



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

March 2024

www.Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Hello Post 82 family,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and happy. As I sit down to write this, we are just a short 23 days to the 1st day of Spring! I am looking forward to warm weather for Post activities and of course riding with our Legion riders.

I would like to remind everyone of our Post steak and fried shrimp dinner on Friday March 1st from 5-7pm. Our signup sheet looks good, thank you to all that have volunteered, the more help we have the easier it is for all involved. If you would like to help, there is still time to sign up.

I would also like to remind all legionnaires that have paid their 2024 dues to take advantage of the on-line multi-year membership option and renew at the current rate of \$35. This limited time offer is only available until June 30, 2024. More information will follow in this newsletter.

Post 82 is hosting a Tri-County Veterans Resource Day on March 20, 2024. This event connects veterans and their families who may need resource assistance but have a lack of

knowledge about where those resources exist. We will also have employment resources available. If you know of any veterans in need, please let them know about this event. See the attached flyer for more information.

Our membership committee has been knocking it out of the park! Post 82 is currently sitting at 99.861% in membership and that does not include at least six new members added since the report came out! We are also #1 in our category for retention in the Southern Maryland Region. What an outstanding job! I want to thank our 1st Vice Commander David Abildgaard for leading the team and putting us on top. If you would like to join this outstanding team, please reach out to Dave or any of our Post officers to see how you can help.

Speaking of help, your Post can use some, if you can help with some handyman jobs such as tile work, painting, stucco repairs or light electrical please let me know. I can be reached via email at 82postlaplata@gmail.com.

Together we can do remarkable things for our Veterans.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Post.

Your Commander

Jamie Zayas
Always Serving



Legion Membership Report



David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair

Greetings Legionnaires!

I can't believe we're already in March! The membership train keeps rolling along as we continue to exceed all expectations. Post 82 has bounced back and forth between 1st and 2nd place in the Category 4 membership standings for the Southern Maryland Region (SMR). I want to take this opportunity to put some context to our current standings compared to the other American Legion posts in Maryland.

For starters, there are a total of 125 American Legion Posts in the state of Maryland, broken down into 8 districts within 4 regions. The regions consist of The Eastern Shore, Northern Central, Western, and Southern Maryland Regions (SMR). As most of you realize by now, we are part of the SMR and fall within District 6. District 5 is also part of the SMR.

When it comes to Traditional American Legion membership (TAL), there are 5 categories. Cat 1 ranges from 15-150 members, Cat 2 is 151-300, Cat 3 is 301-500, Cat 4 is 501-750, and Cat 5 is 751-1000.

Post 82 is currently in Cat 4 but may soon move into Cat 5 as membership continues to grow. We have added several new members in

the past 6 months through vigorous recruitment efforts by the membership team and strong advocacy from many of you. Unfortunately, there is always a loss in membership as veterans move to other areas, pass away, or choose to allow their membership to expire for various reasons.

Based on the last membership report dated Feb 23rd, Post 82 was on top again for Cat 4 retention and 2024 membership within the SMR. Upon release of this report, we are just 1 renewal away from our goal of 719 active members. There is no doubt we will exceed 100% very soon as we continue recruiting new members.

Additionally, my team has been tapping into Post 297 and encouraging members to transfer over. For those who don't know, Post 297 is a headquarter unit for the Department of Maryland but doesn't have a physical location like other American Legion Posts throughout the state. Many people who seek membership online with the American Legion in Maryland are often placed in Post 297 by default. This happened to me a few years ago! If you see some new faces around the post, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them to our family.

Finally, you should know by now that 2025 membership rates will be going up \$10.00 to \$45.00 starting July 1. With that in mind, we have been encouraging TAL members to pay online now to save some money. First, you must have paid your 2024 dues, then you can pay up to three years (2025, 2026, and 2027) in advance at the current \$35.00 rate.

This is a win/win as you save money and help Post 82 get a big head start on membership renewals going forward. For the 26 of you who have already taken advantage of this renewal opportunity, THANK YOU! If you need assistance with setting up an online account, please let me know.

David D. Abildgaard, 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair

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.

So far this year I've been able to assist 6 veterans with various concerns. 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.

Chaplains Corner

Happy belated Valentine's Day!

As you may or may not know, Valentine's Day originated as a feast day honoring a Christian martyr named Valentine. Over the years, it has become widely a cultural celebration of love and romance with which most of us are more familiar.

The key word I associate with this day is "Love", a word I often find myself using without giving it much thought; "Love you babe." "I love Dad jokes." "Don't you love it when that happens?" "I'm loving my new earbuds." And so on.

I got to thinking about how I define love and found that I was all over place with my definition. This led me to see how the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it and found it does so in part, as follows.

- "strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties."
- "attraction based on sexual desire: affection and tenderness felt by lovers."
- "affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests."

Can't quite see where my love of coffee fits in there, but I definitely see where my love for my wife, family, friends, and motorcycle do.

