

# 12<sup>th</sup> District Newsletter

December 2011 – February 2012  
Volume 12, Issue 2

Still Serving America



## Contents

Support the Troops	1
Commander's Column	2
New License Plates	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice News	3
MyLegion.Org	3
Blood Drive for Troops	3
H.B. 193	3
K9TAL on the Air	4
Historians Column	5
Valentine's Day Concert	5
Dates to Remember	6
Newsletter Deadlines	6

Merry  
Christmas



## Support the Troops

It's Christmas, once again, a time of giving, a time to be charitable. When our forefathers organized the American Legion, they believed that veterans may need help reentering society and our communities. We have determined, since then, that not only may our veterans need help but active duty military and families may need help so we have organized several programs for their needs. During WWII and the conflicts since, Legionnaires have stepped up to help families of deployed warriors, shovel snow, mow lawns, do minor and major house and car repairs. Such programs as the Family Support Network (FSN) and Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) have come into existence.

We have a new generation of soldiers, sailors and airmen being deployed to serve our nation in a time of conflict. Our support programs are alive and in most cases they work very well. Many times we at the District and maybe someone at the Post level will get an email or phone call from Department about calls that have come in on the FSN hotline ((800)504-4098). Maybe someone from a local military family support group hears of a need and lets us know about it. The needs might be one of the services mentioned above or a family or veteran developed a problem and needs some short term financial assistance, or maybe, like a recent case, the family lost their house in a tragic fire. This is when it is our time to step up and offer the assistance that is needed, that is what we have volunteered to do, continue to serve.

Too many times what I hear is, "well the Red Cross will help" or, "there are food pantries" and yes, there are other existing resources. But many times these families don't know where else to turn to, they don't know what or where to go to get this kind of help, so it is our duty to assist. Every post should have a Service Officer and that officer should know what local programs are available, both in the community and within the American Legion. We need to know how to guide these families to get the help that they need.

Here in Franklin County, we have a huge network of agencies available that communicate these individual needs via email and have been very successful in matching the right resources to the right needs.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 8 – Winter Conference
- Jan 20-22 – Mid-Winter Convention
- Jan 27 – OLN Deadline
- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day Concert
- Feb 25-29 – Wash DC Conference

## Greetings from Commander Pete Margaritas

Fellow Legionnaires:

With Thanksgiving upon us, we should reflect and give thanks for all the bountiful gifts that we have as individuals, as a part of this organization, and as a nation. We can also share in a well-done job for several significant activities that we have accomplished successfully in the last couple months. These include our work at the Veterans Stand Down (Oct. 18th) and Military appreciation night at the Nationwide Arena (Nov. 10th).

The ASBP blood drives continue (last I checked, we're still at war). The blood drive of October 15th, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary Unit of Southway Post 144, yielded us 60 pints—not a bad haul. The next one, scheduled for December 17th (see the website: [www.blooddriveforthetroops.org](http://www.blooddriveforthetroops.org)), will again be co-sponsored by Gahanna Post 797 and AmVets Post 89. Christmas is a critically short time, so please spread the word and consider donating to the Armed Forces.

As many of you know, the 12th District responded magnificently to the recent flag debacle in the Columbus City Schools. Eight days before the school year began, the Columbus Board of Education passed a ruling that the Pledge of Allegiance would be said in each classroom every morning—a huge Americanism development that the 12th District heartily approved of. Unfortunately, the teachers quickly realized that most of the classrooms lacked an American flag for the students to say the pledge to. Concerned, the Board reached out to the district for assistance. In response, we created a new Flag Committee. Under chairman and past district commander Steve Ebersole, a sizable community effort was conducted, and through us, some 1,200 new flags were delivered to the school district, along with 100 DVDs on flag etiquette—one for the library of each school. This has opened up a new channel of communication between us and the school board, one which the district plans to pursue for our youth.

The annual 12th District Veterans Day parade in Hilliard was a big success. Our thanks to all who took part in making it happen.

