

# The American Legion



1932 Serving Veterans and the Community for 92 Years 2024

# **Laurel Post 60 Newsletter**

Number 12 Volume 18

"The Fun Post"

December 2024



# Commander's Message Josie Lohman



The approaching holidays always seem to make me think of the many things I have to be grateful for.

At the top of that list is our wonderful Post 60 family. They never fail to be there when we need them the most, they come together and get things done! This enables us to support our veterans, their families and our community. Many of you have stepped up and volunteered with just a moment's notice, and many others, all I have had to do is ask and you are there. All four units have worked together to accomplish even more than what was planned for this year, and we are looking forward to continuing this success in 2025. Our post family came together, and it is more evident here than in any post across the state of Maryland. I've visited plenty of posts throughout the state this year and on several instances have heard, "Oh, you're from Post 60, you guys get stuff done!". I just smile and say, "Yep, because we're the Fun Post!". Not meaning to brag but yeah, I guess I am just a little bit. Some posts may raise more money, and donate more money, but what we do as a family, is have fun raising those funds, and that is the difference between being just another Post and a Post Family. Past Commander Luby paved the road that we travel, and we will proudly continue to follow this road.

I have been very fortunate in the last few months to attend some very uplifting events within our community. Lee and I went to BWI and served 400 lunches to deploying service members at the USO. This was a very rewarding experience, and we are going to continue to do this as long as they will allow us. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, several of our Post 60 legionnaires attended a Veterans' Breakfast that Mayor Sydnor invited us to. We're hoping that next year we will have more members join us for this worthwhile event.

I want to thank all our Post Officers and Executive Committee members for their outstanding service to the American Legion, and for their support of Post 60 and its programs throughout this year.

Happy Holidays to all of you, and I hope that the new year brings you happiness and peace.



### **DESIGNER BAG BINGO**

On November 10, we held our 24th designer bag bingo with over 320 attendees! Our very first designer bag bingo was in May of 2011. We've held two or three bingos a year for designer bags, except during Covid, of course. I am very grateful for all our attendees throughout the years, you have stuck by us and many of you have attended pretty much every one of these events. Our bingo staff has been phenomenal, they help out (on top of giving up every Friday night) and put in long eight-hour days. Throughout the years, this event has enabled our Post 60 family to make improvements at our post and support our various contributions throughout our veteran's community. Our bingo team has always been readily available, our American Legion family has always been very supportive, and volunteers are numerous. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



### Post 60 Entertainment Tim Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander



Welcome to December Post 60! As always, we have plenty of events planned for you to enjoy this month.

As kids we all had a favorite meal that we hoped would be sitting on the table when we got home or to a relative's house. We would be so happy to smell that aroma when we walked in the house. This is why I am trying a new theme for a potluck, Comfort Food. December is going to start off with our first Comfort Food Potluck on the 8th from 12:30 - 4pm. Break out those recipes, I am looking forward to trying everyone's favorite childhood dish. On December 15th, join us for Lunch with Santa from 1-3pm, this is open to the public but only the first 100 people will receive lunch. I know you won't want to miss our annual Christmas Eve GetTogether, on the 24th of course, from 1-7pm. This is a potluck event, time to dust off some more of your favorite recipes! Don't forget to sign up at the events kiosk, we want to make sure we set up enough tables for everyone.

What would December be without a New Years Party? Join us in Allen Hall again this year from 7:30pm - 1am. For just \$10 (payable at the door) you'll get a night full of Food, Friends, and Fun! That means finger foods (from 8-9), entertainment, party favors, a cash bar, and a champagne toast at midnight - all you need to do is bring all your friends and party into the New Year.

