



Commander's Message

I hope you and your families have stayed well.

American Legion officer terms will be ending at the upcoming Department Convention. Prior to the Department Convention, we need to select delegates to the convention and hold elections of officers for next year. We will do so at the May 8th Post General Meeting. Please feel free to nominate yourself or another Lithuanian Post 154 member (with their permission) to any of the Post's offices or to be a convention delegate. The Post officers are: Commander, Vice-Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Chaplain, Sgt, At Arms, Historian, Judge Advocate and two Executive Committee members. Nominations are open from now until the May 8, 2024 meeting. Please contact Vincent Dulys or me with nominee names.

Enjoy the summer!

Joe Jankevicius
Commander

Maryland Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students.

Maryland Boys State 2024 will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 16 through Saturday, June 22. If you know of a high school junior boy that is interested in government, politics or a desire to learn how local and state US governments operate, ask him to apply at the American Legion Department of Maryland website – <http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate/>.

A helpful orientation presentation is available at <http://mdlegion.org/BoysStateInfo.htm>. This presentation should answer any questions and serve as a resource for preparing for the week at McDaniel College.

Applications have to be submitted by May 1, 2024.

VA Improves Veteran Spouse Burial Service

As of October 1, 2023, an eligible veteran and their eligible dependents can receive a burial plot, a grave liner, headstone and interment services at no expense at Maryland Veteran Cemeteries.

Other expenses such as funeral director services, casket, preparation and transportation of the remains and other funeral costs are borne by the veteran's next-of-kin, legal representative or estate.

American Legion Department of Maryland Convention

The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center from July 15 - 19, 2024. The convention schedule is on page 4.

Lithuanian Post 154 will have a visitor Hospitality Suite at Bradley on the Bay Condominium, building A, unit 304, 3901 Ocean Highway. If you are in Ocean City on these dates and plan to visit, contact Vincent Dulys (410) 960-7874 prior to walking 3 flights of stairs to be certain it is open.

Lithuanian Festival



Baltimore's Lithuanian Community will have its Lithuanian Festival on Mother's Day weekend at Our Lady of Victory Church Hall, 4414 Wilkens Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229. The church has plenty of free parking and is located one mile east of Baltimore Beltway (695) exit 12, Wilkens Ave.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy delicious Lithuanian food and drink while watching Lithuanian folk dance performances. As in the past, vendor tables with Lithuanian gifts and souvenirs will be available. Lithuanian Post 154 will have an information table.

Saturday May 11, 2024 - Festival 11 AM to 6 PM followed by Live Entertainment 6 PM to Midnight
Sunday May 12, 2024 - Festival 11 AM to 6 PM
Entrance fee each day - \$10, children free.

Membership

Post 154 Fiscal Year 2024 renewal membership is at 73. June 1st will close-out F.Y. 2024.

F.Y. "2025" will start on July 01, 2024 and renewal notices from National will be mailed out at the end of June.

If you have any questions or concerns about membership, please send me a text message, e-mail or call.

My contact information is on page 4.

Vincent Dulys,
Membership Chairman

Farewell My Fellow Legionnaire

Lithuanian Post 154 is sorry to inform you that fellow legionnaire Hugh H. Mills, Jr., age 84, passed away on February 8, 2024. He was a US Marine Corps veteran and member of Lithuanian Post 154 since 1993.

Lithuanian Post legionnaires attended his visitation and conducted a Poppy Service to say "Farewell my fellow Legionnaire" to Hugh on February 14th.

Hugh Mills had served in the Alabama State Police Department, Baltimore City Police Department and was Chaplain of the Baltimore County Police Department.

Hugh was also a Deacon at St. Alphonsus Shrine in Baltimore and at St. Clement Church in Lansdowne. Deacon Mills regularly visited patients at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center and the Baltimore VA Medical Center to pray with them and comfort them. He will be missed by Lithuanian Post 154 and his many friends. Rest in peace my fellow Legionnaire.



Happy Birthday



April

William Emerson
Michael Keiser
Errol Markowitz
Robert Parks
Vilius Ramunas
Edward Wilson III
Edward Yungaitis

May

William F. Dillon III
Joseph Jankevicius
Valentinas Raugas

June

Walter Cooper
David Cunningham
Anthony Leketa
Cynthia Leketa
John Matulonis
Albert Penkauskas

Inflation Impact On The American Legion

As we all know, inflation is still with us and has settled in to stay. Increased expenses for postage, printing, travel, etc. have impacted American Legion operations. To deal with increased expenses The American Legion voted to increase annual dues by \$5 at the National Convention in August. Our Department is also planning to request a \$3 increase at the Department Convention in July.

Lithuanian Post 154's current membership dues are \$30 of which National takes \$18.50, Department takes \$10.50 and Lithuanian Post 154 keeps \$1. At the March General meeting, Lithuanian Post 154 voted that if the Department dues increase is approved at the Department Convention, Lithuanian Post 154's membership dues will be increased to \$38 of which National will get \$23.50, Department will get \$13.50 and Lithuanian Post 154 will continue to keep \$1.

