



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

March 2025

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

301-934-8221

### Commander's Message



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

I say, "Welcome Spring!" Blooming flowers, warm breezes and rising temperatures along with fish that are biting...life is good.

Along with the above, Spring traditionally brings our Legion National leadership to the Capital to meet with the incoming session of congress. Please take time to read the articles in this edition of the newsletter regarding some of the work being done for our veterans and active-duty military by your Legion.

Thank you to all who renewed your membership in March. We reached our goal of 90%. We have a tough goal this month needing 36 renewals to hit 95%. If you don't have "2025" on your Legion membership card, please renew ASAP.

Our next Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner will be held on Friday, April 4. Check out the sign-up sheet [Here](#) and sign up to help prep, serve or cleanup at the time that you can help. We have a great time working together and it's a good opportunity to connect with other members or Post 82. I thank you in advance for your help.

The next Post Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00pm. The Membership meeting will be held the following Tuesday, April 8, also at 6:00pm. Come out and join in the decision making for your Post.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to work at the dinners and events we hold at the Post. Thanks especially to those who volunteer to serve in a leadership capacity here. I sincerely appreciate the time, effort and care that you give to Post 82.

Let us remember to pray for the safe return of our military members serving in harm's way. They are out there protecting our liberties and freedom.

Take care, enjoy the warm weather. I'll see you at the Post.

*For God and Country.*

*Raymond "Buddy" Hindle  
Commander*

# AMERICAN LEGION

## Membership Report

We are getting close to our goal of 831 members, which will be a 10% increase over last year. We've gained 25 new members and gained 8 Legion members from the Department catch-all post #297.

Post 82 currently sits at 90.73% of our 831-member goal for 2025. While I'm confident we will reach 100% of our goal before the end of this Legion year, I'm a bit concerned that our membership renewal rate is just 87.23%. We have approximately 115 members who were active in 2024 who have not renewed for 2025 yet. If you are among the 115, please renew right away. If you are uncertain whether you are going to renew or have concerns holding you back, please reach out and let us know. Contact Commander Buddy Hindle at 301-399-1240. John Flatley at 301-848-7664 or via email, [American.legion4@verizon.net](mailto:American.legion4@verizon.net). If the cost of dues are holding you back, please reach out. We have some funds available.

## Request for Support from the Historian

Please share details and photos of Post 82 Legion Family events with me at [htafe@comcast.net](mailto:htafe@comcast.net). The information you provide will be added to our annual Post History file and sent to the Dept of Maryland. Please help me capture it all so we can celebrate our accomplishments now and encourage and challenge future generations to continue our strong history of community and veteran support activities.

Thanks in advance,

Harry Tafe

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



## Chaplains Corner

As you know, I am a member of the American Legion. My membership originally resulted from a casual invitation to join the American Legion Riders. Once I joined the Riders, I became gradually more familiar with the American Legion's Pillars and their associated programs, services, and values. These I found to resonate solidly with my personal values making it easier to commit to my American Legion and Riders membership responsibilities, and to further embrace their associated values. Though nowhere near an expert on them, the learning process does continue, all because of a simple invitation from an existing Post member.

I have found a similar but life-changing parallel in my walk with God that started with a simple and casual invitation to attend a church service. Accepting this invitation has impacted my life in ways beyond my comprehension. Through the process of sanctification, basically defined as the state of growing in one's relationship with God as a result of Christian commitment after baptism or conversion, I continue to grow in my commitment to God. As it is a lifelong process, one doesn't become perfect this side of Heaven. I must confess I still sin, stumble, and fail in a variety of ways, but God helps me to employ my failures and successes alike to get back on track to growing ever closer to Him. Again, this life-changing process started with a simple invitation to attend church one Sunday.

