



# Coshocton County Veterans Service Office Newsletter

318 Main St., Coshocton, OH 43812

740-622-2313

[coshoctoncounty.net/veterans](http://coshoctoncounty.net/veterans)

## Veterans Day brings free meals, discounts at area restaurants

This Veterans Day, many area restaurants will be offering free or discounted meals and services to veterans and active duty military personnel.

Keep in mind that most businesses require proof of military service, which can include a VA Universal Access Card, Military I.D., DD-214 (Discharge Papers), Veterans Service Organization Card (VSO's include groups like the VFW, DAV, AmVets, MOAA, FRA, and the American Legion). In some cases businesses will accept a picture of the veteran in uniform.

It is also important to note that not all franchise locations participate in their national chain's Veterans Day programs so be sure to contact your nearest establishment to make sure they are participating.

A list of restaurants includes:

**Applebee's** -- Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal from a limited menu, on November 11.

**Bob Evans** -- Veterans and active military personnel receive a free meal from a select menu on November 11.

**Golden Corral** -- Golden Corral Restaurants' Military Appreciation Night free dinner will be available on November 14, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Military retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves are all welcome.

**Hooters** -- Veterans and active duty military get a free meal from a select menu at participating locations on November 11. (see **VETERANS DAY, Page 6**)

## Veterans Day ceremony to focus on "Serving Those Who Served"

The tradition of conducting its annual Veterans Day ceremony will continue as the entire community is invited to attend services on the Coshocton County Court square.

The event, scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, is being held in conjunction with the Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission and County Veterans Council.

Featured speaker this year will be Herb Tidrick, whose retirement after 14-plus

years with the Veterans Office will be official on that date.

Also speaking will be Becky Bowden of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter OH 59.

Music will be provided by the Walhonding Rube Band and TAPS will be performed by local musician George Clark.

Members of the Coshocton County Honor Guard will also be performing and dignitaries from the various local service organizations will be recognized.

Veterans Day is an official United States federal holiday that is observed annually on November 11, honoring people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I (major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect).

The United States also originally observed Armistice Day and evolved into the current Veterans Day holiday in 1954.



## Tidrick retirement effective Nov. 11

After serving the veterans of Coshocton and surrounding counties for well over a decade, Herb Tidrick will officially be retiring from the County Veterans Service Office as of November 11<sup>th</sup>.

A veteran of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War era, Tidrick began working

in the Veterans Service Office on September 30, 2002.

"Working with the veterans and their dependents, developing relationships and the satisfaction of helping them change their life's circumstances has been extremely rewarding," Tidrick said.



**Herb Tidrick**

"I'm not sure of how many I have actually

helped obtain compensation and pension benefits, but through my efforts, it has impacted the way they have been able to live their lives and that has provided me with a lot of self-fulfillment in having the ability to change people's lives."

Tidrick also cherishes the friendships and relationships that he has developed with other Veterans Service Officers and (See **Tidrick, Page 3**)

**Veterans Service Commission**

President

Jack Patterson—VFW

Vice President

David Dilly—AMVETS

Secretary

Jerry Green—DAV

Member

Gary Kilpatrick—American Legion

Member

John Dotson—KWVA

Service Officer

Jim Barstow

Executive Assistant

Patty Dilly

Assistant Service Officer

Herb Tidrick

Assistant Service Officer

Russell Hammond

*The Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission meetings are at 4 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month.*

**County Veterans Council Officers**

Commander

Jack Patterson

Adjutant

Jerry Green

Quartermaster

Jim Shivers

First Vice Commander

Jim Barstow

Second Vice Commander

Tom Apple

First Year Trustee

Herb Tidrick

Second Year Trustee

Jim Groves

Third Year Trustee

Jack Lipps

Chaplain

Gary Kilpatrick

*Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at AMVETS Post #36. All county veterans are welcome to attend.*



*The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted Military Funerals during the months of September and October 2016.*

**September**



**Cecil "Junior" Freetage**

***Vietnam***



**James H. Banks**

***Peacetime***



**Harry Rea**

***World War II***



**Donald W. Darr**

***Korea***



**Glenn E. Mikesell**

***World War II***



**Charles E. Bush**

***World War II***



**Eugene M. Wimer**

***Vietnam***



**John F. Gosser**

***Korea***

**October**



**Roger K. Williams**

***Vietnam***



**David A. Buker**

***Vietnam***



**Richard G. Dovenbarger**

***Korea***



**David F. Bice**

***Peacetime***



**Fielding R. Magness**

***WWII, Korea & Vietnam***



**Honor Guard members provide casket guard**

Members of the Coshocton County Honor Guard stood guard over the casket of Charles E. Bush during his recent funeral.

