

AMERICAN LEGION

Cummings-Behlke
Post 226

830 E. Central Ave., Edgewater, MD 21037 • 410-798-9894



American Legion's 107th Birthday

Never let an eligible veteran say:
"Nobody ever asked me to join the American Legion."

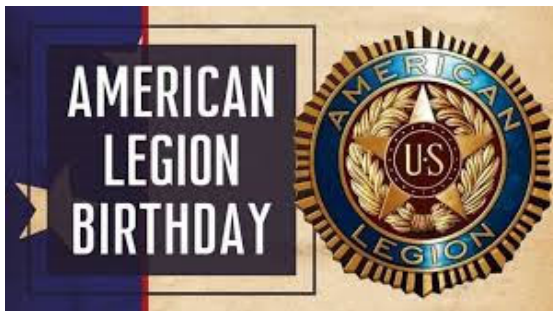
www.post226.com • MARCH 2026

American Legion's 107th Birthday

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization and was formed at the Paris Caucus in 1919. More than 300,000 soldiers with debilitating physical and mental disabilities were transitioning back to the United States after World War I.

Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-profit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 1.6 million in more than 12,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Latin America and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has built its identity by achieving hundreds of benefits and services for veterans, supporting the U.S. Armed Forces and instilling the values of responsible citizenship among young people. From the nation-changing of The American Legion-drafted GI Bill to relief for veterans exposed to toxic contamination in the service, veterans of The American Legion have worked for over a century to improve and strengthen the nation they swore with their lives to defend.



Post Commander's Message

I know I say this all the time, but we have some great folks here at Cummings-Behlke Post 226. I'm highlighting people for their recent contributions in no particular order. Nick Compofelice, Bryan Oglivie, Mike Chase for electrical upgrades all over the Post; Tommy Ford, Tom Bissett, and Jason Kwiatkowski for plumbing upgrades and repairs in various projects. Andy Dawson, Kenny Fowler, and Kevin Millard for carpentry, painting, and various repairs, new liquor closet and storage room. Chuck Abell and Scott Smith for coordinating everybody; this has been a remarkable effort to get ready for the National Commander's visit on the 14th. Thank you to everyone who showed up to help on clean-up day.

We have had some major events over the last few weeks, and I am eternally grateful and impressed by the level of care, volunteerism, and comfort we have provided the families that have lost loved ones. The pride I feel watching us come together and take care of our legion family is incredible. Our Post everlasting was a deeply humbling and respectful send-off to our departed friends and family.

The Shrimp Feast and Chili Cook-off both were fun events and very well run and attended, great job SAL and Riders!

I again this month want to take a moment to welcome all of our new members! It is great to have you. Your interjection of new life, fresh faces, and new ideas is something we very much need and look forward to! Feel free to reach out and introduce yourself or come up to me in the Post and say hello. I am truly happy to have you aboard. Take a moment and look at the calendar inside and see all the things we do every week.

2025 Blue Door cards are now a thing of the past; the one-month grace period is over. If you have not renewed it, why? I really want to know. If there is something we are not doing, we can talk about that, if it's a value decision, talk to the 1st Vice or me. We need your voice, your membership is valued, from our local post to the District to the State and National organization!

Continued →

Post Commander's Message - Continued

We could use your membership testifying for Veteran and Military issues on Capitol Hill and in Maryland at the Statehouse. So come in and renew, get your 2026 Orange key card and have some fun!

Please continue to take extra care to look after yourself and each other. Less sunlight every day can be hard on your mental health. Take time to work on yourself, check on friends, and be present in life. If you need help...ask!

We have had and continue to have folks with serious sickness, cancer, and heart issues. Please continue to hold those folks up in prayer. We also cannot take a break from continuing to grow our Suicide Awareness skills. We need to be comfortable with recognizing the signs and getting our friends the help they need before it becomes a crisis. Starting is as easy as scanning the QR code below, but beyond that, check on each other, find reasons to say hello, and strike up a conversation. Check on neighbors, colleagues, and friends. This is crucial. Let them know you care.

Here are local and national resources available to support Maryland families:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org for immediate support
- Maryland Crisis Connect – Call 988 (press 1 for MD specific support) or visit marylandcrisisconnect.org.
- Anne Arundel County Crisis Warmline – 410-768-5522 (24/7 mental health and crisis support).

For God and Country,
Still Serving,
Ray Leone
Post Commander



To learn
more, visit
betheone.org.

Post 1st Vice Commander's Message

Thank you to everyone that continues to renew, by paying their 2026 dues. And welcome to our new members, we continue to grow every month. Post 226 is currently at 92.50% of our membership goal.

Membership for Legionnaires (veterans) is \$47 for 2026. To all that have mailed in, paid online, or dropped your dues in my mailbox thank you.

My email address is post226membership@gmail.com for any questions regarding your membership. Please include your full name, membership ID number, and a good call back phone number where I can reach you.

