



American Legion Post 290 Newsletter

edited by Siegfried Gates



The Friendliest Place in Virginia!

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Stafford, Virginia

October 2024

Commander's Call to the Post 290 American Legion Family:

Greetings Comrades,

Can you believe it's already October? We have several exciting events lined up this month and we would love your help as volunteers.

Join us for Stafford night out, steak night with karaoke, and Halloween festivities. Don't forget our bingo sessions every Wednesday and Friday night. We need your support, so please consider volunteering for your Legion.

And here's some great news! The 290 Club is back in action! Our fall event is scheduled for November 16, 2024, and tickets are still available. This event has been a long time coming, and we can't wait to celebrate together!

Rick Schultz

Notes from the Second Vice Commander

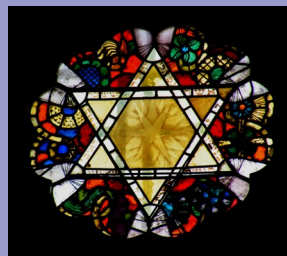
There will be another clean-up at the Post Annex on American Legion Road on Saturday, 26 Oct from 9:00 - 12:00.

The clean-up will consist of working on the outside of the building removing trash, weeds and other items that don't belong. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves and wear old clothes so as to not mess up good clothes. What we need to do should not take more than 3 hours, maybe less, depending on how many volunteers we get.

Please direct all questions John Patrick at john4post290@gmail.com.

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.

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Post Everlasting

By Darren King

Comrades: It is always with great sorrow when I must announce the transfer of any Legionnaire to Post Everlasting:

No report for October

If you know of any member of Post 290, Unit 290 or Squadron 290 who transferred to the Post Everlasting, please contact me at darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com, (816) 550-5228 or 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 .

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Darren King

Columbus Day is an official government holiday celebrated on October 14, 2024 (second Monday in October). While it has met with much hostility lately, it is a holiday worth pondering and thinking about. It is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of what Columbus accomplished both good and bad.

As you reflect on Columbus Day, whether you celebrate it or not, you can reflect on the spirit of exploration and our continued desire to explore the unknown like the bottom of the oceans and outer space. You could reflect on the transfer of knowledge and goods and great fruits and vegetables between the Old and New World (like coffee beans).

Whatever you think of Columbus, Columbus Day helps us reflect on an important historical person and the events that have surrounded him and what we can learn from it. To fail to learn from history is to set yourself on the path to repeat it. Many of us as veterans know all too well as they often suffer for failures to learn from the past. Let us not be those people.

BINNACLE LIST

If you know of any other member of Post 290, Unit 290, Chapter 290 or Squadron 290 who is ill, and/or hospitalized, or if you have updates on any of the above issues, please contact me, Darren King at darren@northstaffordbaptistchurch.com or call me at (816) 550-5228 (cell), or mail me at Darren King, 111 Van Horn Lane, Stafford, VA 22556.

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 News

By Marilyn Butters

At our recent meeting, we donated money to Samaritan's Purse, specifically to assist in the relief efforts for those in need after the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. As you are aware, a number of areas in the southwestern part of our state were hit hard with flooding damage. We send condolences to those whose families lost lives due to this horrific weather event.

Plans are underway for decorating the Legion Hall for the holidays. Please join members at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 16th so we can 'Deck the Halls' in preparation for the upcoming season.

Thanks to member Kathy Payne plans are well underway for the annual Children's Christmas Party. This annual event will be held as tradition dictates, on the first Sunday in December. This year that date is December 1st. This is the Sunday that directly follows Thanksgiving. More information regarding reserving a spot will be posted on the Legion Facebook page and the next issue of the newsletter.

Thank you to Mary Schelin who coordinated the Poppy Patch Fall Craft Fair held at the Post home on Saturday, October 12th. All proceeds will be donated to the MK9s Service Dogs Organization which supports veterans by providing service dogs and training.

Virginia Girls State plans for 2025 are already in the works. We have been informed we once again will only gain 5 delegate slots, which is a disappointment for our Unit who until this year always sponsored over 15 young ladies. Special thanks to Sheri Pierce who works diligently year round with coordinating Virginia Girls State for our Unit.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

The 24/25 membership year has begun, and we want you! Did you know you can pay your dues on line or by phone? The website is www.legion-aux.org/renew. The phone number to pay by phone is 317-569-4570 and you can call any weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.. Thank you to members who have already taken care of their membership. You can also bring your check by during Bingo on Wednesdays or Fridays or mail it to Box 125, Stafford, VA 22555.