AMERICAN LEGION
POST 60
PRESENTS

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM, PARTY ENDS AT 1AM
MUSIC BY WILD GREY HAIRZ

\$10 PER PERSON AT DOOR
OPEN TO AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS AND GUESTS
CASH BAR, FINGER FOODS 8-9PM, MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST
(DESIGNATED DRIVERS DRINK FREE SODA AND WATER, MUST DECLARE AT DOOR TO GET WRISTBAND)

As a member of Post 60's Color Guard, I am extremely excited to announce that we will be competing in Tampa Bay at the 2025 American Legion National Convention. This is a great honor, and commitment. We have been practicing hard and are close to finalizing our routine, and we will continue practicing it, over and over... As you can imagine, it will cost quite a bit for all of us to make this trip. We have already started some fundraising to help us with the travel cost, but like the practicing, there will be more. Please be on the lookout for them, your support is appreciated.



Post 60 Color Guard Goin' for the Gold, Tampa 2025

We had our 17th Annual Chili Cookoff last month. All the entries and members that attended helped make it a huge success!! Thank you to our judges and congratulations to our winners.

1st Place Spicy – Anthony Thomas 2nd Place Spicy – John Brinton 1st Place Mild – Michael Shawver 2nd Place Mild -- Jamie Tompkins



Looking forward to next year's competition.





Chili Cook off Winners Jamie, Michael, John and Anthony proudly displaying their 2024 Winners' Certificates



# Auxiliary Unit 60 Nancy Slavinski ALA President



What a change with the clocks turning back, sun setting earlier, and the cooler temperatures! Fall is in full swing. We now turn to holiday shopping, social events, and more to close out 2024. Hope you and yours have a safe and happy holiday.

<u>50/50 on Fridays</u> – we are still in need of volunteers to sell the tickets each Friday. There is a sign-up sheet in the Lounge that extends to April 25th so please help if you have time to do so.

ALA Holiday Children's Party is Sunday, December 15th. If you are interested in helping with set up, games, distributing beanie babies, etc., please let Denise Person know. It will be here before we (or you) know it!

<u>December Raffle Basket</u> – ALA raffle basket should be on display on/around December 19th in the Lounge. It will be a large Mission BBQ basket coupled with a small cooler combo so please support us and purchase tickets (1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5). You will see a few scratch-off tickets in this combo, too. Please see the bartender or an auxiliary officer. Thanks in advance to all bartenders that provide great service at the bar and for the extra tasks!





**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** We are off and running for the **2024-2025** year as memberships are now available.

1. https://www.legion-aux.org/Renew -or-2. (317) 569-4570 The hours to call are Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM EST Questions? carlymon4@gmail.com

<u>Track It Forward</u>: Please remember to enter your hours. It is important for all Legion units to record hours to support National. We emphasize the importance at our monthly meetings.

<u>The pop-top program</u> continues, so please contribute those aluminum can pop-tops (any type can) for us to support the chosen organization (Backpacks of Love). Our Give 10 to Education program for 2024-2025 will benefit Backpacks of Love. We will also continue to support LARS so please consider donating dry or canned goods...container in the Lounge.

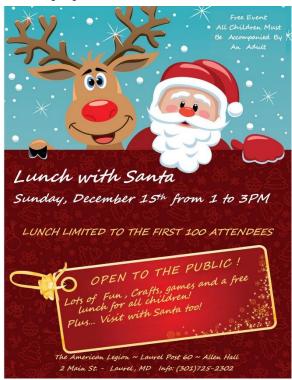
#### **ALA Contact info:**

President - Nancy Sgambato Slavinski, <a href="mailto:alapresidentunit60@gmail.com">alapresidentunit60@gmail.com</a>;

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice - Denise Person, dp.0325@icloud.com;

Secretary-Lucy Haggerty, secretaryunit60@gmail.com.

