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Clinton, Maryland 20735

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

OCTOBER

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2009

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I'd like to start out by thanking the Auxiliary, S.A.L. officers, and my fellow Post efforts for their efforts during a recent joint meeting in September to discuss matters related to the Post. As far as I can recall, this is the first time such a meeting has taken place. I've always believed that while the Post is very important, we cannot neglect opportunities to partner with the S.A.L. and the Auxiliary and recognize their contributions to the Post's success. While I can't say that after only one joint meeting we have solved all the issues facing the Post, it was good to hear input from everyone and I was pleased with the spirit of cooperation that seemed to result from the meeting. Now, we need to turn that "spirit" into action.

Speaking of action, Second Vice-Commander Ward concluded a successful fund raising event at the September regular membership meeting. Although the winner of gas grill remains unknown at the time I'm writing this message, I appreciate everyone who participated either by selling tickets or buying them. Now that this event is complete, I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming Crab Feast on October 17th. Please buy your tickets early so we can get a good head count well in advance of the actual event.

I hope you are enjoying the guest speakers at the regular membership meetings. In September, we had Wilbert S. Forbes, Sr., who is the Deputy Secretary Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. Although it won't take place on the regular membership meeting night in October, we've set up a "Legislative Night" on October 19th (Monday) beginning at 8:00 pm. More information can be found inside the newsletter.

At a recent "Shrimp Night", I had an opportunity to speak with a potential new member and his wife (I gave her an Auxiliary membership application). I spoke briefly about the benefits of joining, what the American Legion does, and Post activities. As I was winding down, I mentioned how this is the closest I've come to the sense of camaraderie experienced while being in the military without actually being in the military. Where else can you sit down with veterans across many years and realize that although we may have served at different times, our experiences are very similar.

Finally, I greatly appreciate all our members, but wanted to say a special thanks to those that attend the regular membership meetings. It's good to look out from the podium at the meeting and see not only a corps group of regular attendees; but also, a good number of new or returning faces. As always, thanks for your continuing support, thoughts, and ideas.

In Legion Service
Brian Kern, Commander

AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Hi Members, a new administrative year is about to start and we hope you will take this exciting ride with us this year to make Unit #259 the best it can be. We have a few new members as our officers as well as those who have been active for many years. Our officers are:

President - Toni Carr
Vice President - Ginger Latimer
Secretary - Glenda Morgan
Treasurer - Mary Russell
Chaplain - Sharon Franklin
Historian - Vivian Morgan Boyd
Sgt-at-Arms - Wendy Harris
Executive Committee - Barbara Theesen,
Marilyn Thomas & Liz White

A great group of officers, congratulations and I hope we will all work together for the good of the Auxiliary.

Our Chairmen for this year are:

Membership/Tanglewood Special School
Activities - Liz White
Bingo/rentals - Lottie Washington
Gold Star mother & sisters - Mickey McKittrick
Americanism/Children & Youth - Marilyn Thomas
Community Service /Chaplain - Sharon Franklin
Ways & Means - Ginger Latimer
Charlotte Hall Bingo - Barbara Theesen
Fund Raisers/Yard Sale - Vivian Boyd

If you would like to be on any of these programs, please call me at 301-868-7960.

Please send in your Membership dues for this year, 2009- 2010 to the attention of Liz White and if paying at the bar, please fill out one of the blue cards with all your information and attach it to your check. Our dues remain the same as last year, \$14.00 for adults and \$4.00 for juniors.

Auxiliary activities scheduled for the coming months:

Monday, October 12th - Auxiliary meeting at 7:00 PM (This meeting will start with the initiation of all new members and those who have never been initiated into the American Legion Auxiliary)

Sunday, October 25th - Southern Maryland District Meeting, hosted by 259 Auxiliary. Lunch at 1 PM followed by meeting also special membership meeting at 10:30 AM given by Dept. Membership Chairman.

Saturday, October 31st - Children's Halloween Party from 1-4 PM. Sign up sheet will be available on the front door at the Post. Prizes, games lunch and lots of fun for the children.

