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Clinton, Maryland 20735

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Web site: post259.org

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...
Brian S. Kern, Commander

APRIL

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2010

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Although this message is in the April Newsletter, it's being written at a time in March just prior to our regular membership meeting. By the time you read this message, we should know who is running for some of the positions (maybe even Commander) for the upcoming Legion year. Regardless, I'm still hoping to encourage additional candidates for any of the Post Executive Committee positions at the April regular membership meeting. Quite frankly, many of us on the Executive Committee have been on it for many years. I myself have been there for at least 8. While not discounting the experience of those who have been on the Committee for many years, if the Post is to move forward we need some new faces with new ideas to "blend" in with the already existing experience...and those with already existing experience need to be willing to consider new ideas. I am concerned that at some point in the not too distant future, we will begin to lose those with experience and if we have no one in the "pipeline" to replace them, it could be a difficult time for the Post. Please if you have an interest in running for a position, step forward and be nominated. If you need more information on what the duties of a position see me. Additionally, the Post Bylaws set forth the duties and they are available on the website (www.post259.org). With great respect to our Auxiliary and SAL units, perhaps they share some of the concerns expressed above for their own organizations and leadership. Seems like for all of us more and more is being done by fewer and fewer until even those few become overwhelmed.

I was graciously invited by S.A.L. Commander, Dave Hutchinson, to attend their March meeting and impressed not only by the job he is doing, but the spirit of the S.A.L. members present. Even though small in number, there is a sense of energy in the SAL and I congratulate Commander Hutchinson on his efforts. I believe it is incumbent on the Post to offer the S.A.L. all the support it can in its endeavors. In many instances this may include redefining the relationship between the Post and the S.A.L. From the Post level, I'd offer this should include being more open to new ideas proposed by the SAL and not being mired in old mindsets.

Unfortunately, due to a Prince Georges County Council Meeting the same evening, I was not able to attend the March Auxiliary meeting; however, I was able to speak with several Auxiliary members prior to the meeting. They also had a sense of enthusiasm, but I did sense a hope that some newer members might step up and run for officer positions or simply become more actively involved.

My appreciation to those who attended the St. Patrick's Day event held on March 17th and the S.A.L. Dance held on March 20th. Both events are (continued on next page)

(Commander's Message) attended and a lot of effort goes into putting them on. Special thanks to all who volunteered to help out as the success of these events is largely dependent on you.

As always, thank for your continuing support, thoughts, and ideas.

In Legion Service
Brian Kern, Commander

AUXILIARY

Hi Members,

Spring is here and it that time of year to nominate our Auxiliary officers for the next Administrative year 2010-2011. If you would like to be nominated for an officer, please call the chairman, Liz White at 301-868-1612 or Ginger Latimer at 301-248-7989 or Barbara Theesen at 301-423-4970. Nominations will be read at our April and May meetings and will be in the May newsletter.

We will have a brief (Volunteer Field Service Workshop) which is required by ALA Department of Maryland for everyone who volunteers at Veteran facilities so if you Volunteer you will need to take this workshop.

Thank you to everyone that attended our Palm Sunday Breakfast, your support is greatly appreciated.

The Children's Easter Party will be Saturday, April 3rd, 1 PM-3PM.

We are having a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 8, 2010; set up 7:30 am; cost \$12.00 (parking lot space). Contact: Vivian at 301-736-7176 or Barbara at 301-423-4970. Flyer enclosed.

BINGO-BINGO workers are needed for Friday evenings the second and fourth weeks of the month. If you can help, please call me at 301-868-7960. Also, if you would like to help with our rentals, please let me know.

If you have not renewed your membership, please send them to Liz White so we can hopefully reach our goal for this administrative year. Thank you for your valuable membership in the world's largest women's organization and for your support to our Veterans.

To all members, if you think your volunteering hours in the community, in the schools or helping a

veteran, other than a relative, can be used in our yearly reports, please let me know so I can include them in the reports. Reporting period runs from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

At the last meeting five High School Juniors were approved to attend Maryland Girls State this June 20-25, 2010, at Salisbury University. Girls State program is "hands on" training in the management of a democratic government at city, county and state levels. This year mock trials will be held during judicial instruction, girls will vote on a bill and the program teaches them first hand the role lobbyists play in state lawmaking. Congratulations to the girls selected to attend this outstanding program.

Our next meeting will be April 12, 2010, hope you will be with us.

For God & Country
Toni Carr President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello All,

I hope everyone enjoyed the record snows that we were slammed with this year. I must say that I'm glad that is behind us! Unfortunately, bad weather for me means VERY busy at work. That in turn has reduced my visits to the post and therefore I haven't been as effective as I would like to be. With that being said, the weather has improved and the 3 major snowstorms are now a distant memory. Hopefully that means I can become more involved again and keep us striving in the right direction.

I would like to take this time to "Sincerely Thank" Gary Castleman for his continued support and dedication to our squadron. He does a lot of the "Thankless" things behind the scenes and deserves a TREMENDOUS amount of credit for our success. He is one of the biggest supporters that the post has, Bar None! Gary is a Life Member of our squadron and deservedly so. Without him we would not be the program that we are today. From All of Us in S.A.L.....THANK YOU SLIMMY!!!

Our meeting in April will be the opening of nominations for next year's officers. We would Love to see some of our members become more active. Participation is vital to our existence.

