



AMERICAN LEGION Post 517

100 Keefer Drive ■ Mercersburg, PA 17236

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Commander: James "Jim" Robinson

SAL Commander: Darryl Gearhart

Spring 2025

Auxiliary President: Linda Brechbiel

Home Association President: James "Jim" Robinson

■ **OUR COMMANDER SPEAKS:** Our legion remains completely solvent. Our membership continues to decline as our members age. We need everyone to help in retaining and recruiting more veterans to become involved in our post. COVID-19 has had an adverse effect on everything; including our canteen facility. We recently sold our picnic grounds on Charlestown Road and have been negotiating with our neighboring legion post in Greencastle to utilize their grounds for any special occasions. We seek your continued support of our post and its on-going activities. **JAMES ROBINSON, Post 517 Commander** ■

■ **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:** Greetings from the Sons! Hopefully, everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To let everyone know what we have done this past year; we did 4 chicken BBQ's thru out the summer of 2024, helped with all of the post functions, donated to the Child Welfare Foundation, summer picnic meals to Brindle Terrace, Christmas meals to Brindle Terrace, and donated some funds to the Post for their use. Any members who have not paid their dues yet, please do so A.S.A.P ... We are still looking for new faces at our meetings each month. We are all getting older and could use some young faces to train for future leaders. We have 4 chicken BBQs scheduled for this year, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, and September 13th. Help support our programs by getting involved and be proud to say you belong to the Sons of the American Legion. I wish everyone a wonderful spring and summer and hope to see you all soon! **DARYL L. GEARHART, Commander SAL Squadron 517**

AUXILIARY UNIT 517: Since the last Newsletter, little has changed or happened with the Auxiliary. We definitely have been dormant this past year, but with good reason. The Auxiliary presently has five (5) active members, so to speak. The only people attending meetings are five (5) officers, and with only that many people there is little to nothing that we are able to do, given that four (4) of these ladies (me included) are older and cannot always do the things we used to. We have not had meetings every month for the past year, due to having little to nothing to discuss. We cannot commit to a single event or function. Your Auxiliary is slowly dismantling, and I must put some of that to blame on the members who do not put themselves out there helping the Auxiliary. Most members will happily bake a cake or buy a raffle tickets each time we ask, but for this Auxiliary to be active it takes a lot more. Younger people are needed with new ideas, people with energy, dedication, and responsibility. Elections of officers are coming up in June, and we definitely need someone/anyone to step forward and revitalize this Auxiliary. There are several positions

that will be open, some were never filled in the last election. Some of the present officers will not be returning next year and if that should be the case, there will be little reason to even have an Auxiliary. Some of you will be getting calls, asking if you will consider an office, others may be approached in person. Do not wait for us to call you, call any one of us and volunteer today. Volunteer while there are still officers to pass on their knowledge to you. Years ago, this was a highly active Auxiliary, and we were able to do things for the community, helping do our part to support the Commander. The main objective of the Auxiliary is to support the Commander, and unfortunately, we have fallen short on that in the past few years. Remember what has made you eligible to be an auxiliary member, and why you joined in the first place. Step up now and help this great organization out, become an officer and an active member. To learn more about being an officer, call me at **(717) 328-2789** or speak to any of the other officers. For God, Country and Our Veterans. **Linda Brechbiel, Auxiliary Unit 517, President** ■

SPRING 2025 GUN DRAWING: In case you are looking for tickets to our Spring Drawing, we have included 2 tickets in the mailing of this newsletter. We ask for your support in the purchase/sale of these tickets by returning the stub with a name and phone number, and the \$20.00 donation for the tickets. Return completed stub with payment to our post commander, Jim Robinson, at **American Legion Post 517, 100 Keefer Dr, Mercersburg, PA 17236**. Please note that this year's drawing will be held at the Greencastle Legion Grounds located at 4775 Williamson Rd, Greencastle, PA 17225, on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Your support is appreciated. ■

The Kids' Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 12 at Fox Rd., north of Food Lion. Be in place by 1:50 P.M.



HOME ASSOCIATION (H/A): Our H/A operates as a separate entity and manages the operation of the canteen facility, i.e. lounge and restaurant. We have suffered a loss in experienced kitchen employees which has resulted in the temporary closure of that portion of the canteen. We are actively working to get our restaurant staffed accordingly. In the interim, our lounge continues to be open, with BINGO on Wednesday evenings. Likewise, our Taco and Hot Dog bar has been successful. We invite all members of the community to join our Home Association. Look forward to further updates on the reopening of our restaurant facilities. Our ballroom remains available for parties and/or special functions. ■

MEMORIAL DAY 2025: A few weeks ahead of Memorial Day, we will placing an American Flag on the gravesites of all war veterans. On Saturday, May 10th, we will be placing flags at Fairview Cemetery at 9:00 A.M. Show up and help!

Our parade will step off promptly from Park St to Fairview Cemetery at 8:30, May 26, 2025. Guest Speaker will be Colonel Josh R. Aldred, USAF. A day of remembrance, please come out and show your respect for our departed veterans. ■

— Canteen Hours —

Subject to Change

Monday - Thursday

2:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Friday - Sunday

12:01 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

***Nightly drawings held daily at 8:00 P.M.**

2026 ELECTIONS: In compliance with the by-laws of the POST, AUX, and SONS, all will soon begin the process of electing officers for the upcoming legion year of 2025 – 2026. Anyone desiring to make our legion programs successful needs to step forward and volunteer to serve. Officer nominations will be finalized during the months of Apr/May with elections held at the Jun monthly meetings. Post meetings are held the 2nd Wed of each month at 7:00 P.M.; Sons meets the 2nd Sun at 1:00 P.M. and our AUX meets at 6:30 the 1st Tuesday of the month. Mark your calendar and attend your respective organization's meetings and let it be known of your desire to serve. Newly elected officers will assume their positions on Aug 1, 2025. Dues collection for 2026 will commence on Jul 1, 2025, with all dues remaining at \$40.00 annually and payable by

end of the year. Our Home Association will be looking for post members to serve and provide assistance in the operation of our canteen facility. Nominations for the H/A will be finalized in Aug with elections being held in Sep; newly elected officers will assume their positions on Oct. 1, 2025.

