

THE AMERICAN LEGION
GAHANNA POST 797
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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Gahanna Post # 797

June 2008 Volume 4 NO. 4

Post Commander - Malcolm Glasgow
Immediate Past Commander - Diane McDaniel
First Vice Commander - Harvey Jones
Second Vice Commander - Diane McDaniel
Post Adjutant - Harvey Jones (Temporary)
Finance Officer - Gary Filaseta

Post Chaplain - Rusty Lundy
Post Historian - John McDaniel
Service Officer - Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms - Jerry McDaniel
Executive Committee -
Jim Garrabrant
Craig Reynolds
Jack Steinhausser, Sr.

Ladies Auxiliary

Unit President - Carole Ebersole
First Vice President -
Second Vice President -
Unit Secretary - Betty Burnett
Chaplain -
Treasurer -
Sergeant-at-Arms -
Membership Chairperson - Stacy Dilts

Sons of the American Legion

Post Advisor - Bob Donahue
Commander - John Tepper
First Vice Commander - Steve Ebersole
Second Vice Commander - Eddie Dilts
Adjutant/Finance Officer - Bill Dilts
Chaplain - Verge Dilts
Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Snyder

We're on the Web: <http://AL797.ORG/>

COMMENTS FROM COMMANDER GLASGOW:

With August, the end of summer is swiftly passing us by, and the baseball teams have completed their games. It was a mixed season for Gahanna this year, as many of the plans for the teams were working on decisions having been made without the knowledge of the Post Baseball Business Manager, and the team coaches were working on the season with their own agendas in mind, not according to Legion Baseball regulations.

Jack Steinhausser worked thru all the tribulations and the teams completed their year, but not without considerable complications having been brought forward by promises the coaches had been made before the season started. If it had not been for Jack's hard work, along with that of Gary Filaseta and the Gahanna High School Baseball coach, it would have been difficult to field both teams, and possibly to even complete the season with just one team.

As it stands at this time, there are still players whose parents have not paid their agreed upon fees for their sons to play American Legion Baseball, and although Jack is working to correct this situation, there may be no agreeable solution to the situation. The Post is asking for the assistance of any post members who have experience

working with baseball to contact Jack to see if there is a way you can work with him next year in keeping the baseball program to the high standards it should be. It would be very helpful if he had someone else to depend upon to man the concession stand at all the baseball games so he and Gary could attend more to the business end of the teams fielded by Post 797.

Over the past couple years some members have expressed a willingness to help, but that help never comes forth. You all should know that American Legion Baseball is the flagship of the Legion, and it must flourish to keep the Legion in the public eye. Sure, we do a lot of other things that people recognize as being Legion projects, but the notoriety brought to the Legion by baseball is something we count on first.

The Post is working as hard as the members who show an interest can to raise money to cover the projects the Post has taken on, but to really be able to do our utmost for our veteran comrades we need to work on putting money into our Founders Fund. While we have gathered a few thousand to date, that's a drop in the bucket compared to what we will need. It would be great for us to see our dream of a post building in our own lifetime, wouldn't it?



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FROM THE 1ST VICE:

The membership dues are coming in at a very good pace this year, well above what I have heard from past years, but we are still looking for the majority of them to be in prior to November 1st this year. Too many times in the past, members have waited until the end of the year to send their dues in, or have forgotten them and had to be reminded several times. Presently there are 154 members who have paid their dues for the 2009 year. We have lost a few members for various reasons, being 3 having transferred, 2 having gone to Post Everlasting, and 3 other members have resigned due to old age or moving out of state. While all of these are legitimate reasons to leave a post, we would rather do a transfer for a member to another post than the Legion lose that member altogether. The member joined for a reason, and although the person moves that reason still remains, and the numbers count, even if with another post. I urge all our members to send in their dues as early as they possibly can, and not to wait until the end of the year.

Remember, as I have said in the past, every time Department or National has to send out a reminder to a member who has not renewed their dues, it actually costs the post .50 cents each time, for at the end of the year the post actually receives back what is not expended in reminder letters.

