Commanders Message

Our hospitality is a benchmark, we're proud to be known for our veteran and community involvement and where we're going as a Legion Family! Are "YOU" as proud of Post 96 as I am? If not, why?

2015 was a GREAT year for our Post, the American Legion and for all the organizations that supported us, we supported, and the good will we've spread throughout our area. We hit 100% of our membership goal prior to the 31st of December due to the hard work of our team but especially our Adjutant, Curtis Leonard. Thanks for your continued support of our priorities and mission. We also lost our Lounge Manager Ms. Elizabeth Riitano and in February we will lose our Finance Officer Legionnaire Ray Parker. These were two "big" losses and we wish them well in their new adventures. But, they set us up for success by institutionalizing our books and pointing us to our new book keeper Jen Miner. Jen comes with a lot of experience and loves to support our Post and its Veterans. Please welcome her as be bid farewell to Ray and Elizabeth.

"Our Goals" update: Where are we now?

--**Goal #1** is taking care of our veterans. Outstanding! Office updated, have engaged with VA and have VBA experienced officer ready to start having regular sessions and I'm meeting with county/state officials to get other services here locally.

--**Goal #2** reinvigorate our Post programs. Excellent! Our programs are known throughout the County, District, and state. We are going where we thought we couldn't. Keep it up.

--**Goal #3** continue and build on our community partnerships. Outstanding! I can't praise our relationships and partnerships more. From the Boy/Girl Scouts, Food Bank, Home Depot, Harley Davidson, City of Brunswick, etc., we have a solid and
credible reputation that precedes us in every forum. When you wear our patch...it opens doors and puts smiles on faces.

--**Goal #4** gain a better level of volunteerism. Very good to excellent. Warming the Vets, remodeling, Community Christmas, etc... We're chartering new waters and I want to keep our compass pointing in the right direction.

--**Goal #5** update our website and Facebook page. Good. We've made some progress but it's not there yet. It's not for the lack of effort. It WILL be there before my term is up.

--Now for 2016. It will bring new and some old challenges to be resolved. Our dues have just increased to $35 and this will be something we as a team will need to explain to our membership and our new recruits if questioned. I will state that our dues are much lower than most organizations of our kind.

-- We are engaging with the State VA office to gain further ground on our initiative to have access to local out reach counseling for our Veterans and their Families. We're getting soooo much closer. One of our long term members Mr. Bob Hartman reintroduced himself at the last General Membership meeting and will become one of our key allies in supporting our Veteran's and their engagements with the VA. He's currently serving as the Commissioner of the Maryland Veteran's Commission and stated he looks forward to working with the Veteran's at "his Post". Keep putting the word out and praying for our success.

--I can't say enough about our "Warming the Veterans" program and how it has skyrocketed and took on a life of its own through the leadership of Auxiliary member Connie House, the wife of our Second Vice Commander. I participated recently in making and delivering the blankets and I can't explain the level of personal satisfaction that I and many others received. If you want to get involved with this great effort give her a call or leave your name with the Post.

--More good changes....**our kitchen has reopened** with the leadership of our very own Shane Powers and Ms. Linda. If you haven't met her, please stop by the kitchen and welcome her to our Post Home. They are doing an outstanding job getting us up and running. If you want some great food, stop by on Thursday / Friday / or Saturday night. We will open up the menu and the number of days based on your support, your demands/wishes, and the needs of the Post. More support ... more opportunities ... more options.

--Volunteerism, the Post lives and dies on volunteers. We are all volunteers and "WE" need your assistance building our programs for tomorrow and sustaining.
We've come a long way in the last 5-6 years and I'd like to set our Post up for future success with your assistance. If you can't physically help, maybe helping us get volunteers or donations for what we're doing. We're always in the need for handymen (or women) and overall supports. Anything you can do to help allows us to do more, do it better, and to sustain what we do. So please volunteer. If you wish to volunteer please leave your name with the Post with your contact info. Every little bit helps.

--Discrimination: This is a subject that is near and dear to me and should be to you. I/We have "0" Tolerance for "Any Discrimination". Our Post, the American Legion, State, and National Organization have stated this from the beginning and lately I've noticed that we have some that visit the Post Home that don't get it. I want to clarify, if you are on our premises or supporting an activity that we're sponsoring/holding, and you discriminate against anyone for any reason you will be asked to leave and we will take the appropriate administrative action. If you have any questions, or wish for me to clarify this, please contact me, our Judge Advocate, or any Officer of the Post.

--I look forward to leading us through 2016, continuing our programs, and building the Best Post Home and Programs the American Legion can have.

Your Commander,
Bob Effler

Auxiliary News

Hello Ladies!

