



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

February 2025

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

301-934-8221

### Commander's Message



**Raymond "Buddy" Hindle**

I hope that when this message is received by everyone, our "Cold Weather" will have moved on and we have bright, sunny skies and warmer southern breezes.

We will be having Steak Night on February 7 from 5-6:30pm. Everyone is invited, bring your family & friends to enjoy an evening of camaraderie with our Legion Family. Please take a moment to share and invite folks in your social media circles as well. We still have a few volunteer positions open to help serve and clean up at the end of the evening. Sign up [on-line here](#) or give me a call at 301-399-1240. Jump in and have fun with the rest of us!

The end of the Legion Year is approaching fast. I ask that you renew your membership for 2025. Dues can be paid [on-line](#), by mail to the Post or

dropped off in the Lounge. Together we are better. We need you.

We are once again sponsoring young men completing eleventh grade to participate in Boys State. The program is scheduled for June 15-21, 2025 at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. If you are, or know a high school Junior, the application period is open until May 1. There are a few steps in the application process so start now. Applications are accepted on-line at <https://mdlegion.org/boysstate/>. There is no cost to the participant, tuition is paid for by Post 82.

Attendance to Boys State looks good on employment resumes, college and scholarship applications. Boys State is especially valuable on Service Academy applications. See the article below for more details. Please help share this great opportunity within and outside of our Legion Family.

On Feb 11, at 6:00pm will be our monthly membership meeting. Come out and join in on the decision making of what organizations and projects we donate funds and give support to. I always appreciate input of new ideas. Don't hold back; if you have an idea, put it out there.

I hope to see an increase of members coming to the Post to support the variety of events the Legion Family put on. And then there's the Lounge that needs member support. You can be the one to show others what a great facility we have. Bring your friends and neighbors.

As we transition to new leadership in DC, let us all pray they will make the correct decisions for

our country. As we all know, we are living in some crazy mixed-up times around the world.

Please keep the members of our great armed forces in your prayers. They are serving around the world, and they don't know what the next day will hold for them. Let's not forget their families left behind here in the Great United States of America.

"See you at the Post"

*For God and Country,*

*Raymond "Buddy" Hindle*

*Commander*



Happy New Year!

I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of Post 82, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for demonstrating your support by renewing your Legion membership. Your continued support and dedication are the cornerstones of our Post 82 community, enabling us to serve veterans, their families, and our nation. With your renewed membership, we will continue advocating for veterans' rights at every level of government, organizing community events, promoting democracy and Americanism through youth programs and providing direct support to those in need. Your involvement ensures the growth of programs and services that make a real difference.

Thank you for your dedicated service and the important role you continue to play in supporting veterans and active-duty service members. As of last Friday, we have achieved 82.07% of our annual goal with 682 active legion members. We

look forward to serving alongside you in 2025 and beyond.

If you haven't yet renewed, please do so at your earliest convenience. Your membership is vital to our mission. For those whose membership is in Grace Status as of January 1st, please renew soon to avoid being placed into Expired Status and losing your continuous years of service record.

Renewing is quick and easy online at [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org). You can also opt for automatic renewal or choose to renew for the next three years at the current rate of \$45. Additionally, you may mail or drop off your renewal dues payment to the Post, including your membership number in the memo section. If you have any questions or need assistance with your renewal, feel free to reach out.

Finally, I want to let everyone know that I intend to conclude my time as First Vice effective June 30, 2025. After much consideration and various work-related conflicts, I have decided to step aside and hand the reins to another legionnaire. To those of you reading this letter, there are 4-5 months to consider and nominate yourself or another member to take my place. Feel free to reach out to me for more information on the role of First Vice Commander at Post 82. In the meantime, I will continue to support and serve the Post and our community to the best of my abilities.

Still serving.

*Dave*

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



## Chaplains Corner

As I was preparing this input for our Post newsletter, Donald Trump was sworn in as our nation's 47th president. Putting aside any personal political preferences and views regarding this event, I thought it would be interesting to touch on the Biblical aspect of obedience to established authorities, a topic addressed more than 50 times throughout the Old and New Testament scriptures.

