

The American Legion
Colonial Heights Post 284
P.O. Box 57
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

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23834

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 284

NEWS AND VIEWS · MARCH 2017



- COMMANDER'S MESSAGE -

**DON'T LET THIS BE
YOUR LAST ISSUE!!**
*If your membership card does not say
2017 this will be your last issue of the
Post News & Views.
All 2016 memberships have expired.
Any ?s - contact the Adjutant.*

Postmaster: Dated Material • Please Deliver by March 1



*This newsletter is published to keep the members
and friends of Post 284 involved*

- MONTHLY MEETINGS -

General Membership (Post 284)	2nd Thursday , 7:30 PM
Executive Committee Meeting (Post 284)	Last Thursday, 7:30PM
Auxiliary Membership (Unit 284)	2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM
S.A.L. Membership (Squadron 284)	3rd Wednesday, 7:00PM
American Legion Riders	1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Jr. Auxiliary Meeting	2nd Thursday, 7:00PM

Well it looks like the weather in Feb. bounced more than in Jan. But one good thing, it gave us nice weekends so all could enjoy the best temperatures on Saturday and Sunday's instead of during the work week.

We held the Four Chaplains service and every year it is better than the last. Those Chaplains will never be forgotten at our Post.

Our Eagle Scout project of a flag burning pit is almost complete. It looks fantastic and if you have the chance to drive up the hill to get a personal view you will say so too.

I would like to thank Tony and his kitchen crew for serving up a great Valentine's meal for the Aux. Meeting and the Riders that came out to help serve and clean up.

Valentine's Day weekend was special as the Topside provided a special meal and after that the Sons of the Legion put on their rocking Sweetheart Dance.

Membership is always looking for your renewals and if you can sign up a new member. We have the most active Post in the state and we can only do that with your support and commitment. Our officers, committee chairman and executive committee are always looking for new ideas and help to keep our Post strong. Come out and volunteer.

Coming up on March 10th to the 12th we have the Spring Conference. We also have the American Legion Birthday/ Past Commanders dinner on the 18th. Tickets are limited so to get tickets see one of the Vice Commanders and show them your up to date membership card.

Keep you eye on the calenders as we have alot of events coming up in the next couple months. Yes, the Sons of the Legion will be cooking in April so I will be watching.

Don't forget that scholarships will be awarded in a few months so get those applications in as soon as possible. Boys and Girls State is also coming up fast so watch for events pertaining these groups.

For God and Country
George Ahrend, Commander Post 284

- POST OFFICERS -

Commander	George Ahrend 691-2399
First Vice Commander	William "Bill" Shill 218-1198
Second Vice Commander	John Woyansky 301-7990
Adjutant	Richard C. "Rick" Oertel 520-2338
Chaplain	William H. Gibson III 536-1125
Finance Officer	William "Bill" Feasenmyer 337-8753
Asst Finance Officer	Donald W. "Don" Dobrick
Judge Advocate	Terry Kris Brentlinger 400-4406
Service Officer	Louis M. "Lou" Vallette 721-8275
Historian	Steven Simonson
Mass Media & Comm	Jesse Stacy 954-536-9501
Athletic Officer	William E. "Bill" Gilmore 520-7445
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert G. Emerick Adrian "Skip" Klass

AUXILIARY UNIT 284

President	Susan Oertel 520-2338 ala284oertel@gmail.com
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S.A.L. SQUADRON 284

Commander	Mike Latham 835-3299
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SOUTHERN VA CHAPTER, ALR

Director	Phillip Vaughan 241-1277
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- UPCOMING EVENTS -

March 10

General membership meeting, new member initiation and recognition of 50+ year members.

March 10-12

Spring Conference at Virginia Beach

March 18

Past Commander's/Legion Birthday Observance

March 29

AARP Smart Driver Class

April 5

Boys State Interviews, 6:30PM

April 7

All Scholarship applications due.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

June 7

Boys State Orientation.

June 18

Boys and Girls State sendoff at Post home

July 13-16

State Convention at Dulles

News & Views is the publication of Colonial Heights Post No. 284, The American Legion, Department of Virginia. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep all members of Post No. 284 informed about activities at their Post. The Legion Home telephone is 526-4167. Address comments to the Editor, PO Box 57, Colonial Heights, VA 23834.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

To Rick Oertel at 804-520-2338 or
adj.post284@gmail.com

Building Rental Info: Contact Bill Feasenmyer
at 337-8753 (cell)

NEWS & VIEWS EMAIL:

post284news@gmail.com Attn: Editor

POST WEBSITE: <http://alpost284.x10host.com>

- MEMBERSHIP -

Fellow Legionaries,

Hats off to Lou Valette, Barbara Worley, Bruce McPeak and Jon Merrill for recruiting a new member last month. We sincerely appreciate it.

