The 2017 JR Champions are from Post 8 located in South Boston, VA.

Pictured on Nov. 13 at the Hampton VAMC are: in center Department Commander Tommy Lee with Department President Cheryl Shine. Also pictured are Hospital Representatives, on left Ali- son Schmidt and on right Peggy Magahay.

Tommy Lee, Department Commander, with Glen Yarborough, 17th District Com- mander to his right, and Bob Eidsvoog, Past 17th District Commander, to his left, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day.

During the recent Flag Day program and installation of new post officers for 2017-2018, David Carpenter of Dominion Power, third from left, presents a check for purpose of building a handicap ramp at the Post home to American Legion Post 55. Also pictured from left to right are Donnell Johnson(Past Commander and Committee Chairman), Rita Chandler (Post Finance Officer), and Tommy Lee (outgoing Post Commander).

Outgoing Post 290 Commander Lani Burnett (far left) poses with Stafford County Sher- iff David Decatur (far right) and Deputy First Class Brandon Boyle (honored as the post’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year). The award ceremonies were part of the Post’s In- stallation of Officers dinner on June 3, 2017.
I want to thank the Legionnaires of this Department for electing me to the high office of Department Commander. I appreciate the assistance and suggestions from all Legionnaires and Past Department Commanders. I visited twelve of the seventeen districts before this Department Convention – five in the north, four in the east and three in the west.

I would like to introduce my family – my wife of nearly 42 years Susan Frederick Lee and Past Department President of the ALA of the Department of Virginia, our daughter, Kathrina Urann, her husband Mike and their children Cassie, Richard, and Abby, and our son Thomas, his wife Lynne, and their son Tosh. Three of our children work for the Department of Defense. Our daughter Kathrina is a Past Honorary Junior Department President. We are a true Legion family: our children and grandchildren belong to the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion or the Juniors.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of two Past Department Commanders from Fredericksburg Post 55, Lemuel Houston and Mike Mitrione. I would like to remember two Legionnaires, both Past Department Vice Commanders, Trephon Calamos and Bob Spitler. Current Legionnaires present today and Past Department Commanders are Gary Mercer, Ron Curlings and Rita Chandler. Rita Chandler is also a Past Department Vice Commander. All of these individuals have given many years to the American Legion because they believe in our goals.

As the American Legion draws closer to its hundredth anniversary celebration, the Department of Virginia must remember that he Four Pillars (1. Fostering a strong National Security, 2. Taking care of our Veterans, 3. Mentoring the youth of America, 4. Promoting patriotism and honor) are as important today as they were in the past. Technology may have changes but our duty to the nation has not. Of course, in order to accomplish the four pillars, we must have members. Since we are going to Reno for the National Convention in August, A.B. and I will be “Upping the Ante” and building on the success of previous commanders. A.B. Brown will be talking about our plan in the near future. We must also remember that in just over a year we will welcome as National Commander, Virginia’s own Brett Reisdad.

Because of the 100th anniversary and Brett’s becoming National Commander, all eyes will be on the Department of Virginia. One new focus will be negotiating membership with each region and district. While attending a membership workshop in Indianapolis later this month, the Department Vice Commanders will be negotiating membership with A.B. and me. On August 5th A.B., each regional commander and I will meet in Richmond at Department headquarters with each District Commander and the membership chairman form his region to negotiate membership. A letter has been distributed to each District Commander regarding this meeting. At that time we’ll also remind those present that upon completion of the Legion year, each Post Finance Officer’s and each District Finance Officer’s books must be audited.

And this year, as in previous years, adding a program will grow your membership. We hope each Post will add one program, such as making donations of time, talents, or money to blood drives, Special Olympics, Child Welfare Foundation, etc. Get members involved in this and more. We plan to build the American Legion programs of this past year and soar to new horizons in Legion programs in this next year.

