



***A monthly publication from Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179,
The American Legion, New Braunfels, Texas***

Volume 7, Issue 11

1 January 2026

From the Post Commander

Happy New Year,

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas meal. A good time was had by all in attendance. We hope that this will continue to be a Christmas tradition for our Legion family. A special thanks to Rich Vassi and Ambro Valdez (Preparation) Jeysson Gomez, Ken and Laura Dalfonso (Service of meal), ALA (fun and games), Pete Johnson, Jim and Becky Hicks (clean up).

2026 is going to be a very busy time for our Legion. This winter the ALR will have its 8th annual Fasching Run in February. In the spring we will host the 14th District Convention here at our Legion Hall in April. Late Summer our charity golf tournament is set for September, and early October the ALR host its 10th annual Wurst Run. Fundraising takes time and planning to execute a successful event. Many hands make for light work. If you would like to help, please reach out.

I would like to say THANK YOU to our outgoing finance officer Martha Stamp. Her willingness to take on such an important role reflects her personal service to an organization greater than herself. Martha, you were an outstanding Finance Officer, and you will be missed around our Legion. Good luck in the next chapter of your life, we wish you all the happiness and joy found in marriage.

Remember, your membership matters and it's easy to renew. Just follow the link below. <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>

Lastly, Pamela and I would like to extend a Happy New Year to all. Hope to see you on the 8th of January for our first general membership of the year meeting.

I was honored to present Gold Star wife Natalie Schoenicke with a folded flag at the Wreaths Across America ceremony for her husband, US Navy Corpsman Mitch C. Goad, 15 years after his passing.



JAY A. GRADY
Post Commander
Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179
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From the 1st Vice Commander

Mental health is a real issue, and we are here for you.

I'm excited to share that our first monthly Be the One walk and wellness class were a success! We brought veterans together to learn more about recognizing signs of mental health issues among our brothers and sisters and how to help them. Our next Be the One walk will be on January 14th at 7 PM. I hope to see many of you there

Additionally, we had a wonderful first monthly Sunday dinner, thanks to the amazing efforts of Ethan Flagg and Mike Doss. We enjoyed delicious snacks, played games, listened to music, and fostered camaraderie. Our next Sunday dinner is scheduled for January 25th at 4 PM.

Both the Be the One walk and Sunday dinner are open to veterans, first responders, friends, and family members.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined me for the monthly 22 a day walk to

walk 2.2 miles in honor of the 22 veterans we lose each day. Your support means the world.



Open
invite to
the
community
to join my
weekly
Tuesday
Night Walk
at Landa
Park Train

at 7pm, to raise awareness for mental health while preventing veteran and first responders' suicide. Kid and pet friendly.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events. Please share this with others; it could save a life.

Be safe,

Jaysson Gomez
1st Vice Commander

From the 2nd Vice Commander

As I look back over the last year, I see many good things that have happened to our post. Through a concentrated effort we have worked hard to maintain our aging facility so our members will have a safe and comfortable gathering place. We have concentrated on continuing to make minor but important structural repairs. We have also added a 12 by 20-foot gazebo for a nice outside venue. A new beverage cooler was added to the bar, and an excellent large commercial refrigerator was purchased for our kitchen. Overhead fluorescent light fixtures were converted to LED saving electricity.

We were happy to host the Comal County Veterans Treatment Court twice for presentation of graduation certificates to veterans that had completed his veteran's substance abuse program.

This program was created by Judge Charles Stephens, who recognized the need to provide military veterans with an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system, one focused on accountability, treatment, and meaningful support.

The Veterans Treatment Court helps justice involved veterans reintegrate into a productive, law-abiding lifestyle through sobriety, employment, education, and a strong network of community partners, leaving no veteran behind.

Lives are truly changed at every graduation. Learn more about the Comal County Veterans Treatment Court at www.comalcounty.gov/177/Veterans-Treatment-Court

We also hosted Congressional Representative Chip Roy while he recognized high school graduates heading off to military service academies.



Our bar continued to be a great gathering place for Taco Tuesdays. Members and their guests enjoyed playing the Queen of Hearts game with a member winning \$20,737. The crowd has grown to the point that we now use the hall for seating with many ladies from the Auxiliary bringing in an ever-growing



assortment of food for the Tuesday gathering. We now have Monday game nights in the hall with a large assortment of games to choose from.

We made a bid to have a cell tower installed on post property for additional monthly income but unfortunately lost out to another non-profit organization. We also

added new electronic entertainment games to the bar where our members can win either cash or gift cards.

So as 2025 comes to an end I am encouraged that 2026 will be even better for Post 179 legion members and their families.

Gary Gallandat
2nd Vice Commander

From the Chaplain's Corner

Post Everlasting: Thankfully, nothing to report.

