

On
Veterans
Way



April
May 2023

9550 Pflumm Road, Lenexa, KS 66215
913-492-224

From your VFW Commander

Greetings Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Winter has now passed, and spring is upon us. (Yes, finally fishing season) I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well.

Our membership drive is still in full swing. We are well over 95% now and need a strong effort from everyone to get over 100% membership for this year. Thanks to everyone who have been working the phone lists led by our Senior Vice Commander Rick McKenna. Let's keep pushing. If you are an annual member that expires by June 30th, please renew soon. You will not lose any time as the renewal will add a year to your current expiration date. Also, consider moving up to a Life Member which does have an installment plan. Life Members, please consider moving up to Legacy Life Member.

March wrapped up most of our remaining programs. We submitted a scout for Scout of the Year. March 31st was the close of the Community Service program, so any new reports will now be submitted for the next year. We will be holding officer elections on April 6th. If you are interested in any positions, please see any of the officers. In May, we will have the installation of officers.

Here are some upcoming events of interest:

- ◆ April 22 - District 2 Spring meeting will be at our Post from 1000-1200
- ◆ May 6 – Active Shooter Class, 1:00 – 4:00 given by Comrade Howell
- ◆ May 13 – Harvesters Volunteer Support (See Below)
- ◆ May 20 – Post Riders Poker Run
- ◆ June 3 – Post Car and Bike Show (This is the 2nd showing since the COVID-19 shutdown. We're expecting an extremely large showing this year)
- ◆ June 8 – 10 - Department Convention in Garden City. Please see any of the officers if interested in attending

** STEAK NIGHTS: April 14 and May 12 - Please RSVP to Jason Parkes, 334-614-6693 or j.parkes@comcast.net, in advance so that we can plan for our numbers.

The VFW National Headquarters has put out a call again this year for all posts to volunteer in their community. We have coordinated with the Kansas City Harvesters on May 13th. We will start there at 10:30 and provide an support they require. Please contact Chris Stergos (913-907-0007 or chris.stergos@gmail.com) or myself if you want to help us with this project. We will meet at Harvesters that morning. 3801 Topping Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64129.

One last item we want everyone to support. It is real early, but we have scheduled a Blood Drive at our post on September 10th from 10:00 – 2:00. Please schedule this extremely important event on your calendar. As we all know, this IS a matter of Life and Death!!!

As always, if there is anything, we can do for you, let us know.

Yours in Comradeship,

David D. DeWitt
VFW Post 7397 – Commander
913-721-7407 / dewitt3d@aol.com
vfw7397.org / facebook.com/VFW7397

From your VFW Auxiliary President

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,



Spring is here, at least sometimes! We have achieved 100% in membership, way to go!!

Elections will be held at our April meeting, please consider taking an office or chairing a committee. If we all work together, we can achieve our goals. April also brings the District meeting with District Officer elections on the 22nd and you don't have to go far, we are hosting; please plan on attending.

There are lots of events in the coming months:

- ◆ April 22, 10am—District 2 Meeting at Post 7397
- ◆ May 6 – Active Shooter Class, 1:00pm – 4:00pm given by Comrade Howell at Post 7397
- ◆ May 13 – Harvesters Volunteer Day (See the Commander's Message)
- ◆ May 20 – Post Riders Poker Run
- ◆ May 28 – Celebration at the Station Buddy Poppy Drive
- ◆ June 3 – Post Car and Bike Show
- ◆ June 8 – 10 - Department Convention in Garden City

Don't forget steak nights on April 14 and May 12, be sure to get your reservations made.

Yours in Service!

Tanya I Brunning
VFW Post 7397 Auxiliary President
vfw7397aux@gmail.com

VFW 7397 Riders



Riders - hopefully Mother Nature will get back on her meds and back to normal soon so we can get out and enjoy what we do.

May 20, 2023 - VFW 7397 Poker Run - Registration 10am, KSU 11am - back at the Post around 1500-ish. We're supporting Cars4Heroes again this year and we'll have a special presentation to them at the end. Pray, get out the lucky rabbit's feet, anti-rain dance, whatever you do to help make sure we have good weather for our ride.

