

# GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

# CONTACT



6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 345-0136

<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>

VOLUME LXXXI

March/April 2024

ISSUE II

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Even though February is one of the coldest months of the year, the Post put on a warm welcome with a spectacular Valentine's Dinner in the restaurant. The "Surf and Turf" was amazing thanks to the restaurant staff, a job well done. The Auxiliary hosted over 140 guests at their Shrimp Feast. That turned out great, as always. At Greenbelt Post 136, March is roaring in like a lion. Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will put on a Super Shotgun Bingo which will feature more games, which means more chances to win money. On Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> our parking lot will be the rally point for the Department of Maryland folks going to Capitol Hill for the National Commander's testimony before a joint hearing of Congress. So, beginning at 7:00 AM, you'll notice additional cars in the parking lot. The restaurant will be offering the traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, but on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Post will be serving the traditional Corn Beef Sandwich (See ads on pages 6 and 11.) Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> is Vietnam Veterans Day. In the restaurant, all Legion members in good standing who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam Era will get 10% off on all food and nonalcoholic beverages. You must show your current Legion membership card for the discount. I plan to give Legion members in good standing more discounts during the year. Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> is Easter. To help celebrate Easter, the Greenbelt American Legion and the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department will host an Easter Egg hunt on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 1:00 PM on our beautiful front lawn. The event will be opened to the public.

By this time of the year most of the members should have renewed their 2024 American Legion membership, if not, you will have to be signed in as a guest. I'd like to remind any member who signs in a guest is responsible for the actions of your guest. I appreciate the hard work by our many volunteers to improve our aging facilities. Also, thanks to our management team and our dedicated employees for making our Post Home such a hospitable destination for our members and their friends.

God bless America, and God bless you.

Greg Gigliotti  
 Commander  
 Greenbelt American Legion, Post 136



2023/2024
Commander: Greg Gigliotti
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Harold Bullock
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Butch Hicks
Judge Advocate: Tom Davis
Sgt. at Arms: David Johnson
Chaplain: Shawn Fenstermacher
Historian: Bernie Zempolich
Finance Officer: Richard Brown
Adjutant: Mike Moore
Members at Large: Harold Schlemmer Larry Williams James Hawkins Bill Muffley

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear American Legion Members,

"For God and Country" is a phrase that encapsulates the idea of the intersection between religious faith and patriotic duty.

The Founding Fathers often invoked the idea of divine providence and the belief that America's cause was just and ordained by God. This sentiment is evident in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, which references "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" and asserts that individuals are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.

Throughout American history, "For God and Country" has been a rallying cry during times of war and conflict, emphasizing the moral and spiritual dimensions of the nation's defense. Soldiers and veterans have often invoked this phrase to express their commitment to defending the values and freedoms that they believe are ordained by God.

It serves as a reminder that the values of faith and patriotism are intertwined and mutually reinforcing, urging individuals to uphold their duties to both God and their country.

"For God and Country" represents the belief that religious faith and patriotic duty are inseparable, and that individuals have a moral obligation to defend the principles and freedoms that they hold dear, guided by their devotion to God and their love for their country.

In March, we reflect on pivotal moments such as the founding of our great nation, when brave patriots took a stand for liberty and justice, guided by their unwavering faith in God and their love for their country. March also marks the anniversary of significant conflicts where our servicemen and women exhibited extraordinary valor and sacrifice. From the Battle of Iwo Jima to the Vietnam War, veterans have demonstrated their dedication to defending the principles of freedom and democracy, often relying on their faith to sustain them through the darkest of times.

April also holds significant weight. In April, we commemorate moments of triumph and resilience, such as the end of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. These milestones remind us that the pursuit of justice and equality requires courage, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to the values that define our nation.

Throughout these historical events, one common thread binds them together: the belief that God has endowed us with certain unalienable rights, and that it is our duty as citizens to uphold these rights and defend them against tyranny and oppression. Our faith in God provides us with the strength and guidance to confront adversity with courage and resilience, knowing that we are never alone in our struggles.

