

The Legion Letter

T H E A M E R I C A N L E G I O N , D I G N A M - W H I T M O R E
P O S T 5 2 6

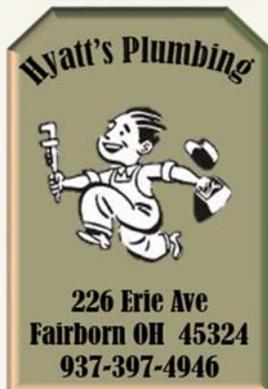
POST

OFFICERS

- Commander – Spencer Chaney *
 - 1st Vice – Chuck Knaub
 - 2nd Vice – Dave Kiernan
 - Adjutant – Dan Austin
 - Finance Officer – Jeff West
 - Sgt-at-Arms - Shawn Richter *
 - Chaplain – Roger Sloan
 - Service Officer—Chuck Knaub
 - Judge Advocate—Seth Dale *
 - Public Relations—Mary Pacinda
- * Pending Confirmation

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W E L C O M E C O M M A N D E R C H A N E Y

My name is Spencer Chaney, and I am honored to be designated to serve as the new Commander of American Legion Post 526. My legion eligibility comes from my service in the United States Army, including a tour in Afghanistan. I am currently learning all I can about the history and activities of the Legion, especially for our Post, whose history dates back to 1924. I have strong officers serving with me who have been and will continue to advise me regarding American Legion activities.

We have many challenges, most importantly the status of our Post Home. Here is what we know now: Our property has been foreclosed upon, and a receiver appointed to manage our affairs and sell the building. We are currently operating month to month, and are still taking bookings in our hall through July 2017. As each month goes by without any movement towards sale of the facility, we "slide" our bookings out for an additional month. For example, on March 1, we opened our booking through the month of July.

Another issue is the possibility that the sale could go to an entity that wants to keep the American Legion in the facility, or at least in part of the facility. We would then be required to pay rent. This arrangement would require an investment in time by our members to assist with hall functions, as well as utilize our lounge facility and kitchen services. The next several general membership meetings will be important regarding the decision-making process we need to explore concerning the future of the post.

If we do lose the building, it will be unlikely that we will be able to acquire another building in the near-term. We will most likely hold our meetings at the AMVETS or Senior Center. We will continue to be a presence in the community, and still conduct our programs. I urge you to stay with Post 526. Your card is valid for entry in any other Legion post. Our main source of income for our programs will come from membership fees.

In the good news, I am proud to announce that Dylan Shope, Fairborn High School, and Noel Watkins, Greenon High School, have been selected to attend Buckeye Boys State at Miami University, Oxford Ohio, beginning June 11th.

Spencer Chaney
Commander

D O D O P E N S O N L I N E E X C H A N G E S H O P P I N G T O
V E T E R A N S

The Defense Department announced today that veterans will soon be able to shop online at military exchanges. The policy change will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military, DoD officials said in a news release. The shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families, the release said. The change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support, officials said in the release. "We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged

veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund morale, welfare and recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right thing to do," Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, according to DoD officials, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments and

improved efficiencies.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members," Levine said.

"Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor."

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A U X I L I A R Y N E W S

The officers of American Legion Unit 526 want to assure all the members that the unit is still working its programs as it has in past years with some possible changes.

The Unit meetings will continue to be held at the Post Home unless and until the American legion has to vacate the building. If and when this occurs, arrangements have been made to meet at the Fairborn Senior Center on the same times and dates.

Because plans have to be made in advance for the Poppy Program activities, arrangements have been made to hold the Miss Poppy contest and the Mother/Daughter Banquet at the Senior Center. The Miss Poppy contest will be held on Monday, April 3rd, 2017, at 5 p.m. Permission has been obtained from the School Superintendent to distribute the applications at the schools. The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be Sunday, May 7,

2017. Those wishing to attend may call President Cuca AT 937-878-7988 and leave a message as to the number of adults and children attending. Cost will be \$6.00 per person paid at the door, and children under 12 are free.

The Unit has received permission, and will distribute Veteran-made Poppies on May 20th 2017 in the City of Fairborn. We always need volunteers from the Legion family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL) to help distribute the poppies and accept donations.

