



# The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (Mar. 2022)



## Commander's Corner:

Spring is in the air, the pollen is starting to cover our vehicles and the pandemic seems to be slowing down. The world as we know it is changing fast and not for the good. Please keep our military service members and the free citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.

We have been busy getting ready for the Veterans Experience Action Center – Veterans Benefits live. We can still use some volunteers and help in setting up. You can go to: <https://bit.ly/3op2wSx>, Thank you to those that have already signed up.

The PEC has decided to hold our April meeting in person and in May we will honor our first responders. Memorial Day is coming up fast and we will need an Honor Guard/Color Guard for this event at Cary's Hillcrest Cemetery. The 4<sup>th</sup> of June is Cary's Fire Department's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. There will be large parade with over 100 fire trucks, bands, and floats. Post 67 has been asked to provide an Honor Guard for the parade so put this on your calendar. We will setup a practice schedule.

On a note not so pleasant the American Legion Department of North Carolina is putting forth a resolution to the General membership at the June 2022 convention to raise the state dues by \$5.00 per year per member. If this passes at the state convention that means our yearly dues will need to be raised by the same amount.

This is the current 2022 break down of your \$45.00 dues per year:

\$18.50 to National Headquarters

\$9.00 to North Carolina State Department

\$17.50 to the Post 67

This is not a sure thing but will be voted on in June. The effective date if approved will be **1 January 2023**. If we have to raise our post dues this will be brought before the post general membership for a vote.

We still have some open positions on the Post Executive Board. Elections of Post Officers for 2022-2023 will be in June 2022 and installed at the July meeting. If interested in a post position, please reach out to me.

There is a lot of great information in this month's Howler and some pictures of our North Carolina State American Legion Oratorical winner, Aliza Jankowski of Post 67. Congratulations Aliza!

Your Commander,

Richard

## Post Chaplain's Corner

Loving someone asks that you assume they will love you in return. They don't always.

Pursing a goal asks that you believe you will achieve it. You may not.

But true faith understands that you don't always get what you want in life, but that God provides you with what you need, and what will make you whole, happy and healthy. God know best. Put your faith in Him.

Be blessed and make the best of your day, every day.

Your Post Chaplin,

Marie

## Public Relations Corner:

### State Oratorical Contest Results

It was a nail biting contest that took place in Greensboro for the State Oratorical Contest Saturday March 5th. All five contestants, one from each Division were good or they would not have been there for the State contest.

Two girls and three boys competed for a chance to go to the National Contest in Indianapolis, IN for the \$25,000 scholarship contest.

The winner just happens to be representing Post 67, your Post. You can be very proud of her, Miss Aliza Jankowsky from Green Hope High School, a Junior.

The photo of her and the Department Commander Jim Quinlan standing in the winners circle. The second photo is all five contestants with Aliza in the middle.

I want to thank all those Post 67 Auxiliary and Legionnaires that took time out and helped with the contest. You made a difference in this young lady's life that she will never forget. I truly hope that more Post 67 members get involved with Post activities in the future.

The VEAC is fast approaching so working with local businesses trying to get donations like we have done in the past. So far most businesses have responded positively but two major business have not, a little disappointed but we still have time.

## Public Relations

Curtis Leary



## Junior Shooting Sports Program

Our entry in the 2021 JSSP National Contest the "Carry Air Rifles" scored 49th in a field of 69.

## Post Service Officer Corner:

The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the [VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities](#) specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and mental disorders body systems.

The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions.

Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated. Updating the rating schedule allows Veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition.

By incorporating modern medical data in the assessment of disabilities and how they impact earning capacity, Veterans will receive evaluations which more accurately compensate them for their service-connected disabilities. Proposed updates include:

Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule.

Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care. Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require “total occupational and social impairment” to attain a 100% evaluation.

No change to a Veteran’s current rating would occur due to these proposed changes. If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veter-

an’s disability is shown to have occurred.

Provide comments to VA regarding the two proposed updates via the Federal Register notices located [here](#) and [here](#).

### **VA Adding Rare Respiratory Cancers to Presumed Service-Connected Disabilities:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs will propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected disabilities](#) in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter. When the proposal becomes final, dependents, survivors, and Veterans who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers would be encouraged to file a [supplemental claim](#) for benefits.

- Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx;
- SCC of the trachea;
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea;
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and;
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would become eligible for service-connection. VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

If you are a Veteran who has been diagnosed with one of these conditions, but have not filed a claim, please notify VA of your [intent to file a claim](#)

Post Service Officer.

