



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus American Legion Post 171, Unit & Squadron

November/December 2021

Greetings Post 171 Family:

Well, as it is starting to get a bit nippy, I guess we can officially say goodbye to summer. It is really hard to believe that Thanksgiving will be here in a few weeks. I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and are looking out for each other.

First, I would like to welcome aboard, or should I say welcome back, Marianne DiSoma who is the President of the Auxiliary (the Unit). I met with her this past month to see how our respective organizations can assist each other. It was a very productive meeting and I look forward to working with her.



Mark your calendars for the Post's Veteran's Day celebration on November 11, 2021. The celebration will kick off at around 10:30 - 10:45 or so. We have the pleasure of again having the Damascus High School Chorus perform. I fully expect them to be their usual awesome selves! Our guest speaker is the New York Times bestselling author, John Gilstrap. I anticipate that this will be a very good program and we hope to see you there.

Also on Veteran's Day, we will be going around to some of the area schools speaking at flag raising ceremonies to honor Veteran's Day. We need for you to come out for that as well. The schools look forward to it and they really like it when a gaggle of us show up for their flag raising ceremonies. We will be doing that on Veteran's Day and maybe the day after as we can accommodate only so many schools on November 11. I will be sending out an email with dates and times and we hope to see you there as well.

Bingo is back!!! The good news is that we have been having Thursday night bingo since the first Thursday in September. The not so good news is that our numbers (in terms of attendees) are down. While we used to get between 70+ to maybe 100 people or so - we are now getting in the 50's. Much of that is probably due to COVID 19 and the Delta Variant as people may not feel safe going out. Get the word out to your neighbors and friends and tell them to come on down to the Post on Thursday night for bingo.

Finally, we will be continuing our Buddy Check Program just to check up on people and make sure they are doing okay. That's about it for now. Stay safe and I will see you around the Post!

For God and Country

Fred Mitchell

Post Commander

Taking care of veterans, and taking care of each other



Hello Unit Members and Post 171 Family:

These last almost two years dealing with the circumstances brought about by COVID has really taken a toll on the energy and momentum built by our collective Unit members and we will spend this year re-building that energy. At the Unit meeting held on September 13th, 2021, elections for officers for this coming year took place. The following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

Marianne DiSomma – President

Vacant – Vice President

Patricia Busche - Treasurer

Sandy Seipp – Chaplain

Historian – Diane Capel

Sgt at Arms – Dee Meyers

Executive Committee members will include the above as well as Casey Koontz and Jane St. Louis (membership). I am also pleased to have Diane Capel serve as our new secretary and so she will join the executive committee as well.

Our focus project this year will be Pocket Flags and so I encourage you to become involved in that committee with Diane Capel as the lead. We are planning to support the Veteran's Day luncheon as well as the first and third Thursdays at the Post 171 Bingo snack bar. We need volunteers for these activities, so please reach out to me or any of the executive committee members to offer your help.

Also, on behalf of our membership chairperson, Jane St. Louis, I'd like to remind you that if you haven't paid your dues for 2021 or 2022 there's still time! Please contact Jane at vieira63@aol.com or mail your payment to her attention at American Legion Auxiliary/Unit 171, P.O. Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872 (ATTN: Jane St. Lewis). Dues are \$25 for each year and once payment is submitted, Jane will forward your membership cards to your mailing address.

I look forward to seeing more of everyone this year so please, as you're comfortable, come out and support our Unit and Post 171!

For God and Country,
Marianne DiSomma
President, Unit 171



Greetings from Squadron 171,

As things around The Post are getting back to normal so are our meetings. Our next meeting will be at The Post @ 7:00 P.M. on 11/7/2021. Membership cards are in and our membership goal deadlines set by The Detachment are approaching fast! So, Please get those renewals in as soon as possible.

On December 4th 2021 @ 1:00 P.M. our Squadron will host the Western Maryland Region Meeting. We were asked by our Western Maryland Region Commander to host this meeting and we are honored to do it. I am asking for help on this meeting as it will require setup and a light meal to be prepared for those in attendance. If you can help please let me know ASAP, and planning will start at our next meeting.

I urge everyone to stay tuned to the Legion website for news and upcoming events. If anyone has any updates to make to their information we may have on file or an email to add please let me know @ toddsal171@yahoo.com.

For God and Country,

Todd Stockslager

SAL Commander



THE POST 171 PATRIOTS BASEBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

After an extremely successful and most importantly, healthy, summer of baseball, Post 171 has once again continued our baseball season into the fall. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our baseball coaching staff, we are providing continued baseball playing opportunities to the young men of our community. Our continued adherence to all the CDC, state and local health guidelines have kept all of our players and coaching staff healthy throughout the season. We wish continued success for the teams that represent our Post through the baseball program.

We are already planning for the 2022 season and hope to continue our program's growth. A notice of tryouts for the 2022 summer season should be announced soon and as always, if anyone is interested in joining the Baseball Committee for the 2022 season, please contact me at post171patriots@gmail.com or rannals@gmail.com.

Happy and Healthy wishes,

Alan T. Rannals

2021 POST 171 BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Alan Rannals (Chairman), Bob Bellison, and Evelyn Hernandez. **Civilian advisors:** Keith Hernandez, Sean Manion, and Dave Retherford.

2022 Damascus American Legion Post 171 Oratorical Contest

The Damascus Post 171 American Legion Oratorical contest will be held on January 15th, 2022, at the Post Home (10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD}. The contest provides an opportunity for high school students to win scholarship money (\$1,000 First Place, \$500 Second Place and \$300 for Third Place) based on their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and to demonstrate that knowledge through a public speaking contest.

