National Commander Charles E. Schmidt from the Department of Oregon was elected National Commander of The American Legion on September 1, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the 98th National Convention. Commander Schmidt will make his official visit to the Department of Delaware, Wednesday to Friday, March 15-17, 2017. Activities in the three districts and several posts are in the planning stages. When date, time, and place are confirmed for the activities, information will be released.

Commander Schmidt enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and served on active duty until his retirement in 1993. During that time, he advanced from an administrative clerk to become a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School, earning a commission and assignments to Executive Support Officer positions at major headquarters. His Air Force assignments took him to Oregon, California, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, England, Germany, Philippines, and Vietnam. After his military retirement as a Major, he was employed by the Air Force Total Quality Management Program at Lowry Technical Training Center in Denver, Colorado.

As an active duty service member, he joined Story-Hardin Post 164 in Craig, Missouri in 1984. He transferred his American Legion membership to Harney County Post 63 in Burns, Oregon, and helped revitalize the department’s Tenth District and beginning a 15-year career at the Greater Oregon Federal Credit Union. He retired from the credit union as the executive vice president.

Commander Schmidt served as Department (State) Commander of the Oregon American Legion in 2004 and 2005. He has served at every level of The American Legion, including National Executive Committeeman from 2005-2016. Gov. Theodore Kulgonski appointed Schmidt to the Governor’s Advisory Committee to the Director for the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. He was appointed to a second 4-year term in 2008.

While serving in the Air Force, he earned a Bronze Star, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device and two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, a Vietnam Service Medal, an Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, an Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, an Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one silver oak leaf cluster, an NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship with bronze star, an Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with four bronze stars.

Commander Schmidt resides in Hines, Oregon, with his wife, Linda. They have two daughters, Andria and Cori, and two sons-in-law, Peter and Anthony. They also have six grandchildren: Madeline, Alex, Adam, Raymond, Nicholas, and Thomas.

In conjunction with the official visit, the Department of Delaware will hold a banquet to honor National Commander Schmidt on Friday evening, March 17, 2017, commencing with a social at 5:45 PM, followed by dinner and program, at Laurel Post #19, 12168 Laurel Road, Laurel, DE 19956. The banquet menu will consist of Roast Beef, Fried Chicken, Scalloped Oysters, Crab Au Gratin, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans & Peas, Mixed Salad & Dressings, Dinner Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea & Water, and a selection of sheet cakes for dessert. Pre-meal appetizers will be Meatballs & Assorted cheese cubes with crackers. Tables are in groups of eight. Coat and tie are the dress. Tickets are $33 per person. Pre-event ticket sales only as tickets shall not be sold at the door. Cutoff date for ordering tickets is Sunday, March 12, 2017. Checks are payable, and to be sent, to the Department of Delaware, PO Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973.


It is only two times per year that the department comes together: Annual Department Convention and the National Commander’s Banquet. Department Commander Jeffrey K. Crouser and the Department officers urge all posts to send a delegation to the banquet and share a memorable evening with Commander Schmidt. For additional information, please contact Richard J. Santos, Department Adjutant, at 302-628-5221, or by e-mail at adjutant@delegion.org.
I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and wish everyone a prosperous new year. Now with the hectic holiday season behind us we can renew our focus on membership. There is an upcoming revitalization for our Sussex District in February and volunteers to help with this membership effort are needed. To participate please contact 1st Vice Commander MaryAnna Moderhak.

American Legion Posts across the state assisted needy families, deployed troops and hospitalized veterans, doing their part to make sure no one was forgotten for Christmas. The season and spirit of giving should not end with the end of the holiday season but continue year-round. There are Legion family members, active duty personal, local American Legion Posts and other veterans and their families that need our help and support throughout the year.

I was honored to be asked to participate in a ceremony for Wreaths Across America whose mission is to remember, honor and teach. Each volunteer is asked to speak the individual's name as they lay the wreath on the grave to honor and remember each veterans' duty and sacrifice to our great nation. This venture shows what can be accomplished across this great nation when differences are put aside for a common cause to benefit the entire community.

Let each of us put our differences in opinions aside to work towards the betterment of our Legion Families, veterans, and the communities where we live and work. This is an achievement that not only enriches the lives of those we help but our own through service to others.

Yours in Service,
Jeffrey K. Crouser
Commander
The American Legion, Department of Delaware, Inc.

