



American Legion Post 164 Newsletter March 2025

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

Greetings;

Well here we are, March 2025 looking forward to SPRING and the warmth it brings. We begin the election cycle here at the Post. Legionnaires, S.A.L. and the Auxiliary all will be electing Officers to represent them within our Post Home. This process is not something to approach with a blasé attitude. The people you elect represent you; not only at the Post by so too the District, and the American Legion Department of Ohio. It is also important that you select your officers based on their experience and ability to do the job ethically. They need to be dedicated; they need to Chair Committees that do things not only for the Post but so to for the good of the Community.

A candidate for Finance Officer should know what a Profit/Loss Report is. They should have some knowledge of banking, and how to put a budget together. All of this is reliant on a good accounting system that has been properly maintained.

Your Vice Commanders should be selected for their ability to handle the job of Membership, Events, and committee chairs. While some may fluff this off, these are real positions that have real responsibility. The Department of Ohio can be very demanding, and it is the Officers of the Post they look to. Our State and Local Government requires much from us as well, the Attorney General of Ohio, Secretary of State, Department of Liquor Control, to name just a few. We answer many entities governing how we function.

The Post Commander is the Head of the Post and his responsibilities are many; especially if there are Canteen operations involved. You have Liquor Licenses, Bingo Licenses, Workers Comp. Payments, Fire Marshall rules to follow, Taxes and Fees that must be watched over. Reports to Higher Departments. An Example: The Consolidated Post Report has over 125 questions that require answers. These answers cover all aspects of Post Operations from Membership, Dues, other Finances such as Charities, Activities, Americanism, etc. Your elected Officers Work in this Post. They do what is required of them for the benefit of you the Member. They are tasked to make sure this Post is being properly managed Financially and physically. From building Maintenance to upgrades and improvements to make the Post a pleasant and Family place. So as we approach this election, we will be opening Nominations at our Membership Meeting 13 March. We encourage You to exercise your Voice. Membership in the American Legion is not only having a place to come and enjoy an adult beverage with your Battle Buddies; it also asks that members be active in the Posts' care and management. That is accomplished at these meetings. We get things done when we work together. Let's work together for the benefit of our Post. Remember March 13th, 6:00 PM for the meeting. Your Voice, Be the ONE.

Commander Joseph (Woody) Woodrum



Chaplain's Corner:

God's Field Manual
by Len Stayton, Chaplain

Sandy and I were heading down to Florida last week. While driving through Columbia, South Carolina we drove past Fort Jackson, where I was stationed for my basic training. Whenever I reminisce about that time in my life, I remember a man who, more than any other, shaped my military career. His name was Daniel McCurdy, but we referred to him affectionately as Drill Sergeant. SFC McCurdy had been a combat medic in Korea. He had seen a lot of soldiers die and he had become a drill sergeant for the purpose of preparing recruits to have a better chance at survival than many of those whose bodies were airlifted off of the Korean Peninsula. He explained that to me in a rare moment of reflection during a counseling session with one of his student squad leaders. I have remembered that moment ever since and it colored most of what I did during my career.

In many ways, God is like that drill sergeant from my past. He wants to train me to be the very best I can be on this Earth so that I can be with Him in the next life. There are times when I foolishly try to hide my colossal screwups from God. After all, who wants God to think poorly of him. Trying to hide my mistakes from God is even worse than trying to hide them from SFC McCurdy. Hebrew 4:13 says, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." God is omniscient. He knows everything we do, before we even do it. Even McCurdy couldn't do that.

However, like Drill Sergeant McCurdy, God doesn't just kick our butts when we screw up. After the drill sergeant kicked our butts, he would follow up by training us to do it right, to correct the mistakes we were making. God does the same thing, often without the butt kicking.

Henry Blackaby, a renowned Christian writer, says that God trains us using two things: His word (the Bible) and our experiences. God knows we are not perfect and never will be in this world (see Philippians 1:6). We will make mistakes. When we experience these things, especially when we don't do well according to God's commandments, He uses those experiences to show us the error of our ways and what we could have done better. To do the latter He uses His Word.

You see, the Bible is God's Field Manual (FM). In the military, we had manuals that taught us how to do everything from standing at attention to operating the most complicated equipment. Such is the purpose of the Bible. God uses it to show us the way to be obedient to Him. He uses it to help us improve ourselves to be more like Christ. That's why it is important that we read it regularly. We don't need to be learned theologians to understand the Bible. God, like the Army, wrote it to be understood by the person with a modest education. Today we call that the Eighth Grade Level. He doesn't want to frustrate us with His Word, He wants to train us with it.

So, when was the last time you looked into God's FM? It's probably just sitting on a shelf somewhere collecting dust. What could it hurt to get it out and read it for a few minutes each day.

Maybe just a chapter a day would be enough. And don't worry about reading the right part. God will steer you where you need to be. He wants to speak to us and the Bible is His way of doing so.

That old drill sergeant taught me a lot of things that I can never forget (because if I did, I am confident he would track me down and kick my butt); but God can teach us even more and He wants to do so. If He can teach your humble chaplain (who still has a long way to go) to be a better man, then He can do the same for you. Go ahead. Give it a try. Open up God's FM and see what He has to say to you. Drill Sergeant McCurdy believed that we could never get too much training. I think God believes that too.

God Bless.
Chaplain Len Stayton



Hello fellow Auxiliary members,

Twenty more days until Spring. I don't know about you, but I'm ready! We had a great turnout for our Valentine's bake sale. We made \$245 on the bake sale and \$100 on the raffle basket. I appreciate everyone who donated to it. And a special thank you to Lisa Coakley who donated the raffle basket. All proceeds will go towards helping our veterans. It's that time of year when officer nominations take place in April. If you're interested in serving in one of our officer positions (President, Vice President, 2nd Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Sergeant at Arms) or if you would like to nominate one of our Auxiliary members, please be sure to attend our April 16th meeting.

Our Auxiliary annual reports are due by April 15. Don't forget to track your hours and/or money spent if you have volunteered to help veterans or their family in any way. Also, if you have volunteered for any community events, you should be tracking those hours and/or money spent. Please let me know if you need a form to track that information. I will need to receive it by April 1st.

As of February 19, we have 132 paid members, which is 88% of our membership. We are so close to reaching our goal. Please send your dues to Dee Capretta at the Post or better yet come on in and leave it in an envelope for Dee. Membership dues are still \$35 for 2025.

Our next regular business meeting is Wednesday, March 19, at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there! March brings renewal and growth. Embrace change, set new goals, and move forward with confidence. Every step brings you closer to a brighter future. Stay positive and let Spring inspire you!

Robin

Robin Shockley
Unit 164 Auxiliary President



Sons of the American Legion

Greeting fellow Son's,

Hard to believe it's already March and springtime is right around the corner. It's not too late to get your membership renewed. Our membership will end towards the end of May, so get it renewed!! Thank you to everyone that showed up for our February steak fry, it was a great time and a big thank you to all that helped in the kitchen. Not too much to report right now from the SONS. As of the last membership report, which was in January, our squadron was sitting at 78%. I know we have had some cards turned in since then, so we should be getting closer to our 100% goal. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 4th at 6pm. Hope everyone has a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day!!
For God and Country

Dan Finnell
164 Squadron Commander