Please keep after your friends, neighbors and relatives. Tell them why we are the best post around. We give more and we do more for Veterans and their families. Let them know we donate to many worthy organizations such as Salvation Army, Children's Hospital, Disabled American Veterans, VA Hospital and local school programs to name a few. Last year we donated over \$90,000 to Children and Youth programs alone. Our Veterans Service Officer processes over 200 Veterans disability claims a year besides helping veterans with Temporary Emergency Finances. I challenge all to find a more productive and generous Post in the State. Tell them about our scholarship program for member's children and grandchildren. Even if they have no time to donate to our fund raising or operations, they will have a chance to be part of something Big and something Good for the community, state and nation.

If you have someone interested in joining and don't have an application with you; please call me immediately or have the interested veteran call me. I will bring you an application or tell you how to substitute the application with a signed note.

Save the cost of a stamp and renew on-line. Go to our post website at <http://alpost284.x10host.com> or www.Legion.org and click on "Renew" on the top right of your display.

We are still looking for someone to take over as Membership Chairman. Anyone with a few hours a week to spare and is computer literate, please call me.

Very respectfully,

William Shill
American Legion Post 284
Interim Membership Chairman
804-218-1198
wshill@ymail.com

- BUILDING & GROUNDS -

Punch list time! Your post Building and Grounds has been busy last summer and fall, and through the winter with many projects around your post home.

The renovations in the post hall are almost complete, the new Dignified Flag disposal Area is almost complete, and several other long term projects are wrapping up soon. In March and April we hope to put all of our finishing touches on these and several other projects and be ready for spring and summer, grass cutting season and general maintenance.

Please remember the post runs on volunteers, and tries to pay for very little in outside contractors unless the jobs warrant it. We do the work, we as in the post. If you have a specialty, or are just a good all around maintenance person, contact us, volunteer a little time and see behind the scenes here. Volunteers are needed on post cleanup days, normally the second Saturday of the month, (3rd Saturday this month only!) and all during every week of the month.

Our planning meeting is the first Wednesday of the month in the post home at 6:30, come by and see if you want to be apart of the team!

Michael Latham
804-835-3299cell
SAL Commander 2016/2017, Squadron 284
Building & Grounds Chairman, Post 284



- SAL SQUADRON 284 -

The Sons at Squadron 284 are busy again, spring has us working the March 4th craft benefit show here at the post hall. This show will benefit a little 7 month old boy needing a transplant. The Sons have been asked to cook breakfast and lunch sandwiches and we will be donating all proceeds and expenditures to this cause, no monies will be taken to refund our food costs. Please come out and enjoy the show and buy some food, we would Love to give a sizable donation to this cause!

April will see us doing Boston Butts on April 8th, tickets should be available by the first of March! Get tickets from any SAL member. April also sees us doing a Spaghetti dinner fundraiser; our last one was a huge success and we donated almost \$3000 in monies and time, we hope to do more this year...and we will have more spaghetti cooked and ready early! One of our causes will be the little boy above, he will need help both monetarily and in love for many years to come! The second cause has not been identified as of yet, but we have many local people needing help. We shall announce in April's news and views.

Sons, be aware our meeting times have changed to 7pm on the third Wednesday



of the month, and the most exciting news, Squadron 284 is starting a Junior Sons program here on Tuesday March 14th at 7pm.

Junior Sons programs are heavy in some states and non-existent in others. Virginia has no Junior Sons programs currently but at the Spring Conference will be joining with the Junior Auxiliary in providing a space for our Juniors to go while at the convention. Squadron 284 will start the states first dedicated Junior Sons in March and help teach the Juniors about the legion, our country and most importantly, the history of their fathers, grandfathers and others who have had a military service to our great country. Anyone in any part of the Legion Family who has a son, up to 16, they can join our Jr Sons program and become a part of this great family, help at functions and get to know and respect our veterans. Drop by on the 14th at 7pm with your Junior Sons and see what we are all about. Parents, grandparents, everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Michael Latham
804-835-3299 cell
SAL Commander 2016/2017, Squadron 284
Building & Grounds Chairman, Post 284

- SCHOLARSHIP NEWS -



Colonial Heights American Legion Post 284 is accepting Scholarship applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Instructions and applications are located on the American Legion Website: <http://alpost284.x10host.com/>, in the "Forms/Miscellaneous Downloads" section. The completed application essay and required documentation are due to the American Legion Scholarship Chairman by Friday, 7 April 2017 (NO Exceptions!).

