



@ THE POST
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Towson Post 22

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anita Stewart-Hammerer

When I was in college, I use to have a poster on my wall that said, "Keep smiling, it makes people wonder what you are up to." I always liked that poster because I was always smiling and because I would get so many comments and questions about that one poster. Even today, some 30 years later you will find me smiling and in my happy zone. So, I ask you: What makes you happy?

It may sound like a simple question, but for some the answer can be complicated. Everyone reading this newsletter should be able to answer the question. Does your family, friends, work, or exercise bring you happiness Perhaps it's your church or some other outside activity such as helping others or volunteering. For me happiness is just like joy--a state of mind. It's something that only I can give away. I don't participate in activities that will dull my shine or smile. I avoid people that don't bring me happiness. They are not a part of my life. Simply put--no one should have time for chaos in their life. Let's learn to smile more and be a lot happier this coming Legion Year.

BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

Congratulations to Towson Post 22 Past Commander Kraig Dean on being unanimously voted treasurer for the Department of Maryland American Legion this coming year during the June Convention.



Kraig is the first person from the post to hold the position of treasurer. If you see Kraig at the Post, give him a congratulatory handshake. As a matter of fact, congratulations to all the new Towson Post 22 officers. See the list of new officers on the next page. If you are interested in helping or volunteering at the Post, please contact us. Also don't forget to stop by the Post to purchase your Crab Feast tickets or participate in an SAL golf tournament or get school supplies during our "Back to School Give Away. See dates for all upcoming events in the newsletter.



Legion Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 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
7:00 pm

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

CHAPLAIN

Vernon Crider

“Invent or Improve”

All progress is due to those who were not satisfied to leave well enough alone. Many people fail because they lack persistence in creating new plans to improve the ones that succeed. If you can't think of a new idea, find a way to make better use of an old one. Queen Elizabeth once said, *“where we cannot invent, we may at least Improve”*.

Don't just look for an answer to your problem; look for many answers, then choose the best one. Do more than is required and continue to do it. *“The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra,”* said noted writer James Weldon Johnson. There is always a way-then there is always a better way. When you've found something- look again. As we approach the summer months, “school” is never out of session! The more you truly desire something, the more you will try to find a better way.

The biggest enemy of best is good. If you're satisfied with what's good, you'll never have what's best. Hall of Fame College Basketball Coach John Wooden once said, *“It's what you learn after you know what counts”*. God tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”*. (NIV Version) This passage of scripture simply tells us to trust God to guide us and always lead us with our thoughts and actions. Once we allow God to “take the wheel” and we get in the passenger's seat, wisdom and ideas will come to your mind and to execute those ideas into things that will glorify him. Remember, whatever we do and only what we do in God's name will stand, period. Whatever inventions or ideas you may have, make sure they are principled, and God centered.

Possessing this mindset, you can take the offensive. Cause something to happen. Don't waste time defending your position or waffling your stance on a sound decision. Take the initiative and don't stay stuck in neutral. Don't leave well-enough alone; if at first you do succeed, try something harder! Thomas Edison once said, *“Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I'll show you a failure”*. In closing, Barbara Walters once said, *“There are two kinds of people who don't amount to very much which are those who cannot do what they are told and those who can do nothing else”*!

As new leadership takes the helm at Post 22, something to think about: Always seek a better way and make that way better! I just want to thank all the Legionnaires over the past 6 years serving proudly as your Chaplain which has been an honor! I will be retiring after 34 years of service in education and moving to Florida with my family to start life's next chapter. I will forever keep the memories and friendships fostered and will remain in touch with many.

Please welcome and support Legionnaire Harold McFadden as the next Post Chaplain. Legionnaire McFadden possess a vast experience in clergy-affiliated protocols and will serve you with commitment and honor as he takes the helm. God Bless My Brother! Please continue to pray and reach out to our sick & shut-in Legionnaires as well as pray for those Legionnaires who are experiencing bereavement.

*If you know of any Legionnaire who is/has been ill as well as members of their immediate family, please contact Legionnaire McFadden at 443-377-9394 and remember to keep all sick/shut legionnaires as well as those bereaved families in your prayers.

