

# AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259



## OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legion Family,

First, I want to say thank you for your trust and vote of confidence in electing me as the Commander of Clinton Post 259. I am truly honored, and I take this responsibility very seriously and will do all I can to live up to what is expected of me.

The tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound effect on our way of life and we have been forced to adopt different ways of working and connecting with each other. Despite the unprecedented challenges this crisis has brought, the past two weeks have been very eventful. Two days after officially assuming the office of Post Commander on September 19, 2020, I held my first Executive Committee meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020, where I shared my vision, goals, and objectives for the 2020 - 2021 administration. One week later on Monday, September 28, 2020, an inspection of the Post's business operations was completed prior to the start of the Post's general membership meeting by the Prince George's County Council Commander, John Kilgallon. Doing the membership meeting, the County Commander made some positive and congratulatory remarks on how well he found the Post's business functions being managed and maintained.

As we move forward, we will continue to do all the things required to take care of the business of The American Legion. However, it must be noted that the success of any organization is directly dependent on the participation and active involvement of its membership, which is primarily carried out through the work of committees. The Post has over thirteen standing committees designed to carry out the goals and objectives of The American Legion. Serving on a committee provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about The American Legion and its mission, as well as an opportunity for every member to find something of interest that's well suited for use of their special gifts and talents. If you are interested in getting more involved, please don't hesitate to contact me.

There are two areas of focus this administration will pursue: (1) strengthening the relationship and involvement of members of the SAL, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders in post events and activities; and (2) improved community relations. Our Post should serve as a pillar in the community, and to meet this end an effort will be made to investigate ways to enhance our civic engagement. The underlying theme adopted to help guide our actions in all that we do is that we (i.e., Legion, Legion Riders, SAL, and Auxiliary) are "One Family, One Team."

I am looking forward to working with everyone in this new capacity as we move forward as "One Family, One Team."

Yours in Legion Service,

Willie Evans  
Commander

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2020 - 2021

Commander	Willie Evans
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Helen Smith
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Marie Vanness
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Haywood Moss
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Richard Switzer
Historian	June Forte
Chaplain	James Burrows
Sgt At Arm	John Jackson
<b>Executive Committee Members-At-Large</b> Joseph Morgan Ray Carmichael Gary Gifford* Anthony Hinnant	

(\*Gary Gifford also serves as the Department of Maryland Treasurer)



**Auxiliary Officers**

**Legion Rider Officers**

**S.A.L. Officers**

President: Freida Skaggs

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: David Hutchinson

Vice President: Marilyn Thomas

Asst. Director: James Burrows

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Vacant

Secretary: Rose Butler

Secretary: Brie O’Neal

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Kenny Hendrix

Treasurer: Michele Davis

Treasurer: Brie O’Neal

Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais

Historian: Vacant

Chaplain: James Burrows

Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas

Chaplain: Vacant

Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.

