



@ THE POST
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Towson Post 22

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anita Stewart-Hammerer



Legionnaires, as concerns about the current COVID-19 outbreak continues, know that your leadership team is working hard to maintain the upkeep of the post and to ensure that members in need still have a place to turn and aren't forgotten. We are also doing our best to keep everyone informed and to make sure that the post will be a healthy and safe environment to return too. I understand the current outbreak is worrying, and I want to take a moment to share the ways Post members can all stay healthy and educated on the latest concerning COVID-19 and Towson Post 22 by taking a couple of preventive steps.

- For trusted and up-to-date information, visit the CDC website or the WHO.
- Practice social distancing.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash our hands regularly

Although we are not having monthly meetings, your elected officers are here to help any Towson Post #22 member in need. You only need to pick up the phone and call the Post or a fellow Legionnaire and let them know you need help.

As you go through this newsletter you will discover information about Buddy Checks, inspirational readings from the Post Chaplain and a look back at Towson Post #22 from 20 years ago. I look forward to seeing Post members when meetings resume. But in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me to say hi or to simply let me know how you are doing. Stay healthy my Legionnaires.

Post Commander Anita Stewart-Hammerer delivering a Veterans Day speech in 2019. Chaplain Vernon Crider in the background.



All Legion Meetings are Canceled until Further Notice—Check Post Website or Facebook for updates

Legion Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
4th Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

Sons of American Legion Meeting
3rd Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

Auxiliary Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30 pm

Legion Riders Meeting
1st Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

CHAPLAIN

Vernon Crider

First, I hope and pray all is well with you and your family during these difficult times. Historically, over the course of time, civilizations have encountered a host of challenging events which have tested our will, wisdom, and strength as people. It is apparent that the COVID-19 Pandemic is a “test” for our nation.

The Bible contains many events which have occurred over the centuries that have made significant changes over the course of time. Examples of these occurrences include plagues, disease, famine, droughts, pestilence and disorder. Despite facing such challenges, the People of God sought His presence, wisdom, and overcame these obstacles. In their seeking of God during turbulent times, three major things God’s people adhered to which ensured their victory:

- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Hope

Knowledge: Using the knowledge God has provided to us in the area of science gives us the insight of how to address the issues as we face the COVID-19 Virus. (Proverbs 1:5 & Proverbs 22:17). Hosea 4:6 tells us “My people destroy themselves for lack of knowledge.” Acquire knowledge in all things!

Wisdom: Wisdom is applying acquired knowledge to enhance oneself or others. Using wisdom and just plain “common sense” provides us how to apply the knowledge that God gives us in all that we do (Proverbs 4:7). Don’t get caught in the “politics” that elected leaders, people, and media outlets are using to disseminate misleading information. Remember, there is a difference between politics and governing, especially when a community faces a crisis.

Hope: When acquiring knowledge and using wisdom especially during these difficult times, we humble ourselves and pray to God to address our situation. When we humble ourselves and seek out God, he will hear our prayer and give us the desires of our heart when they are in alignment with Him. (Psalms 37: 3-7). Legionnaires, as we face these challenging times remember these things:

- Acquire Knowledge
- Use Wisdom
- Seek Hope

These “ingredients” when used appropriately will get us through any situation! In praying and hope that God keeps you and your family remaining safe and in due season, we will once again be able to congregate and fellowship! Here are some additional scriptures that I hope you will find helpful:

- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Psalms 27:1
- Psalms 46: 1-2
- Isaiah 41:10
- Hebrews 13: 5-6

If you feel overwhelmed, stressed or troubled during these challenging times, please reach out to contact me @ (410) 258-2367 or e-mail: criderv@comcast.net.

2019-2020 Post Officers

Commander
Anita Stewart-Hammerer

1st Vice Commander
Vacant

2nd Vice Commander
Angela Phillips

Adjutant
Fred Hofferbert

Finance Officer
Linda Bishop

Historian
Jeffery Whye

Chaplain
Vernon Crider

Asst. Chaplain
Jesse Mixson

Sgt-at-Arms
Norman Zickuhr

Service Officer
Sonia Young

Judge Advocate
John Adair

Past Commander
Kraig Dean

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

If you're worried about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), please be reassured that we are following the health and safety guidance as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the local public health department.

Here are the actions we are taking at Towson Post #22

Keeping People Safe



Closed our establishment in accordance with Governor Hogan's guidelines.

Provided resources for members in need including calls from the Post Chaplain, health and welfare checks for members, and a resource with helpful information for keeping in touch with Post leadership.

