AMERICAN LEGION POST 47

May 2026 Newsletter

601 REED RD
FORT WAYNE, IN 46815

260 -209-3960

AMLEPO47@GMAILCOM

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Thursday 10 am-10 pm
Friday-Saturday 10 am - 11 pm
Sunday 11 am - 8 pm
*Subject to change due to weather and holidays

Kitchen Hours

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri: Lunch 11 am -3 pm
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri: Dinner 5-8 pm
Saturday: Dinner 4-8 pm
Closed Sundays

FRIENDLY Reminder

Don't let your yearly membership slip through the cracks.
Renew today!!

MEMORIAL DAY

message from SHARON KEECH LEGION COMMANDER

Hello Everyone!

I am so glad for everyone that has stood by our volunteers and board members these past 2 years. I would like to tell everyone about the accomplishments we did as a team.

- Purchased 1.58 acres surrounding the post for $7400.00.
- Revamped the cooler, all new insides
- Replaced large window in restaurant area
- Replaced 2 motors for the kitchen vents
- Contacted Fire Marshal for assistance in updating our building to code, at that time we had 11 violations and have sincecompleted them all in a timely manner
- Reworked wiring in the kitchen per Fire Marshall
- Have a Preventative Schedule for all fire equipment and alarms
- Inventoried liquor storage, which was found 2 years ago and found $48,000.00 dollars of merchandise, have since I lowered it to half of that amount
- Lost and reapplied for Gaming license, nonprofit status, and paying tax due to the loss of nonprofit status
- Had ice machines and coolers put on a cleaning and maintenance schedule
- Replaced behind bar with new paneling and less clutter
- Added televisions and cameras for more convenience and security
- Replaced popcorn maker
- Replaced wiring throughout the banquet hall and serving area
- Replaced air conditioner with a larger capacity model
- Got electronic gaming machines which have grown our funds
- Replaced back steps and front walkway

Thanks,
Sharon

Member Spotlight

Lonnie served in the Airforce from 1966-1970. He was stationed at Scott Airforce from 1966-1968 and Toykyo from 1968-1970. In 1970 he became a Legionnaire in Huntingtonin 1995. Lonnie has 3 boys, Dave, Jason, and Dan, 2 of which are married, and 2 granddaughters. He enjoys camping and watching his granddaughters play golf. Lonnie is proud to be a veteran for the time that he served. He enjoys the people, and sitting around celebrating with his freinds and fellow veterens byhaving a few beers

Thank you for your service Lonnie!!

Lonnie Harper

Legion Officers

Commander - Sharon Keech
Adjutant - Open
Finance Officer - Don Brecht
Chaplain - Larry Fisher
1st Vice - Mike Inman
2nd Vice - Lonnie Harper
3rd Vice -Mark Schroeder
Sgt-at-Arms - Ron Knight
Judge Advocate - Scott Bell

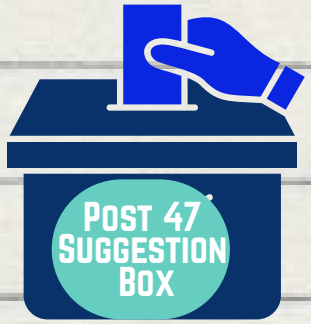
Executive Board

Dave Zurbrugg
Larry Fisher
Dale Wilkinson

TAPS

SICK BAY

Harry Hurt
Kevin Cornish
Tammy Dull
Sally Meyer



There is a suggestion box located in the back hallway. Please submit constructive ideas, volunteer to help, or submit an email address for the newsletter!

Schedule of Legion Post 47 Meetings

Family of Four	2nd Thursday	5:30 pm
Legion Executive Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 pm
Legionnaires	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
SAL	1st Wednesday	6:00 pm
Auxiliary	2nd Monday	6:30 pm
Legion Riders	3rd Thursday	6:30 pm

CANTEEN

Hello everyone,
Just a few things.
First off has everyone met our new bartender, Missy? She is new to the Legion and has already added her family to ours with membership.
Spring has finally gotten here, and we will start to move outside. Which means opportunities for new drink specials. We will be combining them with Thursday night events, let us know of any ideas you may have.
We are still working on cleaning up the post, both inside and out, including the attic..
Look for mini pop-up sales as we find items that are no longer needed.
Thank you for all your support .
Peg

Weekly Specials
Watch the board for updates on new Bucket, Drink, and Shot specials. !!