I hope each individual here today believes in the Four Pillars and understands how important membership is for us to accomplish our programs and to serve our veterans. The American Legion has always been ready to help all veterans in need. I hope you will join me in working for the aims and purposes of the American Legion – for God, for Country, and for our Flag. Thank you again for electing me to this high position. I am honored to serve in 2017-2018 as your Department Commander.
Greetings fellow Legionnaires

Greetings my fellow Legionnaires in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In the book of Genesis, the 4th Chapter and the 9th verse, the question is asked of God by Cain; Am I my brother’s keeper? And for all of us in the American Legion, this question only has but one answer “Yes” I am by brother’s keeper.

We are truly a band of Brothers and Sisters in the American Legion. Veteran’s helping other Veterans and their families. God has blessed the American Legion members to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship or our brotherhood together by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

That tells me that we should do all we can, for as many as we can, for as long as we can, that no veteran will be left behind, or allowed to fall, and if they do fall into a fault we should be there to help. Wouldn’t you want someone to help you? God didn’t kick you to the curb when you fell into a fault and we can’t turn our backs on them.

In the Bible we commanded to love one another with a pure heart fervently.” As stressed by John, he said for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.

And to sum it up the Bible tells us in John 15:16; “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” And that’s the ultimate example of being your brother’s keeper.

Go out and do a good deed for a brother or sister today and watch how God will bless you in return.

Please join us in Virginia Beach March 2018 for our Spring Conference Religious Service as we raise money for a Legion Family member in Puerto Rico that’s in need from this year’s hurricane.