The S.A.L hosted a St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 20, 2010. It was a make-up for The Super Bowl Rally Dance that was snowed out on February 6, 2010. Unfortunately we weren't battling with snow this time; we were battling beautiful spring weather. Many people that had committed to coming to the dance, changed their plans. With that being said, it still was a fairly successful event. Hopefully Next Year's Dance will take place the night before the Super Bowl without any issues. We also have our annual Mother's Day brunch rapidly approaching. This has always been a very successful family event. Details will be made available after our April Meeting so be on the lookout. Hope to see everyone there on this very special day.

Last but not least, I would like to send out a Big Thank You to all of the people that support The Post and The S.A.L. As far as I am concerned, we all have an obligation to do what is necessary to make this post a fun place to come in to. Hopefully we can have some creative thinking amongst all of our members and guests, so that we can be more successful in the future. I know that some of the members are really beginning to take a good look at some of the things that simply aren't working. Obviously, this is a process and will take some time. But a proactive stance on the issues at hand will only help our chances of being a very successful organization. Thank you,

S.A.L Commander
Dave Hutchinson

CHARLOTTE HALL

The post held their monthly BINGO program at the home on 10 March. There were 72 veterans in attendance. Volunteers helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond and Mike Gilbert. We had some students from Chopticon High School (jrROTC) helping also. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks. Our next BINGO will be 14 April. Hope to see you there !! Get involved. Say THANKS to a VET

Mike Strotkamp, 301-645-2397

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

RED Cross Blood Drive

Saturday April 10th, 9 AM to 2PM

They are there for you, won't you be there for them?

Ninth U.S. Circuit of Appeals affirms "Under God" in Pledge of Allegiance

Although subject to appeal, the Court recently held that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is constitutional. In a separate decision, the Court also upheld the use of "In God We Trust" on coins and currency. American Legion National Commander, Clarence Hill had this to say, "The American Legion was very critical, in fact outraged, when the same Court ruled in 2002 that the pledge was unconstitutional because of a phrase that has existed in the pledge since 1954. But it is time to give credit where it is due. The Ninth Circuit corrected its earlier mistake and now there is absolutely no reason why schools across the nation should not lead their students in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every day."

American Legion National Commander Visits Post 259

American Legion National Commander, Clarence Hill, along with several other National, Department of Maryland, and local American Legion officers visited Post 259 on Saturday, March 13th. While there Commander Hill toured the Post facilities and spoke with some of the members present. After a delicious crabcake sandwich, french fries, and salad dinner prepared by Mike Hunnicut, Commander Hill addressed those present and answered numerous questions from the audience.

Electric and Natural Gas Co-op Sign Up Now Available On-Line

Post 259 members, Auxiliary members, and SAL members may be eligible for savings up to 18% on their electric bill and/or up to 60% on their gas bills. In large part, the potential savings is the result of the buying power of almost 300,000 American Legion members in Maryland. To determine your eligibility, go to the website www.emaec.org and follow the instructions. When asked for your organization, select 'American

Legion" from the list of pull down options, enter your Post number where appropriate, and if asked for an agent code use "EMA34". If you are asked to enter an email address for the Post, use "almd259@verizon.net". Your membership in the American Legion and Post 259 will need to be verified as a step in the process before you can enjoy your savings.

Post Rallies Behind Children's Miracle Network

Previously, many of you rallied behind our request for donations to The American Legion National Emergency Fund and we thank you. Now, we'd like to rekindle that spirit of sharing again and ask you to support the Children's Miracle Network. The Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization that raises funds for more than 170 children's hospitals. Countless individuals, organizations and media partners unite with Children's Miracle Network hospitals to help sick and injured kids in local communities. Donations to Children's Miracle Network create miracles by funding medical care, research and education that saves and improves the lives of 17 million children each year.

If you would like to contribute, please send a check made payable to American Legion Post 259 and indicate in the check's memo section that the check is to support the Children's Miracle Network. Checks may be dropped off in the canteen or mailed to: Post 259, Attn: Finance Officer, 9122 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD, 20735. All contributions are tax deductible.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2010</h1>						
				1 Pizza Night 4:30 - 7:30 PM	2 Good Friday BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	3
4 EASTER	5 S.A.L. 7:30 PM	6	7 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	8	9 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	10 Blood Drive 10:00 - 3:00 PM
11	12 Auxiliary 7:30 PM	13	14 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	15	16 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	17
18	19 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	20 PG County Commanders Roast	21 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	22	23 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	24
25	26 General Membership Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	27	28 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	29	30 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	

Clinton Post 259



Auxiliary Officers

President	Toni Carr
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Glenda Morgan
Treasurer	Mary Russell
Chaplain	Sharon Franklin
Historian	Vivian Boyd
Sgt at Arms	Wendy Harris

Executive Committee
 Barbara Theesen
 Liz White
 Marilyn Thomas



Post Officers

Commander	Brian Kern
Adjutant	Robert Wilson
Asst Adjutant	Vacant
1 st Vice	Gary Gifford
2 nd Vice	Larry Hall
3 rd Vice	Ronald Potts
Judge Advocate	Elbert "Ed" White
Service Officer	Joseph Vlcek
Finance Officer	Jerald Thompson
Historian	Charles Lewis
Chaplain	Robert McCollum
Sgt Major	John Jackson
Sgt at Arms	Vacant

Executive Committee
 Rich Barb
 Joe DeCenzo
 Matt Garofalo
 Jim Panor
 Richard Switzer



S.A.L. Officers

Commander	Dave Hutchinson
Adjutant	Vacant
1 st Vice	Wayne Berbig
2 nd Vice	Richard Walsh
Judge Advocate	Vacant
Finance Officer	Gary Castleman
Chaplain	Vacant
Historian	Robert Ailiff
Sgt at Arms	Vacant

Executive Committee
 Wayne Berbig
 Gary Castleman