



Focus

Official Bulletin

For God and Country

Bulletin #4-78

American Legion Post 1

July - August, 2004

New Executive Committee Takes Over

Commander's Comments

As in-coming Commander (at July 8th meeting), I take this time and place to thank all members who have been involved with the success of Post 1. A special thanks to the out-going Commander David Toothaker for his untiring leadership the past 2 years. David Toothaker has always been there. By working together, with all the Officers and the Membership, we can be the Post of Leadership in NC for years to come.

Bud Conner
Post Commander Elect

Directions to Post 1

Take Capital Blvd. North to 401.
Turn right on 401 (Louisburg Road).
Go through first stop light.
Turn right on St. James Church Road.
Go one-half Mile.
Turn Right on Lee Road
Pass through gate at end of Lee Road.
You are now at Post 1.

The Bulletin Board

THURSDAY, July 8th – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8. Installation of new Post Officers by Past Department Commander Garnett Shropshire.

THURSDAY, August 12th – Monthly Membership Meeting at Post Home. 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:00 \$8.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 4th 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 2nd 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.

SATURDAYS, July 3rd and August 7th 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.

SPOUSES WELCOME – Legionnaires are encouraged to bring their spouses or “significant others” to membership meetings, social activities, and other events.

SUNDAY, July 4th OPEN HOUSE – Post Home Snacks Base Ball Raffle Drawing. 11 AM to 1 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, July 16th & 17th LEGION COLLEGE – North Raleigh Hilton. \$15 Contact Harold, Bud or David for more info.

Focus Published By:

American Legion Post #1
PO Box 40097
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www.legionraleigh.com

Post Officers:

Commander

H. (Bud) Conner 851-1398

Adjutant

Harold Barndt 787-3929

1st Vice Commander

David Toothaker 518-1928

2nd Vice Commander

George House 872-1399

3rd Vice Commander

V. Wayne Adams 848-1149

Judge Advocate

John Hollis 261-9270

Finance Officer

Paul West 231-7753

Historian

Larry Rozier 851-3918

Chaplain

Jack Albright, Sr.

Service Officer

John Gibson 790-5813

Sergeant at Arms

Charles Birdsong 266-0210

Directors at Large

Milton Walker 881-9540

Joseph Tobert 781-1490

Mike Clement 954-1425

Committee Chairs:

Americanism

John Gibson 790-5813

Awards

David Toothaker 518-1928

Baseball

Joseph Tobert 781-1490

Boy Scouts

Jack Albright

Boys State

Gerry Coleman 833-2075

By-Laws

John Hollis 261-9270

Christmas Party

Joe Tobert 781-1490

Finance

Paul West 231-7753

Flag Day

Joe Tobert 781-1490

Flag Disposal

V. Wayne Adams 848-1149

House

George House 872-1399

July 4th

Joe Tobert 781-1490

Law & Order

Felix Subervi 846-3769

Membership

David Toothaker 518-1928

Memorial Day

Pat Daley

Oratorical

Gerry Coleman 833-2075

Student Trooper

David Toothaker 518-1928

VA Bingo

Tom Collins 662-7958

Past Commander Toothaker's Last Message

I would like to take a couple minutes to reflect on the last two years as your Commander. First and foremost, I want to say THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH to all of you. It makes no difference whether you only paid your dues and absolutely nothing else, or if you never showed your face for a single thing but maybe you sent some money for a donation or baseball raffle, etc. or if you came a few times and did nothing but attend and go home. If you were one of the approximately 75 members who came and volunteered to do work for the good of the Legion, I particularly want to thank you for all you did. People point to me and say David, you did a great job. Well, yes, I tried my hardest to change the old habits to what many of us felt was for the better but I did not do it alone. It was you and your help and perseverance that made this Post what it is today. All I did was attempt to lead the charge. This last year, we had an Executive Committee made up of men and a woman who wanted to get things done and we did. Your constant donations to Spire made it so much easier for me to say, yes we have money to do that and we did. You sent in just over \$2000.00. This year we had about 18

members try for the Ex. Comm. That tells me there is interest in helping. The donations tell me that you like what is going on. We have many younger members now and we are getting more almost every meeting. We had 3 members come to this June meeting who have never been before. In the last 3 years, we have increased our membership from about 800 to 1008 as of June 10th.

We started the Student Trooper Program, the Oratorical Contest, an Awards Program for Eagle Scouts and another for Police and Firemen of the Year and we gave several awards to members including our own Legionnaire of the Year. I chose Sergeant at Arms Charles Birdsong for 2003 and paid for it myself because I thought it so important to reward our members. This year Hugh (Bud) Conner was elected from a field of three by the membership. We started our own Raleigh Post One Web site, which is www.legionraleigh.com <<http://www.legionraleigh.com/>>. We had 4 yard sales to help raise money and membership and American Legion awareness in the community. We provided dance lessons and monthly dances for members and guests only and did it

without expense to the Post and consequently we now have a very good sound system for many occasions including use at cemeteries if needed. Hal Lindsey provided the sound system for the Memorial Day Ceremony at no cost this year. I feel and have been told many times that this Focus is a welcome change and it also is written by Hal Lindsey. I regret to announce that he wants to get done as editor but at least he is willing to train someone to take his place. Please call Commander elect Bud Conner if you have the time and expertise. We answered the call for three funeral details already this year and one last year. We had one funeral service at the Post with our Keith Sink officiating. We also reinstated an annual new member installation at the January membership meeting.