Volunteers included Dean Leas, Jim Groves, Jerry Green, Tom Apple, Al Nadeau, Ed Nelson, Dave Dilly and Gary Kilpatrick.

The casket guard for the fallen World War II veteran was organized by Jack Patterson.

## Cost of Living increase announced for 2017

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 65 million Americans will increase 0.3 percent in 2017.

The 0.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 60 million Social Security bene-



ficiaries in January 2017. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2016.

The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$127,200.

The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (age 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954) will increase to \$16,920. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$16,920.)

The earnings limit for people turning 66 in 2017 will increase to \$44,880. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$44,880 until the month the worker turns age 66.)

There is no limit on earnings for workers who are "full" retirement age or older for the entire year.

(TIDRICK, cont. from Page 1)

and organizations across the state.

Tidrick said he definitely has mixed emotions about leaving a job that he truly loves but insists that he will continue to do a lot of what he is currently doing.

"I will continue to be an advocate for Veterans, attending Outreach events and serving with the Honor Guard," he said. "But I will also make sure to get some fishing time in."

An Open House to congratulate Tidrick on his retirement will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, November 4th in the Veterans Service Office.

## Holiday food vouchers to be issued by Veterans Service Office

Veterans wishing to obtain food vouchers for the upcoming holidays are invited to apply at the Veterans Service Office.

Vouchers may be used to purchase food for either Thanksgiving or Christmas.

There is a limit of one voucher per veteran and a maximum of 100 vouchers will be issued.

Beginning Monday, November 14th vouchers will be available to veterans whose annual income does not exceed 200 percent of the 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Veterans who wish to receive a voucher must provide proof of household income and the program is open to Coshocton County Veterans only.

Additionally, veterans must have lived in the County for a minimum of

90 days, have served on active duty for other than training and have been Honorably Discharged

Each \$50.00 voucher may be redeemed at Baker's IGA, Buehler's Food Market, Aldi's or Collins Meat Market and are to be used for food only.

A list of items that are not to be purchased will be provided to successful applicants and store receipts will be

reviewed. Anyone purchasing unauthorized items may be barred from participating in any future voucher programs and/or financial assistance.

This is the fourth year that the Veterans Service Commission and Office are providing these vouchers.

Questions may be directed to the Veterans Service Office.

## Veterans Service Office Closings

- November 11**  
(Veterans Day)
- November 24-25**  
(Thanksgiving Holiday)
- December 23**  
(Christmas Holiday)
- December 26**  
(Christmas Holiday)
- January 2**  
(New Years Holiday)

## Meetings, Events & Observances

- November 4**  
(Herb Tidrick retirement Open House, Veterans Service Office, 1-3 p.m.)
- November 10**  
(Honor Flight luncheon, Senior Center, 11 a.m.)
- November 17**  
(Outreach event: WTNS 50s Plus Expo, Village Inn & Suites, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

### The income guidelines for eligibility are as follows:

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Income limit</b>
1	\$23,540.00
2	\$31,860.00
3	\$40,180.00
4	\$48,500.00
5	\$56,820.00
6	\$65,140.00
7	\$73,460.00
8	\$81,780.00

# American Legion names Pellegrino as National Service award recipient

The American Legion recently announced that the Annual National Service Award for the State of Ohio has been presented to Mark Pellegrino.

Pellegrino serves both Coshocton and Licking counties as a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP).

As a Disabled Veteran Outreach Representative, Pellegrino case manages veterans and work with veterans who have barriers to employment and those barriers are identified and accessed so that appropriate actions can be taken to overcome them.

Intake assessment is conducted so that veterans can be directed to other services to help them socially, financially, medically, and direct them to educational opportunities using the GI Bill, WIA funding, VRAP, or any other educational funding that may be out there.

Other responsibilities include performing outreach to a variety of partner agencies along with conducting outreach to veterans by visiting homeless shelters, educational institutions, and veteran service offices. Providing Labor Market Information to veterans as well as helping them build resumes and interviewing skills are also part of my duties.

"It is my distinct honor to nominate Mark for this award," said John McClure, Regional Veterans Program Manager. "Mark has proven himself highly organized and effective in every endeavor that resulted into going the extra mile for Ohio's Veterans."

McClure said that the performance of Pellegrino through Fiscal Year 2015 was nothing short of astonishing as he developed and implemented a dynamic regional outreach plan that was supported by clear goals which resulted in assigning 76 veterans into intensive services and 64 veterans into meaningful careers – an 80 percent success rate.

