



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

6630 Crain Highway, PO Box 441, La Plata, MD 20646

November 2023

www.Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Happy Halloween to our Post 82 Family, I hope everyone is enjoying the change of the seasons with the cooler weather and the leaves changing. This is great riding weather, so I know the riders are having fun!

I would like to start out by giving a Big Shout Out to Chris LaQuay (2nd Vice Commander) and Angle Hindle for taking charge of our Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner on October 6th. I would also like to thank everyone else that signed up and helped make this dinner a success, we sold 111 dinners! It is not an easy task to put these dinners together and we all really appreciate Chris & Angel for stepping up and leading.

With that said our next Post dinner is November 3rd so, if you couldn't help with the last one, I ask that you sign up and pitch in, it is a lot of fun building bonds with your fellow Legion members.

Next on the calendar is the Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" parade on Sunday November 5th. Line-up time for parade participants starts at 11am and all participants must arrive no later than 12pm at the Charles County Government Building, 200 Baltimore Street in La Plata. Note: No vehicles will be allowed to enter Talbot St. from Washington Ave. You will only be able to access Talbot St. via Rt. 301. Parking for participants is reserved at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 210 St Mary's Avenue. We are still working on securing a trailer for the parade so if you have one we can use, please let me know ASAP. If you would like to march in the parade, we would love to have you join us. I will be marching out front with our 1st Vice Commander, Adjutant, one S.A.L. and one Auxiliary member carrying our flags, but we could use help carrying a banner in front of our follow-on truck (hopefully with trailer) and at least 15 motorcycles! Like I always say, we do these events to show we are part of the Community and are Relevant!

On November 11th at 11:00am we will be celebrating Veterans Day at the Post, please mark your calendar and join us for this very special event. See more details in this newsletter.

Our Post Christmas Party is on the calendar for December 23rd, more details to follow but if you have any ideas, please send them to me at 82postlaplata@gmail.com.

Legion Membership Report

Greetings Legionnaires!

My membership team members (John Flatley, Jeff Coombs, and Mike Hanks) have been working to contact you by phone or email to see how you and your family are doing and if there's anything Post 82 can do to assist you. They are also updating members on Post Activities and Events that you may not be aware of including:

1. Legion Steak and Shrimp Dinner, 5-7pm the 1st Friday of every month (Open to the public).
2. Auxiliary dinners 5-7pm the 2nd Friday of the month (Open to the public).
3. Sons of American Legion Rib Dinners 5-7pm the 3rd Friday of the month (Open to the public).
4. Members Only Shrimp dinner is in the Bar 5pm the 4th Friday of the Month (Members only)
5. Legion Riders Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm every 5th Friday or once per Quarter (Open to the public).
6. Queen of Hearts Every Wednesday evening in the Lounge (Members only).

It has come to my attention that several members may not have received renewal notices sent by National for 2024. As a reminder, dues for 2024 should be paid not later than December 31st each year. However, we encourage individuals to renew as soon as possible so there's no lapse in membership status and to exceed goals set by National & Department Leadership (We are currently at 65% of our membership goal for 2024). Whether you received your reminder notice or not, it's time to renew your investment through membership in the American Legion. Early Bird renewals run through Oct 31st, so there are still a few days left to be considered for this status.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone that is coming out for our monthly membership meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. It has led to some great discussions about our Post and how we want to do business. If you would like to have your voice heard I highly encourage you to attend these meetings. Working together we are doing great things for our members.

Note: At the last meeting we voted to change the membership meeting start time to 6pm.

Also, the Executive meeting is held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm, don't get these two things confused or you're going to show up before or after the meeting.

Your Commander,

Jamie Zayas

Post Services Resources Corner

As the Posts Service Officer, I am here to offer resources to our members and their families. I am also here to offer the same resources to veterans that are not members of our post. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 240-267-6489 or ghawley83@gmail.com

Please check out the VA's "Apply for a Disability Rating" Guide.

<https://www.va.gov/files/2023-01/disability-rating-qsg.pdf>

There is great information here to help you start your disability claim.

George Hawley
Post 82 Service Officer

Dues are currently \$35 per year and can be paid in various ways:

1. On-line at <https://legion.org/renew>
2. By mailing a check to:
American Legion Post 82
PO Box 441
La Plata, MD 20646
3. Bring a check or cash to the Post and give it to the bartender. Note: If paying by check, please write your membership number in the memo section.