From the Pulpit
Frank Carr
Department Chaplain

Post Everlasting

CLARK, LOUIS E (0342)
CLICK, ELMER L (0139)
COCKE, ESMOND E (0054)
COLEMAN, WILLIAM N (0099)
COLLINS, WILLIAM J JR (0191)
COOK, ALDON (0016)
COX, WILLIAM D (0013)
CRAWFORD, ARVELL R (0265)
DAMIANI, ANDREW B (0057)
DAVIS, ALONZA J (0086)
DAVIS, DAVID C (0073)
DEEL, TOMMY (0164)
DOCK, WILLIAM D SR (0291)
DODSON, DAVID D (0003)
DUDLEY, MARION A (0106)
DUNFORD, PHILLIP L (0244)
DUNSTON, HENRY H (0244)
EATON, GARY L (0068)
EDMUNDOS, JOHN (0099)
EIDEN, ROBERT E (0008)
EICHELBERGER, JAMES G (0100)
ELWELL, MAHLON D III (0162)
FAULKNER, CHARLIE C JR (0099)
FEHR, CARL W (0201)
FEIND, GENE (0141)
FERGUSON, ROBERT J (0099)
FIFER, DEWEY J (016)
FORDHAM, WAYNE V (0021)
FOWLER, HURLSMEHR M (0073)
FOY, JOHN H JR (0099)
FRICK, JOSEPH W (0044)
FUCCHI, SALVATORE T (0199)
GILLIAM, NORMAN E (0120)
GIRARD, KENDALL J (0065)
GLADD, ROBERT E (0111)
GREEN, ALVIN R (0059)
GREEN, HENRY (0004)
GWINN, ADELL (0111)
HALL, NORMAN L (0003)
HAM, RICHARD K SR (0018)
HAM, RICHARD K SR (0029)
HAN, JAMES L (0016)
HARRALL, C. L JR (0327)
HARRIS, ADELL (0037)
HARRIS, DONALD A (0084)
HARTMAN, FLOYD (0141)
HARRELL, ROBERT R (0027)
HASSELMANN, THOMAS W (0291)
HATTER, ROBERT C (0149)
HAUKE, WILLIAM J G (0008)
HAYTHE, JAMES L SR (0097)
HENNESSY, DOYLE (0141)
HERD, JOHN L (0146)
HERRING, ROBERT D (0007)
HICKEY, THOMAS D (0008)
HILL, CHARLES D (0126)
HODGES, WENDELL R (0079)
HOLLaway, WILLIAM R JR (0092)
HOUSSON, LEMUEL W JR (0055)
HUBER, LLOYD E JR (0191)
HUFFMAN, HARRY L JR (0126)
HUFFMAN, HENRY S (0126)
JARVIS, THOMAS L (0013)
JENNINGS, ROGER D (0311)
JEWELL, WILLIAM T (0215)
JONES, NAPOLEON JR (0240)
JONES, WILLIAM N (0008)
JOURNING, HAROLD E SR (0141)
KAECHELE, DAVID A (0084)
KANE, JAMES R (0162)
KARNECKI, DAVID (1799)
KIDD, ARTHUR SR (0241)
KINDRED, JERRY B (0327)
KING, DENNETT L (0204)
KING, GILBERT L JR (0188)
KLINE, PAUL (0048)
LAFON, HAROLD M (0086)
LAPAGE, ROBERT A (0021)
LAHWORN, JACK K (0248)
LEE, ROLAND E (0164)
LEFREW, PAUL C (0003)
LOCKLEY, DANIEL III (0241)
LOFLAND, SEVERN T JR (0067)
LUPTON, CHARLIE G (0073)
MACEOIN, DON (0001)
MARR, CLAYTON E (0084)
MARSHALL, THOMAS (0042)
MARTIN, OAKLEY L (0068)
MCCRAY, LEONARD B JR (0013)
MEADOWS, EUGENE D (0340)
MEERS, RALPH J (0035)
MEELER, EDW H (0008)
MELTON, MICHAEL (0388)
MENEEFEZ, LEWIS A (0111)
MENTEL, ROBERT (0003)
MILLS, JOSHUA J (0176)
MOODY, CHARLES L (0016)
MOORE, JOSEPH H (0016)
MOORMAN, LEWIS C (0016)
MORRIS, FRED N (0024)
MORRIS, HARRY A JR (0075)
MOUNTCASTLE, CECIL D (0093)
MUSULIN, STEVE (0269)
NEWCOMB, W A JR (0043)
NICHOLS, LEWIS C (0325)
NUTFALL, WILLIAM T (0075)
ONEAL, THOMAS (0194)
OSBORNE, JESSE F (0104)
PANEL, JAMES R (0104)
PANGLE, ROY A JR (0077)
PATTISHALL, LOUIS (0072)
PETERS, NORMAN L (0126)
PERKINS, ROBERT E (0327)
PERKINSON FRANK NOE JR (0248)
PHILLIPHS, WILLIAM R II (0013)
PICKERING, WILLIAM R (0177)
PIGGOTT, ELMORE E (0014)
POLLOCK, ROBERT T (0075)
POTOCK, WALTER J (0177)
Powell, Lesley W (0008)
PRESTON, JOHNNY O (0111)
PUNKE, JAMES H (0162)
PUTMAN, ROBERT D (0057)
PUTNEY, LACEY E (0054)
RAKES, BERNARD T (0105)
RANKIN, JAMES M (0021)
RAYHILL, JOHN A JR (0016)
REED, EUGENE L (0013)
REED, JACK M (0003)

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American Legion Baseball

Post 181 enjoyed a successful inaugural baseball season. The Knights’ 17 wins and 2 losses sends a strong message to the other American Legion baseball teams in Northern VA—there is some strong baseball talent in our community and we can compete with the perennial Legion programs.

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored a nationwide youth baseball program. During these past seven decades, millions of young players have enjoyed playing baseball. The American Legion and their 2.8 million members have raised millions of dollars each year for players to learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, leadership and good sportsmanship. The American Legion sponsors American Legion Baseball to give players an opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness, and leadership qualities.

The Leesburg area has many talented players currently active in Babe Ruth, the Northern Virginia Travel Baseball, and High School baseball leagues. Post 181 is part of American Legion Baseball District 16. You can follow our team’s schedule and results at: http://www.scorebook.com/davalb.