MENU

Monday: Coneys & Sliders
Tuesday: Mexican and Baskets
Wednesday: Sausage Rolls and Wings
Thursday: Subs and Wings
Fri/Sat: Steak and Seafood

Fish, Soup, and Salad Bar every day

Please call ahead for any party over 8

message from JOHN CLENDENEN
SAL COMMANDER

SAL News

Hello Magnificent Month of May!!
The gun raffle was a huge success as always! Congratulations to Jessie Lopez winner of the Henry Golden Boy rifle, and Joe Diedrich winner of The Henry revolver.
The April Brunch was one of our best attended to date! Thanks to all of the volunteers, and hope to see you all again on May 10(Mother's Day).
The Cubs Bus Trip is sold out. Looking forward to a great road trip!
Our next meeting is May 6th at 6pm. This will be final nominations and election of officers for 2026/2027, please plan to attend if you can.

John Clendenen
SAL Commander

Mother's Day Brunch
May 10th

SAL 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 Weikert
Sgt-at-Arms - Frank Hanke
Communications - Bob Zimmerman

Member Spotlight

Danny has been a member of SAL for 8 years. His father served in the US Army during WW2. He has 2 son's and enjoys going to the lake and watch the kids play roller hockey and partake in family bowling. His favorite memory would consist of birthday parties with friends and family. Fun fact about Danny is that he played hockey and softball.

Hall Rental

Non-Members $750 (refundable $250 deposit)
If parameters are met
Members $500 (refundable $150 deposit)
If parameters are met
*An additional fee of $125
for setting up the night before.

Gazebo Rental

Non-Members $250.00
Member $125.00

To book your date, call or text Peg at 260-999-7345

No outside drinks or alcohol allowed.
There is a $50 charge for outside food.

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

American Legion Post 47 Market

Hooded sweatshirt $50.00
Crewneck sweatshirts $45.00
Zipper sweatshirt $45.00
T-Shirts $20.00
Am Legion Ball Cap $20.00
License Plate $5.00
Eagles for at the top flags $10.00
Koozie with logo $5.00

Due to increased costs for postage, we do not mail monthly membership newsletters.

Printed newsletters are available at the post and on our website: americanpost47fortwayne.org
If you'd like, send a self addressed envelope and we will be happy to mail one to you.

If you are interested in sponsoring our newsletter, call Peg 260-999-7345 or email: amlepo47@gmail.com

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VA Burial Benefits: What Veterans & Families Should Know

The VA offers several important benefits to help honor our veterans at the time of their passing.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Eligible veterans discharged under honorable conditions may be buried in a VA national cemetery at no cost. Benefits include a gravesite, headstone or marker, opening and closing of the grave, and perpetual care. Spouses and minor children of eligible veterans may also qualify. Note that gravesites cannot be reserved in advance.

Headstones & Markers: The VA provides headstones and markers for veterans' graves, including custom inscriptions and religious symbols. When buried in a private cemetery, families must apply using **VA Form 40-1330**. Visit www.cem.va.gov for details.

Burial Flag: A U.S. flag is provided free of charge to drape the casket or accompany the urn of any veteran who served honorably.

Burial Allowance: Families who paid out-of-pocket burial expenses may be eligible for a VA reimbursement allowance, depending on the veteran's circumstances at the time of death. Claims must be filed within two years of burial using **VA Form 21-530**.

Need Help? Contact your **American Legion Department Service Officer** for assistance filing any VA burial claim, or call **262-851-2700**.

message from PEG DIEDRICH AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello All,
April showers have brought us May Flowers and they are beautiful.
April. we had an amazing Kids Easter party. The ladies really out did their selves, and the Riders did a fantastic job helping out.

May will be just as exciting, starting with decorating hats for the Kentucky Derby. The ladies will decorate on May 1st, voting will take place on May 2nd. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

May 9Th is our Poppie Dance with Joel Young. There will be great music for everyone's listening enjoyment. Remember, everything we collect for poppies goes directly to Vets in need. Let's make this year another record breaker!

Memorial Day is May 25th, Auxiliary will have two Floats and plenty of candy for all. Come out and help decorate, walk in the parade or simple cheer us on from the sidelines. Your Support and Efforts are felt whatever you can do. As always, there will be a heartfelt ceremony after the parade for everyone to will enjoy.

No, I do not know where the ladies get their energy, but it is contagious and makes me want to do more!

Don't forget your buddy check and if you know a deployed soldier in need, we have plenty of baskets to send their way.

Have Blessed Day
See you next month.
Peg Diedrich
Post 47 Auxiliary President

****GET YOUR POPPIES****

Auxiliary's fundraiser for the month of May are Poppy donation cards. Our goal is to raise $1,000. Grab yours today!
Donations Only

Member Spotlight

Brooke has been a member of Post 47's Auxiliary for 4 yeas. She first became a member when her mother was the Auxiliary President. Brooke has gained a wealth of knowledge by being an Auxiliary member. It was made possible for her to join the Auxiliary as her grandfather served in the US Military. She most enjoys walking i the Memorial Day Parade and waving to all the people, and can now enjoy the Christmas and Easter parties as she has a little niece to enjoy it with. She is our sports Phanatic. She enjoys our annual Cubs/Colts bus trips.
Fun fact about Brook is she became church council president in January 2026.