Eagle Eye of the Month for September 2024

There was no Eagle Eye spotter for September 2024. The misspelled word was donation on page 7 "To date the Venture Crew's Firewood donaton program for those in need: has delivered 96 cords of wood, to needy Stafford residents who heat primarily with firewood."

There will be no Eagle Eye in this issue.

The Veterans Crisis Line HOT LINE is live! Dial 988 then Press 1.

American Legion Riders Chapter 290 News

By Marty Partridge

Greetings Post 290!

The 290 Riders participated in the Marines Band of Brothers annual Poker Run on August 17th, 2024. This rider is near and dear to our hearts, as our member Brandy Fitzgerald is also a member of the Band of Brothers. The Riders presented a donation of \$250 in addition to our registration fees, raffle tickets and other purchases. All proceeds go to support veterans at the McGuire VA Hospital. Just like last year, Post 290 was one of the stops for the ride, and Unit 290 Auxiliary conducted a hot dog sale to give hungry riders a welcomed snack as they came through the stop at the Post. Special Thanks to Travis Kittrell for supporting the 290 Riders and bartending for the event and donating his tips to support the Band of Brothers and Auxiliary. On 31 August, a small group of 290 Riders made the long ride to Fredericksburg for The American Legion Riders Chapter 55 Installation Ceremony. This is the 58th American Legion Riders Chapter in the Department of Virginia. The 290 Riders donated \$100 to the New Chapter to assist their start up. Congratulations to Post 55 and the Rider Chapter!

A few of us Riders participated in the Sumerduck Ruritan 1st Annual Poker Run on 7 September 2024. We had a great time, and the Ruritan is a community-based organization, supporting their local community. Great times! Congratulations to 290 Rider members, Justin and Tori Goemmer, who “tied the knot” on 24 August 2024! Justin joined the Riders earlier this year, and while Tori has been with us during the entire time, she officially joined the Auxiliary and Riders this August. Great to have you both with us.

Heads Up! The 290 Riders are holding a Cornhole Tournament on Saturday 5 October 2024 at the Post. Come on down and have a good time with us. Registration is at 11:00am; tournament starts at 12:00pm. Registration fee to play is \$20. It’s open to the public, and all are welcome. If you don’t want to play, come on down and watch the fun.

Keep the rubber-side down!

Marty Partridge

ALR-290 Director



September 7, 2024 – American Legion Riders (left to right) Austin Sutton, Greg Nilges, Denver Steele, Juanita Partridge, and Marty Partridge at the Sumerduck Ruritan, during their 1st Annual Poker Run. (Photo by Unknown)

SAL INFO

by Fargo Wells

Greetings SAL members and your families! I hope everyone is well and safe.

Members can login into their myLegion.org account and renew directly or via the quick renew website: legion.org/SAL-Renew.

The procedure for modifying the current dues in the system is the submission of a Squadron Data Report (SDR) that is available at the Sons of The American Legion website under Publications and Forms. The SDR should be sent to the detachment and the email address Post and Squadron Reports (postsqdnupdates@legion.org) for processing.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Mook the National SAL Liaison at kmook@legion.org

The SAL has not had a dues increase in many years.

However, we have to send a portion of the dues to the Department and a portion to Nationals.

The Nationals Dues have increased, therefore we will need to increase the amount that we collect from our members to \$20.00.

If I can help you out with anything. Text, e-mail or call

Fargo Wells, Commander Sons of the American Legion Squadron 290 Stafford

(703) 362-8277 call, text or write rfargowells@hotmail.com .

Thank you,
Fargo Wells

FIREWOOD STILL AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Stafford Post 290 BSA Venture Crew Scouts are conducting a community service project to deliver firewood to families, in need, in Stafford County. The Venture Crew will also cut up and remove wood from properties that may have fallen after a storm or wood that individuals are willing to donate.

To date the Venture Crew's Firewood donation program for those in need: has delivered 96 cords of wood, to needy Stafford residents who heat primarily with firewood. Mike Robinson could always use volunteer support.

