Welcome to Volume 1, No 5, of Life At The Post. This is a monthly publication of the activities of Post 254, Johnstown, Ohio. One of the finest American Legion Posts in Central Ohio.

August has already arrived and the month of July has passed. The business of the Post and all the events has not left much time to communicate the unfolding events in the past month. So hopefully we can “catch up”. August is the month of renewals. As you know our membership cards are now due. There are other renewals that we can look forward to accomplish, our renewals of faith in God and Country, our renewals in service to community and to each other and our renewals to ourselves to be the best of what we can be for who we are. By striving to do what we can for others helps us to appreciate what we have been given ourselves. Service to our community, to the youth, and to our fellow veterans makes Post 254 stand strong in our community, stand with us as we approach another fiscal membership year.

Post Accomplishments

June 29th Post 254 sponsored the “Little Miss Firecracker Pageant”. As the excited girls dressed in various costumes sang songs, did dances and various skits showing their talents to an audience of proud parents and friends, the evening flowed with a special acknowledgement of how Post 254 strives to provide community events for the children and youth. The event could not have been possible if not for the efforts of one very special individual, Joanne Schwab. The time and efforts that she has put into this event has made the “Little Miss Firecracker Pageant” one to the cornerstones of the Post. We should be proud of this event as a landmark for the Children and Youth Pillar of Service that we stand for. As the full family of Post 254 was represented for this event, I would like to give a special thanks to all who were present. Karen Norman, Auxiliary, Connie Hale, Legion, Bruce Tolle, Legion Riders, Jim Wolfe, SAL, Preston Hale, Commander and Al Norman Adjutant.
July 3rd Fireworks Extravaganza was the best show ever. A special thanks to our sponsors that made the evening possible, Tech International, Apex Supercritical and Johnstown Monroe Firefighters Local 4250. The event began with the presence of the Little Miss Firecracker contestants performing their version of the “Boogy Woogy Bugle Boy of Company B”. Followed by the musical entertainment of the “Unusual Suspects and Repeat Offenders” playing music from the 70’s 80’s and current. Intermission introduced the Legionnaire of the year “Rick Petersen” and the Citizen of the Year “Jeff Holbrook”. That was followed by the performance of “Little Miss Firecracker” herself Nadia Staneart. Before the fireworks began, Paul Goffried and Paul Wilkes did a wonderful job performing the “Old Glory” recital. The evening concluded with the fireworks and extended “Grand Finale”. If you weren’t there to see it, you missed it.

July 6th through the 9th began the Fireman’s Festival, as Post 254 manned the tent and passed out flags and brochures for the Legion. The Son’s of the Legion began the sale of raffle tickets for a $500.00 gift card to Vance’s Sporting Goods.

July 9th Post 254 lead the Fireman’s Festival Parade through Johnstown. Pictures on Facebook show the crowds of patrons lining the street, as the Color Guard presented the Colors. A special thanks to Jim Weant, Milton Pena and John Leber, who set the pace for the parade. The float this year was decorated by Mike Heffley and Bruce Tolle. Although the flag drapes were missing, Bruce managed to substitute the missing decorations with American Flags. As the parade began to line up, a special award was given to Post 254, the Fireman’s Award for the best float. Bruce was smiling from ear to ear, as his efforts that at first seemed amiss, soon proved to be rewarding. A special thanks to all who participated in the parade and a special thanks to Mike Heffley for the use of his award winning trailer.

July 16th the Post had the awesome privilege of participating in the Annual Soap Box Derby in Akron Ohio. This event was prompted by the members purchasing American Flags to be used at the Derby’s Grand Stands. Although not all members could participate, Rick Petersen led a convoy of the Legion family to the downhill track. The participants in the parade were Mike Heffley, Kris Fleshman, Jeff Moore, Jim Wolfe, Al Norman, Jim Weant, and Janet Piper. These brave souls had to leave at 04:00 hrs in the morning. A big hand for these members bringing Post 254 to the Akron Soap Box Derby!!

But July 16th wasn’t without its own Parade in Alexandria, as the other half of Post 254 lead the parade presenting the colors and followed by the award winning float filled with members passing out candy and greeting everyone along the way. The 16th of July seemed filled with activities all across the state and Post 254 met the challenge again. A special thanks to Harry Galbraith for not running over the Color Guard as he drove the float, occasionally blowing the horn, seemed at times right in our ears, luckily he really wasn’t that close, or maybe we just were marching fast.
July 13th marked the beginning of construction of the vestibule at the Post. A special thanks to Ed Halsey for providing his backhoe, time and talent to excavate the area for the footings and removal of part of the existing concrete. The workers digging in the trenches need acknowledgement also, Jim Wolfe, Al Norman, Preston Hale, and Urv Hartsock. Footings were made ready for inspection, which passed on Friday the 15th, and concrete was placed that same day.

