

★ ★ ★ AMERICAN LEGION POST 166 ★ ★ ★



Commander's Message



Tom Wengert
Commander

Summer is gone, fall is here. Time for me to thank all of our friends from other states who visit our Legion in the hot months every year when they vacation in Ocean City. We really enjoy the camaraderie of our brothers and sisters who stop by for a visit, a tasty hot meal, and a couple of cold drinks. We will miss seeing you until next year.

July at Post 166 began with an Independence Day celebration, followed by the Maryland Legion Convention. As it has every year, convention week began with the Southern Maryland fish fry at the convention center. Then came four days of business, the election of new Department Officers and the presentation of awards. Our Legion received seven, with the most prestigious one singling out our quarterly newsletter that is edited by Navy veteran Ed Pinto. Another highlight of Convention Week was the celebrated Riders Crab Feast. Like last year and the year before and every year it has been held, it was a smashing sell-out success. Look for photos of this year's Crab Feast in this issue of the Synepuxent Observer. Department officers also joined us, as you can see in the photo of me and Department Sgt-at-Arms Frank Price (*Top Right*).

August was a slow month at the Post with nothing really planned. I think that we were gearing up for the big month of September and the arrival of the bikers who journey to Ocean City and our Post on their loud motorcycles. I have to give them credit because they are the most pleasant bunch of people who visit Ocean City throughout the year. They are the most courteous members who visit our Post, and they have no problem pitching in where needed.

Also in September was another annual event I would be remiss in not mentioning because it draws many of our members. Our local VVA Chapter 1091 held its annual picnic on September 10, with a sigh



of relief because the day began with threatening skies and torrential rain not long before the picnic was to begin. The rain stopped, the clouds parted, the sun came out and we all had a great time. There's also pho-

tos of that outing in the newsletter. Bike Week followed and was a huge success. We were visited for five full days by bikers, from the time we opened until the time we closed. We were told by some of the riders from other states that we were truly the "BEST" Legion up or down the East Coast. We pride ourselves for being the "friendliest post" but being the best is really an honor.

Before ending this column I would like to say Thank You to our bartenders, Tina, Pam, Sherrie, Robin, Kevin, Shannon, and Amy for an outstanding job the entire week. They served long lines of patrons, taking orders for food and drinks. At the same time our bartenders made sure that they didn't drink too much. Also a shout-out to our kitchen manager Pittsburgh Dan Stone and his crew of John Taylor, Jeffrey (aka Peach) Emm, Scott Osborne, Jay Scott and Eddie Wockenfuss, for an outstanding job getting food out as quickly as possible.

In closing, my thanks also go to everyone who visited our Legion the past 3 months. We try our best to make your stay pleasurable and one that you will always remember. Have a safe trip to and from Ocean City whenever you visit and remember that if you are a little tipsy—CALL UBER. Do Not Drive.

May God bless you and keep you safe and may God Bless America.

Tom Wengert,

Commander, Post #166



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Editor



Ed Pinto Editor

Whenever I start thinking about the next newsletter, is with a anxiety in my gut, a feeling of What Am I Going to do Now? Because the pages are blank. Because I don't actually create the newsletter. I don't write it. I don't take all of the pictures. I'm just the editor, which means I get to read all the stories I don't write, look at all the

photos I don't take, and organize them into something enjoyable and informative. But in the beginning I have nothing. So where does it all come?

Simple, it comes from the Village. It takes a Village, or in this case a Post, to create an award-winning newsletter, and yes, we did win the Department award again this year for the best newsletter for a Post our size. Thanks to you. Thanks to the heads of all the Post 166 Legion Family, to their designated individuals who help them write and photograph their events, to other the volunteers who step up to provide me with material.

It takes a lot of volunteers. Here I'm going to name names, and hope I don't forget any, who helped me with the pages of photos in this newsletter. I love photos and their captions. They tell stories as eloquent, If not more so, than words alone. And since I can't be at every activity to take all the pictures I have to rely on others. So here goes.

In this issue, thanks for photos go to former Auxiliary president Karen Thompson, Jesse Wolfe-Parsons of the Auxiliary, and the Junior

Auxiliary leader, Marie Gilmore, who seems to be everywhere, from leading the Worcester County Veterans Memorial, to being active in the Auxiliary and who seems to be a volunteer at every function in the Post. There's also many contributors from other various groups, frequently the First State Detachment marines and the marines who have affiliated directly with our post. Karen Hart, Chuck Schaub, Dave Kline, Don Coffin come to mind. Another is our former Rider leader, Scott Brown, who has moved to Florida and will be sorely missed, and Nelson Kelly of VVA 110. That's who I recall right now. If I left you out, let me know. Lunch will be on me at the Post, and I'll remedy overlooking you in the next issue.

Then there are the two newest columns in our newsletter. We've been running these for several issues now. You would not have easy access to this information without their contributions. I refer to our Adjutant, John Bussard, who compiles the names of new members and transfers for you, and Bookkeeper-extraordinaire Bonnie Strawbridge. From her we get the list of donations the Post makes every month.

I don't want to leave out our Commander. In addition to everything he does around the Post, I would not be able to share the Post calendar with you without Tom. He compiles it and send it to me.

So there it is. Like everything in the military, where we have our roots, it's Teamwork. Teamwork turns into success, and it is thanks to you that this newsletter has been successful.

