



# American Legion Post 290 Newsletter

edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Post Everlasting Chaplain's Corner	2
ALA Unit 290 News	3
Post Officers Elec- tion News	5
American Legion Riders News	6
Sale of Post 290 Annex	10
SAL News Firewood Availa- ble	
Post Highlights Coming Events	11
Calendar	12

Stafford, Virginia

May 2025

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

Dear Members, Volunteers, and Supporters of Post 290,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits.

On behalf of the leadership team here at Post 290, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to every one of you who gave your time, energy, and heart to help make our recent Steak Night such a tremendous success. Whether you were behind the grill, serving plates, organizing behind the scenes, or simply showed up in support—*thank you*. Your commitment and volunteer spirit continue to uphold the values we stand for and truly keep our Post strong.

It's nights like these that remind us what a dedicated and tight-knit community we are. We're already looking forward to next month's gathering and hope to see even more friendly faces join in.

As we move through the month of May, I would also like to take a moment to wish all the mothers in our Post family a warm and wonderful **Mother's Day**. Your strength, compassion, and unwavering love are the backbone of so many of our lives—and we honor and thank you.

Let us carry this momentum forward with pride, purpose, and unity.

With gratitude and respect,  
Rick Schultz

## From the Second Vice Commander:

If you have a key to the main Post building on Mountain View Rd, please let me know which door your key fits and what code you use to disarm the security system when you enter the building. You can send the information to me at [john4scouts@gmail.com](mailto:john4scouts@gmail.com). Thanks.

John Patrick  
2nd Vice

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

Page 2



## Post Everlasting

By Darren King

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

No reports.

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

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

### Honoring Sacrifice and Embracing Renewal – A Message from the Post Chaplain

As we enter the month of May, we are reminded of the profound significance this time holds for our American Legion family. May is a month of remembrance and reflection, culminating in Memorial Day—a sacred day when we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. As your Post Chaplain, I invite each of you to pause, pray, and give thanks for their ultimate sacrifice. Let us also extend comfort to the families they left behind, and ensure their legacy is never forgotten. Whether you attend a ceremony, place a flag on a veteran's grave, or simply hold a moment of silence, your tribute matters deeply.

May also brings the promise of renewal—flowers bloom, days grow longer, and the spirit of community strengthens. It is a time to reconnect, not only with each other, but with the values that bind us as veterans and patriots. Let this season be one of outreach and unity. If you know a fellow veteran who could use a kind word or a helping hand, be that light for them.

Let us come together in compassion and a shared purpose. May our Post continue to be a place where both memories are honored and hope is nurtured and service is celebrated. Let us give honor to whom honor is due. God bless you all.

### BINNACLE LIST

No 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](mailto:darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com) or call me at (816) 550-5228 (cell), or mail me at Darren King, 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556.

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



## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Marilyn Butters

CONGRATULATIONS to member Kathy Payne who has been selected as our Unit Lady of the Year for 2025. Kathy is the brains and brawn behind so much that our Unit does. She practically singlehandedly managed the Children's Christmas Party by purchasing items, putting stockings together, coordinating volunteers, and reaching out to our community to assure folks know about this fun and free event. The hours devoted to this are many! What else, you may ask...the Food Basket Program—the largest activity that the Post and Auxiliary do each December! Kathy organized and coordinated this event for the past two years with great success. Imagine the time and energy that goes into this! Kathy also does much for softball and concessions for baseball and devotes time to the fields, the outbuildings, etc. She helped empty the Auxiliary shed and coordinate its moving to the Mountain View property. Our Auxiliary and the Post are so fortunate to have a member like Kathy... THANK YOU, Kathy!

The now annual spring Poppy Patch Craft Fair is being held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 until 3. A flyer for reserving a space is located in this newsletter. The cost is only \$ 30.00 and all the proceeds from Table Rental will go to the American Legion Auxiliary Operation Comfort Warriors Program, designed to support homeless Veterans. We hope you will stop by and buy a unique gift item from one of the many crafters. Thanks to our hardworking Vice President Mary Schelin who coordinates this event. She has put in numerous hours contacting vendors and coordinating set up for the fair. Note the new banner advertising the fair located at the entrance to the Post 290 Mountain View property.

