



GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

CONTACT

6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 345-0136

<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>



VOLUME LXXXI

September/October 2024

ISSUE V

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Our Legion Family rolled through July enjoying two traditional events that are always well attended. The July 4th picnic went off without any problems, as patrons watched the Greenbelt Fireworks from the back of our parking lot. The Boys Nation dinner, which we have hosted for the past 35 years, turned out great, as always. Legionnaire members actively engaged the 100 Boys Nation Senators while dining on Roast Beef and tasty Maryland Corn. We heard some inspirational remarks from the National Commander Seehafer. I was so proud of our volunteers and management staff for putting on a first-class event. I hope that the heat wave is over as September and October roll in.

In the up-coming months the Greenbelt American Legion Family will be supporting a request from recently commissioned U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenant Tyler White to send care packages to the 400 troops who are deployed overseas with his armor unit in Poland. His unit is supporting the Ukrainian military effort. 2nd Lieutenant White is a platoon leader assigned to the 2/8 Cavalry, and is the son of Greenbelt Police Department Deputy Chief Tim White. The Auxiliary named the project "Gifts of Gratitude for the Troops." The Post Family will be making and mailing these packages in mid-September. This project is a joint effort supported by our Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legionnaires and the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department. We'll need some volunteer support in September for the "Gifts of Gratitude Project" and two other events we'll be hosting - the Labor Day Family Picnic on September 4th, and this year's S.A.L.'s Crab Feast, which will be held on September 14th.

We will not forget to celebrate and honor two armed forces birthdays, the U.S Air Force 77th Birthday, September 18th and the U.S. Navy 248th Birthday October 13th. This year the Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter Recognition Dinner is on Saturday, October 19th.

Restaurant business: The post management team continues to work hard to satisfy our customers menu requests. In doing so, the staff has provided a box for "suggestions and opportunities for improvement." So, we can improve your experience at the Post Restaurant. Also, we've added some new items on the menu. The Greenbelt American Legion restaurant has created tasty meals at a reasonable price. Please join us, the specials will be great. Remember the post restaurant is open for lunch at 12 noon Fridays and Saturdays. For more information on the Friday Night and Saturday Night specials please refer to the Greenbelt American Legion face book or visit the restaurant in person to enjoy the food. We're open on Sundays for breakfast from 8am -1pm.

I urge you to renew your 2025 membership so you can join us at the "Early Bird" Dinner in early November. The new dues rate is \$50.00 and covers increases from

(Commander's Message continued on page 2)

2024/2025

Commander:

Greg Gigliotti

1st Vice Commander:

James Hawkins

2nd Vice Commander:

Butch Hicks

Judge Advocate:

Tom Davis

Sgt. at Arms:

Bill Muffley

Chaplain:

Shawn Fenstermacher

Historian:

Bernie Zempolich

Finance Officer:

Harold Schlemmer

Members at Large:

Richard Brown

John Hardwick

Timothy Meade

Larry Williams

Adjutant:

Mike Moore

**ENJOY
LABOR
DAY!**

National and Department. I am pleased to report Greenbelt Post 136 is a statewide leader in membership renewals and over 55% of our members have already renewed their cards. I want to thank 1st Vice Commander James Hawkins for his efforts to increase our membership. He asks that each current member recruit at least two eligible friends and family. Membership applications are available in the Members Lounge and in the Manager's office.

Finally, I want to thank our new Executive Committee for their enthusiasm and hard work. We have a great team, and I appreciate their dedication to our Post.

God bless America,

Greg Gigliotti,

Commander

Greenbelt American Legion, Post 136



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Legionnaires,

As we transition from the heat of summer to the cool breezes of fall, September and October remind us of significant moments in our nation's history. These months are a time for reflection on the courage, sacrifice, and dedication that our fellow service members displayed in the face of great challenges.

In September, we remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It was on that fateful day that our nation was shaken to its core, but from the ashes of destruction rose a united America, determined to defend freedom and justice. As Legionnaires, many of us answered the call to serve once more or supported those on the frontlines in the War on Terror. Let us honor the memory of those we lost and continue to support the families and first responders who carry the weight of that day with them.

