



# AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



Gahanna Post # 797

November 2008

Volume 6, No. 6

Post Commander - Malcolm Glasgow  
 Post Chaplain - Rusty Lundy  
 Immediate Past Commander - Diane McDaniel  
 Post Historian - John McDaniel  
 First Vice/Adjutant - Harvey Jones  
 Service Officer - John Chestna  
 IPPC/2nd Vice Commander - Diane McDaniel  
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Jerry McDaniel  
 Finance Officer - Gary Filaseta

### Executive Committee

Jim Garrabrant  
 Craig Reynolds  
 Jack Steinhausser, Sr.

### Note from Commander Glasgow:

#### *Get Out the Vote and Recruit!!*

Yes, it's that time of every four years when the nation has the opportunity to elect a President and the election just happens to coincide with our November 11<sup>th</sup> Membership drive. As you all know, membership recruiting never ends and is the responsibility of every member. This year during our November Membership drive we can pass the word to "Get Out To Vote" while recruiting 888 members and new members as well. Every citizen and member of the American Legion has a patriotic duty to vote. Exercise this precious right and safeguard it. We owe it to all those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and lifestyle.

Again this year the Gahanna American Legion Post 797 made Quota Post and is one of the first posts the in the 12<sup>th</sup> District to do so. So, congratulations and kudos goes out to First Vice Commander Harvey Jones. Remember,

Membership recruiting and retention is every member's responsibility and never ends! If every member would recruit just one member, we will double our membership every year! All we got to do is Ask.

Malcolm "Mac" Glasgow, Post Commander

### Ladies Auxiliary:

Unit President - Carole Ebersole  
 First Vice President -  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President -  
 Unit Secretary - Betty Burnett  
 Membership Chair - Stacy Dilts  
 Sergeant-at-Arms -  
 Unit Chaplain -  
 Treasurer -

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### Sons of the American Legion Squadron 797

Post Advisor - TBD  
 Commander - John Tepper  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander - Steve Ebersole  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander - Eddie Dilts  
 Adjutant/Finance Officer - Bill Dilts  
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Snyder  
 Chaplain - Verge Dilts

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander News:

October has brought the Post to surpass its goal for District 12, and with membership still being renewed; we should go well over the expected goal by Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>. To date over 55 new members have signed up to add to our numbers and many more have indicated their interest. The Post goal for 2009 was 231, which we surpassed around the middle of October, but we now stand at 239 confirmed with well over 100 members yet to renew their memberships.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Harvey Jones

### News from the Auxiliary Side:

District 12 Auxiliary hosted the fall hospitalized Veterans Birthday party at the Chillicothe VA Hospital in September. We always strive to make this a special occasion for our Veterans. The 12th District Fall

Conference hosted by Columbus Unit 82 was most successful and informative. On October 21st there was a nice turnout of Auxiliary members to volunteer at Stand Down. Gahanna Unit 797 has elected additional officers. Unit 797 now has a



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President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain and Poppy chairperson. I'm relating this to you because I know there are Units in our District who have difficulty getting officers to serve. Gahanna was in that situation but if you persevere and keep asking your members for their help they do come through for you. If you are a member of Unit 797 your assistance is welcome. We have many members who are home bound but continue to sew, crochet, knit, etc. at home. Your Unit can always find some way for you to contribute your time or talent on behalf of Veterans, children and community. We are doing well in membership but we can do even better. Don't put off renewing. Do it now and get it out of the way. If you're reading this and are not an Auxiliary member please contact Carole Ebersole at (614) 428-7088 for an application. The Unit would love to welcome you. In the meantime, I wish all a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends.

Betty Burnett  
5517 Benpatrick Ct.

## **From 2d Vice Diane McDaniel:**

While my work continues to be a monopoly on my time, I have been working on details for the Post calendar, coordinating for a place to hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Post, and have also been looking into where the members could hold their Christmas Party this year. We hope to have more details on all or most of the above to be placed in the December newsletter, as it will be emailed to all those with computers, and sent out in the mail to those without computers. We hope to let every member know when and where the event is to be held, and that everyone wishing to come to each event will give me the courtesy of an RSVP once the events are announced, so we can plan accordingly.

The Post participated in the annual Gahanna event held at Creekside this year. It was a Halloween party for the kids, and did we get the kids. Although no official count was made, there seemed

to be in the area of 2,000 kids at the event. The Post provided candy for the event, and four members of the Post were present to hand out the goodies to the little monsters. Well, not all monsters, some were angels, Supergirls, ghosts, and the like. It is an event that seems to have a good potential for the Legion to participate on an annual basis, as our presence was well noted, and many took applications and business cards, and hopefully will contact the Post regarding membership. The Post members who participated were Commander Glasgow, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jones, Service Officer Chestna, and Finance Officer Filaseta. They all had a good time as well, but mentioned the need to purchase more goodies next year, as they ran out earlier than expected.

