

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Post Everlasting Chaplain's Corner	2
ALA Unit 290 News	3
Veteran's Crisis	4
Multi Year Legion Membership	5
American Legion Riders News	6
Nominations for Officers	9
SAL Info Firewood	11
Post 290 Events and Radar	12
Calendar	13

•

10

American Legion Post 290 Newsletter edited by Siegfried Gates

The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

Stafford, Virginia

February 2024

Commander's Call to the Post 290 American Legion Family:

Greetings Comrades,

I truly hope that each of you has had a wonderful start to the new year. I look forward to spending time with you at the Post this year, as we volunteer our time to continue our mission of helping out veterans in whatever way we can.

Thanks to all who supported the District Oratorical Contest on January 13, 2024. We want to congratulate the winner and also let all the contestants know we are proud of their efforts.

As you will see in the newsletter, the District 16 Spring conference has been moved to Saturday, February 3rd. I hope to see you all there, weather permitting.

As always, thanks to EVERYONE who supports our veterans and events at the Post. We could not do what we do without the help of EACH of you!

Stay safe and warm during these winter months. Remember to check on your elderly neighbors and those in need. We are all in this together. If anyone needs any help, please reach out.

Rick Schultz Commander American Legion Post 290

Are you **tired of annual dues renewal?** Can't quite bring yourself to a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership? National now has an answer for you. See details inside this issue!

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.

Stafford, Virginia









Post Everlasting

Darren King

Comrades: It is always with great sorrow when I must announce the transfer of any Legionnaire to Post Everlasting:

NOTHING TO REPORT

If you know of any member of Post 290, Unit 290 or Squadron 290 who transferred to the Post Everlasting, please contact me at bsuking@yahoo.com, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556.

Chaplain's Corner By Chaplain Darren King

The Four Chaplains and Post Everlasting

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US - which means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations. - American Legion Values.

"Pay to all what is owed to them... respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed." Romans 13:7.

On Sunday, February 4 at 2 pm we will hold the Four Chaplains Ceremony along with the Post Everlasting Service. Many of you know the saga of the Four Chaplains, how they willing sacrificed their lives to save others on February 3, 1943 as their Army transport was sinking.

Rightly we honor them and their sacrifice that saved others. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. They also showed a unity that is often lacking among Americans today as they were from 3 different religious backgrounds (Jewish, Catholic and Protestant). This is a unity we see among Legionnaires who put aside their differences to promote Americanism and better their community.

We will also honor those legionnaires who passed away in 2023. While they didn't lay down their life physically during their service to this great nation, their passing away is a good time to remember their service and the sacrifice they made while they served. Also, it is a good time to honor them for their service to the American Legion. There is over 160 years of service to the American Legion between 5 Legionnaires.

I look forward to seeing you on February 4th at 2 pm to give honor where honor is due.

BINNACLE LIST

NOTHING TO REPORT

If you know of any other member of Post 290, Unit 290, Chapter 290 or Squadron 290 who is ill, and/or hospitalized, or if you have updates on any of the above issues, please contact me, Darren King at darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com or call me at (816) 550-5228 (cell), or mail me at Darren King, 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Marilyn Butters

Sunday, February 4th is the date for the annual 4 Chaplains and Post Everlasting Ceremony. Our Unit will remember long time member Cathy Glasby, who passed in November. Special thanks to our Chaplain, Dale Seward, for coordinating our Unit's portion of this moving afternoon. If you have never attended, I encourage you to do so. The story of the 4 chaplains is very moving.

Virginia Girls State applications are in the schools and if you know of an interested rising senior female who may be interested in attending, please encourage them to see their guidance counselor for an application. Interviews will be held in March and we could use members to help us with them. We are sorry to have learned we will only be able to send one delegate per high school due to the smaller size of the 2024 session. Special thanks to Sheri Pierce who works diligently coordinating Girls State for our Unit.