Sgt At Arm: Parnice Green

Historian: Vacant

Executive Advisory Board  
 Donna Queen  
 Pam Streeter  
 Cheryl Batie

Chaplain: Gary “GJ” Shafer  
 Advisor: Eugene Murray

## UPCOMING EVENTS

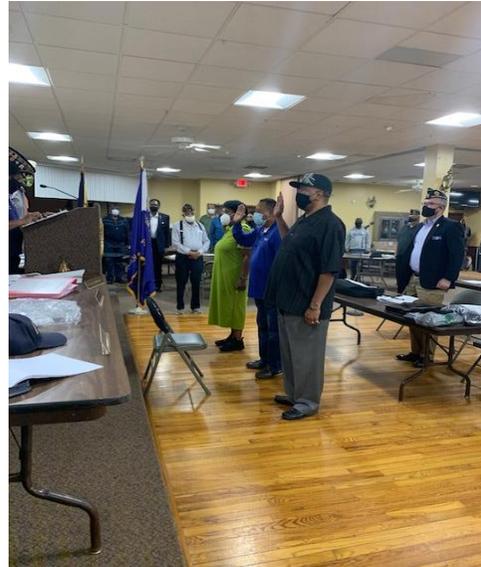
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 26 October 2020</b>
<b>Southern Maryland District (SMD) Council Meeting – 01 November 2020 - Cheverly Post 108 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Veterans Day Service – 11 November 2020 (TBD)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 23 November 2020</b>
<b>Children’s Christmas Party – December 2020 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>Adult Christmas Party/Shotgun Raffle Drawing – December 2020 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>Prince George’s County Council (PGCC) Winter Meeting – 11 January 2021 – Oxon Hill Post 248 (7:00pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 25 January 2021</b>
<b>Southern Maryland District (SMD) Council Meeting – 07 February 2021 – Stallings-Williams Post 206 (1:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Super Bowl Party – February 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>SMD Council Oratorical Contest – 20 February 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 22 February 2021</b>
<b>American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2021</b>
<b>St. Patrick’s Day Dinner – 17 March 2021 (TBD)</b>
<b>SMD Council Oyster Bowl – 20 March 2021 – LaPlata Post 82 (TBD)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 22 March 2021</b>
<b>Palm Sunday Brunch – 28 March 2021 – Auxiliary (TBD)</b>
<b>PGCC Meeting – 12 April 2021 – John B. Lassiter Post 217 (7:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>SMD Council Public Safety Awards Program – 25 April 2021 - Greenbelt Post 136 (1:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 26 April 2021</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 24 May 2021</b>
<b>PGCC Commander’s Roast – 27 May 2021 – Laurel Post 60 (7:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Memorial Day Program – 31 May 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)</b>
<b>SMD Council Reception – 05 June 2021 – SMD Youth Camp (TBD)</b>
<b>SAL Golf Tournament – June 2021 (TBD)</b>
<b>Flag Day – 14 June 2021</b>
<b>PGCC Caucus – 14 June 2021 – Glenarden Post 275 (7:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>SMD Council Caucus – 27 June 2021 – Cheverly Post 108 (1:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 28 June 2021</b>
<b>Department Convention – 13-16 July 2021 – Ocean City, MD (TBD)</b>

## Welcome New Recruits to Clinton Post 259!

New Legionnaires took the oath to become members of Clinton Post 259 on September 28<sup>th</sup>. They are James J. Bullock (Air Force), Glen Crutchfield (Army), Joshua P. Roberson (Army), Dennis L. Robinson Sr. (Army), Albert L. Rowell, Jr. (Air Force), and Don L. Wiseman (Army).

Two transfer Legionnaires also took part. They are Robin S. Penick (Navy) and William W. Tresidder (Navy).

Three new members sworn in at the September meeting are Glenn Crutchfield, Joshua P. Roberson, and Robin S. Penick.



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## EDITOR'S NEWS BRIEFS

Latest report on Maryland COVID-19

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-coronavirus-numbers-friday-20201009-hdlglmn45zdmhgqockdeqlzafm-story.html>

Surgical team saves infant in surgery

<https://health.mil/News/Articles/2020/10/07/Joint-medical-effort-flies-infant-to-Calif-for-emergency-surgery>

No Gold Star Families got COVID-19 after White House Event

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/08/no-gold-star-families-got-covid-19-after-white-house-event-organization-says.html>

## **American Legion joins Bipartisan effort to pass Buddy Check Bill**

The American Legion has joined forces with Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Doug Jones, D-Ala.; and Maggie Hassan, D-N.H. in a bipartisan effort to pass legislation aimed at combatting veteran suicide. The bill is modeled after The American Legion's "Buddy Check National Week of Calling" to connect veterans to better ensure that they receive the care they need.

The legislation will require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a "Buddy Check Week," as well as provide educational opportunities, materials, and references for veterans to learn how to conduct personal wellness checks. Additionally, the bill compels VA to expand resources for the Veterans Crisis Line to handle any potential increased usage during the designated week. To contact your senators and representative and tell them to cosponsor and support S.4657/H.R.2898 today, visit <https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/77447/Respond>.