Finally, please ensure your contact information and address are correct. We are receiving "Return to Sender" letters, rejected email addresses, or incorrect phone numbers when trying to relay Post 82 information to all members. You can either update that information online by logging into your account on www.mylegion.org or reach out to me, John Flatley, or Jamie Zayas to update that information for you.

Thank you for all you do and the sacrifices you have made as a member of the military, your community, and the American Legion.

Respectfully,
David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander



David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair

Sons of The American Legion **S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held the** **First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs**



On September 25, Gale Willett worked the registration table at the American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Post. Forty units were collected. Donors included five members of the Post 82 family.

At the Squadron meeting on October 3, the members voted to donate \$50 to the Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School Thanksgiving Dinner. In addition, the members voted to purchase four tickets to the Southern Maryland Region Drawdown on October 28. The Drawdown is one of the two major fundraising events for the SMR each year.

Thank to Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Alana Lentz, David Quade, Roy Yanosh, Kathleen Quade, and Lennie Lentz for their help at the baby back rib dinner on October 20. Seven residents and 2 staff members from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home were guests of the Post 82 family. It's always good to have those folks in the building. The next baby back rib dinner will be on November 17.

On October 16, Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Chris LaQuay, and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Thirty-three residents participated and \$230 in prizes were handed out.

Your 2023 membership card is good until December 31, 2023, but why wait? Renew today! Membership is still just \$20 for members 21 or over, \$15 for dual members and those under 21. Dues may be mailed in or dropped by the Post. In addition, dues can now be renewed online. SAL members can renew on their www.MyLegion.org account or via the quick renew website: <https://legion.org/SAL-Renew>.

The online renewal process also allows S.A.L. members to set up automatic annual renewal. Online renewal should be used only by those who owe \$20. The system is not currently set up to handle more than one rate.

Yours in Service,
Dave



Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
301-645-1537 (h)
301-752-8273 (c)
tatman_david@comcast.net

American Legion Auxiliary
Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are held the
Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs



Hello Snapdragons!

I hope everybody is doing well! We had a great turn out for our last meatloaf dinner. The meatloaf we have leftover will be used for BINGO as they love our meatloaf sandwiches with gravy. I had a great crew to help at the dinner and a great cleanup crew. Thanks to all that helped. Our next

meatloaf dinner will be on November 10th from 5-7pm. The cost will be \$15.00.

Our fall conference will be in Ocean City on November 3, 4, 5. We have 8 ladies who are attending. One of our ladies had to drop out due to family obligations.

Please remember to renew your membership. You can mail your check to Rita Sexton or bring it by the Post. The cost is seniors \$35 and juniors \$7.

Sunday, November 5th is the Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" parade. See details in this newsletter. If you wish to participate in the parade, but cannot walk, contact Commander Jamie Zayas. He is working on rides for those needs a headcount as soon as possible.

Saturday, November 11th is Veterans Day. We will have our annual program at the Post at 11am. Please attend to honor all our veterans.

Come join us at BINGO on Thursday nights! Early bird starts at 7pm. The jackpot as of this writing is up to \$1,700.

Our next meeting is November 14th at 6pm. I hope to see you there!

For Service, not self,

Lesley



Lesley Radcliff
President

How can I serve you?

Post 82 Service Officer

George Hawley
240-367-6489

ghawley83@gmail.com

Post 82 Chaplain

Paul Stockman
301-768-2514

papastockman@yahoo.com

American Legion Riders

ALR Meetings are held the
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs



Good Afternoon, Riders, and Legion Family,
The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral: A friendly reminder to renew your Post membership for 2024 as soon as possible. This helps the Post to meet membership goals and earn awards within our District and State rankings. Your ALR dues are also to be renewed at this time as well, at a cost of \$15 for the upcoming year.

On Saturday Sept. 30, 14 bikes and 15 riders took part in the "Cruisin' Southern MD" fundraiser with the final stop at The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for a car show. The ride started with Verdis (V-Man) Jones leading the group on back roads to Charlotte Hall where they joined the cruise for a 100+ mile trip through Southern MD. The Riders spent quality time with the residents enjoying the cars and bikes. The "Cruisin' So MD" for Veterans organization presented The Veterans Home with a brand-new golf cart to transport the residents around the campus. On Saturday Oct 21 Mike (Twink) Hanks took a dozen Riders on a charter fishing trip leaving out of Chesapeake Beach. The weather was windy

and cool which impacted the catch. Six keeper rockfish were brought in. Despite the low catch, all on-board had a great time of fellowship hanging out and cruising around the bay together.