Membership: we currently have 122 paid members, a bit short of last year so if you have not renewed your membership, please do so. Thanks to Ginger for coordinating membership for us.

Girls State – we are sponsoring 5 girls for 2025 Virginia Girls State this summer and have our hopes on the May 1 lottery that we get three more slots. Special thanks to Sheri Pierce, coordinator of our Unit's Girls State Committee.

Meetings-we were so happy to have 13! Members join in at our April meeting. We encourage all members to attend to find out first-hand what we are up to and to share your comments regarding what is important to you as well. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Club room. Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Kitchen-special thanks to members who have helped in the kitchen on Wednesday evenings during March and April. We were delighted to have Noel helping along with Lori Spence, Marilyn Butters and Ginger Briggs. Mary Schelin and Juanita Partridge have come to the rescue when we are short-handed. Won't you consider helping out too? We need you if we are to continue to support the Post 290 Bingo program by cooking for players. Join

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



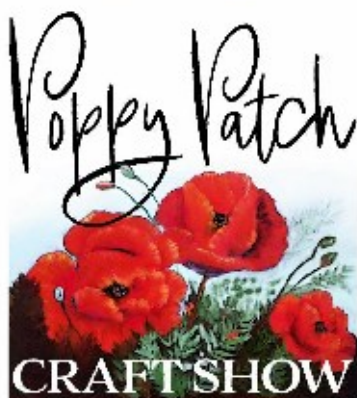
## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News



# 2025 CRAFT SHOWS

**MAY 3, 2025**

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



**OCTOBER 11, 2025**

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m



[Unit290poppies@aol.com](mailto:Unit290poppies@aol.com)

Indoor / Outdoor, original crafts and bake goods, no admission fee,  
door prizes and more

**Shop for Celebrations, Holidays, or treating yourself**

Looking for artist

\$30.00 a space & for more information and application - [Staffordpost290.org](http://Staffordpost290.org)

Funds for spaces goes to Veteran programs.

# Election of Post Officers for the 2025-2026 Term

By Mike Scullin

Fellow Legionnaires,

Post 290's Nomination Committee is starting to put together a slate of nominations for Post Officer positions to serve the 2025-2026 term. If you have the time and interest or want to see things done differently/better at the Post, I encourage you to submit a nomination or nominations to serve as a Post Officer.

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 2025-2026 Officers slate, which will be presented to the General Membership at Post 290's April 2025 General Membership meeting. The General Membership will then vote on nominees at the May 2025 General Membership meeting with Officer installations to occur in June 2025. The term of service for Post Officers is June 2025 – June 2026. Two Executive Committee Members' three-year terms will be completed in June 2026. So, if a Post Member is elected to fill one of the two Executive Committee Member positions, that Member's term will end in June 2028.

Here is a list of Post Officer positions and current slate for 2025-2026

Position	Candidate
Commander	Rick Schultz (incumbent)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Lew Bunch (incumbent)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	John Patrick (incumbent)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Patricia "Brandy" Fitzgerald (incumbent)
Adjutant	Michael Scullin (incumbent)
Finance Officer	Robert Ponzo (incumbent)
Service Officer	Jim Richey (incumbent)
Chaplain	Darren King (incumbent)
Judge Advocate	
Historian	
Public Affairs Officer	Clif McDaniels (incumbent)
Sergeant-At Arms	John Cox (incumbent)
Executive Committee (3 years)	Erin Fox
Executive Committee (3 years)	
Executive Committee (2 years)	

A detailed description of Legion Officers' duties and responsibilities can be found at this location:  
<https://www.legion.org/getmedia/23795e1c-6847-4c67-a1b4-10710de19e6a/27ia1123-officers-guide.pdf>

Here is the proposed **Board Member Slate for the Foundation in 2025-2026**

This is based on what I believe is correct with Lee and Gary stating this was your last year, if I am wrong please let me know, I then asked Marty and Greg to be added to replace Lee and Gary, Mike can't remember if you still wanted to help.