Brooke Goelz

Auxiliary Officers

President - Peg Diedrich
Vice President - Cathy Sizemore
Treasurer - Maggie Horacek
Secretary - Pam Maples
Chaplain - Dottie Zimmerman
Historian - Chris Pezely
Sgt-at-Arms - Lori Birt
Executive Board
Lea Inman
Sylvia Cunningham
Deb Zimmerman

AMERICAN LEGION POST 47 - MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
KITCHEN SPECIALS **MON** CONEYS/SLIDERS **TUE** MEXICAN **WED** SAUSAGE ROLLS **THURS** SUBS/WINGS **FRI/SAT** STEAK/SEAFOOD **SUN** CLOSED					1	2
3	4 6:30 PM HORSESHOES	5	6 6:00 PM SAL MEETING	7	8	9 8-11 PM JOEL YOUNG POPPY DANCE
10 Happy Mother's Day 9AM-12PM SAL BRUNCH	11 6:30 PM AUXILIARY MEETING 6:30 PM HORSESHOES	12	13	14 7:00 PM LEGIONAIRES MEETING	15	16 ARMED FORCES DAY
17	18 6:30 PM HORSESHOES	19	20	21 6:30 PM ALR MEETING	22	23 8-11 PM BIG D AND THE PENETRATORS
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 BINGO 6-9 PM SINGO BINGO	29	30 31

★ For Hall and Gazebo rental information, call Peggy at 260-999-7345

message from JOE DIEDRICH
ALR DIRECTOR

Hello again everyone,

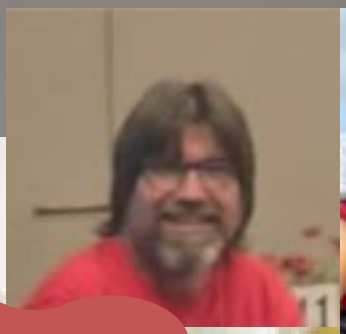
Though it's spring, some of the days have felt more like summer, and I like it. All of the Riders have their motorcycles ready and are looking to ride.
Some of our lunches are going to be further away rather than focusing on local restaurants. We are going to be covering some safety rules with our members for group riding in our upcoming meeting.
We have two very important rides coming up: our Post ride on July 11th, with some great raffles and drawings afterwards. July 18th will be one of the six legs of the Indiana ALR, In-State Legacy ride, and will take place starting at our Post. The In-State ride is a huge fundraiser for several veteran and veteran family causes.

As always, stay safe and be careful.

Joe "Professor" Diedrich
Director, Post 47 ALR

Member Spotlight

Ryan is an eighteen-plus year veteran of the Army with active and reserve tenures. He joined the Riders in 2020. You will often find him at Post 47 for different event and always accompanied Rachel. They are a very dynamic duo and great assets to our Riders group. I will have more on Rachel at a later date. When you see them, make sure to say "hi!"



Ryan Davis

ALR Officers

Director -Joe Diedrich
Asst. Director - Charlie Racette
Com/Sect - Peg Diedrich
Membership - Mark Miller
Treasurer - Bryan Chamberlain
Chaplain - Mark Mckee
Sgt-at-Arms - Frank Hanke
Road Captain - Denny Richardson

COMING SOON

LEGION FAMILY PICINIC
JULY 26TH
MORE TO COME!!

It's that time of year!
Stop horsing around and join us on
Monday evenings at 6:30pm
for horseshoes!!
$5 entry fee

Dear Fellow Legionnairs,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of Americal Legion Post #47 for your outstanding support during a challenging time. A special than you goes to John C. , Don, Tony, Greg, Frank, John M., Dan, and Joe for giving up part of a recent Saturday to construct a wheelchair ramp at my home. I recently fell and broke my pelvis quite badly, and will be laid up for many weeks. John C. and Don, who headed up the construction team, deserve particular recognition for their leadership and hard work. Thanks to their efforts, I can now safely enter and leave my house. My family and I are deeply grateful for the time, skill, and brotherly spirit you showed in helping me when it mattered most. I would also like to thank the many other Post #47 members who have sent get-well cards and kind wishes. Your thoughtfullness has been a great comfort during my recovery. Thank you again to everyone who stepped up. It truyly means the world.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Harry Hurt

Honor Guard Officers

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

STAY CONNECTED

WITH POST 47

Check out our **Website!**

Find us on **Facebook!**