



POSTINGS

Newsletter of American Legion Young-Budd Post 171, Westerville, Ohio

February 2019

Commander's Notes:

The month of January seems to have just flown by with our initial meeting of the year, Veterans Breakfast and then the Department of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference. It was unfortunate that due to illness, Ann Williams was unable to present her Patriotism Program at the Veterans breakfast. That program will be rescheduled for a function in the coming months. February promises to keep the activity level rolling with our meeting on Wednesday the 6th and breakfast on the 20th. Of special note this month will be the Buckeye Boy State Interviews on Monday February 25th and Buckeye Girl State Interviews on Tuesday the 26th. Bev Etling is looking for post members to sit on the panel to ask the questions and judge these exceptional young people, as well as members to sit in the audience and lend their support. Come on out and be a part of these special evenings.

Our Third Vice Commander Dave Bergman has advised me that several people who ordered the 100th Anniversary T and/or polo shirts have not yet picked them up. They will be available for pick-up at the monthly meeting and the breakfast and he further advises you don't need to pay right then and there.

The new parkas for the Honor Guard, acquired through the efforts of Jack Cashman, were tested on January 18th and were most appreciated in the blowing snow and cold temperatures at the funeral for a member of Lima Company. The patches have now been applied to the fronts and will be signed out to Honor Guard members starting at the February Meeting. Speaking of Jack, after a number of years of dedicated service in the position he wishes to step down as Honor Guard Coordinator and I am therefore looking for an individual to take over those responsibilities. Anyone who might be interested please talk to either Jack or myself.

At the January Meeting you had the opportunity to meet the Americanism and Government Testing winners. Juniors Joseph Clegg and Jessica Baker from Westerville Central and Sophomore Rueben Simiyu of Westerville North were announced as the 12th District winners at the District Winter Conference.

Mark your calendars for March 9th when we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. More will be forthcoming via separate correspondence.

As I said in last month's notes, this is **YOUR** American Legion Post come on out and lend your support. As in any activity the more you put into it, the more you get out.

—John R. McElhaney, Commander

News You Can Use:

Blue Water Navy decision advances case for Agent Orange benefits

The American Legion

JAN 31, 2019

“Mr. Procopio is entitled to a presumption of service connection for his prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus. Accordingly, we reverse.”

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Court

And with that statement, Blue Water Navy veterans won a major victory in their fight for VA benefits to treat illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled Tuesday in favor of Alfred Procopio Jr., who served aboard the USS Intrepid during the war. Procopio, 73, suffers from diabetes and prostate cancer, both of which are linked to Agent Orange exposure.

American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad applauded the court’s decision that found no reason to deny VA disability benefits for Procopio, who did not meet the “boots on the ground” criteria for Agent Orange-related VA disability benefits.

“The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit echoes what The American Legion, multiple other veterans service organizations and Vietnam War veterans have been arguing since an administrative decision in 2002 cut off benefits to those who were exposed at sea,” Reistad said. “It doesn’t matter where you were exposed to Agent Orange when you served. It only matters that you were exposed when you served. To deny VA disability benefits for victims who were exposed at sea, and to provide benefits only to those veterans who were exposed on the ground, is a distinction based much more on budget than justice.”

The decision comes on the heels of a failed effort to pass H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, during the final days of the 115th Congress. The legislation would have extended VA disability benefits to tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam. The legislation sailed through the House of Representatives, but came to a crashing halt when a vote for unanimous consent was called in the Senate.

Though Tuesday’s court ruling may be challenged with an appeal from VA within the next 90 days, legislation to lock in a presumption of VA benefits for Blue Water Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange was again introduced during the first days of the new Congress.

Reistad said that the ruling in favor Procopio Jr., “is a step in the right direction” for some 90,000 veterans who served offshore and may be suffering from conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange. VA recognizes 14 adverse conditions as presumptively linked to exposure to the chemical herbicide used to defoliate jungle vegetation that provided the enemy cover during the war.

The American Legion allied with Columbia University during the 1980s and 1990s to provide undeniable evidence that Agent Orange exposure had led to numerous adverse health-care conditions among Vietnam War veterans who came into contact with it.

“This ruling is an important step in a long journey toward justice for all who were exposed, were sickened and disabled by Agent Orange,” Reistad said. “But it is not the final step, and The American Legion will continue to fight in Congress, VA and the courts, if necessary, to definitively return fairness and justice to these affected veterans.”

MINUTES: Below are the minutes from last month’s meeting. Please read them and offer any corrections to the Adjutant prior to the call for approval at the 6 Feb 2019 meeting.

Membership Meeting Minutes, 2 Jan 2019

- Called to order by Commander John McElhaney at 1900 with customary ceremonies.
- Resolution 288 for 67th National Convention read aloud.
- Meeting resumed: Quorum declared by Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Laidley. Motion forwarded and seconded to approve the Dec 2018 minutes. Approved on vote by membership and published online.
- Glenn Golden introduced the Americanism & Government Test winners from each high school:
 - Top scoring senior boy: Peter Cochrane from WSHS
 - Top scoring senior girl: Molly Gulley from WSHS
 - Top scoring junior boy: Joseph Clegg from WCHS
 - Top scoring junior girl: Jessica Baker from WCHS
 - Top scoring sophomore boy: Rueben Simiyu from WNHS
 - Top scoring sophomore girl: Muna Ali from WNHS
 - The students with the top three scores from each high school are:
 - WCHS #1 Joseph Clegg, #2 Ted Lau, and #3 Jessica Baker
 - WNHS #1 Ethan Moore, #2 Danielle Pratt, and #3 Cassandra Mohr
 - WSHS #1 Molly Gulley, #2 Rachel Slaybaugh and #3 Peter Cochrane

