

# The American Legion Post 2



## From the Commander's Desk

MAR 2016

Mike Testerman, Commander

I hope everyone survived the great snow dusting of February 2016 - and looking forward to some warmer weather.

Thank you to all the Post family members who came to assist with the moving of American Legion Post 2 into storage. Too many folks to identify, but I need to acknowledge and thank Thomas Smith and his crew from Carey Moving, who directed the move and provided the truck, along with Marty Everett, Marvin Tuggle, Bob Dewald, Lloyd Pitney and the JROTC representing South Doyle, Central, Fulton, Gibbs and West for doing much of the "heavy lifting"

A vote was taken at the February Post meeting to sell the current building and property, which passed unanimously 30-0. In addition, Post members approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to hire that Kim Lauth, to assist and guide Post 2 with fund raising efforts with a goal of approximately \$300,00.00 for a new Post Home. She will be working with the Executive Committee, but this is a Post wide activity and we will need the support of all our members. If you have any questions, please contact former Commander Bob Dewald who is spearheading this campaign.

As we move forward to warmer weather, I would like to see the Post to become even more involved in the community, and plans are underway to reach out with additional social and civic activities. I encourage you get involved - and invite your friends and family to attend — Especially your veteran friends. One event will be the annual Flag Retirement ceremony. in coordination with the local JROTC units - so if you have an old flag that needs to be disposed of, please hold on to it, so it can be properly retired.

Reminder that in May, the East Tennessee Veterans Association hosts their annual Medal of Honor Evening on May 2nd, so the **May Post meeting will be held on TUESDAY MAY 3rd.** to allow Post members to attend. The deadline to make arrangements to sit at the Post 2 table is 1 March. Please contact the finance officer for more information.

Finally, nominations for Post 2 officers opened at the March and April meetings, with the election at the May meeting. The new officers will be installed at the June meeting, prior to the 2016 Legion Department Convention held June 23rd-26th. If you would like to nominate someone please contact me at 865-742-6170 or by e-mail at [metesterman1@aol.com](mailto:metesterman1@aol.com). I look forward to seeing you on Monday , March 7th.

*Mike Testerman*

### Post 2 Calendar of Events

Monthly meetings are held at the American Red Cross Building located at 6921 Middlebrook Pike in Knoxville until further notice

#### March

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 7th  | Post 2 Monthly Meeting featuring Meal at 6pm - Mtg at 7pm |
| 16th | SAL Meeting 6:30 Stowers Machinery                        |
| 18th | ALR Meeting 6:30  |
| 29th | Exec. Council Meeting at 6:30 pm                          |

**From the Building Steering Committee - Bob Dewald Chair**

## **POST 2 MOVING DAY A SUCCESS**

Since last month, much progress occurred on our goal to transition to a new Post 2 home. This past Saturday, we had a great turnout to move post belongings to a storage location. Post 2 members, family, and friends, including about 35 JROTC cadets from South Doyle, Central, Gibbs, West, and Fulton high schools moved our belongings to Lister Distribution, Inc., courtesy of owner Tom Lister.



A special thanks to Thomas Smith and his team from Carey Moving who led the operation to get things moved safely and efficiently. This was a major step in our ultimate transition to a new home.

The Steering Committee reviewed the building appraisal this week with our realtor to formulate our marketing strategy. We will have the building listed for sale not later than the next week or so. Heeding advice from several commercial real estate experts and to expand our pool of potential buyers, we are also applying to the city of Knoxville to have the property re-zoned from residential to commercial. The government process may take a few months. Thanks to Marty Everett for



researching the zoning issue and contacting the Knoxville Metropolitan Zoning Commission regarding this important issue.

This is all good news but I want to advise everyone that commercial real estate is currently moving particularly slow where the post is located so let's not assume the sale of the property will likely be sold soon. Optimism, but realism, is the message I am

passing to you. Yet, we would never sell the property without getting started with the process, and started we are.

If you have been to recent Post meetings where the Steering Committee presented updates, you'll know whatever we receive from the building sale won't be enough for us to obtain or lease a suitable home. We need to raise money. Thus, the Executive Committee approved hiring a professional fund raiser, Kim Lauth from Kim Lauth Consulting. Kim not only comes with a wealth of experience and expertise, but has an affinity for Veterans. You may know Kim as the principal fund raiser for our East Tennessee Veterans Memorial, having raised several million dollars. We are very excited about working with Kim.

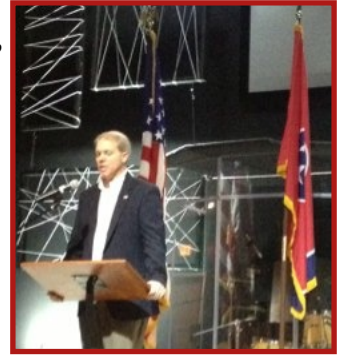
Thank you for your outstanding support for this major undertaking. We'll keep you updated.

# FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE



Post 2 Chaplain Steve Sword once again organized a moving ceremony which honored the service of the “Four Chaplains” and remembered their sacrifice aboard the USS Dorchester during WWII.

Thanks goes to Rev. Charles Fels and Chaplain David Trempe for their remarks during the service, to Lucy Sword who led the Pledge of Allegiance and to members of the University of Tennessee’s Army ROTC who provided the color guard.



## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING

*Jenny Testerman, Auxiliary President*

Our next meeting will be on March 7th and the meal will be catered by Garrett’s Downtown Deli - a family owned business operated by Post 2 members Lee and Suzie Dalton. I encourage you to support their business when you are in downtown Knoxville.