The Wii Bowling Chairman is working on scheduling the annual tournament. This is a part of the Unit's Community Service Program. The Unit is still holding monthly Bingo Games at Wright Nursing and Patriot Ridge Nursing homes.

The Unit continues to visit the Dayton VAMC and delivers treats to the PRP section and soda pop to the nursing home. The veterans

enjoy the pop as an alternative to the juices they normally receive with their meals. The Unit also assists with the Auxiliary District parties at the VAMC

The Unit has already made a donation to the annual Fairborn Easter Egg Hunt. We also will participate in the Memorial Day, Flag Day, and 4th of July activities.

Remember, we are here to serve our veterans and community with or without a permanent building as our home.

MEMBERSHIP FLASH FROM PAT DRAKE: The unit only needs 17 additional members to make our goal.

CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

30 E. Main St
Fairborn, OH 45324
937-754-0804



Weddings
Anniversaries
Birthdays
Holiday
Reunions
Promotions
Baptism
Novelty

STATE BUDGET NEWS

Governor Kasich introduced his Executive Budget recently and this budget again prioritizes veterans and military families. This budget is part of Ohio's ongoing commitment to the men and women who have proudly served our nation.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is fully funded and ready to continue the great work we accomplish together with you connecting veterans and military families to jobs, education and benefits. Here are the budget proposals that benefit veterans:

Aligning Ohio service officer requirements with national requirements: We have heard your requests to align Ohio service officer requirements with national requirements. While veterans will always be the first choice to fill veterans service officer positions, this budget expands veterans service officer eligibility to include former members of the National Guard and Reserve, as well as spouses, children, or parents of veterans. This change will allow your county veterans service commissions with a shortage of qualified veteran applicants to hire the most committed individuals to serve veterans in need. It will also allow these individuals access to state training and certification here at home instead of incurring the cost of national training and travel

Adding Executive director qualifications to law: Qualifications for county veterans service commissioners and county veterans service officers are already included in Ohio law. This budget adds qualifications for county veterans service office executive directors into Ohio law, because as you well know, executive directors play a vital role in running the county veterans service office. The recommended qualifications a veterans service commission shall seek when hiring an executive director are: candidate must be a veteran; and possess at least three years' experience in one or more of the following: administration, fiscal matters, law, operations, or communications. The goal of this guidance is to recognize the importance of executive directors to county veterans service offices and to help ensure veteran and military families receive consistent, quality service across the state.

Improving Veterans Access to Benefits and Resources: We need to ensure a better return on investment for veterans: Thirteen veterans organizations located across the state currently receive \$1.88 million in state

funds to provide local support and services to veterans. In past budgets, those funds were awarded directly to the organizations through 13 individual line items with no stipulations about how the state funds should be spent.

There was great disparity in how those state funds were used. In 2016, some of these organizations spent little to no state funds on service work to connect veterans to their benefits. Organizations that did spend state funds on service work brought in approximately \$28 in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits for every state dollar, according to the 2016 veterans organizations annual budget reports.

We propose aggregating the \$1.88 million into a single line item under DVS's budget and, in the second fiscal year of the biennium, converting the funds into a grant program with more rigorous reporting and accountability built in.

In order to give the veterans organizations a chance to plan how to incorporate state funds moving forward, our proposal would treat the first year of the biennium as a "bridge year," during which each of the organizations would receive the same amount of funding they have received in past budgets.

In Fiscal Year 2019, the governor's budget will increase the amount available to veterans organizations to \$2 million. Priority for grant funding will be given to service work that connects veterans to VA benefits, employment, and training. By focusing state funds on service work, such as operating their power of attorney offices, veterans organizations will be better equipped to accept, process, and superintend veterans' claims for VA benefits and healthcare submitted by your county veterans service offices. If veterans organizations commit greater funding to service work, more Ohio veterans can receive the VA benefits and resources they have earned.

Let's consider the demographics of our veteran population—57 percent of Ohio's 848,000 veterans are age 60 or older, and 10,000 new Ohio veterans leave the military each year. Under the current system of 13 individual veterans organization earmarks, if one organization should stop operations due to changing demographics or other reasons, that money would be returned to the state general revenue fund and no longer dedicated to veterans. The benefit of the single line item grant

program is the \$2 million stays dedicated to connecting Ohio veterans to their benefits and resources. Statute does not give DVS the authority to divert the funds for other uses.

