

THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

A PUBLICATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 186
MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



February/March 2014

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www.americanlegionpost186.org

Commander's Corner

Hello to all, I hope everyone is well and warm. If you need something to knock the cool off, we just finished making 787 quarts of Brunswick stew. The turnout for support on this batch was superb! I believe that all the prep work was done and clean up finished by 2:00pm Friday. Saturday was a success also. We had the stew room clean, stew pot cleaned and oiled, dishes done, and stew organized for sale by 3:30pm. To top it all off we sold over 400 quarts by the end of the evening. To those of you, who turned out to help, thanks. For those of you unavailable, we hope to see you next time.

As I am sure everyone heard in the phone blast, this month's regular members meeting along with our first responders recognition night has been postponed with good cause. The snow is coming down very hard and I'm sure Otterdale road is a mess. In any event we are going to hold the recognition night at the February membership meeting so we have a good turnout for our recipients. They deserve it!

Don't forget about our annual Super Bowl party which will be held in the lounge Sunday February 2, 2014. We will open our doors at 2:00pm. This will be our third year holding this function, if you haven't attended in the past come on out and give it a whirl. We have had a ball and would love to share the experience with those who have not yet participated.

Until we meet again, take care and God bless.

Will Willis

Commander Post 186

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

2nd Quarter Membership Update

1st Vice Commander Randy Lofland reports that to date we have 296 renewals, transfers and new members for 2014. With a complement of paid for renewals including Life Members and active duty yet to be submitted, by 1 Feb we expect to have achieved approximately 82% of our goal of 393 for the year.

Renewals although slow have been steady but, we are lagging behind according to the headcount milestones

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

2	Lounge Super Bowl Party	2:00pm 'til
4	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00pm
13	Valentine's Day Dinner & Rose Sale (40/8)	6:00pm
18	Membership Meeting	7:30pm
20-23	Membership Revitalization at Department HQ	10:00am

MARCH

4	Executive Committee Meeting	7:00pm
18	Membership Meeting	7:30pm

desired by Department. Also, according to National rules, anyone not renewing before 1 Feb of the current administrative year is suspended until the renewal is received. If you have not yet renewed for 2014, you will soon receive a direct mailing from the Post that underscores why we need your support. If you are not renewing, we would appreciate a note giving us your reason so we may address any common themes that present themselves in that data.

While we are steadily accruing headcount, regular participation is an area needing more focus. At both our October and November membership meetings, we failed to achieve a quorum of 20 members in good standing. As business traditionally lags toward the end of the year, this was not critical to votes on completing a Post agenda. It continues to be an issue with respect to voting in new members and creating a positive impression with those individuals wishing to become members. We need you to come on out and join us for socializing and conducting the business of the American Legion the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Please help sign up a new member or volunteer to help with the public face of recruitment. If you are interested, contact 1st Vice Commander Lofland at amlegionpost186@aim.com or call the Post at 804-794-9785.

Documentation Controversy Resolved

As you may remember, we reported that the IRS had levied a requirement that every Post maintain a file of DD214 to justify the term and character of service of each member or face a fine of the nature of \$1000/day.

Dept. of the Treasury memo dated 26 Nov. 2013 settles the controversy and places the DD214 question in a clear hierarchy of techniques that may be used to resolve eligibility questions. Quoting from the subject memo:

“Effective immediately, if an agent needs to determine the composition of membership of a veteran’s organization, the agent shall initially request and collect from the organization four sets of documents as follows:

- 1. Membership list(s) that contain the names of the members, the military service dates, and the status of each individual member. This status information is to indicate whether the member is active duty, veteran, cadet, or spouse. The organization may provide list(s) from its affiliated parent organization.*
- 2. A document that shows the dues structure and classes of membership.*
- 3. The documentary information used by the organization to create the membership list(s) noted above. Organizations should be informed that to satisfy this request they may provide membership applications, membership cards, or other similar documents other than forms DD214.*
- 4. Documents showing the organization’s policies and procedures on how it decides an individual is eligible for membership including documents which show the means by which it enforces its membership requirements.*

If an agent possesses information that contradicts documentary information provided or the organization fails to satisfy a reasonable request, agents may then request DD Forms 214 or other discharge documents from the organization to ascertain compliance with the federal tax laws cited herein. DD Forms 214 must include the name, department, component and branch of service, and record of service dates. All other personal information may be redacted.

Since Post 186 has all of the 4 cited conditions satisfied, there should be no case or need for an investigating agent to request the 214 of every member. However, nothing is for certain . . .

Committees Forming

It’s that time of year when we have to begin looking forward to the 2015 administrative year and new officers taking charge of our Post. Ron Smith has volunteered to chair this year’s nomination committee, so if you are interested in running for a leadership position as listed below or would like more information, please contact Ron at 804-794-2076 or leave a message at 804-794-9785.

Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Sgt. At Arms (2), Chaplain, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Historian, Executive Committeeman (3)

Recognition of achievements is also on the slate with the Awards Committee accepting inputs for Life Membership and Legionnaire of the Year for 2014. If you have recommendations for these honors, letters must be submitted in writing by 1 March stating the candidate name, qualifications for the award and signed by the sponsor. Each nomination must be contained in a separate letter. Nominations or questions should be submitted to Richard Jackson, Awards Committee Chair.

