



SOUNDOFF

July — August 2013

*George P. Vanderveer
Post 129 American Legion
(Established 1919)
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753*

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As incoming Commander I would like to thank the membership for putting their trust in me for Post Commander, this is a very humbling experience for me and a position that I do not take lightly. I will to the best of my ability to carry on with all the Great things that we do here for our Veterans, their families and the community. I would like to thank Commander Rich Gato for two outstanding years of service as Commander of this great post and congratulate him as being selected as Ocean County Legionnaire of the year at our County Convention.

I would like to congratulate the incoming officers of the SAL, Auxiliary and the Legion Riders. I am looking forward to working with you and your staff, to keep The Legion Family Theme going. Together we can make a difference. As the largest Post in The State with Membership this year over the top at 1514, we must continue to lead the way in Ocean County. With all the American Legion Programs that support Our Veterans, their Families and the Community.

At this time I would like to thank my family for all their support over the last year and especially my wife Tina for all her support and help with the membership this past year I couldn't have done it with out you. The phone calls, Letters, Post Cards and the Mailing of all the membership.

Well, Wildwood Convention is over and we start counting the days till next year. This years Convention was a blast, hopefully next year we can fill the bus up

with more members. A special thanks to Dave Corbin for all his help with the planning of the bus trip to our Convention Parade. I will be looking into a float or a Tram for next year so that the members that can't march can ride and enjoy the parade as well.

We took home some awards this year at the Convention. One for our SOUNDOFF thanks to our Editor in Chief, Al Harbord, for our multiple page newsletter Great Job Al!

We also took home some awards for Membership; we received one from National and one from the Department of New Jersey. We also received recognition for all our efforts for what we do for POW/MIA awareness and our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. We also had a few more awards. Our Color Guard took 3rd place, The Auxiliary took 3rd Place and our Jeep took 7th place in the float division.

As we begin this new Legion Year, there are these themes that we need to focus on:

MEMBERSHIP, FAMILY AND VOLUNTEERISM. These are factors without which an American legion Post (or any Organization) cannot survive.

MEMBERSHIP: We have a great membership, but we need to



grow. The major questions are: Where do we want to go? What do we need to do to achieve this? Who will/can help to achieve this? I believe the answers lie within our current members. We all need to help with recruiting efforts. I'm sure that everyone knows someone: friend, neighbor, co-worker that is eligible to join this fine organization. We need to get the word out about the principals upon which the American Legion was founded and which continue to the present day

FAMILY: I am primarily speaking about the "Legion" family because we are, in truth, a family: The American Legion Members, The American Legion Auxiliary members, The Sons of the American legion members and the Legion Riders members are ALL vital to the continuing success of the post. This Post cannot survive or grow without the support of ALL members of the "Family". And with most families, there will be differences of opinion, but these can only strengthen the bonds that bring us together. Let us all rededicate ourselves this year for what our primary mission is, to help our Veterans and their family's and all our great programs.

VOLUNTEERISM: No post can exist without every one stepping up to help out as best they can. Each and every one of us has a unique talent to help out in some way. And as the saying goes "many hands make light work". If you can help setting up for Bingo or help breaking down tables or just setting up for a function, helping in the kitchen or outside, or

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COMMANDERS MESSAGE

(from page 1)

just picking up a bit of trash on the floor, it will help. Volunteering for something does not have to entail hours of work. Sometimes 10 or 15 minutes of "a helping hand" is enough. Lets all do our part to help keep Post 129 all that it can be.

The Army coined a phrase 'Army Strong'. Sandy came along and we're all 'Jersey Strong'. But I have to tell you we are Legion Strong here at post 129.

Any Questions or Concerns please call or Email me.

For God and Country
Rich Godfrey
Commander
732-604-8326
rjg548@comcast.net

AUXILIARY

Greetings –

I would like to start by congratulating Dina Lynam on her great year as President. I wish her luck on all her future endeavors including her next step as this year's Chaplain.

