



Gautier-Vanceleave Post 1992 American Legion, Inc.
3824 Old Spanish Trail, (Mail address: Post Office Box 682, Gautier, MS 39553)
Newsletter January-February 2017
Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

Freedom Isn't Free

Post 1992 Commander

Here it is the middle of December; the New Year is on top of us! Get ready for a wild ride with the Gautier-Vanceleave American Legion Post 1992. We are setting out to have a record year. Membership is vital, we need your influence to bring in those new members and your support in the various functions of the Post. Come one; Come all.

This month Oratorical will take place at Post 160, January 7th at 10:00. If you have never been to an oratorical, I encourage you to come listen to these brave and talented students.

January 20 through the 22 Officers will be going to the Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez, MS. There will be new information on what needs to be accomplished for the New Year. These sessions are of the utmost importance in order to stay abreast of what is going on throughout Mississippi and the Nation.

November Veterans Day Parade (sponsored by Legion Post 42) and the Veterans Day Ceremony (sponsored by Post 1992) was wonderful, we had a good crowd for the parade and the tribute. Thank you to all the American Legion officers and members who brought the parade and ceremony together. These events would not happen without the support from the Legion Family.

The twenty fifth birthday celebration for Post 1992 was a success and done with the utmost professionalism. Thank you, Steve Meredith, for the coordination, decorating and hard work on the certificates, you were Key in bring smiles to the Charter members and our Past commanders, Auxiliary Charter members, SAL, ALR, and the ALRC. I would like to thank Southern Area Commander, District Commander and Ninth District, and all the Area Post Commanders that came to celebrate with us.

I would like to thank the Auxiliary for the time they spent putting together the tributes for the POW/MIA's and Pearl Harbor. The Auxiliary held Christmas for the Children on December the tenth and it was great! The children (and adults) got to visit with Santa Clause (thank you Tim Honeycutt), listen to a story of the "Night before Christmas" (read by the Commander), as well as, created their stocking and decorated cookies. Melanie Lane took pictures and posted them on Facebook for all the family to see.

The SAL held the annual Toys for Tots helping make Christmas a reality for so many youngsters. Thank you, SAL, for coordinating the Toys for Tots event. Thank you, Legion Family, for your support.

The ALR has been very supportive of the Post. I would like to thank the ALR for their support in everything that has been asked of them. This is family.

The ALRC is coming together nicely, should anyone have an interest in the amateur radio please do not hesitate to contact the Post for more information. The ALRC (K5TAL) is very active and very important to the family. They are here for assistance in the ALR rides and are ready to assist for any function or weather hazard that may come our way. Thank you ALRC.

The Officers and Executive Board Members are the backbone of the Post and I thank them for encouraging me and keeping me on track. Should anyone have input, by all means look to your elected leaders, they are here to listen and to guide us as we travel through the New Year. ALL members are encouraged to attend the General Meetings, see the calendar for dates. The general meetings are for your information, come in and check out one of these meetings.

For this New Year, you may see some subtle changes in and around the Post, Joe and Daisy Randolph will no longer be cooking in the kitchen, a new plan is in the works. Both will stay active in the Post, Joe as House Committee Chairman and Daisy with the Auxiliary. Thank you for your dedication to the Post and the hard work you put in for every dinner and event, without your support it would have been difficult.

On February 15th our Post has the honor of hosting a visit from The American Legion National Commander, Charles E. Schmidt. This will be the 7th consecutive year we've had honor of hosting visits from the National Commander. We will be having a social hour starting at 5:30 PM followed by a short program to recognize Cdr. Schmidt and followed by a dinner. Please plan to attend and make a good showing from Gulf Coast American Legion.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come out to the Post to see what is going on. Join in the events and share your ideas for new events. I look forward to an exciting New Year!

“Veterans Supporting Veterans”

For God and Country

Flo Hendrickson

Post 1992 1st Vice Commander

MERRY CHRISTMAS COMRADS!!!! The first half of the membership year is coming to a close and we are looking forward to a great second half and all of 2017! We have the National Commander and Auxiliary President's dinners, Marty Gras, and many more events that look to be a great time!

We need to reach out to build our membership this coming year and make our post grow. Let's each of us resolve to finding at least one new member and get'em in! Our events committee—headed by Third Vice Tim Honeycutt—look to be planning some fantastic events to get folks to the post in the upcoming year! If you have any ideas or suggestions bring'em on! We plan to keep the place jumpin and do a little something for everyone!

