

# *Caledonia American Legion Memorial Post 305*

## Serving Our Veterans, Their Families and the Community

### APRIL 2026

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**FROM THE LEGION COMMANDER**  
**Thank You for a Great Fish Fry Season So Far!**

This year's Fish Fry season has been exceptional, and we're grateful for the incredible support we've received. Our final Fish Fry of the season will be held on **April 3rd**. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make our Friday Fish Frys such a success—especially our dedicated volunteers who show up week after week. Your time, hard work, and commitment keep one of our most important traditions alive. These gatherings are about more than just great food; they help strengthen our Post, build camaraderie, and raise vital funds that keep the Post operating and allow us to continue supporting local veterans. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Our recent **Veterans Resources and Benefits Open House** was a tremendous success. The event was well attended, and many veterans were able to connect with representatives who provided valuable information about benefits, health services, and community support. Events like this highlight the importance of outreach and demonstrate what we can accomplish when we work together.

The future of our Post depends on all of us. The continued success of Post 305 relies on active participation from our members. We encourage **all Legionnaires** to stay involved—attend meetings, share your ideas, and lend a hand whenever you can. Membership meetings are held on the **first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.**, with dinner served at **7:00 p.m.** Your attendance and input are vital to keeping our Post strong, active, and connected. We will begin nominations for officer positions at the April meeting, followed by final nominations and elections at the May meeting. Please consider attending and taking part in this important process.

As we approach **Memorial Day**, we invite you to participate in one of our most meaningful traditions—serving in the Memorial Day honors and ceremonies. There is still time to get a uniform and learn what's involved, and attending our monthly meetings is the best way to get started. Together, we honor the past while building the future of Post 305.

..... **Brian Stauffer**



**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**  
 Hello Sisters of Auxiliary Unit # 305!

Euchre continues to go well. I would like to give a Shout Out to Karen Peasley and Cheri Parish for chairing our monthly

tournaments. Players enjoy playing at #305 and appreciate that we are very organized and don't tolerate dishonest players!! The next tournament will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> and will be the last one until tournaments resume October 9, 2026. Sign up is at noon and play begins at 12:30pm. Please bring a snack to share.

The time is NOW to make the final tweaks on your **"Back to the 80's"** outfit. There will be a costume contest with prizes for best dressed male and female. Plans are well underway to make **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** a night to remember!! The band, Signal Trip, will be playing amazing songs from the 80's. Pat Piechocki is the lead singer and a member of Post #305! Doors open at 7pm, the band plays 8- midnight. There will be a \$10 cover charge.

Progress is being made to have Auxiliary T-shirts available for purchase. Stay tuned for more details. Election of Officers for 2026 – 2027 will take place at our April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please plan on attending and make your vote count!! Our annual Plant Swap will take place Friday, May 15, from 3-7pm and Saturday, May 16 from 9-2pm. Please drop off your plants Thursday, May 14th.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER: Rada Cutlery. It's best to order online [www.radafundraising.com](http://www.radafundraising.com) The organization you want to support is Caledonia American Legion Auxiliary #305. We get 40% from all orders to help our Vets!! Call Lori Trutsch at 616-581-6918 with any questions. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Happy Hour at 5:30pm meeting begins at 6:30pm.

Thank you all for your continued support of our American Legion #305. God bless you, our Veterans and Military!!

..... **Dar Craven**



**FROM THE SAL COMMANDER**

Hello SAL Members,

As spring approaches, we have several events and projects that require volunteers hope you can help out. The Friday fish frys have been very well attended. After three weeks we have sold a total of 727 dinners. This spring's steak dinner will cost \$22. We have our annual roadside clean-up April 18<sup>th</sup>. On May 16<sup>th</sup> we will put out flags at the cemetery and then on May 30<sup>th</sup> taking them back down, we can always use extra help. Also, on May 16<sup>th</sup> we are going to do a clean-up inside and out at the post. Start time to come later. As of the March meeting we have 53 new members and seven transfers.

Upcoming events: Roadside clean-up April 18<sup>th</sup> (8:45am) Meet at Legion; Steak fry April 10<sup>th</sup> (4:30pm-7:00pm or sold out)

Legion cleanup May 16<sup>th</sup>; May 16<sup>th</sup> put flags out (9:00am) meet a village building on Maple St.

Next SAL meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm.

