



# The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19  
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 October 2020

## 102<sup>nd</sup> Department Convention like none other

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Department Convention held on September 19, 2020 was like none other. Because of the pandemic, we had a one-day Convention held at five separate sites throughout the state that was limited to essential business. Delegates also attended virtually. Federal Post #19 was assigned to [Dewey Loman Post #109](#), Halethorpe, MD.

The Convention convened at 9 pm. Delegates who represented Post #19 at attendance were Comrades Reggie Baker, Betty Bonds, Marlin Johnson, and Larry Little substituting for Gregory Scott. Also, in attendance was Comrade Ron Holcombe, Dept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. Like the rest of usual Convention events, there was no Legion College although materials and presentations for the Legion College are available on the Department website

Federal Post #19 received 8 awards including those for Child Welfare, Best Consolidated Post Report, and Best



Post Chaplain Margaret Conaway displays Best Chaplain Report Award.

Best Chaplain Report. The Convention passed three resolutions: Mandatory Standard Post Constitution and By-Laws Resolution with Amendment; Reorganization of Department Resolution (Baltimore District is



assigned to the North Central Region, District 3); and Jan D. Lawson for National Vice Commander Resolution.



Convention practiced all corona courtesies including temperature checks, mask wearing, and social distancing.

The Convention elected Department Officers for 2020-2021. including Federal Post #19's Ron Holcombe as Department Second Vice Commander. Commander Betty Bonds seconded the nomination from the Convention podium. Comrade Phil Dorsey was elected Department Commander; Will Trotter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice; Ruth Higgins, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice. Because of the pandemic, all the Department

**General Meeting  
Sunday, October 4,  
4 pm at the Post**

officers essentially remained the same as last year.

There were a few minor technical glitches, but the Convention was fast and efficient. *The Scoop* would like to give a hearty salute to the members of the Department Convention Corporation who suffered through delays, cancellations, and logistical nightmares but, nevertheless, pulled off a Convention that was excellent and like none other.



## Baltimore District makes changes at the top for its final year

At what might be the final Baltimore District Caucus for the foreseeable future, the District elected Comrades Reggie Baker as Commander and Larry Little as Vice Commander, both from Federal Post #19. The Baltimore District also

elected Post #19's Tony Kennedy as Area B Commander and Northeastern Post #285's Junious Lewis as Area C Commander. Comrades Marian James, Post #285, and Darrell Truesdale, Otha Spriggs Post #294, retained their positions on the Department Executive Committee. Subsequently, John Potts, Lithuanian Post # 154, was appointed Area C Commander.

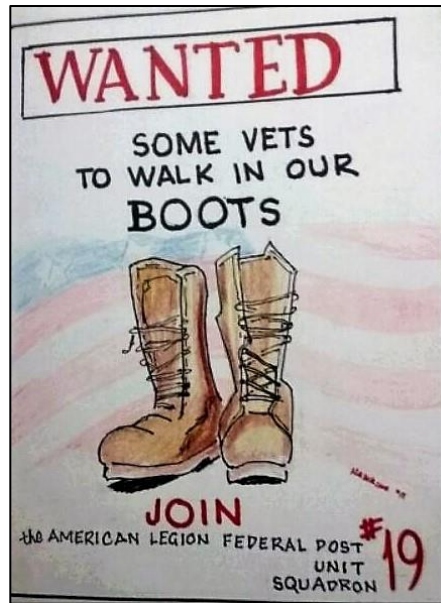
For the upcoming year, Commander Baker wishes to maintain as much of the District's programs and ceremonies as possible during the pandemic and to make a smooth transition into the North Central Region.



SAL Baltimore District Commander Irvin Johnson, ALA Baltimore District President Patricia Ann Walker, and AL Baltimore District Commander Reggie Baker.

Outgoing Baltimore District Commander Austin Ball wants "to thank all the support I received during my two years as the Baltimore District Commander. Thanks to the great District Officers and the Area/Post Commanders for going out of the way in volunteering their time. Special thanks to the color guards of Post 285 and Post 19 for their undying support to the district, you don't get enough credit for all that you do.... Thanks to the Department Commander and the other Department Officers for all of your support. I will continue to support the district/department in the upcoming year."

