



American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66

20 Covington Road
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
PH: 404-292-0000 F: 404-292-0000

September 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

Labor Day BBQ
Mon., Sept. 1 @ noon

House Committee Meeting
Tues., Sept. 2 @ 5:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting
Wed., Sept. 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

SAL Meeting
Wed., Aug. 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting (men & women)
Wed., Aug. 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

Commander

David Ballacchino

Sr. Vice Commander

Sam Guy

Jr. Vice Commander

Harmon Grotsky

Finance Officer

Jim Bishop

Adjutant

David Ballacchino

House Committee

Chairman

Jim Gallagher

Executive Committee

Chairman

Bobby Wright

MEET YOUR OFFICERS!

David Ballacchino

Commander

From: Buffalo, NY

Military service:

Joined the Army out of high school, volunteered for 82nd Airborne to jump out of perfectly good planes.

Why did you join the

Legion? I wanted to meet and help other veterans.

What have you done? I met Roy Hunt who got me involved with the House Committee. I've fixed, cleaned, painted and done anything needing to be done at the Post. I've also started working Bingo several times a month.

What do you aim to accomplish? I would like to see younger veterans become more involved with the many committees we have, such as Boys State and oratorical etc. I would like to encourage youth activities, possibly installing a soccer field on our property, to help the younger generation grow and experience what the American Legion is all about. I would like to work with the community and inform them as much as possible about our servicemen and women stationed here in the States and abroad, especially the soldiers in combat zones. Too many people do not even know what the initials "POW/MIA" stand for.

Interesting fact: I remember the end of WWII. I was 4 years and 9 months old. We were picking yellow wax beans on Old Man Litz's farm, when his daughter-in-law came running through the field hollering that the war was over, Germany had surrendered. Every one of the adults stopped working and there was lots of hugging going on. Later that evening, the grownups had a campfire and sang and danced and hugged some more. The next day, it was back to work.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

We are rapidly approaching September and the need for an early mailout of this newsletter because of the Labor Day BBQ. Our annual BBQ is a Post function wherein we raise money to help pay the bills and fund various Legion programs. Your tickets have been mailed to you. Those who do not attend are missing a good chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. An early purchase of these tickets will help us determine how much food to buy and prepare. You know that we are doing it all in-house, right? We could use your help in food preparation, serving and the ladies could use your help with the free Bingo.

I encourage you to become active as there are lots of ways to help around the Post. Our Post activities are only as good as you make them.

The Fourth District Installation of Officers was held on 26-Jul-08 at Post 51 in East Point, GA. Nick Zingarelli was installed as Judge Advocate and I was installed as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Please note that the Early Bird Dinner will be complimentary for those Legionnaires, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members who have paid their dues by 1-Nov-08. All others will pay \$6.00 at the door. There will be a cash bar. Be informed that dues are payable now.

Sincerely, David Ballacchino, Commander

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

I pause and reflect on the holiday times in the Pacific with the fleet Marine force. Several times a year, the combat and support troops received a hearty meal. We had turkey and plenty of it on 10-Nov (the Marine Corps birthday), Thanksgiving, Christmas and sometimes on New Year's Day. The rest of the time we had C&K rations, powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes and, of course, spam prepared in many ways as refrigeration facilities for large quantities of food were not available to mobile units. We supplemented our meals with coconuts and bananas.

- N.L.Z.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

- Sept. 5 Spaghetti and meatballs, salad and garlic bread (\$5)
- Sept. 12 Baked broccoli cheddar chicken, baked potato and salad (\$8)
- Sept. 19 Sirloin tips over rice, steamed veggies, and salad (\$7)
- Sept. 26 Ham steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans and salad (\$9)

Please R.S.V.P. for each of these dinners by Wednesday night!

HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

Come join us for the brain-teasing fun of Trivia Nights, every second and fourth Fridays (Sept. 12th and 26th). Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

The new Post sign out by the street has been installed and we are getting calls on ballroom rentals. A couple of more rentals and the sign will pay for itself!

CORRESPONDENCE

What a great way to spend time with members of the American Legion, while helping Commander Casper's special project. The Legion Family is sponsoring a 5-day cruise to Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas. Departure from Jacksonville, FL is February 16, 2009 with a return on February 21, 2009. A valid passport is required. Contact Martha Conway Travel Group, 8975 Roswell Rd., Sandy Springs, GA 30350. Call 678-461-1919 (work) or 770-993-3195 (home) or Bob Turner 404-394-6315. Email marthaconw@gmail.com Rates: interior—\$575, ocean view—\$635, suite—\$1095, penthouse—\$1295. This is a fundraiser for the Commander's Special Project. For more information, contact Bob Turner.

The Department Fall Conference will be held in Macon, GA on October 24-26, 2009. Reservations must be made on a form supplied by the Legion. Need more information? Contact David Ballacchino.

KUDOS, ETC.

