



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Gahanna Post #797



Volume 9 No 9

February 2010

### American Legion Post 797 Officers

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Post Commander - Malcolm Glasgow            | First Vice Commander - Stanley Wepking |
| IPPC/Second Vice Commander - Diane McDaniel | Post Adjutant - Harvey Jones           |
| Finance Officer - Gary Filaseta             | Service Officer - John Chestna         |
| Post Historian - Merlin DePew               | Post Chaplain - Rusty Lundy            |
| Sergeant-at-Arms - Jerry McDaniel           |  |

### Post 797 Executive Committee Members

|                |                        |                 |           |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Jim Garrabrant | Jack Steinhausser, Sr. | Richard Trushel | John Raab |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 797

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Post Advisor - Malcolm Glasgow | Commander - Robert Crawford     |
| First Vice Commander -         | Second Vice Commander -         |
| Adjutant - Harvey Jones        | Finance Officer - Gary Filaseta |
| Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Snyder  | Chaplain -                      |

### Ladies Auxiliary Unit 797

|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President - Carole Ebersole         | First Vice Commander -         |
| Second Vice Commander - Linda Gease | Unit Secretary - Judy Filaseta |
| Treasurer/Membership - Joice Mahr   | Unit Chaplain - Ruth Wepking   |
| Sergeant-at-Arms - Diane McDaniel   | Fundraising - Dawn DePew       |

### **FROM POST COMMANDER MALCOLM GLASGOW:**

It's that time of the year again when we decide the future of our Post, for this is the time when we consider who wants and will lead the future of Post 797. Officers and members thinking about running for Post Offices should seriously consider the office duties and responsibilities before accepting nomination and running for that position. Everyone considering a position needs to read the Post Officers Guide for the office being considered and review pages 6-28 to fully understand what your duties and responsibilities are to be before accepting nomination. Once they have read and understand what those expectations are, it then becomes decision time. Do I have the time to dedicate and serve the post in this office? Please bear in mind what is mentioned regarding elections on page 28 of the Post Officer Guide: "If the work of the post has gone well and the present officers have been effective, there should be no lack of competition for the effective post offices. But, there may come a time when someone must be approached and urged to run for Post Commander or other elective offices. However, it comes to a time when a commander and other officers may have been in an office too long and this prohibits Post growth.

This is particularly true in smaller posts where many of the members have already served and there are not a lot of active members to choose from. Generally, 10% of the active membership does all the work and it's

not fair to these individuals to feel they have to continue to stay in office. *This year I'm asking our active members to come forward and take on new responsibilities so that the current officers that don't want to run can pass their offices to individuals that want to serve our Post and the Gahanna community.* This situation should be anticipated and long-range plans are made to consider. The present Post officers and active Legionnaires must always be on the alert toward developing future officer material. Any Legionnaire member showing ability and interest should be encouraged to seek higher office."

When that decision has been made then it is time to notify the elections committee (Harvey Jones, Diane McDaniel and Jack Steinhauser) who will make the necessary arrangements for nomination during our March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. I hope everyone who decides to run this year takes these considerations very seriously before accepting a nomination for Post office in Gahanna American Legion Post 797.

On another item: Our Post 797 web site "www.al797.org was named the Department of Ohio's best website and an award to that effect was presented to Harvey Jones and myself at the Department Mid-Winter Conference. Let's all do our best efforts to keep the information flowing so Harvey can continue with the site.

For the Good of Gahanna American Legion Post #797  
Malcolm "Mac" Glasgow  
Commander

**FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY 797:**

**Valentine's Day** is fast approaching and our annual **Valentines Day** dinner has been planned. It will be much different this year, and the cost will be more in line with what we expect. The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting this 'buffet dinner'. Dinner will be \$14.25 per person plus gratuity. (The tax is included in the price of the meal). Dinner will consist of three entrees, garden salad, sides, garlic bread, beverage (iced tea, coffee, or soda), and dessert. A cash bar is located in the restaurant for those who choose to purchase other beverages.

**The Valentine's Day Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 6:30p.m. at NAPOLI'S VILLA, which is located inside the Ramada Inn at 4801 East Broad Street (the SE corner of Broad and Hamilton next to the Flowerama).**

Please bring a donation of underwear or socks for the veterans.