Over the past three years, Pellegrino assigned 354 veterans into intensive services and 270 veterans were entered into suitable employment.



**Mark Pellegrino (right) is pictured with Ohio State American Legion Commander Suzette Price. Pellegrino, who services veterans in Coshocton and Licking counties recently received the Annual National Service Award in Columbus.**

"His consistent performance included working evenings and on the weekends to support the mission of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services' Office of Workforce Development and Veterans Workforce Services," McClure said.

"Mark goes above and beyond to assist all his job-ready clients to meet their goals and objectives without compromising the program standard. There is no denying the fact that his performance is worthy of this American Legion Award."

## Governor Kasich tabs November as Hire a Vet Month

Governor John R. Kasich and Lt. Governor Mary Taylor have proclaimed November Hire a Veteran Month, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) encourage employers to consider the skills and abilities of military veterans when seeking new employees.

Together with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and the

Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODJFS) recently launched the Veterans Business Support Center to help finding skilled veteran candidates for jobs.

Since launching in July, the Veterans Business Support Center has assisted 1,086 employers and placed 58 veterans into jobs.

ODJFS also can help employers submit applications for a Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a federal tax credit of \$2,400 to \$9,600 for each eligible veteran hired.

Employment services are tailored to meet each individual's needs and can

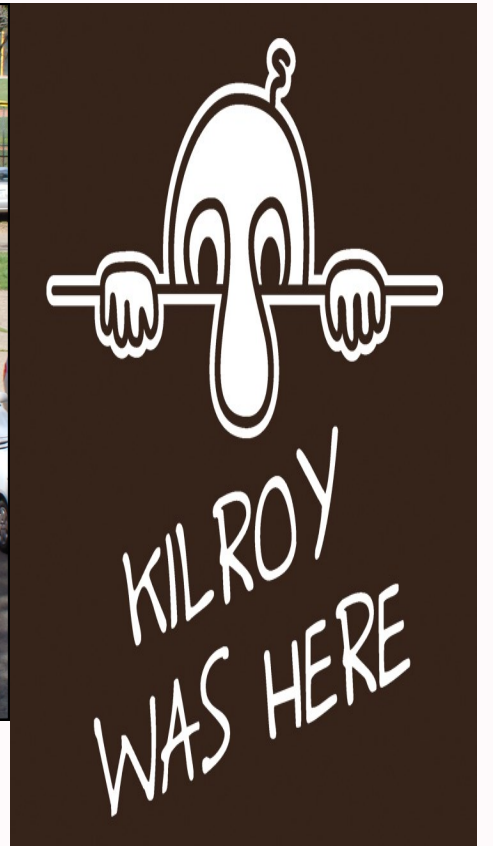
include referral for assistance with housing, health care, transportation and other needs.

In addition, Ohio veterans now can receive college credit for military experience, use military experience to meet the requirements for many professional licenses and certifications, and use GI Bill money to pay for occupational license and certificate testing fees.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 35,000 unemployed veterans in Ohio. Last year, nearly 80 percent of veterans who received intensive employment services from ODJFS found work."



The Stark County Vet Center (left) and the Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center Mobile Health Unit were both on hand during the Coshocton Jobs and Family Services Employment Expo at Lake Park, recently.



Mike Gibson of Fresno stands beside a podium that he built and donated to the Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission.



The Coshocton County Veterans Service Office entered this Betsy Ross-themed cake at the recent BPW Cake Auction.

**(VETERANS DAY from Page 1)**

**IHOP**-- On November 11, participating IHOP Restaurants offer veterans and active duty military free Red, White and Blue pancakes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**O'Charley's** -- Veterans and active duty service members get a free meal on November 11.

**Red Lobster** -- Veterans, reserve and active-duty military personnel receive a free appetizer or dessert from a limited menu on November 10 and 11.

**Shoney's** -- Shoney's will offer a free All-American Burger to veterans and active duty service members on November 11.

**Texas Roadhouse** -- Texas Roadhouse locations nationwide will offer veterans a free lunch on November 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Offer is good for active duty, retired or former U.S. military.

**White Castle** -- Veterans and all members of the military receive a free combo meal on November 11.

**Buffalo Wild Wings** -- Veterans and active duty military personnel receive one small order of wings and a side of fries for free on November 11 from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm.

**Carrabba's** -- All veterans and active duty service members get a free appetizer November 9 through 15.

**Chili's** -- Veterans and active military service members get a free entrée from a limited menu on November 11.

**Cracker Barrel** -- Veterans get a complimentary Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake dessert during lunch and dinner on November 11.

