Highlights from Spring Conference

Virginia Beach

The “Awareness Walk” held on the beach during our spring conference

National Commander Dale Barnett addressing the Department Executive Committee during the spring conference at Virginia Beach

Department of Virginia oratorical contestants with (L/R) National Commander Barnett, National President Sharon Conaster, Winner Timothy Pack, 3rd place Jelanie Williams, 2nd place Alanna Stone, Department Commander Jim Chapman and Department President Janet Renner.

Department President Janet Renner addressing the Ladies Auxiliary during the spring conference

Department Commander Jim Chapman and Department President Janet Renner taking a moment for a photo op.
Looking Back

As the 2015 – 2016 Legion year as your commander fast approaches the end, I have been reflecting on the successes and incompleted goals set last July. A major success has been the travel to posts and events across the width and breadth of our great department.

I had the opportunity to lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, meet the current CMSGT of the Air Force, carry long lost medals of a Vietnam combat hero to a family living in California, enjoy Legion companionship in Indianapolis and the national convention in Baltimore with folks from all over the nation. While those have been wonderful and memorable perks of the job, the real treat has been the humbling and enjoyable visits to posts in Virginia.

I made up my mind I would attend every invitation received. Unfortunately, at times there were simultaneous requests for a date and as big as I am, simply couldn’t be in two places at the same time. Speaking of being big, you’ll probably remember that I lost 60 lbs in preparation for the job you all bestowed upon me? Well, after all the fine “fixins” at all the wonderful post events, I found 20 of the 60 lbs I lost. Not complaining mind you, just reminiscing.

I certainly want to thank all the folks who invited me for a visit. I was going to remember all of them but somehow lost count. I remember the Post 164 Boy Scout Day in Grundy and the event at the Breaks State Park because it was so far out in the boondocks my GPS couldn’t find my way out. I ended up in Kentucky and the GPS said turn right. It was a dirt road the ended in about 100 yards at a trailer house and about 20 Chihuahua dogs yapping and chasing the car. I noted someone peaking out the window curtains and figured a fast reverse was in order.

Another turn of events occurred at my planned Homecoming scheduled for Chincoteague Island on the Eastern Shore. How many Homecomings are canceled due to high water? One of the folks at Chincoteague Post 159 sent me a picture just before the event and it was a duck swimming down the street in front of the Post and hotel. We did hold the Homecoming in Northern Virginia and had great attendance. However, some passed on their disappointment at not being able to make a first ever visit to Chincoteague. That led to the joint Legion, SAL and Aux first ever “Spring Fling” in Chincoteague. Post 159 put on a great event and talk is they would like to make that an annual event. Recommend you don’t miss the next one.

While all visits were memorable, a few really stuck out; Post 25 took me to the Newport News military Museum that was originally started by Post 25 and now run by the city. As awesome place that I had no idea existed, go see it. Post 74 took me to a privately built and owned Vietnam War exhibit and museum that is so real it will give you chills! Then there is the Tank Museum that is simply awesome. Nothing can outdo the 17th district planned wreath laying event at the Tomb of the Unknown. Thanks forever for Bob Eidsvoog driving me around, that’s no place for a “country boy” to navigate.

I had some great stew at Post 79, a visit to the 6th district that 8 posts were represented, visits to Hampton VA and Salem VA where I signed up a member at both places, the great parade in Hampton (3rd District) that about done me in trying to keep up with the long legged folks in front. I really enjoyed the annual fund raiser of the Healing Waters Flying Fishing project where I met and shared dinner with a Medal Of Honor recipient and Journalist Tom Brokaw. My visits to Boulder Crest Retreat and Warrior Retreat at Bull Run for veterans and their families’ suffering the effects of PTSD and many more special places in Virginia.

I want to thank Bob Susan for his dedicated work on Membership, while so far we haven’t reached the 60K goal, we haven’t given up. Bob made a real change in keeping members aware by developing about 30,000 email addresses that get his weekly membership report. The report covers about every angle possible to keep those interested informed. On top of that, he uses the report to keep members informed on other department events and issues. We were also able to charter the first ever De-

New Legion Year

Yes, I cannot believe we have completed another year of Legion activities. Department Commander Jim Chapman has done an outstanding job this year. He has travelled over the entire state spreading the ideals and concerns of our veterans he has been tireless in his efforts. Thank you Jim for being an excellent Commander. You had a great team and I know you are proud of them and all of the accomplishments this year.