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE CALLED IN NO LATER THAN**

**Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**TO**

**Dawn DePew at (614) 866-7763**

**FROM FUNDRAISER CHAIRWOMAN DAWN DePew:**

We were unable to secure a sufficient number of recipes to produce a cookbook in time for the Gahanna Flea Market in September 2010. Therefore, the Ladies Auxiliary (VFW & AL) have postponed the cookbook until we can procure enough recipes to publish a cookbook with a substantial number of recipes.

For those who would still like to contribute, please give recipes to the VFW and American Legion Auxiliary presidents Ruth Wepking (VFW) or Carole Ebersole (AL), to be passed along to Dawn DePew, Cookbook Chairperson.

We want to thank everyone who has generously contributed recipes to this project. We appreciate the time you took to write the recipes and submit them for review. Hopefully, we will be able to publish a cookbook within the next year or so that will be something of which we all can be proud.

Thanks again to everyone that has participated in this project.

**FROM FIRST VICE COMMANDER STAN WEPKING:**

Even though the Post has grown each year since it's beginnings, and we are currently over 300 members paid up for the current year, Post 797 is still working to reach their all-time high for the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year in a row. We still need 36 members to sign up to remain members to meet this goal. At present the Post has 74 members who have not yet renewed for 2010, a number which, if all would renew, would put us well beyond the number needed for the Post to add an additional delegate to our list of officers. We need 366 to do that. If anyone has any questions on joining or renewing their memberships, feel free to contact Harvey or me to get that accomplished.

**FROM THE SECOND VICE COMMANDER DIANE McDANIEL:**

We are currently in the planning stages of making a return trip to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Having been there once before, everyone discovered that it is more than a one-day sight seeing tour, so we made the decision to go back. Tentative plans are to leave the VFW Post Building on March 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning at 8am to carpool to the Museum. Please contact me if you would like to attend this trip so we can arrange the number of vehicles needed to carpool.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Post Christmas Party at the Nutcracker Restaurant this past month. I feel we all had a good time and great food to eat. In addition, there were gifts to exchange in the way of a gift card drawing (white elephant style), and the raffle of the fruit basket was won by Ruth Wepking.

Finally, the Post's first large raffle of a 32" LCD Television was drawn, with the winner being none other than Laura Young, one of our recent new members. Laura was not present at the dinner, but she did come to the VFW Hall the following morning to pick it up. She was elated to have won it.

**FROM THE POST FINANCE OFFICER GARY FILESETA:**

What started out as a whiz-bang year for dues renewals died off quickly at the beginning of December, so the receipts have not come up as much as we hoped. We have made a few donations this year that are new to the Post, but they seemed to be in line with what the American Legion stands for, and were good for the community. It does seem though that expenses over the past year have still been much lower than in previous years, helped somewhat by the curtailing of the monthly newsletter mailed out to all members. The largest expenditures in Post operations is in contacting members to remind them of their dues or to work on recruiting new members into the American Legion, but without this we cannot grow.

**FROM POST HISTORIAN MERLIN DEPEW:**

**DONATION TO OUR WHEELCHAIR VETERANS** – Dawn DePew, of the Ladies Auxiliary Unit 797, procured a donation from the Gahanna Senior Center of 8 handmade lap blankets that were made by senior center craft members, including Dawn. Dawn contacted Jack Steinhausser, who in turn, contacted the veteran's hospital liaison and arrangements have been made to deliver the blankets this month to our wheelchair veterans in Chillicothe.

**FROM HONOR GUARD/BASEBALL CHAIR JACK STEINHAUSSER:**

The Post has received its latest shipment of ammunition and clips for the carbines so the Honor Guard will be able to continue offering full honors at military funerals. There is also something in the works for the Honor Guard Program as far as recognizing it as an approved unit by the State, but I will have to provide information as it is received. The number of funerals has slowed somewhat for now, but 2009 was a very busy year. Hopefully, 2010 will not be as busy.

The first baseball meetings for the American Legion Baseball teams in Gahanna are coming up next month and I plan to attend along with Commander Glasgow to make sure our teams are included in any scheduling and events. I don't have the names of the coaches yet, but will provide them soon.

