



American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66

30 Covington Road
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
PH: 404-292-2352 F: 404-292-2496

November 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

Early Bird Dinner

Fri., Nov. 6 @ 6:00 p.m.

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Wed., Nov. 11 @ 11 a.m.

House Committee Mtg.

Wed., Nov. 11 @ 5:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Mtg.

Wed., Nov. 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

SAL Meeting

Tues., Nov. 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting

(men & women)

Wed., Nov. 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Supper provided for members attending General meeting.

Commander

David Ballacchino

Sr. Vice Commander

Jon Huddle

Jr. Vice Commander

Sam Guy

Finance Officer

Jim Bishop

Adjutant

Jim O'Brien

House Committee

Chairman

Jim O'Brien

Executive Committee

Chairman

Jim Bishop

COMMANDER'S CORNER

November is coming at us like a freight train going downhill!

October was busy as could be. The Post Work Day was on October 3rd. Legionnaires Jim O'Brien, Jan Chappell, Jim Bishop and Jon Huddle and SAL Rick Mason sanded and varnished the lounge tabletops. The hard work paid off because the tables look great! JR Lusk and his son are repairing our fascia and soffits that have deteriorated over time. We thank you! The next work day is Saturday, November 7th. Come help!

Several Legionnaires joined the Ladies Auxiliary on October 17th at the Mountainview Personal Care Home for a delicious Italian dinner prepared by Jean Carson and Denise White. I especially had fun wearing a special apron that Madam President Sarah Zingarelli bought in Italy!

Later that evening, Big Band music rocked the Post! The Sentimental Journey Orchestra and singers were fabulous. The ballroom looked magical as the dancers glided around the floor. Adjutant Jim O'Brien did the Post a great service by coordinating this event. Thank you! Beforehand, members listened to classical guitarist Tom Godfrey in the lounge while enjoying savory hors d'oeuvres. Thanks to our crew — Lynn, Kim and Jimmy Sok. Also thank you to Legionnaire Bill Chapman and SAL Rick Mason for their help at the bar.

At the General Meeting, we had a pair of guest speakers — Legionnaire Ronald Colman, who is on the National Staff of the Boy Scouts, and District Rep. Ms. Kelly. They spoke about 20 minutes on starting up a Boy Scout troop. If anyone is interested, please pick up the paperwork, fill it out and send it in.

On Wednesday, November 11th, we will meet at the Decatur Cemetery around 10 a.m. for the Veteran's Day Ceremony. We will return to the Post for lunch. After lunch, several Legion members will go to Chamblee High School to interact with the students.

On Saturday, November 21st, we are hosting the Department Caravan from 9-12 a.m. We are supplying the meeting area and serving coffee, iced tea and water to the posts (65, 147 and 207) that will be visiting.

We really need our members to attend the General Meetings. We need a quorum of 25. This is YOUR Post. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 6 p.m. Supper will be served after the meeting.

Remember to volunteer and be busy; sitting in the old rocker isn't good for the old bones!

Thank you, Commander David Ballacchino

HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

The dance on Oct. 17th was quite the accomplishment! We had 71 paid admissions and \$200 in the sale of spirits. We only lost around \$250, not counting the cost of goods sold. Most folks requested a return performance. We are exploring ideas on how to make this happen.

The next Post Work Day will be Saturday, November 7th. Bring your hammer, crescent wrench, pliers and Brasso. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and end with lunch at noon.

The House Committee is beginning discussion on a feasibility study on developing a golf driving range. We have the land and a tractor and would only need the ball catcher to mount on the tractor and mats. Your comments and suggestions are much appreciated. Contact Jim O'Brien at 678-862-8222.

EARLY BIRD DINNER

The Post's next big event will be the Early Bird Dinner on Fri., Nov. 6th. This dinner is for all members who have paid their 2009-10 dues. We are having prime rib, baked potatoes, and green bean casserole. The cost is \$10 for all guests and members who have not paid their dues. So, send your dues in or pay them at the door. We hope to see you there!



Who are these masked Legionnaires?
Jan Chappell and Jon Huddle.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

At age 16, on Feb. 9, 1944, I went to Philadelphia and joined the Navy using a birth certificate with my brother's age and my name on it. I had three weeks of boot camp, got seven days of boot leave and was shot out to the Solomon Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where I received my amphibious training, following which I was assigned to a ship.

On April 1, 1945, I was aboard the USS *Circe* AKA-25 at Okinawa, delivering Marines to Yellow Beach One. It was Easter Sunday. My job was to keep those two big GM marine diesels humming and to drop the ramp when we hit the beach. We now know that those brave men were sucked into an ambush on higher ground and were all killed.

