

AMERICAN LEGION FORT CAMPBELL POST 289

JANUARY 2018 FORT CAMPBELL POST NEWSLETTER



QUICK REMINDER

Dear Legionnaires,

We hope and pray that everyone has been safe and warm during these last recent weeks as this winter has been a very cold one. The Holidays have come and gone and the New Year presents opportunities and

**Post Meetings: Third Tuesday
each Month@1800. Located at
Daymar College,
2691 Trenton Rd,
Clarksville, TN 37040**

challenges. This post would like to use some of your ideas to plan activities and will benefit our members, veterans and the community at large in the upcoming months. It would be great to see each of you at the monthly meetings. Our success is based on membership involvement.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Fort Campbell Post 289 was honored to participate in last year's Wreaths across America. The Post also raised

LAST MEETING

Our last Post 289 meeting on Jan 16, 2018 located at Daymar College, 2691 Trenton Rd, Clarksville, TN was cancelled due to the inclement weather. The weather was so adverse and not safe that Fort Campbell was closed for almost a week. Our Next Post meeting is scheduled Feb, 20, 2018. This will be Open House event will entail a number of upcoming spring events. On our agenda will be to vote in several new members and talk about our possible auxiliaries: Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, and Ladies Auxiliary.

funds in November to donate to the Gold Star Wives Eagle Chapter who purchased wreathes that were placed on gravesites at the Kentucky State Veteran's Cemetery on Dec 16, 2017. This event was attended by both our Post Adjutant and Vice-Commander. In addition, our Post was represented by our Post Finance Officer who attended a wreath ceremony with Post 72, in Dover, TN at Fort Donelson on the same day.

[MORE REMINDERS]

On December 2, 2018, Fort Campbell Post 289 members, and one Post 72 member attended the American Legion Basic Training Course. This training is offered online, but the person to person and face to face approach leaves much more of a lasting impression, and you get to see the commitment up close and in-person. The course provided historical educational background on the American Legion and a vast scale of information on the American Legions 4 pillars and the many programs we sponsor and support as members. Our 4 pillars are Community, Children and Youth, Americanism, Promoting National Defense. Our current Post Historian stated: "I believe that this was a missed opportunity for those members that didn't attend to really understand the overall mission of the American Legion". And also, said that he would do his part in getting more members to attend.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please do so. You can pay online at MyLegion.org, or come to a meeting and pay in person, or mail in your membership dues. Membership dues are 40.00 dollars, the chapter keeps nine of those dollars, if you pay your dues in person at a meeting. Please bring with you a copy of your DD Form 214, with your social blacken out as proof of your service. We cannot stress enough importance of membership and its participation, because it's the lifeline of any veteran's organization. We have been reaching out to our members, who have let their membership expire; in regards, to their dues and their needed participation, as well as to members who are inactive and have been placed in Post 2000. We are pushing to get younger members to pick up the mantle. We can no longer depend on one or two members to do everything, until they die or quit from burn-out and unappreciation.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH

Although, Fort Campbell Post 289 is not sending anyone to the Oratorical Contest this year, we will be in attendance and preparing for next year's event. Our Mid-Winter Conference will be held on 2-4 Feb, of next month. If you haven't paid or reserved your lodging. You can still pay at the door. If you attend, there is much you will learned at the conference. You will have, if you haven't already, an opportunity to meet the Department leadership. Participate in the Four Chaplains Program, even though it's on the same day as the Super Bowl. We are planning on presenting and explaining the American Legion Oratorical Contest Program to the Seven Board Members of the Clarksville Montgomery County School Board.

MARCH IS COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTH

This is a chance for us to show off our Post. March 15-17 is when we celebrate the founding of the American Legion. It is the 99th Anniversary. We Dress up our Post and we have an open house. Since we don't have physical Post home, we can interface with a civic Organization. We could possibly, contact the chamber of Commerce or attend the monthly Veterans coalition Meetings, or attend the Veteran's Day on the Hill. We could set up a table at the Library or another busy spot in Clarksville. This kind of activity would reinforce the image of the American Legion.

APRIL IS CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

As a post, we will be coordinating our Children and Youth programs with the Auxiliary unit. Its been suggested that we should try to get the city and/or county to do a proclamation for Children and Youth month. We also try to get the coverage from Leaf Chronicle; Try to get a guest speaker, in conjunction with a program wherein, maybe he/she is a teacher. We could maybe invite some of our older members and recognize them for their service to the country and the American Legion.