We have kept most of the old programs including Baseball, Boys State, VA Bingo, Flag Retirement as a ceremony in full dress, July 4th Open House, Memorial Day at the National Cemetery, Veterans' Day Parade participation which includes both a marching unit and a motorcade and Christmas Party at the Post for members and families. I am sure I have left out several Post functions and none are

less important.

I want to say a very special Thanks to Garnett Shropshire for helping me in all the ways that he did by trying to train me to be a good commander; to George House for all the meals he prepared and all of the renting of and keeping of the Post property, he sees to it that it is kept; to Bud Conner for being my right hand all the time and in particular for instituting a great awards program; to Betty Jean Faulkner for her tireless efforts not only as our Auxiliary person but as the one who sees to it the Post is clean and kept and she goes to VA Bingo every month; To Hal and Edna Lindsey for making such a valiant effort to give us an entertainment program and for editing Focus; to Dustin Tarditi for webmastering our web site; to Joe Tobert for all his work as Athletic Officer and Memorial and Veterans and July 4th activities; and to our 2003 Department Adjutant of the Year, Harold Barndt for instituting a computerized membership program and all he does in his post. Again, thank you to all members for all that you do for Raleigh Post One and your support to me.

Bud Conner told me a year ago that he wanted to be the next commander so I worked very closely with him to assure that what I was trying to do this year would go in the direction that he wanted the Post programs to continue. I sincerely hope that he will have a much easier and more pleasant year as your commander. As you can see above, he has already got most of his chairpersons designated and we have what appears to me as an excellent Executive Committee for him to work with. I wish him the best and plan to be there for him as he was for me.

I hope to see many new faces at the July 4th Open House from 11 AM to 1PM for the baseball raffle drawing and light lunch, and at the July 8th membership meeting which will be installation of officers for 2005. The August program has not been planned yet. Our goal of 1000 members by year end was accomplished, so now we want to try to reach our new goal of 100 plus members coming to most meetings. We can do it. If every member who comes on a regular basis would bring one member with them, we would have our 100 goal by September. Please make a few calls and give it a try.

We have set the weekend of October 2 for the next yard sale. Please set things aside that you are thinking of throwing or giving away and if you can bring it to the September meeting, great, if you can't, call

either Bud Conner or David Toothaker and we will try to pick it up from you.

Bud plans to continue with last year's offer of a pretty nice gift to the winner (by a drawing of one) of those who attend all 12 membership meetings as we did this year. Tom Collins, Bud Conner and I attended all 12 meetings this year. The money was given back to the Post.

Chair Weaving Class

The American Legion Post 1 is making available a chair weaving class. The class will involve all skill levels, and will involve cane weaving chair seats, backs, and stools.

The choice of materials includes: natural cane, press cane, rush, reed, and sea grass. Bring your own chairs or stools, and expect to finish one or more projects during the class. Chairs and stools should be in good repair, and surfaces should be finished.

Chairs and/or stools will be available from the instructor if you give advance notice.

Classes will be held on Monday nights for three hours in August and September.

The instructor will donate his time and expertise. A number of American Legion projects will benefit from this chair weaving class. All the enrollment money will be used for these projects.

Your instructor will be Bud Conner, instructor at John C. Campell Folk Schools. Call 851-1398 for additional information.

Yard Sale Patron

I am going to put in a plug for a company who just gave us several thousand dollars worth of items from his business for our yard sale. Mr. Ken Randolph, (who played Post 1 Legion Baseball in the late 60's), part owner of Sunbelt USA and Southern Building Maintenance Company now located at 4211 Atlantic Ave. in Raleigh next to the Fedex building, gave us the items and rented a truck for us to haul it with. He is going to give us more things from his

home this weekend. Even better, if we as Post members go there and buy janitorial supplies, etc., he is going to give the Post 10 % of the profits, so make sure you tell them to record it as a Post member. They are a full supplier of janitorial supplies and housekeeping contract services. Call Ken at 539-1624.

David Toothaker

Focus Late

I would like to apologize for the May / June Focus being so late. It was not the fault of either myself or Hal. We sent it out to the printers on time and they just were overworked and understaffed. So that you will know, that issue was printed and mailed free of charge to the Post.

David Toothaker

Auxiliary News

Our Post Auxiliary Unit One sponsored 42 students at Girls State this year which was held at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC June 6 through 12. Our students did very well with Millbrook High School's Holly Bryce elected Governor, St. David School's Charli Davis elected as the Lt. Governor, and Lauren Winstead from Wakefield High School will be a Senator going to Girls Nation in Washington D. C. to study the Federal Government.

In other business, our Auxiliary is very proud to announce that they collected almost \$2000.00 in donations for their Memorial Poppy Fund. They use this money for Veterans, their families and their children.

June Convention

Our June Convention was attended by about a dozen of our Post members .Saturday afternoon we were fortunate enough to get our picture with National Commander, John Brieden and another with our new State Commander, Mike Reott, Sr.

Pictured left to right are Bud Conner, Commander Reott's wife, Sheri, Department Commander Reott, David Toothaker, Garnett Shropshire, Jack Albright, Sr. and John Gibson.



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Photos by Larry Rozier

The second photo pictured left to right are Bud Conner, Garnett Shropshire, National Commander Brieden, David Toothaker, Jack Albright, Sr. and John Gibson.



Memorial Day

Thanks to Pat Daley and all of the rest of the members, the Memorial Day Ceremony was a huge success and the weather held. The flags and grounds were awesome and the Raleigh Concert Band was great. US Rep. Brad Miller spoke and our guest speaker was Col. Ronald Gallimore with the 18th Airborne from Ft. Bragg.