**1**<sup>st</sup> **Vice – Carolyn Monko**'s email is under the Membership Update article above.





## 1st Vice Commander Lee Luby



### **NOV 2024 Blood Drive David Tyson** Coordinator



November is gone and December is here, how that happened I'll never know! As of mid-November, our membership stands at 66.276% and we need to reach 75% by December 11th. That means renewing 60 members in a month, which will take a lot of effort by everyone at Post 60. Remember that your door key will not work if you do not renew by December, so find me and pay your dues so that I can update your white pass key. As long as you are a member of our Post you will not have to get a new card, it will be updated each year when you pay your dues. Right now, we are on schedule, so please renew by December 1st, so that we

do not fall behind.

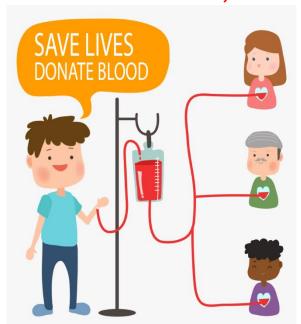
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. May 2025 be filled with happiness and good fortune!



On November 18th, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Red Cross sponsored a blood drive at Post 60. Since we joined forces with the Red Cross, to date, we have now sponsored 12 Blood Drives. Our efforts have been supported by 409 total donors, and have collected 371 units of blood, averaging 31 units per drive. On November 18th, 33 donors helped us collect an additional 27 units of blood.

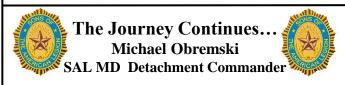
We sincerely appreciate all who signup to donate. Our next scheduled blood drive at Post 60 will be held on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to having a record number of doners join us, so PLEASE SAVE the DATE!

# **MONDAY APRIL 28, 2025**



AMERICAN RED CROSS





Hello to Post 60

We are approaching the halfway mark for the 2024- 2025 Administrative year and so far, everything is moving along very well. I want to say "Thank You" for allowing me the great honor to represent Squadron 60 as the Detachment of Maryland Commander. Your support is something I cherish and welcome as you all are my Post Family. Without your continued support, all the efforts that are made to support every program that supports the Four Pillars for our Veterans and their families, nothing could get done and we would indeed fail. My theme this year is "Sons Having Fun Getting it Done" but let us also step back a moment to the theme from years ago- "Sons Stepping up to the Challenge". For those who may not know, this was the theme that Past National Commander Hall had in his year when he was Detachment of Maryland Commander. Well, let us all step up to the challenge again and have fun doing it at the same time. Please continue to keep those fundraisers going, look at what you can do to donate your time and effort. We all need to work together to get it done.

### The Sons American Legion (SAL) Youth

Everyone always says membership is the life blood of the organization. This is true for The Sons of the American Legion. As our generation is continuing to get older. We are losing valued members and without the ability to find ways to bring younger members into our organization we can not survive. We need to find ways to engage our youth of today. The question is and always will be, "How do we do this?" Simply put- we listened and heard what our youth wanted. We heard that they want to play a larger role in the SAL, hold their own meetings, elect their own leadership and support their own programs. They have done this and are prospering. The aim was to help enable our youth to take an active part in decision making and give them the opportunity to have their voice heard. Youth participation can lead to outcomes such as improved knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors.

These programs use many different strategies to involve youth. Each program needs to encourage services that help to keep our youth at the center of any decisionmaking and policy changes.

The Detachment of Maryland Youth have shown they are committed to this. This is a terrific way for young people to share in decision-making and use their skills to benefit others. A healthy society needs everyone to engage in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Currently Detachment of Maryland Youth members hold meetings and/or "youth academies" at our convention, mid-winter, and camp-out. Each year youth members participate in the indoor plunge at the mid-winter conference in support of Special Olympics Maryland, and they are an integral part of the Detachment Junior Shooting Sports Competition at the American Legion Youth Camp. Youth members are also leading the Detachment Flag Replacement Program. The Detachment of Maryland is going to lead the way and together we are going to create a successful model to follow. We need our youth to ensure The American Legion Family is strong now and well established for them to take over and continue our legacy.

