

# The Beacon

Newsletter of American Legion Post 202  
and Auxiliary Unit 202

AUGUST  
2015  
Issue

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Columbia, MO  
Permit 286

SAL  
Squadron 202 Legion  
Riders

Herbert Williams-U.S. Army, WWI, Boone County Missouri

American Legion  
Herbert Williams Post 202  
P.O. Box 202  
Columbia, MO 65202

Post 202 Officers  
Commander:  
Tori Duncan  
(573) 379-2306

Vice Commander:  
Ron McMillan  
(573) 819-5915

2nd Vice Commander:  
Mike Hancock

Adjutant:  
Brett Hendren  
(573) 228-5800

Finance Officer:  
Lisa Hendren  
(573) 864-8286

Chaplain: Ed Hall  
(573) 544-6748

Service Officer:  
John Witte  
(573) 248-3059

Historian:  
Reid Coffield  
(573) 875-8636

Judge Advocate:  
Ryan Asbridge  
(573) 446-9055

Sergeant-at-Arms:  
Darrel Goetz

To rent the Legion Post  
Hall, call (573) 999-4642,  
or email to  
rental@americanlegionpost202.org

Chris Duncan  
Newsletter Editor  
post202web@americanlegionpost202.org

## Calendar of Events

- August 4 Town Hall Meeting led by Commander-Elect Tori Duncan.  
7:00pm in the Main Hall.
- August 9 Pre-Season Football. 7:00pm until 11pm at the Bar.  
Final 2-Minute Warning=Last Call  
Doors Close 15 Minutes Game Ends
- August 19 Installation of Officers-Dinner at 6:30pm
- August 27 The Post is holding a dinner for the **Missing in America Project**. Expect 60 riders carrying cremated, unclaimed remains of Veterans from California to Arlington National Ceremony for entombment.

**Every Monday through Wednesday:**  
Bar Open 6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Pre-Season Football Thursdays:**  
Bar Open 6:15pm until 15 Minutes After Game Ends

**Every Friday and Saturday:**  
Bar Open 6:00pm to 11:00pm

It is the new membership year. Renew Now!

## Newsletter by Email

To sign up for the email Legion Beacon or to update your email address, send your name and email address to  
Post202Beacon@gmail.com

## Change of Command

It has been an honor serving as your Commander of American Legion Post 202 for these past two years. I have been thinking back on my time as Commander and there are two best things and one worst thing that I will remember. The two best things are Post 202 sponsored young Ashwath Kumar becoming the National Champion of the 2014 American Legion Oratorical Scholarship competition, and the Tomb of the Unknowns Guard presentation given by Tomb Guard #622 Lt. Ryan Ball. The worst thing is the ballroom floor buckling from the rain and humidity after we did all that work on it.

There were other highlights but those are the ones that really stand out. We hosted dinners for the 2014 National Vice Commander Wayne Satrom, the 2015 National Commander Michael Helm, and 40 members of the Great Lakes Navy Band. Our Auxiliary Unit made these and other dinners hugely successful.

Our Legion Riders represented our Post in a number of parades and our Honor Guard, made up of Riders, performed funeral and memorial services and posted the colors at several special events including Gold Star Mother's Day ceremonies and a championship football game at Battle High School. Battle won!

The Sons of the American Legion held blood drives and presented awards at Mizzou graduation ceremonies.

The Auxiliary sponsored many girls for Girls State as did the Post and Board Member Terry McDonald sponsor boys to Boys State. The Auxiliary also worked very hard making their Poppy sales successful.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fantastic work of "Larry, Moe and Curley Construction" (the name we gave ourselves as the work crew) in renovating the Ballroom and the Memorial Room. A number of members helped but a special thank you must be given to Ron McMillan, Charles White, Darrel Goetz, Brian Lindstrom, Ed Hall and John Witte who did the bulk of the work, and Alan Rodgers who worked with businesses in town to get materials donated. To say they worked hard on those projects is very much an understatement.

I must include a mention and thank you to the many members who supported the Post and responded to our donation request letter by sending in checks to help pay for this work. That response far exceeded our expectations.

