



GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION POST 136

CONTACT



6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 345-0136

<http://www.greenbeltmdpost136.org>

VOLUME LXXXI

May/June 2024

ISSUE III

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The rain we had in April gave the lawn at the post a healthy rich green look. We are looking forward to the May flowers that will follow. The Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the Post was a great success! We can thank Julie Patterson, the Greenbelt American Legion Assistant Post Manager, for coordinating the effort and our excellent group of Volunteers, which included folks from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary, the S.A.L., the Legion Auxiliary, and the Greenbelt Police Department. We hosted over 150 enthusiastic kids, who discovered hundreds of candy-filled eggs, met Sparky and the Easter Bunny, and got a close-up look at a fire engine and two police cruisers. The S.A.L., Legion Auxiliary and the GVFD all donated money to support the event, allowing us to provide free hot dogs, chips, and drinks for the participants. Please see the full article elsewhere in the Contact. This event was a great example of the many community activities supported by the Greenbelt American Legion.

May not only brings the warm weather, it's also the time when we unofficially start the summer. The Maryland Chapter Rolling Thunder will ride into Washington DC, and we will host a cookout for the riders and Legion Family afterwards. The Ride takes place on the 26th of May. The Memorial Day Ceremony On the 27th of May will be at the Roosevelt Center in Greenbelt with a lite buffet afterwards at the Post. The official first day of summer is June 20th. Look forward to the US Army's 249th birthday which will be celebrated on the 14th of June. This year the Legion Family will be hosting an Installation of Officers Dinner for the newly elected Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary Officers on the 22nd of June.

The Post has made more improvements to the restaurant menu. You'll have to come in and try some new appetizers and dinner items. Remember, the Members' Lounge opens on Fridays and Saturdays from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Its hard to believe that it's time to elect Post officers for the 2024 - 2025 Administrative Year. At our April 18th General Membership meeting, we nominated a slate of 13 candidates by acclamation. At our May 16th General Membership meeting, we will conduct our annual election. Please see a separate article about the election on page 7 of the Contact.

It's been a privilege to serve as your Commander for the last several years. We are making progress in improving our restaurant and lounge operations, by listening to your suggestions and earning your patronage. We are addressing the many challenges brought on by our aging infrastructure and have repaired or replaced much of our facilities and equipment. We have upgraded our security system. Hofberg Hall has a new coat of ceiling paint to freshen up the look for all the scheduled events this summer. We are working to replace the floor in Hofberg Hall and the carpet in the
(*Commander's Message continued on page 2*)

2023/2024

Commander:
Greg Gigliotti

1st Vice Commander:
Harold Bullock

2nd 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



Members' Lounge. We plan to reseal and restripe our parking lot and we are seeking additional resources that will enable us to replace our entire roof. I appreciate your involvement and support. I am proud of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and our entire Legion Family.

God bless America and Our American Legion Family,

Greg Gigliotti,

Commander

Greenbelt American Legion, Post 136

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Post 136 Members and Legion Family,

As we approach the months of May and June, it's essential to reflect on the significance of God's presence, particularly during times of conflict and war. Throughout history, our nation has faced many trials, and in these moments, the faith of our servicemen and women has often been their strongest anchor. In years past, we have witnessed remarkable displays of courage, resilience, and divine intervention on the battlefield. Pivotal battles were fought, victories were won, and sacrifices were made for the sake of freedom. Here are some upcoming Holidays to reflect on the goodness of God.

Armed Forces Day (May 18th): On this sacred occasion, we offer heartfelt prayers of gratitude for the divine protection and guidance bestowed upon our brave servicemen and women. Through the strength and courage instilled by their faith, they stand as beacons of hope and guardians of our nation's freedom. Let us honor their unwavering commitment and sacrifice, knowing that God walks alongside them on their journey of service.

Memorial Day (May 27th): On this sacred day of remembrance, we gather in prayerful reflection, honoring the courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their selfless devotion and unwavering faith in God inspire us to pause and offer heartfelt prayers of gratitude for their noble deeds. As we bow our heads in reverence, let us seek comfort in the knowledge that God's eternal love surrounds those who have gone before us, and His presence brings solace to the hearts of the bereaved. May we never forget the sacrifices made on our behalf, and may we always uphold the memory of our fallen heroes with the utmost reverence and honor.

Flag Day (June 14th): On this blessed day, we lift our hearts in prayer, acknowledging God's grace and blessings upon our nation symbolized by the stars and stripes of our flag. As we reflect on the values of liberty and justice upheld by our flag, we give thanks for the divine wisdom that has guided our nation's journey through triumphs and trials alike. Let us unite in prayer, seeking God's guidance as we strive to uphold the principles of freedom and equality that our flag represents.

