

THE AMERICAN LEGION®
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Comrades:

It is hard to believe that September is here already as we start making plans for fall and the football season.

I wish to take a moment for some special recognition, as I recognize 1st Vice Commander Bill Aramony, Clubroom Manager Neale Hergenrath and Auxiliary members Jackie Hansen, Tamara Goehler and Dawn Braga for putting on a luncheon in our Clubroom for approximately 16 veterans from the Walter Reed Army Hospital – Amputee Unit on July 30th. I am sorry for the surprise but the attendees requested this luncheon not be advertised, as they weren't to be on display. So, there were no press and no pictures, but all had a wonderful time. I salute all the volunteers who helped put this special day together for some well deserved veterans.

Please mark your calendars for September 17th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a POW/MIA recognition ceremony in Post 24's Clubroom. This is a brief but very moving ceremony and I hope everyone will attend. If you are unable to attend, please observe a moment of silence on September 18th, POW/MIA Remembrance Day in America.

Post 24 was fortunate to be recognized recently at the Gadsby's Museum for its donation of the letter written by President Thomas Jefferson in 1808. As Mayor Euille stated: "This donation by Post 24 speaks volumes as to their continued dedication of historic preservation in the Alexandria community."

In recent discussions with Adjutant Jim Glassman, I have learned that our 2011 membership renewals have already exceeded 30%. Early renewals are vital to the success of "our" numerous Legion programs. Any time National Headquarters can avoid extra mailings to get members to renew is money saved that can and is re-directed to enhance numerous Legion programs. Please continue to be a good Veteran and get your renewals in before October 1 and Post 24 will reward you with a **free** "Early Bird Brunch" in October.

Lastly, I want to advise the members that the West Potomac High School Junior Shooting Team has asked to affiliate with Post 24. This was a total surprise to Post 24 and the Executive Committee has unanimously approved their request. Please watch our Website for future updates on this developing story. www.valegionpost24.org.

At the October General Membership meeting there will be some updates in Post 24's Constitution & By-Laws. Please attend this very important meeting on October 13th to review these updates. Hoping to see you soon, I remain,
"For God and Country"
Michael A. Conner, Sr., Commander



ADJUTANT'S NOTES

We are doing well with renewals but we can do better if YOU send yours in now. Just a reminder - National Headquarters mails out all renewal notices. They do not come from the Post. If you have paid your 2011 dues and receive another notice please disregard it. It takes about 8 weeks for the whole renewal process to be finalized at National Headquarters. If you have transferred into our post within the last 6 months and receive a renewal notice from your former post, DO NOT mail it in. Bring it to us along with your dues so that we can renew you as a member of our Post. If you send it back, you have transferred yourself out of Post 24. As the Commander mentioned, National spends over a million dollars in sending out renewal notices. **The sooner you get yours in, saves money that can be put to better use for more important Legion programs.**

The American Legion is still the largest non-profit veteran's organization in the world. Please help us to carry on this honorable organization. If you have been or are involved in the many programs of the American Legion, please tell a friend or fellow family member and help us recruit them. We have a table at the Alexandria Farmer's Market every Saturday morning. Bring them on down and we can tell them about our programs and hopefully convince them to join us.

If you have any questions or problems with your membership, please contact me at adjutant@valegionpost24.org. One last item, if you have moved, please let me know. It is important that we have your current address on file at National Headquarters. Not being current can slow down your membership information and can even stop it all together.

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Post family:

Tyler Brummond	Monroe Bryant	Chad Buermele
Richard Ellis	Jeffrey Fiorito	Marcus Griffith
Andrew Krauss	Adron Krekeler	John Napolitano
Lowell Whitman	Ron Wiltsie	Michael McAndrews

Be an ACTIVE Post member!
Jim Glassman, Adjutant



FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

Legionnaires,

My job as First Vice Commander includes membership and Americanism, among other things. This note is about appreciation to the following (and yes I missed some, writing from memory while on the road).

Scott Allen, Ed Faulstick, Jim Glassman, Ben Lievestro, and Paul Moffett for joining me in manning our Market Square table for community visibility and membership drives.

We also wish to recognize, Mary Ann Walker, husband Tommy, and their great band, "Tommy and the Bahamas", for donating their time and talent to our July 31st fundraiser. The concert raised \$621 for our Post programs. They beat my brother Bob and his "men's night out" friends record of \$600!

