



## Kettering American Legion Post No. 598

5700 Kentshire Drive Kettering, OH 45440-4248 Phone: 937-433-9327

January/February 2026

### The Commander's Corner...



The new year is here, and we have many things to do in the months ahead. I would like to thank everyone who donated, and all the volunteers that made the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets a huge success. We supplied food for 24 military families during the holidays.

Special thanks to Rhonda Hunter. She has been the main coordinator of these baskets for the last 20 years. Getting the military families names, shopping and organizing the baskets for pick up, etc.. This was her last year coordinating this program as she is retiring from this project. From your Post 598 family, Rhonda, thank you for your many years of service as an officer and a volunteer and most of all just being a loving and caring person. Thank you.

Toys for Tots also had a great turn out this year. The Post donated thousands of dollars worth of toys to this great program. Just imagine how many children had a smile on their face Christmas morning all thanks to our Post 598 family. Special thanks to our Rider's group for coordinating this event.

In October the Post had a new roof installed which was badly needed. The Post expansion project is underway finally. This will be an inconvenience for the winter months but in the long run it will be worth it. Please be patient and continue to support our Post. If you have not paid your dues by December 31, 2025 please do so now. Anyone paying their dues after December 31 might have to wait a week or two before their name is reinstated in the drawing roster and you will not be eligible for the drawings.

We are currently looking to replace the key card system at the Post. Information on this process will be sent out on our morning text messages. If you would like to receive these messages text al598 to 78859 and you will be enrolled there will also be information at the Post.

Last but not least, winter is here. Please use extreme caution when visiting the Post. If possible, get dropped off at the door, use a cane or walker. We do our best in maintaining the parking lot and sidewalks but nothing is really foolproof. Please use good judgement in the winter months.

Pictured below are some of our toys for tots' volunteers along with the hundreds of toys donated by Post 598 family. Great job and thanks to all that helped with this project.

Regular+ SAL+ AUX +Riders = One Great Legion Family  
God Bless you. Commander, Gavin Long



## From the Auxiliary...

We hope your year has been full of joy, meaningful moments, and time with those you cherish. If not, there's still time - 2026 is just getting started, and we're here to help. make it memorable!

**Auxiliary 598 is committed to our mission of "Service not Self."** We believe in dedicated service, and also in the importance of community and a little levity along the way. This past year, we proudly supported the American Legion and honored those who serve by making a significant impact on the lives of veterans, military families, and our local community. Our 2025 donations have had a real, measurable impact, and we will announce the final figures shortly—stay tuned for the

big reveal! Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue our growth, increase our support, and foster a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere at our meetings.

**New Year, New Faces, New Fun** To all our new members: Welcome! We're thrilled you've joined our Auxiliary family. Keep an eye out for details about our New Member Orientation - it's the perfect chance to meet fellow members, learn what we do, and maybe discover who brings the best cookies.

**Volunteers: The Real MVPs (Most Valuable People)** A huge thank you to every volunteer—whether you've given an hour or a hundred, your time, talent, and treasures make our Legion shine. Interested in joining the fun? Reach out to Janet Kennedy and we'll find the perfect spot for your superpowers.

**Your Ideas + Our Mission = A Stellar 2026!** Help shape an incredible 2026 for our mission and members. Your insights and energy are vital! Join our monthly meeting to share your thoughts, brainstorm growth strategies, and impact our community. We've seen attendance growing, and it's wonderful to see such engagement. Keep the momentum going!

### Meeting Details:

- **When:** Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

- **Where:** The Banquet Room

We encourage each of you to consider bringing an Auxiliary member who hasn't attended recently or is new. We look forward to your valuable input!

**Board of Awesomeness (and Opportunity!)** A special shout-out to our Auxiliary Board for their unwavering dedication, infectious energy, and occasional flashes of brilliance and wit. Your commitment is the driving force behind our continuous growth and impact. Inspired by their awesomeness? Consider joining the board yourself! New elections will be held this May. This is your chance to step up and join our Board of Awesomeness (and Opportunity!).

**Stay in the Loop** Don't forget to visit our website. ALA598.Org, for the latest updates, event info, and maybe a surprise or two.