I'll narrow this down to three key related issues, the first being our call to pray for our leaders as directed in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV; *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."*

This is probably easy enough to do. We can pray for our leaders' health and welfare, their receipt of and obedience to God's guidance, and their success in governing in a manner consistent with Biblical values.

This next verse, at first reading and without provision of clear context, is likely to take some folks aback. Romans 13:1 ESV; *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."*

Obviously, our governing authorities are humans not God, but by His authority, and our established

processes, they have been placed in the positions they hold.

How does that play out when the authorities require of us something that is contradictory to God's teachings and His laws? Among other Bible verses, it is addressed very simply and concisely. In Acts 5:29 ESV "But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Ultimately, as Christians, we are called to obey the laws we are subject to, even if we do not find value in them or see in them threats to our established rights. As Biblically directed, we are to follow them, if they do not contradict God's laws.

I'll close with the following quote of Dr. R.C. Sproul, one of my favorite theologians, in which he provides us with a strongly stated and Bible based summary of this topic. *"At the same time, God calls us to render absolute, unquestioning submission only to Him. No authority may assume the place of God and demand that we break His commandments. When an authority commands us to do something God forbids or forbids us to do something God commands, we may—indeed, we must—disobey that authority (see Daniel 6). But disobedience should be the exception. We are called to go out of our way to obey those whom God has set over us, and we should not be looking for ways to justify unlawful disobedience."*

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)





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

Hello Horses!

I hope everybody is keeping warm with this cold and snowy weather.

If you have not paid your dues, please do so. You can send it to Rita Sexton, 7400 Retreat Place, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677. Also, if you have a new address, please let Rita know.

I would like to clarify something, when we have a function or bingo, I always ask in the meetings if you can help out please call me or show up. I feel if I inform you by asking you in person, I should not have to pick up the telephone and call you for help. It has been brought up many a time and I always say if you want to help let me know or just show up.

BINGO is doing great! Our holiday BINGO was a hit and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to Cathy Grimm and her crew and my kitchen crew for helping make this a successful BINGO.

If anyone has any new ideas for fund raisers, please bring it up at our next meeting which is February 11, 2025.

For God and Country  
Lesley Radcliff

## Veterans Resources

The following resources are provided by our Veterans Resource Officer, George Hawley.

Wheaton American Job Center: Mr. George Hawley, [george.hawley@maryland.gov](mailto:george.hawley@maryland.gov) Office: 240.283.1542 Cell: 410.241.7586

Veteran Staffing Network (VSN): Mr. Michael Robinson, [mrobinson@eseal.org](mailto:mrobinson@eseal.org) 757.741.8483

Cohen Clinic (for mental health): 240.847.7500

### **Rental Resources and Other Services:**

Friendship Place: 202.658.9599

McVets: Judy Reabe, 443.938.0683

HUDVASH: 202.745.8000 ext:53629

Coalition to Salute American Heroes:  
[infor@saluteheros.org](mailto:infor@saluteheros.org) 888.447.2588

The American legion Department of MD:  
[www.mdlegion.org](http://www.mdlegion.org) 410.752.1405

Aid Our Veterans, Inc.: 410.391.8721

Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) 877.272.7337

USA Cares: [www.usacares.org](http://www.usacares.org) 800.773.0387

VFW Unmet Needs: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) 866.789.6333

Operation Homefront:  
[www.operationhomefront.org](http://www.operationhomefront.org) 877.264.3968

Operation Frist Response:  
[www.operationfirstresponse.org](http://www.operationfirstresponse.org) 800.289.0280

Rebuild Hope  
[dana@rebuildhope.org](mailto:dana@rebuildhope.org) [www.rebuildhope.org](http://www.rebuildhope.org)

Operation Second Chance: 301.972.1080

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

The regular monthly meeting on January 7 was cancelled because of the weather. A lot of snow. I can't remember when we ever had to cancel a meeting before this one.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, and Cindy Moruzzi who volunteered their time at the baby back rib dinner on January 17. As always, thanks to those who turned out to support the dinner. Our next baby back rib dinner will be on February 21. Check the flier on the website [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

Gail Willett and Gary Shupe worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on January 20. Twenty-five residents participated and \$190 in prizes was handed out. Thanks, guys, for getting out there on a very cold night. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

As of the January 17 membership report 168 members have paid their 2025 dues. This number represents almost 78% of our goal of 215. 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. Our numbers are added to the American Legion numbers when they go before Congress and advocate for our military members and our veterans. Members can now easily and quickly renew utilizing their last name, member ID and a 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.

