

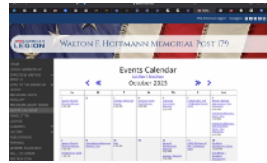
**FROM THE...**  
**COMMANDER**  
**SECOND VICE**  
**AL AUXILIARY**  
**AL RIDERS**  
**SONS OF AL**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**THE ADJUTANT'S DESK**  
**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
**SECURITY ALERT**

**SPECIAL REPORT:**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**WASHINGTON**  
**LEGISLATIVE**  
**CONFERENCE**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**POST 179 CALENDAR**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**AND VOLUNTEER**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**



**POST 179 OFFICERS**  
**LIST OF OFFICERS OF**  
**THE POST, AUXILIARY,**  
**SONS AND RIDERS**



# POST 179 CITIZEN

*A Monthly Publication from Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179, The American Legion*

## From the Commander

BY GEA CLAUSIER

Last month we had a wonderful Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony thanks to our own Chaplain, Charlie Clopper. And the ALR's Fasching Run was also a smashing success. If you were unable to attend, you missed out on fantastic German food and great company.

The Legionnaires were tasked with February's monthly Post cleanup, and only four members showed up to get the job done. The Auxiliary has this detail next, and I hope they get more support. This is everyone's Post, not just a selected few, so please volunteer when you can.

March will bring spring and Easter, and the Auxiliary is having a fundraiser rummage sale on March 23rd, 2024. Please donate items, or if you prefer, rent a table to sell your own items. Also, start thinking about offices that you would like to run for in our upcoming elections.

Finally, many new events are being planned, and we welcome new volunteers! In the upcoming months we have the Air Show at Randolph April 6th to 7th, Folkfest Apr 13th to 14th, an Open House on April 26th, and Boys State graduation on June 14th, 2024. Add these dates on your calendar and plan to volunteer or attend.



**ALR's Fasching Run - See More Photos on [Page 4](#)**

## From the Second Vice Commander

BY JAMES HOLLON

A big thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the Post cleanup day on February 24th, 2024. They cleaned the kitchen counters, kitchen and hall floors, and the entranceway, checked the exterior grounds, and swept the sidewalks. These selfless donations of valuable time help maintain the cleanliness and beauty of our Post. The next scheduled Post cleaning day is March 23rd, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. I'm asking for your assistance, and any amount of time you can contribute is greatly appreciated.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

We've made a small increase in bar prices due to price hikes by our suppliers and the doubling of city permit fees. Even so, our bar prices are still the lowest and our beer the coldest in town. So please stop by and bring your family, friends, and neighbors to support our Post, chat with Amanda — our bar manager, taste some improved Cabernet wine, or try some of our delicious new snacks. Our bar is open to the public seven days a week from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Lastly, our 2024 Post officer elections are quickly approaching. I've been a Post officer for over nine of my ten years, spending two years as Chaplain and seven years as Second Vice Commander and an Executive Board Member. I'm actively searching for a member interested in becoming our new Second Vice Commander. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact me. I will gladly explain the requirements and duties for this very rewarding and important officer position.

## The Adjutant's Desk

BY ED TAYLOR

In keeping with the four pillars of the American Legion and to aid in our Post reporting responsibilities, I'm asking for everyone's help in tracking the hours we contribute to supporting the organizations and activities of our Post. At each Executive Committee and General Membership meeting, along with the attendance sign-in sheet, there will be a second sheet which lists activities in which you may have participated. Please self report your name and hours next to the corresponding activity. If there are any additional activities in which you have participated, there will be space to write those in, as well. Thanks in advance for your assistance and for everything you do for our Post and our Veterans.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2024. As a reminder, National has elected to increase their portion of our membership dues by \$5.00 effective July 1, 2024. A membership vote is required for any increase to Post dues, and this will be discussed at the next General Membership Meeting.

As always, if you know of anything around your Post that requires attention, please call it to the attention of any officer. Honor – Courage – Commitment, Semper Fi.

