

12th District Newsletter

December, 2009
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Still Serving America



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Upcoming Events

- Dec. 5, DEC Meeting, 10 AM, Ramado Plaza
- Dec. 11, Past Cmdr & Chef Dinner, Whithall Post 490
- Dec. 16, Operation Holiday Cheer 2009, Vets Memorial, 4 to 8 PM
- Jan.. 9, Annual Wii Tournament, Bucyrus Post 181
- Jan. 10, 12th District Winter Conference, Post 430, 1 PM
- Jan. 15-17, Dept. Mid-Winter Conference, Ramada Plaza

A Reason to Belong?

This is the same question all of have asked. There are as many answers to it as there are members of the American Legion. Let me see if I can provide some additional reasons.

Membership provides us with the numbers to speak out with:

American Legion supports troop increase, opposes timelines

The American Legion is praising President Obama's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan, but is troubled by some reports that the administration might set artificial timelines for withdrawal.

Supreme Court sends detainee photos case back to appeals court

The American Legion praised the Supreme Court on Monday for vacating and remanding an appeals court ruling that would have ordered the release of photographs of detainees allegedly being abused by their U.S. captors.

Legion praises passage of caregiver bill

The national commander of The American Legion applauds the Senate for overwhelming support of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009 with a resounding 98-0 vote Thursday.

Membership provides us with the numbers and ability to accomplish worthwhile activities:

Georgia post to host naturalization class

American Legion Post 29 in Marietta, Ga., will host an official U.S. citizenship class for legal aliens and people interested in the naturalization process.

Legion to donate \$3,800 to Fort Hood

The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program is donating gift cards to the men and women who were wounded during the shooting at Fort Hood earlier this month.

COP Keating iPods reach soldiers

The first batch of iPods purchased for the soldiers of the U.S. Army's Bravo Troop 3-61 Cavalry arrived in Afghanistan on Friday. Through its [Burn Pit](#) blog, The American Legion - with generous contributions from Target Corp. and Computer Science Corp. - raised more than \$100,000 to provide comfort items for the soldiers.

These are but of few of the stories that you can read about on the National Web site and just a couple of reasons to belong. Many members aren't aware of what we do and who we are. Go to the all new National Web site and read all of the stories about what we do then go out and then go out and tell our story. If we all would take the time to learn about all that we do then all of the posts could easily reach that All Time High.

www.Legion.org

Greetings from Commander Tom Eshelman

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This has been an event filled month and it is only half over. Starting on November 4th I, Carl Stuart, and John Chestna, Service Officer from Post 797, went down to the Federal Building for the annual Vets Appreciation Day. On the 6th, Steve Ebersole, Pete Magaritis and I went to city hall for the Veterans Day ceremony, then we went back to Vets Memorial to pick up the colors and walk down to Nationwide Blvd. To begin the parade. We marched with the District Colors, back to Vets Memorial. That evening we all went to Bexley Post 430 for their annual Early Bird Dinner.

The next morning, Mike Higgins met with all of the District Coaches at Worthington Post 239 to set up the schedule for the 2010 Legion Baseball season. That night I went to Westerville Post 171 for their annual Veterans Dinner. They served a good dinner and had a good program.

Post 239 had breakfast the following morning. On Monday, November 9th, Whitehall Post 490 had their Veterans Day ceremony with snacks following the ceremony. Tuesday I went out to Post 799 for inspection. Then, on November 11th I went to Perry and Phoenix Middle Schools in Worthington and spoke to the school assembly about the military and the need for a good education. That night, Steve Ebersole, Pete Margaritis and I went to Hilliard for the 12th District Parade. Mike Higgins of Camp Chase Post 98 marched with us carrying

the District colors. Also marching was the Southway Post 144 Camo Corps along with the Navy and Airforce JROTC groups. After the parade, everyone came back to the Hilliard Post 614 for a short ceremony followed by the old standby navy beans and cornbread. A special thanks goes out to Diane Schultz of the Auxiliary Unit 614 and their SAL Squadron Commander, Tom Maxwell for the parade coordination and to the main man, Rich Queen who organized the lineup. Thanks to all of the hard work of Post 614 in putting on this 25th 12 District's Veterans Day parade on November 12th.