Securing a Healthy Environment



We have deep cleaned and disinfected the Post including high-touch surfaces.

We have installed pull down paper towel dispensers.

Creating a Flexible Workplace



We are using phone conferencing for meetings when possible.

We are continuing to keep the post functioning by making improvements, paying bills, and processing membership.

If you have any question, contact us.

Stay Healthy and Contact the Post if you need help.

Auxiliary President

Lynette Dean

These are some crazy times. With the spring weather came the COVID-19 virus. I hope everyone is staying in one place and is in good health. As you know by now just about everything planned by us, Unit 22, has been cancelled until further notice. To be honest I have been enjoying my time at home. I've been sorting and organizing closets and the "other" room I have ignored for the past several years - lol. I have piles of clothing and household items to go out to MCVET and Goodwill once we are able to take them. What kind of things have you been doing?

Each year, the Districts throughout the state host District Receptions starting in March. The last function I attended, was our NCD District Reception at Dundalk Post 38. This was an afternoon spent with Legion Family and friends honoring our Maryland Department Commanders (Legion and SAL) and the Auxiliary President Linda Green. There were drinks, delicious food, and plenty of laughter. The following day was the Baltimore District's turn. Little did we know the rest would be cancelled! As of now until you hear from us, all Unit and Northern Central District functions have been cancelled.

We are waiting on what's coming in the future. With the National Convention cancelled, the National officers will hold their offices for another year. We might also need to do that. Feel free to call me to discuss your thoughts on this matter.

We send prayers to each and every member of our Legion Family, that they stay safe and healthy during our quarantine. I hope we will continue to encourage diversity, caring, and kindness during this ever-changing world we live in. Be grateful for the utilities, television, and computer access. Thank you to all the police, state troopers, sheriff department, nurses, doctors, truck drivers, store personnel, insurance people, maintenance workers, and other essential employees. Things would be so much worse without you. You are so much appreciated.

As President Green always says: "We are family celebrating "A Century of Service" bringing "Holiday Cheer Throughout the Year in 2019-2020."

Armed Forces Retirement Home Accepting Applications

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) – which offers affordable independent living to eligible veterans in Washington, D.C., is now accepting applications for residency in 2020. To qualify, veterans must be 60 or older and served at least 20 years on active duty, with the majority of that time spent in the enlisted ranks.

For those with less than 20 years on active duty, we welcome applications from those who have at least a 50% service-connected disability, or from those who served in a war theater (such as in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan) and now have an injury, disease or disability. Rooms are currently available with no waiting period, down payment or contract required.

For further information or to request an application, visit: <https://www.afrh.gov/> to apply or contact the Office of Public Affairs at: admissions@afrh.gov or 1-800-422-9988.

Membership Dues Needed

Don't forget to pay your membership dues before the end of May. Paying your dues helps the American Legion Family continue to support veterans and families in need.

Legion Dues are still \$30. If you have not paid, please send a check payable to Towson Post #22 and mail to 125 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Membership dues for the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #22 are \$25.00 or if you are under 21 years old and/or a dual card Member then your dues are \$15.00. Please save the Squadron some money and mail your dues in today to the above address.

Membership dues for the Auxiliary for seniors (those who are & turn 18 between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, and older) are \$25 a year (only 6 cents a day) and for juniors are only \$8 a year.

Towson American Legion Riders Chapter #22 dues are also being collected. If you have not paid your \$15 dues for 2020 please do so.

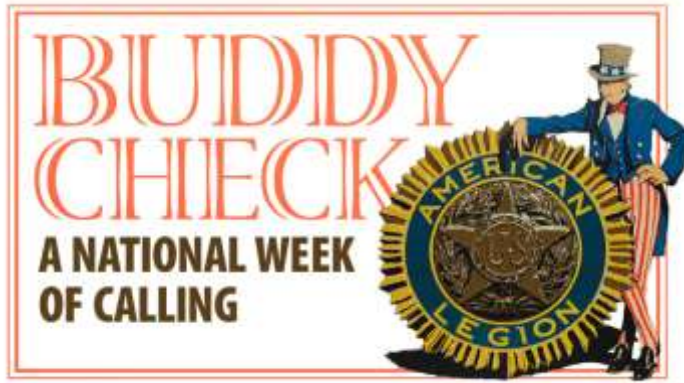
Thank you for your continued support of Towson Post #22. Please stay safe and healthy.