Wednesday, November 11th - Veterans Day Program at 11 AM followed by lunch. ALL INVITED

Some of the programs that we were able to donate to this past month were: American Education Week, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Carnival and Christmas Gift Wrap, Children's Halloween Party at Post Home and the Fall Festival at Tanglewood Special School.

We value your membership in the world's largest woman organization and we would be honored if you would share your expertise with us and make Clinton Unit #259 one of the best Units in Maryland. Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting in October.

Toni Carr, President

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP: Dues for 2010 are now being collected. Senior dues are \$14.00 Junior dues \$4.00. Some members have asked how their dues are spent. First of all the unit only gets to keep \$4.00 from Senior's and \$2.00 from Junior's, the balance goes to our Department and they send a portion to our national headquarters. Our portion along with the Bingo kitchen and the kitchen from hall rentals (of which we get a percentage) is donated to all our programs. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to call me. Please pay your 2010 dues as soon as you can.

Liz White, Membership Chairman
301-868-1612

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Fellow Members,

Well, September has come and gone in the blink of an eye. It was a very fulfilling month for the S.A.L. and we are looking forward to our continuing growth in the month's and years to come.

We are very pleased to say that our Annual Golf Tournament was again, extremely successful. I have personally played in many golf tournaments and ours is (in my opinion) the best bang for your

buck. With that being said, we could not have pulled it off without the support of a lot of people. In no particular order, the S.A.L. would like to say a big Thank You to the following people for their time and efforts. Kenny King, Cookie King, Anne Richards, Wayne Berbig, George Bucklew, Sarah Bucklew, Kelly Hutchinson, Larry Anderson, Morry Anderson, Connie Puryear, Liz White, Bill Bowles, Ruth McGeady, Rich Walsh, Richard Howard, Irene Gilbert and of course our buddy Dick Coppage who always comes through for us. I also can't forget to mention Mike Hunnicutt and Gary Castleman. They do a wonderful job of making sure everything is taken care of and sometimes go unnoticed. This is a tribute to their passion for the S.A.L. Again without the support of all of these people, none of this would be possible....Thank You

We would also like to recognize and thank all of our sponsors. Please look at the list of the following and support them whenever you can.

Complete Building Services
Gary, Anne and Duke
Electrical Automation Svcs Inc. (410) 437-3103
Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller
B.K. Millers
Bucket List Breakfast Club
Brennan Title Company
Ladies Aux. Unit 259
American Legion Post 259
Kalas Funeral Home (301) 567-9424
R.F.L. Enterprise, Inc.
V.F.W. Post 9376
Lena's Bar (Brandywine, Md)
Miller's Produce, Bakery and Ice Cream
Retina Associates Inc.
D and B Grill
Under Pressure (Power Washing & Lawn Care)
(301) 399-6458
Boatel California – California, MD 800 262-8357
Wright Touch Painting (Interior & Exterior)
(240) 462-0591

Next on our agenda is a Halloween Dance. It is scheduled for October 24, 2009 from 9pm to 1am. The cost is \$20 per person and it covers (domestic beer, rail drinks and soda). Costumes are encouraged but not required. There will be prizes for the top (3) costumes, voted on by the crowd. Entertainment will be provided by "Just Jeff the

DJ". Look for flyers and tickets in the post lounge. We are certain to have a packed house and a wonderful time. Look forward to seeing you there.

Our next membership meeting will be on October 5, 2009 at 7:00pm. We need to have a few more members present to have a great showing and a variety of new ideas. Until Next Time....

David Hutchinson
S.A.L. Commander

CHARLOTTE HALL

The Post held their monthly BINGO program at the home on 9 Sept. There were 79 veterans in attendance. Volunteers helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond and Mike Gilbert. There were a few students from Chopticon High (JrROTC) also helping also. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks. Our next BINGO will be 14 Oct. Hope to see you there !! Say, "THANKS TO A VET."