## The Chaplain's Corner

BY CHARLIE CLOPPER

**Post Everlasting:** Harold McCray - Harold was a WWII Veteran.

**Sick Call and Relief:** Thankfully none to report.

### Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony

Post 179 held its annual Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony on February 3rd, 2024 at the Post. The ceremony honored the four U. S. Army chaplains who sacrificed their lives at sea by giving their life jackets to others after their ship was torpedoed during WWII.



Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony

Post Commander Gea Clausier rang the bell twice and lit a candle as Taps was sounded to honor each of the chaplains. Post 179 members participating in the Four Chaplains Ceremony are shown in the above photo assembled behind the candles honoring the four chaplains.

### **Strength of the Day - God's Gift of Family**

In the life of every family, there are moments of frustration and dissatisfaction, lots of them. But, for those who are lucky enough to live in the presence of a close knit, caring clan, the rewards far outweigh the frustrations.

No family is perfect, and neither is yours. But, despite the inevitable challenges and hurt feelings of family life, your clan is God's gift to you. That little band of men, women, kids, and babies is a priceless measure on temporary loan from the Father above. Give thanks to the Giver for the gift of family.

## From the Executive Committee

BY JAMES HOLLON

Have you been by your Post, volunteered, attended a meeting or event, or patronized our bar lately? I encourage you to become active in your Post. We need your assistance, skills, leadership, and most of all, camaraderie.

So why not attend a membership meeting and provide your input and suggestions? Let us know how we can improve our Post, what you are interested in volunteering for, and what events you would like to attend. Your active participation in the Post is vital. Plus, we always share in a ridiculous amount of fun, frivolity, and friendship. I hope to see you at our next membership meeting on March 14th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

## From the American Legion Auxiliary

BY MARY JANE REPP

Reminder - items are still needed for the Auxiliary Rummage Sale on March 23rd, 2024. If you are interested in renting a table to sell your own stuff, please contact me at [mjgirlie.repp4711@gmail.com](mailto:mjgirlie.repp4711@gmail.com) or text (609) 980-0269. The rental fee is \$25.00. View the flyer for this event on [page 8](#).

Special thanks to our American Legion Riders for their donation to the Girls State Program and sponsorship of three girls. We are excited our Legion is sponsoring 12 girls this year, and with this donation, the program is well on its way. I will keep everyone informed as the months progress so we can all cheer our girls on and help them do their best.

Membership in our Auxiliary is a top priority in the months ahead. We need all hands on deck to help build our Unit 179. So Post, Riders, and Sons members, please invite your spouses to join us. And to all, I also encourage you to invite a friend, neighbor, or relative to the Auxiliary's next monthly meeting.

For God and country — our Veterans, our community, and our families of active military, we stand with you and for you.

# From the American Legion Riders

BY JAY GRADY

Thank you to everyone who helped with and came out in support of another successful Fasching Run. I'm really pleased with the mutual helpfulness on display throughout this community event. Everyone's hard work from setup to cleanup contributed to our ability to help others through financial gifts. My thanks also go out to all those who went home with live and silent auction items. And congratulations to our Masskrugstemmen champions in both the male and female categories.

We finished off the month supporting Brothers-In-Arms Motorcycle Club (BIAMC) during their monthly bike night. And we're looking forward to spring and the start of our riding season.

# From the Sons of the American Legion

BY EDDY SEEGER

Here we are, three weeks from the first day of spring, and there's so much is going on in the Legion family. You can check out the [Post calendar](#) and other family members' articles to see what events are happening when.

We're nearing the end of the period for collecting 2024 dues and are currently just two short of our Detachment goal. Remember, if you haven't paid your 2024 dues, you're not eligible for the many benefits of membership, including the National Emergency Fund should an unexpected disaster occur. So if you haven't renewed your membership, I encourage you to reflect on why you joined the Sons. I joined, and continue to be a member, as a way to honor my parents' service in the United States Marine Corps, as well as the service of other family members and all Veterans.