Keep your friend, family, shipmates and comrades in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. It's an especially difficult time for some who have lost loved ones or just can't be with them. Go see them for a minute, invite them to be with you and yours. Do whatever it takes to help them focus away from depression.

GOD BLESS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!!

SEE YOU AT THE POST!! ☺

For God and Country

Scott Mitchell

Post 1992 Adjutant

If you have not renewed 2017 Dues you're now delinquent... RENEW – RENEW – RENEW !

2017 dues were payable by 20 October 2016 and are delinquent IAW Post By-Laws. The easiest and fastest way to renew is on-line at www.legion.org/renew (using your member ID and a credit card,) or you can: mail your dues or drop them off at the Post. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to help the Post meet its membership goal and for you to protect your continuous years of membership.

The Post's Legion membership total membership for 2016 & 2017 is currently 381 members. There are currently 73 members who still owe their 2017 dues.

Sadly, we lost one of our WWII veterans, James E. McDole, James A. Flynt, and James C. Whitehurst, (Past Post Commander & Post Charter member) they will sorely missed by all their fellow veterans and members of Post 1992.

Please join me in welcoming our new or returning members in November: Eddie Hickson, Louie McLain and John Wilson and in December: David England, Marc E. Frentz, and Dale Wilkinson. We all thank each of you for your service to our great Country and now you have made a commitment to continue to serve other veterans; their families, the community; and the nation. I'd also like to thank the recruiters of the above members: Kevin Doriocourt, Doug Honeycutt and Bill Whatley for their support of The American Legion and for growing our membership rolls. We need all members to actively recruit new members to get our membership numbers up to make up for normal attrition of non-renewals.

Please keep the Post informed of changes to your mail address, phone number and eMail addresses so that you will continue to receive our communications. Also, The American Legion National has sent a request for email addresses to

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be filled out on the back of the dues reminder sent to each member. The Adjutant will update The American Legion national database records and Department address lists (for Legion and SAL members) insuring you'll continue to receive your membership renewal notices, Legionnaire, and the Legion magazine. Also, if you provide me with your e-mail address, if you haven't already, you will receive any significant updates to the Calendar of Events and Newsletter.

Our Post Newsletter and Calendar of Events are only distributed electronically by e-mail and posted on the Post's web site. A limited number of hard copies will be printed as needed, locally on our printer for pick up in the lounge. To be added to electronic distribution by email deveaujr@bellsouth.net directly, call me at 228-471-5042, or dropping a note with your name and e-mail address in the membership dues box in the lounge, requesting to be placed on the Newsletter eMail distribution. This Newsletter and the Calendar of Events are, as I said earlier, published on our Post website at: <http://www.alpost1992.org>. Our electronic distribution currently reaches ONLY 47% of Legion Family members.

It is required that our Legion membership records contain evidence of discharge or release under honorable conditions during one of the recognized war eras. The most recognized evidence is: your latest DD214; Certificate of Discharge/Release or for Reserves or Guard components, evidence of being deployed under Federal Orders.

For God and Country

John Deveau.

Post 1992 3rd Vice Commander

Happy New Year it's the time for resolutions ☺ and a new calendar of events.

Our post New Year's Eve party looks to be a great time and will feature breakfast after ringing in the new year. Our events will feature Jamie Hyatt on New Year's Eve. Other upcoming Entertainment the Bayou Boogie Band for Steak Night, Deuces Wild and Amanda Jones. We will also have upcoming drink specials as well as some new hours for the kitchen.

I look forward to seeing all my legion family at the Post.

For God and Country

Tim Honeycutt

Post 1992 Chaplain

Please take a little extra time to remember those who may be feeling depressed. God bless and please keep safe.

Contact information: David Wicker, dpwicker@yahoo.com , (228) 219-0475

For God and Country

David Wicker

Post 1992 Judge Advocate

Our post will be conducting a mid-year flag retirement on Saturday, January 14th, at 11:00 AM, on the Post Grounds weather permitting. All Post Family members, their children, grandchildren, other relatives, and friends, are welcome to attend.

As most of our Legion Family is aware, our Post is self-insured, meaning that our only insurances are general liability, liquor liability and workers compensation. The previous, overall coverage we once had become too exorbitant for us to maintain. We have recently submitted a Request For Quote from a commercial carrier to cover our two buildings for Fire, Theft and Contents, but not Wind and Flooding – We received a written quote for Wind Coverage of almost \$10,000; however, since we did not carry wind coverage in the past, despite not having any wind damage from Hurricane Katrina. Since the above has occurred we have received a request for additional information. That request is currently in work. The Post Executive Committee and General Membership have agreed to retain our current policy for General Liability, Liquor Liability and Workers Compensation with The Post Insurance Program carry the above coverage. We continue to pursue the Fire, Theft and Contents coverage...aggressively!