We also reflect on another significant September moment, the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. This document has been the foundation of our democracy and the rights we cherish. As veterans who swore to uphold and defend this Constitution, we understand its profound importance. It's more than just a piece of paper - it's the bedrock of our liberty.

October brings with it the commemoration of the Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 23-26, 1944), one of the largest naval battles in history. This World War II engagement was a turning point in the Pacific Theater and demonstrated the bravery and resolve of our sailors and airmen. As we honor the legacy of those who served in that conflict, we are reminded of the continuing commitment to stand guard for freedom in every generation.

As your chaplain, I urge you during these months to take time to remember and reflect on the service of those who came before us, to offer prayers for those who continue to serve, and to cherish the freedoms we are privileged to protect. Let us also recommit ourselves to the mission of the American Legion - to support our veterans, promote patriotism, and advocate for the well-being of our fellow countrymen.

In closing, may we continue to find strength in our shared purpose and unity as Legionnaires. As the fall season begins, let us move forward with renewed hope, faith, and dedication to the values we hold dear.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Yours in service,

Chaplain Shawn Fenstermacher



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



S.A.L. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As I shared in our last Contact issue, our State S.A.L. Commander's theme is "Sons having fun getting things done!" We still need you in our Legion community to share in the fun of getting things done. As we savor these last warm days and begin to grab sweaters for the fall, I want to encourage all our Legion Family members to continue to support our restaurant, and other operations and events. If each of our local members visited once or twice a month, our Post would continue the growth and offerings to grow our community here at Post 136. Just about the time this article comes out will be about the time of the Crab Feast. We want to thank everyone who supported this year's feast.

As a reminder, the 2025 membership renewal is rolling; dues are now being accepted. Dues are \$25; \$15 for junior and dual memberships, so please don't hesitate to renew. You can renew online at www.mylegion.org you will need your membership number from your 2024 membership card if you have not already set up an account. Dues will also be accepted on Wednesday nights during the Queen of Hearts. Remember that paying early also entitles you to the Post's family Early Bird Dinner in November. Membership cards will be mailed or left at the back bar within a couple weeks of receiving payment details.

I continue to be thankful and amazed by the S.A.L. members of our Squadron that continue to jump in to support the Post Family here and regionally in many ways. A theory exists that in any organization 10% of the members carry the work load of the group. Our squadron is still looking to reach that 10% level and then surpass it. The Post would have more to offer the community with your help, presence, service, participation and ideas. S.A.L. would like to continue to expand our offerings and still have a need for a few more volunteers to assist once or twice a month on Wednesday nights. Your presence and effort can help us to expand other Legion family activities and outreach in more meaningful ways to our members and community. The Legion Family is actively supporting active-duty service members in two direct ways. This fall we plan to join again by providing Thanksgiving meals to local active-duty service members and their families. The other way is we are working to send care packages to a unit that is deployed with many members not receiving anything from home. I hope to have more information about both events in a later issue of the Contact.

This fall will be a busy time for many reasons and I encourage you our members to follow and check up on The American Legion Legislative Agenda, which is found at <https://www.legion.org/legislative/agenda>. These priorities are selected for you to help encourage our Congress to pass key legislation supporting our Veterans and their families. These can be found at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Bills> and offers detailed descriptions of each bill. These bills cover a range of support from benefits and employment opportunities for veterans to issues on national security. Please sign-up for alerts for Voter Voice at www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/home. Voter Voice allows you to not only review bills, but also receive alerts on issues and find your local officials. We encourage everyone to contact their Representatives and Senators to let them know you support these bills.

(S.A.L. Commander's message continued on page 4)

2024/2025

Commander:
Lenny Wertz

1st Vice Commander:
Vacant

2nd Vice Commander:
Dave Fendlay

Chaplain:
Kenny Hall

Finance Officer:
Kevin Foster

Historian:
Ray (Cory) Micallef

Sgt-At-Arms:
Marty Rousseau

Adjutant:
Ray (Cory) Micallef

Advisor:
Richard Dutton

**S.A.L.
MEETINGS**
Every 3rd Tuesday
7:00 PM

**DON'T FORGET TO
JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2025**

Dues: \$25
\$15 Junior & Dual

Our Monthly meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM. It's also a great time to join our committees like the S.A.L. cook crew, membership, service and fundraising committees to name a couple. Our meetings for Queen of Hearts nights are a great time to bring up new ideas and proposals. Looking for new ideas on growing our S.A.L. program and creating and holding activities for Children & Youth of our community. The need is here for your service, participation and ideas.