As a reminder, we continue to meet at the American Red Cross building, located at 6921 Middlebrook Pike in Knoxville. Because the Red Cross staff continues to support the Legion by allowing the Post to use their facilities, please consider making a donation to the Red Cross by dropping a contribution in the jar in the main meeting area.

Prior to the next monthly meeting, the current officers will have an executive committee meeting on February 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Red Cross. Any interested auxiliary members are welcome to observe the meeting. The agenda for our next meeting will be to review the unit constitution and by-laws for some needed revisions, vote on unit mandatory fees, and announce nominations for officer candidates.

Please don’t hesitate to let the officers know if you see an area which may be an opportunity for growth. Revitalization of the unit makes the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, service not self, the primary focus of the group. Service to veterans and families can grow our membership as well as that of the Jr. Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and the Post. We look forward to any opportunity to serve and/or educate veterans and families in addition to community members.

The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who served by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. We do this by organizing and supporting community events, fostering communication within the group, and providing for the needs of military families as well as veterans in the community. Each member is very valuable to us and we welcome your participation in delivering our mission.

Please feel free to invite any and all eligible friends and family for membership. Thank you for all you do. The Auxiliary year is half over, so please don’t stop putting forth effort now! We always encourage ideas and sharing. Let’s end the year strong.

Thank you for all you do!

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Post 2 Chaplain Steven Sword

As I write this article for our newsletter, I have just learned of the death of my professional hero, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia was an amazing jurist who has had a greater impact on legal thinking in our country than anyone else in the last century. His impact will be felt for generations to come. There are many great quotes from Scalia's writings and speeches that are being shared by people who admired him. Here is one of my favorite. It isn't centered on the law, but on the life of a believer.

"God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and He has not been disappointed...If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world." Antonin Scalia 2005

Scalia was relying on several passages from the Apostle Paul's writings found in both the First letter to the Corinthians and in the letter to the Romans, as well in the teachings of Jesus. What is so impactful to me from this quote is understanding the man who gave it. Scalia was considered by even his most ardent critics as a brilliant man. However, those same critics frequently issued scathing personal attacks against his person for the display of this very same brilliance.

What was Justice Scalia's response to these attacks? To understand that he was simply part of a cosmic plan much greater than he. If he suffered for sharing the truth, why should that surprise him? Why should it surprise us?

So, if you find yourself speaking the truth in love and you are greeted with disdain and scorn. Remember Antonin Scalia's wisdom derived from the words of Jesus, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.... But, I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you will remember that I told them to you." John 15:18.



## The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association's **6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening**

**Monday, May 2nd**

*Honoring Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient  
United States Army*

**SFC Ray E. Duke**

If you are interested in attending the ETVMA Medal of Honor Evening and would like to sit at the Post 2 table - please contact Rod Myers or Mike Testerman.

You may learn more about the event at: [www.etvma.org](http://www.etvma.org)



# American Legion Riders

*DJ Hunley, Riders Director*

Greetings from the Riders! The groundhog may not have seen his shadow...but old man winter is apparently going to go out like a lion!

The 2016 mission for the Riders is to be more visible in the local community and recruit quality members for both the Riders and the Post. The Riders meetings also are open to all Post members as well as guests. Normally, the Riders meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Red Cross building on Middlebrook Pike. Please remember, any event hosted by the Riders is open to all members and their families, and our "Poker Runs" always include automobiles - in addition to two and three vehicles!

We have an exciting announcement for the Riders. Knoxville Harley Davidson, located on Clinton Hwy has approved the American Legion Post 2 Riders to be one of their community groups allowed to meet at their location.

This will now become our "home away from home" as the Post continues to through the building project. This partnership will give Post 2 greater community visibility, along with a great sponsor to assist us in the promotion of our events!

We look forward to working with the management of Knoxville HD to provide information about the activities of Legion Riders in their dealerships, and will hopefully have our own wall in the community room and Knoxville Harley has gone out of their way to ensure access to the building. so a big thank you to Knoxville Harley Davidson for all the hard work (including remodeling their brand new building) to allow this to happen make this possible!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the matching donation from the American Legion Riders has been 100% matched!! Thank you to those that were able to contribute - and I hope to be able to again provide matching funds after our our ride in August.



## Sons of the Legion

*Dan Chipman, Squadron Commander*

Post 2 Sons of the Legion meet the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Stowers Machinery, located at 6301 Old Ruggles Ferry Pike in Knoxville beginning at 6:30pm.

Plans are continuing for the the Turkey Shoot and the annual golf tournament. The Turkey Shoot will be held on the weekend of April 1&2 at Possum Park in East Knoxville, while the golf tournament will be at Three Ridges Golf Course on Saturday, June 18th. The SAL is currently soliciting hole sponsorships for the Gold tournament, as well as door prizes. Please contact Dan Chipman at [chipmanvttmn@bellsouth.net](mailto:chipmanvttmn@bellsouth.net) if you can help.



# KNOX COUNTY

## VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

THE KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE WILL BE AT THE SENIOR CENTERS TO PROVIDE ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

WE WILL EXPLAIN VA BENEFITS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND ASSIST VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WITH FILING FOR THEIR VA BENEFITS

Corryton- March 8, 2016 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Strang- March 10, 2016 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

O'Connor- March 14, 2016 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Larry Cox- March 14, 2016 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Halls- March 16, 2016 9:00 am to 10:00 am

South Knox- March 17, 2016 9:00 am to 10:00 am

South Knoxville Community Center- March 17, 2016 10:15 to 11:15

Karns- March 18, 2016 9:00 am to 10:00 am

VA Outpatient Clinic- March 29, 2016 8:30 to 9:30

Carter- January 30, 2016 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

For more information call 865-215-5645

Or email [veterans@knoxcounty.org](mailto:veterans@knoxcounty.org)