Since we are at the beginning of a new American Legion year I feel I should make a few observations.

Post officers I ask you to seriously take a close look at some of the most successful posts in your District. When you do, you will see a high level of camaraderie present. The feeling of friendship, fellowship, warmth and conviviality as an important ingredient in successful post operations.

A friendly, warm group of post members attracts prospective members. When visitors see firsthand how Legion business, fun and fellowship fit together, they are more likely to join.

Camaraderie enhances membership retention also. Occasionally our most experienced legionnaires reach their plateau in motivation, and participation. A lack of progress can cause frustration and they will consider dropping out of their posts. Often they will hang on to their post membership because they enjoy the post fellowship and their friendships. Camaraderie can be the motivation to “hang in there” and keep trying to improve.

Stay tuned for my next column. I will be identifying “SIGNS OF DECLINE” and ways to improve and promote camaraderie in your post.
Greetings Fellow Legionnaires

First, giving honor to God the Father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit; once again we’ve come to the end of another Legion year. A time to look back and reflect on the things we did throughout the year whether they were right or wrong. The question is; did we do our part to make the Department of Virginia the best it could be and if not what could I have done differently? What was the thing that held me back? Well in the same manner we all need to look back and reflect on our personal and spiritual lives. We need to make sure we’ve been the person God created us to be, using all the abilities He has gifted us with. And if not make today the end of another Legion year. A time to look back and reflect on the things we did our part to make the Department of Virginia the best it could be. Did we do our part to make the Department of Virginia the best it could be? What was the thing that held me back? What was the thing that held me back? And if not what could I have done differently?

We live in a world today filled with sin and hate. God is looking to all of us to bring a little love, tolerance and understanding, to make the world a better place for everyone to live. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at our next Department Convention in Richmond, VA in July.

