



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

January 2024

[www.Alpost82.org](http://www.Alpost82.org)

[American.Legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.Legion4@verizon.net)

301-934-8221



### Commander's Message

Hello, Post 82 family, I am hoping this newsletter finds everyone safe and happy. Well old man winter finally found us here in Southern Maryland and we survived our first two storms with minimal snow on the ground. Not sure how long that will last as February always seems to have a surprise for us.

I would like to remind everyone of our Post steak and fried shrimp dinner on Friday February 2nd from 5-7pm. I ask all legionnaires that are available to help if they can. Setup/prep in the morning or cook/serve in the evening. Please sign up using this [link](#). The more help we have the easier it is for all involved.

As of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Legionnaires that have paid their 2024 dues will now be able to take advantage of the multi-year membership option and renew at the current rate of \$35. This limited time offer is only available [on-line](#) until June 30, 2024. We are not able to offer this through the Post. More information to follow in this newsletter.

Our Post is doing some exciting things in our community and 2024 is shaping up to be a banner year. Please don't miss out, look for ways to get involved. There is plenty of opportunity for all of us to serve. Legionnaires can reach out to any officer of the post to volunteer, if you are a S.A.L. or Auxiliary member, reach out and ask how you can help.

Post 82 will be hosting a Tri-County Veterans Resource Day on March 20, 2024. This veteran's resource day connects those veterans and their families who may need community resources and have a lack of information about where those resources exist. If you know of any veterans in need, please let them know about this event. We will also have some employment resources at this event. See the attached flyer for more information.

Together we are doing great things for our Veterans.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Post.

Your Commander

Jamie Zayas  
Always Serving

# BE THE ONE

AMERICAN  
LEGION

## Legion Membership Report



**David Abildgaard**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Membership Chair**

Dave has been out of the area caring for his brother Kevin Abildgaard since before Christmas. Sadly, Kevin passed away on Sunday, January 21. Dave has asked that I share the following with you on his behalf.

### **2025 Membership Dues Increase**

At our December membership meeting we voted to increase Post 82 dues to \$45 beginning July 1, 2024, for the 2025 membership year. The decision was driven by increased dues to National and a proposed increase by the Department of Maryland (to be voted on at the Department Convention in July).

### **Good News!**

At our monthly meetings, Dave has mentioned the exciting news that the Legion would be offering a three-year option for membership renewals. This option was quietly made available to all 2023 members since December 4 of last year. As of Jan 22, it is now available to all Legionnaires! The renewal rate is at the current \$35.00. If you've already renewed for 2024, the three-year renewal will cover 2025, 26 & 27. That's a \$30 savings! And, you won't have to do anything for the next three years. Your payment now will automatically be applied each year.

### **What's the catch?**

The only catch is you must renew on-line at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) by June 30, 2024. We are not able to process three-year renewals through the Post.

Please don't hesitate to take advantage of this one-time offer ASAP and no later than June 30, 2024. We want every member of Post 82 to get this discounted rate.

### **Membership update:**

Commander Zayas and member Jeff Coombs have been working the phones reaching out to the remaining 2023 members who have not renewed their membership and are making great progress. As of Friday Jan 19, we have 665 members in good standing. We need just 64 more to reach our goal of 719 members for 2024. We have had several new members join our ranks as well. If you see someone at the Post you don't know, please shake their hand, and welcome them!

For David D. Abildgaard, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

John Flatley

## **Post Service Officer Resources Corner**

Please see the attached flyers at the end of this newsletter. The first outlines Washington Gas assistance for heating expenses (electric, gas, propane, oil/kerosene). The second has details of the March 20, Tri-County Veterans Resource Day to be held here at Post 82. Please share with your friends, family, and coworkers.

As the Post Service Officer, I am here to offer resources to all veterans and their families. Please contact me at 240-267-6489 or [ghawley83@gmail.com](mailto:ghawley83@gmail.com).

George Hawley

### **Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner**

Looking for a fun way to meet other members and serve the Post at the same time? Sign up to setup, prep, cook, or serve [here](#). Questions? Contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Chris LaQuay at [rclloveskrl@aol.com](mailto:rclloveskrl@aol.com).

## Chaplains Corner

So, how's the New Year coming? Resolutions still being pursued? According to a Forbes Health survey, the top three New Year resolutions for 2024 are:

1. Improve fitness
2. Improve finances
3. Improve mental health

Any of these included on your list? In and of themselves, these are all great ideas but how likely are they to be attained? According to the same Forbes Health article "the intent to keep one's New Year resolutions only last two to four months before goal-setters give up or forget about it". How do these findings resonate with your own goal setting and attainment experiences? Do they seem about right?

