

# NEWSLETTER

April 2026



## AMERICAN LEGION

### POST 162

8210 LEGION DRIVE

LORTON, VIRGINIA 22079

PHONE: 703-690-1107

FACEBOOK:

LORTONLEGION162

WEBSITE:

[WWW.VALEGION162.ORG](http://WWW.VALEGION162.ORG)

### Legionnaires

**Commander:** Chris Warner

**First Vice Commander:** Robert Hicks

**Second Vice Commander:** VACANT

**Third Vice Commander:** Lori Hicks

**Finance:** Blake Bass

**Chaplain:** Joe Wojtyna

**Adjutant:** VACANT

**Judge Advocate:** Julie Hoyte

**Historian:** Chris Truchon

**Sergeant At Arms:** VACANT

**Service Officer:** VACANT

**Trustees:** Sean Counihan

### Auxiliary

**President:** Jessie Haynes

**First Vice President:** Sandy Haynes

**Second Vice President:** Jenna Lamouroux

**Secretary:** Vickie Pickering

**Treasurer:** Kelly Owens

**Historian:** Lori Mills

**Chaplain:** Lori Hicks

### Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

**Commander:** Bryan Steele

**First Vice Commander:** Robert Hicks

**Second Vice Commander:** Eddie Mills

**Chaplain:** VACANT

**Adjutant:** Chris Warner

**Finance:** VACANT

**Historian:** Stan Williams

**Sergeant At Arms:** John Yaksima



## We are Family

The American Legion is a friendly, welcoming place for veterans and their families—no matter your background. It's more than meetings and events; it's a community built on respect, friendship, and shared service. At Post 162, membership means family.

The American Legion is a private organization. All activities and information referred to in this newsletter are available to Members and Qualified Guests. The Newsletter is for informational purposes with proprietary information intended for members.

# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	01 SAL Cornhole Tournament 6:30 PM Passover	02	03 Game Night @ 7	04 Aux Meeting @ 11:00 AM Kid's Easter Party 1 to 3 PM
05 Easter Dinner @2 pm Ron Thayer 2 to 5 pm Easter	06	07	08 SAL Cornhole Tournament 6:30 PM	09	10 Game Night @ 7	11
12	13	14 SAL Meeting @6 Comm/Events Meeting @6	15 SAL Cornhole Tournament 6:30 PM National Purple Up Day Wear Purple	16 Music Bingo @6:30 PM	17 Game Night @ 7	18 Carrot Cake Bakeoff 1 pm Special Membership Meeting @ 11 am
19	20	21	22 SAL Cornhole Tournament 6:30 PM	23	24 Game Night @ 7	25
26	27	28 No Membership Meeting	29 SAL Cornhole Tournament 6:30 PM	30	01	02

## NOTES

**SPECIAL Membership meeting on April 18th @ 11 am Speaker on Long Term Care**

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

☀️ Special April Membership Meeting ☀️

📅 Saturday, April 18, 2026  
🕒 11:00 AM

We invite all members to join us for a Special April Membership Meeting featuring a Guest Speaker Presentation on Long Term Care.

This informative session will provide valuable insights, helpful resources, and important planning information for you and your family.

☕ Refreshments will be served!

Come early, connect with fellow members, and stay informed.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

At Post 162, you're family — not just a member.

Open to Post 162 Membership

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

## Commander's Message



I think the weather is starting to get a little better (besides the crazy snow last week!). That means we'll be able to start doing more events outside in our TERRIFIC back yard!

Although we haven't had any BIG events in March, it's still been a busy month, celebrating Pi Day, the American Legion Birthday (107 years!), St Patrick's Day, and our Spin to Win event! I hope you made it out to one or more of those events.

Coming up in April, we'll be doing the joint Kid's Easter Party on Apr 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter Dinner and Ron Thayer on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Music Bingo on April 16<sup>th</sup>, a Carrot Cake bakeoff on the 18<sup>th</sup> and SAL's Cornhole Tournament weekly through the 29<sup>th</sup>!

Looking ahead to May, I'd like Members to please join us on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, as we will be putting Flags on gravesites at Pohick and Cranston Cemeteries!! Please come out and help us HONOR these fallen heroes!

We have also been working with Hayfield and South County High Schools to find young men to send to Boys State. Members of the EXCOM attended the Department Spring Conference in Portsmouth VA at the end of February and also attended Legion College on March 14<sup>th</sup>. These events are run by Department (state) to distribute information and assist Posts in how to operate day-to-day.

Reminder that we are focusing our General Membership Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am on Long Term Care. We have a guest speaker coming in to talk about options for Long Term Care and how to plan. Come out to see what we're doing!

