



# SOUNDOFF

July—August 2019



George P. Vanderveer Post 129 American Legion (established 1919) —A Centennial Post

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As we are entering a new year, I would like to welcome our new Post 129 Officer.

V-Commanders: Ralph Moranz, Gerd Trommer, Pete Chafatelli, and John Loiaconco. Finance Officer Ralph Wolff, Adjutant Dan Nolan, Sgt. At Arms Stan Bilicki, Chaplain Russ Gurney, Judge Advocate Tom Diviccaro, and Historian Al Harbord.

I would like to congratulate all my Trustees for the 2019-2020 season.

Also I would wish Lisa Mayer and Rocky Lucia and all their officers a great and successful year.

We had a great Memorial Weekend, We did a few services around the Town and also had a great Memorial Day Parade sponsored by Post 129. A big thanks to Bob Scheiderman for putting it all together for us. I attended a couple Eagle Scout Court of Honors.

We just got done going to our 101st convention in Wildwood and a good time was had by all. To all that help Thank You very much.

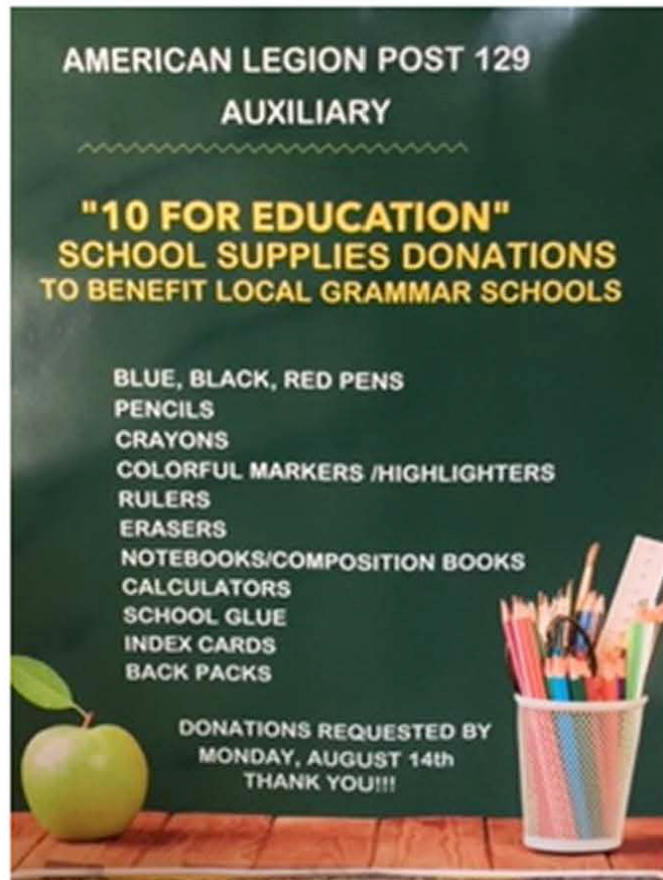
For God and Country  
Ed Rutzler Commander Post 129



## PLEASE SUPPORT ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

### COLLECTION BOX at POST ENTRANCE

Thank you for last years response - let's make this year even better!  
We can't do it without you!



Installation of Officer 2019-2020

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/post129/>

WEBSITE: <https://alpost129.org/>

## AUXILIARY MESSAGE

By the time this issue comes out, the 2018 – 2019 year will be over, and we will be back from our Wildwood Convention. I want to thank our Past President Pam Bowen for being our President for the past 2 years. It was a pleasure working with you. Our Auxiliary had a very successful past year with all our Programs and Events. I look forward to our Auxiliary having another successful year in 2019 – 2020. I am also looking forward to working with our Legionnaires, SAL and Riders. Our Post 129 Family works well & successfully when we work together.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Auxiliary will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fish Fry and Chicken Dinner, from 2pm to 6pm. Flyers will be posted with all the details. Tickets can be purchased in the Canteen. In the spirit of Post Family, I am asking that you please consider supporting us by purchasing a ticket(s).