July 16th also was busy at the Post as the foundation block was being installed. A special thanks to the crew of Leonard Williams Masonry for the time and efforts that they donated to place the foundation blocks for the Post. Leonard Williams has been a block and stone mason for several years working in the central Ohio area. He is a Johnstown resident and is currently building his new home on Concord Road.

July 20th the rest of the slab was removed at the entrance of the Post. Urv handled the jack hammer like a “pro” as he chipped away at the massive slab of concrete. Milton, Jim, and Rick continued to work into the wee hours of the afternoon making ready the foundation for the concrete to be replaced, backfilling the existing walls and leveling the dirt around the site. On July 21st the concrete was placed. Again with a special thanks to Urv Hartsock and Milton Pena.

July 22nd was our Community Blood drive. The American Red Cross set up tables and refreshments as patrons came to give of themselves for the betterment of those in need. Blood is a commodity that cannot be manufactured except by mankind. “Life is in the blood” A special thanks to Paul and Shirley Wilkes for their time and effort in assisting the Red Cross in the Blood Drive. Paul and Shirley has been a tremendous asset to the Post through the years and continues to be dependable when something is needed.

July 23rd was our community breakfast. The breakfasts began at 0800hrs (8am) and continued until 1000hrs (10am). We had eggs to order, sausage, bacon, biscuits, pancakes, and hash browns and it was all how you liked it, just for a donation. Although you can eat as much as you want for as much as you want, you have arrive early cause I hear that some of our members are big eaters. This would be the perfect opportunity for some of our members who don’t get out to visit the Post at regular meetings to come and enjoy meeting people and your friends at the Post.

July 25th framing began on the vestibule, with the installation of the sidewalls, the crew worked hard measuring twice and cutting three times, using board stretchers and the rule of thumb to measure, then Urv found his glasses and looked at the prints. Close enough for government work was his answer, I just thought it would look okay from my house. Thanks to Jim Sponagle, Jim Wolfe, Urv Hartsock and Milton Pena, the vestibule is taking shape.
July 27th the Safety Village buildings were repainted. This year Safety Village plans on having 40 participants, at least that is how many have pre-registered. The buildings needed touch up painting, tightened hinges and a new roof, sounds like my house. Jim Conrad got the paint as Urv brought the rollers and brushes. Milton would paint and Urv would put his hands in it, we liked to never got any paint on the buildings. But aside from the big hand prints they managed to get done. A special thanks to Jim Sponagle, Jim Conrad, Jim Wolfe, Milton Pena, Urv Hartsock and Preston Hale for their efforts in getting safety village ready for their classes.

OPPORTUNITIES

August 1 through August 5 is Safety Village Week. Sarah Lenner and her efforts will teach 40 of our children the meaning of being safe whether at home or going shopping with their mom or dad. They will also learn playground safety, school bus safety, cross walk safety, and have special speakers from the police department and the fire department. Connie Hale and Sally Conrad are the Post committee members to assist Sarah in any needs to make this a safe and memorable experience for the children and the parents that have trusted our service to provide for a safer community. A special thanks to all who have made this possible.

August 4th is Wendy’s Burger Bash. The start time is 5:00 pm to 8:00pm. As supper is on the table, sneak out and grab a burger at Wendy’s. Remember on these hot days nothing quiches your thirst like a large Frosty. Bring your family and come to Wendy’s for an evening of food, fun and fellowship, with your fellow friends and family. See ya there!

August 7th is the first District Picnic and Horseshoe Tournament. This year we have finally gotten the horseshoe pits fixed and ready to play. The tournament is open to anyone breathing, or not. There are three categories of winners, they are First Place for the highest score, Second Place for the second highest score, and Third Place for the third highest score. And don’t worry if you don’t meet that category, there is also a “horses ass” award for the lowest score. Several of us will be competing for this award. A special thanks to Mike Heffley, Jerry Garrabrant, Dick Steyers, Rick Petersen, Al Norman, Jim Conrad, Jim Weant, Jim Wolfe, and all the others who have made the horseshoe pits usable. And Bruce Tolle for working on the volleyball court. There will be several other activities for the whole family. Be sure to bring your whole family, your neighbors and your friends to this picnic. Bring a covered dish, dessert, or a basket ball. But whatever you bring be sure to bring yourself, it is mandatory.

