



American Legion Post 379
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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I wish to thank Jim Grau for hosting, Ronnie Mac for cooking and others too numerous to mention for the get-together with the Charles Swabb people. It was a great meeting and could result in new members for our family. During the week of March 11th, Jim will also be coordinating a telethon to contact members who have not renewed and he will be needing volunteers to make the calls.

My thanks to the Flag retirement members. We were successful in disposing of a lot of flags, but have plenty more for next month. Chaplain Smitty did an excellent job in honoring the Four Chaplains and telling the story of their heroic actions. Was very disappointed that more members did not attend.

If you have not read on Facebook, Sens Kyrsten Sinema and Thom Tillis have co-sponsored the "Legion Act" bill that could expand eligibility for American Legion membership to all veterans who served since World War II. This bill could provide an influx of new members for our family. Will keep you up-to-date on the progress.

On an experimental basis, the Legion has approved "early voting". If you have an interest in a Post position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, as you will need to be vetted by them to be placed on the ballot. Early voting will start at 10:00 am and end at 6:00 pm. You will need your 2019 membership card and you will be marked as having voted. The Committee is chaired by Jim Grau with Mike Regan, Mike Severs and Dennis Gossett.

A special thank you to all who helped with the memorial service for Kathy Bigley. It was a great tribute and our heartfelt prayers go out to the Bigley family and our deepest sympathies for their loss.

For God and Country and Post #379 Proud

Bob_Roberts100@yahoo.com

AUXILIARY NEWS

It is with deep sadness that I inform you that our beloved Kathy Bigley passed away last week after an extended period of illness. Please keep Terry and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Terry has requested that if you wish to donate in Kathy's honor that you please send it to the ALA Department of Texas, Cancer Research fund.

Our annual Valentines' Day Dinner on February 9th was a huge success and I want to thank all my helpers who helped decorate, cook, serve and clean up. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

We will have our Mardi Gras dinner and home-made mask competition on March 2nd. Dinner will be served from 6:30p to 8p or until we run out! Annie Harrington will be coming in from Louisiana to be our chef and Tina Roberts will be her sous chef. We will be serving chicken and sausage gumbo and shrimp fettuccini. There will be a mask contest so start now working on your **home-made** mask! Rules are as follow: Make a mask from scratch and bring it to the post by 6pm to be qualified for judging. This will be a blind judging competition. You will bring your mask in to the Post and it will be given a number. Chosen judges will judge your mask based on creativity (you will not be wearing it at the time of judging). There will be three winners and the winners will be called promptly at 7:30pm. We encourage all participants to wear them after the winners are called. So, come on down and bring your most beautiful mask!

Gisela will be cooking corned beef and cabbage on March 15th for St. Patrick's Day. Everyone knows what a good cook Gisela is so come down early and enjoy! 6:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. or until sold out.

We will be selling our adult Easter eggs on Friday, April 19 and Teka has volunteered to spearhead a children's Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 20 from noon to 3 p.m.

Our General Elections will be held on May 2 at our General Membership meeting. I will not be running for President.

The National Auxiliary Constitution and By-Laws state that if an Auxiliary Unit doesn't have a President, Secretary and Treasurer the Unit will lose its charter. It would be unfortunate if the largest Auxiliary Unit in Texas lost its charter. If you would like to know what duties are required for a position, please get with me and I will share the info with you. We sure need some new faces to become officers of your Auxiliary. Signup sheets will be posted soon.

Our next General Membership meeting will be March 7th at 7 p.m. Hope to see you here for the meeting.

Theresa Winslow
ALA Unit # 379 President

1ST VICE UPDATE

On Feb 20 the post hosted a brisket dinner prepared by Ronnie Mac to recruit new members. We signed up two new members for the post & two for the auxiliary. Several others promised to join the legion at a later date.

March 11-18 is "buddies week" sponsored by national in Indianapolis to call members who have not renewed their membership for this year. We are asking for volunteers to assist making calls during March 11-18.

For God and Country,

Jim Grau - 1st Vice Commander

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As 3rd Vice for the Auxiliary I'm pleased to report we are at 89% membership! If you bring in a new member and I am in the Post, please introduce them to me. I want to welcome as many members in person as I possibly can.

I am working to put together an Easter Egg Hunt/Canned Food Drive for the American Legion Post 379.

If anyone has plastic eggs or other items they would like to donate, please comment or message me.

Easter Egg Hunt Date: Sat., April 20th Noon until 3pm

I will be seeking volunteers and donations of all kinds.

Goals are:

- Provide an egg hunt for all children/grandchildren 12 and under of post members and selected active-duty families.
- Collect canned food items from April 13th to April 20th
- Raise money via lunch plates sold on that day.

- Donate all canned food items and money raised from lunch plates to a Food bank within the DFW area that works with veterans.

Feel free to message me if you can volunteer or donate. I will want to coordinate at 2 different meetings for the volunteers if possible. I will use the comments to update as needed.

Teka Allen
Membership / Vice President

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Although we haven't had a really rough winter so far as in some past years in recent memory, like "cobble stone ice", business and commerce all shutting down, etc, I guess that I can say for most, we are ready for Spring. Look at the date. Here we are in early March when the signs of new growth appear like flowering tree buds, flowers sprouting, blooming, birds singing and for some of us, time to start planting garden.

