



February / March 2024

*Artist
Unknown*



Post By The Lake Newsletter

Albert E Baesel
American Legion Post 91

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Commander's Corner

Greetings American Legion Family Members,

It is February already. Spring is around the corner with warmer weather.

Please watch the bulletin board in the canteen for all events.

Also, our kitchen staff could use a few more volunteers to keep our dinners going.

Our Blue Caps meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. I would like to see our numbers increase at these meetings. Every member has a voice and every Veteran has a vote, so please attend and be heard as your input is valued.

For God and Country,

James Lockyer

Happy Groundhog Day to all!



James Lockyer in Punxsutawney, PA



Boy Scout Troop 228, which Post 91 charts, gathered at the pavilion for a survival training exercise; lighting a fire in severe cold weather. (Temperatures with wind chill on January 14th, 2024, were a frigid -10 degrees!)



Canteen Hours

Monday-Friday 12-12 pm

Saturday 12-1

Sunday 12-8 pm

Kitchen Hours

Lunch

Monday-Friday 12-2 pm

Dinners

Monday 6-8 pm

Tuesday 5-7 pm

Wednesday 5-7

Thursday 6-8 pm

(Third Thursdays 7-9 pm)

Friday 6-8

Hall Rentals

For hall rentals contact

Marilla Baher (216) 299-7744

or

Legion Post 91 (440) 234-0091

Celebration of Life Events

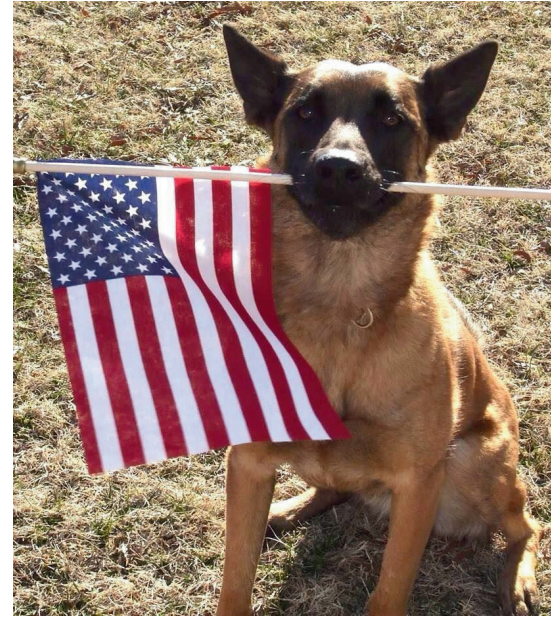
- For members & immediate family members
- 4 hour hall usage
- Post 91 provides food at no cost
- Contact Marilla Baher of the Legion Sunshine Fund
- (216) 299-7744

www.postbythelake.org

Honoring K-9 Veterans Day on March 13th

Sometimes we may forget that our country's brave soldiers don't only come in human form. Dating as far back as the Civil War, canines have served alongside our troops.

Listed below are some of the most outstanding and heroic American K-9 service dogs.



Sallie, a Staffordshire terrier, served during the Civil War. During the Battle of Gettysburg, she vanished and was nowhere to be found. Three days later, her infantry found her on the battlefield, guarding the wounded soldiers. She was wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House but recovered and rejoined her regiment. Unfortunately, she later died by a fatal bullet at the Battle of Hatcher's Run in February, 1865, which was only a few months before the war would end. The soldiers she served with honored Sallie by erecting a statue of her at Gettysburg.

Sergeant Stubby, a Boston terrier, served in World War I on the western Front for 18 months. He saved many troops by alerting them of incoming gas attacks, and searched for and rescued many wounded soldiers. He even captured a German soldier by holding him by the seat of his pants until his outfit found them. He is remembered in "The Price of Freedom" exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution.