On July 1st, 2024 we'll begin collecting 2025 dues. Don't forget our Early Bird Honorary Paid Up For Life (PUFL) program. If you pay your dues prior to November 11th, 2024, you'll be entered to win an Honorary PUFL from the Squadron. Last year's winner was former Post Commander Richard Hall.

And while we're on the topic of dues, in February the Squadron voted for some changes to the dues structure. The Detachment is increasing their portion of the dues for 2025. The new dues structure is as follows:

- SAL Membership only - \$30.00

## Fasching Run and BIAMC Bike Night



Serving Up Lots of Fun at the Fasching Run



Fasching Masskrugstemmen Champions



BIAMC Bike Night

- Dual Membership (Legion and SAL) - \$25.00
- Youth Membership (17 years old and younger) - \$20.00
- SAL Member actively serving in our military - \$0.00 (the Squadron will pay their dues)

Throughout my fifteen years of involvement with the Sons of The American Legion and the Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Squadron 179, I've observed members' willingness to assist in Post events — Sons' events, as well as events held by the Legion, Auxiliary, and Riders. For the 2023 year — and well before — there was one member in particular who was exemplary in his selflessness. For example, he stepped up to coordinate a past Thanksgiving Dinner when I had a TIA the week of the event, and he also took charge whenever cooking was needed. So I'm pleased to announce that the Squadron has voted Wayne Bauer as the Squadron 179 Sons Member of the Year. Congratulations Wayne — and great job, sir!

As I previously mentioned, there are many events and plenty of chances for service in the near future. If you want to help, I encourage you to attend our general membership meetings. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Post. If you can't make the meeting but still want to help, be sure to keep up with the [calendar](#) on the [Post 179 website](#).

For God and Country.

## Special Report: The American Legion Washington Legislative Conference

BY EDDY SEEGER

It was my honor and pleasure to attend the American Legion Washington Legislative Conference this year as the Vice Chair of the National SAL Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission. I arrived Saturday afternoon and spent the rest of the day renewing friendships with Sons members from around the nation. I still feel like an honorary member of the Detachment of Colorado because of the many Coloradans I now consider great comrades thanks to time spent together at national meetings. Many plans and ideas were floated, discussed, and debated at these casual get-togethers.

Sunday was a special day. The Sons took three busloads of attendees to visit Arlington National Cemetery where Sons National Commander Donald "J.R." Hall laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After the ceremony, we were treated to a question and answer session with members of the Old Guard who maintain vigil at the Tomb. The session dispelled some myths about their service and provided details about what they do and how they do it. Just imagine counting out 21 seconds over and over in your mind for an hour!

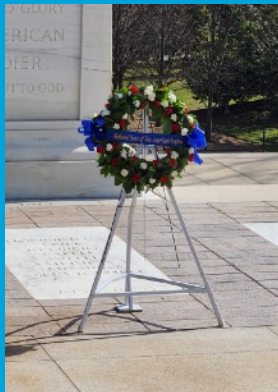
Next we went to the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. I had the honor of leading the Texas delegation in laying a wreath at the Korean War Memorial, a very deeply moving event. Due to time limitations, we split our group so some could lay wreaths at the Vietnam Memorial Wall while we were at the Korean Memorial. As a result, I had only a few brief moments at the Wall, but it was also a powerful and emotional time.

We then finished our tour at the WWII Memorial. I joined the Texas Delegation as we placed a wreath in front of the Texas pillar. I loved this memorial because of its location — the reflecting pool and Lincoln Memorial on one side and the Washington Monument on the other. The only minor

### Washington Legislative Conference



SAL Detachment of Texas Memorial Wreaths



National SAL Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



SAL Texas Delegation with Wreath Placed at the Texas Pillar of the WWII Memorial

disappointment was the site’s fountains weren’t running. After a busy and exhausting day, we had a few more informal gatherings to prepare for the business to be officially addressed the following day.

