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

NOVEMBER

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2009

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Looking back a bit, October was a busy month for events at the Post. The Post sponsored a Crabfeast (sure wish we had sold a few more tickets) and hosted a well-attended "Legislative Night". The S.A.L. held another successful event with its "Halloween Dance". The Auxiliary was also active with the Children's Halloween Party and Southern Maryland District Auxiliary meeting was held at the Post. Hopefully, there was a little something for everyone and you were able to attend one or more of the events.

In November, we plan on holding the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Event which is always well attended. Also in November we'll have a Veterans Day program. Of course in December we have the Children's Christmas Party and the Post Christmas Party. Please consider buying your tickets early if required for an event and we are always looking for volunteers to help out. I hope to see many of you at the events.

I've been remiss in past newsletters in that I haven't stressed membership enough. If you haven't already renewed your membership please do so at your earliest convenience. If you know veterans who may be eligible for Post membership, let's get an application to them. If they have children and/or a wife, please include a S.A.L. and/or Auxiliary application also or at least let them know about those organizations. We made 3-star last year and I'm confident we can do it again this year...with your help.

Many of you have already purchased tickets for the shotgun raffle, but if you haven't or forgot about it you still have time. In the near future, tickets for the "Basket of Cheer" containing various alcoholic beverages, sodas, and other assorted goodies will be made available.

Have a free Friday night every once in a while? If so, consider coming down to the Post and helping out with our Friday Night Bingo. Our Bingo chairperson, Joe DeCenzo, can always use a few more volunteers. We do offer some small rewards for volunteering including a meal. If you can help out, show up around 6:30 p.m. and Bingo is generally done around 9:45.

Here's hoping that each of you have a special Thanksgiving as the Holiday season is kicked off.

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

In Legion Service
Brian Kern, Commander

CHARLOTTE HALL

We held our monthly BINGO program at the home on 14 Oct. There were 81 veterans in attendance. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks for the evening. The VOLUNTEERS helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond, and Mike Gilbert. We also had some students from Chopticon High School (jrROTC) helping out. The next BINGO will be 11 Nov. Hope we have enough help next month's program, for Mike Gilbert and I will be up north for our annual trip. Remember to say THANKS to a VET!!!

Mike Strotkamp
301 645 2397

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!

All you can eat thanksgiving Dinner will be served at the Post on Thursday, November 26, 2009. Menu will consist of: Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, collard greens, green bean casserole, stuffing, corn, roll and butter, pie, and more.

Adults: \$12.50, children under 6, \$7.00

We will be taking only 100 reservations. You must sign up and pay at the bar.

Post Crab Feast Claws its Way to Success

Despite a lower than expected turnout, the Post crabfeast was very successful. Over 65 participants feasted on crab, crab soup, hotdogs, fried and baked chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans and rolls. The "Wheel of Fortune" was available and provided attendees an opportunity to win a little money. Volunteers made sure the crab kept flowing from the kitchen and food was replenished as necessary. A special thank you to all who bought tickets and/or volunteered for this event.

Legislative Night Proves Interesting

Approximately 50 attendees took advantage of the opportunity to hear local elected officials discuss items of interest to Maryland's veterans. Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Delegate Joseph F. Vallario, and Delegate James E. Proctor were all present. Also on hand as an attendee was The American

Legion, Department of Maryland Commander, Orlyn C. Oestereich. Elbert "Ed" White spoke on behalf of the Department of Maryland and raised several interesting issues for the legislators to address. During the discussion Senator Miller indicated it is highly unlikely that gaming machines will be expanded further across the state during the next legislative session even though he realizes Maryland is losing gaming revenue to nearby states. A major theme of all three legislators was the current and future financial issues facing the state of Maryland and the impact on being able to do more for Maryland's veterans.

Where There's Smoke, There's....

Well, fortunately it wasn't a fire. On Saturday, October 19th, in the middle of the Post Crabfeast, it became necessary to call the fire department due to unexplained smoke in the canteen area. Fire Department units from Andrews AFB, District Heights, and Clinton all responded. After an approximately 90 minute search for the source of the smoke, it was determined to be coming from the Post kitchen area. The cause was hot cooking pots being placed near or touching the wall near the stove. Over the course of who knows how many events, the conditions finally were right for the wood supports in the wall to start smoldering. Once the "all clear" was given, crab feast participants quickly came back inside.

