

AMERICAN LEGION POST 54

NEWSLETTER



62 West Main Street Freehold, NJ 07728 732-431-8664

Officers 2011-2012

America Legion Post 54

Cmdr	James Schottman
1 st Vice	Ken Pulchiopek
2 nd Vice	Chad Dougherty
Adjutant	Carl Beams
Finance	Paul Cartwright
Judge Adv	Bernie Weinstein
Chaplain	Tom Sheil
Historian	Tom Sheil
Sgt/Arms	John Heege
Svc Officer	Chad Dougherty
House Chm	Ed Riddle

Sons of American Legion Squadron 54

Cmdr	Robin Burst
1 st Vice	Billy Anderson
2 nd Vice	Craig Burst
Jr. Vice	Rich Whalen
Adjutant	Billy Anderson
Finance	Mike O'Brien
Chaplain	John Gierlowski
Sgt/Arms	Joe Heege

Commander's Column

By James Schottman, Commander

Fellow Servicemen my name is James Schottman. I am a Desert Storm era serviceman. I would like to thank the members of Post 54 for putting their trust in me to be Commander. Post 54 is a great community of veterans and friends who all keep focused on our goal to serve our country. The Post is very active in taking part in many public activities such as parades and ceremonies, as well as various social events that are indicated on the Post Happenings page of this newsletter. During the past few

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 54

President	Mary Ann Biggs
Vice Pres	Florence Malibushka
Secretary	Isabelle Lewis
Treasurer	Christine Brodi
Chaplain	Susan Kodila
Membership	Isabelle Lewis

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months we have come together to tackle tough issues like sickness and loss, as well as budgeting and improvements to our building and grounds. Looking towards the future there is still a lot to do. I have an outstanding group of officers and people working to make Post 54 one to look up to and always keeping our veterans first. We look forward to your participation and support, but most of all to seeing you at the Post for a meeting or participating in one of our many upcoming events.

Sons of the American Legion Update

By Billy Anderson, 1st Vice Commander

We are well into 2012 and only 30 members are up to date with their dues. Please remember that your dues are what enables S.A.L. to keep going and helps with the fundraisers and raffles during the year. You can drop your dues off at the Post, or mail them in at your earliest convenience. We thank you for your continued membership and support.

We have a few events coming up, although none larger than the **Daytona 500 Fundraiser** on Sunday, Feb 26, 2012.



The Post will be open at 12 Noon, so that you can come in early to get a good seat to watch the most exciting race of the season. Any donations of food or just a helping

hand setting up before or during the event would be appreciated. Please see Cmdr Robin Burst if you can help in any way. Also, coming soon, we'll be once again having our Spring BBQ and Raffle. See the Bulletin Board at the Post for additional information.

In closing, thank you once again for your continued support of the American Legion Post 54 Family.

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Report & News

By Mary Ann Biggs, President

It is an honor and privilege to have been appointed to serve as the President of the A.L.A. Monmouth Unit 54 for the past (2) years and to work alongside the talented and lovely ladies of our Auxiliary. These ladies are committed individuals that continually provide support and resources for our veterans and active duty military personnel. We all have a responsibility to serve our veterans and military families across the country and in our local community and what better way to give back to the men and women that sacrificed and died for us so that we could have freedom and live in this great country of the United States of America, then to be a auxiliary member. The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world. The Auxiliary is a veteran's service organization with members in nearly 10,000 American communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the National and Local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

We are currently seeking new members. Our auxiliary meets the first Friday of every month at 7 pm. Women are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary if they are themselves a veteran who served honorably or if they fall into one of the following categories: wife, mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, great granddaughter, grandmother, great grandmother of an active duty service member or veteran who served honorably during any of the eligible war eras under eligibility requirements.
(see: www.alaforveterans.org)

POPPY SALE: In May you will have the opportunity to pay tribute to all who died in service by wearing a Poppy. Please see a member of the Ladies Auxiliary.



