

NEAL E. FONGER POST 179
P.O. BOX 306
GRANDVILLE, MI 49468-0306
PHONE 616-453-9861

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRANDVILLE, MI
PERMIT NO. 44



1128
Members

Legion: 497
Auxiliary: 272
S.A.L.: 359



FONGER'S HIGHLIGHTER

OCTOBER, 2018

Member of M.A.L.P.A. • Ruth Buist, Editor

Vol. 28 • Issue 9

FROM THE COMMANDER . . .

Allow me to introduce myself – I am 67, and a Vietnam Veteran serving in the United States Army from April 22, 1968, to January 24, 1977, married to Linda. Between us, we have four beautiful children and ten grandchildren.

Thank you, Legionnaires, for having the confidence in me to have chosen me as your next Commander. I have asked God to give me the wisdom and integrity to lead for however long it may take.

At the Fall Conference, I saw an article that started out by saying why membership in the American Legion is important. "When you got Veterans benefits, you did not win the lottery. It was the price that liberty and freedom cost and this nation must not be allowed to forget that," Walz said. That is the job of the Legion. When I look at all the members of the American Legion family, all I know is that you are far more than just Legionnaires; you are far more than Veterans. You are the heart and soul of this nation, and our voices must always be heard. "Therefore, as our membership declines, so does the strength of our voice and our programs."

So, who handles membership? Is it the Post Commander, the Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sgt.-at-Arms, Service Officer, or Historian or the Officers of the Auxiliary, or the S.A.L., Legion riders? No! It is every member of this Post 179. Many of us have been around for years. Some of us, a few years, so it is up to each and every one of us to contact an old member. Recruit new members and keep this Post alive. That is why we must always ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear.

Therefore, I am asking that every member of this Post step up to the plate, reach out to a member who has not been around, asking him/her to come back, and how we can help. Pick up membership applications and carry them around with you. The only way that we will survive is by stepping up to the plate. Recruit, recruit, recruit.

As your Commander, and with the help of all the members of this Post I will implement new activities. For instance, a Post 179 baseball team, Boys State Nation, invite the Auxiliary to sponsor a young lady for Girls State. Also, I would love to see healthy competition between the four entities of the Post. They are the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, Legion riders. The perfect example would be starting a bowling team in each of the entities to compete against each other; winners will receive a trophy. However, all four entities must be on board. I will conduct a meeting with all the officers of the four entities, on a regular basis, so we can get together and brainstorm to see if we can come up with different ideas to take to our membership, for a vote.

A quick note – for many years. I was under the assumption that the four pillars were the American Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders, but at Fall Conference, I was corrected and told a description of the four pillars was found on page 2 of the American Legion officer guides and manual of ceremonies. They are . . .

Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation
National Security
Americanism
Children and Youth

Jesús Sanabria, Commander, Post 179

OCTOBER MEETING DATES

S.A.L. Meeting October 1 @ 7:00 p.m.
Auxiliary Meeting October 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
Legion Meeting October 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Clubroom Committee Mtg. October 10 @ 6:30 p.m.
Building Committee Mtg. October 18 @ 6:30 p.m.
Legion Riders October 28 @ 11:30 a.m.
Boy Scouts Every Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER . . .

Happy fall, or in our house, it's happy hunting season. Last month the S.A.L. answered one of the many needs for the Wilwin lodge. A check was sent to purchase dishes for the cabins. This is a very worthy cause and a great asset for our Veterans to have so close.

Don Vander Velde and Bill Willey have been asked to represent the Detachment of Michigan V.A.V.S. for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Thanks for stepping up, gentlemen.

Congratulations to our new Post Commander, Jesús Sanabria. We are looking forward to a new beginning with this change of command. Please support the vision by attending your meetings and stay informed. Thank you.

Bruce "Bones" Postma,

S.A.L. Commander, Squadron 179

NEW CLUBROOM HOURS:
Sunday & Monday: 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 10:00 p.m.
Thursday: CLOSED
Friday & Saturday: Noon to 10:00 p.m.

DESSERT CONTEST

Do you make a dessert everyone raves about? If so, try your luck at Post 179's Dessert Contest on Sunday October 21st, 2018.

CATEGORIES:

- Cakes and Cupcakes
- Pies and Tarts (anything in a crust)
- Cookies & Dessert Bars
- People's Choice

PRIZES, DESSERT, AND FUN!

RULES:

- 1) One entry per person
- 2) \$5.00 Entry fee
- 3) Entry fees can be paid to the bartender or on the day of the event by 4 p.m.
- 4) Entries may be made at home and brought in to the post.
- 5) Judging will commence at 4:30 and the winner will be announced once the judges have made their decisions.



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OCTOBER 2018 CALENDAR DAILY SPECIALS

Sunday: \$5 Meal Deal: Meal of the day with One Well Drink or 12 oz. Can of Beer

Sunday, October 14: Grand Rapids Reptile Show

10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$5 Adults, \$1 Children

Sunday, October 21: Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sunday, October 28: Wine & Canvas, 5-8 p.m., \$35

Monday Madness: 16 oz. Beer \$2.25 / Jumbo Hot Dogs or Polish Dogs \$1.50 / Free Shuffleboard

Taco Tuesday: Free Pool / \$1.50 Margaritas / Hard or Soft Tacos \$2.00 / Small Burrito \$5.50 / Large Burrito \$6.50 / Bingo, 10:30 a.m.