National has established an option to lock in the current membership rate (\$30 for Lithuanian Post 154) for the next 3 years, therefore postpone the pending dues increase for 3 years. If you are interested in renewing for 3 years, you must exercise this option before July 1, 2024. To do so, go to Lithuanian Post 154 website <https://www.lietuvis.net/> and click on "Online Membership Renewal" which will take you to the National website to process the renewal. Have your American Legion member ID and credit card available. On the National website click on "RENEW TODAY" and follow the prompts. If you encounter difficulty, you can call National Customer Service (800)433-3318 for assistance.

Lithuanian Independence Restoration Celebration

Lithuanian Communities from Baltimore and Washington DC celebrated Lithuania's Restoration of Independence Day at Lithuanian Hall on March 10, 2024. The celebration started with the presentation of Colors by Lithuanian Post 154 and the singing of the Lithuanian and American National Anthems.

Lithuanian Post 154 Legionnaires Algirdas Brasauskas, Walter Cooper, Vincent Dulys, Henry Gaidis and Howard Koontz volunteered for the Color Guard. Lithuanian Post 154 Vice Commander and Baltimore Lithuanian Community President Gintaras Buivys was the Master of Ceremonies. Additional Lithuanian Post 154 members were scattered throughout the audience making it obvious that Lithuanian Post 154 actively supports Baltimore's Lithuanian community.

The Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Audra Plepyté, addressed the audience. She thanked the Baltimore Lithuanian Community for her invitation and encouraged the community to continue programs that preserve Lithuanian culture and traditions.

After the Ambassador's remarks, the audience was treated to dance and song entertainment. Children from the Kristijono Donelaičio Lituainistinė Mokykla (KDLM) Lithuanian School performed folk dances, played musical instruments and sang for the audience. The entertainment continued with Baltimore's Malūnas and Mituva Lithuanian dance groups performing several dances each. Finally the program was capped by popular Lithuanian vocal group "El Fuego" who were touring the US and agreed to stop in Baltimore.

After the formal program, attendees continued to enjoy their afternoon in the dining room and lounge. Delicious traditional Lithuanian food, drink and camaraderie was enjoyed by all.

Two \$1,000 College Scholarships

Lithuanian Post 154 will grant two \$1,000 scholarships in 2024. The scholarships will be available to children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step grandchildren, nephews, nieces and adopted children of Lithuanian Post 154 members in good standing or deceased members who were in good standing at time of death.

The students must be graduating from high school in 2024. Scholarship application forms are available at Lithuanian Post 154 General Meetings or by contacting Joe Jankevicius. His contact information is on last page of this newsletter.

Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2024.



Lithuanian Post 154 Color Guard prepares to march in for presentation of The Colors. Deanna Howes-Spiro, in the background, waits to follow the Color Guard to the front of the hall to sing the National Anthems.



The audience in Lithuanian Hall's beautiful Main Hall listen to the KDLM Lithuanian Saturday School children entertain them by playing various musical instruments



Malūnas Lithuanian Folk Dance Group



El Fuego Singers

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Meeting Information**Lithuanian Post 154
General Meetings**

Post General Meeting will be held at:
Lithuanian Hall,
851 Hollins Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201
at 11 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of January, March, May, June, August, September and November.

Executive Committee Meetings

Executive Committee meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of every month except December at 1 PM at Spirits West Country Club, 2601 Wilkens Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21223.

Calendar & Reminders**April**

Mon 01 April Fools' Day
Sat 06 US entered WW I (1917)
Mon 15 Income Tax Returns due
Mon 22 Passover begins at sundown
Wed 24 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2024 -2025
Nominations of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Tue 30 Vietnam War ended (1975)
Tue 30 Passover ends at sundown

May

Wed 01 Boys State application submission deadline
Tue 07 Unconditional surrender of all WWII German forces signed (1945)
Wed 08 V-E Day, Victory in Europe celebrated by US and Britain (1945)
Wed 08 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 officers for 2024 -2025
Nominations and election of Lithuanian Post 154 Delegates and Alternates to The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention
Sat 11 Lithuanian Festival - Our Lady of Victory - 11 AM
4414 Wilkens Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229
Sun 12 Lithuanian Festival - Our Lady of Victory - 11 AM
Sun 12 Mother's Day
Wed 15 Women's Army Corps Founded (1942)
Sat 18 Armed Forces Day
Sun 19 Department Executive Committee Meeting
Gold Star Post 191, 801 Prospect Rd, Mount Airy, MD 21771 - 1 PM
Mon 27 Memorial Day
Wed 29 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM
Thu 30 NC District Memorial Service at Baltimore National Cemetery - 11 AM

June

Wed 12 Lithuanian Post 154 General Meeting - Lithuanian Hall - 11 AM
Fri 14 Flag Day
Fri 14 US Army Founded (1775)
Sun 16 Father's Day
Sun 16 Boys State Start
Thu 20 First Day of Summer
Sat 22 Boys State Ends
Wed 26 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM

July

Tue 02 U.S Army Air Corps Established (1926)
Thu 04 Independence Day

**The American Legion Department of Maryland Convention - Ocean City, MD
Convention Itinerary:**

Mon 15 Fish Fry - 4 PM - Dockside Hall, SW corner Convention Center
Tue 16 Delegate Registration - 8 AM, Legion College classes
Wed 17 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Memorial Service - 7 PM
Thu 18 Convention meetings - 8 AM
Fri 19 Convention meetings - 8 AM, Department Officers Election

Wed 31 Lithuanian Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting - Spirits West Country Club - 1 PM