Committee reports:

- Finance - Flo Evans no report.
- Membership – Chuck Hurley reported that we are at 94% of renewal goal. We lost 11 members last year and 12 members have not paid dues.
- Building – Tom Poulton no report.
- Rental - Mark Eucker reported that the rentals were doing well.
- Americanism - Glen Golden report above.
- Service Officer - Tim Dickerson no report.
- Adjutant - David Troutman posted the 2 Jan 2019 minutes and newsletter.
- Welcome back to Sonny Evans who had surgery.
- Flo Evans thanked the post for the flowers and gift basket given to her.

- Past Chairman of the Legion Riders, Rich Richardson, is in the hospital in Port Charlotte, FL. Please keep him in your prayers.

Old Business:

- The American Legion winter meeting will be held January 25-27, 2019, at the Crown Plaza hotel in Worthington, OH.
- Wreaths Across America was held 15 Dec 2018 at Otterbein Cemetery. About 480 wreaths were passed out and laid on Veterans' graves. The Honor Flight made between \$2,500 and \$3,000 on the sale of the wreaths. There are two flights planned this year with a larger airplane that can accommodate more veterans. Approximately 267,000 wreaths were placed at Arlington Cemetery.
- The Civil Air Patrol sent a thank you note for the \$100 donation to their organization.
- This year our post received \$2680 in honorariums for the funerals that we participated in for local veterans. The money will be used to purchase hooded winter jackets for the honor guards. They will belong to the post, but can be used by those who perform the service.
- The American Legion 100th Anniversary dinner will be held at the Villa Milano on 15 Mar 2019.
- Our post will be hosting a dinner on 9 March 2019 at our facility.
- 9 November 2019 will be a combined Veterans Day Dinner honoring the Police and Fire and the 100th Anniversary of our post.
- Dave Bergman has 100th Anniversary shirts in stock. If you ordered one or would like to order one, please contact him.
- The Chillicothe Veterans Home was very appreciative for the roughly 200 lap blankets that were donated by our Post

New Business:

- Bev Etling will be taking over the Boys and Girls State program this year. Boys State interviews will be held at our post on February 25, 2019 and Girls State interview will be held at our post on February 26th 2019. If you would like to serve as an interviewer, please let us know at the February meeting.

Good of the Legion announcements:

- Gift cards were given to Tim Dickerson and Mike Boone for helping with the cleaning at the post throughout the year.
- 19 January 19 2019 will be the Veterans Breakfast this month.
- If you want to visit the new Veterans Memorial on West Broad Street in Columbus, be aware that they are only open Wednesday through Sunday. There is a \$6 parking fee, but admittance to the museum is free to veterans only.

Meeting adjourned at 1950 – *Respectfully submitted, David Troutman, Adjutant*

Meetings and Events Calendar

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all American Legion Post 171 meetings and events are at the Post Hall at 393 E. College Ave., Westerville, Ohio 43081. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7883 also meets at the Post Hall.

- 6 Feb 2019: Post Meeting at 1900
- 20 Feb 2019: Veterans Breakfast at the Post from 0900 until complete

- 2-17 Feb 2019: American Legion State Bowling Tournament. Various days
- 25 Feb 2019: Boys State Interviews
- 26 Feb 2019: Girls State Interviews
- 9 Mar 2019: Dinner at Post 171 Facility
- 15 Mar 2019: American Legion 100th Anniversary dinner at Villa Milano
- 9 Nov 2019: Combined Veterans Day Dinner Honoring Police and Fire and Post 171 100th Anniversary at Post 171 Facility

American Legion Young-Budd Post 171

393 E. College Ave.
Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 891-0171
<http://post171.org>

POST 171 TRUSTEES

Mike Etling, 614-890-4050, michaeletling2@gmail.com
Harold "Sonny" Evans, 740-965-1956, hjevans1956@yahoo.com
Tom Poulton, cell (614) 783-1950, ltctrpret@yahoo.com

2018-19 OFFICERS

Commander – John McElhaney, 614-392-2703, jrmcelhaney@earthlink.net
1st Vice Commander – Chuck Hurley, 614-882-1575, americanlegionpost171@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander – Ron Leonard, cell 614-778-4168, rleon95596@aol.com
3rd Vice Commander – Dave Bergman, 614-890-3442, dbergman@wowway.com
Adjutant – David Troutman, cell 717-580-2155, david.s.troutman@gmail.com
Finance Officer – Flo Evans, 614-403-3846, floevans1@gmail.com
Service Officer – Tim Dickerson, 614-729-6963, todickerson@aol.com
Chaplain – Dan Latiolais, 614-890-8144
Judge Advocate – Chris Curry, 614-423-8324, christophertc@yahoo.com
Historian – Vern Pack, 614-895-2102, vern7@earthlink.net
Rental Manager – Mark Eucker, 614-891-0171, markeucker1955@gmail.com

POSTINGS is edited and produced by Adjutant David Troutman (contact info above); call or email him with any article submissions and story ideas. It is distributed by 1st Vice Commander Chuck Hurley and Marilu Hurley (contact info above); call or email them with any changes in email addresses or other updates for the roster.