For those of you who have a church home, please offer an invitation to others you know or meet, to

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

join you for a church service. For those of you who don't have a church home but are Christians, I encourage you to invite yourself to a church that you can relate to. And for those who do not have a church home nor a relationship with Christ, reach out to me for an invitation to join me for church. Doing any of the above could very well change lives for the better forever.

As always, I am available to all our Legion Family members. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do for you or your family.

Yours in Christ,  
Paul Stockman Chaplain  
301.768.2514  
[papastockman@yahoo.com](mailto:papastockman@yahoo.com)

**American Legion National Commander testifies in Washington: "We are the Voice for Veterans."**



During testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs, American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. delivered some of the organization's areas of focus on its legislative agenda. Watch his full testimony [here](#).

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Hello Horses!

We had a productive meeting on March 11th. We gave donations to Girl Scout Troop 12163, our Legion Riders, Troopathon, Special Olympics, and the Maryland Veterans Museum.

If you wish to run for an office for the 2025-2026 Legion year, please contact Becky LaQuay (301) 642-0595, Janet Fogle (301) 318-7775 or Carol Maron (301) 932-6482. Elections will be held in the month of May. There will be no nominations taken from the floor on the night of elections.

Cathy Grimm is having surgery on March 19th. Becky LaQuay will be taking over BINGO until Cathy gets the green light to come back. If you can help out Becky with BINGO either call her or show up.

In our April meeting I will be proposing we have a steam shrimp dinner in May. The menu will be one pound of shrimp, cole slaw, and french fries. We will be discussing the amount to charge for the dinner since shrimp is pricey.

Our April meeting is on the 8th at 6pm.

For God and Country  
Lesley Radcliff



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

At the regular monthly meeting on March 4, the members voted to donate \$1,000 to the Post 82 American Legion Baseball teams, \$300 to the La Plata High School (LPHS) Navy Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (NJROTC) Air Rifle Team and \$200 to the LPHS NJROTC Color Guard.

Gail Willett, Gary Shupe, Lennie Hansen and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on March 17. Forty residents participated and \$210 in prizes was handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

Thanks to Gale Willett, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lee Hammonds, Lennie Lentz, Cathy Bryant, Lennie Hansen, Rodney Hammonds, Kim Hammonds, Rebecca Hammonds, Carrie Hammonds, Jason Painter, John Earle, Kevin Earle, David Earle, Harry Lehman and Kevin Bryant who volunteered their time at the fish fry on March 21. We had an excellent turnout. Two hundred and five dinners and eight fish sandwiches were served. As always, thanks to all those who turn out to support our dinners. Our next fish fry will be on April 18. Check the flier on the website [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

As of March 21, 205 Squadron 82 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents almost 95% of our goal of 216. We are almost there. Let's get those last few in so we can achieve our goal once again. Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over and \$15 for dual members and those under 21. If your

membership card doesn't have 2025 at the top, you are delinquent. Please don't delay, Renew your membership now. Members can easily and quickly renew utilizing their last name, member ID and credit card by visiting [legion.org/sal-renew](http://legion.org/sal-renew). Membership dues can also be paid at the Post or by mail to the Post. Because on-line renewal is only set up for the \$20 rate, it should not be used by dual or under 21-year-old members.

Yours in Service,



**David Tatman**  
**Commander, Squadron 82**  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

## **19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SPONSORED BY  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 82**  
AND  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 82**  
**Friday, June 27, 2025**  
WHITE PLAINS GOLF COURSE



**BEST BALL**  
**\$125.00 PER PERSON (\$150 after June 20)**

**Proceeds Benefit**

**American Legion and Community Charities**

Registration: 7:30 AM

Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM

### **Price**

Cart and Green Fees

### **Includes:**

Lunch, Beer, Soda and Water on the course

Dinner at Post 82 (Guest dinner tickets \$25 each) and  
2 Longest Drive cash prizes, 4 Closest to the Pin cash prizes, and  
3 Mulligans.

