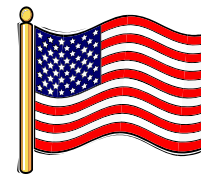


Voice of the Vets Sidney American Legion Post 217



NEWSLETTER

May - June, 2024

Sidney, OH 45365

FROM THE COMMANDER



To My Fellow Legionnaires,

As May and June approach, our calendars begin to fill with exciting events. To mention a few; graduations, birthdays, Indy 500, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Flag Day, and the day of special remembrance, Memorial Day. Whatever the occasion, please be sure to spend it with those you love and cherish every moment!

† In Remembrance: The following Comrades of Post 217 have been transferred to Post Everlasting: **Charles (Chuck) Craynon-USMC Vietnam, Steve Peltier-USA Vietnam, John Laws-USN Korea.** Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaires and their families, they served their country with pride.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new member to Post 217: **Lois Sommers-USA.** Thank you for your service and for choosing Post 217. We look forward to having you as a part of our team!

Election of Officers: We held an election of 2025-2026 officers at our March 19, 2024 meeting. The following individuals were elected: Commander-Judy Johnson, 1st Vice Commander-Jerry Muhlenkamp, 2nd Vice Commander-Gary (Tiny) Stockton, Treasurer-Rick Lunsford, Adjutant-Patricia Hamberg, and Chaplain-James Moorman. Congratulations to everyone!

Americanism and Government (A&G): Our hearts are saddened by the passing of Steve Peltier. Steve was a member of American Legion Post 217 for 52 years. He was

extremely instrumental in serving as our Treasurer for several years, being our post's Buckeye Boy State Chairman, and served as past-president of the Ohio Buckeye Boy State. He taught County Government to the delegates every year for 50 years during their eight-day hands-on experience. He was our Americanism and Government Chairman, overseeing the program administered to local high school students every fall. His knowledge, experience, and dedication to these programs will be sorely missed as will he. We are recruiting a motivated legionnaire(s) to serve on our (A&G) committee who have the desire, motivation, and heart to mentor the youth of tomorrow in supporting our American Legion programs. We want to honor Steve's legacy for years to come. For more information, please contact Judy Johnson, (937) 638-9797.

Membership: According to our Membership Chair, Gary Bonnoront, we are currently at 96.87% renewal. We still have 25 members from 2023 to renew for 2024 to reach our goal of 100% before the 2025 renewal date begins July 1, 2024.

*****IMPORTANT!!!!*** 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**

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\$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 total \$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.

Veteran/Civilian of the Year Nominations:

Shelby County Veterans Services is now accepting nominations for Veteran and Civilian of the Year. Nomination deadline is June 28, 2024. The winner in each category will be announced at the Shelby County Fair during the Veterans Day Program. There are many individuals in our county who deserve this title. Nomination forms are available at the Sidney Veterans Center or on Shelby County Veterans Services website <https://shelbycountyveterans.org> under the tab "Applications."

Mother's Day Brunch: Please plan to attend and bring your family to our Mother's Day Sunday Brunch scheduled for May 12 at the Veterans Center. The prices are: Free for ages up to 5, \$7 for ages 6-12, and \$15 for ages 13 and above. Looking forward to seeing you there! There will not be any brunches during

the summer months. Stay tuned for when they will resume.

Attention Volunteers: I cannot say thank you enough for your dedication and support of our events, dinners, and brunches. Your selfless service is greatly appreciated; especially our Legionnaire members and Post 217 Auxiliary who are always willing to go above and beyond!

Special Thank You: To all our members, especially Post 217 Officers and Committee members, Trustees, Post 217 Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, and the Staff of Sidney Veterans Center who have made this an enjoyable year serving as your Commander. We have had challenging and enjoyable times, but through it all we faced the challenges as a team and prevailed. I am honored to have served with you in making this "Tour of Duty" a memorable one. A special Thank You to our Trustees: Jack Curl, Patricia Hamberg, Tiny Stockton, Jerry Schmidt, Bill Knasel, and Brian Mantor. You have been instrumental in overseeing and completing many of our projects!

Upcoming Events:

May 1, 2024: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Jackson Center Post 493.

May 12, 2024: Mother's Day Brunch, Veterans Center, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

May 19, 2024: American Legion 2nd District Summer Convention, 9 a.m. Wapak Post 330

May 21, 2024: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 27, 2024: Memorial Day Ceremony, Shelby County Court Square

June 5, 2024: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Sidney Post 217

June 9-June 16, 2024: Buckeye Boy State

June 14, 2024: Flag Day

June 18, 2024: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m.

