



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Gahanna Post #797



Volume 12 No 12

May 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 (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

FROM POST COMMANDER MALCOLM GLASGOW:

The election of new Officers for the Gahanna American Legion Post #797 is over; with installations taking place on May 20th that will begin the terms of office for year 2010-2011. History continues to be made as our post continues to grow to serve our members of Gahanna Veterans to serve all the Veterans and the community of Gahanna with the Programs and Services of the American Legion.

Now it is time to once again turn the page and continue on in our ongoing saga of Gahanna American Legion Post #797. Eight years ago when we became chartered, we barely had enough members to fill all the Officer positions let alone sending 14 boys to Boys State and 2 students going to the Department Oratorical Contest under Craig Reynolds guidance. The Honor Guard continues to serve Gahanna doing over 100 funerals a year. The Baseball Program continues to grow through Jack Steinhausser and Gary Filaseta's relentless efforts. We continue to grow and will continue to succeed in whatever we want to do as a Post, as long as we communicate and work together as a cohesive unit in seeking our goals and objectives.

As I become your Commander once again, I would like to thank all the Past Officers of Post 797 for their concerted efforts in making Post 797 what it is today. I also want to thank all our members for their

continued membership and those who volunteered all the long hours of hard work in serving the Veterans and their families and the Gahanna community over the past eight years of our Post's short history. As we embark on another year, I look forward to working with all the new Officers of our Post to do bigger and better service for our members and the city of Gahanna.

For God and Country and the Good of the Gahanna American Legion Post 797.

Malcolm "Mac" Glasgow
Commander

FROM FIRST VICE COMMANDER STANLEY WEPKING:

I want to thank the members of American Legion Post #797 for the opportunity to serve them in the capacity of First Vice for this past year and I regret having to decline moving up in the chain to become the next Post Commander, but my obligations having been increased in the VFW Post 4719 will take more of my time than I can allocate to both posts. However, since the duties of Sergerant-at-Arms is less demanding, I have agreed to accept that post so I can remain in the structure of the Post for next year.

The membership of American Legion Post #797 has continued to increase, with the Post presently having 325 members paid up for this fiscal year, which ends on 31 May, although the memberships for this year carry on thru the end of 2010. I urge all members to begin planning on gradually putting aside a small amount each month so they are ready for the next year's dues, for which notices will begin being mailed out starting in September. The Post is tasked by Department to meet it's quota by Veterans Day each year, and that is the reason for the early notices. When we do make quota, the Post receives a small rebate from Department, which is used to assist those who are either behind on their dues, cannot pay the full amount, or are incapacitated and unable to pay at all. This is the reason we begin making calls prior to November 11th, not because the Post is short of funds.

FROM SECOND VICE COMMANDER DIANE McDANIEL:

The year has gone by very fast, and reviewing the past year, I realize that the Post members have had a good number of events that many of us attended, although all members were unable to make some of them. I would feel that I had accomplished more if we could have attended these events in larger numbers, but I realize that many still work, some are home bound, and many just can't afford to attend some events.

I would like to see at least a few of the events better attended, one of them being the joint VFW/Legion Picnic, which last year was in August. I do know that this summer there will be another picnic, and it is free for members to attend, so please, when you discover the date and time, plan to attend. Let's make this a banner year for member attendance. I am confident that your new 2d Vice Commander, Merlin DePew, will be planning lots of events for us members, and I hope to be in attendance at most of them. Please join me. We will be trying to plan low cost, enjoyable events that everyone can attend and enjoy themselves. Besides, many of us don't even know each other by sight, and it's about time we get to know each other better.

FROM SERVICE OFFICER JOHN CHERSTNA:

While I have nothing of importance to report this period, I would like to remind everyone that the Patriots of America event which will be conducted again this year in Columbus, Ohio. Normally this event was planned to be held throughout the United States and was not planned to be in Columbus for a second year, but the event went off so well that the planners felt they just had to stay in Columbus for another year. That goes to show how well the event was attended and appreciated by all the Veterans and families in Central Ohio. I am looking forward to working with this event again this year. Please plan to attend.

FROM FINANCE OFFICER GARY FILASETA:

There is not much in Finance to report this month, but the dues for 2010 are still dribbling in, although we will soon be expecting next years payments to start. I just wanted to remind those of you who are unemployed or incapacitated that the Post has a plan in place to assist you with your dues to a certain extent. We are responsible to paying for every card sent in for a member, and that cost is fixed at District and Department level, so we urge anyone who find themselves strapped for some reason, please attempt to keep your membership by calling the Post Adjutant to see what we can help you with. I can tell you this, the total we have to send forward is in the area of \$25.00, so the Post does not make a lot on dues payments.

FROM THE POST HISTORIAN MERLIN DePEW:

The Post has been busy the past few weeks. The Officers have been elected for the upcoming year and will be installed at the May meeting, which is May 20th.

The Post Honor Guard and their wives welcomed home the World War II Veterans of the Honor Flight at the Columbus Airport.

