



**Benton County American Legion
Post 217
P.O. Box 361
Warsaw, Mo. 65355
(<http://www.alpost217.org>)
In God We Trust**

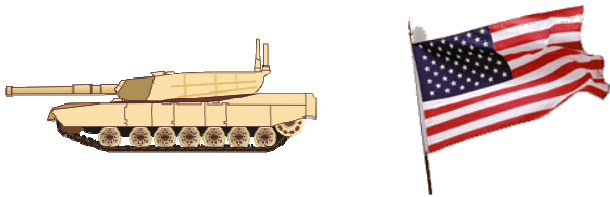
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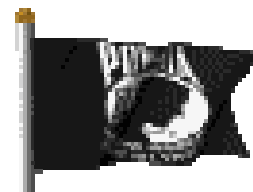
Legion



Auxiliary

Commander:	Norman Campbell
1st Vice:	Glen Mais
2nd Vice:	Tim Nelson
3rd Vice:	Ron Byers
Adjutant:	Carl Ireland
Judge Advocate:	Les Rhodes
Finance Officer:	Terrence E. Crane
Chaplain:	Harry Davis
Service Officer:	Mel Gargus
Sgt. at Arms:	Harold Gillham
Historian:	Don Daniels
Member at Large:	George Boddy
Member at Large:	Andrea Larimer
Member at Large:	Jim Hankins

President:	Cheryl Beach
1st Vice:	Carolyn Sanford
2nd Vice:	Lydia Bidwell
Treasurer:	Kathy King
Secretary:	Arletta Hardison
Chaplin:	Emma Thomas
Historian:	Regina Bidwell
Sergeant At Arms:	Alice Lanning
Member at Large:	Vickie Nelson
Member at Large:	Emma Campbell
Member at Large:	Sue Lee



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[Freedom Is Not Free All Gave Some, Some Gave All](#)*



From The Commander

ncampbel@iland.net

Some time back, we were approached by a company that installs Sweepstakes Gaming Machines. The claim was that they were legal and could give us a good income. We need additional income so we investigated. All of the paperwork insisted the machines were legal in Missouri, but we hit a snag. The Bingo Gaming Commission said if we put them in they would take away our Bingo license. Still needing additional income, we sent a letter to the Missouri Attorney General to find out if they were really legal. After three months of no word from Jefferson City, we contacted them by phone. A fax and several phone calls later, they passed the matter on to the Gaming Commission. This of course, means that there will be no Sweepstakes Gaming Machines installed at our post.

At the present time we are holding our own with finances. Bills are being paid and we are in no danger of defaulting in any way. Our programs such as Children And Youth, Boys State, School Awards and many more are suffering because of limited funds. If anyone has any ideas for legal fundraising, please contact our post.

Norman Campbell
Commander



From The 1st Vice

firstvice@alpost217.org

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT CHANGES FOR POST 217

For many reasons, the final due date to pay your dues for the 2012 year has been changed from January 1, 2012 to MARCH 15, 2012.

Reason #1 – Economy

Reason #2 – We have members who have not paid their 2012 dues. We feel this change will give members the opportunity to pay and to keep their membership current. We have a good Post, but MEMBERSHIP makes the Post what it is!!!

Again, if there is sickness or financial problems, please let me know. Membership now stands at 93%; your payment will help the Post reach its 100% goal.

Glen Mais
1st Vice Commander



From The Second Vice

2ndvice@alpost217.org

Thanks to all who attend our dinner and dance January 21. We really appreciate your support. We hope you enjoyed the spaghetti and meatballs and the music. We had two new volunteers help us serve. Thank you Weldon Abell and Lori Quatrocky for stepping up and helping us out.

Our repeat volunteers are Joe DePuew and Lois DePuew. They again helped us with everything we needed in the kitchen for the preparation of this meal. Lois is great at cleanup, and really helped by doing the dishes as we went along, so we didn't have a huge mess at the end to clean up. She is super. But Joe is too. He is willing to jump in wherever he is needed, just like Lois. Thank you very much to both of you. Couldn't have pulled it off without you. They even had a little energy left to dance one waltz. So they got a little of their money's worth, since they also bought their 2 tickets for the dinner and dance.