And let us not forget the countless acts of bravery and sacrifice that have occurred throughout our nation's history. More recently from the Korean War to Vietnam, and from the Gulf War to Afghanistan and Iraq, God has been a constant source of strength for our troops.

As we honor the memory of those who have served and sacrificed, let us also take comfort in the knowledge that God's presence endures, guiding us through even the darkest of times. May we never forget the sacrifices made on our behalf, and may we always remain steadfast in our faith as we strive for a better tomorrow.

Personal Note: I am a licensed and ordained Minister that is available to the Legion Family to officiate weddings, funerals, and burials. Please let me know how I can assist.

Blessings to You All,
Shawn Fenstermacher,
Chaplain





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 136



S.A.L. COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The Legion Family is approaching the midway point of 2024 and it's breezing by faster than we would like to admit. The 2024 Legion Family administrative officers are wrapping up their tasks; looking ahead just as fast with nominations and elections being held. Soon we will begin the new administrative year. Your S.A.L. Squadron is in serious need for a few of our members to step up into several of our administrative roles that we need help with. We need 65 S.A.L. members to pay 2024 dues by May 10th to meet this goal. July 1st will begin the 2025 dues year. We have roughly 340 members and a need for about 5 to step up into one of our officer roles, and 6 to join the Wednesday night rotation for Queen of Hearts and 10 to help with any of the other missions we must cover minimally.

Unfortunately, as of this writing we are behind in our membership goal for the year as set by the Detachment of Maryland. We need 65 S.A.L. members to pay by May 10th to meet this goal. July 1st will begin the 2025 dues year. If you have not paid your dues for 2024 please pay ASAP before you lapse further. Please consider attending the May Squadron meeting and offer help with any of our missions, or serving as an officer for the administrative coming year.

Our Squadron officers and members continue to be busy supporting many events here at the Post and around the state at various functions, such as the Southern Maryland Region of the S.A.L.. We worked in support of the Draw Down and the Shrimp and Bull Roast Events, also, assisting the Post with kitchen production. Our Squadron performs many acts during the year of which we are neglectful about publicizing. This is one of those missions we need help with. In truth, often we do this more in support of the need of wonderful organizations, not the need for self-adulation. I want to thank the officers and members of Post 136 Legion and Auxiliary Unit 136 for their help and support this past year as well. Needless to say, without the constant help and support of the S.A.L. Squadron officers and members, we as a Squadron, can not achieve any of the various successes that we wish to continue to accomplish in future years.

I continue to repeat the refrain that the Squadron is looking for S.A.L. 136 members who would be interested in coordinating efforts in various missions. You will be receiving reminders of this need when you get your membership cards in the mail. Please consider offering to help. We are still looking for help with that initiative and a couple of others we would like to work on through the year. Also asking that you BEtheONE to help encourage Veterans who are having issues to reach out for support that is available.

This month I would like to encourage all of our Legion Family members to learn about VoterVOICE and if you haven't done so, please sign up for VoterVOICE, at: www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home. **Do it TODAY!** Do not delay, its easy, and **VERY** important for each of us to get involved and support our veterans. This request leads to being prepared to contact your representatives on the Hill or in Annapolis to make sure that any legislation that provides support for our Veterans or Active Duty community is passed and our elected leaders know we hold them accountable to our Veterans, Active Duty families and Voters. We need to make sure that those same Veterans and Active Duty families are aware of these opportunities.

During the upcoming conventions we will learn of both our Detachment and National Commanders selected projects for the coming year and will begin working on ways to

(S.A.L. Commander's Message continued on page 4)

2023/2024	
Commander:	Lenny Wertz
1 st Vice Commander:	Lenny Wertz
2 nd Vice Commander:	Dave Fendlay
Chaplain:	Kenny Hall
Finance Officer:	Kevin Foster
Historian:	Ray (Cory) Micallef
Sgt-At-Arms:	Steve Tippet
Adjutant:	Ray (Cory) Micallef
Advisor:	Richard Dutton

**S.A.L.
MEETINGS**
Every 3rd Tuesday
7:00 PM

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

provide funds and support for next year. The Maryland S.A.L. convention is June 21st to 23rd, 2024.

In the meantime, I'd like to encourage all who can to donate blood; call a nearby hospital or www.redcrossblood.org to donate blood. The blood supply has already been strained in the past few years and with warmer months, even more so. If you know of a veteran in your neighborhood who doesn't seem to be getting out of the house, take a few minutes to check in on them, offer to pick up something at the store or other assistance. Bring them over to the Post on a Friday/Saturday for Lunch/Dinner. Prince George's County has the highest number of residents who are veterans in the state and many of them would appreciate being checked in on by a neighbor, just a couple of small ways to continue the tradition of caring.