I am proud to have had you all as my Post 202 Legion Family.

So now I will turn the helm over to Tori Duncan, pin the "PAST COMMANDER" pin on my hat and go fishing.

Please give Tori your support. It is hard work keeping this Post going.

Oh by the way..... Your dues are due.

Anchors Aweigh!

Commander Paul Hobbs, USN ET1(SS)

# Commander Comments

## **Memorial Ceremony for Chattanooga Victims**

On Sunday, July 19, a Memorial ceremony was held at the Post to honor the four Marines and the Sailor killed in the Islamic attacks in Chattanooga. The names of the Marines, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, Sgt. Carson Holmquist, Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, Lance Cpl. Squire K. "Skip" Wells and the Sailor, Petty Officer 2nd class Randall Smith, were read, rifle volleys were fired, Taps was sounded and the flag was lowered to half-staff.

Larry Carmer, retired Director of the Jacksonville Veteran's Cemetery, rode down and joined our Honor Guard in firing the volleys.

District 8 Commander Richard Pack also joined us for this ceremony.



## **Department Convention Note**

Darrel, Terry, and Tori discovered some news that will affect membership starting in the calendar year 2016. There is a Resolution being brought before the National Convention this year in Baltimore that will raise dues by \$5.00. All indications are that this resolution will be passed. If it passes it will take effect January 21st, 2016. If you pay your dues before January 20, 2016 you will only pay the current dues in the amount of \$30.00. After that date they will be \$35.00.

We are taking Membership Dues of \$30.00 every night the Post Home is open.  
Come and Continue to Serve the American Legion.

Post Home Hours: M-T 6pm-9pm; Fri & Sat 6pm-11pm.

# Commander Comments

## From Commander Tori

*Thank you* to Paul, and many others, for getting and keeping the Post up and running. I will ask everyone to continue with what you are doing as it brings greatness to our Post Home. Through many discussion with many people in the post and with organizations both inside and outside of the Post we hope to continue building onto the Post Home legacy with both some of the same ideas and with a new way to get it all done.

The simplest thing to start with is to expand our hours, and to shout it out to everyone. I will be opening the bar Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for starters. Let everyone know. If folks have meetings, study groups, or other things they wish to bring into the Post during these times, they are welcome. Bring your ideas. We could have a fun bingo night, a karaoke night, bring in a DJ (or just bring in your friends and a laptop for music). There are so many possibilities.

I am hosting a Town Hall this Tuesday in the Meeting Hall at the Post at 7:00pm, and we can discuss use of the rooms at the Post Home. We can talk about membership, committees, the by-laws, American Legion programs, what our ideas are now, and the ideas you may have. The truth is that we are building on what Paul and the others have done in the past few years, and together we can grow the Post Home even stronger than before.

You ideas are your dreams, and many of our dreams can become reality when we work together to achieve them. I know some of your ideas, I share them, I drive them as hard as I can, but this is a group effort. The American Legion has been built by members, units, squadrons, collectives of people working hard and smart to achieve goals. I have seen some great things at other posts, in other states run by good people democratically achieving the dream. Electing to act responsibly amidst debate and discussion empowers the membership beyond single acts of responsibility. Let us vote together to enable the right members under the right circumstances to achieve what we as members already do individually; making a motion and seconding it to success.

Let's keep working on everything, I will keep my focus on empowering volunteers, enabling them to step up, and to get recognized for their hard work, both among the membership, and in the community at large. The American Legion is, most importantly, an American endeavour with American-centric goals...and as all of those who have served know, it is about defending the American values of individual liberty, self-rule, and fair and equal treatment for its people. I try to remember that our founding fathers envisioned a future where self-determination is never at the expense of individual liberty. And, among the hardest choices are those where a few of us suffer the most at the hope for a greater good, often under the guise of serving something larger than ourselves. Let us remember that those few should never be empowered to do it alone, as it is unsafe; and it must never be done without the will of the membership.

There are so many things to say, but this has gone on long enough. It will be my pleasure to Continue to Serve with you. Don't forget to renew your dues before January 21, 2016. Thanks again.