Unfortunately though, our success is bittersweet. One of our key planners and participants, Dianne Schultz, passed away the next evening. At 63, she was still a very active member of the Ladies Auxiliary Unit of Hilliard Memorial Post 614. We shall miss her dearly.

Membership. We've slipped some, going from 8th place down to 12th before we bounced back, currently in 10th place. We can do better though, folks. Let's get those cards in as soon as we can. As always, if any post that needs help in that regard, don't hesitate to call the district office for assistance.

As you know, Reserve and National Guard units are constantly being activated. There is one in particular the district has centered on. The 629th Forward Surgical Team (FST) is scheduled for deployment overseas in early December. The district has reached out to them and has informally 'adopted' the unit (you posts can adopt a unit as well). We plan to coordinate assistance to them while deployed. This is critically important, because for the first time, we have a chance to get feedback from a unit that will actually be using the blood that we collect at our ASBP blood drives. I will keep you informed on developments in that matter.

Last point. Communication in the district is lagging. We can't support each other if we don't know what we are all doing. Those posts with homes, let us know when you have events coming up. If your post has a website, be sure it is up to date. I checked some of them out, and I saw events from 2010 or 2009. Webmasters, your job is cut out for you. Newsletters help too. Let us know what is coming up.

Happy Holidays and God bless this country.

Pete Margaritas  
[commander@alohio12.org](mailto:commander@alohio12.org)

### 2011-2012 12<sup>th</sup> District Officers

#### Commander

Pete Margaritis  
(614)395-0837  
[Commander@alohio12.org](mailto:Commander@alohio12.org)

#### I.P.D.C.

Steve Ebersole  
(614)783-6862  
[sebersole@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sebersole@sbcglobal.net)

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

Bernie Brogan  
(614)397-4991  
[1stvice@alohio12.org](mailto:1stvice@alohio12.org)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

Gary Fast  
(614)517-4657  
[2ndvice@alohio12.org](mailto:2ndvice@alohio12.org)

#### Chaplain

Earl Bailey  
(614)429-0601

#### Finance Officer/Adjutant

Glenn Hickman  
(614)906-6796

#### Judge Advocate

Dan Watrous  
(614)563-0657

#### Historian

Pete Margaritis  
(614)395-0837

#### Sergeant-At-Arms

Rick Isbell  
(614)596-5715

#### Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms

Vernon Hall  
(614)878-9914

#### Executive Secretary

Bob Kimball  
(740)867-8836  
[Secretary@alohio12.org](mailto:Secretary@alohio12.org)

#### 12<sup>th</sup> District Council Office

250 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone (614)224-2900

[www.ALOhio12.org](http://www.ALOhio12.org)

### New Ohio License Plate -- Have you voted?

Ohio is taking votes for the best description to put on the new license plate. If you follow this link <http://myplate.ohio.gov/> you can vote and the great thing is that there is a chance to vote for, "With God All Things Are Possible". This is the official state motto for the state of Ohio. I love it! While so many government agencies are trying to squash God, we have a chance to promote Him!

I voted. Will you do the same? Forward this on to other Ohio residents that might want to vote. It only takes a few seconds to vote!

## Greetings from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bernie Brogan

Hello Everyone,

I have to begin my article for this newsletter with a bit of disappointment, we just completed our Pearl Harbor lap on December 5<sup>th</sup> and as a District we are at 77.42 % a little short of the expected 80%. The disappointment comes in with the thought that if the Post Commanders and the Membership Chairman (1<sup>st</sup> Vice) had just pushed a... little harder or put a little more emphasis on membership or sponsored a "Membership Drive" it could have made a significant difference.

But all is not lost because we have a lot of time left to get there. It took a lot of hard

work to get us to the level that we are, and for that we are grateful, I know that because of our perseverance we will continue that drive toward our quota goals.

