



OUR LEGION FAMILY

Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 American Legion, Inc.

3824 Old Spanish Trail, (Mail address: Post Office Box 682, Gautier, MS 39553)

Newsletter March - April 2017

Post Phone # (228) 497-6422

Freedom Isn't Free

Post 1992 Commander

The first two months of 2017 have proven to be busy in all respects. The New year started out with a bang and breakfast, everyone had a great time.

January 21st was the Mid-Winter Conference, membership is in the forefront. There are some good tips that have been made available to assist in promoting membership. Look for fliers at the Post.

For all who attended the Mid-Winter Conference, thank you for your participation in representing Gautier-Vancleave American Legion Post 1992. I truly hope that you received a lot of good information and questions answered. The Convention is a time of receiving information on finances, membership, awards are given out, and information on what is coming up in future.

Bob Backel scheduled a Flag Retirement Ceremony for January 14th, 2017. It went well and all flags were retired, thank you to First Vice, ALR, and guest for your participation. It is our members volunteering personal time that ensure the American Legion programs work and tradition is maintained.

Post 1992 sent out word to help tornado victims in Petal and Hattiesburg. Randy and Cindy Auth loaned their trailer for the supplies gathered. Randy and Cindy delivered donations from the ALR, members of Post 42 and Post 1992, and the citizens of Gautier and Ocean Springs February 13th to Petal. Thank you to all who donated and a special thanks to Randy and Cindy for their time and efforts. This is what we do "Veteran's Serving Veteran's" and the community.

The National Commander Charles E. Schmidt stopped by the Post for dinner, February 15th, 2017. Everyone who joined the dinner party had a good time and came on board with the National Commanders "Carry the Legacy Forward". Many thanks for the support of our Department Commander and Southern Area Representatives. Thank you to all the Post Commanders who represented their Post, Unit 42, Unit 160, and Unit 1992 for their support with dishes. Thank you to our Legion and Unit members who kept the tables organized and conducted kitchen cleanup. These functions don't happen without the support of the American Legion Families. This was the seventh year our Post had the honor of sponsoring a dinner for the National Commander's visit to our state.

District 9 Oratorical was held February 18th, 2017, at Post 1992. Angel Anderson's coordination of the staff and judges made for a smooth and enjoyable time for all.

We are looking forward to the Men's Club Mardi Gras parade. By the time this is received I am quite sure we all have had a great time throwing and receiving Mardi Gras beads. Many thanks to those who decorated, rode the float, and walked the parade representing Post 1992.

April 1, 2017 is the annual Post 1992 Drawdown get your tickets now, before they are all gone. This is the biggest fundraiser for Post 1992. Your support and your participation are needed to make this year a success. We look forward to the comradery, food, and fun each year. If you would like to volunteer in working the drawdown, please submit your name via email to lois_hendrickson@yahoo.com or stevemere187@gmail.com, (that's *lois[underscore]Hendrickson*.) Dishes and desserts are always welcome. Anyone who has the gift of persuasion, letters for collecting door prizes can be acquired from the Commander.

April 8th, 2017, the Southern Area District meeting will be held in Bay Springs. More information to follow.

Garage sale hosted by Post 1992 is tentatively set for Saturday, April 29th. Look for more information at Post 1992 and on line under events on the Am. Legion Gautier-Vancleave Facebook. (*The site with the sunset.*)

March is going to be another busy month; the Sons of the American Legion have big plans to hold a tribute to Emergency First Responders. Look for more information on what is happening at Post 1992. I would also like to thank the SAL for their contribution to Boys and Girls State programs.

Unit 1992 will be hosting the American Legion Auxiliary's National President April 22, 2017. Volunteer your time to support the Auxiliary. Membership is important to the Auxiliary, there are a multitude of programs that need your support. Check us out today!

American Legion Riders have plans to attend the Blessing of the Bikes to be held at the Methodist Church in Gautier. The ALR also have raffles going on. See the ALR members for more information and raffle tickets. I would like to thank the ALR for their contribution to Boys and Girls State.

