

The Post Parade



January, February 2019

POST 500

Commander's Corner

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

If you have not renewed your dues for the Legion, Auxiliary, the Sons or the Riders, your membership expires on December 31st. You must renew your membership to use and to participate in Post activities, which includes the Clubroom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for all they do in and around the Post for us, we would be lost without them. Thank you.

There has been NO communications with the Town of Speedway concerning Georgetown Road or the new road that we have been told they want to build. We have been waiting since June for them to get back to us on the requested meeting.

Yes, the rumors are true! Beginning in March, we will be open on Mondays - the 2nd Vice Commander will have more information on this later in the newsletter. Yes, we are looking into building a new building on our existing property. The building committee has requested bids from several architectural firms and we will be interviewing the firms in March. This project will be done slowly and correctly, and you will be advised of the progress every step of the way.

On February the 8th, the Post will be hosting a Comedy Show for the 11th District. This is a fundraiser for Indiana's candidate for National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Vicki Koutz. All proceeds will go to Vicki's campaign fund. The show will begin at 7:00 PM in the meeting rooms, so come early and enjoy dinner in the Club Room before the show. The headliner will be Pat Godwin, and the opening act will be our very own Dave the King Wilson.



Tickets are available in the Club Room, from Post and District Officers and by emailing me at post500@sbcglobal.net. Tickets are \$20 each.

Please consider volunteering at the Post. We need volunteers in the Club Room, in the Kitchen, and many volunteers are needed for our Race Parking. We also need members. Everyone reading this newsletter is a recruiter, ask your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join, you will be surprised at how easy it is to recruit a new member.

Mark A. Gullion

POST 500 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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because it matters



Disabled Veterans National Foundation Urges Veterans with PTSD and Depression to Seek Help During Winter Months.

The Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) (www.dvnf.org) is urging veterans with PTSD and/or depression to seek the help they need during the vulnerable winter months.

Depression is an illness that tends to be exacerbated by cold temperatures and shorter daylight hours. Even when veterans have been coping with the illness, the winter months can often expose vulnerability, making it harder to handle alone.

DVNF is reminding veterans that there is no shame in getting treatment, as this is a medical illness, not a weakness.

“Our veterans withstood countless perils throughout their military service, and decompressing from this can be a long process,” said Joseph VanFonda (USMC SgtMaj Ret.), CEO of DVNF. “However, I want to remind veterans struggling with depression or PTSD that there is hope, and that the earlier you seek treatment, the better of you will be.”

VanFonda is encouraging veterans in need of assistance to take a look at the following resources that are available to veterans.

If you’re experiencing a crisis, or you’re having thoughts of suicide:

Call 911

Go to the nearest Emergency Room

Call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255

Contact the Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, press 1 (text 838255) or [Confidential Veterans Chat](#) with a counselor

In addition, veterans struggling with PTSD or depression can also take advantage of many additional mental health resources the VA offers.

**I am the American Legion:
Derric Grimes (video)**



Johnette Lawson - 1st Vice Commander

Membership: We have made that mark with 71.93%. I want to thank everyone for their work in recruiting new members, great job! However, we can't let up and we need to continue this great effort. For those of you who have not paid your 2019 dues, please do so right away.

Monthly Meeting: We, the board, would like to see more of our members at our monthly meetings. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. We need your participation to help build our Legion. Your ideas, input and presence are very important to us and our Veterans. We are in the process of putting together more programs within the Legion. How would you like to play Euchre/cards, take a trip, or just get together for a family picnic and have fun? Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Programs:

Flag Education: The Flag Education program is completed. We will be presenting the winners (one boy and one girl) a certificate and \$25 gift certificate at one of our future meetings. Hope to have good attendance to congratulate these young students.

Boy States: Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and who have at least one more semester remaining are considered. Previous participants of a Boys State competition are not allowed to attend a second session. Only those who illustrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community should be considered. Merit and ability are the basis for evaluation during the actual citizens selection process.

Scholarships: Each year, Hoosier Boys State gives out approximately \$13,000 worth of scholarships with the potential for an additional \$20,000. In addition to this, some colleges and universities offer college credit and scholarships for attending the program. Below is a potential list of scholarships that they may be applicable to. Click on the name to get more information.

[Samsung Scholarship](#)

[Frank M. McHale Scholarship](#)

[Trine University Scholarship](#)

[Frank M Kossa Scholarship](#)

[Rich Adamski Scholarship](#)

[College Credits](#)

Post Scholarship: We also have a Post Scholarship that will be awarded April, 2019. More information on the Post Scholarship forthcoming.

Until we meet again, always remember, "For God and Country, we are committed to the welfare of our fellow veterans and their families."