..... David Shellenbarger



**FROM THE ALR DIRECTOR**

The bikes are out and are being prepped for the riding season and the Post 305 Legion Riders are ready to ride. We have a lot of scheduled events and rides upcoming, just waiting for mother nature to cooperate. We are still meeting on Thursday nights at 5:00pm with kickstands up at 5:30pm, weather permitting. Our next monthly meeting will be on April 11th at 10:00am. Our membership grew to 52 this month and anyone is welcome to ride along with us whether they are a member or not. This will be my last newsletter that I write as the Director of the Post 305 Riders as I am stepping aside and leaving the Riders in the hands of Alex Devoe who is a U.S. Navy as well as an U.S. Air Force Veteran. I want to thank everyone who has helped me and guided me throughout my term as Director. I would like to especially thank the staff of the Legion as well as the E-board and members for supporting our events and charities and helping us grow. I could not have done it without all the riders who volunteer constantly to make our group a very special Family! We are the Legion Riders.

For me, riding is fun because I can get a sense of freedom, feel the fresh air, and get a greater view of the planet and the beauty around us. Whereas if you're in a cage--what we call a car or a truck--you have a singular vision out the front windshield and you miss the whole world around you. You'd be amazed at what you see and hear on a bike when you have 180-degree vision. It is an amazing feeling. That's why we call it "wind therapy."

..... Mark K. Winterburn

**FROM THE POST MANAGER**

Hi everyone.

March was a busy month. Lisa and I got away for a couple weeks. It was a very relaxing time for us! Thanks to everyone that filled in to make it happen. March had a month of Fish Fry's, A very successful Veteran Outreach night, Chili Cook off/Corn hole and much more! Thanks to all of our great members who volunteer to make these events happen. Our kitchen continues to serve great food, sometimes with a little twist. They try to keep things fresh and new. As we are all aware of, food prices continue to rise. We are looking into each food item, looking for options. There may be some minor changes coming to keep us from going into the red. Keep bringing your ideas to me. If you ever have questions, please let me know.

We have had another team of volunteers that are adding a second Burrito night to our food events. They are calling it Fiesta Night. It will be a little different hours due to the volunteers' real jobs. They are serving the first Thursday each month from 5 - 8:00 pm. We will continue with our dear Burrito Babes every 3rd Thursday of each month. April is starting to fill up. Our last Fish fry of Lent is on the 3rd. We also have a SAL Steak fry on the 10th. The Auxiliary is hosting their 80's party on the 25th. Make sure you mark these fun events down. You won't want to miss out.

Our weekly events like our Euchre group on Wednesday afternoons, our military Moms group on the 2nd Tuesday evening, Patty our Service officer is here the 2nd and 4th Friday. Our blood drive is scheduled for the 27th of April.

Our Queen of Hearts drawing is going strong. We are drawing every Tuesday night. You can buy tickets all week and you do not need to be present to win. The current pot is \$1500. Our team continues to be AWESOME. I truly appreciate working with all of you! We will continue to have Trivia and Bar BINGO rotated every Saturday. These continue to be very fun nights!

April Post Happenings: Last Fish Fry 3<sup>rd</sup>; Breakfast is the 4<sup>th</sup>; Fiesta Night 2<sup>nd</sup>; SAL Steak Fry is the 10<sup>th</sup>; Burrito Babes the 16<sup>th</sup>; 80's party 25<sup>th</sup>; Blood drive on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all of our members that are proudly showing their card when asked. Check out the calendar and get involved. Thank you all for supporting 305. Peace and happiness to all.

..... Tom Hyde

**FROM THE LEGION CHAPLAIN**

God's Divine Plan

Ponder this...

God planted the seed of a tree. He watered it, nurtured it, and watched it grow. In time, that very tree would be cut down and fashioned into a Cross—the Cross upon which His only begotten Son would be nailed and crucified... for you and for me. This was no accident. This was no tragedy outside of His control. This was the plan.

Jesus knew exactly what He would have to endure. He came to be the perfect and spotless sacrifice—the one and only offering sufficient to atone for sin. As He hung upon that Cross, bearing the weight of the world's sin, He cried out: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" In that moment, the fullness of God's wrath was poured out—not upon humanity—but upon His Son. Every sin, past, present, and future, for all who would repent and believe, was laid upon Him. And then, with His final breath, He declared: "It is finished." Not "it has begun" ... not "it is almost done" ... but finished. The debt was paid in full. The mission accomplished. Redemption secured. His body was taken down and placed in a tomb, sealed behind a great stone. It seemed final. It seemed over. But it wasn't the end... Then... Sunday came. The stone was rolled away. The grave was empty. Death was defeated. HE IS RISEN...!! HE IS ALIVE...!!

And because He lives, we have hope. Because He conquered death, we have life. Because of the Cross—and the empty tomb—salvation is freely given to all who believe.

This was always the plan.

..... Thomas Cleary

**BRICK WALL OF SUPPORT**

Bricks may be purchased by anyone wishing to show support of our Post, you do not need to be a member of the Legion, SAL or Auxiliary. Bricks may also be purchased in memory of friends or family who have or are serving in the military. Call the Post at 616-891-1882 for details.

Use the QR code below to donate to the post!