2d Vice, Diane McDaniel

## **Post Adjutant Notes:**

Membership is slowly coming in, although we have found that some of our members are being drawn away to other posts due to former members having contacted them to leave. The important thing to remember is that the American Legion is an organization where membership in a Post is important to each and every post, and when it is more convenient that a member move to a post that is closer to their home or community, many members do transfer just for that reason. To transfer just because someone different than the former command structure is in place seems to not be a good reason, although friendship sometimes comes into play. Whatever the reason, Post 797 wishes them all well and leaves the door open for a visit or return.

Now, as far as membership, Post 797 was the second post in District 12 to meet quota for 2009. We are over 100% membership and still growing, as we still have nearly 100 members yet to renew. All those who have not yet renewed should have received either a letter, or a phone call to remind them of the 2009 dues. If you have not yet sent in



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your dues for 2009, please send them in as soon as you can. The mailing address is: American Legion Post 797, P.O. Box 30843, Gahanna, OH 43230. Your membership card will be sent out either with the December newsletter, or by separate mail, depending upon when they come in.

Please keep in mind that when you send in your dues, you are supporting the American Legion, and as membership grows, the Post gains the ability to add Delegates to its structure that can attend the District, State, and National Conventions. At those Conventions, they have a vote on all issues that come before each Convention as to whether a resolution can be sent forward approved by each local level, and finally wind up at National for their decision to send it on to the United States Congress. That is where our fight for Veterans rights eventually ends up. Don't feel that if you cannot attend a meeting, or help out on our many events that you are not a supporter of the Post, as that is far from the truth. Although the Post only keeps a small portion of your dues, they are critical to getting our work done in the community, both for our veterans and our youth.

Post Adjutant, Harvey Jones

## Americanism:

The Post Americanism Chairperson, Craig Reynolds has ordered a total of 10 Americanism and Government Tests for this years testing. As you all know, this event is a method used to determine what the youth in our High Schools are learning about our government during their classes at school. Each year these tests are administered to volunteers in the Senior Class at local high schools to gauge their learning in this important subject.

While it would be better to conduct this testing on a larger scale, it is often hard enough to recruit the numbers needed to justify ordering a larger number of tests, so the number has gradually decreased each year, where now only 10 are ordered.

Americanism Chair, Craig Reynolds

## Gahanna Legion Webmaster:

There are approximately 146 Post 797 members who have indicated that they have the capability to get on the internet to view our web site and to receive their newsletters via email. The new web site has enabled anyone who wishes to subscribe the ability to do so, merely by submitting their email address in the area provided just below the menu on the front page. To date, not many have done so, and I fail to understand why they have not. The new site is constantly updated to list everything as quickly as it is relayed to me, and very little, if any editing is done to articles sent for inclusion on the site.

In fact, there is a blog on the site that can be used by any member, or non-member to pass on information to the other members, and it could be a blessing in disguise for those members or members of other posts who have something to say to other posts. The only restriction on using the blog is that it be kept clean and does not have any content that is detrimental to any American Legion member or Post. It's just a tool added to help convey information back and forth. I urge all of you to consider using this tool more effectively.

As all of you know, the SAL is always involved in events that help veterans and community members, and at this time, they are holding two (2) raffles that you can read about on the web site. If you are interested in participating in any of these raffles, you can contact the SAL by using the SAL button on the front page menu and you will be sent to their page on the site and have a contact email to reach them. There will be more information posted on the web site regarding the 1986 Corvette that they are raffling off in the next day or so.

The emails listed on the web site are added when your information is processed as a member, and if you do not wish to automatically receive the Post newsletter, please send an email to [site@al797.org](mailto:site@al797.org)



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## **Building Committee Info:**

I know, many of you did not realize that the Post has a building committee, or was even looking into making the attempt to get a building of our own. Well, it has been a long time, and there have been attempts to work into a building, but each time there have been stumbling blocks that we could not overcome.

The Mayor's office has said that they would work with us in our efforts to find a suitable location for our Post Home, but it seems that all plans to continue with this effort fell by the wayside lately. It was not planned that way, it just happened. Even though not much is being done on the location, we have been working on raising funds to have available when the opportunity does avail itself for the Post to move forward.

