

Edward C Headman American Legion - Post 217

Wyandotte, Michigan

March/April 2021 Newsletter



Commander

Bill Rice

Sr. Vice Cmdr.

Stacey Ciemnicki

Jr. Vice Cmdr.

Rick McKinnon

Adjutant

Tom Rushman

Financial Officer

Al LaCroix

Historian

Ed Gorecki

Chaplain

Wayne (Bud) Shoup

Sgt-at-Arms

Walt Szostek

Judge Advocate

Bob Mayrand

Service Officer

Steve Mango

Past Commander

Michael Huber

Chuck Blanchette

Executive Committee

Walt Szuper

Jeff McGinnis

Bobby Roupe

Once again the Post is open for business. Much work has been completed during the time that we were closed. New floors, fresh paint; looks like a new place. We are keeping everything clean and tables are positioned for social distancing. Come and support the Post and it's employees behind the bar. It's been a rough year for everyone.

I would like to personally thank the volunteers who helped freshen up the Post. They were Rick Raupp, Kenny JJ, Ed Gorecki, Tom Rushman, Chuck Blanchette III, and Chuck Blanchette. There were many hours and days involved in painting and taking things apart to accomplish this.

On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, we will be serving corned beef and cabbage along with entertainment, maybe. Come join us and visit with friends at the Post from 1-7pm.

On March 3rd, at the general membership meeting at 7pm, nominations will take place for Legion Officers for the next year. Nominate yourself or someone else for a position at the Legion. You must be present or have filed a letter of acceptance to the adjutant to be placed on the ballot. Election will be held on April 7th from 1-6:45pm. You must have your 2021 membership card to vote.

Take a minute to say a prayer for Legion and family that are suffering with Covid. There are many who currently are hospitalized. Some have lost loved ones from Covid or other illnesses. Keep them in your thoughts.

Coffee with the Commander is the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9-11am. Come join me for some discussion and comradery at the Post.

Check with our Facebook page or our website (americanlegion217.com) other upcoming events.

Bill Rice

Commander, Post 217



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Honor Guard rifle cleaning 10am	3 Exec.Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Gen. Mtg. 7pm	4	5	6
7	8	9 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	10 Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 SAL Exec. Mtg. 6:30pm SAL Gen. Mtg. 7pm	17 St. Patrick's Day Party 1-7pm	18	19	20 Coffee with the Commander 9-11am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6 Honor Guard rifle cleaning 10am	7 Exec.Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Gen. Mtg. 7pm	8	9	10
11	12	13 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	14 Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	15	16	17 Coffee with the Commander 9-11am
18	19	20	21 SAL Exec. Mtg. 6:30pm SAL Gen Mtg 7pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2021 Is here and going fast. I hardly remember January.

Although, the Post was closed for all of December and January, it did not stop the Commander from using the down time to have some badly needed upgrades done. The new flooring installed on the upper section of the bar area and new ice maker replaced the old one that kept breaking down. Good insight and forethought using the down time to do the work rather than having to re-shutting everything down after we were able to reopen. The Post also found a way of having a successful Christmas Party for our kids.

I hope you were able to enjoy one or more of the take-out dinners that have been available in recent weeks. A great job was done by the bar staff putting the dinners on.

Now that we have reopened, I'm hoping to see you back at the Post enjoying good time with our Legion Family.

The Post was closed for most of 2020. This caused a dip in income for the Post and like all of us, the bills kept coming in. We are planning a raffle in the next few weeks. When it comes out, please help out the Post by participating in the fundraiser.

Stacy Ciemnicki

Sr. Vice Commander

Fellow Legionnaires,

As I write this newsletter, it is so cold outside, 15 degrees, and so we really are looking forward to Spring and warmer weather. In March we will welcome Spring and in April, Easter, the day our Lord rose from the dead.

We do thank all the Men and Women who are serving now and hope they are well and safe. We also remember those who gave their lives in the service to their country. We also ask God to be with our MIA'S and their families. Thank You to all who have served and are now serving at the Post. God bless you all with good health.