Installation of Officers for 2019—2020

Our Auxiliary will be hosting our annual BBQ for our local nursing home Veterans on July 26<sup>th</sup>. It is a fun day out with fellow Vets. We serve them burgers, hot dogs, side salads, watermelon & ice pops. They are treated to some games and good conversations too. Members of our Legionnaire, SAL and Riders handle the grills,

which is greatly appreciated.

Our Education Chairman, Andrea Ogden, will be heading up our Annual School Supply Drive. Because of the donations from our Post Family last year, our School Supply Drive was very successful. We collected nearly 2,000 items, including the generous donation from our Riders of 40 Back Packs. There are many children in our Community who are in need. We are hoping that this year's School Supply Drive is even more successful. We will be collecting school items during the next few months. You will be able to drop off your donations in our School Supply Box located in the entrance area of The Post.

Our Fall Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Our Chairman, Jacqueline McDyer, will be making up Flyers with all the details by August.

Lastly, I want to introduce our Auxiliary Officers for 2019 – 2020.

Lisa Mayer: President

Laurinda Miller: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Jane Keeley: Secretary

Shannon D'Ercole:  
Correspondence Secretary

Carol Rutzler: Treasurer

Mary Lou Faitoute: Historian

Pam Bowen: Chaplain

Dee Percell: Sgt.-At-Arms

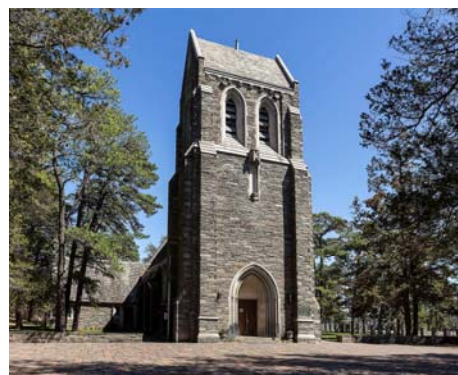
Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Summer!

For God and Country,  
Lisa Mayer  
Unit 129 President



## HAVE YOU SIGNED THE PITITION?

The Cathedral of the Air, located on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, was originally the idea of Reverend Gill Robb Wilson, The American Legion National Chaplain. It was approved in 1929 and completed in 1933, through the efforts of The American Legion. The undersigned members of the New Jersey American Legion Family (The American Legion, Department of New Jersey / The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey / The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey) wish to express our opposition to the selling of the Cathedral of the Air. We believe this cathedral to be a historical landmark and should be preserved as such.



*Auxiliary Fundraiser*

## **Chicken or Fish Dinners**







Adults

**\$20**

Children 10 & under

**\$8**

**Dinner includes: Fish or Chicken, French Fries, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw. Coffee, Tea, Soda or Water and Dessert**

Proceeds will Benefit:  
Children and Youth Programs

Girls & Boys State - Contest Winners for Grade Schools - Scholarships

**When: Sunday, July 14, 2019**  
**2pm - 6pm**

**Where: American Legion Post 129**  
**Picnic Grove**  
2025 Church Road  
Toms River, NJ 08753

*Tickets are available in advance in the Canteen*

## **LEGION SILVER DOLLAR COIN AND VETERAN MEDAL SET ALMOST SOLD OUT**

The American Legion  
JUN 17, 2019

Out of the 10,000 available, about 940 coins remain of the limited edition 100th Anniversary American Legion proof silver dollar and American Veterans Silver Medal coin set.

The set features a 99.9 percent silver medal that will only be available in this set. The front of the medal portrays a bald eagle spreading its wings as it prepares for flight, suggesting the initiative, determination and personal courage required by those who choose to serve in the U.S. armed forces. It also features five stars to represent the five branches of the military and the inscription "Honoring America's Veterans" encircles the design. The reverse of the medal depicts a field of stars symbolizing all American veterans – past, present and future. A lone incused star below the field represents a veteran who has made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country. The absence of this star in the field conveys a sense of loss to the nation. And the inscription "Service and Sacrifice" is featured.

The set sells for \$99.95. For purchasing information, visit [www.legion.org/coin](http://www.legion.org/coin).



## CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

It has been three straight years of the wettest Springs ever. Thank goodness the Bunker renovations are completed. No more sitting under a leaky roof. There is a new sense of pride down the Bunker, and it has been contagious. This is evident by the increase in Bunker attendance. Even the renovation "naysayers" have become believers.

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC:** Our July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic Barbeque will be held on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 5PM. Entertainment will be provided by the band "Step Aside." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 & under. Ticket price includes Draft Beer, Can Soda, Bottled Water, Hot Dogs, Burgers, BBQ Chicken, Salads and more. This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, so invite your relatives, neighbors and friends to celebrate with Post 129 the Independence of our great nation.

**HORSESHOES:** Wednesday Night is Horseshoes Night down the Bunker. Mike the Painter Dolan advised us that they are still looking for subs to fill in this summer. If you are interested in playing, stop down the Bunker on Wednesday.

A special thanks goes out to TOM KAHARSKI for redoing the horseshoe pits, making this year's play better than last. Thank you, Tom.

**CORN HOLE:** Thursday Night is Corn Hole Night down the Bunker. Dale Hugo, who does a great job organizing the league, is still accepting players.

Thursday Night is also **LADY'S NIGHT**. Drinks for the Ladies are as close to half price as possible. Drink Specials are NOT included.

**BIKE NIGHTS:** Bike Nights are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6PM until 10PM. He



# American Legion Post 129

2025 Church Rd. Toms River NJ

## JULY 4TH BBQ

**Open To The Public!**  
**Sat, July 6th, 2019**  
**1pm till 5pm**  
**2025 Church Rd TR NJ**  
 Rain date Sunday July 7th  
**LIVE BAND - Step Aside!**




**Tickets \$20.00 - Children under age 12 \$10.00**  
**Includes Draft Beer - Can Soda - Bottled Water**  
*Menu: Hot Dogs - Hamburgers - BBQ Chicken - Salads*

**Tickets Available At the Post Canteen Bar or call:**  
**Gerd Trommer (908) 910-1858**  
**John Loiacono (732) 644-2744**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Get Your Tickets Early**

next dates are Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, featuring the MANGO'S and Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10 and include burgers or hot dogs and salads. Live bands are there for your entertainment. All proceeds go toward the Riders' Charities.

**The RIDERS' "RUN FOR THE FALLEN" Bike Night** will be Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. It is the largest of the season. All the proceeds go to the RUN FOR THE FALLEN EVENT held in September. Our band, BROTHER SAL will be performing.

Speaking of the Riders', their annual picnic will be held on Sun-

day, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Noon to 5PM, Tickets are \$25. The menu offers pulled pork, burgers, hot dogs, salads, soda and water. The Country Band "40 NORTH" will be playing. So, put on your line dancing cowboy boots and turn out for this great fundraiser. The proceeds benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Program.

### **VETERANS' APPRECIATION**

**EVENINGS:** Every Monday, down at the Bunker, from 5 to 7PM, all draft beer pints will be \$1.50. Ryan's Catering will also provide discounted food snacks.

**LABOR DAY PICNIC:** This year's Labor Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 1 to 5PM and will be full of surprises. The Labor Day Committee is still working out the details. We will get them to you as soon as possible.

You can't run one of the most successful Canteens in the state without outstanding food and outstanding bartenders. Warren, Robin, Lisa, Lori, Danielle, Shea, Nancy, Robert, Elena and Gina take a lot of pride when serving you, our Members and Guests.

Every two weeks our bartenders come up with new drinks that are offered at discounted prices. One drink is called "Sweet Seduction," and they said it was named after the bar committee. My wife asked if they could come up with another drink, and name it after me. It would be called "doesn't do nothin' around the house." The bartenders feel that many wives would be ordering doubles for their husbands.

The Canteen constantly gets compliments for the variety of our food menu by Ryan's Catering. Not only that, the food is delicious. This is a credit to Chef Mike Speary and his staff.



The Canteen continues to have 9 beers on tap with other bottled beers. Just ask one of our bartenders for your preference. We open at 11AM daily. Closing times on Friday and Saturday 12:30AM. Last call is Midnight. Closing times vary during the week based on the weather, the

## WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



number of Members in the bar, etc. The Bunker opens at 5PM during the week, and 2PM on Saturday and Sunday.

