



### **Commander's Message**

Dear American Legion Post 293 Members:

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends; say a kind word to a stranger a time or two. Let's not forget our brothers and sisters in harms way keeping us safe, and wish them a safe and swift return home so that they can spend time with their family and friends. They have earned it. And we shall not forget.

Sincerely,

Timothy Strohmeier

Commander, Acting

Shelbourne Parish Post 293

### **News**

Our last newsletter was published in August with the passing of our beloved Commander Charlie Kalbaugh. First Vice Commander Tim Strohmeier assumed command after Jon Maus' resignation. Commander Strohmeier and Adjutant Don Nelson coordinated assignments to keep the Post running on schedule.

## **Virginia Legionnaires Magazine – Commander Charles Kalbaugh**

At the request of Marine Dan Miller and with help from Carroll Maus a great photo of a smiling Commander Charlie was sent in with a request to publish to the Virginia Legionnaires Magazine. His passing, our love and respect for him in a short memoriam was submitted along with the photo. Many thanks to Dan Miller and Carroll Maus for recognition well deserved.

## **September 27 Military Appreciation Day – Dedicated at Stonebridge High School**

American Legion Post Commander Tim Strohmeier, Service Officer Tom Irons, PR Officer Steve Drumheller member and WWII Veteran Bernard Gallahan attended and represented Post 293.

The Loudoun County Government Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the American Legion Posts of Loudoun County proclaimed September 27 as Military Appreciation Day. The event was held at Stone Bridge High School. Master of Ceremonies 2nd Vice Commander / Service Officer Bob O'Such from American Legion Post 2001 introduced a distinguished group of speakers including Marine and Virginia Senator Dick Black; Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, Marine Brigadier General Thomas Gorry Commander of Marine Corps Installations East; Air Force Brigadier General Allison Hickey Under Secretary for Benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Scott York, Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. American Legion Post Officers throughout Loudoun County were in attendance including Marine Tim Strohmeier, Commander of Post 293 in Purcellville. Speakers outlined and then explained in detail a renewed commitment in every veteran's services department and the progress newly instituted information technology has helped them achieve. Brigadier General Allison Hickey has accepted the challenge. She explained that new technology has enabled her department to process over one half of 5 million claims electronically. Our veterans are getting the help they need much faster. Over half of the employees in her department are veterans and are committed with genuine heartfelt dedication to our veterans. Under her leadership over 1.2 million service members are

using 44 billion dollars from the 911 G.I. bill to further their education and a successful transition into civilian life but she also reminds us there is much to do. We have over one half million veterans living below the poverty level. General Hickey lives in Virginia and her children attended Loudoun County Schools. She has taught her children to stand and salute, to hold their hands over their hearts when the national anthem is played. Her motto for herself, her children and for all of us is HONOR, DUTY, SERVICE and COURAGE. The American Legion Post 293 in Purcellville will proudly support September 27th as Military Appreciation Day and we offer our appreciation to each and every patriot who made this day possible.

### **September 27 Wunderbar**

**Liz Miller's Annual Oktoberfest** kicked off our fall with a successful event. Tickets were raffled for deutchse marcs, euros or greenbacks with bratwurst, Jagermeister and knockwurst served by our beautiful frauleins and handsome herrs courtesy of Liz and Margaret. Liz's events are always fun and successful. Great planning and organization leave us wondering what's next. Well she's bringing another event to us in December – a snowball raffle and we can't wait. Many thanks to Liz and her dedication to our veterans, their families, the community and our post. Please thank her when you see her next, for all her hard work.

### **Halloween Block Party at the Post**

October 31 featured Post Officers Jim Rust, Audrey Rodriguez serving 2 dollar hot dogs and 2 dollar beers. Costumed Post Officer Gordon Chace and Dr. Karina Chace welcomed many members costumed guests and Purcellville party goers en mass. The Festival was grand the Post was filled with participants playing pool, shuffle board some just resting many of whom had never been to the Post before. Congratulations to Jim, Audrey, Brigid, Kevin and all the Post volunteers who helped the event with a simple meal 2 dollar hot dogs and 2 dollar cold beers succeed in a grand fashion.

