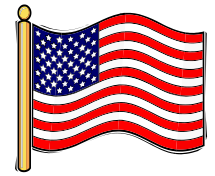


# Voice of the Vets Sidney American Legion Post 217



**NEWSLETTER**

**May - June, 2026**

**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: Anthomy Barga-USA, WWII, Don Davis-USA, Korea, Richard Roth-USAF, Korea, and John Whittenberger-USN, Korea. 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 members to Post 217: Kristin Allen-USAF, James Bassford-USA, Isaiah Brux-USMC, Jersain Brux-USA, Brian Driskell-USA, Adam Kelly-USMC, Timothy Kennedy-USN, Jonathan Miles-USMC, Seth Salmons-USN, Patrick Smith-USA, Marvin Weber-USA. 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 95.13% renewal; thank you to all who have submitted your renewal to help us achieve this

percentage. We still have 34 members who have expired memberships to renew for 2026 to reach our goal of 100% before the next renewal date begins July 1, 2026, for the 2027 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 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 meetings the third Tuesdays of each month. We need everyone's input and suggestions on what will improve our organization to become 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 do not see those members attending the meeting to voice their concerns or suggestions. I ask if you want to see improvements, do not voice them with others, come to the meeting, and share them 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 6 delegates to Buckeye Boys State, June 14-21, 2026, at Miami University. They are Cody Baker, Andrew

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Benton, Michael Faber, Alexander Goubeaux, Benjamin O'Leary, and Josiah Paul. 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:** The scholarship award luncheon was held on April 23, 2026. Thank you to our scholarship committee for dedicating your time in selecting our scholarship winners. The following members comprised our committee: Chairman-Dale Peterson, Gary Bonnoront, Gary Cuncell, Judy Johnson, Theresa Manteuffel, Tony Speelman, and Dan VanFossen. We awarded six \$2,500 Scholarships and two \$1,000 Kent Knight Memorial Scholarships for a total of \$17,000. Congratulations to the following winners: Sophia Bosslet-SHS, Joni Martin-SHS, Riley Randolph-SHS, Keaton Schaffer-SHS, Brooks Taylor-SHS, Addison Weigandt-FHS, EmmaLee Carter-CAS, and Rebecca Keller-CAS.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Flag Education Winner:**

Congratulations to Luke Williamson, Holy Angels Catholic School, for being selected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> District 4<sup>th</sup> Grade winner in the Flag Education Program. He was presented his award by 2<sup>nd</sup> District 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Tom Tierney on April 29, 2026, at Holy Angels Catholic School. Thank you to all the schools who participated in the American Legion 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Flag Education Program sponsored by Post 217: Christian Academy, Hardin-Houston, Holy Angels, and Northwood Schools.

**Congratulations 50-Year/ 70-Year Members:**

The American Legion Awards Dinner/ Ceremony was held on April 18, 2026. The following member was honored for achieving

70-year continuous membership in The American Legion: Ralph Schemmel. Our members honored for 50-year continuous membership were: Gerald Baker, Glenn Deland, Ralph Inderrieden, William Joslin, Patrick Kinsella, Douglas Millhoff, Boyce Morrow, Albert Sanders, and Robert Shoffner. Thank you for being a part of a great organization and for your service!

**Election of Officers:** An election of officers was held on April 21, 2026. Thank you to all the members who ran for office and those who came and voted. The elected officers are Commander-Judy Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander-Jerry Muhlenkamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander-Gary (Tiny) Stockton, Treasurer-Rick Lunsford, Trustees: Jack Curl and Patricia Hamberg. The following appointed members are Adjutant-Patricia Hamberg, 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 work 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.

**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 with the assistance of many volunteers!

**Upcoming Events:**

May 3, 2026: American Legion 2<sup>nd</sup> District Summer Convention, 9 a.m. American Legion Post 382, Bluffton, 154 N. Main Street, Bluffton (Third Floor)

May 10, 2026: Mother's Day

May 19, 2026: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 23, 2026: Memorial Day Ceremony, Shelby County Court Square, 9 a.m.

June 3, 2026: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Fort Loramie Post 355

June 14, 2026: Flag Day

June 14-June 25, 2026: Buckeye Boy State, Miami University, Oxford, OH

June 21, 2026: Father's Day

June 16, 2026: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m. (Installation of Officers)

July 10-July 12, 2026: American Legion Department of Ohio Convention, Toledo, OH. The deadline for Hotel Registration is June 6 at Hilton Garden Inn-Toledo Downtown, Delegate and Alternate Registration deadline is June 25, 2026.

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

~Thomas M. Smith

**Judy Johnson,  
Commander**

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**FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

Spring has finally sprung! Trees are turning green, Lawns are being mowed, Gardens are being planted. What a wonderful time of the year!

We still had 32 members not paid for 2025 membership. We have had some troubles locating them. If your contact information is not current, or you are not sure, please check with us and give us your current contact information. We keep this secured and use it only for official American Legion purposes.