Ed Pinto Editor

Post's Officers for 2023-2024 pose for their official photo



Front row (L-R) John Bussard, Adjutant; Dave Kline Chaplain, Ed Pinto, Historian; Bruce Capecci, 1st Vice Commander; Tom Wengert, Commander; Charles Spaziani, Executive Committee; Bob Paul, 2nd Vice Commander; Bob Gilmore, Sgt-at-Arms. Standing, (L-R) Don Coffin, Judge Advocate; Ben Dawson and Harry Rey, Executive Committee; Tom Ottenwaelder, Service Officer; George Barstis, Treasurer; Bo Spicer and Bob Broderick, Executive Committee. Missing is Executive Committee member Phil Ludlam



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

From the Adjutant



John Bussard
Adjutant

The end of Early Bird status for membership renewal is October 20. On January 1, 2024, membership for those who still hold a 2023 membership card will become delinquent and will expire on February 1 if you have not renewed by then. To update your status now you can go online and renew at MdLegion.org. You can

also mail your dues to the Post. The end of Early Bird status for membership renewal is October 20. On January 1, 2024, membership for those who still hold a 2023 membership card will become delinquent and will expire on February 1 if you have not renewed by then. To update your status now you can go online and renew at MdLegion.org. You can also mail your dues to the Post along with the dues notice, or drop off your dues at the Post between Noon and closing seven days a week. Here's an important reminder: your Post access key card expires based on the expiration of your membership card, and that is December 31 for 2023 cards.

On a positive note, Post 166 active membership has broken the 1,000-member mark. Congratulations to all of us for achieving that milestone. But in order for the Post to remain at over 1,000 members those members who currently hold an active 2023 membership (about 475 at the time of this writing) will have to step up and renew their membership now. If your membership card has a 2022 or earlier date, contact the post at adjutant166@gmail.com to request a membership update. Our membership goal for 2023 was 895 and we exceeded that number by reaching 930 members by the cutoff date, June 6. The 2024 goal is 940 members, which we have already exceeded based on current renewals.

On the downside, the Post membership retention rate (those previous year members who renew for the current year) has fallen short of the Department of Maryland projected goal of 92 percent. We have had great success enlisting new members and attracting transfers over the past 18 months, but our current member renewal rate is lagging. Let's get that number to the 92 percent range this year.

On a final note, this year's theme for the American Legion is "Be The One" which focuses on "Buddy Checks" in an effort for suicide prevention. Keep in touch with your fellows-in-arms who may be struggling with the issues of post-war stresses.

John Bussard, Adjutant

DD 214 and How to Get it

Veterans who apply for membership in the Legion need to show proof of their service, or, in the case of SAL or the Auxiliary, proof of relationship with a veteran, including one who may be deceased. That proof is found on the veteran's DD214. Here's how to get one. Keep in mind that some of the veteran's personal identification information will be required: Social Security Number, Service Number, date of birth, date of death and place of interment (if deceased).

If you have access to the American Legion Department of Maryland website, MDLegion.org, log in and find the link MEMBERSHIP in the menu bar at the top of the page, then select REQUEST A DD214, and complete the required information.

A more detailed form for requesting a DD214 is the SF 180, REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS. This form includes required information: Branch of Service and Active duty, Reserve, or National Guard; Deceased (Y or N) and date; Retired (Y or N); Purpose of request; Requester's name; Status of member; Branch of Service. You are also asked what records you are requesting: Requesting personnel record(s); Requesting medical or service treatment records; (Record) custodian's address.

If you do not have the veteran's Social Security number and the veteran is deceased one way to obtain it is through the Department of Vital Statistics in the state where the member is buried. That department should have a copy of the member's death certificate, which should have the member's Social Security Number. The form will need some detailed information about the member.

Some of the information that you may need is: Member's full name; Social Security number; Branch of service; Service Number; Date of birth; Date of death (if applicable); Place of interment (if applicable).

Here's a website we learned about from Post Adjutant Don Coffin. It's something you might want to check out. The Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation offers free services to assist veterans with filing pension and other benefits claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

www.dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org



From the Service Officer



Tom Ottenwaelder
Service Officer

Thank you to everyone for being patient with me as I come up to speed as your new Post Service Officer. This is a challenging job, but something I am enthusiastically diving into. Since our last newsletter we have logged more than 55 hours assisting fourteen veterans with VA disability claims, dependent support services, and end of life planning with VA benefits.

During this time I found that most of our members and veterans prefer individual appointments as opposed to regular walk-in hours.

One of the common requests I get is people needing copies of their VA paperwork. Did you know Veterans can electronically access their VA paperwork, including decision letters, online? For example, the Decision Letter Download Tool allows Veterans with a VA.gov login to download their decision letters instantly using VA.gov. This will save you from waiting to speak with VA personnel or waiting for a paper letter in the mail to learn the decisions made on your claim. Check out this video for information on how to use the Decision Letter Download Tool: <https://youtu.be/Y9TKxj3P-A4>.

We are also establishing a new procedure at Post 166 to help coordinate support for our members and local veterans. Post 166 often receives requests for assistance from our members or people in the community seeking assistance for a veteran with anything from yard work, minor house repairs, transportation to appointments, or just someone to spend time with. Our goal is to coordinate these requests between the Post Chaplain and the Post Service Officer, who will clarify the need, see who in our community can help, and coordinate the service. This is something that is done at other Legions and proven to be a worthwhile effort. You can help get this effort off the ground by letting us know if there are any Legion Post 166 members or local veterans who could use a boost from a visit, or a helping hand with some light yard work. Please reach out to our Post Chaplain, Dave Kline at 410-409-8233, or me, TommyO at 443-684-3814 for assistance.