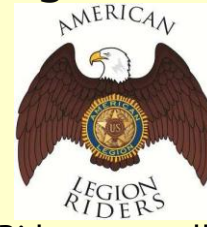
Military History Talks

By Tom Sheil

We are looking into resuming our Military History talks this year. We had two last year. Hopefully we can start again in late March or April. The idea is to have veterans give brief talks on military history. We especially would like to have speakers sharing their own experiences. However, we can cover other subjects as well. As of now, we are considering having them once a month on a Saturday afternoon.

The Military History Talks are a win for us. They cost us nothing to present. They raise our visibility to the public and boost our image. If you would be interested, please email Tom Sheil at thortrains@comcast.net

American Legion Riders



American Legion Riders are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in the Legion Legacy Run, to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001. Members of The American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion who own a motorcycle are eligible to form a Chapter. See the signup sheet at the Post for details if you are interested in forming a Chapter in Freehold.

Veterans Benefits & Information

Submitted By Paul Cartwright

Veterans' Employment and Training Service

VETS is an independent agency within the Department of Labor created specifically to assist veterans in making the transition from military to civilian life, train for and find good jobs, and to protect the employment and reemployment rights of veterans, Reservists and National Guard Members.

In partnership with other federal agencies, state and local governments, veterans service organizations, business and community groups, and professional associations, VETS provides services to both employers and

veterans. VETS is committed to providing every veteran with the opportunity to participate fully in the 21st Century's expanding economy and to grow with the nation.

VETS offers employment and training services through cooperative working arrangements and provides funds to the states under specific grant agreements to maintain staffing grants to support two national programs the **Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)** and the **Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) Program**.

Please see Veterans Benefits on page 4

Membership Dues

By Ken Pulchiopek, 2nd Vice Commander

I would like to give our members a little insight which may clear up a few things. Our Post mailings for dues are sent from national headquarters in Indianapolis. These mailings are paid by National. Because of this, the Post does not have to pay postage on these notices. It is one of the options we have taken advantage of. The first request for 2013 dues will be in July of this year. A majority of members respond to this notice and send in

their dues. The next notice is in October followed by one in December. If you wait until December to pay your dues and don't send them in early enough, they may not reach the Dept of N.J. before the holiday recess. This will result in another notice going out in January even though you have paid your dues. If you receive a membership card you can ignore this January notice. It is most beneficial for the Post if you pay your dues with the first notice in July. In fact the Post is eligible for a \$500 monetary supplement from the Dept of N.J. if we can get enough members to pay their dues in July. If you have any questions please give me a call at 732-303-0486.

Veterans Benefits from page 3

Getting Information

VETS maintains a network of State Directors of Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DVETs). Veterans, employers, and others seeking additional information about any of the programs or laws administered by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service should contact their nearest VETS representative. Information may also be

obtained through contact with LVERs or DVOPs at state employment service delivery points.

To visit the Official Dept. of Labor VETS website go to www.dol.gov/vets/

Newsletter Start Up

By Jerry Ham, Editor

I guess I should have kept quiet and never mentioned that I had not received a newsletter indicating what was going on at the Post for the past ten years I have been a member. Needless to say, I found myself at a Post meeting last summer after receiving a letter stating that you were welcome to come down to a meeting even if you didn't want to volunteer to help out. It appears that few people were showing up at meetings. One thing lead to another and the next thing I knew I had volunteered to help restart the newsletter. Since I was retired and had worked on newsletters in the past I thought I would

give it a try. So here we are, the first newsletter in almost fifteenth years. I would like to get it out at least two or three times a year, but postage and printing costs have gone up so we will see what your response will be. I would like some feedback from you the readers on what you would like to see in this newsletter. Drop us a letter or email to Post54@optonline.net. We would like to get everyones email address to send you a newsletter electronically and more frequently instead of printing and mailing it out. It will save us a bundle of money. Check out the Post website at <http://www.post54.org> for additional information. Try to make it to a meeting or event and say hello to this "old new member."