**Together, We're Unstoppable** Our success is truly a team effort, and it comes from a great spirit of collaboration (and shared moments of levity!). My heartfelt thanks go out to the Board, all our members, and our partners - the Post, SAL, and Riders. Here's to achieving even more together in the coming year.      Erica Kubea – Auxiliary President

## From the SAL...

I hope everyone had a safe & fun holiday season. Thanks for all your support this past year at our functions.

As we move into the new year please make sure your 2026 dues are paid. The SAL donated over \$19,000 to our various charities and the Post over the past year. This is thanks to our members. A big thank you to all our great volunteers.

Please come out and enjoy our annual All You Can Eat Fish Fry on January 23. Tickets will be available in advance for \$17 each before January 19. You can also pay \$20 at the door. On February 20 we will be having a Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner. Come and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year.

For those that served...Doug Spisak, Commander, Squadron 598

## From the Riders...

Greetings Legion Family: Thanks to everyone who donated gifts or money to the Toys for Tots drive. Again, Mission Accomplished by the 598 One Legion Family. At the time of writing this, we were well over \$4K in toys (I'd bet we'll be over \$5K total when all said and done). Our shoppers did a great job finding sales, so a special Thank You to Carol T., Crystal Hawkey, Dee Burks, Emma Burks and Tami George! Another special thank you to everyone who donated money privately - you know who you are. Congrats to our Chili Cook-Off Winner, Nathan Harned, always a good time. The competition was fierce, and the voting was close, but we'll add Nathan to our chili cook-off champions board with previous winners. Be sure to join us for our next event January 25, the NFC and AFC championship games where we'll be serving up our famous Hot Dog & Nacho Bar.

Congrats to our most recent \$500 raffle winner, Doug Greenup. By the way, The Riders have dedicated proceeds from our next \$500 raffle to go towards a new pool table for the Post. Riders of the month are Carol T. and Crystal Hawkey. Both these ladies are always going above and beyond, not just with our Legion and Riders groups, but with other Legions, non-profits and work at the VA. I can't thank you two enough for all you do for Veterans and our community. Please welcome our newest members, Jeremy and Tami George, Melissa Linkous, and Heather Lathrop.

On behalf of the Riders - God Bless - One Legion Family - Frank Burks

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# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Text AL598 to 78859 to get daily updates on events &amp; notices.</b>				New Year's 1 Day Kitchen Closed Key Cards will be Deactivated if 2026 Dues aren't paid	2	3
4	Regular Post Meeting 6:30 pm Aux. Bake Sale 6 pm	5	Aux. E-Board Meeting 6:30 pm Tacos \$6 5-6:45 pm	6	Riders Meeting 6 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	7
					Aux. Regular Mtg. 6:30 pm	8
					Pizza Night 6-8 pm \$15 The Milos 7-10 pm	9
						10
11		12	SAL Mtg. 6:30 pm Sloppy Joe dinner \$7 5-6:45 pm	13	14	15
					DAV Mtg. 7:30 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Bldg. Comm. Mtg. 6:30 pm Trivia w/Nora 6:30 pm
						Aux. Baked Sub Dinner 6-7:30 pm \$9 Benny Hill & His Old Man 7-10 pm
18	Brunch AYCE 10 am-Noon \$12	19	Post E-board Mtg. 6:00 pm	20	Book Club 5 pm Marine Corps League Mtg. @Amvets 2003 6:30 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	21
						Cyber Security Seminar Protect Yourself from Scams
						SAL Fish Fry AYCE \$17 Pre-Sale \$20 @door 6-8 pm Free Jukebox
25	AFC/NFC Championship 3 pm Nachos/Hot Dog Bar 3-5 pm \$7	26	Planning Mtg. 6:00 pm	27	28	29
					Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Trivia w/Nora 6:30 pm
						Shrimp Dinner Baked Potato or Fries 6-7:30 pm \$10 The "5" Band 7-10 pm in BH
						30
						31

