

Clinton American Legion Post 259, Inc.
Commanders Report on the State of the Post
For the Legion Year 2008-2009

The following report is offered pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Post's Constitution under which the Commander is required to make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year.

Clinton American Legion Post 259, Inc. remains in good order as evidenced by its membership, facilities, programs, finances, and community involvement.

As concerns membership, the Post was able to reverse a downward trend in membership and earned 3-star status. At the end of Legion Year 2008-2009, Post membership totaled 1,069 members.

As concerns the Post facilities, they are well maintained and in good order. A major improvement occurring during Legion year 2008-2009 was the installation of a digital sign in front of the Post. This sign is used to advertise not only Post activities; but also, the availability for hall rentals, Friday night bingo, and other similar events and activities. All necessary repairs, both large and small, are made in a prompt and cost efficient manner. In addition to normal routine maintenance, the Post installed a grease trap in the kitchen and replaced a building air conditioning unit.

As concerns the Post programs, they are active and well-planned. This is evidenced by the Post earning several awards in the 1,001 members and over category during the 91st Annual Department of Maryland Convention held from July 15-17th, 2009. These awards included an Annual Child Welfare Citation, the Paul Chonkich Memorial Trophy, the Joseph A. O'Grady Memorial Trophy, the Past Department Commander Herbert L. Rhodes Memorial Trophy, and the Past Department Commander Charles A. St. Clair, Jr. Memorial Trophy. As concerns the Charles A. St. Clair memorial trophy, the Post's receiving this award was based largely on behalf of efforts by the S.A.L. Squadron.

As concerns the Post finances, they are in order and audited on an annual basis. The Post is fortunate to have three certified public accountants serving on its Executive Committee one of which is a Past Department of Maryland Treasurer. However, while the Post's finances are in order that is not to say the Post does not face financial issues. During Legion year 2008-2009, the Post operated at a significant loss and it is likely to do so again in Legion year 2009-2010. While the Post has significant assets to weather these losses, it is imperative that the Post increase its revenue and/or decrease expenditures in future years to stem a potential pattern of recurring losses. It must be noted that the prohibition of gaming machines in areas other than Maryland's eastern shore impacts Post 259 and its surrounding community by denying the Post an income source readily available to Posts along Maryland's eastern shore and, as a consequence, denigrates the Post's ability to make charitable contributions to worthy organizations seeking the Post's support.

The Post has an active Auxiliary unit offering great support to Post programs while at the same time sponsoring activities in support of Auxiliary initiatives. The Sons of the American Legion also actively support Post programs while at the same time supporting their own initiatives. It is worth noting that the Post received the Charles A. St. Clair Memorial Trophy largely, if not entirely, through the efforts of S.A.L. members.

In summation, the Post's membership increase, active programs, financial strength, and facilities, should serve well in maintaining the Post as a leading Post in the Department of Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian S. Kern, Commander.