Gahanna residents and Veterans Brigadier General James Abraham, Pat Patterson, Harold Schnaudt, Jim Thompson, and Frank Treadway were among the 32 Veterans from all over Ohio on the April 10th flight. Thompson is the founder of the Gahanna Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

The Honor Guard also was busy servicing funeral ceremonies. The Color Guard presented the colors at the volunteer recognition luncheon.

I am in the process of completing the Post History for this fiscal year, and hope to have it ready to forward to Department for the evaluation process. I leave this position to become the Second Vice Commander with the realization that this position has much more to do than I once thought it did, and pass it along to Jim Adams for the upcoming year.

FROM THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JERRY McDANIEL:

I have served in this position for several years now, and thought that it was finally time to allow some one else to get involved, so this May meeting is my last function as the Sergeant-at-Arms for American Legion Post #797. I hope to continue as a member of the Post and Honor Guard as much as possible. It has been a pleasure holding this position.

FROM POST CHAPLAIN RUSTY LUNDY:

Having moved from the Gahanna area to near Delaware, Ohio, I find that my time may become more hectic by traveling back and forth from Delaware to Gahanna, but I will strive to carry out my obligations to the best of my ability. This past month Henry Crahalla joined the Post and has volunteered to become the Assistant Chaplain, and he will be available when I am not. I am saddened to know that the Post has lost to Post Everlasting a total of 9 members from the Gahanna area.

FROM THE POST ADJUTANT HARVEY JONES:

This will most likely be the last newsletter written by me, as a new Post member, Jerry Kerr, has agreed to take over the publication to help keep things current. With all the duties involved and having picked up a membership job with the VFW Post. helping them gain members, my time has become too cluttered to keep the wife happy at home. I also am looking for someone to just take the minutes at the meeting so I don't get

distracted while covering other details I am involved in for the Post. This would only involve keeping notes of what happens during the meeting and giving them to me (unless you would like to type them up), and I will publish them for the next meeting.

I don't want anyone to think I am backing out of my position, but I want to get others involved, because one never knows when he will become incapacitated or have to travel out of town over a meeting night and these jobs have to be done. The Post needs to have a record of every meeting in case there is a question from higher up in the chain regarding something done during a meeting.

We will have a few new members after the May Installation, and I will have copies of their duties to hand out to them so they will know what is expected of the job for each of them. None of the jobs are that hard, needing only a very short piece of your time, so don't worry about doing something wrong. The list of all Post Officers will be on the first page of the June Newsletter as well as on the web site (later on the web site) for all to learn whom their representatives are.

There are a couple things going on after June 1st, and I wanted to spend a few lines on them. First, during the May meeting, the Post members must vote on a fundraiser event that has been tabled for 2 months now. This fundraiser can raise a lot of money for the Post and it will save the buyers a lot more. It involves selling Restaurant cards to family, friends, other Post members, and anyone else who will buy them. We will order the cards from the company, pay \$10 apiece for them, sell them for \$20, and the purchaser will get \$50 worth of use on each card. They save \$30 on a restaurant purchase. They can even get the gift cards in \$25 increments (totaling \$50). That way they can use the smaller one each visit to the restaurant. I envision we can raise over \$1000 for this campaign alone, just by selling 100 cards.

Second, last year Post members volunteered to work the Gahanna Jazz Festival. We have been asked this year to work it again, and are guaranteed at least as much as last year being donated. I already have 18 names on hand, but I will be calling you to verify the shift you can work and shirt size you need. We will pick up all the shirts at one time and pass them out ourselves this time so everyone will get their size. I am listing the shifts and times involved for each shift and will ask you which shift you can work when I call. We will get \$300 for each shift worked and hopefully we can work at least 3 shifts (\$900). I did not receive a response from the Auxiliary on working with us, so am not planning it that way. All volunteers will be required to attend an Alcohol Awareness Meeting on Wednesday June 2, 6:30pm at the Gahanna Police Department. **Anyone who can help please call me at 887-8178 with date and shirt size!**

Friday, June 18, 2010	5:00pm-11pm	10-person minimum ____
Festival gates open at 5p. At least 3 volunteers need to be in booth by 4:00p		
Saturday, June 19, 2010	11am-5pm	7 person minimum ____
Festival gates open at 11a. At least 3 volunteers need to be in booth by 10:30a		
Saturday, June 19, 2010	5pm-11pm	10 person minimum ____
All volunteers in booth at 4:30p		
Sunday, June 20, 2010	12noon-6pm	7 person minimum ____
Festival gates open at 12 noon. At least 3 volunteers need to be in booth by 11:30a		

I will be calling a couple members of the SAL Squadron to see if they want to participate, and if so, we can pro-rate the donation according to what they do. There has been a response from the Ladies Auxiliary for this newsletter and it will follow this page, being a 2-page report. The Calendar at the end of their entry is NOT for Post 797 members, only Auxiliary.

