

THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

POST MEETING: 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AT 10:00 AM
POST LOCATION: WING 21 ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE (RTAF) AIRBASE
POST VENUE: WING 21 GOLF DRIVING RANGE CLUBHOUSE



FEBRUARY 2023

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 6, ISSUE 2

[LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND](#)

AMERICAN LEGION 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew?fbclid=IwAR3kG7akDFdUfEooHme51dHFftSedZsFW6CUHwEXZQE1oq9_lgrq3K1Kq#legion-org

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 05/02/23)

\$1.00:฿33.38

<https://www.x-rates.com/calculator/?from=USD&to=THB&amount=1>



POST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...*BRUCE TEMPLEMAN*

A word from the Commander...

We've started the year off with the Children's Day event which went well. I learned that it's not a good place to do a membership drive, but we'll always be prepared to recruit. During this event, we were also able to let the Thai community know what we do and that we also sponsor the Tawanchai Foundation.

The 1st Vice and I had a good conversation with the Department of France Americanism Chair, today, and discussed possible programs that we may be able to do in the future to promote Americanism. These programs came up, a few years ago, and the Post decided that we weren't ready to focus on them at the time. We're still growing, both in membership and in influence across the country of Thailand. As we grow, we may be able to turn some attention to those Americanism programs that are difficult to implement and need large amounts of resources. The best part of this discussion was that the Department got a better understanding of what we

do here and those things that we're doing. We're doing well. As the Adjutant stated at the Post meeting, last month, we've got the highest membership renewal of the active

Posts in the Department. This is a testament to the great job of our members and the leadership of the Post Officers. We're still on track for receiving a monetary award, which is badly needed to get us to our goal for the Tawanchai Foundation. I've got a Post hat and coin for the person that gets us past this mark. We need one more person to get there. Of course, two would be better. 😊

It's my wish that we get out to visit each other between Post meetings and strengthen our bonds of comradeship. There are too many members that we simply don't hear from and we need to make an effort to bring them into our activities and events. We can also use those visits to look for new members in that area. Let's call it an "outreach," like the US Embassy used to do. As we develop our membership in these different provinces, we can find and assist more veterans in need. We **MUST** take care of our own. If a member needs assistance, please do all you can for him or her. If you need help or advice, contact a Post officer and let's get working together.

Bruce A. Templeman
Commander
American Legion Post TH01
Ubun Ratchathani, Thailand

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

NEW POST TH01 EMAILS

American Legion Post TH01 has created a Google Workspace with 5 unique contact emails.

Post Commander

commander@americanlegionthailand.com

Post Adjutant

adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

Post 1st Vice Commander

1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

Post 2nd Vice Commander

2vice@americanlegionthailand.com

Post Media & Communications Committee

comms@americanlegionthailand.com

VA RED TAPE CUTS OFF GI BILL BENEFITS TO US MILITARY VETERANS AT FOREIGN SCHOOLS

"An antiquated Veterans Administration system has led to scores of denials of education benefits, forcing former service members to pay thousands of dollars in overseas tuition costs that the government could be covering."

<https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2023-01-30/gi-bill-foreign-schools-8936602.html#.Y9muCdS9Mj4.mailto>

HERE ARE THE RULES ABOUT VAPING IN THAILAND

"The Thai Government introduced a ban on electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or 'vaping'), shisha smoking, and electronic shishas in 2014, for "health reasons and to discourage young people from starting to smoke". The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is reminding visitors to the country about this ban, which is part of the Tobacco Control Law, and the law prohibiting smoking in public areas."

<https://phuket-go.com/phuket-news/national-news/here-are-the-rules-about-vaping-in-thailand/>

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN THAILAND (22 JUNE 2022) RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA IN PUBLIC IS ILLEGAL IN THAILAND

"Thailand made marijuana legal for medical purposes on June 9, 2022. However, according to a health directive announced in the Royal Gazette on June 14, anyone smoking cannabis and hemp in public for recreational purposes shall face imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to 25,000 baht if they cause a public nuisance or pose health hazards to others."