For God & Country

Wayne "Bud" Shoup

Chaplain

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF POST 217 2021 - 2022 LEGION OFFICERS

Nominations will take place at the General Membership meeting on March 3, 2021 at 7pm. You must be present at the meeting or have filed a letter or email with the Post Adjutant (trushman48@gmail.com) stating your intent to accept nomination.

Election will be held on April 7, 2021, polls will be open from 1 - 6:45 pm. You must show your 2021 membership card to vote.

PFC James Anderson Jr. USMC

Pfc James Anderson Jr. was born in January of 1947 in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from High School and attended Harbor Junior College for about a year. PFC Anderson left college to enlist with the Marines in February of 1966. He received recruit training at Marine Recruit Training in San Diego. After graduation he was transferred to Camp Pendleton and trained with 2nd battalion Infantry Training Regiment.

In December of 1966 PFC Anderson arrived in the Republic of Vietnam where he served as rifleman with Company F, 2nd battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Quang Tri Province during Operation Prairie II.

On February 28th, 1967, Company F was advancing in dense jungle near Cam Lo to extract a besieged recon patrol. His platoon came under heavy automatic weapons fire. PFC Anderson was tightly bunched with fellow platoon members 20 meters from enemy positions. As the fight continued several men in the platoon were wounded. Suddenly an enemy grenade landed in the middle of the Marines and rolled alongside PFC Anderson's head. With complete disregard for his own safety he reached out and grasped the grenade which he pulled to his chest and curled around it. Several Marines were injured by flying shrapnel but his body adsorbed most of the explosion.

Due to his extraordinary valor, personal heroism and self-sacrifice PFC Anderson Jr. was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. A US Navy ship, the USNS PFC James Anderson T-AK-3002, was named for him.

Don't forget our heroes!!!

**Rick McKinnon
Jr. Vice Commander
Newsletter Editor**

Boys State - 2021 at Grand Valley State University, Allendale Campus June 13-19, 2021

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. 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.

<https://michiganboysstate.org> for more information



Commander
Ken Craft

Sr Vice Cmdr
John Crossno

Jr Vice Cmdr
Ed Gorecki Jr

Adjutant
Rob Bunton

Finance
Ronald Vilag

Historian
Bill Shaw

Chaplain
Ed Gorecki

Sgt-at-Arms
Bud Zilko

Legion Adviser
Ed Gorecki

Spring is coming soon! With that election of officers is also coming up. We will have nominations at our March 18th meeting with voting at our meeting April 15th. If you are interested in becoming an officer please be at the meetings. Remember, you must be a member in good standing to run and also vote in the election. If you haven't yet paid your 2021 dues please get them in soon! (\$25.00) dues can be mailed to the Post, [2817 Van Alstyne St, Wyandotte, MI 48192](mailto:2817VanAlstyneSt@WyandotteMI48192) or paid in person at the bar.

Reminder also, our monthly meeting date has changed to the third Wednesday of each month. Our general meeting will be at 7 pm and our Executive meeting will be at 6:30 pm. Please come join us!

Ken Craft
Commander, Sons of the American Legion Post 217

Booster Club Members

Thank you for all your donations for this issue of the newsletter. There isn't a dollar price per line. Whatever you wish to donate to help defray the cost of the newsletter is appreciated. **You** are greatly appreciated.

Melanie Charles

Joseph Struntz

Colleen Billings

Robert & Sherry Wonta

Caitlin & Zachary Wonta

Leonard Richio

Al & Cheryl Jurczyk in memory
of Stanley Jurczyk

Sue Litniasyski

Dave Gurtowsky Sr USMC

Dave Gurtowsky Jr USAF

Ron & Ada LaJuenesse

Dan Orta

Joe & Marianne Wright

John Wright

Richard & Alicia Smith

Larry & Judy Martin

John G Martin



Director
John Crossno

Asst Director
Doug Williams

Secretary
Patty Huber

Finance
Ronald Vilag

Membership
Bonnie Trottier

Ride Captain
Dan Fell

Chaplain
Ron Haines

Sgt-at-Arms
John Easley

Hello everyone! I hope this finds everyone healthy and doing well.

Spring is almost here. March 20th is the official start of Spring... But we are in Michigan so anything is still possible. Before we know it though the roads will be flowing with motorcycles again. Something I'm pretty sure we are all looking forward to.

