

THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY
A PUBLICATION OF MAJOR CHARLES A. RANSOM
AMERICAN LEGION POST 186 MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



Nov / Dec 2022

amlegionpost186@aim.com

www.americanlegionpost186.org

Commander's Message

Billy Heflin, Post Commander

Greetings Post 186 family!

First, I would like to send a big "Thank You" to everyone who has helped us through a very successful first 4 months of our new year. It has been very busy, but your response was tremendous.

Our monthly blood drives have been very successful with 114 pints collected in July, August, and September. If you are able to donate, please contact the Post to sign up.

Our membership now stands at 209 members, or 64.5% of our goal of 324. If you have not sent in your annual dues, please do by mail or come by the Post, so we can reach our goal.

Upcoming in November we have our Poppy distribution on Veterans' Day weekend, so volunteers will be needed. An e-mail with details will be coming to you soon.

There is also a Veterans' Day program at the old Chesterfield County Courthouse on Nov 11 at 2:00.

There will be no Post Social in November, since the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. Don't forget our annual "Santa Breakfast" on December 10th from 8-10am. Bring your kids or grandkids to meet Santa.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be on December 20th at the normal monthly meeting. (6pm)

I personally wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a big Thank You for all your help!

For God and Country, Billy Heflin, Post Commander

Post 186 Calendar

NOV 2022

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Executive Board Meeting | 7pm |
| 10 | Legion Riders Meeting | 6:30pm |
| 15 | Membership Dinner | 6pm |
| 15 | Membership Meeting | 7pm |
| 19 | SAL Meeting | 10am |

DEC 2022

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 6 | Executive Board Meeting | 7pm |
| 8 | Legion Riders Meeting | 6:30pm |
| 10 | SANTA Breakfast | 8am |
| 10 | Army/Navy Football game | 2pm |
| 17 | SAL Meeting | 10am |
| 20 | Membership Dinner | 6pm |
| 20 | Membership Meeting | 7pm |
| 22 | Post Social | 5:30-7:30pm |

Jan 2023

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 3 | Executive Board Meeting | 7pm |
| 12 | Legion Riders Meeting | 6:30pm |
| 14 | 40/8 Breakfast | 8pm |
| 17 | Membership Dinner | 6pm |
| 17 | Membership Meeting | 7pm |
| 21 | SAL Meeting | 10am |
| 26 | Post Social | 5:30-7:30pm |

Post 186 Executive Board 2022-2023

Commander: Billy Heflin
1st Vice: Stevie Holmes
2nd Vice: Randy Lofland
Adjutant: Bill Seif
Finance Officer: William Pouch
Chaplin: Dale Mark Benedict
Service Officer: Henry Bowe
Judge Advocate: Richard Jackson
Quartermaster: Richard Hahn
Rental Manager: Dan Allen

Post Everlasting:

Billy Dix
Joseph B. Glaab
Michael J. Thompson
James P. Bradley
Stewart Goff
Ronald R. Kimler
James M. Payne, Sr.
Paul J. Isenburg
Charles E. Webber, Jr.
Adolph U. Hionkala
Jerry P. Armeli
Joseph A. Vicente
Donald N. Dandliker
Don E. Smith
Robert Lyles
Wesley Barden

Membership:

Reported as of October 16;
5 new members, 130 members renewed,
PUFL 35, 39 paid online for a total of 209 =
64.506%. We need 115 more paid members
to make our goal of 100% or 324.

We encourage you to get an online profile,
so that any time you sign in, you will see if
your membership is current.

Contact Information:

If you are not receiving "phone blasts" and
e-mails, please provide us your current
phone number and e-mail address. In order
to guarantee the continuity of
communications it is important that you
remember to submit contact information as
soon as possible.

Quartermaster:

Should a need arise, wheelchairs, walkers
(with and without wheels) and platform
canes are available at the Post for short or
long-term loan. Please call 804-794-9785 if
you have a need for any of this equipment.

Building & Grounds

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A new **NO SMOKING** policy for the Post
begins November 5, 2022.

Smoking in the Post is prohibited the
first two weeks of each month. This is
due to rental issues that have arisen.

Smoking is allowed after the first two
weeks.

We thank you in advance for your
patience and forbearance as we make
adjustments necessary to enhance our
revenue stream.

Main Entrance Improvement:

As many may have noticed, the canopy
over the main entrance is beginning to look
a little shopworn and shabby. A suggestion
was made to the board and approved that
we look into pricing to put up a new one.
Once a price of \$2600 was known, a
member stepped up and offered to fund the
acquisition. Accordingly, no vote to exceed
approved budget was necessary and the
replacement will proceed in 5-7 weeks. The
color closest to the Board-approved Legion
blue and appropriate for outdoor use was
Pacific blue, and that has been ordered.
Once a sample of the color is available, the
Quartermaster will procure the paint to
complete the trim repainting.

