

S.A.L NEWS —S.A.L Squadron #132, Gene Olswold-S.A.L Commander

We are now into our 2nd month into 2017 and we now have a new president for the next 4 years. Whether or not we voted for President Trump, we as Americans need to support him in his efforts to make this a better country as he professes. This holds true in any organizations we may belong, including the American Legion Family, when we hold elections in these organizations. Maybe these elected officials weren't our 1st choice for the position but it is in the best interest of the organization, to support and do what we can to make their term a favorable one.

Membership has been a little slow this past month and really needs to pick up to meet our goals but more importantly, to maintain your membership in "good standing" to keep your benefits that you have and not lose them. Here is another factor you want to remember – if you are a SON and only a Son, and are a member of the Legion Riders, to stay qualified as a Legion Rider, you must keep your membership in the Sons current. That being said, you can be and will be dropped from the Riders if you do not renew your membership. I will be in contact with the Legion Riders on this. I am also working on sending out a 2nd Notices for those that have not renewed yet. You can also expect one coming to you in the mail from National.

Our next monthly SAL meeting will be on February 13th starting at 7:00p.m. so mark it on your calendars and let's have a good turnout. See you then.

Service Officer • Andrew Achman

The DOD has announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military, but this won't be effective until Veterans Day November 11. There are some exclusions such as uniforms, alcohol, and tobacco so don't get too excited if you were looking to save on those items. I'll try and keep up with this as it gets closer and find out how to sign up for this program so I can help anyone that needs it.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES -- Brian Krosch

As a new year begins I look forward to helping the members of our post and doing my best to do my job as membership director and 1st vice commander of our post. As of right now we stand at a total of 549 members that is PUFL's, renewals and new members and transfers. Our goal is set at 605 so we have a little ways to go so please if you have not done so, renew your membership. We are trying new things both in the bar and kitchen if you have any questions about membership I'm here to try and answer them so thank you and may we all have a great 2017.

CLUBROOM HAPPENINGS - Brian Gramentz

Change continues to happen. We are currently looking for a Club Manager to oversee the bar operations and coordinate kitchen operations. The Legion business model is changing to where the kitchen is operated by volunteers. This means that we will need lots of volunteers to spread the workload out for meal events. We are focusing on keeping the broasted chicken on the first Saturday, broast pork chops on the last Saturday, and Burger Night on each Tuesday of each month (We also hope Jerry and Rosie's Made Rights will also continue in the future!). We are looking for a person, people or a Legion family organization to volunteer to take responsibility for one or more events each month. The "meal event" leader would schedule the workers needed for the meal. We have basically been doing this, as some Legion members have been volunteering to do the pork chops, chicken, and Made Rights, so this is just an expansion to include the other meal events. We have been hearing that the Thursday night Bingo players would also like to have the kitchen back open for business. If we can get enough volunteers to step forward, we can make that happen.

If you, or you know of someone that might be interested in the full time, 40 hour per week, Bar Manager position, the job description and job application form is down at the bar and is due Feb. 3. While we expect to fill the position in the next 4 weeks, there may be some time slots that the current part-time bar tending staff are unable to cover. We will try to post a note on the Legion door, but if the flag isn't out and the door is locked, we aren't open!

The Tuesday evening kitchen is currently being staffed by Legion volunteers, and you may see that the menu selection has been reduced to cover the food basics. This will be reviewed as time and cooking skills are honed! Let the kitchen volunteers know if you want a menu item added back on the menu and they will try to make it happen!

I apologize for this inconvenience, and bear with us as we get this all put back together! Who knows, there may be more change a-coming! Stay tuned...

AUXILIARY NOTES - Kathy Hempel - Unit #132President

Our next meeting will be February 13th. Hope to see you then.

BASEBALL — Vern Kitzberger,

We participated in the Minnesota Twins caravan that came to New Ulm January 16, and it was well attended.

We're gearing up for the 2017 baseball season. Player registration is underway on our web site, and District VFW and American Legion baseball meetings are scheduled for February.

We have selected head coaches for three of our teams. All are returning coaches: Jeremy Drexler for Legion Gold, Mike Munce for VFW Gold, and Matthew Swanson for VFW Silver. If numbers indicate a need for another Legion or VFW team, we will select the head coach at that time.

COMRADES OF VALOR

The New Ulm Area Comrades of Valor Honor Guard are accepting requests for membership. Applicants requesting consideration should be willing to make a sincere commitment to perform military funeral rites for deceased Veterans throughout all yearly weather conditions.

To be eligible dedicated applicants must be a member of the American Legion, VFW, DAV or SAL. Various positions are open on the Color and Firing squads. If interested contact Willard Reiser, Jerry Thompson or any member of the New Ulm Area Comrades of Valor.

BR. CO. VETERAN'S SERVICE NEWS — Greg Peterson

Brown County Courthouse 507-233-6636

Camp Lejeune Veterans Eligible for Disability Benefits.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing to grant disability benefits for eight diseases for any Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard personnel who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina between August 1, 1953 & December 31st, 1987. Widows of these service personnel who died as a result of being afflicted with these diseases will also be eligible for death benefits including a monthly stipend of approximately \$1250 and possible free health insurance for life.

The diseases are: 1. Adult leukemia. 2. Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes.

3. Bladder cancer. 4. Kidney cancer. 5. Liver cancer. 6. Multiple myeloma. 7. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. 8. Parkinson's disease.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The proposed rule will become effective 60-days from the 13 January proposal or 60-days after final Congressional review.

Service personnel & widows/widowers who meet the 30-day at Camp Lejeune requirement and have been diagnosed with a listed condition are encouraged to contact their County Veterans Service Officer immediately for application information.

Sign up now for the free motor coach to Veterans Day on the Hill on Monday March 20th. The bus will depart at the Courthouse at 0625 and be at the Capitol in St. Paul by 9 am for the Rally. A meeting has been arranged with Senator Gary Dahms, and we plan to stop for lunch on the way home.

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