

American Legion Post 112

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“Together we can make a difference”

October 2023

Commander

Jim Lovain
706-260-6000

Adjutant

David Malone
423-716-5560

Senior Vice Commander

Lee Oliver
706-260-7294

Junior Vice Commanders

John Czerneski
706-847-5006

Don Gray
706-260-9190

David Malone
423-716-5560

Dewey Moss
706-463-1674

Ed Shiver
706-913-3955

Finance Officer

Bob Oxford
706-260-5279

Service Officer

George Lo Greco
706-260-6611

Chaplain

Harrison Parker
706-695-5301

Sergeant-At-Arms

Junior Hammontree
706-271-5628

Historian

Janet Duncan
706-847-5260

Judge Advocate

Ed Shiver
706-913-3955

Past Post 112 Commander

John Wilson
706-971-4251

SAL Commander

Anthony Robertson
706-285-2767

Auxiliary President

Wanda Parker
706-581-3666

The month of September was a good month for the Legion. One member had a birthday - Don Rich. We had a birthday cake for him and sang Happy Birthday. Choo Choo BBQ catered our meal and it was very good. We are still working on this month's meal.

September was the first month that The Legion had a raffle drawing. Remember, you must be present to win. Two names were drawn for the raffle and neither were here. I'm sorry, Don May and Johnny Manis, had you been present, you would have won \$50.00 each. This month we will draw two more names and hopefully, we will have some winners.

On October 18, we plan to go to the Chattanooga VA Clinic for a cookout. This cookout will be for anyone present at the Clinic. We do need some volunteers for this event. If you can help, please call the Legion and leave your name and telephone number.

We hope you will pay your membership dues ASAP. It's only \$25.00. Some posts charge more, but Post 112 Executive Board voted to charge \$25."

Keep in mind that Bingo is every Friday at 6:00 p.m. The Legion also has a Coffee Cafe every Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by sometime for a free cup of coffee and a snack. Bring a veteran friend with you.

If anyone should have a reason to get in touch with the Legion and no one is available to take your call, let me extend my phone number (706-260-6000). One last item, if you would like to receive your newsletter via email instead of regular mail, please let us know.

The Legion, as in previous years, will be hosting a Veteran's Day Parade on November 11. The November newsletter will be sent early to give detailed information on the Parade. In the meantime, please let us know if you would like to participate.

For God and Country,

Jim Lovain
Commander

VA Launches New Fraud-Protection Website

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a new website to provide resources for veterans and their families and caregivers, as well as service members, to recognize fraud associated with veterans benefits.

The new website provides advice on how veterans can protect themselves and their loved ones, how to locate an accredited representative when seeking assistance in filing for benefits, and how to report scam artists.

During a press conference on Sept. 22, VA leadership said the information also will be shared with veterans during their healthcare appointments and when communicating with VA benefits staff.

"We're getting this into the hands of our regional office directors, we're getting this into the hands of our medical center teams, so they can be talking to veterans in very plain language about this," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said during the press conference.

The PACT Act, which went into effect August of 2022, was the biggest expansion of veteran health care and benefits in decades. By Sept 14 of this year, more than 1 million PACT Act claims had been filed, with more than 550,000 processed and \$2.2 billion in earned benefits awarded to veterans and survivors.

"Any time there's new benefits or new money that's been allocated to individuals, there's an opportunity for fraudsters and scammers to come in," VA Deputy Chief of Staff Maureen Elias said during the press conference. "What we are seeing is a large increase in unaccredited service reps who are charging veterans to file their initial claim, which is not legal. They're operating in a gray area, and some of them are charging up to six times whatever a veteran receives in benefits payouts."



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 9, Columbus Day
- October 12, 5:30 pm, Executive Meeting American Legion; 6:00 pm Ladies Auxiliary
- October 19, 6:00 pm, Regular meeting SAL
- October 26, 6:00 pm, Regular meeting American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary
- October 31, Halloween

**Office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bingo - Fridays, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
Coffee Cafe - Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



As mentioned in the newsletter last month, it's almost time for our biggest fund raiser of the year and we will be needing help with parking cars at the North Georgia Fairgrounds - beginning October 19th through the 29th. Your help is needed. Contact any of the Ladies Auxiliary to volunteer.

We are still in need of items for the Dalton Family Crisis Center. Some of these needs include twin sheet sets as well as bath and personal hygiene articles for women. As most of you know, our focus for the year is on Children and Youth, as well as the needs of our local veterans and families.

Our best days are before us,

Wanda Parker

Auxiliary President



"Howdy Ya'll"! This month's vocabulary word is **STOIC** – n. one unaffected by emotion; adj.- impassive or indifferent. Military personnel, funeral directors, doctors, pastors, we all (hopefully) learn to be stoic when the need arises. *Once upon a time*, a church member where I played piano suggested a little more stoical music. So I did some straight-laced hymns, then Beethoven's Fur Elise for the "Special". After the service, several members came to me concerned "Was my heart OK", "Are you ill", "R you hurting", "We're worried about you", and "What's so troubling"? I replied that I could be as stoic as the next man. They said "We're not the FROZEN CHOSEN, we want the HAPPY CLAPPY!"... And everybody lived *happily ever after*. ATTN: Thanks to Spring Fair Car Parking proceeds, the SAL fund has paid for ALL of your 23/24 membership cards in advance. Please pay the \$12 when you're able. *October will be our last meeting this year. We'll hunker down and start the second half of our fiscal year next January 18 @ 1800h.

Sing-cerely,

Anthony J. Robertson, SAL Commander

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