## **Members are reminded of the Post's House Rules.**

### **HOUSE RULES CLINTON POST NO. 259**

1. Those who meet the following criteria will be allowed entry into the lounge of the American Legion Clinton Post No. 259:
  - a. Members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion with a current membership card from Post No. 259. This includes family members and guests when accompanied by the Member. All guests are the responsibility of the Member and must leave when the Member leaves. Guest(s) may not make any purchase in the lounge.
  - b. Members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion from other Posts with a current membership card.
  - c. All guest(s) (non-members of Post No. 259) must sign the Guest Book.
2. Post Dress Code
  - a. Members and Guests are always expected to wear clean and presentable attire.
  - b. Any article of clothing, including caps/hats, which display suggestive, obscene or derogatory writing or design is prohibited.
  - c. Footwear is required to be worn at all times within the Post.
  - d. Revealing garments, such as halter tops, muscle shirts, mid-riff revealing tops, mini-skirts, or short shorts are prohibited.
  - e. See-through clothing is prohibited unless a tank top is worn underneath.
  - f. Undershirts and undergarments are prohibited as primary outer garments and should not be visible.
  - g. Management reserves the right to specify dress for special occasions.
  - h. The final decision as to what constitute proper dress rests with the on-duty manager with guidance from the House Committee.
3. Legionnaires and Guests are expected to help keep the Post home clean and tidy. Persons using tables must clean them before leaving. No material will be thrown behind the bar or on the floor.
4. The House Manager, Executive Committee Members or the designated person in charge has the authority to enforce the House Rules, and they may direct any Member or Guest to leave the premises for misconduct or violation(s) of the House Rules. Additional action(s) may be taken if a Member has an Incident Report filed against him/her.
5. Overly intoxicated person(s) will not be tolerated in the Post home. No loud, boisterous, or profane language is permitted. The employee(s) on duty may refuse service to anyone and request the person to vacate the premises.
6. Any Member who removes, destroys or damages any property of Post No. 259 shall pay for such action and will be subject to disciplinary action by the Post Executive Committee.
7. Credit will not be extended to Members or Guests.
8. Games not sponsored by the Post will not be played in the Canteen.
9. Only bartenders, managers and persons authorized by the Commander or House Manager are permitted behind the bar.
10. Members and Guest(s) will not demean, insult or in any manner attempt to intimidate Post officers or Post employees regarding the House Rules or Post operations. Constructive criticism is encouraged and should be submitted, in writing, to the either the Commander or the Post Executive Committee.

## Despite Pandemic, Department of Maryland Holds its Annual Convention

The One-Hundred-Second Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc. (taken from the *Free State Warrior*) was held on Saturday September 19, 2020. Normally done in Ocean City, MD for several days, this year was a complete turnaround due to the pandemic of COVID-19.

Several locations took place to view the virtual program event, which was first to be held in Baltimore, MD.

The Southern Maryland District's location was at the Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82 in LaPlata, MD. Delegates who attended were required to wear masks. A health form was also required to fill out when first entering the Post. Chairs were set six feet apart for attendees to practice social distancing guidelines.



Virtual Convention



“The main thing here is the reorganization of the Department,” said Southern Maryland District Commander Steve Brennan. “There is the resolution that has many aspects to it. There are no longer counties.”

Brennan emphasized that to fully participate in changes and goings-on, attend meetings. “The problem is not attending (post council and district) meetings,” he said. “It can be kind of frustrating; discussion on this has been going on for two years.”

Brennan’s duties started the day of the convention, replacing Post 259’s Past Commander Haywood Moss.



Ed White, a member of the Department’s Internal Affairs Commission, provided highlights of the department convention at the September general membership meeting.

“The virtual meeting turned out very well; we had to have a convention in order to pass certain resolutions which needed to be passed,” said White. “We had an excellent turnout.”

White continued saying that the state of Maryland was divided into seven districts and it was hard to get around posts. He used Moss as an example of his travel time, traveling 70 miles one way to Ridge, MD or north to Damascus, MD.

“You spent more time in your car instead of visiting posts to help resolve their problems.” he said.

“Resolution C03-2020 was voted and passed,” said White. “This will be the last year that we will operate the Department of Maryland with county councils. We will break the Department down to four regions: Northern Central, Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland.”

White said that each region will have two districts, which will have from 14 to 20 posts they will oversee.

“It will give them more time to visit each post and we feel that it will benefit the American Legion tremendously,” he said.

The resolution also created a generic set of bylaws for the regions and districts.

“At the conclusion of next year’s convention, we will be operating under the new setup,” White said.

## October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1	2
4	5 SAL Meeting (6:30pm) Prince George's County Council Meeting - Laurel Post 60 (7:00pm)	6	7	8	9
11	12 <span style="color: red;">Columbus Day</span> Auxiliary Meeting (6:30pm)	13	14	15	16
18	19 Executive Committee Meeting (6:30pm)	20 Legion Riders Meeting (6:30pm)	21	22	23
25	26 General Membership Meeting (7:30pm)	27	28	29	30

## John Kilgallon, County Commander, Speaks at Clinton Post 259's General Membership Meeting



Clinton Post 259 Legionnaires welcomed John Kilgallon, Prince George's County Council Commander, at their September 28 General Meeting.

