



Edward C. Headman American Legion

Post 217

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

Executive Committee
Walt Szuper
Jeff McGinnis
Chuck Blanchette
Bobby Roupe

From The Commander

I would like to welcome everyone back to the Post and I look forward to working with you for the good of the Legion. We are going through some trying times but I'm sure we can overcome these adversities.

We are moving into the holidays and need to remember our fellow veterans in need. During the last few months we've completed the expansion of the patio and the landscaping along the sides of the parking lot. Stop by the Post to check out the new appearance.

We are planning the Veterans Day celebration, starting at 6pm, at the Post on November 11th. The cash raffle drawing will take place between 7 and 7:30. More raffle tickets may be purchased from the bar. The rifle raffle by the Legion Riders will also take place.

The children's Christmas party will take place December 6th from 1-4pm. Kids up to 12 years are invited with reservation forms available in the newsletter and from the bar.

We are looking forward to a New Year's Eve celebration with live music and food. Times to follow.

Remember coffee with the commander the 3rd Saturday of each month. Come out for coffee, donuts and conversation from 9-11am.

We are planning on starting up monthly breakfasts again.

My wife and I are looking forward to seeing you at the Post. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Rice



November 2020

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

1	2	3 Honor Guard rifle cleaning 10am	4 Exec.Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Gen. Mtg. 7pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	11 Veterans Day Ceremony 6pm	12	13	14 Soc Hop 7-11pm
15	16	17	18 SAL Exec. Mtg. 6:30pm SAL Mtg. 7pm	19	20	21 Coffee with the Commander 9- 11am
22	23	24	25	26 Post Closed Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

Sr. Vice Commander

2020 A year of change . I hope this News Letter finds you in good health and spirit.

2020 has been a year of change. It doesn't matter what political part you belong to or whether you think the COVID Virus is real or fake, these things have changed our lives. One thing I have learned over the years, is everything changes and it is up to me to adapt with these changes.

The Holiday Season is coming fast. I have wondered, how will all of the changes affect how we celebrate them.

In November we have Veterans Day. A day to celebrate and give thanks for all the men and women who gave part of their life to protect and serve our great country. We also have Thanksgiving, a day we come together as a family to celebrate and give thanks for everything we (our family) have been given. I guess you can say it is a month of being thankful for not only our biological family, but also our extended family as well.

December brings Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa all days to celebrate our life with God and all he has done for us.

I hope the good feelings we have after November and December carry over into 2021 and bring our Legion family together for the New Year.

Stacy Ciemnicky

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Honor Guard rifle cleaning 10am	2 Exec.Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Gen. Mtg. 7pm	3	4	5 Pub Crawl 6pm
6 Kids Christmas Party 1-4pm	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	9 Auxiliary Mtg. 7pm	10	11	12 Riders Christmas Party
13	14	15	16 SAL Exec. Mtg. 6:30pm SAL Mtg. 7pm	17	18	19 Coffee with the Commander 9- 11am
20	21	22	23	24 Post closes at 5pm	25 Post closed Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Chaplain's Corner

Fall is surely upon us as we see the beautiful leaves falling rapidly from the trees. We certainly have been blessed again this year with good weather. November is a month of remembrance for all of us. We celebrate Veterans Day, November 11th. What an honor to remember all Veterans, no matter what branch of service they were in, because thru their serving this country is still free. Thank you Lord. We pray for good health for the many who are serving now and pray for their protection. Bring them home safely. November 26th is Thanksgiving Day. A day to thank our Heavenly Father for the blessings he has showered upon us, our families, friends and this country. We pray for those who are missing loved ones at their table this year for whatever reason. Still God loves all with His everlasting love. We are so thankful for Post 217 and the Officers He has provided for us this year. We pray God would bless each one. I "Thank you" for allowing me to be your Chaplain, a position I very much enjoy.

As December is soon upon us, we are so thankful for Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. God bless each one of you with a blessed Christmas season. We thank and pray for each one who sacrifices their time and energy to help make our Post 217 the "Best Little Post " around.

For God & Country

Wayne "Bud" Shoup

American Legion Riders

Well, this hasn't been the most exciting of riding seasons. COVID-19 saw fit to put a damper on this year, and in many ways more than just the riding season. That doesn't mean we haven't gotten out and about. We are actually ahead of last year's accumulated mileage to date with 79,359 as of Oct 22 vs. 42,863 this time last year. While we can thank everyone who has gotten out with other 217 members to thank for the total miles ridden, leading the pack are Jeff Mactavish, James "Cozzie" Cozzens, and Candy Barr with 9,458, 8,843, and 8,443 miles respectively. As a reminder, we only track the mileage when there are three or more ALR 217 members riding together, except under some very special circumstances. The idea behind this is to get our members out riding together more. The damper was that almost all of the organized charity rides that we typically participate in had to be cancelled, such as the Ride for a Reason which raises funds for the Penrickton Center for Blind Children.

In March, the Corned Beef dinner that the Riders had planned to hold for St Paddy's Day had to be delayed, then eventually cancelled. The Post was closed following Gov Whitmer's executive orders due to COVID-19. Not knowing how long it might last, we cooked then vacuum-sealed the corned beef, and into the freezer it went. As luck would later have it, the price of corned beef went up and we decided to sell it to the Post Lounge at cost as corned beef sandwiches were quite popular. So it didn't go to waste.