#### **FROM SERVICE OFFICER JOHN CHESTNA:**

I have had the task of assisting a couple of our Post members in submitting their paperwork for a disability claim that has been problematic for them to complete themselves. It mainly consisted of putting the members in touch with the proper person at the Veterans Administration who could help them with that paperwork doing a better job than I could have done. I still remain ready to assist any veterans who need my assistance. I can be reached thru the web site using the email or phone number under my photo.

#### **FROM THE AMERICANISM CHAIR CRAIG REYNOLDS:**

Coming up on January 31<sup>st</sup> is the selection of the High School student who will be selected for the Oratorical Contest sponsorship from American Legion Post 797 in Gahanna. The contest will be held in the Gahanna-Lincoln High School Media Center at 1:00pm. We will either 2 or 3 contestants for the contest. The judges are being selected by Commander Glasgow. The winner of this contest normally would be slated to compete against the other 12<sup>th</sup> District Posts, but from what I hear, there may not be any other Posts contributing, and if so, our winner will represent District to the Department level. Good Luck!!

On March 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm, we will be conducting interviews of candidates for the 2010 Buckeye Boys State Program. This year the New Albany School will participate along with the Gahanna School. I have booked 2 rooms at City Hall in Gahanna for this time period for the interviews. Reminder – Spring Break starts the following Saturday. Good Luck to all the candidates!!

#### **FROM THE POST ADJUTANT HARVEY JONES:**

I would like to remind all our Post members that we have a challenge for the month of March that I am asking all of you who possibly can to help us out with. We have made the commitment to sponsor a **blood** drive during the month of March by the **Blood** Drive committeeman who used to be one of our Post members. He says we cannot meet the 100 pint quota of **blood** during the month. I told him that I think we can, and I am working my best to get us to that number, or even more. If you know that you are not eligible, that is one thing, but if you feel you can give **blood**, even for this one time, please plan on doing so. Our Post Honor Guard will be serving food, refreshments and snacks provided by the Post.

While I am at it, I need to mention the drive for the Gifts For Yanks Program to all of you. The Post has given, over the past couple years, but not to the extent we should be giving. We try to use your dues money sparingly so we can use it for other veterans issues as well for the projects we always sponsor. If you can, would you please try to donate at least \$1.00 to this program. You can send it to the Post address or even put it in an envelope and drop it off at the VFW Post to Commander Glasgow's attention. They will see that he gets it. Our goal is to raise at least \$350.00 for this program. Your help is needed.

The door prize for the Post membership Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January was Chaplain Rusty Lundy. The prize was an outside thermometer, similar to the ones Coca-Cola used to have available. Now that Rusty is moving north to Delaware, he may need that thermometer to see just how much colder it gets up there.

The 12<sup>th</sup> District Sons of the American Legion Commander, Dan Finnell and his First Vice visited the Post during the Post meeting to help boost the membership of SAL Squadron 797 which has fallen far behind in membership this year. At the time of the visit the Sons had only 3 members renewed for 2010, but by the time the meeting was over, the membership was up to 13, and letters have been sent out to all the previous year's members asking them to renew. Also visiting the Post was Steve Masowich, a candidate from the 14<sup>th</sup> District who is campaigning for Department Second Vice. Steve is from Streetsboro, Ohio.

### **An American Hero, and an American Legion Member:**

Most of you know that I work at Ricart Megamall in Groveport, but working there I get to meet a lot of people, most not so important, but once in a while someone who has made a difference comes in. It's about a Legionnaire named Harry Hirschinger, who at the time was a hot-dog vendor. Harry found out that a restaurant was planning to send hamburgers to Marines who guarded the American Embassy in Beirut in 1982. Harry made a bet with the restaurant owner that he could get a real American meal over there, and that he would take them himself. He won the wager. Within months he had gotten contributions of franks, air freight and money and transported 1,875 hot-dogs to the Marines as a Valentine's Day gift in 1983. The tragic part of this story was that many of the Marines he had carried the dogs to were killed in the bombing of the Embassy. After that, Harry began taking hot-dogs to many parts of the world to feed the soldiers. He soon began carrying letters to the troops from their relatives on his trips, creating goodwill everywhere.