Door Prizes .... Cash Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Places ... Sponsorships  
available ... Everyone receives a Golfer Gift package



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

**Hello Riders, and Legion Family,  
The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:**

On Sunday the Riders helped Warfighter Advance kick off their 40th Evolution at Lions Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy MD. After enjoying a fantastic dinner, we presented Warfighter Advance with a donation of \$3000 from the monies raised selling Marie's Diner gift cards back in December. Warfighter Advance is doing great things for our veterans and first responders as they deal with PTSD and other ailments. We are proud and honored to contribute to this serious and vital endeavor.

Riders, it is time for membership renewals. Please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary. This is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far, just over 92% of our ALR members have renewed their membership for 2025. Your 2025 dues are now \$20 since it is after January 1. The goal is 100% so please help us to help you by renewing today.

We have kicked off our 3rd Annual Gun Raffle. Tickets are just \$20 each. We are only selling 500 tickets, so your chances of winning are pretty good. The winner gets their choice of \$1000 cash or a Henry 45-70 Big Boy Brass Lever Action Rifle Wildlife Edition. The raffle drawing will be held on May 24, at the completion of our Gold Star Legacy Ride. If you wish to purchase tickets, see any Rider, or contact me or ask at the bar in the Lounge. If you're a Rider who wants to sell tickets please get in touch with me.

Our committee has started soliciting sponsors for our 4th Annual SoMD Gold Star Legacy Ride. The ride will be held on May 24. This public event will help to fund the Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation, Warfighter Advance, and other

veterans and community causes throughout 2025. If you want to support either financially or by volunteering to help at the event, please see Randy Markley or myself. You can also register participate online at our American Legion Riders Post 82 Public Facebook page. All bikes and cages are encouraged and welcome to ride.

Please welcome our new member, Harry Lehman. Harry is a long-time member of SAL and a regular volunteer during our Shrimp in the Bar dinners.

**Upcoming Rides and Events:**

**March 29**

**Dept Commander Project Poker Run**

Meet at Wawa, McKendree Road, Brandywine at 0630. Safety Brief at 0650. KSU at 0700.

**April 12**

**ALR 82 Day Ride to Fredericksburg, VA**

Meet at Wawa in La Plata at 0700 KSU 0730

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kevin "Big Sexy" Bryant  
Director  
ALR Chapter 82, MD**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

**GUN RAFFLE**



**American Legion Riders Post 82**

La Plata, MD

**\$20<sup>00</sup> PER TICKET**

Only 500 to be sold

**Drawing to be held May 24, 2025**

*Proceeds to benefit*

**Veterans & Children Foundation, Warfighter Advance  
Veterans Assistance & Rehabilitation**

**Winner gets choice of one (1)**

*Subject to manufacturers availability and lead times*

**Henry Lever Action Brass (Wildlife Engraved)**

**45-70 Model # H010BGWL**

or

**\$1000.00 Cash**

# What's Going on at Post 82?

## Tuesday, April 1

S.A.L. Meeting – 6 PM

Legion Exec Mtg – 6 PM

## Friday, April 4

Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner 5:00 – 6:30PM

Open to the Public

[Sign up here to serve](#)

## Tuesday, April 8

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

## Thursday, April 10

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

## Saturday, April 12

SoMD Region Oyster Bowl – 5:00pm

Laurel Post 60 – See Buddy Hindle for tickets

## Friday, April 18

S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner 5 – 7 PM

Open to the Public

## Friday, April 25

Members Shrimp in the Bar 6 – 7 PM

Members Only

## S.A.L. Queen of Hearts every Wednesday

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45pm

## Auxiliary BINGO every Thursday.

Doors open at 4:30 PM



**National nonprofit Boulder Crest Foundation is working to change the broken veteran narrative – something that is a priority of The American Legion.**