Reminder: If You're a Member in Good Standing with your Department of the American Legion you are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents.

NOTE to ALL Legion Family Members: Effective 1 January 2015, the above program benefit is also available to The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion (ages 18 and older.). You can sign up for it on-line at <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare> or pick up an application from most locations within the Post, or see the Judge Advocate; contact the Adjutant; or pick up an application in the Post Hall of Honor.

Reminder: The Post is still offering Memorial/Donor Bricks for sale. A two-line brick is still \$40, and \$43.50 for three lines.

For God and Country

Bob Backel

President Unit 1992 American Legion

As Christmas is just past, I am proud of the contributions to veterans, children and community by the American Legion Family – Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Radio Club. Just before Thanksgiving, Legionnaires loaded over 2,700 non-perishable items into three pickup trucks and transported to the Post. We sorted items choosing staples and items for a complete dinner into 18 food boxes. The Post and Auxiliary both added \$20 gift cards for fresh food. The boxes went to needy families identified by an application. Not all were given out; so, applications are still being taken. The vast majority went to Food Banks maintained for the public at Gautier and Vancleave Methodist churches, Back Pack Buddies through Gautier First Baptist Church and CASA – baby food.

Each year, a Christmas Gift Shop is organized from the Biloxi VA Hospital patients. Our Post contributes all the proceeds from the Bingo Dual Action card which buys presents and provides postage to mail the packages to patients' families. Jo Tisbury organizes it and our bartenders Cindy and Jennifer have helped with it for years. The Gift Shop served over 80 patients this year (down as one facility is closed) and is very much appreciated. In the words of one VA patient who sent a thank you note: "I have unfortunately been sick during the Holiday and unable to give my family a present." It was so empowering and gratifying to be able to pick out items for my loved ones. I also complement the Volunteers in their patience and respectfulness with each Veteran as they helped them choose a treasured gift. You truly have brought the true meaning of giving during the Holiday Season..." The letter was signed by author and nine other veterans.

Shout out to the SAL on the collecting of toys for Toys for Tots. Those contributions are sure to bring smiles to local children.

In mid-January we will have scholarship applications ready for the children and grandchildren of veterans. We will be hosting a program honoring Lady Veterans in March. We are looking forward to the Feb 15th American Legion National Commander and April 22 American Legion Auxiliary National President visits at our Post Home. We invite all ladies to our meetings the 2nd Monday each month at 6:30 PM and to our activities.

For God and Country

Cindy Harper

American Legion Riders Chapter 1992

Thank you for a very productive last half of 2016! We have welcomed two new riders, Steve Rancier and Lynn Cochran, and a return of founding member Jim Johnson over the last couple of months.

We had awesome support and great turnout for the Wreath Laying at Biloxi National Cemetery.

Over the next few months we will start working more diligently toward the 3rd Annual D-Day Poker Run, as well as other events. We look forward to continuing to support our American Legion and Post 1992, our veterans and service members and our local communities. Happy New Year to all!!!!

For God and Country

David Belcher

President Amateur Radio Club – (Call-sign K5TAL)

On Dec 12, as advertised, the Amateur Radio Club concluded its Raffle of the Gold Coin by having the drawing. All tickets were validated by Bill McKee, and the winning ticket was picked by Commander Flo Hendrickson. The ticket holder, Josh Dopson is a member of SAL, and he was notified that he won at 7 PM. All tickets were sold so total income was \$4,000 and after the cost of the coin was deducted, that left a profit of \$2,465.

Now, we can get busy finishing out the operating positions and making the trailer habitable. If anyone has skills as a cabinet builder, or has excess linoleum flooring or press apply vinyl, please contact me. We want to thank all who supported this raffle by purchasing tickets, and want to thank everyone for including us in the “Family” by adding the K5TAL to the Family Banner.

God and Country

Robert “Don” Rand, “KA5DON”

Post 1992 Bingo Supervisor

On Nov 20th the Bingo Aux gave away a turkey and ham.

We had a fruitful Toys for Tots Bingo Is on the Dec 4th. Dec. 8th Bingo Legion is giving away a turkey and ham.

We didn’t have Bingo on Christmas day but we will be back to our regular Sunday bingo Sessions on January 1st 2017.

For God and Country

Bill McKee