As veterans, you embody the spirit of service and sacrifice that has defined our nation throughout its history. Your dedication to God and Country serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the profound impact that individuals can have when they are guided by principles greater than themselves.

With Unwavering Faith and Deepest Gratitude,

Shawn Fenstermacher

Chaplain

### THE CONTACT

The Contact is a bi-monthly newsletter published by The American Legion, Greenbelt Post 136

Publisher: Mike Moore

Editor: Bernie Zemplich

Composing: East-West Web Solutions



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



## S.A.L. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Legion Family, as always I encourage all who have not renewed dues for this year to do so quickly. Squadron membership renewal helps us keep pace with our yearly membership drive goals set by the State. Currently the Squadron needs 80 of you reading this newsletter who have not paid your 2024 dues to pay in order to be at 100% by April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you want to renew online you may do so at [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) site. You will need your membership card number from your most recent membership card (2023) to set up and pay online. Our dual members and under 18 members will still need to pay/mail into the Post. Members will be able to update mailing address and find discounts and other Legion Family information available to members on the site.

The Squadron is preparing to wrap up this administrative year and begin planning for the next year. Please find it in your heart to come help the S.A.L. a couple of hours per month; helping on Wednesday nights or with other related tasks, many hands do ease the efforts and help to grow the team. Something that we all can do in about 5 minutes is to sign up for alerts from VoterVOICE. You can follow the American Legion Legislative Priorities before Congress. These can be reviewed at [www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Bills](http://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Bills) and provide detailed descriptions of each bill before our Congress. These bills cover a range of support from benefits and employment opportunities for veterans to issues on national security. Please sign up for alerts at [www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home](http://www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home). We encourage everyone to contact your Representatives and Senators to let them know you support these bills.

Allow me to remind and encourage each of our Legion Family to Be the One! Be the One is a continuing Legion initiative and collaboration that aims to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. You don't need to be an expert to make a difference for a veteran; sharing this information that resources are available and help is just a click or phone call away is a start. Dial 988 and press 1; chat online at [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or send a text to 8838255 to receive free, confidential support. Be the One to check in on a Veteran. Be the One to make a difference in sharing this information with a neighbor or anyone in crisis. Be the one to join the squadron mission of supporting any of the pillars of the Legion.

The Southern Maryland Region S.A.L. is hosting a Spring Bull & Shrimp Feast on April 27<sup>th</sup> to be held in Annapolis. If you are interested in tickets check with an S.A.L. Officer and we can work to get them for you.

If you have any ideas or suggestions; Be the One to bring them to any of our monthly meetings or share them with our leadership team beforehand. Wednesday nights during Queen of Hearts is generally a good alternative. The S.A.L. monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 PM. Nominations for the next slate of officers will take place during the April monthly meeting with election at the May meeting.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all of the S.A.L. team who continue to help support our Legion Family either by volunteering or by patronizing the restaurant. Almost forgot, I would like you to save the date of September 14<sup>th</sup> as the Legion Crab Feast. Tickets will be available mid-summer.

Be the One...to Make a Difference,  
Lenny Wertz

S.A.L. Commander 2023/2024

**2023/2024**

Commander:  
Lenny Wertz

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:  
Lenny Wertz

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:  
Dave Fendlay

Chaplain:  
Kenny Hall

Finance Officer:  
Kevin Foster

Historian:  
Ray (Cory) Micallef

Sgt-At-Arms:  
Steve Tippett

Adjutant:  
Ray (Cory) Micallef

Advisor:  
Richard Dutton

**S.A.L.  
MEETINGS**

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
7:00 PM**

**DON'T FORGET TO  
JOIN OR RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
FOR 2024**





# AUXILIARY UNIT 136



2023/2024

Unit Officers

President:

Kathy Gigliotti

1st Vice President:

Elizabeth Darnell

2nd Vice President:

Patty Rousseau

Secretary:

Mary Fava

Treasurer:

Sandi Dutton

Chaplain:

Susan Wiener

Historian:

Rusty Beeg

Executive

Committee:

Laura Fendlay

Dora Hamm

Elizabeth Rice

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

I hope everyone is enjoying their winter. Spring is around the corner with warmer weather to come. We have 1 event coming up: Super Shotgun Bingo with the S.A.L. on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to mention that Girls State is coming up and we need candidates to Sponsor. We will also have a raffle to help support Girls State. We are reaching out to all our local Juniors to apply. It is such a great experience and looks good on a college resume.

