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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...
Brian S. Kern, Commander

DECEMBER

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2008

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Wow...what a month November turned out to be. The Auxiliary put on a well-planned and well attended Veterans Day program. Special thanks to Toni Carr (Auxiliary President) and her group of volunteers. The Post and Lions Club co-sponsored a "Community Health Day" on November 15th. As with the Veterans Day program, the Health day was well-planned and well-attended. Special thanks to Joe Vlcek (Post Service Officer) and Rich Barb (Post member and Lions Club member) who co-planned the event. Last, but not least, the Thanksgiving Dinner was another highlight of the month. Good food, good price, good company, what more could you ask for. It goes without saying that I appreciate everyone who comes out and supports the events and/or volunteers to assist with them.

I'd like to take a moment and address our Post members who live in the local area, but who haven't attended or very infrequently attend our monthly membership meetings. We miss you. Since the regular membership meeting in December is replaced by the Post Christmas Party on December 20th, I'd like to personally invite you to attend the January monthly meeting. The meeting is on January 26th and begins at 7:30 p.m. A free hot meal is available for meeting attendees beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come on out and get involved in your Post, meet your fellow Legionnaires, and share your ideas with us.

You may have noticed a truck parked near the Post entranceway with a digital sign advertising Post activities. The truck and sign were offered for occasional use by the company that will install the permanent sign in the near future. The sign really livens up the Post, lets people know where we are and highlights upcoming events. This will be a great advertising tool and I'm sure it will increase participation at our events. Speaking of the permanent sign, special thanks to Matt Garafolo (Post Executive Committeeman) who led the efforts to obtain a sign and to get PG County approval for the sign.

Please don't forget to mark your calendars on January 25th for "New Member Appreciation Night". Let's get our new members started right not only in the Post; but also, in the American Legion. Speaking of new members, don't forget our "Shoot for the Stars" initiative intended to earn 3-Star status for the Post. Know a veteran...ask them if they are a Legion member and, if not, let's see if we can sign them up.

Each month as I write this article, I always want to make sure I give credit where credit is due. That's why I take time to recognize and thank many individuals. It's inevitable that I will forget someone and, if I do, my apologies. I firmly believe that the continuing success of Post 259 lies in the strength of its membership. Post Commanders come and go, but a strong and active membership ensures the Post's longevity in-particular and the American Legion in-general.

Finally, happy holidays to all of you. May this season be truly a special one for you and your family members.

In Legion Service
Brian S. Kern, Commander

MEMBERSHIP

I'm happy to report that we are keeping pace with our Department's membership goals. That doesn't mean we can sit back and relax. Those of us who have worked on membership know that the toughest part of our membership drive lies ahead.

Some of us think that it's the job of our officers to keep our membership numbers up, while in fact, membership is the responsibility of every one of us. You can help by first renewing your own membership. After that, don't be shy about asking eligible veterans to join our Post.

Our local Sears store is providing for our use a table inside the entrance to their store. This is a great opportunity for our Legionnaires to meet our neighbors and to inform those interested about the good work our organization does for our veterans and our community. From those conversations we think we can attract a few new members.

Put on your Legion cap and help us take advantage of this opportunity Sears is providing during the months of November and December. It could be your time at the table that convinces one of our veterans to join our great organization.

Set aside Sunday, January 25, 2009, on your calendar, when the Post will be holding its first New Member Dinner. Tickets will be available at a modest cost to those of us who wish to attend the dinner and the short program to welcome our new members into our Legion family. The program will include member initiation and a short history of the American Legion. We hope it will be both interesting and informative for all attendees. All members are encouraged to attend.

Gary Gifford

AUXILIARY

2009 membership is now due. New post key cards will be issued on January 1, 2009, only to those members showing their 2009 membership card. Senior dues are \$14.00 and Junior dues are \$4.00.