Our membership renewal drive has been pretty successful. At last count there were only a few still outstanding, outside of those who didn't renew their Legion Family membership which disqualifies them from ALR membership.

As for having a monthly meeting, as of this writing, we still can't meet at the Legion. Alternative options are being explored. We will eventually need to elect officers for the next year.

There has not been much else in the way of activities, so nothing to report on that front.

I hope to see you all in the near future. It's been too long, but there wasn't much we could do about that.

Everyone be safe, stay healthy, and take care!

John

ALR Director



President
Carrie Ann Salamon

1st Vice President
Liz Rice

2nd Vice President

Secretary
Linda Stanko

Treasurer
Caroline Sutherby

Historian
Patty J Huber

Chaplain
Alicia Smith

Sgt-at-Arms
Claudia Sendo

Executive Board
Caresse Filmon

Beverly Lapinski

Legion Family,

Hope all are staying healthy, warm and safe.

We were able to sponsor a family for Christmas and provide them great joy! Veterans and Community support has been strong within our Unit even during the 'shut down'. The current officers have been doing an excellent job behind the scenes through this pandemic to continue our efforts.

We have had change within our ranks of officers and need members to step up and think about running for a position. Currently we are in need of 2nd Vice President (Membership Chairman) as Linda Ciemnicky has resigned her position as of October 2020. So if any of you are wondering where your card is or why it's late, it's because I am currently attempting to squeeze in more responsibilities into my schedule. We are also in need of a Historian and Executive Board member. Elections will be in April for all new officers; elected positions do not take effect until August 1, 2021. So, if any Auxiliary members would like to be a link in the chain, please come forward. Our meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

We will be sponsoring a blood drive on April 7, 2021, from Noon – 6pm at the VFW 1136 – 633 Ford Ave in Wyandotte. Looking forward to seeing everybody around the Post.

For God and Country

Cari Ann Salamon - Unit President

Booster Club Form

Our Booster Club members are very special people. They help us to continue to publish this newsletter. If you would like to join complete the form below and provide your donation. We will publish your name in the next issue of the newsletter. Make check or money order payable to the American Legion Post 217 and send it to:

American Legion Post 217
Attn: Newsletter Editor
2817 Van Alstyne Blvd.
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Date: _____

Name(s)

I have enclosed : \$ _____

Post 217 Change Information

Member of : Legion Aux SAL

Name : _____

New Address:

Email Address:

Name is spelled incorrectly please change to:

I am reporting the death of a member

Date of death: _____

Name : _____

Please fill out any pertinent information and return to the appropriate Membership Committee:(ie. Legion, Auxiliary or S.A.L.)

American Legion Post 217
2817 Van Alstyne
Wyandotte, MI 48192

COVID-19 Stimulus Raffle

Yes, you read that right! AL Post 217 is doing a raffle based on a COVID-19 theme. Tickets and details will be mailed out soon. The 1st prize will be \$1900, 2nd will be \$190 and 3rd will be \$19.

Due to the restrictions that we have been under for the past year, we have not done very many fund-raising events and decided this was a good way to start off 2021. You, the members of Post 217 have always supported what we have done before and we know we can count on your support again to make this raffle a great success.

Post Service Officer

If you need to file a claim with the Veterans Administration, our American Legion has a Service Officer to assist you, **Steve Mango**.

Steve is available via phone (734-626-3552).

Once you have all the proper paperwork you can then go to the Downriver Community Conference – John D. Dingell Building, 15100 Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan 48195.

Hours are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm in Room 100 (park in the west parking lot / enter through the Michigan Works Entrance). - 313-964-6640 - Ask for the Southgate Office.

The American Legion
Edward C, Headman Post 217
2817 Van Alstyne Blvd.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 282-2698
www.americanlegion217.com

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Please mark the following important dates on your calendar

Post Executive Board Meeting	1 st Wednesday of each month	@ 5:30pm
Auxiliary Membership Meeting	2 nd Wednesday	@ 7pm
Post General Membership	1 st Wednesday	@ 7pm
SAL Membership Meeting	3 rd Wednesday	@ 7pm
Legion Riders Membership Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	@ 7pm
Service Officer Hours		