

NEAL E. FONGER POST 179  
P.O. BOX 306  
GRANDVILLE, MI 49468-0306  
PHONE 616-453-9861

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRANDVILLE, MI  
PERMIT NO. 44



1191  
Members

Legion: 561  
Auxiliary: 287  
S.A.L.: 343



# FONGER'S HIGHLIGHTER

MAY, 2017

Member of M.A.L.P.A. • Ruth Buist, Editor

Vol. 27 • Issue 5

## FROM THE COMMANDER . . .

Legion Family,

My year as Commander is nearing an end, and as I look back at all the good that has been done, I'm amazed at the effort that so many have put in to make it a success. As I said before, if the membership so deems it, I will stay on for ONE more year. The Commander's 10 day meeting will be May 13 at 10:30 a.m., unless there is a new Commander who changes it. I wanted to give all a heads up so that as many as possible can make it – it is open to all of the Legion family. Again, thanks to all who have made this a great year. P.S. it's time to start thinking and planning for the annual picnic. Let's make it better than last year if that's possible.

ONE TEAM - ONE FIGHT

Mike Hawes, *Commander, Post 179*

**CLUBROOM HOURS:** Sunday: Noon to 8:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: Noon to 10:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: Noon to 11:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday: Noon to Midnight

## FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER . . .

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to make the 2017 Fish Fry a success and a big thank you to all who came out and enjoyed some great Alaskan Pollock and Smelt this year. As we cool the fryers down for another year, mark your calendars – the Fish Fry 2018 will begin on Friday, February 16, 2018. See you there.

Remember, Officer Nominations and Elections will take place at the May meeting, which will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Remember that the S.A.L. meetings are held the First Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Roger Meyers, *S.A.L. Commander, Squadron 179*

Visit our website and Facebook for more news and information:  
[www.americanlegionpost179.com](http://www.americanlegionpost179.com)  
[facebook.com/AmericanLegionNealEFongerPost179](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionNealEFongerPost179)

## Memorial Day Activities

Flag Placement at Grandville Cemetery:

Friday, May 26, 6 p.m. – Everyone welcome!

Grandville Parade:

Monday, May 29

8 a.m. - Meet at Post 179;

8:30 a.m. - Assemble at Wedgewood Park;

9 a.m. - Ceremony at Wedgewood Park;

9:15 a.m. - Parade marches to Grandville Cemetery,  
Ceremony following at Cemetery

Please come out to support our Veterans

## MAY MEETING DATES

S.A.L. Meeting . . . . . May 1 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting . . . . . May 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Legion Meeting . . . . . May 9 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Legion Riders . . . . . May 28 @ 11:30 a.m.  
Boy Scouts . . . . . Every Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT . . .

It was an honor to present an Honorary Life Member certificate to our dedicated secretary of the last five years, Susan Wagner. She has been a member since 1956, when her Mom (Mary Jane Wagner) signed her up. Sue has been a big asset to the Auxiliary with her excellent skills and humor in the minutes. She has decided to step down as secretary and she will be greatly missed. Thank you, Sue, for your hard work. We are in need of a new secretary and it would consist of taking the minutes and other small secretarial duties. If you are interested, you can call me with any questions, and we will train you and help you along the way. Please consider this position and don't hesitate contacting me. My phone number is 616-723-2398.

It is exciting to tell you about a new project that we will be starting. The Auxiliary is grateful to be given a quilting sewing machine. We are going to be starting a quilting group to sew quilts for our veterans. If you are not someone who can sew, we still have a job for you with help cutting the squares and putting the quilts together. The organization is "Quilt of Valor" and please look them up online at [qov.org](http://qov.org) and read about this fine group or call Julie Postma at 616-669-5289 for more information.

Please put on your calendar our next meeting on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.. Come and join us and hear about our fun events and all the work we are doing for our veterans.

Finally, please mark on your calendar the June 12 meeting, as it is our Potluck. Please bring a dish to pass in June. Happy hour is at 6:00 p.m., followed by a short meeting and dinner. This is a fun night and we would love to meet you.

