

The Post Parade



November,
December 2018

POST 500

Commander's Corner

Greetings. I hope this article finds everyone well and preparing for the snow and the holidays. I would like to welcome our new members and our members who have recently transferred into our Post. Two of our new members have stepped up and have become board members; Jasmin Pettiford is our new Historian and her son Louis Day is our new Service Officer - welcome aboard!

Membership is the key to our Post and to the American Legion's survival. I have signed up 4 new members in the last month, how many have you signed up? Every month I have challenged everyone to sign up at least 1 new member. Membership is the most important item at Speedway Post 500. Again, without members we have no American Legion. Our membership chairperson, Johnette Lawson, is doing an outstanding job, taking care of the renewals but she needs your help with recruitment. We used to be the largest Post on the West side.

A lot of work has occurred around the Post. The sink hole in the parking lot, the bricks on the front of the building, the front bathrooms, and new bar sink, just to name a few. We hope that you like what you are seeing. We still are working on small items around the Post and repairing this and that. Unfortunately, we still have not heard anything from the Town of Speedway. Seems like there is never any follow through with what they tell us. We will keep trying.

On September the 22nd the Post retired over 2,500 unserviceable flags, be sure to look at our Facebook page to see the photos, as well as Jasmin's article below. We will have another retirement ceremony on June 15, 2019.

The Department of Indiana will be hosting the 100th National Convention, which will be held in Indianapolis, on August 23 - 29, 2019. The Post will need a lot of volunteers so please consider helping. We will need help in the Clubroom, in the Kitchen and will need people to drive one of two shuttle buses that will run between downtown and the Post. The Department of Indiana will also need a lot of help. Assistance will be needed with packets and registrations, information booths, parade, and the after-parade party, which will be held at the Legion Mall. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. Thank you.

Mark A. Gullion
Post Commander

****The December Executive Committee Meeting has been
rescheduled to December 18, 2018.****

POST 500 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Commander

Mark Gullion – 317.431.0184
Post500@sbcglobal.net

1st Vice Commander

Johnette Lawson – 317.504.9768
jleeLawson@sbcglobal.net

2nd Vice Commander

Steve Sabo – 317.443.2357
bssabo@sbcglobal.net

Adjutant

Steve Tansel – 317.473.9694
steven.a.tansel.civ@mail.mil

Finance Officer

George Alyea – 317.946.0564
georgealyea@yahoo.com

Service Officer

Louis Day – 317.830.1095
lcd1974@gmail.com

Chaplain

Danny Cain – 317.796.7226

Judge Advocate

Joe Olofson – 317.518.9642
jolofson488@sbcglobal.net

Sergeant-at-Arms

Bryce White – 317.509.7550
fuq777@gmail.com

Historian

Jasmin Pettiford – 317.506.3634
2jazzi1218@gmail.com

Trustee

Mike Florek – 317.988.3164
mike_florek@yahoo.com

Johnette Lawson
1st Vice Commander

Membership: Our goal was to be at 62% and we have made that mark with 62.48%. 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.

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 or 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: I am in the process of conducting the American Legion Flag Education program. I will be delivering the "Our Country's Flag" comic book next week to five different Speedway Schools. There will be two winners from each school, (one boy and one girl). I would like to have volunteers to evaluate the essays from the students - this process will probably be sometime early December. If you are interested in helping, please feel free to contact me here:
jleelawson@sbcglobal.net.

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

Johnette Lawson
1st Vice Commander



Why You Should Join

Together We Make A Difference

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities in thousands of ways every day around the world. Help comes in the form of personal assistance, cash grants, donated goods, disaster relief, labor, networking, volunteerism and advocacy.

Benefits Assistance

The American Legion offers expert advice, support and representation for veterans and families seeking government benefits they are eligible to receive at the federal, state and local levels.

Comfort for the Recovering

Operation Comfort Warriors helps active-duty military personnel and newly discharged veterans recover and adjust to lifestyle changes.

Homeless Veteran Outreach

The American Legion offers hundreds of opportunities for homeless veterans across the country, including temporary housing, mentoring and job training.

Honor and Remembrance

American Legion honor guards provide official services at thousands of veteran funerals around the world each year. The Legion is also a leader at every level in the establishment and maintenance of memorials and monuments that honor military sacrifice.

Member Discounts

The American Legion offers members and their families practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save many times the cost of annual membership dues.

Steve Sabo
2nd Vice Commander

The American Legion has a lot of family members who live in Florida. **PLEASE** remember them in your prayers.

