

LEADERSHIP

Commander

Daniel Ossa
(804) 366-7944

1st Vice Commander

Marty Martin
(804) 445-4709

2nd Vice Commander

George Bayer
(804) 402-6636

Adjutant

Bert Butterfield
(804) 746-2514

Americanism

Vacant

Building & Grounds

Tom Livsie
(804) 937-6953

Chaplain

Art Aumock
(804) 277-3133

Finance Officer

Ray Lewter
(804) 357-2800

Historian

Doug Snell
804-441-4114

Judge Advocate

Warren Rice
(804) 564-8451

Legion Riders

Jack Barbour
(804) 690-1863

Sergeant-at-Arms

Myrtle Starling
(540) 809-2861

Service Officer

Tom Bynum
(480) 982-0043

Sons of the Legion

Jim Oliver
(804) 754-5860

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 175

8700 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-3867

Phone: (804) 789-8667 Web: www.post175.org Email: info@post175.org

FEBRUARY 2023

VETERANS SERVING VETERANS

Well here we are, ready for another 'cold spell', February, isn't it always cold this time of year. So let's remember to cover all our hanging plants and shrubs, and get all our little ones (pets) inside also.

Enough, we had a pretty good ending quarter, members are renewing at a healthy pace, some new faces have been seen during coffee and dinner and we are actually going to attempt some participation activities.

January's breakfast was a good start, lots of return business and some folks that just saw the signs and wondered what it was all about. May even get a new member or two from this Saturday. **Coffee will continue each Tuesday (9AM – 11AM), potluck dinner on the second Wednesday (5PM-9PM), and breakfast on the last Saturday.**

Now, beginning in February, on the 24th, what we will call game night, social quarters will open at 4PM, bring in your favorite board game (we may have some), play bar bingo, shot pool, anyone for cribbage, pinochle, bridge, or other card games. Socialize, meet new members, share experiences (tell war stories), watch a movie. Initially there will be a very limited menu, hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, which we hope to expand to a meal of some sort if the response is favorable. Starting early so that those that prefer not to drive after dark can participate and still get home before dark, and those that would like to linger can until closing time (?).

March will bring its own events to thrill and amaze, Spring Conference, Daylight Saving Time, St. Patrick's Day, and another wonderful Fish Fry from our SAL Squadron.

But as good as all this sounds, it will NOT materialize without the assistance and support of all members. Not just the bare hands brass tacks stuff, but the support of talking the Post up to neighbors, friends, whomever. Let them know that you are a proud American Legion Member, and that your Post has something to offer and is working to increase its community presence. Volunteer to carry fliers for events to local businesses, mention our rental facility when you hear someone say they are looking for a place to hold an event.

Daniel W. Ossa
Commander

Chaplain:

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year! I am looking forward to a better year.

As most of you know, Mel Huffman is in VCU hospital, after returning with his wife from a cruise. While he seems to be recovering, let's keep him in our prayers.

I hope to see some of you upon my return, for the community Breakfast the last Saturday of the month. Please remember, while out of town, I am not out of touch.

May God's blessings be with us all. Respectfully submitted, Art Aumock, Chaplain

Americanism:

A student from Bell Creek Middle School won the 2022-23 Post 175 **Essay Contest** of "I like Living in America"

Post 175 is looking for high school junior nominees to attend **Boys State** at Radford University in June 18-24. Students develop leadership skills and experience the functions of state government. Post 175 is requesting monetary donations to send the selected candidates. Please solicit your local businesses. Contact Doug Snell for information/application.

American Legion Riders (ALR):

Hello everyone! Hopefully you're keeping well and warm due these cold nights. **Wreaths Across America** was a success. Between Posts 175, VFW9808 and the Combat Vets, all graves were covered with wreaths. The Riders made a batch of **Brunswick Stew** and is available for \$12 a quart. See most any rider to get yours.

Stay Tuned!!! Jack Barbour, ALR



Sons of The American Legion (SAL):

The Sons of the American Legion continue to conduct the **Junior Shooting Sports Program** with our support of the Mechanicsville Marksmen 4-H shooting club. The club meets at the Post every other Sunday afternoon. So far this year we have 11 members. On Sunday, January 22nd, we completed in our first American Legion postal match. The youth shot targets which were mailed to the Civilian Marksmanship Program for scoring. Any youth that scores high enough will be eligible to then compete at the regional level.

