American Legion Post 47

July 2025
Volume 1, Issue 1

601 Reed Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815

Commander Sharon Keech

We are finally getting some good weather and fun events coming up. I hope to see everyone who would like to participate in a committee contact the committee chairman. We have lots of room for suggestions and would love for you to use the Suggestion Box, located in the Entry way in the back hall. All suggestions will be addressed. I also want to introduce our new Canteen Manager, Peg Diedrich, most of you already know her from Auxiliary President to the Secretary of the Riders. Please welcome her when you see her. Our Entertainment Committee is brain storming some trips and fun for this year. We also are planning to spruce up the Main Entrance to the building with some plants.

Some of our events coming up:

Early Bird Dinner on September 10th
Halloween Costume Party on October 25th
with Sunglasses at Night and costume judging for prizes.
Fall Fling in Hawaii (Hog Roast) on October 5th.

You can also see the newsletter on mylegion.org.

Post Meetings….Post Meetings….Post Meetings

Family of Four, 2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm
Legion Executive Meeting, 2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
Legion Meeting, 2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
SAL Meeting, 1st Wednesday 6:00 pm
Auxiliary Meeting, 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm
Legion Riders Meeting, 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Honor Guard Meeting, July 7th ,5:30 pm
Building Committee, TBD
Entertainment Committee, 2nd Monday, 5:00 pm

If interested in learning more about your legion please attend a meeting and get involved. We would love to have you.

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - THURSDAY
10AM-10PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY
10AM-11PM

SUNDAY
11AM-8PM

All closings will depend on weather, bands and events.

American Legion Officers

Commander	Sharon Keech
Adjutant	Brenda Melanson
Finance Officer	Don Brecht
Chaplain	Larry Fisher
1st Vice	Mike Inman
2nd Vice	open
3rd Vice	Lonnie Harper
Sgt-at-Arms	open
Judge Advocate	Scott Bell
Executive Board	Dave Zurbrugg
	Larry Fisher
	Dale Wilkinson

Auxiliary Officers

President	Peg Diedrich
1st Vice President	Cathy Sizemore
Treasurer	Maggie Horacek
Secretary	Pam Maples
Chaplain	Dottie Zimmerman
Historian	Chris Pezley
Sgt-at-Arms	Mandy Clendenen
	Lori Brecht
Executive Board	Lea Inman
	Deborah Zimmerman
	Sylvia Cunningham

American Legion Riders Officers

Director	Joe Diedrich
Asst. Director	Charlie Racette
Com/Sect	Peg Diedrich
Membership	Charlie Racette
Treasurer	Steve Bodecker
Chaplain	Mark Mckee
Sgt-at-Arms	Frank Hanke
Road Captain	Alan Smith

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Commander	John Clendenen
Adjutant	Harry Hurt
Finance Officer	John Martin
Chaplain	Mark Mckee
1st Vice	Joe Diedrich
2nd Vice	Tony Wells
3rd Vice	Greg Weikant
Sgt-at-Arms	Frank Hanke
Communications	Bob Zimmerman

Honor Guard

Steve Austin
James Beethham
Don Brecht
Kevin Cornish
Joe Diedrich
Bob Earl
Larry Fisher
Lonnie Harper
Bob Matvya
Mark McKee
Bob Sinacola
Dave Smith
Dale Wilkinson
Bob Zimmerman
Dave Zurbrugg

Hall Rental

If you need a bartender: $15.00 an hour
4 hour minimum

Catering please call Von @ (260) 241-2132
A charge of $50.00 for carrying in your own food.

Non-Members	$500.00
Deposit	$250.00
Total	$750.00

No outside drinks or alcohol allowed.

Members	$350.00
Deposit	$150.00
Total	$500.00

An additional fee of $125.00 for night before hall set-up and decorating.

Gazebo Rental

Non-Members	$250.00
Members	$125.00

If you have any questions about the hall.
or gazebo rental, please contact:
Peggy @ (260) 999-7345

Deposits will be returned if the hall is clean, trash is taken out and the tables and chairs are back in their original location.

UPCOMING BANDS

JULY 11, 2025, JOY RIDE
JULY 25, 2025, JOEL YOUNG
AUGUST 22, 2025, PRIME SUSPECTS

LEGION EVENTS

JULY 12, 2025, ALR ANNUAL RIDE
JULY 13, 2025, ALL FAMILY PICNIC

CANTEEN UPDATES

No food is to be brought into the Canteen Monday through Friday after 11 am, Saturday after 3 pm and Sunday all food is welcome

WHY: Because the Canteen and Kitchen would like to promote within.

