



# Focus

Official Bulletin

For God and Country

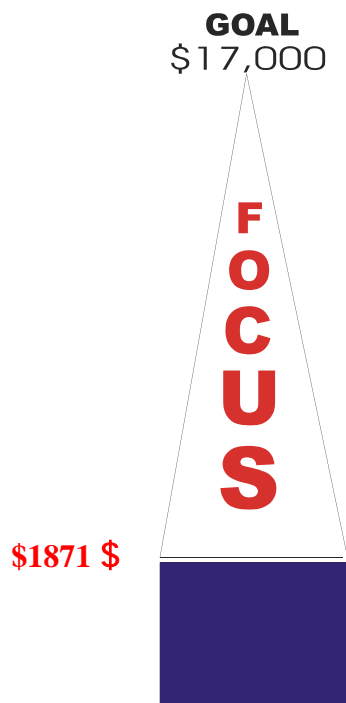
Bulletin #4-34

American Legion Post 1

March - April, 2004

## Join Your Comrades at Post One

### *The Bulletin Board*



### Donation Spire

The "Donation Spire" will appear in each issue of *Focus* to show without words the progress toward the \$17,000 goal. Remember, an average donation of \$18 per member will reach the goal.

**THURSDAY, March 11<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8. A short meeting will be followed by a celebration of the American Legion's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**THURSDAY, April 8<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8.

**SATURDAYS, March 6<sup>th</sup> AND April 3<sup>rd</sup> POST HOME CLEANUP** A cleanup will be held on the first Saturday of each month from 8 to 10 AM. Please call George House (872-1399) and ask what tools will be needed.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Each Month at 6:30 PM. Post 1 members are invited to attend.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, RALEIGH UNIT #1** – Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the trailer beside the Post 1 building. Ladies come at 6:30 and eat dinner (\$5) at 7:00 PM with the Legionnaires. Prospective members are welcome. For more information, call: Betty Jean Faulkner 872-2755 or Mattie West 231-7753.

**SPOUSES WELCOME** – Legionnaires are encouraged to bring their spouses or "significant others" to membership meetings, social activities, and other events at Post 1.

**YARD SALES** – Yard sales will be a year-round fund raising event. Donations can be brought to the Post Home at any time for storage until the next yard sale. Call Commander David Toothaker (518-1928) or George House (872-1399) to schedule a time for storage, or to schedule a pick up if necessary.

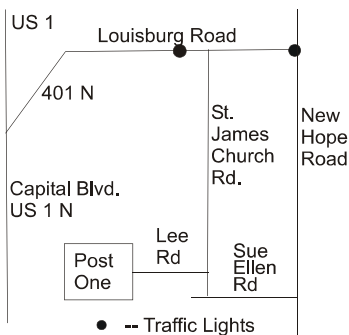
**MAIL DUES AND DONATIONS TO:** – AMERICAN LEGION POST 1, PO BOX 40097, RALEIGH, NC 27629. Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 1.

**AMERICA FOREVER DANCES:** – Saturdays. March 6<sup>th</sup> & April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Admission \$5 per person. Star Tickets will be honored, but no more Star Tickets are being sold. Specially selected CD Music - Free Bar - Food.

**NEXT YARD SALE:** – Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Dave Conner (772-2699) is in charge of the Yard Sale. Food will also be sold at the Yard Sale. Please call Dave for details about contributing items for the yard sale, and also for information about the food sale.

**DANCE CLASSES:** – Please see *Entertainment and Social Activities*

### Directions to Post #1



## Focus Published By:

American Legion Post #1  
PO Box 40097  
Raleigh, NC 27629  
[www.legionraleigh.com](http://www.legionraleigh.com)

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Hal Lindsey 834-1943

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### Commander

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### Adjutant

Harold Barndt 787-3929

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

George House 872-1399

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Joseph Tobert 781-1490

## Committee Chairs:

### House

George House 872-1399

### Entertainment

Hal Lindsey 834-1943

### Student Trooper

Garnett Shropshire 876-0467

### Boys State

Gerry Coleman 833-2075

### Membership

G. David Conner 772-2699

### Awards & Programs

H. (Bud) Conner 851-1398

### Oratorical

Charles Birdsong 266-0210

### Memorial Day

Pat Daley

### Va Bingo

V. Wayne Adams 848-1149

### DMS Committee

Garnett Shropshire 876-0467

### Baseball

Joseph Tobert 781-1490

### Furr Nurse Scholarship

Ryland (Tom) Collins 662-7958

### Post Auxiliary Liaison

Betty Jean Faulkner 872-2755

# Entertainment and Social Activities

## One- and Two-Star Tickets

### Discontinued

The Star Tickets were discontinued as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone has unused Star Tickets, they will be honored at any of the monthly dances.