August 8th is the first day of the Croton Fair. This year District 6, has asked us to participate with the VSO in assisting in a membership drive for our Post. We will be attending on two separate days, the 8th and the 13th. We have been asked to be there from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. That would be 2 members at two separate shifts. Please make time to assist in this event as building membership is an opportunity for all our members. The cost to enter the Fair is $7.00 per member, but is reimbursable by District.
August 10th is Veterans Day at the Newark Library.

August 13th is the Final day of the Hartford Fair. The booth time for our Post is 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Any interested member who would like to attend and serve our Post in this membership drive contact Preston Hale at 614-452-1894. This year to meet quota Post 254 must have 202 members.

August 17th is the Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State Banquet. This banquet is in honor to the 7 boys and 4 girls that Post 254 sponsored for BBS and BGS. The guest speaker will be Sean Staneart and entertainment will be by “Little Miss Firecracker”. Her performance is worth the visit. Donations will be accepted for the meal, but not necessary. The important thing to remember is that Post 254 sponsors these youth and it should be our duty to attend for support of what they have accomplished. We will be having a real meal.

August 18th through August 20th the Pataskala Street Fair will be needing Texas Hold-em Dealers. As Texas Hold-em was started by the efforts of West Licking Fire Department, it was with the understanding that using their equipment would be repaid by our participation in the street fair as dealers. If you are a dealer please sign up to this obligation. Contact Preston Hale at 614-452-1894. The hours needed are from 5 pm till. There are three tables that need to be filled. If shifts are needed Paul Wilkes will begin the call out.

August 20th is the Community Breakfast. Eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy to order. Enjoy the comfort of the Post with friends and relatives as you leave the cooking to us. Only a donation, but what a meal. They say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, an one the 20th, this meal is the most important one, so be there for this rare opportunity to not only have a great breakfast but also to enjoy our open house.

August 20th is the Post Open House. Sponsored by the MOPH (Members of the Purple Heart). The start time is at 1:00 pm, but set up will begin after breakfast. This year there are several guests and displays sure to catch your attention. Please come and visit your Post and meet and see some of the greatest displays available.

August 30th Joint Meeting. This is a special meeting for SAL and Auxiliary to share in the planning of future events. These events are for the last quarter of this year. Come with your ideas and itinerary to review and discuss. Some of the things to consider are as follows: DPR Classes, Bingo Nights, Football Games (both schools) Fall Festival, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

NEW MEMBERS

Post 254 has become one of the largest and most active Posts in District 6. As we are currently in our new membership year we have the opportunity to meet higher numbers than in years past. But to meet quota we also have to replace the members that have passed to the Post Everlasting. We at Post 254 know that serving our community and serving each other has many rewards. Come visit your Post, invite a friend and make a difference. At this time I would like you to welcome some of our new members; Andy Joseph, Kevin Hall, Dennis Damschroder.
August MEETING TIMES

Post 254 has general meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. For this month the meeting dates are as follows:
August 3, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee with Commander/Executive Meeting
August 9, 1930-2130hrs. General Meeting
August 10, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee /Commander/brief minutes
August 17, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee/breakfast
August 23, 1930-2130hrs. General Meeting
August 14, 0700-0900hrs. Coffee and Donuts
August 30th 1930-2130hrs. Joint Meeting

POST LIFE DIRECTORY

Reading books on history is sometimes enjoyed by many as they explore events that may have happened in the past, but what about the history in the making? You as members of Post 254 are part of both the history past, and the unwritten history in the making. Currently stories are told around the tables during meetings sometimes bringing laughter and other times telling of events that bring the past back to life. These stories and events should not fade as echoes in the room, but should be preserved as a moment in history, a moment in your life, a moment in the Life at the Post, a moment for the future. Each and every one of us have made history, we may not be recorded in published history books, but we can be preserved in the Post Life Directory. Post 254 is currently creating a membership directory. All current members of Post 254 are part of this directory and will contain your stories as a memorial to you and to the future members of the Post. Contact Preston Hale for more information @ prestonhale@embarqmail.com or call 614-452-1894. We look forward to reading your story.

This newsletter is produced electronically, If you would like your copy emailed to your computer, please email your address to the address listed below. If you would like to add any additional information to this letter, general information, birth announcements, future events, or any past story that you would like to share with the Post. Contact Preston Hale at prestonhale@embarqmail.com or call him at 614-452-1894