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American Legion Has New National Commander



Daniel J Seehafer
Commander

Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of the American Legion August 31, in Charlotte, N.C., during The American Legion's 104th national convention. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, he earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include district commander's new post achievement award, silver brigade, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich Maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan's son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

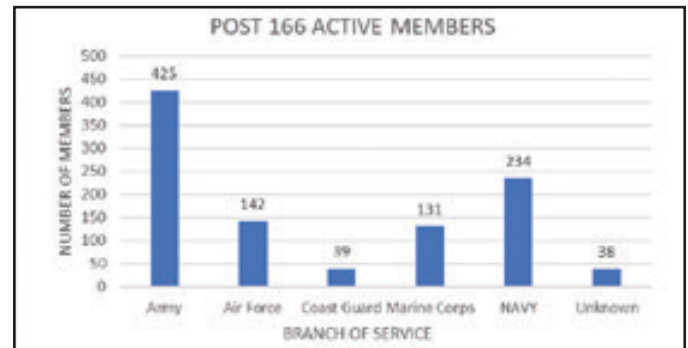
**New Members to Post 166
June, July, and August 2023**

Solomon Aroesty	Army
Michael Barger	Marines
Theresa Brittingham	Army
Glen Chapman	Navy
Amadea Coccia	Army
Marcus Collier	Army
Peter Coviello	Navy
Robert Dunkelberger	Army
Dean Ferguson	Navy
Joseph Gezymalla	Army
William Gonnelli	Army
Pete Hassler	Army
Charles Ivey	Marines
Mary James	Army
Thomas Jones	Army
Kenneth Karr	Coast Guard
Tom Klinedinst	Army
Charles Kucharski	Army
David Little	Army
Christopher Mauk	Navy
Ronald Miller	Army
Nathan Moore	Air Force
Robert Myers	Army
William Neiswender	Army
William Patterson	Air Force
Edward Rakoskie	Army
Charles Rall	Army
Jerry Rinder	Marines
John Rohde	Air Force
John Romanowski	Army
James Salembene	Navy
Michael Sherman	Army
Wayne Silfies	Army
William Smith	Navy
Peggy Stinemire	Army
Charles Tiller	Army
Pattie Tiller	Navy
Calvin Wise	Navy
David Zando	Navy

TRANSFER

**Transfers to Post 166
June, July, and August 2023**

Terri Burns	Army
Kay Carrier	Coast Guard
William Gee II	Army
Edwin Goodman	Army
Steven Ingwersen	Marines
Gary Marshall	Army
Eugene Petrowski	Army
David Riley	Army
Richard Ryan	
Thomas Scafone	Navy
William Selzer	Air Force
Robert Semple	Air Force
William Smith	Navy
Rhonda Soto	Air Force
Warren Wagner Jr	Navy
Robert Worner	Navy



Tom Wengert , Commander of Post 166 loads lots of snacks to donate to “Surfers Healing,” This is an International Surfers group that treats autistic children to a fun day of surfing. Castle in the Sands Hotel sponsors this event which was held in August



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Legion Family Donates in Excess of \$307,000

In what was a banner year for giving, the American Legion Family of Ocean City Post 166 donated more than \$307,000 in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023. The funds, the most ever by the Legion Family, went to 70 different charitable organizations, veterans groups, and local public service organizations. Also included in the total was \$58,000 in scholarships to help pay for higher education for local students.



The American Legion Family comprises the Legionnaires of Post 166, the Auxiliary unit, the Son's (SAL) of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders.

The funds were raised through a variety of mechanisms, from slot machine proceeds, special functions at the Post, such as the Rider's Crab Feast and SAL's Bull and Oyster Roast, Raffles, and off-Post events. The latter included the first Putt for a Cause contest held in local bars, organized by the Auxiliary. In one day in January Putt for a Cause raised \$10,000 for the Stop Soldier Suicide organization.

As would be expected, the largest source of funds was from slot machines proceeds at the Post, a total of \$183,235, which was 50 percent of slot proceeds as required by Maryland law. The Post donated another \$81,816 from non-slot generated revenues

The Riders raised and donated \$10,400, SAL generated another \$6,804, and the Auxiliary \$25,150. Of this amount, \$10,000 was generated by the Putt for a Cause competition.

A sample of other groups with which the Post shared its donations included Atlantic General Hospital, Diakonia, Coastal Hospice, Believe in Tomorrow, volunteer local fire companies, Big Brothers

and Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. The Post donations also allowed the Stephen Decatur High School booster club to purchase safer helmets for the school's football team. A donation of special note for Post veterans was made to the Eagle Chapter of the Air Force Security Association. Once a year the organization cleans the Vietnam Memorial Wall Memorial in Washington DC. The donation was sent to help fund the group's annual costs for that work.

DONATIONS

Contributions June, July, August

Post 166 donate more than \$62,000 to 27 organizations in the three months June, July, and August. Here's who the funds went to.