Next, I decided to employ an even better source for the definition of love, the Bible.

I recently learned that the word love, in its various forms appears 551 times in the Bible (319 times in the Old Testament, and 232 times in the New Testament).

As with the dictionary's definition, the Bible has multiple uses of the word love, its meaning varies depending on the context in which it is used. In some places it refers to affectionate love, in others brotherly love and familial love, and in yet others, erotic love.

The most powerful form of love that the Bible references takes the form of the Greek word *agape* which refers to the type of love that God has for us, and we are to have for Him and for each other. It is a profoundly willful, and at times, sacrificial form of love that is not emotionally based.

With all that said, you have probably noticed I love to ramble, so I will close by providing the following scripture verses for your consideration.

1 John 4:8 NIV

"Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love."

John 3:16 NIV

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 15:13 NIV

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NIV

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

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 at papastockman@yahoo.com or 301-768-2514

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman
Chaplain

Sons of The American Legion

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



Gary Shupe and I attended the Detachment of Maryland mid-winter meeting on February 2-4 in Ocean City.

On Friday, the Detachment of Maryland participated in the Polar Plunge at Sandy Point. I was told the water temperature was 36 degrees. Gary and I did not participate.

On Saturday, Gary, his wife Pam, granddaughter Lacy, and I attended the Detachment of Maryland Drawdown. Over \$9,000 was raised for Children and Youth Programs.

On Sunday, I attended the Detachment of Maryland Detachment Executive Committee meeting. At the meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting donations of \$1,000 for the American Legion National Emergency Fund, \$1,000 for the Fisher House Foundation, \$250 for Operation Comfort Warrior, and \$100 to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation on behalf of Squadron 82 members. Donations received at the meeting totaled more than \$40,000.

At the Squadron meeting on February 6, the members voted to allocate \$200 for the National Veterans' Assistance Day on May 20, 2024.

There was a great turnout for the Fish Fry on February 16. We served 201 dinners. Seven residents and 2 staff members from Charlotte Hall Veterans Home were guests of the Post 82 family. The second Fish Fry will be on March 15 from 5 -7 PM. Dinner 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 website, alpost82.org.



On January 27, Lee Hammonds (I) presented a \$500 donation to the Special Olympics of Charles County Coordinator John Nolan on behalf of the members of the Squadron 82.

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on February 19. Thirty residents participated. Two hundred and twenty dollars in prizes were handed out.

As of the February 16 Detachment of Maryland membership report, the Squadron has 189 paid members, 87.9% of our 2024 goal of 214. Congratulations and thanks to all those who have paid their 2024 membership dues.

Dues are still just \$20 for members 21 or over, \$15 for dual members and those under 21.

I hope to see more of you at the Post.
Yours in Service,
Dave



Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82

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



Hello Snapdragons!

My goodness the weather is getting cold again with snow in the forecast. I hope everyone stays warm and safe as there is black ice out there and we do not need to have anyone fall and break anything.

Our Taco dinner was last Friday, and we did fairly. We will not have another dinner until May as we want to have steamed shrimp, but we need to see what the prices are.

Remember to send in your membership to Rita Sexton. You can send it to her at 7400 Retreat Place, Port Tobacco, MD 20677 or drop it off at the post. We are almost there to real goal. Dues is \$35.

On March 10th there will be a "Four Chaplains" program at Clinton Post 259 which is Day for God and Country. It starts at 2pm. Come and learn about the Chaplains that passed away in World War 1 as they went down with the ship. It is a very moving program.

Get well soon to Buddy Hindle, Angel Hindle's husband who was recently in the hospital.

Next month's meeting we will get together to get a nominations committee for next year's officers. So come join our meeting on March 12th at 6pm.

As always, we can use help in the kitchen at BINGO! Each week the same ladies are always working it and this causes burn out. So once a month would be nice for the help.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on March 12th at 6pm.

For Service not Self, Lesley



Lesley Radcliff
President, Unit 82



The Post 82 Super Bowl Pool is Open!

Squares are \$50 each. Participation includes a Pre-Super Bowl Party at the Post on February 9 and a chance to win up to \$1,000.00. This pool usually fills up very quickly so stop by the Lounge soon and ask Joanie or Maureen to sign you up (Payment in cash only).

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:

The Riders led by Randy (Gray Dog) Markley are seeking sponsors for our Annual Southern Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride which takes place on May 25, 2024. If you know someone who would like to be a sponsor of this awesome endeavor, please reach out to Gray Dog at rmarkley@gmail.com for a packet with sponsorship levels and benefits.

On Saturday January 27, 14 of The Riders gathered at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery to clean up the graveside wreaths that had been placed before Christmas. Wreaths Across America Director Lynn Tarburton had dumpster systematically placed for the collection and discard of the wreaths. The Riders were joined by various groups and individuals who had the cemetery cleaned up in under 2 hours. The Riders then had a fellowship lunch at Napoli's in Waldorf before heading home.

