



9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(301) 868-2550

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

FEBRUARY

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2009

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The end of another Legion year is only a few months away. I'm very hopeful that we can meet the goal of becoming a 3-star Post. If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so at your earliest convenience. Of course, we are always looking for new members so if you know anyone that might be eligible, how about passing along some information about the American Legion and include an application. The strength of the American Legion is in its membership and the same applies to our Post.

Thanks to everyone who attended the New Member's Dinner and swearing in. It's important to get all our new members off to a good start in the American Legion. First Vice Gary Gifford put together a good program and everyone enjoyed the meal. For those new members that were able to attend, please don't let the dinner be the last time we see you. For those new members that weren't able to attend, I hope to see you at future activities. In either instance, I encourage you to get active in the American Legion and our Post. We need your thoughts, ideas, and your volunteer efforts...and while you're at it think about becoming a member of the Post Executive Committee. Good men and women are always needed in these positions to ensure the short and long-term success of the Post.

It's not surprising that American Legion members are involved in many volunteer activities. Our Post is routinely recognized for the volunteer activities of its members, but we can only report on what we know about. If you are involved in a volunteer activity, how about dropping us a line with some general information about it. If we need more information, we'll get in touch with you. Donating blood, judging an essay or speech contest, being involved in the Big Brother or Big Sister program, working with Special Olympics, or reading books to children as part of a Library program are just examples of what we'd like to hear about. I'm sure there are many others.

As always, thanks for your continuing support, thoughts, and ideas.

In Legion Service
Brian S. Kern, Commander

AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Hi Members,

The Holidays are over and it is time to settle in and work on our many Auxiliary projects planned for the following months.

We still need workers on Bingo nights both to cook and to take orders. If you cannot work our functions, maybe you would be able to bake for one of our Friday night Bingos. We need a couple of cakes or pies for each Bingo night, please call me if you can help bake or work. We are still trying to get a full crew for each Friday, so we need you to please volunteer.

Thank you, Thank you to all our volunteers; Auxiliary, Legionnaires and S.A.L., you make it possible for us to put on the programs for our members and our community and I want you to know how much you are greatly appreciated.

I am still asking for children or grandchildren in elementary, middle school, or home schooled, who would like to participate in our Department of Maryland's Americanism Essay Program please call me. The title is: "Soldiers Past and Present ...America Honor Your Veterans". The program consists of three groups: Group I (Grades 3 & 4); Group II (Grades 5 & 6); Group III (Grades 7 & 8). Please encourage your children to participate.

We are planning a Yard Sale on Saturday, April 18, flyer attached. So put all those items you no longer want and bring them to our function or come and rent a space and sell your items. April is always a full month for us so please mark your calendar to attend the Palm Sunday Breakfast, April 5th, and the Children's Easter Party, April 11th. Also, if you can volunteer to work any of these functions, please let me know.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM, hope you will be with us.

For God & Country
Toni Carr, President
301-868-7960

AUXILLIARY MEMBERSHIP: 2009 Membership is now due. Senior - \$14.00, Junior - \$4.00. If you haven't paid please do so as soon as possible. By paying your dues, you are helping your unit meet obligations to our Veterans' programs, children &

youth, and our community. If you are having financial difficulties please let us know, we are here to help. Any member who hasn't paid 2009 dues, cannot obtain a post key card and are not on the post lottery list. If you have any questions about our organization, membership, our programs or running for an office please call me or any of our officers. Thank you.

Liz White, Membership Chairman
301-868-1612

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SAL Monthly Meetings
First Monday of Each Month
7:00 PM

An organization such as the Sons of the American Legion is about volunteerism and involvement. The S.A.L. is requesting your involvement by serving as an officer either for the remainder of the existing year or for the upcoming 2009 term. Consider attending a S.A.L. meeting to get an idea of what is expected of an officer. You will see that it can be a very rewarding experience and an opportunity to make an impact. If you need more information on a particular position, ask me or one of the current officers.

