



American Legion News

Gahanna Post 797

Volume 4 No.4

September 2009

CHECK HERE FOR PAID MEMBERSHIP CARD

Post Commander - Malcolm Glasgow
 Post Chaplain - Rusty Lundy
 IPPC/2d Vice Commander - Diane McDaniel
 Post Historian - Merlin DePew
 First Vice Commander - Stanley Wepking
 Service Officer - John Chestna
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Jerry McDaniel
 Finance Officer - Gary Filaseta

Executive Committee

John Raab
 Jack Steinhausser, Sr.
 Richard Trushel
 Jim Garrabrant

From Post Commander Malcolm Glasgow:

It is the month of September and fall is quickly approaching us. Our September meeting will be on Thursday, September 17th, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be at the VFW Hall as usual and we welcome all members, new and current to attend. We will be discussing the upcoming events for the remainder of the month and look at what is projected for the month of October.

Second Vice Commander Diane McDaniel has asked that everyone please bring a bag of candy that can be used for the Creepside Festival on October 14th to hand out to all the ghosts and goblins who will be creeping around the Creekside Mall that evening. Last year we purchased a large number of bags of goodies and ran out only half way thru the event, disappointing a good many of the participants, even though many of them were actually adults.

I encourage everyone to attend the annual Gahanna Flea Market to be held on September 20th at the Gahanna Lincoln High School parking lot. If you

Ladies Auxiliary:

Unit President - Carole Ebersole
 First Vice President -
 2nd Vice President - Linda Gease
 Unit Secretary - Judy Filaseta
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Diane McDaniel
 Unit Chaplain - Ruth Wepking
 Treasurer/Membership – Joyce Mahr

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Sons of the American Legion Squadron 797

Post Advisor - Malcolm Glasgow
 Commander - Bob Crawford
 1st Vice Commander - William Heath
 2nd Vice Commander -
 Adjutant - Harvey Jones
 Finance Officer - (Temp) Gary Filaseta
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Sam Snyder
 Chaplain - TBD

have any items you would like to contribute to the cause, please drop them off at the flea market as early as possible. We will be setting up the shelter starting at 6:00am and could use a little help getting things ready.

A visit to Motts Military Museum in Groveport is planned by 2d Vice Diane McDaniel and her assistant, James Adams, a recent new member, whose help is definitely appreciated.

Membership attendance at our meetings has picked up and I am pleased to see those attending. It may be due to the fact that the Post is recognizing our members for their continuous membership with Certificates and pins, or it may be because we are growing and every one is interested in seeing what is happening at the Post. Regardless, we are very glad to have you come to the monthly meetings. The Post continues to grow and is closing on our goal of 400.

Some of our other new members are:

James Moore
James Tippie
Shane Laskodi
Jason Harvey
Karen Linnenkohl
James Adams
Gene Beer

Malcolm "Mac" Glasgow
Post Commander

From 1st Vice Commander Stan Wepking:

It's a learning process, holding a position in the Legion as an Officer, but I am learning quickly that there are a lot of veterans out there who, although they are not eligible for the VFW, are eligible for the Legion, and I am working to bring them into the fold. I could use a little help in calling prospective transfers from the 888 program, so if anyone is interested in helping me with calls and collecting their information, I have a cheat sheet you can use as a talking point. It is not hard at all, and many of the veterans just want someone to talk to, making them great prospects.

If you need a few applications to hand out to your friends, or to someone you work with, let me know and I will send a few out to you. It easy to join the Legion, as the qualifying dates are on the application and all else that is needed is a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214 and a check for \$35.00 for the first year's dues, unless they are already paid as an 888.

If anyone need assistance talking to your veteran friend, feel free to contact me or Harvey, and one of us will get back to you as quick as possible. Don't lose a good recruit due to waiting. **BE PREPARED** – carry an application in your wallet at all times. If you talk so someone who has a computer, give them the web site address and tell them there is an application on the site that they can print out, complete, and mail in along with their DD Form 214. Use every opportunity that you come across.