## *America Forever Dances*

CD Music – Free Bar – Food

Saturdays, March 6<sup>th</sup> & April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

7:30 PM

Admission: \$5 per Person

## CD Music Saves Money!

Our library of CD dance music has been improved. We now have more country and western music. We also have Slow Dance music. Our big band ballroom music continues to expand too. Members who have music they like are encouraged to bring in CDs, tapes, and LP records so that we can add music to the library. Your CDs, tapes, and LPs will be returned to you. Give them to Hal Lindsey.

CD music saves a lot of money. We are no longer forced to hire live music. Monthly dances now pay out financially.

## Want To Improve Your Social Life?

Free dances continue on the second Tuesday of each month. Dances start at 7:30 PM and last about two hours. Music is from our library of CDs. All dance students, Legionnaires, spouses, and guests are invited. *These free dances are for everyone.*

## Want To Be Invited To More Parties?

*Learn to dance!* The new dance lessons schedule continues: Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM. Classes in 2002 and early 2003 were conducted in a manner that involved all the students in the class all of the time. An improved version of that style of teaching is now being used at both Sunday and Tuesday classes. Student response has been enthusiastic. Instructors : Hal & Edna Lindsey.

## Want To Know What's Going On?

The Entertainment Information List contains the names and addresses of members and guests who want to receive information about entertainment activities. Only those whose names appear on the list will receive entertainment information *between* issues of *Focus*. Money from the Entertainment Fund cannot be used to send information to the entire membership.

If you want to be placed on the list, please contact me:

Hal Lindsey  
215 Lord Berkley Road  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
834-1943 [hlindsey1@nc.rr.com](mailto:hlindsey1@nc.rr.com)

## *America Forever Dances*

Twenty-six people turned out for the January dance – an excellent turnout three days after New Year's Eve celebrations. Wayne Adams won the raffle, and turned his winnings over to the Entertainment Fund. Thanks, Wayne! The February dance brought out twenty-six people also. The new Country and Slow-Dance CDs pleased many.

# Post Activities & Messages

## The Gavel

I am very pleased to announce that Bud Conner has stated his intentions to be a candidate for Post Commander. Bud has been 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander for over a year, and has done an outstanding job. Anytime I needed something done, all I had to do was call him and rest assured it would be taken care of.

Our By-Laws require that a nominating committee be elected at the February Membership Meeting. The elected committee is: Dave Conner, Garnett Shropshire, Wayne Adams, Felix Subervi, Jr., George House, Tom Collins and Lewis Hitchcock. Please call any of these member if you have any interest in serving on the Executive Committee.

I say again that I would like to see competition for positions on the Executive Committee. Competition means that there is a lot of interest in moving this Post forward.

We have a budget committee composed of Bud Conner, Paul West, John Hollis, and Dave Conner. I have asked them to have a proposed budget available for the membership to see a month earlier than last year. Call a member of the committee to voice your suggestions.

This is almost the last time I can ask all members to please pay your dues for 2004. We are still about 50 short of our 1000 member goal for this year. Your membership means more to you and to veterans than you may ever know. The more membership numbers we can show Congress, the better chance we have of receiving benefits for all. We have about 3,000,000 members in the Legion; we should have closer to 15,000,000.

*Ask your friends and acquaintances if they are a veteran!* Then ask them to join the American Legion. I am working on a good friend in Maine to join a local post.

Ten members attended the District Oratorical Contest on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Our contestant, Will Ray, did not win, but he gave an excellent challenge. Cary Post 67's contestant, Steve Wilson, won by a 3/2 vote of the five judges.

We will have a short membership meeting in March. The Ladies of the Auxiliary will provide a cake to help us

celebrate the Legion's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Garnett Shropshire and I are working with the schools looking for candidates for the Student Trooper program.

Gary Coleman and team are getting the word out about Boys State.

Mildred Honeycutt of the Auxiliary is handling Girls State again this year.

Commander David Toothaker

## WWII Memorial Trip

If you want to go by bus to the dedication, we have a bus for a one day trip to Washington DC on Saturday, May 29, 2004. Call American Classic, 2516 Little Devine Road, Selma, NC 27576.

Leaving from the Raleigh area, the cost will be \$35 per person; from the Greensboro area, \$55 per person. Departure and arrival times will be announced at a later date.

When you contact anyone about this trip, please be sure to tell them you are with the American Legion. You can thank your District Commander for arranging this bus trip.

