



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

October 2023

Alpost82.org

American.Legion4@verizon.net

301-934-8221



Commander's Message

Hello, my Post 82 Family. As I am writing this, we have just completed the 99th Annual Charles County Fair and I wanted to personally thank all Post members that helped greet the community at our booth this year. Special thanks to Buddy Hindle, Randy Markley and John Flatley for helping set up our booth on Thursday; to our Riders for again taking care of all day Friday, Buddy & Angel Hindle and Cheryl Wedding for manning the booth on Saturday, and our 1st Vice Commander Dave Abildgaard for keeping me company on Sunday. I am sometimes asked what does the Post get out of having a booth? We don't sell anything so what do we get? We get recognition and we get and give support within our community, we are relevant!

I want to welcome to our newsletter this month the two and a half pages of visitors that gave us their emails so that we could share with them what we do and why they should join Post 82! I promise, you will not find a more open and generous group of men and women to be a part of except for possibly those you served with. Come serve again with us, we will not ask you to wear chem gear or eat MREs! For our current members I ask that if you see someone in the Post you don't know, introduce yourself, welcome, and get to know them.

Your Post has partnered with the Maryland Veterans Museum to celebrate and recognize the French Alliance in Southern Maryland at two events hosted by the Museum. We were treated to the unveiling of the permanent signs that will be on display in Charles County at three locations where French and Continental armies stopped: St. Ignatius Church, Village of Port Tobacco, and The Ferries at Mount Republic. The signs mark General Washington and General Rochambeau's National Historic Trail through Charles County.

A few weeks ago, I sent a personal letter to all members of American Legion Post 82. While writing this I could not help but reflect on the immense value that each of you brings to our organization by your investment through membership and how proud I am to have the privilege to be called your Commander. The American Legion is the largest veteran's organization in the country. Together we make things happen like the recent passage of the PACT Act, a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for all Veterans especially those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Locally we make a difference with veterans here in Charles County, for example, ask the veterans who play bingo with our Sons every month. When you joined the American Legion, you invested in a legacy built on service to each other, our veterans, and the broader community. I ask that if you have not renewed your investment for Legion year 2024 yet, please do so as quickly as possible so we can continue working together to make a difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and the community at large.

I will end with two things, 1st our Post Steak and Shrimp dinner is back on October 6th. If you are available to help, even a little, please reach out, we are trying to get this dinner back to the greatness it was in the past.

2nd is Cruisin' Southern Maryland! This is a 100-mile cruise through Southern Maryland benefiting our Veterans at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on September 30th, 2023. The "Cruise" begins at the Golden Beach Park & Ride (37750 Golden Beach Rd, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622) and ends at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Registration begins at 0730, maps and route information will be provided upon check-in. All vehicles are invited to participate from classics to imports, trucks, motorcycles and more. I will be joining Post 82 American Legion Riders to support this ride. I hope to see you at the finale, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Your Commander,

Jamie Zayas

New Date and Time!

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



Legion Membership Report

Greetings Legionnaires!

Each week as 1st Vice, I learn a little more about the operational side of the American Legion and the expectations of my current position. I attended 1st Vice training at Post 196 a few weeks ago and received detailed explanation from Southern Maryland Regional Commander, Mr. Billy Hill. I was very impressed with his ability to deliver a clear and concise message regarding the roles and responsibilities of both the 1st Vice and the Adjutant. I also received a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of these two vital positions when it comes to membership. Mr. Hill focused most of his time on membership in the American Legion. He articulated the value of our investment through membership, importance of membership renewals, and strategies for recruitment of new members.

As many of you know, we have an Early Bird enrollment period that we at Post 82 have complete control of. Our deadline is October 15. Remember, December 31 is the date your 2023 membership expires. Please don't wait until the last minute. Renew your membership today!