Kitchen news: Our Unit now works the Bingo kitchen on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month. We would love to have more members join us. 4 hours a month, please consider it! We have a good time and you get to know other members through working side by side to prepare food for the Bingo players. Join us!

Membership news: We are almost three quarters of the way to meeting our membership numbers from the close of 2023. Please renew your membership now. Bring your check by Bingo on Wednesdays or Fridays or mail it to Box 125, Stafford, VA 22555.

Mary Schelin has been hard at work coordinating the Spring Craft Fair to be held May 5th. Keep your eye out next month for important details.

24/7, confidential crisis support for **Veterans and their loved ones**



If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, reach caring, trained responders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you call the Veterans Crisis Line, here is what you can expect:

- · A qualified responder will answer your call, ready to listen and help.
- The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the Veterari you're concerned about may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
- The conversation is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.
- Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders can connect you with the resources you need.

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

You're not alone the **Veterans Crisis Line** is here for you.



Dial 988 then Press 1



Chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat



Text 838255





Scan the QR code to download Veterans Crisis Line resources.



02/2620

American Legion Multiyear Membership is Here

Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew

A multiyear membership was approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during the organization's Spring Meetings last May. Resolution 1: Purchase of Multiple Years of Membership approves "a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate."

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website. Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a three-year membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.
- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting <u>legion.org/renew</u>.
- Join now with a three-year membership by visiting <u>legion.org/join</u>.
- Legionnaires already renewed for 2024 will soon be able to renew under the multi-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is no discount rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

Please note that the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate at which the member renews is the rate which the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. For example, if a member renews today (before national per-capita \$5 dues increase come July 1, 2024), National will receive \$18.50 for the next three years. Let's say the department's per capita is currently \$10 and is going to raise to \$15 come July 1, 2024. The department will receive the \$10 for the next three years. Once the member renews after the three year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.

American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Greetings Post 290 Family!

The February Newsletter is a great opportunity to reflect on what the Riders are and how we fit within and support the Stafford American Legion. First and foremost, all American Legion Riders must be a member of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion to be eligible to join and maintain Rider membership. This is each Rider's first priority, regardless of whether they joined to be a Rider, or were already a member of the Post, and then joined the Riders. A Rider represents both the Stafford American Legion Family and the 290-Riders collectively and in everything we do.

The 290-Riders are involved in nearly all aspects of the Post and Legion. We have members on the Post Executive Committee, and elected or appointed representation at the District, Region and Department level. The Riders have about a half-dozen members that are part of the Bingo Staff and Gaming Operations, the lifeblood that pays the Post mortgage, other bills, and supports nearly all Post 290 programs. There are a few other members that step in on occasion to help with Bingo when called upon or needed. Other Riders routinely help in other aspects, whether it be fixing broken equipment and facility issues, assisting the Vice Commanders with recruiting, facility rentals, and entertainment programs, or assisting the Finance Officer. For the past several years the Club Room is nearly exclusively managed and operated by Riders. Since the 290 Rider Chapter was installed in 2018, the Post's Holiday Food Basket Program, a major community outreach program, has been heavily supported by Riders. In short, the 290 Riders directly or indirectly touch every aspect of the Post and the American Legion Programs at Post 290.

During the Rider's January 2024 meeting, the Treasurer presented the 2023 Finance Report. The key take-away from that, is your 290-Riders directly contributed \$8,268 in donations to Post, Veteran and Community causes. This does not include our own individual (out-of-pocket) contributions which we pay for when we register to participate in rides, T-Shirt and other purchases and individual donations. Through these types of activities and contributions, the 290- Riders "extend the reach" of Post 290, beyond what it normally or would otherwise do.

With our 2024 budget passed, the 290-Riders plan to do even more.

Keep the rubber-side down! Marty Partridge

2024 Viriginia Legacy Run Fund Raisers

All proceeds to be donated to the American Legion Veteran's and Children's Foundation at the 2024 National Legacy Run and The American Legion National Convention.