We have three posts in the District that have reached quota level and beyond, they are **Franklin Post 1, Navy Marine Post 276 and Galloway Post 799**. Congratulations to these posts for an outstanding job on achieving quota. Brown Jug winners were Fifth District and Second District

Thank You

Bernie Brogan,  
[1stvice@alohio12.org](mailto:1stvice@alohio12.org)

"We have three posts .. that have reached quota....."

### MyLegion. Org

MyLegion.org is an area on the [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) web site where the post and individuals can communicate and the great part is the cost, it is FREE. That's right, there is no cost to the post or members for this service. The post can offer a post calendar and an on-line newsletter for post members only. The post can update membership records and pull rosters from the National database, and fill out our annual Consolidated Reports on-line Members can communicate (blog) with other members and is able to renew their annual membership. The only way you can do this is if you register as a post and if each post member registers. Remember it only costs a few minutes of effort to take advantage of this great new tool. Posts, you do not have to buy the ALPOP software to take advantage of these features.

"The post can update membership records ... from the National database....."

".. members can renew their annual membership (on-line)....."

### Blood Drive for the Troops

This blood drive for the troops will be on Saturday, December 17 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM at the Army Reserve Center on Yearling Road. This is a special blood drive in that it's the Christmas . This drive is co-sponsored Gahanna Post 797 and Amvets Stan Kinney Post 89 Let's help the Legion and Amvets Psots and donate a pint of life saving blood. If you can't donate then find a neighbor, or a relative who can. Let's make this a record collection, we need more than 84 pints but it would be great if we could collect more than 100 pints.

Remember that once the blood is collected it is sent, within 2 or 3 days to the Middle-East and will be used to save the lives of many soldiers. A single pint of blood could save as many as three soldiers so come and donate.

### Veterans' Organization Rental and Income Real Estate Tax Exempt

#### H.B 193 – 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Ohio

The bill repeals an exception to the real property tax exemption that generally applies to real estate that is occupied or held by a veterans' organization. Under continuing law, subject to the exception, real estate that occupied or held by a veterans' organization generally is exempt from real property taxation if the veterans' organization qualifies for exemption from taxation under the charitable organization provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and is incorporated under Ohio or federal law. But under the exception real estate held by such a veterans' organization is not exempt from real property taxation if it is held for the production of rental or other income that exceeds the "designated amount" before any cost or expense incurred in producing the income is accounted for (In 2011, the designated amount is 59,750, and in 2012, the designated amount is \$10,000. ) The bill repeals this exception

On June 21, House Bill 193 was passed out of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs with a unanimous vote of the committee. It currently is waiting to be scheduled for a vote by the full Ohio House of Representatives. Authored by Joseph W. Uecker, Stae Representative from the 66<sup>th</sup> District.

*(Continued from Page 1 - Support the Troops)*

Did you know that if a family has a financial crisis where there are children involved that financial assistance is frequently available through the American Legion Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) and by filling out the form (you can get it from Don Lanthorn at Department HQ) we might be able to get an additional, immediate aid of \$500.00 for the family from the Department of Ohio, thanks to Charities Inc.

Yes, I know that sometimes we get people who abuse these offers of help. It is our responsibility to investigate and try to avoid these situations. But most of the time these needs are genuine. So when you hear a cry for help, let's communicate these needs and get our service men and women, veterans and their families the help they need. If you need more information or want to learn about services that are available you can go to the American Legion Web site at [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org), or contact your District Officers.

## K9TAL IS ON THE AIR!

No, this isn't a new language or another acronym that the military and our modern society is all about, but a new group within the American Legion. First came the Auxiliary, then the Sons of the American Legion and just a few years ago, the Legion Riders were added to the Legion family. Now we have formally added Amateur Radio. After some six months of planning, preparation, clearing, cleaning and gathering materials and equipment together for The American Legion Amateur Radio Club's shack, we finally "threw the switch" on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at approximately 1930Z\*.



The "shack," Amateur Radio talk for the room where the radio equipment is located, is at the American Legion HQ and K9TAL are the Call Letters for the station. The shack used to be an old photographic dark room that has been cleaned up and now contains the computers, printers, telephones and various radios that will ultimately be turned into a state of the art communications room.

