

Aug/Sept 2009 American Legion Newsletter



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Commander Post 133 Teri Parkinson

Post Website

<http://www.al133.com>

State Website

<http://www.americanlegionalabama.org>

National Web Site

<http://www.legion.org>

Email us at newsletter@al133.com



Volunteers of the Month:
June - Bobby "boz" Boswell
July - Richard Hinds

The Commanders Corner:

Hello Everyone! I can hardly believe that we have begun yet another new year. Last year was definitely one to remember and I would like to take a moment to reflect on last year's accomplishments. There simply isn't enough time (or room here) to thank each one of you separately, so in order not to offend anyone, I will leave names out of the equation. You know who you are, right? We got off to a rocky start, but buckled down for the long haul and things smoothed out pretty quickly.

Our major successes resolved the following Safety, Health and Security issues: We have a new front door, remodeled front restrooms, new electrical wiring throughout the facility, recovered pool table and new sticks and accessories to boot, new kitchen equipment, a new facility access control system, new tables for the canteen and dance area as well as new chairs throughout the facility, and last but certainly not least a much improved air quality system throughout the post! Many of these projects had been approved over the years, just never implemented. Thanks to each and every one of you who helped with these projects. To say it was a lot of work would be an understatement. We have more in the planning stages for continued Capital improvement of our facility and grounds. More to come as we get closer.....

We started sending our newsletter (in print) out to those without an e-mail address again! You guys know what we have going on now too! The newsletters will be mailed/e-mailed out every other month and will contain a 2 month calendar to cover events for those next two months.

Were you at the post when we did the Flag retirement ceremony on Veteran's day? If you weren't, you missed an excellent program! We will do this again this coming Veteran's day as part of the Millbrook Chamber of Commerce's Veterans Day Program. Please mark your calendars and make this part of your schedule early....you won't be disappointed.

Were you with us or in the crowd when our float in the Mardi Gras parade went by? We were awarded 2nd place for our float this year! Can you say, ahoy matey??? What fun we had working together to make the float and of course the throwing of the beads and candy and seeing all those children smiling and waving to us!

Our goal last year as pretty simple: Let's get our "home" up to code, update/upgrade where we need to in order to make all of our members proud of the place we call our home here at Post 133. This year's goal is much more complex and I hope each and every one of you steps up to the plate to help us out. What is it you might ask? Well, it's simple and it's not: To take care of our Community and Veterans. We need to get more active in our

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community, with our veterans and our Legion Programs such as Boy's State and Oratorical. These programs provide scholarship funds for children of veterans, so we should be putting our best foot forward to help make a child's dream come true.

O.K., I will get off my soap box now, but only because we are not done yet! The upcoming year will have plenty of events for all to help with as well as our programs. And, even though I said that I cannot thank everyone without forgetting a name or two, I am going to thank a group of people that helped me stay on track. I want to thank the members of your Executive Committee. Without their strengths, insights, constructive criticisms and comments many of these events would not have been so successful. They are the people that kept our post on the right track, both financially and personally. Ladies and Gentlemen, THANK YOU! You made my 1st year as Commander much, much less painful than I had expected!

Until Next month....

Teri Parkinson
Commander

P.S. Don't forget that we have started our membership drive for this year already. Please ensure that the Adjutant, Harry Bishop, get's your renewals as soon as possible. The Access control system can take time to learn and we will have to turn "off" all personnel's cards that do not get their dues in on time. This can cause delays in entering the facility as well as frustration as only 2 of us are trained on the software for this system. **ELIMINATE THIS FRUSTRATION AND RENEW EARLY!**

2nd Vice Commander (John McGovern):

The kitchen will resume Sunday breakfast on the 6th of September. Please mark your calendars and come out and support us. As always we will be serving your meal "cooked to order" including eggs, omelets, pancakes, French toast, hash browns, SOS, sausage, bacon, biscuits, grits and toast. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM to noon and is still only \$6.50

The summer is rapidly coming to a close and the holidays are just around the corner which means it is not too early to begin planning parties for your organization. To date, the 40 & 8 has reserved the 5th of December for their party, however all other dates are available. Please get with me to make your reservations.