Many members of our Post family have certainly had their fair share and more of the "bugs" of the season like colds that hang on for far too long, and rough cases of flu. Too many long suffering Dr visits, and even ER visits have taken a toll on even those with the strongest levels of patience. Some of us at times felt like we needed to hose our homes down with "bug killing" disinfectant.

Once again I need to report that some of our fellow veterans are still on sick call. Timo and Howard Stevens are still in rehab at Forum Park Nursing facility here in Bedford. Both gents would really appreciate cards, calls, and most importantly visits. Don't forget their family members as well. Keep them in your thoughts and reach out to them.

On a sad note: our friend Kathy Bigley, had been battling cancer (the big "C") for well over a decade and all the complications that could have possibly came up. Kathy passed away on February 20, 2019 at home with her husband, Terry and her loving family by her side. The viewing was held at Bluebonnet Funeral Home on Sunday February 24 and her funeral was on Monday February 26 at 3:00 pm at the same facility with burial at Bluebonnet Cemetery. A tremendous outpouring of respect and love was shown by family members, friends, Post 379, and extended American Legion and Auxiliary friends and associates. An American Legion Auxiliary memorial service was held at Post 379 Monday at 5:00 pm. The Post was full which was a great honor to Kathy with a meal provided afterward by Post 379 and Post 379 Auxiliary. Her journey with this fateful disease was long and extremely difficult with too many ups and downs, valleys and mountains but it can be said that she "fought the good fight". She gave it all she had until there was no more.

When one of our family members passes, their struggles and suffering are over, but the loved ones left behind face pain, heartache, and grief that marches on. Let us all as American Legion family not forget our brothers and sisters, the survivors of a terrible loss. Make extra effort to reach out to them, a touch, a hug-don't just ask them how they are doing but really take the time to sit down and just talk with them. Most importantly, LISTEN to them.

American Legion family, in life we have seasons where there is more suffering than other times. Our post has been going through a very active season of losses. As I have said before-yes, all of our lives get full, busy, and hectic especially in the crazy world we live in today. But please take the time to stop and show our members why we call ourselves, "our family" at American Legion Post 379.

So as we go forward in this new season of life, let us remember what a Tibetan Monk who had crossed the Himalayas on foot during the Chinese occupation of his country was asked how he managed such a difficult journey, he replied "that is simple, one step at a time". Our Post is going to become busier with different activities and functions as the year progressing with each endeavor we will take it "one step at a time". Let us all take pride in our Post 379 and BE READY.

Let us use each life experience to remind us that we are bigger than ourselves.

Craig Smith – Smitty / Chaplain - Post 379

SAL NEWS

Greetings from your Squadron Commander, our current membership stands at 125 of 146 of goal. Have increased new members but still behind on current members. The annual Gun Raffle was a success at time of this newsletter we had not drawn the winner yet, it will be posted on the Legion facebook page when announced. Dinner last month was a good month compared to the previous month, we are back into the 30 in dinners.

I am sad to report that Cook Children's Medical Center in Ft Worth has decided to not do the Josh Dog Programs. So as a Squadron we are looking to gain another organization to donate to, if you know of anything or suggestions please free to bring it to a Squadron Officer.

As of right now we are looking for people to fill some vacancies in our squadron, they are 1st Vice, 2nd Vice and Historian if you think you would like to volunteer stop by and let one of the other Squadron Officer know your interest.

Our Meat Raffle is going well and I want to thank everyone who comes out and supports this event.

Things are buzzing in and around the post come done and see what's going on.

Terry Bigley – Squadron 379 Commander
817.522.2385

LEGION RIDERS

As we enter March, the Riders are gearing up for the upcoming riding season. Crash is back from Las Vegas with 64 wheelchairs to be delivered across Texas and Oklahoma to Harley Davison Dealerships to fulfill our part of the Wheelcharrier program (see our Facebook page, American Legion Chapter 379 Riders for details). Now the real work begins. We will be planning rides that incorporate the delivery of these wheelchairs over the next several months.

We have also been contacted by another organization who will be donating 14 more wheelchairs on March 5th for veterans in need. If you know any veteran who needs a wheel chair, or any organization who is in need of wheelchairs (preferably ones who support Veterans), please speak to one of the Riders.

On May 2-5 we will be leaving for The Hill Country Run (Ride) in Fredericksburg, Texas. If you're interested in joining us, please contact us for more info. Rooms are getting scare so you need to make a reservation soon if you plan on joining us.

On Saturday, March 16th, we will be serving Shepherd's pie, Salad, and desert for \$10.00.

On Saturday, March 9th, Michael (Wrench) Allen will be cooking for Riders steak night.

We still have a few Challenge Coins available for \$15.00; please see a Riders officer to purchase.

Don't forget the Yahtzee game. Everyone benefits from the winnings.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3rd at 2 PM. Have a fun and safe Saint Patrick's Day.

Be Safe, "Ride Your Own Ride"

Lahonda "Fireball" Meier – Director
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