The local press covered Post 181’s progress throughout last season. Here a few highlights: Post 181 Leesburg Knights outscored their opponents 178-76 in the regular season, averaging more than 10 runs per contest. The Knights put together a .349 team batting average, highlighted by outfielder Matt Irwin finished fourth in the state in batting average with a .490 clip. Kyle Irish’s.459 and Mike Stankic’s.432. Knight’s starters Geoff McCowat and Cole Shain finished the regular season with the two lowest ERA’s in the state. Both pitchers went 4-0 and had an ERA of 1.04 or below and a strikeout-per-nine-innings rate of 10.39 or better.

Minutes of The American Legion, Department of Virginia Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday October 21, 2017, Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Department Commander Tommy Lee at 2:08 p.m. The invocation was made Department Chaplain Frank Carr prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution.

John Hess conducted the POW/MIA service.

Dale Chapman, Department Adjutant called the roll. Those present:

**DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:**
- Tommy Lee, Department Commander; Mike Mitro, National Executive Committee, Walter Davis, Sergeant-At-Arms; Dr. Frank Carr; Department Chaplain; Dave Stein, Immediate Past Department Commander; Linden Dixon, Alternate TREND OFFICIO MEMBERS:
- Dale D. Chapman, Dept. Adjutant;
- Joe Vacaro, Dept. Judge Advocate;
- Bill Feasemyer, Dept. Treasurer; Terry Brentlinger, Dept. Historian; Brian Mulligan, Dept. Service Officer

**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS:**
- Rick Oertel; Tom Hart; Sam Ramson

**DISTRICT COMMANDERS:**
- 1st Dist. – Steve Akins; 2nd Dist. – Larry Turner; 3rd Dist. – Buddy Dingle; 4th Dist. – Mable Farris; 5th Dist.

- Leonard Smith; 6th Dist. – Charlie Price; 7th Dist. – Jerry Johnson; 8th Dist. – Garland Linkous, Acting; 9th Dist. – Wayne Dooley; 10th Dist. – Randy Hardwick, Acting; 11th Dist. – Mike Hampton; 12th Dist. – Harold Klyly; 13th Dist. – Garold Stephens; 14th Dist. – Joe McGugen; 15th Dist. – Frank Hillyard; 16th Dist. – Mark Meier; 17th Dist. – Glenn Yarborough

**Absent:**
- 7th Dist. – Bobby Rogers

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

Commander Lee then recognized Past Department Commanders as follows: Chic Ferguson, Dale Chapman, Dan Dellinger, Thomas Saunders, George Blume, Bob Hannon, Les Clevinger, Mike Mitro, Doug Ramos, Linden Dixon, Gerald Rhoads and Dave Stein.

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

Department Commander Lee and Department Historian Brentlinger presented histories of 100% consolidated Post 181 Leesburg Knights’ 17 wins and 2 losses in the regular season, averaging more than 10 runs per contest in “Narrative History” and received a check for $40. Victor Graulau (162) – 1st place in “The Yearbook” contest and received a check for $40.

Commander Lee then presented George Abred of Post 284, Doug Orman of Post 293 and Tim Walters of Post 320 with various national certificates.

Commander Lee then presented Dr. George Blume with a plaque from national stating 74 years of service to The American Legion and 82 years in SAL.

Commander Lee then asked Past Department Commander Stein to approach the podium. He stated that the Department received national recognition for 100% consolidated post reporting.