### **Membership Meetings**

Commander Tim Strohmeier, officers and members have updated financial statements, implemented new rules to manage our monies from events benefits and social quarters. These changes are important and specific

questions should be directed to officers and are in the minutes from our membership meetings. Please attend the membership meetings, the more members involved in making these decisions the better the results . Gordon Chace was nominated and then appointed as an additional member of the finance committee. Nancy Payne has taken on additional duties and hours at the social quarters as our kitchen manager. It's a lot of work. Nancy has embraced the position and we are most thankful. Post Officer Charlie King has kept us informed of District, National News and expectations of the District at the local Post level. Sometimes it's a thankless job but we need to know what the news is and what the expectations are in a clear precise message. Charlie is there for us and we appreciate it. Thanks Charlie.

### **Veteran's Day – November 11**

Post 293 set up tables outside the Giant Food Store and Food Lion on Veteran's Day to hand out our traditional poppies. Legion members, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion as well as the American Legion Riders handed out poppies and accepted donations to honor and serve our veterans and their families. Once again a job well done.

### **A New Chef!**

A delightful mid-November Lasagna to die for. Adam Porter prepared a 4 star lasagna for our dining pleasure, straight from the heart, hungry Legionnaires were still requesting any leftovers through Friday. It was even better on Friday!! No one beats our Auxiliary when it comes to meals but Adam's lasagna was a noble challenge. Hurrah!

### **The "Lone Ranger"**

To satisfy new government requirements specifically the IRS our Post is now required to keep membership cards on file as proof of service to maintain our non- profit status.

Steve Curtis has again stepped up to the plate with 250 letters, address labels, return address labels 500 envelopes and 250 member sign-up sheets. His posse including Jim Rust, Carroll Maus and Audrey Rodrigues stuffed the envelopes and did the footwork to get the information out. Thank you!

Without their work the Legion would not qualify and Uncle Sam would disallow our status effectively shutting us down. Steve sometimes signs off as Steve Curtis – Head Kangaroo Jumping all over the Place, but make no mistake he's our very own "Lone Ranger"! Thank you and God Bless You Steve.

### **Thursday Night Football Post 293**

Our new Thursday night hours at the Post include some of the best wings and Fries in Loudoun County at prices no one can match. American Legion Post 293 Sgt at Arms Joe Skibba has added this challenge to his list of duties and commitments to our Post. A longtime member of the Color Guard, Sgt at Arms, Bar Manager and now Thursday nite Chef Joe brings us a complete Thursday night package. Wings and Fries NFL football and cold beer.

Officer Gordon Chase has increased our viewing pleasure with a new sports package that includes football, baseball and basketball and on true HD TV. Gordon contributed his own money, a substantial amount to help expand the entertainment venue at our Post. Please thank Gordon and Joe by coming in ordering wings and enjoying our new and successful Thursday nite package. The members deserve it Joe and Gordon deliver the goods!

### **A Call for Volunteers – Step Up**

We need volunteers to help us in every area Bingo, Kitchen, Bartender, Legion benefits and events. We can accommodate you with hours that are convenient to you even if it's only one or two hours!

Try something new, something you may have always thought about.

Volunteer to bartend, help in the kitchen, prepare a Wednesday night meal work our events and benefits. We will help you learn our volunteers are wonderful and they need your help. It's fun and rewarding. Help our Vets, their families, and our community – try something new!

Contact Audrey Rodriguez, Tim Strohmeier or Steve Drumheller at 703 477-4412. Or call the Post at 540 338-0910.

### **Upcoming Events**

Ongoing - Bring a toy to the Toys for Tots collection box at the Legion.

Ongoing – Auxiliary Coat and Gloves Donation at the Legion.

Dec. 13 – Christmas Parade, Purcellville.

Dec. 17 – Christmas Gift Exchange Party at the Legion.

Dec. 20 – Liz Miller's Snowball Raffle Event at the Legion.

Jan. 10 – Girls State Dinner at the Legion.

Dates are subject to change. Call the Post for updates 540 338-0910.

## **Bingo**

**Bingo is held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month 10am to 1pm and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month 7pm to 10pm.**

[www.VAPOST293.org](http://www.VAPOST293.org)