*“[One of the top priorities](#) for The American Legion during the 119<sup>th</sup> session of Congress is winning what the organization has called “The War Within” to reduce the rate of veteran suicides. Tied in with the Legion’s [Be the One](#) mission, the key components of winning that war are destigmatizing the pursuit of mental health assistance by veterans, and increasing access to mental healthcare and paving the way for alternative therapies.*

*Mario Marquez, the Legion’s Director of Government Affairs and a 31-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran, shared that goal last December leading up to the Army-Navy Game, when he shared during interviews on media row, “It’s about breaking the broken veteran narrative and reaching resiliency as a veteran community.”*

*A similar vision was shared during a recent meeting of the Legion’s Be the One Mental Wellness Committee during the annual Washington Conference. Josh Goldberg, chief executive officer of the national nonprofit [Boulder Crest Foundation](#), provided a briefing on his organization’s mission of assisting military, veterans, first responders and their families dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by realizing that post-traumatic growth (PTG) is possible after a person experiences trauma.*

*“More than anything in the world, I fundamentally believe that our nation is at its strongest when veterans are the most respected group of people,” Goldberg said. “That doesn’t mean you’re getting free stuff. It means people look and say, ‘You understand something that I don’t. You did things that I didn’t. You understand the value of service.’...Read the full article from The American Legion [here](#)*

*ALR 82 is a proud supporter of Boulder Crest. Our Riders have sponsored and participated in numerous fundraising rides for their Virginia campus.*





## Help Spread the Word: The Value of the Maryland Boys and Girls State Programs

The Maryland Boys and Girls State programs offer an incredible opportunity for young students to develop leadership skills, deepen their understanding of government, and create lasting memories. As part of the American Legion's commitment to fostering leadership in the next generation, these programs serve as a valuable experience for high school juniors, giving them a unique chance to participate in mock government activities while building personal character.

We ask our Post members to help share the word about these fantastic programs with local schools, community organizations, and families. Encouraging young people to apply to either Maryland Boys State or Maryland Girls State is one of the best ways to invest in their future.

### Maryland Boys State

Dates: June 21–27, 2025

Location: McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

Tuition: Free (Paid for by the American Legion)

### Maryland Girls State

Dates: June 22–27, 2025

Location: Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD

Tuition: Free (Paid for by the American Legion Auxiliary)

Both programs offer a week-long immersive experience where participants run for office, create mock governments, and work in a hands-on environment to understand the political process. These programs are open to rising high school seniors who are highly motivated, involved in school and community activities, and eager to learn more about leadership and citizenship.

Best of all, attendance is completely free! The tuition for Boys State is covered by the American Legion, while the Auxiliary covers the tuition for Girls State.

Applications are now open. For more information and to apply, please visit the official website: <https://mdboysgirlsstate.org/>

Let's ensure that more young people have the chance to experience the life-changing opportunities that Maryland Boys and Girls State offers.

**SoMD GSLR Registration is open:**  
<https://linktr.ee/alrpost82>

The entire event will be held at AL Post 82 this year. We are seeking sponsors for the event. If you own or manage a local business we'd love to have you on board. If you frequent a business you'd like to see as a sponsor, please share the event with them. Proceeds benefit the Veterans and Children Foundation, Warfighter Advance and other local Veteran support organizations and activities.



# Health & Wellness Resource Event

Join us for an informative session designed to introduce veterans and the legion family to the various health and wellness resources available to them. This event will feature medical professionals and experts who will be sharing valuable insights into health services, including VA assistance and more.

**Date:** Saturday, 5 April 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** American Legion Clinton Post 259

9122Piscataway Road

Clinton, MD. 20735

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the resources available to support your health and well-being. We look forward to seeing you there!



POC: Jonathan Ammons, Service Officer | PH.240-603-6340 | jammons077@gmail.com

Shay Brown, Commander | PH. 540-903-3399 | commander.brown259@gmail.com

**American Legion Clinton Post 259: 9122 Piscataway Rd., Clinton , MD 20735; (PH) 301-868-2550**