Chilies Test Tasters’ Tongues

More than 30 homemade chilies were sampled by over 100 tasters at the Legion Riders Chili Cook-Off, both record numbers for the annual event according to President Brian Conway. All funds raised go to Riders’ charities.

BEST RED CHILI
Bob Francisco

RUNNER-UP RED CHILI
Joe Calabro

BEST GREEN CHILI
Danielle & Jamie Johnson

RUNNER-UP GREEN CHILI
Jennie & Danny Montoya

Brother and sister team Danielle and Jamie Johnson show us the money awarded for their Best Green Chili.
Dear Lord, we are thankful for Your continuing love and humbly ask for Your guidance and understanding. Make us always aware of the needs of others. As always, we pray for the safety of our troops here and abroad. Grant us the wisdom to do and think what is right, and be our guide as we work for our Veterans and their families. This we ask in Your most holy name, Amen.

Membership currently stands just 23 members short of 100%. Your annual dues support Legion programs, but your participation at our monthly Legion meetings is crucial. We urgently need more members to invest about one hour per month tending to the future of Post 178. Meetings are always the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

This year’s world famous Chili Cook-Off was the biggest and best by far! Over 100 Legion Riders, family, and friends turned out, and the number of chili entries was surprising. The winners were: Red 1st Place, Bob Francisco; Red 2nd Place, Joe Calabro; Green 1st Place, Jamie and Danielle Johnson; Green 2nd Place, Jennie and Danny Montoya.

Thanks to the Riders and friends for all their support. A very special thanks to Brad and Beth Hall, and daughter Megan for their hard work. Brad’s grandson, Colt, made a grand appearance at the event.

The Riders continue to support the Redistribution Center Inc. with cash donations and volunteer work helping to sort and distribute food and clothing to Veterans and their families. Recently we’ve had several clothing donations which we took to Heather Grove Veterans Center. In March we’re hosting their Vets for dinner at the Post.

Our 4th Annual 60-70s Party is March 15. Food starts at 6:00 p.m. and Boomers band will play from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Period-appropriate dress is invited but not required to have a great time.

POW/MIAs you are not forgotten.
Wayne’s 80th Birthday

Dawn Rah-bein’s father, Wayne Wheatley, celebrated his 80th birthday at Post 178 surrounded by a hall full of his friends and family including Dawn’s husband, Randy; sister, Amy Close; and Wayne’s girlfriend, Betty Jarvis. The popular band Nightwolf provided entertainment and the Legion Riders served dinner to party guests.

National Emergency Fund

Since 1989, The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to Posts, Legionnaires, and their families. The program helps with out-of-pocket expenses such as food, temporary housing, and clothing.

Last year, the NEF program granted nearly $750,000 in assistance to Veterans in need. NEF money went to victims of Superstorm Sandy, tornados in Oklahoma, and floods in Colorado.

All donations made to NEF go directly into the program. To contribute go to www.legion.org/nef.

Auxiliary Report

Nita Calkum

It’s March and time again for our annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Monday, March 17. We’ll serve traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The cost is $7.50 for adults and $4.00 for children 10 and under.

Our monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. is very important with approval of bylaws still on the agenda. We’re currently accepting nominations for upcoming officer elections. Please give your selection to the Nominating Committee of Dee Yurko and Marilyn Anderson.

The Auxiliary hopes to sponsor several students at this year’s Girls State. Please contact Dee or Marilyn if you know of a candidate. They must be a current high school Junior approaching their Senior year.

It’s time to report your volunteer hours for the past 12 months (April 1, 2013 through March 30, 2014). Drop your calculations in the Auxiliary box at the Post.

We’re also seeking nominations for “Member of the Year.” Please put your choice in the Auxiliary box with a brief essay describing the reasons for your endorsement.

Business Report

Bob Heer

All future Corporation Board meetings will start at 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Valentine’s Day Basket Raffle benefiting Boys State was won by Kathy Schwab and raised $417 for this important Legion program.

Thanks again to Pete Zuniga for volunteering the hard work it takes to keep our back hall floor in great shape. A thank you is also in order to Rocky Mountain for repairing the mirror ball lights and overhead fixtures in the back hall. Another group that deserves an overdue thank you are the volunteers who bring the bread and pastries to the Post each week. Please extend your thanks to Bob Sronce, Patty Payne, and Les Hayes when you see them.

Life Line Screening

will be at the Post on Wednesday, March 26. To make an appointment call 1-888-653-6450. Flyers are available at the Post.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Steve’s $6 Lunch 11:00–2:00</th>
<th>BINGO 1:00</th>
<th>Cindy’s Burritos 5:00–8:00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Steve’s $6 Lunch 11:00–2:00</td>
<td>SAL or Riders Dinner 5:30–7:30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Legion Brunch 9:00–11:00</td>
<td>BINGO 1:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our kitchen renovations are complete. We now have a new floor, cabinets, and electrical improvements. Thanks to everyone who helped with the project.

When you dine at Post 178 you’re helping the Jr. Shooters, Girls and Boys State, Lakewood Jr. Baseball, and other programs for youth. God bless our troops and our Vets.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. The Son’s 7th Annual Golf Tournament will be here soon. We still need prizes, awards, sponsors, food service volunteers, and monetary donations to cover the cost of food, trophies, etc. If you know of a potential sponsor (business or individual) please contact me.

The Sons were pleased to contribute $200 to the Riders in support of their best-ever Chili Cook-Off. Congratulations and thanks for all the delicious chilies.

As noted last month, we’ve changed our Friday Night Dinner menu and added a DJ every fourth Friday. Our special meatloaf seems to be the new favorite, so we’ll be serving it every fourth Friday. We’re currently working on entertainment for the second Friday of the month.

The addition of Italian or Polish sausage link (4x1) to our Sunday Breakfast rotation has been well-received. You can still sample the new sausages during Saturday’s Breakfast Buffets.

Membership renewals are behind at 200, or just 86% for 2014.