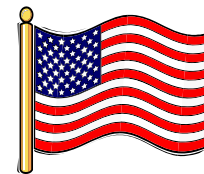


Voice of the Vets

Sidney American Legion

Post 217



NEWSLETTER

May - June, 2025

Sidney, OH 45365

FROM THE COMMANDER



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:

Jack Richardson-USN, Korea and Terry Richardson-USA, Vietnam. Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaires and their family.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new member to Post 217: **Zachariah Webber.** 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 90.67% renewal; thank you to all who have submitted your renewal early to help us achieve this percentage. We still have 50 expired members to renew for 2025 to reach our goal of 100% before the next renewal date begins July 1, 2025 for 2026 membership year. A list of those needing to be renewed is posted on the bulletin board in the entrance way into the Canteen.

Calling All Members: We are faced with a growing challenge of recruiting new members and having our current membership participate in post events and activities. I am calling on our

members (if able), to please join us in our monthly meeting. We need everyone's input and suggestions on what will make this a place to frequent and bring your families. Currently, there are only a handful of members who religiously give of their time and efforts to keep us going. I sometimes hear complaints, but I don't see those members attending the meeting to voice their concerns or suggestions. I ask if you want to see improvements, don't voice them with others, come to the meeting and share it with the members. I know times are changing and we need our younger veterans' ideas too. We are all interested in making improvements that will provide a place you would be proud to visit and bring your family.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State: We are proud to sponsor 7 delegates to Buckeye Boys State, June 8-15, 2025 at Miami University. They are Marcus Cadena-Agius, O'Keefe Cooper, Nicholas Dietz, Calvin Linson, Jack Meyer, Myles Steenrod, and Terrence Thomas. It is "A week to change a lifetime." If you are interested in becoming a Buckeye Boys State staff member or assisting with our program, please contact Judy Johnson, (937) 638-9797. You will find it extremely rewarding!

Scholarship Awardees: Thank you to our scholarship committee for dedicating your time in selecting our scholarship winners. The following members comprised our committee: Chairman-Dale Peterson, Judy Johnson, Theresa Manteuffel, James Moorman, Jerry Muhlenkamp, and Bob Shoffner. We awarded four \$2,500 Scholarships and two \$1,000 Kent Knight Memorial Scholarships for a total of \$12,000. Congratulations to the following winners: Lorelei Chambers, Owen Hersberger,

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Andrew Thorne, Tatum Wentz, Ainsley Wiford, and Carter Wooddell.

Congratulations to Our 50-Year Members:

The following members have achieved 50-year membership in The American Legion: Arnold Braun, Jimmie Cooke, Gary Coverstone, Paul Davis, Kenneth Krueger, Robert Meyer, Michael Nolte, Norbert Platfoot, Ralph Pleiman, Thomas Reier, and Robert Steinke. Thank you for being a part of a great organization and for your service!

Mother's Day Brunch: Please join us for our Mother's Day Brunch, May 11, 2025, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mike Humphrey, S.A.L. Commander, has arranged for the Rotary Club students to volunteer once more to help make this a success. 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.

Election of Officers: An election of officers was held at a regular meeting on April 20, 2025. The elected officers are Commander-Judy Johnson, 1st Vice Commander-Jerry Muhlenkamp, 2nd Vice Commander-Gary (Tiny) Stockton, Adjutant-Patricia Hamberg, Treasurer-Rick Lunsford, Membership Chair-Gary Bonnoront, Chaplain-Jack Curl, Service Officer-Sherrye Lamma. Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your leadership in the roles you have accepted! Everyone, please consider running for an office next year, I know there are more leaders-to-be in our membership with wonderful ideas!

Treasurer and Membership Assistants: Are you looking for a way to serve a few hours each month? Exciting opportunities with shared responsibilities? We are still looking for two motivated individuals to be our Treasurer and Membership assistants. One would be working closely with our Treasurer, Rick Lunsford, the other with our Membership Chair Gary Bonnoront to learn the ins and outs of their roles. This would be valuable to ensure continuity should someone be on vacation or

extended leave. It does not require a lot of time, just a desire to serve your organization. Please call me at (937) 638-9797 or reach out to either Rick or Gary for further information.

Kitchen/Bar Flooring: Elsner's Painting has completed installation of our new epoxy flooring located at the bar, kitchen, and stock room. What a wonderful improvement! If you haven't seen it yet, please stop by. We continue to accept any amount of financial donations to help cover the cost. To date, we have collected \$5,000 towards our \$15,550 goal. Thank you to those individuals who contributed to this project. If you decide to donate, please write on the memo line: Kitchen flooring project. Your donation is another meaningful way of contributing to your organization. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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 7, 2025: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Jackson Center Post 493.

May 11, 2025: Mother's Day Brunch, Veterans Center, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

May 18, 2025: American Legion 2nd District Summer Convention, 9 a.m. DeGraff Post 0652

May 20, 2025: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m.

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May 26, 2025: Memorial Day Ceremony,
Shelby County Court Square, 9 a.m.

June 4, 2025: Shelby County Council
American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Sidney
Post 217

June 8-June 15, 2025: Buckeye Boy State,
Miami University, Oxford, OH

June 14, 2025: Flag Day

June 15, 2025: Father's Day

June 17, 2025: American Legion Post 217
Meeting, 6 p.m.

July 11-July 13, 2025: American Legion
Department of Ohio Convention,
Independence, OH. The deadline for Hotel
Registration is June 10 at Holiday Inn
Cleveland South, Delegate and Alternate
Registration deadline is June 27..