Doing a little more research into trends in New Year resolutions and goal setting I found numerous webpages with 25, 40, 55, and even 70 ideas for new goals. Not surprisingly, these great ideas were along the lines of self-improvement, but what I found to be curious was the closest one to being spiritually oriented was to take a yoga class. That got me thinking about what the above list of ideas would look like from a Christian faith-based angle, and I came up with the following:

1. Improve Spiritual fitness  
1 Timothy 4:8 NIV  
"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."
2. Improve Spiritual finances  
Matthew 6:19-21 NIV  
19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

### 3. Improve mental health

John 16:33 NIV

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

In all reality there is so much to gain in all aspects of our lives by drawing closer to God. It is my sincere hope that at the start of this new year, or at any time in it, you would resolve to draw closer to God through any number of ways including attending a Bible based church on a regular basis, completing daily devotionals, studying a few verses every day, joining a Bible study group, and/or seeking God's wisdom and sharing your concerns with him through daily prayer.

I leave you with this Scripture verse from Paul's letter to the Philippians addressing one of his primary goals.

Philippians 3:13-14 ESV

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Post Everlasting

We have recently had two members of our Post pass away:

Michael Lee Grimm on December 21, 2023

Larry "Buddy" Arthur Berry on January 5, 2024

As always, if you or your family have any needs with which I may be able to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Stockman  
Chaplain

# How can I serve you?

## Post 82 Service Officer

George Hawley

240-367-6489

[ghawley83@gmail.com](mailto:ghawley83@gmail.com)

## Post 82 Chaplain

Paul Stockman

301-768-2514

[papastockman@yahoo.com](mailto:papastockman@yahoo.com)

## Sons of The American Legion

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



I'm happy for all of you who like the snow. Personally, I'll be glad if we don't see any more this year. I'm still looking forward to March 10, 2024, and longer, warmer days.

At the Squadron meeting on January 2, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the American Legion National Emergency Fund, \$1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation, \$250 to Operation Comfort Warrior, \$100 to the American Legion (T.A.L.) Veterans & Children Foundation, and \$425 to Boys State. Together with our previous donations and the American Red Cross blood drives sponsored by the Squadron, Squadron 82 has met the National Four Pillars Challenge set by S.A.L. National Commander, and our good friend, Don J.R. Hall. Squadron 82 is now a "National Four Pillars Squadron." Our monthly membership meetings only last about 45 minutes. If you can spare 45 minutes, please attend the meetings. This is your Squadron, and we would love to have your insights and opinions on its future.

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

On January 4, Adjutant Gary Shupe, Advisor David Quade, and I attended the meeting of Boy Scout Troop 1321 at the Christ Church in La Plata to present our donation of \$500. Scoutmaster Terry Knepp has a great group of young men. Pictured below are Gary and David presenting the check.



With a forecast calling for inclement weather on January 19, the baby back rib dinner was cancelled. Baby back rib dinners will resume on April 19.

During Lent, the Squadron will host two fish fries. The first Fish Fry will be on February 16 and the second will be on March 15. The Fish Fries will consist of 2 whiting fillets, green beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, fried potatoes, tea, and coffee. The cost is \$15. Check the flier on the Post 82 website, [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

Gale Willett and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on January 15. Because there are active Covid cases on both the Skilled Nursing side and the Assisted Living side, only 10 residents participated but everyone had fun and \$200 in prizes were handed out to the winners.

Thirty-six units of blood were collected at the American Red Cross blood drive sponsored by the Squadron on January 22. Thanks to Gale

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

Willett and Gary Shupe for handling the registration and refreshment tables.

As of the January 19 Detachment of Maryland membership report, the Squadron has 183 paid members, which is 85.116% of our 2024 goal. Congratulations and thanks to all those who have renewed their 2024 membership. There are still about 30 members who have not yet renewed their memberships and are delinquent. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21.

Yours in Service,  
Dave



**Dave Tatman**  
**Commander, Squadron 82**  
**301-645-1537 (h)**  
**301-752-8273 (c)**  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

## **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82**

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



Hello Snapdragons,

Well old man winter is here! I hope everybody's holiday was great! Now it's time to get back to

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business with our Veterans. Soon it will be Valentine's Day. If you know a Veteran give them a card or take them out to lunch. I am sure they will appreciate it.

We did not have our January Taco Dinner as the day before we had the repass for Cathy Grimm's husband Mike who passed away on December 21st. I would like to thank everyone who helped and donated food for the repass. Unfortunately, on the day of the repass Cathy's niece passed away. On top of that, Cathy is sick right now. Let's send Cathy "Thinking of You" or "Get Well" cards to cheer her up.