The American Legion is not new to Amateur Radio, our ties go back to the beginning of the Legion. Amateur Radio, or as it is sometimes known, Ham Radio is part of national security and fits well into one of the four pillars that make up our foundation. After national disasters and during times of emergencies, when telephone systems, cell phone systems and other common communications systems are down, Ham Radio is the only way to communicate. Amateur Radio operators fire up portable generators and throw up pieced together antennas and provide emergency communication between first responders, volunteers, such as the Red Cross, power companies, rescue workers and even the military through DOD sponsored Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) stations that are operated by thousands of civilian Amateur Radio Operators.



Amateur Radio Operators are licensed radio operators who have had to show expertise in radio, electronics, and transmission theory. They also have to show a proficiency in legal operation of all kinds of radio equipment, from analog and digital to computer operation and even morse code. Amateur Radio operators even operate their own world wide satellite network know as AMSAT, or Amateur Satellite run through the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. This was started in 1961 with the launch of the first OSCAR satellite to the more recent, OSCAR 51 launched in June of 2004. These satellites have been built by amateurs in the USA, Canada, Germany and Japan and any properly licensed amateur can operate through them.



The first contact, or QSO in Ham lingo, made from the new American Legion Amateur Radio Club, K9TAL, on 20 meters was Ron, WU2B, in East Orange NJ. "He gave us a barefoot "5-7" report that was real pleasing to us since, without a tuner we were running only about 20 watts; it delighted our folks at HQ who rigged the antennas and ran the cable down five stories," stated the controlling operator of K9TAL. To most people this is gibberish but to a Ham it indicates that the contact was made using a low power radio equipment and the signal was strong and clear.

Most people believe that Ham Radio Operators are a dying breed, but according to QST Magazine and recent reports of FOX News, Amateur Radio is experiencing a growth spurt. As an emergency communications technology and as a fun and challenging hobby, Ham Radio is alive and well. For more information on the American Legion and Amateur Radio, check out [www.legion.org/hamradio](http://www.legion.org/hamradio) and [www.legion.org/forums/ham-radio](http://www.legion.org/forums/ham-radio).

\* 1930Z is 1930 hours Zulu is sometimes referred to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) which is 5 hours later the EST.

## Historian's Column

In the history of the district, some interesting things happened to us in the months of October and November. Here are some:



- **November 25, 1919.** Our first recorded meeting occurred in Memorial Hall. Eight posts were present, Ed Orten (Post 1) was appointed the first Chairman of the Franklin County Council. Herbert H. Monro, (Post 82) was appointed the very first Vice Chairman. The Council charter was approved at this time.
- **October 05, 1920.** A motion passed to add post commanders and finance officers to the Franklin County Council delegates, in addition to the three previously elected members.
- **October 19, 1920.** It was resolved that Franklin County Council meetings would open at 7:30 and close no later than 10 p.m.
- **October 07, 1924.** SAL Squadron 1 received its first permanent charter.
- **October 21, 1941.** A little over six weeks before Pearl Harbor, Acting Chairman McMillan mentioned that the American Legion throughout the country would be soon called upon to take an active part in local Civilian Defense programs. He recommended that a National Defense Committee be set up by the Council, composed of a Chairman and the Chairmen of each member post. The motion passed.
- **October 28, 1941.** The Franklin County Council passed a resolution chastising the OSU marching band. Before football games, TBDBITL, playing the “Star Spangled Banner,” had begun omitting the repeat of the first stanza as originally written (thus eliminating the “Whose broad stripes and bright stars...” stanza). Thus chastised, the band soon began playing the national anthem the proper way again.
- **November 27, 1945.** The Franklin County Council passed a motion calling for State of Ohio and City of Columbus civil service exams to be postponed to seven months to June 1, 1946, to give transitioning servicemen a chance to compete, and any appointments before then be made as provisional.
- **October 28, 1952.** In the recorded minutes of this Franklin County Council meeting, the Chairman (Jim Hoff) was first referred to by a new title: “Commander.”
- **October 21, 1956.** At the 12th District Fall Conference at Bexley Post 430, Vice Cdr Leroy Gill, after commenting on his heavy work load, asked that the district pass a resolution to change constitution (Article V, Section 1) to include two district vice commanders—entitled the 1st Vice Cdr. and a 2nd Vice Cdr—instead of just the one (Vice Cdr). The motion carried.
- **October 22, 1968.** A letter from Columbus Mayor Sensenbrenner, dated Oct 9th, was read. The Mayor thanked the district for backing him in his stand against allowing a Cassius Clay fight in Columbus. The grateful mayor added, “After all, if you can’t fight for this great Nation, you have no right to fight in this ‘All-American City’.”
- **October 09, 2007.** After being pressured by The Columbus Dispatch, the 12th District Council, and Gold Star Mother Sara Duvall of Chillicothe, the Department of Defense put out a release officially changing their 57-year old policy to allow ASBP blood drives be open to the public in time of war, provided it was at a military installation. The change immediately went into effect, clearing the way for the district to hold bimonthly drives for the next four years and to two years later, generate a national resolution to that effect (2009-41).