May is here and finally nice weather is in sight. May is the month we honor our fallen heroes on Memorial Day. This is usually the time we distribute Poppies to show our remembrance. The money collected during this event must be used to help veterans. In the past, our Unit has used this money for Chillicothe Veterans Hospital Birthday parties (twice a year), donations to Fisher Houses, the Chalmers P. Wylie Clinic and Christmas Party, and to individual veterans who may need help, (Mat Concitis, a wounded Iraq soldier) We try to make a difference in our veteran's lives whenever possible. We are asking for a donation from our Post and Unit Members to help promote this program. Any donation will be appreciated, even one dollar. If every member donated a dollar we could raise over \$300. We have poppies available for you to wear; I just don't know how to send them with the newsletter. They will be available at our next meeting. You can mail a donation to our Poppy Chairman, Dawn DePew or we will have a jar for donations at the meeting. Make your checks payable to ALA Gahanna Unit 797.

Dawn is also working on plans for Saturday, May 29th to distribute Poppies. Time and Place to be announced. Our location (Kroger) last year will not allow us to use their property for the distribution, so she is looking for another location. We will be somewhere! If you have some time that day to volunteer, please contact Dawn at 866-7763.

Our Auxiliary is in desperate need of more members. Membership has fallen to only 22. We need more people in order to accomplish our goals for our veterans, their families and our community. We have accomplished a great deal with only a hand full of ladies, but we need a new infusion of energy and ideas. We can have a lot more fun with a few more hands helping us. So, to promote membership, we are in the process of planning a Membership Drive Dinner for some time in July, the date is to be announced. The plan includes help from our friends at Memorial Post 614 of Hilliard. They will provide "special entertainment" for the evening. Post members as well as Auxiliary members will be encouraged to attend and bring a new member to enjoy the evening. We are hoping many of our Post members will bring their spouses, daughters, sisters or other women who are eligible to join our Unit. I am sure we will have a great time in the process. (Those Hilliard ladies know how to have fun) Please start to think about whom you could bring to this event. The date, time and location will be announced next month.

Our next meeting will be May 20 at 7pm at the VFW. If the weather is nice, we might use the shelter house for our meeting. Hope to see you there.

Please send your Poppy Donations to:

American Legion Auxiliary
Gahanna Unit 797
c/o Dawn DePew
7991 Windsome Court
Black lick OH 43004-8104

In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)



**In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

We will never forget! Join us to show our remembrance. Wear a Poppy with pride on Memorial Day.

Thank you for your support,

American Legion Auxiliary
Gahanna Unit 797
Dawn De Pew, Poppy Chairman

Calendar of Events

**BGS Tea, Sunday, May 16th, 2-4pm
Southway 144
Blood Drive May 22, 9-2pm
Summer Convention, Saturday May 22nd
Southway 144, Registration 9-10 am
Buckeye Girls State. June 13-18
Department Convention. June 25-27, Toledo OH
Membership Drive Dinner, July?**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4 - Tuesday	Election Day (Don't forget to vote)	Polling Locations
May 18 – Tuesday	VFW Post 4719 Meeting 7:00pm	Post 4719
May 20 – Thursday	Post #797 Meeting (Installation of Officers)	VFW Post 4719
May 23 – Sunday	12 th District Summer Convention	Post #82
May 31 – Monday	Memorial Day Events	Post 797 & other locations
June 2 – Wednesday	Alcohol Awareness Training (6:30pm)	Gahanna Police Dept.
June 12-20 Sat-Sun	Buckeye Boys State	Bowling Green University
June 17 Thursday	Veterans Cook-Out (11:30am-1:30pm)	VA Clinic (James Rd)
Jun 18-20 Fri-Sun	Gahanna Jazz Festival	Creekside in Gahanna
Jun 25-27 Fri-Sun	Department Convention	Toledo, Ohio
July 3 Saturday	Welcome Home Event	Columbus Zoo
Jul 4-5 Sun-Mon	4 th of July Holiday	Gahanna Parade
Jul 26-30 Mon-Fri	Department Baseball Tournament (Tentative)	Athens, Ohio
Jul 30 Friday	Ohio Legion News deadline	Department HQ

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS NOT BEING CURRENT WITH DUES:

As of April of this year the Post cancelled the mailing of the Post newsletter to all those not having email capability. The Department of Ohio mails out 3 notices each year to members to remind them to pay their dues, giving them that many opportunities to remain current with the Legion.

As of June 1st, all members who have not renewed their memberships by May 20 at the Post meeting will be removed from the regular database but will remain on the newsletter mailing list unless you fail to report an email change or ask to be removed. The email newsletter was established to allow anyone who wished to be able to receive the Post Newsletter, so I will not remove them from that. However, when info is sent out via regular mail or email, you will not be included. To be reinstated you will either have to start over as a new member or pay your dues up to be current. The membership chairman and Adjutant spend hours upon hours attempting to contact unpaid members and letters and emails are sent out and left unanswered, which only indicates non-interest in our veteran's organization.

If anyone feels that the American Legion has failed them in any way, keep in mind that this is an organization of members, not of Post Officers, and it takes all of us working together to be a Post, meaning that leaving all the work to just a few will not work. The Post has 325 members at present and only about 15-20 ever show up at a meeting. We appreciate your membership very much, but we'd like to see you sometimes.