Virginia Legacy Run Gun Raffle. See a 290-Rider or stop by the Club Room to purchase tickets. All tickets are \$10/each with the chance to win four Guns. Drawing to be held on June 15, 2024 at 10:00 am. Do not need to be present to win. This is a Virginia-wide Rider Fund Raiser (Sponsoring Post provides the EIN # only).

Virginia Legacy Run Polo Shirts. Micropique Sport-wick Polos available in both Men and Women styles, in multiple colors and sizes. Order forms available in the Club Room. See a 290 Rider to order yours.

Men and Women sizes:

XS – XL: \$40 2XL: \$42 3XL: \$44 4XL: \$46 Men 5XL: \$48 Men 6XL: \$50



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Men and Women sizes:

XS-XL: \$40

2XL: \$42

3XL: \$44

4XL: \$46

Men 5XL: \$48

Men 6XL: \$50



VIRGINIA LEGACY RUN 7518 TAW STREET, NORTH CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA 23237 804-271-0701



/IRGINIA LEGACY RUN

Help Support The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation



Donation: \$10.00 A Ticket 4 CHANCES TO WIN



Drawing: June 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Winner must comply with all State and Federal Laws and is responsible for any additional cost including but not limited to shipping and transfer fees. Only name on ticket can claim prize.

Drawing Location:

American Legion Department Headquarters 1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond, VA 23230

> You do not need to be present to win. Winner notified by phone.

Sponsor: American Legion Post 93, 6940 S. Lee Hwy., Natural Bridge, VA 24578





Hi-Point 4595TS Desert Digi Camo 45ACP Riffle



TM22 Bolt

Action .22LR Rifle

KEL-TEC P17 Semi-Auto 22LR Pistol



Liberty Firearms & Surplus, Hopewell, Va. Phone 804.541.2770

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN MAY 2024 BY MIKE SCULLIN, ADJUTANT

Fellow Legionnaires,

It's that time already for Post 290's Nomination Committee to start putting together a slate of nominations for Post Officer positions to serve the 2024-2025 term. If you have the time, inclination or interest in serving as a Post Officer, I encourage you to submit a nomination or nominations.

Any Post Member in good standing is eligible and encouraged to submit his/her nomination for ANY position, even if an incumbent has expressed an interest in continuing to serve in that position.

Once submitted, the nominations will be added to the 2024-2025 Officers slate, which will be presented to the General Membership at Post 290's April 2024 General Membership meeting. The General Membership will then vote on nominees at the May 2024 General Membership meeting with Officer installations to occur in June 2024. The term of service for Post Officers is June 2024 – June 2025. Two Executive Committee Members' three-year terms will be completed in June 2024, so if elected to one of the Executive Committee Member positions, those terms will end in June 2027.

Here is Post 290's current slate of open positions for 2024-2025

Commander

1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice Commander

3rd Vice Commander

Adjutant
Finance Officer
Service Officer
Chaplain
Judge Advocate
Historian
Public Affairs Officer
Sergeant-At-Arms
Executive Committee Member (3 year term)
Executive Committee Member (3 year term)

Below are descriptors for Post Officer positions:

COMMANDER: It shall be the duty of the Post Commander to preside over all meetings of the Post and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post, and such officer shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post. The Post Commander shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual meeting and a copy thereof immediately forwarded to the Department Adjutant. The Post Commander is an ex-officio member of all committees.

1st VICE COMMANDER: The 1st Vice Commander shall assist and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander, or when called upon, by the Post Commander. The 1st Vice Commander is responsible for Post membership and shall also render annual reports on membership, or when call upon at a meeting. The 1st Vice Commander is the Chairman of the Post's Membership Committee.