Sick Call and Relief: **John Schendel** - John had kidney stone surgery in early December but it was not successful. He was in the hospital for six days and is now on antibiotics that will hopefully clear up his infection in his kidney. He had severe reactions to some of the pain meds but is slowly gaining his strength and recuperating.

For God and Country

Charles Clopper, Chaplain

From the 2026 Golf Tournament Chairperson

Save the Date: Our Next Charity Golf Tournament Is September 18, 2026!

The American Legion Charity Golf Tournament is taking a break this year, so we can retool and return bigger and better in 2026!

Tournament details are available on our website: americanlegioncharitygolf.com. We are currently seeking sponsors for the event, so if you, or an organization you know, would like to partner to help us make this event a success, please contact the Golf Committee Chairperson, Deb Powers (americanlegioncharitygolf@gmail.com)

Deb Powers
Golf Committee Chairperson



From the Post 179 American Legion Auxiliary

We celebrated our Auxiliary Annual Christmas Party for the Kids on December 6th at the Post Legion Hall. We had over 20 kids. it was a fun day had by all. We plan for this each year starting in January. Thank you to all the Ladies that participated and were such good sports as to wearing some of the outfits donated to us by member Deb Desero for this special event.



Next *Loteria* will be February 22, 2026, Sunday afternoon. Doors open at 12:30. The usual food and drink items will be sold. I will make up a flyer in January for distribution and to be left at the Bar. We will need as many ladies that can participate. And as a reminder, we still need new or unused items for giveaways. I have selected a Loteria Committee and hopefully, those Ladies will want to take on that task. Please contact me for any items that anyone would like to donate for the Loteria Games.

Mary Jane Repp
President
609-980-0269

mjgirlie.repp4711@gmail.com

From the SAL - Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Squadron 179

Greetings Fellow Sons and American Legion Family, Happy New Year! Welcome to 2026.

Is it just me or did 2025 seem to fly by. I know in my personal life that I had some things that happened that made me want to slow down time but instead, life moved



forward much faster than I needed. This time of the year is also a time when many people look back at the year gone by. I prefer to look forward to the opportunities that the future holds.

With that being said, we will be getting into the time of year when there are many events taking place. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears listening for the Post, Unit, Squadron, and Rider's Group happenings.

Some events include a movie night on January 7 with a showing of Robin Hood: Men in Tights. For those that missed the last movie night, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, you missed a fun time.

The Department and Detachment Mid-Winter Meeting will take place beginning January 27 with the Sons meetings taking place January 31 and February 1. It will take place at the Renaissance Arboretum in Austin.

I don't have the details in front of me as I type this but I believe there will be a Big Game Party at the Post on February 8.

The Riders will be having their Fasching Run on February 14.

Unit 179 of the American Legion Auxiliary will have another of their Loteria events on February 22.

The Post will be hosting the 14th District Convention in April. Lots of help will be needed for this event to come together smoothly and show off how well our Post can put on an event.

The 3rd Division Convention will be in May at Post 2 in San Antonio. Last time I attended a convention at Post 2, it was very productive and fun. With it being so close, I want to encourage as many of you to attend to see how things run at higher levels of our organization.

Also in May, one of the most important events for our Squadron occurs when we have our election of officers. We still have an opening for Vice Commander for this year and will need someone to fill the role next year. I will also be leaving my roles as adjutant and finance officer so we will need someone to fill those roles. While I will not abandon anyone who takes a role at that time, it would be nice if anyone willing to fill those roles would let me know now so I can get a head start on training you. Our other officer positions will be open for anyone wanting to run for them. Again, anyone interested, let me know and I can help you get some training. (Hint: nothing is all that difficult.)

And to finish for the moment, remember, our next **Squadron General Membership** meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 15 at 7:04 p.m.** at the Post. I hope to see many of you there.

Eddy Seegers
Adjutant, Squadron 179

From the American Legion Rider Chapter 179



The American Legion Riders Chapter 179 had a great time in December attending the Post 179 Christmas Party.

ALR 179 supported Wreaths Across America by escorting the delivery and helping to unload the truck at the Comal Cemetery. We also Joined in the Wreath Ceremony on December 13th. Each wreath carries with it a story, a lesson, and a message of gratitude that echoes across time. Through these simple but

profound acts of honor, we not only keep their memories alive but also teach our children and our communities what true patriotism looks like. This season, let every wreath you sponsor be both a tribute and a teaching tool, and a reminder that freedom endures because they served, and because we remember.





On Tuesday December 16th, after the Queen of Hearts drawing, ALR 179 randomly selected winners of five turkeys and five hams from the post membership roster. The drawing was open to members of the American Legion 179, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 179.



Pete Johnson
(830) 832-9495
Director ALR 179
Peter Johnson
Director

From the Editor/Publisher

Lots of pictures! I love it

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2025

On the 7th of December 84 years ago, 2,403 service members and civilians were killed in a painful and unprovoked attack on our Armed Forces.