Chips, a German shepherd-husky-collie mix, became part of the K-9 Corps after the Dogs for Defense Program was launched shortly after Pearl Harbor, and served in World War II with the 3rd Infantry Division. On July 10, 1943, a machine gun opened fire on the Infantry and Chips charged the pillbox. His handler, Pvt. John R. Rowell said, "There was an awful lot of noise and the firing stopped." Soon after, Chips emerged from the pillbox with the neck of an enemy soldier clenched between his jaws. Rowell called him off, but the man and three others surrendered. Chips had suffered powder burns and a scalp wound during the scuffle, but he saved his Infantry again that same day by alerting the soldiers of an approaching ambush. At the end of the war, Chips was honorably discharged and returned home to his previous family.

Story Continued on Page 12



American Legion



1st Vice Commander, Ed Leopold

Hello fellow Veterans,

Well, here it is February and we still have some people who have not paid their dues. Make sure you get them paid. Please pay up so we can make our quota. We are still at 89% of our quota and have 84 members unpaid. It would be nice to see 65 of the 84 pay up to reach our quota.

I would like to welcome new members: Dave Nottingham USAF, and Tyler Christian USA. Welcome aboard.

In case some of you are wondering, our makeup is World War II (10), Korea (69), Vietnam (448), Grenada-Lebanon (87), Gulf War (89), and OIF-OEF (92). To each and every one of these men and women, I want to thank you for your service.

Big Ed



**Band: Bridge the Gap
Canteen Christmas Party, 2023**

2nd Vice Commander, Keith Mattison

Hello to all and a very happy new year.

The holidays are over and we are now looking forward to March 19, 2024, which is the first day of spring. We can already see that the days are slowly starting to get longer!!! As you all know, we are doing a Night at the Races on February 17, 2024. The cost is \$20 per person and includes dinner. BYOB. Doors open at 5pm and dinner will be served at 5:30pm. This event was a blast last year and we hope to see everyone again this year.

As we start a new year, I have heard people complain that we have closed the kitchen due to lack of volunteers. The Post belongs to all the members, and volunteers are an essential part of making it run smoothly. I ask that instead of complaining, become part of the solution and volunteer one night. If everyone would do this the Post would sure benefit, as would the members. Feel free to offer suggestions to Sarah, Kaylin or myself. The Post is for all to enjoy.

Again, I want to wish everyone a very happy, prosperous and healthy new year. Remember to thank a Veteran and God bless America!!!!

Keith



POST 91

Night at the Races

Sponsor a Race for \$10

Name a Horse for \$5

Want to advertise your business?

\$25-Business Card

\$50- 1/2 Page

\$100- Full Page

Ask the Bartender for a Form

**Tickets \$20
BYOB**

February 17th

Doors Open at 5:00PM Dinner at 5:30pm
Meal TBD

**This is not a normal Night at the Races, Be
ready to Bet on STICK HORSES, and
Participate in the Races**





American Legion, Cont



Finance Officer, Mel Baher

Name	EVENT	Amount
American Legion Unit 91	Giving Tree Donation	\$250.00
Amsterdam Printng	Veteran's Group Activities	\$550.90
Cinnamon Jacobs	Children's Christmas Party	\$125.00
Donte's	Children's Christmas Party	\$158.50
Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland	Donation	\$250.00
J. Hutchinson Family	Louis Schmidt Grant	\$500.00
John Rader	Children's Christmas Party	\$200.00
Military Times	Veteran's Group Activities	\$111.80
S. Novak Family	Louis Schmidt Grant	\$500.00
Special Olympics	Donation	\$200.00
Zap Entertainment	Children's Christmas Party	\$325.00
	Total	\$3,171.20



Mel



Canteen Christmas Party, 2023



American Legion, Cont



Color Guard, Robert Roginsky

We are still looking for new members for the Color Guard. If interested, contact,

Bob Roginsky
440-582-5856

OR

Jon Silvis
440-823-1066

On left: Post 91 Color Guard at practice, 2023

Bob

Building Chairman, Gene Joy

You pay your dues so we can make the Post what you would expect. If you see something that needs our attention, text 513-315-9557 or email genojoy@gmail.com, and we'll address your comment.