Eugene Meyle,

**Post 67 Officers & Phone Numbers:**

Richard Spyrison, Post Cmdr.: 919-441-8295  
Wayne Leazer, 1st Vice Cmdr.: 919-319-9062  
David Christiansen, 2nd Vice Cmdr.:919-650-3848  
Ray Martin, Post Adjutant: 919-481-4811  
Shelton Faircloth, Financial Officer: 919-539-1421  
Tim Kenny, Athletic Officer: 919-481-4811—X7  
Marie Faulkner, Post Chaplain: 919-851-9838  
Eugene Meyle, Post Service Officer: 417-234-7608  
Dennis Tackett, Post Historian:703-340-9941.  
Curtis Leary, Public Relations: 919-270-2136

**Post 67 Home Address:**

8523 Chapel Hill Rd., Cary, NC 27513  
Post Home Phone: 919-481-4811  
Post Home Web Page: <https://www.alncpost67.org>  
Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/alncpost67.org>  
Cary Post 67 Legion Baseball:  
<https://www.carypost67baseball.com/>

**Post 67 Meeting date and time:**

Second Tuesday of each month starting at 7 PM at the Post Home. The Post Executive Committee (PEC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Post Home. Members are invited to come and speak of any concerns or recommendations concerning Legion business at that time. Post meetings may be held using Zoom from time to time due to the virus and guidelines so be on the lookout for announcements via email. If you need assistance in setting up your computer or tablet for Zoom meetings, please contact a PEC member.

Editor: Dennis Tackett  
Articles should be sent to Dennis no later than the Thursday morning following our PEC meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month.  
[tackett.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:tackett.dennis@gmail.com)

**New Post 67 Members:** To all new Post 67 members, thank you for joining. You are encouraged to purchase Legion hats and shirts from Emblem Sales so when we are at Legion meetings or taking part in a Community activity, you will be in uniform. For Color Guard, Rifle Detail, funerals, and other more formal activities, the uniform will be your Legion hat, gray pants, white shirt, and blue jacket with tie, black shoes and socks. At other times the Legion hat, a polo or golf type shirt with the Legion emblem is worn by most Legionnaires. This may be called Business Casual dress. **Emblem Sales** can be reached at <https://www.legion.org/promos/230360/shop-online> Need help, contact a PEC member.

**Operation Purple Healing Adventures**

The National Military Family Association is excited to announce our Operation Purple Healing Adventures are back with four retreats coming up this spring and fall! Operation Purple Healing Adventures welcomes wounded, ill, injured, medically separated, or medically retired military families to take part in uniquely designed resiliency building activities that help each family member’s growth after a service member’s injury. Bring your family to a free, 3-day outdoor experience where you’ll participate in archery, ropes courses, and relaxing in some of America’s most beautiful landscapes. Get away from the screens and make new memories together! Please use the following QR code for more information.



## 2022 TAR HEEL BOYS' STATE

The 2022 program will be held at Catawba College June 19-25, 2022. The delegate application forms are now available. All forms are available on our website at [www.nclegion.org](http://www.nclegion.org) Tar Heel Boys' State is sponsored by The American Legion Department of North Carolina. It is an intense workshop concentrating on North Carolina state government and politics. Some 500 rising high school seniors representing all geographic areas of North Carolina participate annually in this program. Since 2003 the sessions have been held on the campus of Catawba College, Salisbury, NC.

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our great republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of American government. By teaching the youth of our state and nation to understand and appreciate the basic principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. Tar Heel Boys' State teaches the preservation of our form of government that depends on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination with government activities.

Currently, Post 67 has one boy applying to go to Boys' State. If you have anyone with interest in this program, please let a PEC member know.

## Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. As of 2019 the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than \$6.5 million in college scholarships to 2,266 applicants since its inception in 1996.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship online application process is now open. Applicants need to ensure that they review the required documents and provide what is asked for in the instructions as they have changed from previous years. Scholarship applicants must complete and submit their online application prior to 11:59 (local time) of Day 1 of their respective American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. All applications must be submitted using the online application system and may not be modified after the due date or given a deadline extension under any circumstance. For more information, please use the QR code below:



## The North Carolina American Legion Student Trooper Program

The American Legion Student Trooper Program will be conducted at the North Carolina Highway Patrol Training Center, Raleigh, and is a cooperative sponsorship of The NC American Legion and The NC Highway Patrol. Cadets will participate in a wide variety of instructional sessions. They will learn the use of police skills, including drug detection, firearms safety, and precision driving, just to name a few. Instructors from the NC Highway Patrol and other phases of Law Enforcement and related subjects will be integrated into the week's program. Each applicant must be sponsored by an American Legion Post. This year we hope to be able to house 40 students. Registration will be 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at the North Carolina Highway Patrol Training Center, Raleigh. Checkout is on Friday, July 1, 2022, and graduation will be completed by 1:00 PM that same day. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. (State) HEADQUARTERS. STUDENTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING CENTER. TUITION: \$200.00 PER APPLICANT Deadline – June 30, 2022 Or until program is full.



