

The Midlothian Legionnaire

Editor: Al Hillman — amlegionpost186@aim.com

Commanders Corner

We have a busy fall schedule of events. Inside you will find the calendar for the the full legion year, please save it somewhere to use the next few months. It is replicated on our web site for those with computers.

The American Legion Annual Department Convention was held at Falls Church, VA on July 10-13. Post 186 received much recognition for achieving our 2007-08 Membership goals. Thanks to all who helped achieve these goals. Congratulations to Chuck Gudis for being named Department Vice Commander of the year. Thanks Chuck for your dedication and the many miles and hours spent on behalf of your fellow legionnaires. Post 186 still continues its all time high run – we now have had all time membership highs for 17 straight years – and thanks to Randy Hardwick for his effort as membership chairman in helping achieve that goal. His services are being utilized again this year and we hope to make that 18 straight all time highs. We have a rival that is only one year behind us, so we cannot let up and drop the ball.

Congratulations also to Gordy Smith who was 11th District Boys State Chairman. Gordy was the Boys State Newspaper counselor, and good things were noted during the VALPA meeting at the Convention. Our baseball team rallied from a sluggish (or non-slaggy depending on how you view it) start and rallied to a winning record and 4th in the district regular season. Our season is over, because we have lost two games in the tournament, but next year looks very promising. This years team was relatively young and should mature a lot during the coming year. We had a good day giving out poppies in May – despite the conflict with the District convention – so we finished the previous year in reasonably good shape. Congratulations to Commander Overboe and his team for a job well done.

Like many organizations we are feeling the pinch of high fuel prices driving up our expenses. The challenges this year are numerous, but we can get the job done with your help. We need people to man the gates and ticket booth at Field Days of the Past, people to man the serving line and other functions at the annual barbecue, people to man the stew pot for our two brunswick stew dates and later in the year we need people to hand out poppies for donations. With your help, the job will not only get done, but we will have a banner year.

We have many new members and are looking for more, because many hands make light work. We have 7 post breakfasts hosted by the 40 & 8 Society – the first is September 13th at 8 AM – so come join us at breakfast and let us get to know you. Meet some of your comrades and enjoy our well known Salt Herring breakfast for only \$6.00 (complimented by eggs, sausage, bacon, grits, potatoes, biscuits, juice and coffee). Executive board meetings (all are welcome) are on the 1st Tuesday of the month and Post meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month – hope to see you at both.

Al Hillman, Commander

Membership

July 1 started the Legion year collecting memberships to begin the many programs the Legion is involved in. Post 186 wants to thank those many who have sent your renewal in. For those who have not yet, please do so and not wait until the last minute and possibly cause you to lapse and fall off the mailing lists. Out of the 412 memberships we finished the 2007-2008 year with, we are already over 200 collected in just one month towards this 2008-2009 year. We're processing them as fast as we can and mailing out your 2009 membership cards along with a questionnaire for you to fill in the blanks to mail back to us updating your membership record and interests you have in the American Legion programs. Please return it to us and if you wish, there also is a form for you to mail in to the Department of the American Legion for a chance to be in the drawing for a Paid-Up-For-Life Membership. We take checks, of course, or call us with credit card, but don't wait. Get your renewal paid early. Go out there and get new members, if application or literature is needed please pick it up at the post or contact Randy at 804-745-4166 so he can send it to you. When taking a membership application remember that an Honorable DD214/215 or a discharge must be seen for the date range for the era being use for membership. If this is not done then have them send that information to the Post mail box for verification by the membership committee. This information must be in the Membership Chairmen's hands 24 hours before the meeting the candidate is to be voted on for membership.

We would like to welcome the following new members coming to the post in July.

Amanda R. Lloyd William B. Lloyd

Membership Chairman – 1st Vice Commander Randy Hardwick

Unit 186 Support Our Troops Program

Annebell and Dianna have started a "Support Our Troops" program in our Unit and we need YOUR help. Every month we will put together a package or packages to be shipped to our troops overseas.

The Rules:

- Nothing less than the best for these first class people! All first class, brand new, unopened, safety-sealed goods for America's finest.
- Please include copies of the purchase receipts for the items for safety cross-checking.
- Cards, letters, and the like need to be unsealed and inspectable.

Even if you can't afford to donate items or postage, we would be very happy to include your letters of support in packages to the troops. In all the letters that we have received from the troops, the one thing that is consistent is the importance of moral support from the homefront. Please join us in continuing the support of these brave men and women who serve us!

Our goal: A package for every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine. Please help us spread the word.

Visit the Unit web site and go to the Support Our Troops menu tab for a list of goods the unit wants to send.