You must order your seating tickets by e-mail: [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). Seating for those in wheel chairs is available but must be requested.

## Post Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 1 held the annual Oratorical Contest on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the State Headquarters building.

There were three contestants, all seniors at North Raleigh Christian Academy on Perry Creek Road. All three contestants are to be congratulated on their fine performances. Special honors go to Will Ray, the winner.



L-R: Nick Wilczynski, David Omer, Will Ray

Charles Birdsong, Chairman, and Gerry Coleman, Assistant Chairman, of the Post Oratorical Contest did an outstanding job by going to schools – both public and private – and spreading the word about our contest.

The National High School Oratorical Contest is open to high schools students under age 20. Scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$18,000 are awarded at various stages of the contest. We hope that more students from high schools will participate next year.

## Chair Cane Weaving Class

Bud Conner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander, will be teaching the class, probably in mid- or late summer. As presently planned, the class will be on Monday nights probably for six weeks.

Students may bring a chair or purchase one at the class. Students pay an enrollment fee to be announced, and in addition, pay for the materials used.

If you are interested, please call Bud at 851-1398 for more information.

## E-mail Saves Money

Commander Toothaker needs to add your e-mail address to the growing list of Legionnaire addresses. Saving money in small amounts adds up. When he can communicate by e-mail, we save the cost of stationary and postage. Please send him an e-mail telling him to add you address to the list.

[dtoothaker@nc.rr.com](mailto:dtoothaker@nc.rr.com)

## Invitation

John Hollis, Judge Advocate, suggested that we publish an invitation to members to attend Executive Committee Meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. This is your invitation to attend!

## Meeting Jitters?

Have you ever planned on coming to our Monthly Membership Meeting, and then changed your mind? Did you change your mind because you might embarrass yourself by not knowing what you should do at the meeting.

If you answered yes to the above, you had "Meetng Jitters". Let's see if we

can cure that ailment!

When you come in the door, a Legionnaire should greet you. But please forgive us if we don't greet you immediately. We don't always recognize a person attending for the first time.

If no one greets you, just speak to the nearest person wearing a Legion Cap and say, "Hello, I'm new here". That Legionnaire will either help you through the meeting, or introduce you to someone who will.

Now a few tips beforehand about what goes on at the meetings. As soon as you arrive, look for or ask about the sign-in logbook, and sign in. Next, stop at the free bar. Pick up a soft drink, mix an alcoholic beverage, or pick up a beer. If you don't find a beer, ask for one.

While you are enjoying your beverage, the Commander will find you, or someone will introduce you to him. Tell him why you came to the meeting, and what your interests and talents are.

You probably came into the meeting at about 6:30 PM. At 7:00 dinner is served. The menu varies: Barbeque, chicken, steak, sometimes T-Bone steak, and all the side dishes (all on one plate, though) – all for only \$8; \$5 for your spouse. Your spouse is always invited to come to meetings with you.

The meeting starts after dinner. You won't have any problems at the meeting. Just stand up when everyone stands, salute the Flag when directed, repeat the Pledge of Allegiance along with everyone there, and so on. The Commander at the lectern will guide everyone through the meeting.

The Post Adjutant sits just to the Commander's left. You should introduce yourself to the Adjutant. You will pay dues to the Adjutant, buy a Legion Cap from him if you want one, and get answers to many questions.

A few meetings are primarily business of the Post. Many other meetings have special programs such as special speakers, awards, presentations, and recognitions. Once you become acquainted with the people at meetings, and with the activities of the Post, your interest will grow. Please attend meeting regularly and let your interest grow.

After the meeting adjourns, stick around for a while, talk and ask questions, and learn more about Post activities. Talk to the Commander; the Adjutant. Ask the Commander about where your talents can be applied.

## Veterans Benefits and Services

### Ordering a Headstone or Marker

The VA has announced that they will provide at no cost either a Headstone or Marker for use in private cemetery burials in 2002 and thereafter, even if another marker is present.

VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, must be submitted by the next of kin or a representative, such as a funeral director, cemetery official or veterans counselor. Along with the 40-1330, a COPY of the veteran's military discharge documents (DD-214 form) must be submitted. *These documents will not be returned!*

These documents can be faxed toll free to 1-800-455-7143, in which case you WILL NOT be forwarding hard copies of your documents. If faxing is not available, COPIES of your documents are to be mailed to the address shown on Form 40-1330. Most Funeral Directors have forms available to assist your loved ones.

Jack Albright, Sr.  
Post Service Officer

### Needed – Side Show Barkers!

We need one or more people with vocal talents similar to those of side-show barkers at the State Fair.