Debbie Weatherbee, *President, Auxiliary Unit 179*

**Thank You** to Leeland Berman-Wright and Miya, Marcus, & Cole Lindermulder for helping our crafters and vendors with carrying things to their vehicles. We appreciate you!

## RED, WHITE & BLUE BOOK CLUB

Did you know that Team Red, White and Blue has a book club that meets every 2nd Thursday of the month in the downstairs meeting room? Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity. We hold physical activities, competitions, social events, and volunteering as a team. Team RWB restores comradery and sense of brotherhood, Team, and purpose. Contact me if you need more info on activities or events.

I would like to invite any Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Rider members to join us. The books we read can be read in one month or broken up over two monthly meetings. Please keep an eye on the events page on the Post website (<http://americanlegionpost179.com/events>) for current book. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

Sheila Manning, [sheila.manning@teamrwb.org](mailto:sheila.manning@teamrwb.org)



## MAY 2017 CALENDAR DAILY SPECIALS

**Sundays:** 16 oz. beer \$2.50

**Sunday, May 14:** Grand Rapids Reptile Show 10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$5 Adults, \$1 Children

**Mondays:** Regular Hot Dogs \$1.00, / Jumbo Hot Dogs or Polish Dogs \$1.50 / Free Shuffleboard

**Monday, May 29** – Memorial Day

**Tuesdays:** Bingo, 10:30 a.m. / Philly Cheese Steak \$4.00/ Canned Beer \$1.75 / Free Pool

**Wednesdays:** Turkey Reuben \$4.00 / Well Drinks \$2.00 Noon 'til 6 p.m. / **Karaoke with George Gregory 7-11 p.m.**

**Thursdays:** Small Burrito \$5.50 / Large Burrito \$6.50 / Hard or Soft Tacos \$2.00

**Fridays:** Bingo, 10:30 a.m. / Chicken Strips with Fries \$5.00 / Red Shirt Day - 25¢ off all drinks when wearing a red shirt to support our troops

**Friday, May 5** – Cinco de Mayo / Bike Night Kick-off / Topsy & The Kickstands, 7-11 p.m.

**Friday, May 12** – Lew Russ, 7-11 p.m.

**Friday, May 19** – Open Mic Night

**Saturday, May 13:** Coin Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Saturday, May 13:** The 6-pak - \$5 cover, in the hall, 7-11 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. – Open to the Public

### FEATURED BEER OF THE MONTH

Leinenkugel Summer Shandy

Goose Island Green Line • Nebraska Brewing Company

### HAPPY HOUR 3-6 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY!

*Happy Hour is real time, not bar time*

**\$5.00** Pitchers / **\$2.00** Well Shot & Pop /

**\$2.00** Glass of Wine / **\$2.00** 16 oz. Miller Lite, 16 oz. Coors, 16 oz. Coors Light, 16 oz. Bud & 16 oz. Bud Light

## SAVE THE DATE . . .

- June**
- 1 – Wine & Canvas
  - 3 – Riders Veterans Memorial Ride Fundraiser (Open to the Public)
  - 11 – Grand Rapids Reptile show
  - 17 – Coin Show
  - 24 – Stamp Show
- August**
- 12 – Post Picnic

## WINE & CANVAS . . .

Wine & Canvas is coming to Post 179! Mark your calendars! On Thursday, June 1st, Post 179 will be hosting a Wine & Canvas guided painting class at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$35. You may register at the Post. Online registration will be available on May 20th, 2017. Please visit our website and Facebook page for more details as they become available. We hope to see you there!

## FROM THE CLUBROOM COMMITTEE . . .

Wow! What a year we have had!

We have seen many positive things happen in the Post 179 Clubroom. With your help and suggestions, we have bought new equipment, brought on many new events and created a positive and new attitude, which has really helped our Post to grow. Thank you so much for your support and suggestions! With this effort, we have shown it is the best way to grow our membership, with satisfied customers, which is our Number 1 priority!