Scott Smith
1st Vice Commander
#BeTheOne,
Heroes Never Forgotten

POST CLEAN UP DAY – MARCH 1ST

We will be doing more clean up work inside the Post ahead of the National American Legion Commander's visit in mid- March.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Sunday, March 1st from noon to 5pm

Post Chaplain's Message

"For now the winter is past... the flowers appear on the earth." Song of Solomon 2:11-12

As we turn the page to March, we look forward with hope that spring will soon bring warmer temperatures and hasten the melting of the snow and ice that have covered our surroundings in January and February. With each longer day, we are reminded of renewal, fresh beginnings, and the promise that brighter days are ahead.

Post 226 is also buzzing with excitement as it gets all spiffed up in preparation for the National Commander's Dinner on March 14th, paired nicely with the celebration of the American Legion's Birthday on March 15th. These special occasions give us an opportunity to reflect with pride on our shared history, our continued service, and the camaraderie that binds us together.

Take some time this Spring and ask what can I do for the "Good of the Legion"? It can be as easy as a buddy check, haven't seen someone in the post lately, reach out! May this season of renewal bring good health, gratitude, and a renewed spirit to all our members and their families.

I will make myself available to meet with, talk with, and pray with any of you who need my services as your Chaplain. The easiest way to reach me is by emailing me at post226chaplain@gmail.com or dropping a note in my mailbox at the Post. You can also message me on Facebook.

Cheryl Smith
Post Chaplain

Membership Information

Key cards are available by showing your 2026 membership card. If you're a Legionnaire or an early bird the card is free, otherwise it is \$3.

Legion – Dues are \$47. Make your check payable to "AL Post 226". Mail to P.O. Box 66, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *1st Vice* box at the Post.

SAL – Dues are \$35. Juniors (under 21) & dual members \$15. Make your check payable to "SAL Squadron 226". Mail to P.O. Box 622 Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *SAL Membership* box at the Post.

Auxiliary – Dues are \$34, Juniors (under 18) are \$12. Make your check payable to "ALA Unit 226". Mail to P.O. Box 432, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *Unit Membership* box at the Post.

Riders – Dues are \$30 (Legion, SAL, or Aux must be paid first). Make your check payable to "AL Riders Post 226". Mail to P.O. Box 66, Mayo, MD 21106 or drop it in the *AL Riders* box at the Post.

Online Renewals

Members can pay their annual dues online. You will need your Member ID located on your membership card.

- Legionnaires: <https://mylegion.org>
- SAL: <https://legion.org/SAL-Renew>
- Auxiliary: www.legion-aux.org/members

You may also be able to print your card on line

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6:30pm Game Night	3 5-7pm Pizza Night	4 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	5	6 NO SAL Dinner	7 6-8pm Bar Bingo
8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	9 6:30pm Game Night	10 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	11 5:30-7pm Oysters & Wings	12	13	14 POST CLOSED for Nat'l Commander's Banquet
15 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast <i>American Legion 107th Birthday</i>	16 6:30pm Game Night Bulletin Articles Due	17 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 7pm SAL Mtg	20 Aux Dinner? 8pm DJ Wally <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 6-8pm Bar Bingo
22	23 6:30pm Game Night	24 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg	25 5:30-7pm Oysters & Wings <i>Maryland Day</i>	26	27 8pm Live Music, <i>Faith and the Faithful</i>	28 6-8pm Bar Bingo
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 6:30pm Game Night	31				

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Auxiliary Mtg	2	3 5:30-7pm SAL Good Friday Dinner <i>Good Friday</i>	4 Easter Egg Event 6-8pm Bar Bingo
5 <i>Easter</i>	6 6:30pm Game Night	7 5-7pm Pizza Night	8	9	10	11 6-8pm Bar Bingo
12	13 6:30pm Game Night	14 5-7pm Pizza Night 7pm Post Exec Mtg	15 Bulletin Articles Due	16 7pm SAL Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	17 5:30-7pm Auxiliary Dinner	18 6-8pm Bar Bingo
19 8:30-11am SAL Breakfast	20 6:30pm Game Night	21 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Riders Mtg	22	23	24	25 Flea Market 6-8pm Bar Bingo
26	27 6:30pm Game Night	28 5-7pm Pizza Night 7:30pm Reg Post Mtg <i>Nominations</i>	29	30		



Auxiliary President's Message

Springing Forward in Service

As we move into March, we welcome the beginning of spring and the opportunity for renewal and growth—not just in the season, but within our Unit as well. Thank you to all our members who continue to give their time, energy, and heart to support our veterans, our Post Family, and our community.

With the increase in new members joining our Unit, we are off to a strong and exciting start this year. New energy brings new ideas, and that is something to celebrate. If you have a fresh idea, a new project, or a fun way to engage our members, please feel free to reach out to me. I would love to hear your thoughts and have new ways to get members engaged.

