



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

## Gahanna Post #797



Volume 8 No 1

January 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.    Craig Reynolds    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 (Temp)
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

### COMMANDER'S CORNER:

#### **All the Best and Great Success in 2010**

Now that 2009 is behind us, I want to reflect on the year for the Gahanna American Legion Post 797. I believe our greatest services to the Gahanna community are the Americanism Programs and the Honor Guard. These Americanism programs have really set the precedent in the 12<sup>th</sup> District and Department of Ohio, especially after winning the Mickeal Golato Award for Americanism at the Department Convention in 2009.

One of those programs is the Oratorical Contest, and our post is one of two that has a contest in the 12<sup>th</sup> District. This year's contest is going to be on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at Gahanna Lincoln High School Media Center at 1pm and if there is a 12<sup>th</sup> District contest, it will be on February 14<sup>th</sup> at the same location. So far we have 2 or 3 contestants. Please come to the contest and see the High School student debate aspects of the US Constitution.

Gahanna knows we are serious about our programs in the Gahanna Community. We still need all the help and support of all our members. I'm asking everyone to contribute in whatever way you can to our Posts'

effort during 2010! Our Post is well respected and best known for our Honor Guard which provides services at Memorial Day and July Fourth Parades, Veterans Day and many private Burial Ceremonies for our Veteran Comrades who served our Nation.

Finally, I want to thank all our Post Officers and members for their concerted efforts during 2009, with special thanks to our Auxiliary Unit and wish everyone in our American Legion Family all the best and even greater success in 2010!

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

**FROM FIRST VICE STAN WEPKING:**

The Post has finally reached quota for the 2010 year, but is still far below the number of members needed to make all-time high again in 2010. Attaining this goal would make the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row for Post #797 to reach this very high level of growth. AND, we can still do that if those members who have not yet send in their dues for 2010 would write that check and drop it in the mail to P.O. Box 30843, Gahanna, Ohio 43230 right away and push our post upwards toward this lofty goal. Normally, the cut-off for the next years dues is the end of the calendar year, with February 1<sup>st</sup> being the date of your continued longevity in the Legion, meaning that if dues are not registered for the new year by February 1<sup>st</sup>, that when you do send in your dues, you will be starting over with the Legion as though you were joining for the first time. We have no control over this, as when the cards are credited at Department, those paying after February 1<sup>st</sup> do not get counted in the current year's membership.

We do not want this to happen, as the Post has begun, as known to several members in 2009, to acknowledge all members' longevity with the Continuous Years Certificate and Lapel Pin for the years you belonged to the Legion. We don't like cutting off years served and thereby causing a member to not get a Lapel Pin for all the years he served the American Legion. Not very many Posts do this, but we feel that members in the Gahanna Post are dedicated in their feelings towards the American Legion.

**FROM SECOND VICE DIANE McDANIEL:**

Happy New Year to all!! The Christmas Party was fantastic, and all went better than expected. The room at the Nutcracker Restaurant could seat 40 people, and we had 40 RSVPs. Unfortunately, 3 of those RSVPs were unable to make it at the last minute, but, it continued without them. Maybe they can make the next one. The drawing of the raffle for the fruit basket was won by Ruth Wepking of the Ladies Auxiliary. Each attendee brought a discount card worth \$10 to be traded off as a gift to another member, and what started out as a White Elephant trade-off developed into mostly people just opening and keeping the gift they drew. The last drawing of the night was the Post raffle of the 32" Toshiba LCD Television set, and with the help of Mr. Butcher of the Nutcracker, the name drawn for the TV was Laura Young, a new member in her 2d year with the Post. The second prize was won by Jim Williams, a bowling buddy of Merlin DePew's. That prize was a GPS system.

Now that the holidays are over, we will start looking forward to our next outing. Several have been mentioned during the meetings, so I will be checking into all of them to see which seems like something that everyone will enjoy. Another event to consider is the St. Valentine's Party, and that will be discussed at the next meeting, but in the meantime, I will look into places where we would be welcome for that event.

**FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER GARY FILASETA:**

The Post is still waiting for a bill from the VFW for the joint picnic this past fall, and the Post has been committed to some other obligations which will be in the way of cash donations, so I do not have all the details of our obligations, outgoing expenses, and amounts received balanced as of this date, but will have them by the time of the Post meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The Post Executive Committee committed the Post to the expenditure of \$199 for advertising with the Officer Phil Program, which teaches Safety in the Gahanna and local schools. All the details should be in before the January meeting.

**FROM HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN JACK STEINHAUSSER:**

The combined American Legion Post 797 and VFW Post 4719 Honor Guard was kept very busy during the month of December with several funerals, color guard appearances, and flag raisings. I want to thank Dave Keller of the VFW, who with myself, worked all these events with Bob Stallings, Stan Wepking, Jim Winn, Malcolm Glasgow, Gary Filaseta, Merlin DePew, and Jerry & Diane McDaniel. With the Honor Guard members of both Posts, Gahanna has a very dedicated Honor Guard to represent our veterans and all other patriotic events held within the city of Gahanna.

**FROM SERVICE OFFICER JOHN CHESTNA:**

There have been no requests this past month for assistance with the Veterans Administration, but I have been involved in trying to locate some basic equipment for a fellow disabled Marine, who needs a wheelchair ramp and wheelchair so he can be more mobile. If anyone has any information that I can use to obtain such equipment, please contact me. Anytime a veteran needs help and I can become involved, I am willing to give of my time and experience, and I wish I could do more. Even if I am not assisting a veteran in Post 797, I am willing to work with any veteran within my ability, so please do not hesitate contacting me.