From the Pulpit
Frank Carr
Department Chaplain

Post Everlasting

ABERNATHY, CHARLES M (0057)
AGOSTINO, VINCENT (0072)
ALLGOOD, STERLING M (0079)
AMBURGEY, CHADWICK W (0243)
ANDERSON, GORDON W (0074)
ANDREWS, JOSEPH H (0232)
ANDERSON, GORDON W (0074)
AMBURGEY, CHADWICK W (0243)
ABERNATHY, CHARLES M (0057)
AGOSTINO, VINCENT (0072)
ALLGOOD, STERLING M (0079)
AMBURGEY, CHADWICK W (0243)
ANDERSON, GORDON W (0074)
ANDREWS, JOSEPH H (0232)
ANDERSON, GORDON W (0074)
AMBURGEY, CHADWICK W (0243)
FROHLICH, EDWARD M JR (0222)
GARDNER, VERNON P (0233)
GARRETT, EARL N (0134)
GOFF, WILLIAM B JR (0148)
GRAVES, HAROLD (0141)
GROAH, ROBERT P (0013)
GUARINO, JEROME L (0141)
HANBY, DAVID G (0105)
HANNAH, LLOYD E (0240)
HASELMAN, EUGENE A SR (0141)
HAVENS, TONY C (0020)
HAYWOOD, HARPER L (0029)
HEFFINGER, BOYD C SR (0325)
HICKMAN, ROBERT D (0148)
HICKS, BOBBY R (0164)
HODGES, LUTHER JR (0177)
HOLMES, JIMMIE B (0120)
HORNE, ROBERT N SR (0049)
HOYLE, CALVIN A (0043)
HUFFLESTON, ALLEN M (0054)
HUGHNER, BRUCE (0039)
HUTCHERSON, OSCAR L (0003)
JAMES, SEYMOUR M JR (0269)
JENNINGS, ADIE L (0342)
JENNINGS, DONALD S (0021)
OLSEN, WILLIAM JR (0148)
JENKINS, JOHN (0264)
JOHNSON, ERNEST (0014)
JOHNSON, WILLIAM H (0128)
JONES, JOSEPH C (0065)
KASTENBAUM, B M (0361)
KEATS, ALBERT C JR (0141)
KEENE, NEAL D (0021)
KEESLING, JOHN (0003)
KENDRICK, GERALD (0141)
KIRBY, CURTIS F (0024)
KNIGHT, FLOYD Y (0003)
KOGER, MOIR R (0078)
KOSSLER, WILLIAM F (0075)
KUHN, RAYMOND D (0229)
LAMBERT, DONALD J (0141)
LAVINDER, CHARLES (0003)
LAWSON, ARTHUR H (0164)
LEARY, CLARENCE W (0035)
LEEGER, ROBERT L JR (0108)
LUCION, ALBERT F (0007)
LUNSFORD, WILLIAM T (0204)
LUTZ, GEORGE J (0045)
MAIDEN, LEONARD F (0013)
MALPHRIS, JULIAN B (0055)
MARSHALL, CLAYE C (0242)
MARTIN, GERALD B (0342)
MARTIN, RICHARD (0141)
MAURO, WALTER A (0086)
MCCLANAHAN, GEORGE T (0325)
MCCULLOUGH, ROBERT W (0008)
MCDONALD, ARTHUR P (0290)
MCELROY, WILLIAM F (0243)
MCGOLRICK, WILSON (0021)
MCGRATH, WILLIAM F (0039)
MCLAREN, RONALD C (0110)
MEDLOCK, ROBERT E (0141)
MITCHELL, BETTY R (0078)
MOORE, DON (0205)
MOORE, JAMES E (0078)
MORRISON, ROBERT E (0078)
MUlSE, GORDON (0088)
MYERS, GARY K (0177)
NEWBILL, PAUL H (0242)
OBRIEN, MARK (0242)
PAIR, ARTHUR (0046)
PATTERSON, CLYDE S (0141)
PATTION, WILLIAM B III (0177)
PHILLIPS, LONNIE D (0059)
PHILLIPS, ROBERT A (0325)
PINFHCBACK, WARNER L (0029)
POSTANS, ROBERT B JR (0361)
PREDDY, WAYNE M (0156)
PRESTON, JOHNNY O (0111)
PULLING, JACK W (0100)
RAMSEY, RICHARD (0147)
RANGEO, WALLY S (0122)
REID, ROBERT D (0157)
REYNOLDS, MAYNARD R (0016)
REYNOLDS, WILLIAM J (0122)
RHODES, DAVID A (0006)
RICE, FRANCES C (0182)
ROGERS, LEO (0039)
ROOKER, P. B. (0020)
ROUSE, BILLY P (0046)
ROWE, MILTON I JR (0194)
RUDD, P H (0079)
SHACKELFORD, NEWMAN L (0177)
SHAW, JAMES (0014)
SHIELDS, GEORGE H JR (0325)
SHIPLEY, STUART A (0233)
SHOCKLEY, RUBY G (0007)
SHRADER, THOMAS L (0009)
SHRADER, THOMAS L (0009)
SMITH, CARL W (0054)
SMITH, CARL W (0054)
SMITH, CARL W (0054)
SMITH, JAMES S (0141)
SMITH, RICHARD M SR (0072)
SNEILLINGS, LYNWOOD H (0290)
SPENCE, CLIFTON S (0079)
SPENCER, REX P (0164)
SPRADDIN, JAMES F (0327)
STATLER, WILLIAM H (0021)
STENGEL, LOUIS (0141)
SUTTLE, JAMES W JR (0141)
SWARTHOUR, WILLIAM A (0139)
TALBOTT, DAVID E (0322)
TAYLOR, JAMES E (0314)
THOMAS, VINCENT J (0035)
THOMPSON, ARCH (0009)
THOMPSON, EDMUND (0141)
THROCKMORTON, LEONARD (0342)
TOMS, MOSBY C (0340)
TOTHILL, HUGH (0003)
TRUMBULL, EZRA (0003)
WADE, BOELING (0342)
WALEN, B L (0165)
WHITE, TERRY H (0310)
WHITENACK, GARMON (0075)
WILLIAMS, JAMES R (0141)
WILLIAMS, JAMES R (0141)
WILSON, OLIVER W (0029)
WILSON, WILLIAM L (0364)
WISECARVER, CARLISLE JR (0016)
YEATES, FRED L (0120)
YOUNG, DANNIE L (0141)
ZUKOWSKI, JOHN E (0310)
From the Rostrum
Continued from page 2

department of Virginia prison post 775 in Pocahontas, Va. Some will always ask, why! One of our most important jobs is to assist veterans. That includes those, with some exceptions, who made mistakes that landed them behind bars. Just maybe, being a Legionnaire will produce a contributing member of society.