July 12-July 14, 2024: American Legion Department of Ohio Convention, Independence, OH. Deadline for Hotel Registration is June 10 at Holiday Inn

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Cleveland South, Delegate and Alternate Registration deadline is June 28.

“This country has not seen and probably will never know the true level of sacrifice of our veterans.”

~Thomas M. Smith

**Your Commander,
Judy Johnson**

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Hello Veterans, Family, and Friends,

Hopefully, this letter finds you in great health. We are thankful for your service and for your family and friend’s support while you were away.

We are very busy with projects in and outside the building. The kitchen painting is almost complete. Thankful for the volunteers who helped with this project. I would list all the volunteers, however, I may omit someone’s name and it would upset me to omit a name. Please know how appreciative we are for your services. I would like to thank the Commander, Judy Johnson and Mila Hamilton for their much devoted work. So thankful for these young ladies in initiating the project.

Now that the weather is improving we are focusing on the Memorial Park project. The granite pavers to inscribe the names of our Memorial Park donors have arrived at the seller’s location. Once the names are inscribed, they will be placed along the walkway leading to the Memorial Flame. Troop 95, Aiden Lee’s Eagle Scout Project is progressing. He will be building a foundation for the VFW War Memorial Plaques in addition to two benches. We are researching a Veteran Memorial Park sign and electricity for the Gazebo. Soon, we will have the dirt leveled and grass seed sowed. We anticipate relining the parking spaces by the walkways to the park and Gazebo to include handicap parking and placement of parking blocks.

Roger Sidle continues to engrave our veteran bricks and we have recently received 100 completed ones to place. Once he completes the next group of bricks, we will place them as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience, We still have brick applications available if you know of anyone who would like to purchase one to honor their veteran or even make a monetary donation. We greatly appreciate everyone’s support of this worthy project! If you are interested in volunteering, we could use your help. The Eternal Flame’s painting of the base and completion of the metal is still in progress.

With summer approaching, we are exploring ideas and obtaining bids to cover the back patio area. More information to follow.

Our building is looking great! Please help us to keep it that way. Our grounds keeper needs your assistance in placing trash and cigarette butts in appropriate receptacles.

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) continues to research a generator for our building. We are exploring the idea of having a garage sale to clean out our storage rooms of items no longer needed. More to come later.

So Thankful for our Veterans and those who volunteer to serve.

May God Bless you and your family.

On behalf of all the Trustees,
Jack Curl

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FROM THE AUXILIARY



The colors of the season will soon be in full bloom and looking beautiful.

The Solvita (Blood Bank) Representative

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congratulated the Auxiliary on the success of our Blood Drive on March 19th.

The Auxiliary is sending 5 girls to Buckeye Girls State this summer. The schools represented are; 1 Sidney High, 2 Lehman Catholic, 1 Sidney Christian, and 1 Anna.

This year we are providing Scholarship Grants to four well qualified and deserving students.

Three Auxiliary officers attended the District meeting at Lima Post 96 on Sunday, March 3rd. Information was shared on how to compile and complete our yearly reports.

The next District meeting will be in Celina on Sunday, June 2 at 9:30 am. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

The Legion Appreciation Dinner is Saturday, May 4th, at 4:30. Please plan on attending to represent the Auxiliary.


The next Brunch will be on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Which in the past has been extremely well attended. This means lots of salads and desserts. It is difficult for us to call all our members, so please donate what you can, even if we don't get you called. We definitely appreciate all that you ladies do.

Election of officers was held at our April meeting. Auxiliary officers for the upcoming year are: President Linda Limbert, 1st Vice Mary Kies, 2nd Vice Jackie Gates, Secretary Julie Music, Treasurer Leah Muhlenkamp, Chaplain Deborah Moorman.

Remember our monthly meetings are now held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Please come early for lunch and enjoy some social time with us all. It's a fun time!

**Linda Limbert,
Post 217 Auxiliary President**

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**SHELBY COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

133 S. OHIO AVENUE
MONUMENTAL BUILDING
SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

PHONE 937-498-7282
FAX 937-498-7483
www.facebook.com/pages/Shelby-County-Veterans

WHAT WE DO

**Disability Claims/Non-Service Connect Pension
Emergency Financial Relief
Health Care/VAMC Transportation
Education
Burial/Grave Markers/Flag Holders**

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***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!**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

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