Flag Education: We also, so far, have been invited to visit four of our county elementary schools to present the Pledge of Allegiance activity books and personal flags to their first-grade students. Six of our members and one ALA member presented flag education to South Anna Elementary School on February 7th. Any post or auxiliary member that would like to participate can sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the member area near the coffee station.

As always, we continue to ask our post and auxiliary members to encourage any male members of their families to **join the Sons**. We need more members that will be active in these programs. Thank you. Jim Oliver, SAL

Sons of The American Legion (SAL):

A **Fish Fry** fundraiser will be held on March 31 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. You can also stay and enjoy the Social Hour from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm on March 31st. Tickets for the fish can be purchased at the Community Breakfast on Saturday, March 25 or whenever you meet a SAL member. Thank you, Jim Oliver, SAL



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 175

President's Message: Welcome to 2023!

That is pretty much all there is to say about that. I certainly hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and the New Year brings you all the best in life. Soon our hearts will be hopping... OK that would be a Valentines and Easter reference but you get the idea. Stuff is coming and we are planning, and ideas are flowing.

Up Coming Events:

The 2023 Department Spring Conference will be held March 3-5 in Portsmouth/Norfolk VA. Those interested in attending can find information online: <https://valegion.org/tools-and-media/upcoming-events/>.

In the Planning:

Elementary School Visitations will restart soon. We will be supporting the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and the Americanism Program- Flag Education for First Graders.

Girls State will be Sunday June 18 to Saturday June 24, 2023. We are looking for a Committee Chair to shepherd the girls forward.

National Poppy Day will be in May, and we will need Ladies and possibly Spouses to "man" the tables and bring an awareness and remembrance of the significance of the day.

We are our best when we work together!

Ideas are Brewing:

Put your thinking caps on for fund raising events, Family fun days for Legion Members, options for getting OUT in the community and helping the less fortunate. Suggestions: service to a soup kitchen, donations of food stuffs (canned and packaged items), partnering with the USO to welcome home Service Members, craftier members make pillows, cards, or Pen Pal cards for those in theater. Ideas are welcome either by email or during a meeting. We can change lives if we give of ourselves.

We are always recruiting members. Bring a prospective new member to a meeting and feel the energy change.

Make this year special, give of yourself and WIN at life.

For God and Country, Service not Self, Elizabeth Navas, President

President

Elizabeth Navas
(804) 368-0100
(717) 586-1074 txt

1st Vice President

Diane Lewter
(804) 357-4377

2nd Vice President

Joanne Meek
(804) 307-3437

Chaplain

Bonnie Ossa
(804) 795-5377
(804) 366-7943

Historian

Betty Flippo
(804) 746-3440

Membership

Fayth Heath
(540) 809-2454

Secretary

Fayth Heath
(540) 809-2454

Sergeant-at-Arms

Carolyn Nicholas
(804) 382-2552

Treasurer

Jeannie Rummel
(804) 310-7200

IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, NOT SELF

American Legion Post 175
8700 Bell Creek Rd.
Mechanicsville, VA 23116



Serving Our Community,
State and Nation

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

February 2023:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 11 - Saturday | 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm Valentines Spaghetti Dinner and Dance |
| 14 - Tuesday: | 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting |
| 21 February: | 9:00 am to 11:00 am: Coffee Social |
| 25 - Saturday: | 7:30 am to 10:00 am: Community Breakfast (Public Welcome) |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 10:00 am to 11:00 am: The American Legion Auxiliary General Meeting |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 6:00 pm: Social Hour |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: The American Legion General Membership Meeting |

March 2023:

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|-----------------|---|
| 07 - Tuesday: | 9:00 am to 11:00 am: Coffee Social |
| 08 - Wednesday: | 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Monthly Pot Luck Dinner, (Member Lounge) |
| 14 - Tuesday: | 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting |
| 25 - Saturday: | 7:30 am to 10:00 am: Community Breakfast (Public Welcome) |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 10:00 am to 11:00 am: The American Legion Auxiliary General Meeting |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 6:00 pm: Social Hour |
| 28 - Tuesday: | 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: The American Legion General Membership Meeting |
| 31 - Friday: | 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm: Social Hour |
| 31 - Friday: | 5:00 am to 6:30 pm: SAL Fish Fry |