Our 2026 American Legion Post 217 annual election of officers is now completed. I would like to thank everyone who participated as candidates, helpers, and voters for your participation. It has been a long time since we have had so much participation. I am looking ahead to next year and I am hoping we can increase participation by 50%. Our election results are:

Judy Johnson as Commander,  
Jerry Muhlenkamp as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander,  
Tiny Stockton as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander,  
Rick Lunsford as Treasurer, Jack Curl and Patricia Hamburg as Property Trustees.

Please share your thoughts and ideas with them as we need everyone's input in order to

improve our post and have it enjoyable for everyone. And if you have an interest of becoming involved, Commander Johnson has some appointed positions to fill so let he know as soon as possible your interest.

***Jerry Muhlenkamp,  
1st Vice Commander***

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**FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Hello and Blessings to our fellow Veterans, Families, and Friends.

Hopefully, you are doing great. Winter seems to be almost over, and projects are ready to go.

The following is an update on the Trustees projects:

1. The handicap ramp outside the patio door is completed and the railing is installed.
2. There are still approximately 10-12 black chairs available for \$5 each. Let us know if you are interested.
3. The outside building restoration project has begun. Once the repairs have been made, the building will be painted like the original colors. The sign holding the American Legion emblem has been replaced and still needs to be painted. The stucco on the walls and around the entrance doors have been repaired. We are hoping to complete the project very soon.

4. We are still working on the Veteran Memorial Park. Somehow, we will complete it, hopefully soon. Need to sow grass seed, complete the walkway to the Memorial Flame and install parking blocks. The various flags that need to be replaced at the park will be completed in time for the opening ceremony. The date is still pending.
5. We are in the process of replacing the shrubs around the Gazebo. Perhaps the winter was harsh or the deer, not sure which one, or maybe a little of both.
6. Anyone interested in having their name engraved on a granite donor paver, we are accepting donations beginning at \$100. These are the pavers lining the walkway to the Memorial Flame. Please let us know.
7. Nickol Monuments in Versailles have partnered with us to engrave the veteran bricks for honorably discharged veterans. The cost remains at \$50 per brick. Applications are available at the Canteen or on our website: [sidneylegionpost217.org](http://sidneylegionpost217.org).
8. The City of Sidney has notified us regarding the Area 11 Inflow & Infiltration project, which includes our property within its boundaries. We have until April 30, 2027, to have our property building drain and building sewer inspected by a professional. To date, we have received two Bids for this project. If repairs are needed, they must be completed by April 30,

2029. More information to follow. This is at our own expense.

- 9. Anyone desiring to purchase an outside bench with a plaque, please let us know. 1/3 Bench is \$300, 1/2 Bench is \$400, and one complete Bench is \$750. This includes the cost of the plaque and engraving. Ideally, we would like to purchase two more benches to place on either side of the entrance doors to the Canteen and Banquet Hall.

We are so thankful for all our Volunteers. When you volunteer, it gives others a break. We are looking for ideas to encourage the younger veterans to join and participate in the operation of the Post. Our mature (older) veterans and family need your help keeping things going that were either started, was a part of the build-up of the organization, and to maintain our Post 217. God Bless our many members! They are great, lots of ideas.

Our Honor Guard can now resume their support of various events. WOW! New members have joined, members have returned from out of state, and others have recovered from their medical conditions. Thank you to all our Honor Guard members.

The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) organization is recruiting for a commander and adjutant. Unfortunately, if none is willing to assume these positions, the DAV may have to close their charter. They need officers and members. Please consider helping, if possible, to keep this organization thriving.

Please let us know if you have any concerns and/or suggestions on improving the American Legion. If you have something that may need attention, please contact the Trustees. We will

give our full attention to addressing your concerns and try to be of assistance.

May God Bless our post volunteers, veterans, family, and friends.

***On Behalf of the Trustees,  
God Bless All and Prayers,***

***Jack Curl, Head  
Trustee***

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**FROM THE POST CHAPLAIN**

Hopefully, everyone is in great health. We sometimes experience problems in which trial and tribulation make us stronger. However, we learn how to manage it. Prayer always helps in addition to the people who support and help you make it through your day. We must always help others and share God's Love for us.

Lifting someone up usually helps to bring your burdens to feel smaller or lighter. We sometimes lose our fellow veterans, male and female. We need to reach out to their spouses to let them know we are there for them. I am still planning of visiting nursing homes to check on the veterans.

May God Bless all of you in helping others which in turn, serves as an example of love. Sometimes we may have moments that is not of God's will, but the other side. We must remain strong and work together for the Legion Family and Friends.

***God Bless All, Jack Curl  
Chaplain, Post 217***

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**FROM THE SONS of AMERICAN LEGION**

SAL monthly meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each odd numbered month, at





### Wednesday Bid Euchre Night

*All Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members are eligible to join in the fun!*

*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
- Jerry Muhlenkamp, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Jack Curl, Chaplain
- Sherrye Lamma, Post Service Officer

#### Executive Committee:

- Bill Knasel
- Jerry Muhlenkamp
- Jim Neilan
- Buddy Terry
- Mickey Burress
- Jimmy Sloan

#### Board of Trustees:

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [WWW.SIDNEYLEGIONPOST217.ORG](http://WWW.SIDNEYLEGIONPOST217.ORG)