AMERICAN LEGION POST 47

June 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

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

Renew today!!

message from SHARON KEECH LEGION COMMANDER

Good Day to Everyone,
I want to thank each and every one (members, employees, visitors, and friends) for being a part of my 2 terms as your Commander. I am very proud to say I was a part of the American Legion Post 47 and the awesome events we put on together. I hope you all can join me in welcoming the new American Legion Post 47 Commander Lonnie Harper.
Sincerely
Sharon Keech

Member Spotlight

Charlie Racette

Charlie is a proud member of American Legion Post 47 whose life has been defined by a deep commitment to service. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1971 to 1975 as a Crew Chief on UH-1N Hueys, and later answered the call again during Desert Storm as a member of the Indiana National Guard. Charlie was drawn to the American Legion through the American Legion Riders, and one of his greatest memories is the Legacy Run, when Post 47 proudly claimed the largest representation in the entire nation. In his spare time, he enjoys target shooting and visits the range twice a week. Charlie enlisted because he felt it was his personal obligation to serve, inspired by his grandfather's service in France during World War I, and he firmly believes there are many ways to answer that call. He is devoted to Post 47 because it gave him something he values above all else — the opportunity to serve others, rather than to be served. Post 47 is lucky to call Charlie Racette one of its own.

Legion Officers

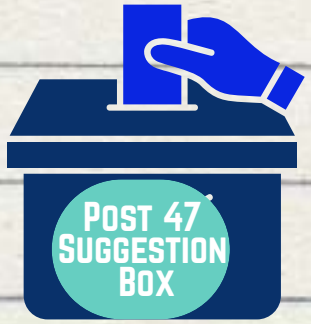
Commander - Sharon Keech
Adjutant - Open
Finance Officer - Don Brecht
Chaplain - Larry Fisher
1st Vice - Mike Inman
2nd Vice - Lonnie Harper
3rd Vice -Mark Schroeder
Sgt-at-Arms - Ron Knight
Judge Advocate - Scott Bell

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	6:30 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

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

CANTEEN

Canteen News,
It is time to put the $1 Shots to rest. Thank you so much for helping us reduce our overstock. Our next special will be Beer Buckets 5/$12. Love to hear your ideas!
Peg

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

Hello summer!

The Cubs baseball trip is sold out and hopefully they can get back to their winning ways!

We have tickets reserved to the September 27 Colts verses Texans game. Details for this bus trip will be announced soon.

Membership is strong but still short of our goal. If you haven't already, please renew today.

Mother's Day brunch was a new record in attendance. Our next brunch is on Father's Day, June 21st; hope to see you all there.

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

Billy Keech

Billy is a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) following in the footsteps of his father who served his country with distinction in the United States Army's Wildcat Division during World War II.
Billy also holds membership in the Auxiliary in honor of his wife Sharon's service in the United States Navy where she worked as a machinist aboard the USS Arcadia.
In his professional life, Billy has found his true calling working full-time at Trilogy Retirement Homes where his genuine passion for serving the older community shines through every day. His dedication to those around him extends well beyond the workplace.
When he's not on the job, Billy can often be found at the ball diamonds or out on the golf course. Above all, he treasures time spent with his wife Sharon, their 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren — a family that is clearly his greatest joy.
Billy is also a valued contributor to the post lending a hand at the SAL's monthly brunches — a must-attend event that has earned rave reviews — as well as putting his troubleshooting and handyman skills to work to make the post the best it can be. Billy Keech is the kind of member who makes a post proud.

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 **202-861-2700**.

message from PEG DIEDRICH
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,
May was another astounding month with the ladies. We had our poppy drive with proceeds going directly to Vets in need. If you donated, your name was put on a card and posted in the Canteen; what a sight! We even had Ladies at Lowe's educating others for our cause. We did not reach our goal, but it was not from lack of effort. The Ladies were also in the Memorial Day parade—two floats, with Vets and an ROTC cadet helping us celebrate the occasion.
I can't thank all the Ladies enough for all their hard work. They started weeks before the event, learning the theme, planning how to decorate, what to use, and statues donated for use, then pulling it all together.
I can't begin to list all the amazing ladies getting it done.
We also had final nominations and elections this month. Installation will be next month. Please give these ladies all the support we can.
They do this for the cause, not the applause.
Have a Blessed Day
Peg,
Auxiliary 47 President