**DEPARTMENT OFFICER/COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS**
- Commander Lee then called upon Department Officers and Chairmen for their reports.
- **Department NEC Mike Mitro**
- New member of history program having not been completed but is currently being worked on. The department is in excellent financial condition. He

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Post Everlasting

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REMLEY, JAMES “JIMMIE” J (0003)
RHINEHARDT, RUSSELL (0021)
RIDINGS, BILLY H (0126)
ROBERTS, GEORGE W (0094)
ROBINSON, WILLIAM JR (0151)
ROWAND, DALE F (0368)
ROWE, RUSSELL B (0861)
RYAN, JAMES F (0123)
SAYWER, BUCK E SR (0018)
SCHMIDT, ROYAL F (0055)
SEAL, ROBERT D (0156)
SEGUN, DAVID C (0113)
SEITZ, LOUIS A (0075)
SHELTON, HARRY R JR (0325)
SHORT, ROBERT L (0003)
SHULL, CHARLES R (0077)
SILLEX, CHARLES E JR (0076)
SIMPSON, JAMES E (0201)
SISSON, HOWARD M (0062)
SLADE, GEORGE H (0029)
SLOVICK, JULIAN L (0139)
SMITH, BENJAMIN (0016)
SMITH, LEON H (0139)
SMITH, WILLIAM J (0330)
SNYDER, JUNE H (0146)
SOLOMON, EDWARD J (0123)
SPENCER, HOWARD L (0078)
SPRING, MARVIN L (0037)
STANDLEY, BILLY (1097)
STARK, PETER A (0074)
STATON, JOHN P (0116)
STEVENS, MELVIN L (0008)
STONE, TRUMAN (0105)
STOTLER, B W (0085)
STRAUB, PETER T (0123)
SULLIVAN, ROLAND R (0055)
TALKINGTON, GARY F (0059)
TAYLOR, CHARLES E JR (0107)
TAYLOR, RICHARD A SR (0156)
THOMAS, EDGAR L (0059)
THOMPSON, HAROLD E (0020)
THOMPSON, LEROY (0067)
THRASHER, ERNEST JR (0003)
TRENT, DAVID C (0104)
TURNER, RANDALL E (0021)
VAUGHN, WALTER F (0229)
VEST, DONNIE J (0127)
VIOLETTE, JACK (0146)
WADDLE, ROBERT I (0020)
WALKER, WALTER M JR (0125)
WALLACE, TERRY (0099)
WAXHAM, RUSSELL E (0003)
WEAVER, WALTER S (0059)
WEAVER, WALTER S (0059)
WEST, JOHN A (0016)
WIGINGTON, RUTH H (0003)
WILKERSO, HOSEA JR (0007)
WILLIAMS, FREDDIE W (0411)
WILLIAMS, SHIRLEY W (0003)
WILLIAMS-CANTEE, GLADYS (0165)
WILSON, DANIEL (0029)
WILSON, DEWEY S (0058)
WILSON, JERRY F (0029)
WINGFIELD, WILLIAM JR (0003)
WINSTEAD, ARCHIE G (0135)
WISE, LAWRENCE M (0014)
WISMER, JESSIE E (0021)
WITHERSON, WARREN H (0014)
WITT, HAROLD H (0003)
WOLFDLAND, PHILIP H (0364)
WOODLIEF, DON (0079)
WRIGHT, ALLEN R (0079)
YNN, EARL J (0009)
YANCEY, HARRY F (0008)
YOUNG, JAMES N (0123)

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also reported that the Department raised $15,085 in donations to send to the Department of Texas for Hurricane relief.

Department Deputy Judge Advocate Joe Vaccaro stated that the department has about 45% of the articles of incorporation papers from the posts. He had 11 posts this quarter with issues including a few with misuse of monies, 2 posts are under suspension. He then returned Post 10 charter.

Department Chaplain Frank Carr stated that he is looking for volunteer chaplains for the military bases.

Department Service Officer Brian Mullican reported that Friday a class was held with an open forum. On Saturday classes were held regarding service officer training from the national DSO school that was held in July.

Department Historian Terry Brentlinger No report.

Department Adjutant Dale Chapman stated that district commanders need to notify department headquarters dates of their district conferences and conventions.

