

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Saxton-Willis Post 64
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Biggest Little Post in Arkansas



For God and Country

April - May - June
2023 Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

<u>Post</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>	<u>S.A.L.</u>
Commander	President	Commander
	Betty Cupples	Tim Grant
1st Vice Commander	<u>501-365-6895</u>	<u>501-691-3839</u>
	Vice President	1st Vice Commander
2nd Vice Commander	Debbie Thompson	Phil Harris
	<u>501-206-9114</u>	<u>501-206-6999</u>
Adjutant	Secretary	2nd Vice Commander
Dan Chalk	Marla Chalk	Brian Low
<u>501-424-7585</u>	<u>501-306-4230</u>	<u>501-887-1511</u>
Finance Officer	Treasurer/Historian	Adjutant/Finance Officer
Bob Wetzel	Robyn Rose	Tom Thompson
<u>501-270-2878</u>	<u>501-691-0456</u>	<u>501-206-4069</u>
Chaplain	Chaplain	Chaplain
	Jane Kever	
Historian	<u>501-691-0644</u>	Sgt. at Arms
	Sgt. at Arms	Timothy Golden
Service Officer	Beverly Head	<u>501-306-2781</u>
	<u>417-540-8759</u>	Historian
Judge Advocate	Membership	Larry VanveKoven
		<u>501-362-3887</u>
Sgt. at Arms		Squadron Advisor
Post 64	Legion Riders	Legion Riders
Executive Committee	Director	Sgt. at Arms
	Ronald Fenner	
	<u>479-670-0573</u>	
	Vice Director	Chaplain
	TJ Asveda	
	Secretary	Road Captain
	Tom Thompson	Doc Robertson
	<u>501-206-4069</u>	<u>501-270-0908</u>
	Treasurer	Historian
	Tom Thompson	
	<u>501-206-4069</u>	



LEGION NEWS

POST COMMANDER LARRY VANVEKOVEN

Fellow Legionnaires, it has been a privilege being the commander these past six months. I would like to thank you all for the support in making this the flagship post of our district and our state. We have plenty to be proud of as we have overcome some big hurdles and challenges and are on a path where I can see only good things in our future.

We have completed several projects in the last few months. We had the exhaust motors over the canteen repaired, finished the installation of the vent hood in the kitchen to bring us up to health department rules, repaired and replaced the siding on the end of the building and added to the fence in the backyard. We made a beautiful flag display in the bingo hall for all to enjoy and we have a good start on remodeling the office. We bought and put up a large Legion emblem at the edge of town and we now have a children's swing set in the picnic area behind the post. We got the sewage leak and septic problem fixed and we now have a new bingo machine that is all paid for. We have started on the anchor project out by the duster to be completed once the weather cooperates.

The largest change for the Post has been prohibiting smoking at bingo or at any time in the bingo hall. This one change has doubled the players and brought money to the bingo fund which allows us to donate more to the community and our children and youth programs. We need more volunteers to help with bingo so please consider helping with this fund-raising activity.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with these many projects and changes and really feel like our Legion post is something the community and all of us can be proud of for many years to come.

Smooth Sailing,
Larry VanveKoven, Commander



AUXILIARY NEWS

UNIT PRESIDENT BETTY CUPPLES

Hello again. It's time for our Spring newsletter. Even though the weather cannot decide what to do, we know it is that time of year. Hope everyone made it through the winter okay. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to warm weather. I know I am. Since our last newsletter, we have lost one of our most loved members. Karen Tompsett passed away in late December. She is sorely missed. So, April will bring us Easter and we will have our annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00 am. Our age groups will be 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12. We will also be having our bake sale at that time. Hope everyone comes to join us for some fun!

May will bring us Mother's Day. We will be having our Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday May 14th. May 13th will be our District meeting at Heber Springs Post 64. Lunch will be served at 11 and the meeting will start at noon. Nominations and elections for officers will be held that day. Due to Easter and Mother's Day, our General Meetings will be held on April 2nd, with nominations for officers for the next year. Our May meeting will be held on May 7th, with elections for officers. Officers will be sworn in at the June 11th meeting.

June 16, 17, and 18 will be Department Convention at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock.

This will be the last newsletter from me because as many of you know, I am not running for Unit President again since I am running for Department President. I have truly enjoyed being President of this unit and I thank all of you for your help and support. I will continue as a member of this unit and will help with all I can.

Thank you.

Betty Cupples,
President Unit 64.

POOL TOURNAMENT REPORT

The weekly pool tournaments have settled down to a core group of about 8 players who come in regularly. I have been told the one reason we don't see more participation is the low payouts. Sadly, the only way I can raise the payouts is to raise the entry fees. The last time this was attempted, half the regular players who had been coming week after week just stopped. They didn't say anything, they just stopped playing. After a great deal of discussion with our pool players, we have decided to hold one tournament a month with a \$20 entry fee. One dollar will go toward the end of year championship tournament. The other nineteen will go towards prizes. If 7 or fewer players, it will be winner take all. If 8 or more, I will pay 2/3 to first place and 1/3 to second. We will still charge a quarter for scratches that will go to the next player below the payout limit. Another possible reason for the small number of players is the start time. We currently play on Sundays at 6pm. A 1pm start time has been suggested. I am asking for input from anyone who would come out if we start earlier or have higher entry fees and prizes. We currently have an 8-ball tournament. If anyone would be interested in starting up a 9-ball or a 10-ball tournament, get in contact with me and we will try to work out a good time for the most players to come. Thanks, Daniel Chalk

BINGO NEWS

If you haven't heard, we have made the bingo hall a non-smoking area. While there has been some pushback on this, the decision stands. We lost a few of our regular players and some of the volunteers who have been very helpful in keeping Bingo running smoothly. But, we have attracted a number of new players and we have some new volunteers in place. Overall, the crowds are larger and we are taking in more money for the Post. I have been appointed to chair Bingo. Anyone interested in volunteering, please, contact me so that I can make out a schedule. The more volunteers we get, the less work it will be on anyone to ensure we keep our charitable Bingo operating at a level that attracts players and helps our Post. Thank you. Dan Chalk



HONOR GUARD NEWS CAPTAIN BONNIE TATOM

The request for our services slowed down in February and the first part of March. But it picked up last week. We had one parade, one special service and 13 funerals. This resulted in 324.5 volunteer hours and 142 callouts.