Well Wednesday: \$2.00 Well Drinks / Chicken Teriyaki Sandwich \$4.00 / **Karaoke 6-10 p.m.**

Red Shirt Friday: Chicken Strips with Fries \$5.00 / Red Shirt Day - 25¢ off all drinks when wearing a red shirt to support our troops / Bingo, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 13: Auxiliary 5th District Training Expo, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 13: 6-pak, 7-11 p.m., \$5 cover, Open to the Public

Saturday, October 20: Coin Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

HAPPY HOUR 3-6 P.M.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY!

Happy Hour is real time, not bar time

\$5.00 Pitchers / \$2.00 Well Shot & Pop /

\$2.00 Glass of Wine / \$2.00 16 oz. Miller Lite, 16 oz. Coors, 16 oz. Coors Light, 16 oz. Bud & 16 oz. Bud Light

FROM THE 179 RIDERS . . .

Fellow Legion Members, it is my honor to have been appointed, sworn in, and assume the role as your new Riders Director. The American Legion Riders are all members of the American Legion Family of entities first and foremost. We are an association of American Legion members who share a common interest of riding motorcycles. More than that, we also share a strong need to serve and support our local communities, Veteran causes and our local posts. I have heard it said, "if you want it done ask the Riders". I pledge to continue this legacy of service and support. October holds no Rider sponsored events; however you will see Riders actively volunteering and supporting our Neal Fonger American Legion Post 179. Your Riders optimistically look forward to future challenges and teamwork opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lee Wasson, Riders Director
Neal Fonger American Legion Post 179

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, October 21 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADULTS – \$7.00 • 10 & UNDER – \$3.00

Everyone is welcome to join us at Post 179 for a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links and potato cubes! We will also be serving apple juice, water and coffee.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK
FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION:**

www.americanlegionpost179.com

facebook.com/AmericanLegionNealEFongerPost179

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT . . .

Greetings, fellow Auxiliary members! I see a few Maple trees starting to turn into the beautiful colors of the fall season. The Dine and Donate fundraiser for the Dictionary Project at Grandville's Applebee's had outstanding results! \$580 was raised for dictionaries for the 2019 Maranda's Park Party that the American Legion Post 179 family will be involved with. Thanks so much to all who came out to support the project.

Fall Conference was very well attended by members of the unit! The presentations were well thought out and interactive, valuable information and ideas were the take away from the day. If you weren't able to attend Fall Conference, the 5th District Informational Expo is at Post 179 on Saturday October 13 at 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to browse the ALA programs – come and find an area of interest that makes you say "Hey this is something that I can get behind to make a difference!" There is a \$5 donation for a lunch served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., as well as follow up with any questions you may have for a program. Questions or concerns, contact me or District President Rosemary Maciejewski 616-822-8136.

Veteran's Day celebration at Post 179 is coming up, keep an eye for information. This celebration is one you don't want to miss.

Date to mark on your calendar – Saturday, December 8 is the Children's Christmas Party. I heard a rumor that Santa Claus will be able to make an appearance!

The ALA also has Blue/Gold Star banners to present to families. Blue Star banners represent a son(s)/daughter(s) who is currently serving active duty. Gold Star banners represent the loss of a son/daughter while serving. If you are, or know of, a family that qualifies for a banner, contact Auxiliary National Security Chairman Deb Weatherbee at 616-723-2398.

Our next monthly meeting is Monday, October 8 at 7 p.m. in the hall. We have hit the ground running this fall. Let's see what we can accomplish together!

I'm always available for questions or concerns. If I don't know the answer, I will find out. Contact me via Facebook, messenger, email or even smoke signal!

Sheila Manning, President, Auxiliary Unit 179
auxpres@americanlegionpost179.com

PLAY BINGO TUESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS
Sales start at 9:30 • Play starts at 10:30

SAVE THE DATE:

November 3 – Veterans Benefit Fair

November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday Gala

November 11 – Veteran's Day, 11 a.m. Coffee & Donuts

December 2 – Craft & Vendor Show

December 8 – Children's Christmas Party

Children's Christmas Party Reservation Form – Saturday, December 8, 2018

Lunch served at 12:00 Noon • Santa arrives after lunch with gifts for children to age 10

Children must be present to receive gifts

(Members' children and grandchildren only, please.)

Member's Name _____

No. of Boys (to age 10) _____ Ages _____

No. of Girls (to age 10) _____ Ages _____

No. of Adults (\$1.00 each for lunch) _____

Please fill this out and leave it in the clubroom, bring it to the Auxiliary meeting, or mail it to: Attn Auxiliary, Neal E. Fonger Post 179, P.O. Box 306, Grandville, MI 49468-0306. **Deadline for reservations is November 30.** If you have any questions or desire more information, please e-mail sheila5911@sbcglobal.net or call 616-350-2049.