



## AMERICAN LEGION POST 6

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[Robert Patton](#), Adjutant

[Lee Heavlin](#), Commander

Post meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the banquet hall at 7:00 p.m.  
All members are invited to attend.

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We thank those who have sent in their membership dues and encourage others to do so as soon as possible. Our membership exceeded 100% last year!

Most Post renewal projects are complete. We are now entering the next phase—Activities/Program Renewal. Our post home looks great and is now ready to welcome new members. We are placing special emphasis on veterans that have served since 9/11. They are the future of our post and it is to them that we pass on our legacy.

We need volunteers to work on Legion Committees to plan and organize programs, projects and events. Let's put the face of the American Legion out where everyone can see what we do and how we serve Chapel Hill.

### LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Ed Gill was honored as our Post Legionnaire of the Year and was nominated for North Carolina recognition. The selection was held at the 2012 State Convention and Ed Gill was selected as the **North Carolina Legionnaire of the Year for 2012**.

This recognition is well-earned. He has worked hard during the past year to improve the physical condition of the post and grounds. He has also served as a post officer and worked with Scouts, Veterans, and the elderly in nursing homes. He has made presentations and helped organize flag ceremonies, school patriotic events and is our Flag Honors program chair.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mark Sumner championed a field trip to Snow Camp for an outdoor show and dinner. It was a success with 22 people attending the dinner. The show was rained out, but they will return on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

### BOY SCOUT NEWS

We have a very strong Boy Scout program. The Scouts include a Troop and a Crew (co-ed). They have been a blessing to the post, as they have worked on the repair and conservation of our post grounds. They have also worked at Jordan Lake Trail and at Chapel Hill's Cedar Falls Park. The troop also invites other local scout troops to participate in their programs and events. The troop has had some fund raisers and the post has been the recipient of \$500 and \$250 gifts for post renewal.

We are also proud to announce that Troop 505 was selected as the **North Carolina American Legion Troop of the Year!**

### NATURE HABITAT

The Executive Committee has endorsed the Boy Scouts and their programs for conservation. Our post site is an ideal location for scout events and Camporees and has been an unofficial nature habitat. We formalized that recognition by dedicating our grounds as a **Nature Habitat for Scouting** for the post year 2012-13. Eagle Scouts are working on projects to help us make our post more family friendly with the construction of picnic tables and play areas.

### POST RESTORATION

We have cleaned, painted and repaired walls and floors in the meeting areas. We have also painted the two smaller walls in the large room. If you have not seen the changes yet, you need to visit the post and check things out.

Local event coordinators have visited us and gave us a "Well Done" and are recommending us to their clients. Rentals are a major source of our income and this makes possible our local programs, Boys State, projects, veteran's assistance, building maintenance and

operations, and more. We expect our 2012-13 rentals to increase because we now show very well. We want to be a sought after rental site.

You can help by referring the post to fraternal groups, churches, and family for indoor or outdoor events.

## LEGACY

If you take a walk around the pond and look up to the post or off to Legion Road, you will see a lot of improvement. We look more like we did in the 60's when we have a lot of active members. Did that include you? We talk to older members and have learned a lot about who built what, when, and with what. Some men, like Dewey Horner, made the post their life. They worked hard and encouraged others to contribute their time and talent. It was their way of building our post.

Today, it is our responsibility to continue their work and to prepare the post for today's returning veterans. They, like you and I, are hesitant to step forward. They are busy building their families and establishing themselves in our community. We know that at some point they, too, will step forward to build our post for the next generation.

We will continue our projects and programs to encourage their participation. Scouting is one such program. Their fathers and mothers have veterans in their family and they may be veterans. This is what is prompting our emphasis on making the post a family-friendly place. But, this change also affects you.

You need a place to hang out with friends and to do things for others. Age has no bearing on ability. In fact, most doctors will tell you that staying active will add years to your life. Working with scouts will also make you young at heart. When you see active kids doing the right things for the right reasons, you will remember your youth and the many, many people who reached out to help you achieve greatness.

This writer finds this to be the case with many of the volunteers we have. We have several in their late 60's, 70's and even 90's that work on post projects. It can be by calling others, writing stories, visiting, mopping, painting, cutting grass, mentoring, and hundreds of other tasks and projects. There is no limit to what you can do because of age. There may be a limit based on how you feel, but working at the post can make you feel younger. "I did that! I made a difference."

Others have helped financially. Some made cash donations. Some gave time (labor dollars saved). Some paid for repairs and services. Nearly all are not men of

significant means. They gave because they saw a need and they were all giving back to their community through the post.

It costs a lot to run a post. Our post is older and things don't last forever. We get surprises all the time. We are very fortunate to have members who have repair skills. They can fix things and that saves our cash for bigger issues like failing air conditioners or equipment.

Post 6 members have included local judges, lawyers, professionals, accountants, insurance and real estate agents, and business owners. They provided a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and service to our post. Three went on to be State Commanders. If you are in this category, you are needed to help us work smarter, not harder. We need you.

Local businesses and groups have stepped up to help us. Many are veterans, but not members of our post. Some were not eligible. Others are non-veterans. All helped!

Several stand out for special note. **Robert Medred**, ChemDry Chapel Hill/Durham, joined us this year and brought with him a number of new members. He also put the post in contact with other people in our town that could help the post. Watch for a special story on him soon.

**Pete Jaeger** joined us last year and brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the post. Our 2011 Christmas event was a success largely because of his drive and "can do" spirit. He now serves as First Vice Commander. Pete brought along Bob Bauman.

**Robert Bauman** is a retired Army Colonel who went on to do great things with the EPA. He also built a large company in our town that provides electrical, heating, plumbing, mechanical repair and service to our area. He nursed our AC system along for six months. He also just replaced it and worked with a local equipment distributor to heavily discount the 7.5 ton unit. Bob has also helped with electrical issues and repaired plumbing

These three new members were the glue and catalyst that held the post together during a difficult year. There are many more in Chapel Hill and you may know them. Tell them about your post and ask them to join us. And, if you are inactive, get involved. Attend meetings and add your voice as we rebuild the post.

**Want to help financially?** Have a 401k or other fund that can be of help to the post? Consider a tax deductible gift to the post. Keep your legacy strong for future Chapel Hill veterans.