Eagle Scout Projects (ESP)

We currently are sponsoring an Eagle Scout
project to improve the area below the shed
and to install heavy duty exterior benches.
This will create an outside area for
conversation pit or smoking area. An Eagle

candidate from Glen Allen has received approval for his plan and basic material acquisition has been completed. We look for the project being completed in the next 4-6 weeks.

A second inquiry for ESP has been made by a local Troop and a list of candidate projects has been discussed with that Scoutmaster.

Job List Posting

An updated job list has been posted in the stew room and will be provided to any requesting member by contacting richardahahn@verizon.net. This list is open to anyone willing to fund, act as project manager or individual performer. Please review the list of needs and let us know of any level of interest you may have.

Recent Video Donation

Due to a recent donation of a large quantity of DVDs and games by our new Stewmaster Don Pierpont, an additional storage area needed to be identified. As anyone who has seen our lending library will tell you, there is no space for additional bookcases or racks of any kind on the floor. In order to keep to the "library" theme of our lending library area, the Building & Grounds chairman opted to take over the front 6 inches of the shelf above the hanger tack in the coat room. This area is now designated as the "Video Vault" and provides open, elevated storage for dozens of DVDs. As with reading material, the "take some leave some" lending method applies.

Honor Guard:

Billy Heflin, Honor Guard Coordinator

The mission of the Honor Guard is to show reverence to those veterans who have passed on by providing a proper, distinguished military memorial, and to support patriotic events, in order to promote and preserve our nation's independence.

The Post continues to solicit volunteers to be members in the Post 186 Honor Guard.

The Post will subsidize 50% of the cost of personal uniforms up to 3 new volunteers.

The Honor Guard normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Post 186 Historian

Bill Lipsett

Concerning the upcoming holiday, I have a few facts about Thanksgiving I'd like to share with you. We all think that the Pilgrims started this Plymouth Rock thing way back in 1620, but.....

In 1619, Berkeley Hundred settlers held a service in accordance with their charter, that stated that their arrival in Virginia should be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving.

In 1789, President George Washington proclaimed to the people of the United States that we observe a day of public thanksgiving & prayer on the last Thursday of November.

In October of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, buoyed by the Union victory at Gettysburg, also proclaimed that November 26 would be a national holiday.

In 1941, Congress officially set the fourth Thursday of November as a national holiday.

With that said, on this most family - related day of holidays, let us please think of those around the globe, who are serving their country and cannot be here to share with loved ones. Because of the sacrifices of those before us, we can enjoy the freedom and liberty that parts of this world still do not have. I hope that you & your family are well, and can enjoy this day.

Field Day of the Past

We successfully completed our second year of support to Field Day during 16-18 September at Redfield Farms in Amelia, VA. In addition to the heavy commitment in support hours this event usually requires, we stepped up to an additional level to provide late night gate security. Shifts were necessarily shorter averaging around 5 hours, but there were more of them to provide coverage to 11PM. While the nominal shift commitment profile required roughly double the number of individual volunteer personnel, there were still some unfilled slots and as usual some no-shows, sick and other emergency problems. And as always, there were those individuals that went over and above to backfill the needs. The operators were very satisfied and complementary on our efforts across the board. They thanked us as a Post and I thank all of you who traveled the distance, worked the hours and did so with good cheer. As you may remember, this event is one of our major fundraisers for the year and allows us to increase our support hours, provides for improvements in our infrastructure and generally funds our operations profile. We look forward to the new year, a financial consideration for past efforts, and a new opportunity to interact with the multiple communities served by FDOP.

Rental Manager:

Daniel Allen continues to manage the Post Rental duties. Dan indicated the Post has rented every weekend through the end of the year!

If you, your family, or your friends are interested in renting the Post, contact Daniel at 804-677-1587 or use the link at <http://americanlegionpost186.org/post-rental.html>

Brunswick Stew:

The turnout for Friday prep day and Saturday cooking and packing day were outstanding. A big thanks to all that were able to volunteer to help out!

This year we had 460 quarts pre-ordered for the Brunswick Stew. If you pre-ordered, stop by the Post during business hours to pick yours up.

If you forgot to place your order, it's too late. The next batch will be ready January 28th.

Here's what some customers had to say after trying this latest batch:

Carl: "I gotta say "Best I've Had" in a very long time Don. Many thanks and appreciation for what all of you did to provide an awesome Brunswick Stew!!"

Kristin: "It's delicious! Hope you're making the batch in January, too. Can't wait and will definitely have to order more!"



