

THE CLINTON POST 259 MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Greetings Post 259 American Legion Family

As we continue to follow the guidelines set forth by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, I hope everyone is safe and well. As the Covid-19 virus continues to spread across Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia, we must adhere to all the safety recommendations: Maintain social distancing, wear a mask and constantly wash your hands.

Post 259 will remain closed until Governor Hogan lifts the Stay at Home order. I have included his proposal for opening the state in three stages in this newsletter. When you review it, you will see the post comes under stages 2 and 3. More information on when and how the post will reopen will be sent out in future emails.

The Department of Maryland American Legion recently sent out Resolution D7920 for a vote by the Department Executive Committee (DEC) requesting approval to postpone the Department Convention until on or about September 19, 2020. The resolution was adopted by the DEC. The convention location has not been determined as of this time. An email was sent out previously informing the membership the July date for the convention had been canceled and if you had reservations for that date you should cancel them.

Since we have been unable to have our March and April general membership meetings, we have not had a chance to accept nominations for officers. The AL Maryland Department sent out an email stating that post elections do not have to be completed until August 30, 2020. We have time to get the nominations and election process completed by that date.

The May general membership meeting is scheduled for May 25. This would have been the date for our Memorial Day program. Based on the current health environment and precautions, the program is canceled for this year. The May meeting will be determined later during the month.

Stay safe and continue to check on each other.

Yours in service,

For God and Country,

Murray S. Hall

Commander AL Post 259

POST OFFICERS

Commander	Murray S. Hall
1 st Vice Commander	Willie Evans
2 nd Vice Commander	Raymond Butts
3 rd Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Robert A. Wilson
Asst. Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Elbert "Ed" White
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Lamont Gibson
Asst. Finance Officer	Vacant
Historian	Shay Brown
Chaplain	James Burrows
Asst. Chaplain	Vacant
Sgt At Arm	John Jackson
Executive Committee Helen L. Smith Joseph Morgan Marie Vanness	Treasurer Department of Maryland Gary W. Gifford



Auxiliary Officers

Legion Rider Officers

S.A.L. Officers

President: Maria Miller

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: David Hutchinson

Vice President: Jan Blackwell

Asst. Director: Murray Hall

1st Vice: Vacant

Secretary: Chancie Jones

Secretary: Brie O'Neal

2nd Vice: Kenny Hendrix

Treasurer: Helen L. Smith

Treasurer: Brie O'Neal

Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais

Historian: Chauncia Jones

Chaplain: James Burrows

Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas

Chaplain: Marilyn Thomas

Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.

Sgt At Arm: Cheryl Batie

Historian: Vacant

Executive Advisory Board
 Donna Queen
 Pam Streeter
 Judith Woodland

Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer

Advisor: Eugene Murray

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Day 2020 – Event cancelled – Legion
Flag Day – June 14, 2020 – Legion
AL Golf Tournament – June 2020 – Cancelled
Ocean City Conference – July 13-17, 2020 – Cancelled
Post Elections – Deadline August 30, 2020 – Legion
Gary A. Castleman Golf Tournament – September 2020
Veterans Day Service – Nov. 11, 2020 – Auxiliary
Children’s Christmas Party – December 2020 – Legion
Adult Christmas Party/Shotgun Raffle Drawing – December 2020 – Legion
Super Bowl Party – February 2021 – Legion
Oratorical Contest – February 2021 – Legion
American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2021
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner – March 17, 2021 – Post 259
Palm Sunday Brunch – April 2021 – Auxiliary

Message from Commander Murray Hall

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said the state could begin reopening some businesses and gradually lifting coronavirus restrictions in May under a three-stage recovery plan he unveiled on Friday April 24 — but the reopening will only happen if the number of hospitalizations and deaths related to the virus continue on a downward trend.

Hogan announced the “Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery” from the governor’s mansion, describing it as a “well thought-out, gradual, safe and effective path forward for the people of our state.”

Hogan stressed that the three-stage recovery plan lays out guidelines for a gradual lifting of restrictions.

“If we try to rush this, and if we don’t do it in a thoughtful and responsible way, it could cause a rebound of the virus, which could deepen the economic crisis, prolong the fiscal problems and slow our economic recovery,” he said.

Here is a look at the three stages:

Stage One

The stay-at-home order can be lifted

Many small businesses can reopen

Lower-risk community activities and quality-of-life improvements can resume

This stage could see the reopening of golf courses, the return of recreational boating and fishing

Elective outpatient surgeries can resume

In addition, local governments would have additional flexibility to open local parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and libraries if safety protocols are followed.

If officials do not see any spikes in deaths, ICU cases or “significant outbreaks of community transmission,” then the plan would move to the second stage, Hogan said.

Stage Two

More businesses can reopen

Nonessential workers who cannot telework can return to work

Indoor religious gatherings can resume with limited capacity

Limits on social gatherings can be raised

Can return to normal transit schedules

Restaurants and bars can open with “significant restrictions”

Stage Three

Some “higher-risk activities,” including larger social gatherings can be re-instituted

High-capacity bars and restaurants can reopen

Some restrictions on visits to nursing homes and hospitals can be lifted

Some restrictions on entertainment venues and larger gatherings can be lifted

**Message from Department of Maryland Treasurer and
Chairman, Life Membership Committee Gary Gifford**

Our Post Membership meeting scheduled for March was cancelled due to the closing of American Legion Posts during the coronavirus pandemic. At that meeting the Life Membership Committee was to read the attached Bylaws Article XI Section 4 to the members, and to explain the recommendation protocol complete with cutoff date.