We were busy this winter helping with donations to various local organizations:

- Charlotte Hall
- National Guard Christmas Party
- Wreaths Across American
- Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa
- Springhill Lake Elementary Toy Drive
- Greenbelt Shop With a Cop Program
- Donated to Baltimore VA, Loch Raven and Perry Point
- Sponsored Purses for Purse Bingo for Ladies Auxiliary PG County Fire Department and Rescue Association
- Snacks for: Washington DC VA Medical Center, Sisters in Arms Center in Maine for Homeless Female Veterans and Children's Center and Covenant House (which deals with homeless teens)
- Stop Soldier Suicide Calendar Fundraiser
- Sponsored 2 members for the Polar Plunge which raises money for the Special Olympics of Maryland



We appreciate all our members who volunteer their time and energy to make all this possible. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so, we need all our members.

Thank you for all your hard work this winter and let us keep it up in the Spring.

For God and Country,

Kathleen Gigliotti

President

Like our Juniors on Facebook @ 136juniorsala



### AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
7:00 PM  
excluding July & December



# SUPER SHOTGUN BINGO WITH THE S.A.L.

## Friday, March 8, 2024

## AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN /MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

We hope everyone enjoyed a loving Valentines Day and our Shrimp Feast.

The Unit welcomes our newest members Shilo Soule, Yvonne Daneri, Shirley Nelson, Elizabeth Nelson and Robin Olson. This brings our numbers up to 300 out of goal 416 about 73%. We still have members paying 2023 and 2024 (on the same check which can include your Money Bunny donation) In order to keep their continuous years membership. We also have 3 members who have already paid 2025 dues. Talk about your Early Birds!! Remember to mail your membership dues and money bunny donation to Greenbelt Unit #136, Post Office Box 1063, Greenbelt Md 20768-1063.

The Unit sends out a special welcome to our TRIPLE member, Shawn Fenstermacher. Shawn is a member of the Post, Squadron and now the Unit!! Welcome Shawn

Our sincere sympathies go out to Past Unit President, Dana Coleman on the loss of her brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Dana!

Susan Wiener,  
Membership Chairman/Chaplain  
Auxiliary Unit 136  
(301) 474-0849

### 2024 Dues For Auxiliary Members

\$30.00 Regular (Seniors with 50 years or more \$20.00)

Dual Members

\$26.00

Juniors (under 18) \$6.00



## SHOTGUN BINGO

**Tuesday**  
**Evenings**  
**7:00 PM**

*Bring a friend,  
enjoy some food,  
friends and, maybe  
even be a **BIG** winner.*

*Sponsored by the Auxiliary Unit #136*



## MONEY BUNNY!!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00

Please support our Merit  
Scholarship Program  
TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH

Drawing Date:

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Veterans Day

Please send your address labels and  
checks made payable to  
Greenbelt Unit #136 to:

Greenbelt Unit #136  
ATTN: Sandi Dutton  
P.O. Box 1063  
Greenbelt, MD 20768



The Post 136 Annual

# St. Patrick's Day

Luncheon – Sunday, March 17th

Corned Beef on Rye & Potato Salad

\$8.00



1-3pm At Post 136 in the back hall



## Queen of Hearts Wednesday Evenings

A New Drawing Will Be Held Every Wednesday Until the  
Queen of Hearts is Drawn



All Tickets Must Be Purchased by 7:15 PM the Night of the Drawing

Drawing Held: 8:00 PM - Tickets: \$5.00 each/3 for \$10.00 - Pot Starts at: \$1000.00

**This is a progressive raffle open to the public.**

One (1) ticket drawn every Wednesday

Your full name must be on your ticket(s) to be valid.