TAPS

Jim Evans Paul Gause Richard Good
Richard Horny, James Little Jr.
John Lorenc Larry Miller Dale Scherman
Gordon Waterman Earl Zimmerman

SICK BAY

If you know of any member who needs a card, a visit, a phone call or just a hug, please let us know so we are aware.

New Bucket, Drink and Shot Specials Weekly, watch the board for all the updates.

REMINDERS / NOTICES

No food is to be brought into the Canteen Monday through Friday after 11 am, Saturday after 3 pm and Sunday all food is welcome.

When playing horseshoes do not leave chairs on grass, when done please put them back on the patio.

We are also looking for a 3rd Vice and a Sgt.-at-Arms for the Legion board.

MARKET PLACE

Sweatshirts hooded	$45.00
Sweatshirts	$40.00
Zippered sweatshirt	$45.00
T-Shirts	$20.00
Am Legion Ball Cap	$30.00
License Plate	$5.00
Plastic case for cover	$2.00
Eagles for atop flags	$5.00

If you have an image that you want on a shirt, let us know an we can get it and put it on your shirt. Cost of the image and

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mike Inman

No report at this time.

CANTEEN MANAGER: Peg Diedrich

Hello everyone! My name is Peg, and I am your new Canteen Manager. You may have seen me around with Auxiliary and the Riders. So yes, I have a vested interest in this post and only want to see it grow! I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming welcome and support as I transition into my new role. You really know how to raise a girl's confidence! Based on some of your ideas and suggestions, I am making small changes around the post. One change is moving away from Styrofoam to plastic cups in the canteen. This is both an Eco-friendly and economic move on the Post part. Another change is adding Taps and Sick-bay announcements to the Event TVs. If you know of anyone that needs to be added, please reach out to your family leader and me so we can take care of it. Please continue to reach out, I look forward to meeting you.

Have a Blessed Day.
Peg Diedrich
47 Canteen Manager

HOUSE COMMITTEE: Lonnie Harper

The House Committee will consist of 4 members: (one member from each group)
Legion: Lonnie Harper
Auxiliary: Peg Diedrich
ALR: Joe Diedrich
SAL: John Clendenen

The House Committee supervises the operation of the post's physical facilities, such as a clubroom, American Legion center, meeting room, etc. Responsibilities include **administration, equipment, and the hiring and direction of employees**, as authorized by the post executive board and general rules applicable to the conduct of members while on the post's premises.

Remember we have a suggestion box located in the back hall. Please be respectful of your comments and/or suggestions. Thank you

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MEMBERSHIP: Brenda Melanson

5th Place in the District for Membership

New	31
Paid up for Life	65
Renewals	614
HQ Transfers	4
Total	714
Goal	715

Percentage of Goal	99.8601 %
Percentage of Retention	83.2108 %

If you have not paid your dues for this year, you are not eligible to participate in drawings or canteen privileges. 2026 cards will be coming out on the 2nd week of July.

AUXILIARY: Peg Diedrich

Hello everyone,
I hope you are enjoying the summer and everything that comes with it. I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped with the Auxiliary District. It was a HUGE success, and we believe we have a record of attendance. Over 90 ladies! The Memorial Day Parade was amazing! Even with the shortened route, we still ran out of candy. There were that many people! June was installation of officers. Another awesome team to work with. I am truly blessed to work with these ladies! July 13th is the Legion picnic, please come out and enjoy food, fun and games. Great time to old and new members. We are quiet in August, saving our strength for the next round of events. Reminder, we still have gift boxes for any soldier deployed. Please reach out and check on each other, we really do need each other. Thank you for all you do, we appreciate it.