I wanted to begin the process of writing the second 50 years of The American Legion, Department of Virginia. However, it never got off the ground. Maybe it will happen this year so that we can complete the 100th anniversary? There were a couple of other things I would have liked to see happen, but time is always an issue, as Sandy says, there is always tomorrow!

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the department of Virginia for giving me the opportunity to represent you this year. It has been simply awesome. Perhaps the most important lesson I have learned is the absolute value each and every district, post and member contributes to our veterans, community and nation. You make this country a place worth fighting for in spite of the failures and short comings experienced by the freedoms afforded to our society earned by those who have served before us and will in the future. Thank You!

Post 30 Radford presents preschool with flags

The Preschool Committee held their first meeting in November. Attendees present were: Wendy Wilson, Teresa Harkrader, Gloria Boyd, and Dennis Martin. Various agenda items were discussed.

On Veteran’s Day, Max Mottesheard and other members from The American Legion Post 30 came over and presented each child with an American Flag. Teresa Harkrader was presented with a special mounted flag. The flag was given to honor her and her son, Todd Harkrader, who is currently serving in the U.S.A. armed forces in Europe. Todd, his wife Vivien, and their two children, Hannan (age 5) and Ava (age 2) live in Germany.

New Product Announcement from Your Legionnaire Insurance Trust

The LIT is pleased to announce the availability of new insurance products designed to help serve the needs of Department members. They are accessible on www.thelit.com.

We now are offered to offer:

HEALTH INSURANCE - This product is available for members under age 65 that need health coverage. The site offers a variety of medical plans to meet your individual or family needs. The site is able to qualify you if you are eligible for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare).

DENTAL INSURANCE – The offerings include a full range of dental plans that are available to individuals and families. We invite you to shop for the plan that best fits your needs.

SHORT TERM HEALTH INSURANCE – This is the type of medical insurance needed by people such as those between jobs who have no medical coverage. The coverage period and premiums are adjustable to meet your requirements.

TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE – There are numerous plans available for different situations while you are travelling or working overseas.

Below is just a sample of the insurance carriers that are offered.

Please let your members know through your newsletter or by email. Thank you!
The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Department Commander Jim Chapman at 2:00 p.m. The invocation was made by Department Chaplain Dr. Frank Carr prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution. John Hess conducted the POW/MIA ceremony.

Adjutant Dale D. Chapman called the roll. Those present:

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:**
- Jim Chapman, Department Commander;
- Gerald Rhoads, Immediate Past Department Commander;
- Thomas Saunders, NEC; Mike Mitri-one, Alternate NEC; Dr. Frank Carr, Department Chaplain; Ron Fanning, Sergeant-at-Arms; Dale D. Chapman, Department Adjutant; Tommy Lee, Department Treasurer; Joe Vacarro, Department Judge Advocate; Sam Ramseur, Department Historian

**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS:**
- Bob Brady; Jim Flint; Earl Pierce

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS:**
1st - Jack Wood; 2nd - Alonzo Scott;
3rd - Linda Fanning; 4th - James Rovinski; 5th - Tom Hart; 6th - Malcolm Ray Barbour; 7th - Bobby Rogers; Acting; 8th - Billy Lark; 10th – Buck Owen; 11th - Terry Brentlinger; 13th - Joseph Dudley; 14th - Eddie Humes; 15th – Franklin Hilliard, Acting; 16th – John Ward; 17th - John Price

**ABSENT:**
- James Eubank, 9th District Commander; Brian Williamson, 12th District Commander; Brian Mullican, Department Service Officer

**Distinguished Guests:**
- Dale Barnett, National Commander; Charles Schmidt, Leading Candidate for National Commander

Commander Chapman welcomed all attendees and reminded them of the Rules of Order of Business of the Department Executive Committee meeting.

Commander Chapman then recognized Past Department Commanders in attendance:
- Dale Chapman; George Blume; Robert Hannon; Tom Saunders; Chic Ferguson; Les Clevinger; Mike Mitri-one; Ron Miluszewski; George Lussier; Lindell Dixon; Doug Ramos; Dan Delinger; Brett Reistad; Gerald Rhoads

The minutes of the last meeting, having been mailed previously, were approved without reading.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Commander Chapman then presented Post 1 and Post 201 with certificates of recognition for excelling in membership.