John McGovern, 2nd Vice



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 133

President Beverly McGovern

As always, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the officers and members who attended our monthly membership meeting on the 13th of July. I encourage and appreciate increased participation from all our members and attending the meetings is the first step towards getting involved.

The theme for this year's membership drive is "Shoot for the Stars with Patriotism and Service for our Veterans." With that said, the 2010 membership cards are available for your renewal. I encourage all of you to renew your membership as soon as possible so we can get this behind us. I am confident we will achieve a 100% renewal rate again this year!

As discussed at the July meeting, we received a total of five awards at the Department Convention this past June. This is a tribute to all of you and I am extremely proud to be associated with such a fine group of ladies. I would like to use these awards as an incentive to do even bigger and better things this coming year and am confident we will do so with everyone's help and support.

Our steak night in August will be on the 14th. I will be out of town that weekend and need someone to step up and take responsibility for filling a crew for that night. Please let me know if you can help! Our Wednesday night dinner will be the 19th of August and we will be serving Lasagna with salad, garlic toast and a dessert.

I'd also like to introduce our two newest members; Ruby Montgomery and Heather Bolan joined us in July. Please make them feel welcome when you meet them in the Post.

Finally, I'd like to thank Jackie Donovan for attending our July meeting. Jackie is the President of the Post 122 Auxiliary Unit and she briefed us about upcoming activities such as the Leadership Conference in October and the District 32 Meeting later this month at Post 122.

In closing, I ask all of you to pray for our servicemen and women and their families.

Bev McGovern, President

What does our flag mean to you?

© **By Anonymous**

Red, White, Blue
And the stars that shine true
Represent our nation's flag

Each color represents the U.S.A.
Each color is special in it's own way
Red is the war that made our country free
Blue is the color that stands for the sea
White is purity, which means you and me

The star is a symbol of the heavens
Thirteen of these represent our first colonies
But to show that our country has grown
In which it has been sown
Fifty stars on a field of blue
Represent the states that are so true
The thirteen stripes are our thirteen colonies

The flag is a symbol of our country
So let it fly and be free
Red, White, Blue
What does our flag mean to you?



SAL SQUADRON 133

Commander – Andrew Cherry

A reminder to all that 2010 membership cards are now available. We are having a two year for one year paid this time with a restriction attached. To qualify for this, membership cards for 2010 must be paid for and received at one of our next two monthly meetings. Those dates are August 18th or September 15th at 700 pm and only include current members in good standing. If your dues are not paid at either one of these two meetings, the two for one will not apply. Member who are out of state will receive this two for one only if we receive their dues before the end of September. Make sure to mark your calendars.

Due to the illness of our biggest supporter, the SAL is needing volunteers help in the kitchen on all but one Wednesday a month and one Sunday a month, when breakfast starts again. Times for evening cooking's are: prep time at 4 o'clock, cooking from 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock plus clean up time. Check newsletter calendar for exact dates and extra activities. For those who cannot make that early starting time, showing up late and getting a bite to eat and helping to clean up for those who have cooked really helps.

Special thanks to those who have helped; Donnie, Sam, Rhonda, Christian, Lebo and Harold.

Kitchen cooking is how the SAL is able to sponsor and support Boys State, Child Welfare Foundation, American Legion Baseball along with other activities.

I would like to thank you for all your support during the recent elections, and for the great turn outs at our meetings, keep up the attendants. I am looking forward for more youth involvement in the SAL and more work with our veterans during the coming year. That is why we are here. There were two names unintentionally left off from above, Butch and Richard, again thanks to all of our volunteers.

Thanks for your support, Andrew Cherry commander.
For God, country and the betterment of Post 133.

From the Desk of the Adjutant:

Everyone should have received their renewal forms from National by now. If you haven't received this form, have you moved or relocated since the last one was sent out? If so, did you change your address with the Post so that they could notify Department and National? If not, we don't have your correct address. Please stop by and fill out a member data form to correct this information. In the interim, you can leave your dues renewal in an envelope addressed to Harry Bishop with the bartender for \$35.00 and I will ensure your membership is updated. Please ensure your correct name, address and membership number is included in the envelope. We would like to get the renewals in as soon as possible this year as with the new Access control system, if dues aren't in on time; your access card will be inactivated. In order to save us all time and effort an early renewal will make things much, much easier on us all.