[Join to Serve](#)



## Federal Post #19 initiates "Feed the Pig" fundraiser for Legion Child Welfare Foundation



When you go to the Post, you will see [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#) piggy banks located throughout. The cumulative donations from each Post, Squadron and Unit at the end of the program year is recognized with the Children First Gift Club award. Donation totals to receive the award are: \$1,000 – gold plaque; \$750 – silver plaque; and \$500 – bronze plaque. [Post #19](#)'s goal is to raise \$1,000 for the Foundation by May 31, 2021. So, the next time you're at the Post, please take your loose change and "Feed the Pig" to benefit our Children and Youth. Better still, we have 64 banks, so you can purchase one of the little piglets for the low, low price of \$15.63.

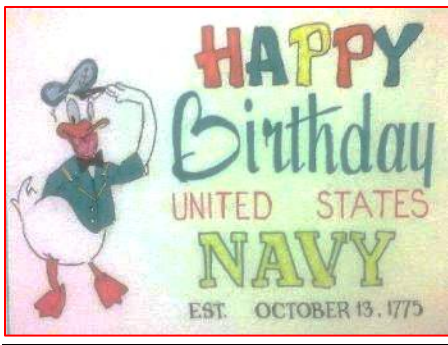
The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides grants to nonprofits for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day or special operating expenses. Learn more at [www.cwf-inc.org](http://www.cwf-inc.org).

## Dates set for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Xmas Baskets, and Xmas Building Raffle

This year's Annual Seniors and Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Saturday, November 21 in a tradition that dates back to the 1930's. Because of social distancing and limited capacity, we are focusing on delivering dinners to local senior citizens and veterans who are shut-in. We're still in the planning stages, but if you especially know a veteran who can't get around, contact 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Willie Christian who will be compiling a list.

We will also provide Christmas Baskets for community families on Saturday, December 19, another tradition that dates to the 1930's. With so many families suffering from the strain the pandemic, it is crucial that we do as much as possible to help. Our goal is to provide at least 10 baskets and to do so, we will need donations of both food and cash from our Post #19 family.

The next day, Sunday, December 20 at 9 pm, we will hold the drawing for our Christmas Building Fund Raffle. This year's prizes are \$250 1<sup>st</sup> prize; \$150 2<sup>nd</sup> prize; \$50 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. Tickets are \$1 and will be available soon. Contact any member of our Post #19 family for tickets. We hope to use some of the funds to make our backyard more presentable and usable so that it can help us with social distancing.



On October 13, the United States Navy will celebrate its 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday with African Americans serving from its inception. Thus, the African American Experience in the U.S. Navy has a long tradition. Unlike the Continental Army, which originally banned African Americans, the Continental Navy recruited African Americans, both free and enslaved, at the outbreak of the American Revolution.

Today's U.S. Navy is diverse, and African Americans comprise 17-19% of the One Navy Team. They are fully integrated into the Navy, and their ideas, experiences, perspectives, capabilities, and skill sets help to ensure the safety of our nation. *The Scoop* would like to salute all the men and women of the Navy, active duty and veterans, who have served our nation. One free drink for Post #19 Navy vets on Sunday, Oct 13.



## Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

### Unit #19 hosts Trunk or Treat for neighborhood children; will also pass out school supplies

On Halloween, Saturday, October 31, members of the Federal Unit #19 will be hosting a "Trunk or Treat for Children." The event will be held at Madison Av and Mosher St across from the Post from 4 pm until the candy runs out. The event will provide

less walking for little kids, a safer environment for Halloween, and fun for everyone!

If you want to turn the trunk of your car into a spookfest or if you would like to make a donation,



contact Unit #19 President Gina Jones,

who is also collecting school supplies, including pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, composition and spiral notebooks, colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue sticks, pocket folders, dry erase markers, crayons, and backpacks, to pass out at the event.



