



# The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19  
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 January 2019

## Department reminds us to remember the troops during the Holiday Season

In the winter issue of [The Free State Warrior](#), [Department](#) Commander Dave Johnson reminds us that during this Holiday Season, we should “take a few moments to think about our troops deployed around the world” who are not able to be with their loved ones and friends.

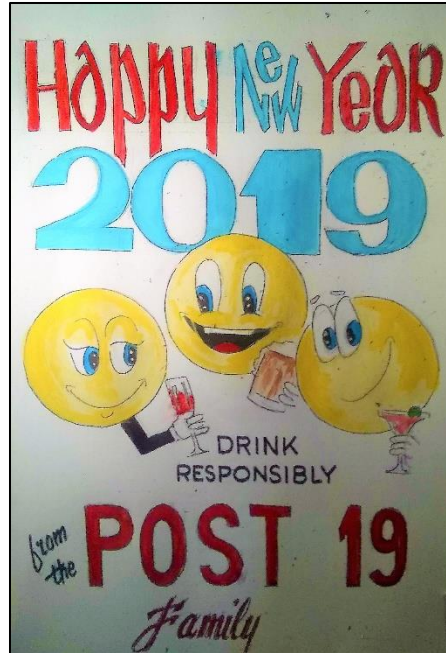
Commander Jones notes that the [Department](#) has been able to reach and exceed membership goals so far this year although some individual Posts have fallen short of the target dates. He emphasizes that “Retention is key to positive membership growth.

Engaging the members we already have to keep them active and involved is one way to retain our members.”

He urges Posts to work toward exceeding the target dates especially since the last quarter has the toughest months for membership.

One way that the Commander suggests boosting membership is by reaching out to our women veterans. He notes that when a woman veteran “comes into our Posts and asks to join, we need to extend to them the same courtesies we do to a man.” We need to sign them up, engage with them, and get them involved.

***“Engaging the members we already have to keep them active and involved is one way to retain our members.”***



[Department](#) Adjutant Russell Myers asserts that “the holidays mark a time of celebration and renewal of our bonds together.” He wants us not to forget that the season can often be cold and lonely for many veterans and that we should always check in on our brothers in arms “and make sure the holidays are not leaving them feeling empty or alone.” He notes that donations to community services is essential during the cold winter months.

Adjutant Myers also acknowledges the importance of Legion Programs such as our Heroes to Hometown/Wounded Warrior Fund (H2H). He points out that there are “hundreds of cases in which the H2H program has assisted veterans in need, and the donations of the many caring members and Posts touch the lives of others.”

Indeed, as a service organization, the American Legion depends on the donations of our membership, and

**General Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 6,**  
**4 pm at the Post**

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**District Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 10**  
**7 pm, Post #2**

Adjutant Myers points out that 100% of the money from our [Department](#) fund raisers goes directly to benefit the Four Pillars. Our dues take care of administrative costs, overhead, marketing, and so forth.

Our yearly label campaigns directly support the work of our [Department](#) Service Officer. Service Officers are crucial as they help veterans navigate through an often-daunting VA system. Adjutant Myers employs us to “Please consider making a donation today to help carry out the vital work of our organization. This is WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO!!”

[Department](#) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Phil Dorsey reports that while all of the Districts reached the 65% goal, we still fell short of total membership from last year. Consequently, the [Department](#) has assigned a department officer to each District to assist in membership. He also encourages each Post to appoint a Membership Committee who can contact delinquent members and help resolve any issues that might be delaying their membership renewal.

**Join to Serve**

## Commander Betty Bonds wishes a Happy New Years to the Post #19 Family

Comrades, I wish that the year of 2019 is blessed with success and happiness. May the impossible be



possible and every challenge an opportunity to show your greatness. As we embark upon a new year, let us not

forget who we are and why we exist. Let us continue to align ourselves with the Four Pillars of the American Legion. I wish you and your family a very healthy, happy, and prosperous new year. [Federal Post #19](#) is still moving forward in 2019.



