



FONGER'S HIGHLIGHTER

APRIL, 2021

FROM THE COMMANDER...

Some light news coming your way this month! Spring is upon us, the birds are chirping, the clouds are fading and there is a sense of energy at the post I haven't experienced in a year- it's almost electric! I encourage you to stop by and see what's new and add your thoughts to our future.

Per the By Laws of the Neal E. Fonger Post 179, April means nominations for post positions and these will take place on April 13th at the regular Legion meeting. Available positions are:

Commander - The Commander is the Chief Executive Officer of the Post and shall supervise, lead, and manage the Post and its Officers.

1st Vice-Commander - First Vice-Commander is the Chair of the Membership Committee and assumes and discharges the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander.

2nd Vice-Commander - Second Vice-Commander is the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, assists with Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, helps with public affairs and community outreach as directed by the Commander, and shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of First Vice-Commander or Commander in their absence or disability.

Finance Officer - The Finance Officer shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee, and responsible for overseeing the financial records of the Post.

Chaplain - The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of Post members and will offer divine but non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters.

Historian - The Post Historian shall compile and preserve a pictorial Post history for print and electronic distribution.

Sergeant-at-Arms - The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform other duties from time to time assigned to him by the Commander.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Final Fish Fry of the Season....April 2@ 5-7 PM
- S.A.L. Meeting..... April 5 @ 7:00 PM
- Kid's Day.....April 10 @ 12-2 PM
- AUX Meeting.....April 12 @ 6:30 PM
- Legion Meeting.....April 13 @ 7:00 PM
- Riders Meeting.....April 25 @ 12:30 PM

Adjutant - The Adjutant is the Secretary of the Board. Under the direction of the Commander, the Adjutant shall receive and answer all correspondence of the Post, have charge of and keep a complete and correct record of the proceedings of all Official Meetings, and prepare summarized meeting minutes and reports for publication.

Judge Advocate - The Judge Advocate's duties shall be to advise the Post Commander of the interpretation or modification of the Post's Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, and be responsible for an annual financial audit and the Post Responsibility Audit as described in the American Legion Officer's Guide.

Service Officer - The Service Officer coordinates all Post 179 veteran's assistance programs, assists in processing veterans claims, and protects the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

I encourage you to come to meetings held by your respective groups to find out more about what is going on at the post and submit your name for consideration to fill the many positions each entity requires. The post can only get better with your involvement. Have a safe and peaceful spring!

Patrick J Burns, Commander, Post 179
commander@AmericanLegionpost179.com

We will be having a Kid's Day on April 10th from 12:00 – 2:00 PM in the back hall. Come on out for games, cookies, prizes, face painting, and much more!

FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER

Fish Fry 2021 is coming to a close soon as I write this article. We have done very well this year despite of the restrictions imposed by the Governor of Michigan. Looking forward to Fish Fry 2022 when we will hopefully be able to open at FULL capacity. See you for Fish Fry 2022 starting on Friday March 4, 2022.

We need more SAL members to volunteer to help at Fish Fry. You don't have to commit to the full 7 weeks but if we could get more members to attend 3 or 4 of the Fridays and spread these out over the 7 weeks it would make the workload a bit better for those who have been coming. Come to a monthly SAL meeting on the first Monday of the month to find out more about the volunteer opportunities available during the Annual Fish Fry at the Post.

Nominations for SAL officers will be held at the April meeting with final nominations and voting held at the May meeting. Attend these meetings to find out more about being involved with your group. Remember that the SAL meetings are held the First Monday of the month at 7:00 PM and our next meeting will be April 5, 2021.

Roger Meyers, SAL Commander, Post 179
rjmeyers3@yahoo.com

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello fellow Auxiliary members spring may have finally sprung in Michigan. I want to congratulate Unit 179 has received from department for the 2019-2020 year. The delay in announcement was due to Covid of course. Without further ado:

Poppy Poster Class III 1st Place:

Josie Herndon Unit 179

Public Relations:

1. Kanaby Broadcast Citation – for best script for radio and TV
2. Viola Starkey Citation – to the unit with the best “Unit of the month” article.

Education:

1. “Most Outstanding Unit Education Program”
2. Give 10 to Education

I have received the awards and will have copies framed and placed on the Auxiliary wall the Hall of Honor.

As I write this, there is one last fish fry. It was a successful Lenten season! Many thanks for the Auxiliary members who contributed to working in the kitchen and providing desserts for the Auxiliary dessert table. It is amazing what we can accomplish together. We should find out the final sales for our dessert fundraiser in the May meeting- can't wait!

May 8 there will be a Joint 5th District Memorial Banquet via zoom please contact me for information to connect. May 18 is the 90-year Celebration of the founding of Neal E Fonger Post 179! Let's support Commander Pat Burns to make it an outstanding event. As I get more information, I'll pass it along.

I'd like to get ideas for a dinner fundraiser for the fall. Meatloaf, spaghetti, or soup just to put some options out there. My hope is to get the post family to host a weekly meal. Let's get people coming to the post for a good meal and friendly fellowship.

Also floating an idea to get a date on the calendar for a Thanksgiving dinner for folks from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. It would be limited to the number of vets that can be transported so not overwhelming. It has been a few years since we've had the vets to our post.

Let's start looking toward the future of normalcy. Since we have not had our unit elections as of this writing, I will update in the May newsletter. As always, I will be in my patriotic hat when at the legion and let's continue to support our posts events and activities because together we can accomplish great things. I can still be contacted by Facebook, Messenger, email, or smoke signal!

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

FROM THE 179 RIDERS...

We are looking at a June time frame for the bike rodeo so stay tuned for more information. I encourage members to participate in group rides after our monthly meetings. If you have any ideas for the Riders, contact me at (616) 648-1638 or by email.

Bones Postma, Director of the Riders, Post 179
eaglepostma@gmail.com



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