

**THE AMERICAN
LEGION
CLINTON POST 259**



9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

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Web Site: post259.org

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.....
Larry G. Hall, Commander

JANUARY

MICHAEL A. PRICE, EDITOR

2011

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy New year to each of you. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

I'll try and be brief this month. First, I want to thank, again, Diane Miller and her helpers (including Mike) for the fabulous Christmas Party on the 18th. A thanks as well to those who did such a great job decorating the hall. The food was delicious, including those monster baked potatoes. Mine was baked perfectly and so was my wife's and everyone else's I talked to. I like my beef rare and my broccoli hot. It was just as it should have been. The entertainment was spot on and I'm happy with the number of you who were there. Great job, guys.

I briefly mentioned the issue of security in my letter last month. There have been some questions and some situations arose that need to be explained. Members of the post are given a plastic key card. This is used to enter our secure front door. Please use it. You shouldn't have to take the bartender away from serving other guests because you don't use your key card. Also, for smokers, when you go outside to smoke, take your key card with you. No one is permitted to disable the locking system by inserting something in the door to keep it from locking. That applies to all doors, including those in the kitchen and the hall. When the door buzzes, only the bartender is authorized to open the door for whoever is there, to include other members. They also have specific instructions on how to meet strangers at the door. Persons inside the canteen are not permitted to open the door for anyone trying to enter. Please make a special effort to comply with these rules. Security of our members, employees and guests is of utmost importance and must not be ignored.

If you have not renewed your membership, you must do so during your next visit to the post. Technically, your membership, if not renewed, expired on December 31 and you are no longer a member. In order to protect our status with the IRS as a non-profit organization, you cannot be served as a non-

member and must be sponsored by a member. (Note: the member sponsoring you is required to pay for your drinks, etc., and you must depart when he/she departs). Avoid the hassles: renew your membership now.

Finally, the newsletter. I know we are not doing what we should be doing to get our newsletter to most of our members and I apologize for that. We are trying to get the newsletter to the maximum number of our members by the internet and reduce our postage expenses by eliminating mailing to members. Please bear with us. What we have in mind is somewhat complicated and will take time to implement. We have not forgotten you. For those of you who have internet access to the Post website at www.Post259.org , make a copy of the newsletter and pass it on to others you know who do not use the internet.

Have a very Happy New Year and a wonderful and successful 2011.

Yours in Legion Service,
Larry G. Hall
Commander

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Party for the Members of our Post and their guest was held in the main hall on Saturday, December 18, 2010. The meal, a steamship round of beef, was prepared by our House Manager, Diane Miller who was ably assisted by Mike Hunnicutt. After cocktails and before dinner, Commander Hall opened the December meeting. The only business to come before the meeting was to vote in six new members and unanimously pass the endorsement of Ed White for National Alternate NEC for when the next vacancy occurs. This was followed by the Commander wishing every one a very Merry Christmas.

Diane would like to thank the kitchen crew for all their help; Gary Castleman, Ann Richards, and Mike Hunnicutt. Also, George Bucklew for his dishpan hands.

Left out of thanks for their help at the Thanksgiving dinner but not forgotten, were Gary Castleman, Wayne Berbig, Tony Hunnicutt, and an over all thanks for all who helped. If it weren't for the unselfish help from these members, the Post could not have such fine dinners. We, as members, should show our support by also volunteering to do our part. We are a large Post and we need the help of our members in order to function. Commander Hall would most certainly appreciate having you step forward and volunteer your time and talents.

Pictures from the Adult Christmas Party



Gary and Anne Gifford (With backs to camera), Ed White, Commander Hall, Matt Garofalo (standing), Carolyn Hall



Commander Hall and wife Carolyn



Commander Hall and Auxiliary President Hunter.



NEW MEMBERS

The following are the names of the new members that were voted in to the Post at the December 18th, 2010 meeting.

Byron S. Kerrison	New	U. S. Army
Brian J. Messineo	New	U.S.A. F.
Joseph A. Delhall	New	U.S.A.F.
Clifford I. Jones	New	U.S.A.F.
Corris I. Jackson	New	U.S.A.F.
Charles D. Jones	New	U.S.A.F.
Edward R. Waddill, Sr	New	U.S. Marines

We extend a warm welcome to you and say, "Welcome aboard". Come out often and join with us in comradeship.