If your ticket is drawn, you may pick a card from the Queen of Hearts Board.

The amount of money won depends on the card drawn.

### ATTENTION ALL QUEEN OF HEARTS PLAYERS

The Queen of Hearts will now be offering Hold' em Cards \$1.00 each  
on Wednesday evenings to win various cash prizes. (Up to \$100.00 prizes)

Also, when getting 10 Hold' em Cards, **ONE FREE** Queen of Hearts ticket is yours as  
well!

**\*\*This offer good until further notice\*\***

*Sponsored by The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 136*

# Super Bowl Parties One and Two Attract More Than 400 Participants

*No COVID Delays, No Weather Barriers*

*(Photos and Story by Butch Hicks)*

After all American Legion Post-136 sponsored activities are considered, Super Bowl Parties One and Two are the “Blue Chip” annual events most attended with the most funds generated for veterans’ programs and community support. “It’s a dreary time of the year when, weather permitting, a fund-raising social event is welcomed,” Post Commander Greg Gigliotti said. “More than 400 participants, comprising Post 136’s family of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary and guests, experienced excellent food, entertainment and socializing opportunities.

The Super Bowl events merit praise because they lead a parade of other successful Post events: Shrimp Feasts, Valentine’s Day and St. Patrick Day Dinners, Mother’s Day Buffet, Labor Day Family Picnic, and Crab Feast. For this year’s Super Bowl One and Two activities the weather wasn’t an attendance issue. Post 136 Adjutant, Mike Moore, who coordinated ticket distribution, said, “The light snow disappeared and no COVID restrictions helped increase participation. The strong attendance generally adds about \$1,000 to Post 136 programs.”

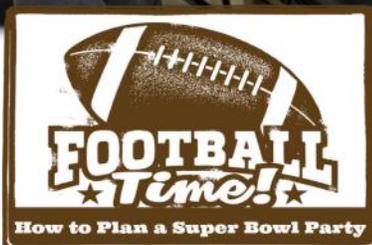
During the evening merriment at tables with six to eight celebrants increased as conversation, shouts, laughter, and loud toasts revealed social success. The evenings included DJ provided dancing music. One couple, intent upon anonymity, said, “We preferred not to flaunt our dancing style; we just enjoyed the music.” A new entertaining element was talented Karaoke participants showing vocal singularity accompanying musical choices.

As partying continued at each event, activity was complimented by a buffet presentation of Shrimp, Steaks, Oysters Rockefeller, Roast Beef, Vegetables, and plentiful desserts. It was clear, as long lines formed, the delectable layout kept partiers well fed. Richard Dutton and friends showed plates featuring numerous empty Oyster Rockefeller shells. “The parties are always fun,” he said. “There’s good food and then there’s the oysters – they are a favorite. The full oyster trays arrive from the kitchen and quickly become empty oyster trays.”

“The Greenbelt American Legion Family came together as always to ensure the Super Bowl Parties were a great event.” said Gigliotti. “Neither the weather nor COVID concerns were issues. The dedicated, hardworking volunteers and loyal patrons added additional insurance to an amazing two nights of fun and fund raising for Post 136 veterans and community programs.”



Richard Dutton (striped sweater) enjoys Oysters Rockefeller with friends at Super Bowl 2 Party.



These Super Bowl partiers were among the more than 200 participants each night at Super Bowl Parties One and Two.

*(Story and photos continued on next page.)*

## Post 136 Super Bowl One and Two Parties *Preparation and Volunteer Support Make Them Happen!*

Planning goes into all Post events, but the Bowl parties require more support resources: extended food acquisition, including fresh oysters, facility preparation (kitchen, Hall, restrooms, utilities), multi-day volunteer support and more.

Post managers Jay Mayock and Julie Patterson begin facility review and preparation, and staff support scheduling days before the event. “We don’t want surprises because we missed something,” Patterson said. Mayock said, “Prep efforts are intended to be transparent. We made sure the facility, kitchen, our food prep team and volunteers had everything ready for our members and guests to enjoy themselves.” Gigliotti visited post meetings and events to solicit volunteers and posted volunteer pages that helped identify who will be available to do whatever. “People are willing to help,” he said. “They need to be informed about dates and times so that they may plan accordingly.”