Yours in Service -Michael Obremski





# Veterans Day at Hammond Elementary John Musgrove



On November 11<sup>th</sup>, I and 27 other veterans and activeduty personnel were honored by Hammond Elementary School students in Laurel, Howard County. PTA Military Committee Chairperson Carman Henry, ably assisted by committee member Megan Eller, organized a lunch to honor HES students' Active-duty/Veteran moms, dads and other relatives.

During their student's lunch break, the honored guests were greeted by Carman and Megan, shown to a specially decorated table, and then the respective students came to join them for lunch.

We were presented with a Challenge Coin as a special memento of the occasion topped off by the reading of a poem dedicated to Active-duty/Veterans by Carman, her daughter Amiya, Megan's daughter Lauren, and Margaret Heim.

Thank you, HES Students!!





Amiya Henry with her US Air Force veteran Mom, Carman.



Lauren Eller, with active US Navy Dad, Neil, and her Mom Megan.



The Guests of Honor Table.



Challenge Coin and a Thank You card for all the Active-duty/Veterans.



Kendal Musgrove, with US Navy veteran Granddad, John.

# **VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS**



Ivy Hill American Legion Memorial



SAL members Charlie Turner and Eddie Souder placing flags at Ivy Hill



Many of the veterans who turned out for the Veterans Day Breakfast with the Mayor



Lee Luby, Jose Lohman, Kent Goodger, COL Yolanda D. Gore, (CO, Ft. Meade), and Bruce Person



Shmoozing with Mayor Sydnor, retired US Navy CPO

# November at the Fun Post

CRAFT NIGHT WITH DENISE! WITH DENISE! SNOW MAN



Let's Meet Abbey David Privott Resource Officer









Thank you, Dave Manchas, for the beautiful Christmas tree!



Staff Sergeant (SSG) Abigail Rigney, USA

This month we meet Abigail Rigney. She hails from Danville, Virginia, and moved to Maryland in 2020 after joining the Army. She is currently active duty out of Fort Meade. She wandered into Post 60 back in August for a blood drive and hasn't wandered back out yet. Typically, you can find her working at Friday night bingo, doing homework in the lounge, or crocheting. In her free time, she enjoys playing music and finding new things to get outside and try. Abbey, as the guys on the deck refer to her, has become one of the deck crew and gives as good as she takes.

Welcome Abbey.

The American Legion Laurel Post 60						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NFL Sunday 1-7pm	2	3	4 Queen of Hearts Cames Begin at 5pm Queen Drawing at 7:15pm	5 NO SAL Meeting	6 DJ Butch 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 C&Y)	7 Sandra Dean Band 7:30 pm
8 NFL Sunday 1-7pm	9 <u>NO</u> ALA Meeting	10	11 Queen of Hearts Games Begin at 5pm Queen Drawing at 7:15pm ALR Meeting @ Tampico Grill 7 PM	NO Executive Committee	Island Breeze 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 SAL)	Crush 7:30 pm
15 NFL Sunday 1-7pm Kids' Lunch with Santa! 1-3pm	16 Toy Drive for LARS Ends 15 DEC!!	17	Queen of Hearts Games Begin at 5pm Queen Drawing at 7:15pm	NO General Assembly	20 Rockab illy Reb els 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 ALR)	Sharon Dukes & All Star 7:30 pm
22 NFL Sunday 1-7pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Get-Together 1-7pm	25 Merry Christmas Post Closed	26	27 DJ Butch 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 ALA)	28 Gary & the Groove 7:30 pm
29 NFL Sunday 1-7pm	30	31 New Year's Eve Party 7:30pm-1am Tickets- \$10	Every Wednesday is Winey Wednesday 4 pm - Closing Post Kitchen is Open Every Friday 5:30 to 8 PM			