DID YOU KNOW...

That if you attend our regular meetings and your name is drawn, you could win up to \$300.00? That's right, we draw a number at the end of each meeting, and if it is yours, you win! The pot starts at \$50.00, and if the winner is not present, another \$50.00 is added until it reaches \$300.00. Right now, the pot sits at \$300.00. Need another incentive? We also hold a 50/50 after each meeting. And, of course, we have been having a meal before each meeting. Now that is a three-fold incentive for anyone! The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm; dinner starts at 6:30. See you on the fourth Monday in January!

SHOTGUN WINNER

The winner of the drawing for the shotgun was Camel E. Foster. Mr. Foster chose to take the money instead of the shotgun. We wish to thank all those who participated in this annual affair. The proceeds from the sale of the shotgun tickets are used to hold the annual children's Christmas Party.



WAGON OF CHEER WINNER

Trudee Hunter, our Madam President, was the winner of the drawing for the Wagon of Cheer. Congratulations, Trudee. Hope this adds to your having a Happy New Year!



SUPER BOWL POOL

There are a few blocks left on the \$100.00 Superbowl pool. If you are interested, see Diane.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Children's Christmas Party was held in the main hall on December 12, 2010. A good crowd showed up to join with 64 children of our members to welcome Santa Claus and partake of refreshments, a magic show, and gifts handed out by Santa. Ed and Liz White did the shopping for the children's gifts. The gifts were wrapped by Liz White and Connie Puryear. Santa Claus was most ably portrayed again this year by Drew Sterling. Working in the kitchen were Liz White, Connie Puryear and Jackie Sterling. Helping Santa distribute the gifts to the children were Bob Wilson and Liz White. This has always been a joyous occasion with the hall ringing with the happy shouts of children. As many of you may not know, this annual party is financed by the sale of tickets from the shotgun raffle. Many thanks to all of you who purchased the tickets.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year! As many of you know, compared to many of the members of the Auxiliary, I'm relatively new. I made a decision this year that I would try to learn more about what the Auxiliary is all about. The Preamble is our beginning. A preamble states the fundamental purposes, principles, and goals of Auxiliary. Here is what our Preamble means (located on Legion-Aux.org):

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America..."

The first of the 10 principles of The American Legion and Auxiliary is a sacred pledge of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. It is most appropriate that the first ideas presented in the Preamble be dedicated to the continued defense of our nation by those very persons who have either served in wartime or had a close relative who served. The pledge to uphold and defend America is the first obligation of every Legionnaire and Auxiliary member.

"To maintain law and order..."

Law and order must be maintained if freedom is to be maintained. Liberty is not license. Good government means that all citizens are secure in their lives and property. To this, the Legion and Auxiliary are pledged by the second principle stated in the Preamble.

"To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism..."

The term "Americanism" covers all of the things that have made the American nation great and the American people free. It implies qualities of character as well as principles of government. Under this Constitution's principles, the Legion and Auxiliary have worked, and are continuing to work, to defeat the attempts of subversive organizations to undermine our system. We attempt to build loyalty to and confidence in American ideals, and to develop an American citizenship capable of making America's free form of government a constantly greater success.

"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars..."

Every member of the Auxiliary has close personal associations with the sacrifice of war, be it World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada/Lebanon, Panama and Persian Gulf War. The associations and incidents of these struggles are to be remembered not only for their heroes, their victories for freedom, but also to remind us of the awful implications and inevitable tragedies accompanying war.

"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation..."

The individual is the basis of the American nation. Unlike other ideas of government, the American ideal places the individual first. The nation belongs to the individual, not the individual to the nation. The government exists for the purpose of serving the individual, not the individual for the purpose of serving the nation. If this ideal is to survive, there must be a voluntary sense of obligation of the individual to the nation and its component parts, the community and state. The American citizen serves his community, state and nation, not as a driven slave, but as a free man guided by his own sense of duty. To inculcate this feeling among all Americans is one of the great purposes of the Legion and Auxiliary.

"To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses..."

If America is to remain "the land of the free," the government must always be a government of all the people and for all the people. No classes are recognized in America. No masses of downtrodden people exist. Neither must be permitted to

develop, but America must be kept the country of opportunity for all, where every citizen's first allegiance is to the nation, not to some social or economic class or mass. Dominance must not be gained by any such grouping of Americans. This is another basic pledge of the Legion and Auxiliary.