Tori Duncan, Commander

Post Home Hours: M-T 6pm-9pm; Fri & Sat 6pm-11pm.

# Building Manager

*As many of you have seen,* the work is progressing nicely in the Memorial Room. If you have not seen the progress, stop by and take a look. This week we will begin having regular Post hours so come out to visit with your friends and see what is going on around your Post. Hopefully we will get the new flooring laid in the Memorial Room in the next week or so and can wrap up this project. Issues with the floor in the Main Ball Room just continues to “pop up”. We will keep dealing with them and eventually we will have the floor down securely. What is happening is that we keep getting “pop ups”. The glue over the years has just given up. As the tile are put back down, they are being re-glued which should keep the problem from reoccurring.

Now a topic which just won't go away. We need help with the everyday cleaning of your Post and setting up for the events. I have detailed how a very few of us have taken care of this for the last two years or so and how much money has been saved by our volunteer effort. In the recent past I have ask for volunteers to help form teams so we could spread out the work. The only people that indicated they were willing to do this were ones that were already spending way too much time with the revitalization effort. Ten to 12 of us cannot continue to provide the whole labor force for the Post. Hiring the maintenance done is not a good option. What are your suggestions? We need to hear from you. There are over 400 members of our Post, I am confident that there are many who care and want to help. Please come to meetings and let us know what you would like to see.

You may call or email me at any time about these or other issues.

Ron McMillan  
Building Manager, American Legion Post 202  
573-819-5915

## LEGION NOTES

Our website <http://americanlegionpost202.org/>, is under construction – offline construction that is. Access has been given over to Chris Duncan to design a new website for American Legion Post 202. He also is managing the email addresses for the post.

Please use the following email addresses for the purposes they are named after:

Commander: [commander@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:commander@americanlegionpost202.org)  
Adjutant: [adjutant@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:adjutant@americanlegionpost202.org),  
Building Rental: [rental@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:rental@americanlegionpost202.org)  
Services: [services@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:services@americanlegionpost202.org)  
School Awards [Post202Awards@gmail.com](mailto:Post202Awards@gmail.com)  
Legion Beacon [Post202beacon@gmail.com](mailto:Post202beacon@gmail.com)  
[post202web@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:post202web@americanlegionpost202.org)

We Need You!



Help meet our enhanced membership goals.

Renew by  
August 7th and  
September 4th

Post Home Hours: M-T 6pm-9pm; Fri & Sat 6pm-11pm.

# Closing Notes

## From the Chaplain

On July 17, 4 Marines and 1 Sailor were wounded and ultimately gave up their lives for this great nation.

This, in and of itself, is cause for concern. What makes it hard to accept is that it happened while they were performing their duties within the boundaries of our country. They were killed by a person who was radicalized in one form or another. Again, this is hard to accept.

As time goes on the typical calls for action by politicians on both the left and right will occur which will have the effect of diluting this tragedy and removing from the memory of the majority of people. As this occurs, the families of the fallen will be forgotten and left to grieve alone.

Every day I pray for the safety of our service members, especially those who are deployed, with the hope they will return to their family unharmed, while understanding by the very nature of their mission that not all will. I accept this incongruent thinking and call it normal, when it really isn't.

I believe that all of us should pray, within our own individual understanding of the nature of God, for the safety of our service members and to particularly pray for the families of all who have been killed that they may be comforted. I believe the Apostle Paul would say this, "They have fought a good fight, they have finished the race, they have kept the faith."



Visit the Missouri American Legion Website to view calendars and much more!

<http://www.missourilegion.org/>



[CALENDAR](#)



[Much More](#)

Although we have a very active Ladies Auxiliary, they regret they could not provide content for the month of August. Check back for September. Please contact Cheryl Wolfe, (573-268-8353) for information.

Although we have a Sons of the American Legion Squadron, they regret they could not provide content for the month of August. Check back for September. Please contact Larry Dietzel by calling (573) 442-2950.

## The new membership year has started. Renew today!

Please provide comments about the newsletter or website to [post202web@americanlegionpost202.org](mailto:post202web@americanlegionpost202.org).