Liz White
Membership Chairman

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SAL Monthly Meetings
First Monday of Each Month

Dues: Again many thanks to fellow members for having renewed their membership. We have received 2009 dues from 71 members but are still short of our goal of 107. If you have paid your 2009 dues and receive a notice from the National organization, just ignore the notice. Sometimes there is a lag between the time you pay your dues and the time it goes through the Detachment and reaches National. Dues structure is below. Gary Shupe is the contact for membership related matters. \$20.00 Senior Dues, \$10.00 Junior Dues, and \$10.00 Dual Members.

It's the holiday season and we hope it's safe and enjoyable for everyone. While you are enjoying this holiday keep our men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers, especially the troops away from home that will not be with their families.

A special make up thanks to Jimmy Bloom for his work selling 50/50 tickets during the recent SAL Golf Tournament. His name was inadvertently omitted from the list of the many volunteers. Jimmy sold a record number of tickets. It was a delight watching Jimmy work the crowd.

Super Bowl Rally Dance – A flyer will be posted soon for the SAL sponsored annual Super Bowl Dance. Details for entertainment, cost and other particulars are being worked out. The event is usually scheduled for Super Bowl weekend. See Dave Hutchinson if you have questions or input.

The Squadron made the following donations: A donation of \$140 was made to the SAL Maryland Detachment as part of their Southern Maryland Draw Down. These funds will go towards the various Detachment charitable activities. Also \$500 was donated to the Brogan Ruppert Fund. Brogan is a seven year old diagnosed with a brain tumor whose family has no insurance and limited income.

Reminder: The next SAL monthly meeting is Dec 1st. If 10 or more members are present at the SAL meeting a \$10 gift certificate to Ledo Pizza will be given to a lucky member. Meetings generally last about an hour.

Yours in Service,
Wayne Berbig

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

I was talking to our member, Jared Mosby. As you may remember, when Jared was in attending Friendship High School, he won our Oratorical Contest. He went from there all the way to National. That summer, he started his military career by attending West Point. Jared graduated a couple of years ago, and was assigned to the "Screaming Eagles, the 101st Airborne Division. He was subsequently sent to Iraq. He is now stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky (guarding our gold?). Jared recently was promoted to the rank of captain. We are proud of you, Jared!

Congratulations to our Second Vice Commander, Brock Hursey. Brock has successfully completed, and graduated from, the Air Force NCO leadership school at Andrews Air Force Base. This puts Brock in line for promotion to Staff Sergeant. Hopefully this comes soon. The rocker always looks good.

A couple of months ago, you were asked to call the Post and let us know if you would have a problem with our putting the newsletter on line. If you would rather receive a hard copy, let us know and it would be sent to you. Well, only a few have called. We will still send out the hard copies, but starting in December we will also be putting the newsletter on line. The November, as well as the December issue will be our first endeavor. This can be viewed by going to post259md@gmail.com. You can still call the Post and have your name put on the list to receive the regular issue.

Have you been by the Post lately? If you have, you will have seen the temporary sign in place. This has already been a boon to us. The recently held Health Fair was better attended because people saw the sign and came in. The permanent sign should be in place by the end of December. Getting the necessary permits took ever so long. We finally have them and the foundation will be poured and the sign erected. With the LED configuration, we can program the sign for many different messages.

Robert A. Wilson, Adjutant

TAPS

The following comrades have been transferred to Post Everlasting:

Charles Barber - May
Gordon Hollabaugh - May
Charles Ward - August
William G. Clements - October
Albert Normand - October
Helen Maule - November
Frances Price - November



To the family and friends of our departed comrades, we offer the full measure of this world's consolation to you in deep and affectionate sympathy. May their souls rest in eternal peace and memories of them last with us forever.