And thanks to my wife, Vickie, for making 303 meatballs and cooking her sauce recipe she got from an old Italian family.

Vickie and I will not be around for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, but Cheryl Beach has graciously accepted my request to coordinate a dinner of corned beef and cabbage from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at a cost of \$5.00. We originally had the Crazy Kats scheduled to play that evening, but because of health reasons, we will not be having them for a while.

I would like to remind everyone again that we will have the Fabulous Torques on April 21. Hopefully you have already marked your calendars so you won't miss this dance. This band comes highly recommended. They'll be playing classic rock and roll for all to enjoy. You can find out more about them by visiting www.fabuloustorqs.com.

My volunteers and myself have been working very hard to bring enjoyment to our members and the public, and to try and bring in revenue for the Post so that it remains here for your enjoyment. Without your support it could be a thing of the past, so feel free to bring me your fund-raising suggestions.

Tim Nelson
2nd Vice



From The Third Vice

ronbyers217@yahoo.com

I don't normally get out much at night, but for quite some time now, I have been helping to sell and collect tickets at the door for our dinner/dances. We have several members who have been working very hard to bring something to the Legion so that our members and the public can come out and enjoy themselves. We see the same faces at these dances most of the time, and we appreciate their support very much. But I am very disappointed at the numbers of our members who DO NOT attend these functions. Maybe a lot of you don't enjoy dancing, or some of you would rather attend a dance during daylight hours. Maybe some of you would just like to attend a dinner only. We need to know what you, the members, want to see happening to bring some revenue into OUR AMERICAN LEGION. Our Bingo players help us, but their numbers are down right now. We really are here to listen to your suggestions. If we have enough members suggesting the same thing, and we have the volunteers who are willing to put something together to satisfy your wants, we are here to do such a thing. We know we can't satisfy everyone, but we are

willing to try and satisfy the majority. We NEED to hear from you to keep Post 217 alive and well. So PLEASE, give us your suggestions, and we will see what we can do to satisfy more of our members.

Ron Byers
3rd Vice



From The Chaplain

harry074@embarqmail.com

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that all your new year's resolutions are made and that you are following them. I only want to remind you to not forget our service men and women, our veterans, and our post. All you members that are physically able to participate please come to the meetings and let your voices be heard. Until next month may God Bless our service men and women, our veterans, and post 217 and all its members and most of all may God Bless America and all its citizens. Now may you all have smooth sailing with a gentle following wind, God Bless

Harry Davis
Chaplain



From The Finance Officer

financeofficer@alpost217.org

I am very proud to report that all Post Fund Accounts are completely balanced and reconciled. I am currently, in progress, in working with Derrick Larsen on getting everything ready for our Federal 990 filing.

Much thanks to all Commanders, Vice Commanders, Directors and Managers for their assistance in making this happen. This is the first time, that I am aware of, that we have been in this position.

Terrence E. Crane
Finance Officer



From The Service Officer

melgargus@centurytel.net

Does any member know of a veteran, either recently discharged or an "old-timer", who has not enrolled for medical benefits through the VA? We can fix that. Also, if they are not American Legion members, perhaps we can fix that, too. Could be a neighbor, co-worker-anyone. I am at the post each Tuesday morning to help Vets get help. And there are a lot of Veterans out there who should be Legion members. Lets see what we can do. Also remember that the Legion van goes to the Columbia VA hospital on the third Thursday of every month, leaving at 7:00 sharp. Driver Don Ferguson does a doggone fine job of getting everyone there safely. If you need a ride and can schedule your appointment for the third Thursday, contact the lounge personnel, or call me at 660-723-2527.

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Mel Gargus
Service Officer



From The Legion Riders

melgargus@centurytel.net

Three members are having Birthdays in Feb.: supporter Dick Sanford on Feb 4, Mel Gargus on Feb 13, and Vickie Nash on Feb 21.

Not much is happening right now in "Motorcycle World". The cold temps and wind are not nice to us riders. Oh, well. We are planning to make a trip to the Warrensburg Veterans Home, hopefully in Feb. to tour the facilities, talk with some Vets, and present them with some phone cards so vets can call families and friends. Should be a day to remember. I've learned that Whiteman AFB is puttin gon an airshow/open house on May 19-20. If it's anything like 3 years ago, it will be wonderful. Hoping to get our friends at Windsor and Sunrise Beach to all go as a group.