Buddy Checks Vital During Pandemic

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that is affecting us all, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before. The idea is to connect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask.

It's not enough to simply pick up the phone and call the veterans you know. We need to check on ALL VETERANS in each of our communities to be sure they are safe, feeling OK and have access to health care and

services. If we hear of someone in need, we can offer someone a ride, deliver groceries or supplies and, in short, be there for them.



Some people won't ask for help. Encourage members of your post to reach out and offer assistance to other veterans in your area. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

Stay Connected During These Uncertain Times

Towson Post 22 will be providing updates on anything related to the Post as soon as it happens. We will be providing updates through several options. Please stay connected by taking advantage of the following means of communications:

- Email and text blasts: We can email or text you directly with up-to-date information if you email your cell phone and email address to towsonlegion@gmail.com. For those who do not have access to a computer, please text your information to 410-852-1039.
- Follow us in Facebook: We provide updated information as soon as we receive it on our Facebook page by going to Facebook-www.Facebook.com and then look for American Legion Towson Post #22. Read the history of the day or the quote of the day.
- Visit our website: Visit the Post website to keep updated on when the Post will reopen. Website address is www.towsonamericanlegion.org.
- Receive a phone call from the Post Chaplain. Email the post requesting a call or contact the Post Commander.

Newsletter Pictures Needed

Please email pictures of how you are spending this quarantine time at home. Or perhaps you have something to share with your fellow Legionnaires that will be helpful to others. Have you taken up a new hobby or learning a new skill. Share with others is a great way to help others. Please forward any pictures or articles to the Post via email or regular mail. Post email address is towsonlegion@gmail.com.



Towson Post #22 Twenty Years Ago

Can you identify any of the people in the photos below? As a way to reconnect to our past and to keep in touch with legion family members, the first person that identifies the most people in the photos will receive a prize. Please email names identifying photos by alphabet to towsonlegion@gmail.com or mail to 125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. Deadline for sending entries is June 1, 2020.

A



B



C



E



F



D



National and Department Convention Updates

Due to public health concerns, The American Legion Department of Maryland has postponed its yearly convention scheduled for July 13-17, 2020, in Ocean City, Maryland, until mid-September 2020. Location to be determined. More details, once available, will be posted on the Post's website and Facebook pages.

This rescheduling also means that all current Post Commanders and officers will be in office until at least 20 days before the state convention. According to the Department Constitution and Bylaws all Post Officers shall be elected at least twenty days prior to the opening of the Department Convention and shall assume their duties within twenty days after the closing of the Department Convention. Elected officers of the Post shall include Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer or Treasurer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain.

National Convention

The American Legion's 102nd National Convention, originally scheduled for Louisville, Ky., Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2020, is canceled due to public-health concerns, ongoing restrictions, and uncertainties related to the global coronavirus-COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved a resolution April 8, 2020, by email to cancel the annual convention of wartime veterans and their families for the first time in history. The 2020 Sons of The American Legion National Convention is also canceled.

The 102nd National Convention is now scheduled for Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix. Terms of currently serving national officers, including National Commander Oxford, are extended until then, according to the resolution. Nationally appointed American Legion commission and committee chairpersons will also remain in their positions until the Fall 2021 meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The convention cancellation and extension of national officer terms are within the authority of the National Executive Committee, according to The American Legion's constitution and bylaws. The NEC selected Louisville as the site of the 2026 American Legion National Convention, the first available date.

What You Can do if You are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19

Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune-weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Here's What You Can do to Help Protect Yourself

- Stay home if possible.**
- Wash your hands often.**
- Avoid close contact** (6 feet, which is about two arm lengths) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoid all cruise travel and non-essential air travel.**

Call your healthcare professional if you are sick. For more information on steps you can take to protect yourself, see CDC's <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

How to Obtain a copy of your DD-214

The best way to receive a copy of your DD 214 is get an eBenefits account. Go to www.ebenefits.va.gov and register. Once you have a premium account, click on the "Manage Benefits" tab, and go to the Military Personnel File (DPRIS) link to request a copy of the DD 214.





Towson Post 22, Inc.
The American Legion
Department of Maryland
125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204
www.towsonamericanlegion.org

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Upcoming Events

Check Facebook or the Website for Post Updates

FOR EVEN MORE POST INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.TOWSONAMERICANLEGION.ORG OR CALL (410) 823-8030. TO SUBMIT AN
ARTICLE OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT POST COMMANDER AT
AHAMMERER@JUNO.COM.