AL Nat'l Emergency Fund	\$2,000
Atlantic General Hospital	\$9,500
Believe in Tomorrow	\$2,500
Berlin Police Department	\$1,000
Berlin/OC Youth Optimist	\$1,000
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$2,000
Cedar Chapel School	\$2,000
Chesapeake Health Care	\$2,400
Cricket Center	\$4,000
DAV Eastern Shore	\$1000
Diakonia, Inc.	\$1,000
Disc Golf at Bainbridge Park	\$ 500
Dove Pointe	\$2,000
USAF Sec. Assn. Eagle Chapter	\$2,000
Joan Jenkins Foundation	\$2,000
Life Crisis Center, Inc	\$2,000
Lions Club	\$1,210
National Child Safety Council	\$1,000
OC Parks and Recreation	\$1,000
OC Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,000
Ocean Pines Players	\$ 500
Ocean Pines Vol. Fire Co.	\$2,500
Salvation Army	\$1,600
Shepherd's Crook	\$2,000
Showell Vol. Fire Company	\$2,500
St. Paul's By the Sea	\$2,000
Worcester Cty. Veterans Mem.	\$2,000
Wor. Cty. Youth & Family Couns.	\$2,000



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

SAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Joe Verdura
SAL Commander

Membership in the SAL has been exploding. As of September 4, there are 519 active SAL members. Since July 1, we have added 84 new members or transfers to our Squadron.

The 2024 membership cycle started as of July 1. All members can now renew for the year 2024 either in person by coming to the Post, by mail or online.

As a reminder, the cards that you have for 2023 are good until December 31. After that your card will no longer be valid. Dues for the new year, 2024, should be paid no later than December 31. We are asking that you do not wait until you receive a reminder from the Department of Maryland to pay your dues, or that you do not wait until the last week in December to renew your membership. The earlier the renewals are received the easier they are to manage.

To stay current and keep your continuous years membership, send your renewal dues of \$25.00 as soon as possible. Make checks payable to SAL Squadron 166. If you are mailing your dues, the address is P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843.



Also, we share information with our members by regular mail as well as by email. Please let us know if your address, phone number or email has changed. If you are unsure of what we currently have on file, email

your information to SALpost166@outlook.com and we will make sure records are updated.

Just a reminder, SAL meetings are held on the second Monday of the month. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. with the meeting following at 7 p.m. Food and drink specials are available prior to the meeting. All are welcome and we hope this coming year to see some new faces at our meetings.

★ ★
★ Joe Verdura ★
★ SAL Commander ★

Post Scholarships

American Legion Post 166 is proud to assist college students to support and succeed in their education. This school year, the Al Harmon Scholarship program, available to children of Post 166 members in good standing, assisted 25 students in their efforts to succeed. Information on the program and how to apply can be found on the Post website under Post Programs/Scholarships.

Bob Gilmore



A piece of potential child life-saving equipment that Atlantic General Hospital did not have, is now on available, thanks to a major donation from Post 166. We gave \$15,000 to AGH to purchase a non-invasive ventilator that can be used for children. Ben Dawson and George Barstis made the ceremonial presentation to Michael Loring, Toni Keiser, and Emily Tunis of AGH

Service Officer Continued

Moving forward, I plan attend regular meetings with our various groups (American Legion, Vietnam Veterans, Legion Riders, Marine Corps League) and will remain available for individual appointments outside of these meetings. Feel free to call me anytime to schedule a time to meet.

Tom Ottenwaelder,
Service Officer

Email: alpost166@comcast.net 7



VVA 1091

VVA 1091 held its annual picnic at the Moose Lodge on Route 20 September 10. The day started ominously, with torrential rain in the morning leading to concerns about whether it could actually happen. But by 12 noon, the rain tapered off and soon the sun was out. Here are a few scenes from the occasion.



In the beginning Marie and Bob Gilmore, and Vic Freeman shucked corn



And Bob Broderick and Joan Kelly dressed the picnic tables with tablecloths



The annual cake arrived



Bob Smith and Chuck Porter hoisting the VVA 110 banner



If there's a function there's a 50-50 drawing. Tom Wengert getting the tickets ready



Bob Gilmore sold the door prize tickets, until he took a brief rest



The chow line



Serving the cake donated by Elaine and Dave Kline



Cutting the cake



There's always time to socialize at a picnic



The guys also had a lot to say



Don Coffin and Chuck Schaub conducting some business, even at a picnic





1ST STATE DETACHMENT MARINES

From the Commandant



AL SOTO

First State Marines have not taken a break in their support of various Sussex and Worcester counties Veterans groups and community service organizations these last three months. Our continued partnership with American Legion Post 166 has enabled FSD to continue to grow our membership and we now count Commander Tom Wengert and his lovely wife

Joann as Associate Members. This will lead to many great things for both organizations. Just look at all the support FSD members have done to help with the AL new upper deck addition.

Looking back at our third quarter fund-raising and community service events makes me proud to be part of an outstanding group of men and women. We started off with helping the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce with the Ocean City Air Show. Next, the "Men in Red" got all dressed up and provided support to the Maryland Municipal League. Then FSD switched gears and "fell out," as Marines are known to do and provided a Color Guard and numerous military themed vehicles for the Bethany Beach 4th of July Parade.

In early-July, AL Post 166 member Harry Rey alerted Past Commandant Bob Broderick that

Stuart Smith, a 97-year-old Marine Corps Korea veteran, needed to have his tattered Marine Corps Flag replaced. Bob purchased a new flag, and it was a proud moment for all to fulfil this request. Next, we participated in Jolly Rogers' Christmas in July Toys for Tots event. It may have been extremely hot, but FSD members persevered and raised money and collected toys for our December Toys for Tots efforts. Later in the month, Past Commandant Broderick and I help facilitate the recording of Stuart Smith' participation in the Korean War with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. To end July, numerous FSD members helped move Iwo Jima survivor, Morris Semiatin, out of his nursing home facility and into his son Ben's home.

