



## American Legion Post 164 Newsletter January 2026

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It is the New Year. We welcome this year and we will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our Grand Republic. I hope that we have a good 2026. I do have good news to start out the Year. Our Variance Request for our new sign has been approved by the Building and Zoning Board. We are now in the process of putting together, with the assistance of the Sign Committee, Ken Flaute, David Flannigan and our three Trustees, Jeff Davis, Bill Hall and Charlie Smith. Depending upon weather and such maybe just before spring our new sign could be in place. Don't hold my feet to the fire on this, as it is my hope that we can get it by then. This new sign brings the Post fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and will, hopefully, bring in more Hall Rentals, give us higher visibility and make us a Pillar of the Community. We will be able to welcome Dignitaries, announce blood drives, Post Open Houses, Post Picnics, Car Shows, Band Nights, Veterans and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Luncheons, Parking Lot Flea Markets, etc. All these things will bring positive attention to our Post and that will translate into increased revenue. With an increase in Revenue, we can do more for the Mash Garden, more for Boys an Girls State, more for the Legion Baseball Program, more for the Auxiliary, S.A.L. and, first and foremost, more for our Veterans.

Goals for this new year: New Heating and Cooling system on the Canteen side. Complete new doors on stalls in women's restrooms. New Sinks for the Men's Rooms. Clean up Shelter House and repair curb on North East side of parking lot. We hope to get the Patio under better cover, more area, allowing more people to stay dry if it rains out there. If you have skills in Electrical work, and are licensed, let me know if you are willing to do some volunteer work for the Post so too if you are a licensed Plumber, We have some minor work in that area as well. If you are skilled with construction, saws, hammers, squares, concrete, and erecting structures and want to volunteer, let me know. If you know which end of a paint brush holds paint and you can do it without making a large mess, let me know. These jobs don't pay anything, but they help the Post.

I remind everyone of the Be the One Program of American Legion National. Legionnaires need to attend meetings. You don't need to attend every meeting, but it would be good to attend one a quarter. **Be the One** to step up and support the Post and its Programs. The Post is more than a club Bar. Each of you have a vested interest in this Post and in the American Legion. You expect much from your dues; however, you too are expected to uphold the Constitution of The American Legion National Organization. I ask you to go out to Legion.Org website and review what it is the Legion does. I ask you to care about the Programs of the Legion that support our Veterans, their Families, the Community, and promote Americanism throughout our community. Certain factions in our Nation appear to have forgotten what it is to be AN AMERICAN and what we actually stand for. Add your voice to others about what you support or oppose. Every Voice, when joined with others, becomes louder and heard. If you don't express your views in a meeting, you have missed your opportunity. The Canteen is not the place to talk about the business of the Post. Please let us remember that. Keep it civil, keep it kind and let's do so with a smile.

Our next scheduled meetings: Membership 8 Jan. at 6:00 PM. Exec. Board 31 Jan. at 10:00 AM.

God bless and good health. Commander Joseph (Woody) Woodrum

## MEMBERSHIP

Hello fellow Post 164 members.

I hope everyone and their families had a Merry Christmas!

In the coming new year, we will continue to work on our membership with the hope to increase the membership. Currently we are at 80% of last year's paid members. I will assume that number will rise when the state updates the web site.

Another item I hope we can continue to do is make our post a welcoming place for new members. Over the past few months, we have had visitors from other post that have shared with me that they enjoyed the time spent at our post. Let us keep up that great image and continue to be good hosts.

Jeffery L. Shupe  
1st Vice Commander  
Paschall Post 164

## EVENTS

Greetings from the Events Chair.

- Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>; Mid-Winter Starter Party with Bub's Bologna Sandwich by the Sons of the American Legion serving from 1 to 4 PM.
- Saturday, January 17, 1991; Start of Operation Desert Storm, 35 th Anniversary --- Potluck starting at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 27, 1973; Vietnam Cease Fire, 53 rd Anniversary
- Tuesday, February 3 rd ; Four Chaplains Day
- Sunday, February 8 th ; Super Bowl Pot Luck Party
- Monday, February 23, 1945; Iwo Jima Flag Raised, 81 st Anniversary

Due to both the College and NFL Playoff Games, no entertainment has yet to be scheduled for January, but keep watching our Facebook Page for late breaking news about other events.

Ken Flaute  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
Paschall Post 164



## Chaplain's Corner: What You Can Do?

On January 20, 1961, newly elected President John F. Kennedy gave his inaugural address. The still famous line from that speech was: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." This was a call to all citizens of this nation to public service, to do what one could for our country. It was and is an honorable thing to serve one's country as most of our Legionnaires can testify.

Times have changed since then and the attitude of Americans, a majority, has changed with it. Now, it seems, "what my country can do for me" is about the only thing many people care about. There is a sense of entitlement, an attitude of "I'll just sit back and let others do all the work." That is not a recipe for success in America, nor at Post 164.

Let me be clear about this. No one should be expected to do everything, to participate in every event and work party that takes place at the Post. There are some things that some people cannot do due to age or infirmity. Time can also be a factor for those still working. However, if all of us would pitch in where we are able, a lot more would be accomplished.