2023-2024 Post Officers

Commander
Anita Stewart-Hammerer

1st Vice Commander
Tee Morton

2nd Vice Commander
Anna Cherepina

Third Vice
Sonia Young

Adjutant
Rosalind Robinson-Ambrose

Finance Officer
vacant

Historian
Mark Serio

Chaplain
Harold McFadden

Sgt-at-Arms
Brian Riley

Judge Advocate
Open

Past Commander
Kraig Dean

FIRST VICE COMMANDER

Tee Morton

We are now in membership renewal year 2024. Interesting facts to note about the membership year:

- 2023 annual membership year runs from Jan - Dec.
- Annual renewal for year 2024 started 1 July 2023.
- All dues received after June 2023, are processed for the year 2024.
- The goal is to have everyone renewed for the year 2024 before 1 January.
- Please pay 2024 membership dues ASAP and before 13 Dec 2023, to get credit for early bird status, and to be entered into a bimonthly Post drawing of \$50 starting in August and ending in December.
- The quickest way to pay dues and setup annual renewal is thru online payment at <https://www.legion.org/membership/renewals>.

Your annual membership card reflects your continuous years of membership. If you miss a year of paying dues, your continuous years start over. If you still need to pay your 2023 or previous years dues to maintain your continuous membership, please mail and make check payable to: American Legion Post 22, Attn: Membership Team, 125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. Please annotate on your check what year your payment is for and your membership number. If you have made a verified dues payment and have not received your respective membership card by 15 Aug 23; please contact or text our membership team at 667-383-5617 with receipt/proof of payment.

HISTORIAN

Mark Serio

Greetings, Comrades!

By the time you read this article, we will have already begun the new 2023-2024 post year and held our Post Officer elections, participated in Towson's July 4th Celebration parade, and sent delegates to the 105th Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.



Post Historian Mark Serio posing with Department award for best yearbook for post with 301 to 500 members.

But before we transition to the new year, let's remember some of the events that make us who we are. In the Post Yearbook, you can find a list of 30 of these events and pictures too. From Memorial Day and all the major veteran's events to our prominent seasonal and religious celebrations, award presentations, feasts and festivals, and even fundraising tournaments held in honor of past members. All our Post 22 family (Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders) participated for the collective greater cause of supporting our veterans, our community, and our country.

Let's thank all our committee chairs and teams that did the hard work to make it a successful year! If you haven't seen our yearbook, ask me or someone in the post to show you a copy. You may see your picture there! As a reminder, if you have an event for the Post Yearbook, please email MarkSerio@Outlook.com and include a picture.



Post Historian Mark Serio with Nikki Randolph, Eastern Shore Region Commander and John R. Countryman, Jr. Vice Commander, Southern MD Region

AMERICANISM

Stuart Blair

Flag Program

In May Towson Post 22 Legionnaires Fred Hofferbert, Bill Logan, and Charles Green participated in the Towson West Elementary School Memorial Day Flag Program. While the classes assembled outside, Bill Logan and Charles Green presented colors to open the ceremony. The principal spoke of the meaning of the Flag Program and thanked the students for their participation. Each class's outstanding student was awarded an American Flag with a copy of the U. S. Constitution by Fred Hofferbert and Stuart Blair. The ceremony concluded with a parade of the students and staff.

The following day, scout troops from the area participated in the placement of American flags on military grave sites at selected cemeteries. Legionnaire Stuart Blair worked with Scout BSA Troop 828 and Cub Scout Pack 319 in placement of flags at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Towson.

Youth Baseball

LTRC U 12 Baseball Team "Comets" completed their season at the end of June. The team's final series was in a tournament in Ocean City.

Boys State

Towson Post 22 Boys State candidates completed the program at McDaniel's College. The young men will present their experience at the Post's general meeting in September.

In the Know

VA Home Loans: Big Savings for Veterans

Take advantage of your VA-backed home loan benefit with a 0% down payment, limited closing costs and no mortgage insurance requirement.

Aid & Attendance for Qualified Veterans

VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide tax-free monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension. In addition to being available for Veterans, single surviving spouses and dependent children are also eligible for this benefit. To qualify for these benefits, the Veteran or their surviving family member must meet income and asset thresholds. If you need help with daily activities, or you're housebound, find out if you qualify.

Disability Housing Grants for Veterans

VA housing grants are available for Veterans and service members with certain service-connected disabilities so they can buy or change a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Changing a home might involve installing ramps, widening doorways, and more.

Refill Your Rx on VA Mobile App

Download VA's Health and Benefits mobile app to easily access the resources you need. Veterans can now request refills and track their prescriptions using the VA Health and Benefits app. Existing users will need to download the latest version of the app to gain access to these new features. The app is free and available for both iOS and Android smartphones.

