

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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1128
Members



Legion: 497
Auxiliary: 272
S.A.L.: 359



FONGER'S HIGHLIGHTER

FEBRUARY, 2018

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

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FROM THE COMMANDER . . .

It's amazing how fast the first month of 2018 has flown by. As we begin the month of February it is important for us to recognize that it is also Black History month. As our country and Post 179 continue to remember and honor all Veterans, in February we have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our African-American brothers and sisters who served our country throughout history.

This month, let us all take time to learn more about the contributions of African-American groups and Veterans like the Tuskegee Airmen, The Montford Point Marines or Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients like Cornelius H. Charlton or Dwight H. Johnson, amongst many others. The stories of these men and women who proudly served our country with patriotism, heroism and courage provide inspiration to all of us. So this month, as we recognize these achievements, let us find inspiration in these many stories and contributions to move forward together as one Post with common goals of serving the community, our members, and Veterans.

I look forward to seeing you all at the family meeting at the Post on February 4th at 3 p.m. At that time I will address the financial concerns that were brought up several months ago and lay out my vision for our Post for the coming year. We have also set up a new email address, because I want to hear from you! Email me directly at commander@americanlegionpost179.com.

After the family meeting I hope to spend some time getting to know everyone in the clubroom while we watch the Super Bowl. I hope to see everyone then!

Scott Mullarkey, Commander, Post 179



IT'S SIMPLE – If your 2018 dues have not been paid, you are no longer a member. Membership has value – Renew your dues now!

NOTE FROM MELISSA WRIGHT. . .

American Legion Post 179 is my second home. I'm humbled to be an Auxiliary member, while my husband Chad Wright and 2 sons are S.A.L. Members. My pride for my Post runs deep – it is my place of employment, the Charter Organization for my Scouting Tenure, and my go-to place to volunteer; I give back there, knowing what our 1,000 plus members give to our community and local Veterans. We are over a thousand strong working together for others, yet we have neglected our own home. We have an aging building that needs some TLC and upgrades. I challenge 100 of us to donate \$100 each to upgrade our heating and cooling system. I threw in the first \$100, now only \$9,900 to go (this money will not only replace one of our three units but will leave a healthy chunk behind towards a second unit). Donations can be given directly to the bartenders in the clubroom, then write your name in a square on the pink poster-board labeled "Do a Good Turn Daily". ****Or mail a check in, noting your donation in the memo, and we will write your name in for you.

FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

S.A.L. Meeting February 5 @ 7:00 p.m.
Auxiliary Meeting . . . February 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
Legion Meeting February 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
Legion Riders February 25 @ 11:30 a.m.
Boy Scouts Every Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT . . .

Hi Everyone:

I was so honored to present the 1st Place Award in the Department of Michigan Public Relations Contest (Public Relations Selfie Contest) to Sheila Manning at our January meeting. She won this contest by submitting a selfie picture for the Dictionary Project. Let's congratulate her for winning this certificate, and great job, Sheila!

The Auxiliary is collecting non-perishable food items for the Community Rebuilders. They are a local group that helps homeless Veterans get off the streets and into temporary or permanent housing. Their pantry is very low. Please help us by putting a can or two in the Red Bucket in the Clubroom. Thank you so much for donating for this very worthy group.

At our February 12 meeting we are looking forward to a visit from our 5th District President, Melissa Townes. Please come and join us welcoming her to our meeting.

Also, we will be hosting a 5th District Meeting at our Post. The meeting is March 20. It is a dessert meeting and if you would like to donate a dessert for this meeting, please contact me at 616-723-2398.

Thank you for helping the Auxiliary to be so successful this year. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Debbie Weatherbee, President, Auxiliary Unit 179

DAN ANDERSON AND THE SLED DOGS! FEBRUARY 3rd • 9:30 A.M.

Join us on February 3rd, 2018 to meet Mr. Dan Anderson and his amazing sled dogs from Tun-Dra Kennels. This event is fun for all ages, including adults! Attendees will learn about Alaska and its resources, the Iditarod, equipment used, and best of all, meet the sled dogs! You won't want to miss this! See ya there!

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Post is seeking bags of candy donations for an Easter Egg Hunt that will be held on Saturday, March 31st at 9 a.m. at the Post. This event will be open to the entire community.



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FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

DAILY SPECIALS

Monday & Tuesday specials: 1.25 can beer for your entire visit with a purchase of any food item. (This runs all day. Excludes cashews, pretzels, popcorn, a bag of chips, and candy bags)

Big Beer Sunday: 16 oz. cans \$2.25 / Chicken Ranch Wrap and Fries \$4.50

Sunday, February 4: Legion Family Meeting, 3 p.m. / Superbowl Sunday

Sunday, February 11: Grand Rapids Reptile Show 10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$5 Adults, \$1 Children

Monday Mania: Regular Hot Dogs \$1.00, / Jumbo Hot Dogs or Polish Dogs \$1.50 / Free Shuffleboard

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

Well Wednesday: \$2.00 Well Drinks / Turkey Reuben \$4.00 / Karaoke with Sherry Hansen 7-11 p.m.