2nd VICE COMMANDER: The 2nd Vice Commander shall assist and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander and 1st Vice Commander, or when called upon, by the Post Commander. The 2nd Vice Commander is responsible for oversight of contracted personnel for cleaning of and repairs on Post facilities, as well as scheduling the use of Post facilities and handling rentals of the Post Annex. Please note that the 2nd Vice Commander will NOT be required to perform custodial duties, as these services will be contracted out by the Post 290 Executive Committee. The 2nd Vice Commander is the Chairman of the Post's House Committee.

Duties (continued)

3rd VICE COMMANDER: The 3rd Vice Commander shall assist and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander, 1st Vice Commander and 2nd Vice Commander or when called upon, by the Post Commander. The 3rd Vice Commander is Chairman of the Post's Ways and Means Committee – responsible for conducting periodic and regular money making activities conforming to Post policies, all special money making functions sponsored by the Post, and recommendations to the Post Membership forways and means of accomplishing the two previously-mentioned activities. The 3rd Vice Commander is also Chairman of the Post's Entertainment Committee – charged with the arrangement of social activities, the promotion of Post advantages and the entertainment for Post meetings, such as speakers, music, refreshments, etc.

ADJUTANT: The Post Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of the Post, keep such records as the Department and National organizations may require, and under direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post. The Post Adjutant is an ex-officio member of all committees.

FINANCE OFFICER: The Finance Officer of the Post shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in some local bank or banks and shall report to the Post Membership the conditions of the finances for the Post, with such recommendations as he/she may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Post. The Finance Officer shall be bonded in such sum as shall, be fixed by the Post Membership and shall be the Chairman of the Finance Committee. He/she shall keep records of all receipts and expenditures with supporting vouchers, using the suggested forms of National Headquarters, The American Legion.

SERVICE OFFICER: The Service Officer shall disseminate such information and instruction as may be helpful in dealing with affairs of disabled veterans, matters concerning the administration of the Depart of Veterans Affairs or Adjusted Compensation Law, claims of ex-servicemen against the United States Government.

CHAPLAIN: The Chaplain shall be charged with maintaining the spiritual welfare of the Post comrades and will offer divine but non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, etc., adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters from time to time.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: The Judge Advocate's duties shall be to advice the Post Commander of the interpretation or modification of the Post's Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, and be responsible for an annual financial audit and the Post Responsibility Audit as described in the American Legion Officer's Guide.

POST HISTORIAN: The Post Historian shall consolidate the reports call memorial exercises held during his term of office. The Post Historian shall be custodian of such books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and like possessions relating to the Wars belonging to the Post. The Post Historian shall be charged with maintaining individual records and incidents of the Post and duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the Post Executive Committee.

POST PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: shall be responsible for advancing the visibility of Post 290's programs and activities with all available media (print, social, and radio). Post Public Relations will establish rapport with the local newspapers, radio stations, and work with the webmaster and other social media sources. Post Public Relations will provide articles and photos for publication and dissemination of Post programs and activities.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall receive all visitors, take their names, Post Numbers, and purpose of their visit, and pass this information on to the Adjutant for introduction to the membership. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall escort all distinguished guests to the Commander immediately, and may challenge any member for good standing whenever he/she sees fit to do so and shall preserve order at all meetings. The Sergeant-at-Aims shall ensure that the color bearers place the colors in their proper place during the Post meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Post Commander.

Duties (continued)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: The Post Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the Post's affairs between General Post Membership meetings. The Post Executive Committee shall make recommendations to the General Post Membership and perform such other duties as are specified in the Post's Bylaws.

In conclusion, American Legion Post 290's leadership encourages all members to become actively involved in our Post. Everyone is encouraged to submit a nomination for any and all positions that might interest them.

Please feel to contact me with nominations for inclusion on the 2023-2024 Post Officer slate or to find out more information regarding Officer positions with Post 290.

I can be reached at: mscullin@gmail.com or 703-863-5288.

Respectfully, Michael Scullin Adjutant Stafford American Legion Post 290

SAL INFO

by Fargo Wells

Greetings SAL members and your families! I hope everyone is well and safe.