**BUNKER NEWS:** Things were somewhat quiet down the Bunker since our Investigative Committee found no collusion or obstruction with foreign varmints. Post Negotiators attempted to engage in peace talks. Our negotiators threatened to levy tariffs on the squirrel-chipmunk community. They advised us that they do not buy any of our products, they steal them. Point well taken.

The squirrels demanded that the bounty (20 lbs. of cashews & macadamia nuts) on their most famous commander be removed. Also, the Bar Committee is to stock more Guinness down the Bunker, since that is their beverage of choice. See surveillance photo. Negotiators advised that Varmint demands would only be honored if there was a signed peace treaty.

Then it happened. A set of horseshoes was stolen from the Bunker. The Varmint Community denied involvement, however, they observed two humans in chipmunk costumes stealing the horseshoes. They stated that

they overheard the humans communicating. They called each other "Mo Mo" and "Yip Yap". To Mo Mo and Yip Yap, the Post is asking you to return the horseshoes ASAP, so the peace talks can continue. Additional reports to follow.

**REMEMBER,** when you support American Post 129, you support the greatest Post in the USA.



**Tin Can Sailors meet at Post 129 on the 3RD Wednesday at 12 noon.**



## VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Gerd Trommer

A quick reminder to all our brothers and sisters: Our annual 4th of July BBQ picnic will be held on July 6th, 2019 from 1 to 5 PM. (see flyer). John Loiacono and I will be co-chairing the annual 4th BBQ this year. It promises to be well attended. Don't miss it. The tickets are \$20.00 per person, and children under 12 are free. Our entertainment will be the well-known "STEP ASIDE".

Be on the lookout behind the Bunker Bar. We will be adding a 3-foot-high fence which was requested by the New Jersey EPA and the Township. The fencing material has been procured with major assistance from Daniel Schroeder, the store manager of Toms River Lowes who helped save the Legion \$2500.00. Thank you, Lowes. This new fence should be a huge help in assisting the Bunker Bar police with curtailing the infiltration of any foreign vermin. We need to secure the peanut gallery (inventory).

As blood drive chairman, I would like to remind everyone that the Red Cross and Post 129 have established November 5th, 2019 as our annual Blood Drive. Appointments are requested and can be made online at the Red Cross web site. Donations will be accepted from 2 to 7 PM. Last year we anticipated 22 pints and when all was said and done the final count was 33 pints. Thank you to all who donated this precious gift. I'd like to give a special thank you to Jane Keeley for her continued assistance with our blood drive. Her experience with the Red Cross is immeasurable.



# Blood Drive



## American Red Cross

American Legion Post 129

American Red Cross

For info or to schedule your donation call

Gerd Trommer 908-910-1858

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**2 PM to 7 PM**



FRIENDS  
**HELPING**  
FRIENDS *Boscov's*

Contact Ralph Moranz to  
get your Shopping Pass

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019**  
**ALL BOSCOV'S LOCATIONS**  
**8AM TO 11PM**

# 25% OFF\* SHOPPING PASS

This pass entitles you to 25% off\* your purchases and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions.

Present this pass at time of purchase to receive your 25%\* discount.  
Valid October 16, 2019 only.

\*See reverse side for a list of merchandise receiving 15% and 10% Off as well as exclusions.

**Plus Free Refreshments and Register To Win Prizes,  
including four \$500 Shopping Sprees**

(Plus forty-seven \$100 Shopping Sprees, one for each Boscov's Store Location)

**Shopping Passes: \$5 each.**  
**Available from your favorite non-profit.**  
**Entire donation benefits the local**  
**non-profit organization from which**  
**you purchased this pass.**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Just back from The American Legion Convention in Wildwood and I am proud to report that our Commander Ed Rutzler received his second Gold Brigade Award and Jacket. Job well done Commander. I was honored to receive my Seventh Gold Brigade Award. Post 129 was well represented in The Membership Department.

I am proud to report that we have exceeded last year's membership of 1786. Our Membership is at 1809, an all-time high and still the largest American Legion Post in the State of New Jersey.

