

# THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

A PUBLICATION OF MAJOR CHARLES A. RANSOM  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 186 MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



October/November 2015

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www.americanlegionpost186.org

## Commander's Message

*Randall Lofland, Post Commander*

We are right in the middle of a very busy season for the Post. Field Day of the Past is in the books and all who participated did a tremendous job. As always, several individuals worked every minute of every hour of every day the event was open – I could not be more impressed (and very humbled). Whether you worked one shift or every shift, I greatly appreciate your contribution to this effort – thank you so much for contributing your time. Many thanks to Dick Hahn, Dan Johnson and Al Hillman for supervising and executing our operations. On a personal note, I greatly enjoyed working with fellow Legionnaires I do not get to see very often. I enjoyed sharing some laughs and learning more about the people I worked with. The work was challenging from time to time, but, everyone kept their head about them and that made the proceedings all the more fun. We have a number of events coming up between now and November for which we need help to include Oktoberfest, concession sales at Steel Horse Harley Davidson for the Rider's Poker Run, Brunswick stew and Poppy giveaway as well as Veteran's Day activities. If you can make the time, please help us out when you can.

At the end of last year, we closed out the 2015 administrative year on 30 June with twenty-nine (29) new members. By the time we went to print with this newsletter, we had 19 new members between 1 July and the end of September. This is a very healthy sign that, in meaningful ways, we are doing the right things to be an attractive destination for veterans. If you are new to the post, please consider this your invitation to plug into a committee or activity where your gifts and talents can be put to the best use. There is a great deal going on – we have something for just about everyone.

One final note, if you are hospitalized or unable to make it to the post, please contact us and keep us up to date. If you are up for a visit, we would like to come see you. Please keep our contact information handy so family members can contact us with updates should circumstances dictate. We want you to know that you are not alone as long as you have fellow Legionnaires to call brother or sister.

Best wishes to all of my fellow Legionnaires as we head into the fall and winters seasons. Please be safe.

For God and Country

Randall Lofland  
Commander

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1  | Post Social, Lounge   | 5:30pm  |
| 3  | Oktoberfest, \$15 per person  | 4pm     |
| 6  | Executive Board Meeting   | 7pm     |
| 8  | Legion Riders Social  | 6pm     |
|    | Membership Meeting  | 7pm     |
| 10 | 40&8 Breakfast, \$7 per person  | 8-9am   |
|    | Fall Flea Market, Tables Avail (\$10-\$25)  | 8am-4pm |
| 11 | Bingo & Ball, doors open at 12, games at 1pm. Bingo in the hall & football in the lounge. |         |
| 15 | Post Social, Lounge   | 5:30pm  |
| 17 | Rider's Poker Run, please see flyer and website for info                                  |         |
| 20 | Post Membership Meeting   |         |
|    | Social Hour/Chili Dinner \$5  | 6pm     |
|    | Meeting   | 7pm     |
| 22 | Legion Baseball Golf Tournament   |         |
|    | Post Social, Lounge   | 5:30pm  |
| 30 | Brunswick Stew Prep, watch for sign-up  |         |
| 31 | Brunswick Stew Sale & Car Show, various volunteer hours, watch for sign-up                |         |

### NOVEMBER

- |     |  |        |
|-----|--|--------|
| 3   | Executive Board Meeting  | 7pm    |
| 5   | Post Social, Lounge  | 5:30pm |
| 6-8 | Poppy Distribution   |        |
| 8   | Bingo & Ball, doors open at 12, games at 1pm. Bingo in the hall & football in the lounge. Vendor sales during bingo! |        |
| 12  | Legion Riders Social   | 6pm    |
|     | Membership Meeting   | 7pm    |
| 14  | 40&8 Breakfast, \$7 per person   | 8-9am  |
| 17  | Post Membership Meeting  |        |
|     | Social Hour/Meatloaf Dinner \$5  | 6pm    |
|     | Meeting  | 7pm    |
| 19  | Post Social, Lounge  | 5:30pm |

Don't miss out on any of the upcoming events! Check out our website at [americanlegionpost186.org](http://americanlegionpost186.org)

## Greetings from Your Chaplain

*Charles Miller, Post Chaplain*

*Matthew 9:37 & 38: Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (NIV)*

The fall season is upon us as are many upcoming post activities and projects. We ask for many to come out and assist in "harvesting the field" so that we may all reap the benefits. There is opportunity abound to lead a project, chair a committee, provide hands for laborious projects, to eat and drink, and of course, friendship opportunities are abundant! Our post is on the move and we have experienced many changes in the past few months. Stop in for coffee and donuts from 0830 to 1200 hours, Monday through Saturday and check it out!

If you know of members that we had not seen or heard from in a while please let me know or give them a call or send them a card to let them know that they are not forgotten. Your leadership is here to help plug you in where you feel comfortable, but more importantly we just want to see you!

If you need to talk to a Minister please leave a note in my mail box at the post and I will contact you. I am not a Minister, but I will assist in getting you one. I also will be willing to meet and talk with you.