From Second Vice Diane McDaniel:

Although I was unable to attend the Post/VFW joint picnic, I heard that it was a great outing. I wish I

could have made it. The turnout was about the best ever and a good time was had by all. Let's do it again next year and have everyone show up that time!!

The Annual Flea Market will be held on September 20th, Sunday, at the Gahanna-Lincoln High School parking lot, same as the last couple years. We bought one site as we did last year, but we need items donated to sell with proceeds being split between the Auxiliary and Post. It would also be nice to have a few more volunteers to help man the tent thru the day instead of the same people having to be there all day from 6:30am to close at 4:30pm. We need at least 12 people to work 3-hour shifts and assist those who want to stay longer. We also hope to have a booth there to give out Legion documents for prospects and anyone else who would like to look them over.

There is a field trip set for Saturday, September 26th, at 1:00pm to tour Motts Military Museum. It will be a guided tour and the cost has been reduced to \$4.00 per person. We need RSVP's for this event called in to either James Adams at (614) 475-2709 or myself at (614) 855-2120. **Please RSVP no later then September 19th** so we can give the count to Motts for their planning. If there is no answer, leave a voice message with name and number to attend.

Lastly, we are again planning to have a table at the Creepside Halloween Festival, held at Creekside on October 14th. This event was attended last year by approximately 2400 children, all dressed up and looking for goodies from the tables set up on the Mall. Sadly, we ran out of goodies early into the night last year and we don't want that to happen this year. Since this is our last meeting before Creepside, we would like for each of you to add one bag of goodies to your Halloween shopping to drop off at the VFW Hall on the Post meeting night of September 17th anytime between 6:00 and 8:00pm. The goodies should be pre-wrapped items, not loose like M&Ms or the like. Let's make this a great Treat Night for the kids!!! Thank you all.

From Service Officer John Chestna:

Many of you don't know, but I have been under the weather for some time now, and luckily, I have not had any veterans who needed my assistance in getting

help thru the Veterans Administration. I am glad of that as either there have not been any veterans having trouble getting their paperwork completed or the VA is doing better at it's job.

I feel as though I will be able to start working with anyone who needs my help whenever the need arises at any time now, and will be waiting for the call for such assistance. I also plan on helping with the Creepside Festival again this year, and would also be happy to see any additional goodies. Even so, the kids had an enjoyable time. Let's do it again this year!!

From Post Historian Merlin DePew:

No report from Merlin this month, but he has been hard at work gathering information for the annual Post History. He has been taking photographs nearly everywhere and is getting them into a temporary album until he has all the background information to set up the history in proper sequence.

The History is not just something you throw together, as it depicts what the Post is doing each and every year of it's existence. It is a way for new members or those who replace us oldsters who will want to see what the Post did in past years, so they can improve upon it.

Anyone having photos or pieces of information that reflects upon American Legion Post 797 should forward that information to Merlin so he can introduce it into the Post History for the current year. Please help him in anyway you can. Thanks

For Craig Reynolds, Americanism Chair:

The reception for the Buckeye Boys and Girls State attendees will be held on October 7th at Gahanna Lincoln High School Library (same place as last year), the time is 7:00pm. We would like for as many Post members as possible to come to this event to show the boys and girls that it's not just the Post Officers and Auxiliary Officers who are interested in what they have accomplished, that it is the members of both entities. Normally, there are refreshments available for after the presentations.

There will be Certificates for all the attendees and also for the sponsors, who will also be invited to attend this occasion. These sponsors will also be interested in how many Post members follow this program, so let's show them how much we care about this program and their support.

From Baseball Manager Jack Steinhauser:

Baseball for 2009 is over and the teams have gone their own ways, but we are already starting to plan for next year. We will need new coaches for both teams as the ones we had this year are done, and we would like to have coaches from the Legion to assist in our teams' performances. We presently have one volunteer, but we need at least 4, preferably more to fill in in case one of them is not available on a particular day.