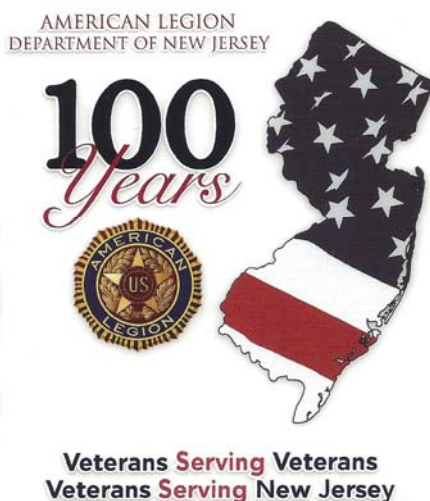
As we close out the 2019 Membership Year on June 30th, our new year starts on July 1st. Please be an Early Bird and send in your 2020 dues. We need all the help that we can get to help support all the great programs that the American Legion does for its Veterans, their Family Members and the Community and member.

### "Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion"

Without members, there would be no Legion programs, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishments in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. The American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919. We can't do this alone. Your dues makes this possible.

It is often emphasized, "It's not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible". The American Legion Membership Card gives our members access to nearly 14,000 Legion Posts worldwide and guarantees that our members will always have a fellow veteran nearby.

## A CENTURY OF SERVICE



But more important are the intangible benefits of membership, the ones you can't put a dollar value to – the lifelong friendships that develop from being actively involved with others and most importantly, the self-satisfaction of knowing that just by being a member we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

Please support your Post and send in your dues. We need your help to support and maintain all the good things that make us

### Who we are "VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA"

We need your help with membership please reach out to your Friends, Neighbors, Co-workers, and Family Members and encourage them to join this Great Organization of Veterans. With you and the help of others A 100% MEMBERSHIP GOAL can be achieved in the State of New Jersey. We are losing more and more members every year, I am asking every member to please try and sign up at least one new member this year, especially the Service Men and Women Veterans that have served recently. Any member that is an Early Bird and sends in their dues between July 1, 2019 and October 1, 2019 will be put into a drawing for a paid membership for

next year and Dinner for Two in our Canteen on a Friday or Saturday Night. Good Luck to All. Just remember you must be in it to win it

Remember, we are a Legion Family and need to support one another. That goes for Membership as well so let's GROW MEMBERSHIP TOGETHER FOR 2019 - 2020. Remember this is the start of our 101st year. Veterans still serving Veterans and Veterans still serving New Jersey. ANYONE THAT NEEDS ANY INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT [rig548@comcast.net](mailto:rig548@comcast.net) OR CELL # 732-604-8326

For God and Country  
Rich Godfrey  
Post Membership Chairman  
Department of New Jersey  
Membership Chairman 2019 – 2020



**Ocean County Memorial  
Chapter of the DAV meet  
at Post 129 the 2nd  
Wednesday of the month  
at 7 PM**





*August: From the Roman emperor, Julius Caesar.*



**Birthstone**

**July 2019**

**Ruby**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.	1 General Mtg. 7:00PM	2  O New/Eclipse	3 Dog Days Begin	4 <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Happy 4th!</b>	5 Bikini Debut 1946	6 <b>Post 129 Fourth of July BBQ</b> 
7 	Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	9 <b>Riders Tuesday Bike Nite</b> 	SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	11 <b>BINGO</b> Last Slide rule Mtg'd In US 1976	12	13 National French Fries Day!
14 Auxiliary 2nd Annual Fish Fry and Chicken Dinner	15 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	16 ● Full Buck Moon	17 	18 <b>BINGO</b>	19	20
21 	22 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	23	24	25 <b>BINGO</b>	26 Auxiliary Annual Nursing Home Veterans BBQ	27 End of Korean War 1953
28 <b>Riders Country Western BBQ</b> 	29	30	31 Life Happens Coffee Helps		Nothing says "Let's celebrate America!" Quite like — —	— — Drinking beer and playing with explosives."

**!!HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE 4TH OF JULY!!**

July 2nd 1926: The United States Army Air Corps is created.