Complete applications can be emailed to the Scholarship Chairman, John G Woyansky (woyanskyjg@msn.com) or mailed to him at 3824 Dunoon Road, Colonial Heights, VA 23834.

- AUXILIARY UNIT 284 -

What a busy meeting we had in February. Thank you to the Commander and Legionnaires who prepared our dinner and gave us roses. It is nice to be pampered every now and then.

Congratulations to Nancy Wright who will be our 2016-17 Lady of the Year. SAL Joe Gallagher presented the Post family with a plaque for our donation to Healing Waters which helps veterans with cancer. Approximately 150 formal gowns were donated to Cinderella Dreams in the Unit's name to be used by local junior and high school girls for ring dance, homecoming and junior/senior proms.

Our next General Membership meeting will be on March 8: dinner at 7pm and meeting at 7:30pm. Children & Youth-please bring candy or small items to go into Easter Baskets. Girls State-we will be sending 15 girls to Girls State. Please consider sponsoring one of these young women.

Reports -our chairman will be doing their reports this month so please bring all you volunteer hours to the March 8th meeting. All this information is then sent to our ALA



Dept HQ who in turn sends it up the chain to be reported to Congress. Even members who don't attend meetings are volunteering, so let's capture every hour we can and report it. You can send that information to me or directly to our chairmen.

Lastly, if you have not paid your 2017 dues you are now delinquent and are not eligible to participate in many post functions to include Topside.

Education: Beth Shumar
ALA scholarships 804-765-0767

Girls State: Kelly Gee
Sponsor info kellytgee13@gmail.com

Membership: Rita Feasenmyer
Dues ritafeas@gmail.com

March 10-12 Spring Conference
Virginia Beach
March 18: Past Commanders & Past Presidents Dinner
For tickets contact Commander George Ahrend

Susan Oertel
President Unit 284

- BINGO -

Bingo is alive and well at Post 284! In January we introduced electronic Bingo and the players have gone wild over it! About 2/3rds of our players now play paper and electronic bingo. Electronic Bingo is great for the older player who can't always keep up with the caller, or the new player who may not recognize all the ways you can win at Bingo! A entrance pack of paper has 6 faces per game while the electronic plays 54 faces. Think of it, 54 faces (individual games) per game played!

This of course means additional help is needed. Several riders have stepped up and show up most of the time now, but we always can use more help! From kitchen help, counter help, paper sales, electronic bingo sales to instant floor sales and calling back bingo winners...many jobs need many people. Please drop by and see what you like to do, walking the floor selling instant pull-tabs, calling back winners...too many jobs to list. As always, regular volunteers will be able to work their preferred jobs, non-regular volunteers may have to try several jobs before settling in on one. You may be able to only do one or two nights a month, that is great! Any help is appreciated. Email me for more information, or better yet, stop by Bingo on a Monday or Friday!

Michael Latham 804-835-3299 cell
SAL Commander 2016/2017, Squadron 284
Building & Grounds Chairman, Post 284
Assistant Bingo Manager
Signdogopie@aol.com

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Greetings to All~

Well as we move out of our second month of the 2017 year, the ALR continues with its busy schedule.

The weather hasn't been on our side so our riding days have been limited with the exception of Sunday February 12th when a big group of riders took a trip to Blackstone for lunch. It was a beautiful day and the food was spectacular. We are all looking forward to many rides in the months to come.

February 5th, we attended the annual ceremony of the Four Chaplains. We would like to thank all who attended. If you have never attended, I would highly recommend you plan to come next year.

The ALR participated in the Auxiliary dinner on February 8th and as always it was a pleasure to be able to celebrate and say thanks to all the auxiliary ladies. Some attended the Sweetheart Dance on Saturday February 11th sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion as always it was a great time for all.



We ended the month with an American Legion Rider BBQ at Post 2 on February 25th. Hope you were able to come out to enjoy the festivities!

Our First Gun Raffle of the year is underway and if you purchased a ticket.....good luck. We will be drawing the winner soon. Tickets were \$5.00 and were limited to 500 tickets. If you don't play, you can't win. If you missed out this time, stay tuned for the next one.

Lastly, don't forget to come to the Topside on Friday nights for the American Legion Riders Queen of Hearts from 5-7pm.

Come out to support the Riders and the Topside. Hope to see you all there!

UNTIL NEXT MONTH RIDE SAFE!!!!
Phillip Vaughan, SVALR Director

- CHAPLIN'S REPORT -



This month has been somewhat busy, but rewarding:

First, the Four Chaplains Service went very well; thank you to all the participants and especially to those who attended. By the way, I have invited Chief Chaplain Stone from McGuire VA to be our "message" speaker for next year.

Next, I attended a membership breakfast--very tasty. Great Fellowship!! Why not try to attend the next one if you can; you will say the same thing.