Encouraging you to join the fun of getting things done,

Lenny Wertz,

S.A.L. Commander

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CRAB FEAST



**Saturday, September 14, 2024
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Greenbelt American Legion Post 136
6900 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**



TICKETS:

\$60.00 per Ticket

Only 150 Tickets Will Be Sold

Get your tickets before they sell out at the Post or from an S.A.L. officer!

Food served at 2:30, Crabs from 3:00 - 5:30

**CRABS - BURGERS - SWEET CORN
SIDES - DRAFT BEER/SODA**



Queen of Hearts Wednesday Evenings

**A New Drawing Will Be Held Every Wednesday Until the
Queen of Hearts is Drawn**

All Tickets Must Be Purchased by 7:45 PM the Night of the Drawing

Drawing Held: 8:00 PM - Tickets: \$5.00 each/3 for \$10.00 - Pot Starts at: \$1000.00

This is a progressive raffle open to the public.

One (1) ticket drawn every Wednesday.

Your full name must be on your ticket(s) to be valid.

If your ticket is drawn, you may pick a card from the Queen of Hearts Board.

The amount of money won depends on the card drawn.

ATTENTION ALL QUEEN OF HEARTS PLAYERS

Hold 'em cards are available for additional prizes.

****This offer good until further notice****

Sponsored by The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 136





AUXILIARY UNIT 136



2024/2025

Unit Officers

President:

Kathy Gigliotti

1st Vice President:

Elizabeth Darnell

2nd Vice President:

Elizabeth Rice

Secretary:

Mary Fava

Treasurer:

Sandi Dutton

Chaplain:

Susan Wiener

Historian:

Rusty Beeg

Sgt.at Arms:

Dana Coleman

Executive

Committee:

Laura Fendlay

Dora Hamm

Patty Rousseau

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

I am happy to have the honor to serve as your Unit President again for this year. Looking forward to working with the entire Legion Family to achieve all our goals.

We had convention in July and won three awards:

- 1st place in Children and Youth
- 2nd place in Americanism Essay
- 3rd in Education



Like our Juniors
on Facebook @
136juniorsala

The Unit sponsored six girls to Maryland Girls State and two boys to Boys State. We also donated to support the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

We awarded two scholarships this month.

We are very happy to support Gifts of Gratitude for our Troops overseas with the other Legion entities and the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.

School is starting up again and we are happy to support Springhill Lake Elementary School with their Amazon wish list. Have a great year!

As you can see, we are back to work doing what we do best to support our community and local organizations.

Best Regards,

Kathy Gigliotti,

President



AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN /MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Membership dues has begun a new year. We have received 23 out of 401 dues for 2025. The money Bunny scholarship raffle can be submitted on the same check as your 2025 dues check. So any check received over \$30.00, the overage will be applied to Money Bunny and Susan will put tickets for you in the bin. Tickets are \$1.00 and you could win \$300.00. Please help the scholarship with your generosity. We need your help to send a sister to school. We are so very proud to have been awarded 11 scholarships this past year!!!

A big **WELCOME** goes out to our newest member Alexis Beavers.

Thank you all for your support.

Susan,
Membership chairman
(301) 474-0849

AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Thursdays
7:00 PM



2024 Dues For Auxiliary Members

\$30.00 Regular (Sr. with 50 years or more \$26.00)

Dual Members \$26.00, Juniors (under 18) \$6.00

PLEASE MAIL YOUR DUES TO:

ALA 136

PO Box 1063

Greenbelt, MD 20768

Please make checks payable to ALA 136 and include your phone number on your payment.