I hope everyone is keeping warm with the colder weather setting in. A bit different from what we were experiencing around the Christmas holidays and before you know it, spring will be here. I'm already looking forward to that!

We are collecting clipped coupons for our February meeting to send to military families. Here at home it's easy for us, we get the coupons in our magazines and weekend papers. Overseas, they don't have the ability to get the coupons or if they are here in the US, they are not always able to afford magazines and newspapers. If you like to help, please sort them into categories of baby products, food and non-food items. Also, if you have expired coupons (up to 6 month expiration date), please separate those from the unexpired coupons. We will be sending the expired
Auxiliary Message Cont.

coupons to a separate address. Please bring them to our February meeting (11th) or drop them off in the lounge. This is one simple way that we can pitch in and help our military families while their loved ones serve to keep us safe.

Our Post is hosting the 3rd annual Dept. of MD American Legion Auxiliary Drawdown. It will be on April 16. The doors open at noon and the drawing starts at 1 pm. We have tickets at the lounge. They are $10 each. The top prize is for $2500! The day of the drawdown there will be a cake wheel, a prize wheel and lots of tip jars! They are going to have “loser” drawings for tickets that don’t hit any of the cash prizes. You will need to be present to win those prizes, but you don’t need to be present to win the cash prize on the tickets. It will be nice to show the Dept. of MD ALA what a strong Legion family we are and support this event. Stop by the Post and purchase your ticket today! The Dept. of MD ALA will be having a bingo on June 5th at Woodsboro American Legion. More info on that in the next newsletter. I hope you can make it to one or both of these events.

We are hosting another Paint Nite on Friday, April 29th at 7 pm. This will be a Dog/Cat theme. Don’t know how to paint? No problem! The instructor will help you and you will have a blast painting and laughing with everyone there. Once we have a flyer and the link to purchase your tickets, we will send it out. The ticket price is $45 and the proceeds will benefit our Auxiliary programs.

We are looking to sponsor one enthusiastic young lady to participate in Girls State session this year. She would need to be completing her junior year at BHS and share a common goal to learn and to be interested in a rigid government study program. We would need to know by March 5th of anyone interested. If selected, she and a parent/guardian will need to attend a mandatory orientation on April 24th at the Gold Star American Legion in Mt. Airy. If this date doesn’t work, there are other dates. This is the closest orientation in our area. Girls State is held at Salisbury University on June 19th-24th. She will study the City, County, & State government process. The objective of Girls State program is to develop leadership & pride in the American citizenship, to install a greater understanding of American traditions and to stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes. She will have the chance to run for Senator of Maryland Girls State. If elected by her constituents, she will attend Girls Nation as a Senator from Maryland. There is a $35 registration fee. This will be refunded after she attend Girls State and will talk to our Unit about her experience there. Each year, the Senator attends our Dept. convention and they tell about how much they enjoyed Girls State and all the new friends that they have made from across the state of Maryland. If this sounds like something of interest, contact us at Auxunit96@gmail.com and we can send more information to you about this exciting program.
We still have over half of our members unpaid for 2016. As stated in the last newsletter, there was an issue with the wrong mailing address on the renewal form. If you have sent a check and it’s been a few months and you haven’t received your membership card, we never received your check. Please mail your check to the Auxiliary at the Legion (18 S. Maryland Ave) or drop off your payment at the lounge and we will get your 2016 membership card to you. This will ensure you to participate in members only functions as well as helping our Unit reach goal!

We are also taking early bird membership renewals for 2017. You will save $5 off next year’s membership, which will be $25 for 2017. We won’t be sending out the 2017 cards until after convention in July, but we will have you logged in as paid and your card will be sent once we receive them. The cutoff date is July 1st, so lock in 2016 rate before then!

At the last District meeting, our Unit received our 2014-2015 National award for the “Pass it in Membership Award”! We won in the Eastern Division class which covers 12 states. This was awarded on how our Americanism committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership. I am really proud of what our Unit has accomplished in the last year and I always hear from Units across the state that they are proud of us also!

If you have changed your mailing address or email address, please let us know. We want to keep your information current in our books. If you know or have someone who is a member of our auxiliary that is in a nursing home, please let us know. We will pay for their auxiliary membership. You can email us their name at Auxunit96@gmail.com or leave a note with the bartenders.

As always, we would love to see some new faces at one of our Unit meetings. They are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Post. Hope to see you there!