I went to Department Headquarters to turn in membership cards for the Brown Jug Veterans Day turn in, but we came up 38 cards short of qualifying.

On Sunday, November 15th, I went to Vets Memorial along with the Post 239 Color Guard for an Honor Flight reunion. It lasted from 1 to 5 PM and was well attended by all fo the people who went on flights this year. It was a beautiful ceremony. That is about it so far this month. I hope to see you all at the District meeting at the Camp Chase Post 98 on the 24th.

Tom Eshelman, Commander
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Greetings from 1st Vice Commander Steve Ebersole

We are in 7th place in the Department membership standings out of the 14 Districts. We are at 82.17 % but need to be at 91% by the December 5th Department Executive Membership. I want to specifically thank Past Department Commander, Glenn Hickman and District Commander Tom Eschelman for all of their efforts in working membership. Now with then end of the year approaching we still need to continue in our membership efforts, especially in encouraging the veterans of the last couple of decades to join us. How can we do this? It is important that we continue to do those things that support our four pillars. The four pillars identifies who we are and give people something to be a part of. Then simply ask them to join us.

We in the 12th District have been doing a lot to support the American Legion four pillars.

Our new Legion Riders supporting the Legacy Fund, Don Gentile Post 532 supporting MD and Jerry's kids, Southway Post 144 support of our special kids with the Special Olympics, the on going blood drives for the troops, the Standdown and other Veterans Outreach and wounded warrior events. Our posts visited a dozen schools through out Franklin County on Veterans Day sharing the stories of sacrifice by our fellow veterans. We have welcomed troops home from deployments both in groups and individually at the airport. We have supported our veterans through the Honor Flight events, either volunteering to chaperon our WWII Veterans to Washington DC but in also seeing them off and welcoming them home at the airport.

Communicating is the key to making our organization strong. We need to communicate

“We need to communicate with the new veterans...”

1st Vice Continued

what we are doing to our members so they understand that we need their continuing support and so that they appreciate what our strength in numbers can accomplish. We need to communicate with out communities to encourage the ongoing support. We need to communicate with new veterans so that we can encourage them to join our efforts. Many of us send out newsletters and some of us have Web pages. These are important tools that allow us to communicate with our members and the community. In order to communicate with the newer veterans we need to address using some of the newer, electronic social tools, such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter. The National

American Legion organization has a blog called the Burn Pit. Through the Burn Pit, people found out about the COP Keating fund and the \$16,000 that was being asked for to replace personal effects lost by a unit in Afghanistan when they called in an air strike on their own position to keep from being over run. This happened on October 3rd and because of the instant communications of blogs we were able to raise in excess of \$100,000 and to get the first shipment of personal entertainment tools a couple of weeks ago. If you don't know about these new tools then recruit a young Veteran to help

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Greetings from 2nd Vice Commander Pete Margaritis

Communication.

It has been one of the vital cornerstones of strategic planning, along with command and control. As a vehicle for information dissemination, it's what significantly helps win a war—or lose it, depending on which side you're on. It made the difference for the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War; for Rommel in North Africa, first as a beneficiary, then later as a victim.

We are doing a modestly adequate job getting the word out on veteran and civic events going on, post activities, charity events... But we could be doing SO much better, both for incoming and outgoing. There was for instance today (Nov. 28th) a veterans outreach event at Veterans Memorial. Unfortunately, only a smattering of veterans showed up, because so few knew about it. The organizers had not contacted us about it until the very last minute. And by the same token, we too need to improve getting the word out on things going on, special events, etc.

For one thing, we have had a viable 12th District website up and running for a while now (<http://www.alohio12.org>); two, if you count the one for the ASBP blood drives (<http://www.blooddriveforthetroops.org>). Today, the Internet is the most effective (and cheapest) way to effectively get your information out to your target market. In addition, several of you posts have your own websites. That's great! Only problem is, many of them are badly in need of updates. You must get someone to aggressively keep the current and upcoming information on them, and

deleting the old stuff. Otherwise, you defeat the whole purpose of having a website if members cannot get the 'latest-and-greatest' from it. “When's that fish fry the post is doing? What time?” If members do not know, they may not choose to participate. So let's stay on top of our websites. Those posts without one, send your latest newsletter to the district office (250 E. Broad St.), or heck, even a sheet of paper with the upcoming stuff. That goes for our two American Legion support organizations, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the SAL. Give us a heads-up on upcoming activities. Help us to help you coordinate with each other so we know what the heck we're all doing. We will make sure the information goes into our events calendar for maximum promulgation to our veterans and their families. Because some activities are too important for veterans and our supporters to not be aware of. Remember—we're at war.