<https://th.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-in-thailand-june-22-2022/>

CONSUMING CANNABIS IN THAILAND: WHAT TOURISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MARIJUANA RULES

"After easing the ban on the recreational drug, Thailand has created a 'weed Wild West' with confusing rules. So, what are tourists allowed to do?"

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/10/consuming-cannabis-in-thailand-what-tourists-need-to-know-marijuana-weed-rules>

HOLIDAY & EVENTS CALENDAR

01 February

1st Day of Black History Month

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month

02 February

Groundhog Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundhog_Day

08 February

American Legion Post THo1 Membership Monthly Meeting

12 February

Lincoln's Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln%27s_Birthday

12 February

Super Bowl Sunday

Super Bowl LVIII

Kansas City Chiefs (14-3) vs. Philadelphia Eagles (14-3)

State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Arizona

Kickoff at 6:30 PM (EST)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl_Sunday

14 February

Valentine's Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day

20 February

President's Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidents%27_Day

22 February

Washington's Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington

POST OFFICERS 2022MY

COMMANDER Bruce Templeman
bruce.templeman@hotmail.com

ADJUTANT Jeff Ludwig
jgludwig2@gmail.com

1st VICE COMMANDER Ted Potyrala
tpubon@gmail.com

2nd VICE COMMANDER John Skabry
dive.safely@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN Hugh Mason
htmmason@aol.com

HISTORIAN Ted Potyrala
tpubon@gmail.com

FINANCE OFFICER Jeff Ludwig
jgludwig2@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER Maurice Hatzke
mrhatzke3@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE Christopher Lampert
americanlegionth01@gmail.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Salvatore Salzarulo
salzy48@hotmail.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Joe Reedy
joereedy4@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Billy Holland
billybholland@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE John Eschenbaum
john_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Kirby Raines
cosmotyson@yahoo.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Wow...it's February already!

This year has really flown by. The Post elections are just around the corner. What a better way to serve and guide the direction of your Post than to take an officer position. The list of elected officer positions is listed below. You do not need to wait for someone to nominate you. We encourage members to nominate themselves. So, step up to a fulfilling and rewarding challenge and nominate yourself for an officer position that interests you. Your Post is always in need of the fresh ideas and new perspectives you can bring to the table.

SUMMARY OF POST OFFICERS DUTIES

Source: The American Legion Post Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies 2021. This is not intended to be all-inclusive but to give a general idea of the duties of each elected position.

Commander

- Leads the Post in all affairs
- Chairs the Executive Committee
- Interacts in Public Relations with the local community
- Oversee the duties of the Post officers
- Appoints Committee Chairman
- Chairs and conducts Monthly Post meetings

1st Vice Commander

- Charge of the Post membership campaign
- Familiar with the ceremonial protocol for regular meetings
- Conduct meetings in the Commanders absence
- Fill in for the Commander in the commanders absence

2nd Vice Commander

- Post Social director
- Create a fun atmosphere in the Post
- Develop the Social/Activities Calendar for the Post
- Ensure Patriotic holidays and observances are recognized and given the respect they deserve
- The second vice commander should be looking for ways to involve members in post activities, operations, and programs to assist the first vice commander by providing improved member retention

Finance Officer

- Should be honest and have experience in handling financial affairs
- In charge of all receiving and disbursing of post funds
- Be prompt in remitting National and Department per dues fees
- Maintain the Accounting Program GNU Cash
- Work Closely with Adjutant
- Develop Post budget
- Chair Financial Committee
- Follow the Post Financial Management Standard Operating Procedures

Post Chaplain

- Chaplain need not necessarily be a clergyman
- Should attend all meetings of the post executive committee
- Chaplain is the moral leader
- Work with the post historian on grave registration work and inspire the post to decorate veteran graves on Memorial Day
- Officiate at post members' funerals when requested
- ***The American Legion Chaplain's Handbook, available online***

Post Public Affairs Officer

- Maintain the Post Facebook page and other Post social media
- Prepare articles for the department newsletter when requested
- Assist in preparation of the Post newsletter
- Publicize Post events and activities

Post Sergeant at Arms

- Arranges the meeting hall and assists the Post Commander and Adjutant in preliminary arrangements for meetings

