



The Patriot



Post 15

Volume 15, Issue 3

Serving Morgan County

December 2015

Commander's Corner

Commander Roger Groves



Hello Legionnaire's,

I hope everyone has had a great summer and is ready for fall and winter time of year with upcoming holidays and events that take place. If you know of one of our members in need of some help getting their home ready for the coming winter weather, please let us know here at the Post. We have several members who would be glad to help our comrades.

I would like to THANK everyone who attended our annual "Veteran's Day Dinner and Dance" this year. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and visiting with old and new friends during the celebration. I hope everyone enjoyed the time and meal as much as I did.

"THANKS" doesn't seem to be quite adequate for all the hard work and dedication our Chaplain Becky Burney, Finance Officer Chuck McClendon, and many other outstanding Legionnaires, Son's of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders that worked many hours in selling, assembling, retiring our "Field Of Flags" that was displayed on our front lawn for Veterans Day. This display has brought a lot of positive attention to not only the veterans honored but to our POST 15. Again, I want to thank ALL participants who came and joined this wonderful event.

I am proud to announce that our float for the Veteran's Day parade at Priceville, Alabama this year received "FIRST PLACE" in the float competition. I want to thank everyone that participated in the designing, assembling, and participation in the parade. Everyone did an OUTSTANDING job. I want to especially thank Steve Burney for his creativeness and skills on the design of this year's float of the "Women's Vietnam Memorial" that honored our women veterans. I would

also like to thank our Post Chaplain, Rebecca Burney, Adjutant Geri Bright, and Chris Covington for volunteering to be the "Live Statues" for our float honoring women veterans.

December brings us to the monthly dinner and meeting being held on the 14th at 6:00 pm for the dinner and 7:00 pm for the meeting. Then we will have our annual "Christmas Dinner and Dance" on the 18th at 6:30 pm. The last day to sign up for the dinner will be 8th of December. Last but not least is the "New Year's Eve Party and Dance on the 31st of the month to ring in the New Year.

January will start off with "Mid-Winter Conference" being held in Montgomery, Alabama starting on the 14th thru the 17th. If you are interested in becoming a delegate to this conference for Post 15, please talk to our Post Adjutant about the points to qualify to become a delegate for this event. The reference for the delegates is posted in our By-Laws, Article V, Section 1, page 17. Our Post will be hosting our yearly "ORATORICAL CONTEST" on the 23rd at the post. If you have not attended this event before, I strongly urge you to come and observe these young Americans. Our monthly dinner and meeting will be held on the 25th with dinner starting at 6:00 pm and meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

February will have the 12th District Meeting being held at Post 237, Huntsville, Alabama with lunch at 1:00 pm and meeting starting at 2:00 pm. Our Post dinner and meeting will be held on the 22nd at 6:00 pm for dinner and meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Side note: Groundhog Day on the 2nd, Super Bowl on the 7th, Valentine's on the 14th, President's Day on the 15th.

I am still asking for your help (members) to start thinking of nominations for "Veteran of the Year" award. I will be asking for these nominations later on in the year. It is never too early to start thinking of who would be deserving of this award. This is someone that you feel that goes that extra mile for our Post and Members.

Last but not least, please take a look at the enclosed calendars for all upcoming events that are happening at your post for times and dates. As other events become available in the upcoming months, we will send out emails to all on our email listing and we will post the events on our Facebook page and website. Thank you all for your continuing support of Post #15.

Roger Groves,
Commander

Thank you all for your continuing support of Post #15.
Roger Groves, Commander

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Calendar of Events American Legion Post 15

~ December 2015 ~						
◀ November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 2:00 PM- Priceville Christmas Parade 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance 6:00pm BINGO
6 12 th District Mtg. Post 15-Decatur Lunch 1:00 PM Mtg.: 2:00 PM	7 9:00AM - 10:00 PM Bell Ringing at Decatur Mall 6:00 PM - Decatur Christmas Parade	8 <u>LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER</u>	9 2:00 PM-CPO Mtg. at Post 52, Hartselle	10 6:00 PM Post Executive Meeting 7:00 PM Hartselle Christmas Parade	11 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	12 Wreaths Across America-VFW- Time To Be Determined 6:00 PM BINGO
13 2:00PM-4:00PM American Legion Auxiliary Initiation	14 5:00 PM Jr. Auxiliary Meet 6:00 PM Post Dinner 7:00 PM Post & Auxiliary Meeting	15	16	17 6:00 PM-Marine Corps League Mtg. 6:00 PM Lady Riders Mtg	18 6:30 PM Post Christmas Dinner & Dance (RESERVATIONS BY DEC. 8th) 7:30 PM Friday Night Dance	19 8:00 AM <u>NO Post 15 Breakfast</u> 9:00 AM Post 310 Mtg. S.A.L. Mtg 6:00 PM BINGO
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26 6:00 PM BINGO
27	28	29	30	31  8:30 PM-??? New Year's Eve Party	Notes:	