Blood drives: Thank you Central Ohio veterans and supporters! Our ASBP blood drive on Sunday November 15th broke our previous record of 72 pints collected. On the 15th, 102 people registered to donate, and 74 successfully passed and donated a pint. The blood was processed immediately, and most was in-theatre by the following Wednesday. Thanks, Central Ohio for helping us to help the Armed Forces save the lives of servicemen and women overseas, and to Don Gentile Post 532 for sponsoring. Next blood drive will be Saturday, January 23rd (see Web site above for details), sponsored by Southway Post 144, and one in March sponsored by Gahanna 797, and May by American Legion Memorial 614.

“Our ASBP blood drive on ...November 15th broke our previous record...”

A dozen winners of the District turkey raffle were drawn at Post 98

2nd Vice Continued

Those posts that have not yet sponsored one, we could use you for July and September 2010.

Turkeys: ... No, not the district officers, those fresh, Amish turkeys raffled at the district meeting on November 24th, held at Camp Chase Post 98. A dozen winners were drawn, and members of three posts, Hilliard Post 614, Malcolm Jeffrey 465, and Raymond Scott 182, won eight of them.

That's about it. Anything your officers can help you folks on, just let us know. And remember, the 12th District Winter Conference will be Sunday, January 10th. Until then, may all of you have a VERY Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ISC Pete Margaritis, USNR-Ret.

Pete Margaritis, 2nd Vice Commander

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Operation Holiday Cheer 2009

Place: Veterans Memorial

Date: December 16, 2009

Time: 1600 hrs – 2000 hrs

Who: Santa Claus will be there to give a FREE picture with Santa to all Military and Veteran families!

Problem: Tough economical times have made life extremely difficult for members of the military and Veteran community; especially during this upcoming holiday season. Many families can't even afford to have a professional picture taken with Santa Claus or purchase toys or gifts for their loved ones.

Goal: It's been written one joy dispels a thousand worries. Take this opportunity to bring some holiday cheer to those warriors, Veterans, and their families who are less fortunate.

Whether you or your organization wishes to **GIVE** or you're a family who needs to **RECEIVE**, this will be an event for you. We can add one more element to it: **VOLUNTEER**.

So many have asked me how they can give back and where to start, well here's the chance to hook up with the organizations who do the giving. Here's our chance to lead by example while demonstrating our social responsibility and encouraging everyone to get into the spirit of giving. Whether its information, volunteer time, toys, gifts etc...

More to come....more to come.

Watch the District Web site for more information.

www.alohio12.org

Schedule Change – District Convention

The 12th District Convention was originally set for May 30, 2010 at Columbus Post 82. Since this is Memorial Day weekend we will need to move the date to May 23rd. It will still be at Columbus Post 82 at 5475 Sandalwood Blvd and will be at 1:00 PM with sign in and the Past District Commander's Meeting at noon.



Four Chaplains Service

In February, 1943 Convoy SG-19 left St. John's Newfoundland bound for the Army Command Base in Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland. SG-19 consisted of six ships, the USAT *Dorchester* along with two merchant ships and three US Coast Guard cutters. In February 3, 1943 the *Dorchester* was torpedoed by German U-boat U-223. The *Dorchester* sank quickly, in about 20 minutes, unable to send out the appropriate distress signals. With a shortage of life jackets aboard. The four Chaplains aboard the *Dorchester* relinquished their own. As the story is told by Legion Posts all over the world, the four Chaplains; Methodist Reverend George L. Fox, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Roman Catholic Priest John P Washington and Reformed Church in American Reverend Clark V. Poling linked arms and prayed for their troops. On Sunday, February 7, 2010, the Chaplain of the 12th District will hold our annual remembrance of these four heroic Chaplains at 1:00 PM at the the Hilltop Catholic Church at 29 S. Eureka

Bill Janey
12th District Chaplain
(614) 263-1089

Department Membership Roundup

The Department of Ohio will be holding a membership roundup from February 16 through the 19, 2010. We are tentatively scheduled to have ours at the American Legion Memorial Post 614 in Hilliard, on the 16th of February. Watch the District Web site for further information.

