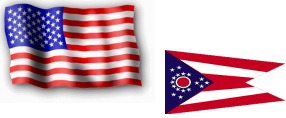


12th District Newsletter

March – May 2011
Volume 11, Issue 2

Still Serving America



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Upcoming Events

- March 29 – Dist. Meeting, 7:30 PM
- April 2 – DEC Meeting
- April 12 – Past Cmdrs Stag Dinner, 7:00 PM
- April. 17 – District Spring Conference
- May 22 – District Convention
- May 30 – Memorial Day



Buckeye Boys State

HAPPY 76th ANNIVERSARY TO AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Happy 76th Anniversary to the founding of American Legion Boys State! The American Legion Boys State Program is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Boys State was founded to counter the Young Pioneer Camps of the 1930s in socialist countries, where boys of high school age were being taught that democracy had outworn its usefulness and should be replaced by Communism. Two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harrold Card, are credited with founding the American Legion Boys State. Hayes Kennedy at the time was Illinois Department Americanism Chairman and law instructor at Loyola University Law School, and Harrold was serving as Illinois Department Boy Scout Chairman and was a high school educator. The first Boys State was conducted at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois, in June of 1935. There were 217 young men who met at the Illinois Fairgrounds, where recently cleaned and disinfected cow barns housed the program.

We encourage you to take the time, in each of your programs this coming year, to acknowledge the founding of this premier youth program that remains so very vital in the development of young men who hold our nation's future.

For God and Country
Dennis Clausing
Department of Ohio
Commander

12th District History in February

Feb, 23, 1965. A resolution allocating transfer of funds from the War Chest to the 12th District Council passed.

Feb, 27, 1968. The Council Judge Advocate reported that a court entry was made in Franklin County Common Pleas turning over the Campbell Trust Funds to the 12th District Council, but that no funds could be paid out until after the June Convention when the Constitution could be amended to include the trust committee (It was at the next June convention).

**2010-2011
12th District Officers**

Commander

Steve Ebersole
(614)783-6862
Commander@alohio12.org

I.P.D.C.

Tom Eshelman
(614)262-1747

1st Vice Commander

Pete Margaritis
(614)395-0837
1stvice@alohio12.org

2nd Vice Commander

Bernie Brogan
(614)397-4991
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Chaplain

William Janey
(614)581-6318

Finance Officer/Adjutant

Glenn Hickman
(614)906-6796

Judge Advocate

Dan Watrous
(614)563-0657

Historian

Pete Margaritis
(614)395-0837

Sergeant-At-Arms

Gary Fast
(614)517-4657

Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms

Vernon Hall
(614)878-9914

Executive Secretary

Carl Stuart
(740)503-3870
Secretary@alohio12.org

12th District Council Office

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

www.ALOhio12.org

Greetings from Commander Steve Ebersole

This is a big year, full of activity. First, let me say that I am concerned about membership. We do have 2 posts at all time high and two at quota, but we do have eleven posts that are below 85%. I know, we have heard it time and again, membership is the life blood of the Legion. We need to talk to those who have not renewed, we need to sell our programs to these new veterans that are coming back from deployment. If everyone would go out and renew or recruit just one veteran we could expand our local programs and help more veterans.

2011 Department Convention will be held in Columbus this year. Let's roll out the welcome mat to our fellow Buckeyes. Let's show them that we know how to be good hosts. We've held two meetings of posts that want to take part in local convention activities. So far we have three posts, Southway Post 144, Don Gentile Post 532 and Memorial Post 614 planning projects. Posts 144 and 532 are planning dinners on Saturday night (July 2) and they will be running shuttle services to downtown. Post 614 will also be hosting an event, yet to be announced.

On Friday night the Red, White and Boom parade will take place. We will have two floats, led by our Legion Riders with

Legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary marching with our Post Colors. Let's get as many Colors flying as possible. It would be impressive.

We will need volunteers for hospitality hosts. Our guests will need directions to events, coffee shops, shopping and restaurants. We will be announcing our next district organizational meeting soon. Please join us. Remember, this is practice for next year. That's right, we will be hosting the 2012 convention as well and, I have been informed, that Experience Columbus wants to bid for the 2013 Convention as well.

Immediate Past District Commander, Tom Eshelman, Past Department Commander, Glenn Hickman and I along with our wives joined the National Convention site committee as guests of Experience Columbus at a reception. Columbus is in the running for the 2016 National Convention. So, as you can, see the convention this summer is practice for thing to come. Contact your District Commanders or the District office to find out how you can help.