We still do not know when the next regular Post Membership meeting will be held. The Committee probably will not be able to meet the specific deadlines set forth in Section 4 of the Bylaws.

Nevertheless, the Committee wishes to announce to all the opportunity to recommend qualifying Post Members for Honorary Life Membership.

Post acknowledgement of exemplary service to American Legion Clinton Post 259 by bestowing Honorary Life Membership has inspired me for Legion service on many levels, as I believe has inspired others in our Post and beyond.

That is why the Committee continues to seek out the next Post 259 member who has shown through service to our Post to be worthy of that great honor.

The Covid-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc with American Legion meeting schedules. Instead of deferring our quest for our candidate to 2021, the Committee beseeches you to recommend a worthy Legionnaire now, using the attached Life Membership Form, by June 30, 2020. You may email the completed form to gary@thegiffords.org<mailto:gary@thegiffords.org>, if you are able to scan it after signing. Otherwise, mail the completed/signed form to our Post at:

American Legion Clinton Post 259
PO Box 44
Clinton, Maryland 20735-0042

Thank you for your military service, for your service to veterans and community through our American Legion, and for taking a few moments to reflect on the service you or one of our comrades have rendered to our Post.

Please follow the protocols health agencies have recommended for our health safety.

This is Section 4 – Honorary Life Members (One of three attachments sent)

SECTION 4. Life Membership Committee. The Life Membership Committee shall be composed of all honorary life members of the Post. The Chairman shall be elected by the Life Membership Committee and shall serve for a term of one year or for a lesser period of time as determined by the Life Membership Committee.

The Life Membership Committee shall act as the Nominating Committee for selecting honorary life members in the Post. At the regular Post meeting in March of each year, the membership shall be advised as to how to make recommendations for honorary life membership in the Post in accordance with the guidelines as stated below. All recommendations must be referred to the Life Membership Committee for their consideration.

The Life Membership Committee shall meet in May of each year. The Adjutant shall notify all committee members in writing at least two weeks prior, of the date, time, and place of the May meeting. In addition, the Commander, at his discretion, may call a special meeting at any time, provided the two-week advance notice is given. The Committee will submit the name of candidates (if any) selected for honorary life membership in the Post for approval at the next membership meeting of the Post after first submitting same to the Executive Committee for their recommendation.

Guidelines for selecting 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 performance of such service, he has become preeminent among his fellow legionnaires and thereby entitled to great honor and to special reward.
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.
4. Life Membership Awards will be presented at the annual Post Installation.

There are two other attachments that were forwarded, a noname and Life Membership Form which is in PDF form –

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VbJxc1hJxLGt-dRj9ffkOlc8e7-P4S0V>

Messages from 1st Vice Commander Willie Evans

Membership Renewals:

Pay online at www.legion.org or mail your \$35.00 membership payment with checks made out to "Clinton Post 259" to American Legion Post 259, P. O. Box 44, Clinton, MD 20735.

Stand up and show your support for our veterans, as well as the men and women currently serving, by renewing your membership today!

Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership:

Why should you become a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member?

Paid Up For Life membership is a lifelong membership plan of The American Legion. It ensures you receive all the benefits of Legion membership for life. Lifetime membership is paid either in one payment giving you an **immediate** savings offer – or charged to your credit card in 12 equal monthly payments. Once you fulfill your membership dues, you'll never pay another dime in American Legion membership dues.

What are the benefits for being a PUFL?

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Counted in the numbers of over 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year. To get your personalized Paid Up For Life offer, click on the following link or paste in your web browser:

<https://www.members.legion.org/tal/pufl?puflsource=PF1912&msclkid=66f6a61e3e251d31da5efb736c455ec5>

POST 259 BRIEFS

May Calendar

From Commander Hall: "The calendar page will be updated when the Post reopens."

The Southern Maryland District Department Reception scheduled for Saturday May 9 is cancelled.

Editor's News Briefs

Buddy Checks. Post 259 has participated in Buddy Checks in contacting fellow Legionnaires on how they are doing during the coronavirus pandemic. More checks need to be done.

More information is here for those interested in following up in the program.

<https://www.legion.org/publications/248650/buddy-check-coronavirus-pandemic-assistance>

What Veterans Need to Know During the Pandemic Crisis

<https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions>

Blue Angels and Thunderbirds will fly over Baltimore and DC

http://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=b6d5c598-c32a-425a-b4f4-2257fa6996b6

Death at Veterans Home Causes Alarm

http://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=38ca99d0-2cf6-4d8c-9f91-d97b46b892d3

Sexual Assaults in Military Rise

http://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=94010d32-1870-43bf-91d4-bf4b73d52f6c

Stay Home-Stay Safe-Stay Connected

**The American Legion
Clinton Post 259
9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735
Phone: 301-868-2550
Website: www.post259.org**

**I welcome your news, ideas, suggestions,
comments or questions for future issues.
Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at
poulin515@gmail.com
(subject to change)

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