



American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026

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### **10 Vet Volunteers Sought To 'Pilot Test' VA Claims Packaging Workshop**

Too many veterans in the community sit on VA claims for extended periods. It isn't because the claims lack merit. It's because they lack organized evidence and a clear process to follow. Overworked VSOs and long wait times make it worse for the individual veteran.

Based on his own personal experience, Post 201 member Jay McVinney has developed a process which he believes can help other veterans learn how to package their claims evidence so it moves through the VA review process with minimum delay. "In my case, I had everything adjudicated, with a reasonably fair rating, in about nine weeks," McVinney said.

His "pilot test" is a six-hour course, presented in four work sessions, during which participating vets are walked through the claims preparation process. For the first test of his course he needs a maximum of 10 veterans (on a first come, first served basis) from the Post who would be willing to commit four upcoming Saturday mornings to help test his concept. Should more than 10 express an interest, a waitlist will be developed.

The four days set aside and the number of hours involved each day are Saturday, Oct. 10 (one hour); Saturday Oct. 24 (two hours); Saturday, Nov. 14, (two hour); and, Saturday, Nov. 21 (one hour). All sessions will be held in the Post's ballroom starting at 9 a.m. each Saturday. A signup sheet is posted in the Clubroom; or you may also email him at [jay@dba-in-a-box.com](mailto:jay@dba-in-a-box.com) to volunteer to participate.

If the pilot test proves valuable, then it can be shared and taught to others and over time spread throughout the veteran community.

Volunteers who participate in this pilot test workshop will be walked through the following steps:

- Filing an intent to file in order to lock in an effective date;
- Listing every medical complaint, diagnosed or not;
- Sorting the list by what evidence already exists;
- Checking each condition against the CFR (Combined Federal Regulation) rating schedule and estimating where it lands;
- Flagging any presumptive conditions;
- Ranking the remaining conditions from highest-to-lowest expected rating;
- Preparing a full evidence packet for each claim - - records, lay statement, buddy statements, and a nexus letter;
- Submitting presumptive conditions first while the rest of the documentation comes together;
- Filing the remaining information in small, fully documented batches instead of all at once;
- Knowing when a rating is good and stable, and knowing when a new claim actually moves the needle versus when it just adds risk; and,
- Effectively using modern software, including free AI engines, to speed the process.

Sessions will use composite examples. No participant's individual medical records, diagnoses, or claim documents will be reviewed or discussed during any of the pilot test sessions.

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## **Pool Table Ready for Play By Saturday Afternoon**

The Clubroom's pool table is currently being refurbished in an effort coordinated by the Atlanta Pool and Billiards Charitable Foundation (APBCF). Work began yesterday. By this Saturday afternoon the table should be back in play - - looking like a brand new table.

Andy Cloth donated Andy Classic, a professional-grade cloth used in international and world championship play. Eastern Billiard Supply, Andy's U.S. distributor, swapped it for a larger size at no cost to the Post. The cloth is Shark Gray in color which provides a higher contrast for the edges of the balls and is preferred by many pros over the standard blue and green colors.

Brunswick, the company who built the original pool table, provided new cushions, pocket facings, and documentation. APBCF also donated Aramith Premier phenolic balls, which cause less wear, and Master brand grey chalk to match the table - - - which reduces marks on the table caused by mismatched chalk.

Georgia Billiards is doing the work, charging only for an assistant's labor. They are donating the correct hardware for the table. The donations made by the organizations listed above total in excess of \$1,500 that the Post did not have to spend as part of the upgrade.

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## **Paint Recycle Fundraiser Set for Saturday Morning**

This Saturday morning the Post will be somewhat busier than most Saturdays as Scouts from Legion-sponsored Troop 51 will be holding their annual Paint Recycling Fundraiser in the parking lot between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Troop will be collecting leftover cans of latex and oil-based paints to be properly disposed of or re-used. Donated paint will be filtered and turned into quality, re-usable paint products which will then be given to non-profit groups in the community such as Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, and Boys & Girls Clubs.