ISC Pete Margaritis, USNR-Ret.  
District Council Historian

## Valentine's Day Concert – Free

You are going to be trying to find a special treat for your Valentine soon. We have your answer. How about a concert. The timing is right, February 14, 2012 and the price is easy, it's free. The Chalmers P. Wylie VA Facility received one of 17 nationwide grants to put on a free concert for veterans and their families, so the VA along with the American Legion Charities Inc. and a few other supporters are providing this concert at the Aladdin Shrine Center at 3850 Stelzer Road across from Easton Center in Columbus. The concert starts at 6:00 PM and will headline Gary Lewis and the Playboys and the opening will be a local group, the Bruise Brothers.



For more information, contact Steve Ebersole or Glenn Hickman.

### 12<sup>th</sup> District Dates for 2011 – 2012

- Saturday, December 24, 2011** – Christmas Eve  
**Sunday, December 25, 2011** – Christmas Day  
**Saturday, December 31, 2011** – New Years Eve  
**Sunday, January 1, 2012** – New Years Day  
**Sunday, January 8, 2012** – \*\*Winter Conference, Southway Post 144, 1:00 PM  
 SAL Winter Conference, 11:00 AM  
**January 20-22, 2012** – Department Mid-Winter Convention, Ramada Plaza  
**Friday, January 27, 2012** – Deadline, Ohio Legion News  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2012** – Veterans' Valentine's Day Concert, 6:00 PM  
 Aladdin Shrine Temple, Columbus  
**Monday, February 20, 2012** - Presidents Day  
**February 25-29, 2012** – Washington Conference  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2012** – Meeting, Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 7:30 PM  
**March 4-10, 2012** – A&G Trip to Washington DC  
**Saturday, March 10, 2012** – Finance Committee Meeting, Dept. HQ  
**Sunday, March 18, 2012** – Department Oratorical Contest, Columbus  
**Tuesday, March 20, 2012** – Dept. Convention Corps Meeting  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2012** – Meeting, Paschall Post 164, 7:30 PM  
**Saturday, March 31, 2012** – DEC Meeting, Dept HQ  
**Sunday, April 15, 2012** – \*\*Spring Conference, Young-Budd Post 171, 1:00 PM  
 SAL Spring Conference, 11:00 AM  
**Sunday, May 20, 2012** – \*\*Summer Convention, Don Gentile Post 532, 1:00 PM  
 \*\* Sign in at Noon

### 2011 – 2012 Newsletter Deadlines

February 24, 2012	August 24, 2012
May 25, 2012	November 23, 2012

*Send Articles or events to [editor@alohio12.org](mailto:editor@alohio12.org)*