From Jack Steinhauser, Honor Guard Captain:

If you can, please sign up to help us with the Honor Guard. It will not cost you anything for uniforms, and if you can't get off work, we will work around it. I understand that many of our members still work, and that they cannot get off work anytime we have a service, but on the days you are off, we could sure use some help. Consider it, then please call me.

Thanks to those who have called and sent their clothes sizes to me. I will have them on order any day now. I am hoping to hear from anyone else so I can order all of the uniforms at one time though. If you didn't make the deadline for uniform orders, never fear, we will be sending in another order in the near future.

The Honor Guard is doing the flag raising for all the GLHS home football games as they did last year. Please consider coming out to watch your local team play and support them.

From the Post Adjutant Harvey Jones:

For those of you who missed it, the Gahanna Jazz Festival event went off smoothly and the Post had barely enough volunteers to handle the positions given. We could have used several more volunteers, and we hope more of you will try to give us your support next year, as we have been asked to do it over again since we did such a fine job. I don't know the dates yet, but they should be on the Gahanna Calendar that will be mailed out to all Gahanna residents. When you get the calendar, look for the Jazz Festival dates and plan ahead on helping us out in 2010.

Also, check out the month of May for the full page color photo of the Post Honor Guard in the July 4th Parade and a small ad on the calendar page. Also, all meeting dates will be indicated on each month of the calendar so you know when they will be ahead of time each month.

THE POST NEEDS TO MAKE SOME MONEY!!

We will be mailing out the September Newsletter to every member this month. We plan to add in Membership Cards to those who have paid their dues already, and we are adding Raffle Tickets into the mailing. We are asking you to sell these tickets for \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, or 5/\$9.00, and send the money and completed stubs back to the Post promptly. If you can sell more than 8, please call Harvey at 837-3931 or Jack at 471-0703 and one of us will bring or send you more tickets. The sheets are perforated for easy separation when you sell them.

The item we are raffling is a **Toshiba 32" HDTV** and the second prize is yet To Be Determined. We will have a drawing date of December 17th at the December meeting. You need not be there to win, but we would welcome all to attend the meeting for the drawing. Every ticket sold will be available for the drawing, and drawn by a disinterested person. The winner must pick up the TV at the VFW Hall. **If you live out of state, and want to purchase tickets**, call Harvey Jones and he will mail them to you, but if you win you must arrange for pick up of the item. The raffle tickets can be purchased by anyone 18 or over, and we would love to sell as many as possible to make this a profitable fundraiser.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CCW CLASS??

We completed a CCW class on July 26th and 28th. But, we are putting together another class, with the same instructor, Gerard Valentino, who is also a Post member. As soon as I get all the names of those who have approached me we will see how many there are altogether and work out a schedule that will meet both the instructor's and members needs.

Keep in mind that you can bring a friend, who will pay the same cost as you do to take the class, but we need his info before a date is planned, as the instructor needs to send out material that has to be printed out for the class. And arrangements have to be made for the range fire. Contact Harvey if you want to take the CCW.

GAHANNA VETERANS MEMORIAL:

Gahanna Veterans Memorial Park is offering the opportunity to purchase a brick to place at the Memorial at the location on Old Johnstown Road. The cost is only \$25.00 per brick and placement of the brick is done twice yearly, once on Memorial Day and again on Veterans Day.

Bricks can be purchased and placed for Veterans or anyone on Active Duty with the United States Armed Forces. If you have a son or daughter presently serving, what could

be more memorable than having a brick placed at this Memorial for when they return home

For more information, please contact the Department of Parks & Recreation, 200 S. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, OH 43230, www.gahanna.gov or (614) 342-4250. If you need the forms quickly, call them, or let one of the Post Officers know, and we can make a copy for you.

From the Ladies Auxiliary Cookbook Chairperson:

American Legion Post 797 is spearheading a fund-raising project as a joint venture with VFW Post 4719 Ladies Auxiliary. We are collecting recipes for a cookbook that will be available for sale in the fall of 2010. The Auxiliary is asking for VFW and American Legion members (both men and women) to submit their favorite recipe(s) to their respective post. You may submit as many recipes as you wish.