American Legion Radio Club has several events coming up giving you the opportunity to participate in how the ham radios work and letting you speak to others around the United States and across the seas. I would like to thank K5TAL for their contribution to Boys and Girls State.

Significant dates in the History of the American Legion:

- March 15-17, 1919: The American Legion is founded in Paris by members of the American Expeditionary Force. Post 1992 will hold a cake cutting celebration for the 98th year of the American Legion on March 15th at 6 PM. Would like to see you at the Post.
- March 28, 2000: The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion donated \$2.7 million to the World War II Memorial Fund. Donations exceed 3.4 million by year end.

One last note, it is time to start thinking about officers for Post 1992. If you are interested in running for a position talk with your Executive Committee members for more information. You must be a member in good standing to run.

“Veterans Supporting Veterans”

For God and Country

Flo Hendrickson

Post 1992 1st Vice Commander

Les e le bon temps roulette Y'all!! Happy Marti Gras! Hope you had a great time at the Men's Club and areas parades and festivities! The Legion Float wo awards in the Gautier Parade and we all had a blast!! Our Oratorical went well and we had two fantastic young ladies who truly were impressive with their presentations! Lots of luck to them as they move on to the next level.

As the commander eludes to, lots of great things coming up at the Post including more live music and great food! Grab your friend and cohorts and bring'em out to see what our Post has to offer! If you have any ideas for a Friday “feed” let us know—we are splitting up the Friday cooking duties among the legion family groups and want to keep Friday going as a night out for family, food and entertainment!

Our 3rd vice Tim had done a great job putting together an entertainment lineup that I am sure you will enjoy! Let us know if you have any new ideas for other types of events or entertainers so we can bring you more!!

SEE YOU AT THE POST!! ☺

For God and Country

Scott Mitchell

Post 1992 Adjutant

If you have not renewed 2017 Dues your membership is now **SUSPENDED... 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 384 members. There are currently **56** members who still owe their 2017 dues, that is 16% of last year's membership.

Sadly, we lost one of our members in February; John S. Devera, Sr. He will be sorely missed by all their fellow veterans and members of Post 1992.

Please join me in welcoming our new or returning members in January: Leo Carr, and Candyce Martin and in February: Rueben Lyons (a WWII veteran who joined on his 100th Birthday.) 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: Bob Backel and SAL member, Tony Bankston for their support of The American Legion and for growing our membership rolls. We need all members to actively recruit at least one new members to get our membership numbers up to make up for normal attrition of Post members.

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 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

We are looking toward March and April being great for entertainment. Bands include Jamie Hyatt, Amanda Jones, Island Sounds and oldies with Double Dee Band and the Former Center Stage Band now known as Vintage Vibe. The kitchen will be serving every Friday night in addition to Seafood and Steak Night. Lounge Tuesday Bingo, Karaoke Wednesday and Trivia Thursdays ensure something for everyone. I hope everyone continues to come to our events to support our Post charities and help keep our post going strong.

For God and Country

Tim Honeycutt

Post 1992 Chaplain

Greetings Legion Family, I hope the first couple of months of the new year have been good so far. I hope the next couple of months will bring you some great times. I hope everyone enjoyed the Mardi Gras season so far and is getting ready to settle back down in preparation of Easter and the celebration of the resurrection.

Please let us remember the souls of all that have passed and pray for their loved ones! Let us continue to pray for those that are sick and remember all that are in need of Gods blessings!

Please keep the family of John S. Devera, Sr. in your thoughts and prayers following his passing.

Please keep Bob Yake in your prayers for a speedy recovery from his surgery.

" I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

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

For God and Country

David Wicker

Post 1992 Judge Advocate

We received our fire/theft/contents insurance policy last month (February). Like most policies, it's a novel – 57 pages. Almost all the discussed policy exclusions/ exemptions, but does not address our above specific coverages; however, I have been assured that those items are, in fact, covered.

Reminder: If you're a Member in Good Standing with our Department of the American Legion, you are eligible for LegionCare: \$5,000 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion Business, or, \$1,000 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 all 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 several locations within the Post, or contact the Adjutant, Judge Advocate 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. Order forms can be obtained from the Duty Bartender, Adjutant or Judge Advocate.