Eventually though, Harry got himself into big time debt and had to stop what he loved doing and got a job selling furniture. But, over all the years he did this, he earned the respect and admiration of all those soldiers, sailors and Marines he delivered letters and hot-dogs to. In doing this, Harry earned the nickname "Hot-Dog" Harry, and I have a copy of the letters sent to him by Presidents Ronald Reagan & George Bush and several military commandants thanking him for his kindness and generosity to the troops of the United States military. While talking to him during the month of December of 2009, he indicated that he wished his health would allow him to continue what he loved doing, but sadly it would not. By the way, his Legion cap bore the Post #430 on it.

From what occurred during the past membership meeting, it appears that the Ladies Auxiliary 797 is coming together to prepare for their Buckeye Girls State sponsorship and hopefully will be looking into doing something for the Legion Birthday during the April membership meeting.

Most of you who read this newsletter are probably well aware of the events taking place in our country today. With all the talk of our Constitution being violated and laws being passed that are contrary to the Constitution, we should all begin to look more closely at what our lawmakers are attempting to do to this country. This is the country that all of us have served and fought for, and we swore to uphold the Constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. It is appearing that we may have to do both at the same time, so I would think that all patriotic veterans who still feel that patriotism would want to belong to an organization that still salutes the flag, says the Pledge of Allegiance, and still follows the Constitution of the organization that was formed way back in 1919.

The times we are in are not times to ignore what is happening around you, as our elected lawmakers are ignoring our numbers and doing just what they want to do, regardless of what we say about it. We are letting our country go down the drain by allowing our Senators and Congressmen to act as though they are dictators and we are their subjects. That is not the way the Constitution reads and if any of you need a copy of the constitution, come to the next meeting and I will have copies for you, so you can take them home and read them. Our children in school are being brainwashed into believing more in Socialism than in Democracy, and saying the Pledge of Allegiance is taken away, as well as their belief in God. While every person can believe what they want, they should not have it preached to them by the schools. Watch the next time you attend a sporting event and see how many people stand during the national anthem, how many salute the flag when it passes or is presented. Test your kids to see if they know any of our history. Bet not!!

# February 2010

Amvets Career Centers offer a number of FREE services to Veterans in their quest for Training and Employment.

One of these FREE Services is the opportunity to explore over 300 internet based Computer Courses.

They range from How to Turn on a Computer, to Business Skills Development, to Technical Skills Development, to Certifications.

Veterans need not be a member of Amvets or any other Organization. It's all FREE to Veterans who are/ or have served Honorably.

I have been asked by Commander Glasgow to give a short presentation at your March 18th meeting. I am looking forward to meeting the members of American Legion Post 797 and hopefully some members of VFW Post 4719.

Sincerely,

Clancy Carrel,

Supervisor Amvets Career Center

Post 89, Columbus, Ohio

| Sunday  | Monday            | Tuesday            | Wednesday                   | Thursday | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---|---|
| VFW Breakfast<br>9am - 11am                             | 1                 | 2<br>Groundhog Day | 3                           | 4        | 5   | 6<br>CUTOFF FOR<br>Valentines Day Pty                   |
| 4 Chaplains<br>Hilltop Cath Church<br>29 Eureka<br>1 PM | 7<br>Boy Sout Day | 8                  | 9                           | 10       | 11<br>POST 797<br>VALENTINES DAY<br>PARTY<br>6:30PM     | 12<br>Lincoln's Birthday                                |
| VFW Breakfast<br>Race Relations Day<br>Valentine's Day  | 13                | 14                 | 15<br>President's Day       | 16       | 17<br>Ash Wednesday                                     | 18<br>POST 797<br>Membership Mtg<br>VFW Hall<br>7:00 pm |
| VFW Breakfast   | 19                | 20                 | 21<br>Washington's Birthday | 22       | 23<br>12 Dist Council<br>Meeting<br>Post 239<br>7:30 pm | 24  |
| VFW Breakfast<br>Bachelors Day<br>February 2010         | 25                | 26                 | 27                          | 28       | 29  | 30  |