#### January 2025 The American Legion Laurel Post 60 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Every Wednesday DJ Butch SAL Meeting Happy Hour is Winey New Years Day 7-10 pm The Groove Quest Mon - Fri 7 pm 7:30 pm Wednesday Post opens at 1200 Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 C&Y) 4 to 7 PM 4 pm - Closing 5 NFL Playoffs Executive Grey Dog Color Guard 3 'til Midnight Committee 7-10 pm 7:30 pm Meeting 6:30 pm Meeting 7 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 SAL) ALR Mtg 7 pm 14 15 16 18 12 NFL Playoffs 17 Acoustic Cafe General Assembly In Tone Nation ALA Mtg 7 pm Meeting 7 pm 7-10 pm 7:30 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 ALR) 24 Rockabilly Rebels 20 Martin Luther 21 22 23 Out of Order 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm King Birthday 7:30 pm Post opens (50/50 ALA) at 1200 DJ Butch 7-10 pm Bingo 7:30 pm (50/50 Bingo) P&G Catering Every Friday in the Kitchen Catering 5:30 to 8 PM Catring





At American Legion Post 60

Beginning Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Games Begin at 5 pm, Queen Drawing at 7:15 pm

Every Wednesday Night
Until the Queen of Hearts is drawn

# Raffle Tickets \$5 each (3 for \$10) Ask about our loyalty card program

Remember - Only Members are Permitted to Play

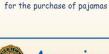
Only American Legion Family Members are eligible to win the Queen of Hearts drawing, so be sure to bring your Current Membership Card.

All participants must be 21 years of age - We comply with IRS Gambling Winnings Rules

Additional details, including the COMPLETE set of rules and payout information will be displayed at Post 60 prior to the first drawing

The Queen of Hearts game will be administered by SAL Squadron 60





Monetary donations will gladly

be accepted by Commander Luby

American Legion Post 60

new pajamas to

area hospitals!

Casey Cares Pajama Drive

We Will Be Collecting October 1, 2024 to March 30, 2025





# Renew your 2025 ALA membership

If renewing through NATIONAL call (317) 569-4570
Visa or MC accepted.

To print your membership card go to www.alaforveterans.org

For additional information contact:
ALAPresidentunit60@gmail.com
or
Membershipunit60@gmail.com

Membershipunit60@gmail.com

Please note: Dual members must pay through Unit 60 Auxiliary





FRIDAY
FOOD
FESTIVAL

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM 5:30 - 8 PM AT POST 60

1ST & 3RD (& 5TH) FRIDAY

CANTEEN 60

Where Something Good Is Always Cooking By Squadron 60 2ND & 4TH FRIDAY

P & G CATERING

Classic Favorites with a Modern Twist By Patricia King

BECAUSE VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE!

American Legion Post 60 Cordially Invites
All Post Home Members and their Guest

CHRISTMAS EVE

GET-TOGETHER

Tuesday, December 24th 1PM to 7PM

Potluck Social

Please Sign-Up at the Events Kiosk In The Lounge To Let Us Know How Many Are Attending And What Covered Dish You Will Be Bringing

To receive monthly newsletters, events planned for the next week and important information for Laurel Post 60, please email the address below to be inclduded.

INFORMED



Please scan above QR Code for email address laurelpost60newsandevents@gmail.com

### Other Notes/Dates Of Interest

- If you wish to submit articles and pictures for the newsletter, please submit them to the editor at: oxonhillbilly@comcast.net. Articles and pictures must be about the Legion Family, veterans or the community Post 60 supports. All information must be received by the deadline of 8:00 AM, 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month to make it into the current newsletter. Submissions after that date will make it into the following month's newsletter.
- Please join us on our Facebook page, American Legion -Laurel Post 60 for Post 60 website links, newsletters, entertainment and activities that are posted on the page.

Link: https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/364213691671/













# Post 60 T-Shirts

With The New American Legion Logo!