Check out the calendar to see what new events are being offered. Thanks to you all!

**Glenn Dys, Clubroom Committee Chairman**

## FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER . . .

Service Officer hours prior to the May Board meeting will be held starting at 4:30/5:00 p.m.; however, will not be held in June, July and August. I am taking the summer months off. Veterans will still be able to contact me at 616-430-7070 or by email. My email address is parkerloisa@yahoo.com. Service Officer hours will return in September. Until then, have a great summer.

**Lois Parker, Service Officer**

## NOMINATIONS FOR LEGION OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018:

The following members were nominated at the April meeting:

**Commander:** Mike Hawes

**First Vice Commander:** Randy Wierenga, Rob McCarty

**Second Vice Commander:** LaDonna Siebelink

**Finance Officer:** David Buist

**Judge Advocate:** Bill Schrader

**Chaplain:** Ray Groendyk, Jesus Sanabria

**Sergeant at Arms:** Scott Mullarkey

**Service Officer:** Lois Parker

**Executive Board:** Rob McCarty, Greg Ferguson, Bill Greiner, Garland "Bud" Bronson, Jerry Costen (three positions available)

**Clubroom Committee:** Scott Mullarkey, Jesus Sanabria, John Stout (Two positions open.) Glenn Dys announced he is resigning at the end of this term. Bruce Fahling has a year left. There is one two-year position and one three-year position open.

**Building Committee:** Jesus Sanabria, Bill Greiner, LaDonna Siebelink (One position open.) Milt Teunis has two years left. Randy Wierenga has one year left. There is one Three-year position open.

Nominations will be reopened prior to the election of officers at the May meeting. Installation will immediately follow the election in May.

## FROM THE 179 RIDERS . . .

Happy Spring from the ALR 179! We are excited that bike nights are back! Our first bike night will be this week on May 5! We hope to see you all there! It will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration! Come join in all the fun! We will be having bike nights every week, and are excited to spend time with all of our Legion family! We will also be presenting our first open mic night on the 19th, as well as on the 3rd Friday of each month through the summer, with our very own Nate Broene heading it up! If you would like to sing or play, please let him know. It should be a great time.

Even though the clock is winding down, we are still looking for sponsors for our 3rd Annual Veterans Memorial Ride, on June 3rd. If you would like to be a sponsor, know of someone who would, or would just like more information, you can contact our Director, Joe Moschetti, at jmosketti@gmail.com. If you ride, please plan on joining us! If you don't ride, please still come for dinner when we get back! We should be back to the post at about 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd. We will have some incredible food, as well as some great raffle and auction items that we guarantee you won't want to miss!

We are still working with the Grandville Parks and Rec Department on the 4th of July celebration. There will be a car and bike show at the Post as part of the festivities. If you would like to enter the show, or know someone who would, please let us know! And we are looking to share this opportunity with the entire Post! We are looking for volunteers to help out during the morning and afternoon at the event! Let's all work together – One Team, One Fight!

*The 179 Legion Riders*

## ARTIST NEEDED

Post 179 is looking for an artist to help us with a project.

If you know an artist or are interested, please give us a call at 616-453-9861.

## GIRLS STATE NEWS . . .

It's time to celebrate a success for the Girls State Program! Girls State is a seven-day mock government program where girls learn about civics and American government in a fast-paced, interactive program of campaigning, debating, voting, and electing mock local and state leaders. The summer of 2015, Auxiliary Unit 179 had sent Elvira Katarina Kovachevich a.k.a. Kate, to Michigan State University for the week long, exciting opportunity that is Girls State.

Kate is currently a freshman at Michigan State University, majoring in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy while minoring in French. Her passion and hard work has resulted in her acceptance to a legislative internship with Congressman Dan Kildee (D-MI 5th District) in Washington DC this summer!

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179 wants to let Kate know how proud we are of her accomplishment and wish her good luck in her future endeavors!

**Sheila Manning, Girls State Chairman**