Getting ready



Let the peeling begin!



Watch where you're chopping!



Loading up



Stirring and cooking



Getting closer



Stew Master checking



Final product



Smells good!

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 186

Bea Miller, Auxiliary President

Ladies Auxiliary Board:

President: Bea Miller

1st Vice: Brenda Custer

2nd Vice: Christina Smith

Secretary: Maura Seif

Treasurer: Catherine Fletcher

Chaplain: Pat Welling

Historian: Bobbie Murphy

Sergeant-at-Arms: Frances Bowe

Oktoberfest 2022

The Auxiliary Oktoberfest was a great success. We appreciate all who helped and attended. The Golden Years Band was magnificent and people enjoyed dancing.

There was a great selection of silent auction items to choose from and most items were purchased.

Thank you to the ladies who cooked. The food was excellent and it was all gone by the end of the evening!

Thank you, Bill Seif and Billy Heflin, for taking care of the bar.

We had 95 people attend the event.

The Auxiliary deeply appreciates all who supported the evening.



Annual Food Drive 2022

Up until the 20th of December the Auxiliary is collecting non-perishables to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for military/veteran families in need. You may drop off to the Post during the hours of 9am to noon Monday through Saturdays or at our monthly 3rd Tuesday night meetings.

Poppies

We will be distributing poppies the weekend of November 11 through 13 at various retailers. We need your help.

Brenda Custer will be contacting members or you can contact the Post to sign up to help. Brenda will follow up with you.

Christmas Breakfast and Santa

Come join us on Saturday, December 10, from 8am to 10am for Breakfast and you don't want to miss Santa. That's right, Santa will be there. Bring the children and take pictures with Santa. Also, we will have crafts and presents for the children.

Heilman Dining Center

Some of the Auxiliary ladies recently had lunch at the Heilman Dining Center on the University of Richmond campus. It was named for my dad, Dr. Bruce Heilman,



who was president of the university for 17 years and then chancellor until his death in 2019. He was a member of the post and the riders.

Bobbie Murphy

The Auxiliary thanks everyone for their continued support.

Bea Miller, Auxiliary President

ALR:

Jim Flore

Golf Tournament:

On August 29th we held our 3rd annual Post Major Charles A Ransome American Legion Post 186 Golf Tournament at Brandermill Country Club. The event was a huge success with a sold out crowd of 130+ players participating and a waiting list of several more that didn't get in in time.

The Event started off with registration and a pizza lunch followed by a prayer and the playing of the National Anthem. Golf started at 12:00 noon. After the 18 holes of play, participants adjourned to the Brandermill Country Club dining room to review and bid on the Silent Auction items that had been generously donated by companies and individuals. Participants then enjoyed a buffet dinner of beef ribs and chicken while prizes & awards were distributed.

Proceeds from the event were approximately \$9,700, which included \$1,345 from the Silent Auction. An additional \$5,000 was donated by a private individual taking the event total to almost \$15,000! Proceeds will be used to support our veteran community and their families in many important ways consistent with the mission and goals of the American Legion.

This year's committee included Rob Henshaw, Jim Flore, Denis Graffum, Thom Morgan, Bill Seif, Billy Heflin, Bobby H. Murphy and Stevie Holmes. We also had many volunteers that performed various responsibilities during the day of the tournament. We thank them for their hard work and endless hours of support.

We are currently looking for additional committee members to help grow this event in 2023 and would welcome the help of anybody interested in participating.

P.S. You don't need to know anything about golf to be on the committee so please consider joining our team!

Fundraising:

Funding our Veteran programs, supporting operational expenses, and volunteering are staples around the post. Here are some ways that **you** can help:

American Flag:

Purchase an American Flag from the American Legion Flag and Emblem Store and designate Post 186 to receive a portion of the proceeds when you check out. You simply click the "please click here" below your normal log in, register and designate Post 186, Virginia in the blanks. It's easy and provides our Post additional funds just by showing your patriotic pride with a vibrant new flag.

Order here

<https://emblem.legion.org/American-Flags/departments/756/>

Post 186 Hat Sale:

The ball cap is popular! Don't miss out on this awesome SWAG! Cost is \$15 ea.

Contact the post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to place your order.

Cans for Cash Program:

Save your aluminum cans and bring them to the post for recycling. Minimal effort = cash for the Post.

Geezer Talk:

You are NOT forgotten! If you are unable to make it to Post events or would simply like a visit for conversation?

Please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785), or americanlegionpost186@aim.com.

We care about you and would like to keep in touch.

War on Cookies:

Every day, except Sunday, 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.

Barfly Tales

By Kent Scott

How’d You Meet Your Spouse?