In addition to the scholarship money, all contestants would gain valuable insight and an appreciation of the Constitution. This will give them a deeper appreciation of what it means to be an American citizen as well as experience in public speaking and in doing research.

The contestants are judged by professors from Montgomery County College, in accordance with rules outlined on the American Legion website. Damascus American Legion Post 171 staff will be on-hand to actually run the contest and provide logistical support.

The top 3 finishers will receive their checks immediately after the contest. The winner will be eligible to participate in subsequent contests through the district and national levels to win additional scholarship money.

The district contest will be held in February 2022, actual date to be determined.

The Department of Maryland contest will be held on March 6th, 2022. The winner gets a \$3,000 scholarship, second place is a \$2,000 scholarship, and third place is a \$750 scholarship. The Maryland winner will also receive an all-expense paid trip for themselves and a guardian to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the national contest.

The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place gets a \$22,500 scholarship, and third place gets a \$20,000 scholarship. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.

Go all the way and take home \$33,000 in scholarship money.

Damascus Post 171	\$1,000
District	unknown, last year \$1,500
Dept. of Maryland	\$3,000
National	
First Round	\$2,000
Second Round	\$2,000
Final Round	<u>\$25,000</u>
Grand Total	\$33,000

For more information contact Sam Lehane:

Email: thelehanes01@gmail.com **Telephone:** 407-230-3117

Annual Membership Recognition Dinner - January 29, 2022

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 29, 2022 for the Membership Recognition Dinner to be held at the Post home! This is a great event, and everyone is encouraged to attend. New members (2021 and 2022) should especially plan to attend, as it's free for you! Social hour with an open bar starts at 5 PM., dinner at 6 PM., and the program starts at 7 PM.

The Membership Recognition Dinner is for you, the members! There will be an update on our programs; recognizing deserving member service and previewing what's coming this spring. Our Post is an outstanding American Legion Post and we want all members to play an active part in supporting the varied programs benefitting veterans, our community and the country. This is a wonderful time to catch up with friends and welcome our new members. It is also a wonderful opportunity to recognize superior service by deserving Legionnaires and get energized for future Post service to veterans and our community.

Please send in the below reservation form to the Post with your check by January 14th. The cost is \$15 each per member and spouse (or first guest), and \$20 for each additional guest.

Clip out and send the below form to the Post as soon as possible but no later than January 21, 2020.

2022 Membership Dinner Party Reservation Form / Saturday January 29th

Member name _____ @\$15 Spouse or 1st
Guest _____ @\$15. Number of additional guests
_____ @\$20 each Total number attending _____ Table
Request _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Legion 2022 Membership Renewal Time

We are five months into the Legion Membership Year and we are at 75% of reaching our 100% goal. You have probably received a Renewal Notice from National to send payment to the Post PO Box, or if you have a computer and want to save a stamp, it's easy to renew online. Go to Legion.org and click on "Renew Your Membership". All you need is your ID# (if you don't know it, or can't find it, call or text me: 301-401-6479) and method of payment. Sam Baughman, Membership Chairman

Color Guard



The Damascus American Legion Post 171 Color Guard supported the Damascus Freedom 5K and Kids Race on September 11, 2021. Race proceeds benefit great organizations that together support the troops in the field, their families while deployed and those who return home wounded or disabled. Shown with First Responders are from left to right: William Green, Ridgely Chichester, Willie Ruffin and William Cole.

A note about use of the Post. The Post is yours to use and enjoy but please remember to clean up after your visit. You're welcome to come by to watch football or gather with comrades but please pick your trash and clean up. Carol Hartley's job is to clean after bingo and rentals, she is not a full time custodian. Someone left trash and broken glass in the downstairs kitchen recently and potential renters were not amused. Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.

Two of our members are on a two-year sojourn across America. PPC Dave Clemmer and his wife Meg are visiting patriotic sites and sent these images from Veterans Memorial Park in Huntsville, Alabama



P.O. Box 171

Damascus, MD 20872



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<http://www.legionpost171.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171

Officers

Commander	Fred Mitchell	(301) 916-8395	Membership	*Sam Baughman	(301) 401-6479
1 st Vice Commander	* Tony DeShiro	(843) 855-9353	Historian	Sam Lehane	(407) 230-3117
2 nd Vice Commander	Kevin O’Neill	(301) 525-2071	Chaplain	Larry Matthews	(301) 370-4079
Adjutant	Steve Monteiro	(240) 401-0370	Sgt.-at-Arms	Bill Green	(301) 253-5420
Finance Officer	Anita Trotter	(301) 661-6904	Service Officer	Keith Midberry	

Executive Committee

Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	(240) 793-6868	*Bernie Moxley, Sr		
			Charles Bradsher		
			Steve O’Neil		
			Paula Gil		

*denotes Past Post Commander

Auxiliary, Unit 171

Officers

President	Marianne DeSomma		Membership	Jane St. Louis	
Vice President	Open		Secretary	Diane Capel	
Sgt-at-Arms	Virginia Myers		Chaplain	Sandy Seip	
Treasurer	Patricia Busche	(301) 391-6752	Historian	Diane Capel	

SAL Squadron, 171

Officers

Commander	Todd Stockslager		Sgt-at-Arms	Tyler Baughman	
1 st Vice Commander	Tom Kaufman		Historian	Brosh Brosher	
2 nd Vice Commander	Tony Koontz		Finance Officer	Adam Young	
Adjutant	Adam Young		Chaplain	Tyler Baughman	

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