Lastly, we are really pushing to get the Kitchen finished and contractors out to finalize training on a few items. We will put more information when we are ready to open the kitchen!

As always, please let us know how we can make OUR Post the best it can be for our Members!

Chris Warner, Commander Post 162

Email: [Commander@valegion162.org](mailto:Commander@valegion162.org)



## **Auxiliary Message**



Happy April Auxiliary Members!

If you have not paid your dues for 2026 please do so as soon as possible. We currently have 105 out of 115 members up to date on their dues! We are almost at 100%

Auxiliary will be hosting our annual Children's Easter Party on Saturday April 4th from 1pm-3pm! We will have food, egg hunt, moon bounce and more! We will need volunteers to help set-up starting at 11AM, please consider helping out. Additionally, our next Auxiliary meeting will be April 4th at 12pm, prior to our Children's Easter Party.

April is the Month of the Military Child. Show your support on April 15th for "Purple Up." Wear your favorite shade of purple. The goal of "Purple Up! Day" is for our military youth to see the support in their schools, youth groups, and their community. Let us show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices!

Thank you to all of those who participated in the Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Basket raffle.

Mark your calendars for our next Sip N' Paint Event. Come spend an afternoon with us enjoying snacks, drinks and being creative painting a summer themed picture on Sunday May 3rd.

If you are interested in getting more involved, sharing new ideas or looking for a new opportunity in 2026-2027 our Auxiliary elections are held at our May meeting.

Jessie Haynes

ALA President Unit 162

Email: [Auxiliary162@gmail.com](mailto:Auxiliary162@gmail.com)

## **Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Message**



Spring is finally getting here! Cornhole Wednesdays are going so well that we are extending cornhole till the end of April. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00PM to play, watch or cheer on your favorite team.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter - Easter Dinner will be at the post-April 5th at 2PM - Ron Thayer will be providing music for our listening pleasure.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday - April 14th at 6:00PM. Are you interested in taking a position for the Board this is the time to attend a meeting. Elections will take place at our May meeting.

See you at the Post

Bryan Steele, SAL Commander

## Chaplain's Message



### **A Lesson on Kindness and the Heart**

Fellow Legionnaires,

Recently I read a story about a family who participated in “Random Acts of Kindness.” Their plan was simple: they gave **\$50 gifts to 26 people**, honoring the memory of the 26 victims of a tragic school shooting. As I read it, I did math: **\$1,300**.

My first thought was about the cost.

But almost immediately I realized something: while money was the first thing that came to my mind, the greater issue was what God was showing me about my own heart. The Bible reminds us that the Lord does not see as man sees, because *“man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looked on the heart”* (1 Samuel 16:7).

That family’s kindness did more than bless strangers. It strengthened their faith and taught them that God often works deeper than we expect. Scripture says, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

I also began thinking about how easy it is for us to judge whether someone is “worthy” of help. Many of us have wrestled with this when we see people asking for money on street corners or highway exits. We may wonder: *Could they work? Are they being honest? Are we helping—or enabling?*

The truth is, we cannot always know the full story behind another person’s situation. Jesus warned us about sitting in the place of judgment, because that role belongs to God alone (Matthew 7:1–2). At the same time, the Bible also teaches wisdom and personal responsibility (2 Thessalonians 3:10). So, we must balance compassion with discernment.

What encouraged me most is this: kindness does not always have to be a large financial gift. There are many ways to do good.

My wife and I have made it a habit during our morning walks to pick up newspapers and place them near neighbors’ doors. One day we noticed a woman’s broom was worn out, so we bought her a new one. We didn’t know her financial situation, but we saw a need and responded. The Bible teaches that real love is not just words, but action (1 John 3:17–18).

Even the smallest act of kindness matters. Jesus said that even giving a cup of cold water in His name will not go unnoticed (Matthew 10:42).

As we go through this month, may we all ask God to help us see people as He sees them, and to give us hearts willing to serve. Sometimes the greatest lessons are not learned through large gestures, but through small acts of love done quietly and faithfully.

God bless each of you and thank you for your continued service.

**Respectfully,**

Joe Wojtyna, Chaplain Post 162

## Americanism




### *Americanism: April's Patriots Day*

Patriots' Day, celebrated in Massachusetts the third Monday in April, recognizes the first battle of the American Revolution, battles of Lexington and Concord as well as the aftermath of the "[shot heard 'round the world.](#)" The day is celebrated with [historical reenactments](#), sporting events like the Boston Marathon which has been held on Patriots Day since 1897, and parades. This year's celebration will be extra special as it marks the 250th anniversary of the battles and the start of the American Revolution.

Apart from Massachusetts, the holiday is also recognized in Maine, Connecticut, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Florida.