The next topic of discussion focuses on the membership goals. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, National establishes these goals and we have been exceeding them every week. For instance, with 406 paid 2024 members, we have already exceeded Oct 18th goals of 55% through early renewals and new membership. So, let me offer a huge "THANKS!" to those who have renewed so far. We are now pressing on to meet or exceed November's goal of 65% by the 15th of the month. If we have 100% by the end of 2023, that places Post 82 in great position. To reiterate a point I made in my last newsletter, exceeding the goals would require all of us to renew as early as possible. Going forward into the 2025 enrollment period, I would like to get everyone on the same schedule and get all renewals complete within 90 Days of the "Legion Year." It's certainly a big challenge but I believe it's doable.

Finally, I'd ask you all to reach out to fellow Post 82 members and see if they have renewed yet. As I recently experienced during Shrimp in the Bar, a few individuals thought they had renewed, only to find out that they had not. Turns out they intended to but got distracted by life. We corrected those on-the-spot and they received their new cards the same night. Surprisingly, we are missing contact email addresses and phone numbers for many Legion members on our roster. That means they are not receiving vital information from Post 82 and potentially, from the Department and National. You can help here by networking with your fellow members to see if their membership is up to date.

Membership renewals can be done on-line at <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>, by mailing in your renewal payment to the post, or simply by bringing cash or check to the bartender in the lounge. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Commander Jamie Zayas to handle membership transactions.

In conclusion, I want to say that I'm sincerely proud to be a member of Post 82. Even though there are other American Legion posts closer to my home, you have all made me feel welcome and a part of this family. I truly appreciate all of you and the sacrifices you and your families have made while serving in the military, and as a member of the American Legion community.

Still serving,
Dave



David Abildgaard
1st Vice, Membership Chair

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Friday, September 29, 2023
5-7pm - \$12
(Free - Ages 5 and below)
Dine In/Orders to Go

PUBLIC INVITED

Chaplain's Corner



Having recently attended two funerals, I was somewhat taken aback by the number of those with whom I talked, who apologized for their tears and for being emotional. At the risk of stating the obvious, the loss of a loved one can be an extremely emotional and sorrow filled occasion. While we can celebrate their lives and share our fond memories of them, the knowledge that we will not see them again on this side of heaven can understandably be a significant cause of grief and tears.

It is my belief that there is no shame in the tears we shed and the grief we experience at the loss of someone dear to us. I base this belief, in part, on shortest verse in our Bible, John 11:35, which simply reads "Jesus wept". I offer that if our Lord Jesus can unashamedly weep in personal and shared sorrow at the loss of a loved one, there is no shame in our grief and the shedding of our tears.

As the Post chaplain, I sincerely offer my support to those who are mourning the loss of a loved one or experiencing any other sorrowful life event. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-768-2514 or papastockman@yahoo.com.

Key items

1. I followed up with Judy Schroeder providing her with Mike's military medals as she requested. She is clearly still grieving his loss. After handing over the medals, I prayed with her. If you know Judy, please give her a call and check in.
2. I have not been made aware of the need of my services since my last report.

3. Again, as the Post Chaplain, I stand ready to serve you. Please let me know of any of our members and/or their family members who might appreciate/benefit from a visit or contact from me in this capacity.

Yours in Christ,
Paul



**Paul Stockman
Chaplain**

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



Well, here it is October, and the days are getting shorter.

Adjutant Gary Shupe attended the 51st National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) in Charlotte, NC, on August 25-27. At the business session on August 26, the Squadron 82 Community Service Scrapbook was announced as the winner of the National Community Service Scrapbook award. Pictured below is Gary

receiving the award from National Commander Christopher Carlton (IN.)



On August 27, I was proud to join Commander Zayas, President Radcliff, 1st Vice Commander David Abildgaard, and A.L.R. Vice Director Jeff Coombs to represent the Post 82 family at the Rochambeau Reception at the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park. General Rochambeau, a French General was instrumental in the Americans winning the Revolutionary War. The reception detailed the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary tourist route through Charles County.

At the Squadron meeting on September 5, the members voted to donate \$2,000 to S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland Commander Joe Lohman's project, the American Legion Southern Maryland Region Youth Camp in Cheltenham. In addition, the members voted to donate \$100 each to the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET), the Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), the Lock Raven VAMC, the Perry Point VAMC, the Cambridge VA Outpatient Clinic, and the Pocomoke VA Outpatient Clinic. The members also voted to donate \$300 to Wreaths Across America. Finally, it was my pleasure, on behalf of the members, to present Squadron Chaplain Roy Yanosh with his Honorary Life Membership. Life membership in the S.A.L. can only be awarded by the Squadron, it cannot be bought.