Life Member:

- **Member in good standing for 10 years**
- **Held elective office as defined by the Post Constitution and Bylaws for three (3) years**
- **Performed continuous meritorious service to Post 186**

Legionnaire of the Year:

- **Post member in good standing**
- **Has made noteworthy contribution to the Post in the current/recent year**
- **A member is limited to one (1) award**
- **Post will pay current year dues**

New Raffle Fundraiser Underway

The Ways & Means Committee proposed and Executive Committee and Membership votes approved the raffle of a Springfield XDS .45 pistol as a spring fund raiser. The pistol has been purchased through Town Police Supply to be held for the eventual winner. Five hundred tickets are being offered at \$5 each with the final drawing held on 15 March 2014. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact the Post at 804-794-9785. If you are willing to obtain books of 10 tickets to sell to friends or coworkers, please contact Commander Willis at 804-938-4051.

Pistol Raffle

241

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

No

Major Charles A. Ransom
American Legion Post 186
PISTOL RAFFLE
\$5 ticket, only 500 tickets available
Drawing to be held March 15, 2014, you do not have to be present to win, and the winner will be notified by phone. Winner must comply with all Federal and State Laws and is responsible for any additional cost including but not limited to shipping and transfer fees.

Springfield XDS 45

No

Spring Stew Schedule Advancement

January 17 and 18 saw Stewmaster Fusari and his merry band of pot stirrers at it again. While we normally don’t make the spring stew batch until much later in the spring, the fall batch of over 950 quarts sold out so quickly, the board

decided to move the schedule up to satisfy increased demand while the weather is still cold. This batch of 878 quarts also may not last long, so get your orders in soon. At the completion of 18 Jan sales, 499 quarts had already been spoken for. If you would like to reserve some, email us at amlegionpost186@aim.com or call the Post at 804-794-9785.



Auxiliary Unit 186 News

Happy New Year to the Members of the Major Charles A Ransom American Legion Post 186. Your auxiliary is looking forward to another year of fellowship and fun at our post home. We have had some busy months with Veterans Day, Operation Stand Down at McGuire, sending boxes to the troops and holiday cards through the Red Cross, Toys 4 Tots and donations of the GI Josh Dogs for the children of the Military. We are welcoming new members to our group and could use all the help we can get as we are participating in all Legion and Auxiliary programs available to us this year. It takes teamwork, innovation and dedication to have successful events. Consider dropping by one of our meetings and give us your ideas and help us continue to grow.

We are not all work and no play as you can see we enjoyed a wonderful time at the Jefferson for tea in December (picture below). Please join our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/181962838617038>) and look at our website, <http://aux186.org>, to keep up on events and activities.

Ann Robins
President



American Legion Scholarships

Your Auxiliary has scholarship opportunities for the following categories:

1. Daughters, sons, grandsons, granddaughters, great granddaughters and great grandsons of veterans who served during American Legion eligibility dates and are in their senior year of high school.
2. Members of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons and have paid dues for 2 prior years.

You can get information on these opportunities by contacting auxiliary186@yahoo.com or checking out our website at www.aux186.org.



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American Legion Post 186
P.O. Box 186
901 Otterdale Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23113-0186

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

Dated Material

Home Delivery Requested by February 1, 2014

Mobility Chairs Still Available

We still have a power chair and a power 3-wheel cart available to anyone who needs them. Both are completely functional, but need new battery packs costing between \$150-300. We also may have identified a possible source for new batteries at less than this cost. If you are interested in either of these items, please contact us at 804-794-9785.



Geezer Talk

The annual Lounge Super Bowl Party is on for 2 Feb from 2pm until . . . Kickoff is at 6:25. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or football specialty nosh and come on out to enjoy the game on our large screens. Lounge Manager Smith promises a good time will be had by all.

The 40&8 is sponsoring a Valentine Dinner and rose sale scheduled for Thursday, February 13th at 6pm to benefit the Nurses Training Scholarship Program. Come join us for a great dinner and pick up your flowers. Cost is \$10 per person for dinner. Roses are \$3/each, \$17/half dozen or \$25/dozen. Reservations are requested. Call Ann at 639-7388 or email voiture53@yahoo.com for more information.

Volunteers for important Post support tasks are still needed –Call Multiplier system administrator, Newsletter Coordinator

and Communications Support. If you want to get involved but feel you can't handle physical activity, let us know. We can always find a contribution path to suit your desires and abilities. Interested? Call the Post @ 804-794-9785.

Legionnaire Ann Robins is a Notary and will be happy to notarize documents for fellow Legion Members at no cost at monthly meetings. Just give her a call if you need anything notarized so she can bring her stamp, 804-639-7388.

The war on cookies continues every day from 9 to 12. Come on out for coffee and a sweet treat and enjoy the musings of "the bards of Midlothian" as they solve the world's problems.

Upcoming Entertainment Offerings

Matinee performance of "Gypsy" at the Riverside Dinner Theater, Fredericksburg, VA on Wednesday, 26 Feb. Bus departs Chippenham Hospital at 9am and River Road Baptist Church at 10am. We will return at 6/6:30pm. Cost is \$102 per person.

The New Maryland LIVE! Casino in Hanover, MD. Casino and dining with nearby outlet mall shopping. \$25 slot play per person included. Bus departs Chippenham Hospital at 7:30am and River Road Baptist Church at 8am. We will return at 8/8:30pm. Cost is \$54 per person.

Interested individuals should contact Bob Boyd 804-301-4671.