Joe Legra, Americanism Chair

## Member Spotlight

Do you know a fellow Member who goes the extra mile—whether helping at the Post or lending a hand to another member? 

We'd love to celebrate them in our **Member Spotlight!**

Share their story with us and help us recognize the kindness and dedication that make our Post such a special place.

American Legion Post 162 is proud to recognize Sandy Haynes as our Members Spotlight

As a long-time member, former bartender, and current member of the Auxiliary, Sandy has done a little of everything for our Post. Her contributions include extensive work behind the scenes, such as helping to clean and rebuild after the fire. In her current role on the Auxiliary Board, she manages membership and Girls State. Her dedicated service to the Auxiliary and the Post truly does not go unnoticed.

Sandy embodies our motto, "Our Members Become Family." Please join us in thanking her for her commitment and contributions. Be sure to say hello and share your appreciation the next time you see her at the Post.



## SICKNESS & DISTRESS



### SICKNESS

Chaplain **Joe Wojtyna** recovering nicely from knee surgery

If you are aware of a member who is facing illness, has experienced the loss of a loved one, or could use some extra prayers and support, please let us know.

Our Post family cares deeply and wants to be there in times of need. You may contact Post 162 at 703-690-1107 or reach out directly to our Chaplain, Joe Wojtyna, at [joewojtyna@gmail.com](mailto:joewojtyna@gmail.com)



**We are blessed to not have anyone reported for this month**

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

# CORNHOLE

## Tournament

Every Wednesday Night  
through April 29th

Bags fly 6:30 PM

LET THE GAME BEGIN

FRIENDS - GOOD TIMES

\$10 PER PERSON

WINNER Each Week



Open to the Public

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107



LET'S CELEBRATE



Joint  
Kid's Easter  
12 and Under



### PARTY

Saturday, APRIL 4

1 to 3 PM

Signup Sheet at both locations

FOOD . MOON BOUNCE . EGG HUNT . EASTER BUNNY

Open to Members of Post 162 & Moose 583 & Qualified Guests Only

LOCATION: American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107



AMERICAN  
LEGION

# EASTER

JOIN US

# Dinner

SUNDAY

5

APRIL

2 to 5 pm

Until Gone

Food | Music & Fellowship  
Gratitude and Blessings

**Ron Thayer Solo 2 to 5 PM**

Open to the Public

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107



April 15

# PURPLE UP DAY

FOR MILITARY KIDS

Wearing purple is a visible way for everyone to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices.

AMERICAN  
LEGION

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Drive Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

American Legion Post 162

# MONTHLY MEETINGS

## Membership

**4th TUESDAY at 6:30 PM**

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

**2nd TUESDAY at 6:00 PM**

Events/Communications Planning

**2nd TUESDAY at 6:00 PM**

## Auxiliary

**1st MONDAY at 6:00 PM**



Looking for a place where you can make a real difference and feel truly valued? Post 162 is the place for you!

Join us for our Membership Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM and discover how you can get involved.

Whether you have a little time or a lot, your contributions matter.

Together, we grow stronger—because at Post 162, we're more than a team... we're family.

## **Post 162 – Call for Nominations**

Nominations are open in April for Legionnaires who are interested in taking an active role in the leadership and decision-making of Post 162. Serving on board requires time, dedication, and a commitment to our Post and fellow members. If you have questions about what's involved, please reach out to one of our current board members—they'll be happy to share their experience and provide guidance.

In addition, the Commander appoints several Post committees. If you're interested in serving on a committee and getting more involved, please contact a board member to learn more.

Your participation helps keep Post 162 strong and moving forward! Elections will be held on May 26, 2026.

### **(Duties of Officers)**

#### **Duties of Post Commander:**

It shall be the duty of the post commander to preside at all meetings of the post and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the post, and such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the post. He shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the post for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual meeting and a copy thereof immediately forwarded to the department adjutant. He shall perform such other duties as directed by the post.

#### **Duties of Vice Commander(s):**

**First Vice Commander.** In addition to the duties outlined above, the First Vice Commander shall be responsible for Post membership. This includes, but is not limited to, the administration of and reporting on the Post Membership Account and ensures eligibility for membership is verified. Be a liaison between the post and the District Membership chairperson to ensure all post membership records are kept up to date.

**Second Vice Commander.** In addition to the above, the Second Vice Commander shall provide oversight over the Americanism Committee to promote patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, civic education in schools, and community improvement activities. Will serve as liaison for Boys State, Scouting, American Legion sports.