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Regular Post Meeting 6:30 pm Aux Bake Sale 6:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6
			Riders Meeting 6 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Aux. Exec. Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Trivia w/Nora 6:30 pm	7	Pork Tenderloin or Fish Sandwich 6-7:30 pm \$6 Karaoke 7-10 pm
8	Super Bowl 6:30 pm Post Providing Pulled Pork & Wings Carry in-Please bring a covered dish to share	9	SAL Meeting 6:30 pm Mini Pot Pie w/ Mashed Potatoes \$7 5-6:45 pm	10	11	12
			DAV Meeting 7:30 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Bldg. Comm. Meeting 6:30 pm Aux. Regular Meeting 6:30 pm	13	Riders BBQ Pulled Pork, Fries, and Slaw 6-7:30 pm \$8 Live Your Dreams 7-10 pm
15	Post Executive Meeting 6:00 pm	16	17	18	19	20
			BBQ Pulled Pork & Mac & Cheese \$7 5-6:45 pm	Book Club 5 pm Marine Corps League Mtg. 6:30 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Trivia w/Nora 6:30 pm	21
22		23	24	25	26	27
			Taco Bar \$7 5-6:45 pm	Burger Nite 5-7 pm		Shrimp Dinner Baked Potato or Fries 6-7:30 pm \$10 Until Rust 7-10 pm
						28

**lunch Served  
Monday thru Friday 11:30-1:30**



## Kettering American Legion Post 598, Inc.

5700 Kentshire Dr.  
Kettering, Ohio 45440-4248

**"STILL SERVING AMERICA"**  
The Veteran/The Community  
The State/The Nation

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dayton, OH  
Permit #631

## POST 598 OFFICERS 2025-2026

### Post Officers

Commander Gavin Long  
1st Vice Commander Joe Law  
2nd Vice Commander Frank Burks  
Finance Officer Ed Syron  
Adjutant Betsy Law  
Sergeant-at-Arms Jim O'Neil  
Chaplain Keith Eastman  
Canteen Manager Jim Glaser

### Auxiliary Officers

President Erica Kuba  
1st Vice President Sara Schwager  
2nd Vice President/Chaplain Janet Kennedy  
Treasurer Crystal Kahut  
Secretary Debbie Cunningham  
Sergeant-at-Arms Pam Rodkey

### SAL Officers

Commander Doug Spisak  
1st Vice Commander Mike Schreck  
2nd Vice Commander Bill Poepplmeier  
Finance Officer Bob Tonar  
Adjutant Joe Law  
Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Storck  
Chaplain Robin Peck  
Advisor Joe Law

### Riders Officers

Director Frank Burks  
Asst. Director Brett Hawkey  
Secretary Crystal Hawkey  
Treasurer Jerry Zennie  
Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Whitaker  
Road Captain Rocky Richardson  
Chaplain Steve Rawlins

## Post Everlasting

William Boland	James LaVoy
Craig Bruggeman	Paul McQueeney, Sr.
Robert Eubank	Dana Ward
Ronald Ferguson	
Gerald Hardenbrook	Nancy Stewart
James Jung	Martin-Aux.

We honor them for their deeds for God & Country. We wish to those who mourn a departed one the hope that time will heal all sorrow and bring consoling peace.

*Keith Eastman, Chaplain*

## Memorial Walkway and Tree Planting Programs

"Heritage of Freedom" Memorial Walkway and the Commemorative Tree Planting Programs are available to all members to assist in the beautification of Post 598. Informational handouts with order forms are available in the lobby.

## Banquet Room Rental

***All your celebration needs start with a great facility.***

You can rent our banquet hall at reasonable rates. Great for Weddings, Retirement Parties, Birthday Parties, Reunions, Office Parties, etc.

Call the Post at 433-9327, ext. 5 for information or  
E-mail: [banquetbilly@yahoo.com](mailto:banquetbilly@yahoo.com)  
Visit: [americanlegionpost598.net](http://americanlegionpost598.net)

## NOTICE

Anyone needing the services of Post 598 Honor Guard should contact:

Jim O'Neil  
937-789-9985  
or call the Post  
937-433-9327.

**Hours of Operation: Mon.-Thurs. 11 am-11 pm, Fri. & Sat. 11 am-1 am, Sun. Noon-11 pm**