Calendar of Events American Legion Post 15

~ January 2016 ~						
◀ December						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2 No Legion Riders Group Ride 6:00 PM BINGO
3	4	5	6	7	8 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	9 6:00 PM BINGO
10	11 6:00 PM--NO Legion Riders Meeting	12	13	14 Mid Winter Conf.	15 Mid Winter Conf. 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	16 Mid Winter Conf. 8:00 AM Post 15 Breakfast 9:00 Riders Ride Post 310 Mtg. S.A.L. Mtg. 6:00 PM BINGO
17 Mid Winter Conf.	18	19	20	21 6:00 PM Post Executive Meeting	22 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	23 10:00 AM Post Oratorical Contest 6:00 PM BINGO
24	25 5:00 PM Jr Auxiliary Meet 6:00 PM Post Dinner 7:00 PM Post & Auxiliary Meeting	26	27	28 6:00PM Lady Riders Mtg.	29 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	30 6:00 PM BINGO
31	Notes: Mid-Winter Conference 14-17 January, at Montgomery					

American Legion Auxiliary



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 is currently involved with the season. Members of the Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation committee under the leadership of chairman Jean Reeder went to Tutt Fann home Friday, November 20 to help celebrate with clients having November birthdays. Also, the committee is contacting various agencies to locate veterans families needing food for the holidays. It is a long standing tradition for the auxiliary to feed three or four veterans' families during this time.

Constitution and By-laws committee has completed its work for the year. A couple of By-laws were changed, and the Standing Rules now comply with the current times. Thanks to Gwen Phillips and her committee for doing an outstanding job.

Brenda Tinger and Rebecca Rinkoski are enabling the Unit to meet National membership goals thus far this year. There are less than 10 units in department having this distinction.

Children & Youth chairman, Doreen Hannah, Santa's helper is shopping for Christmas presents for our foster child and selected Angel Tree child.

Education chairman, Kathleen Douglas, is continuing to solicit funds for two perpetual scholarships that will encourage junior members to continue to participate in the American Legion Auxiliary programs. Scholarships will help assist our worthy junior members to enter into a state school of higher education. Therefore, Kathleen is working closely with Susan Letson, Jr. Activities and Girls State chairman, to fulfill this goal. Our junior members meet an hour before the unit eats on Monday meeting nights. Their meetings are hands on projects which include badge work, at their age level.

Kay Trussel appreciates your depositing you pop top tabs in the blue plastic containers conspicuously placed in the main hall. Kay's first of many community projects is to assist the Birmingham Ronald McDonald House. The house provides a place for families to stay when they have children in the Birmingham Children's hospital.

This year Sheree Brown provided the Unit with an atypical fund raiser. She sponsored and directed an oil picture painting class for members. The financial net result was a little over \$400 being added to our veterans funds. The Unit appreciates her talent and generosity.

Erin Lokken, our media specialist, has submitted to the Post 15 web page updates that replaced our historical information. She will be posting picture featuring events and auxiliary members. Erin, also, reminds and informs members on Facebook about upcoming auxiliary events.

Theresa Poff, along with other members, photographs our excursions and our events. She visually records our history and has recorded off time events in which legionnaires participate. She will be attending the State Convention as Cavalcade of Memories Chairman along with Susan Letson, Department Chaplain and Unit 15 President, Marilyn Volonino. Department Convention will be held January 14th-17th at the Embassy Hotel in Montgomery.

We appreciate Frances McCarrick giving the Invocation and Benediction at the Priceville Veterans Memorial POW/MIA ceremony. Also, we appreciate Earnestine Doubek being not only the Legion's Americanism Chairman, but the Auxiliary's Americanism chair, as well. Both members represent the auxiliary well.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Remember the reason for the season and Our Servicemen and Women who made and continue to make these celebrations possible,

Marilyn Volonino,
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 President



BINGO
Every Saturday 6 PM
Thousands in Cash Prizes

American Legion Riders



The Chapter 15 Riders want to thank everyone who helped make the recent Bean Dinner fundraiser a huge success. Held in the Post 15 main hall, members from throughout the Legion Family pitched in to serve our community and raise money to help support the Morgan County Veterans Memorial.

Aside from group rides over the last two months through the beautiful roadways of north Alabama the Riders provided flag lines at local veterans' funerals and veterans memorial ceremonies. It has been our honor to exemplify our nation's respect and admiration for our Veterans.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to see the first place award winning Post 15 parade float in person because it was truly impressive. The Riders helped raise the spectators' excitement by riding escort and wishing everyone a happy Veterans Day. Come out and see us at the three Christmas parades scheduled in December.