**Third Vice Commander.** In addition to the above, the Third Vice Commander shall: Oversee House operations, Post communications, and entertainment programs to ensure compliance with Post policies. Serve as editor and publisher for the Post Newsletter, website, and social media, ensuring timely promotion of all Committee programs and events. Provide oversight with Club Managers and operations and function as liaison with the Executive Committee. Oversight with Club Account reporting and prepare "House Rules" for approval. Develop engaging entertainment programs that foster member involvement and reflect the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

#### **Duties of Finance Officer:**

The Finance Officer of the Post shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in a local bank or banks and shall report once a month to the Executive Committee and the Members the condition of the finances of the Post, with such recommendations as he/she may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Post. He/she shall sign all checks disbursing the moneys of the post.

checks disbursing the money of the post. He shall furnish such surety bonds in such sum as it shall be fixed by the post Executive Committee.

#### **Duties of Post Historian:**

The post historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the post and post members and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the post or the Executive Committee.

#### **Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms:**

The sergeant-at-arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him by the post Executive Committee.

**Duties of Trustees:**

The Trustees will provide oversight over the Post's finances and property by conducting annual audits of financial records, supervising the physical facility, and ensuring all disbursements are properly approved and documented. They do not manage Post funds directly and are ineligible to serve on committees that do. The Trustees report their audit findings to the Post membership and are held accountable for safeguarding Post assets.

**Duties of Judge Advocate:**

The Judge Advocate, at the request of the Post Commander, shall render an opinion upon all parliamentary questions, upon any questions arising out of any dispute upon the floor of the assembly, or concerning the interpretation of this Constitution and Bylaws, or the National or Department organizations. Upon receipt of this opinion, the Commander (or presiding officer, if the Commander is not in his or her chair) shall announce his ruling or decision, which need not be in accordance with the opinion of the Judge Advocate. Such decision shall be final and binding upon the Post unless (1) overruled by a two-third vote of the members at the meeting during which the decision is announced, or (2) reversed upon an appeal taken to the next higher governing body within thirty (30) days after such decision is made known.

**Standing Committees: Appointed by Post Commander**

The post commander, immediately upon taking office each year, shall appoint the following standing committees: Americanism, Children and Youth, Finance, House and Entertainment, Membership, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and ALVS. Such standing committees shall consist of such members, and the chairperson thereof, as shall be designated by the post commander.

**Americanism Committee:** (Second Vice Chairperson) The Americanism Committee shall be charged with the inspiration of patriotism and good citizenship by arrangements for proper observance of the patriotic occasions; encouragement of patriotic and civic phases of instruction in schools; Americanism of aliens; combating anti-American propaganda by education of the general public in American ideals through public forums, etc., and activities for community and civic betterment.

**Children and Youth Committee:** Shall be charged with aid and service to children of veterans, cooperating with other established agencies in the community; laboring for the betterment of child conditions and in coordinating services and agencies in the community for the above purposes. To act as intermediary for the needy child of a veteran in obtaining the fulfillment of the Legion's pledge that no child of a war veteran shall need the necessities of life and a square deal for every child.

**Finance Committee:** (Finance Officer Chairperson) The Finance Committee shall be charged with the administration of the financial policy, preparation of budget recommendations and supervision of receiving, disbursing, and accounting of all post funds.

**House and Entertainment Committee:** (Third Vice Chairperson) This committee runs the Social Quarters, promotion of club advantages and arrangement for social activities.

**Membership Committee:** (First Vice Chairperson) The Membership Committee shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the post, including the procuring of new members, reinstatements, and eligibility of members.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee:** The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation committee shall supervise all matters pertaining to service to comrades in the persecution of all just claims against the United States or state government, employment, relief, etc.

**Visiting or VAVS Committee:** This committee is charged with visiting and comforting members and their families when sick or bereaved and with visiting ex-service personnel in hospitals.

**Elections held during May Membership Meeting**

# R.E.D. FRIDAY

Remember Everyone Deployed



**Support Our Troops**

Open to Members and Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Drive Lorton, VA 22079  
703-690-1107



# MUSIC

2000's &  
Disney Theme



THURSDAY

16

APRIL

Start 6:30 PM

MUSIC - FOOD - DRINK - FUN

Open to Members & Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

POST 162

AMERICAN LEGION

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Saturday, April 18

Cakes in by 1:00pm

Do you bake? Do you bake Carrot Cake?

Sign up and show off your skills for a chance to win the People's Choice Award!

Not a baker? No problem! Stop by the Post to taste all the delicious entries and help crown the winner.

Open to Members & Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

AMERICAN LEGION

# GAME NIGHT

## Friday Nights

Game starts at 7PM



Board Games

Multi Player Card

Dice Games

Stop in, grab a drink, and play along with friends. You never know which game will be played—but the fun is always guaranteed!

Bring your friends for an evening of FUN & Laughter

Open to Members & Qualified Guests

American Legion Post 162 8210 Legion Dr Lorton, VA 22079 703-690-1107