- Leads the color detail during presentation
- Plays a leading role in the post color guard, burial detail, and other pageantry
- He or she is the expert on flag etiquette and should know proper flag etiquette
- Welcome new members make sure they are introduced and made to feel they are important to the Post
- Encourages members to attend meetings and advises the commander on who should be acknowledged

Post Judge Advocate

- Primary duty of the judge advocate is to supply professional advice in the conduct of post business
- Procure proper counsel when requested
- Guardian of the constitutional form of post government
- Supply valuable assistance to other post committees and officers
- Maintain contact with local government officials when needed
- Assist in auditing post financial accounts

Members at Large

- Represent the members at the Executive Committee meetings
 - Conduct audit of local cash accounts quarterly
 - Elevate members concerns to the Post leadership
 - Act as liaison to the membership
- Attend Post meetings

Jeff Ludwig
Adjutant & Finance Officer
American Legion Post THo1
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

SAFETY MESSAGE



FEBRUARY IS BURN AWARENESS MONTH

In the United States, more than 400,000 people receive medical care for treatment of burn injuries every year. The majority of these injuries are preventable. The American Burn Association strives to bring awareness to the causes of such devastating and costly injuries and encourages everyone to make simple environmental and behavioral changes that can save lives.

TO PREVENT BURNS AT HOME

1. Reduce water temperature. ...
2. Avoid hot spills. ...
3. Establish 'no' zones. ...
4. Keep hot devices out of reach. ...
5. Test food temperature before feeding young children. ...
6. Choose a cool-mist vaporizer. ...
7. Address outlets and electrical cords. ...
8. Choose fire-resistant fabrics.

TO TREAT MINOR BURNS, FOLLOW THESE STEPS

1. Cool the burn. Hold the burned area under cool (not cold) running water or apply a cool, wet compress until the pain eases. ...
2. Remove rings or other tight items. ...
3. Don't break blisters. ...
4. Apply lotion. ...
5. Bandage the burn. ...
6. Take a pain reliever. ...
7. Consider a tetanus shot.

See the pictorial below for further tips on preventing burns to yourself and children.



TIPS TO PREVENT BURNS



Never hold a child while drinking hot liquids to **avoid an accidental spill.**



Avoid a dangerous balancing act. Never hold a child while carrying hot foods.



When bathing a child, be sure to run your hand through the water to ensure there are **no hot spots** that could cause injury.



Keep your child safe. Never hold a child while cooking to avoid a scald injury.



Establish a **"kid-free zone"** of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



Warning: Handle with Care! Microwaved food can be hot enough to cause a burn. Always open lids away from your body.



When taking food out of the oven, always **wear oven mitts** to prevent scald injury.



Use a **tight-fitting lid** with travel mugs to prevent a burn if the cup tips over.



1ST VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...*TED POTYRALA*

Greetings fellow legionnaires,

Happy New Year to all of you.

My apologies for missing January's Newsletter.

Back in June I stated that I would take the job of Membership Committee Chairman seriously and I would do my best to retain our members and to get new members in our Post. We came very close to reaching the 100% goal. I am sorry to say that I did not achieve that goal. We were very close. We needed a combination of either 4 renewals or new members to reach 100%. But not all is not bad because we can still qualify by reaching 100% if we get three more members. Right now, we have two applying for membership, so if that happens, we will need only one more member to renew or get a new member. We still have a chance to get a monetary award if we reach 102% by April. That would take five renewals or new members. This is doable. Friends are a good source for membership. There are many potential new members that would like to join a Post that helps not only veterans but communities as well and especially children. As you know, when I was back home, I got three friends to join. They all joined because of what our Post is doing. Tawanchai Foundation was the number one reason they joined. When you talk to potential new members, tell them the good we do.

I want to thank the members that have renewed and also the new members that joined our Post. Many of you have been a member since the beginning. You must see something in our Post that appeals to you. Each of you have your own

reasons for continuing your membership. After all many of you do not live close by or even in Thailand. Our operating costs are covered by dues and donations. Being in Thailand we are very limited in raising money. We don't have a bar; we don't have our own building. Your continued membership keeps your Post alive. Thank you to the members that helped by getting other members to renew. This isn't a one-person operation. It's all of us that keep us alive.