Also, please consider joining our work parties on the second Saturday of each month. Breakfast is provided at 8am, and the work is basically light. Every work day we polish and buff the canteen floor so it takes about 6 guys to move tables, chairs and bar stools. Each month varies depending on the need and sometimes we need people to dust, paint, perform exterior work, etc. Please join us for breakfast and lend a hand.

Thanks!

Gene

Total Solar Eclipse Party April 8th, 2024



1-5pm
American Legion Post 91

Tickets will be for sale in the canteen soon and will include solar glasses, an eclipse t-shirt, an event program, burgers and brats. Watch for posters in the canteen for more information.



American Legion Auxiliary



1st Vice, Nina Zdravecky

Hello Happy People!

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays with loved ones! Fish fry season has already started and the Auxiliary dates are January 26th, February 23rd and March 22nd. We could use at least 2 more volunteers for each of those dates to ensure the evenings run smoothly. Please contact Nina or Nancy Douth if you can help us out.

Just an early heads up, the Spaghetti Dinner will be on April 6th. No tickets necessary. If anyone would like to sign up to help, please let me know or just come out and support. Thank you,

Nina

2nd Vice, Stacey Lehmann

Unit 91 is looking for Buckeye Girls State applicants. Buckeye Girls State is the name given to Ohio's Girls State program, which was designed to educate Ohio's young women through hands-on experience in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. BGS is a week-long program held on the campus of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. To be eligible to apply, a young women must have an interest in government and current events, and will have completed their junior year of high school by the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Contact Stacey Lehmann for an application or with any questions.

American Legion Auxiliary scholarship opportunities are available. ALA Department of Ohio scholarship deadlines are March 1, 2024. Contact Stacey for applications.

Orders for Post 91 Poppy Garden Poppies will begin in March. Order forms will be available in the canteen, and online. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Stacey

www.postbythelake.org

Membership Chairman, Nancy Douth

Membership Update

In December, we lost our member Natalie Woelfle at age 93. Natalie had beautiful handwriting (almost like calligraphy), and well into her 80's, she wrote out our Americanism and Government certificates for the high schools and students. She loved being able to support the Auxiliary in this way.

As of the writing of this letter, we processed 343 senior members and 13 junior members for a total of 356, which is 91.28% of our goal of 390. Woowooo!! Thank you, everyone! If you have not paid your 2024 dues, you may have already found out that your access to the canteen has been turned off. When your dues are paid, your access will be reinstated and you will be eligible for the benefits of the canteen (drawings, Albert's Café, social events, and supporting the American Legion charities). Just a reminder, Junior members do not receive a renewal notice from National. If you sponsored a Junior, please pay their \$6.25 dues.

Please call me at (440) 552-4713 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Nancy

Welcome New Members

Sandra Battalgia
Sarah Christian
Kathy Feiler
Jennifer Malek
Annette Schuster
Connie Stephen
Naomi Young



Community Service Chairman, Nancy Doutt

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship & Garage Sale

Unit 91's American Legion Auxiliary scholarship application will be available in the canteen beginning February 1. Any member or relative of a member of Post 91 who is seeking continuing education is eligible for this \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is funded by the annual garage sale, which will be May 1, 2, and 3, 2024, so start gathering your items for donation. More details will be available in the next newsletter and in the canteen.

Giving Tree

THANK YOU to all of the Post 91 members and friends who supported this year's Giving Tree. With your help, we were able to donate over 200 gifts to children and adults through Berea Community Outreach, Children of Matt Talbot for Women Clients, and Second Mile Outreach, which included a Veteran and his eight grandchildren. Your generosity brought me to tears multiple times. Even the Veteran's Case Manager was brought to tears with our members' generosity. THANK YOU!!