American Legion Post 186 Calendar of Events 2008—2009

*****Keep This Calendar*****

<i>Event Date —End Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event Name</i>
8 /5 /2008	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
8 /8 /2008-8 /10/2008		Leadership College @ Sheraton West Richmond
8 /19/2008	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
9 /2 /2008	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
9 /13/2008	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
9 /16/2008	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
9 /19/2008-9 /21/2008		Field Days of the Past
10/7 /2008	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
10/11/2008	3:00 PM	post Annual Bar-B-Queue
10/18/2008	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
10/21/2008	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting – Boys State Night
10/31/2008 -11/2 /2009		Fall Conference, Hampton, VA
11/1 /2008	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
11/4 /2008	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
11/8 /2008	5:00 AM	Fall Stew Day
11/11/2008	10:00 AM	Veterans Day - War Memorial
11/11/2008	2:00 PM	Veterans Day – Chesterfield Courthouse
11/18/2008	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
12/2 /2008	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
12/16/2008	6:00 PM	Post Christmas Party

***American Legion Post 186
Calendar of Events 2008—2009***

*******Keep This Calendar*******

<i>Event Date — End Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event Name</i>
1 /6 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
1 /10/2009	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
1 /20/2009	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
2 /3 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
2 /14/2009	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
2 /17/2009	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
		Dinner with New Member Installation
2 /28/2009	5:00 AM	Spring Stew Day
3 /3 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
3 /14/2009	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
3 /17/2009	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
3 /20/2009-3 /22/2009		Spring Conference, Virginia Beach Resort
4 /7 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
4 /11/2009	8:00 AM	40 & 8 Breakfast
4 /21/2009	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
5 /5 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
5 /19/2009	7:30 PM	Post Regular Meeting
5 /23/2009		Post Poppy Day
5 /24/2009		Post Poppy Day
5 /25/2009	10:00 AM	Memorial Day @ War Memorial
6 /2 /2009	7:30 PM	Post Executive Meeting
6 /16/2009	6:00 PM	Post Regular Meeting, Dinner with Post Officer Installation

Unit 186 President's Corner

As we begin the 2008-2009 year, we start with 20 members and 3 who transferred in during last year. We are lining up our programs for this year which will include Girls State, Poppy Day, and Americanism. We have begun collecting items for our "Support Our Troops" of which we will be shipping to them overseas. This will be an on-going project. Our Bylaws are in place for Unit 186. We will be involved with fund-raising and other projects that will support VA&R and other programs. Leadership College is this coming weekend with several members going to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary. We are off and running and welcome anyone interested in visiting us on our meeting night which is the same night as Post 186 meets, the 3rd Tues. each month at 7:30 in the lounge area, please give one of us a call. You can see much more information on our website at www.aux186.org and phone numbers and many links to many topics involving us and our veterans. Let us know if you have any questions. See you on Aug. 19 at 7:30pm.

Linda Hardwick.....Unit 186 President

2008 Legion Conference

The 2008 Department of Virginia Legion Conference was held in Falls Church from July 10th thru July 13th. The following report is submitted to the membership per our by-laws. The following post members attended the convention:

Al Hillman Chuck Gudis Randy Hardwick Gordy Smith Willie Ranson Ben Trotter Orv Overboe LaSondra Tapley Luell Upshaw.

The Following awards were presented:

Post Commander of the Year 11th District – Orv Overboe

Top New Member Recruiter 11th District – Randy Hardwick

Year-end Membership Category V, 11th District – Randy Hardwick

Top Post new recruiter 11th District – Randy Hardwick

First Place – Gold Membership Achievement Category V – Randy Hardwick

Legionnaire of the year – Randy Hardwick

Membership All Time High – 17 consecutive years – Ranks #1 in Department (from national) Post 186

Department Gold Medal – Membership Award 1st place – Chuck Gudis

VA&R Committee Achievement award – Chuck Gudis (McGuire)

Department Officer award – Chuck Gudis

Department Vice Commander of the Year award – Chuck Gudis.

The post did not earn any awards in VA&R, Americanism or Children and Youth as our reports were not submitted on time.

All resolutions brought out of committee to the convention floor passed and will be sent to National.

The major discussion was over to soon to be dues increase. The finance committee is proposing a \$5.00 increase on Department dues. This will be discussed this year and voted on at convention, July 2009, in Richmond. The increase would take effect in October 2009 or January 2010. The last time department rased dues was over 25 years ago. A copy of the Department budget which passwd on the convection floor is attached. Lee Clevinger was elected Department Commander and Bill Gooden the Vice Commander from the east.

Gordan Hillman, Post Commander, July 15, 2008.

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Chuck Gudis receiving Department Vice Commander of the Year award from Department Commander Andy Robertson



Ben Trotter singing National Anthem to open Business Session of Convention



Randy Hardwick standing in recognition as 11th district top new member recruiter

The Pictures above represent a small portion of the Department Convention and Post 186's accomplishments for Legion Year 2007-08.

We now embark on a new year with renewed energy and new goals. We will call many of you to help with our fund raising activities in the near future. Please step up to the plate when the call comes and help us scale even greater heights for Legion Year 2008-09. The American Legion, For God and Country since 1919.