Whether you have volunteered at events, supported a fundraiser, worked alongside Legion or SAL members, or helped in the community, your efforts matter!

A friendly reminder to continue turning in your community **service hours**. If you are volunteering your time, not being paid, and your work supports an Auxiliary mission—whether inside or outside of the Post—it counts. Reporting your hours ensures our Unit receives proper recognition at the District, Department, and National levels and helps reflect the true impact of our service.

The Auxiliary thrives because of members who step forward with a spirit of **Service Not Self**.

Thank you for all you do. Together, we can make a difference.

Stephanie Millard
Unit President
alaunit226@gmail.com



HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

What: The American Legion's *Be the One* initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

Why: To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.

How: Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

Who:

Veterans

Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling. Ask for help when you think you need it. Know there are millions of people ready to help you. Remember your family and friends care.

Non-veterans

Ask veterans in your life how they are doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk. Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

RESOURCES

American Legion support: Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org)

For urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call **988** and press **1** for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7.



Riders Director's Message

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers, donors, and communities that continue to support us. Once again the Riders Annual Chili Cook-off was a great success. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you Gina Nokes for chairing the event.

In other news... The Riders have donated \$3,000 to The100 Club of Anne Arundel County in the name of Rider and Auxiliary member Donna Worthy. Donna was previously a Baltimore City Police Officer, injured in the line of duty in 2005. Thank you Donna for all you do!

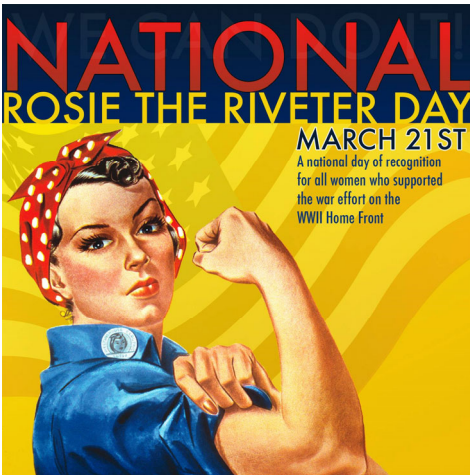
Election of officers for the 2026-2027 administrative year were held at our February meeting. We look forward to another productive year.

Director	Danny Baldwin
Asst Director	Mark Egley
Sgt. At Arms	Kenny Fowler
Secretary	Tammy Baldwin
Treasurer	Ted Ginnity
Chaplain	Bernie Floyd
Historian	Gina Nokes
Road Captains	Chris Owens, Matt Fritz, Kenny Fowler

In service to our Veterans,
Danny Baldwin
AL Riders Director

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2026 DUES?

Memberships that have not been paid for 2026 are now "Expired" and considered suspended by National until dues are paid. Visiting the Post with an expired membership requires being signed in as a guest of a current member.



Rosie the Riveter Day – March 21

Rosie the Riveter Day is a National Day to recognize and honor the hard work and sacrifices American women made in the workplace during World War II.

Email Addresses

Post Commander (Ray) – post226commander@gmail.com

Post 1st Vice (Scott) – post226membership@gmail.com (veterans)

Post 2nd Vice (Larry) – legionpost226events@gmail.com

Post Chaplain (Cheryl) – post226chaplain@gmail.com

Resource Officer (JP) – post226resource@gmail.com

Rental Coordinator (Stephanie) – post226rentals@gmail.com

SAL Commander (John) – post226salcommander@gmail.com

SAL Membership (Dennis) – dwlong58@yahoo.com

AL Riders Director (Danny) – alr226info@gmail.com

Auxiliary President (Stephanie) – alaunit226@gmail.com

Aux. Membership (Alicia) – unit226membership@gmail.com

Bulletin and General Inquiries (Alicia) – info@post226.com

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 226
FLEA MARKET**

**APRIL 25, 2026 8:00am – 1:00pm
RAIN OR SHINE**

**It's clean out time again! Get your unwanted items together
and join us at the American Legion for a Flea Market!
10' x 10' Spaces are only \$15**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Circle One:

Household Treasures

Crafts

Vendor: _____

of Spaces _____

You are responsible for taking unsold items with you.

Nothing is to be left behind.

No food vendors! Set-up starts at 6:30am

**Tables will be provided (1 table per space) on a first come first
serve basis. Spaces will still be sold without tables, same price.**

No refunds!

**Please send this form, along with your check or money order,
payable to 'ALA Unit 226', before April 10th, to
Marla Abell, 713 Londontown Rd, Edgewater, MD 21037**

**For more info, please contact Marla at 410-279-3954 or
msblueyes1@verizon.net.**

Cummings-Behlke Post 226
The American Legion
PO Box 66
Mayo, MD 21106-0066

Web site: www.post226.com
Email: info@post226.com

BE THE ONE

ELIGIBILITY DATES

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
December 7, 1941 to Present

DATED MATERIAL
NO DELAY PLEASE