For God and Country

Bob Backel

President Unit 1992 American Legion

Thank you to those who purchased pork chop dinners in February, it was a successful fundraiser to support our programs. Just as much, thank you to the ladies who cooked and served.

Girls State applications have been given to counselors at Gautier and Vancleave High School. We are grateful for the donations from SAL and the Radio Club who are each sponsoring one girl to the annual event where young women learn about the duties and privilege of citizenship.

We will be recognizing Women Servicewomen and Veterans on March 24. Plans are also underway for an Easter egg hunt for the children of Active Duty Servicemen and Service women.

We will be welcoming National Auxiliary President Mary E. Davis of Lacey Washington to our Post Home for dinner on April 22. Unit 42 of Ocean Springs is co-hosting and Unit 160 of Pascagoula is also supporting it. All members of the American Legion family are invited to the program which will be similar to that of the National Commander whom we enjoyed meeting in February. We are hoping to decorate the tables with fresh Mississippi Magnolias (which should be in bloom then). If you have a Magnolia tree --- please, please volunteer to cut a few blossoms.

We meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; I encourage you to attend and to become involved with our programs of service to veterans, the community and education.

For God and Country

Cindy Harper

American Legion Riders Chapter 1992

As the ALR continues to grow and support our America Legion Family, we are grateful for the support.

It is almost time for the American Legion Scholarship Committee to meet to review applications. Please be sure that if you have a high school student wishing to apply, be sure to get the application in. Deadline is to be announced.

The raffle for a AR-12 rifle is still going on and very few tickets are remaining. Winning ticket to be drawn following the D-Day Poker Run.

The setup is in full swing for the D-Day Poker Run. The event will be held on June 3rd with a weather date of 10 June.

Our committee chairman, Patricia Manuel, and her team are doing a great job. If anyone has any questions or would like to help, please let me or Pat know.

Further details will be announced soon! Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for events and details.

For God and Country

David Belcher

President Amateur Radio Club – (Call-sign K5TAL)

By the time you read this, 2 seminal events will have elapsed. First, the floor will have been put down on the Communications Trailer. This required putting down thin plywood to cover the oil soaked floor that wouldn't allow the peel-n-stick vinyl squares to stick. Second, the Fishing Trip Charter Captain has been locked in, and the Raffle Ticket Sales will have begun, hopefully by March 1. Proceeds for this raffle go to scholarships for Boys and Girls State. There will be 300 tickets available, at \$5.00 so please step up and help this wonderful cause. And, have a chance to win a 4-hour fishing trip with Captain Wild Bill of Reel Outlaw Charters in Biloxi. Reeloutlaw16.com is his web site. The drawing will be held May 31.

On March 13th, K5TAL will be on the air for the 98th Birthday of the American Legion.

The Amateur Radio Club is proud to announce the male scholarship to Boys State is the Grandson of Larry Peoples. His name is Adam, and he also has a ham radio license. We still have a scholarship for a Girl Candidate, and these 2 scholarships are not part of the Fishing Raffle Scholarship monies.

As we say in Ham Radio speak, 73 (Best Wishes).

God and Country

Robert "Don" Rand, "KA5DON"

Post 1992 Bingo Supervisor

As you should already know, Sunday Bingo is Post 1992's biggest single revenue generators to support what the Post does for veterans, veteran's families, school programs and the community. It is a large task and takes volunteers to run and administer. Thus far it is supported by just a few volunteers and it only takes four or five hours per week, but it gets old when the same few people have to do it every week. Please step up and devote at least one Sunday afternoon a month to assist by volunteering to help YOUR Post.

For God and Country

John Deveau for Bill McKee

Post 1992 SAL Commander

Coming up on May 13th the SAL will be preparing a First/Emergency Responders Day dinner and special events day. All the First/Emergency Responder's families and Legion family are also invited. There will be a fish fry, hamburgers and hotdogs provided. There will be attractions for the kids and various displays/attractions.

For God and Country

John Deveau for Tony Bankston