Next I'd like to congratulate Rich Godfrey on his appointment

to Commander of Post 129, Dan Curran as Squadron Commander of the SAL, and Art Brown as the President of the Legion Riders. As this year's Auxiliary President, I look forward to working with all of them to have a very successful year for our post. We are a Legion Family and we need to work together for the betterment of the post, and most importantly for our veterans and active military and their families.

We have an exciting year ahead of us with a lot of activities and fundraisers. Some of the events planned are pancake breakfasts, flea markets, Bunco, our annual craft/vendor fair, a Victorian tea, a psychic fair, and a gift auction. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. Without the help of our wonderful volunteers, none of these events would be possible. No one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. Even if you only have an hour to spare, please come out to one of our events, and show your support.

Beginning in August, our meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7pm. Please try to come to a meeting and learn what the American Legion Auxiliary is about. I look forward to seeing you all there.

In closing, I just want to let everyone know that I am here for all of you. I promise that I will take

this position seriously and I will try my best to make you proud. If anyone has any questions about the auxiliary or any ideas that they feel would make this a more unified and productive unit, please feel free to contact

me. My phone number is 732-768-7749 and my email address is: alapres129@gmail.com

In the spirit of service, not self
Tara Goldstein
Unit 129 President



RIDERS MESSAGE

The American Legion Riders of Post 129 have begun their active riding season with a great deal of enthusiasm. Several members drove through extremely bad weather to attend Rolling Thunder in Washington DC to visit the Vietnam Memorial over Memorial Day weekend, while several other members participated in the Memorial Day Parade.

On June 9th the Riders held their annual fundraiser, a combination of a motorcycle poker run and a family BBQ. Our membership came out in force to help this event and although the bills have yet to be paid, it would appear to be a very successful event. We had great weather. The fundraising committee did an excellent job as always and the weather cooperated to make it a great day. I must express that many of our post members, not just Riders come to mind in helping this to a successful conclusion. Mike Kelly, Rich Godfrey, and the staff of Ryan's Catering come to mind. I realize I am probably leaving important people out and for that I can only express my gratitude to

(continued ➡)



Toms River Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2013



Toms River Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2013

all that helped and those that came out to support a great and worthy event. Our fund raiser this year will go to Vet Work of Lacey Twp. an organization that helps Veteran's down in their luck and in need. Obviously a worthy recipient.

As I write this article I am preparing to leave to Wildwood to enter our Riders in the annual Parade. Last year we took second place and all who participated had a great time. The weather is sunny and we hope to have an equal or better showing this year.

For God & Country,
Art Brown



Photo-Christine Meyer Karl



SAL SQUADRON MESSAGE

Greetings Squadron Members,

Thank you for your support and confidence in electing me your next SAL Commander. We have a great slate of officers and the best squadron membership in the state. I'm looking forward to a new year of our Squadron supporting our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Veterans, Active Duty Troops, and our local community.

We extend an invitation to all Squadron 129 members to attend your Squadron meetings, held the second Wednesday of every

month at our post from 7:30 to 8:30. Squadron members of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Everyone's input and participation is required to better our squadron.

We did outstanding in Wildwood this year getting several awards and presentations for our support of Veterans and American Legions Projects. I'd like to thank everyone for a year well done!

We do have an opening for a Squadron Officer. The Sergeant at Arms position is currently open. Nominations and a special election will be held at our next regularly scheduled squadron meeting on July 10th. If you are interested in running please attend the meeting and/or contact me at squadron129@gmail.com

We have started a new email list to keep Squadron members informed of events and happenings in your Squadron and at the Post. If you would like to join the list please send an email to squadron129@gmail.com and you will be added.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank outgoing SAL Commander Ron Cloos Sr. for his service and guidance to our Squadron. We hope to continue to grow our Squadron with the foundations you have put down in your past years of service.

Remember, thank a Veteran every day. We are here because of them.

For God and Country,

Dan Curran
Commander SAL Squadron 129



Test Drive Fundraiser to Benefit Post, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders!

Save The Date!!

Saturday October 5th 9am-4pm
Downs Ford
360 Hwy 37 East
Toms River, New Jersey

We'll need event workers from all groups of the post and need at least 300 test drive participants to raise up to \$6000.00 with no cost to us!

