

Happy New Year



American Legion Post 164 Newsletter January 2025

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Greetings;

We begin a new year; with new members, a new interior look, and new opportunities to excel. We are entering this new year with hope for increased collaboration between Legionnaires, S.A.L. and Auxiliary for this years events. Our hope is also for increased business and revenue for our Post. The New Sign at our Entrance is will be installed sometime in February. This new sign, voted on by the Legionnaire Membership, will be our advertisement billboard. It gives us the ability put multiple announcements up, such as; *“Welcome 12th District Winter Conference attendees.”*, *“Welcome American Legion National Commander James LaCourslere”*, *“Congrats on your Wedding Mr. and Mrs. John Doe”*, *“Hall Rental \$100 per hour call 614-875-5106”*. There are many things we can post at the same time on this sign; where as the old sign only permitted one thing at a time and no flair. There are many people passing our Post each day, this sign will give us more exposure to our community and the possibility of reaching eligible new members, new business, new Hall Rentals and gain more respect for having a more welcoming look at our entrance.

We are not yet at 100% of our Membership quota, yet. We got off to a real good start then we bottomed out. We all know that it is necessary to pay Dues for the next year. So why do 30% of us not pay them until they reach the deadline? If you're having issues financially, let us know and we'll see if something can be worked out. For now I encourage you to get your dues paid. For now know that the RED Key Card will not work beginning 2 January; nor will your 2024 Membership Card. Another reason why you need to get your dues paid.

During this past year we've had some ups and downs. Some issues within the membership and within the Legion Family. Meetings are the place to work these issues out, NOT the Canteen. The Executive Committees of each entity are tasks with working together for the better of the Post. The American Legion is the Parent and responsible for the Post Home and its operations. The S.A.L. and Auxiliary are part of the Family and have responsibilities to the Post and its Veterans. Let us work together to make our Post a better place for all. I believe you will find that it works better when we are all pulling together and fulfilling the duties that are within our realm of responsibilities as outlined in our Constitutions.

Wishing all a Happy New Year.

Commander Joseph (Woody) Woodrum



Chaplain's Corner: REFLECTIONS ON THE NEW YEAR 1 January 2025

And so, with the lifting of a glass, the turning of a page, we begin a new year. There is nothing really new or magical about it. As best I can tell, the choice of this day as the beginning of the year was completely arbitrary. Why choose a date in mid-winter? There seems to be no reason for it. Yet here we are praying for a “**new**” year, as if pinning a new calendar to the wall will somehow make things better.

So, what is it that gets better? Certainly not the weather. January ushers in the worst weather of the year in most parts of the country. Our physical health doesn't seem to be improving either. Every year that passes brings new aches and health issues and fewer old friends. Perhaps that is one thing that can be said for the passing of time. It makes those friends and loved ones who are still here that much dearer to us. It is said that we don't appreciate what we have until we lose it. While that is a sad thing to say, I suspect that there is more than a little truth to it.

Perhaps that is the value of celebrating a “new” year. Perhaps, we need to hit the pause button and contemplate our past and our future, to evaluate our lives and the impact we are having. Am I a better person as the result of this past twelve months? Have I made a positive impression on the world in some way? Have I made a child laugh or a sad person smile? Have I added anything of beauty to the world; planted a tree or tended a garden, perhaps? Have I helped someone in need in some meaningful way? Have I done anything at all that would make God proud of me? I can say that I desire to please Him, but I know I do a poor job of it. I am sure that I disappoint Him on a regular basis, allowing my arrogance to let me believe I can do anything faster or better than He can. My disobedience is epic.

But I have no plan B. Jesus is my only Lord and Savior. I have no one else to please. So, I pray to God that he will help me to do better this year. Make these next twelve months count for more than just the passing of time; so that next year, as another page is turned and another glass is lifted, I will hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:23) What about you? Have you talked to God lately? If not, this is a good time to renew your relationship with Him. He died just so you could.

God Bless.

Chaplain Len Stayton



Hello fellow Auxiliary members,

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas! I would like to give a warm welcome to Loretta King who joined our Auxiliary last month. As we start the new year, let's look back at what we achieved in 2024:

- Visited the VA Hospital in Chillicothe twice with other Units from our District. We passed out
- snacks, drinks and helped veterans play bingo.
- Hosted a "Bartenders Appreciation Night" along with the S.A.L.
- Picked up trash on McDowell Road twice as part of Grove City's "Adopt a Street" program.
- Hosted the 12th District Auxiliary Spring Conference, which included providing lunch. At that
- meeting our Unit received a Certificate of Achievement for meeting a 100% membership goal.
- Shipped care packages to troops overseas.
- Helped with the Post's family picnic along with the Legionnaires and S.A.L.
- Attended the Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down at the Columbus Convention Center, where we
- were able to talk with veterans, listen to their stories, and passed out various personal supplies
- they might need.
- Held an OSU/Michigan breakfast for all members of the Legion.
- Provided a Thanksgiving meal for a Veteran's family.
- Donated 12 pies for the Columbus VA free Thanksgiving luncheon at Unit 144.
- Provided a Veteran's family with Christmas presents for two children and a Meijer gift card for the
- parents.
- Held a bake and craft sale at the S.A.L. steak fry.

If you have any great ideas for events, fundraising ideas, or know of a veteran who is in need, please reach out to me. I'm always open to new ideas! I want to thank you all for your support this past year as your new President. Let's work together this year to make things happen. Happy New Year! Wishing you a year filled with hope, joy, and lots of smiles.

Our next regular business meeting is Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Robin

Robin Shockley

Unit 164 Auxiliary President



Sons of the American Legion

Greeting fellow Son's,

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday. With 2025 now upon us, what will the new year bring us. My hope is joy and happiness but also new members and old members coming together for the Legion family. There is still time to get your membership renewed for the 2025 year. As of the last membership update from the Detachment, we are sitting at 59.94% of our quota. So please get those memberships renewed!! The squadron has signed up 6 new members so far. But we have a way to go to get to our 100% quota.

I would like to thank everyone that came out for our December steak fry. A good dinner and a good time were had by all. Our next SAL steak fry will be held on February 8th from 5pm to 7pm. This will be our Valentine's Day dinner, so bring out your sweetheart. We will have a sign up for this dinner, which will be at the canteen. Our next SAL meeting will be held on January 7th at 6pm.

As 2024 ends, please remember our members that have passed on to the squadron everlasting. I hope everyone has a prosperous New Year and a blessed New Year. As always pray for our service men and women that continue to serve our great country.

For God and Country

Dan Finnell
164 Squadron Commander