The Venture Crew is accepting monetary donations to help in this project or to support the Venture Crew.

If wanting to volunteer to help cut and split wood, or help stack or deliver firewood for this project, please call Mike Robinson, (540) 760-3255.

A cord is a unit of cut firewood which equals a stack of 4x4x8 feet or 128 cubic feet.

OCTOBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AT POST 290

October

Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (SBI recommends annual mammogram begin at age 40)

- Oct 01 - National Night Out, Stafford Market Place
- Oct 01 - Just 86 more shopping days until Christmas and Hanukkah.
- Oct 09 - Blood Drive at the Annex
- Oct 12 - Poppy Craft Fair Sponsored by Auxiliary
- Oct 13 - US Navy Birthday, 1778
- Oct 14 - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Oct 16-23 - Sukkot
- Oct 26 - Post Annex Cleanup, 0900-1200
- Oct 31 - Halloween –Children's Halloween Party at the Annex, 1700-2100hrs

CONSTANT BEARING, DECREASING RANGE

(ITEMS ADDED AS THEY COME TO THE EDITOR'S ATTENTION)

November

National Diabetes Month

- Nov 01 - First Day American Indians Heritage Month
- Nov 01-03 Department Fall Convention
- Nov 03 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 05 - Election Day
- Nov 10 - USMC Birthday, 1775
- Nov 10 - 16th District Fall Conference, Post 330
- Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
- Nov 16 - 290 Club, Happy Hour at 1730, dinner at 1900hrs
- Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 29 - Native American Heritage Day

December

Universal Human Rights Month

- Dec 01 - Children's Christmas Party
- Dec 06 - Stafford County Tree Lighting Festival, 1800hrs, 1300 Courthouse Road
- Dec 07 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony followed by showing of "Pearl Harbor" the movie.
- Dec 14 - Post 290 Oratorical, 0900 Judges show time; 1000 hrs START
- Dec 14 - Army Navy Football Game, Commander's Field, Landover, MD, 1500hrs
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec 26 - Jan 01 Kwanzaa
- Dec 25 - Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

2025

January 2025

National Blood Donor Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month

- Jan 01 - New Year's Day
- Jan 03 - Hanukkah Ends
- Jan 04 - District Oratorical, at Post 295, 1000hrs START
- Jan 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday/Presidential Inauguration Day
- Jan 25 - Robert Burns Night
- Jan 29 - Chinese/Lunar New Year - Year of the Dragon

February 2025 Black History Month

- Feb 01 - Regional Oratorical Post 176, 1000hrs START



**YOUR ELECTED POST
290 OFFICERS**

Commander Rick Schultz
 1st Vice Lewis Bunch
 2nd Vice John Patrick
 3rd Vice Brandy Fitzgerald
 Adjutant Mike Scullin
 Finance Robert Ponzo
 Service Ofc. Jim Richey
 Chaplain Darren King
 Sgt at Arms VACANT
 JAG Garry Briggs
 PAO Cliff McDaniel
 Historian VACANT



**YOUR AUX UNIT 290
ELECTED OFFICERS**

President Ginger Briggs
 Vice Pres Mary Schelin
 Sec/Treas Marilyn Butters
 Chaplain Dale Seward
 Historian Mary Schelin
 Sgt at Arms Teresa Hardisty

**STAFFORD AMERICAN
LEGION POST 290**

**We are on the Web
www.staffordPost290.org**



October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month		1 Stafford National Night Out Just 86 more shopping days til Christmas and Hanukkah	2 BINGO	3	4 BINGO	5
6	7 ALR Monthly Meeting	8 General Members Mtg.	9 BINGO Blood Drive at the Annex	10	11 BINGO	12 Auxiliary Poppy Craft Fair
13 Navy Birthday, 1778	14 Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day	15	16 BINGO Sunset Begin Sukkot	17	18 BINGO	19 Steak Night, 1630-1900, followed by Karaoke
20	21 Executive Committee Mtg. 1930	22	23 BINGO End Sukkot	24	25 BINGO	26 Post Annex Clean up 0900-1200
27	28	29	30 BINGO	31 Halloween – Children's Halloween Party at Annex – 1700-2100hrs Trick or Treat!	1 November BINGO	2