Praying for all.

## American Legion Riders

*Bob Christie, ALR Director*

American Legion Riders of Post 186 had an active August and early September. We continued our popular Silver Streak Squad runs on each Wednesday and we had a successful Saturday run to double check our timing for our Poker Run scheduled October 17th from Steel Horse Harley in Chesterfield, Va. We had 9 bikes and trikes on this trip and it was a great Saturday for us all.

Five of our members contributed to American Legion Legacy Run and Les Alan, Tom Esker and his wife Faith made it to Somerset Pa. and visited flight 93 memorial and returned the next day logging over 500 miles round trip. I had to bail out due to health problems but still logged 200 miles on the first day. Post 186, ALR chapter contributed \$250. In scholarship funding for orphaned children of veterans.

Most of our planning is focused on our first major fund raiser which is a Poker Run. Our date is set for October 17 from Steel Horse Harley Davidson. The Rider Chapter is handling the event, registration, advertising, 50/50 and music. The Post will be handling food support and make all profits from the concession. The Ladies Auxiliary will be selling desserts

and finger foods for participants.

Our rain date is October 31 but we are hoping for sunny skies on the 17th.

It will be nearly one year ago that we were sworn in as a chapter of the American Legion Riders. Our riders have grown from the original four to over 20.

We have collectively logged over 17,000 miles, accident and injury free. We have actively attended new chapter inductions, charity poker runs and major charitable events. We have contributed to Christmas in July Run, Legacy Run and orchestrated a major event involving a WWII Marine and the honoring of the Greatest Generation and the Spirit of 45.

Our chapter has continued to follow a philosophy of putting our Post first and strive to increase membership in our Post and Chapter and to enjoy our second love of the open road.

## Capital Campaign

*Randy Lofland, Commander*

At the September membership meeting, I announced the initiation of a Capital Campaign. Our goals are:

1. The lounge air conditioner and heat pump must be replaced as it is completely inoperable. Legionnaire Weger offered to donate the labor necessary for installation. **Cost: \$2,300.00**

2. Storage space at the post is at a premium. We are looking to build out the storage shed to increase our storage capacity. This is a do-it-yourself project, but, we have to buy materials. **Cost: \$1,000.00**

3. The fence line at the rear of our property needs to be replaced as it has fallen. The fence prevents individuals from walking through our property and into the pond at the kennel. It is a matter of safety. **Cost: \$2,000.00**

4. We would like to re-install weather efficient, tinted windows in the lounge and remove the long curtains to improve the look of the lounge. **Cost: \$1,700.00**

**Total Financial Requirements: \$7,000.00**

It is my intention to cover these needs through a combination of Legionnaire donations and soliciting local businesses, such as Home Depot and Lowes, for assistance. Any contributions you can make, whether it is financial or helping with the work when the time comes, will be greatly appreciated. Any funds donated that are left over, will be placed in the capital improvement line item of our operating account for future work.

I am very pleased to report that the capital campaign kicked off quite nicely with a very generous donation from Legionnaire Al Hillman in the amount of \$500.00. Many thanks to Al for his generosity and continued commitment to our post.

## Football in the Lounge

THE LOUNGE IS OPEN! Join us on the following dates for football and beverages. Doors open at noon.

4, 11, 18 and 25 October

8, 15, 22 and 29 November

**MAJ. CHARLES A. RANSOM POST 186 LEGION RIDERS**

**When:** Saturday, 17 October (rain date 31 October)  
**Where:** Steel Horse Harley Davidson  
**Time:** Registration 9:30 - 11:30am  
**Ride:** 11:30am - 1:30pm  
**Cost:** \$15 per bike includes 5 card hand (\$10 for additional hand)  
\$5 Passenger

**Door Prizes**

**\$150 Jackpot**  
**\$30 Worst Hand**

Vendors - Music - Special Guest Dr. Hellman - Lunch - Baked Goods

**HELP OUR LEGION HELP VETS AND RIDE FOR A WINNING HAND!**

**STEEL HORSE HARLEY-DAVIDSON**  
CHESTERFIELD, VA

## Volunteer Corner

### 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony Coordinator:

Seeking a volunteer to plan the Post 186 Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony. This is a partner program with the Department of Defense. All information and instructions provided. If interested, please email:

[communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com) or  
[amlegionpost186@aim.com](mailto:amlegionpost186@aim.com).

**Seeking Instrumentalists:** Do you play a musical instrument? We're exploring the possibility of putting a band together. If interested, please email your name, contact information and type of instrument to [communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com).

**Flag Retirement Coordinator:** We have amassed a large number flags that are ready for retirement. This effort requires coordination with the local Boy Scout Council. This is a very important volunteer opportunity as it must be performed in a dignified manner in ceremonious fashion. If interested, please email [amlegionpost186@aim.com](mailto:amlegionpost186@aim.com) or [communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com).

