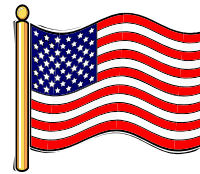


Voice of the Vets

Sidney American Legion

Post 217



NEWSLETTER

November - December, 2024

Sidney, OH 45365

FROM THE COMMANDER



To My Fellow Legionnaires,

Where has this year gone? Can't believe the Holiday Season is rapidly approaching. What a more perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for those around us. We never know what tomorrow may bring, so take a moment and acknowledge how great today is by expressing your gratitude for everything and everyone you have in your life. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the veterans, past, present, and future for your sacrifices in times of war and peace; thankful to their families who provide support so they could serve our country, and thankful for my American Legion family, my family, and friends.

† **In Remembrance:** The following Comrade of Post 217 has been transferred to Post Everlasting: **Iris Ricucci-USA**. Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaire and her family. This veteran has left her footprints on our hearts and will be greatly missed.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to Post 217. **Dale Mayes, II-USA** and **Clinton Schindewolf-USN**. Thank you for your service and for choosing Post 217. We look forward in having you as a part of our team!

Membership: Please see 1st Vice Commander Muhlenkamp's remarks regarding our membership update. He is working closely with our membership chair Gary Bonnoront to achieve 100% renewal. Please see either one if you have any questions regarding your 2025 membership. If you haven't already renewed,

you can mail your \$45 membership renewal to: American Legion Post 217, PO Box 297, Sidney, OH 45365. You can also renew online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>, click on "Renew membership online" or simply visit <https://mylegion.org>. You can reach me on (937) 638-9797 if you need any assistance. I appreciate everyone's efforts in making our organization strong through your membership.

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT: Once again this Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings and residences green from November 4-11, 2024. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

EXCITING NEWS! Our Veterans Memorial Park project is making great progress thanks to all our volunteers who have dedicated countless hours, especially to Jack Curl and the Trustees. We continue making improvements and additions. It is never too late to purchase a brick paver. Roger Sidle continues to work diligently on etching the bricks for our project. Thank you to everyone who supports and donates to this honorable tribute to veterans. Please see Jack Curl's entry for more details. Thank you to Tony Speelman, Bill Carpenter, Patricia Hamberg, and Jack Curl for your perseverance in putting together the 12'x 20' Gazebo on the Patio. What a wonderful job!!!

< Cont'd on Page 2 >

< Cont'd from Page 1 >

Sunday Brunch Update: We have a **Sunday Brunch** scheduled on **November 10, 2024, 9 a.m. to 12:30pm.** Please consider volunteering your time to assist with food preparation, serving line, and other wonderful opportunities. If unable to volunteer, please come and support your organization, the food is wonderful. You can contact Judy Johnson, (937) 638-9797 or the Veterans Center at (937) 492-6410 to become a part of this wonderful service. Don't delay, Call today!

Youth and Children: Post 217 has sponsored a new program titled "**4th Grade Flag Education Program**" which consisted of working in coordination with 4th grade teachers in our local schools. With this program, the students are provided with a comic book "Flag of Our Country." After an opportunity to read and study the book, they were given a 20-question test. Once we have all tests graded, the top boy and girl who placed the highest score will receive an award and advance to County, if top score there will advance to 2nd District. Thank you Mr. New (Hardin-Houston) and Mrs. Mays (Christian Academy) for allowing us to provide this educational opportunity to your 4th Grade Students.

Americanism and Government Testing: Post 217 will be administering the test to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 beginning early November. Grades 9 will take the test as practice for next year. It is comprised of a 50-question test in addition to a 300-word essay. There are 4 judging levels, Post, County, District, and State. Only 18 final winners will be selected at State. The winners will receive 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. What an outstanding opportunity to show our support. This year, Christian Academy, Hardin-Houston, and Sidney High School have volunteered to participate in this valuable program.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State: Buckeye Boys State will be held at Miami

University, Oxford, Ohio, June 8-15, 2025. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. If you know a junior in high school who would be an excellent delegate, please refer them to their school who in turn will submit a list of eligible candidates to Post 217. The post will then conduct interviews and select our representative(s) for the program. We will be sponsoring 6 delegates for 2025 in memory of Steve Peltier. If you have any questions or interest in being on Staff with Buckeye Boys State, please reach out to me. It is an extremely rewarding experience!

Gifts for Yanks Program: This program is completely dependent on the Legion Family fundraising efforts. This program provides Christmas Gifts and approves special projects for Veterans receiving care in Ohio VA Medical Centers and Veteran Homes. Our goal is to collect \$5,000. Will you please consider making a donation? You can also mail your donation to Sidney American Legion Post 217, P.O. Box 297, Sidney, OH 45365, please write "Gift for Yanks" in the memo line. Any monetary contribution makes the life of a veteran just a little bit better. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Upcoming Events:

November 5, 2024: Election Day

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

November 10, 2024: **Sunday Brunch** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Veterans Center

November 10, 2024: Marine Corps Birthday. Happy Birthday to our Marine Corp Veterans!

November 10, 2024: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919) Happy Birthday to our Auxiliary members.

< Cont'd on Page 3 >

November 11, 2024: Happy Veterans Day!

11 a.m. Veterans Day Ceremony, Court Square. Following the ceremony, there will be traditional Beans/Cornbread at the Veterans Center.

November 12, 2024: 9 a.m. Veterans Day Breakfast, Sidney High School Cafeteria, doors open at 8:30am. RSVP to Sidney High School.