The Post has sent out a good many letters to prospective donors to our Founders Fund, but we have only received a couple responses to date, but we still have a few out there that have to be followed up on to know if they will succeed. Most businesses are having hard times right now and it is understandable that they need to hold onto their funding to make sure they can stay afloat themselves, let alone donate to an organization such as ours. But, as times improve, their names, addresses, and phone numbers are on file, and they will be contacted regarding the letters they were mailed back in August of this year. Follow-up is one of the vital aspects of fundraising and in the past this was not an option, as all mail was not handled by the same persons. This has been changed to insure proper follow-up.

## **GIFTS FOR YANKS:**

The annual drive for Gifts for Yanks has begun, and the Post is hoping to raise a large sum of money to send to Department to buy Christmas gifts to take to the Veterans who are confined to our Veterans Hospitals in Ohio. Each state does

this same thing, but we are concerned about our fellow Ohio Veterans. We know a good many of you are not able to donate to causes such as this one, and that's OK. You, and only you, know what you can afford to do. Those of you who can afford to send a little something to the Post to add to their efforts, please either drop it off at a meeting, send it in with another member, or for the first time, you can send it in thru the web site. All you have to do is go to the web site, click on the Support button, and send what you can using Paypal. You do not need a Paypal account to do this. And, you can either send your donation by online check, credit card, or with your own Paypal account, if you have one. Best thing is, your info is completely safe using Paypal, and you get a receipt emailed back to you each time. For more info on Gifts for Yanks check out the article on the web site.

## **Dues Payments:**

Every effort is being done to make it easier for you to pay your dues. You can now use the same Paypal account as other donates to pay your annual dues to the Post. The only difference is that you must add \$1.30 to the payment to pay the fees of the account. The Post cannot afford to pay the Paypal fee for each dues payment they receive since we also incur fees when sending out additional dues notices to those who have either not received them, or lost them before sending in their payment. Consider this – The extra sent to cover the Paypal fee is nearly the same amount if you went out and purchased an envelope, stamp, and paid for your gas to do that task. Just stay at home and send the payment in via Paypal instead. Remember, the dues are \$35.00 annually, and \$1.30 more if you use Paypal.

You can also use this option to purchase raffle tickets for any raffle offered by the Post itself. This offer does not include any raffles by the SAL or the Auxiliary unless they specifically offer us the opportunity to accept payments in that way.



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## GET OUT TO VOTE THIS TUESDAY

Tomorrow, 4 November 2008 is most likely one of the most important elections in the history of the United States. The issues between the campaigns of both candidates are so far apart that it should be an easy decision for any voters to make. No one should go to the polls without having looked over the issues of this campaign as closely as you would a contract to buy a home, business, or enter into a life-time contract with someone.

While how you vote is your personal decision, please take the time to make a decision that you feel is in the best interest of the country, not just yourself. Remember that in the future, your children, grandchildren, and all those to follow will have to live with the decisions you make this Tuesday. No one can tell you how to vote, and certainly no one will know how you vote unless you tell them, but just please go vote Tuesday.

Most of you have probably voted in more elections than the editor has, but there are still a good many who may never bother to go to the polls for whatever reason they might have. If you look closely at the issues that are being offered to us to vote on in any election, you can see that all those candidates running for public office start off with running for a local position first and work their way up the ladder to a more important post as they start their political life. This is how they gain the knowledge they need to be able to work in the various offices in which they are elected to serve us. Anyone starting at the top cannot have that knowledge to govern effectively. Please keep that in mind when you cast your vote.

## CIVILIAN MARKSMAN PROGRAM:

The American Legion has long endorsed the Civilian Marksman Program (CMP) which is a program to help our young people learn more about proper use of weapons and the safety that must be learned for their proper use. While the Post did not have much of a program this past year, the program does still exist and the program managers, Jack Steinhauer and Malcolm Glasgow are planning the program for the 2009 year. They are looking to grow the membership and to have a better program than ever with the help of all members who have a passion for being involved in marksmanship and training the young in this sport.

This program is vital to teaching our young what they need to know about weapons, their proper use, safety, and why they are allowed, as they grow older, to own and use these weapons.

The time is growing near when, if the wrong candidate is elected, the right to own and use your weapons may be taken away. That is one of the main issues between the two candidates for the office of President this election. If you are a gun owner, or a person who knows why we have been guaranteed the right to own a gun, it is very important that we fight to keep that right by making sure the person we vote for is the one who will help us to keep that right, not take it away.

Each and every one of you are veterans who at one time had the requirement to possess and use a weapon issued to you by the service in which you were in, but just think of what kind of world we would live in if only soldiers could own guns and we fell under a government that wanted to oppress us. Without this right we would be helpless. Vote to keep this right!!