Along with this newsletter you will find enclosed your membership card for 2009, if we have received your dues prior to the mailing. The newsletter is being mailed early to beat the deadline of the permit payment that is due if we were to retain the permit for mailing purposes. The cost savings for using the permit, or not, came out to be somewhere between \$5 - \$10 dollars per year, so the Executive Committee felt that sending the newsletter our first class would be just as cost efficient, as we could add content without adding more cost. The number of members having email addresses has helped make this decision, as we had to send out a minimum of 200 letters to use the permit rates, and we are down to under 185, so some members get both the electronic and mailed newsletters for the last mailing.

FROM ACTING POST ADJUTANT:

Those who have not gone to the new web site and looked over what is being done with it, should take the time to stop into the library and look over the internet at the site we have set up for you. If you have relatives who have computers, ask them to show you the site, and you will see that we are keeping as current as anyone can be with the information provided. Since I do not live in Gahanna, I am not privy to all the publications and events that take place there, and only thru phone calls or emails from someone in Gahanna can I keep everyone else up to date.

We have attempted to put forth a few ways for the Post to get funds to add to our Founders Fund (building fund) but have had very little cooperation from anyone other than the few who come to the meetings regularly. If all the members who are capable would help us out, you would see much more progress with the projects that we undertake. For your information, the few members who do participate have helped bring in nearly \$3000 from two requests, have made the request for a van for the Post Honor Guard, have requested donations or vehicles from 2 major automobile manufacturers, have sent out over 225 letters requesting contributions to our Founders Fund, and have attempted a game fundraiser that would have raised over \$20,000, but no one wanted to help in selling the ads, so it was dropped. We also are starting raffles such as the one being conducted right now for a voucher for 4 tickets to see the Columbus Crew play in September, but I don't see more than just the 3 or 4 who usually do all the work picking up books of tickets to sell. They can even be bought thru the web site!!

My only question to all of you is – If we do get the funds to build our own Post, how many of you will come to it and support it? Are these few members working as hard as they are for no reason? We continue to grow as a post, but fewer and fewer members show up for the 1-hour meetings. Is one hour out of your month too much time to ask to show you still support your post and what it stands for? I do realize that many of our members are elderly, some are disabled, and a few travel for work, but not that many. For those who are actually unable to attend meetings we could sure use your voice to make phone calls to help recruit new members, or to talk to members who have not renewed to see if they could be persuaded to send in their renewal dues and remain a member of the American Legion.

If any of you who are unable to attend meetings are willing to assist, I can provide names and numbers for non-renewals or 888's looking for a post. If each member would help with some small thing, we could double our membership and maybe the enthusiasm for a Post Building would become contagious,



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SQUADRON 797 NEWS:



By now all of the 2008 members of Squadron 797 should have received their 2009 cards. If not, please contact me ASAP and we'll get you taken care of. Dues for this year are \$20 for adults and \$10 for Juniors and Dual members. In addition to our annual dues, we are asking each member to consider making a donation which we will forward on to the various SAL charities. Last year Squadron 797 donated \$140 to Child Welfare, \$200 to the Gift for Yanks, \$30 to Children's Miracle Network, \$30 to the National Emergency Relief Fund, \$300 to Special Olympics and \$300 to send a boy (our own Jared Liston) to Buckeye Boys State. Any amount you can spare, no matter how big or small, will be appreciated and forwarded on to these charities. If you have a specific charity in mind let us know. If not we will divide the individual donations and combine these with our fundraisers in order to make our donations for 2009.

On Sunday, September 7th the members of Squadron 797 will be installing officers and holding a special business meeting. One of the items we will be discussing will be setting our regular meeting time and place for this year. As soon as we make that decision we will get those dates published. Members may bring their 2009 dues and donations to the cookout, or if you cannot make it send your checks to: Sons of the American Legion, 548 Bonnington Way, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

If you have any questions about The Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 797, or how you can become a member, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email.

Sincerely,

Bill Dilts, Squadorn Adjutant
614-476-6397
wdilts@columbus.rr.com

Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 797
548 Bonnington Way
Gahanna, OH 43230
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www.ALOHIO797.org

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Sorry about the shading on the SAL letter, but we learn as we go on these things. I guess PDF format is not the right way to go to add an article into a word document, especially if the entire document is to be formatted into a PDF document on the web site.