The last election brought us a new lady and her name is JoAnn Ballacchino. She has hit the ground running! She plays Bingo on Sunday nights, makes sandwiches for the U.S.O., the nursing home and the V.A. Hospital, bakes items when called upon and helped prepare foods for the Installation Dinner. Worthy of praise, don't you think?

- Wow! The story about Georgia Legionnaire Fred Zamora, in the July issue of the American Legion magazine, visiting the Norwood V.A. Medical Center and the Georgia War Veterans Home in Augusta, GA. One of the best-kept secrets is the many volunteer hours put in at the Atlanta V.A. Medical Center and Nursing Home by Tillie Davis, her crew and two Legionnaires. Their volunteer work is similar and very commendable.
- Our membership goal is to reach 100% before Christmas. So far, we are at 34%. Have you paid your dues yet? Also, let us know if you have a change of address or phone number. If you have an email address, give it to any of the officers as we would like to start compiling that contact information.

★★★ U.S.O. REPORT ★★★

Last month, there were over 400 servicemen and women who visited the U.S.O. on the day we were there. Martha Mihalik, Jon Huddle, James McCulloch, Harmon Grotzky, Henry Lightfoot and Jean Carson were on hand to serve them food and beverages and to see them depart. Thanks to all who made sandwiches.

This month, one person, who has not been to the U.S.O., called and asked to join us. I hope that more will call. We need all that are able to help, either by making sandwiches, making a donation or making the trip to the airport.

Most of us are guilty of counting our zeros instead of helping our heroes. Please help!

Jean Carson, National Security Chairman

AUXILIARY NEWS

The annual cookout at Mountain View Nursing Home was held Saturday, Aug. 2nd. Those in attendance were Rita and Alvin Clifton, Tillie Davis, Jean Carson, Denise White, Audrey Hogg, Vera Wells, Ruth Zingarelli, Sarah Zingarelli, and Harmon Grotzky. The men cooked the hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, while the ladies chatted with the residents and prepared the fruit salad and French fries. After ice cream and cookies for dessert, the residents were given comfort items as gifts.

The V.A. Bingo was held on Wednesday, Aug. 6th. Tillie Davis, Denise White, Harmon Grotzky, Jean Carson, Ruth, Nick and Sarah Zingarelli helped about 18 veterans enjoy the games and lunch. Thanks to all who made sandwiches.

The annual BBQ is on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1st. Come have fun and help with the Free Bingo. And please bring some baked desserts for the Auxiliary to sell for the Past President's Parlay fund. Contact Tillie Davis at 770-979-8315 if you have any questions.

Our Fourth District meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 6th at Unit 105 in Fayetteville. Let Doreen know (404-296-7755) if you would like to attend.

PLEASE remember to pay your dues for 2009. Seniors dues are \$20 and Juniors are \$7.50. It would be great to have more paid-up members before the National Convention in Phoenix on August 22nd. You may pay dues to Membership Chairman Yvonne Green or to any officer.

IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS

Let's all put on our thinking caps and come up with ideas no matter how wild or crazy they might be. How about starting a recycling program at the Post? Or the ladies selling desserts at Bingo as a fundraiser? Or sending out the newsletter via email to save on postage? Share your ideas with any of the officers or drop a note in the suggestion box in the lounge.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Remember to approach each day as though it were your last. One day you will be right.

2008		SEPTEMBER					2008
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
BINGO JACKPOT (LAST GAME) IS MAXIMUM \$900	CLUB HOURS LUNCH BINGO	Monday through Friday, 12 – 9, closed Sat. and Sun. Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 2:00 p.m. at Café 66 Every Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. \$1,500 in prizes with a last game jackpot maximum \$900					
	1 LABOR DAY BBQ Noon – 4:00 p.m.	2 HOUSE COMM. 5:30 p.m. Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	3	4 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	5 Friday Night Dinner Spaghetti/meatballs \$5.00 6:00 p.m.	6 CLOSED	
7 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	10 EXEC. COMM. 6:00 p.m.	11 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	12 Friday Night Dinner Chicken \$8.00 6:00 p.m. Trivia Night!	13 CLOSED	
14 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m. S.A.L. MEETING 6:30 p.m.	17 GENERAL & AUXILIARY MTGS. 7:00 p.m.	18 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	19 Friday Night Dinner Sirlcin tips \$7.00 6:00 p.m.	20 CLOSED	
21 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	22	23 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.	24 V.A. Bingo 1:30 p.m.	25 BINGO 7:00 p.m.	26 Friday Night Dinner Ham steak \$9.00 6:00 p.m. Trivia Night!	27 CLOSED	
28 CLOSED BINGO 7:00 p.m.	29	30 Potluck & Pool Playing 6:00 p.m.					
PH. 404-292-2352 TO STAY YOUNG, BE ACTIVE & VOLUNTEER! FAX 404-292-2496							

30 Covington Road
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