MAY IS A BUSY MONTH WITH MOTHERS DAY

This is the month wherein we recognize our mothers and invite any Gold Star mothers to our meetings. The third Saturday in May, is Armed Forces Day, and the last Monday in May is Memorial Day. As a post we will recognize and pay respect for heroic dead and honor their patriotic devotion. To put flags on the Graves of veterans, during this

month is how we will render proper respect for their past service and sacrifice. Our Nation's flag is flown at half staff from sunrise to 1200 noon. We will try to invite, maybe a boy scout/girls scout troop or JROTC unit to attend and participate. Participate and/or acknowledge Boys State Graduation on May 26 (Saturday) in some manner.

JUNE IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO START PLANNING FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR NEXT YEAR.

June 14, is Flag Day. We may or may not have new leaders, but this is the month, any new leaders/officers should start getting their feet wet and roll their sleeves up (metaphor) for Legion business. During last year's Flag Day we had young people write on ribbons and tie them on a portable wall, that we had planned on displaying later at the State Veteran Nursing Home, here in Clarksville. This year, the Post may plan again to have a Boy or Girl Scout troop retire old colors that have become unserviceable and invite the community to watch. We will plan and keep focusing on community service and youth programs, and at the same time get delegates registered for the Department convention taking place during June 22-24.

JULY IS A GOOD TIME TO GET THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED AND HELP CHANGE THE IMAGE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

We plan to either sponsor or participate as a post in an independence day (July 4th) event, and invite veterans and active duty members from the community. It is a requirement that all of our new leaders work on complete American Legions basic training course online or classroom. The Post Historian has volunteered to transport legionnaires that would like to attend the training in a classroom setting. If we are not able to sponsor our own baseball team or one of our sister posts (Post 143, or Post 7); their may be school baseball team we could support.

AUGUST IS THE TIME YOU SHOULD BE WORKING ON NEW MEMBERSHIPS

This month is our official membership drive month, but Post 289 has been consistently working through our Senior Vice to improve and cement our existing new members committee. We will also zero in on, work on expired members and Post 2000 legionnaires.

SEPTEMBER BRINGS BACK THE MEMORIES OF 9/11

On Patriot's Day we could recognize, we could take time to recognize the First Responders (Firefighter, EMT, Police and Sheriff) in our communities. This is a good time to get into the Schools or do a flag education program. Last year members of Post 289 did a flag education activity during the River-fest event.

OCTOBER

WE could recognize or membership (such as Legionnaire of the Year), or with just certificates of appreciation for participation or volunteerism. And/or organize and get an early start on next year. We could get brochures, flyers leaflets and pamphlets for our locations Halloween and Child Safety programs, as well as for Drug abuse and Community service programs.

NOVEMBER 11 IS VETERANS DAY.

Let's be the leaders, in observing Veterans Day. Get the community involved. We could get articles, letters to the editor in the paper. Try to host a Veterans Day Program. Get Your Boys State delegates to come and be a part of your program. Invite some of your older veterans. Everyday we are lose another one our WII Veterans, so we need to let them know how grateful we are to them, for their sacrifice and service. Before it too late.

DECEMBER 7, AND PEARL HARBOR

We should never forget what happened on December 7, 1940 or Pearl Harbor. We could possibly work or have activities that assist needy families and children. We could help bring cheer to needed families during this winter month. We could have a Xmas party at the Post meeting location. We could do this, instead of a regular general membership Post meeting. We could visit the Nashville VA Hospital, the new Clarksville Veterans Clinic location or the Clarksville Veterans State Nursing Home, or maybe donate to their Christmas parties.

FASTER VA CLAIMS DECISIONS

VA has improved the claim process, since you last probably filed a claim; by launching the DRC (Decision Ready Claims) program. Now when you file a DRC, you can get a

decision on your claim in 30 days or less by working with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO). That VSO can help you collect and submit all related and necessary evidence to prepare your claim for VA to make a favorable decision, after its submitted. (continued on next page)

(continued from last page) You are able now to file claims for the following:

- Direct Service Connection Claims
- Presumptive Service Connection Claims
- Secondary Service Connection Claims
- Increased Disability Claims
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims
- Pre-Discharge Claims

Please take advantage of this important favorable moment to get a faster claim decision. If you would like to find out more about the DRC program, such as eligibility, medical evidence you will need to submit, or how to find an accredited VSO at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp>.

Gratitude!

VBA

AMERICAN LEGION FORT CAMPBELL POST 289's OFFICERS/LEADERSHIP

Commander

Willie Smith

Chaplain

Harold K. Abdullah

1st Vice Commander

David Zeveney

Service Officer

Ed Eaglan

2nd Vice Commander

Ed Eaglan

Historian

Robert Lamon

Adjutant

Billie Zeveney

Judge Advocate

Vacant

Sergeant at Arms

Bob Sessions

Finance Officer

Larry Johnson