For God and Country

Steve Ebersole
commander@alohio12.org

District Baseball

The 12th District baseball Chairman, Mike Higgins, of Camp Chase Post 98, has been working hard to get organized for the 2011 American Legion Baseball season.

We have seven Senior teams
Post 171 Westerville North
Post 171 Westerville Central
Post 171 Westerville South
Post 239 Thomas Worthington
Post 430 Bishop Hartley
Post 532 Westland
Post 797 Gahanna

And three Junior Teams
Post 430 Bishop Hartley
Post 532 Westland
Post 797 Gahanna

Mike is also working with 12th Districts
own, Bill Dilts, State Baseball Commissioner.

Employment

Mike Higgins, is also chairman for the Employment Committee and is busy here as well. He has arranged to support a joint Military / Veterans Career Fair to be held in Columbus on June 26th and is sponsored by RecruitMilitary.com. Mike will be setting up a booth promoting the American Legion and will have a laptop and printer for veterans to use for copying and modifying resumes. Mike will have our display and brochures to promote the Legion programs. If you would like to help Mike please contact him at (614)208-4076 or leave your name at the District office.

Mike also has nomination forms for Employer of the Year. If you would like to nominate a local employer, again, contact Mike or leave your name and contact information at the District office at (614)224-2900

Greetings from 1st Vice Commander Pete Margaritis

“SAL, District 12 ... kicked our butts ... with 84 pints donated.”

We had an ASBP blood drive on Saturday, Feb. 12th, sponsored by the SAL, District 12. To put it mildly, they kicked our butts. After the lousy turnouts we had for the American-Legion-sponsored July and September drives, the SAL got us a total of 84 pints donated. That not only broke our old record of 74 pints in one drive, but also turned out more donations than both of the previous two drives combined. So BRAVO-ZULU to the 12th District SAL! And of course, to those in the American Legion Family who supported them, as well as to the Army Reservists, National Guardsmen, and all the civilians who also took the time to contribute. We helped save up to 252 servicemen and servicewomen. Folks, that's two companies of infantry.

veterans—men and women alike—to let them know that they're not alone, that the Legion can help them, and just as importantly, they can help shape what we do. We desperately need fresh minds to get us on track and help us understand what today's modern veteran requires, and how we can help them. It's easy to understand how they can get discouraged from joining. But they're our future. So let's get out of the basement and move up

Let me repeat a point I made last time, because it is important. We have so MANY opportunities at our doorstep right now to help our fellow veterans. We're at war, and so many servicemen and servicewomen are active in the Armed Forces. Each is somewhere in the cycle of training, going over, serving, or coming back, to either try and recover from the horrors of war, or deal with the problems of assimilating back into society and getting on with their lives. And so many and their families have problems from it. We get calls every week from some veteran support group needing our help. Now is when the 12th District Council can either shine or let them down. Either way, we are going to show what we're made of. So let's turn to. These veterans are our reliefs; they're us at a later point in time. They're the reason our American Legion was FORMED. And so many today are homeless or otherwise need a hand up from us. So let's see what we can do for our fellow veterans.

Pete Margaritis,
1stvice@alohio12.org

“Men and women in uniform sitting next to civilians ... for frontline units.”

Those that came saw a beautiful sight: men and women in uniform sitting next to civilians, all donating for the frontline units. We did 84 pints once, we can do it again. The next one is Sunday, April 10th. And for this, there will be something never done before: a blood drive sponsored by TWO veteran service organizations. The American Legion Gahanna Post 797 and for the first time, AmVets will be represented by Stan Kinney Westerville Post 89. I'd like to see us break the new record! So check out our website at:
<http://www.blooddriveforthetroops.org>.

“We have so MANY opportunities ... to help our fellow veterans.”

Membership is still declining. We slipped from 12th place to 14th. Hey folks, that's the BOTTOM. Remember, the Legion has a lot to offer. It's not just about salesmanship, it's more about educating. Proactively getting the word out to younger

12th District History in January

Jan, 11, 1939. An anti-Nazi resolution was passed, because Nazi rally leader William Kunze was to speak at Columbus. The resolution condemned his movement, fascism, and all organized attempts professing foreign practice, language, and customs, over American.

Jan, 28, 1958. There was a debate on the 'Big 4' allowing more VSOs to join. A motion (made by Croft Merritt) was passed to withhold funds to the Big 4 until they do, and that they “be mandated to work and vote for the establishment of an allied veterans' council which is all inclusive of every veterans organization in Franklin County.” (The Council quit the Big Four the next month, and it collapsed shortly thereafter).

American Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders are alive and well in the 12th District. Chapter 239 was started in Worthington on January 1, 2009. With the primary goal of riding bikes together to support the American Legion Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund is designed to provide the children who had parents killed while on active duty since September 11, 2001 with a scholarship. With such a worthy cause to support, our Legion Riders started raising funds. In joining the nationwide Legion Riders ride through Columbus from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to our National Convention in Louisville Kentucky, in little more than half a year, they raised \$1,500.00.



As they continued to grow and raise money, they took part in the ride from National HQ to Milwaukee Wisconsin delivering another \$4,000.00. "We're shooting for \$6,000.00 this year," stated the first president of the Chapter, Rich Richardson.

The chapter currently has 30 members, including spouses, from 3 different post of the 12th District. There are 4 past Post Commanders, 2 past Auxiliary Presidents, 1 SAL Commander and 1 past District Commander. Their goal is to round out at about 50 or 60 active members.

Anyone interested in joining Chapter 239 can access an application at The Blackston-Leasure Post 239 Web site at alohio239.org, by emailing Rich at Rich@alohio239.org or by calling Rich at (614)578-5309. Dues are \$12.00 for riders and \$6.00 for a spouse. To be eligible you first have to be a member in good standing of the American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion and own a motorcycle of at least 350cc or be the spouse of a member Rider.

ALR Chapter 239 will be sponsoring a Legacy Scholarship Poker Run on Saturday, June 25th, 2011. Registration opens at 9:00 am at Post 239 in Worthington with the first bike out at 10:00 am. Final check-in will be at Amvets Post 89 on Westerville Rd. with food, music and other activities.

Not to be outdone two other chapters are forming up. Chapter 614 will be forming in Hilliard and Chapter 532 will be forming at the Don Gentile Post on Demorest Rd. Both of these new chapters will have their first ride at Chapter 614s Poker Run on April 30th.

"We have already added Legion members," stated Post 532 Commander, Bernie Brogan, referring to comments made by several National Commanders that the Riders is the best recruiting tool that we have developed in years.

Post 614 Post Commander Bill Ihrig told me that he is excited about his new chapter. He stated that details of Chapter 614 Poker Run will be announced soon. Bill said the the promise of a Riders chapter is growing his post too.

With the growing Chapter 239 and the addition of Chapters 614 and 532, the goal of having 100 Legion riders from the 12th District in the Red, White and Blue parade is becoming a strong possibility.

The American Soldier

The same day that our Department Convention starts, July 1, will be the opening of ***The American Soldier, From the Civil War to the War in Iraq, A Photographic Tribute***. This tribute will be presented by the Ohio Historical Society at the Ohio Historical Center from July 1 to December 31, 2011. *The American Soldier* has appeared at venues throughout the country but this will be the only appearance in the state of Ohio.

The American Soldier is a dramatic exhibition of photographs that captures the essence of American soldiering over more than 150 years, ever since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to History.

The exhibit displays the courage, camaraderie, and human drama of U.S. Servicemen and women in action. The 116 enlarged photographs in this exhibition cover America at war from the Civil War, Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, and to the streets of Baghdad.

The Ohio Historical Society will be offering a variety of educational opportunities, especially during Independence Day and Veteran's Day.

Adjacent to *The American Soldier* will be a new exhibit featuring Ohio's battle flag collections and the story of Ohio's Military Units. This exhibit will help visitors make connections between *The American Soldier* and the Ohio's history and they will be able to read the stories of the soldiers who carried these flags.

This is an opportunity for the American Legion to be involved, along side the community historical society, in educating the public, especially our youth, of the impact of our local military in our nation's history.

I will be asking the posts to contribute to a District fund to support the educational opportunities during our patriotic holidays. This money can come out of our charities monies. We need to support this activity.

Steve Ebersole - Editor



The Chaplains Corner

I want to thank the members of the 12th District in supporting and participating in the Four Chaplains service this year. Thanks to all of those that were a part of the program, especially thanks to Asst Chaplain Earl Bailey for his help and support.

As a side note, I will be out of commission for a short while due to having foot surgery, but you can still contact me and I will get the word out as needed and still pray for those who need our help. I will be working with Earl to see that all of our needs are met.

Bill Janey
12th District Chaplain
(614) 581-6318

12th District SAL

Greetings to all the SAL members in the district. Hard to believe that this year is coming to close. I would like to thank all my district officers for all their hard work this year. We have made some great strides in the district this year. We have worked with the Legion family to help reach goals and we will continue working with the Legion Family.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the squadrons on help us reaching the Blue Jug lap prize. Even though we did not have the highest membership for our group we still met the 85% lap goal. Even though the lap prizes are over, we still need cards turned in. As a reminder please send in your per capita which is .50 cents per member. The last blood drive for the troops was sponsored by the 12th District SAL and like everything else the SONS due, we set an all time high for blood donations. We had 100 people that registered and we took 84 pints which beat the old record of 74 pints. Thanks to everyone that donated to the troops. I would also like to thank my wife Nikkie for getting all the food ready and for helping out at the blood drive. I look forward to the next blood drive and I am promising that the SONS will be sponsoring a blood drive in the near future.