## JULY ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> "TRIPLE PLAY"

SATURDAY JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> BBQ IN THE GROVE  
FEATURING "STEP ASIDE" 1-5 PM  
CHECK THE FLYERS FOR DETAILS



SATURDAY EVENING JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> IN THE CANTEEN  
"BOB KULIK"

FRIDAY JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> \*THE LENNY DAVIS BAND\*

SATURDAY JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> TWIST OF FATE

FRIDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> STRICTLY 60'S

SATURDAY JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> THE MANGO'S

FRIDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> JOHNNY & THE DECADES

SATURDAY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> THE HALF BROTHERS

SATURDAY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> THE MICHAEL D'ARMORE  
SHOW & DINNER IN THE BANQUET HALL

COMING SOON  
**ERIK & THE EVERGLADES**

BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.  
UPDATED LISTS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE CANTEEN

*August: From Julius Caeaser's successor, Augustus Caesar.*

Birthstone

**August 2019**

Sardonyx

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"And in the end it's not the years in your life that count, It's the life in your years."				1	2 Invasion of Kuwait Operation Desert Storm 1990	3
4 <b>Happy B'Day Coast Guard 1790</b> Semper Paratis	5 General Mtg. 7:00PM	6 	7 <b>PURPLE HEART DAY</b> US War Dept. 1789	8	9 <b>FIVE BINGO'S</b>	10 National Garage Sale Day
11 	12 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	13 <b>Riders Tuesday Bike Nite</b> 	14 <b>SAL Mtg. 7:00PM</b> VJ DAY 1945	15  ● Full Sturgeon Moon	16 <b>T H I S</b>	17 Cat Nights Commence
18	19 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	20	21	22	23 <b>MONTH</b>	24
25 	26 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	27	28 A good neighbor is a precious thing.	29	30 <b>WHOOPIII</b> ○ New Moon	31

Established in 1790 the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until the Navy Department was launched in 1796. Since then the Coast Guard has protected the United States and served in every one of our nation's conflicts.

## AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> **GEORGE RIZZI & THE JERSEY HORNS**  
CELEBRATING BARBARA'S BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> **BOB KULIK**  
Continuing to Celebrate Barbara's Birthday

FRIDAY AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> **THE CROSSTONES**

SATURDAY AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> **KARAOKE AND OPEN MIC NIGHT**  
WITH BARBARA AND SURPRISE GUESTS

FRIDAY AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> **THE SURE CATS**

SATURDAY AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> **THE BLACK TIES**  
\*\*NEW BAND\*\*

FRIDAY AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> **WILD ROSE**

SATURDAY AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> **STRICTLY 60'S**

FRIDAY. AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> **"NFINITY"**

SATURDAY AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> **THE MANGO'S**

BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.  
UPDATED LISTS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLEEN BOARD IN THE CANTEEN

## SAL MESSAGE

Greetings from Squadron 129! We have been keeping busy here at the Post. Our annual Memorial Day pig roast and picnic was another great success! We had over 500 people in attendance, the food was great, the band Katfish Lucy was great and it was a great day all around with beautiful weather. I would like to personally thank all the members that took time out of their day to help with the event. Everyone did a great job and it's greatly appreciated. I would like to give special thanks to the crew at Brick Post 348 for getting there at 5am to start preparing the pigs, special thanks to the Auxiliary who played a HUGE part by working the door and selling 50/50's, Commander Ed Rutzler and his team for always being there for us and helping out, Bob Joerg our Vice Commander and Post Bar Manager for providing raffle items for us and finally a big thanks and kudos to Pete Coleman, our finance officer and committeeman for the event. This is a lot of work and takes months to plan and Pete hit it out of the park. This was a total Legion Family effort, which is what it's all about. We could not pull this off without everyone's help.

We just got back from convention in Wildwood. Had a great time attending meetings and hanging out with other Posts and making new friends and seeing some old ones; but most of get-

ting some much needed down time to enjoy some food, refreshments, walk the beach and anything else you may want to do. Always a great time and cannot wait until next year. We also received a few awards at the meetings for some of the time and donations we made to various groups and organizations during the year.

