



American Legion Post 164 Newsletter March 2026

Canteen: 614-875-5106 E-mail: alpost164@gmail.com Web Site: www.americanlegionoh164.com

Dear Post Family,

Welcome to March! As we move into this new month, thoughts of spring begin to fill our minds. Warmer weather is on the horizon, inviting us to spend more time outdoors and leave behind the feeling of being cooped up inside. With this renewed sense of freedom and mobility, we are looking forward to enjoying open spaces and engaging in community activities.

We are actively planning events for the year ahead. Some of the exciting ideas under discussion include a Vintage Car Show and other gatherings that will not only bring the community together but will also welcome Veterans and their families. Please visit our Facebook Page and our Events section of our website for updates and more details. Check regularly so that you do not miss these events.

As many of you are aware, the year began with challenges due to the temporary loss of our EBingo (Slot Machines) License. Despite this setback, we managed to maintain financial stability, thanks to the continued support of our business operations and the dedication of our volunteers. Their efforts helped ensure that our revenue stream remained nearly consistent with what we had prior to the loss of revenue. Several contributing factors led to this situation. Rest assured we have addressed these issues and have made the necessary corrections. We have implemented procedural changes. We have new Canteen Management in place, our new procedures have already improved our tracking of financial accountability. There will be an Audit of our books.

Entering the spring season, our focus turns to enhancing the appearance of the Post. Plans are in motion to clean up the exterior, address concrete repairs, and improve landscaping and tree care. Additionally, we need to consider new tires for our Artillery Piece and potentially give it a fresh look as it is a prominent feature at the Post. We may ask for donations to handle this. Keep in mind that the Army has lent us this piece and it is our responsibility to keep it looking good.

I would also like to propose an upgrade to our Honor Roll Board area. The idea is to flank the board with the Branches of Service flags. On the left side, as you face the board, we would display the flags of the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy. On the right side, the flags of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Space Force. The poles would be made of 2 inch Aluminum 9 feet tall; each topped with a spear finial. These poles would be set in concrete, and the flags would be attached directly to the poles without the use of rope. This addition is intended to enhance our Honor Roll display and create a respectable atmosphere as you enter the Post area. This to will be funded by raffles and donations.

A BIG THANK YOU to Our Volunteers. Craig Smith, Mike and David Flannigan, Will Kesslering, and last but not least Kristen. These people have been operating our Kitchen. Without their hard work and dedication to this Post we would be in poor shape. They are HEROS in our Post.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Hello fellow Post 164 members.

I hope everyone is ready for springtime to get here! I have not been groundhog hunting but I am reporting today on our current membership status as follows.

We have 299 members paid to date out of 327. I have been contacting the few that have not paid to offer help and encourage them to renew their membership in our post. Time will tell. In the coming few months, I will continue to work on our membership with the hope of achieving our goal of 100%.

Over the past few months, we have continued to try to improve the post kitchen, and our volunteer staff has done a remarkable job. I encourage everyone to make an effort to stop in nightly Monday thru Friday to try out the new food menu! The post needs everyone's support! If you would like to volunteer your time to help, please see David Flannigan.

We are also moving forward with our events planning and I have joined Ken and David on booking entertainment for our post. We recently had Bob Browning and Double Barrel entertain us on Valentines Day and it was a great success. They will also be our Memorial Day band in the shelter house that evening. We will be providing at least one band a month and a night of Karaoke until our budget allows us to hire 2 bands a month. These bookings will be on Saturdays, as no to interfere with the Elks Friday night music bookings. Hopefully it leads to mutual support. We are working on other ideas to add something daily and I encourage you to contact one of us with any idea you have for something fun to do.

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 host. Jeffery L. Shupe

1st Vice Commander

Paschall Post 164

EVENTS

Greetings from the Events Chair.

Saturday, March 7th; M.A.S.H. Pantry 10 year celebration from 1 till 4 PM

Sunday, March 15th; American Legion 107th Birthday

Tuesday, March 17th; Grove City Vets Luncheon from 11 AM till 2 PM

Wednesday, March 18th; Operation Iraqi Freedom, 23rd Anniversary

Wednesday, March 26th; National Medal of Honor Day

Monday, April 6th; 109th Anniversary of the US Entry into WW1

Tuesday, April 21st; Grove City Vets Luncheon from 11 AM till 2 PM

Wednesday, April 22nd; Blood Drive in hall from 11 AM till 7 PM

Saturday, April 25th; 37th DAV Spring Luncheon in hall from 10 AM till 3 PM

Sunday, April 26th; Car Show from 9 AM till 9 PM

Ken Flaute

2nd Vice Commander

Paschall Post 164



Chaplain's Corner: Len Stayton

Blessed Are We at Post 164

Looking out my open window, on this late February day, I see blue skies broken occasionally by a few wispy clouds. The temperature is a balmy 71 degrees, rising to 86 by mid-afternoon. Such is life in Central Florida as the month of March threatens to invade these pleasant days of late winter. By the end of March, the temperatures will soar into the 90s driving everyone indoors where they can hide in the air conditioning. I'm not hanging around to see that.