### On Sale Now - \$25 Each

Available Sizes:

Men - Medium to 4X Women - Small to 3X



LARS supports the Laurel Community and many of the people they serve are veterans and their families. It is one of Post 60's ongoing projects to support LARS, there is a food collection bin set up in our lounge. LARS will accept anything that is non-perishable, but they are always in need of peanut butter & jelly, tuna, pasta & sauce, cereal, and catmeal. Pleas consider bringing in at least one non-perishable food item whenever you visit us at Post 60.

#### Nancy Sgambato Slavinski

Licensed Maryland Real Estate Professional

Cell: 410-302-3757 Office: 410-715-2753



Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. 10805 Hickory Ridge Road Columbia, Md. 21044

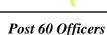


www.Nancysellsmarylandhomes.com



Fax: 410-730-7186

NancyS@LNF.com



Commander Josie Lohman 1st Vice Lee Luby 2ndVice Tim Thomas Judge Advocate Richard Harding Finance Officer Pedro Lopez Chaplain Martin Berman Resource Officer David Privott Historian John Musgrove Sgt-at-Arms Melvin Campbell Mac McNally Adjutant

### SAL Squadron 60

Commander Rob Monko 1st Vice Eddie Souder 2ndVice Tom Allen 3rd Vice Vacant Finance Martin Caslow Chaplain Tony Scovitch Sgt-at-Arms Charlie Turner Historian Mark Duff Adjutant Joe Lohman Parliamentarian Vacant Advisor Chris Davis

### Auxiliary Unit 60

President Nancy Slavinski 1st Vice Carolyn Monko 2nd Vice Denise Person Secretary Lucy Haggerty Treasurer Tris Thomas Chaplain Barbara Rhodes Historian Vacant Sgt-at-Arms Chaitra Chambers

### Legion Riders

Director Lenny Francioni Asst Director Pedro Lopez Christel Lopez-Secretary Berryman Treasurer Barclay Butler Sgt-at-Arms Chris DiPasquale Chaplain Charley Buckley Safety Officer Pedro Lopez Road Captain Lenny Francioni Membership Pedro Lopez

Quinn Harry

Public Affairs

The American Legion Laurel Post 60 2 Main Street Laurel, Maryland 20707- 4304

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Serving Veterans and The Community Since 1932

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

### **Commander's Last Shout**

#### THANK YOU:

Thank you to Jamie Tompkins and Tim Thomas for coordinating the Chili Cook-off. It was a great time with great food.

Thank you to Mike Obremski for once again cooking 3 turkeys and a ham for last-minute Thanksgiving feast!

Thank you to Linda Boettcher, Nancy Slavinski, Denise Person, Patty Goodger and Lenny Francioni for assisting with our Thanksgiving Dinner.

Thank you to our wonderful ALA for hosting our Children's parties.

Thank you to our fabulous DJ Butch and his wonderful wife Carloyn for providing us with great tunes, even if it's a last-minute call.

Thank you to John Brinton for working till all hours of the night getting us straight, and let's not forget his amazing wife for sharing him with us.

Thanks to the official, unofficial deck committee for putting our hall back together after the blood drive.

Thanks to our ALR for opening the kitchen during the Queen of Hearts!

We e-mail the website link for our Post Newsletter and other items of interest to members that have access to e-mail and the Internet. Please send your e-mail address to: <a href="mailto:lubyshirley@gmail.com">lubyshirley@gmail.com</a> and it will be added to our email list. Your e-mail will be used for Post 60 notifications only, it will NOT be given out to solicitors.

Post Phone: (301) 725-2302 Website: http://laurelpost60.org

### **Post Meetings**

**General Membership** 7:00 pm Third Thursday

### **Executive Committee**

7:00 pm Second Thursday
Note: Except the 2nd Thursday
In July Due to Convention

Auxiliary Unit 60 General Membership

7:00 pm Second Monday

**SAL Squadron 60** 7:00 pm First Thursday

**American Legion Riders** 7:00 pm Second Wednesday



# For members who do not have E-Mail

If you want the Post Newsletter mailed to your home, please send the written request by mail to the Post Adjutant.