Stay warm.

Yours in Service,



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

## **Support Request From Our Post 82 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



**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:

So, The Riders started off 2025 with our Annual Polar Bear Ride down to Capt. John's Seafood Restaurant on Cobb Island. We had 18 motorcycles, and a total of 30 people, who enjoyed a delicious lunch after a fantastic ride led by Road Captain Mama G.



Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Please renew your membership in the Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far, just over 90% of our members have renewed their ALR membership for 2025. At our November meeting it was unanimously approved that dues for memberships not renewed by 12/31/24 will go up to \$20.

I want to personally thank all the people who purchased Marie's gift cards from the Riders during Christmas. We raised \$2000 from the gift card sales and the Riders added \$1000 for a total donation of \$3000 to Warfighter Advance. I would also like to thank Bobby Cooper, owner of Marie's Diner for his gracious gift of 100 gift cards valued at \$2,500. I ask that when you are looking to dine out, show some love for Marie's Diner because they support our efforts and veterans causes throughout the year.



I had the pleasure of delivering the \$3,000 check to War Fighter board members Sue Fritz and Herb Black at Marie's Diner along with Bobby on January 23..

Upcoming Rides and events:  
Riders Sweetheart Dinner Sat. Feb. 15 @ 1700  
(Details coming soon. Check GroupMe, email and Face Book for details)

Next ALR meeting is Thursday Feb. 13, 2025 @ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,

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



# What's Going on at Post 82 In February?

## Tuesday, February 4

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

## Friday, February 7

Steak & Fried Shrimp Dinner 5:00 – 6:30PM.  
Open to the Public

## Tuesday, February 11

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM  
Auxiliary Meeting – 6 PM

## Thursday, February 13

American Legion Riders Meeting – 6 PM

## Friday, February 21

S.A.L. Baby Back Rib Dinner 5 – 7 PM  
Open to the Public

## Friday, February 28

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



Post 82 PUFL member Henry Thompson completed the American Legion virtual BE THE ONE training session on Jan 13. Henry recommends the training for all Legion Family members.

As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

For more information on future class dates, visit <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

Please let our Adjutant, John Flatley, know if you have completed the training.

## One Good Read

I recently read an article that reminded me of a similar experience I had while serving in the Air Force as an Aircraft Mechanic. The author did a fine job capturing the important lessons he learned and put to good use both during and after his time of military service.

In this captivating story, a former Air Force recruit shares a transformative experience from his basic training in 1966, centered around a fellow trainee named Greg. Greg, a "retread" who defied the odds after a career-ending injury, taught the author powerful lessons in resilience and leadership. When Greg volunteers for the dirtiest, most grueling job—pots and pans duty—he reveals the secrets to navigating military life: the power of initiative, a positive mindset, and relentless effort.

Through Greg's actions, the author learns that true leadership isn't about avoiding the hard work but embracing it. Don't miss this inspiring tale of grit and the unexpected lessons found in the most challenging situations. (First published in *The War Horse*)

["Lessons from the Air Force Kitchen Police: Volunteer for Everything. Even Pots and Pans"](#)



## 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.

**Please share information about all our fantastic 2025 student-focused Legion Family events with your family, friends and neighbors.**

[Oratorical Contest](#)

[Boys State](#)

[Girls State](#)

[Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest](#)

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**  
**HARRY WHITE WILMER POST 82**  
 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata, MD 20646

## SPAGHETTI DINNER



**Friday, January 31, 2025**  
**5-7pm - \$12**  
 (Free – Ages 5 and below)  
**Dine In/Orders to Go**

**PUBLIC INVITED**