Taco Thursday: Hard or Soft Tacos \$2.00 / Small Burrito \$5.50 / Large Burrito \$6.50

Thursday, February 22: Wine & Canvas, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, February 3: Dan Anderson & the Sled Dogs, 9-11 a.m. (Open to the Public)

Saturday, February 10: Pair-a-Dice Motorcycle Club Valentine's Fundraiser / the Rooster and Jack daily show

Saturday, February 17: Shuffleboard Tournament / Coin Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Open to the Public)

Saturday, February 24: Bottle Show, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. / Greg Poltrock

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

FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER . . .

Fish Fry is starting this month on Friday, February 16, 2018 at 5 p.m. and we will be serving fish until 7 p.m. Stop on by for a great fish dinner. We will be having Fish Frys every Friday until Good Friday on March 30, 2018, giving you multiple opportunities to attend one or several. See you at one of the Fish Frys.

Volunteers are always welcome to assist with Fish Fry activities. We can use volunteers on Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m. for transferring fish to the fish trays for ease when battering the fish for frying on Fridays, which is the other opportunity for volunteers. We can use volunteers on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for setup, serving and cleanup.

If you have not renewed your S.A.L. membership for 2018, you are late. Get your membership for 2018 in quickly, so as not to be denied membership privileges because you are late.

Remember that the S.A.L. meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and our next meeting will be Monday, February 5, 2018. March's meeting will be held Monday, March 5, 2018.

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

CLUBROOM HOURS: Sunday: Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Noon to 11:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: Noon to 11:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

3/31, 9 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

4/14 – Spring Craft & Vendor Show

5/11 – Bike Nights Start (2nd Friday)

11/10 – Marine Corps Birthday Gala

FROM THE 179 RIDERS . . .

As the new officers take their positions within the Riders, we would like to start off by saying we are excited for what is to come in this New Year. We are just under 5 months away from our 4th Annual Veterans Memorial Ride for Doug DeRidder, on June 2nd, 2018! We are looking for sponsors and donations – as always, there are forms in the Rider's book at the bar for our sponsors. We have big plans this year and look forward to seeing everyone there!

We are also building presence statewide by participating in more ALR plaque runs this year. It is our goal to win the Plaque Run trophy while also increasing the camaraderie with other posts. If you happen to see riders from other posts taking our plaques, please welcome them as if they were our own. If you haven't checked out the Riders lately, meetings are held on the last Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. We are looking forward to 2018!

The 179 Legion Riders

FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER . . .

For over a year now I have been at our Post 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. providing Post Service Officer hours to our members on Legionnaire meeting nights; however, February will be the last month of scheduled hours. Why? Little useage. I will still be available, just a phone call away (616) 430-7070 or at parkerloisa@yahoo.com. I text as well, so you can text me too. I try to reply to all correspondence within twenty-four hours. If we agree to meet I make our meeting at the Post if at all possible.

Lois Parker, Service Officer



FISH FRYS

**5 - 7 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30**

~GIRL SCOUT GAZETTE~

After an amazing Holiday season full of caroling, the Girl Scouts are ready for COOKIE SEASON!!! This summer, they are planning a High Adventure canoeing trip on the White River. They are getting ready for white water rafting the following summer. You can help support them by purchasing cookies at any of the following booth locations:

Sunday, February 25, at the Family Fare on Port Sheldon and 28th: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, February 28 during Karaoke at Post 179: 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10 during the Coin Show: 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. This is a drive up booth outside of the Post! Stay inside your car and have your cookies brought to you by our girls' smiling faces!

If you cannot get to one of the booths, please email GSTroop4161@gmail.com to set up a time to get cookies :).

Please see the clubroom TV for pictures of the cookie types. All cookies are \$4 a box, with the gluten free cookies being \$5.

Thanks so much for your support, we can't wait to share our adventures with our Legion members this year!

Ms. Minda Floyd-Schoutens, Troop #4161 Leader

PLAY BINGO TUESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS

Sales start at 9:30 • Play starts at 10:30

Weather Reminder – If Grandville Schools are closed, Bingo will be closed.

WILWIN QUILT PROJECT

First project is finished and on to the next. Come and join us at 2 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month in making quilts for the Wilwin lodge. These are offered as comfort to the Veterans who spend time there with their families. The Post 179 Legion Riders are working hard to donate enough money to build a new cabin. It's a worthy cause for the entire Post to support.

Julie Postma