Mike Strotkamp
301 645 2397

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: This is the first notice that applicants for our Honorary Life Membership must be in the hands of the Life Membership Committee by the 31st of December. The applicants will be voted on at the annual meeting of the Committee in January 2010. Application forms are available in the lounge or from any Honorary Life Member. Please remember, this is not Paid Up For Life (PUFL), but is for consideration for Honorary Life Membership as enumerated in our By-Laws, as follows.

Under our Bylaws, Article XI, Section 4, Life Membership Committee, the guidelines for selection candidates for honorary life membership in the Post shall be:

1. It is the intention of the Post that honorary life membership is to be conferred by the Post upon a member only when the member has rendered to the Post and to the American Legion services which are in truth and in fact distinguished, that is,

marked or notable, in that by performances of such service, he has become preeminent among his fellow legionnaires and thereby entitled to great honor and to special award.

2. The candidate shall have been a member in good standing of Clinton American Legion Post No. 259, Inc. for no less than ten (10) years.

3. The Life Membership Committee of its own volition may use additional criteria in selecting candidates.

Don't Miss the Upcoming Legislative Night

On October 19th (Monday) beginning at 8 PM, State Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Delegate James Proctor, and Delegate Joe Vallario will be at the Post to discuss issues of importance to veterans and veterans organizations. Commander Kern would like to personally invite all Post, S.A.L, Auxiliary members and their families to attend. This is an exciting opportunity to have veterans' voices and concerns heard just prior to the start of the next legislative session. There is strength in numbers and a good turn-out would help get our message heard.

S.A.L. Donates Large Screen HDTV to Post

Some of you may have already seen it but for those that haven't, the S.A.L. recently donated a 55 inch HDTV to the Post. This is a nice enhancement especially now that Redskins football season has begun. A special thanks to S.A.L Commander Dave Hutchinson and all the S.A.L. members for the donation. If you get a chance, thank an S.A.L. member the next time you see one.

This is it...the Last Mailed Newsletter

For several months we've been mentioning that the Post would no longer mail the newsletter on a mass basis beginning with the November newsletter. While it is regrettable that this action must be taken, the financial savings to the Post are substantial and important in the current economic times. Beginning in November, the newsletter will be available on the Post website at www.post259.org. For those that are unable to access the internet or have other extenuating circumstances, we will continue to mail you a hardcopy newsletter provided you notify us and give us your current address so we can verify our records.

Four Pillars of the American Legion

In 1919, the American Legion was founded on four pillars. The four pillars are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. As part of Commander Kern's Legion Education efforts, this month we'll focus on the first pillar --Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. It should come as no surprise that a primary focus of the American Legion is on veteran's affairs and rehabilitation. While it is of prime concern for veterans of all eras, it is especially important in light of the fact that we find ourselves currently embroiled in a global war on terrorism. In fact, the number of discharged veterans from the global war on terrorism has surpassed 500,000. Accordingly and in recognition of all veterans, the American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation pillar has several basic tenets. These include: Access to VA Health Care, a Better Funding Formula for VA Health Care, Meeting the Needs of Veterans with Special Needs, Career Opportunities for Veterans, GI Bill for a New Century, Employment and Business Opportunities for Veterans, Heroes to Hometown Program, VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, and Proper Final Respects and Burial for Veterans. Want more information about the four pillars and the mentioned programs, go on-line to www.legion.org/onlineupdate/2687/four-pillars-available-online. A 24 page book is available for you to download free of charge.

NEW MEMBERS: Voted in at the July 27, 2009 Membership Meeting:

James K. Neal, III	New	USAF
Clyde E. Williams	New	USAF
Richard J. Laughlin	Transfer 40	USAF
Lonnie Blankenship	New	US Army
Eric M. Johnson	New	US Army
Ulysses Harris Jr.	New	USAF

Voted in at the Aug 24, 2009 Membership Meeting:

Michael A. Price, Sr.	New	USAF
Johnny N. Evans, III	New	US Army
Robert C. Brown	Transfer 297	USAF
Leonard E. Neitzke	Transfer 297	USAF
Clarence Parrish, Jr	New	US Army
Burnis R. McNeil	Transfer 23	US Army