## Federal Post #19 provides Christmas baskets to neighborhood families



Comrade Tommy Alderman and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Harriette Gross present Christmas basket and gift card to neighborhood family.

This year, because of your generosity, we were able to provide eight Christmas baskets to deserving



Members of the Federal Post #19 Family support the recent toy drive fundraiser sponsored by the Northeastern Post #285 Family.

families in the neighborhood. The baskets included turkeys, hams, can and packaged goods, gift cards, toys, and so forth. *The Scoop* would like to salute Third Vice Harriette Gross and all who continue to show that the [Federal Post #19](#) Family has a huge heart.

## Federal Post #19 to collect clothes for MCVET in January

On Saturday, January 12 from 1-4 pm at the Post, we are collecting new or gently used clothing for veterans at the [Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training \(MCVET\)](#). We need clothes for both men and women veterans. We especially need new socks and underwear.

Incorporated in 1993, [MCVET](#) provides homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens. The veterans enrolled at [MCVET](#) receive an array of services including counselling, emergency and transitional housing, and assessments and referrals for health care and job training.

## Members Only Affair scheduled for January 27

Our Annual Members Only Affair is schedule for Sunday, January 27 from 2-6 pm at the Post. This year's

Members Only is especially important because of our efforts to get a new floor.

Together, the building fund donations



and the Christmas Building Fund Raffle raised more than \$6,500 because of the spirit of "mutual helpfulness." And the floor looks good.

Indeed, we must never forget the spirit of mutual helpfulness. The Members Only Affair allows us to come together in the camaraderie that is the foundation of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the Legion. Unity is key, both within and among. We are all Legion!



[Unit #19](#) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Shelleyarlene Scott notes that "to be able to participate, you have to be a member in good standing! Which means that all membership dues along with outstanding monies should be paid." This is true for all three units.

## Color Guard to march in 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK, Jr. Day parade

On Monday, January 21, the [Federal Post #19](#) Color Guard will march in Baltimore's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade. Last year, our Scouts and Unit #19 Junior Auxiliary also marched.

The parade commemorates the life of civil rights leader and icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. More than 70

groups participate in the parade including high school and community bands, honor/color guards, equestrian units, fraternities and sororities, lively dance squads and civic organizations.

The parade steps off at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Eutaw Street, proceeds south on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and disbands at Baltimore Street. Spectators are invited to view the parade from along the route or near the reviewing stand at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Franklin Street.

**We still have a limited amount of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pins. Contact 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Little. First come, first served. No more after this.**



## Black History Month celebration scheduled for February 12

On Tuesday, February 12, [Federal Post #19](#) will celebrate Black History Month with an African Attire/Dashiki Night at 7 pm at the Post. This year’s Black History Month commemorates “**400 Years of Perseverance (1619-2019).**” Everyone is asked to wear traditional African attire that acknowledges our heritage. The evening will include authentic African foods, drums, and perhaps dancers. We are also sponsoring a Black History Month Raffle fundraiser to be drawn during the evening. Donations are \$1.00.

## Baltimore District Bulletin

In the winter issue of [The Free State Warrior](#), District Commander Austin Ball encourages us not to forget our veterans with PTSD during the Holidays.

The District Oratorical Contest will be held on Thursday, January 31 at 6 pm at the War Memorial Building.

The Four Chaplains Service will be held on Sunday, February 3 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 114 W. Saratoga Street ([map](#)).

“Lean forward in the foxhole and expect the unexpected.”



## Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

### Unit #19 hosts Christmas Party for community children



This past December 22, [Federal Unit #19](#) hosted a Christmas Party for children in the community. They provided food, games, and lots and lots of toys. Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa were also present and were a big hit for the children.

[Unit #19](#) Historian Sandra Titus declared that “I was blessed to be off today to help celebrate Christmas with the American Legion Auxiliary. The Christmas celebration for our community was awesome. The faces of the kids were like sunshine on a cloudy day. They had so much fun and I think we all did wonderful job. I was glad to be a part of this event. And by the way, the kids thought I was an elf. Isn’t that something. LOL. Can’t help but love the kids.”