Chairman: Brian (BJ) Payne  
 Treasurer: Kathy Payne  
 Secretary: Fargo Wells  
 Member: Mike Flannigan  
 Member: Marty Partridge  
 Member: Greg Nilges  
 Legal: Steve Albertson

BJ Payne  
 540 446 6064

## American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge

Greetings Post 290!

Your 290 Riders have kicked off a busy season with our annual Blessing of the Bikes and Dart Tournament. Here is a report from our ALR-290 Rider Chaplain, John Humphrey:

*It's spring. The air is crisp. The trees are in bloom. And God's creation is filled with the chirping of sleepy Vespas and Can Ams and the roaring of Hondas and Harley Davidsons waking up from their winter hibernation. Time for the traditional Blessings of the Bikes!*

*The blessing is not only for the riders and their bikes, but for all of us. It reminds us that God can be found in the most unexpected of places: mountains, valleys, rivers, and waving fields of grain.*

*April 5, 2025 saw the 4th annual Blessing of the Bikes at Post 290. There were 25 bikes and lots of folks looking for a favorable consideration from above for the upcoming riding season.*

*Some people wanted prayer for safe riding, others want good weather and smooth roads, still others have more personal needs. It is a privilege to petition the Almighty to bless the bikes and sanctify our daily journey. So all you riders, get out there and enjoy God's creation, and may you always keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.*

Thank you, Chaplain Humphrey, for your comradery and dedication to the 290 Riders.

We started with breakfast at 8am, served up by our regular Rider Kitchen Crew, the Bike Blessings at 10am and the Dart Tournament started at 12 noon. Thanks to Bob and Natali Ponzo for stopping by for breakfast and checking in the Bike Blessing. I think I see a CanAm Spyder in Natalie's future! Big thank you to Mike Miller, Doug Sivigny, Derice Steele and Rob Webster for running the kitchen for breakfast and lunch. All proceeds from the kitchen have gone to the Post.

Once again, a big thanks to Justin and Tori Goemmer for running with the Dart Tournament. It went off without a hitch and was a huge success, with 14 participants. Also, thanks to our Rider friends from Fairfax Post 177, Bruce and Elsie Mersereau, who stopped in for breakfast, got their Bike Blessed, and made a registration donation, since they were unable to stick around for the tournament. Congratulations to this year's winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Reggie Coffey; 2d Place – Grant Whitley; and 3d Place – Just Goemmer!

Finally, the Rider's held their annual elections at our 7 April 2025 meeting. Congratulations to all of the Officers and thank you for your dedication in keeping the Chapter moving forward. The results are:

Director: Marty Partridge (incumbent)

Assistant Director: Austin Sutton

Secretary: Juanita Partridge (incumbent)

Treasurer: Tricia Miller (incumbent)

Road Captain: Don Dillon (past Road Captain)

Chaplain: John Humphrey (incumbent)

Sgt-at-Arms: Greg Nilges (prior Road Captain)

*Keep the rubber-side down!*

Marty Partridge

ALR-290 Director



A group of men, likely members of a motorcycle club, are gathered around a motorcycle in a parking lot. They are wearing leather vests with patches. One prominent patch on the back of a vest reads "HonorBound to Jesus Christ" with "M M" on either side and "SERVUS FIDELIS" at the bottom. Another patch on a vest to the right features a dove and the text "FOR GOD". The men are engaged in conversation, with one man in a red cap and another in a white shirt and glasses. In the background, there is a blue building, a white trailer, and an American flag. The setting appears to be outdoors, possibly at a fair or event.

A photograph of three men standing in a parking lot filled with motorcycles. The man on the left wears a plaid shirt, a black vest with patches, and a black cap. The man in the center is older, wearing a white shirt, a black vest with patches, and glasses. The man on the right wears a black vest with patches, a red cap, and a cane. They are all smiling. In the background, there are several motorcycles parked, a baseball field with a blue building, and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

April 5, 2025 – Legion Rider 290 Chaplain, John Humphry (center) poses with HonorBound Motorcycle Ministry members Avery Dotson (right) and Bill Miles (left). (Photo by Marty Partridge).