When Sandy and I were raising our two boys, the work of the family was divided up according to ability. As the boys grew stronger and learned more skills, they were given more complex tasks to do. Now, I have reached an age where I find it difficult to do those things that once were easy for me. Now, my sons help me with some of those tasks that I once took on my own shoulders. We raised them to honor the family and to help each other whenever there was a need.

Our Post is also a family and the same rules apply. When something needs to get done, those who can should pitch in. We have seen some of that lately with the crew who is manning the kitchen several nights a week. That is the kind of service that is good for the Post and, therefore, good for the Post family. We need to see more of that and those who are doing it ought to be thanked, personally, for their service.

I have heard it said that some people believe they are supporting the Post family by drinking beer and playing the games of chance. If you are one of those, please be assured that you are NOT supporting the Post. At best you are supporting the canteen, but even that is very limited support. The Post family is more than just the canteen. We are an organization that is responsible for promoting national pride in our community. All three branches (Legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary) provide financial support to causes that promote this ideal. But there are many who do little or nothing to contribute to this mission and that is a shame. It is shameful for the person(s) who choose not to participate and that shame reflects on the rest of the Post family.

So, let's say you are one of those people and you don't know what you can do. Here's is how to get started: Ask any of your officers in any of the three branches of the Post what you can do to serve. I believe that most of them will be able to guide you toward some activities that need help. Here are some thoughts to get you started:

- Volunteer to work in the MASH garden.
- Volunteer to help in the kitchen. With more people we could expand the number of nights we are open and that would attract others to come into the Post.
- Ask to be put on a list of people to be called whenever work projects are occurring.
- Volunteer to help with lawn care. If we had an all-volunteer crew to mow

- the grass and keep the yard looking nice, we could save a lot of money that could go to pay for needed repairs and maintenance.
- Come to your respective membership meetings and help make decisions for the Post.
- Serve on a committee such as the Events committee, the Americanism committee, etc.
- Become a leader in the Post family by taking on an appointed office or running for an elected office in your respective branch.
- Volunteer for the Honor Guard. That puts the Post in a very positive view.

There are many other things you could do as well. It is said that 80% of the work in any organization is done by 20% of the people. You could be one of the 20%. Even better, you could help increase that 20% to 25%, 30% or even more.

One final thought: Over the years, I have found that when people work together, they become closer. They begin to have a better opinion of each other and are more willing to help each other. They truly become a family. If you have never experienced this kind of fellowship, you are missing out on one of the greatest feelings one could ever have in this life.

So, to paraphrase JFK: “Ask not what your Post can do for you, but what you can do for your Post.” Together, we can make it the best Post in the nation, not because of how fancy our Post is but because of how much the members of our Post love each other. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to make our Post better and better.

God bless you and yours during this New Year.

Chaplain Len Stayton



Greetings Auxiliary members,

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas!

Congratulations to Erin Stout for winning the Early Bird drawing for next year's paid membership dues. The Early Bird drawing rewards members who renew early, so be sure to participate next year for your chance to win.

As we start the new year, let's look back at what we achieved together in 2025 – thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication:

- Visited the VA Hospital in Chillicothe in January with other Units from our District. We passed out snacks, drinks and helped veterans play bingo.
- Held a bake sale at the Valentine's Day S.A.L. steak fry.
- Donated to the M.A.S.H. garden that provides food for their Veteran families in need.
- Donated and helped with the Memorial Day lunch for local Veterans and their families.
- Picked up trash on McDowell Road as part of Grove City's "Adopt a Street" program.
- Donated to the Armed Forces Day celebration at the Post.
- Donated to the Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down at the Columbus Convention Center.
- Donated a raffle basket to The Shining Starz event, supporting efforts to end Human Trafficking.
- Several Auxiliary members wrote cards, and we donated \$50 Walmart gift cards for the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Chillicothe for Christmas.
- Held an OSU/Michigan breakfast at the Post.
- Provided a Thanksgiving meal for a Veteran's family through the M.A.S.H. pantry.
- Provided a Veteran's family through the M.A.S.H. pantry with Christmas presents for three children and a gift card for the parents.
- Held a bake sale at the S.A.L. steak fry and Post Christmas party.
- Raffled many baskets throughout the year to help raise money for donations that we made.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 21, at 6:00 pm. Our meetings are a great way to learn more about our activities. I encourage everyone to join and share ideas for upcoming events and fundraisers or let us know if you are aware of a veteran who could use our support.

Wishing you and your family all good things in the new year. Happy New Year!

***Robin***

Robin Shockley

Unit 164 Auxiliary President



## Sons of the American Legion

Fellow SONS,

Winter is officially here and with it the close of 2025. We hope everyone had a safe Merry Christmas spent with family and friends.

We are asking everyone to renew their membership ASAP. Just a friendly reminder that current memberships expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. We currently have 100 members signed up. This puts us at roughly 65% to our quote of 153. Please stop by the post and renew your membership. Dues are \$35 for the year.

Mid-Winter conference will be held Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Columbus Northwest. We encourage any SONS that can make it to please attend.

Planning continues for the May conference and our Feb. steak fry. Our post will host a mid-winter luncheon for the in-coming detachment Commander, Todd Bilack from Post 541. More details to come on the luncheon.

The SONS next stated meeting will be Tues., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Post. Please come join us if you are able.

The SAL would like to wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year! "**Here's to 2026!**"

Curt Long

164 Squadron Commander