Department Awards and Recognition Chairman Tom Saunders turned in a written report that stated final details on the Distinguished Service Medal, shadow box and medal were given. The committee approved to give each of Virginia US Congressman a certificate plaque and an American Legion Centennial coin with holder; 11 members of the House and 2 Members of the Senate. Changes were approved to the Paul Laskey Post Service Officer Award. 1. Change name to Paul Laskey Service Officer Award; 2. In the future the Department of Virginia will consider members of the legion family (Sons, Riders, Auxiliary) for the award; 3. Two form letters will be mailed to all posts twice annually in November and January and 4. If no names are submitted by posts, the Department Service officer or Awards and Recognition Committee can select an individual. (9 in attendance)

Department New Post/DMS Al Steward turned in a written report that stated a meeting with held in September with the DOC to discuss the MOU with the Department of Virginia. At this time we have 5 posts on hold pending an agreement with the DOC on the main issue between us and the DOC payment of dues and account management. Two suggestions from DOC were to create a provisional post in the DOC where funds would not be collected or establish a post in DOC that members would send their dues to the Department of Virginia. (17 present)

Department Conventions and Conference Vice Chairman Al Steward reported that a survey was done regarding whether members wanted the 100th anniversary convention to be held in Roanoke or Richmond. The results showed that 74.7% of the members chose Richmond. Al then made a motion to have the 2019 convention in Richmond, VA at the Doubletree. (11 present)

Department National Security Chairman Deloris Todman turned in a written report that stated information was presented about VA’s draft proposal of Care Act, National Emergency Awareness Month, Flying Tribute to World War I veterans. The report stated that posts should use hashtags to promote post events. National Security challenges are cybersecurity, ISIS and North Korea. (22 present)

Department Americanism Committee Chairman Bill Stramm turned in a written report that stated all sub-committee chairmen gave reports. The Preliminary School Essay contest was discussed including reaching out to middle schools, rules are on the department website and date to send. Flag protection and promotion was discussed. (44 in attendance)

Department Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman Willie Ransom turned in a written report that stated regular schedule volunteer hours have decreased. The VA will start sharing records with civilian health care pending system upgrades. (24 in attendance)

Department Membership Committee Chairman A. B. Brown turned in a written report that stated an open forum was held and the following was discussed; importance of membership recruiting and retention; A smart phone app has been created to be downloaded to assist with recruiting and renewing; a discussion was also held on bulk recruiting – many feel so held on. (57 present)

Department Children & Youth Committee Chairman Alonso Scott turned in a written report that stated an overview of the 10th annual National Children and Youth Conference was held. Discussed resolution No. 8 with restructuring of Temporary Financial Assistance statement of policy. Steps in completing the TFA application package were covered. A copy of resolution No. 8 was distributed. (15 in attendance)

Department Athletic Committee Chairman Tommy Whitlow turned in a written report that stated the Department Bowling Tournament will be held at Woodbridge Post 364 February 24-25, 2018. The Department Fall Golf Tournament was held October 13-15 at Ingleisde Golf Course in Staunton with 71 golfers participating. Baseball reported new national rule changes. (27 in attendance)

Department Boys State Committee Chairman Bob Shumard turned in a written report stating the 75th session was discussed with highlights. A total of 710 boys attended. Tuition will remain at $400 for 2018. The 76th session will be held June 17-23, 2018. Information letters will be going out to the schools in early January. Application fees should be in by April 1st. It is the post and districts responsibility to arrange transportation and field questions from schools, parents and boys. An appeal was for counselors at Boys State. They should have 3 per city for a total of 48; this past year there was only 37 in attendance.

Department Legislative Committee Chairman Rick Oertel turned in a written report that stated the final status of the 2017 JLC Objectives was covered and briefly discussed the 2018 JLC objectives which will be present on the Day on the Hill, January 17, 2018. A handout included both objectives. A listing of resolutions passed out at national convention was also handed out along with the National Legislative Agenda for the 115th Congress. Two new Veteran Care Center groundbreaking were discussed; October 26 – Vint Hill and November 1 – Virginia Beach. (21 in attendance)

Department Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joyce Miller No Report.