I also want to thank our new members, Carl Fletcher, Dave Rhoutsong, Paul Schram, Paul Ben-Yeuda and David Borchers for joining our post. Carl, Dave and Paul live back in the US. Paul Ben-Yeuda is from Minneapolis / Ubon and David Borchers is the commander of the VFW Post in Korat. They could have joined any post near them but wanted to join our Post. I know each of them personally and they all said they believe in what we are doing and want to be part of it.

Those of you that had not renewed, and it's usually because you intended to but forgot, Get with Jeff, me or go online to renew. I hope that in the next newsletter I can say we have reached 100% or better.

Again, thank you.

Ted Potyrala
1st Vice Commander & Historian
Membership Committee Chairman
America Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

HISTORY ARTICLE

2023 IN REVIEW

I cannot believe another year has come and gone. The older you get, the quicker they go by.

Last year was pretty good for the Post. We were just coming out from the Covid Pandemic so we were able to gather in groups and do some good for Veteran's and the community.

In January it was brought up to use some excess funds to make a donation to Operation Smile. It was well received and while gathering information, it was found that there is an organization right here in Thailand called the Tawanchai Foundation located at the medical university in Khon Kaen. In April we went there with a donation from members and nonmembers and presented them with 43,400-baht (Approx. \$1,356) donation. Hopefully this year we can exceed that donation.

In April, John Skabry represented the American Legion Riders at the Chiang Mai Toy Run. He represented our Post with a donation from the Post of 10,000 baht and 3,000 baht from Bob Rossiter. Thank you, Bob. This program is multi organizational held annually in February. It's called The Chiang Mai Toy Run. They donate needed supplies and equipment to a local school. This year it was for Ban Mae Sap Community School. If you would like to become a member of the ALR, give a shout to John Skarby. Also, if there is a need in your community, let us know.

Our Post always stresses that we are here to help all veterans. Last year our Service Officer, Maurice Hatzke, assisted four families that needed help. One was a non-member. A request from Dave Burns to Commander Templeman was made to help a non-member that was in very bad health who later passed away. Good job looking out for fellow veterans Dave. Bruce also helped with a member and a non-member with Social Security questions. When we lost Lee Montgomery Bruce was there to help Lee's widow with death benefits. This is a good time to mention that everyone needs to have a will and fill out the "What My Family Should Know" form. If you died today, would your spouse know where all the paperwork she needs to get the benefits that she is entitled to?

Buddy Checks are an important way for us to see how our members are doing. Commander Templeman asked for a 100% Buddy Check. If you were not contacted make sure we have a good email address and more importantly, a good phone number. Many of our members have not provided a phone number. Talking is better than emails.

We lost two members that passed away. As I mentioned above. Lee Montgomery passed away last April. Lee was a founding member of our post. Ken Sebring passed away in December of 2021. Commander Templeman and 1st. Vice Commander John Skabry attended his funeral on 1 January 2022.

Ubon had some terrible floods last fall. One estimate said over 40,000 families were affected by the floods. 2nd. Vice Commander John Skabry headed up a project that allowed the Post to donate 3,650 ready to eat meals, 1,200 stuffed buns and drinking water. Members of the Post helped deliver them to the flood victims. A very generous donation of \$1,000 came from our friends at the VFW Post 10217 Korat, Thailand. Hats off to John and his staff at Peppers Restaurant for running with this.

We had our elections in April and all but two positions were unopposed. If there is one of the positions you are interested in, throw your name in the hat for this year's upcoming elections. New blood brings new ideas.

Chris Lampert has done a great job with our Social Media. We have our Newsletter, Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Asean Now. We are getting inquiries from veterans about our Post.

We had a BBQ for July 4th, and a Christmas dinner at Peppers Restaurant heard it was good. I was home with Covid. An attempt at a Pancake Breakfast was made with limited results. Thai's are just not into pancakes.

We ended the year with four new members, David Rhoutsong, Carl Fletcher, Paul Schramm, Paul Ben_Yehuda and David Borchers. Welcome aboard.

Let's hope that 2023 will be a good year.



2ND VICE COMMANDER ...*JOHN SKABRY*

EVENT ARTICLES

POST TH01 CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT

Comrades,

January 14th was Children's Day.