Temporary Disability Rating After Surgery

Are you recovering from surgery, or a disability related to your military service that has left you unable to move? Veterans may be able to get a temporary 100% disability rating and disability compensation or benefits if they have this kind of immobilizing disability.

** Details on these benefits by contacting Commissioner Stuart Blair: thistleman@verizon.net*

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON #22

Bob Gambill

By the time this reaches you, we will have elected our Squadron officers for the upcoming term and the 50th Convention of the Detachment of Maryland, Sons of the American Legion will be in the history books.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our inaugural Harry Sult, Jr. Cornhole Tournament. It was a fun event, and we plan to do another one next year.

As I mentioned in my last article, we need you, our Squadron members, to participate in our monthly meetings, events and activities. Even if you can't attend each month, your occasional participation would be most welcome. We meet on the THIRD Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. If you have a suggestion for an activity or event, please let us know. New ideas are welcome.

Our shotgun raffle was held in July. Friday October 27 is the date of our 3rd Annual Victor Brice Memorial Golf Tournament. It will be played at Fox Hollow Golf Course, just across the street from Dulaney High School. Tee time is 9:00 a.m. Foursomes \$350, Individual golfer \$90. Hole Sponsorships \$100. Contact Rickey Edwards (814-688-1883), or John Horner (410-825-5464).

Once again, we will be conducting our Ravens Game Tickets raffle. We will select which games to sell by raffle and others will be sold online. Details as the football season approaches. Stay Tuned!! If you haven't done so already, please send us your email address to Towsonsq22@gmail.com.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER #22

John Horner

During the first week of June Towson hosted the 8th Annual Maryland Gold Star Ride raising funds to support the American Legion Legacy Foundation, which supplies college scholarships to children of any military personnel killed in action or who are 50 percent or more disabled since 9-11-01.

Just this year alone the Maryland Chapter raised \$210,000. We thank everyone who supported this year's ride. Check out the next newsletter for other highlights and chapter events. In the meantime, remember we meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Come out and get involved.



AL Riders presenting check for \$210,000 during Department Convention.



Towson Post #22

125 York Road

August 27, 2023, 1:00 pm to 4:00

RSVP: August 18, 2023

Wanda Bivens (Children and Youth Chair) 410 532-9405



**Towson Sons of The American Legion
3rd Annual
Victor Brice Memorial
Golf Tournament**



Friday, October 27, 2023

9:00am Tee Time

Fox Hollow Golf Course

1 Cardigan Road

Timonium, MD 21093

Foursomes \$360

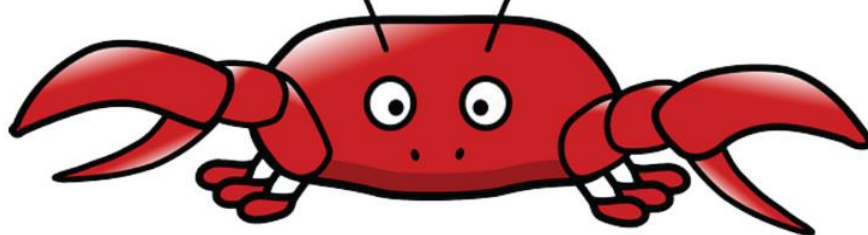
Individual Golfer \$90

Hole Sponsorship available \$100/hole

Contact: Ricky Edwards 814-688-1883 or John Homer 410-825-5464

All proceeds benefit Sons of The American Legion Towson Squadron #22 Programs

CRAB FEAST



October 22, 2023

1-5pm

Tickets \$60

RSVP today by calling 667-383-5615

Towson Post 22, 125 York Road

Grand Hall



#1 Males

Highlights from Department of Maryland Convention



Post 22 Delegates Fred Hofferbert, Chris Jackson and Brian Riley posing for a photo during a break at the Department Convention.



Legionnaire Kraig Dean giving his final report as Northern Central District 3 Commander.



Department of Maryland Commander Ruth Higgins



Post 22 Commander Anita Stewart-Hammerer, Convention Sergeant of Arms Assistant taking time to smile for a picture during the convention.



Congratulations to David Heredia, who was elected Senior Vice Commander during the convention.



Post 22 Past Commander Kraig Dean was unanimously voted treasurer for the Department of Maryland. Congratulations!



Post 22 Convention Delegates posing with Department of Maryland Commander Ruth Higgins.



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 Events

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.