Best Regards,

Andrea Anderson
Unit President
2015 was a very successful and great year for the Legion Riders and 2016 is already shaping up to be even better. With our Direct to Vets Ride (as co-hosts to Wynn Zimmerman), Special Olympics Ride, Community Living Ride, and the Marble Run just to name a few of our events, our name is out in the local communities and we are experiencing very positive feedback for all of the things we’ve been doing in support of our military veterans and our local communities. The recognition is great but as we all would no doubt agree, that is not why we do what we do. However, it cannot be denied that the positive recognition has been beneficial as we now have people and organizations coming to us asking how they can help and get involved instead of us always having to seek out their help and support.

Planning for the 2016 Marble Run is under way with plans to distribute books and kicking off the run in March. This year’s Marble Run will have more stops in the areas surrounding and in Frederick and Hagerstown as we move to support the communities that support us. That is not to say there will not still be some great stops further out with great rides to get to them.

The Pre-Turkey bash packed the upstairs of the Post as Kajun Kelley and his band rocked the house with covers of classic and current rock hits requested by those in attendance. The dance floor was full and people were singing along with Kajun as they played song after song with barely a pause in between. The money raised during this event was combined with the Marble Run money to give a couple veterans and their families a Christmas they would otherwise have not been able to experience.

In December, there was a special election of Legion Rider officers to replace a few members who left our ranks. Iain Moon was elected as Assistant Director and Steve Lafferty and Dave Crowl were elected Road Captains.

Respectfully,

Robert Dozier
SAL Adjutant
Kajun Kelley and his band came out once again for our New Year’s Eve bash and as impossible as it may have seemed prior to the first chord being played, they rocked even harder than they had in November. Community Living was on hand to give rides home and to the Econo Lodge in Harpers Ferry to ensure everyone got home safely. $1000.00 went to Community Living from this event.

The ALR is hosting a Paint Nite on Saturday, February 20th at 7:00pm at the Post. This event is to raise money to help buy a motorcycle for a priest in Haiti who currently walks a very long distance to feed villagers and so that he can get sick villagers to the hospital. A very worthwhile cause and it’s going to be a fun night. Please gather your friends and family and come out and support the Legion Riders and help us help this priest who is a friend of Honorary Legion Rider Pastor Katie Bishop. The cost is $45.00 per person and all supplied are included. There will be food and drinks available for purchase during the event. You may sign up directly at: https://www.paintnite.com/pages/events/view/northernmd/1034296 or for cash payment registration please contact Jennifer Effler at 301-834-9992 or rjeffler@comcast.net.

Regards,

Bryan Angely
ALR Membership/Webmaster

Executive Corner

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Unfortunately, the Steadman-Keenan Post 96 didn’t have any participants for the Oratorical Contest scheduled on January 16th which is too bad as we were prepared to throw $250 at the winner... perhaps next year??

The Western Maryland District Oratorical is still scheduled to occur on February 20th at the Woodsboro Post 282.

Ultimately, the Department of Maryland Oratorical Contest will be held at Towson University West Village Commons, Emerson Drive and Townsontown Blvd, Third Floor Reception Area & Main Ballroom, Fourth floor on February 28th.
WARMING BLANKETS

We visited 6 nursing homes from November 23 to December 16, 2015.

Glade Valley on November 23, we gave 13 blankets (to include a member of our post who is a widow). The helpers were: Bob and Andrea Anderson and Dave and Connie House.

Homewood on December 9, we gave 25 blankets (to include a widow). The helpers were: Nannette Cline, Pam Holzman, Amy Powers, Debbie Ward, Michelle and Jason Crowl. Steve and Traci Lafferty, Iain and Gina Moon, Donna and Greg Fuss, Dave and Connie House and Timmy (resident from Community Living).

Tranquility on December 10 we delivered 20 blankets. Helpers were: Curtis Leonard and Dave and Connie House.

Golden Living on December 14, we gave 13 blankets. The helpers were: Bob and Andrea Anderson, Nannette Cline, Bob Dozier and Danny Bell.

Vindabona on December 15, we gave 6 blankets (to include widow). The helpers were: Gerald and Cathy Druin and Dave and Connie House.

Northampton, December 16, we gave 25 blankets (to include widow), we also gave out 7 beaded crochet bracelets and 6 crochet scarves (donated by Jennifer Effler and Connie House). The helpers were: Bob and Jennifer Effler, Nannette Cline, Pam Holzman, Rick, Donna and Greg Fuss, Dave and Connie House and Timmy and JR (Community Living residents).

We gave out 101 blankets to nursing homes, 17 at Veterans Day Parade (total of 118 blankets).

Residents of Community Living hand made Christmas cards that were attached to the blankets. We have partnered with: Community Living, United Methodist Church of Brunswick (Pastor Katie, our ALR honorary Chaplain), Brunswick Senior Center, Rockcreek School, United Church of Christ, Charles Town, WV and many local residents in the Brunswick and surrounding areas.