**"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**

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FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

May – June 2025 Newsletter

Spring has been here now for a while and it is so nice to be able to enjoy the outdoors. We are working on contacting members of Post 217 who have not paid dues and to be honest, progress is slow but we continue to get closer to our goal. I again encourage those who have not paid their 2024 dues and 2025 dues to try to get them paid as soon as possible because the deadline for 2024 payment is quickly approaching. I understand circumstances come up for all of us at some point in our lives and we are here to help you if we are able, so please contact us if we might be able to help you keep your continuous membership active. There are multiple opportunities for us to assist you, just please keep us in the loop. If there are things we may have done that makes you not want to continue with your membership, please, please let us know so we are able to

evaluate and correct things that are important to you and other fellow Legion Members.

On April, 2nd I attended the County American Legion meeting at the Highland Post in Anna, Ohio. I spoke to our county Legion leadership about our idea for an American Legion Air Rifle Club, hoping we are able to generate more interest, especially from our younger Veterans, to join us in providing some helpful and useful skills, and personal development for some of our area youth.

I have some additional ideas for our Post that I feel our Veterans, and community could greatly benefit from but I don't want too many projects at one time or nothing gets accomplished, so let's try to bring our current projects to action or to a close so we are able to keep moving forward.

On a side note, 2025 marks the 100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball. We are trying to contact former Post 217 Legion baseball players and coaches to invite them to our 100-year celebration for American Legion Baseball. This will be for all former players, and coaches and their wives on Saturday May 31st starting at 7:00 pm in the Legion Hall. We have a DJ lined up, food and drinks will be provided. Please help spread the word. Information is available at the canteen. Please try to find a little time to bring your children, grandchildren, or friends to Custenborder Field to cheer on and support our baseball program. We are again sponsoring 4 teams of different age groups. If our schedules are not posted on our web-site yet we will try to get them posted very soon. This is a great chance to spend some fun time with many people from around the area. Did you know: Our 39th President of the United States, President Jimmy Carter, is the only President of the United States to have played American Legion Baseball, and in 2023 President Carter was presented two Sidney American Legion baseball jerseys (one red jersey #39 and one blue jersey #39) with an embroidered patch of the "Seal of the President of the United States" attached to each jersey! Have a safe and enjoyable Summer!

**Jerry Muhlenkamp,
1st Vice Commander**

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Hello Veterans, Family and Friends.
Hopefully, all is well. What an interesting
couple of months.

- 1) Elsnor's Painting has completed the epoxy flooring located behind the bar, in the kitchen, and stock room. It has enhanced the beauty of our facility.
- 2) A new commercial range/oven has been ordered and installed.
- 3) The loose gutters have been fastened down.
- 4) The ramp off the Patio door project has been tabled at this time.
- 5) The door push bars to facilitate emergency exiting have been implemented. We are still working with the contractor regarding the set-up and key card access.
- 6) The cost for installing handicapped door openers would be approximately \$25,000. Without financial support of donations, this project is placed on hold for future consideration.

- 1) We will be working diligently to complete the Memorial Park to hopefully have a dedication ceremony this year.
- 2) There are 3 park benches still available to be sold for \$750 each. The memorial plaque is included in the price.
- 3) The Memorial located at facility entrance drive needs redone. Installation of gray pavers and salt/pepper stones to be placed. There will be a light installed to enhance the beauty of the memorial.
- 4) The Veteran Memorial Park sign, 6 feet by 4 feet coming soon. Once completed and the weather has improved, it will be placed midway between the memorial bricks and the Gazebo. A brick retaining wall will surround the sign and it will have a light.

- Please share any positive suggestions on bringing in more members, for the good of the American Legion and Veterans Center. We sometimes make mistakes in planning and implementing projects, but it is not intentional. If you see anything you feel should be done differently, don't wait to complain, come forward to voice your opinion before the problem arises. Be Positive! We are all here to serve one another not to degrade each other. Live your life so others will want to be a part of yours.

We continue to be in desperate need of Honor/Color Guard members. Several members are not physically capable of continuing to volunteer. We should have at least 13-15 members; we are now averaging 5-6. It breaks our hearts we cannot provide a full Funeral Honor Guard/Rifle Squad. The veteran, family, and friends deserve much better. We know everyone is busy, but it only

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takes a few hours or less. You do not need to be present for every funeral, it is only a small amount of time to render honors to our veterans. May God grant you more hours to help serve, so thankful for those who do. Please consider volunteering so we can show our veteran families and friends that we really honor our fellow veterans.

Jack Curl, Head Trustee

FROM THE SONS of AMERICAN LEGION

Wishing you a Happy New Year to all!

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With over 110,000 American Legion Riders in more than 2,000 chapters across every domestic department and at least three foreign countries, the community is united in service and camaraderie.

VISIT: <https://www.legion.org/riders>



FROM THE AUXILIARY



The Auxiliary hosted the District Meeting on March 2nd. The ladies shared lots of information on reports and activities.

Our annual Blood Drive on March 18th was very successful.

Our yearly Appreciation Award was presented to Julie Music at the Appreciation Dinner on April 26th. She is a valuable asset to our Unit, serving as Secretary as well as Chairman of VA&R, Buckeye Girls State, Poppies and Scholarships.

The Auxiliary also recognized Legion members, Jack Curl, Jim Neilan and Jim Muhlenkamp for all their help in getting the new equipment for the kitchen, which we so greatly needed.

Please remember our upcoming Mother's Day Brunch. Enjoy the day with Mom and leave the cooking to us.

The next District meeting is in Van Wert on June 1st. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

**Linda Limbert,
Post 217 Auxiliary President**



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!**



Post Officers:

- Judy Johnson, Commander
- Jerry Muhlenkamp, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary “Tiny” Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Jack Curl, 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