

Faith Smith
Post 484 Commander

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JULY 2025
NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN LEGION

Adjutant, David Fisher
1st Vice Commander, Todd Anhalt
2nd Vice Commander, Gary Anthony
Finance Officer, Bob Bordon
Service Officer, Vacant
Chaplain, Open
Sgt. at Arms, Ray Featherstone
Historian, open
Judge Advocate, Bill Fayling

AUXILIARY

President, Chris Reed
1st Vice President, Robin Robbins
2nd Vice, Donna Adamski
Secretary, Sherry Van Bruggen
Treasurer, Michele Gerlofs
Chaplain, Rene Wilson
Sgt. at Arms, Kathy Uecker
Historian, Mary Olis-Goebel
Executive Committee,
Laurie Wyman, Bonnie Bogue, Judy
Ruser

SAL

Commander, Steve Kelly
Adjutant, Kirk Dewey
1st Vice Commander, Jeff Shumaker
2nd Vice Commander, Tom Carter
Finance Officer, Ted Rusher
Sgt. at Arms, Randy Robins
Chaplain, Herm Clear
Historian, Gene Newell

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings 484 Family, as I embark on my second year as your commander, I want to thank you for putting your trust in me and looking forward to your continued support. I feel with our first 484 newsletter, it is best to reflect on how far we have come.

This past year with the help from all of you, we have updated the inside and outside of our building. We have increased sales at the 484 Veterans Club and Bar, making 484 the community gathering place. We have provided financial and food assistance to area veterans and their families. We have replaced broken appliances for a local veteran and provided mobility assistance in the form of wheelchairs and walkers to our membership.

Looking forward to this next year and it is my hope that we can continue to assist area veterans and their families. I hope we can continue to come together as the 484 family and celebrate our accomplishments together. I thank each and everyone of you for your time and membership to the Simmons Williams Post 484 family.

AMERICAN LEGION POST

Greetings Legionnaires, Simmons Williams Post 484 is 176 members strong. Together we are able to provide a place for camaraderie amongst us, lend a hand or an ear to a member in need.

Our Post provides a social area for the community, our Veterans, and their families. This is provided by Volunteers and part time staff of the 484 Veterans Club.

Our food pantry is going strong with the assistance of membership of the 484 family and community. Weekly Bingo has provided us much needed money to repair our aging building and equipment.

We are always open for more ideas for fun community events at our post and will never turn away a volunteer willing to lend a hand.

AUXILIARY

The ladies Auxiliary is excited to contribute to our first newsletter! Thanks to Cindy and Steve Kelly for getting it started!

We have been a busy group, but very productive! We ended our Steak Fry season in March and had great turnouts for our dinners. We truly appreciate everyone who came out and supported our Steak Fry's and we hope to see everyone back in October!

The Auxiliary is a big supporter of our Veterans and we've had several events we've supported over the past several months; including:

- Provided Easter bags to the Veterans at the Battle Creek VA for their annual Easter Egg Party.
- We held our Poppy Days the weekend of Memorial Day and were able to collect over \$1,700 in donations that will go directly into our Poppy Fund.
- Also, on Memorial Day, our ladies walked in the Parade and then afterwards hosted Veterans from the Battle Creek VA for dinner at the Post.
- Each year, we support the Talons Out program in Kalamazoo and held a blanket-making event at the Post so they could be provided to the Veterans when they returned from Washington D.C. on May 17.
- Some of our members participated at the Fort Custer National Cemetery to lay wreaths honoring our fallen Veterans.
- On July 16, we will be hosting a Summer Concert at the VA. We will have a live band and a caterer will be providing the food. We started this event last year and it was so popular with the Veterans, we decided to make it an annual event!

That is just a sampling of things we have been busy with. Although we have 171 Auxiliary members, there is just a handful who come to our meetings and help with the many programs we support. I would encourage you (if you're a member) to join one of our meetings to see what things we are working on. Our meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 5:30. The only exception is we do not have a July meeting. Hope you enjoy your summer!

Check out the Post 484 Weekly Food Specials... LET US DO THE COOKING FOR YOU!!!!!!!!!!

SAL

What and Who are the the Sons of the American Legion?

HISTORY

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is a patriotic organization formed in 1932 in Portland, Oregon. It is an affiliate of the American Legion, the largest veterans' organization in the United States.

The SAL was established to promote patriotism, civic duty, and community services among the Sons of the American Legion members. Membership is open to male descendants (sons, grandsons, etc) of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during times of war.

The Organizations goals include.

1. Supporting veterans and their families
2. Promoting patriotism and American Values
3. Participating in community service and charitable activities
4. Advocating for legislation benefiting veterans

Today, the Sons of the American Legion has over 300,000 members and more than 1,200 squadrons across the United States.

For me, it is an honor to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion. We live in the best Country in the world because of the US Military Men and Woman giving their all (and all to often their Life) to defend our great country known as United States of America.

Thank you for your service. Steve Kelly, SAL Com.

CADWALLADER PARK

There's lots going on at Cadwallader Park. We have had the electrical upgraded, new backboards are being installed and the concession stand has been cleaned out.

Don't forget, the park is available for family reunions, graduation open houses and receptions. Contact the American Legion for details.