The approaching winter months will limit our opportunities to ride together but we still look forward to supporting the Post, our community and local veterans in other ways.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Chapter 15 Legion Riders can contact the Director Bob Branin at riders@allegionpost15.com or find us at: www.allegionpost15.com/riders.html www.facebook.com/LegionRiders15



Post 15's holiday float honoring the Vietnam Women's Memorial and winning first place at the Morgan Country Veterans Day Parade



Legion Riders standing a flag line at the Morgan Country Veterans Day Ceremony

Annual Dues are DUE

If you have not yet paid your 2016 annual dues, now is the time while the cost is still only \$35.

Effective 1 January 2016 the cost for annual dues increases to \$40.

Calendar of Events American Legion Post 15

◀ January		~ February 2016 ~					March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4	5 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	6 No Legion Riders Group Ride 6:00 PM Bingo	
7 Super Bowl 12 th Dist. Mtg.- Huntsville Post 237 Lunch-1:00 PM Mtg.-2:00 PM 4 Chaplain Service	8 6:00 PM Legion Riders Meeting	9	10	11	12  7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	13 6:00 PM Bingo	
14 Valentine's Day 	15 Presidents' Day 	16	17	18 6:00 PM Executive Meeting	19 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	20 8:00 AM Post 15 Breakfast 9:00 AM Riders Ride Post 310 Mtg. S.A.L. Mtg. 6:00 PM Bingo	
21	22 5:00 PM Jr Auxiliary Meet 6:00 PM Post Dinner 7:00 PM Post & Auxiliary Meeting	23	24	25 6:00 PM Lady Rider's Meeting	26 7:00 PM Friday Night Dance	27 6:00 PM Bingo	
28	29 4:00-7:00PM CPO-Swamp John's Fund Raiser for Morgan Co. Veterans Park	Notes:					

Chaplain's Corner



What a joyous time of year. First we have Thanksgiving, that encourages us to count our many blessings. Let's remember to count them not only as an individual, but also as a nation. Then we will enter the dearest of all seasons that celebrates the birth of our savior Jesus. I pray for a blessed Christmas for all our veterans and their families. I pray we all keep the focus where it belongs; in the spiritual and not the material world.

Who can doubt the many blessing our God has bestowed upon The United States of America? Against all odds, we became a leading nation in the world, a beacon of light, and a hope to those that desire the freedoms we so casually enjoy. Franklin D. Roosevelt said in his 1939 State of the Union Address: "There comes a time in the affairs of men when they must prepare to defend, not their homes alone, but the tenets of faith and humanity on which their churches, their government, and their very civilization are founded. The defense of religion, of democracy, and of good faith among nations is all the same fight. To save one we must now made up our minds to save all." I believe we are at that time again. I encourage you to stand strong in your faith and the defense of the others will come naturally.

Put a reminder on your calendar to remember the Four Chaplains on February 3rd. As legionnaires we recognize the Four Chaplains, their sacrifice, and unity, on the First Sunday of February. As the USAT Dorchester was sinking in the North Atlantic, after a torpedo hit, four Army Chaplains of different faiths – a rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest, a Methodist minister and a Dutch Reformed minister – gave their life jackets to save four soldiers. They were last seen on the deck with their arms linked together and their heads bowed in prayer as they went to their watery graves with 672 fellow soldiers.

Chaplain Becky Burney



Veterans Day Field of Flags

Sons of the American Legion



Why are the Sons all old guys?

That is an interesting question. The Sons of the American Legion is open to all male descendants of a Veteran, male or female, that served during one of the eligibility periods. Squadron 15 has members of all ages, so the better question would be "How do we involve our younger Sons in the activities of the Squadron?" There are a couple ways we could improve youth participation, but we need the help from the Legion and the Auxiliary to accomplish this goal.

1. Encourage attendance of your children and grandchildren at the monthly Sons meeting. We meet on the same morning as the monthly breakfast. We'd love to adapt our meeting into training sessions for young gentlemen in the making.

2. Have them participate in the Ten Ideals program. Many of us have noticed that public schools are not teaching civics and patriotism in the modern curriculum. The Ten Ideals program can augment that learning that's being missed. They are: patriotism, health, training, knowledge, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship. This is a program that takes some time to complete, and is worth the effort of Sons young and old alike. Upon completion, the Son is presented a medal. The Squadron would be honored to guide fellow Sons in completing this program.

3. Have them participate in the Five Star Award. The Five Star Award is earned in stages, with each stage earning a cap pin: patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership, Legionism. Each of these points teaches the Son lessons to make him a better American. In doing these things we can help Sons of all ages be better members of the community, which helps us to have a better community overall.

For God and Country,
Jeremy B. Blevins
Adjutant, Squadron 15

First Annual Field of Flags

A Veteran's Day Field of Flags honoring our Armed Forces men and women was held on November 11th starting at dawn and ceremoniously ending at dusk.

There were 136 American Flags flown on the lawn of Post 15 that day, each honoring a Veteran and labeled with sponsor's name and the veteran being honored. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to support the Morgan County Veterans Memorial.

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