

**After Action Report  
American Legion Post 116  
16 May 2024 Meeting**

**During the May 16th Monthly Meeting, some critical announcements were made that require membership to address.**

1. Commander Charles Alvarez, who has been our Post Commander for 15 years and was also a previous District Commander, tendered his resignation to be effective on June 1, 2025.
2. In late June, the Vice-Commander and his wife are relocating out of state.
3. The Adjutant has been absent much of the winter this year, and his status is not known to the Post.
4. We have an active Master-of-Arms and Chaplain.
5. Over time, several Officer and Executive Committee positions have been vacant. The post officers are responsible for helping a post outline its vision for service to the community and put it into action. The goal is for members to promote their mission in their community while having fun. Unfortunately, POST 116 position duties have been either minimally filled or accomplished by dual-hatting officers or simply remained vacant. The Commander and 1st Vice-Commander fulfill multiple roles from *Membership/Post Activities to Media & Communication, Children and Youth, Finance, and Economics*. As mentioned, when our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice departs then we will have no one to assume the leadership of our Membership, Economics, Media & Communication functions, and this includes the Web Site.

**Consequently, options were presented to the Post for its future:**

- **Decommission or retire the Post to the Department of Virginia or**
- **Have new personnel volunteer for training to become new post officers.**

**Discussion Points:**

The 13th District Commander, George Navas, was invited to speak and he provided advice to the membership.

1. He stressed that the community would suffer without Post 116.
2. When the Post is dissolved, all assets go to the Department of Virginia, where they are further shared with the entire state.
3. Any leadership volunteers from Post 116 will receive direct assistance from experts at the Department and the District will pay for tuition for Department University training in August.

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4. He emphasized that he has witnessed the loss of a post, and it only impacts veterans and the community.
5. He cited examples of a 'lean post' operating with a minimal staff of four Officers: Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and usually one other who serves as the Service Officer/Chaplain. With Officers and Committee members filled, the Louisa community will greatly benefit from contributions such as Boy/Girls State, Youth Law Enforcement, Oratorical Contest, and sponsoring the Legion's four pillars in Louisa County.

There were some questions and discussions resulting in two people expressing willingness to get trained and one vocalizing their struggle with personal time to become a post officer. *However, this is insufficient for the post to rebuild.*

**Future Projects:**

Conversations then shifted towards the potential work needed to be completed before the possible loss of Post 116 in Louisa County. These included:

1. Our commitment this year to Poppy Day on May 25th needs more volunteers to help.
2. The addition of US Space Force to the Veterans Memorial at the County Courthouse, which requires Post members to manage the coordination of shared funding with the VFW and outsourcing a stone engraver to perform the work.
3. Repair of the Legion's Monument to the county War Veterans at Hillcrest Cemetery, Louisa. A local Scout project improved this; however, a retired brick mason in the post recommended additional restorative work is required to lengthen the lifecycle of the monument. Three members of the honor guard volunteered to inspect and provide pictures for the Post to review next week.
4. Consider forwarding funding to another Post in Orange for Louisa County youth to ensure, in the short term, Louisa youth can still participate in Boys/Girls State, etc. This requires coordination with the Post Membership and the creation of a MOA between the Posts.

**Conclusion:** Whether it is for Post continuity of Operations or Retirement actions, these require personnel to sponsor and manage these concluding activities. As mentioned earlier, a lean Post can operate with a minimal staff of four Post Officer positions: Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and usually one other who serves as the Service Officer/Chaplain. *However, if we don't receive volunteers to participate and be trained as officers in our Post by September 1, 2024, then we will have no other choice but to start the disaffiliation process and close the Post.*

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URLS for Basic Training: <https://www.legion.org/alei>

2024 Officers Guide: <https://www.legion.org/publications/259071/officers-guide>

Department of Virginia Legion College: <https://valegion.org/programs/leadership-college/>

Sign-up for Department of Virginia Newsletters:

[https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001yIKQX0yskQCMXp6xaXK1AnDjNP90\\_s6AZPGg7CvFrdvKQxSdqmSZQUZWA16jlAVEAD6nfrtXxvnA9SM\\_oxAyKQm6MtWGhPEseOkme672i-o%3D](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001yIKQX0yskQCMXp6xaXK1AnDjNP90_s6AZPGg7CvFrdvKQxSdqmSZQUZWA16jlAVEAD6nfrtXxvnA9SM_oxAyKQm6MtWGhPEseOkme672i-o%3D)