



**BERKELEY POST NO. 14
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA**



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919

Address changes, including zip code changes are important. If you have a change, please complete a Change of Address form or contact the Ken Moneagle so you will continue to receive all your publications from this post, plus state and national publications.

November 2016



Commander

The American Legion Family is growing together as a team- look around and see what has been happening in our Post over the past few months. We had Memorial Day ceremonies that were supported by each of our groups. On Flag Day many of us went into our local communities and conducted more ceremonies. The Home Club has hosted several parties that were very successful. During the State Convention meeting in Huntington; the common theme from everyone was, "Work Together". We must continue to be a band of Brothers and Sisters to continue our march forward to build our Post as a strong voice for our Veterans. You have to share it, every event we host; every member needs to help get the word out. We are utilizing the local media, but we all know word of mouth is the best way to get the word out. I am working closely with the senior management of the Martinsburg VA Medical Center to ensure that any event that we host that the Veterans in our area know about it.

I am a committee member of the new multi-state Community Veterans Engagement Board (**FourState Cveb**) on Facebook, supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are working with several organizations that fully support our Veterans and are willing to help in any way possible. We had our first Veteran Service Organization Flag Retirement Ceremony on September 10th 2016 at the VFW Picnic grounds. We had several events throughout our community including the Veterans Day 5K at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center and the Post Family participated in the Veterans Day Doughboy Wreath Laying ceremony.

I have built a bridge with our local VFW Commander, Mike Keller and the Eastern Panhandle Marine Corps League Commandant, Tim Murphy to show that "WE CAN, and WILL" work together. This is very similar to the Seabee motto, "CAN DO". We all have one common goal, to focus on service to Veterans, service members and our community. We must form these bonds to grow and thrive. Much like the Joint Military bases around the globe. Remember this, there is Strength in Numbers! Thank you for all you do to support us. We have to get out of the mindset of, "We tried that, it didn't work" mentality. The American Legion must become appealing to the younger generation of Veterans. As your new Commander, I am willing to try new ideas and revisit old ones as well. Our Officers and I believe that we can and will make a difference in our Post, so please stand behind us as we move forward with the search for our new Post home.

If you have not heard, the City of Martinsburg has ended its lease with us. We have to be out of our building by December 31, 2016. Additionally, the lot we currently own in Martinsburg is up for sale. We have been actively searching for a new Post home. Once I have news on a new building to call home, or we decide to meet at an alternate location, I will get the news to you ASAP. It is imperative that we have your updated membership information to stay in contact. Please send all updates to Charles Stanley at charles.stanley7293@yahoo.com or 304-707-3106.

The VFW has opened its doors to us for a meeting place for card carrying members as well as the AMVETS Post 38, and the American Legion Post 71, but some members voiced their opinions that it would not work. That same mentality that I spoke of earlier. As a test of that theory, we are having an all Auxiliary Christmas Party (the Sons of the American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the American Legion Riders) at the VFW in Martinsburg on December 16th from 6:30Pm- 10:30 pm, which includes children. For more details contact Karen or Tom Smith at karentom1@comcast.net.

Please remember this Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks and charity. Toys for Tots is once again up and running. This gives all Legion members a chance to donate some time and/ or toys to help out local children in need. If you have any donations, please reach out to Tim Murphy at 703-980-3878.

This Thanksgiving I give thanks for all of the Legion Family's membership and support to the American Legion and for all of those who help run this Post effectively, including all the friends I have made and my wonderful family for supporting me in my efforts at the American Legion. May you all have a blessed holiday season!

One last thing, I will be unable to attend our next Post meeting in December due to my wife's upcoming brain surgery scheduled for that date, so I am having a special ALL Family Membership Meeting- Post, SAL, Auxiliary, and ALR on December 15, 2016 at 7pm. At this time I have the VA Medical Center Director presenting the 50th Anniversary Lapel Pin to all our Vietnam Veterans that attend this meeting, so please attend if you are able. This will be the last meeting in our Post building. Let us work together as a Post Family and move into 2017 on a good note!