Jeffery K. Crouser
State Commander

MaryAnna Moderhak
1st Vice Commander

Well it is my pleasure to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hopefully see each post achieve the 100% or even better in membership by the end of this year. I know we are always preaching the need to get out and Reinstate, Revitalization or Recruit new members or former members. It has been brought to my attention that we are not always keeping in touch with members who have not paid their dues for this past year or even the year before and I have personally experienced (heard) the difficulties that several former members are going through. If you don’t contact those members you don’t know their problems.

PLEASE do so, too many former members are experiencing too many problems and the Department of Delaware and the National organization have programs that may be able to help them. Now on to something that I am very proud of. Durney Post #27 did an outstanding Christmas gift giving to the state National Guard in distributing over $2000 in donated, by their members, gifts and 12 bicycles. What a grand picture it is to see the gifts covering many tables, machines and any other place they could stack them. I do know many of Delaware’s Posts also did many similar things but I did not get informed that these were going on. Please “TOOT” your own horns so we can let everyone know of the great things our Legionnaires are doing.

Now back to membership as we have said before all the Department officers, our Commander Crouser, me as 1st Vice and Jim Stewart 2nd Vice are more than willing to make arrangements with you to pick up memberships and see they are delivered to the Department Office on time. Please give my first paragraph due consideration and keep in touch with those members who have not paid when you have problems we are not willing to make them public contact them.

MaryAnna Moderhak
1st Vice Commander

At this time of year, I am going to dispense with my regular column and sincerely thank all legionnaires, auxiliary members and sons of legionnaires for their dedicated service to our American Legion and our veterans. Your devotion to our cause is overwhelming and you truly deserve more than just a thank you. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Of course, a personal thank you goes out to the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary for all their kind deeds, fundraisers, etc. throughout the year. Your devotion is relentless. You ladies have made me so proud to be your President.

On closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyous New Year.

Maureen Kelley-Murray
President

Jeffrey K. Crouser
State Commander

The American Legion
Department of Delaware, Inc.

Maureen Kelley-Murray
President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Delaware
maurm@comcast.net
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Reverend Wayne Hicks
Department Chaplain

My Fellow Veterans;

Hope as this issue of the Legionnaire reaches you that you all are well. And getting ready for Christmas and the New Year. And that each and every one of you has a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

There has not been to many deaths this year, and just a few people on the prayer list to Get Well.

I still have the dissected aorta, and as I write this letter I will be going in for eye surgery tomorrow at the Baltimore VA. I believe most of the Officers in the Department are doing well; I believe the Commander Jeff Crouser is having some issues with his hip. And John Endres has made a full recovery from his knee replacement.

Let us all remember the 75th Invasion of Pearl Harbor yesterday the 7th. Of December, and the survivors that are still living and there family’s. And remember the Veterans that are coming home now from war torn Country’s that are suffering from loss of limbs and TBI, and PTSD. There are so many suicides each year among Veterans even with outreach programs some just can’t get the help they need. So if you know someone that needs help; Help them!! We are all Veterans that put our lives on the line for this Great Country, and we need to band together for one another no matter what the cost.

I hope we all can help in one way or another. The families of the fallen that paid the ultimate sacrifice will need our help as well.

So God bless you all, and again Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country
Reverend Wayne Hicks

SUSSEX DISTRICT COMMANDER

Jim Lafferty
Commander
Sussex District

I want to thank everyone who participated in the packing of the food boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. Helping those in need in our communities, I believe, is an important part of being a member of the American Legion. Our National Office sent a reporter and a photographer to cover the packing in November and put together a video of the event. They flew in for one day just to cover this event and did a great job.

I have been informed by Mountaire Farms that the Legionnaires will be needed again in April to pack food boxes for Easter. As soon as the date is established I will let everyone know. Look at the event as another opportunity to help those in need in our communities.

The Sussex District will be conducting a District Revitalization. The dates for this event are February 10, 11 and 12, 2017. The revitalization will be conducted at Post 17 in Lewes. It is requested that each post within the Sussex District send at least one post representative to participate and help their post gain additional members either by renewals or transfers from the Headquarters Post. Information regarding start times, etc. will be provided once established. As you can see from the membership reports that the Department Adjutant sends out, membership goals are not being met. This revitalization is one way to try and help the posts meet their goals, so it is important for all posts within the District to participate.

Please mark your calendar for February 18th, 2017. On this date the Sussex District will be hosting a Fish Fry at Post 28. This is one of our fund raiser that will be used for the Children and Youth Activities and other District activities. The event will take place from 1 PM till 5 PM. The cost per person is $10.00 each for all you can eat. A flyer will be published shortly with all the details.