Department Internal Affairs Committee Chairman Dan Dellinger reported that the committee met at Headquarters on September 29th. He reported that the service officer program was discussed. There were updates to the Conference and Convention guidelines and approved. He discussed the renovations made at Department Headquarters. He reported on the history room being catalogued. He stated the various post issues were discussed with the Department Judge Advocate. He stated that VALPA By-laws were reviewed and approved as amended. The 100 year coin was discussed and a design was decided on and the plan to move forward on production was approved. Dan made a motion that the actions of the Internal Affairs Committee become actions of the Department Executive Committee. Seconded, approved.

Department Leadership College Director John Kokernak turned in a written report that stated the committee reviewed the student evaluations and instructor evaluations. Discussion was held on suggested changes based on the comments. Suggested changes are identifying a new member and new officer on the registration form; consider new members, track to cover information on history, protocol; class on fundraising; finance officer class; media and communications class; 10 minute breaks between classes for transition time and agendas ahead of time for all tracks so attendees know what is held when. He stated that we have signed contracts for 2018 and 2019 at the Doubletree Richmond. (9 in attendance)

Department Legion Riders Sub Committee Chairman Frank Hillyard turned in a written report that stated that 7 chapters in the east have never submitted any report. There is a big lack of reporting. The Legacy Run raised $1.3 million this year. The next ride will begin in Salina, KS. A committee was formed to work on details for an in-state Legacy Run. All chapters were asked to give updated information for contact. One new chapter was started at 75 and two other posts are working on chapters. There are currently 41 chapters. (45 in attendance)

Department Law & Order Chairman Bill Feasenmyer turned in a written report that stated the date has yet to be confirmed. Cost will remain at $200; number of openings will remain at 50. Initial per post limits will be 5 per post and the limit will be eliminated after April 1. This is so that every post has the opportunity to send a candidate. The length of shorts, particularly for the female cadets was discussed; encourage cargo type shorts; include cadet email address and phone number on application. The LEO and Firefighter and EMT of Year nomination was presented about VA’s draft legislation and approved. The 100 year coin was discussed and a design was decided on and the plan to move forward on production was approved. Dan made a motion that the actions of the Internal Affairs Committee become actions of the Department Executive Committee. Seconded, approved.

Department Oratorical Committee Chairman Greg Mueller turned in a written report that stated techniques

Continued on next page
The Northern Region is committed to and working hard in translating the Commanders motto from words to action. As the first quarter ended the Northern Region was in second place within the Department standings with 67.15% of our membership goal. Of the Five (5) Districts in the region three (3) 13th, 14th, and 15th are in the top ten in the District standings, District 16th is in eleventh and the 17th is in fifteenth. I have visited each of the five Districts and discussed membership goals and encourage those in addition to the traditional Face to Face approach to develop new strategies to engage prospective members. The leadership is energized, committed, and working hard to ensure the job is accomplished.

I have set four goals for the Region this year which are:
• TRY AND OBTAIN 100% OF MEMBERSHIP BY DECEMBER 2017
• HAVE ALL 5 DISTRICTS IN THE TOP TEN IN MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF EACH QTR
• INCREASE FOCUS ON AND PARTICIPATION IN LEGION PROGRAMS
• HAVE NO “GOOSE EGG” POST IN THE REGION

