Welcome to Volume 1, No 3, 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.

May the month of expression, let us learn to take our opportunities to express the gift of motherhood, the gift of life, and the gift of sacrifice. Mother’s Day is May the 8th. For those of you who fold the flag, you may not know that each fold is symbolic. Although there are no official renderings of the flag as it is being folded, there is a popular script that is used by many. When folding the flag, there are things to say during each fold of the flag. When you get to the eighth fold, this is what is said: “The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother’s Day.”

Post Accomplishments

April 1st begin with Bingo returning to Friday nights after a short recess during the Easter Celebration. The Bingo games were suspended during Good Friday. On April 1st we had a total of 55 patrons that were playing Bingo, including one of our new members and his wife. Roger Ratliff from Pickerington, he enjoyed raking in the money as he yelled “Bingo” twice that night. It was good to see our Legion Members playing Bingo. If you haven’t been out to play yet, you are missing a real adventure for your Friday night.

On April 9th we hosted the Big Red Band Spaghetti Dinner. Members of the Big Red Band and boosters gathered along with many members of our Post to enjoy a heaping helping of our hospitality, not to mention the mountain of spaghetti. Although the snow may have been a deterrent for some to venture out, it did not slow down the kids who waited the tables. They did an excellent job. Thank you boosters and thank you all who ate to your heart’s content.
On April 12th the elections were held at the Post. The nominations that were submitted were voted on after regular meeting agenda was completed. It was a close race, although I did not get to count the votes, the outcome was as follows. Preston Hale was elected Commander, Bruce Tolle was elected First Vice and Tom Richardson was elected Second Vice. Let’s just hope that they do as good a job as the boots that they replaced. Although these newly elected officers have many hats to fill, let us remember to give them your support, and continue to support your community.

On April 14th the troops marched to Creno’s Pizza, for an all day pizza party. Pizza how you like them, stromboli’s, salads, and conversations were the order of the day. I was glad to see many of our members attend that day, even got to meet members of the post who have not attended meetings in years. This is your invitation to attend our Wednesday morning coffee and donuts and chat again with your fellow comrades. Who knows you may even want to go to our Wendy’s Burger Bash on May 5th. The totals for that event were very impressive. The winner of the drawing was William Robbins, I know he will be returning to Creno’s, he may even visit our Post in the near future. Good job Post 254, and thank you Creno’s for your support.

On April 23rd the Officer Training program was held at the Cardington Post. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn what other posts were doing, plans for where the District wants to be, and it gave us a check on our own pulse as an organization. There were many ideas brought to the table for the duties of the officers and for the planning of events. For us who attended it gave us an opportunity to discuss various potentials for future events at our posts. Ideas and opportunities are always open for discussions, please come to meetings and express your ideas and support for your post.

On April 26th the Post held its annual installation of the officers. Rick Petersen presented certificates to the many hard working members of the Post who had spent hundreds of hours volunteering their time which provided the success of the Post. That event was followed by the induction of the new officers, Jack Walsh presided over the ceremony. Paul Godfrey gave an excellent “Old Glory” presentation. The evening was followed by sandwiches, cake and ice cream. A special thanks to Jim and Sally Conrad for making all the sandwiches and Jim Wolf, who dipped all the ice cream, he even licked the spoon!

On April 29th the Bingo games continue. Summertime has its toll on Bingo players, but the faithful patrons play on. Door prizes, cash prizes and fun are always a winner at the drop of a ball. Come and play Bingo at the post before the closing season in May. Currently game sheets are $15.00 each packet (6 card spread, 18 game sheets) and the second packet is only $5.00. If you haven’t ever played before, come in the month of May and get hooked, before the fish start biting. You will have plenty of time to fish this summer.

On April 30th the JYAA begin. A detail of Post 254 was present to raise the flag and proudly support the community in this adventure. Thank you Comrades for your faithful duty.

Opportunities

May 1st is the District meeting in Newark, Ohio. Post 85 will be hosting the District Meeting. This year the district will be taking bids on the district picnic. Post 254 will be attending that event. We will keep you posted.
May 5th is Wendy’s Burger Bash. Don’t be bashful, come and eat to your heart’s content and support your Post. The Post will be providing the meet and greet times between 1700 hours (5pm) and 2000hrs. (8pm). You may find veterans from all branches of the service periodically during those hours. Come and eat, meet and have fun with your Post at Wendy’s. After all this is a FUN-RAISER.

May 6th is Bingo Night. The doors open at 1600hrs (4pm) and the patrons that arrive early enjoy early bird bingo. At 1800 hrs (6pm) regular Bingo begins, with the pot established by the number of patrons, with 18 games to play and many other opportunities to have fun, be sure to set aside time to support your Post on Bingo night. It is a fun night out, bring your mother this month and receive a special Bingo card.

May 8th is Mother’s Day. Please remember your mother on this day. Make it one for memories if she is with you, and bring the memories back if she is not. Fly the Flag on this day to celebrate your Mother, your God, and your country. Have a blessed Mother’s Day!

May 12th is the Red Cross Blood Drive. Come and give blood one more time. This is a community event. If you would like to assist in set up, or if you would rather just lay around and give blood, the opportunity is here. Invite a friend, or several. Let’s make this one the biggest ever. After all the world isn’t what it used to be. It still needs our help!

May 21st is our community breakfast. The breakfasts begin at 0800hrs (8am) and continue until 1000hrs (10am). Eggs to order, sausage, bacon, biscuits, pancakes, and it’s all how you like it, just for a donation. You can eat as much as you want for as much as you want! Be sure to arrive early cause I hear that some of our members are big eaters and we don’t want you to run out of food (hasn’t happened yet). I hope to see you there.