I will need to confirm dates, times, and activities. More info later.

Approximately a week prior to Memorial Day, Rolling Thunder will be making their annual Ride to the Wall in Washington D.C. How about meeting them on I-70 and possibly riding across MO with them? More on this later.

I am working on ideas for a second annual spring Poker Run sometime in May or June. This one will be a bit different from any others we have sponsored. Everyone please order some nice weather. I want to double the amount we did last May, and I believe we can.

Travel safely and stay healthy, until we meet again.

Mel "Rooster" Gargus
Director



Outside Post 217

dcksanford@centurylink.net

With the holidays behind us it is time for us to move forward to promote the programs of the American Legion. Let's give a big thank you to all the officers of the Post, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. Now we just need everyone to support them and the Legion programs.

MAVO held its Legislative Days at the Capitol January 30-31. This group promotes the Veterans agenda to the Legislature.

This month is the Annual Spring Conference to be held in

Jefferson City February 18 and 19 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Everyone from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL is eligible and invited to attend some or all of this conference. There is no registration fee or pre-registration.

Our next District Meeting will be Sunday, April 15 at Cross Timbers Post 623 starting at 2 p.m.

God Bless the American Legion Family, God Bless all our Troops, and God Bless the United States of America.

Dick Sanford
2nd Vice District Commander



Shooting Sports Complex

gboddy@ucmo.edu

The trap range has been inactive during the recent winter weather, but work continues on clearing trees for the new club house with bathrooms. Downed hardwood trees are available for free for firewood or lumber. If you know someone who needs hardwood, let them know it is available. Anyone interested can call Jim Breckon at (816) 797-7965 with questions. Work has also progressed on sewer lines in the area.

More finish work has been done on the protective berm was completed along the east side of the trap range that will provide additional protection and baffle sound. Additional seating and counters were added to the portable shelter to increase its uses. It was built as a portable structure that can be easily moved to other locations on the property for use at other outdoor Legion functions such as the Veterans Appreciation Picnic.

Plans are continuing for the fundraising banquet to be held on March 31. If you have ideas about people who might support the function with donations of auction items or other forms of support, let Jim Breckon know.

George Boddy
Shoot Sports Complex



From The Sons

jrpost217@earthlink.net

We are having a Valentines dinner & dance February 10th, starting social hour at 6 pm and the dinner served at 7 pm. The band playing will be the Selle Brothers so grab your sweet heart or not and come out for a great time. The SAL detachment conference coming up on February 17 & 18th at Jefferson City and I'll be there. Welcome to all the new members and don't forget our meeting are on the 4th Monday of every month, you are invited to attend these meetings. I would like to say that you all are a great group of guys and you do a lot for Veterans and our community, thank you.



We would like to have a few more volunteers for our Valentines dance, to help setup, serve, and clean up. Thank you again for all you do to help.

John R. Rodabaugh
Squadron Commander



From The Ladies Auxiliary

beachcheryl60@yahoo.com

Earl Rutledge passed away on January 21st. Earl was a longtime friend of my personal family. There are many stories to tell, but not enough room in the newsletter for them. Keep Joyce and the Rutledge family in your prayers. There will be a Memorial for Earl at the Legion, date to be announced.

Judith Gillham is recovering from a bout with pneumonia. Hope she is feeling better soon. Tiffany (Lee) Rank, one of our members. lost her house due to a fire on Friday Jan. 20th. There is a Collection jar at the Legion for her. Please stop by the post and help Tiffany.

The Auxiliary Bingo is doing pretty good. Tell your friends to come out on Sundays and play. We start bingo at 4:00pm, doors open at 2:00pm with horse races and lots of chances to win.

Happy Valentine's Day and God Bless our Military.

Cheryl Beach
President



Auxiliary Membership

lydiabidwell@gmail.com

Once again, I would like to thank all the ladies who have paid their 2012 membership dues. However, we have received very few payments since last month, bringing our percentage paid to 84.6%. If you haven't paid your dues please try to do as soon as possible, preferably by the end of February. Those that have not paid their dues have now lost any privileges you may have, such as insurance (if you have it), plus the inability to vote on any changes **your** Unit may make or to vote for **your** new officers. We need your dues in order to help with many of the projects we have for our veterans and our community.