Remember, we need your help and ideas! Please bring them to any of our monthly meetings or share them with our leadership team. The what's that come with a who will get to the how and a when faster. The S.A.L. monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

Lastly I want to share and ask that you plan to attend the Crab Feast on September 14th, 2024. Flyers and tickets available later in the Summer.

Stronger Together Because of Those that Served,

Lenny Wertz,

Post 136 S.A.L. Commander



FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF SUMMER JUNE 20, 2024



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



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 MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Thursdays

7:00 PM

excluding July & December



Like our Juniors on Facebook @ 136juniorsala

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

I would like to mention what an honor it was to attend the National Commanders Banquet held at Post 278 and a pleasure to meet the National Commander Daniel Seehafer.

We had the first Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Post and what a huge success it was! Thanks to all the hard work by Julie Patterson (Post Assistant Manager and Auxiliary Member) and all the many organizations that came together to put this on (Legion, S.A.L., Auxiliary, GVFD, GVFD Auxiliary, GPD and the Boy Scouts). Special thanks to all of the volunteers that helped make it such a success. Fun was had by all!

We had a Royal Brunch, which turned out great also. Breakfast was cooked by the Legion's very own Chef Limberg Ruiz, assisted by S.A.L. members Marty Rousseau and Kenny Hall. The Auxiliary worked with the Miss Greenbelt Scholarship Organization representative, Frann Fendlay, who worked hard along with the Auxiliary's 2nd Vice President Patty Rousseau to make this all happen. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped serve the food, dress up as Princes and Princesses and lead activities to keep everyone entertained.

Teacher appreciation week is in May.

We will be having a Shrimp Feast on June 14th, more info to follow on our Facebook page.

Elections are coming up in June, anyone interested in running for a position please reach out to one of our current officers We will be holding Installation of the Officers in June also.

We have an essay winner at the Southern Maryland Region 5 District Level.

We donated to the Easter Egg Hunt at Fort Meade for Navy and Marine children, and also donated to the American Red Cross.

Reminder, there is no Shotgun Bingo or Auxiliary meetings in the Month of July .

Best Regards,
Kathy Gigliotti
Auxiliary President

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN /MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

I realize that is so repetitive, but I am again asking for the members without their 2024 card to please take a moment, write a \$30.00 check to ALA 136 and mail it to P.O. Box 1063, Greenbelt, MD 20768. We aren't close to our %100 goal and need your help. **Also, there was a typo in the last Contact: Senior dues with 50 years or more of continuous membership are \$26.00, not \$20.00.**

The Unit **WELCOMES** our newest members: Jennifer Young, Barbara Williams, Greta Reitman and Kelly Kotche. Carol Worsham has transferred in and Greer McArthur has "rejoined" the Unit. We welcome the support we get from each and every one of you! Our sister, Doris Burroughs, passed in March. She first joined the Unit in 1988 and will be missed.

Have a marvelous summer and stay safe and healthy!

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



MORE FROM AUXILIARY UNIT 136

The Royal Brunch

The Auxiliary worked with the Miss Greenbelt Scholarship Organization representative, Frann Fendlay, who worked hard along with the Auxiliary's 2nd Vice President Patty Rousseau to make this all happen.

Breakfast was cooked by the Legion's very own Chef Limberg Ruiz, assisted by S.A.L. members Marty Rousseau and Kenny Hall.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped serve the food, dressed up as Princes and Princesses and led activities to keep everyone entertained!



2024 Dues For Auxiliary Members

\$30.00 Regular (Seniors with 50 years or more \$26.00)

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

(NO SHOTGUN BINGO IN JULY)



MONEY BUNNY!!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$300.00

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

Drawing Date:

November 11th, 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



**POST 136 ELECTION FOR THE 2024 - 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR
THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 7:00 PM**

At the April General Membership meeting, held on Thursday, April 18th, prospective candidates for all elected positions were nominated using the prescribed process. Since we have only one nominee for each office (see below) and nominations are now final, we will conduct an election at the May 16th General Membership Meeting, which will be held in Hofberg Hall at 7:00 PM. A motion will be offered to elect the nominees by acclamation. Please try to attend the meeting as a show of support for those willing to serve.