Ford Motor Company and Downs Ford wants to donate \$6,000 to us!



We all know that budgets are tight and we are often lacking in funding and support. We are constantly looking for new ways to raise money to support our activities and veterans causes, and that's where this event comes in.

Ford Motor Company and Downs Ford recognizes the need for creative and exciting fundraising opportunities and, as an integral part of the community, has developed the Drive 4 UR Community program to connect Ford dealers with their local community efforts. Downs Ford will work with us to execute this exciting opportunity where test-driving Ford vehicles can result in big cash rewards for us — a \$20 donation for each test-drive!

We could earn up to \$6,000!
For each test-drive that takes

place, Ford Motor Company will make a \$20 donation, up to a total of \$6,000 to the participating organization!

There will be Fun..Food and Music all day long!!



Downs Ford will donate all food and entertainment! Its simple we man the BBQ and test drive booth for the day.. A person test drives a New Ford with no obligation.. fills out a brief survey. And we get \$20.00 for each completed survey one per household address up to 300 test drives or rides.

**Easy way to make up
\$6000.00 in free money!!**

More information to follow when the event gets closer. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me!

Thank you!

Dan Curran
SAL Commander
609-315-1698

CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

"Summer's Here, and the time is right for dancing in the street. Well maybe not in the street, but definitely in the Canteen. Dance to our Rock & Roll Bands on Friday Night and to Karaoke on Saturday Night. We will continue to offer our Friday and Saturday Night Entertainment throughout the Summer. Former Commander Rich Gato, has done a great job

booking our entertainment in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.

Our 2 for \$20 Dinners by Ryan's Catering, on Saturday Nights are still second to none. Imagine, 2 salads or soups, 2 different entrees, and a shared dessert for \$20. It is the best deal in Ocean County, bar none.

Speaking of the bar, for you Bud Lite lovers, the Canteen has added Bud Lite on Tap. We, also, continue to have Bud Lite bottles. The remainder of our Bunker Bar improvements should be completed by this reading. The Bunker will be open Friday Night, all day Saturday and Sunday.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Our Independence Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 6 (rain date, July 7), at noon. In appreciation of our Veterans, all Post 129 Veterans in good standing (dues paid), will be admitted FREE. For everyone else, tickets are \$10. Children will, also, be admitted free. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken and assorted salads. We will be serving \$1.00 Drafts of Coors Lite, Miller Lite and Budweiser. So come on down, have a cold one, and toast our Independence on this great day.

On Another Note: Dave Kearns is back from his winter hiatus, and will be joining Rich Godfrey and Eric Inauen on the bar staff.

Post 129 strives to make our facility the best in New Jersey. Remember, when you support Post 129, you support the greatest post in the USA.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board of Trustee shall be chaired by the immediate Past Commander and retain custody of all post and real property. The board shall monitor all budgeted expenditures and notify the appropriate officer or committee chairperson when their budget is about to be exceeded. It is their duty to monitor all bids and appropriations. The board shall meet quarterly or as needed to review post records and to report to the Executive Board as soon thereafter as practical. The Board shall inventory all post property and equipment on a yearly basis and file a record of such with the Post Adjutant.

I would like to congratulate the newly elected trustees:

Rich Gato-Immediate Past Commander-Chairman
Warren Barney-Past Commander
Mike Kelly-Service Officer
Dave Corbin-Past Commander, Judge Advocate
Dave Kearns-Assistant Bar Manager
Ted Figula-Past Commander
Mike Catalano-Bingo Supervisor
Ralph Moranz-Past Vice Commander/Bingo Supervisor
Jim Cressen-Trustee

The Board will take a more active position in facilitating the wishes of the membership. We are exploring the following expenditures at this time.

A new more modern Electronic (LED) sign for the front of the post.

A 30 x 40 Pole Barn/Gazebo/Canopy for our picnic area. This

will enable us to have protection from the various elements, eliminate the cost of renting tents for future events and provide additional opportunities for rentals.

Additional Refrigeration/Freezer Space is needed.