It’s been a while back. I don’t know what prompted the question. I was at the Post 186 Social sitting at the corner of the bar sipping my Merlot like usual, when asked, “How did you meet your wife?” Well, the story goes like this: Back in October, 1961, after my release from the Marine Corps in June, 1960; I found myself down in Altus, Oklahoma working for company that was involved in constructing silo missiles for our national defense system. I was tossing back a few Buds with a bar fly buddy in our favorite bar and restaurant establishment. It was an era of the Bud Wilkinson Oklahoma Sooners football dominance. Oklahoma Sooners fans had an air of superiority—really obnoxious to a proud Missouri Ozark Hillbilly Boy like me who was proud of his Missouri Football Tigers. My buddy, Buz, was really pouring it on. He wanted to wager on the game that was coming up later in the afternoon. His incessant nagging finally got to me. I finally said, “Damn you, Buz! If Oklahoma beats Missouri this year, I’ll marry that old broad sitting over there. If Missouri wins, you’ll owe me \$100.

Well, I’m a man of my word. We were married on July 6, 1962 following that game. She wasn’t old, nor was she a broad.

Notary Services Available:

Need a notary? Don’t look any further than your legion! Barbara Vonada (804-433-9735) is a Commonwealth of Virginia Notary and has volunteered her services to any Legion Family member.

Visitation and Transportation:

If you or another Legionnaire you know is in the hospital or confined to their residence due to health reasons, please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to let us know and advise us if a visit is appropriate.

We take our fellowship obligations seriously and that means assuring our fellow Legionnaires are not alone in times of illness or despair. This includes assisting with arranging alternate transportation for you if you are uncomfortable driving at night and wish to attend our evening events. It is important you know that when you need us, we will be there for you.

Beyond Our Doors

Department of Virginia Leadership College

Our Department Leadership College was held July 29, 2022. The objective is to ensure attendees receive the mentoring and training necessary to return to their Posts, Units, Squadrons and American Legion Riders Chapters with the knowledge and enthusiasm to promote and develop American Legion Family Programs.

More information is available on the Department of Virginia website

<http://valegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2018-Leadership-College-Registration-Package-03022018.pdf> .



Blood Donation Program

The American Legion Blood Donor Program, www.legion.org/security/blood is easily supported through our local blood centers such as the American Red Cross www.redcross.org/give-blood and Virginia Blood Services donateblood.vablood.org/ .

Appointments are available at blood drives through their websites or in person. Persons in good health between 17 and 65 are eligible to donate blood. Donors older than 65 may need special permission from a blood center's medical director. Current standards set an 8-week interval between donations or limit them to no more than 5x a year.

The American Legion recognizes its donors with a series of blood donor tacks available through the American Legion Store emblem.legion.org/Activities/products/338/2/0 and even a certificate when each level of giving is achieved. National, Department and Post recognition also supports dedicated participants in the program.



My Legion:

Take a moment to register at MyLegion.org through the American Legion website at legion.org.

Select MyLegion.Org at the top right of the page to connect to the Introduction Page and choose the "Members" site.

You will benefit from the additional information available to you and the ability to view and edit your personal information. You will also assist your Post leadership provide the best support and administration.



American Legion Basic Training Course

The majority of service and support programs conducted by the American Legion for their members and communities are unknown to them. Each member of the American Legion Family should consider completing the **free** Basic Training Course available through the American Legion website.

The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six

sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Graduates can print a completion certificate and order the cap/lapel pin.

Enroll now to learn more about your American Legion and the additional contributions you can make.

<https://www.legion.org/alei>

Military Women's Memorial



Authorized by Congress in 1986, the Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997. The Military Women's Memorial, at Arlington National Cemetery's entrance, is America's only national memorial dedicated to its military women.

Today, there are some 350,000 women in uniform and nearly 2 million women veterans.

The Military Women's Memorial is dedicated to preserving their history – one story at a time. It is dedicated to those who have served, those who are serving, and those who will serve in the future.

For additional information you can go to: www.womensmemorial.org

Armed Forces Retirement Homes (AFRH)



AFRH is the only Federal Retirement Community offering affordable care to the veterans who defended our nation's liberty. Residents must be physically and mentally independent to be accepted as members of AFRH; but should a resident need more support once accepted, there are four more levels of care offered at AFRH.

Eligibility has been expanded to include Retired Veterans whether they served in the Regular Military, Reserve Forces, or the National Guard and their spouses married before the serviceperson retired.

Eligibility requirements and much more information can be found at:
www.publicaffairs@afrh.gov.

Or call (800)422-9988. If no answer, call (443)-540-7418 ask for Christine Engle.
Or e-mail: admissions@afrh.gov