It is Friday morning, Oct. 19. I'm sitting in the dining room of the condo in Panama City Beach. We evacuated to Alabama the morning of the 10th, spent 4 nights there watching TV about Hurricane Michael, returning to PCB on Sunday the 14th. Pictures on TV do not come close to showing the devastation these people are dealing with. It will take years, maybe decades, for some of these people's lives to be normal again. I want to thank my cousin Tony, from Speedway and his friend Jenny, from Indian Rocks Florida. Becky and I were stranded in Dothan Alabama with no hotel to be found and they found us one for 4 nights.

As everyone should know by now, our Treasure Hunt was hit, and we started a new one at \$8,000 – it is currently over \$11,000. This game has been slow to grow - it will never build if people don't come in. Also, our Queen of Hearts was hit, and I will start a new game called United We Stand. By the time you receive this newsletter it will be running. This game will not have a cap on it like the Queen of Hearts did. This game will be sold all week and I will sell tickets on Fridays starting at 4:30 pm. Drawing will be at 7:30 pm on Fridays.

We are nearing the Holiday Season. Please join us for some, or all, of our events.

- Nov. 6 Legion Stew
- Nov. 10 Veterans Day dinner. Cocktails at 6, Dinner at 7, tickets are on sale at the bar. Veterans' tickets are free, guests and/or spouses are \$8.
- Nov. 17 Entertainer – Mark Reed, 7:30- 11:30 pm
- Dec. 4 Legion Stew
- Dec. 8 Bad Habit Band – 8 until Midnight
- Dec. 15 Kids' Christmas Party at Noon, more details to come.
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Parties - both rooms. Big Daddy J will be in the clubroom. Tune-O-Matics will be in the rental room. Prices to follow. You won't be able to go anywhere cheaper. Guaranteed!

Glad to report – the restrooms are **COMPLETED**! Kelley and her staff continue to do a great job. Thanks to you guys, it makes my job easier. I encourage anyone who has a suggestion or comment about the clubroom to contact me.

Don't forget to attend your monthly membership meetings.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS FLORIDA AND POST 500

During the recent Fall Conference Bob Schnell presented a check from the Post 500 American Legion Riders chapter in the amount of \$13,407.00. This money was raised from the annual Zach Nordmeyer Memorial Ride and was donated to Operation Comfort Warriors. Because of the efforts of Post 500 ALR chapter, they have raised more than \$200,000 in donations for OCW. Past National Commander, James Koutz, presented the Post a beautiful plaque for the endeavor, which on display in the Post.

NOTE:

The Post Executive Committee is exploring the idea of hiring an on-call, part time maintenance person to do small jobs in and around the Post. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please contact Mark at post500@sbcglobal.net.

Kelley Lowry
Asst. Clubroom Manager

Hello American Legion Post 500 Family and Friends! There isn't much to report from the clubroom side of things. Since the last newsletter, we have had a new Treasure Hunt game start and the Queen of Hearts was hit! Congratulations to the winners of both of those games!

We are into the holiday season now and needing some volunteers to decorate for Christmas. I would like to get the decorations out the weekend after Thanksgiving. Please let me know if Sunday or Monday would work better for you so we can get this organized for all the people who are willing to help. Thanks in advance for your help!

Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see happen in the clubroom. There are suggestion sheets out on tables to get some feedback from our members. Please take a couple minutes to give us your input. Don't forget to check your monthly calendars for upcoming events, dinner specials, and drink specials. We hope to see you soon!

Post 500 Upcoming Events



Post 500 Monthly Meetings

November 13 – American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
November 13 – Sons of American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
November 20 – American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
November 27 – American Legion Riders Monthly Meeting, 7 pm

December 11 – American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
December 11 – Sons of American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
December 18 – American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7 pm
December 18 – American Legion Riders Holiday Get Together, 7 pm

**Jasmin Pettiford
Historian**



We were honored to have the National Commander at our District 11 meeting and the Fall Conference. Honors were given to the cadets in the law enforcement program.



In Post 500 tradition, flags were retired in proper form on September 22, 2018. The Legion took unserviceable flags and burned and buried them on the Post 500 grounds.

If you have an unserviceable flag, please bring it to Post 500 and place in the patriotic mailbox in the lobby. We will retire the flag at our next yearly Flag Retirement Ceremony, which will be held on June 15, 2019.



**I am the American Legion:
Patricia Harris (video)**



We need your help!

If you have any information or pictures on events associated with Post 500 since June of 2018, please let us know!