Respectfully,
Mike Moore
Post 136 Adjutant

List of Nominees for Post Offices

Commander	Gregory V. Gigliotti
1 st Vice Commander	James Hawkins
2 nd Vice Commander	Butch Hicks
Judge Advocate	Blaine "Tom" Davis
Sergeant-at-Arms	William Muffley
Chaplain	Shawn Fenstermacher
Historian	Bernard A. Zempolich
Finance Officer	Harold Schlemmer
At-Large Member	Richard Brown
At-Large Member	Larry Williams
At-Large Member	John C. Hardwick
At-Large Member	Timothy E. Meade
Adjutant	Michael G. Moore

THE CONTACT

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

Publisher: Mike Moore
Editor: Bernie Zempolich
Composing: East-West Web Solutions

AMERICAN LEGION POST 136 FAMILY HOLDS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & GAMES

(Article and Photos By Butch Hicks)

On a Saturday with a just right gray sky, comfortable temperature and an easy breeze, American Legion Post 136's lawn became a fun arena for hundreds of children seeking multi-colored, chocolate-filled Easter eggs, having their faces painted, twirling in dancing contests and consuming hot dogs, chicken nuggets and other goodies.

As families arrived, the event main attraction, the Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Cory Micallef), made his appearance in a white costume with pink highlights and huge floppy ears. "The children's eager excitement could be compared to Santa arriving on his sleigh," Micallef said. The Easter Bunny, accompanied by Sparky the Fire Dog (Elle), danced, high fived and put big smiles on numerous children. "I enjoyed seeing their smiling faces," Micallef said. "Although my popularity waned some when the egg hunts started." Sparky was busy as a constant attraction for the youngsters. One inquired of his dad, "Who is the puppy? What does he do?"

As time for the egg hunt neared, kids arranged in their age groups stretched across the Post's front lawn. Ready to fill their containers, they leaned forward, eyeing the fields, trees and bushes – eager to begin. And then event organizer, Post Manager Julie Patterson, shouted "Go!" The extensive line burst into hundreds of multi-color clothed youngsters tearing across the green lawn. The accompanying roar was all laughter and the happy screams of egg hunters running and searching while filling baskets, bags and pockets.

"It was a day of community participation," said Greenbelt American Legion Post Commander Greg Gigliotti. "The American Legion Family of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary Unit; Greenbelt Police Department officers who displayed their official vehicles and made themselves available to answer questions. The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and its Auxiliary provided volunteers who coordinated the various activities for egg hunt participants. City Councilmember Silke Pope also attended the event.

As the egg hunt ended, participants headed out with children carrying loaded bags of sweet goodies. Gigliotti said, "We look forward to doing this event again next year. Post 136 will have another opportunity to collaborate with the community on mutual interests and sharing good will."



Some of the approximately 100 children who participated in the American Legion Post 136 Easter Egg hunt. They are joined by, in back, from left, the Easter Bunny (Cory Micallef) and Officers Alvarez and Rahman. In back on the far right are GVFD Firefighter/EMT John Fraller, Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti and Post 136 Manager Julie Patterson.

(See More On Page 9)



Face painting was a popular activity during the American Legion Easter Egg hunting event.



This youngster visited the Easter Bunny after getting his firefighters helmet, compliments of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.



Raelyn Townsend, visited the face painting stand and then collected her brother, Lincoln, to continue their egg-hunting adventure.

(See More on Page 10)

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EASTER EGG HIDERS

(Photo on the left)

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department members, Bill Dobbins and Annie McFarland were among other volunteers who hid Easter Eggs on the Post lawn, shrubs, and in trees.



FOOD PREP CREW

(Photo below)

Post 136's Easter Egg Hunt was made more fun by the hundreds of children and adult egg hunters and by the food preparation and distribution crew who provided hot dogs, chicken nuggets and other treats. (From the left) Jo Jo; Marcus Wright; Ken Hall; Kathy Fominaya; Ken Voigt.



(End of Article and Photos. Thank you Butch Hicks!)



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, 2024

Monday, May 27th, 11:00 AM

At the War Memorial in Roosevelt Center

A Lite Buffet Will Be Served at the Post Afterwards for Attendees

Upcoming Events May/June 2024

Monday, May 6th

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

Sunday, May 12th

Mother's Day

Thursday, May 16th

Post 136 General Meeting & Post Elections: 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 18th

Armed Forces Day

Sunday, May 26th

Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1 Picnic

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day Ceremony & Light Lunch

Monday, June 3rd

Post 136 Executive Committee Meeting: 6:30 PM

Friday, June 14th

Flag Day (U.S. Army 249th Birthday)

Sunday, June 16th

Father's Day

Thursday, June 20th

Post 136 General Meeting: 7:00 PM

Friday, June 14th

Auxiliary Shrimp Feast

Saturday, June 29th

Post Installation of Officers and Dinner