Members can login into their myLegion.org account and renew directly or via the quick renew website: legion.org/SAL-Renew.

The procedure for modifying the current dues in the system is the submission of a Squadron Data Report (SDR) that is available at the Sons of The American Legion website under Publications and Forms. The SDR should be sent to the detachment and the email address Post and Squadron Reports (postsqdnupdates@legion.org) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at kmook@legion.org

The SAL has not had a dues increase in many years.

However, we have to send a portion of the dues to the Department and a portion to Nationals.

The Nationals Dues have increased, therefore we will need to increase the amount that we collect from our members to \$20.00. If I can help you out with anything. Text, e-mail or call

Fargo Wells, Commander Sons of the American Legion Squadron 290 Stafford

(703) 362-8277 call, text or write rfargowells@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Fargo Wells

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Stafford Post 290 BSA Venture Crew Scouts are conducting a community service project to deliver firewood to families, in need, in Stafford County. The Venture Crew will also cut up and remove wood from properties that may have fallen after a storm or wood that individuals are willing to donate.

To date the Venture Crew's Firewood donation program for those in need: has delivered 16 cords of wood, to needy Stafford residents who heat primarily with firewood. Mike Robinson could always use volunteer support.

The Venture Crew is accepting monetary donations to help in this project or to support the Venture Crew. If wanting to volunteer to help cut and split wood, or help stack or deliver firewood for this project, please call Mike Robinson, (540) 760-3255.

FEBRUARY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

February - Black History Month

- Feb 03 16th District Spring Conference, Post 295, Middleburg, VA, will host, 1000hrs Start, (Foul weather ZOOM)
- Feb 04 Four Chaplain Sunday
- Feb 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 19 President's Day Holiday Honoring Both Washington and Lincoln
- Feb 22 George Washington's Birthday (Feb 11 under the old system of the time)

CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ADDED AS THEY COME TO MY ATTENTION)

March - Women's History Month

- Mar 01 03 Department Spring Conference, Portsmouth, VA & Department Oratorical Contest
- Mar 10 Start Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 10 Apr 8 Ramadan followed by Eid Mar 16 Legion Birthday Dinner, Start Time TBD
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19 First Day of Spring
- Mar 31 Easter Sunday, Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Tentative, details TBD)
- Mar 31 Cesar Chavez Day

April

April 22 - April 30 - Passover

June

June 16 - 21 - Department of Virginia American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program

August

Aug 02-04 - American Legion Leadership College, Double Tree, Midlothian



YOUR ELECTED POST 290 OFFICERS

Commander Rick Schultz Lewis Bunch 1st Vice 2nd Vice John Patrick 3rd Vice Ken Westenberger Adjutant Mike Scullin Finance Robert Ponzo Service Ofc. Jim Richey Chaplain Darren King Sgt at Arms Lester Wood JAG Garry Briggs VACANT **PAO** Historian Brandy Fitzgerald

CORPORATION OFFICERS

Michael Flanagan, Chair John Cox, Secretary Brian "B.J." Payne, Director Steve Albertson, Director Lester Wood, Director



YOUR AUX UNIT 290 ELECTED OFFICERS

President Vice Pres Secretary Treasurer Chaplain Historian

Ginger Brigs Sherilyn Pierce Marilyn Butters Frances Shelton Dale Seward Mary Schelin Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290

We are on the Web www.staffordPost290.org

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH			BINGO Middle School Essay Contest Submission Deadline	-	2 BINGO	3 16th District Spring Conference Post 295
4 Four Chaplains – 1400hrs	rv.	9	7 BINGO	ω	9 BINGO	01
=	12 ALR Monthly Meeting	13 General Members Mtg. – 1930 Mardi Gras ends - NOLA	14 Valentine's Day BINGO	15	16 BINGO	17 Honor Guard Steak Night 1630- 1900
18	19 President's Day	20	21 BINGO	22	23 BINGO	24
25	26 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930	27	28	29 It's a LEAP YEAR		