Auxiliary Color Guard

The Auxiliary Color Guard needs YOU! We are in need of additional members. We participate in local parades, are occasionally asked to post Colors at ceremonies, and participate in the Auxiliary memorial service when a family member requests it. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more information before saying "yes," please contact Nancy Doutt at (440) 552-4713.



Santa arriving at the Auxiliary Kids Christmas Party in a fire engine rather than a sled, 2023



**Auxiliary
Kids Christmas Party,
2023**



Community Service Chairman, Nancy Doutt, Cont

Homeless Stand Down

This year's Homeless Stand Down will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 10am to 2pm at the Cleveland Public Auditorium. A "stand down" is a military term for a secure base camp where soldiers were provided a bed, shower, clean clothes, warm meals, medical care and letters from home. At this event, men and women will receive hot meals, new clothing and hygiene items, haircuts, medical and dental attention, and be linked with important service providers in the community. In February into March, there will be a collection box in the canteen for the following items for men and women:

- New underwear & undershirts, all sizes and colors
- New socks, all sizes and colors
- New or gently-used shoes, all sizes (tennis shoes or all-purpose shoes and boots)
- Duffel bags and adult backpacks
- Lip balm
- Pocket hair comb
- Deodorant, travel or regular size
- Hand sanitizer, 1 fl. oz.
- Body lotion, 1 fl. oz. or larger
- 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner, travel size or larger
- Bar of soap, travel or regular size
- Toothbrush (bonus with a toothbrush container/cover)
- Toothpaste, 1 oz.
- Pocket tissues
- Small packs of band-aids
- Clear gallon zipper bags

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please see Donella, Stacey or Nancy

Nancy



Kids Christmas Party, 2023



Even the big kids got to sit on Santa's lap



Sons of American Legion



SAL Commander, Duane Schaft

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) are continuing our winter activities.

Our annual Super Bowl party is Sunday, February 11, 2024, and will be held in the Post 91 canteen starting at 4:30pm for a 6:30pm kickoff. This SAL fundraiser benefits our annual Bear Hof Memorial Scholarship. Tickets are \$10 for brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, and 2 drink tickets. Sideboards & raffles will also be available. Tickets are available from the bartenders. The big square board is sold out. However, there will be another square board sold on Super Bowl Sunday for those attending the party. See flyers posted in the canteen.



We do appreciate your support of the SAL.

Following the Super Bowl party, we will again do \$20 squares for the college basketball March Madness basketball tournament. Like last year, the squares will be for the "Sweet 16" part of the tournament. Payouts will be progressively more as the final game approaches. There will be a total of 15 payouts, so for a total of \$20, you have 15 chances to win. The squares will begin to be sold after the Super Bowl party is over.

Once again, we will be selecting a deserving student for the annual Bear Hof Memorial Scholarship. A 2024 application will be available soon and open until mid-April. The on-line form will be available on <https://postbythelake.org/about-post-91/scholarships/>.

Visit our SAL Facebook page, Sons-of-the-American-Legion-Squadron-91-Berea-Oh for any updates on SAL activities.

If you have any questions about our organization or membership, please contact an officer or send us an email at salpost91@gmail.com. The SAL team encourages participation in our monthly meetings, which are held every second Wednesday at 7:30pm in the hall.

Duane



American Legion Riders



ALR Director, Ed Leopold

Hello Riders,

It's almost riding season...almost. So far, winter has been pretty good to us. We had a great Christmas parade where about 12 people showed up.

By the way, this will be my last newsletter post for the Riders. I'm passing the reins to a much younger man with a lot of ideas, so I'm asking you to stand by him and support and help him out. David Rodriguez Jr. is our new Director. Good luck and Godspeed.

