

E-News

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The Century Division E-News

The E-News is published monthly to bring timely information about the activities of the 100th Infantry Division Association to its members and friends. This national Association has annual reunions, battle sites tours, regional chapters, a hardcopy 60-page Newsletter sent three times a year, and a website: www.100thww2.org.

Send news to Tom Bourne, Editor at tombourne@verizon.net

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Editorial

Two things to start thinking about in 2009:

We meet for the 62nd time--and for the third time in Louisville, Kentucky--for our annual convention September 24-27, 2009. Start making your plans now, and be there!

Hank Williams, 399-AT, Vice President Systems, has asked us to warn you that 2009 dues for the 100th Infantry Division Association are now overdue. If you have not paid Hank \$25.00 (or more) earmarked for 2009 dues, do so now! That's the only way you can continue to receive our excellent print Newsletter that comes out three times a year. As always, if \$25.00 is too much, any even dollar amount will do; we just need to hear from you, or you will be dropped from the mailing list. Check your Newsletter mailing label to see if you are delinquent. Don't miss out!

From Our 2009 President

I am immeasurably pleased that everybody is carrying on their responsibilities as always. Not suprised, but still pleased and thankful.

I should mention that Roger Witt, 398-H, has resigned from the Board. He says that he was just not thinking about his local commitments when he accepted the Board position. Recruiting is tough.

The only committee change is that Tom Bourne, 399-G, has graciously stepped down as chair of the Future of the Association Committee. Lord knows he has a full plate without that. Dick Good, 398-H, has

agreed to accept that chairmanship. Jack Stults, 399-F, will join that Committee, and Tom will still be a member.

I am hopeful that all other officer and committee chairs and members will carry on as they have been so effectively.

John Plamp, 398-M, President 2009

Finances

Treasurer Bob Fair, 399-D, reports that financially the Association had a good year in 2008 and expects another good one in 2009. Interestingly enough, dues income in 2008 stayed about the same as in 2007 and was over budget. The Jack Albaugh/Lou Witt Raffle was most successful; we collected over \$2,400 in royalties. Expenses were down except for the website and digitization project at the Marshall Museum and Library. All in all 2008 was a break-even with income and expenses of about \$63,000. Included in our expenses was a \$5,000 investment in our endowment for the two scholarships we give to enlisted personnel at Ft. Jackson. Those scholarships of \$1,000 each were not endowed, but they are now, so they will continue long into the future. We made a second contribution of over \$5,000 from the Memorial Fund to the Fayetteville Technical Community College Private Roland Giduz 100th Infantry Division Scholarship Fund. This fund and the school are dear to Roland's heart and the Board felt we needed to support it.

Our budgets for 2009 are being reviewed. We expect a 10-15% drop in dues, which should result in a slight loss of perhaps \$3,000 for the year. We are optimistic that attendance at the Louisville Reunion may exceed, or at worst be only slightly below, what it was in Raleigh this past year.

G.E.B.S.O.B.

Roland Giduz, 399-C, who, among many other things, has been our Grand Exalted Biggest Son of Bitche for many years, has announced that for health reasons he feels it necessary to step down from that honored post. He feels that the incumbency gives him the right and duty to name a successor and has done so. The new Grand Exalted Biggest S.O.B., effective January 1, 2009, is Tom Bourne. (I will step out of my editor's shoes to say that I accept this true honor with both humility and gratitude, undeserved as I feel it is. My main feeling in this is deep regret that Roland can no longer fill the obligations of the position. I'll do the best I can.) Please send all future requests for S.O.B. cards to Tom Bourne, at the address in the Newsletter or the e-mail address shown above.

Statistics

For some reason, statistics seem to fascinate us. We hope you share this, if only a bit, for Hank Williams has come up with some relating to our status and condition at the end of 2008, and we share them with you here. His report is dated 12/26/08. On that date records were in his files of 12,172 former soldiers of the wartime 100th Division. Estimates have been made that perhaps about 19,000 passed through the ranks between 1941 and 1946, so that number is quite impressive at this late date. Not all those we have records of have been members of the 100th Infantry Division Association; many were traced or learned about after their deaths in the intervening years. The Association had 1,166 active (that is, dues-paying) members at the end of 2007, and there are 1,085 now. Most of the difference comes from TAPS notices, though there are always some who request being removed from the rolls, usually as the result of declining health. We are currently printing 1,402 Newsletters each edition to send to paid up members. Besides our veterans, these include: 93 Widows (of 189 known), 116 Progeny (of 257); 6 other Kin, (of 16); and 13 Friends (of 71).

Pickle Packing

A message from the Association of the Century:

Folks, one last "Pickle Packing" email before we all turn our attention the holiday rush. On Tuesday evening over 25 AOC and Division volunteers gathered at the Division HQ to pack the final "Pickle Packing" for 2008. It was a heck of a night -- we wrote, we stuffed, we boxed and we had a good time. We wrote at least one personal greeting of encouragement and support for the holidays to each of our 100th Division soldiers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, then we stuffed a 300-minute phone card and a \$25.00 PX gift card into a large greeting card for everyone, then filled a box with food, candy, and personal hygiene items plus the phone and PX card for those who arrived in country since our Thanksgiving boxes were shipped. From the Christmas holiday packing we mailed 38 cards/notes and 10 boxes. All this was done only through the help of all of you who lent a hand either by being there Tuesday evening or by your financial support which was overwhelming -- over \$2,000.00 was put into the Pickle Jar on Tuesday evening either by those present or by those who sent a check in the mail. Your generosity is humbling and continues to demonstrate the continued patriotism and willingness to serve within our ranks. Thank you on behalf of all the soldiers that will receive our package or cards. I know that they would wish all who helped a Merry Christmas and the Best of 2009. Let's continue to keep them and their families in our prayers.

Thanks to all! John Tindall & Rick Talbott

100th Division Private Roland Giduz Endowment Fund

At the end of 2008 this scholarship fund at the Fayetteville Technical Community College was still inching ever closer to our goal of \$50,000.00. Thanks to contributions during the month totaling \$250.00, on December 31, 2008 the Fund had reached the level of \$34,055.87. The contributors were: Richard Drury, 397-E; Samuel Errera, 399-E, in memory of Ralph I. Allen, 397-G; and William Dirk Warren, 398-K.

The photo below depicts one of the highlights of our visit to Fort Bragg and the FTCC during our Raleigh Reunion in September.



FRANK EVERETT, 397-D, AND PRESIDENT BOB FAIR LAY OUR MEMORIAL WREATH ON OUR MONUMENT AT FORT BRAGG, SEPTEMBER 2008

Tom Bourne photo

S.O.B DVD

Marilyn LeVine has a limited supply of the DVD "Sons of Bitche," written and produced by Robyn LeVine, which was featured at the last 100th Infantry Division Association meeting in Raleigh. Over 100 DVDs have been sold, with the profits going to the 100th's Progeny group. They are available at \$12 each, including postage, and a check can be mailed to Marilyn LeVine, 1900 Park St., N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

VMI has plans for the George C. Marshall Foundation to include the DVD in the 100th Infantry Division materials in the Marshall Library archives.