



@ THE POST
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Towson Post 22



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anita Stewart-Hammerer

Let us make this a phenomenal year. Let us pledge to do what we can to not only help the Legion but to help other Legionnaires. What better way is there to express ourselves but then to give of ourselves. All too often we forget within the first three months of the year what resolutions we made, or we just simply give up. Now is the time to really commit to doing something special not just for yourself but for others as well. Take the time to commit to something that will make a difference.

My difference this year is to simply be in the moment. To really cherish the moments that: I have with my family; to be grateful for being in those moments; and to know when to speak and when to just be still. Do not get me wrong, I will still be dancing in the rain but I will stop and be still so I can be able to hear those little voices.



“THE FIRST STEP
TOWARDS GETTING
SOMEWHERE IS TO
DECIDE YOU’RE NOT
GOING TO STAY
WHERE YOU ARE.”
—J.P. MORGAN

No, I am not crazy or being silly. Those voices of God telling me that I can be greater. That I can give a little



more. That no matter how small I give; I can make a difference. But perhaps the greatest of these for me is to know when I can do the smallest of things to make life easier for someone else.

Last year was a difficult year for many Legionnaires. With the new year, please take the time to just be still and listen to your inner voice. I promise you; no one will think that you are crazy.

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

The year 2020 has and is imposing its will upon everyone! As we transition into 2021, COVID-19, economic upheaval, disarray in our politics and a host of social issues which have impacted and challenged us as Americans; however, as Americans, we will adapt and become a better, united America despite what issues and differences we face. America is resilient!

In lieu of this “stuff” we have encountered, you still have “purpose”. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, peace of mind or happiness. Purpose is defined as “the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.” Despite many obstacles you have faced in your life, currently facing or will face, remember, it is essential that you perform one or more of the following:

- Find Your Purpose
- Improve Upon Your Purpose
- Rediscover Your Purpose
- Maintain Your Purpose

However, before you engage to venture on any of the aforementioned, the very first thing is that you must begin with God as the core of your “purpose”. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, *“For I know the plans I have for you, says The Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a future and a hope.”* This portion of scripture tells us that God has purpose for us as long as He is the focus of all that we do. God has purpose and plans for everyone! You were made by God and for God and until you embrace this notion, life in general will not make sense. It is in God that we discover our origin, identity, meaning, purpose, significance, and destiny.

Life’s journey presents many challenges for everyone. Many of our decisions are driven by the problems we face, deadlines we must meet and other concerns. When facing impactful decisions, allow your purpose to help guide you and address such matters when they arise and seek help, as necessary. Part of our purpose is not to work in a “silo”. Proverbs 12:15 tells us, *“The way of the fool seems right, but the wise listen to advice.”* With wisdom comes purpose, period!

In closing, having purpose simplifies your life. It defines what you do and what you do not do. Without purpose you have no foundation on how you make decisions, use time wisely as well as using resources. Do not make decisions which are not in alignment with your purpose; also, do not make hasty decisions based on sudden circumstances, pressures and/or mood! Once you find/discover/refresh your “purpose”, it will be revealed to you and allows you to concentrate your efforts and energy on what is important.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

***If you know of any Legionnaire who is/has been ill as well as members of their immediate family, please contact me at (410) 258-2367 or criderv@comcast.net.**

***Remember to keep all sick/shut Legionnaires as well as those bereaved families in your prayers. “Pray without ceasing...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

2020-2021 Post Officers

Commander
Anita Stewart-Hammerer

1st Vice Commander
Kraig Dean

2nd Vice Commander
Vacant

Adjutant
Fred Hofferbert

Finance Officer
Dave Pardoe

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
Jim Rebbert

AMERICANISM

Stuart Blair, Committee Chair

This time of year, is normally marked by high school students applying for the Oratorical Competition and beginning the application process for Maryland Boys State. The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest was started to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights, and privileges of American citizenship. The contestants are expected to deliver a prepared oration, in addition to delivering a free-form oration on an assigned topic. Posts contest are held January 2021; County Contest are held early February 2021; District contest are held late February; State finals are on Sunday, March 7, 2021. This year's contest will be held at Stevenson University. The winner goes to the National Contest in April.

Maryland Boys State



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens.

The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices. Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. Our current plans are to host MD Boys State at McDaniel College June 20 -26, 2021.

NOTE--McDaniel College has not provided a contract to date. That makes things difficult as we cannot estimate costs and feasibility. Our hope is to open applications soon, and just post a note about the possibility of changes due to COVID-19 to cover the bases.

POST 22 MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Towson Post 22 Legionnaires Jesse Mixson and Mark Serio participating in Wreaths Across America at Dulany Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery in December 2020.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Lynette Dean

Hope everyone had a great holiday and I am sure we are all looking forward to a better New Year!