November 28, 2024: Happy Thanksgiving

December 4, 2024: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. Anna Post 446 (Christmas Dinner)

December 7, 2024: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

December 15, 2024: Bill of Rights Day

December 25, 2024: Merry Christmas

January 1, 2025: Happy New Year

January 12, 2025: 2nd District Winter Conference, New Bremen Post 241, 9 a.m.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to ALL Veterans, Active Military, and their families. All of you have sacrificed so much in your lives and deserve nothing but honor and appreciation for everything you have done for this country.

“Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” ~*Douglas MacArthur*



Wishing all my Legion Family and Friends safe, happy, and blessed Holidays! I hope one of your New Year's Resolutions will be to increase your participation and support for our American Legion programs and projects. Strength in Unity! I look forward to serving with you in 2025!

**Your Commander,
Judy Johnson**

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FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

2023/24 Membership Goal achieved: 98.43%

2024/2025 Membership Goal: 504 Members
Members paid - 335, 66.5 % goal achieved
Winter holidays are quickly approaching, which means we will all be very busy with shopping, cooking, parties, and family gatherings. Some will travel to celebrate with their loved ones. Please don't allow yourself to get in a rush. Plan ahead and leave plenty of time for preparations and for travel so you will be able to safely enjoy the holidays stress free.

So why should I renew my American Legion Membership or invite veterans who are eligible but are not members to join? There are many reasons, some are personal reasons for each veteran, and other reasons are because of our desire to help our brother and sister veterans or to help the needs in our communities.

Some of the local programs that Post 217 is involved with are: “Sidney Veterans Association Honor Guard”: What better way to volunteer only a couple of hours a week and some weeks no time at all is needed to honor our departed Brother and Sister veterans on their final journey. We are honoring the wishes of a veteran, and we receive a sense of pride knowing we have helped to fulfill a veteran's final wish, and we help the family and friends send their loved one off for the final time. We could really use some additional volunteers to help, and you do not have to help every time you are asked. Contact Phil Wogoman or myself if you are interested.

“Boys State” – Select high school Junior boys are given the opportunity to learn how our government operates by spending a week during the summer at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio learning about the operation of our government, from local government to state government. Our Boys State Volunteers will spend the week with the students at Miami University and assist with the programs.

< Cont'd from Page 3 >

Additionally, we participate in the Americanism and Government Program offered to ninth through 12 graders at local schools. This consists of a 50-question test. At the August 2024 American Legion National Convention in New Orleans, Ohio was designated first in the nation for Americanism! This strongly shows the dedication and leadership of all involved with administering and preparing our students for these worthwhile programs. Great job everyone.

“Gifts for Yanks” Lead or help with our annual fund raising for our veterans who are living in veteran homes. Many of these veterans need daily living supplies and have little or no family to help them. Our support is vital to help keep our veterans who are living in veteran homes comfortably and supplied with the needs they deserve through their service to you and me in our military. They selflessly sacrificed themselves to help provide a country safe from our enemies. Are we asking too much for a little of your support in return?

As you can see, the American Legion Membership is busy working on providing support, not only for our veteran brothers and sisters, but also helping the youth of our community to become more knowledgeable about our country. Please consider volunteering a little time to help keep these and many other much needed programs active in our community.

Jerry Muhlenkamp
1st Vice Commander

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

Dear Fellow Veterans, Family, and Friends,

Hopefully, everyone is doing great!

We have many things going on at the Legion Building. The Eternal Flame light should be functioning by the time you receive this

newsletter. Metal attachments will be added to seal the area where it is connected to the

concrete base, this will prevent any water damage. Placement of brick pavers will be on hold for the winter as we need to put sand between and seal the ones already in place. We are so thankful to the many Donors and those purchasing the brick pavers. We have two more 2' x 2' Donor granite pavers to be placed. We have 3 more that have not been etched. If you would like to donate, please let us know.

The trustees voted to install electricity to the Gazebo, to lights to shine on the Eternal Flame, and lights to showcase the Veteran Memorial Park sign. The sign will be 4' x 6' and placed midway between the Gazebo and the walkway to the Eternal Flame. We will build a retaining wall at the base of the sign. The materials for the sign are being donated by Quality Steel Fabrications except for painting of the American Flag. The Eagle Scout Project for placement of the VFW War Medallion display is currently in progress and hopefully to be completed soon. The previous dirt mounds have been leveled; however, more dirt still needs to be obtained, then planting of grass seed. Thank you for everyone's patience as we work towards the completion of this project.

We have hired TICON (who originally completed our parking lot paving) to seal some minor cracks in the parking lot to prevent further damage during the winter months with freezing, thawing, and creating potholes. We have 12 parking blocks and 4 handicapped signs to install in front of the Park after the dirt is leveled. These parking spaces will be striped next Spring. We will focus on revising the Memorial located left of the entrance driveway, perhaps next Spring if we do not have enough time to complete this year. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated as any of our projects would go much quicker. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me.

We are thankful to all our Veterans for all they do, God Bless Them. They do things most do not realize they do. Sadly, a lot of the times,

< Cont'd on Page 5 >



Wednesday Bid Euchre Night

We are looking for Legionnaires, Auxiliary, & SAL members to join us for Wednesday Bid Euchre Night.

Spouses are welcome!

If interested, please provide name and telephone number to the Canteen and we will contact you once we have enough members interested in participating.

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
- Jerry Muhlenkamp, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Jim Moorman, 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