The S.A.L. is 4 members from achieving their 3-Star award. This includes 2009 renewals and new members. Please take the time to send in your 2009 dues if you haven't done so. Also encouraged is recruitment of new members which also counts toward the award. Dues amounts are below. Gary Shupe is the contact for membership related matters.

\$20.00 Senior Dues - \$10.00 Junior Dues - \$10.00 Dual Members

New S.A.L. members include Wyatt Cox, Frederick H. Harrell JR and George P. Kalas III. Give each a warm welcome when you meet them.

Thanks to fellow S.A.L. members Gary Castleman and Mike Hunnicutt for their help at the Adult Christmas Party.

Yours in Service,
Wayne Berbig

CHARLOTTE HALL

Sorry folks, but my last several newsletters must be floating around somewhere in cyberspace! In my last letter I reported on both November and December bingo activities. In November, Mike Gilbert and myself were out of town on our annual hunting trip to NH. Helping out in November were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond, Gary and Pam Shupe, Any and Linda Lewis, Matt and Shirley Garofalo, Robert Rabideau, Mike St. Onge and Jacob Henley. Additionally, Chopticon High School Jr ROTC members were there in force assisting the vets with dinner, cleaning tables, and working bingo. Special thanks to Jack Rhine for providing the snacks.

In December, we had 72 vets in attendance. Helping me out this month were Mike Gilbert, Bob Levendusky, and Al Elmond. Members of the Chopticon Jr ROTC were also there. Jack Rhine provided the snacks.

On January 14, we hosted bingo with 77 vets in attendance. Helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond, Mike Gilbert and Gary Shupe. Special thanks again to Jack Rhine for providing the snacks. Chopticon's Jr ROTC were there as well.

Our next bingo will be February 11th. Make a new year resolution to try to COME ON DOWN. Remember, say 'THANKS TO A VET'.

Mike Strotkamp
301 645 2397

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC,

CANTEEN GETS LARGE SCREEN HDTV: Many of our regular Post canteen patrons have commented that they'd like to see a large screen HDTV installed in the canteen. Well, your voices were heard and we recently installed a 52in HDTV for your viewing pleasure. Special thanks to Executive Committeeperson Jim Panor who "championed" this on the Executive Committee and also to Assistant Finance Officer Richard Switzer and Second Vice Brock Hursey who put forth the time and effort to find a good deal on a television for the Post.

NEW POST SIGN FINALLY ARRIVES: After some delay, the new Post sign has finally been installed and is up and running. We'll be advertising special events, as well as, Bingo, Shrimp Night, Thursday Night Dinners, etc. Hall rental information will also be available. Executive Committeeperson Matt Garafalo put in a great deal of work and dealt with a lot of frustration along the way, but those efforts have finally paid off.

BASEBALL BITS: No, it's not baseball season yet, but we are getting close to "play ball" time. In fact it's a lot colder when we consider financing our team for summer, 2009. Unfortunately the Post 259 Legion budget will not allow an expenditure of \$5,000.00 for the operation of our team.

It seems it will be necessary to appeal to each member of Post 259; regular members, Auxiliary, and the fans of the American Legion. If everyone gave \$5.00, the team would be funded and we could play ball in May.

This program is one of the top efforts in maintaining the American Legion spirit of God and Country, Veterans, Community and Youth. You should know that this program was started in 1927 way up north in North Dakota. Since then, 60% of college players and 70% of major leaguers went through the American Legion's baseball program. We can also say that in the past four years 12 Clinton Post 259 players have received scholarships to a college. For this reason we must continue the program. How do we do it? Each person receiving this newsletter should mail a check for \$5.00 payable to: Clinton American Legion Post 259, with a notation - Baseball 2009. Mail to: Clinton American (c/o Baseball Chairman) Legion, P.O. Box 44, Clinton, MD 20735.

Please submit donation by February 28, 2009 so we can have some time for further planning. I am making this urgent plea to our members assuring a continuation of this great program.

If you can contribute more than \$5.00, you will help to pick-up the shortfall from those who can't give help.

Jim Panor
Baseball Chairman

SHOTGUN WINNER: Harvey W. Pierce
COOLER OF CHEER WINNER: Jay Hunnicutt