Sat Jun 3, 2023 - Car & Bike show - 10am - 2pm - come out enter your Bike, your custom 9,000 horsepower all chrome collector's car, your rusty 1982 Honda Civic, your Schwinn, whatever you got and tell your friends. This event also supports Cars4Heroes. Custom trophies - 1st place Car, 1st place Bike, People's Choice.

Reminder we meet directly after regular VFW & Aux meetings 1st Thursday of the month

Keep the shiny side up

Chris Stergos ~Jarhead~
7397 Riders President
chris.stergos@gmail.com

American Legion Post 407



To Legionnaires,

It is time for election of new officers. I feel to be in good standing a Legionnaire should attend at least two meetings a year. That way you will know about all of the things that are going on in our Post, and the other departments of the American Legion.

Our next meetings will be on April 17th at 7:00pm, and on May 15th at 7:00pm. At the May meeting Patrick Benson from Horses for Veterans will provide information about their program. As you know we are having only a chicken dinner in the months of April and May. The April dinner will be on the 19th from 6-7pm at a cost of \$13.00. The dinner in May will be on the 17th from 6-7pm for \$13.00 also.

Boys State is rapidly approaching. We need to get interested parties to go in June. It will be held June 4 through June 10. They will need to be registered by the end of March. They can go on-line to do this at Boys State and putting down Post 407 as their sponsor. They should then let us know so we can pay our part of the registration.

Cadet Law will be June 11 through June 14 at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina, KS. They need to go on-line to register. Applications must be received by March 31st.

The Department convention will be in Topeka at the Ramada Inn on June 2 through the 4th.

We should be doing Buddy Checks with our other members to make sure they are in good health and can assist them if needed in any way.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

407 Commander

Leo Porath

BU1LP1949@gmail.com

kslegion407.org

<https://www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-407-Lenexa-KS-263557927439391>

American Legion Auxiliary Post 407



This year we were unable to have a corned beef St Patrick's Day Dinner due to supply and cost issues along with, sadly, a lack of enough volunteers. Hopefully, we can bring it back next year. We were able to do an Irish Stew Dinner, thanks to Farrah, which was a success.

An early reminder that Memorial Day is approaching and help will be needed in placing Flags on our Veterans graves and picking them up. Please check with the Legion for times.

Kansas Department Convention will be held in Topeka on Friday evening, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th at the Ramada Inn, 420 SE 6th Avenue. Special rates have been arranged for those in attendance. Call 785-246-9015 for reservations and mention attendance at the American Legion Convention.

Please support our Unit by being sure your 2023 dues are paid and to continue your years of service in the Auxiliary.

Also, Election of Officers is coming up. Your participation is greatly appreciated to ensure our unit remains active.

Thanks to all for your continued participation and support.

Pat Willcox

American Legion Auxiliary President

Sons of the American Legion Post 407



Please join us Friday May 5th for our annual Cinco de Mayo dinner. We will be serving from 5:30 to 7 pm for \$10.

We are 8 members short of our 100% goal, please pay your 2023 dues if you haven't already. We meet ever 3rd Monday of the month. Please join us on Monday April 17 at 7 pm for our monthly meeting. We will be electing new officers for 2023. It would be nice to have a good showing as we need to also discuss the future and the future leadership of this organization. I look forward to seeing you all.

Cullen Davis
Squadron Commander



American Legion Riders Post 407



On February 28th the monthly dine out was held at Haywards BBQ in Shawnee.

On March 28th the monthly dine out was held at Barley's Brewhouse in Shawnee.

We enjoyed our first successful experience with sponsoring the Boy Scouts with a pancake feed on Feb. 11 at the Post.

"Chito" aka Juan Rivera, attended his last meeting with ALR 407. He is moving on to Tennessee to be closer to family. We thank him for all his work and dedication to ALR over these past several years.

We welcomed new member Doug Beckwith (Grumpy). He and his wife, Cindy, moved from Austin, Tx to be closer to their family.

The Tiny Homes project was in need of side dish items. Mrs. G brought 135 back packs that were donated by Sprint. Several members brought food items to put in the backpacks prior to being donated. Please bring your side dish items to the next meeting or contact Dee to drop off to her house. We hope to deliver this after April meeting. Contact Dee if you have items to drop off.

Several riders attended the end of month ceremony at the Leavenworth National Cemetery in the last week of December and January. The first ride scheduled for March 18 was cancelled due to weather.

