days" to help keep the Post "Ship Shape", and we need your help.

The first "Field Day" will be on Sunday, January 21st at 10 AM. This day we will work on the kitchen and back room.

Next, we are looking at Sunday, March 11th or 18th to "Field Day" the hall. This will probably take a couple of days.

On Sunday, May 6th or 13th, weather permitting, we plan to take the "Field Day" outside and clean up the sheds and grounds.

All "Field Days" will start at 10 AM. If you cannot make it that early, please feel free to get there when you can as no help will be turned away.

There will be a "Field Day" sign-up sheet in the Fox Hole so we know how many will be attending.

So please check your calendars and save those dates as we need your help to keep your Post in "Final Inspection" condition.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Spaghetti Dinner

Spaghetti Dinner starts again on Tuesday, January 30th. All leftovers will be donated to Youth In Need. Thanks to all who have helped out for the past ten months.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

RETIREE'S CLUB

Bill Reilly, President
(636) 328-2340

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday
Where: Legion Hall
Starting @: 10:00 am
Lunch Served: 12:00 Noon
Fare: $5.00
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

K.P.

Jan. 3rd – Charlie Dinnela,
Gene Fair, Ells Goetg

Menu
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Green Beens w/Bacon
Bread
Dessert

Jan 17th – Ollie Goetges,
Tom Goodnick,
Mike Hachting

Menu
Lasagna
Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

FOX HOLE NEWS

Dean Irwin, Chairman
(636) 288-1888

I want to wish everyone a very ***"Happy New Year"*** for 2018!

2017 was a very good year for the Fox Hole and we are looking forward to providing the best service, libations, and choices possible in the coming year!

I do not want to throw water on the above statement but the cost of doing business continues to go "UP!" Effective January 1, 2018, the cost of drinks will be increased by $.25. The cost of beer & liquor continues to go up plus we just had a very large increase in the liquor liability insurance which necessitated this price increase. We have not had a price increase in well over 2 – 3 years so we felt that this increase was necessary. We hope that this does not "chase" you away from coming into the Fox Hole in the coming year.

In addition, we have had to revise our entertainment schedule so please check your calendars for the list of entertainers for each month. ***"Thank You"*** for your understanding.

I also want to apologize for "NO" article in last month's "Clarion". Jan & I were in the middle of moving from our old house into a new house and ran out of time to put together our articles. Therefore, I have some catching up with our sporting competitions.

Shuffleboard

In the shuffleboard matches on 11/12, the winners were:

1st Place – Diane & Betty
2nd Place – Royce & Mary
3rd Place – Rich & Roseann

On 11/19, the winners were:

1st Place – Mike & Marie
2nd Place – Roseann & Betty
3rd Place – Royce & John
4th Place – Sean & Diane

On 12/03, the winners were:

1st Place – Royce & Betty
2nd Place – Rich & Roseann
3rd Place – Diane & Mary

On 12/17, the winners were:

1st Place – Diane & Betty
2nd Place – Royce & Mary
3rd Place – Rich & Roseann

In January, shuffleboard will be on the 14th & 28th.

Bowling

In the bowling matches on 10/17, the winners were:

1st Place – Rich & Mike
2nd Place – Dean & Cathy
3rd Place Sean & John

On 11/07, the winners were:

1st Place – Jay & Keith
2nd Place – Rich & Dean
3rd Place – Jason & Sean

On 12/05, the winners were:

1st Place – Rich & Stan
2nd Place – Jeanne & Jay
3rd Place – Dean & Sean

In this match, Rich M. bowled his 1st perfect "300" game and continued into the next match for a total of 15 strikes before missing the 16th! WTG Rich! Congratulations!

In the matches on 12/19, we only had 4 bowlers, so we played the best 2 out of 3 games and the winners were:

1st Place – Dean & Mike
2nd Place – Rich & John

A "BIG!" shout out to all of the participants in these matches! Come out and join in on the fun and games with your friends. We are always looking for new players.

In January, bowling will be on the 2nd & 16th.

Entertainment

The entertainment schedule for January will be

Larry & Jake on the 6th
"Juke Box" nite on the 13th
Jack DeWeese on the 20th
"Juke Box" nite on the 27th

As always, if you have any suggestions, please write them down with your name and phone number and give them to me or any of the bartenders and we will take a look at it. We don't claim to have all of the answers but will give your suggestion(s) a serious look.

On behalf of the bar committee, staff and myself, I want to ***"Thank You"*** for your patronage in the Fox Hole, and look forward to seeing you and your friends "Soon & Often"! Cheers.
Dean Irwin, Manager

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Newsletter 2018 – Distribution

In 2018, we are going to start offering you the Clarion newsletter in either the existing printed format (via US mail) or in an electronic format via the Post's new website (*www.alpost312mo.org*).

The idea behind this change is to ensure that you continue to receive your newsletter in a timely fashion and to reduce the cost.

To make this change, we are asking you (the membership) to let us know how you want to receive your newsletter.

You can make your choice by contacting your Post family (i.e., Post, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR) Adjutant or Secretary and let them know which format you prefer.

If we do not hear from you, the default distribution will be the electronic format until we hear differently.

"Thank You" in advance for your co-operation in helping us make this change.

Best Regards,
The Executive Board

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mike Ramirez, Clarion Editor
(636) 294-9459

Email Clarion articles to:
mikeramirez91@gmail.com

Please include a phone number.

"Thank You"