We have added 2 new partnerships: Homewood Nursing Home (staff members) and Tranquility Living (the residents have an out reach program) both partnerships are going to make and donate blankets.

Saturday, January 9, our Post sponsored a No Sew Blanket Party. We had a good turn out from community and members from our Post to include Community Living, Girl Scouts and a student from Brunswick High School who is working on her community service in order to graduate. Shane Powers worked the kitchen and offered a variety of snacks and sandwiches. We were able to make 39 blankets.
On January 17 members from AUX and ALR assisted with helping 87 Girl Scouts make no sew blankets for their project called My Faith, My Promise, held at New Hope Methodist Church, Brunswick Maryland. The Girl Scouts donated 8 blankets to Warming Our Vets. Those who assisted were Andrea Anderson, Michelle Crowl, Debbie Ward and Dave and Connie House.

On January 21 the Frederick, Maryland Calico Clovers invited members from our post to receive 6 blankets that the children made to donate to our Warming Our Vets. The children and their parents asked questions about our Veterans and why we are making the blankets. The club asked if they could make and donate more blankets, of course the response was Yes. The following members from Post 96 attended the blanket presentation: Andrea Anderson, Pam Holzman, Nannette Cline, Donna and Greg Fuss, Dave and Connie House.

In recent weeks, Warming Our Vets has partnered with Brunswick Lions Club and the Frederick, MD 4 H Calico Clovers. Our blanket project continues to grow.

Shane Powers has been instrumental in helping to organize our Post 96 No Sew Blanket Party's by preparing food for all the guests who join us and started a fund raiser so that we will be able to purchase materials to make the blankets at our No Sew Blanket Party's. Thank you Shane, for all that you have done to help make Warming Our Vets blanket project the success that it has become!

Lastly, I spoke at the Western Maryland AUX meeting on Sunday January 24th about our blanket project. Presentation went well and I believe that quite a few of ladies are interested in getting project started in their Posts. I was asked to speak at their next Western Maryland district meeting in March.

The patriotic crochet blanket raffle netted $90.00 to purchase more materials for our next No Sew Party on February 27.

As chair, I would like to thank every one who has been a part of this project. We have touched and warmed the hearts of many Veterans and their families in 2015!

Connie House
Warming Blankets
Committee Chairman
VET’S NIGHT OUT

The Weinberg Center for the Arts, where I came currently serving as Manager of Development, recently received a $2,000 grant from the Delaplaine Foundation for a program we are calling Vets’ Night Out, which will provide free tickets to Weinberg Center events for area veterans. We hope this program will not only help us thank our local veterans for their service, but that it will also provide a social, arts-based activity to boost camaraderie in the local veteran community.

Most events on the Weinberg calendar are open for this program, as long as there are tickets available. You can check out the full season at www.weinbergcenter.org. To get your tickets, please contact Jef Cliber in the Weinberg Center Box Office at boxoffice@weinbergcenter.org or 301.600.2835. Simply confirm the name and number of the party, and show you would like your tickets for with Jef, and specify that you are participating in the Vets’ Night Out program.

Some programs that may be of interest include:

Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio - Friday, February 12, 8 pm
Hailed as “a flamenco phenom” by The Boston Globe, guitarist Juanito Pascual sets the Weinberg stage ablaze with heat and passion just in time for Valentine’s Day. With both traditional and contemporary influences ranging from Jimi Hendrix and Miles Davis to Bach, it’s no wonder his trio’s modern take on this classic Spanish genre has won international praise.

Teelin Irish Dance Company: Celtic Storm - Saturday, March 5, 7 pm
Just in time for St. Patrick’s Day, experience the graceful beauty and thundering beats of percussive Irish dance. Based in Columbia, Md., this award-winning company has enthralled audiences around the world with their cutting-edge choreography. Don’t miss a highly-anticipated return to the Weinberg stage that brings Irish culture to life, right here in Frederick.

The Wellington International Ukelele Orchestra - Friday, March 11, 8 pm
Don’t miss favorites from Hall and Oates, Justin Timberlake, and Dolly Parton... played solely on ukulele and sung in tight harmony! Hailing from New Zealand, this group’s on-stage antics, disarmingly small instruments, and sublime musicality are legendary amongst delirious audiences. Join us for an evening of music and laughs with the critically-acclaimed orchestra.
In the Mood: a 1940s Musical Revue - Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 pm

Celebrate America’s Greatest Generation with the music that moved the nation’s spirit! Now in its 22nd year, In the Mood features the timeless melodies and rhythms of the big band era, including “Tuxedo Junction,” “Sing, Sing, Sing,” “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” and many more. With authentic arrangements, costumes, and choreography, the fabulous String of Pearls big band orchestra and In the Mood singers and dancers will have audiences aged 8 to 98 cheering for more!