**Denny's** -- Active, inactive and retired military personnel get a free Build Your Own Grand Slam on November 11, from 5 a.m. to noon at participating locations.

**Olive Garden** -- On November 11, all veterans and current service members get a free meal from a limited menu. Family members dining with them enjoy 10% off of their meals.

**Outback Steakhouse** -- All active and former service members receive a free Bloomin' Onion and a beverage on November 11. Outback is also offering active and former service members 15% off their meals Nov. 12 through Dec. 31.

**Ruby Tuesday** -- Veterans, active duty and reserve service members get a free appetizer on November 11.

**Ryan's** -- Current and former service members receive a free lunch at participating locations from 11 am until 2 pm on November 11.

**Starbucks** -- Veterans, active duty service members and spouses get a free tall coffee on November 11 at participating locations

**Meeting to address VA appeals process**

Top officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs will meet with leaders from several leading veterans' service organizations, seeking common ground on a legislative proposal that would overhaul the appeals process for veterans' compensation claims.

In budget testimony last week, VA officials told lawmakers the appeals process set in federal law is "archaic and unresponsive." But they want the buy-in of veterans' advocacy groups before they send Congress any formal plan to streamline the process.

"We're gonna lock everybody in a room, we're gonna slip food under the door and no one's coming out until we have something written down that everybody agrees with and that you can pass immediately," Secretary Bob McDonald told the House Appropriations Committee last week.

VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has made notable progress in cutting its backlog of initial compensation claims, from a peak of 611,000 in 2013 to 81,000 as of last week, including by hiring more claims staff and requiring them to work mandatory overtime. But the appeals process, handled by the separate Board of Veterans Appeals, has gotten comparatively little attention.

VA defines a backlogged claim as one that's kept a veteran waiting more than 120 days for a decision.

But days aren't a useful yardstick for measuring the wait time involved in the appeals process: The average delay is currently five years, and for many veterans, it's much, much longer.

"Last year, the board was still adjudicating an appeal that originated 25 years ago and had been decided more than 27 times," McDonald said. "We need to legislate a simplified process, which can save over \$139 million annually beginning in 2022."

In its 2017 budget proposal, the department called for a 42 percent increase in funding for the appeals board, including 242 more full-time staff to augment its existing 680 employees.

Even though VA did not keep its vow to completely eliminate the claims backlog by the end of 2015 (and officials have recently said the backlog will never drop to zero), the department says the fact that it's cut the backlog to the extent it has will inevitably put more pressure on the appeals board simply because VBA is handling more cases.

Veterans groups have a slightly different interpretation of that problem, saying pressure on VBA staff to process initial claims decisions as quickly as possible caused a spike in verdicts that were legally or factually wrong, forcing veterans to file appeals in order to gain the benefits they were entitled to — in some ways, simply transferring a chunk of the backlog from VBA to the appeals board.

In advance of its summit with VSOs this week, VA submitted what McDonald called a "straw man" proposal for adjusting the appeals process as part of its 2017 budget. That placeholder proposal did not delve into many specifics, but officials said the objective is to cut appeals wait time to less than one year by 2021.

VA's initial ideas for streamlining appeals include ending the ability for veterans to introduce new medical evidence during the appeals process and giving the Board of Veterans Appeals the final say in many cases, reducing the jurisdiction of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.



## Veterans, supporters continue to press for medical marijuana

Veterans pressing Congress to let VA doctors recommend medical marijuana for their patients in states where the drug is considered legal had their hopes dashed recently when Congress passed a pared version of the Veterans Affairs funding bill without the marijuana provision.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill originally included the Veterans Equal Access amendment, which would have let Veterans Affairs physicians discuss medical marijuana with their patients and complete the paperwork required by some states to purchase it.

The amendment passed the House in May, 295-129, and the Senate, 89-8. But in June, the provision was removed from the final version of the larger appropriations bill by the conference committee established to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions.

Supporters such as Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Sens. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) lobbied congressional leaders to reinstate the amendment but they were unsuccessful.

Veterans seeking to use marijuana to alleviate pain and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder must continue going to a private physician for a recommendation and will continue to pay out-of-pocket for the drug.

Even if the measure had passed, veterans would have been required to pay for the marijuana themselves, as the drug remains illegal under federal law. Their doctors can decide, however, to reduce a patient's access to pain medications, including opioids, if the veteran uses medical marijuana and the physician believes they may be at risk for drug interaction. The decision is made on a case-by-case basis.