NEW MEMBERS: Voted in at the July 28, 2008 Membership Meeting:

James A. Burrows	Transfer 297	US Army
Nicholas E. Lewis	New	USAF
Ollie P. Anderson Jr.	Transfer 297	US Army
Rodney A. Armstead	Transfer 297	US Army
Coy D. Diggs	Transfer 297	Marines
Joseph D. McDonald	Transfer 297	USAF
Herbert J. Norman	Transfer 297	US Army
Rosauro L. Lindogan	Transfer 297	US Army
Samuel L. Miles	New	US Army
Joseph W. Hill	Transfer 297	USAF
Clement A. Gaynor	Transfer 297	US Navy
Ada M. Harris	New	USCG
Albert L. Walker	Transfer 297	US Army
Cornell W. Hunter	Transfer 297	US Army
Mark C. Gyuer	Transfer 297	USAF
Clarence A. Robinson	Transfer 297	US Army
Preston A. Ames	Transfer 297	US Army
James W. Gaines	Transfer 297	US Army
Henry Di Lorenzo	Transfer 297	USAF
Larry G. Hall	Transfer 297	US Army
Michael P. Currid	Transfer 297	US Army
Brian K. Cole	Transfer 297	US Army
Robert L. Ford	Transfer 297	US Army
Legrant T. Campbell	Transfer 297	Marines
Marylou Curtis	New	US Army

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC,

NEW VETERANS COMMISSION: Two years ago, the Prince George's County Council enacted legislation to establish a Veterans Commission for the country. After a bit of pressure, the council just recently made this commission a fact. Two weeks ago, October 28, 2008, at a session of the council, members of the new commission were elected. An hour later, the new commission was sworn in by Count Executive Jack Johnson. Among those chosen for this commission was our own ED White and our Post member Regina Powell. With two of our members on the commission, The American Legion will be well represented. Congratulations to both of you!

Each year at our November General meeting, our By-laws dictate that we will make know to the membership the annual meeting of the Life Membership Committee. This is not the PUFL (Paid-Up-For-Life) but the Honorary Life Membership. This committee is made up of our Honorary Life Members and meets in January to vote on applications made to it by recommendation of members for those members eligible. Applications are available in the Post lounge or from the adjutant. Minimum requirements are that the applicant be a Post member for ten years and have made significant contributions to the Post, The American Legion, and to his/her community in time and effort.

POST 259/LIONS CLUB COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY A HEALTHY SUCCESS: Despite inclimate weather, approximately 50 patrons visited the Community Health Day co-sponsored by Post 259 and the Silver Hills Lion Club. Eye, hearing and blood pressure tests along with number health related pamphlets and brochures were available. 36 guests donated blood with the American Red Cross. 10 guests picked up applications for the American Legion. A good time was had by all.

Door prizes and their winners included:

Shrimp Trays – Joe Folz and Gabriele Gonzalez
\$75.00 – Helga R. Murdock-Niles
\$50.00 – Morris Murray
\$25.00 – Megan Slaughter

Participating organizations in addition to the Silver Hills Lion Club and American Legion Post 259 included the Fort Washington Hospital, Prince George's County Health Department, Emergency Preparedness Program, and County Social Services.

Thanks to all the volunteers especially Joe Vlcek, Post 259 Service Officer and Rich Barb (Lions Club President and Post 259 member) for bringing this event together. Special thanks also to the Red Lobster restaurant who donated the shrimp trays. (Brian Kern, Post 259 Commander)

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DRAWING FINDS A WINNER: Congratulations to William Ward, Jr. (Post 259 Sgt-at-Arms) who won the Red, White, and Blue drawing during October's regular membership meeting. While all Post 259 members are eligible to participate in the drawing, the member must be present to win. The prize for the drawing starts out at \$50 and increases each regular membership meeting if it's not won. The maximum prize amount is \$300. William graciously donated a portion of his winnings back to support Post 259 programs. (Brian Kern, Post 259 Commander).

Clinton American Legion Post 259

Shoot for the Stars



**You can make a difference in helping our Post
earn 3 star status in Legion Year 2008 by
recruiting one or more new members to our
Post.**

**Need applications or other Information?
See or Call Commander Kern, 1st Vice Gifford, or Judge
Advocate White**