SHOTGUN BINGO

Tuesday Evenings 7:00 PM

*Bring a friend,
enjoy some food,
friends and, maybe
even be a **BIG** winner.*

Sponsored by the Auxiliary Unit #136

(NO SHOTGUN BINGO IN JULY)



MONEY BUNNY!!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00

Please support our Merit
Scholarship Program

TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH

Drawing Date:

November 11th, 2024 - Veterans Day

Please send your address labels and
checks made payable to

Greenbelt Unit #136 to:

Greenbelt Unit #136

ATTN: Sandi Dutton

P.O. Box 1063

Greenbelt, MD 20768



THE CONTACT

The Contact is a bi-monthly newsletter published by
the American Legion, Greenbelt Post 136.

Publisher: Mike Moore

Editor: Bernie Zempolich

Composing: East-West Web Solutions

HAPPY
★ ★ ★
Labor Day

GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136 WELCOMED PARTICIPANTS IN THE 78TH EDITION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION'S BOYS NATION PROGRAM

By Butch Hicks

More than 100 participants in the American Legion's Boys Nation 78th program arrived at Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 for a "Legion Night" dinner as part of their week-long visit touring Maryland attractions, seeing the nation's capital monuments and visiting congressional representatives.

"We were excited to greet these potential future leaders, said Sandi Dutton, Post 136 Auxiliary Unit Treasurer and past program director for the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State/Girls Nation program. Dutton, who is also a past American Legion Auxiliary National President, said, "Each year we meet potential future leaders of America visiting the nation's capital while learning how local, state and national government works. We look forward to their Post 136 visit with presentations from American Legion and local government leaders.

The "Legion Night" dinner and program featured keynote speaker, American Legion National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, sharing importance of American Legion's *One Mission: Be the One* initiative that addresses veteran suicide prevention. "...Nothing is more important than our effort to reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide," he said. "The life of one veteran saved makes all the difference in the world." For more *One Mission: Be the One* details visit the internet: [One mission: Be the One | The American Legion](#).

Dutton, and Marine Corps veteran, Sgt Jose Mallis, sat with boys, all of whom were from different states. She said, "They were so excited to be with Boys Nation and visiting the nation's capital." Having discussion with their real-world congressional representatives provided an additional learning-about-government benefit. During other discussion, Dutton and Marine Corp vet Mallis, shared how Post 136 helps veterans, assists local schools and other community activities.

In summarizing her Boys Nation association, Dutton said, "They were amazing, they were so excited to be at Boys Nation. It was a great opportunity to discuss American Legion programs and the leadership learned at Boys Nation. As I went around the table, each boy promised, that upon returning to his home state, they would promote Boys State, Girls State and Boys and Girls Nation."

While participating in the "Legion Night" dinner, the Boys Nation "senators" met more veterans, engaged in discussions and learned firsthand about service and sacrifice. Tom Davis, Post 136 Judge Advocate and nine-year Maryland National Guard veteran, joined the table with seven Boys Nation participants. He said they seemed to know what the American Legion was and what it was all about. Davis discussed his military service and shared his experience as a youngster in the 1952 Boys State program at St. John's college in Annapolis, Md. Davis's appreciation of Boys Nation reflected the American Legion overall view of Boys Nation: The American Legion Purpose is to build citizenship, build good Americans, ones that understand government. "I've done our annual Post visit by the American Legion's Boys Nation kids," Davis said. "They are all brilliant. "There wasn't a one that wasn't. They were good guys who asked interesting questions. To see these kids, you know the nation is going to be in good hands."

For more Boys State Boys Nation information -

Maryland Boys State information:

[The American Legion Department of Maryland \(mdlegion.org\)](#)

National American Legion internet: [About Boys State & Boys Nation | The American Legion](#)

[Delegates kick off first weekend of 2024 American Legion Boys Nation \(youtube.com\)](#)

The above (youtube.com) video shows Boys Nation participants beginning their tour of nation's capital and near the end they arrive at Post 136 and the greeting line, Hofberg Hall activity, and the national commander's presentation.



(See photos on pages 8 and 9)

BOYS NATION PHOTOS



Tom Davis, Post 136 Judge Advocate (second row, fifth from right) 1952 American Legion Maryland Boys State participants on the state capitol steps.