I also want to thank Lisa, Jesse, and Heather for helping at the Tommy and the Bahamas fundraiser. Tamara, Dawn, Mike Conner, for helping me serve the Wounded Warriors at lunch. Thanks to Jim Taylor, Jackie, Mary, Polly, Paul Moffett and others for our monthly Sunday breakfast and Neal Hagg-a-Muffin for assisting with our monthly Smoker and other fundraisers.

Jeannie Theisman (our media advisor) for getting us noticed in the local papers. Mike Conner, Marcus Lindsay, Tom Hewitt, his wife Candice, Gretchen Bulova from Gadsby's Museum, Mayor Euille and Councilman Frank Fannon IV for working with us in getting the Thomas Jefferson letter properly displayed at the museum.

Thank you for all that you do.
Bill Aramony, First Vice Commander



AUXILIARY UNIT 24 NEWS 'N NOTES

Greetings ladies, I know many of you are starting to receive your renewal membership letters. I hope you will continue your membership with us. It would be nice if each member could encourage a family member, friend, or co-worker to join. Remember we also have the junior members for those 18 years and younger. It would be wonderful to have more young members for they are truly our future. Remember when recruiting a new member please make sure they have all the correct papers to show with their application. We are thinking of programs we can support along with some fun ways to raise money. The one most important thing we need is **volunteers**. Without them we are very limited on things we can do.

Again, if we could have ladies volunteer just once it would help us out greatly. I know many of you just want to be members, but part of being an auxiliary member is giving back to our veterans, soldiers, youths, and community. Think of the smiles you will bring to many and the pride you will have for just a small amount of time given.

Legionaries, there are many of you who have a wife, daughters, granddaughters who are not members. Why? Some of you are the very same ones who question why we don't have many volunteers; well maybe you should be looking closer to home for the answer.

I would like to take this time to extend an invite to our next meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 7pm held in the Ballroom.

Let's give a warm welcome back to Mary Meeker Lawson and Patricia Colbert who were recently ill and glad to hear they are both on the road to recovering.

Membership

2011 membership renewals are coming up and I hope we can meet our 100% goal again.

Senior dues are still \$25 and junior dues are \$5. All checks must be made payable to "ALA Unit 24" and mailed to:

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 24
P.O. Box 402-MAIN STATION
Alexandria, VA 22313-0402

If you have any concerns or problems with membership please let us know.

Mark your calendars for October 3rd to join us for our annual fundraiser Pasta Dinner from 2pm to 4:30pm. The cost is \$7.00 and includes Pasta, salad, bread, and dessert. Come down for a great dinner and then sit back to watch the Redskins game against Philadelphia.

For God and Country,
Mary Alvarado



SQUADRON COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings to all Post 24 SAL members! As our new leadership moves forward, we are committed to making your membership the best it can be. Join us at the American Legion table at the Alexandria Farmers' Market from 8-11 am on Saturday mornings. Additionally, we are interested in knowing how to connect with you electronically. Can you please bring your e-mail to the table, or send an e-mail to the address listed below...it will be confidentially added to our database. You can reach us at: http://www.adjutant@valegionpost24.org/. See you at the Market!

Jay Palermino
SAL CMDR, Post 24
JayPalermino@aol.com

SAL Vice-Commander's Comments

Greetings to all. It's that time of year for new members to join our Post 24 family and also the opportunity for those to renew their memberships and help carry our commitment to the community. Membership cards are available and ready for pick-up. A coordinated effort for acquiring your card is happening all month long at the legion. Please make contact and set your date for pick-up of your membership card and card-key to Post 24 --- 400 Cameron Street. Clubroom phone number is (703) 683-5564.

Travis Alvarado
SAL Vice-Commander

SAL Adjutant's Notes

Good September to you. We are eagerly meeting and signing up new members. Check your mail for your renewal notice. Please support fellow SAL in volunteering your time at the SAL table at the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings. We are staged near the curb at King Street near Royal Streets. The clubroom is as popular as ever, has COMCAST-installed WI-FI capability and remember to bring your prospective member referrals with you and when they sign-on there's a

new member beverage of choice from Club Manager Neale behind the clubroom bar!