Thanks to Gary Shupe, Gale Willett, Alana Lentz, David Quade, Roy Yanosh, Kathleen Quade, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, and Lennie Lentz for their help at the baby back rib dinner on September 15. Turnout was lighter than usual, but we did have one special guest for the evening, Detachment of Maryland Commander Joe Lohman who came down from Laurel. The 3rd Friday dinners (baby back ribs or fish fries) are our primary fundraisers which help raise money to support American Legion and community programs like those mentioned above. Last year Squadron 82 donated over \$12,750 to these programs.

The next baby back rib dinner will be on October 20. I invite you to join us.

Gary Shupe and I attended the S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee meeting at Laurel Post 60 on September 16. Total donations received from Detachment Squadrons totaled \$18,326 including \$2,600 from Squadron 82.

On September 17, Gary Shupe and I attended the Southern Maryland Region meeting at Brandywine Post 227. Past Post 82 Commander Buddy Hindle attended the meeting as member of the Department of Maryland S.A.L. Commission.

On September 18, Gale Willett and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Fourteen cadets from the Chopticon High School Air Force JROTC were on hand to help celebrate the 76th birthday of the United States Air Force. After a

rendition of Happy Birthday and some cake, the cadets ran the bingo. Thirty-eight residents participated and \$200 in prizes were handed out. I'm not sure who had more fun, the residents or the cadets.

Your 2023 membership card is good until December 31, 2023. But why wait, renew now! Dues are 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. S.A.L. members can renew on their MyLegion.org account or via the quick renew website: <https://legion.org/SAL-Renew>. The online renewal process also allows members to set up automatic annual renewal. Online renewal should be used only by those who owe \$20. Unfortunately, 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 would like to thank the following ladies who helped at our Meatloaf dinner on September 8th; Cathy Grimm, Mary Shaffer, Edna Caywood, Carolyn Maron, Rita Sexton, Amelia Leukhardt, and Janet Fogle. Our next meatloaf dinner will be on October 13th 5-7pm. The meal will include of course Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas with pearl onions, gravy, stewed tomatoes, and rolls. We will have water and tea along with our dessert table.

Remember to renew your membership! You can send a check to our membership chairman Rita Sexton at 7400 Retreat Place, Port Tobacco, MD 20677.

If you know of a member who is sick or has passed away, please inform our Chaplain Mary Shaffer at (301) 934-4372 or by mail at 132 Dulles Street, La Plata, MD 20646. We cannot know all the time who is sick, had surgery, or has passed away unless we are notified.

Our craft fair is on October 28th. We could use some baked goods for our table. You can bring them to the Post on Friday October 27th. Please state that it is for the craft fair bake sale. If you wish to rent a table, you can contact Carolyn Shelton at (301) 934-0095.

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Come out, join us, and bring your ideas for different events and fundraisers.



Bingo is every Thursday starting at 6:30pm for pull tab call and 7pm for early birds. Come out and join the fun!

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 Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary membership for 2024 as soon as possible. This helps the Post to meet membership goals and receive recognition within our District, Region, and State rankings. Your ALR dues are also to be renewed at this time at a cost of just \$15 for the upcoming year.

On Saturday Sept. 9, Thirteen riders participated in the 12th annual 9/11 Patriots Day Ride, Maryland's largest Police escorted and Fire supported 9/11 ride from Darlington, MD to Parkville MD. Over 380 motorcycles stretched 10 miles down MD Route 1. The weather held off for the ride but arrived earlier than predicted, catching the Riders within 15 miles of home. Thankfully all returned safely but very wet.

Bernie (BJ) Fitzpatrick is planning an overnight ride to Camp Dawson WV. Leaving on Saturday Oct 7 and returning on Sunday Oct 8 Please contact Bernie to reserve your room.

Mike (Twink) Hanks is putting together a charter fishing trip out of Chesapeake Beach on Saturday, Oct 21. Space is limited. Riders interested in going please sign up with Mike to reserve your spot.