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

Thanks to Terry Lyons, Chris Pezley, Betty Zimmerman, Verna Dickey, Betty Plattner, Dottie Zimmerman, Judy Ladd, and Tonya Wall for supporting our poppy fundraiser at Lowe's accepting donations for poppy cards.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 2026

Member Spotlight

Beulah Matczak

Beulah is a proud and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary having earned her eligibility through her husband's honorable service in the United States Air Force. For 25 years, she has been a steadfast pillar of the Auxiliary, but her generosity does not stop at the Legion's doors — Beulah is a tireless volunteer throughout the community freely giving her time and talents wherever they are needed most. She has cultivated deep and meaningful friendships within the Auxiliary, something she treasures deeply. If you have ever been in the same room as Beulah with a tip board in hand, you already know what happens next — somehow, someway, she will find a way to make a sale, because nobody can say "no" to Beulah! So, the next time you see Beulah, make sure you stop and thank her — because everything she does, she does from the heart, and she deserves every bit of gratitude we can give her.

Thanks to the creativity and dedication of Karen Earl and Anne Wiseman, our hall was absolutely stunning for poppy month. Their hard work and beautiful touch made all the difference. They are amazing!!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 47 - JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 **6:30 PM** HORSESHOES	2	3 **6:00 PM** SAL MEETING	4	5	6
7	8 **6:30 PM** AUXILIARY MEETING **6:30 PM** HORSESHOES	9	10	11 **7:00 PM** LEGIONNAIRES MEETING	12	13
14 **12 PM** FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY & COOKOUT	15 **6:30 PM** HORSESHOES	16	17	18 **6:30 PM** ALR MEETING	19	20 **8-11 PM** CHRIS WORTH
21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY **9AM-12PM** SAL BRUNCH	22 **6:30 PM** HORSESHOES	23	24	25 **6-9 PM** SINGO BINGO 	26	27
28	29 **6:30 PM** HORSESHOES	30	**KITCHEN SPECIALS** **MON** CONEYS/SLIDERS **TUE** MEXICAN **WED** SAUSAGE ROLLS **THURS** SUBS/WINGS **FRI/SAT** STEAK/SEAFOOD **SUN** CLOSED			

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

message from JOE DIEDRICH ALR DIRECTOR

Hello everyone,
Good weather is here and we are riding our motorcycles. The Riders had a few events lately, we enjoyed participating in.

We had great weather for the Memorial day parade and a real good turnout of motorcycles. Post 47 American Legion Riders led the parade and had the largest group of riders there (18 bikes).

In future events, Post 47 Riders will be having our own Post ride on July 11th . This will include an approximate Three hour ride, silent raffles, 50/50 and other raffles.

There will be many good things to win. Come out and support your Riders group. Post 47 Riders will also be hosting the Northeast Indiana starting point for the American Legion Foundation, In-State Legacy ride. This ride supports a lot of causes sponsored by the American Legion including: youth leadership, assisting homeless veterans, ending veteran suicide and helping veterans facing financial hardships, to name a few. It is a huge fundraiser we are proud to be a part of.

Joe "Professor" Diedrich
Director, Post 47 ALR

Member Spotlight

Joe and Betty

Joe has been a member of the SAL for 30+ years and a member of the Riders fir 20 years. Betty is an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary. On most Tuesday nights you will find this dynamic couple manning the prize table at the Legion.

Joe retired from the City after 29 years of service and Betty retired from the school system after 24 years. They have two children and six grandchildren. They have been married for 59 years. In their spare time they enjoy camping and riding their motorcycle.

When you see them, make sure to give them a warm 'hello."

One of our members, Scott Leger, invited the Riders group to his house for breakfast before going to the Blessing of the Bikes at 469 Cycle.
We had a great time at breakfast and at the gathering for the Blessing.

First, our National Commander was in town. The 4th District Riders provided an escort for the commander across town and to Post 47. After the luncheon, the Riders were invited to take pictures with him.

ALR Officers

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

COMING SOON

LEGION FAMILY PICNIC
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

Check out our **Website!**

Find us on **Facebook!**

STAY CONNECTED WITH POST 47

Honor Guard Officers

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

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Join us for a
dignified retirement
ceremony of unserviceable U.S. flags

FLAG DAY
JUNE 14, 2026
12PM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 47
601 REED RD, FORT WAYNE, IN 46815

Presented by the Post 47 Honor Guard

Bring your worn flags for proper retirement.
This event is free and open to the public.

2 hot dogs with chips for $5
will be available after the ceremony.