The next Sussex District meeting will take place at Post 28 on February 15, 2017 starting at 7 PM.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Sussex District, we wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lafferty
Sussex District Commander

EDITOR

Bettylou Evans
Editor

Finally, this issue is almost ready for the printer. It has been a long hard struggle. My computer has crashed three times, the last time I lost all documents, pictures and most of all I lost my programs. Hopefully this never happens again. It has been a busy time since September in my life. Difficult days and lonesome nights. If you have never lost a child or spouse you have no idea what people go through, but life goes on and I have tried to spend my time with the Legion and Auxiliary. A special thanks goes out to everyone for listening to me and crying with me. You really know who your true friends are. Enough sadness, now on the new year.

We need to make a commitment to buy a ticket to the National Commander’s dinner on March 17th at Post 19 in Laurel. The menu will be great and the camaraderie will be terrific.

From March we will be moving on to putting the State Convention together, then on to Post and District elections. Department Officers are busy up grading their offices in Seaford. Everyone needs to be thinking about attending the State Convention and National Convention.

Let’s come together as a family – work together, play together and most of all respect one another. See you along the Legion road.

Bettylou Evans
Editor, Delaware Legionnaire
American Legion
Department of Delaware
On 23 September 2016, Robert Turner, PNC, convened this year’s Americanism Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Programs addressed were Legion Baseball, Boys State and Nation, the Oratorical Contest and Chaplains. After greetings and opening remarks by Charles Schmidt, National CDR, the first days’ joint session featured presentations on “Appearance and Performing Enhancing Drugs” and “Samsung Scholarship Update”.

The informational presentations included ROTC Cadets as Junior Counselors, recruiting overseas veterans’ children for the Boys State programs, developing a BS Director’s Program Contingency Plan, fundraising, a special programs segment, revenue generation, and growing your Boys State program. Most of the presentations were aimed at the larger departments.

A working lunch included remarks by Mr. Mike A. Buss, Deputy Director of the Americanism Division, on the 2016 Boys State Participation. Both Delaware and Ohio programs were highlighted as the best of the smallest and largest in the conduct of their respective situations.

Lyman Brenner
Americanism Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Delaware is excited to announce that our new website is live! You can find us at www.aladelaware.org

The goal of the new website is to provide visitors and members an easy way to learn about American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Delaware programs and events.

The site contains integrated social media links for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest to foster improved communications. The calendar has department and unit events; includes google maps so participates can obtain directions. We will be updating our content with helpful information, surveys and announcements!

We hope you will enjoy our new site. If you have questions, comments or suggestions please email the webmaster at alawebmaster@delegion.org.
The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 2 hosted Breakfast with Santa on December 17, 2016.

Children, and grownups as well, enjoyed their time with Santa and visiting with each other.
American Legion Auxiliary National President to Visit Delaware

The American Legion Auxiliary National President will visit the Department of DE, April 4-6, 2017. The Department is planning a full schedule for her visit and National Executive Committee (NEC) Carol Feeley says “it is always a pleasure to welcome our National President to our area. “Details about events will be forthcoming but there will be a luncheon on Thursday April 6 from 12PM - 2 PM hosted by Unit 28 for the Department Family to include Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders.

Mary E. Davis, of Lacey, Wash., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) during the organization’s 96th National Convention in Cincinnati, held Aug. 26-Sept. 1. Davis will serve the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization as national president for a one-year term.

Davis has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, and department levels. At the national level, she chaired many committees and served special appointments, including work on the ALA’s 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan and designated director for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. She is a member of Pat Tillman Memorial Unit 53 in DuPont, Wash.

As a member of the ALA for 40 years, Davis has chosen to highlight ALA Member Pride for her term as national president. “Each and every day as we work our programs, serve our veterans, help our military families, or make a difference in the life of a child, we swell with pride because of the difference we make,” Davis said during her inaugural speech. “I call that ALA Member Pride. Pride in one’s accomplishments, pride in making a difference in another’s life, and pride in belonging to an organization that embodies the mission work of the American Legion Auxiliary.”

Davis is an accredited service officer through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for The American Legion and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. She has served as a service officer for 20 years, including eight years as a training officer for The American Legion Service Division. Davis is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, Beta Sigma Phi, and the Military and Veterans Caregiver Peer Support Network Advisory Council. She holds a bachelor’s degree from The Evergreen State College.

Davis is eligible for membership through her late father R. Garnett Boots, an Army Air Corps veteran of WWII; her mother Helen Babb Boots, also a WWII veteran who served in the Women’s Army Corps; her husband Dale Davis, retired Army, Vietnam-era veteran; and her son Robert Davis, a Desert Storm Air Force veteran.