On a sadder note, we recently had to give a final salute to one of the charter members, and a founder of ALR 217, Brad "Smiley" Lindsay. Brad was critically injured in a motorcycle accident last year when a car turned in front of him and his wife, Pauline, each was on their own motorcycle but Brad was leading so took the brunt of the collision. After fighting for close to ten months, Brad succumbed to his injuries on May 5th. Rest in Peace, Brother.

On September 9th, a group escorted Cheryl Simon with the remains of Frank "Final Final" Simon to his final resting place at the Great Lakes Veteran's Cemetery in Holly. Rest in Peace, Brother.

At the end of September we had our annual ALR 217 Fall Ride. This year's destination was Hocking Hills, by Columbus, OH. It was a fun-filled long weekend of riding, and hiking for some. In addition to the visit to Hocking Hills State Park, we all rode down the Ohio 555, otherwise known as the Triple Nickel. It's a 60-ish mile long section of the OH 555 that has winding roads, and hills that you can't see over until you crest it, not knowing which way the road goes from there until then.

Originally, we had intended to stop at the G&R Tavern in Waldo, OH for their world-famous fried bologna sandwiches, and mile-high cream pies, but due to the increasing chance of rain we opted to continue on home. But, three weeks later many of us took a 280 mile round-trip road trip to cover that base. The morning started a little chilly, but the sun was out and things warmed up well. The sandwiches were great, as were the pies. The manager/owner came to us while we were eating and pointed to an individual walking out the door and said that our day just got better, as that individual had paid our bill. I ran out and was able to catch him just before he drove off, and thank him. The owner afterward said that in his 30 years in the business, he's seen that happen more at this restaurant than anywhere else he's been.

We are in full swing with our first rifle raffle. The details of that are that we will have priced out a rifle, including the associated sales tax. A gift card for it will be purchased from Top Gun. The winner of the raffle will then have the opportunity to purchase that rifle, or something else with the gift card. In this way, we do not have to purchase and store the rifle for the duration, and Top Gun will then handle any required background checks, etc. The drawing will be held on Veteran's Day 2020.

Reminder that it will soon be time to pay your ALR dues for 2021. You may of course pay them at any time. Even though the Post was closed for so long, there has been an increase in our membership. Welcome to all of the new members in 2020. We continue to grow.

As we slide into Fall, please remember that there will be wet leaves on the roads. Wet leaves can be dangerous, especially in the turns. It's ever more important to remain aware of your surroundings and pay attention to those details. Outside of that note of caution, please continue to be cautious at all times, especially in the intersections. When that light turns green, wait a second or two to be sure that last vehicle isn't rushing to get through. Always safety first!

John Crossno

Director, ALR 217

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) or in the Post Lounge on the 2nd Monday of each month. 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.

American Legion Auxiliary

Hello Legion Family,

It's been an unusual year for all of us and the changes with daily living but the one constant that surrounds us all is our dedication to our service for Veterans. The Auxiliary has not been out in the community personally but we have been donating and assisting where we can. If any of you have a special project or service that you would like to share, please do so at our meetings that are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

Thanksgiving season is a time of giving thanks and sharing blessings with family and friends. Please remember our soldiers that are deployed away from their families and keep them safe in your prayers.

Christmas Season can be stressful and hurried for some, let's do all that we can to be merry and kind. We would like to help families in need during the holiday season, if anyone knows of a family that we could provide for please let me know at alaunit217president@gmail.com or call 734-576-2946.

Thank you to all of the Auxiliary members that donated to our 'No Bake' Sale, these funds are used for our Scholarship Program and this year we were able to give to three young scholars to help with their tuition. There are many programs within the American Legion Auxiliary and one that we really need help with is our Junior Program. If there is an Auxiliary member that would like more information on the Junior programs or any other, please attend a meeting, contact myself or visit alaforveterans.org for details.

Check out the calendar and Facebook for upcoming events. Let's close out this calendar year with hope, love and prayers.

For God and Country,

Cari Ann Salamon
Unit 217 President

AMERICAN LEGION Post 217

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday December 6, 2020

1 PM to 4 PM

Open to all children/grandchildren ages
0 to 12 years of members of A. L. Post 217

Deadline for sign-up is November 25, 2020

We will have food, drinks, snacks

And a gift for each child from SANTA

We are asking for a \$5.00 deposit for each child signed up
due to no-shows in past years. You will receive your \$5.00
deposit along with the gift for your child.

Any signed up no-shows will forfeit the deposit.



Child's Name _____
Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Parent/Grandparent Name _____
Deposit Paid _____
Child's Name _____
Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Parent/Grandparent Name _____
Deposit Paid _____
Child's Name _____
Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Parent/Grandparent Name _____
Deposit Paid _____

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

Jr. Vice Commander

Back in 1969 I joined the Navy. I was in for quite a culture shock. For 4 years I lived with a continual revolving door of people that I barely knew. It was sort of depressing being told constantly when and what to do. After a while you sort of get used to it and go with the flow. It was hard adjusting to it, but I survived. As we know some did not.

Today I am going through some of the same feelings. It is quite a culture shock of wearing masks, staying apart from other people and limiting your travel. Wondering when you do go out, what is safe. It's been about 8 months since we started taking these precautions. Hopefully it will ease up within the next year. It was hard adjusting to it, but we must to survive. As we know some did not. Stay safe.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Rick McKinnon
Newsletter editor

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Label here

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 meeting	2 nd Thursday	@7pm
Legion Riders meeting	2 nd Tuesday	@7pm
Service officer hours	2 nd Monday	