In the month of August, FSD dressed up again and supported the Maryland Association of Counties. Then it was off to help support Ocean City's Jeep Week at the end of the month. As we moved into the month of September, FSD helped with the setup of the Bethany Beach Art Festival. We finished the month by supporting Believe in Tomorrow at its annual Beach Bash at Ocean City's Secrets Distillery.

If you would like to join the fun with FSD, please contact Milt Warren at milt.warren@comcast.net.

Al Soto

MCL FSD Commandant

Tom Wengert, Post 166 Commander, is sworn in as FSD's Compliance Officer by Commandant Soto



Just an early handful of the First Detachment members who helped at the Bethany Beach Arts Festival. These were part of the Dawn Patrol, arriving at 5:30 to lay out spaces for the exhibitors



On hand to replace the tattered Marine Corps flag were FSD Commandant Al Soto, Harry Rey from the American Legion, and former FSD Commandant Bob Broderick, with Marine veteran Stuart Smith



FSD at the Bethany Beach Fourth of July Parade



AUXILIARY NEWS



**Marti Marron
President**

Hello! I would like to introduce myself to those that haven't met me. I'm Marti Marron and I am the newly elected President of our Unit 166 American Legion Auxiliary. I have been an active member and many of you may recognize me as the volunteer coordinator who helped organize volunteers for the many functions at the Post. Pat McConnell will be taking on

that role for Sunday Football volunteers.

I am looking forward to our continued success as an organization and am happy to see so many active members. We had a busy summer season. We look forward to a busy fall as well.

Many of us attended the Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary Convention in July. Our Unit was recognized and received many awards: Membership Awards; Americanism; Chaplain; Children and Youth; Education; Gold Star; Public Relations; National Security; Past President's Parley; and Poppy.

All members are invited to our monthly membership meetings that are held the third Tuesday of every month. We start with a social hour from 6 to -7 p.m. with our meetings starting at 7. We encourage everyone to get involved in any way they are

able. No act of volunteerism is too small. From making cards, or stuffing envelopes for flyers, to fluffing poppies, to volunteering at large and small events. Everything is appreciated and important.

Consider chairing or being a co-chair for one of our programs to help us with our mission to serve veterans and the community.

We have many exciting fundraisers and events coming up, so reach out to see how you can be a part of this great group of people! There is something of interest for everyone!

I want to take this time to thank Karen Thompson for the past couple of years as Auxiliary President. Karen's leadership and efforts, her time spent in so many activities for the Post, veterans, and the community, are appreciated. Thank you Karen!

I also want to acknowledge Kirsten Brown for all she did for our Auxiliary in the time she was here. Although she and Scott have moved to Florida, she is keeping her membership with us and will be back for some of the upcoming events. She will surely be missed!

I look forward to the upcoming year and meeting many of you at the Post. Please come up and introduce yourself to me.

In Service,

Marti Marron

Synepuxent Unit 166 ALA President



Karen Thompson, Past Unit 166 President, presenting Kirsten Brown with her Auxiliary Member of the Year award



Auxiliary Unit 166 Officers and Executive Committee Members Marti Marron, President; Lisa Capecci 1st VP; Emily Nock 2nd VP; Teddy Rozzano, Chaplain; Deb Helmle, Sgt at Arms; Kirsten Brown, Historian; and Executive Committee members Penny Matthews, Tina Prezoitti, and Jessie Parsons.



AUXILIARY NEWS



A surprise "See you later" party was held to wish Kirsten and Scott Brown safe travels to their new home in FLorida. They will remain members at Post 166.



The Browns received two Florida prints to adorn their new hone



Incoming President Marti Marron with immediate Past President Karen Thompson



Auxiliary Education Committee member Delaney McDaniel is surrounded by "Amazon Smiles." She prepared an Amazon Wish List of school supplies requested by Worcester County schools, and shared the list on Amazon and with friends and family, who purchased the supplies. They were shipped by Amazon to Delaney, who sorted them to be distributed to local schools. ALA Unit 166 will be making a big impact with these supplies as part of the ALA Give 10 to Education Program. Delaney currently serves as the Department of Maryland, Honorary Junior President.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bob Broderick	(410) 353-0033	bobb@namarketinginc.com
Ben Dawson	(302) 236-4171	bendawson1227@gmail.com
Phil Ludlam	(410) 390-2190	ludlamsrl@aol.com
Harry Rey	(410) 2944552	tazzzzzz43@comcast.net
Charles Spaziani	(610) 329-5816	cspaz@comcast.net
George "Bo" Spicer	(410) 422-9447	gspicer8805@comcast.net



OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Commander	Tom Wengert	(443) 994-2513	television9153@yahoo.com
1st Vice Commander	Bruce Capecci	(410) 371-9434	brurider@verizon.net
2nd Vice Commander	Bob Paul	(443) 523-4113	bpaul621951@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Bussard	(336) 682-5418	johnbussard@hotmail.com
Judge Advocate	Don Coffin	(410) 422-4811	doncoffin8@gmail.com
Service Officer	Tom Ottenwaelder	(443) 684-3814	tommyo@me.com
Finance Officer	George Barstis	(301) 529-2263	gbarstis@lkc.com
Historian	Ed Pinto	(703) 901-5544	airpinto293@gmail.com
Chaplain	Dave Kline	(410) 603-2205	davidklinesr@yahoo.com
Sgt-at-Arms	Bob Gilmore	(410) 726-5690	opbobgil@aol.com



AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Jessie Parsons
Junior Advisor

Happy Fall! We welcomed our Junior Auxiliary members back for their first meeting of the season on Sunday, September 10. We had nine juniors in attendance. We spent the meeting getting caught up on what occurred over the summer.