Salut Salon - Friday, April 22, 8 pm

Skyrocketing to international fame thanks to a cheeky viral video, Salut Salon proves classical music can be fun – and funny. This eclectic chamber ensemble seduces audiences with a technique NPR calls “a bout of one-up-womanship,” mixing music, instrumental acrobatics, and slapstick timing. Join this charming quartet for an evening of classical music like you’ve never heard before!

Voca People - Sunday, April 24, 4 pm

You asked, and they’re back! Bursting with laughs for all ages, overnight YouTube sensation Voca People returns with their one-of-a-kind inter-galactic musical adventure. Combining a capella harmonies and beat-box simulations, this energetic concert features 80 chart-topping hits from legends like Madonna, Michael Jackson, and even Mozart. Don’t miss the phenomenon Jimmy Fallon calls “the coolest show ever!”

Thank you, again, so much for your service, and I hope to see you at the theatre soon!

Rebecca O’Leary
Manager of Development
Weinberg Center for the Arts
20 W. Patrick St.
Frederick MD 21701
(301) 600-2870
roleary@cityoffrederick.com
www.weinbergcenter.org
Greeting Veterans,

If you are Veteran experiencing health problems, physical and emotional, related to your term in the Armed Forces, the Army, the Marines, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Coast Guard, please feel free to contact Post 96 at 301-834-8121 and leave a message for me with your call back information, name and telephone information. I will do what I can to by connecting you with the appropriate VA resource so that you can get assistance with your problem. Please remember that your information is kept confidential. We are here to help.

Yours in service,

Andrew Kozak
Service Officer

The following is a brief glimpse into the life of one of America’s heroes of the dwindling Greatest Generation.

THE STORY OF WILLIAM "BILL" LEONARD
I COMPANY 504 PARATROOPER
INFANTRY REGIMENT

I was born on 746 Walnut Street on June 26, 1922 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I was the youngest of 6 brothers and 3 sisters. I joined the U.S. Army in September 20, 1942. I was 20 years old and went through basic-training for 13 weeks in Camp Croft, South Carolina. After basic training I went to Fort Benning, by then it was 1943, to follow paratroop school. After paratroop school I went to advance school in Georgia.

On April 29, 1943 we boarded an ocean liner called the George Washington in New York harbor. By May 10, 1943 we landed at Casablanca, French Africa, in a camp called Maréchal Lyautey. We saw our first real camels there! Then we went by truck to a place called Oujda, from there we had lots of dusty hikes. Then 40 & 8’s for many hot and dirty days, then again by truck on a bumpy 100 miles ride to
Historian Cont.

Kairouan. There some of us got a nice job de-mining the areas for weeks.

Finally after all the months of preparation we made our first combat jump on July, 9th 1943 we jumped into Sicily, I landed 15 miles east of a town called Gela. Once on the ground I joined other “I” company troopers, we fought in groups or platoon formations all the way up to Palermo, then halfway to Massa, North East of Sicily. Days later our regiment was to parachute on the Salerno-beachhead, Italy, forcing the Germans to go north. Later we were put on L.C.I.’s (Landing Craft Infantry) and landed near a place called Maiori, Italy. Up hills and mountains, down in the valleys, we fought for every piece of ground, until we helped take Naples about October 1st 1943. Patrolling Naples we got to know it better than we did Harrisburg, PA!

Hills...

October 28th 1943 we were transported North East towards a town called Citta di Castello. Again with full backpacks and extra ammunition, we fought in more hills and valleys as on hill 1574, 1581, 1101, 1016, and many small villages near and across the Volturno River, day and night. For many days we were soaked head to foot getting in to Fornelli and Collie, from that shoulder high river water of the Volturno River. After we cleared the Germans from Macchi and Fornelli, Cerro Maggiore, Rocchetta al Volturno, and hill 1017, the divisions’ objective, we were two days ahead of our artillery... There was no distance front-line in the mountains...

We crossed the Volturno River again, through olives trees, and then climbed up between huge boulders and rocks. As usual it was terrible trying to keep up the space to the guys up front, while I was carrying the .30 caliber machine -gun with twenty live rounds attached, a M1 rifle and 2 bandoliers, a blanket roll (Horse shoe-roll), with 6 or 8 K-rations. It was dark, with no stars in the sky, you had to keep up and watch where you stepped, so as not to push rocks on the guys below you. By midnight we got on top of the mountain (hill 950). There had been a huge fire-fight going on with the Rangers for over an hour. After six counter attacks by the Germans, by noon of that same day, we had 60% casualties in our company. That night the tracers were so thick, it looked like they were making a new dawn for tomorrow.