I hope the holidays treated everyone well. The new year will be a different year for Post 500 but if everyone can donate a little time, the post will survive and prosper. May the Light of Bethlehem shine on you and your family.

Danny 'Doc' Cain, Chaplain

Steve Sabo - 2nd Vice Commander

I want to start 2019 by wishing every member of Post 500 and their family a very Happy New Year.

Before going forward, I'd like to look back to 2018. We started out the year very well, but in May we lost our Commander very unexpectedly. We made it through a tough time, then in June we had a manager change. Again, we landed on our feet thanks to a lot of hard work by several people. Things were going fairly well, then in early December we lost our cook. We survived several major obstacles, so now we can look ahead.

Before I do that, I want to thank several people who work very hard on a weekly basis without any recognition. To the guys at the table every Thursday - **Dave**, **Bill** and **Mike**. Thank You. To **Bill** and **Dave** who fill in when they are asked. Thank you. To **Steph**, who sells games, not only on Thursdays, but whenever she can. Thank you. To **Kelley** for making this all work. Thank you. To the **Ladies Auxiliary** - whenever we need anything, they step up. Thank you. And finally, to my wife **Becky** who helps me on Thursdays and every Friday night when we sell United We Stand tickets. Thank you.

Looking ahead to 2019, a lot is going on. March is St. Pats Day, always a big event at the Post. May speaks for itself. In August we have the National Convention in Indianapolis. Special events are being planned for the Post. Please check our monthly calendar, our website and Facebook for all these events and more.

Starting Saturday, January 5, 2019, the Club Room will not open on Saturdays until 3:00 pm. Kitchen opens at 5:00 pm. Starting Monday, March 4, 2019, the Club Room will be open 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday. Club Room opens at 3:00 pm, kitchen opens at 5:00 pm.

The Club Room is holding its own financially, thanks to gaming. Our building, not so much. Our Commander likes to say, the band aids are falling off. We are currently exploring options.

Finally, I want to express how important it should be to you to attend your monthly membership meetings. This Post doesn't belong to past board members. This Post doesn't belong to the current board members. This Post won't belong to future board members. **THIS POST BELONGS TO YOU.** Please go to your meetings and have a vote on how things are run at **YOUR POST.** Contact me anytime if you have questions or concerns about the Club Room.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS POST 500



January 8 – American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
January 8 – Sons of American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
January 15 – American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
January 22 – American Legion Riders Monthly Meeting, 7 pm

February 12 – American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
February 12 – Sons of American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
February 19 – American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
February 26 – American Legion Riders Monthly Meeting, 7 pm

Kelley Lowry - Assistant Clubroom Manager

Here we are again, Post 500 Family and Friends! We, in the Club Room, are welcoming the year 2019 with open arms! We are going to be making some changes this year, so please be sure to continue to check your newsletter, website, Facebook page, monthly calendars, or just come in to the Club Room and find out first hand.

I feel like I can't say **THANK YOU** enough to everyone who keeps contributing their time to our Post! We couldn't make it without our customers/patrons, volunteers, and employees. I can't think of a better group of people to consider my "Family!" You all are the best, and I can't wait to see what this year brings to all of us.

We will be changing our door cards this month, so please see the bartender with your new 2019 membership cards to receive your new door card. If you haven't paid your 2019 dues, you can also do that at the bar during our hours of operation.

Thank you once again to everyone who makes this place so enjoyable to be a part of!

Be sure to join us the first Tuesday of each month for the Legion Stew, made by the Legionnaires! Due to the holidays, we will skip January, but will resume on February 5, 2019.



Congratulations to our weekly winners!
Join us Thursday nights for **YOUR** chance to win the Treasure Hunt!



Congratulations!

Jasmin Pettiford Historian

Christmas was celebrated once again at Post 500. As in the past, children brought gifts for homeless veterans before sitting with Santa and telling him what they would like for Christmas. Santa didn't come alone, with him was one of his young reindeer and an elf. The Auxiliary made sure the gifts were distributed to homeless veterans in need.



On December 7, at 1100 hours, a Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service was held at Riverside High School, formerly the Naval Armory. Speakers included Mayor Joe Hogsett, Lt. Cdr. Nicholas Smith, 11th District Commander Joe Allen, and others. As is the tradition at other Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Services, a wreath tossing into the flowing waters (at White River) concluded the memorial service. Several members of Speedway Post 500 were in attendance, including our Post Commander Mark Gullion.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Legionnaire William H. Harvey, a Pearl Harbor survivor, and resident of Indianapolis. Commander Gullion, as well as other officers, were honored to have the opportunity to spend time with Mr. Harvey, who was unable to attend the memorial service because of health issues.