This is an event that is held throughout Thailand. Here in Ubon, the air base opens its gates to the public. There are static displays of aircraft, several military demonstrations and many booths handing out free food and gifts. Well over a thousand people attended.

Post TH01 had a booth where we gave bags of cookies to whoever wanted one, mostly the children. This was our third year taking part with Children's Day.



Along with giving cookies, we also handed out pamphlets from the Tawanchai Foundation. As you know, Tawanchai gives free care to children born with a cleft palate, cleft lip or cranial deformity.

Of the four pillars of the American Legion, children and youth are dear to us.

Thank you.

2nd Vice Commander
Events & Activities Chairman
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand





AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ARTICLE

YASOTHON BIKE WEEK FOOD FESTIVAL EVENT

Riders,

The weather has finally changed, and we have dusted off our steeds. The open road beckons! Your Legion Riders were in attendance this month at the Yasothon Bike Week Food Festival. This was an excellent opportunity to see a thriving motorcycle culture so cherished in the US alive and well in Isaan, Thailand. All manufacturers and CCs were welcomed, and there was lively participation from many national and international MCs, Groups, and Rider organizations. The event raised money from T-shirt sales to benefit a local volunteer ambulance company.



<https://fb.watch/i4y26UP1HX/>

Last year we were lucky to be a minor sponsor of the event, but this year we are even luckier to become a major sponsor. With this, we are rewarded with our Logo on the top row of the event shirt, gaining exposure and showing everyone where the Legion Riders stand.

11500 Baht have been donated to the event by Asst Director Rositer, MAL Wayne Write, and Peppers Restaurant and Bakery. These donations exceed our contributions from last year of 10000 Baht. If you wish to join in the assistance, please get in touch with the Post. We also welcome all Post members interested in joining the American Legion Riders Thailand.

You can reach out to us at...

<https://americanlegionthailand.com/al-riders/>

OR

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/577113676242197>

ร่วมสนับสนุนกิจกรรม Chiang Mai Toy Ride 2023
ไล่กัสนพอนเซอร์หลังเสื้อยืด

ตำแหน่ง R10-R28 3,000 บาท ก่อน 20 มกราคม นี้เท่านั้น!!
3,000 บาท /1 องค์การ / 1 ไล่กัสนพอนเซอร์เสื้อกิจกรรม 1 ตัว
*ทุก Logo ผู้สนับสนุนอยู่ในเสื้อทุกประเภทของกิจกรรม(ไมสาดอร์,ไวนิส,สี่ล้อออนไลน์)
แจ้งความประสงค์ร่วมสนับสนุนกิจกรรมได้ที่
☎ : 052-080-761 📱 : Richco Harley-Davidson Chiang Mai 📧 : @richcoharley
พร้อมแนบไฟล์ Logo บาท E-Mail : m-support@richcoharley.com

Next month is our 2nd annual participation in the Chiang Mai Harley-Davidson Toy Run. This charitable event starts at the Harley-Davidson dealership and proceeds over 100 kilometers into the rural mountain areas surrounding Chiang Mai. Toys and monies are then presented to a school that takes care of those less fortunate residing on the hills near the Myanmar border.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Phillipe Colombey

Antony Francois

Thomas Hughes

Marleen Madding

Kirby Raines

Joseph Reedy



SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

If you wish to get your documents mailed to the USA quickly, be advised that USPS Priority Express Mail International guaranteed delivery has been suspended, so save your money and find another guaranteed delivery company to send your documents to the USA. Mail delivery during Covid-19 had been suspended for a time, and although it has been resumed, it is not as efficient as before. Make sure that you allow at least 30 days for delivery from Thailand to the USA. Plan ahead and avoid the stress.

Please, download and fill out the document, "What My Family Should Know," from our website. Tell your friends and family to do it as well. Your loved ones will appreciate the time you spent caring for their future.

Service Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...

WEBSITE

<https://americanlegionthailand.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandposttho1>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/Post_TH01

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/post_tho1/

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC74pEhMUgz5KmGcs7RMEXyA>

ASEAN Now

<https://aseannow.com/profile/277159-american-legion-post-tho1/>