Three of our unit Juniors, Delaney, Addison, and McKenna, attended the Junior Annual Meeting in June and Delaney McDaniel was elected as Honorary Junior President for the Dept of Maryland and McKenna Birkhead Thompson was elected as the Sergeant-at Arms. Our Juniors Unit won many awards. Delaney and Sophia attended the Girls State program in June at Salisbury University.

In July, Delaney and McKenna attended the ALA Dept of Maryland Convention in Ocean City. McKenna received the Department of Maryland Junior of the Year award and gave a heartfelt speech in front of the convention.

Our Junior Unit was presented with the Greenbelt Trophy for the best all-around Juniors program in Maryland. Our unit won the Book of Prayers submitted. We are proudly displaying our trophy over the Auxiliary Desk in the upstairs conference room. Check it out!

During our September meeting, we made cards for the Gold Star Family members. September is Emergency Preparedness Month and checklists and plans were given out to make home emergency kits. We discussed the roles of the junior officers. Saylor led the meeting as the current Junior unit president.

Delaney discussed her upcoming duties and projects as the Honorary Department of Maryland Junior President. Stop Soldier Suicide will be her President's project, with collection of hats, gloves, and scarves for her Department as her service project. We will also be collecting food and pharmacy gift cards for the Casey Cares Hammy's Heart charity that supplies gift cards to families who have children with chronic illnesses.

McKenna Birkhead Thompson was presented with her Junior Member of the Year award for our unit. Her nomination was read during the presentation. She did a wonderful job volunteering and serving our veterans last year.

Juniors brought donations of school supplies for Give 10 to Education. Delaney McDaniel is now co-chair for Education. Delaney has developed an Amazon gift registry for school supplies and is cataloging and organizing all donations to be dispersed to our local schools.

Here is an upcoming tentative calendar of events for the rest of this year:

Sept 17 - the Junior picnic will be at the Severna Park Post; Sept 24 - Gold Star Mother Day; Oct 8 - Junior meeting at the Post 1 p.m. (Bring candy donations for Coast Guard); Oct 14 - Junior Fall Conference at Kent Island Post 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Oct 21 - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Ocean City, then on to the Coast Guard Station in to deliver Pumpkins.

Also Nov. 5 - Junior meeting at the Post at 1 p.m.; Nov 11 - Veterans Day ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial and then at the Post; Nov 18 - Flag Retirement at Worcester County Veterans Memorial; Dec 2 - Trim-a-Tree at the Post; Dec 10 - Packing Boxes at the Post

Looking forward to another great year. Please contact me if you know of any child eligible to join our Juniors program.

In Service, *Jessie Parsons*, Post 166 Juniors Advisor

Delaney McDaniel, Addison McDaniel, and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson (Center) at the June conference



Past Department of Maryland President Carmin Brittain looks on as McKenna Birkhead Thompson of gives her acceptance speech for being awarded Department of MD Junior of the Year

Carmin Brittain, McKenna Birkhead Thompson, Delaney McDaniel, and Jessie Parsons accepting the Greenbelt Award for best Juniors activities program in Maryland





AUXILIARY JUNIORS



Members of the Unit 166 Auxiliary attending the Department of Maryland meeting included Delaney McDaniel, Marie Gilmore, Kirsten Brown, Marti Marron, Jessie Parsons, Lisa Capecci



Jessie Parsons presenting McKenna Birkhead Thompson with her Synepuxent Unit 166 Junior Member of the Year award

First meeting of the new year. Our Juniors and their Greenbelt Trophy. Mia Hume, Sophia Hume, Addison McDaniel, Delaney McDaniel, Saylor Amos, Brooklynn Paul, Alexis Frantz, Allyssa Frantz, and McKenna Birkhead-Thompson



LATE BREAKING EVENTS

Membership Meeting

The September membership meeting was a standout with a demonstration of a dog trained specifically to sniff out land mines in war zones, two noteworthy contributions and a quilt presented in thanks for many years of dedicated service to one of our members.



Mine Sniffing Dog

Anne Wooleyhand, Education Programs Coordinator of the Marshall Legacy Institute of Arlington, VA, visited the Post with Rico, a mine detection sniffing Belgian malamar dog. She demonstrated how Rico was trained to find mines so that technicians could disarm and remove them. In the photo Rico sniffs a rag looking for a vial filled with gunpowder. He found it in another rag that had been placed in a pretend mine field.

Quilt for Bo Spicer

Just before the end of the meeting, Commander Tom Wengert called Bo Spicer to the front. Tom mentioned Bo's dedicated service to the Post, especially on the Contributions. Someone suggested to him that Bo might like a quilt from Quilters By the Sea of Ocean Pines. Sounded good to Tom so he obtained one and made the presentation to Bo, who actually smiled taking a photo



Scouts Receive \$3,000

A 10-day adventure camping trip to northern Minnesota/Canada next year had a hefty price for the scouts of Troop 261. Post 166 stepped in to help the troop we sponsor by donating \$3,000 to help pay the expenses. In the photo Scoutmaster James Smith receives the check from Bo Spicer and our Scouting Liaison, Bob Smith



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



Scott Brown
Director

(Editor's Note. This is the last report we will get from Scott Brown. He and Kirsten have moved to Florida. As editor I will miss his thorough reports. As we say in the Navy, Scott, Fair Winds and Following Seas. Oh, I forgot. You are Army. I don't know what they say to wish you well.)