Past Commander & Chef de Gare's Dinner

The Past Commander's and Chef de Gare's dinner will be held at Whitehall Post 490 on Friday, December 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Post 490 is at 1117 South Hamilton Rd. Dinner is \$7.00 and will include ham, potatoes, green beans, roll & dessert.

12th District Youth Activities

Bill Schnug announced that the 12th District Buckeye Boys State Orientations will be on Sunday, May 2nd at Thomas Worthington High School, in the east Auditorium and on Sunday, May 16th at Post 164 in Grove City.

We are still waiting for dates for the Oritorical Contest. These date will be announced on the Web site. At this time we only have entries from Gahanna Post 797.

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12th District Turkey Raffle

On Tuesday, November 24th at Camp Chase Post 98, following the meeting of the 12th District Council, we had a drawing for 12 fresh, Amish turkeys. The following are the winners – Congratulations to all.

Beckey Light – Post 144
Jerry Laird – Post 144
Bill Janey – Post 182
Bill Janey – Post 182
Earl Bailey – Post 276
Carl Stuart – Post 465

Randy Henry – Post 465
Eloise Kemper – Post 614
Jane Domer – Post 614
Rich Queen – Post 614
Tom Maxwell – Post 614
Charles Lindsey – Post 690

Greetings to all Auxiliary members:

We invite you to share information with the rest of the American Legion Family

**Dates to Remember**

Mid-Winter Conference January 15&16
 Poppy Shop Open House April 11
 District Summer Convention May 15

Greetings to all The Sons of the American Legion

The SAL, 12th District is in 7th place in the Detachment membership ranking. At this time we have one squadron at Quota. Congratulations to Squadron 1.

"The Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage".

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 10 - 12th District Winter Conference, Bexley Post 430, 11:00 AM – Noon
Sunday, April 18 - 12th District Spring Conference, Don Gentile Post 532, 11:00 AM – Noon
May 14-16 – SAL Convention in Perrysburg, OH

Dates to Remember

Saturday, December 5 – DEC Meeting, Ramada Plaza, 10:00 AM
Friday, December 11 – Past Commander & Chef Dinner, Whitehall Post 490, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturday, January 9 - 1st Annual Dept. Wii Tournament, Bucyrus Post 181
Sunday, January 10 - 12th District Winter Conference, Bexley Post 430, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
January 15-17 – Department Mid-Winter Conference,
Sunday February 7 - 12th District Four Chaplains Service, Hilltop Catholic Church, 1:00 PM
Tuesday, February 23 - 12th District Meeting, Leasure-Blackston Post 239 – Worthington, 7:30 PM
Tuesday, March 23 - 12th District Meeting, Young Budd Post 171 – Westerville, 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 10 – DEC Meeting, Dept. HQ, 10:00 AM
Sunday, April 18 - 12th District Spring Conference, Don Gentile Post 532, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Blood Drive for the Troops

Our next Blood Drive for the troops will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. It will again be at the Army Reserve Center in Whitehall at 165 N. Yearling Rd. This drive is being cosponsored by Southway Post 144 in conjunction with the Army Reserves, The American Legion 12th District and the Marine Corps Family Support Community. As always, **there will be plenty of food**. So join us in supporting the troops with this vital effort as recognized at the 91st National Convention of the American Legion.

Tuesdays at 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Join Pachall Post 164 in Grove City for Sub Nite

\$2.50

Friday at 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Fiday Nite Special, Leasure-Blackston Post 239 in Worthington

\$5:00

Carry-out available

Thursdays at 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Join Pachall Post 164 in Grove City for Shrimp & Wings Nite

\$0.30 each

2nd Sunday of the Month

Join Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning St., Worthington from 9:00 AM until noon for breakfast starting after Labor Day. \$5.00 gets you all you can eat.

3rd Sunday of the Month

Join Columbus Post 82, at 5475 Sandalwood Blvd. From 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM for breakfast starting after Labor Day. \$6.00 gets you a bloody mary or a mimosa and all you can eat.