Ohio War Orphan Scholarship increases to \$8.5 million: The fund will increase by 16.3 percent in FY 2018 to \$8.2 million and then it will increase another 3.7 percent in FY2019 bringing the fund to \$8.5 million. The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. To receive scholarship benefits, a student must be enrolled for full-time undergraduate study and pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree at an eligible Ohio college or university. Ohio residency is required. Applicants must be under the age of 25.

BOTTOM LINE: Ohio is home to more than 848,000 veterans – the sixth largest population of veterans in the United States – and is committed to improving veteran and their families' quality of life by connecting them to the appropriate employment, training and healthcare resources.

Source: **Chip Tansill**, Director Ohio Department of Veterans Services

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Dignity
MEMORIAL

Kevin F. Jennings, Manager
kevin.jennings@sci-us.com

AMERICAN LEGION MOVING DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Let's be honest, moving is stressful, and hard work. The American Legion has you covered with discounts from one of the largest relocation services provider. NorthAmerican Van Lines is proud to be celebrating 30 years as a trusted discount provider of the American Legion by offering members savings on professional packing, storage, and interstate moving services. The discounts are exclusive, so American Legion families need to qualify at www.Legion.movingNAVL.com or by calling 1-800-343-6899.

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OHIO VETERANS BONUS PAYS \$500 - \$1,500 TO ELIGIBLE VETS

COLUMBUS – In another example of how Ohio aims to “serve those who served,” members of the U.S. Armed Forces can receive the Ohio Veterans Bonus, which pays between \$500 and \$1,500.

“Ohio veterans answered the call to service when our nation needed them most,” said Chip Tansill, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. “It is an honor to thank and reward these brave men and women who fight for our nation’s freedom.”

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served during the eligible periods in Afghanistan up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served in other parts of the world during these periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum.

Veterans medically discharged as a result of combat service can receive \$1,000, regardless of how much time they spent in theater, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere.

The current bonus program extends to family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of service in Afghanistan. In those cases, recipients may receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible to receive, up to \$6,500.

The eligible time period for service in Afghanistan or any location outside Afghanistan is from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date yet to be determined by the President. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be

Ohio residents at the time they apply.

As of October 2016, the Ohio Veterans Bonus program had paid 91,060 claims amounting to more than \$74.3 million.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is not financed with taxes. Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment allowing the state to sell bonds to provide a special payment to servicemen and women.

Ohio Veterans Bonus applications are available at OhioVet.gov.

To learn more about benefits, bonuses, jobs and resources for Ohio veterans and military families visit www.ohiovet.gov or call 1-877-OhioVet.

THE GREENE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

Service is what the Office offers. Below is a summary of their activities year-to-date (YTD) as of 10 Feb 2017:

- Veterans Transported to the VAMC : 131
- Financial Assistance:
 - * Applications taken: 12
 - * Applications approved: 9
 - * Financial assistance funds expended: \$8,521.12
- Clients visiting office: 173 YTD

Veteran Service Officer Monthly Caseload Summary as of Jan 2017:

- Appointments: 99 (Jan)
- New Applications: 39
- Active cases: 184
- Closed cases: 20

Greene County has already issued over 300 Veterans ID cards. ID Cards are only issued between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. The cards are valid for ten years and there is no fee to obtain a Veteran ID Card. Please make sure to have an original or certified copy of the DD-214 before going to the Recorder's Office. For more details, please contact the Greene County Recorder's Office:

69 Greene St. 3rd floor
 Xenia, Oh 45385
 (937) 562-5270

Don't forget, the GCVS office can help in obtaining a copy of discharge document DD-214.

The GCVS regularly provides

transportation to the Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) Monday thru Friday by appointment. GCVS van picks up at the home, anywhere in the county, and transports to the Dayton VAMC and home again. The office is located at:

571 Ledbetter Rd.
 Xenia, Ohio 45385

Call (937)-562-6020 for an appointment or (937)562.6026 for transportation. Please call for transportation at least 48 hours in advance for door to door service.

Blanche Casey
 Greene County Veterans Service Commissioner

T A P S

To those who have lost a loved one, our deepest sympathy.

In memory of our deceased, we offer a moment of silence.

