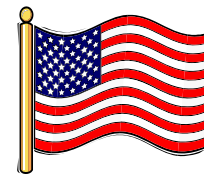


Voice of the Vets

Sidney American Legion

Post 217



NEWSLETTER

Mar - Apr, 2024

Sidney, OH 45365

FROM THE COMMANDER



To My Fellow Legionnaires,

Now that the first two months of the year are behind us, there is nothing lovelier than looking forward to springtime. Once the days get longer, the weather warms up, and colorful flowers start popping up, we are definitely ready to go outside and enjoy the glory of the season. The promise of Spring's arrival is enough to get us through the next two months!

† **In Remembrance:** The following Comrade of Post 217 has been transferred to Post Everlasting: **Charles (Chuck) Craynon-USMC, Vietnam.** Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaire and his family.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to Post 217: **Gregory Huston-USA, Global War on Terrorism, and Amy Stoots-USAF, Global War on Terrorism.** Thank you for your service and for choosing Post 217. We look forward to having you as a part of our team!

Membership: According to our Membership Chair, Gary Bonnoront, we are currently at 92.56 % renewal; thank you to all who have submitted your renewal early to help us achieve this percentage. We still have 41 members from 2023 to renew for 2024 to reach our goal of 100% before the next renewal date begins July 1, 2024 for 2025 membership year.

******NOTE***** The American Legion National dues for 2025 will increase by \$5 effective July 1, 2024. At the American Legion Department of Ohio Convention in July, their dues will also increase by \$5. Currently our dues are \$35, with \$18.50 submitted to National, \$9 to State,

and Post 217 \$7.50. With the increase July 1, National will be \$23.50, State \$14. If we do not increase our dues to offset National and State, we will have a loss of \$2.50 each member which results in a deficit of \$1,277.50 to our post. After considerable deliberation at the January Post 217 meeting, it was voted to raise our annual dues from \$35 to \$45 effective July 1, 2024 for the 2025 renewal period.

There is some good news. Last May, American Legion National Executive Committee approved offering a multiyear membership open to 2025 renewals (2025, 2026, 2027) if you renewed your 2024 membership prior to the rollout of this program on December 4, 2023. This means you can take advantage of a three-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year at the current rate of \$35. The multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the National American Legion website at legion.org/renew and legion.org/join. You must pay for all three years before July 1, 2024 which would be \$105. You cannot take advantage of this through the post level or mylegion.org. If you have not renewed your 2024 dues, you can still take advantage but would include the year 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Please contact Judy Johnson, (937) 638-9797 if you need assistance in renewing your multiyear membership renewal.

Americanism and Government Testing: An awards ceremony recognizing our county winners was held on February 7, 2024. We are pleased to announce the State winners representing Post 217 were: 12th Grade Boy: Evan Michael and 12th Grade Girl Joselin Morris-Christian Academy, 10th Grade Boy

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Cartier Thompson and 10 Grade Girl Marley Koon-SHS. Ohio A&G winners received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. with the highlight of the trip being a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery February 26 to March 1, 2024. Congratulations to everyone!

American Legion Buckeye Boys State: Steve Peltier is actively working on our selection process for eligible candidates to attend Buckeye Boys State at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, June 9-16, 2024. If you know of an eligible candidate completing his high school junior year, please suggest he apply for this program.

Sunday Brunches: Our Super Sunday Brunch held February 11 was an immense success. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Legionnaires and Post 217 Auxiliary for all the food preparations and staffing at the event. Additionally, thank you to the Fairlawn Baseball team who volunteered their community service by assisting with the brunch. They were a tremendous asset in making this a success. The next Brunch is scheduled for May 12, 2024, Mother's Day. If you are unable to volunteer to help, at least enjoy the wonderful food and atmosphere. Donations of desserts and salads are always appreciated. The prices are: Free for ages up to 5, \$7 for ages 6-12, and \$15 for ages 13 and above.

Veteran's Wellness Day: Please mark your calendar to join us at the Veterans Center on March 16, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Veteran Wellness Day. Representative Mike Carey, 15th District, and the Shelby County Veterans Services is sponsoring this event and is open to all veterans, current service members and family members. Just to mention a few agencies that will be represented are VA Health & Benefits, Employment Opportunities, Service Animals, Mental Health & Substance Use, Housing Assistance and many more. There is no charge to attend this event.