Finally, around the first week or so of July, we will be receiving the 2020 membership cards. We will be putting them all together and getting everything in order to start our early bird renewal process and a couple other ideas on how to incentivize members to not only renew, but to help us recruit new members. Membership is a group effort and is everyone's responsibility, so let's all pitch in and get some new faces in our squadron. While we are on the subject, as of June 10th we had 476 members. We surpassed the 466 number of last year so that's an amazing job and thank you all for renewing and recruiting. There is always more work to do. If everyone could recruit just one member each, imagine what our numbers could be! Our goal is to get back over the 500 number this year. I know if we all work together and find one person here and there, we can achieve that goal. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank our membership chairman and Vice Commander, Mel Aballo. Mel took the membership and ran with it this year and broke his tail to do

a great job and for that I'm grateful. Membership is not an easy job so kudos to you Mel!

So everyone, have a great, safe summer season and we'll speak to you again in the fall. Hope to see many of you at the Post and outside at the Bunker Bar this summer!

For God & Country,

Rocky Lucia  
Commander  
Squadron 129

## STRATEGIC PLANNING YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

It is great to have dreams but dreams are just dreams unless you set goals and follow a plan to achieve them. A goal is a preferred result that a person or an organization envisions, plans and commits to achieve with desired outcomes and measurements.

Developing a strategic plan takes time and resources. It requires us to focus on the mission and vision of the Post. It requires us to make a commitment to a direction that the Post's mission is dictating.

In large part the responsibility, as the visionaries of your Post, is to develop and implement the strategies and goals needed to carry out our defined mission. As such, it's incumbent upon both the leadership and members to engage not only in the strategic thinking but also in the effective execution of the process. By planning and measuring we will be better prepared to grow in a meaningful way and to reach our goals.



( continued → )

There are 5 key components to a powerful strategic plan.

1. The mission, vision and aspirations. A mission statement is our overall, lasting formulation of why we exist and what we hope to be in the future.
2. Our core values.
3. A SWOT analysis. (strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats)
4. Our objectives, strategies and operational tactics.
5. Our KPI dashboard for measurements and funding streams.

So, why do we need a strategy? Why take the time for planning? There are many reasons but here are just a few:

First and foremost, we need a strategy because it sets the direction and establishes priorities for our Post. The goal of strategic planning is to ensure that everyone is working toward common goals to achieve outcomes and results through organized management. It defines our organization's view of success, prioritizes the resources and focuses the energy of all involved. When that happens it strengthens your operations.

A strategic plan helps simplify decision-making. Once our plan is in place, making decisions becomes easy. Acting on new ideas or initiatives that do not follow your strategic plan become burdensome because they do not fit neatly in the already pre-determined direction of your plan. They stick out like a sore thumb and are easy to identify and evaluate.

Our strategic plan will communicate our message to the membership and the community. It will effectively articulate and define our Post and its direction and make it easier for everyone to work towards the goal that they

have been asked to achieve.

An effective strategic plan moves through a number of different phases. The first is to establish and clarify our mission and vision. Once the vision is clear we are ready to formulate our strategy based on all the information that has been collected and then to develop our desired outcomes. Next step is to implement the strategy and finally evaluate and control the performance.

Remember that having a vision and a plan is critical to the future of our Post. It has been said that

"A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without a vision is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world".



Ralph Wolff  
Finance Officer  
Post 129

## July 9 Bike Nite Entertainment The Mangos

### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 129 2019 SCHEDULE

# TUESDAY BIKE NIGHTS

~~MAY 14~~ MAY 21

MAY 14 • JUNE 11 • JULY 9 • AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 10 • OCTOBER 8

6:00pm

\$10.00 per PERSON



## FUN • FOOD • LIVE MUSIC



AMERICAN LEGION POST 129  
2025 CHURCH ROAD • TOMS RIVER • NEW JERSEY

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 129**   
**ANNUAL COUNTRY WESTERN BBQ**



**SUNDAY JULY 28, 2019**  
**12:00 TO 5:00**  
 ( RAIN OR SHINE - INDOOR ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE FOR RAIN )

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 129**  
**2025 CHURCH ROAD ♦ TOMS RIVER ♦ NEW JERSEY**

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