Nine ALR 407 riders attended the Iwo Jima event at Leavenworth National Cemetery on March 25.

Also on March 25, 7 ALR riders participated in the Patriot Guard mission for Gabriel Puchalla, USMC. The mission began on March 24th when PGR members escorted his body to St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leawood, Kansas, with the funeral services on the 25th and, then he was escorted to his final resting place in Wea, Kansas. Seven ALR 407 riders participated.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Deadbeat on Friday, March 31st from 5pm-9pm. May you Rest in Paradise our dear friend!

Upcoming events are:

April 15	Ram Fun Run	Green Acres Lake
May 20	Rulo, NE	Old Bills Grill
June 17	Garnett, KS	Dutch Café
July 15	Holton, KS	Trails Cafe

Our monthly recurring activity schedule is: the 2nd Thursday is meeting night at 7pm; the 4th Tuesday of each month is usually the Dine Out, 5:30 – 8pm at selected restaurants; and rides are normally scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The last Thursday of the month the Riders normally attend an End of Month (EOM) ceremony at Leavenworth National Cemetery to honor our brothers & sisters that have passed away since last ceremony. We invite anyone to join us at this honor ceremony and we will send out notice of staging & KSU location & times.

We look forward to participating in other ALR Post activities when possible. Stay safe in your travels and activities in the new year and as spring approaches.

Dee 'Disaster D' Smith, Director
American Legion Riders Post 407
ksdisasterqueen@gmail.com

www.alr407.org

www.facebook.com/groups/564649106972749

From the Club Room

Important Dates

- Tacos Every Tuesday
- April 14th — Steak Night, 6pm—7pm, \$20 per person
 - Please RSVP by 5pm on April 13th to Quartermaster Jason Parkes at j.parkes@comcast.net
- April 19th — American Legion Chicken Dinner, 6pm—7pm, \$13.00 per person
- May 5th — Cinco de Mayo Dinner, 5:30pm—7:00pm, \$10 per person
- May 6th — Active Shooter Class, 1pm—4pm
- May 12th — Steak Night, 6pm—7pm, \$20 per person
 - Please RSVP by 5pm on May 11th to Quartermaster Jason Parkes at j.parkes@comcast.net
- May 17th — American Legion Chicken Dinner, 6pm—7pm, \$13.00 per person

See you in the Clubroom!
Farrah Fiocati
Club Room Manager
VFW Post 7397
hallrental@vfw7397.org
913-492-2244

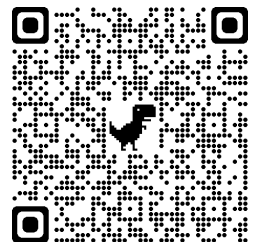


**Don't forget to check out our new swag
with the VFW Post Logo**

See the Display Case by the Canteen Door!

Check out our Google Calendar to stay current with upcoming events!

Scan the QR Code



April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hold'em 1pm
2	3	4 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	5	6 VFW & Aux Mtg 7pm VFW Riders Following	7	8 Hold'em 1pm
9 <i>Happy Easter</i> 	10	11 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	12 MCL Officers Meeting 7pm	13 ALR Meeting 7pm	14 Steak Dinner 6-7pm	15 Hold'em 1pm
16	17 American Legion, SAL & Aux Meeting 7pm	18 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	19 AL Chicken Dinner 6-7pm	20 Post Planning Meeting 7pm	21	22 Hold'em 1pm
23	24	25 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	26 MCL Meeting 7pm	27	28	29 Hold'em 1pm
30						

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 VFW & Aux Mtg 7pm VFW Riders Following	5	6 Active Killer Class 1-4pm Hold'em 1pm
7	8	9 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	10 MCL Officers Meeting 7pm	11 ALR Meeting 7pm	12 Steak Dinner 6-7pm	13 Service Day @ Harvesters Hold'em 1pm
14	15 American Legion, SAL & Aux Meeting 7pm	16 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	17 AL Chicken Dinner 6-7pm	18 Post Planning Meeting 7pm	19	20 VFW Riders Poker Run Hold'em 1pm
21	22	23 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	24 MCL Meeting 7pm	25	26	27 Hold'em 1pm
28 Celebration @ the Station	29 	30 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	31			

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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of our newsletter, please contact
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All requests will be reviewed by the VFW and American Legion Commanders



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