I would like to thank Lori Quatrocky for volunteering to call our members who haven't paid their dues. We know how these things can slip your mind and this is just a reminder. We don't want to lose any of our members.

Until next month ~~ God Bless our Troops and God Bless America

Lydia Bidwell
2nd VP/Membership Chairman



AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS for FEBRUARY

6 - Beverly Kreise	8 - Dana Black
10 - Sharon Kinnan	14 - Connie Lycan
14 - Pauline Stanley	15 - Tiffany M Rank
17 - Patricia Winblad-Posey	17 - Mary Brown
17 - Kay Harding	19 - Donna King
25 - Amber Gillham	26 - Nancy Kenniston
27 - Fern Davenport	27 - Mary Jo McGinnis
21 - Vickie L. Nash	28 - Roberta Rhodes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LADIES

TAPS: We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to Joyce Rutledge and her family upon lose of her husband, one of our veterans and friends Earl Rutledge. We will miss you Earl!!!

Sickness: We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Judith Gillham. Also, please continue to keep Cindy Williams in your prayers.

Support Those Businesses Who Support Our Post
(<http://alpost217.org>) Supporters
For Their Full Page Web Ad or Link.

Advantage Real Estate
 P.O. Box 116
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-0070
advantageland.info

American Legion Riders
 Post 82
 Windsor MO 65360
alrpost82.zoomshare.com

Anglers Port Marine
 13979 N Hwy 7
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-4600
anglersportmarine.com

Beach Life Styles, LLC
 Las Vegas, NV
theflyingbeagle.com
 The Post Web Provider

Benton County
Beverly Burnett
 Recorder of Deeds
 660-438-5732
bentoncomo.com

Benton County
Cheryl Schultz
 Circuit Clerk
 660-438-7712
bentoncomo.com

Benton County
Donna J. Hart
 Collector of Revenue
 660-438-7721
bentoncomo.com

Benton County
Karen Woodley
 Prosecuting Attorney
 660-438-5022
bentoncomo.com

Benton County
Mary Lutman
 County Clerk
 660-438-5326
bentoncomo.com

Benton County
Rick Renno
 Benton County Treasurer
 660-438-6313
bentoncomo.com

Benton County Carpet
 2080 Commercial
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-6510

Benton County Tire Supply
 901 E Main St
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-3100

Bob Weaver Body Shop
 750 E Main St.
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-6717

C&C Valley Transmission
 1815 E main St
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-9388

CAR Paint & Body
 31734 Cold Springs
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-2185

Culligan Water
 1220 W Main
 Sedalia MO 65301
 800-499-1009
culliganmo.com

Danny Roelling Backhoe
 Service
 33283 Hilty Ave
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-0198

Drake Land & Title
 P. O. Box 998
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-5188

Eichler Lumber &
Furnature
 36870 Dam Access
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-9373
eichlerlumber.com

Farmers Bank of Lincoln
 P.O. Box 250
 Linclon MO 65338
 660-438-3311
fblmo.com
 Member FDIC

Farm Bureau Benton
 County
 177 W Main
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-9037

Farmers Mutual Protective
 Association
 445 N Hwy 65
 Lincoln MO 65338
 660-547-2323
farmersmutualprotective.com

Hawthorne Bank
 1891 Commercial
 Warsaw, MO 65355
 660-438-2847
 Member FDIC
hawthornbank.com

Henry Co Mutual Ins.
 P.O. Box 1059
 14613 Hwy 7
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-3031

James E Spring DDS
 601 Commercial
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-7355

Jason's Automotive
 P.O. Box 634
 805 Wood St
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-2002

Jim Falk Motors Inc
 1201 N Second St.
 Clinton Mo 64735
 660-885-2277
jimfalk.com

Larry's Barber Shop
 719 Illinois St.
 Warsaw MO 65355

Larsen & Company CPA PC
 P.O. Box 1868
 1621 Commercial St
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-4929
larsenco.com