The Riders are selling gun raffle tickets benefiting the American Legion Veteran and Childrens Foundation and Warfighter Advance. We will sell only 500 tickets at \$20 each with the winner getting their choice of a Henry Big Boy Rifle .44mag/.44spl, a Savage 308 WinMag or \$750 cash. The winning ticket will be drawn on May 25, 2024, at the conclusion of our 3rd Annual Legacy Ride. A special thank you to Joe & Joann Namyst of Quality Printers in White Plains for their gracious donation of discounted raffle tickets. We strongly suggest if you have any printing needs please give Quality Printers a shot, you will not regret using their services.

Thank you to all who have been stepping up to help with events, fundraisers & dinners as promoted by our Post. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I would like to encourage all Riders as well as our Post family members (Legion, SAL & Auxiliary) to please volunteer some time to help. 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.

Please keep Brian (Gadget) & Diane (Sarge) Miller in your prayers. Diane is battling cancer with vengeance and Brian is holding the fort down. This is a great couple who can use all our prayers in this battle.

Upcoming Rides:

March 9- Spring State ALR Meeting, 1200 @ Steadman-Keenan Post 96 Brunswick MD (The Wick)

March 23- Day Ride to Fredericksburg, VA

Next ALR meeting is Thursday March 14, 2024 @ 1800

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin "Big Sexy" Bryant
Director
ALR Chapter 82, MD

Southern Maryland Gold Star Legacy Ride 2024

Planning for the 2024 Legacy Ride is well underway, and registration is open for the 3rd 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.

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/>

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

John Flatley / Karen Himmelheber

Boys State Coordinators, Post 82
John – 301.848.7664 / johnflatleyjr@gmail.com
Karen – 240.708.3725 / khimmelheber@ccboe.com

What's Going at Post 82?

Friday, Mar 1 – Post Steak and Fried Shrimp
Dinner 5-7 PM Open to the Public

Tuesday, Mar 5

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

Tuesday, Mar 12

Legion Membership Meeting – 6 PM
Auxiliary Meeting – 6 pm

Friday, Mar 15 – S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner
5-7 PM Open to the Public

Wednesday, Mar 20 – Tri-County Veterans
Resource Fair 10:00am – 2:00pm

Friday, Mar 22 – Members Shrimp in the Bar
6-7 PM Members Only

Friday, Mar 29 – Riders Spaghetti Dinner 5-7
PM
Open to the Public

BINGO every Thursday.

Doors open at 4:30 PM



Veterans Strengthening America

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. Take advantage of this amazing offer and share it with your friends today!

Don't have a MyLegion account? Not computer savvy? If you need assistance or have any questions, reach out to 1st Vice, David Abildgaard david_angelabildgaard@yahoo.com.

Legion 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 and search for Basic Training.



TICKETS FOR TROOPS

Michelle and I have been taking advantage of free tickets to events in the area through Vet Tix. We've attended concerts, comedy shows and major sporting events at low or no cost to us.

Veteran Tickets Foundation's Tickets for Troops Program is dedicated to giving back to those who gave us so much. We team up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, venues, and everyday event ticket holders to provide free tickets to currently serving and veterans of all branches of the US military.

The Veteran Tickets Foundation is proud to announce that to date 20,685,900 event tickets have been given out in all 50 States and Washington, DC to our Military, Veterans and their families.

I highly recommend Vet Tix to all veterans and their eligible family members. Check their web site here <https://www.vettix.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



**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
OR CALL GEORGE HAWLEY AT 240-367-6489**

Post 82 is leading the Southern Maryland Region Category V in Active Membership and Membership Renewals! Let's celebrate together!

Contact Adjutant John Flatley at johnflatleyjr@gmail.com to order your tickets by March 9 for delivery at the March 12 membership meeting.

**The Great Southern Maryland Region
Presents the
2024**



SMR OYSTER BOWL



Opens at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Awards at 7:00 pm

Award Categories

Category I - Membership 100

Category II - Membership 101 - 200

Category III - Membership 201 - 350

Category IV - Membership 351 - 500

Category V - Membership 501 - 999

Category VI - Membership +1000

Dress Legion Casual

Southern Maryland Region Oyster Bowl

On April 6th, 2024 to be held at

Jameson-Harrison Post 238

6265 Brandywine Road, Hughesville, MD 20637

Menu

Raw, Steamed, and Fried Oysters

Oyster Stew

Roast Beef & Baked Chicken

Oven Roasted Potatoes,

String Beans

Desserts

Beer and Wine 5:00 to 6:00

For TICKETS CONTACT

American Legion Post 238

see Bartender in Canteen

6265 Brandywine Road

Hughesville, MD 20608

301-274-3522

Cut off for Ticket Sales

March 30th 2024

Ticket Price \$50.00 - Table of 8 - \$450

\$400