Carolyn Shelton's brother-in-law (Norm's brother) passed away. Our past district President Rocky Berry's husband Larry Berry also passed away recently.

Our next Taco Dinner will be on February 9th. We cannot have BINGO or dinners without help from our Legion Family. So, if you have a Thursday/Friday you can help with BINGO and when we have our dinners, we would appreciate it.

If you know an auxiliary member is sick, please let our Chaplain Mary Shaffer know so she can send out a get-well card. We cannot do this unless we know someone is ill.

Our next meeting will be on February 13th at 6pm. Hope to see you there.

For Service not Self, Lesley



**Lesley Radcliff**  
**President**

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>

# American Legion Riders

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



Good afternoon, Riders, and Legion Family.  
Here's the latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

Your Riders kicked off the new year with our annual New Years Day Polar Bear Ride led by Road Captain Vivian "Momma G" Gedeon to Chesapeake Beach MD. There were 8 bikes, 3 cages and a total of 16 Riders and wives who broke bread together at the 1936 Grill overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

If you recall, The Riders did an escort in July 2023 for Marine CPL Kervork Khachadurian sponsored by [Homes for Our Troops](#) to welcome Khach to our community and kick off the start of construction for his new handicap accessible home in Ft Washington. On January 20, we were invited back to participate in the ribbon cutting and presentation of the keys to his new home.

This new home has all the modern accessible conveniences and amenities to greatly enhance the everyday life of CPL Khachadurian. Seven of us participated in the ceremony and toured this beautiful home on a very lovely lot. Homes for Our Troops has built 373 of these mortgage free homes since 2004 (34 in Maryland) for our deserving troops who were severely injured while serving their country. If you have an opportunity to support this effort, they are a charity where over 90% of your donation goes directly to the building of these homes.

The Riders are selling gun raffle tickets starting the beginning of February. We will sell just 500 tickets at \$20 each with the winner getting their choice of a Henry 45-70 Big Boy Rifle, a Savage

308 Winchester Magnum or \$750 cash. This year's benefiting charities will be the American Legion [Veterans & Children Foundation](#) and [Warfighter Advance](#). The winning entry will be drawn on May 25, 2024 at the conclusion of our 3rd Annual [SoMD Gold Star Legacy Ride](#).

I would like to encourage all Riders and our Post Families (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to volunteer some time to help with events, fundraisers & dinners as promoted by our Post. These events are vital to the livelihood and strength of our Post within the community. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Rides:

February 17- Sweetheart Ride – Blue Dog Saloon

Check the Riders public Facebook group for ride and event details:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alr82mdpublic>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Big Sexy

## Southern Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride 2024

Planning for the 2024 Legacy Ride is underway, and registration is open for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SoMD Gold Star Legacy Ride. The approximately 100-mile route will remain the same as last year taking participants to various SoMD American Legion Posts. Starting at Post 82 the ride will roll from Charles to Calvert and St Mary's Counties and end with food, music, vendors and more at the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriots Park in Newburg. Register to participate on two wheels or four [here](#).

ALR 82 members are currently seeking sponsors for the event. If you have a business and would like to be highlighted for your support of veterans in our community, or if you know of a business you'd like to see as a sponsor, please contact Randy Markley at [rmarkley@gmail.com](mailto:rmarkley@gmail.com). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).



Do you know a high school Junior who is interested in government, politics, leadership, attendance at Military Academy, College ROTC, or just a challenging academic program? The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have two very worthwhile programs at the Department (State), Boys State and Girls State with an opportunity to be elected/selected to participate in Boys or Girls Nation programs. Boys State and Girls State are considered among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. Attendance at Boys/Girls State carries the same weight on a résumé as earning the distinction of Eagle Scout, especially when applying to US military schools and academies.

The tuition costs for Boys State are 100% covered by the local Legion Post or Department. Likewise, Girls State tuition is 100% covered by the local Auxiliary Unit with a registration fee of just \$40. Both programs are available to any 2023-2024 High School Junior (no Legion affiliation/membership is required) with at least 1 semester remaining in their senior year and have not participated or are planning to participate in any other Boys/Girls State Program

In the past, Post 82 and Unit 82 have each sent upwards of 15 students per year. This year we'd like to ramp back up and send at least 10 juniors to each program. (Students should apply to the Post/Unit closest to their residence.)

Boys State Maryland will be held June 16-22, 2024, at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD

Girls State Maryland will be held June 16-21, 2024, at Salisbury College in Salisbury, MD.

The application portals for both programs are open now through May 1, 2024.