Long Shoal Marina
 12878 Steamboat Rd
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-2841
longshoalmarina.com

Maples Ford
 900 E. Main
 Warsaw MO 65355
 660-438-7324
maplesford.com

Merlin Eaton DDS
 1631 Commercial
 Warsaw O 65355
 660-438-5139

Mike Doty Pest Control
P.O.Box 1065
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-6280

Mike Murry Insurance
403 Van Buren St
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-7379

Suzie Broderson CLU
State Farm Ins.
1872 Commerical
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-7472
statefarm.com

**Warsaw Veterinary
Clinic**Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-7333

MFA Oil & Propane
N 65 Hwy
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-6616
mfaoil.com

Ozark Disposal Co
P.O. Box 563
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-6467
ozark-disposal.com

Zolliker Propane
937 E Main
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-5331



Ozark Electric & Appliance
1038 E Main
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-6818
ozarkelectric-appl.com

**Rick's Auto Body, Paint &
Repair**
812 SE 1051 Rd
Deepwater, MO 64740
660-438-3476

Osage Mini Mart
915 Main Street
Warsaw, MO 65355
660-438-9575
minnowsosagemm@yahoo.com

Mike's Auto Repair
309 W Washington
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-4484

First Community Bank
100 E Main
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-4388
fcbankonline.com
Member FDIC

UMB of Warsaw
201 W Main
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-2856
umb.com
Member FDIC

Senior Resource Network
1330 Commercial St
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-6056

Lane Chiropractic
185 W Main St.
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-3330
lanechiropracticandacup
ncture.com

R&C Adventures, LLC
12049 Hwy 7
Warsaw, MO 65355
660-438-5933
randcadventures.com

Sportsman Outfitters
1660 Commerical
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-2086

Triple River Gunsmithing
619 Commercial
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-2004
tripleriver.net

Reser Funeral Home
105 W Main St
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-5151
reserfuneralhome.com

Third National Bank
301 W Broadway
Sedalia MO 65302
660-827-3333
thirdnationalbank.com
Member FDIC

Pitts Homes Inc
Hwy 65 N
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-2505
pittshomesinc.net

Roland Auto Repair
1111 1st St
Warsaw MO 65355
660-438-0022

Tightwad C Store
1093 SE Hwy 7
Clinton MO 64735
660-477-3630

Jefferson City, MO (Jan 20, 2012), Kenneth Goth, State Commander of the American Legion announced today that many veterans and civilians in Missouri are highly upset because our state legislators have yet to address the continuing issue of providing funds needed in support of our veterans homes, cemeteries and other veteran programs. This has been an on-going situation for several years, yet our legislators have yet to come up with a solution that will provide continuous funding of the vital veteran programs.

Justin W. Stephan, Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Missouri Boys State Squadron #999 is also upset and thinks more should be being done by our state legislators to guarantee continuously funded homes, cemeteries and other programs for the Missouri veterans. He states that we live in a state that takes its obligations seriously, especially where our veterans are concerned. He states, these people made a commitment to our country and we MUST stand by them and take care of them.

Justin adds that several years ago, our state recognized this obligation and founded the Missouri Veterans Commission, and that Commission has established several Veteran's Homes and Cemeteries located throughout the state. The nice thing about the Homes & Cemeteries is our veterans are able to take advantage of them regardless of their ability to pay for the services. I would imagine that most everyone would agree with me that these programs are a wonderful thing and should continue well into the future, as recognition of our obligation to our veterans; however, their future is far from certain.

Justin makes note that if our state government does not act now, the Veteran's Commission will not be able to adequately fund these valuable programs, and the result will ultimately lead to closure of some, if not all of the Veteran's Homes and cemeteries. At a time when the veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam need this care we should be expanding these services, NOT under-funding them.

He states that the veterans of Missouri are thankful that we have members of the General Assembly who understand this very serious problem and have filed bills to address it. Sen. Brian Munzlinger (R-Williamsburg) has sponsored SB 499 and Rep. Bill White (R-Joplin) has sponsored HB 1085. I applaud both of these legislators and their efforts to stand up for our state's veterans and I look forward to watching our General Assembly acting on these bills in the coming session.