The Riders voted to purchase a Silver Sponsorship the War Fighter Advance Golf Tournament taking place at Wicomico Shores on Saturday Oct 28. We are honored to provide support to such a great local organization that helps veterans with PTS.

The Riders would like to welcome our newest members Dan Ion and Fred (Snake) Heppner. We would like to encourage all Riders, as members of Legion, SAL & Auxiliary to please volunteer some time to help with events, fundraisers & dinners as promoted by our Post Family. These events are vital to the livelihood and strength of our Post within the community. You can volunteer at what works best with your schedule and it can be as short as an hour or two. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Rides:

Nov 5- La Plata "Salute to Veterans" parade
Nov 25- Post 82 "Toys for Tots" Ride - Invite your friends!

Our next ALR meeting is Thursday November 9, 2023 at 1800

Respectfully Submitted,
Big Sexy



Kevin Bryant
Director

"We ride In HONOR of those who have served."

Seeking Creative Skills

Are you creative? Do you have skills creating flyers, PowerPoint, Publisher, or PDF slides? We are looking for someone who can take the variety of events at Post 82 and turn them into compelling advertisements to be shown on the monitor in the Lounge. If you are interested in learning more, please email Jamie Zayas at 82postlaplata@gmail.com.



POST 82 MEETINGS

The Legion Executive Committee Meets on the First Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00pm in the Hindle Meeting Room

The General Membership Meeting will be held the Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Hindle Meeting Room

Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner



Friday, Nov 3, 5-7:PM

Volunteer to help cook and serve here: <https://bit.ly/Post82-Nov-3-2023>

What's Going at Post 82 This Month?

Queen of Hearts Every Wednesday

A winner is drawn every Wednesday at 6:45pm
Hosted by Sons of the American Legion

Bingo Every Thursday

First game begins at 7:00pm
Open to the public.

Friday, Nov 3

Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner

from 5 – 7:pm
Open to the Public

Sunday, Nov 5

Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans Parade"

Let's show up and show out for the Town of La Plata! Join Commander Zayas and the leadership of the Post 82 Family as we lead the parade, just a short walk/ride from the County Courthouse to Town Hall. The streets will be lined with citizens that want to salute YOU veteran!
Showtime behind the Courthouse – 12:00pm
Parade Start Time – 1:00pm

Friday, Nov 10

Auxiliary Meatloaf Dinner from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the public

Saturday, Nov 11

Post 82 Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony 11:00am Invite your friends and family

Friday, Nov 17

S.A.L Baby Back Rib Dinner from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the public.

Saturday, Nov 18

District 6 Revitalization Event from 9:am – 2:pm

Friday, Nov 24

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7:pm

Members only

Saturday, Nov 25

ALR 82 Toys for Tots Run 9:00am

\$10 + one toy per vehicle
Open to the public.

Post 82 Executive Committee



Board of Directors & Executive Officers Meeting is held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1900 hrs in the Hindle Meeting Room

General Membership Meeting is held the Second Tuesday of Each Month at 1800 hrs in the Hindle Meeting Room.

Elected Officers

Commander – Jamie Zayas
1st Vice Commander – David Abildgaard
2nd Vice Commander – Chris Laquay
Judge Advocate – Bob Striegel
Adjutant – John Flatley
Finance Officer – Bill Rees
Sergeant-At-Arms – Jerry Higdon

At Large Elected Officers

Buddy Hindle
Norm Shelton
David Quade
Harry Tafe

Appointed Officers

Service Officer – George Hawley
Chaplain – Paul Stockman
Historian – Cheryl Wedding

Opportunities for Service

Seeking Creative Skills

Are you creative? Do you have skills creating flyers, PowerPoint, Publisher, or PDF slides? We are looking for someone who can take the variety of events at Post 82 and turn them into compelling advertisements to be shown on the monitor in the Lounge. If you are interested in learning more, please email Jamie Zayas at 82postaplata@gmail.com.

1. Southern Maryland Region Hospitality Committee:

This committee will research the location, cost, and make a recommendation on a place to host the SMR Hospitality Event during the Department (State) convention in Ocean City, MD. District Commanders and Post Commanders cannot serve on this committee. The Region Commander is the Point of Contact for this committee at smrcommander1906@gmail.com.