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we remember these women and men, who gave their last full measure of devotion to our Nation. We honor the brave service members who — with the horrors of Pearl Harbor weighing on their hearts and the hopes of humanity resting on their shoulders — answered the call to defend freedom against the forces of fascism during World War II.

A resolution approved by Congress in 1994 designates December 7 of each year as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day,” and directs that flags be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sundown.

Charlie Clopper
Editor/Publisher, *Post 179 Citizen*

Post 179 Officers –2025-2026

American Legion – 2024-2025

89 th Commander	Jay Grady
1 st Vice Commander	Jeysson Gomez
2 nd Vice Commander	Gary Gallandat
Adjutant	Gea Clausier
Chaplain	Charles Clopper
Finance Officer	Vacant
Sergeant at Arms	Nathan Flagg
Judge Advocate:	Pete Johnson
Service Officer	Dale Bennett
Historian	Ray Sanchez, Jr.
Executive Committee	George Zafala, Rusty Law, Bill Morison,

Appointed Positions

Public Affairs Officer	Pamela Grady
Security Manager	(Vacant)
Honor Guard Director	(Vacant)
Lower Lot Committee	(Vacant)
Scholarship Committee	(Vacant)
Boy State Committee	Bill Morrison
Hubmaster	Jayden Logan
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Charlie Clopper

American Legion Auxiliary – 2025-2026

Mary Jane Repp	President
Deb Chappell	1 st Vice President
Pamela Grady	2 nd Vice President
Ria Gray	Secretary
Natalie Schoenicke	Treasurer
Sue Bennett	Historian
Glenda Chandler	Chaplain
Nancy Hartfield	Sgt. At Arms
Members at Large	Barbara Clopper, Joyce Bauer, Betty Kreutler

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 179 – 2025-2026

Commander	Ambrosio "Ambro" Valdez
Vice Commander	Vacant
Adjutant	Eddy Seegers (Acting)
Financial Officer	Eddy Seegers (Acting)
Chaplain	Lawrence Intrau
Historian	Dennis Crabill
Sergeant at Arms	Dennis Crabill

American Legion Riders – 2025-2026

Director	Pete Johnson
Assistant Director	Dale Bennett
Sgt at Arms	Mickey Rodi
Road Captain	David Stinson
Treasurer	Jay Grady
Secretary	Hortencia Franco
Chaplain	Charlie Clopper
Membership	Hortencia Franco
Service Officer	Sue Bennett
Historian	Pamela Grady
Safety Officer	Ray Sanchez
Events Coordinator	Pamala Grady
Member at Large	Gary Gallandat
Member at Large	David Stinson
Member at Large	Rich Vassi

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1 Jan	Executive Committee Mtg	Post	6:30 PM	Post 179
7 Jan	Movie – Robin Hood Men in Tights		TBD	Post 179
8 Jan	Post Membership Meeting	Post	7 PM	Sandwich/Drink After - \$50/50 & \$1000 Drawing
8 Jan	Auxiliary Meeting	Post	7 PM	
15 Jan	SAL Meeting	Post	7:04 PM	SAL
29 Jan	ALR Meeting	Post	7 PM	ALR 179
18 Sep 2026	3 rd Post 179 Gulf Tour	Landa Park GC	TBD	Post 179

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The Department and Detachment Mid-Winter Meeting will take place beginning January 27 with the Sons meetings taking place January 31 and February 1. It will take place at the Renaissance Arboretum in Austin.

There will be a Big Super Bowl Game Party at the Post on February 8. A 75" TV will be raffled off.

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Superbowl LX

Watch Party

Sunday, February 8, 2026 @5:30PM



Halftime Raffle

Samsung 75" TV

Tickets \$10ea /5 for \$40

Proceeds benefiting Post 179 Building Fund

Drawing held at halftime via Facebook Live. Need not be present to win.
Must pick up within 48 hours.

American Legion Post 179

410 W. Coll St, New Braunfels, TX 78130

8th Annual

Fasching

February 14, 2026

RUN

Rider \$20 • Passenger \$10
Lunch \$10

Registration at 9 am.
First group KSU at 10 am.



Hosted by ALR 179



Additional Patches
For Sale

Our Hill Country route concludes at Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179
410 W Coll St, New Braunfels, TX 78130
where a post-run party with German-themed food and
refreshments will be served.

Live and Silent Auctions after Men's and Women's Masskrugstemmen Challenge Contests.
ALL proceeds from our FUNDRAISER will aide in Veteran's programs and the local communities.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 179
MOVIE NIGHT

JAN 7TH AT 630 PM

*Robin Hood:
Men in Tights*



410 W Coll St, New Braunfels, TX 78130