Commander Chapman then called upon Department Officers and Chairmen for their reports.

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**DEPARTMENT NEC**
Thom Saunders reported on the Washington Conference. He stated that each member has to keep a strong relationship with their congressmen.

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE**

Joe Vacarro reported that the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws updates to be on file at Department Headquarters has now been extended until October, 2017. He reported that there were four primary investigations.

**DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

Dale D. Chapman thanked all who participated in the Day on the Hill. He talked on post reporting and deadlines. He reported that there have been over 85 requests for financial assistance since January 1, 2016. He stated that the budget request letters would be going out in the mail. He reported that over 550,000 hits have been made on the department web site. He thanked John Kokernak for his hard work on keeping the web page updated. He thanked Bob Sussan for his assistance with keeping the Facebook page up to date.

**DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN**
Dr. Frank Carr stated that he did the opening sermon at the Day on the Hill. He has also been at Ft. Lee and Ft. Myer.

**DEPARTMENT TREASURER**
Tommy Lee stated the department is within budget and following direction from the Department Finance Committee and the Department Executive Committee. He also reported that the audit is complete.

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**
No Report.

**DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN**
Sam Ramseur stressed the importance of post historians.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE**
Thomas Saunders turned in a written report that four certificates of appreciation for the JROTC Drill programs were approved (Three framed certificates and plaque for Base Commander). A discussion was held regarding certificates of appreciation for two legionnaires for work on post level. A discussion was held on the design of The American Legion Department of Virginia Distinguished Service Medal, Medallion and Plaque. (5 present).

**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE**

Thomas Queck turned in a written report that stated the winners of the Middle School Essay Contest were announced. 1st place Madeline Newhard (Post 148); 2nd place Maryn Carpenter (Post 79) and 3rd place Whitney Craig (Post 88). He reviewed the changes in the Consolidated Post Reports. (47 present)

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

Tommy Whitlow turned in a written report that stated Ray Turner reported the successful Bowling Tournament held at Lee-Hi Bowling Lanes Salem; cohosted by Post 3. James Robinson reported the Department Golf Tournament to be held June 3-5, 2016 at Goodyear Golf Course in Danville. Jim Grenier reported on rule changes, revamped tournament format and registration process for Baseball. The Senior Tournament will be held July 25-30, 2016 at Danville and the Junior Tournament will be held August 3-7, 2016 at Stafford. (43 present)

**BOYS STATE COMMITTEE**
No report.

**CONVENTION & CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Ron Miluszewski made a motion to approve the contract for Virginia Beach Resort Hotel, March 2018 at $89/night; seconded; approved. He also made a motion to approve the contract for July, 2017 at Dulles Hilton at $99/night; seconded; approved. Ceci Doss also reported on the 100th Anniversary convention. He stated that it would cost $22,000 for parking and meeting rooms. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize Ceci Doss to explore grants and donations/sponnors to pay the $22,000 fees. (11 present)

**CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE**

John Kokernak turned in a written report that stated the TFA handouts were discussed which included the TFA form, TFA do’s and don’ts and denial reasons. He reported that Virginia Veterans received $51,904.25 in calendar year 2015 from the TFA program and that $8,150.08 has already been received in 2016. The Children & Youth report was reviewed along with changes to the Consolidated Post Report. He reported that April is Children & Youth month. (20 present)

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**SUB COMMITTEE**

Al Stewart turned in a written report that stated topic of discussion was Syrian War refugees and their possible immigration to this country. (15 present)

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Dan reported that Internal Affairs met at Department Headquarters on February 19, 2016. He stated that Post 368 motion was made to retain Commander Hand for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The 2017 Legion College contract was approved. Dan then called on Mike Mitrione, Lucian Butler Scholariship Mike. reported that there were 41 applications; 5 were disqualified; 36 scholarships were given out ranging from $500-$2,000 for a total of $46,000 awarded. Dan then called on John Jones for his report on Legion Riders. Jimmy discussed the Legacy Run and the wearing of the vest properly. Dan then called on Les Clevinger, Chairman of the Sons of the American Legion. Les reported that the Sons have reviewed their Constitution and Bylaws, reviewed their budget and reviewed resolutions. Dan then called on Bob Renner, Director of Legion College. Bob stated that the registration packets and agenda are available in the department headquarters office. Dan then called on Dave Wallace regarding the Dale Barnett Awareness Walk. Dave reported that $1,105 was collected for the NEF walk. Dan made a motion that the actions of the Internal Affairs committee become the action of the Department Executive Committee, seconded and approved.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Rick Oertel turned in a written report that stated the current twelve Legislative Initiatives of the Joint Leadership Council and their status were discussed in detail. The National Legislative Priorities for the 114th Congress were mentioned and the National Commander’s testimony before the Joint Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee were discussed. Legislative initiatives for the next GA session were solicited. (18 present)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Bob Sussan turned in a written report that stated the membership plan for this year needs to be taken into strategy into the next year was discussed. The Public Relations outreach and telling the public and the press of our good work. (45 present)