2. Southern Maryland Region Ways and Means Committee:

This committee serves as a committee focused on fundraising event(s) for the Region. Only a few fundraising events are expected to occur. No District Commanders or Post Commanders can serve on this committee. The point of contact for this committee is the Region Adjutant Gary Gifford at gary.gifford259@gmail.com.

All questions should be directed to the points of contact above.

Post 82 Steak & Shrimp Dinner Nov 3

As the saying goes, "Many hands make lite work". Last month we served 111 steak and shrimp dinners and had a great time doing it! This month's dinner will be held on Friday, Nov 3 from 5-7pm. Join in on the fun and sign up to help using this link <https://bit.ly/Post82-Nov-3-2023> or send an email to post82newsletter@aol.com. We need a few hands in the morning to set up the tables and prep the steaks and potatoes. The rest of us will show up at 4:30pm to begin dinner service at 5:00pm through 7:00pm. See you at the Post!.

Chaplain's Corner

A few months ago, I completed an online course on <https://mylegion.org>, entitled "Basic Training". Even though I have been a member for several years, this course taught me many things about the American Legion I hadn't previously known. I found "The Four Pillars of the American Legion" to be especially informative regarding our mission, vision, and values.

The Third Pillar, "Americanism", has among its nine articles, one simply listed as "The Pledge of Allegiance". I wasn't aware of the Legion's application of the Pledge of Allegiance beyond our reciting of it at the opening of meetings and other events. Clicking on its link, I found the following information:

"The Pledge of Allegiance:

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by students and teachers in our nation's schools should be a regular part of school activities and events. In support of keeping "under God" in the pledge, The American Legion affirms that pledging allegiance to the flag is the voluntary offering of a patriotic oath to the nation, that no one should be denied this opportunity, and that the removal of these words will set a precedent that questions the propriety of numerous references to a supreme being in historical documents, on currency and on many of our government buildings, including the U.S. Supreme Court."

The American Legion's support for the continued inclusion of God in the Pledge of Allegiance, to the degree that it is part of the third pillar, I found to be indicative of its recognition of the importance of God's role in our nation's past, present, and future. Its open recognition of God is also supported in the opening words of the American Legion's Preamble to the Constitution which reads in part: "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: ...".

Our regular recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution, as well as our prayers in our ceremonies, meetings, and other activities further underscore the American Legion's continued recognition of God's role in the spiritual foundation of our freedom and its continuance to this day. These in turn imply our need to pursue God on an organizational and personal basis.

The concept of "For God and Country", and the recognition of God's importance to various Legion activities are mirrored in the following quotations:

"While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian." - George Washington

"Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience...without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure...If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under." - Ronald Reagan

"I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning." - Benjamin Franklin

My reasons for sharing the above include the encouragement of individual Legionnaires to pursue their own relationships with their Creator and not neglect their "higher duties of religion". Another is to remind Legionnaires of our organization's pledge to service "For God and Country". And finally, to encourage Legionnaires, in their meetings, to seek God's will in their deliberations and their resulting decisions.

Post Everlasting

Members of our Post, including the Commander and I, participated in two funerals of Post 82 member Legionnaires this month.

James Edward Goldsmith III, Captain, USN
Edward Alphonso Apodaca CMSgt., USAF

I was also recently made aware of the passing of a member back in April 2023.

Charles Wesley Leshar, USA Reserve

If you are interested in serving through funeral support, please contact me at papastockman@gmail.com

As always, if you or your family have any needs I can assist with, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman
Chaplain

**Opportunity for Service
Membership Revitalization Event
Nov 18, 9:30am – 2:00pm
Post 82 La Plata**

Are you outgoing and like to talk to like minded veterans on the phone? The District 6 Commander, Murray Hall has called for a revitalization event and Post 82 is hosting. We have identified many American Legion members in our area who are not members of our Post. During the revitalization, we need volunteers to call these folks to let them know of our events and available services and invite them to transfer to our Post. With their approval we will roll them into our membership and encourage them to join us physically as well. If you are interested in helping, please contact Commander Zayas at 82postlaplata@gmail.com. Depending on what fits your schedule that day, you can volunteer for 2 hours, the whole day or until the list of contacts is exhausted (whichever comes first).