Ok, back to business. The next big thing the Riders are doing is the Sock Hop dance, or whatever you want to call it, from 7-11pm on March 23, 2024. We will have a live band for this function called the Clayton Brothers Band. It is a BYOB and tickets are \$15. I hope to see your support for Post 91 Riders.



It has been my pleasure. God be with you all.

Big Ed



We want to publish your patriotic stories and original artwork in the *Post by the Lake* to share with your Post 91 family members!

We are looking for artwork to feature on our cover pages and patriotic stories to include within the newsletter. Please consider contributing your patriotic artwork and stories whether you are Blue Caps, Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, Riders, or family members of our brave Veterans. We want to hear your stories!

Contact Victoria at vschaft@outlook.com and type "Post 91" into the subject line or call/text 440-610-2682. Deadline for the April/ May issue is March 15th and is open to ALL who love our country!



Honoring K-9 Veterans Day on March 13th, Cont

Nemo, a German shepherd, served during the Vietnam War at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. While on patrol, Nemo and his handler were attacked and both suffered gunshot wounds. Despite a bullet to his face resulting in the loss of an eye, Nemo crawled on top of his comrade's body to guard him from further danger until a medic arrived. His handler survived. Even after suffering this severe injury, Nemo did not retire. He worked as a recruiting dog at the Lakeland Air Force Base in the US, where his stone and kennel still remain today.

Lex, a German shepherd, served in the Iraq War with the United States Marine Corps. He and his handler, Corporal Dustin J. Lee, were at a Forward Operating Base in Iraq on March 21, 2007, when they were both hit by a 73 mm SPG-9 rocket. Though Lex was wounded, he refused to leave Lee's side and had to be dragged away before medics could administer treatment to Lee. Unfortunately, Lee did not survive, but Lex recovered despite some shrapnel that couldn't be safely removed from his spine. Lee's parents petitioned the military to adopt Lex even though he had not been retired from duty. The petition was granted, and Lex became the first military working dog fully fit for duty to be permitted an early retirement.



Bob Norton
and his service dog, Milo

Cairo, a Belgian Malinois, served in Afghanistan with the Navy SEALs and was deployed in June, 2009. During a nighttime raid, Cairo and his handler, Will Chesney, entered a house to clear it of enemies. Cairo came upon an infant whom he gently sniffed before continuing to another room where he attacked a male enemy. Chesney says, "I don't quite know how to explain the fact he didn't harm the child" because he was not trained how to differentiate between an enemy and those that posed no threat. Cairo was shot on June 30th in combat but recovered. Then in March, 2011, the Navy SEALs were ordered to take out Osama bin Laden. Cairo did his part, securing the perimeter, and searching for bombs and enemies. After they both retired, Chesney adopted Cairo but only after a few months, Cairo passed away. Chesney wrote a book about him called, "No Ordinary Dog."

There are many more canines that have gone above and beyond their line of duty or have sacrificed their lives for the sake of our human soldiers. (If you have a story about a K-9 soldier or a service dog that has changed a life of one of our own warriors, please see page 11 to see how you can share your story with your Post 91 family.)

Thanks to all of you Veterans (both human and furry) for the sacrifices you make to keep Americans safe and free! 🐾

Bulletin Board

February

- 1: ALR Meeting, 7pm
- 3: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 8: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
- 10: Work Party, 8:30am
- 11: SAL Super Bowl Party, 4:30pm
- 12: AUX Meeting, 7:30pm
- 14: SAL Meeting, 7pm
- 17: Night at the Races, 5pm
- 22: E-Board Meeting, 7pm
- 26: AUX Meeting, 7pm

March

- 2: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 7: ALR Meeting, 7pm
- 9: Work Patry, 8:30am
- 11: AUX Meeting, 7:30pm
- 13: SAL Meeting, 7:30pm
- 14: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
- 23: Sock Hop, 7pm
- 25: AUX Meeting, 7pm
- 28: E-Board Meeting, 7pm



TAPS

Natalie Woelfle



Est. March 15, 1919