Continued on page 6
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Buck Owen turned in a written report that stated a presentation of Get out the Vote was given and handouts to coincide. Ron Hesson gave a report on the Legion License Plate and support still needed to get to the 450 applications. (18 present)

JROTC DRILL TEAM SUB-COMMITTEE
Robert Cardwell turned in a written report that stated the competition was held at Ft. Eustis. Little Creek and Fort Story were already booked. Issues for Ft. Eustis included travel distance, no changing rooms for cadets. He reported that many schools do not participate anymore due to not being allowed to have weapons at the schools. Possibility of having a patriotic band during competition. (19 present)

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM
Rod Henderson turned in a written report that stated a discussion was held on NRA Grant’s. The grants are easy to apply for and the NRA is very generous in approval of them. A discussion was held on equipment from CMP and from the NRA. The CMP will sell used equipment at a very discounted rate. Eastern Region already held their competition; Northern Region is April 16 and the Western Region is April 9. The state match will be held the first Saturday of May at the Rivanna Gun Club in Charlottesville. (40 present)

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION
Willie Ransom submitted a report that stated various topics were held. Each subcommittee chairman gave a brief report on their committee.

S.A.L.
Les Clevenger submitted a report that stated a review of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws; a motion was recommended and approved to accept the proposed changes. The proposed budget for 2016-2017 was reviewed, a motion was made to approve to Internal Affairs; seconded and motion carried. A resolution was read for Johnny Baker of Squadron 320 for Detachment of Virginia Commander for 2016-2017. A resolution was read for Willie Morgan; one for Jeffrey Lee and one for Victor Graulau for Vice Commanders of the Detachment. A motion was made to approve all resolutions, seconded and approved. (16 present)

BOY SCOUTS SUB COMMITTEE
Lowell Badgley turned in a written report that stated the Eagle Scout of the Year was discussed. The winner was Jonathan Corbin who will receive $1,500. The third place winner, Brian Biggs, will be moved to second place for $500 due to disqualifying information on the 2nd place winner. Square Knot Award application was received from Dave Wallace, Lorton Post 162. The application will be signed off at Department Headquarters then sent on to National Headquarters. There is a possibility of two more Square Knot awards this year. (4 present)

VAVS COMMITTEE
Margaret Fields turned in a written report that stated the new hospital in Suffolk has been put on hold due to no funding for the project. Martinsburg VAVS had an orientation at the local post. McGuire VAMC has more volunteers doing more with less people. A sing-a-long was conducted, bingo and a spring concert. Richmond VAMC also has parking issues.

NEW BUSINESS
Jim Flint, Vice Commander made a motion to revoke Post 19 charter due to no active members; seconded; approved.

Bill Lark, 8th District Commander made a motion to revoke Post 51 charter due to no active members; seconded; approved.

Commander Chapman presented his final remarks. Chaplain Carr led a memorial prayer and a salute to the Colors was conducted. The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

The Legion has an office at Richmond VAMC and they see people five days a week to assist with claims.

WOMEN’S OUTREACH SUB COMMITTEE
No Report.

DIVERSITY
Rita Chandler turned in a written report that stated a presentation was given by Catherine Gouldin from C2 Essentials. The program involved defining diversity and the impact on the workplace. Obligations of management to establish a workplace environment free from different types of harassment and discrimination. (42 present)

LEGION COLLEGE
Robert Renner turned in a written report that stated the college will be August 11-14, 2016 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Richmond. The application was discussed and so was the agenda. (6 present)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Bill Lark, 8th District Commander introduced Dale Barnett, National Commander for a brief talk. Commander Chapman then introduced Charles Schmidt, Leading Candidate for National Commander for brief remarks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

WOMEN’S OUTREACH
A memorial Day ceremony being performed at Post 775.