Rifle Garand .30 M1

M1 Carbine A1.30
Within a few weeks we were holding hills 950, 1205, 954, 710, 687, and patrolled hills 610 and 877. We were relieved on hill 620. Many of us had loose shoe soles (rotted). All of us needed new equipment; rifles needed re-bored and we needed haircuts. Naples was off limits to us (we who liberated the city from the Germans just 2 ½ months before!). So after 3 weeks of new replacements and just getting to catch up to the rear, we went by truck to a town called Pozzuoli harbor. In the harbor we climbed aboard L.C.I.’s (Landing Craft Infantry) with many new troopers. January 20, 1944, it was early morning; we were changed from a floating reserve to full speed ahead, on to the Anzio beachhead... Resting on a sand-bar, while trying reverse for another try. With many air-burst, we looked up and out of the sky came two German ME 109s, heading straight for us dropping 2 bombs of 150 lb each. One tore into “G” companies fantail and the other hit between our both L.C.I.’s. Almost upsetting and drowning us with its in water explosion, most had to swim ashore. About 300 yards inland we got dried off, then we got in to our company’s marching formation. After a while Lt. Blankenship told everyone to set up camp in one of the houses.

Sgt. White and a squad went ahead to find out where the Germans were. We stopped a 3rd. Recon they had found a bridge blown. It was terribly dark... we heard the call “halt”, and the same time small arms fire was up over our heads. We had walked into an ambush, within minutes we had three of our men killed. We retreated ½ a mile. After day break, we lined up as skirmishes and counter attacked with 3 light tanks up on the tar road mid us. The tanks fired a few shots into the houses and across the road into the barn. Four of us flanked the house on the left, the rest of the squad following. We killed 69 Germans and wounded 25; we took 33 prisoners of war (P.O.W.) that morning alone! A week and a half later we were out of our fox holes, and went by truck east to the British front. With the 1st. Armored in the area of Carreceto then up in Aprilia (the factory). Then we headed east to Campione. We were with the Irish Guards reserves, and also other English fighting groups. The third week up there we killed many new German replacements in that area. But through it all we lost many men due to German artillery. We were down to 18 men at this time.

What was left of us was ordered back to the canal again. After 8 weeks on the defensive situations. Here we went on many patrols, and always walking into German mines. About this time the Germans had ample time to mass a lot of troops and artillery around our beachhead. We knew we couldn’t move around in the daylight without being chased by artillery. Much later we found there were 372 artillery pieces, 152 of calibers exceeding 105mm and heavy 210mm and 270mm with the concentration at Collio and Lazise.

We were taken from the bridgehead, with only 28 out of 130 men left, to aboard the L.S.T. (Landing Ship Tank) for Naples after only being on Anzio beachhead for 62 days. April 10, 1944, we departed from Naples on the sea liner Capetown Castle. On April 22, 1944 we arrived at Liverpool, England. From there we left by train to Leicester were our new camp was set. Even with many of the “old” men who came
back, with many healed and unhealed wounds, we did not had enough men to par-

ticipate in the D-day operations of June 6, 1944. After 5 months, and

making many so called practice jumps, we kept wondering how soon for

the real one?

Until that time I had made 5 parachute qualifying jumps, 18 prac-
tice jumps and 2 combat jumps. And so after a few more dry runs, on
September 14, 1944, we went by truck to Cottesmore airfield, only to be
rained out. The next day the 17th of September we took off for Holland
to participate in an operation called “Operation Market Garden”. This
would be the biggest airborne operation of WW II so far.

We knew this mission from the start wasn’t going to be a dry
run. The 15th of September brought more troopers to Cottesmore air-
field. We were sent into the airplane hangers, to sleep and rest on cots.
In the morning they had us surround a sand table on which they ex-
plained the objectives of the missions. The table had a poor representa-
tion. In the evening we watched the movie “Going My Way”, starring
Bing Crosby. Afterwards we went back to our canvas folding-cots, told
some stories and slept. Morning brought drizzling rain which persisted the whole
day. Many of us were mad at Lawrence “mother” Mechler, from Texas. He wanted
us to shut up, so he could sleep the rest of the afternoon. After he fell off, we car-
rried him along with his cot in to the rain. Twenty-five minutes later a soaked
“mother” turned and began swearing. Someone laid a good fist in his guts; keeping
him doubled up until the evening.

**Taking up airplane position to fly into Holland**

All around our vulnerably clumsy troop carriers swooped the small quick fighters.
Sweeping out of the sky from nowhere only to disappear a moment later, the fight-
ers zoomed around us like wasps. The fighters would sweep while spitting fire as
they flew towards the kraut flak tower. After crossing the channel it became un-
comfortable in those defenseless crates. One plane was shot down. The pilot and
the co-pilot crashed. The others had jumped out. Only two men, of those who
jumped had dodged capture. Then it was our turn to jump, we landed in the vicini-
ty around a place called Grave.