May 21st is The Texas Hold-em Tournament, try saying that three times fast!. This day will prove to be a special day of fun food and enjoyment. You can begin with the Post breakfast and watch the Post transform from a cafeteria to a tournament in just minutes. Registration begins at 1300hrs (1pm) and continues until 1500hrs (3pm) Tournament begins at 1530hrs (3:30pm) and continues until the last man is sitting (has all the chips). But don’t fear..you can purchase chips anytime during the tournament up to the 4th round. Put on your Jimmy poker face and come play!

May 26th is the last night of Bingo until winter. Due to the various activities that are summer related and the low turnout of patrons during the last few months, we will be giving this activity a much deserved break. This night we will be featuring several game extravaganzas which will make the evening fun and exciting. Come play the last game of the spring and enjoy the fun with your friends at the Post.
May 28th the Post will be hosting a CCW class. Although the class is limited in size (can only have 20 members at a time) the popularity of the event has caused the class to be filled with in days of announcement. It is only open to Post members. If you missed the opportunity to sign in, contact Paul Wilkes at 740-405-8743 to see when the next class will be given.

May 30th is Memorial Day and the Post is filled with activities. There are several events starting in the morning with the parades, speeches and memorials at the cemeteries. Lunch will be served at the Post for those participants. Afternoon events will consist of a rededication ceremony at the Wall of Honor by Past Commander Rick Petersen for the second panel. Now would be that perfect opportunity to honor a veteran by purchasing a brick in their name. Visit the Wall of Honor, pick up an application, or if you would like one mailed to you contact Preston Hale at 614-452-1894.

May 31st is the fifth Tuesday Joint Meeting at the Post. This meeting is open to the public. The arrival time is 1900hrs (7pm) and the program will begin at 1930hrs (7:30pm). This night the focus will be on Disaster Preparedness and Response. It will be the introductory overview for the series of classes that will be given this fall. Lori Dixon from the Licking County Community Emergency Response Team will be present to assist in questions and provide sign up information. The classes are scheduled to begin on September 15th 2016 and continue for the following 7 Thursday nights. The Post will be attempting to attain Disaster Certification from National, however it takes a minimum number to attain that approval for recognition. Please consider taking these classes, they benefit you first, your family second, and your community third, not to mention it benefits the country in these uncertain days.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Post 254 has become one of the largest and most active Posts in District 6. Currently our membership is now at 201. 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; Henry C. Hale Jr. Roger Ratliff, William Dumbauld.

**MAY 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:
- May 4, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee with Commander/Executive Meeting
- May 10, 1930-2100hrs. General Meeting;
- May 11, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee with Commander/brief minutes
- May 12, 1930-2100hrs. Legion Riders; Roy Wahlenmaier
- May 14, 0900-1030hrs. Activities Committee Meeting; Tom Richardson
- May 18, 0700-0900hrs. Donuts and Coffee with Commander/brief minutes
- May 24, 1930-2100hrs. General Meeting:
- May 25, 0700-0900hrs. Breakfast and Coffee with Commander/brief minutes
- May 31, 1930-2100hrs. 5th Tuesday Joint Meeting; Introduction to Post DPR
LEGION LIFELIGHT

This month the light is focused on the service of one of our Post Members who joined the air force in search of ET. Bruce Tolle. Bruce was born in Columbus Ohio in 1942, but by the time he was five years old, his family had moved to Tucson Arizona. In 1947, the Roswell incident had happened, leaving an impression and a new image of outer space. Bruce joined the Air Force after graduating high school in 1960. Seeking to find out the truth about what really happened at Roswell New Mexico. Bruce trained and was assigned to projects at Holoman Air Force Base in New Mexico. While in the Air Force he was in the Stargazer program. Research and development of high altitude balloons similar to what was alleged at Roswell, this was Bruce’s ultimate quest. On one occasion, while launching one of the large test balloons into the ionosphere, Captain Joe Kittinger had become the passenger. That flight of the balloon rose to an altitude of about 102,800 feet. Captain Joe Kittinger, made a historic jump that broke four records for high altitude jumping and reached a velocity of 614 mph, that record lasted over 50 years. Although Bruce will never give you a straight answer about what actually happened at hanger 51, his time in the Air Force proved to be historical. When you meet Bruce you might think that he is out of this world, but once you get to know him, you will find out that he may still be tethered to earth sometimes. Come meet and talk with Bruce for yourself, and read his story in The Post Life Directory.

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.
Post Life Directory BIO Page:

Date of Birth __________________________ Place of Birth __________________________

Interesting Childhood story or experience: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Date and reason for military entry: ____________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Branch and Unit of military __________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Interesting story during the your time in the military: _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Use additional paper for military stories or other experiences:

Additional Information: Summary of experiences after military; __________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Current family life: _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Children and grandchildren: _________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Time in the American Legion: _______________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Offices held: _________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Your information will be edited and historical data may be entered for events that happened during or near the experiences that you list. All written information will be sent to you for further review prior to placing your story in the American Legion Post 254 POST LIFE DIRECTORY. Thank you for submitting this information to us. This is your Post and your story. If you have already submitted please disregard. Mail story to:

Preston Hale
2391 Hardscrabble Road
Alexandria, Ohio 43001

You will be bugged until we have the directory completed. This should be a fun and exciting way to preserve your story for our future.