Beginning with the Department Conference in July I have participat- ed in the following actives/events within the Northern Region:
• Attended new officers Conference
• Attended and was an Instructor at American Legion Leadership College
• Attended the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis
• Attended Membership Workshop at Department Headquarters
• Attended the American Legion Convention in Reno
• Guest Speaker Post 162 Boys and Girls State attendees reception
• Discussed renewals and ways of attracting new members with each District Commander
• Attended the Fall Conferences of all 5 Districts in the Northern Region
• Attended two 911 Memorial Services and was the guest speaker
• Attended Department Fall Conference
• Attended Grand Opening at American Legion Post 290
• Telephone Conference with Commander 17th District concerning membership
• Attended Membership Workshop working breakfast with Department Membership Chairman, 17th District Commander and all of his Vice Commanders and selected members of the 17th District Membership Team.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Your Department Staff, Ouse
New naval asset named for Legionnaire

On Oct. 21, the U.S. Navy christened the expeditionary sea base future USNS Hershel “Woody” Williams (ESB 4) during a ceremony in San Diego.

The ship is the first to bear the name of Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Hershel Woodrow Williams, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient recognized for heroism at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

Williams’ daughters, Tracie Jean Ross and Travie Jane Ross, who serve as the ship’s sponsors, broke a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow to formally christen the ship, a time-honored Navy tradition.

“This ship honors a man who dedicated his life to service – heroic service as a Marine and continued service to his fellow veterans,” said the Hon. Richard V. Spencer, secretary of the Navy. “This dedication will live on in USNS Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams as the ship is deployed around the world bringing additional capability to our growing fleet.”

Williams is optimized to support a variety of maritime-based missions and designed around four core capabilities: aviation facilities, berthing, equipment staging support, and command and control assets. ESBs can be enhanced to meet special operations force missions through increased communications, aviation and unmanned aircraft system support.

Williams is a PUFL member of Post 177 in Barboursville, W.Va

Baseball

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Fielding a team will prove a significant undertaking for the members of Post 181 to support and maintain American Legion baseball here in Leesburg. I am working with coaches from local high schools Loudoun County, Heritage, Stonebridge, Broad Run, and Briar Woods to field a solid local team. The viability of Post 181 baseball depends in large measure on securing the support at least of those who intend to directly participate and more importantly in securing the Post 181 general membership support, and of the broader local community. Spring will be here before we know it and we have much planning to do before we field a team.
On November 12, Auxiliary Unit 182 of Blacksburg provided lunch at Custom Catering for members of Post 182. Guest speaker was Bernard Marie, who was a child five years of age living in occupied France in June 1944, has dedicated his life to the remembrance of the D-Day Invasion. His dedication to World War II veterans earned him the American Legion Patriot Award that he received during the 98th American Legion National Convention in Cincinnati.

American Legion Post 325 recently held their annual 4th of July picnic at the Post home. The “burger brigade” was on hand to grill hot dogs and hamburgers for Post members and their families. Shown are: Steve Walker, Rob Phelps, Jimmy Powell, Frank Hill, Jack Sink, Kenny Fitzgerald, Joe Darnell, and Dale Roberson.

Department Commanders Veterans Day Weekend kicked off at Post 176. (L-R) Susan Lee, Glenn Yarbrough 17th District Commander, Commander Tommy Lee, Judge James Baker and wife.

Department Commander Tommy Lee gives Jamboree patches to Hunter Holliday and his father James during Grundy Post 164’s Scout Day.

Volunteers from JEB Little Creek at a work party at Post 35. Commanding Officer: CAPT Albert Orgain, Command Master Chief: CMDCM Brooke Ragan, LT Ashley Saylor, PSC Chard McKinney, ETC Persida Lorga, LNC Melissa Crespo, LSC Henry Ho, HMC Reina Cordero, HMC Tatiana Donnelinger, HM1 Jennifer Kennedy, Ps1 Class Kristine Hart, AD1 Natalie McCrea, LS1 Candice Baskerville, LS2 Shanell Malone, LS2 Chancey Ruffin, AZ2 Jennifer Hall, YN2 Beatriz Francocastillo, LS3 Flavia Veron and PSSN Austin Harbaugh.

Department of Virginia delegates marching during the National Convention in Reno, NV.

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