Harry Bishop

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For the Good of the Legion

Alabama Weatherization Program

There is a program in Alabama to assist elderly and disabled members within our communities with reducing utility costs that seem to mount up but never go down. Due to the availability of Federal Stimulus dollars directed solely for this program, the Community Action Committee's in our counties have the funds; the problem is that they have no applications.

What does the program do? Once a homeowner's application package is graded and approved, a Professional Assessor will perform a comprehensive energy analysis on the home. This analysis will show where improvements can be made, be it insulation in walls/ceiling, sealing windows/doors, etc... Once the analysis is completed the work required will be performed by qualified technicians. Then if it is determined that everything that can be done has been (building wise), they will evaluate the need to partially or completely replace existing heat/air system with much more energy efficient units at no cost to the homeowner. This could be up to \$6,500.00 per home that this program could cover at no cost to the homeowner. For those of you in Dallas County, you potentially have some additional help from Pioneer Electric Company, who is working in conjunction with the Community Action Committee, but with separate stimulus funding to help support this project.

Eligibility is identified as having income that does not exceed the 2009 poverty level of all household members combined (excluding only child care expenses); the number of household members is between 1 and 8, with 8 being the maximum you can claim, the home/mobile home in question must be the person's home with proof of ownership (deed or mortgage). Rental homes are not eligible. Examples of the income threshold are:

1 Person living in the home	NTE \$21,660
3 Persons living in the home	NTE \$36,620
8 Persons living in the home	NTE \$74,000

Each application package is scored based on a max score of 45. Senior Citizens, Disabled citizens, and children in the home are some of the scoring criteria. Credit/points are awarded based on factors such as:

Is the applicant head of household? Disabled? Is the applicant head of household over 60? Disabled?

Are there children under 18 in the household? Disabled? Is person over 60 who may not be head of household? Disabled?

If you, or anyone you know are eligible for this program, please contact the Elmore County Community Action Committee at (334) 567-4361, and request an application package. Points of contact are John Grishom, Ralph Harris, and Jay Snowden. If you aren't comfortable filling the application package out, they will gladly assist you. This committee covers the following counties; Elmore, Autauga, Shelby, Dallas, Perry, and Chilton. For any other county please look up the Community Activity Committee in your phone book. This is the group who is sponsoring this program, and yes, every county has one (some are combined). Please see Governor Riley's new release on this program for additional county contact information at <http://governorpress.alabama.gov/pr/pr-2009-07-23-01-FundingWeatherizeHomes.asp>. Also, additional program information can be found at <http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/C14/Weatherization%20Assistance%20Prog/default.aspx>.

If this applies to you, please contact these folks and get an application package. If it doesn't apply to you, but you know someone who it does apply to, please, get them this information.

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Legion Membership Meeting	5 SAL Dinner	6	7 ALR Steaks	8 Kitchen GI Party
9 District 32 Mtg Post 122	10 Aux Membership Meeting	11	12 SAL Dinner	13	14 AUX Steaks	15
16	17 ALR Membership Meeting	18 SAL Membership Meeting	19 AUX Dinner	20	21 Legion Steaks	22 Saturday Night Blowout 7-11 All Welcome!
23	24	25	26 SAL Dinner	27 40 & 8 Promenade	28 Legion Steaks	29
30	31					

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Legion Membership Meeting	2 SAL Dinner	3	4 ALR Steaks	5
6 SAL Breakfast	7 LABOR DAY	8	9 SAL Dinner	10	11 AUX Steaks 9-11 Anniversary	12
13 ALR Breakfast	14 Aux Membership Meeting	15 SAL Membership Meeting	16 AUX Dinner	17	18 Legion Steaks	19
20 40 & 8 Breakfast	21 ALR Membership Meeting	22	23 SAL Dinner	24 40 & 8 Promenade	25 Legion Steaks	26 Saturday Night Blowout 7-11 All Welcome!
27 Legion Breakfast	28	29	30 SAL Dinner			