**This story will be continued in the next bi-monthly newsletter.**

With the 100th anniversary of the American Legion upon us soon...2019,
anyone who happens to come across old photos or correspondence of the Legion,
it’s members, and activities while cleaning out our parent’s or uncle’s/aunt’s attic
or garage please share them with us.

Respectfully,

Tim Wilson
Historian
TAPS

In memoriam to our fellow servicemen and woman, wives, daughters, husbands, and sons who have recently passed.

Legionnaires  Auxiliary  SAL
No Report  Virginia Dyer  12/22/15  Charles Leffew  1/30/16

New & Transferred In Members
The Steadman-Keenan Post 96 welcomes our new and transferred members

Legionnaires  Auxiliary  SAL
James E Henry  Cheryl Roach  No Report
Patrick Chapple
Michael Ferrell
Edward Gallagher
Agustin Hernandez
Robert Jack
Thomas Grant
David Smith
Josh Winters
Lindsay Savat

Honor Flight

Honor Flight [http://www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org) is an organization that flies Veterans to DC to visit their memorials for the day. They normally visit the WWII, Korea, Vietnam, AF and Iwo Jima memorials. They have recently started a Capital Region Honor Flight to allow local veterans the same opportunity to see the monuments with other veterans. They are currently accepting applications. Top priority is given to WWII, Korea and all terminally ill vets but others may apply. If you are interested in participating, there is no charge to the vet. Please contact Bob or Jennifer Effler at 301-834-9992 or rjeffler@comcast.net and they will be happy to provide you the application and answer any questions you may have.
## FEBRUARY 2016

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### Schedule of Events
- 2/02/16 ALR General Meeting 7pm
- 2/03/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 2/04/16 SAL Meeting 7pm
- 2/04/16 Legionnaire Meeting 7:30pm
- 2/10/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 2/11/16 Auxiliary General Meeting 7pm
- 2/12/16 Wacky Karaoke 8pm
- 2/14/16 Valentines Day
- 2/15/16 President’s Day
- 2/17/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 2/18/16 Executive Meeting 7pm
- 2/18/16 Sounds of Lynn Routzahn 7pm
- 2/20/16 WMD Oratorical Woodsboro Post 282 12pm
- 2/21/16 DEC Meeting Thurmont Post 282 1 pm.
- 2/24/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 2/26/16 Wacky Karaoke 8pm
- 2/28/16 Department of Maryland Oratorical Contest. Towson University West Village Commons, Emerson Drive and Townsontown Blvd, Third Floor Reception Area & Main ballroom.
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<td>3/25/16 Wacky Karaoke</td>
<td>3/30/16 Naval Birthday (1794)</td>
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Schedule of Events

- 3/01/16 ALR General Meeting 7pm
- 3/02/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/03/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/03/16 Legionnaire Meeting 7pm
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- 3/10/16 Auxiliary General Meeting 7pm
- 3/11/16 Wacky Karaoke 8pm
- 3/13/16 Western Maryland District Wine Jug Frederick Post 11 12pm
- 3/16/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/17/16 Sounds of Lynn Routzhan 7pm
- 3/19/16 National Commander’s Banquet Kent Island Post 278 5:30pm
- 3/23/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/25/16 Wacky Karaoke 8pm
- 3/30/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/25/16 Frederick County Council meeting Frederick Post 11 7pm
- 3/27/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/28/16 Frederick County Council Meeting Brunswick Post 96 7:30pm
- 3/30/16 SAL Bar Bingo 6:30pm
- 3/30/16 Navy Birthday (1794)
You’re invited to a PAINT NITE FUNDRAISER for Brunswick American Legion Riders

We are raising money to buy a motorcycle for a priest in Haiti to help him get food to the villagers and sick folks to the hospital! The motorcycle costs $2500 and we are doing our best to help them in this endeavor. He is a friend of Pastor Katie Bishop - the Brunswick ALR Chaplain!

**Motorcycle Themed Tip Jars**
**Raffles & 50/50**

Date: Saturday, February 20th    7:00pm
$45 All Supplies Included - Food & Drink
& Desserts Available for Purchase
Address: American Legion Post 96, 18 S Maple Ave, Brunswick

Sign up now at:
https://www.paintnite.com/pages/events/view/northernmd/1034296
or contact:
rjffler@comcast.net or Jennifer at 301-834-9992 for cash payments
or leave money & contact info at Legion Lounge

PaintNite.com
The American Legion Department of Maryland
Proudly Presents the
NATIONAL COMMANDER’S BANQUET
Saturday March 19th, 2016

Reservations are required. Tickets must be purchased or reserved by March 1st.