**Unit #19 members recently attended the one-day ALA Department of Maryland Convention at Greenbelt Post #136.**



**At their Convention, the ALA Department of Maryland donated \$4,800 to the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF). Pictured (l to r) are ALA Department President Linda Green; Dorie Flynn (MANSEF); Department Chairman Children and Youth Chair Patricia Ann Walker; and National Vice Chairman Selma Obremski.**



## A Word from the Sons

### Election of Pinder as Squadron #19 Commander reminds us of our ties to IBPOEW

The recent election of William Pinder as Squadron #19 Commander reminds us of our everlasting bonds with our Elk brethren on the other corner of the block and our long history together. SAL



Commander Pinder and Post #19 Commander Larry Little are both members of Monumental Lodge #3, and Unit #19

member and ALA Baltimore District President Patricia Ann Walker is also Daughter Ruler for Great Southern Temple #30. Moreover, we have many members who call themselves both Legion and Elk.

The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBOPEW) was founded in 1898 in Cincinnati, Ohio, based on the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (BPOE), which excluded nonwhite members.

Established in 1900, Monumental Lodge #3 is the oldest fraternal lodge of the IBOPEW in Baltimore, Maryland. Members established Great Southern Temple #30 several



years later in 1909.

They moved into their current home at 1528 Madison Avenue in 1927 with a week of ceremonies, dances, and banquets and a membership that totaled more than 1,600.

During the 1930's and 40's, the Elks participated in voter registration drives and "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" boycotts of stores on

Pennsylvania Avenue that would not hire African American workers. They hosted events for organizations like the NAACP that promoted racial equality and set the stage for the Civil Right Movement. Many of the community's leading civil rights activists like attorney George McMechen, who served as Grand Exalted Ruler in 1919, were members of Baltimore's black professional class and members of the Elks. Indeed, the membership roles of the Elks was like a "Who's Who" list for African Americans in Baltimore.

The Elks provided social opportunities for its members holding numerous social events at the lodge and bus trips to other places along the nation's east coast. And most important, they allowed Post #19 to meet in their hall during our formative years.

Monumental Lodge #3 and Great Southern Temple remain a strong force helping to serve the needs of our West Baltimore community and beyond. They have stood in partnership with Federal Post #19 since the 1930's. We've marched in their parades; we've visited their Lodges and Temples and they us; we've shared in their fellowship. We've squabbled and argued, and we've cared and supported. Our histories and lives have been interwoven, we stand fast, and *The Scoop* would like to give them the heartiest of salutes.

## VA Corner

### **New Vision House of Hope provides transitional housing for Veterans**

New Vision House of Hope, Inc. (NVHOH) is a non-profit organization that has provided transitional housing, placements for permanent housing, and supportive services for Baltimore's homeless citizens for more than 10 years.

Working with the US Department of Veteran Affairs, NVHOH is now operating a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program to serve very low-income Veterans (both individuals and Veterans and their families) who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Veterans must have an Honorable or General Discharge and have served at least one day in the military.

For more information, call SSVF Outreach Coordinator: (410) 466-8558. Fax: (443) 438-4280

SSVF Services include:

- Referrals for Permanent Housing Placements
- Assistance with Security Deposits
- Assistance with Rent
- Assistance with Utility Bills
- Childcare Assistance
- Case Management
- Assistance with Applying for Benefits
- Transportation
- Job Readiness Coaching
- Referrals for Jobs
- Referrals for Primary Medical Care, Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders, Legal Services and Credit Counseling

[Check out the picture of our Post #19 Family on Legiontown!](#)

## 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.

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 members of the Post #19 family who keep us strong and united during these rough times;

Comrades Tommy Alderman, Reggie Baker, Larry Little, and Thomas Russum for opening up the kitchen;

**Shrimp, Fish and Chicken Tenders Dinners on Sale at the Post, Friday and Saturday, 5-9 pm**



**Sick Call**

**Louis Hardy  
Freda Holley  
Jimmy Johnson  
Kim McCoy  
Verlon Mills  
Emmett Pope  
Warren Scott  
Lincoln Stokes  
Thomas Wiggins  
Abby Wilson**