My LCM was recognized for after delivering the troops, having removed more than 50% of the cargo from our ship thereby enabling us to scoot the hell out of there just before the first flight of 650 enemy aircraft came over the horizon on April 6 to bomb and torpedo the 1350 ships of the invasion fleet, which were like sitting ducks. The next day was a repeat performance. The Battle of Okinawa was the bloodiest battle in the entire history of the US Navy and the last battle of WWII. On the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, I received a Special Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John E. Dalton.

- Edward Francis (Ed) Tamas



Looks like Jim got more on him than he did on the table!

★★★ USO REPORT ★★★

Reporting for duty this month were SAL members Rick Mason and David Fitzgerald, Legionnaire Jon Huddle and Auxiliary members Betty Bagwell, Celestia Wright and Sarah Zingarelli. Thanks to Rita Clifton, Harmon Grotsky, Sam Guy, Jon, Celestia and Sarah for making sandwiches and Betty for bringing cupcakes. The crew served about 100 military personnel who were on their way back to Afghanistan.



The October crew at the USO: SAL Rick Mason, Legionnaire Jon Huddle, Auxiliary members Betty Bagwell and Celestia Wright and SAL David Fitzgerald.

Visit our website:

www.americanlegionpost66.org

See more photos!



The chefs and singing waiters at Mama's Meatball Luncheon at Mountainview Personal Care Home.

VETERAN'S DAY

Please meet at 10 am on Nov. 11 for the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Decatur Cemetery. Don't forget to bring a covered dish for lunch afterwards at the Post.

A WAY TO GIVE THANKS

We will be holding a food drive for Thanksgiving Baskets for veterans in need. Please bring some canned goods and place them in the box in the lounge before the next meeting. All contributions are welcome!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to JoAnn Ballacchino, Sally Byers, Ann Yelk, Liz Hodgman, Audrey Hogg and Yvonne Green who made baked goods, and Denise White, Jean Carson and Ruth Zingarelli who bought fruit for Make a Difference Day. Denise, Jean, Liz and Ruth delivered these treats on three consecutive days to the Avondale Police.

The other project was spreading pine straw at Mountainview Personal Care Home. The SAL's jumped right in! David Fitzgerald's son's landscaping firm donated 40 bales of pine straw which Peter Umbaugh picked up and delivered the next day! SAL Wyman Treadaway, Legionnaire Gary McGunigale and Sarah Zingarelli spread the pine straw. Talk about teamwork!

AUXILIARY NEWS

Bella Italia! Mama's Meatball Luncheon at Mountainview Personal Care Home on Oct. 17th, organized by Rita Clifton, was a hit! We had so much fun wearing our Italian-inspired aprons and macaroni necklaces. Jean Carson and Denise outdid themselves, making the spaghetti sauce, meatballs and garlic bread. Commander Ballacchino, looking remarkably like Michelangelo's *David* (you've just got to see the picture on the website!), and Nick Zingarelli taught the residents some Italian phrases, then Nick, Yvonne Green and Luigi (in the fake-o mustache) led them in some songs. Sandra Sawyer, Ruth Zingarelli, Harmon Grotsky and Mike Henderson assisted.

Sarah Zingarelli, Unit 66 President
sarahzunit66@gmail.com

2009		NOVEMBER					2009
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
BINGO JACKPOT (LAST GAME) IS MAXIMUM \$900	CLUB HOURS BINGO	Mon. & Wed.: 12 – 8, Tues, Thurs. & Fri.: 12 – 9; lunch served 12-2; closed Sat. and Sun. Every Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday Night at 7:00 p.m. \$1,500 in prizes with a last game jackpot maximum \$900					
1 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	2 <i>No planned</i>	3 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	4	5 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	6 Early Bird Dinner Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.	7 Post Work Day 9-12 a.m. CLOSED	
8 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	9 <i>activities on</i>	10 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	11 Veteran's Day Ceremony, Decatur Cemetery @ 11 am HOUSE C. @ 5m EXEC. C. @ 6 pm	12 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	13	14 CLOSED	
15 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	16 <i>Mondays but the</i>	17 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m. S.A.L. MEETING 6:30 p.m.	18 GENERAL MEETING (Men & women) 6:00 p.m.	19 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	20	21 Department Caravan 9-11 a.m. CLOSED	
22 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	23 <i>club is open,</i>	24 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	25 V.A. Bingo 1:30 p.m.	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 CLOSED	
29 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	30 <i>so stop by!</i>				30	31	
Freedom is not free. Thank a veteran.							



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