Auxiliary News from Dorinda Resner



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Dorinda Resner

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Judy Otey

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Rhonda Jones

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Tammy Rork

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Vickie Bunting

Chaplain

Terri Hannon

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Evelyn Hinshaw

Parliamentarian

Kristen Hinshaw

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jackie Pearson

Denise Albrecht

Greetings ladies! It is hard to believe the end of 2018 is upon us. My hope and wish for all of you is that 2019 brings good health and much happiness to you and your families!

The ladies of Unit 500 have been busy this holiday season! Ladies were busy selling our jars at holiday bazaars to make money for our Veterans' projects. We also had a couple of babysitting gigs for the Marines and the Army. Members worked with the Post to put on the Children's Christmas party which was, again, a "giving Christmas" where the children brought donations as gifts for the homeless Veterans of Indianapolis. We made some great monetary donations in 2018 to help the Veterans at Indiana Veterans Home, HVAF of Indiana for our homeless Veterans, donations to ALA National Scholarship funds and our own Unit Scholarship fund. We partnered with the Post to collect non-perishable foods for St. Christopher's food pantry in Speedway. This is just a small example of the work the ladies of our Unit do and will continue to do. I hope that this will inspire more members to become active and help us with these projects – our success depends on our members who volunteer! **WE NEED YOU!**

Membership is due ladies! As you know, your 2018 membership expires 12/31/18. After that date you are inactive and will need to sign in at the Post or our Unit meetings as a guest. Please don't let this happen! There are several ways to pay your dues to make it as convenient as possible for you.

Dues are \$25 and there are several ways you can renew:

- Online through the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org - this is a free service provided by National Headquarters and a sure way to renew with a credit/debit card (VISA or Mastercard). You will need your user name and password to login to the Members Only portal of the website (if you don't have a login, it is easy to get).
- Call National Headquarters (317-569-4500) to pay over the phone with a credit/debit (VISA or Mastercard).
- Write a check and mail to our Membership Chairman, Connie Crouch, 6025 Dartmoor Ct, Indianapolis, IN 46254.
- Through our unit website at www.ala500.com. Click on "Membership" button on the home page. There are instructions to renew with PayPal.
- Come to a meeting or come by the Post and pay in person (cash or check only).

Did you know that we sell jars of Amish goodies right there at the Post? Proceeds from these sales go to helping the veterans. Visit our website to learn more and to see a full listing of what is available. www.ala500.com. We also have gift certificates available!

To purchase these, see any of the Auxiliary members or the bartender.

**GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR
VETERANS!**



American Legion Riders News



The Veterans Day Parade was cold but a success! We had 7 bikes/riders and 2 passengers. Most of the Chapters in District 11 were represented!

A HUGE thank you to the Auxiliary for providing breakfast that morning!! It was FANTASTIC!!

ALR Chapter 500 had a Holiday Celebration on December 18th since our meeting falls on Christmas. A good time was had by all.

Chapter 500 wishes everyone a happy and successful new year! See you at the Post!!

2019 ALR dues are now due! After the first of the year, you will be a guest if you have not paid your 2019 dues. Dues may be paid to the Post bartender. Keep your receipt until you get your card.

Our regular monthly meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00.

Dina Long, Director
ALR Chapter 500



Sons of the American Legion News

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has made their resolutions and are ready to perform that little extra to achieve their goal. I also hope that there is some part of those resolutions that will help assist the Post in some way. As Sons we are "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage" and I believe we need to step-up and show we really are those PROUD Sons. There are many ways you can assist the Post and most don't take much time and actually are a lot of fun. If you are interested, you can contact Commander Mark Gullion at 317-431-0184 or Club Room Manager Dave Wilson at 317-244-9625.

Please take time to look at your membership card and make sure it is a 2019 card. If not, that means it is time to renew your membership. You can bring your payment to the Club Room or send it in by mail to the Post at 1926 Georgetown Road, Speedway, IN 46224.

As a Squadron we decided to cease our monthly Spaghetti Dinner but we made two exceptions; (1) the Speedway Basketball Team this coming February 19th and (2) the Boys Little League this Spring. We will need help on both occasions so both organizations will greatly benefit from those dinners. The work isn't hard and the comradery is top rate. Just a couple hours is all we are asking so please give it a thought.

There are tickets available for both the 11th District Meat Raffle ending at Mid-Winter Conference and the Comedy Show in February. Ask any Officer or in the Club Room for a ticket.

Our meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and our weekly drawing is every Thursday at 6:30 PM. Receive the most from your membership, be PROUD and be ACTIVE.

Damon Bradtmueller
Squadron 500 Commander