Rich Piros

John Gover

William Henley

Larry Krumm

Rudy Shaw

Richard Zember

**Judy Bauer
 (Auxiliary)**

"Out beyond the sunset they march; their footfalls cause no sound"



LEGION FAMILY CALENDAR

All Dinners and Lunches are Served in the Lounge
Open to the Public
Guests Welcome to All Our Functions

March 2017

All Meetings are Held in the Post Hall

Canteen Hours:
 Sun 1pm-8pm
 Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm
 Fri-Sat 11am-1am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Every Monday is Bucket Day! \$9 for Five		1 7pm Every Wednesday is Queen of Hearts!	2	3 Taco Friday Broasted Dinner	4 Every Saturday is Bucket Day! \$9 for Five
5 Big Beer Day 22 oz = \$2.75	6	7	8 Win more if you are here!!	9	Lenten Fish Specials	10 Taco Friday Beer Battered Cod and/or Shrimp OR Spaghetti Dinner
12 Big Beer Day	13	14	15	16		17 Taco Friday Corned Beef/Cabbage Trivia with Rob
19 Big Beer Day	20	21	22	23		24 Taco Friday Beef Hot Shots
26 Big Beer Day	27	28	29	30		31 Taco Friday Broasted Dinner

All Dinners and Lunches are Served in the Lounge
Open to the Public
Guests Welcome to All Our Functions

April 2017

All Meetings are Held in the Post Hall

Canteen Hours:
 Sun 1pm-8pm
 Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm
 Fri-Sat 11am-1am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Open For Lunch All Day Everyday	Every Monday is Bucket Day! \$9 for Five		7pm Every Wednesday is Queen of Hearts!			1 Every Saturday is Bucket Day! \$9 for Five
2 Big Beer Day 22 oz = \$2.75	3	4	5 Win more if you are here!!	6	Lenten Fish Specials	7 Taco Friday Broasted Dinner
9 Big Beer Day	10	11	12	13		14 Taco Friday Broasted Dinner
16  Happy Easter	17	18	19	20		21 Taco Friday Pizza Trivia with Rob
23 Big Beer Day	24	25	26	27		28 Taco Friday Beef Hot Shots
30 Big Beer Day						

LEGION DIRECTORY

LEGION OFFICE 2016-2017

- ☞ Commander – Spencer Chaney*
- ☞ 1st Vice – Chuck Knaub
- ☞ 2nd Vice – Dave Kiernan
- ☞ Adjutant – Dan Austin
- ☞ Finance Officer – Jeff West
- ☞ Sgt-at-Arms – Shawn Richter*
- ☞ Chaplain – Roger Sloan
- ☞ Service Officer – Chuck Knaub
- ☞ Judge Advocate – Seth Dale*
- ☞ Public Relations – Mary Pacinda
- ☞ *Pending Confirmation

TRUSTEES

- ☞ Chuck Knaub (IPPC)
- ☞ Dave Kiernan
- ☞ Jeff West
- ☞ Jim Lindsay
- ☞ Mary Pacinda
- ☞ Roger Sloan

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2016-2017

- ☞ President – Refugia P. Bowen
- ☞ 1st Vice – Pat Drake
- ☞ 2nd Vice –
- ☞ Secretary –
- ☞ Treasurer – Ellen Sloan-Farthing

AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

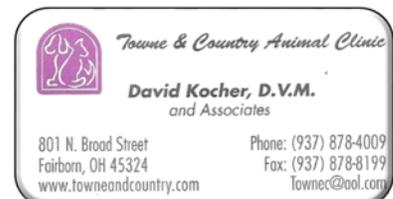
- ☞ Carol Abney
- ☞ Mecca Breczek
- ☞ Judy Lafleur

SAL OFFICERS 2016-2017

- ☞ Commander – Chuck Knaub (Acting)
- ☞ Finance Officer – Rick Masten
- ☞ Advisor – Roger Sloan

LOUNGE MANAGER

- ☞ Penny West



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Veterans serving Veterans

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Certified Public Accountant

BUSH & ASSOCIATES CPA. LLC

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL

Please bring this form to the Post Home or mail it to:
The American Legion, Dignam-Whitmore Post 526
526 Legion Lane
Fairborn, OH 45324

Name

Member of:

Delivery Preference:

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US Postal Service

Auxiliary

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New Email Address

_____ Old Street Address
_____ City, State, Zip

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The American Legion, Dignam-Whitmore Post 526
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