On Monday, the Sons’ VA&R Commission sat in on the Legion’s Commission meeting to hear some extremely informative presentations on research and work being done for and by the Veterans Administration. This included information about an expansion of the PACT Act to reach out to even more Veterans who may have been affected by toxins in the course of their service. There was much more discussed, and while I don’t have space to share it here, it will be available in the near future on the [American Legion website](#).

We then attended the Commander’s Call led by the American Legion’s National Commander Daniel Seehafer. This included speeches and presentations by various commission chairs, the SAL Commander, the Auxiliary President, Senator Jon Tester from Montana, and Senator Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota. The House of Representatives was in recess as their members were home working on their reelection efforts, so we didn’t hear from anyone from that house of Congress. The day ended with the official meeting of the SAL VA&R and Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commissions meeting where again many useful ideas and plans for future efforts were discussed.

Tuesday was the day to “Storm the Hill” where conference attendees visited their Senators and Representatives. I did not participate because I maintain regular communication with the two Texas Senators. But I did try to make an appointment to meet with a staff member of my new Representative — the result of a redistricting which I learned about just prior to my trip. Unfortunately, the only time available was too close to my departure flight.

However, something else happened Tuesday I want to share. While my roommate and I were having breakfast at a restaurant near the hotel, a waitress asked about our jackets and emblems. She mentioned her daughter had served in the Navy, and it left her traumatized. We were able to give her the name, address,

and phone number of an American Legion Post close to her home. We instructed her to contact the Post Service Officer to seek help. The waitress was so appreciative. You could see relief in her eyes as we shared how the Legion is here to assist Veterans like her daughter. It was a great feeling to do something good for someone and a perfect way to end the trip.

## New Members

BY DEB POWERS

From January 19th, 2024 through February 8th, 2024, one new member transferred to Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179 of the American Legion:

- Lee (Brad) Mynatt - U.S. Coast Guard

Welcome! The General Membership Meeting, held the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Post hall, is a great place to welcome new members and weigh in on Post business. All Post members are encouraged to attend. As an additional incentive, there is a membership drawing at the end of each meeting which offers members in good standing a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. You must be present to win, so hope to see you at the next meeting on March 14th, 2024!

## Member Spotlight

BY DEB POWERS

In each newsletter, we highlight one or more active members of our Post. In this issue, we shine the member spotlight on two of our newer members, Jeff Coulter and Kwame Tawiah.



Jeff Coulter

### **Jeff Coulter**

A new member of Walton F. Hoffmann Post 179, Jeff Coulter is a retired Army Military Police Major with 27 years of service. He currently lives in New Braunfels with his wife, Victoria, and is the Recruiting and Enrollment Officer for Army ROTC at Texas State University. He loves spending time with his wife and dogs, reading, and playing computer games.

### **Kwame Tawiah**

Kwame Tawiah joined our Post in 2023 and is currently serving as an Executive Committee Member and head of the

Scholarship Committee. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant with 33 years of service in the Air Force and is now self-employed as a Creative Catalyst Coach and Program Management Consultant. He has a daughter, Dominique, and a grandson, Kayden, and resides in New Braunfels where he enjoys yoga, gardening, hiking, and jazz music.



Kwame Tawiah

## Security Alert

BY TIM POWERS

We are currently soliciting quotes for changing the locks at the Post and hope to issue new keys as soon as possible. In the meantime, please remember never to share your key or security code with others. If anyone requires regular access to the building, but does not have their own key or code, please [contact me](#).

Interested in becoming the Post’s next Security Manager? We are seeking someone new to fill this role, and I would love to talk to you about the responsibilities of the position.

# Newsletter

BY DEB POWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Next month’s newsletter articles are due on Sunday, **March 31st, 2024**. Please email submissions and suggestions to [deb.powers@gmail.com](mailto:deb.powers@gmail.com).