## Auxiliary engages in hosts of community and veterans service for holidays

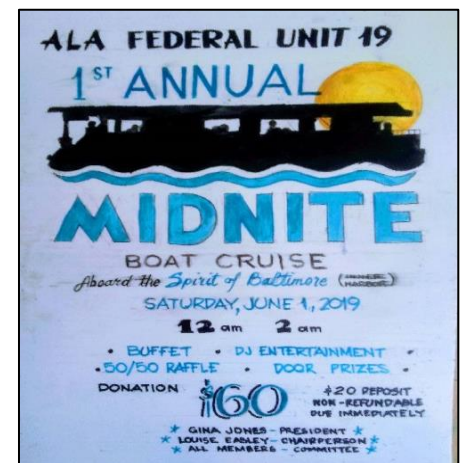
Earlier the same day, members of [Unit #19](#) gave out Christmas baskets to their ALA community and distributed blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves to the homeless. On Christmas Eve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Lasharan Wallace gave out boxes of chocolates to veterans and guests at the Post.



Members of the ALA Baltimore District pose with Santa Claus at the District Christmas Party held on December 13 at Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Post #187.



Members of Unit #19 recently volunteered at the VA Hospital, sorting and wrapping Christmas gifts for veterans.





## A Word from the Sons

### Federal Squadron #19 hosts Annual Anniversary Dance



On Saturday, January 12, 2019, [Federal Squadron #19](#) will present their Annual Anniversary Dance, 9 pm-1 am, at Northeastern Post #285, 2324 McElderry St, 21205. The affair is BYOB/BYOF with free set-ups, and a 50/50 raffle. SAL Commander Dwayne Washington notes that the event will help fulfill the [Detachment Commander's Challenge](#) of raising funds for each of the Four Pillars. Donations are \$15.00; see 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ernie Bell or Affair Chair George Wright or any SAL Comrade for tickets.

### VA Corner

#### Change in Maryland Tax on Military Retiree Income

As the year grows to a close, the Maryland VA Commission notes that the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in the 2018 Legislative Session, which benefits military retirees. Depending on your age, retirees will be able to subtract up to \$15,000 in retirement income on their Maryland taxes. Below is the language from Chapter 573 of the 2018 Maryland Legislation:

(2) *The subtraction under subsection (a) of this section includes:*

(i) *if, on the last day of the taxable year, the individual is under the age of*

*55 years, the first \$5,000 of military retirement income received by an individual during the taxable year; and*

*(ii) if, on the last day of the taxable year, the individual is at least 55 years old, the first \$15,000 of military retirement income received by an individual during the taxable year.*



### Post Notes

Take the online [Basic Training Course](#) on the [National](#) website.

Please take time to visit or call our members who are sick and shut-in. They must not be forgotten.

Please bring any clothing donations for [MCVET](#) to the Post on Saturday, January 12, 1-4. New socks and underwear are really needed.

All members are asked to help keep the Post clean, clearing tables, getting up spills, and generally policing the building, inside and out.

*The Scoop* salutes ...

all the Comrades who responded positively to our building fundraising

### Save the Date!



Friday, April 19  
12-6 pm

efforts. So far, we've raised more than \$5,000;

all the members who helped sell Christmas raffle tickets for our building fund; big salute Auxiliary for exceeding expectations;

all the **volunteers** and donors who helped us provide Christmas baskets and gift cards;

the Tall Table Crew for helping to decorate the Post for Christmas and New Year's; **volunteerism** is crucial;

Comrade Preston Hawkins for his artwork that appear throughout *The Scoop*;

Comrades Quentin Guy and Regina Watts for collecting clothes for [MCVET](#).

### Our Comrades and Friends

Baltimore District High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest, Towson Center, Thu, Jan 31, 6 pm.

### Sick Call

Ronald Carroll  
Wendell Garland  
Charles Gregory  
George Harvey  
Ransom Ingram  
Elmer Moore  
Emmett Pope  
Warren Scott