"To make right the master of might..."

The American form of government guarantees equal rights to all citizens. The American Legion Auxiliary, born from a struggle against ruthless might, pledges their strength to a continued struggle to prevent invasion of the rights of any citizen by any force, no matter of what character.

"To promote peace and goodwill on earth..."

The men and women of the Legion and the women of the Auxiliary know well the ghastly futility of war. We know that war brings only misery to any nation, which engages in it, to the victor as well as the vanquished. With the lessons of war constantly in mind, we pledge ourselves to promote peace and goodwill among nations. We have worked steadily in the cause in the face of forces, which have sought to sow enmity and war throughout the world.

"To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy..."

These were the principles that inspired America's great war efforts over the decades, and the Legion and Auxiliary stand determined that these principles should not be lost to America in time of peace. Following this pledge, the Legion and Auxiliary work to safeguard justice, freedom and democracy against the dangers of indifferent citizenship and undermining by their enemies. It strives to give understanding of and devotion to these principles to the younger generations of Americans so that they will endure for the future of the country.

"To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion..." Thus, the Auxiliary pledges its full strength to the support of The American Legion, and affirm its character as an auxiliary to the Legion. It has always been faithful to this pledge, never developing programs or policies of its own, but directing all of its activities towards the "accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion."

"To consecrate and sanctify our association by devotion to mutual helpfulness."

In this final phrase of the Preamble is set forth the purpose which has guided the Legion and Auxiliary in all of their vast rehabilitation and youth work; in everything they have done to lighten the burden for those suffering from the results of wars; and to bring full justice to those paying the human price for America's victory. In this work of mercy and relief, the Auxiliary has made great contributions toward the achievement of the Legion's purpose.

The Preamble is our beginning but YOU are the reasons we are able to sustain our purposes, principles and goals of the Auxiliary. Please attend our next meeting on February 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM. Dues are still \$14.00 for Seniors and \$4.00 for Juniors.

I wish EVERYONE a great new Year!

Trudee Hunter
TVRHunter@aol.com
240-299-7117

CHARLOTTE HALL

Post 259 held their monthly BINGO program at the home on 8 December 2010. Trudee Hunter from the Auxiliary, Bob Levendusky and Al Elmond were the post 259 volunteers with much appreciated help from the Chopticon High School ROTC students and their escort, Kimberly Bowles. A very special thanks goes to Boy Scout Troop 1572 from Clinton. The troop brought Christmas gifts and cards for the veterans and also passed out beautiful fleece lap blankets made by the girl scouts. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks for the evening. The next BINGO will be 12 January 2011.

Helping hands are always welcome. The rewards are priceless from a very grateful group of heroes.

Al Elmond

(Pictures from Charlotte Hall)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2011</h1>						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR11
2	3 S A L 7:30 PM	4	5 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	6 PIZZA Night	7 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	8
9	10 Auxiliary Unit 259 7:30 PM	11	12 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	13	14 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	15
16	17 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	18	19 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	20	21 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	22
23	24 Post General Membership Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	25	26 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	27	28 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	29
30	31					



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 P.O. BOX 44
 CLINTON, MARYLAND 20735

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Auxiliary Officers

President Trudee Hunter
 Vice Pres. Glenda Morgan
 Secretary Maria Suthard
 Treasurer Toni Carr
 Historian Vivian Boyd
 Chaplain Sharon Franklin
 Sgt At Arms Barbara Theesen
 Exec. Comm. Liz White
 Ginger Latimer
 Marilyn Thomas



Post Officers

Commander Larry G. Hall
 Adjutant Robert A. Wilsom
 Ass't Adjutant
 1st Vice Gary Gifford
 2nd Vice Matthew Garofalo
 3rd Vice Ronald Potts
 Judge Advocate Elbert "ED" White
 Service Officer Joseph Vlcek
 Finance Officer Richard Switzer
 Ass't Fin Officer Jerald Thompson
 Historian Charles Lewis
 Chaplain Thomas Treichel
 Sgt At Arms George Martin
 Sgt Major John Jackson
 Exec Comm. James Panor
 Joseph DeCenzo
 Joseph Morgan
 Richard Barb
 Melvin Hale



S.A.L. Officers

Commander David Hutchinson