# VETERANS EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER

## VETERANS BENEFITS LIVE VA IN MY TOWN CARY, NC

### YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT

Should any of the following apply :

- You would like to file a new claim with the VA.
- You have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled.
- You have questions about VA healthcare.

Veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team including Veterans' Benefits and Health Administrators, Vet Center, and Veterans' Service Officers.

They will assist with the following:  
Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filing new claims, and accepting all claims-related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefit related VA programs.

**Who:** All veterans and family members of veterans

**Where:** Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Avenue, Cary, North Carolina 27513

**When:** 17th, 18th, 19th of March 2022.  
Hours on Thursday from 9 am to 3pm, Friday from 8 am to 3pm, and Saturday 8 am to 2 pm.

Please bring with you the proper documentation about your case: DD 214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian, and dependency documents if new or not already provided to the VA.

Wait times may be long, please be patient.  
Coffee, water, and snacks provided free of charge.

For more information contact Richard Spyrison at [CaryVEAC@gmail.com](mailto:CaryVEAC@gmail.com)



# I WANT YOU

TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE  
VETERANS EXPERIENCE  
ACTION CENTER

Va Benefits Live in Cary NC  
March 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th

# VOLUNTEER

Scan the QR code to the Sign up



Or click on the link below  
<https://bit.ly/3op2wSx>

For  
The



# Attention Seniors, Disabled & Veterans!



Need help paying your property taxes?

**Are you:**

- 65 or older
- Totally and permanently disabled
- A disabled veteran or an unmarried surviving spouse
- Living on a low income

You may qualify for a **reduction** in your property tax bill!

Three programs authorized by the State of North Carolina might be able to bring you the tax relief you need!

Find out more:

[wakegov.com/taxrelief](http://wakegov.com/taxrelief)

📞 919-856-5400



## Program highlights

	<b>Seniors &amp; Disabled Program</b> <small>(Elderly or Disabled Homestead Exclusion)</small>	<b>Tax Deferment Program</b> <small>(Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment program)</small>	<b>Disabled Veterans Program</b> <small>(Disabled Veterans Exclusion)</small>
<b>Who Can Apply*</b>	65 years & older <b>OR</b> Anyone totally & permanently disabled	65 years & older <b>OR</b> Anyone totally & permanently disabled <b>AND</b> Owned and occupied your home for at least five years	Veterans of any age with a total & permanent disability connected to their military service or their unmarried surviving spouse
<b>Gross Income Requirement**</b>	<b>\$31,900 or less</b> during 2021 <small>(Combined income for married couples)</small>	<b>\$47,850 or less</b> during 2021 <small>(Combined income for married couples)</small>	NONE
<b>Tax Relief Benefit</b>	Get <b>\$25,000</b> OR up to <b>50% off</b> your home value, whichever is greater. That discounted value will never be taxed.	Taxes limited to 4% of income if gross income is <b>\$31,900 or less</b>  Taxes limited to 5% of income if gross income is <b>\$31,900 to \$47,850</b>  <b>Last 3 years</b> of deferred taxes (with interest) may become due if a disqualifying event occurs.	Get <b>\$45,000 off</b> your home value. This discounted value never becomes taxable.

Questions about these programs?  
Call **919-856-5400** or visit [wakegov.com/taxrelief](http://wakegov.com/taxrelief).

\* These requirements MUST be met as of January 1  
\*\* This is income BEFORE taxes or other deductions are taken out. It is NOT Adjusted Gross Income.

## Important Dates

Mar 10, 7:00 pm VEAC Planning Meeting

Mar 12, 10:00 am -12:00 noon, VEAC Volunteer Training @ Post 67

Mar 17-19, VEAC-VA Benefits Live, Herb Young Community Center, Cary, NC (Need volunteers, setup on Mar 16th)

Apr 5, 6:30 pm Post 67 PEC Meeting

Apr 12, 7:00 pm Post 67 General Meeting

May 3, 6:30 pm Post 67 PEC Meeting

May TBD First Responder's Dinner and General Meeting

June 19-25, Boys' State

June 26 - July 1, Student Trooper Program

## Purpose and Mission of The American Legion

As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is devoted to mutual helpfulness, and is **committed** to:

- **mentoring** youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities,
- **advocating** patriotism and honor,
- **promoting** strong national security,
- continued **devotion** to our fellow service members and veterans.

### **Mission**

"To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

### **Vision**

Veterans Strengthening America