

The Beacon

Newsletter of American Legion Post 202
and Auxiliary Unit 202

September
2016
Edition



SAL

Squadron Legion
202 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
Ron McMillian

1st Vice Commander
Darrel Goetz

2nd Vice Commander:
Debra Gayer

Adjutant
Bret Hendren
(573) 228-5800

Finance Officer
Lisa Hendren
(573) 864-8286

Chaplain
Dr. Edwin Hall
(573) 544-6748

Sergeant At Arms
John Hendrickson

Service Officer
John Witte
(573) 248-3059

Historian
Reid Coffield
(573) 875-8636

Judge Advocate
Ryan Asbridge
(573) 446-9055

Board of Directors

Chairman Alan Wolfe
Vice Chairman Dennis Gayer
Secretary Paul Hobbs
Terry McDonald
Harold Brake

Calendar of Events

Every Thursday though Saturday
The Bar Opens at 6:00 pm

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 18	Installation of District 8 Officers	1:00—3:00 PM
September 19	Board Meeting	6:30--7:00 PM
September 21	American Legion Family Meeting	5:30-9:00 PM
September 22	Football & Poker	6:00-11:00 PM
September 23	Kids First Optimist Charity Poker	6:30-11:30 PM
September 26	CoMo Blues Dancers	7:00—10:00 PM
September 29	Football & Poker	6:00-11:00 PM
September 30	Kids First Optimist Charity Poker	6:30-11:30 PM
October 8	Dinner & Dance	5:00—11:30

Don't forget to renew your membership

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

Commander's Comments

Fellow Legionnaires,

Labor Day has come and gone along with the Summer Vacation Season. School is back in session as we can tell by all of the traffic in and around our fair City. This is truly a busy, but exciting time to live in a growing SEC City. I think it is time for our Post to get busy for the growing Veteran population in Columbia. Every day I learn more about just how big the number of Veterans living here is. I made a commitment at my Installation as Commander of Post 202 to double the number of members attending meetings. I also committed to see a large increase in the number of members participating in events at our Post. I will start with more communication about what is going on at the Post. Ed Hall is working hard on the Web Page and should have the events calendar updated soon. I will send out weekly updates. The Post will be open more often and hopefully there will be more events you wish to participate in. Now the key to having more events in which you wish to participate is you telling us what you want to see. Do that by sending me an email, call me, send me a text or come out and tell me in person. When you give me an idea about something we should or could be doing, don't worry the first words out of mouth will not be "How about you heading that project up". We will work to implement your ideas and you can do as much or little as you wish. But please let me know what you would like to see happen at the Post.

Next, is the Anniversary that has just passed. It has been 15 years since the biggest event in most of our lives occurred. The attack on Pearl Harbor was 75 years ago. That was the day we were driven into WWII. It was the day that truly changed the World as it was those long days ago. 9/11/2001 was also a day that changed the world. The war that ensued is not as well defined, but it is still ongoing 15 years later. There are so many young men and women who have served since that horrible day that our traditional Veteran's groups have not served. I know many of you may say "I was not accepted" or "I did not fit in with the traditional organizations when I got out. Buck up, make the changes within yourself to fit in, and join us." We know that is not going to happen. It is time for us to look for ways for us to make changes. The American Legion needs to be an organization for all Veterans. I have been talking to several groups in town that have ties to the younger Veterans. They are really excited to have the opportunity to work with us in serving all Veterans and getting Veterans engaged with other Veterans.

But the younger Veterans are not the only Veterans we Legionnaires need to be concerned with. I personally am a bit embarrassed that a Legion Post as large as ours, in a city with one of the best VA Medical Centers in the United States, and we do not have a real relationship with it. I do plan to resolve this. The first step will be at our next Post meeting. I have the Chief of Volunteer Services coming to tell us about opportunities. When I say first step, there will be more. We can only start to understand what needs to be done. I plan to invite others at the VA to meet with us, either in a committee or general meeting settings. I invite you to let me know your ideas, level of interest and what commitment you might be able to make to this project. You can call me, email me, text me or maybe come out to the Post on Monday, Thursday or Friday evenings when I am working. Let me know. I will announce when our first committee meeting will be at the next Post Meeting. It is of course next Wednesday, September 21st at 7:00.

Ron McMillan, Commander

American Legion Post 202, Columbia Missouri

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573 819-5915

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Post Web Page

Fellow Legionnaires,

As I think everyone knows, the post's website has not been updated in some months. Earlier this month I started working on an overhaul of the entire page and hopefully changed the format so items are easier to find (and yes it was mostly restoring backups of my previous one). Anyway, there are mistakes on the various pages, mainly because I don't have the current correct information (I don't like to rely on my memory for everything). What I need, and ask for, is for the pages to be read and corrections sent to me. What you need to understand is with my work schedule, I can only make time for weekly updates, so don't expect instantaneous changes, because it won't happen. That said, the changes will be made.

Additionally, what I need is more content. For example, when the ballroom is setup for an event take pictures and send them to me. Another example is the Post's history. I have some thanks to Paul; but, I can use more. The same idea applies to events we host and to the Auxiliary, Riders, and SAL. I know that many pictures are posted on Facebook, which is great; but, I don't have time to do a lot of data mining to find content. Remember, the page is only as good as the content and content shouldn't be stagnant.

Let me finish with this. I am happy to be entrusted with the maintenance of the website. I will do the best I can. Please send corrections and updates to edhall1044@gmail.com.

The web address is www.americanlegionpost202.org

Thanks,

Ed



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Chaplin's Comments

As the Commander noted, it has been 15 years since the biggest event in our lifetime. It was ironic in a sense that on the 15th anniversary of 9/11, I was giving a lesson on peacemakers.

The lesson was based on Matthew 5:9 which reads, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

The word peacemaker was derived from a word which signifies a harmonious relationship and is not merely the absence of war or uneasy truce. It also signifies parties holding differences of opinion who are willing to turn toward each other and embrace one another in spite of their differences (something we see little of in the era political correctness which enabled the "I'm offended" generation). The word also extends to seeking all kinds of reconciliation. Instead of engaging in division, or some petty "divide-and-conquer" mentality, we should strive to make peace wherever possible.

What the world has a hard time understanding is that peace making does not mean peace at any price. Jesus is not speaking about people with a peaceful disposition or those who love peace at any cost. He did not say "*Blessed are the pacifists*" The blessing is on the Peace-**makers**, not necessarily on the peace-**lovers**. I think most of us realize that if a man loves peace at any price, he only succeeds in making trouble for himself and not peace. This thought applies equally to nation states as well. There are those who allow a threatening and dangerous situation to develop, and their defense is that for peace's sake they do not want to take any action. Recent examples of this include the formation of ISIS and the devastation in Syria. The peace which the Bible calls blessed does not come from the evasion of issues; it comes from facing them, dealing with them, and conquering them. What this beatitude demands is **not the passive acceptance** of things because we are afraid of the trouble of doing anything about them, but the active facing of things, and the making of peace, even when the way to peace is through struggle.

Does this mean we are supposed to be the world's police force? Not Necessarily. But it does mean that sometimes the way to peace is through confrontation. An idea that we as veterans understand.

I would like to close with the thought that we should always remember those who lost their lives on 9/11 and to also honor the sacrifice that so many of our service members gave trying to right the wrong that happened to our great country.

Ed

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