With such an uncertain world our fundraising options are limited and this year we are especially dependent on our dues to meet our Auxiliary obligations. Please make sure you get your dues in as soon as possible. As of now your 2020 Card is no longer valid. The cost for this year is still only \$25 for those over 18 and \$8 for those under 18. Our First Vice Stephanie Weis (with help from our Treasurer, Bonnie Penfield) is accepting payments for membership this year. You are welcomed to send in your dues payable to ALA Towson Unit 22 by mail to Stephanie Weis, 8407 Macahley Ct, Lutherville, MD 21093. If you prefer you can pay online at the National Web Site.

Remember our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the Month. We are now looking for Officers for the 2021-22 Year. Please consider serving. Contact any of the current officers including myself if you have an interest. Check out ALA Department of Maryland web site: alamd.org and the National website: alaforveterans.org for information on what would be expected. It is time for some new ideas and energy.

We need YOUR SERVICE HOURS! You might not be aware but your hours you volunteer can help your Auxiliary! Please consider turning your hours in! You will need to record what you did, when you did it, and who you did it for. You can turn it in to Towson Unit 22, 125 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204, or email to ilbdean@verizon.net to be counted!

NEWS FROM AFAR

WOW!! We just received a big box with noodles, MD lottery swag, cracker jacks, hygiene items, CRAB CHIPS (they were extremely popular ha-ha) It is really great to get this stuff in the mail. We are coming to the end. We should be back to Maryland (February 2021) by the time you are reading this newsletter. Take care and we sincerely



appreciated everything you have done for the 58th EMIB while we were deployed.

--1SG Scott W. McClain
58th EMIB

Deployed members from the 58th EMIB smiling after receiving items from Towson Post 22. The Post has been sending the deployed National Guard Unit from Towson care packages overseas for about a year.

NEW VENUE MANAGER

Anita Riley, our new Venue Manager (known to us around here as simply "Riley"), has been instrumental within the hospitality industry for more than 20-years. Riley received her undergraduate degree in Hospitality & Tourism and Marketing from Strayer University.



Throughout the years, she has managed events for corporations, organizations, universities, charities, and the private sector, which has led to building strong working relationships with many venues and vendors. As an Events Producer, Riley has worked hard to create unique events and savvy social media strategies to keep events in the forefront of current industry trends. Born and reared in Maryland, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and socializing with friends.

All Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Riders should contact Ms. Riley with rental questions by calling 443-823-0125. Her email address is rental@towsonamericanlegion.org. Welcome aboard Ms. Riley.

Legion Riders

Towson Squadron is collecting 2021 dues as follows:
21 or Older \$15.00
Under 21 or a Dual Card (also a Legionnaire) \$15.00
Please send your due's in A.S.A.P. to
125 York Road
Towson MD. 21204



TOWSON POST 22 FLASHBACK



Photo found online by Bob Gambill. Date unknown

125 YORK RD.

BENEFITS FOR BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Did you know? VA provides benefits to Blue Water Navy Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles from the shore of the Republic of Vietnam or in the Korean Demilitarized Zone and who have health conditions associated with herbicide exposure such as Agent Orange. For more information go to <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

GETTING PREPARED—REQUESTING A DD214 FOR A VETERAN

How do you request someone else's military records? By following the simple steps below, you will be able to plan a burial of a veteran family member in a VA National cemetery. You may be considered the next of kin if you are related to the veteran in any of these ways: surviving spouse who hasn't remarried, or parent, or child, or sibling. To request a DD214 do one of the following:

- Call the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117. They can help you get the Veteran's DD214 or other discharge documents you may need.
- If you're the next of kin of a Veteran who has passed **away**, you can request a copy of the Veteran's military records in any of these ways:

Mail or fax a Request Pertaining to Military Records (Standard Form SF 180) to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). Download Form SF 180 by visiting www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/.

Write a letter to the NPRC. Send it to: 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Towson Post 22 Lounge Events (Social distancing and mask wearing in effect at all times)

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Tuesday ACE of Spades with Mel Lounge hours 3-10pm
Wednesday	Wednesday Happy Hour 7-9pm Bucket of Beer 6 for \$10 and \$2 cup of wine Lounge hours 3-10pm
Thursday	Thursday Bar Bingo \$2 for 3 cards, 50/50 pay (Minimum 10 to play) Lounge hours 3-10pm
Friday	Friday Happy Hour 7-9pm Lounge hours 3-10pm
Saturday	Saturday Happy Hour 7-10pm Bucket of Beer 6 for \$10 Lounge hours 3-10pm
Sunday	Lounge hours 1-8pm

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Legion Riders' Meeting 7pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 General Membership Meeting Post 7:30pm Auxiliary 7:30pm	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 SAL Squadron 22 Membership Meeting 7pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Post Executive Committee Meeting 7pm	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1	2	3 Legion Riders' Meeting 7pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 General Membership Meeting Post 7:30pm Auxiliary 7:30pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 SAL Squadron 22 Membership Meeting 7pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Post Executive Committee Meeting 7pm	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



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 Post Website for 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.