Thank you– Ken Moneagle

Adjutant Corner

Thanks, to all the members who have paid their dues for 2017. If you haven't paid yet, please pay them now to keep your membership up-to-date. At this time we are in the 2017's year of membership, and by National, if you haven't paid by January 1st you are delinquent in your dues and when they make the 2018 membership roster in February your card will show 1 year. But don't worry if you pay in the beginning of the year I will make the correcting on your card.

Because the National and State dues went up we had to raise the Post dues to make up the \$10.00 difference. You can still pay online by credit card so the \$40.00 will not hurt so much all at one time. Just go to MyLegion.org, just make sure you put down that you are paying your Post 14 dues or you will be put in Post 200 membership in Charleston, WV for the next two years until they can get it straighten out.

Remember if you have any interest in what is going on at the post; come to the Post meeting which goes on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the meeting room on the second floor. If there is something you are interested in for the good of your Legion, please bring it before the Officers Committee, we are 8 members trying to make the Post 14 stay running for 522 members to enjoy the benefits. There are a lot of programs that we do that could use the help of our membership. Action speaks louder than words, so if you can say what should be going on, you can help make it happen.

Thanks for your service. Chuck Stanley

From the Americanism Officer

Special Thanks to those who help in the schools with the Flag Education. Thanks to Otis batten, Charles Stanley, Jacob McCarty, Bob Speaks and John Styer.. We trained 2000 students in Berkeley County. Also thank you to the Berkeley County Schools for letting us in to conduct the training.

American Legion Mountaineer Boys State will be held at Jackson's Mill, as always this year. Dates are 11-17 June 2016. We will start recruiting very soon for the 2017 session. Remember the Berkeley county has the current Governor from Hedgesville High School, Mr. Nile Deale. If you are interested in helping or know of a sponsor or would like to sponsor a citizen please contact Robbie Robinson, 304-260-0851.

Would like to thank all who help with the Veterans Day program. The AF JR ROTC Det 0-71 of Martinsburg, which consist of all four High Schools in Berkeley County, get a special thanks for honoring our Veterans this year. This was the first time they have conducted the ceremony and They did a great Job. If you see any of the Cadets Thank them for there support.

The Oratorical Program is in full swing. Mike Immel is the District Chairman. Open to 9 -12 grade in High School. If you know a student who is interested please contact the Post at 304-267-6100.

Thank you- Robbie Robinson

House Committee Chairman

It seems strange that just 2 months after being elected the new House Committee Chairman, my first article for the Post 14 Newsletter would be about the “closing” of our Home Club. First and foremost, the situation is TEMPORARY. Our Committee has been looking all over Berkeley County for a new suitable location. We have looked at several locations within the City limits, at one location in North Berkeley County and I believe it’s been 3 locations in South Berkeley County.

A new Business Plan for the Home Club is almost complete. I have to thank our manager Chrissy and Post 14’s CPA office for all the assistance in writing a proper plan. Once in a new location, we hope to offer a more restaurant like, social atmosphere type of location. We are planning a menu for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner and not just the “Bar Food” that has been offered in the past.

For those of you who think this is a “pipedream” I believe one member called it, I remind you that on our last 2 days of business, October 28th & 29th, the Home Club did over \$1200.00 in sales thanks to the proper planning of a few people led by our Manager Chrissy Rainey.

I encourage and plead with the Post 14 members to become involved in finding a new home. If you know of an available location, let myself or our Commander Ken Moneagle or 1st Vice-Commander Brian Tolstyka know. Lord knows we both have been driving our Realtor Tilly crazy. I ask for your patience and prayers as I attempt to find and help steer the Post in growing us a comfortable place to gather in friendship and eat, drink and most importantly form a welcoming place for that lonely Veteran that need a place and family to go to.