Post Happenings

By Various Contributors

A Wreaths Across America ceremony took place at Elks Point on Dec 10th. The Marine Corps League Color Guard, VFW, American Legion and Olive Branch Masons placed wreaths at each grave marker. Members of the Freehold Borough Council were present while a bagpiper played a tribute followed by taps.

Daytona 500 Day at the Post takes place on Sunday, Feb 26th. It's the first major event after our Superbowl party. Come down to partake in the food, raffles and prizes for this busy fun filled event.

St. Patrick's Day is Saturday Mar 17th featuring corned beef platters and sandwiches at a nominal charge. When the food is gone that's it so come down early and have a good time.

Classic Rock with the band Simple Grove is scheduled for Saturday Mar 24th. The S.A.L. is holding a raffle for a HD TV to help pay for the band and the food. Tickets are available now. Stop by to hear the band rehearse on Mar 14th at no cover and no fees.

Nominations & Election of Officers is coming up. See the Calendar of Events for the dates. Be sure your dues are paid up if you want to vote.

Little League team sponsorship is being headed up by S.A.L. with a 50/50 drawing every Friday. Get your tickets to support this worthy event for the kids.

Flag Retirement ceremonies will be held in the near future with help from the Boy Scouts. Look for the announcement in the lounge area.

NJ Girls State applicants from the Ladies Auxiliary will receive their recognition at Georgian Court College from Jun 17th to Jun 22nd.

Sick Call Please remember Billy Anderson, Stella Carter, Richard Shutzer, Bobby Womack and Walt Zuber in your thoughts and prayers.

Taps John Wayne "Duke" DuBois and Joy Cox, may they rest in peace.

NJ Veterans' Memorial Foundation can be supported by checking Line 60 on your New Jersey Income Tax Return. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Hall Rental Post 54 policy is that the hall is available only to American Legion members or people sponsored by a Legion/SAL/AUX member. For additional information contact Lester Preston who is in charge of the hall rentals. He can be reached at 732-462-4639.

Memorial Day 2012 is Monday, May 28th. Meet at the Post at 8 AM and proceed to Elks Point for opening ceremonies. The Parade kicks off at 10 AM on the corner of Brinkerhoft and Main St. After the Parade there will be an open house back at the Post. Food and beverages will be available at reasonable prices.

Building Clean Up We still have lots of debris left over downstairs from the flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. If you can help in removing the sheetrock and paneling to a dumpster on a Saturday, look for the sign up sheet on the bulleting board with dates that help is needed.

Golf Outing If anyone is interested in working on and bringing back the Annual Golf Outing please come down to the next meeting or contact the Commander.

NJ State Convention Will take place in Wildwood from Jun 7th to 9th. If you are interested in attending come down to a meeting and make a reservation.

Dues If you haven't paid your 2012 dues get them in now to avoid being dropped as a member.

For future use if needed.

American Legion Post 54
62 West Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728



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**James Schottman,
Commander**

Jerry Ham, Editor

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
<http://www.post54.org>

Calendar of Up Coming Events

Feb 26 Daytona 500 Day at the Post

Mar 1 Post meeting Thu 8 PM

Mar 2 AUX meeting Fri 7 PM Officer Nominations

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day at the Post w/corned beef
sandwiches and beer specials

Mar 24 TV raffle & Simple Grove classic rock band

Apr 5 Post meeting Thu 8 PM Officer Nominations

Apr 6 AUX meeting Fri 7 PM Election of Officers

Apr 16 Mon 8 PM SAL meeting & Election of Officers

May 3 Post meeting 8 PM Election of Officers

May 4 AUX meeting 7 PM

May 13 Mothers Day

May 19 Armed Forces Day & Flag placement in cemetery

May 28 Memorial Day Parade & open house. Meet at Post
at 8 AM or at the corner of Brinkerhoft & Main at 9:30

Jun 1 AUX meeting Fri 7 PM

Jun 7 Post meeting Thu 8 PM

Jun 7-9 NJ State Convention in Wildwood

Jun 14 Flag Day & SAL Summer Raffle

Jun 17 Father's Day

Jul 4 Color Corps & reading of Declaration of
Independence at Borough Hall