Post Traditions and Special Events Need Volunteer Support

Traditional events such as the Post Thanksgiving Meal, Children's Christmas Party, and Special Events are falling victim to a diminishing pool of volunteers. In large part, this may be due to the aging of our Post members and Commander Kern finds himself having to rely more and more on a smaller pool of volunteers until even they need a break. Whenever the Post puts on a traditional or special event, you can rest assured that more volunteers are always needed. This is an excellent opportunity for newer or younger members to get involved. If you have time to volunteer, please contact Commander Kern at 301-877-6499 or brian_k540@yahoo.com. He'd like to put together a "volunteer call list" that he can use as necessary to ensure enough volunteers are on hand for an event.

Important New Benefit May Interest Legionnaires

As a Legionnaire, you are eligible for a special discounted rate on auto coverage from GMAC Insurance. If you are not already a GMAC Insurance customer, switching from your current insurance company could save you an average of \$382 a year — and thanks to your special Legionnaire rate, *you* could save even more! Get a free, no-obligation quote online or call 1-888-346-1051 and mention Savings Code LM-2B. See how much you can save on the coverage chosen by Your Department of The American Legion.

Prince Georges County Council ("PGCC") and Southern Maryland District ("SMD") Hold Meetings

The mentioned entities held their routine meeting during the month of October. Topics discussed at the PGCC included but were not limited to the transfer of Post 297 members to local posts and budget/accounting. Post 297 is not an actual Post, but serves as the "holding" Post for those who have not joined a local Post. Since Post 297 members have a higher nonrenewal rate than local Post members, it is believed that transfer will result in a higher member retention rate. Topics at the SMD meeting included issues related to the Southern Maryland District Youth Camp. Although the full-scope of the meetings is incapable of being fully addressed in the limited space available here, they often prove very interesting and/or serve as an excellent learning tool into how The American Legion operates. If you have an interest in attending, let Commander Kern know and he'll get the date, time, and location of the next meeting to you.

Some of American Legion Post 259 Histories

1. Who purchased the kitchen tile floor?
2. Who built the storage room where the ice machine is located?
3. Who had all of the bathrooms papered the first time?
4. Who was the first Bingo chairman?
5. Who started the weekend lotto?

6. Who drew the flag on the outside wall that was published in the Legion magazine (this flag is also on your key card)?
7. Who purchased the first inside traveling sign?
8. Who built the Auxiliary office?
9. Who donated the dishwasher?
10. Who built the podium for the meetings?
11. Who installed the first carpet on the podium?
12. Who was the Commander when the mortgage was paid off?
13. Who purchased the large food warmer?
14. Who started the Auxiliary Palm Sunday Brunch and who first chaired it?
15. Who was the commander that had the dance floor built?
16. Who was the commander and who was the chairperson for the first pig roast?
17. Who purchased the current ice machine?
18. Who purchased the newest big screen TV in the main hall?

WHERE WERE YOU?

Answers:

1. The Auxiliary
2. Past Commander Ron Erwein
3. The Auxiliary
4. "Chief" Williams
5. "Chief" Williams
6. Past Commander Tom Phares
7. The Auxiliary
8. Past Commander Paul Brannon
9. Wayne Keller
10. Past Commander Tom Phares
11. Past Commander John Morgan
12. Past Commander Walt Timmerman
13. Past Commander John Morgan
14. Past President Mary Phares and Carolyn Sizemore
15. Past Commander Chuck Rivet
16. Past Commander John Morgan and Mary Phares
17. Sons of the American Legion (SAL)
18. Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Mary Phares

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2009</h1>						
1	2 7:30 pm S.A.L.	3	4 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30	5	6 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	7
8	9 7:30 pm Auxilliary Unit	10	11 VETERANS DAY 11:00 am Ceremony Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30	12	13 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	14
15	16 7:30 pm Executive Committee	17	18 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30	19	20 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	21
22	23 General Membership 6:30 pm Dinner 7:30 pm Meeting	24	25 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30	26 THANKSGIVING DAY Dinner 2:00 - 5:00 Reservations Required	27 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	28
29	30	DID YOU KNOW ... that one of the best kept secrets in the Post Is that we serve lunch/dinner almost every day? Call the bartender to find out what is on the menu ... 301-868-2550				