Next, I made some home visits and a few phone calls to some legionnaires. I had a very positive response from each of them.

Finally, I mailed a sympathy card to a bereaved out of state family. May God continue to bless us this month with His presence!

"It is your thoughts, actions, and intentions that will determine the outcome of your life." By Suze Orman

- Rev Gibson

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Changes of address:

Changes of address should be submitted to the Adjutant as soon as known. The Adjutant can and will make the changes at National for you. Address changes can be submitted to adj.post284@gmail.com; sent to American Legion Post 284, Attn: Adjutant, PO Box 57, Col Heights, 23834-0057; or submitted to the Adjutant by phone message, 804-520-2338.

If you wish to be on the Post e-mail distribution list and receive items of general interest to Veterans and their families, please send an e-mail to adj.post284@gmail.com and request to be added. Messages are sent out via blind copy and you may be removed at any time if you request.

Rehabilitation Information:

Anyone who would like to join us is more than welcome! We are always in need of volunteers at McGuire. We go up every Sunday. On the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month we meet at 8AM and have a delicious breakfast. On all Sundays we leave the Post at 9AM for McGuire in the Post van. Contact Bill Shill at 218-1198 for details.

Service Officer:

For all Service Officer needs and inquiries, please call Lou Vallette at 804-721-8275.
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
Lou Vallette, Service Officer, Post 284

LAST ISSUE? If your membership card does not say 2017 this will be your last issue of the Post News & Views.

All 2016 memberships have expired. Any ?s - contact the Adjutant.

"PROPOSED CHANGE TO POST BY-LAWS:

Article II, Management, Section 2 prescribes the time and method of election of the Post Officers and Executive Committee. This article has proven somewhat problematic in the last several years as it requires voting to be done by ballot and for it to be performed on the second Thursday in May. Below are changes to Section 2 to allow modifications to this timing and methodology if the election is uncontested. Changes are in bold italics:

1st sentence of Section 2: "The election of the Executive Committee shall occur on the second Thursday in May." Add unless uncontested between "May" and the sentence period.

3rd sentence of Section 2: "All elections of officers and Executive Committee shall be by ballot..." Add unless uncontested after "ballot" and continue with "and the candidates...."

This proposed change will be read and discussed at our March membership meeting and voted on at our April membership meeting."

March 2017



1-8 pm		2-9 pm		2-9 pm		2-9 pm		2-11 pm		2-11 pm																							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu																						
Everyone's Irish On March 17th. 	Bingo: Doors open at 5 pm, games begin at 7 pm Queen of Hearts @ Topside, Friday 5 - 7 pm	ALR Meeting 6:30 pm	Building & Grounds Meeting 6:30 pm	Leadership Meeting 6 pm Chem 40/8 7:30 pm		4	McGuire Breakfast 8 am		ALR Meeting 6:30 pm	Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm Jr Auxiliary Meeting	Legion Meeting 7:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm		11	McGuire Breakfast 8 am		Junior SAL Meeting 7 pm	SAL Meeting 7 pm	Prom 40/8 7:30 pm		18 Membership Breakfast 7-8 am Post Clean up Past Commander's Dinner	25	McGuire Breakfast 8 am		Finance Committee 6:45 pm Executive Meeting 7:30 pm		31							
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Post 284



Topside Lounge



March Dinner Specials

March 4	Chicken cordon bleu, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll	8.95
March 11	NY Strip steak, baked potato, salad, roll	10.95
March 18	Topside closes at 5 Past Commander's Dinner	
March 25	Pork Tenderloin, scalloped potatoes, green beans	7.95

All dinner specials include coffee or tea. Specials are in addition to our regular menu items and are subject to change and may have limited quantities based on availability.

DAILY SPECIALS

Sunday: 2 topping Medium Pizza \$5 **Monday:** Hot Dogs \$1

1st & 3rd Tuesday: Shrimp .40 each

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Pasta (price varies)

Wednesday: Tacos \$1

Thursday: Wings .40 each

Special notice: All to go orders on daily specials will be limited to 20 pieces. This is to ensure that we have enough of special items to accommodate all

Friday Night Specials

March 3	Patty melt & fries	4.75
March 10	Chicken & Waffles	5.50
March 17	Corn beef and cabbage	6.00
March 24	Fish & Chips	5.00
March 31	Hamburger Steak, mashed potatoes & corn	6.95

Entertainment Schedule

March 2: Open mic with John Stevens

March 4: Karaoke with David Allen

March 11: Karaoke with David Allen

March 18: Topside closes at 5 pm/ Past Commander's Dinner

March 23: Open mic with John Stevens

March 25: Karaoke with Lynne Carnes