**McGuire Avenue of Flags:** Seeking volunteers to raise and lower the flag at McGuire VAMC main entrance. Please contact Connie Huck at 804.231.2169. The flag is raised at 8:30am and lowered at 3:00pm on designated days.

Nov 9 - Raised

Nov 11 – Lowered

Dec 4 - Raised

Dec 9 - Lowered

### Request for baked goods donations for the following dates:

10 October, 0800 drop off

11 October, 1130 drop off

31 October, 1100 drop off

Email [communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com) if you're able to help!

## Bingo

Sign up to be part of team Red, White or Blue! Each team will be responsible for a designated month. It helps spread the workload and clearly delineates the volunteer's responsibilities.

Team Red: 8 Nov

Team White: ~~13 Sep~~

Team Blue: 11 Oct

Five volunteers per team to fill the following positions: Two floor runners, cashier, bingo caller and game monitor. You may volunteer to be on more than one team! Volunteers must be able to commit to the second Sunday of their designated month beginning at 11:30am until 4:30pm. Please contact Barbara Vonada at 804-433-9735 to sign up!

**BINGO and BALL Program:** The lounge will be host to the BALL program which runs in conjunction with the monthly BINGO program. If watching football is more appealing to you then join us in the lounge for an afternoon of football or an afternoon of Bingo. Your choice! Volunteers needed to staff the lounge. To volunteer for the BALL program please contact the post at 804-794-9785 or [amlegionpost186@aim.com](mailto:amlegionpost186@aim.com).

**10 October:** Flea Market with vendors and Brunswick Stew for lunch. Volunteers needed to assist with parking, vendor table assignments, and stew sales! Watch your email, our Facebook page and website for all the details!

**17 October:** Volunteers needed to assist with the Rider's Poker Run Fundraising Event at Harley Davidson on Hull Street! Baked goods, cooks, cashiers, etc. are needed. If interested, please contact the post at:

[communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com) or  
[amlegionpost186@aim.com](mailto:amlegionpost186@aim.com).

## 40&8 Breakfast & Fall Flea Market

Mark your calendars for 10 October! The 40&8 breakfast is back! Only \$7 per person. Join us 8-9am for food and fellowship! In conjunction with the breakfast, local vendors will be set up in the pavilion from 8am until 4pm selling their wares. Brunswick Stew and homemade desserts will be available for purchase around the lunch hour too! If you are a crafter, own a business, or know a crafter/vendor that would like an opportunity to showcase their wares during the flea market, please contact Barbara Vonada at [communications186@gmail.com](mailto:communications186@gmail.com) or 804-433-9735. Tables are only \$10 for the entire day. There is a tent option available for only \$25. Continue to watch your email, our Facebook page and website for exciting information as the date draws near.

## All in All...

On September 16th several Post 186 members joined forces with members from Post 147 and traveled to Northern Virginia to visit the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico and the Vietnam Memorial, Washington, DC. Food was provided by VFW Post 1503! This is one of many trips available to the membership! Come join us!



## IMPORTANT!

Starting in January 2016, the American Legion at the National Level will be increasing their take of the dues you pay by \$5.00 per year. I have no interest in passing this increase onto our membership as we have many members who are living on a fixed income or are young people with families. This will; however, hit our budget to the tune of \$2,000.00 to cover the increase next year. There are two calls to action (1) if you have not done so, please renew your membership prior to January to help us avoid taking the hit for this administrative year, and; (2) Please help us with your ideas or donations to help us off-set this expense in order to keep our dues right where they are for next year.



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Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Richmond, VA  
Permit #3022

## Dated Material

*Home Delivery Requested by October 1, 2015*

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## Post Everlasting

Ira Durlach, 9 Jun 14  
Luell Upshaw, 13 Sep 15

## Geezer Talk

*NOT Forgotten...*unable to make it to Post events or would like a visit for conversation to catch up on the latest happenings? Please contact the Post at 804-794-9785 or [americanlegionpost186@aim.com](mailto:americanlegionpost186@aim.com). We care about you and would like to keep in touch.

*War on Cookies:* Everyday from 9am to noon. Come out for free coffee, sweet treats and an opportunity to enjoy the musings of the "bards of Midlothian" as they solve the world's problems.

*Cans for Cash Program:* EASY money! Save your aluminum cans and bring to the post for recycling. The most recent turn-in yielded \$46.40, just by saving your aluminum cans! This activity requires minimal effort and equals much needed dollars for our post.

## Thank You!

A huge **thank you** goes out to all the volunteers that worked the Field Day of the Past event in Goochland 18 – 20 September! Long hours, but memorable! Thank you Linda and Dick Hahn for coordinating this huge undertaking!!!



**Saturday, 3 October**  
*featuring the Sauerkraut Band*

**Only \$15 per person**  
*brats & sauerkraut, hot potato salad,  
red cabbage, drinks and desserts*

**Food service begins at 4pm**  
**Sauerkraut Band performs at 5pm**

**901 Otterdale Rd ~ 804.794.9785**