Again, the recipes should be typewritten and submitted on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper. The contributor should put their name, address and phone number (and email address, if applicable) on the recipe sheet. Also, please indicate your membership affiliation with the Legion and/or VFW. Only the contributor's name and affiliation will appear in the cookbook. However, to ensure accuracy of the recipes, we need the additional personal information in order to be able to contact a contributor if there are any questions about the recipe(s).

Please submit recipes to:

Dawn Depew, Cookbook Chairperson at

dawnscooking@att.net (send as an "Attachment" & on the subject line, indicate "Cookbook Recipes")
OR mail to Dawn at
7991 Windsome Court, Blacklick, OH 43004

We have a drop-off box at VFW Post 4719. Please deposit your recipes in the box or send them to me.

So, put your thinking caps on and select those favorite and special recipes that your family can't live without!! We are looking forward to your contributions to this project.
Thank you.

Submitted by: Dawn Depew, Cookbook Chairperson
American Legion Post 797

MORE ON FUNDRAISING!!

If you know of a business that would like to find out more about Ormita, please get them in touch with Harvey Jones, and he can coordinate with them to the Ormita representative in Columbus, who can tell them the entire story behind their program.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

Post 797 has been playing catch-up with service awards since they had never been offered in the past 5 years, and the response has been fantastic. We have seen members who never attended a meeting before come to the meeting to receive their awards and then come back the following month. We had to of course, start with the highest continuous years first and work our way down, but that does not mean that your years spent with the Legion are less important, they are all very important. It's just that those with 30 or more years membership are growing older and we wanted them to relish their award for as long as they can. We still have a few awards to hand out and we will be in touch with those still to receive them to get them to a meeting.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE VFW:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all the veterans who are members of the American Legion to consider becoming a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Gahanna if you are qualified to do so.

While the Post is self-sufficient, their membership is declining due to many members having reached their expiration of term of service on this earth. Since the younger veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are finding that they would rather associate with veterans closer to their age group, they have started up organizations separate from the VFW and American legion. By doing so, they have cut off the flow of veterans who normally would have joined the VFW, thus causing membership to remain stagnant.

The VFW has been forthcoming in offering the Gahanna American Legion Post a place in which to meet every month, and also the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, and we feel an obligation to mention the fact that they need

members to enable them to continue providing a place for veterans to meet other veterans..

Don't forget that the VFW had breakfast every Sunday morning from 9:00 – 11:00am. Those of us who attend this event weekly have met a good many prospective members to our Post and also members of the Post who haven't been to a meeting in years.

ADVANCE NOTICE TO ALL:

We want to prepare all of you for an upcoming event well in advance of such event. Post 797 has not been a sponsor of the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) Ffor quite some time now, and the Officers of the Post feel it is time we step up and do our share. Even though many have been able to give blood, we have not been sponsors of any particular month for well over a year. **IT IS OUR TIME** to do this!!

Since other Posts have stepped up and taken all the months prior to March 2010, we have selected the month of March 2010 to sponsor the quest for blood. It is something most of us can do, and it is for the worthiest of causes, saving the lives of our fellow soldiers who are being shot at and many hit while on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

You do not have to wait until next year to schedule your gift of life, you can go to the web site at <http://blooddriveforthetroops.org> or call Pete Margaritis at (614) 395-0387 to be put on the list for March. So, if any of you are eligible to give blood, please schedule yourselves for the March date and tell them you are with American Legion Post 797 in Gahanna. The blood draw is done at the US Army Reserve Center, 165 N. Yearling Road, Whitehall, OH 43213. Ask your neighbors, your friends, relatives, and family to get on line and schedule. We want to gather over 100 pints of blood in March and hope they don't need even one drop of it to send to Iraq or Afghanistan. Civilians are eligible is they otherwise qualify. Not sure, call Pete at the number listed above.

American Legion Post #797
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