More information can be found here:

Boys: <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

Girls: <https://app.campdoc.com/!/dn/login?r=mbsmgs%20mgsparticipant> OR <https://www.facebook.com/ALAMDGS/>

Candidates can also contact:

### Rita Sexton

Girls State Coordinator, Auxiliary Unit 82  
301-934-8616 and leave a message or [ritasexton20677@yahoo.com](mailto:ritasexton20677@yahoo.com)

### John Flatley / Karen Himmelheber

Boys State Coordinators, Post 82  
John – 301.848.7664 / [johnflatleyjr@gmail.com](mailto:johnflatleyjr@gmail.com)  
Karen – 240.708.3725 / [khimmelheber@cboe.com](mailto:khimmelheber@cboe.com)



## What's Going at Post 82?

**Friday, Feb 2** – Post Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner 5-7 PM Open to the Public

### Tuesday, Feb 6

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM  
Legion Exec Mtg – 7 PM

**Friday, Feb 9** – Auxiliary Taco Dinner 5-7 PM  
Open to the Public

### Tuesday, Feb 13

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM  
Auxiliary Meeting – 6 pm

**Friday, Feb 16** – S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner 5-7 PM  
Open to the Public

**Friday, Feb 23** – Members Shrimp in the Bar 6-7 PM Members Only

### BINGO every Thursday.

Doors open at 4:30 PM

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>



**Veterans Strengthening America**

Dear American Legion Family Members,

We hope this message finds you well. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting veterans through #BeTheOne, we invite you to a special **Training Tuesday** session.

Event Details:

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual - Register [Here](#)

Session Highlights:

**Uncovering the Role of Service Dogs:** Explore the significant impact of service dogs in the lives of our esteemed veterans.

**Eligibility Criteria and Etiquette:** Delve into practical qualifications and appropriate etiquette for service dogs.

**Do's and Don'ts of Interaction:** Navigate essential guidelines when interacting with these incredible companions.

**Respectful Behavior Around Service Dogs:** Learn how to demonstrate respect when around a Service Dog Team.

**Best Practices in Everyday Situations:** Embrace practical tips for meaningful interactions with service dogs in various situations.

Join us for this thought-provoking session, where we aim to deepen your understanding of service dogs, connect with the daily experiences of veterans, and adopt practical etiquette for meaningful interactions with these remarkable Service Dog Teams.

How to Register: Please click [here](#) to register for this impactful **Training Tuesday**. We encourage you to forward this invitation to anyone you think would be interested in joining this important conversation.

Email: [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net)

## Three-Year Membership Renewal

Legionnaires are now eligible to renew membership for three years at the current rate of \$35 for a limited time. This on-time offer is valid until June 30, 2024. With the slated membership dues increasing to \$45 beginning July 1, 2024, this is an excellent opportunity to save \$30 (\$10 per year) AND ensure your membership dues are paid with no additional action on your part. If you already paid your 2024 dues, you can renew for 2025, 2026, & 2027. If you have not yet renewed, the three-year option will cover 2024, 2025, & 2026. The three-year renewal option is only available through MyLegion at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Take advantage of this amazing offer and share it with your friends today!

## Basic Training

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined, and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. Topics include: History & Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth, Course Conclusion, and the Final Exam.

Your signed frameable high-resolution Certificate of Completion will be available to download and print when you finish the Final Exam.

The course is now free to all American Legion members, including Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Click this [link](#) or log in to [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) and search for Basic Training.

Website: <https://www.alpost82.org/>





# The Washington Area Fuel Fund **WAFF**

Is now accepting applications for assistance  
with main source of heat.

**\*Electric \*Gas \*Propane \*Oil/Kerosene**



## Let us help you!

The Salvation Army, Southern Maryland  
assists residents of Charles, Calvert and St.  
Mary's counties.

Visit: <https://washingtonareafuelfund.org/eligibility/#>

To see eligibility and income qualifications

Link is also available on our Facebook page,  
The Salvation Army, Southern Maryland  
301-638-9532



WAFF is a partnership program between  
The Salvation Army and Washington Gas



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**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 82  
TRI-COUNTY VETERANS  
RESOURCE DAY**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024,  
10 AM - 2 PM (Rain or shine)  
6330 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD 20646**



**VETERANS RESOURCE DAY CONNECTS THOSE VETERANS  
AND THEIR FAMILY WHO MAY NEED COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES AND HAVE A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT  
WHERE THOSE RESOURCES EXIST.**



**MENTAL HEALTH\BEHAVIOR HEALTH  
HEALTH CARE  
VETERANS RESOURCES  
EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES**

**TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [GHAWLEY83@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GHAWLEY83@GMAIL.COM)  
OR CALL GEORGE HAWLEY AT 240-367-6489**