John (Mitch) Mitchell
SAL Adjutant & Finance Officer

SAL Community Notes

I was pleased yesterday to have the pleasure of hand delivering an application for SAL membership to Post 24. I realized that I want to do this much more often. There are many good opportunities in the community to market Post 24. I am pleased to announce a meeting to form a membership committee of current SAL members to work with SAL leadership to take our memberships to a new level. The first meeting will be held September 8 (Wed) at 6pm at Post 24. We welcome anyone who would like to attend.

Eric J. Fitzgerald
Fourth Vice Commander, Business Development/
Membership Services



CLUBROOM NEWS

Let's start with administrative items first. The Clubroom now has a new e-mail address: clubroom@valegionpost24.org which is tied directly to our website. By the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, I should have the Clubroom broadcast email list up and have sent those of you whose e-mail address I have a message making sure it works properly. I will use this broadcast list to keep everyone informed of events and changes in and around the Clubroom. If you would like to be included or excluded in these broadcast messages, please email me so that I can take the appropriate action.

July was a busy month for the Clubroom and the Post. On July 24 Lori and her husband Jim put on a Karaoke show in the Clubroom. For those who missed it, Lori can truly sing and has a beautiful voice. Also for those who missed it Todd got up and sang a song or two as well. (No comment) It was fun and interesting and if Lori is willing we would like to do it again.

On Friday July 30th we hosted 16 Wounded Warriors, from Walter Reed, for lunch in the Clubroom. I received a report from the organizer that all who attended had a wonderful time and ate too much food. Special thanks go out to the volunteers who helped take care of our guests, most of all to Jackie, who held my hand on my shopping trip at BJs to make sure I purchased the right items.

On Saturday July 31st, Tommy and the Bahamas performed in the Ballroom for a fundraiser. To all those who attended thank you for helping us set a new fundraising record. This was our first big fundraising event and the start of what we hope will be a new and exciting trend here at Post 24. If anyone has fundraising ideas they would like to share, please let me know. Our goal is to increase not only the social activities here at Post 24, but to increase our fundraising efforts as well. The more we do for the local community the better it is for all. Mostly, it would be nice to see all of you here having a good time and catching up with old friends or making new ones.

We have a new addition in the Clubroom. Oops, did I say we, actually I meant Wii. Yes, you can now bowl; play tennis or

ping pong; throw a frisbee, fly an airplane; go canoeing, cycling, wakeboarding, power cruising, play golf; or take some target practice in archery. All of this and more, in the relative comfort of the Clubroom, without the locker room smell. So far bowling is the most popular activity; so much so, there is talk of starting a bowling league. We are considering a traditional bowling league format, which will meet once each week on Thursday or Friday nights. The set-up would be league play for a period of six weeks, with a tournament on the seventh week. There will be as yet undetermined entry fees for the season. All fees will be used to purchase prizes for presentation at the end of the league for team, and individuals. I hope to have a league plan in the next week or so and will send out this information via a broadcast e-mail. Anyone who is interested should contact me by e-mail or come in to the Clubroom for some practice.

As a last item, September 1st is the Courtyard Barbecue (Smoker) fundraiser. This event held on the 1st Wednesday of every month is well attended and we look forward to increasing the turnout to this new Post 24 tradition. Come on in the 1st Wednesday of each month and enjoy good times in the Courtyard. For more information please contact the Clubroom staff.

See you around the Clubroom.

Neale "Hagga-a-Muffin" Hergenrather, Clubroom Manager -
Clubroom@valegionpost24.org

August General Membership Jar Drawing *Steve Doss*

Sorry Steve, if you had been at the meeting you would be \$100 richer!

REMINDER

You can read the proposed new Post 24 Constitution and By-Laws at our website - www.valegionpost24.org. Please take the time to review them. If you wish to receive a hard copy, contact us at adjutant@valegionpost24.org. The Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on at our October 2010 General Membership meeting.

GO GREEN

Help us save on postage, as well as printing, paper costs and labor by viewing your newsletter online. With printing, assembling, and postage, we spend over \$2,500 a year in mailing out the newsletter. To view post news online, including our calendar of events, go to: www.valegionpost24.org. Make sure to bookmark our page!

There are currently 480 members receiving the newsletter by mail. I am confident the majority of you have access to the internet. If you would like to be taken off our mailing list, e-mail us at adjutant@valegionpost24.org and help us save money that can be used of other worthwhile programs.

Thanks for helping us GO GREEN!

DD-214 Access

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's:

www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/indel.html