The next 12th District SAL meeting will be held at Post 532 on April 17th 2011 at 11am. This meeting will also be our election of officers. If you have an interest in being involved in the district please show up at the meeting. The Detachment Convention will be held in Independence Ohio on May 13th to 15th 2011. Hope to see some NEW faces at our meetings!!

God bless,
Dan Finnell
12th District SAL Commander

12th District History in January

Jan, 21, 1920. At the Chamber of Commerce Bldg, the Council's voting procedure was modified. Each active post would get 4 votes at meetings: three post-elected annually, and the fourth the post 'Chairman'. All council motions would need a 3/4's majority to pass, and if any post carried a tie (two representatives voting each way), that post's vote would be negated and not counted.

Feb, 18, 1920. A motion to modify the Constitution passed. Each post would be allocated one vote for every 100 members in good standing, or major fraction thereof.

Jan, 28, 1963. Bexley Post 430 passed a resolution that that officers/delegates of the Council be petitioned to consolidate with the Twelfth District without delay and in whatever manner most constitutionally expedient. The next evening, the resolution was passed in Council.



Dates to Remember

Sun-Wed, March 20-23 – Washington Conference, Washington DC
** Tuesday, March 29 - 12th District Meeting – Southway Post 144, 7:30 PM **

Saturday, April 2 – DEC Meeting, Dept. HQ, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, April 12 - 1st Tuesday, April 12 Gentile Post 532, 7:00 PM

Dates to Remember

**Tuesday, March 29- 12th District Meeting – Southway Post 144, 7:30 PM **

Saturday, April 2 – DEC Meeting, Dept. HQ, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, April 12 – 12th District Past Commanders Stag Dinner - Don Gentile Post 532, 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 17 – SAL 12th District Spring Conference, Don Gentile Post 532, 11:00 AM – Noon

Sunday, April 17 - 12th District Spring Conference, Don Gentile Post 532, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Friday, April 30 – Ohio News Deadline

Sunday, May 22 – SAL 12th District Convention, Hilliard Memorial Post 614, 11:00 AM – Noon

Sunday, May 22 - 12th District Convention, Hilliard Memorial Post 614, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day

** Change of scheduled date due to Washington Conference from March 20 – 23.

Blood Drive for the Troops

Our next Blood Drive for the troops tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 10th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Please watch the Web site www.blooddriveforthetroops.org It will again be at the Army Reserve Center in Whitehall at 165 N. Yearling Rd. This drive is being cosponsored by the Gahanna Legion Post 797 and the Stan Kinney Amvets Post 89 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 Leg

Don Gentile Post 532

1571 Demorest RD
Columbus, OH 43228
(614) 539-4748



12th District Past Commanders Stag Dinner

Tuesday, April 12

6:00 PM Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

\$10 each Prime Rib Dinner

RSVP & Check by March 15th to:
P.C. Dinner 12th District
PO Box 1374
Columbus, Ohio 43215

For more information call: Glenn Hickman at 614-906-6796

Sunday, April 17 - 12th District SAL Spring Conference, Don Gentile Post 532, 11:00 AM – Noon

Sunday, April 17 - 12th District Spring Conference, Don Gentile

Post 532,

1:00 PM

3:30 PM

Friday,

April 29

Ohio

News

Deadline

Fri-Sun,

2nd Sunday of the Month

Join Leasure-Blackston Post 239,

700 Morning St., Worthington from 9:00 AM until noon for breakfast \$5.00 gets you all you can eat.

Hilliard Memorial Post 614

March 4 – Fish Fry 5-8 pm

March 12 – Live Music

March 26 – Live Music *Soul Annex*

April 30 – Poker Run

May 21 – Golf Outing

May 13-15 – SAL Convention, Independence, OH

Sunday, May 22 - 12th District SAL Convention, Hilliard Memorial Post 614, 11:00 AM – Noon

Sunday, May 22 - 12th District Convention, Hilliard Memorial Post 614, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

RSVP & Check by March 15th to:
P.C. Dinner 12th District
PO Box 1374
Columbus, Ohio 43215

** This is a change of scheduled date due to the National Washington Conferen