Continue the renovations of our picnic area to make it more handicapped accessible with the addition of lighted walkways.

The trustees will be receptive to your ideas as to how we can continue to provide the service that we do to our Veterans with integrity while striving to continue to make this the "Best Post in the State".

We look forward to your comments.

Rich Gato-Chairperson
Post 129 Trustees

American Legion Post 129 Officers for 2013—2014

Commander:

Rich Godfrey

Vice Commander:

Frank Del Nero
Nat Amadeo
Phil Jones
John Lynam

Adjutant:

Bob Scheiderman

Finance:

Bob Blair

Sgt. at Arms:

Bob Zahary

Judge Advocate:

Dave Corbin

Historian:

Bob Mergel

Chaplain:

Mike Schaffer

Trustees:

Rich Gato, Chairman
Warren Barney
Mike Kelly
Dave Corbin
Dave Kearns
Mike Catalano
Ted Figula
Jim Cressen
Ralph Moranz

Auxiliary

President:

Tara Goldstein

1st Vice:

Jane Keeley

2nd Vice:

Pat Corbin

Treasurer:

Carol Rutzler

Historian:

Amanda D'Albenzio

Sgt. at Arms:

Pam Bowen

Chaplain:

Dina Lynam

Secretary:

Joyce Hedges

SAL

Commander:

Dan Curran

Vice Commanders

Steve Moranz
Bob Joerg

Adjutant:

Jim Ventimiglia

Finance Officer:

Duke Haring

Chaplain:

Tom Engkilterra

Sgt. at Arms:

Open

Historian:

Jackson Coles

Riders

President	Art Brown
V.P.	Rich Gato
Secretary	Bob Joerg
Treasurer	Al Gashler
Sgt. at Arms	Judy Kapp



Department Of New Jersey Convention
Wildwood, NJ 2013

<div> <div>Birthstone</div> <div>July 2013</div> <div>Ruby</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 General Meeting & Auxiliary 7:00PM Battle of Gettysburg began 1863	2 Mid-Point of 2013	3 Karaoke at The Canteen Dog Days Begin	4 	5	6 Karaoke at The Canteen
7	8 John D. Rockefeller 1839	9	10 Karaoke at The Canteen SAL Meeting 7:00PM	11 	12 Henry Thoreau 1817	13
14 Bill the Kid Killed, 1881	15 Board/Trustee Meeting 7:00PM	16	17 Karaoke at The Canteen	18 BINGO John Glenn 1921	19	20 Karaoke at The Canteen Fish Fry
21	22 Riders Meeting 7:00PM Full Buck Moon	23	24 Karaoke at The Canteen Apollo 11's Safe Return 1969	25 	26 FBI Established 1908	27
28	29 NASA 1958	30	31 Karaoke at The Canteen			

On July 4th 1776, the Thirteen Colonies claimed their independence from England. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented these famous words.

“Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

This year we celebrate the 237th year of “AMERICAN” independence!

August 2013

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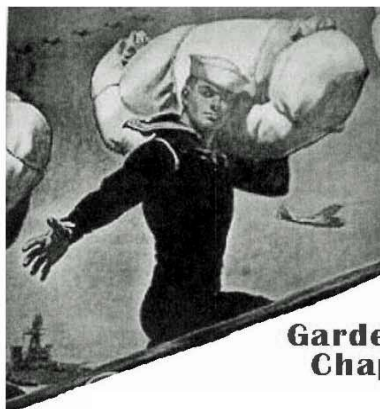
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SOUNDOFF...

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soundoff.al.post129@comcast.net

or via U.S. mail to:

Al Harbord, 1038 Audubon Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753.

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Harold V. Lawhead, 84, US Navy, Korea
John R. Basquez, 76, US Marine Corps, Korea
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Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman



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5PM—play starts at 7PM.
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American Legion Post 129 3rd Annual Mike Carlino Memorial Golf Tournament
at Bey Lea Golf Course, Wednesday, October 30. Rain date November 7. More
information to be announced in the next edition of SOUNDOFF or call John at
732-278-3933.