Medical marijuana is legal in 25 states plus the District of Columbia, although states differ on the medical conditions for which it can be prescribed.

There has been no research in the U.S. on the effectiveness of medical marijuana for relieving symptoms of PTSD or other conditions, although some veterans groups and marijuana legalization advocates say it helps relieve symptoms of combat-related PTSD and anxiety.

## Burn Pit exposure issues discussed

Veterans exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan are begging government leaders and the public to keep paying attention to their crippling health problems.

"We write because these veterans are seriously ill, dying or have passed away, and more must be done," a group of 700 veterans and family members with Burn Pits 360 wrote in an open letter to President Barack Obama on 4 OCT.

"Many of us went to war able to run marathons, but now our health has deteriorated so much that we cannot hold down steady jobs. We are misdiagnosed. We are not getting the medical care we urgently need. We need you to act in this, your final year in of-

vice."

The letter comes just days after a Government Accountability Office report found shortfalls in the Defense Department's monitoring of burn-pit victims, and asks White House officials not to let the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs "sweep us under the rug."

It also calls for significant changes in how the National Airborne Hazards Open Burn Pit Registry is administered, to allow more families to record veterans' post-service problems.

"We're receiving death entries from these families on a weekly basis," said Rosie Lopez-Torres, executive director of Burn Pits 360. "But the national registry now doesn't allow you to input a death entry. So there is no record of (those veterans') illnesses."

Defense Department and Veterans Affairs officials have frequently cited

## Camp Lejeune toxic water claims getting attention

Thousands of veterans poisoned by toxic water at Camp Lejeune are now inching closer to qualifying for The Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

Nearly 15 thousand veterans whose serious illnesses are linked to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune could receive compensation more quickly all thanks to a new proposed VA rule announced last month.

Previously, each claim was processed on a case by case basis. The rule now establishes that the VA will automatically presume a connection to eight diseases for veterans who served a minimum of 30 days on the base between the 50's and 80's.

For now, veterans need to prove that they served at the base for at least 30 days, however Jones says he has asked the VA to do away with that statute of the rule.

He says he feels anyone who was exposed should be compensated regardless of their time on the base. The VA's public comment period ended October 10th.

When the final rule goes into effect, it will apply to new and pending disability claims.

the difficulty of linking troops' illnesses to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, given the undocumented nature of what was burned in each pit and just how much exposure individual veterans had.

More than 81,000 veterans and current service members are in the registry, reporting illnesses from respiratory fatigue to rare cancers and neurological disorders. But Lopez-Torres said she has at least 5,000 more cases that aren't included in that list, because of the reporting restrictions.

"The burn pits are this generation's Agent Orange, but we are seeing deaths happen after three or five years, instead of decades later," Torres said. "We cannot afford to wait for another delayed medical study, we need the president and Congress to recognize this crisis is happening now."

# Coshocton County Veterans Organizations

**VFW Post #1330**

Commander: Wayne Hilliard  
 133 S. Sixth St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-6175

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

**DAV Chapter #74**

Commander: Ed Skerness  
 P.O. Box 116  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Career Center at 6:00 p.m.

**AMVETS Post #36**

Commander: Stan Schmitt  
 986 Otsego Ave.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-623-0538

Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Army/Navy Garrison #628**

Commander: Richard Bechtol  
 628 Walnut St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-9110

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**American Legion Post #466**

Commander: Jack Patterson  
 116 E. Main St.  
 West Lafayette, Ohio 43845  
 740-545-9773

Meetings are held on an as needed basis

**Coshocton County Veterans Council**

Commander: Jack Patterson  
 Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

AMVETS Post #36  
 986 Otsego Ave.,  
 Coshocton, OH 43812



**American Legion Post #634**

Commander: Gerald Fox  
 26811 SR 60  
 Warsaw, OH 43844

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the Fire House in Warsaw at 7:00 p.m.

**American Legion Post #65**

Commander: Jennifer Holz  
 652 Main St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-6106

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Korean War**

**Veterans Association**

President: Bob Jones  
 52650 TR 166

West Lafayette, OH 43845  
 Meetings are on an as-needed basis

**Coshocton County Vietnam Veterans**

Commander: Dale Foster  
 P.O. Box 341  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 325 S. Second St., Coshocton, at 9:00 a.m.

**Blue Star Mothers OH59**

President: Becky Bowden  
 P.O. Box 1655  
 Coshocton, OH 43812  
 740-327-2235

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the AMC Nazarene Church, 1030 Orange St., Coshocton, OH 43812