Thank you- Frank C. Fischer

American Legion Auxiliary

Happy Holidays. Over Veterans day members of the auxiliary participated in the Veterans Day celebration at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center and the annual ceremony in downtown Martinsburg. Thank you to all who attended. With the holidays upon us please take a moment and remember those that cannot be with us. It's getting cold out, so if you know a Veteran in need of shelter or in crisis please call 1-877-4AID-VET.

Recently an auxiliary member, Wendy Roy, had a house fire. Wendy is someone who always volunteers her time for fundraisers and for our Veterans. Her and her family lost clothes, household items and Christmas presents. If you have items you would like to donate please contact Sarah Tolstyka, stolstyka@gmail.com, Sharon Kauffman or Connie Gano.

The ladies auxiliary continues to work closely with the post to secure a new home. We will continue to keep you posted on meetings and progress on our Facebook page.

Sarah M. Tolstyka, American Legion Auxiliary President

Sons of the American Legion

Effective immediately, we will no longer be having SAL meetings at American Legion Post 14 on Race Street. We will notify all members of the new meeting location once that has been established. We are still collecting membership dues. Our temporary mailing address is:

Jeff Ryman
Squadron 14 Adjutant
144 Grantham Farm Road
Martinsburg, WV 25403

SAL membership fee is \$25. Dual members and anyone under 18 is \$20. Dual members should sent their payment to the above address, not to the Post.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and hope you all have a happy holiday season. Remember we are here to serve the Veterans and the Post.

Thank you,
Brian Gano, SAL Commander

American Legion Riders

The Riders then joined the Marine Corps League on a ride to raise funds for their various charities including "Toys for Tots" and others. The God Bless America Ride was not nearly as big a success as last year (3,300 bikes) to only around (700 bikes), thanks to the wrath of Mother Nature. We are looking forward to next year and nicer weather. Since then, we have done a Rocky Gap fun ride, a Bike & car show at the VA Hospital, and Williamsport Bike night. We were proud to join with riders from Winchester, Charles Town, Brunswick, and several groups from Maryland (about 150 bikers) to escort 2 charter bus loads of wounded Veterans from Walter Reed Medical Center to White's Ferry for an all day picnic put on by the town of Poolesville. It was a wonderful event and the Veterans were so appreciative of the escort. We will return next year if at all possible. We rode in Rattle the Runway Ride, this commemorative ride allowed us to show our patriotism by remembering the Heroes whose lives were taken on that fateful day on the morning of September 11, 2001 in the 15th year Anniversary for flights #175, #11, #77, and #93. Also the Riders raised over \$1000 for St Jude Children's Hospital from two collections at Walmart in Martinsburg and Spring Mills.

Thank you to all the Riders who have participated.
Ken Moneagle- ALR Director

Monthly Meetings

House/Finance/Executive 6 pm, 1st/3rd Thursdays
Post 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday
Auxiliary 6 pm, 2nd Thursday
SAL TBD
Riders 6:30pm, 3rd Wednesday

With the exception of the House/Finance/Executive meeting, all meetings are open to members. Come support the activities of your Post!

ILL OR HURTING AND IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Please keep Gill Foster and his family in your prayers, he is currently in ICU at the VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV. If you are able to stop by, sign the note in the window for him.

Keep the following members in your prayers as they battle their health / personal issues-

Jack Lauer
Brian Tolstyka
Connie Gano
Sharon Kauffman
Wendy Roy

Also keep my wife Julie Moneagle in your prayers, it has been a little over a year since our battle with breast cancer and now she is faced with surgery to remove a brain tumor next month.

Continue to pray for our Veterans who have served and are still serving to defend our country.

Berkeley Post No. 14
The American Legion
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Martinsburg, WV 25404

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MARTINSBURG WV
PERMIT NO. 94**

Return Service Requested



At Post #14, we're working together to support our veterans. We could use your help. Support your organization and home club!

Thanksgiving Day—Nov 24

Hanukkah begins—Dec 24
Christmas Day—Dec 25
New Year's Eve—Dec 31

Vision for a Strong America:
Strong National Security
Taking Care of Veterans
Mentoring Youth
Promoting Patriotism and Honor