Even though summer has come and gone, the Riders remain as busy as ever. We're working with the Legion and the OC community to continue current activities as well as looking for new ones. If you are a motorcycle rider, or just want to support the Riders, let us know. We would love to have you aboard!

Annual Crab Feast

The Annual ALR Crab Feast fell on July 13 this year. We appreciate all the support from, not just the Riders, but the entire Legion Community. The Riders, Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary came together to make the Crab Feast happen and make it an outstanding success. I want to personally thank everyone who volunteered and helped out at the event. They worked hard and made it a terrific event. Thanks for all you do!

Be sure to take a look at the next page. There's a full page of photos of this fantastic event.

Charter Fishing Trip

Joe and Carol Walper, the original winners of the charter fishing trip raffle could not use it. They graciously donated it back to the Legion for veterans to use. And boy, on September 10, did they use it. What a great time they had, with bountiful results as the photo shows. Thanks to the Playmate charter boat for supporting us and for the crew for making the trip one worth remembering.

Gun Raffle Mailer

Be on the lookout for a mailing for our Gun Raffle. Not too long ago we stuffed more than 1,500 envelopes to send out to all the members of Post 166 and the Post 166 family. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. And a special thanks to Tina Preziotti and Lois Barstis for spearheading the mailer and motivating everyone.

And finally, time to say goodbye. I want to thank everyone for their support during the time I have led the Riders. Kirsten and I have relocated to Florida. We will miss everyone, but we will be back to visit soon.

Once again, thank you everyone for your continued support. Ride safe!

Scott Brown



Kirsten Brown, Lois Barstis, Ray Kudobeck, and Jack Hyle stuffing envelopes. Shout out to Jack for jumping in and helping out!



The fishing group and the Playmate crew with their catch.



Miss Amelia

Synepuxent Post 166, Fall 2023

It's Easy to See in Pictures How Much Fun the Crab Feast Was



The first step. You have to pay to get in.



If you do, here's what's in store for you.



With full tables of diners and crabs.



And pitchers of beers and happy ladies



The house was packed



No crab feast is without fried chicken served by Lois Ingram and Marie Gilmore



The Men in Red were there in force with spouses



Hot dogs? Who eats hotdogs at a crab feast?



In the kitchen a box of hot crabs transferred to trays for delivery



So was Post Commandant Tom and his wife Joann



That's a big one you're holding



The Inaugural MILITARY VETERANS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Helping Our Veterans and Our Neighbors, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

HOSTED BY
American Legion
Post 166



Leathernecks



BENEFITTING
Semper Fi &
America's Fund
Believe in
Tomorrow
Foundation

WHEN

Monday
November 6,
2023

WHERE
Ocean City
Golf Club

11401 Country Club Dr.
Berlin, MD

Sponsorship Opportunities
Available

TIME

Shotgun Start
at 9 A.M.

Play 1 of 2 Beautiful Courses
Newport Bay Course or Seaside Course

Registration is \$500 per team of 4
or \$125 per golfer.

Sign up as an individual,
we will pair you with a team.

Includes 18 Holes of Golf
Continental Breakfast/Lunch
Awards Ceremony

For More Information:
Bob Broderick 410-353-0033 or
email: post166leathernecks@gmail.com



WORCESTER COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL



School is back in session. That means we will be putting a wrap on our 2023 school visits with our final school, Worcester Prep. This year, more than 650 students from each of the Worcester County Schools

visited the Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines. The Director of our Educational Outreach is busy lining up the schedule of school field trips for 2024. We have newly revised Student Handbooks to give each student and a new video, Heroes All, that they will see at their school prior to their field trip. You can view the video on YouTube.

Veterans Day will be here before we know it and as usual we are planning a fitting ceremony to honor all who have served. It will begin promptly, at 11 a.m. on **November 11** at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines. Some seating will be provided but you are encouraged to bring a chair.

The annual flag retirement and disposal will take place Saturday, **November 18**, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Scout Troops will properly retire the flags and burn them according to flag protocol. Bring your worn flags to Post 166. There is a flag receptacle in the lobby of the building.

This time of the year marks several anniversaries that are commemorated each year. On the third Friday in September we remembered nearly 82,000 Missing in Action service members. The state of Maryland has 961 MIAs. Never Forget! September 18 was the birthday of the US Air Force, and we honored our Gold Star Mothers on September 24. Happy Birthday US Navy on October 13.



Marie Gilmore, President,
Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation



“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”

- Author Unknown

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Heavenly Father,
We thank you that we live in a country
where we are free to choose.
We also thank you that there are those who would
choose to leave their families behind
and give their lives to fight for freedom.
For those who are wounded in battle,
we ask for strength and wisdom to carry on.

Amen

Greetings from your New Post Chaplain Dave Kline

It is an Honor for me to hold this position in this great American Legion Post 166. As your former Chaplain Ben Dawson mentioned in his Summer 2023 Message, I was the Chaplain for the First State Detachment Marine Corps League for four years. I enjoy reaching out to members who are under the weather, and to help lift their spirit up with Prayer and kind words. The Chaplain has many responsibilities to the members who have spiritual needs for themselves or family members. I can tell you that Chaplain Dawson has been a great mentor to me during this transition. Thank you Ben for all your help.

I can also tell you something you already knew, that this Summer has been a hot one. Now, however, we are now moving on to Fall with the change of season, the cool weather and the beautiful changing color of the leaves. Our God blesses us each season with wonderful changes. Fall is a welcome relief from the summer heat.