"I'm happy to be here because by pure luck, the two posts I'm hitting are the heavy hitters," Kilgallon said. "The ones with active membership, with a good lounge, the ones with enthusiasm."

There was no doubt Clinton Post 259 was one of the hitters.

Kilgallon then spoke about the Chaplain's Report and Father Tony Award, which Post 259's Chaplain James Burrows received last year.

"You've got to do enough stuff to put in the report and not have a blank page," said Kilgallon.

Those who attended the meeting applauded Burrows on doing an outstanding job.

Burrows not only is the Post's chaplain; he is also the chaplain and new assistant director for Clinton Post 259's Legion Riders.

"You guys are vibrant, and it motivates me," concluded Kilgallon.

## **Commanders have challenges in their duties. Commander Murray Hall turned many into victories.**

Outgoing Commander Murray S. Hall (2018-2020) has completed a two-year term at Clinton Post 259. In his last newsletter address last month, Hall thanked his supporters; which included the Post family, Auxiliary, SAL, Legion Riders, Executive Committee, and Past Post Commanders.

Giving his gratitude, Hall knew he could not accomplish his tasks without their help. But Hall also had the leadership skills to do what was required of him to make it work.

“Getting programs started was one of the challenges I faced,” said Hall. “Bringing people in; I talked to numerous people who have been in the Post for 20 years; I tried to bring them back to participate.”

The latter part of 2018 when Hall began his role as Commander in September, Thursday Night Football with food began which became a success.

Health care costs and benefits from TRICARE representatives presented a question and answer session in October, the first of its kind at the Post.

Bingo continued to be a mainstay at the post while Karaoke was added after the football season.

“My biggest concern was Bingo, since many of the players were elderly,” Hall said.

Asked if the two would be back at the post, Hall replied, “It depends on the Post, the Executive Committee has to vote on it.”

Hall is credited for the Bingo and Karaoke meals served on those nights. Providing chicken dinners that were popular, he assisted in the kitchen, giving his service in making sure the process was successful.

The year 2019 was a promising year for Clinton Post 259 under Hall, with many activities taking place and celebrations to remember.

A government shutdown was in place at the beginning of the year and the United States Coast Guard in Maryland was hard hit financially. The American Legion asked posts for \$1,000 dollars donations to the Temporary Fund Assistance (TFA) program. Clinton Post 259 gave the money amount needed.

The Supreme Court victory for The American Legion (AL) was a milestone for keeping the Peace Cross in Bladensburg, MD. Clinton Post 259, other posts, Legion reps were at the Supreme Court Building for support on February 27, 2019. The American Legion won its case by a 7-2 decision on June 20, 2019.

The American Legion celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year in March. In honor of this celebration, the Post hosted a reception that included special guests Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Legionnaire George W. Owens and Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 259 was also given special recognition.

The yearly Memorial Day program in May at the post presented guest speaker Dr. James Dula, the director of the Prince George’s County Veterans Affairs Office, who gave Clinton Post 259 a proclamation from the Office of Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

June was a special month for Clinton Post 259 Vietnam veterans, honoring National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, 2019. Department of Defense Vietnam War Partner Mayvee Smith presented lapel pins during two pinning ceremonies at the Post, the first being on June 24, 2019.

The LEGION Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump that changed the American Legion's National Charter and eligibility procedures in July. In October, the second TRICARE seminar was held at the post.

These were some of the positive highlights Commander Hall benefited from during his period of leadership.

But Commander Hall also faced the daunting task of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. He is the only Commander in the Post's history to do so.

"On Monday March 15, 2020, all Marylanders faced a dire situation caused by the COVID-19 virus," said Hall. "The pandemic prompted Governor Larry Hogan to issue an emergency executive order requiring Marylanders to stay home."

"Post 259 was closed from March 16<sup>th</sup> to June. Post 259 has been extremely fortunate," continued Hall. "We were able to open and transition back into a regular business routine with modified hours under Phase Two of the Executive Order issued by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. We were in a position to re-open with our original staff and so far operations have gone smoothly."

Hall communicated to Post members by continuing his newsletter addresses during the months the Post was closed.

"I think Post 259 is a great post, a welcoming post," said Hall. "The Post gives back to its membership. Get involved in the Post and the committees; volunteer in its activities."

(Past) Commander Murray S. Hall is a leader of integrity. By volunteering and accepting the highest position at the Post, he joins other leaders who gave their all to make their Post and the American Legion a better organization.





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## Stay Home-Stay Safe-Stay Connected

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