**FROM AMERICANISM CHAIR CRAIG REYNOLDS:**

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, January 31<sup>st</sup> will be the date for the Post candidates to compete at Gahanna Lincoln High School in the Media Room. We will have 3 contestants this year, and final judging for the Department final will be February 28<sup>th</sup> to determine who wins the District. Good luck to our 3 contestants!

I want to remind everyone to keep asking around for other businesses to help with their support for the Buckeye Boys State contestants. The cost is \$300, and we need help with our ever-increasing number of contestants for Buckeye Boys State.

**FROM POST HISTORIAN MERLIN DePEW:**

As Jack Steinhausser mentioned above, the Post Honor Guard, along with members from the VFW Honor Guard have been very busy during the month of December. I have thought many times how great it would be if we had sufficient members of the Honor Guard that it could be split up into 2 contingents whenever needed for flag raisings and other events, so the team would not be stretched to get the jobs done. As a member of the Honor Guard, I am hoping that with the new members of both the VFW and Legion, that a few will stand up and become members so one day this could happen. Wishful thinking? Yes, but it could happen as we gain membership in both Posts.

**FROM POST ADJUTANT HARVEY JONES:**

Up until Veterans Day of 2009, I thought that Post 797 was going to reach a landmark number of members, where the number of members would allow the Post to send 1 additional delegate to the Department Convention. We have, in the past few years, been authorized 4 delegates according to our membership

count, and reaching 366 members would put us over the mark for the 5<sup>th</sup> delegate, but it seems that over the past 2 years that we have had an extremely large number of 1-timers. Those are veterans who would join for the first year and then drop out after (or when) dues became due for year number 2.

I realize that there are lots of veterans out there who are having job difficulties, or are in debt beyond their ability to keep up, and that is a very good reason to drop out, and very understandable. But there are also an equal, or larger number of our veterans who feel they just don't have the time to belong to a veterans organization or want to 'waste' their money. I want to explain one thing to all of those members, as at one time a good many of us have been there also. When you belong to any organization that works and spends its money to help a veteran in need, you can never say your money is 'wasted'. There are a good many of Post 797 members who give of their time and wallet every month to see to it that a veteran, or if not a veteran, a local youth who needs help, gets it. These members pay their dues, like the amount or not, and then give of their time and put extra cash in the pot when needed, to help those in need, and they do it over and over again.

Knowing this, I don't understand why, with as many veterans as there are in the Gahanna area, that the American Legion and VFW Posts are not overflowing with members. Many of us belong to both posts, and many of us who are not eligible for the VFW Post, belong to it as guest members, just so we can support what these organizations do. The Legion does not have its own building because it literally spends nearly all its dues money on the projects it supports, so they cannot accrue what is needed to even think of a Post Home anytime in the near future. The VFW is literally 'on the brink' of failure due to lack of support, even though they work incessantly to raise money with breakfasts and steak dinners, just to help make ends meet.

With the number of wartime veterans and other non-wartime veterans in the Gahanna area alone, both of these Posts could be thriving, well-attended, purveyors of good will towards all those veterans who are unable to become members, and to the community and it's youth. The support could rise to a level not even dreamed of when the VFW or Legion ever began building Post locations. If you can, join a Legion Post, preferably in Gahanna, but if not in one of the other locales. Help our injured veterans, their families and children, and let's show the State of Ohio that Gahanna is the most patriotic town in Ohio.

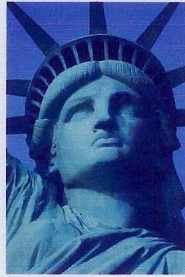
While it may not be possible to place the following calendar of events in the printed newsletter every quarter, I will try to keep everyone informed of the events coming up by adding a calendar to this electronic newsletter, so you can print it out and have it to refer to throughout the month and if you have the time or opportunity, you can attend one of the events. And, keep in mind that anyone who wishes to attend is invited to attend any of the regular Post 797 Membership meetings on the 3d Thursday of each and every month. We meet in the meeting room of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4719 building at the end of Old Johnstown Road directly behind the Memorial at the end of the road.

Please print out the calendar on the next page and retain it so you know all that is happening with Post 797 during the month of January 2010.

Comments made under the titles of Post Officers above are entered by the Post Adjutant, Editor of this newsletter and have been gathered from emails, phone calls and conversations from those officers. If any mistakes have been made they are incidental and unintentional.

The Armed Services Blood Program will be at the Yearling Road Army Reserve on January 23d from 9am to 2pm. If you are able, please take the time to donate blood to help save our Soldier's lives. This drive is sponsored by Southway Legion Post #144. American legion Post # 797 (Gahanna) will sponsor the next blood drive which will be held in mid or late March. Watch for details. We NEED 100 pints – PLEASE???

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



## January 2010

VFW Post 4719 needs members. Even if ineligible for VFW Membership, you can be a guest member. Contact Harvey Jones for information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>Happy New Year!!!</b>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 12th District Winter Conference Post 430 at 7pm	11	12	13	14	15 Legion Dept Mid-Winter Conf starts Ramada Plaza	16 Legion Dept Mid-Winter Conference
17 Dept Mid-Winter Conf at Ramada Plaza	18 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b>	19 VFW Meeting 7pm at Post	20	21 Legion Meeting 7pm at VFW Post 4719	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						