American Legion Post 325, represented by Pat Meadows, recently attended JROTC Awards Ceremony held at Tunstall High School. Meadows presented awards to Cpl. Ryan Armstrong.

American Legion Post 75, Gloucester, accepts a proclamation from the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors, presented by York District Supervisor Phillip Bazzani. Photo by Charlie Koenig

Rick Ward, right, adjutant of American Legion Post 75, Gloucester, accepts a proclamation from the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors, presented by York District Supervisor Phillip Bazzani. Photo by Charlie Koenig

Veterans stand in honor of the chaplains who gave their lives. Photo by Charlie Koenig
American Legion Riders, Dept. of VA Western Zone, recently held their 2016 Winter Rendezvous at American Legion Post 325. Speakers were David Wright, Regional One, who spoke on first aid for riders and former Major with the Danville Police Dept. Kenny Fitzgerald spoke on rider safety. A meeting followed where chapters gave their yearly reports. Shown are: Post 325 Commander Don Mitchell, ALR State Adjutant Jim Althouse, ALR Western Area Director Rob Phelps, State Chairman ALR Jimmy J. Jones, Eastern Regional Director Sammy Granderson, and Last Capital Chapter director Steve Walker.

Post 10 Post Everlasting Ceremony held April 16th.

Veterans stand in honor of Post 290 Stafford Virginia broke ground on June 11, 2016 for new Post home. The new home is located on present American Legion ball field property. (In the background.) The two million dollar structure will fill all the dreams and hopes for many Post Legionnaires, who have worked and dreamed for this project, for so many years. Pictured is Legion officials and Stafford Political leaders. Dave Stein (candidate for Department Commander) third from right, along with Post Commander John Cox, (not shown) officiated at the ground breaking event. Also in Photo, John Ward and Willie Barr, 16th District. Linda Altstaetter Unit President, 5th from right. Submitted by Ed Thompson 16th District PR.

American Legion Post 325 recently held their annual Post Everlasting service at the Post home. Post Everlasting is a somber farewell to Post members deceased during the past year. Family members are invited to attend and refreshments were served afterwards. Shown front row: Alan Culley, Kenny Fitzgerald, Janet Roberson, Royce Agee and Richard Gunn. Back row: Lee Mayberry, Barry Meadows, SAL, Joe Darnell and Doug Ferrell, SAL.

Honoring Women’s Army Corps. First Lady McAuliff, WAC Vet Wanda Jones, WAC Betty Hendrick and Norma Newman

American Legion Post 325 recently held the honor of presenting Aubrey Henderson of Post 325 with a certificate for 50 years of membership with Post 325. Show left: Aubrey Henderson receiving certificate from Post 325 Commander Don Mitchell.

Organizational meeting held at the Pocahontas Correctional Facility where our first prison post is being formed. This will be known as Post 775.
Comrade Horace Harrell is a continuous member with 65 years in the American Legion. He is a member of Post 264. He is a 80 year old WWII veteran. Those in the picture are as follows: Horace Harrell (wheelchair), left to right Past Department Commander Gerald Rhoads, Post 264 Commander James Warf, and 4th District Commander James Rovinski.

American Legion Post 104 donated $1850 to the tornado relief with donations from the following Posts: Post 16 Lynchburg, Post 54 Bedford, Post 62 Smith Mountain Lake. Pictured are (L to R) Buck Owen, 10th District Commander, Ron Davison, CEO of Gleening for the World and Howard Gregory, Post 104 Commander.

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L-R Rita Chandler, Speaker Sgt. Major Lyons, Norma Newman, Major Gibson, Betty Hendrick, Joyce Miller during a women's veteran program.

Commander Chapman, 16th Commander John Ward, Sons Commander Pregnall, 16th Adj. A.D. Carter. Meeting Sunday Feb. 28, Remington Post – Photo by Ed Thompson

Post 290 Golf Tournament at Quantico Med of Honor Golf Course.

Department of Virginia oratorical contest winner at Indianapolis after the Regional Contest, L/R National Commander Barnett, Timothy Parks, Chairman of American Commission Rich Anderson

L-R Rita Chandler, Speaker Sgt. Major Lyons, Norma Newman, Major Gibson, Betty Hendrick, Joyce Miller during a women's veteran program.