The Post has sound equipment that will be used to promote activities at the Yard Sale coming up on April 17<sup>th</sup>. All we need is one or more people to man a microphone, and promote sales.

If you would like to help, please contact Commander David Toothaker at [dtoothaker@nc.rr.com](mailto:dtoothaker@nc.rr.com) or 919-518-1928.

### Student Trooper

Student Trooper is a training program at the NC Highway Patrol Training Center, 3318 Garner Road, Raleigh. Students receive a valuable introduction to a career in law enforcement.

Eligibility – High school students who have satisfactorily completed their junior year, or their senior year by the school year end, can apply. Those who cannot be involved in rigorous physical training, who require special medications, or who require handi-capped

accommodations cannot be accepted.

Applicants are required to submit a medical form signed by an MD indicating that he can participate in rigorous physical training.

If interested, please contact David Toothaker at 919-518-1928. David will give you information about application forms, submitting you application, etc. David is retired from the Maine State Police. He can give you a lot of information.

Training – The program will run from June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004. Cadets must be prepared to live at the Academy all week. Graduation will be on Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 PM. All Cadets must depart immediately after graduation.

### Boys State

Boys State was described briefly in the Jan-Feb issue of *Focus*. A brochure is available at the Post.

Raleigh Post One will be sending boys to the 65<sup>th</sup> session of Tar Heels Boys State at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC from June 20<sup>th</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Registration is on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> for 12 Noon to 3:00 PM

Eligibility – Males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school, and who have at least one semester remaining. Please call Gerry Coleman at 919-833-2075 for information, and application details.

### American Legion VISA Card

The First National Bank of Omaha at PO Box 3331, Omaha, NE 68103, 1-888-530-3626, is offering through the National Headquarters a moneymaking opportunity for American Legions Posts.

The Bank offers to pay Post 1 \$10 for every VISA Card application submitted before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The \$10 will be paid regardless of whether the application is approved or not, or ever used if approved. Owning the card will not cost you any money. The Bank will give Post 1 a \$1000 bonus if 100 applications are received. The Bank will also pay a percentage of what is spent on the card to National Headquarters.

There is no annual fee on the card, and the first six (6) billing cycles are at 0% APR. After the six billing cycles, the fee is 11.99%.

There are six choices of card: American Legion, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. All are Platinum Cards. Each card has a code number available on the application.

Adjutant of the Year Harold Barndt has the applications. Call him at 787-3929 and ask for an application. Help the Post bring in some much needed money.

## Pop-Top Tabs

We're talking about those little things on the tops of soda-pop, beer, cat-food, sliced peaches and other containers. You know, the ones that used to litter beaches and parks until the smart folks in the aluminum can business figured out how to keep them attached.

A little history of the Pop-top Tabs Program, what it does and what it does not do for the children receiving treatment at the Duke Medical Center in Durham. It *does not* buy any type of medical treatment, nor does it cover the cost of any type of equipment such as wheelchairs or dialysis machines. What does it buy? It *buys* peace of mind for the families that must stay at the Ronald McDonald House, but do not have the funds to pay the minimal charge of \$10 per night. No family is ever turned away. Pop-tops pay!

The project was started over ten years ago, and people like Frank Stancil of the NC American Legion stepped up to bat and started collecting and coordinating collection of those little aluminum tabs. Many Posts in NC participate along with school and church groups in collecting those funny little things, and turning them in to their local Post.

"The House that Love Built" – Ronald McDonald House – sells the tabs for 32¢ up to 52¢ per pound. They average 350 pounds every 10 days, or about \$157. Last year the income was nearly \$3000. Every penny goes to helping families stay at the House.

We at Post One want all of our savers to pop the tab for the House. We have 250 little tab storage houses here at the Post for you to share with neighbors, friends, churches, civic organizations, and more.

*Remember, pop the tab and save it, then recycle the can for the sake of everyone, especially mother earth.*

Jack R. Albright, Sr.  
Post Service Officer

## Estate Planning

Several years ago one of my (Hal Lindsey) friends left \$1,000,000 in his Will to his fraternal organization. The amount is, I'm sure, unusual, but bequeathing money to a nonprofit organization such as the American Legion is not unusual.

As you know, the American Legion is constantly raising money for the benefit of veterans and the youth of America. Wars of the present are creating veterans who will need help just as veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and other wars needed help. The American Legion literally wrote the GI Bill of Rights after WWII, and we of Post One want to continue helping veterans.

In your estate planning, please consider bequeathing money or property to Post One in your Will. Small as well as large amounts will be accepted with equal gratitude.