You can contact Jasmin with that information, email: 2jazzi1218@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Auxiliary News from Dorinda Resner



OFFICERS

President

Dorinda Resner

Vice President

Judy Otey

Secretary

Rhonda Jones

Recording Secretary

Tammy Rork

Treasurer

Vickie Bunting

Chaplain

Terri Hannon

Historian

Evelyn Hinshaw

Parliamentarian

Kristen Hinshaw

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jackie Pearson

Denise Albrecht

Kind words can be short and
easy to speak but their
echoes are truly endless.
Mother Teresa

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

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL! Can you believe the holidays are just around the corner? Time sure does fly by. I want to let you know about a few things that are coming up the next couple of months.

We will be collecting food items for St. Christopher's Food Pantry from November 1 – 20. We need your help! Please bring donations to the Post, we will have a box for the collection.

On November 10th our Auxiliary Unit will be doing the **Veterans Day breakfast** this year from 8-10:30 am. The breakfast will be free to Veterans and Military and we ask that the public make a donation. The menu is scrambled eggs, sausage links, and sausage gravy with biscuit. That evening is the **Veterans Day/Early Bird dinner** at our Post. Tickets are available at the bar and must be purchased in advance. \$8.00 per person or free to legionnaires who pay their dues by October 31. Please bring an item to donate to St. Christopher's Food Pantry.

At our November meeting on the 20th, we will be holding an initiation ceremony for members who have joined and not participated in the ceremony. Please plan to attend the meeting that evening!

It's going to be a busy couple of months for the ladies who work so hard at selling our jars! They have scheduled several holiday bazaars to peddle their wares and get the word out about our organization and what we do. Check the calendar on our website **www.ala500.com** for the dates and times of those events and come out to support our communities!

The ladies of our Unit will also be helping with the **Kids' Christmas Party** again this year at the Post on December 15. We are asking the children to bring donations for the homeless Veterans of Indianapolis again this year. Watch our website and Facebook page (American Legion Auxiliary Speedway Unit 500) for more information. There will again be activities and treats for the children.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make it a point to renew your membership. You don't want to lose the benefits the American Legion Auxiliary offers members and you are critical to the success of our Unit! 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).

Ladies, I hope you will find time to come in and see some of the improvements that have been taking place at your Post. Come in for dinner, bring friends, see friends you haven't seen in a while. We would love to see you soon!

American Legion Riders News



At the Fall Department meeting on Saturday October 6, Bob Schnell presented our check for over \$13,000 to Jim Koutz for Operation Comfort Warrior. This money was raised through the Zach Ride by our hard-working volunteers! Thank you all so much and thank you to all who participated and donated! We will have a ceremonial check presentation at our Post so all of you can join in the celebration!

ALR Chapter 500 does not have any planned rides for the rest of the year, so we will be supporting several different rides in our District and surrounding Districts.

The Veterans Day Parade will be on Saturday, November 10 this year instead of the 11th. The ALR will be riding out of Post 500 to participate in the parade. We will have breakfast available for riders, veterans and friends. (Breakfast is free, but we will accept donations.) Kick stands up at 10:30 from Post 500. Surrounding Chapters will be joining us.

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 pm.

Dina Long, Director



Sons of the American Legion News

This is the time of year that is very busy for everyone, going here and there trying to tie up loose ends for the Holidays. On behalf of all the members of Squadron 500, we hope all of the Post 500 members and all Veterans have a wonderful Veterans Day. Thank you for your service that gives us the freedoms we have today and every day. We also remember those on active duty, the Reserves and the National Guard that are still protecting our freedoms on a daily basis.

Members are welcome to join the Department of Indiana with other Post members and march in the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday November 10th - please let me know if you want to join us. If not, why don't you go Downtown and watch the Parade and cheer the marchers on?

As the Holidays approach please take time to remember those Veterans in the VA Medical Centers and nursing homes. If you have any comfort items you may want to give, you can bring them to the Post and deposit in the box in the lobby for the Service Officer.

The National Organization just finished the Fall Executive Meetings. The Public and Media Communications Commission requested from the members in attendance photos of their eligibility for a Power Point presentation. The next National Convention will be in Indianapolis in August 2019. The PMCC wants to extend an invitation to all the membership to send in photos of their eligibility regardless if they can attend the Convention or not. Any member can email a photo of his Father or Grandfather, in or out of uniform, their name, your name, period and branch of service to Chairman Seth Rippe at s_rippe@hotmail.com. If you have issues doing that, drop the picture and information off at the Post to my attention or bring to a Squadron meeting.

If you haven't been to the Post lately, stop by and see all the changes. Get the most from your membership; become active. Questions or comments, 317-496-5561 or djbradtmueller@att.net. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take time to think of those less fortunate.

Damon Bradtmueller, Commander