Have a Great Day!
Peg Diedrich, Auxiliary President

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS: Joe Diedrich

Hello everyone,
The Legion Riders of Post 47 were standing tall and looking good as we led the Memorial Day parade this year. We had 16 riders turn out for the parade and received compliments from several officials for our involvement. One of our riders, Mike Weigmann, was one of the selectees to be on the Honor Flight in May. He said he had a real good time and was surprised by the welcome home. Our Wednesday lunches continue to go well, except the weather hasn't cooperated much in allowing us to ride to our lunch destinations, but we still have fun. I would like to thank everyone who participated in our griddle raffle this year. Your involvement helps us to donate to various Post, veteran and community causes. Josh T. won the griddle that we raffled off on June 10 and was happy to receive it prior to Father's day.
Some of our Riders joined others (over 100 motorcycles) and took an overnight trip to Mount Pleasant, Michigan on June 14th. One of the stops was to a town called Riverdale, where they blocked off the main street through town so all of the bikers could park together and have a great time. The Riders' are having their annual event at the Post on Saturday, July 12 th . We have lots of really great stuff to raffle off and some give aways, too. You don't have to have a motorcycle to come out and have a good time at the event. It is open to all.
Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We are a close group but always looking for new riders. Come on out and associate.
As always, be careful and stay safe,

Joe "Professor" Diedrich
Director, Post 47 American Legion Riders

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: John Clendenen

Hello all,
It would appear summer finally make it! Cubs bus trip on July 20th was a huge success and good times had by all. Only thing better would have been a Cubbie Road Win. Our next trip be to Lucas Oil Stadium to see the Colts take on the Houston Texans on Sunday, November 30th. Sign-up sheet should be in the Canteen soon, Our Sunday Brunch is doing well. Hope to see you on July 20th, mark your calendars and invite all your family and friends! As always we could use some help even it is only for a couple of hours. There will be a Volunteer sign-up sheet behind the bar.

Enjoy the Summer!
John Clendenen, SAL Commander

HONOR GUARD: Lonnie Harper

Your Honor Guard is the busiest Honor Guard in Allen county and we are honored and proud to provide military honors to our fallen comrades and their families. We are a volunteer group serving our Veterans and Community. We perform at public functions and also funerals for our Veterans. Our members feel a military funeral is the last show of respect that every Veteran deserves. We charge no fee for serving but do accept donations for our service.
Since the 1st of January of 2025 your Honor Guard has conducted 28 Veteran's funerals and 8 public functions. During 2024 we conducted 62 funerals and 21 public functions.

The Honor Guard is under the direction of Director Lonnie Harper and consists of 15 members of Post 47 Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE: Don Brecht

Great News!!!
Post 47 now has an Entertainment Committee. As you can see we are working hard on ideas. We began with Thursday Nights under the Gazebo with music. We are working hard on some future ideas for Post 47. Please keep your eyes open for more announcements and flyers at the Post. Hope to see you at the Post supporting the up coming events…

Don Brecht, Chairman
Sylvia Cunningham, Vice Chairman

Support our Sponsors.

HOME + BUILDING REPAIRS
All home repairs
Plumbing - hot water heater
sewer stoppage + camera locate
chimney repair - tuck pointing
brick + concrete
roofing-painting-siding-drywall
HIRING
Licensed Plumber / Handyman
Bookkeeper / Programmer
Diesel Truck + Auto Mechanic

Full or part-time

Call Don (260) 433-4283

Letter to the Editor
Send submissions, comments or questions to: Peg 260-999-7345
Or email: amlepo47@gmail.com

Our appreciation goes out to our volunteers and staff

Horseshoe Pits

For the hard work they did to make the horse shoe pits amazing. (And no cars will get Damaged) To all who volunteered and I missed.

John Clendenen—always willing to help and make the post a better place

John Martin—for his hard work and making the project affordable

Decorations

For the hard work and dedication that these ladies have brought to the post is spectacular.

Karen Earl—always ready to assist but will be the boss in the end (lol)

Ann - enjoys working to make the post better and less cluttered

Bartenders

For the fabulous customer service they give to all patrons to make the post welcoming.

Joann—her dedication to making her daycare happy and satisfied.

Sissy—who always makes the members enjoy themselves

Kathleen—she makes the members feel welcome and glad they are there

Jeff—sings a mean Chantilly Lace and always has a smile

Pat- last but not least, always ready to serve a good drink and a laugh or two

District 4 Everlasting Program

I doubt if any other post can top the best program by far

Sylvia Cunningham—for taking lead on this project and making all the food

Lori Brecht, Lea Inman, Mandy Clendenen—for being the best friends a post and I can have, they served, cleaned up, and made it special

Auxiliary ladies—to many to name, I appreciate all that you did to make that night very special for all of the District

Custodian

To the best darn custodian that a post can have.

Brian—cleaning and sweeping up messes all day long

To anyone I missed thank you for all that you do to make Post 47 the BEST Legion in the 4th District.