## January Membership Meeting

The distinguishing feature of the January meeting was the initiation of ten members conducted by Lou Holder, Felix Subervi, Jr., Joe Tobert, Dillard Thorne, and Milton Walker. The members initiated were: William Burries, John Gibson, Nick Jones, Bill Koch, Ken Melvin, Durwood Pegram, Robert Rinn, Pam Rowell, Earl Soloman, and Edgar Strickland

## February Membership Meeting

The February meeting was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual honoring of the Police Officer of the Year, and the Fireman of the Year. Chief of Training Larry Stanford of the Fire Department introduced the firemen. Major Tim Shermer introduced Captain Deck-Brown who introduced the police officer. The Firemen of the Year were Captain Ronnie Mizell, and Lieutenant Clay Hicks. The Police Officer of the year was: Sargent Albert O'Connell. Mayor Meeker participated in the ceremony, and gave a short talk afterwards.

## Dr. George T. Thornhill

Doctor Thornhill passed away in January, 2004. He was a 20 year member of the American Legion and a Post

One member.

Doctor Thornhill was born in West Virginia. He graduated from Duke University Medical School, and later joined the Army as a Medical Officer assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry at Fort Bliss.

Doctor Thornhill served in Australia, and New Guinea, where he received the Purple Heart. Later he served in the Philippines and Japan. He was released from the Army after 33 months service.

Doctor Thornhill was well known at Post 1, and his absence is lamented.

## Gift Certificates Received

The following merchants gave Gift Certificates to the Post to be given out by the Post Commander to promote Post activities. Post members are asked to thank these merchants for the Certificates when you patronize their business.

- Merchants Tire on Millbrook Rd
- Auto Bell Carwash on Millbrook Rd
- Briggs Restaurant in Cary
- Houlihan's Restaurant on Falls of the Neuse Rd
- Carolina Ale House on Falls of the Neuse Rd
- Taste of Thai Restaurant on Falls of the Neuse Rd
- Food Lion on Falls River Ave
- Wildwood Golf on Strickland Rd
- Brother's Cleaners on Atlantic Ave

## Baseball

Baseball will be sponsored again this year. The question about sponsorship was settled at the February 12<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting. Joe Tobert will be in charge again this year. More information will be released later.

## Garnett Shropshire

Past Commander Garnett Shropshire underwent by-pass surgery in January. We were all very glad to see him again at our February Membership Meeting. We all wish you continued improvement in your health, Garnett.

## American Legion Benefits

All the benefits that the Legion provides cannot be revealed in this small space. There are many special member benefits that not only provide protec-

tion for families, but also substantial money-saving discounts. These benefits are described in a brochure, *Why You Should Belong To The American Legion*. The brochure is available at the Post Home. Attend a meeting and pick up a copy.

Here are the categories of benefits and discounts:

- Life, Health, and Dental insurance
- Interstate moving services
- Car rentals
- American Legion Visa Card
- Certificates of Deposit
- Money market savings accounts
- Eye care and laser surgery
- Prescription drugs
- Hotels and Motels
- Cell phones and equipment

### C. D. McKinney

Clarence Dewey McKinney passed away on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Rex Hospital. A Service was held on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; burial was private. CD was WWII veteran and a Lifetime

Member of Post 1. He retired from CP&L after 41 years of service. He then became the owner of Automated Accounting Service of Cary, NC. CD will be missed at Post 1.

## American Legion Auxiliary

The Auxiliary has been around for over 75 years. One million members strong, the Auxiliary has, over the years, spent millions of hours giving assistance to veterans, at home, in hospitals, and in the field. They have donated millions of dollars to worthy causes around the world and in our own communities.

Poppies – those little red crepe paper flowers made by hospitalized veterans – sold on Memorial Day to raise money, will always define the unity behind the Auxiliary's devotion to helping veterans and worthy causes.

Over the years, the Auxiliary has worked to:

- Prevent substance abuse, teen sui-

cide, child abuse, and teen pregnancy.

- Educate children for leadership through Girls State, Girls Nation, Spirit of Youth Foundation, and many scholarship programs.
- Organize blood drives, conservation efforts, emergency and disaster relief, citizenship, legislative action, and on and on ...
- Help our own members through the Auxiliary Emergency and Displaced Homemakers Fund, and help service people and their families through the Family Assistance Network.

The Auxiliary has their own meeting facility at Post 1. They help in many ways at Post One, and they are a valuable part of Post One.

Please ask Betty Jean Faulkner, Auxiliary President, at 872-2755 how you can help.

This is your *Focus* Bulletin!