## American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge



April 5, 2025 – Legion Rider 290 Director, Marty Partridge (right), presents a \$150.00 Check to Dart Tournament First Place winner, Rider Reggie Coffey (left). (Photo by Juantia Partridge).



April 5, 2025 – Legion Rider 290 Director, Marty Partridge (right), presents a \$75.00 Check to Dart Tournament Second Place winner, Grant Whitley (left). (Photo by Juantia Partridge).



## American Legion Riders

By Marty Partridge



April 5, 2025 – Legion Rider 290 Director, Marty Partridge (right), presents a \$25.00 Check to Dart Tournament Third Place winner, Rider Justin Goemmer (left). (Photo by Juantia Partridge).

## SALE OF POST 290 ANNEX

By Mike Scullin

At the 18 February 2025 General Membership meeting, the Membership unanimously voted to allow a commercial real estate broker to put the Annex on American Legion Road on the market and list it for sale. The decision was made after a study of two years of operational expenses for the Annex indicated that the Annex costs Post 290 \$2,622.00 every month to keep open. Despite the best efforts of Greg Nilges to keep the Annex rented out, the Annex ultimately ran a \$41,482.50 deficit for the two-year period. Post 290 cannot financially afford to keep the Annex open at a \$31,000.00 loss every year. Therefore, the Membership decided to have a real estate broker list the Annex on the market and solicit any bid(s). Should Post 290 receive a bid(s), the Post will put out a separate announcement informing the Membership of the time & place to vote on the sale of the Annex. Should the Membership approve, the proceeds from the sale will be used to pay down the principle on the Post's current mortgage (\$1.4 million) with the intent of bringing the Post some relief on its current monthly mortgage payment.

## 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](http://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](mailto:postsqdnupdates@legion.org)) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at [kmook@legion.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 96 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.

A cord is a unit of cut firewood which equals a stack of 4x4x8 feet or 128 cubic feet.

UPDATE: Venture Crew 84's firewood donation program has cut, split, delivered and donated 25 cords of firewood this season (24/25) to needy households (\$7,000 value of donation)

## MAY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

### May

National Skin Cancer Awareness Month

May 03 - Poppy Patch Craft Show, 1000-1500rs

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 13 - General Membership Meeting and election of Officers for 2025/2026 terms of office.

May 24 - Flags on Vets Graves Saturday

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 26 - Executive Committee Meeting, 1100hrs after Courthouse Ceremony

May 28 - Blood Drive

---

## CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ARE ADDED AS THEY COME TO THE EDITOR'S ATTENTION)

### June

June 07 - Installation Ceremony/Dinner

June 15 - Fathers' Day

June 15 - Boys State

June 15 - Girls State



## YOUR ELECTED POST 290 OFFICERS

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



## YOUR AUX UNIT 290 ELECTED OFFICERS

President Ginger Briggs  
 Vice Pres Mary Schelin  
 Sec/Treas Marilyn Butters  
 Chaplain Dale Seward  
 Historian Mary Schelin  
 Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

**STAFFORD AMERICAN  
LEGION POST 290**

**We are on the Web**  
**[www.staffordPost290.org](http://www.staffordPost290.org)**

# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Virginia State Tax Deadline	2 BINGO	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 BINGO	8 VE Day – 1945 Germany Surrenders	9 BINGO	10
11 Mother's Day - USA	12 ALR Monthly Meeting	13 General Members Mtg and Election of Post Officers	14 BINGO	15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day	16 BINGO	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21 BINGO	22 USS Scorpion (SSN-589) Lost with all hands, 1968.	23 BINGO	24 Flags on Graves
25	26 Memorial Day Executive Committee Mtg. 1100hrs National Moment of Silence, 1500hrs	27	28 BINGO Blood Drive	29	30 BINGO	31