I encourage all Riders as well as 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.

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

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

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:
September 29 Cruisin' Southern Maryland
October 7-8 Camp Dawson WV

Respectfully Submitted,
Big Sexy



Kevin Bryant
Director

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



Sally Jewell was the lucky winner of the "Lady Vet" gift basket we raffled at the **County Fair** booth. We had ten women enter the contest, nine of whom are not yet members of the American Legion.

Email: American.legion4@verizon.net

Plan Ahead With VA End-of-Life Benefits

Talking about end-of-life planning is never easy. But time spent planning might ease burdens when a loved one has passed.

Did you know VA provides benefits and resources for [end-of-life planning](#)? These services can help ease stress and provide peace of mind after a Veteran has passed away.

VA offers a variety of life insurance programs to help Veterans prepare for the future and protect their loved ones. One available insurance program is VALife, which offers guaranteed acceptance whole-life coverage up to \$40,000 for Veterans with service-connected disabilities. [Find out which VA life insurance program is right for you](#)

Spouses and family members of a Veteran or Service member may be eligible for survivor benefits that provide one-time or monthly payments. [Find out which benefits you may qualify for and how to access them.](#)

To help document end-of-life care wishes, VA offers [Advance Care Planning \(ACP\)](#), in which a Veteran can clarify their preferences for future health care based on personal values and beliefs. Veterans can list a person they trust to make decisions on their behalf if there comes a time when they are unable to do so.

When the time comes, [VA burial and memorial benefits](#) preserve and honor a Veteran's legacy. These benefits include a designated final resting place, grave liner, inscribed headstone or marker, a burial flag, and perpetual care of the gravesite. To better understand which benefits you or your family may be eligible for, [check out the online pre-need eligibility application.](#)

Learn More

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

News From the Lounge

Daily and Weekly Game for Post 82 Family Members:

I recently learned about a couple of games played in our Lounge that you might not be familiar with, the Daily and Weekly check-in games. Active members of Post 82 Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary are eligible to participate. Ask Joanie or another regular to explain the rules. You could win some cash!

New Promotional Display Monitor

We've installed a monitor in the Lounge to promote upcoming events and distribute timely news items. If you are planning an event that impacts the Post 82 Family and would like to promote it in the Lounge, please email American.Legion4@verizon.net. Someone will reach out to connect with you. We are also looking for someone with skills in PowerPoint or other software to create slides for the monitor. Contact Commander Zayas or John Flatley for more details or to volunteer.

Hall Rental Discounts

Post 82 Family members who have maintained membership in the Legion, S.A.L. or Auxiliary for two or more years are eligible for discounted rates on hall and meeting space rental. Check with Joanie in the Lounge for more information.

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.

Veterans Administration Disability housing grants for Veterans

The VA offers housing grants for Veterans and service members with certain service-connected disabilities so they can buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home might involve installing ramps or widening doorways. Find out if you're eligible for a disability housing grant—and how to apply.

<https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants/>

Meatloaf dinner on Friday, October 13, 2023 at
the American Legion Social Hall

Dinner includes with the Meatloaf, Mashed potatoes, peas with pearl onions, stewed tomatoes, rolls and butter, tea and water will be available.

Cost - \$15.00

5-7 PM

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82



What's Going at Post 82 This Month?

Queen of Hearts Every Wednesday

Tickets are available at the bar.

A winner is drawn every Wednesday at 6:45pm

Come on out and join in the fun!

Hosted by Sons of the American Legion

Bingo Every Thursday

First game begins at 7:00pm

Open to the public.

Friday, Sep 29

Riders Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7:pm

Open to the public

Friday, Oct 6

Legion Steak and Fried Shrimp Dinner from 5

– 7:pm

Open to the Public

Friday, Oct 13

Auxiliary Meatloaf Dinner from 5 – 7:pm

Open to the public

Friday, Oct 20

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

Open to the public.

Friday, Oct 27

Members Shrimp in the Bar from 6 – 7:pm

Members only

Saturday, Oct 28

Auxiliary Craft Sale from 9:am – 2:pm

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 1900 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