The new Covid Variant 2023 has been a challenge for a lot of our members. So please respect the fact that it is out there. If you are feeling under the weather with symptoms of a head cold, cough, or fever do yourself and other members a favor, please get tested.

We have seen way too many disasters in our country and around the world so far this year. Please keep all the people who have lost loved ones, homes or jobs in your prayers. Also keep our members who have transferred to Post everlasting in your thoughts and prayers, as well as their families. As your Chaplain I ask you to notify me if you know of a member who needs help or one who has passed. I will contact them or their family, pray with them, send them a card, and comfort their family when needed.

We are Blessed to belong to this Post, which is so friendly to everyone, has great food, hospitality and soon will have a new addition, the rooftop patio and bar. We are blessed to live in this great country. We ask God to protect our Military who are serving around the world, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

God Bless America

Dave Kline

**POST
EVERLASTING REPORT**

**The following members
transferred to
Post Everlasting**

**Jacob R. Birotola
Thomas Collins
Harry Davidson
Eugene R. Lamdin, Sr.
Charles M. Lyons, Jr.
Eugene L. Marron
Edward C. Milewski
Junior Staehle**

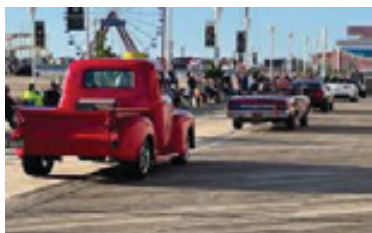
Quarterly Calendar Fall 2023



OCT

Date Event

- 1st Junior Auxiliary Meeting 1300hrs
- 2nd VVA Meeting 1800hrs
Social 1700hrs
- 5-8th ENDLESS SUMMER
CRUISIN 2023



- 9th SAL Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 16th Post Executive Board Meeting 1730hrs
- 17th Post Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 19-22nd SUNFEST 2023



- 19th ALR Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 21st Navy vs Air Force Game
1200hrs
- 23rd Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 25th 1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1100hrs



NOV

Date Event

- 4th Army vs Air Force Game 1430hrs
- 5th Junior Auxiliary Meeting 1300hrs
- 6th VVA Meeting 1800hrs
Social 1700hrs
- 11th Veterans Day @ WCVN 1100hrs
@ Post 166 1330hrs
- 13th SAL Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 16th ALR Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 18th US Flag Disposal WCVN 0800hrs
- 20th Post Executive Board Meeting 1730hrs
- 21st Post Auxiliary Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 22nd 1st State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1100hrs
- 23rd Thanksgiving Post Open Turkey Dinner 1400hrs-1700hrs



- 27th Post Membership Mtg 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs



DEC

Date Event

- 2nd Trim a Tree Party 1300hrs.
Plus Prepare Items to be boxed for the Troops.
- 4th VVA Meeting 1800hrs
Social 1700hrs
- 7th Pearl Harbor Day
- 9th Army vs Navy Game 1500hrs
- 10th Packing Boxes for (Support the Troops) with Operation We Care 0800hrs-1130hrs
- 10th Junior Auxiliary Meeting following the box packing
- 11th SAL Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 18th Post Executive Board Meeting 1730hrs
- 19th Post Auxiliary Christmas Party 1700hrs
- 21st ALR Meeting 1900hrs
Social 1800hrs
- 25th NO AL MEETING
- 27TH 1ST State Detachment Marine Corp League Meeting 1100hrs
- 31st New Years Eve Party 2000hrs (BRING A DISH)
- Jan 1st NEW YEARS DAY "Bring Your Leftovers Snacks 1300hrs
- Jan 13th SAL "BULL & OYSTER ROAST" 1500hrs-1800hrs

Synepuxent Post 166, Fall 2023

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American Legion

Synepuxent Post 166

Quarterly

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Volume 50 No. 4



Tom Wengert - Commander



Scott Brown - Director



Marti Marron - President



Joe Verdura, Commander



For all of you that have computer access to the Internet there are some places you may want to visit:

<http://www.legion.org> - Legion National Web Site
<http://www.mdlegion.org> - Department of Maryland
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html> - request copies of military records
<http://www.mdva.state.md.us> - MD Department of Veterans Affairs
<http://www.va.gov> - US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
<http://www.opvets.com> - Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines

Hey you Internet surfers, we not only have a website at <http://www.alpost166.org>, we also have our own "Face Book" Page at <http://www.facebook.com/alpost166> and if you "Like" us you will receive news as it happens.

Look for some "Drink & Food Deals" coming over Face Book. Also, send us your email to receive an electronic copy of the Observer.

PHONE NUMBERS IMPORTANT TO VETERANS:

Baltimore VA Medical Center 1-800-463-6295
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 1-800-522-8387
Perry Point 1-800-949-1003
Maryland Veteran's Cemetery 1-410-943-3420
Pocomoke City VA Clinic 1-866-441-0287
Elsmere VA Hospital 1-800-450-8262
Cambridge VA Clinic 1-877-864-9611

ATTENTION POST #166 LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

To make sure you are receiving your Synepuxent Observer by speedy email delivery, we need your email address.

If your newsletter is still coming by regular mail, we don't have it, so let's change that, Send your email address to airpinto166@gmail.com and we'll take care of the rest.

RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

at <http://www.legion.org/renew>

ALL Active Duty Members should submit their 8"x10" Photos to American Legion Post 166, P.O. Box 63, Ocean City, MD 21843 to replace the current Active Wall at Post 166 Contact Ed Pinto at airpinto166@gmail.com

20 Email: alpost166@comcast.net

[Http://www.ALPost166.org](http://www.ALPost166.org)