*Mother Shucker Oyster Shucking Team - Names in no order - if you see someone you know - wonderful!  
Keith Starkey, Jack Rambo, Bobby Dietz, Marty Rousseau, Gary Barbour, Jerry Darnell, Mike McAndrews, Ronnie Gould,  
Rick Bailey, Kenny Harbough, Bob Bailey, Bryan Abbott and Joe Beam.*

### Bring on the Oysters Rockefeller

A favorite of Super Bowl party participants is sauce-covered, bacon-laden Oysters Rockefeller. The raw, shelled-encrusted delights are initially assaulted by the Mother Schuckers team wielding knives, mallets and other tools to reveal meaty contents. Schucker Gary Barbour wielded the oyster knife as he sent oysters-on-half shell one after another to distribution trays. “We get here first thing in the morning and begin opening the oysters. Most of the 16 or more workers have been “Mother Schuckers” for years. I’ve been doing it for about 18 years,” he said. “It’s a lot of work getting 13 bushels opened, left on the half shell, ready for the Oysters Rockefeller prep team. But we got music, beverages, and a good time talking about oysters, sports, hunting - you name it - but no politics,” Barbour said.



*Gary Barbour (left) and Jack Rambo were among the more than 20 Oyster Shuckers that opened 13 bushels of oysters used to make Oysters Rockefeller.*

*(Story and photos continued on next page.)*

*(Story and photos continued on page 11.)*

## Dull, Dreary Oysters Become Eye Appealing, Super Tasty OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER

Shuckers have opened the 13 bushels of raw oysters and sent them to the ultra-oyster creative element -The Oysters Rockefeller prep team. In the cooking kitchen, the team loads the soon-to-be succulent delights ready for the many partiers awaiting their arrival.



*The Oysters Rockefeller prep team took 13 bushels of shucked oysters and created the oyster treat popular with the Super Bowl party participants. Thank you Paul Facemyer, Diane Delaney, Tommy Delaney, Airrum Delaney, Robert Delaney and Rubiel Rodas.*

*(Story and photos continued on next page.)*

## Seasoned, Spicy Shrimp Was Another Tasty Buffet Attraction



*Corey Micallef washes shrimp ensuring pristine product shares buffet delights.*



*Tommy Bryant takes the washed shrimp, seasons it then load them in the cooler.*



*Leny Wertz, S.A.L. Commander, sorts seasoned shrimp as another treat for the buffet tables.*



*(From the Left) Maggie Hofberg, Trish Bryant and Sue Peterson portion bowls of spicy shrimp as another addition to the buffet,*



**A Great Time Was  
Had By All!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH/APRIL 2024

Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>:  
Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>:  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>:  
Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Auxiliary Super Shotgun Bingo  
St. Patrick's Day Special Dinner  
St. Patrick's Day Special Lunch  
Post General Meeting 7:00 PM

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:  
Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:  
Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 PM  
Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Post General Meeting 7:00 PM  
American Legion Family Day

### The Post 136 Annual ST.PATRICK'S DAY Dinner

#### Saturday, March 16th



Corned Beef & Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Carrots

4-8pm Saturday Night Dinner Special in the restaurant\*

\*THERE WILL NOT BE A "HAPPY HOUR SPECIAL FOR THIS MEAL"

\$13.95

Special Desserts that will make your mouth water!

Special Drinks

**NOTE:** To avoid extra wait time and with a shortage of staff, to have a sufficient amount of food and time, we are asking for **RESERVATIONS** for this dinner. Call us with your reservation between March 1<sup>st</sup> & March 13<sup>th</sup>!  
(301) 345-0136 ext. 1

You may request 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 or 7:00pm (Keep in mind that most people won't take an hour to eat so we could take the next group a little ahead of time) Thanks for your cooperation on this!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