Ticket Price: $55 per person
Limited number of tables for 10 available first come first serve
Checks should be made payable to KIAI POST 278.
Checks shall be mailed out within 7 days of receipt of payment.
Event Tickets shall be mailed out within 7 days of receipt of payment.

All welcome. $8.00 per person

Breakfast Buffet Sunday March 20th
At 0930 hours at Jeff Davis Post 18
Centreville, Maryland

NATIONAL COMMANDER Dale Barnett

Hosted by Kent Island American Legion Post 278
800 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, Maryland 21666
410-643-2778
Kilpost278@verizon.net

Accommodations
Kent Narrows Holiday Inn Express
1020 Kent Narrow Rd
Grasonville, Maryland 21638
410-827-4454

Menu
- Chicken Cheesestripes
- Green bean casserole
- Roasted potatoes
- Salad or House Salad
- Sweet and Sour Mashed Apples
- Spinach and artichoke dip
- Menu Choices
- Dessert

Code: B&B
P# Code: AM/L Code: AML
Room Rate $115.00 plus tax
Discount Code: AM
or book online using the following:
http://www.hilton.com/redroof/hotelandbrand
kent/HotelID/EA01015806&GM=AM
Cut off Date February 10th, 2016
Free Shuttle from Hotel to Legion starting at 5 PM thru 11 PM on March 19th

Social Hour
5:30 PM till 6:30 PM
Bar closed during program

Dinner
5:30 PM till 11:00 PM
6:30 PM till 8:00 PM
Program
8:00 PM
Tickets on sale now at bar! $10 per ticket. Held at the Brunswick American Legion Post. Join us for the fun and excitement! There will be Pull-tabs, Prize Wheel, Cake Wheel and 50/50!

American Legion Auxiliary Fund Raiser
Saturday, April 16, 2016
Steadman-Keenan Post #96
$10.00 per person
Doors open at 12:00 p.m., Draw Down Starts at 1:00 p.m.
1st Ticket Drawn Wins $100.00
100th, 200th, 300th, 350th, 400th, 450th, 550th, 600th, 650th, 700th, 800th, 850th, 900th & 950th
Ticket Drawn each win $50.00
25th Ticket Drawn Wins $25.00
50th Ticket Drawn Wins $50.00
75th Ticket Drawn Wins $75.00
250th Ticket Drawn Wins $250.00
500th Ticket Drawn Wins $500.00
750th Ticket Drawn Wins $750.00
LAST Ticket Drawn Wins $2,500.00
Tickets must be purchased in advance of drawing
Legion Flashback

Here are glimpses of activities that had occurred at the Legion in the past months.

1st week of December 2015 Memorial Hall was the staging area for Holiday gifts to be given to 87 needy families within the Brunswick area.

Post 96 members, at Arlington National Cemetery, participated in the Wreaths Across America initiative on December 12, 2015.

Photos courtesy of Legionnaire Pam Holzman

December 13, 2015 Memorial Hall was opened to Nicole Kasesmen and her One Stop Shop event to bring local vendors and Holiday shoppers together.
The annual Holiday Party was held on December 19th.

Good blessings were had by all.

Memorial Hall hosted Kajun Kelley as his band
Rocked everyone into the New Year
Legion Flashback Cont.

January 17, 2016 members from AUX and ALR assisted with helping 87 Girl Scouts make no sew blankets for their project called My Faith, My Promise, held at New Hope Methodist Church, Brunswick Maryland. The Girl Scouts donated 8 blankets to Warming Our Vets.

KITCHEN IS NOW OPEN

WEDNESDAY SPECIALS DURING SAL BAR BINGO

THURSDAY—SATURDAY 3—8 PM
# Steadman-Keenan Post Officers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Robert Effler</td>
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<td>1st Vice Commander</td>
<td>Michael Kozicki</td>
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<td>2nd Vice Commander</td>
<td>David House</td>
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<td>Judge Advocate</td>
<td>Bryan Heath</td>
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<td>Service Officer</td>
<td>Andrew Kozak</td>
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<td>Finance Officer</td>
<td>Ray Parker</td>
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<td>Adjutant</td>
<td>Curtis Leonard</td>
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<td>Historian</td>
<td>Tim Wilson</td>
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<td>Robert Dozier</td>
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<td>Andrea Anderson</td>
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<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Elizabeth Riitano</td>
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<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Jennifer Effler</td>
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<td>Jennifer Effler</td>
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<td>Debbie Ward</td>
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<td>Iain Moon</td>
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**Steadman-Keenan**