Membership Key Cards: Unfortunately, we continue to experience challenges with our old key card system, making it impossible to issue new or replacement cards. But good news! Low Voltage is projected to install on February 28 a new key card system. This will be an immense improvement. Please give us about one to two weeks to implement the new system before contacting us for a membership card. We appreciate your patience as we work through this challenge.

Attention Volunteers: Your selfless dedication and support of our events is appreciated. We could not survive without you! Thank you for all you do and continue to do. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours but do not know where to begin, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am sure I can find something that will provide you with a sense of purpose, bring fun into your life, meet new friends, and share in comradery with others.

Election of Officers: It is getting close to that time when we need to select our officers for the 2024-2025 membership year. The elections should take place prior to May 1st for timely submission of required documents to the Department. We have several officer positions open. The Executive Board will compose a Slate of Officers to present at the March Meeting with voting to take place at our April Meeting. This is for the required documents to be sent to the Department by the May 1st deadline. If you are interested in holding a position, please contact me at (937) 638-9797 or any Executive Committee member.

Upcoming Events:

March 6, 2024: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Fort Loramie Post 355.

March 10, 2024: 2nd District Spring Conference 9 a.m. Lima Post 96

March 16, 2024: Veteran's Wellness Day, Sidney Veterans Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. See Above.

March 16, 2024: St. Patrick's Dance, Veterans Center, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with DJ Tony Brown

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FROM THE SONS of AMERICAN LEGION

Local seniors whose father, mother, or grandparent is an American Legion member are encouraged to apply for one of two \$500 Post 217 Sons of American Legion scholarships. For more info or to download the scholarship form, visit <https://sidneylegionpost217.org>. Applications must be submitted by May 1st.

Also, please consider recommending a SALS membership to any eligible individuals you may know and feel free to contact the SALS commander for any information at (419) 235-9607.

Your SAL Commander, Michael Humphrey



FROM THE AUXILIARY

Springtime is a busy and fun time for the Auxiliary.

The District Spring Roundtable will be on Sunday March 3rd, at the Lima Post 96. The main topic of discussion will be our Annual Reports. Several of us ladies will be attending. We will be meeting at the Veterans Center and plan to leave at 8:30 am. If you wish to join us please let me or Mary Kies know so we can coordinate transportation.

Our Annual Blood Drive is on Tuesday, March 19th. The ladies prepare a wonderful lunch for all the donors and staff.

The Valentines Brunch went very well. I want to thank all the ladies for all the delicious salads and desserts they donated. We received several compliments about them.

Our next Brunch is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 12th. This has been a busy one, in past years. So please, we will appreciate all

your salads and desserts once again, so we have plenty.

All Buckeye Girls State applications are due no later than Friday March 1st. The girls will be interviewed the week of March 4th. Scholarship forms are due back by April 3rd.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00. Many of the ladies go early and enjoy lunch and conversation together. Please plan to join us as we would love seeing everyone.

**Linda Limbert,
Post 217 Auxiliary President**



***Proud to be an American!
God Bless the U.S.A.!***



We are looking for Legionnaires,
Auxiliary and SAL Members to join us for
Wednesday Night Euchre Night!

Bring a group or come alone. Join us!
7:00 pm weekly, in the front meeting room.

SEE YOU WEDNESDAY!

Spouses are Welcome!

A Special
“Thank You!”
to our volunteers
who help out
at our Post and
in our Canteen!

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT
THE CANTEEN AND SHARE SOME
GOOD TIMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS!



Post Officers:

- Judy Johnson, Commander
- Theresa Manuteuffel, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary “Tiny” Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Alan Krahulek, Chaplain

Executive Committee:

- Phil Wogoman
- Bill Knasel
- Jerry Muhlenkamp
- Jim Neilan
- Buddy Terry

Board of Trustees:

- Jack Curl
- Patricia Hamberg
- Bill Knasel
- Brian Mantor
- Jerry Schmidt
- Gary “Tiny” Stockton

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.SIDNEYLEGIONPOST217.ORG