The donation cost is: 5 gallon cans - \$25 each; one gallon cans - \$5 each; quarts - \$2 each; pints - \$2 each; and spray cans - \$2 each. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## Upcoming Post 201, Other Veteran Related Activities

### ***Monday Madness in the Clubroom***

***Every Monday - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.***

***1st Drink - \$1 Off the Regular Price for any Brand***

### ***9-Ball Pool Tournament, 2 p.m.***

***Every 3rd Sunday in the Clubroom/Bar***

**VIEW FEATURED  
POST EVENTS**

**Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Sunday, Oct. 11, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom. \$1,000 Jackpot.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Wednesday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Brain Health Summit for Vets, Families.** The Summit will explore PTSD, TBI, moral injury, cognition, treatment, recovery, purpose, and the lasting effects of military service. Presented by Skylark Senior Care in collaboration with the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program, the Summit is free for veterans and their families. [Click here for more information](#) about the event, the keynote speakers and to register to attend. Registration is required due to limited seating. Boxed lunches will be served.

**Wednesday, Oct. 14. 9th Annual Rick Gimpel Memorial Golf Tournament.** The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm, 3030 Bradshaw Drive, Woodstock. Registration opens at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Contact Derek Garmon, [770-549-5669](tel:770-549-5669), [derekgarmon@yahoo.com](mailto:derekgarmon@yahoo.com), or Bruce Hay, [309-657-8528](tel:309-657-8528), [hayville@att.net](mailto:hayville@att.net) for details. The last tournament meeting planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17. Two Toys for Tots Fundraisers** featuring ventriloquist Doug Micken. Friday night starts at 7 p.m., Saturday morning gets underway at 11 a.m. [Click here for Oct. 16](#) details, and [click here for information](#) on the Saturday morning show. And be sure to [click here to show the little ones](#) a 2-1/2 minute FaceBook video with Doug and a couple of his friends who will be coming to the Post.

**Monday, Oct. 19. 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Auxiliary National President Dr. Coral May Grout** will visit the Post. The

Post's Auxiliary Unit 201 will be hosting a brief reception and dinner during her visit plus giving her a tour of the Walk of Memories. Members of the Legion and SAL are invited to join the Auxiliary for a reception and dinner that evening. HOWEVER, for planning purposes an RSVP is mandatory. The deadline to reply to Auxiliary President Ellen Youngblood is close-of-business today. Her email address is [eftot57@gmail.com](mailto:eftot57@gmail.com) or phone her at [678-462-9003](tel:678-462-9003).

**Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m. House and Grounds Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary buffet dinner served prior to the meeting starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom. \$1,000 Jackpot.**

**Monday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. VFW Post 12002 Month-End Meeting.** The VFW's month-end meeting at Post 201 is scheduled for 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday of every month. The mid-month meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern, 10595 Old Alabama Connector Road, Alpharetta.

**Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m. SAL Membership Meeting.**

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 10th Annual Cruz-In "car show".** Free for members of the general public who want to visit the Post and look at the cars on display. The registration fee for those showing cars: \$10 pre-show; \$20 day of show. To register [click here](#) , or if you need more details or have questions email [al201carshow@gmail.com](mailto:al201carshow@gmail.com). Food and drinks will be available for sale, and children can take advantage of a jump house and other planned activities during the 4-hour event. Also, a "Stars & Stripes" baseball game pitting the Aviator Nation against the Georgia Jackets, is scheduled for 11 a.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 12 noon. 2nd Annual Georgia American Legion Veterans Raffle Drawing.** [Click this link](#) for details. Tickets are now available at the Post. Winning tickets will be drawn Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026. You do not have to be present to win. For every \$20 ticket sold by Post 201, the Post gets to keep \$12 for its treasury.

**Monday, Nov. 9. Save the Date.** Annual Breakfast for Vets hosted by Melissa Morgan. Details to follow.

**Wednesday, Nov. 11. Veterans Day.**

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**CLUB 201 DANCE -  
LEARN MORE**

## VETERANS RESOURCES

Visit the [Resource Page](#) at Post 201's website, [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org) for a significant amount of information concerning various resources available for veterans. You'll find a Survivor Assistance Checklist, Benefits for Georgia Veterans, Burial at Sea Information, Veteran's License Plates Information, Emergency Housing Information Guide and many other resources.

Past Issues of the Post's E-newsletter - [Click here.](#)

**Veterans Crisis Line**

Call 988 and Press 1 or Text 838255

Visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

VA Telephone Hotline - [1-877-222-8387](tel:1-877-222-8387)

Post 201 Service Officer Hotline for Vets-at-Risk - [631-720-6022](tel:631-720-6022)

Legion  
SAL

Auxiliary

More Veterans Resources

Photo Gallery

## ***Post 201 - Serving Vets Since 1947***

***"It's not the price you pay to be a member,  
It's the price you paid to be eligible."***