The 2023 Drive has begun!

Bring new, unwrapped toys (no stuffed animals, please) and place them in the box in the Lounge before Saturday, Nov 28. ALR 82 will deliver the toys to Charles County Toys for Tots to be distributed to local children in need.

How can I serve you?

Post 82 Service Officer

George Hawley
240-367-6489

ghawley83@gmail.com

Post 82 Chaplain

Paul Stockman
301-768-2514

papastockman@yahoo.com

Department of MD X-Mas Party



Please Bring a new stuffed animal for the children of Safe Harbor and Project Echo



Please bring a non perishable food to help replenish local Food Pantries.

IT'S A CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA PARTY
DECEMBER 10, 2023
American Legion Stalling-Williams Post 206
1-5 pm

Please Join your American Legion Family
for the Best Christmas Party Ever Extravaganza!!!

A Fantastic afternoon filled with
cocktails, appetizers, desserts
and a festive fun filled afternoon!

\$Cash Bar\$

Legion Christmas Idol Competition
Ugly Sweater Contest
50/50 Drawings
Door Prizes
\$20.00 pp

\$Cash Bar\$

Please RSVP/pay NLT December 1
Stallings Williams Post 206

**in care of Brenda Miller at 778 Rosewood Rd, Severn Maryland,
21144**



Only 225 Tickets
Available Don't
Delay Reserve
yours today!

LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOPPER
ART: GARY MARTIN
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW

AT THE ST. LOUIS CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MAY 8-10, 1919, AN EMBLEM COMMITTEE IS FORMED TO RECOMMEND INSIGNIA OPTIONS FOR THE FAST-GROWING NEW ORGANIZATION OF GREAT WAR VETERANS.

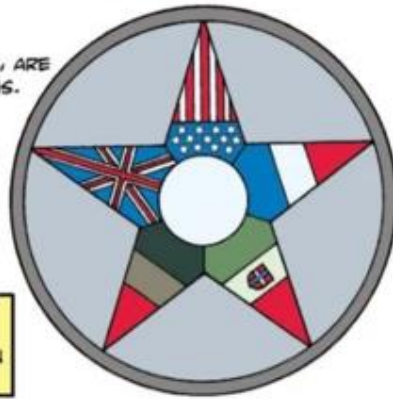
A CONTEST IS CONCEIVED TO PRODUCE "TEN SUITABLE DESIGNS, PLACED IN ORDER OF MERIT ... THE FINAL CHOICE OF THE EMBLEM SHALL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION IN SUCH MANNER AS IT SHALL SEE FIT."

CASH PRIZES, NOT TO EXCEED \$100 IN ALL, ARE AUTHORIZED FOR THE TOP FOUR SELECTIONS.

ONE SUBMISSION COMES FROM A.E. TEMPLETON OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLO., THAT INCLUDES FLAGS OF THE GREAT WAR'S FIVE ALLIED NATIONS.

THE LEGION'S ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE SOON REALIZES THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. MEMBERS WANT BUTTONS. POST COMMANDERS WANT SIGNS FOR THEIR BUILDINGS. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT MATERIALS NEED BRANDING.

THE CONTEST IS CALLED OFF.



THE COMMITTEE SELECTS A TEMPORARY DESIGN, DRAWN BY ERIC FISHER WOOD, FOUNDED SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, WHO FILES AN INITIAL PATENT APPLICATION AUG. 23.

WOOD, AN ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT IN PARIS WHEN THE GREAT WAR BEGAN, HAD SERVED IN THE AMERICAN AMBULANCE CORPS, ALSO WITH THE BRITISH ARMY AND LATER AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE U.S. ARMY'S 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

HE WAS WOUNDED TWICE AND CAME OUT OF THE WAR A LIEUTENANT COLONEL

THE AUG. 3, 1919, AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES THE NEW INSIGNIA, SOON TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE FORM OF UNNAMED METAL BUTTONS, 25 CENTS EACH.



THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS CONVERTS THE EMBLEM DESIGN FROM TEMPORARY TO PERMANENT.

ON DEC. 9, 1919, WOOD'S SLIGHTLY MODIFIED "EMBLEM-BUTTON" DESIGN IS LEGALLY PATENTED, AND THE LEGION FOUNDER ASSIGNS ALL USE RIGHTS TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUM OF \$1.

#40

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