January 5th 2017 C.K.R.T. American Legion Post 7 Commander, Dan Tesoro (pictured center) presented the Legion Certificate of Appreciation to Past Commander Gary Porter (left) and Chuck Werner post Adjutant (right) for their exceptional work in recruiting new Legion members.
26th Annual Pig Roast

Cake Wheel & 50/50 Raffle

Famous Cake Auction & much, much more!

Including Deep Fried Turkey with all the fixins’ and Draft Beer, too!

American Legion C.K.R.T. Post #7
17448 S. Dupont Hwy
Harrington, DE

Saturday, March 4, 2017 1:00 to 6:00 PM
$18.00 in advance, $20.00 at the door
Everyone is welcome

(children are not encouraged to attend)

Call (302) 398-3566 for info or tickets
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 came together in support of Past Unit President Judy Carr to help her complete a quilt for Home of the Brave Female Veteran facility in Milford, DE. Both the Auxiliary and SALs donated to the project.

Judy saw a quilt pattern entitled “Home of the Brave” in a magazine and decided that she wanted to honor female veterans by making the quilt that would hang on the wall at the new female veteran home.

The quilt was donated on the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor by Judy, Auxiliary members of Unit 28 and members of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28.
American Legion Post 17 wishes to inform every one of the passing of Edward “Pat” Paterson, our 96 year old World War II Veteran who died peacefully at the Delaware Hospice Care Center on Thursday December 29th, 2016.

Known to most locals as “Pearl Harbor Pat”- we knew his smile, his good bar stories and time with him over a drink was enjoyed by all.

A fond Farewell for our Comrade will be this Friday January 6th at 1pm at Post 17. A luncheon will follow.

Pat’s Stepson and Brother-in-Law will be with us and will be presented Pat’s Flag.

Thanks to all who every gave him a ride, listened to his story, gave us some sheets or clothes these last weeks, got him his bowl of soup, gave a hug, a kiss or a salute- he loved it all.

For Post 17 he represented what taking care of one of our own was all about- a real World War II Veteran we were proud to have with us.
Auxiliary Unit 17- Post 17 Lewes, Delaware- 
A Grand Tribute to our Veterans

Friends
The American Legion Post 17- Honored at Veterans Service at Post 17- 11/11/16 at 11 am

About 130 Lewes Community friends and Post 17 family gathered and enjoyed a service a meal prepared and served by Unit 17 Auxiliary and then a great afternoon of fellowship and remembrance.

Lt around the Table- Unit 17 Auxiliary members proudly serve up the prepared meal following a very special Veterans Day Service at Post 17 in Lewes. Jo Stafford, Kellie Bergen, Jean Maxwell, Gail Sellazzo, Joanne Minalga and Cathy Butler as well as many others made it a Special Day.
American Legion Christmas Brunch with Santa

On December 4, 2016, The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 held their Christmas Brunch with Santa for approximately 40 children from the Post and the Georgetown National Guard. Children and Youth Chairman June Jones and her team provided a meal of chicken nuggets, french fries, drinks and cupcakes. There was face-painting and games, and a time for a visit with Santa and photos.
On December 20, 2016 the Legion Riders from Walter L. Fox Chapter 2 escorted Santa Clause (Bill White) to the Kent County Community School I, Dover, De. to visit with the students.

He then talked to the students, making sure he listened intently to all their wishes, and took pictures with them. The students were excited to see Santa Claus as his bright red sleigh pulled up in front of the Kent County Community School with the help of a motorcycle.

The Legion Riders Chapter has been bringing Santa and his sleigh to visit the children at the Kent County Community School for 11 years. The event was originally arranged by Nick and Gail Sellazzo, who have since retired from the school. Both are charter members of the American Legion Riders.

While the kids were thrilled to see Santa just five days before his biggest night of the year — Christmas Eve — members of the Walter L. Fox Post 2 American Legion Riders were just as excited to see them, as well. Stephen ‘Skip’ Shappee, commander of Walter L. Fox Post 2 and a Legion Rider, couldn’t help but feel warm inside on Tuesday morning, even though the temperature was just 27 degrees outside.

“It’s really great because the kids really love it and it makes us feel good, to be honest with you,” he said. “Sometimes the kids are more interested in the motorcycles than Santa, so we try to get as many riders as possible to join us for this visit.”

Richard Benedict and Mindi Cambell