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LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT 797:

The Gahanna Auxiliary needs you:

If our unit is to continue serving the Veterans and Community, we need your help. Over the past five years we have made a difference. We have sent dozens of girls to Buckeye Girls State, sent donations to the Chillicothe Veterans Hospital, including celebrating Birthdays twice a year, we have volunteered with the National Guard to help families of deployed soldiers, donated money to Sew Much Comfort (clothing for injured and disabled soldiers), and supported the Post, to list a few of the programs. There was another plea for volunteer help from the National Guard this week. Ohio has been busier than ever deploying and welcoming troops this year. There are more and more soldiers being injured and needing our help and support. If any of this is important to you, we could use your help and ideas. The Auxiliary has a lot of programs to choose from, I am sure there is one to interest you. Your talents are needed and you will be rewarded with a sense of satisfaction, whether it is our veterans, troops, children, or the community you wish to serve.

Our meetings are the second Wednesday of the month in January, April, May, September, October and November. The other months are reserved for social events as needed. They are at 7pm at the Mifflin Township Meeting Hall. If this is not a good day or time for you, please let us know what would be better for you. We are open to suggestions. You can reach me at the number below. I'm waiting to hear from you.

Carole Ebersole
(614) 428-7088

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 10th at 7pm.
Chillicothe Veterans Hospital Birthday Party, Thursday, September 18th.
School of Instruction, Friday and Saturday, September 26-27.
District Fall Conference, Saturday, October 11th at 9am
Buckeye Boys & Girls State Reception, Thursday, October 16th at 7pm

On July 24th we visited the Ohio State House to view the life-size artwork of the Lima Company Marines who died in Iraq. It was definitely worth the trip. If you haven't seen it, try to go before Veterans Day.

GAHANNA FLEA MARKET IS COMING

Members who have items to donate for the annual Gahanna Flea Market can bring them to the Gahanna Lincoln High School Parking lot the morning of September 21st, Sunday. We will be setting up at 6am and will only have one spot this year instead of two, so space is limited. The Post will have a recruiting booth as the main feature, but will sell items that are priced and donated for the occasion. Normally the Auxiliary handles this event, but this year, it will be a Post function, and proceeds will benefit post charitable functions. Please inform your neighbors of this event, and plan to attend. Volunteers to assist will be appreciated. If you have any veteran friends or acquaintances ask them to stop by the booth and talk to us.

12th DISTRICT CONFERENCE:

The 12th District Conference is approaching fast. It will be held at Post 490 on the 14th of September. The SAL portion will start at 11:00am and the Legion activities start at 1:00 pm. All elected delegates are urged to attend, and will be contacted by a Post officer reminding you of the date. Please keep in mind that many of the activities conducted at these conferences eventually affect all of us at Post level, so it behooves every Post to have a presence there at all times.

WALKATHON SCHEDULED:

Jefferson Elementary School is conducting a walkathon to raise money on Friday, September 17th and is asking that anyone who can to please participate in this event. You must register no later than September 10th to participate in the event. The Post voted to support this event with a donation.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE SCHOOL:

The Department of Ohio is conducting a school for present and future Post Service Officers, which will be held at the Department Headquarters on October 25th. More information on the time will be placed on the web site in the events calendar, so please monitor the calendar if you are at all interested.

The Post members elected a new Service Officer during the August General Membership Meeting and he is urged to attend this training event. It is held annually and the needs of our veterans are benefited from what is learned at this training event.

The new Service Officers name is John Chestna, who has been a Post member 2007 but has recently renewed his membership and has had some experience with the activities of Service Officers, so his experience will definitely come in handy if the need arises for his assistance.

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Department is having a golf tournament during the month of September and is putting together teams for the event. It is being organized by Post 82 at Sandlewood. If you are interested call (740)587-0921 and ask for more details. You only have until September 2d to do this. Sorry about the short notice.

BUCKEYE BOYS/GIRLS STATE BANQUET:

Tentatively scheduled for October 16th. Check the web site. **Baseball Banquet** is August 30th at Shepherd Church and is a potluck. Hours 11am-4pm. Let Jack know if you plan to attend so he can make sure he is aware.