Date	Function	Location	Time	Remarks
Mar 7	Executive Committee Mtg	Post	6:30 p.m.	
Mar 10	Daylight Saving Time		3:00 a.m.	Set your clocks ahead one hour
Mar 14	Post Membership Meeting	Post	7:00 p.m.	\$50/50 & \$1000 Drawing
Mar 14	Auxiliary Meeting	Post	7:00 p.m.	Auxiliary
Mar 21	SAL Meeting	Post	7:00 p.m.	SAL
Mar 22	Auxiliary 179 Springtime Rummage Sale Setup	Post	10:00 a.m.	
Mar 23	Auxiliary 179 Springtime Rummage Sale	Post	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Currently accepting donations at Post bar during operating hours
Mar 23	Post and Kitchen Cleanup	Post	8:00 a.m.	Auxiliary
Mar 28	ALR Meeting	Post	7:00 p.m.	ALR
Jun 9-14	Boys State	Austin		

# Volunteer Opportunities

Below is a quick snapshot of volunteer opportunities mentioned throughout this newsletter:

- **March 23, 2024 - Post and Kitchen Cleanup** - Volunteers are needed to support this month’s Post cleanup event. Please contact [James Hollon](#) for more information or to volunteer.
- **2024 - General Volunteer Opportunities** - Various Post fundraising events require Project Managers, Project Committee Members, and volunteer workers. Additionally, there are opportunities to serve as a Post officer in the coming year. Contact [James Hollon](#) or [Gea Clausier](#) for more information or to volunteer your services.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
 Calling on all Legion Family...  
 Need donations for our Rummage sale on  
 March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am until 1pm at our Post 179.  
 We take all donations big or small. We hope to have Music, door prizes and food and drinks.



If you are interested in renting a Table to sell your own "stuff"...it is \$25.00 per table and must be paid by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Infor? Text MJ@ 609-980-0269.





# Post 179 Officers

## American Legion

88th Commander	Gea Clausier
1st Vice Commander	Jay Grady
2nd Vice Commander	James Hollon
Chaplain	Charlie Clopper
Finance Officer	Richard Smith
Adjutant	J. E. (Ed) Taylor
Sergeant at Arms	Deb Powers
Judge Advocate:	Spike Valencia
Service Officer	Dale Bennett
Historian	Ken Schatte
Executive Committee	James Hollon
	Bill Morrison
	Kwame Tawiah

## *Appointed Positions*

Public Affairs Officer	Pamela Grady
Security Manager	Tim Powers
Honor Guard Director	Ken Schatte
Scholarship Committee	Kwame Tawiah
Boy State Committee	Bill Morrison
Golf Tourney Chairman	John Hannigan
Hubmaster	Cliff Ormiston
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Deb Powers

## American Legion Auxiliary

President	Anita Bishop
1st Vice President	Pamela Grady
2nd Vice President	Diana Taylor
Treasurer	Mary Jane Repp
Secretary	Mary Jane Repp
Historian	Sandi Schendel
Chaplain	Joyce Bauer
Sergeant at Arms	Nancy Hartfield
Members at Large	Leigh Harrelson
	Shelia Warden
	Betty Kreutler

## Sons of the American Legion

Commander	Eddy Seegers
1st Vice Commander	Lawrence Intrau
2nd Vice Commander	Mark Stiger
Chaplain	Lawrence Intrau
Finance Officer	Nic Drescher
Adjutant	Mark Stiger
Sergeant At Arms	Dennis Crabill
Historian	Dennis Crabill

## American Legion Riders

Director	Jay Grady
Assistant Director	Bob Wolff
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Reed
Road Captain	Pete Johnson
Treasurer	Mark Hester
Secretary	Tencia Franco
Chaplain	Charlie Clopper
Membership	Trish Wolff
Service Officer	James Hollon
Historian	Diana Reed
Members at Large	Rich Vassi
	Dale Bennett
	John Hannigan
	Ray Sanchez
	Pamela Grady
Safety Officer	
Events Coordinator	