The group responded well and performed great. We were also asked to Present Colors for the opening game for the new semi-Pro football game at the Panther Stadium Heber Springs High school.

We had a sad regretful day when Ken Day had to retire from the Honor Guard due to health problems. He was a great performer for many years.

We were sad to hear that Ken Wahlgren had a bad automobile accident on the way to an Honor Guard function. Ken is in the Hospital and we hope for a speedy recovery. Roy Thompson is on leave.

We would like to welcome Charles Cashion to the Honor Guard. He will be a weekend participant since he is still employed. Mario Olivera is also rejoining us as a weekend participant since he is still working also.

The Honor Guard could sure a few more retired participants. We are getting few in number with retirees and illnesses.

Bonnie Tatom



Post Honor Guard at one of thirteen funerals this past quarter. March 12, Prim, Arkansas.

Skip Graewert, John Armour, Bonnie Tatom and Philip Harris.

Not pictured, Sam Clary, Larry VanveKoven and Mike Nuckolls.



S.A.L. NEWS SQUADRON COMMANDER TIM GRANT

The Squadron has been maintaining well with Taco Tuesday and our Bingo kitchen nights. Thanks to The Legion Family for all their support! We sponsored Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-Off. We donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital, Breaking Bread meals, Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Children's learning trip to Washington D.C., and sponsored for a Karaoke night at the Post.

We will donate for Auxiliary's Easter Egg Hunt, Boys' and Girl's State and participate in Honor Guard Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Sons has membership with the Post's Honor Guard.

Officer nominations for 2023-24 are in April.

Please renew your S.A.L. if you have not done so; memberships are vital for our causes.

May God bless our troops, our veterans, and American Legion Post 64.

Tim Grant, Commander



SAL Phillip Harris, winner Chili Cook-off.

The Sons of the American Legion Detachment held a chili cook-off on Super Bowl Sunday. after the judging was completed, bowls of chili were sold to raise funds.

POST 64 ACTIVITIES



American Legion, Saxton-Willis Post 64 Honor Guard working in conjunction with United States Air Force personnel gave Military Honors to a United States Air Force veteran.



L-R Bonnie Tatom, Larry VanveKoven, Skip Graewert, Jerrell Skinner and Phillip Harris.

March 17, at Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery, North Little Rock.



Commander Larry VanveKoven looks on as the three judges tasted the entries in the chili cook-off. Legionnaires Jerrell Skinner, Stan Nuckolls and Mike Hernandez were the judges.

APRIL, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TACO TUESDAYS EVERY TUESDAY 5 TO 8 PM 						DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 PM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM		 5 - 8PM Legion Riders Meeting 6:00 PM		S.A.L. Meeting 6:30 PM	 Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	 11AM DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
HAPPY Easter SUNDAY Pool Tournament 6:00 PM		 5 - 8PM		General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM Honor Guard Meeting 7:30 PM	Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
Pool Tournament 6:00 PM		 5 - 8PM			Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
Pool Tournament 6:00 PM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM		 5 - 8PM			Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm

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MAY, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2  5 - 8PM Legion Riders Meeting 6:00 PM	3	4 S.A.L. Meeting 6:30 PM	5  Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	6 DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
Executive Board Meeting 1:30 PM Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 PM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	8	9  5 - 8PM	10	11 General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM Honor Guard Meeting 7:30 PM	12 Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	13 District 6 Meeting Post 64 Lunch 11 AM Meeting Noon DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
14  Breakfast 8AM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	15	16  5 - 8PM	17	18	19 Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	20  DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
21 Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	22	23  5 - 8PM	24	25	26 Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	27 DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
28 Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	29  Ceremony Spring Park 11AM	30  5 - 8PM	31 6	MAY  NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH Remember - Honor - Support		

JUNE, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Department Convention Wyndham Riverfront Hotel North Little Rock, AR June 16, 17, 18		1 S.A.L. Meeting 6:30 PM	2 Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	3 DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
4 Executive Board Meeting 1:30 PM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	5	6  5 - 8PM Legion Riders Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8 General Membership <u>Meeting 6:30 PM</u> <u>Honor Guard</u> <u>Meeting 7:30 PM</u>	9 Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	10 DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
11 Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 PM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	12	13  5 - 8PM	14 <i>Flag Day</i> June 14  Retirement Ceremony 10AM	15	16 Department Convention Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	17 Department Convention DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
18 <i>HAPPY</i> <i>Father's</i> DAY Breakfast 8AM Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	19  JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY	20  5 - 8PM	21	22	23 Bingo 6:30 PM Auxiliary Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	24 DART TOURNAMENT 3:30pm
25 Pool Tournament 6:00 PM	26	27  5 - 8PM	28 7	29	30 Bingo 6:30 PM SAL Has Bingo Kitchen Duty	