American Legion Department of Maryland Commander, David Heredia, Jr., welcomed the senators from Boys Nation to Maryland. Heredia expressed his strong support for the American Legion's premier youth leadership programs - Boys State, Girls State, Boys Nation and Girls Nation. American Legion Post 136 Adjutant, Mike Moore, said Post 136 eagerly anticipated the visit of 100 participants in the 78th edition of the Boys State/Boys Nation program. "Our Post appreciates the opportunity to assist the Boys State/Boys Nation program as the program's Senators visit the nation's capital to learn government and the value of good citizenship," he said.

MORE BOYS NATION PHOTOS



Post 136 staff, Legionnaire, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion comprised the support team that provided a "Legion Dinner" produced by cooking, buffet line serving and support inside and outside, beautifully laid out dining room-all while offering smiles and greetings to the more than 100 boys participating in the 78th annual Boys Nation program.

(back row, from left) Mark Kuhn, Ken Hall, Julie Patterson, Jesus Lopez, Judy Hughes, Cory Micallef, Rosalie Jones, (front row-from left) Maggie Hofberg, Audrey Moore, Airrum Delaney, Sylvia Hill: Team members not pictured: Tommy Bryant, Jerry Darnell, Keith Starkey.



Rosalie Jones, buffet coordinator, greeted Boys Nation participant, John Davis with a smile and mashed potatoes.

POST HISTORIAN BERNIE ZEMPOLICH CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

by Post Adjutant Mike Moore

On Tuesday, August 13th, long-time Post Historian Bernie Zempolich celebrated his 90th birthday with friends at the Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis. My wife Audrey and I were honored to join him, along with Denise Nooe, the deputy director of communication and outreach, for the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families. Bernie is a U.S. Marine who served during the Korean Conflict and had a distinguished federal career with the Department of the Navy as a civilian engineer. He was also an instructor at the University of Maryland, University College teaching the history of computers.

Bernie, a former Post Commander at Beltway Post 172, transferred to Greenbelt Post 136 in 2011. In 2012, he began a stellar 13-year career as the Post Historian for Post 136. In that position, he took over as editor of our newsletter the "Contact" and has managed our internal communications, including our website and Facebook presence. In 2013, Bernie and Post Judge Advocate Tom Davis conducted an internal investigation of the \$300,000.00 embezzlement perpetrated by our former bookkeeper. Their work was presented to the Prince George's County States Attorney's Office and was used in the indictment and eventual conviction of our former bookkeeper.

In 2015, Bernie received the Post 136 Legionnaire of the Year Award. That was the same year that Past National Commander Clarence Bacon appointed Bernie as the Historian for the American Legion 97th National Convention, held in Baltimore, Maryland. He served on the Department Executive Committee for three years. Bernie Zempolich currently serves on the Post 136 Restaurant Committee and has continued to serve the Post, Department and National Headquarters in various capacities. His is a life of service, sacrifice and sharing. We are blessed to have him and wish him a 90th happy birthday.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BERNIE!!

LABOR DAY FESTIVITIES

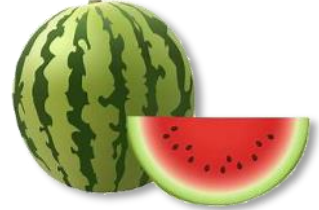
September 2, 2024

Family Picnic

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



- Fried Chicken
- Hot Dogs
- Corn
- Coleslaw
- Potato Salad
- Italian Sausages
- Hamburgers
- Watermelon



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

Monday, September 2nd

Tuesday, September 3rd

Saturday, September 14th

Wednesday, September 18th

Thursday, September 19th

Labor Day Family Picnic: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
(See Ad Above)

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

S.A.L Crab Feast: 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

(See Ad on Page 4)

U.S. Air Force 77th Birthday

Post 136 General Meeting: 7:00 PM



Monday, October 7th

Sunday, October 13th

Thursday, October 17th

Saturday, October 19th

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

U.S. Navy 248th Birthday

Post 136 General Meeting: 7:00 PM

Law Enforcement/Firefighters Recognition Dinner