This has been our life since we retired eight years ago. Escaping the freezing temperatures and constant threat of snow has been a blessing, especially considering my health issues. Having lived almost three quarters of a century, the old body has begun to wear out. Not to worry. I still have plenty of good years left in me but if I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself. Yet here we are and there is no going back to correct the poor choices of the past.

I wonder how many times we tell ourselves, "If I had only done things differently, I would be better off today." Life, it seems, is a series of decisions and the law of averages says that we will make at least as many poor decisions as we make good ones. Hopefully, we learn from our bad decisions and don't make them again. After all there are just too many bad decisions to make to be repeating ones we have already made.

The problem with bad decisions is that we cannot go back and change them. We are stuck with the consequences of those decisions for eternity. Reflecting on that thought, it occurs to me that, given that we have made so many bad decisions, perhaps we should be a little more forgiving of the bad decisions of others. After all, if we all make bad decisions, then none of us are really qualified to judge the decisions of others.

In the Book of Matthew (chapter 18, verse 21), the apostle Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven time?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In other words, we are to forgive each other every time. And Jesus is, of course, right on target. Life is too short to continue to blame others for their mistakes. Sooner or later, they will probably blame themselves, which will be a far greater punishment than anything we could give them. Time has taught me that bad decisions always come back to haunt us, especially the ones we won't admit to.

It seems to me that the best atmosphere to have in Post 164 is an attitude of forgiveness. We have been through some rough times this year, but we have survived them and we will continue to survive the bad times as long as we continue to be a family. We survive by standing together and having each other's back. We survive by making the decision each day to love and support the family that we continue to create here. Whether Auxiliary, S.A.L. or Legionnaires, the governance under which we operate, most of which comes down from National and Department, gives us different roles and responsibilities but we all have a stake in the Post family and we all share the responsibility to do our best to promote an atmosphere of peace and tranquility within the family.

I have been away for the better part of three months, and I miss our Post family. I love you all and pray for you regularly (some more often than others and I am looking forward to seeing you again in a couple of weeks. As we work together to continue to improve our Post, I pray that we may all cherish the blessings we share as members of Post 164. May each of us do his/her part to uphold and defend our shared values and revel in the blessings of liberty that we are afforded because we are citizens of the greatest country that has ever graced this Earth. God bless.



Greetings Auxiliary members,

We had a great turnout for our Valentine's Day bake sale and made \$287. Thank you to all the bakers, volunteers, and everyone who supported our sale. All proceeds will go towards helping our veterans.

A reminder to track and report both hours/money spent on veteran support and any community event volunteering. Please contact me if you need a form to track this information. Annual reports are due by 4/1. Please submit your report to me by this date.

I recently received an email from our Department Chaplain, Michele Sandridge, requesting our Unit Chaplain as well as all Auxiliary members to send her a prayer, scripture, poem or favorite quote to put in a Prayer Book for our Ohio President, Renee Kohl. You can mail it to her at 1857 Marks Avenue, Akron, OH 44305 or email it to michelesandridge@yahoo.com by 4/1.

I also received an email from the Development Director at National, Carley Schutz, that the ALA Foundation will host the 4th annual "Celebration Women of Service Day" on March 8. It's a special giving day held in conjunction with International Women's Day. This day is dedicated to honoring the women of the American Legion Auxiliary whose service strengthens communities, supports veterans and military families. This year's theme celebrates the women who show up, the ones who check in, and the ones who make things feel a little lighter simply by being there. There is a flyer on the bulletin board and the ladies restroom as a reminder.

As many of you already know Dee Capretta, our Vice President and Membership Chairman, is having some health issues, so I have taken over her membership responsibilities. If anyone is interested in stepping into this position, please let me know. Let's all keep Dee in our thoughts and prayers. As of February 18, we are only at 77% paid membership. Please send in your 2026 membership dues to the Post or leave them for me at the canteen. Membership dues are still \$35 for 2026. Help us reach 100% paid membership – send in your dues today!

Our next regular business meeting is Wednesday, March 18th, at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Robin

Robin Shockley
Unit 164 Auxiliary President



Sons of the American Legion

Fellow SONS,

Well, here we are at the end of February, and we have all survived another Ohio winter. Please continue to check in on fellow Sons, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members that may need year around assistance. Now, let the sunshine on all of us!

Membership continues to trend in a positive direction. We currently have 140 members signed up with a quota of 153. This puts us a little over 90% to our quota. If you haven't paid your dues, please stop by the post and do so. Dues are \$35.

Preparation continues for our May conference. Jon Coakley is setting up a meeting with Theresa from Grove City Visit to solidify the "Sip & Shop" event for the ladies. We will be meeting with the CWF Chairman and incoming Commander this weekend in Grove City to solicit local downtown business for ads to be put in our yearbook/program. More details to follow on the conference.

I would like to issue another shout out to David Flanigan, Michael Flanigan, Kristen, Will Kesselring and Craig Smith for their continued efforts in the canteen at the Post. Their efforts have brought more people into the post during the week. I have had several of their meals and they all have been great!

Next S.A.L. meeting is Mar. 3rd at 5:30 PM

Curt Long
164 Squadron Commander