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LEGION NOTES

An excellent idea was brought to the attention of the meeting by Earl Wilcox, regarding starting a monthly draw for a cash prize, to be given to the lucky winner of the draw if in attendance at a meeting when his number is drawn. The idea is hoped to boost attendance considerably as well as stimulate interest in the membership drive.

Members, attention! From now on until the end of the year we un-

derstand that new members will have the use of the rooms free, and their applications will only take effect from the first of January. As zone commander, we are supposed to have the interest of provincial command very much at heart. . . . therefore we cannot very well publicly come out in support of an idea that will cost them revenue, but we do feel that it is a very sensible idea from the branch standpoint, as prospective members can join now and yet not have to pay anything for the balance of 1956. It should stimulate the drive for new members, which incidentally, is really rolling, with members really cooperating. Just last Thursday night another dozen or so were accepted. And we think that only the surface has been touched. We know for a fact of at least a half dozen professional men who will join, but it's just been a case of being too busy to bother, so, as in the case of one of our local lawyers, who told us: "look, I'm awfully busy right now, probably never will get around to going over and picking up those forms, so drop them in to me, I'll fill 'em out, pay you and then I'll be on your mailing list and will receive notice of what's going on, and will give you all the support I can!" We think this case can be duplicated in a dozen offices in town, so don't hesitate if you know a fairly busy man, who has shown interest, drop around and sign him up. He will appreciate it and do something he's been meaning to do for years! . . . namely, join the Legion.

Personally, we're proud to be a member of a group that does the work that our Legion does. And we do believe that a great service is being done inasmuch as that now each member receives a copy of it, and knows just what the Legion is accomplishing in social welfare, educational and our many other services. You know, still speaking of the aforementioned local lawyer, not so long ago, we happened to be in his company, and we were asked that question that is put on us increasingly now . . . "now, never mind the build-up, just tell me a few FACTS about the Legion, some of the things it accomplishes and a few of the reasons I should join." Well, after giving him a solid fifteen minutes of good reasons, ably supported by the third in the group, John T., our mayor, (who, incidentally is getting to be more conversant on Legion policies and programs than we are) the questioner said, "Okay, I'm sold. But I had no idea just what you people did, or your aims and objects."

And there lies the sad story of why it is only in recent years that the general public have become even slightly aware of our aims and our objects. A fact that is an unfortunate one, but quite understandable. The Legion, originally came out of the debris of World War II, when some 26 vets organizations in this country banded together to give unity and strength to what they considered their very urgent and necessary needs re veteran legislation. The group was to be non-political, embracing all schools of political thought, and was only used as a base to press for veteran legislation from all governments. We all know how well it succeeded for today we have a cabinet minister dealing with veterans affairs . . . and on the whole the Legion has been very successful in what they have asked for. Each year they present a brief to the Cabinet and meet with the Cabinet minister and his senior ministers to discuss their proposals. So successful have these annual meetings become, that this year they asked for only minor pension concessions, although urging very strongly that selective service be introduced. This in view of the fact that in event of war, it is the considered opinion of Legion officers, that a comparatively small period of military training in the formative years, would prepare a youth in the event of a war, and would so equip him with knowledge of modern warfare, that he would be better able to survive in combat, and would avoid the needless slaughter experienced by troops in the past who had little or no training. This is the Legion's only reason for pressing for national service. No one knows better than the man who engaged in war, the horrors of it, and no one wishes a repetition of it less. But they do believe, and are expressing through our Legion leaders, the very urgent and very necessary need to be ready for all emergencies.

A very excellent Poppy report was given by the chairman, Mrs. T. F. Grieve and was met with sustained applause by the meeting. As each year passes, that particular job becomes bigger, and we often find ourselves wondering how it is accomplished with so little help. — It was decided to investigate the possibilities of entering a float for the Christmas Santa Claus parade and members seemed to feel that it was a wonderful idea.

We really heard some beautiful rumours in connection with the reason for the urgent and mysterious bulletin sent out for the meeting. But we think the best batch of rumours were told us by Chubby Stapleton, who heard them at S&S. The wildest, and to us the most humorous, was that a will was to be read . . . another one which was just about as fantastic in our opinion (knowing those two watchdogs of the treasury the president and

treasurer, as we do) was that each member was coming down to register for a free turkey. Hah, hah. We can just see our executive pulling a deal like that. Of course, Lorne Cross, (old spoilsport) said the whole thing was just a gimmick to get the members out! Lorne, incidentally brought up a real good point about the hat regulations. It is most embarrassing to have a companion shouted at because of leaving his headgear on, and we pass on the executive's request to use a little common sense on this matter. The steward or sergeant at arms are quite capable of handling it.

Christmas tickets are going well and we hope to see Charlie go over the top with his sales this year. In incidentally, he is out of books, so anyone who can't seem to get rid of their, please return them to him immediately for redistribution. All tickets are wanted in by December 8th, sold or unsold, at the latest.

Local nomination meeting for town council is Thursday night . . . the council is already composed of about 80 per cent Legion members, so we can't exactly complain of no veteran representation. Incidentally, we would like to go on record as that we feel the 1956 council has been one of the most cooperative in Legion affairs that it's been our pleasure to deal with. But then we've always been fortunate, in that Georgetown councils invariably are.

We forgot to mention in our column of two weeks ago, that five more members received their 25 year pins at the Remembrance Supper. Sorry, chaps. They are: Perc Clark, Wallace Thompson, Walt Louth, Charlie Parton, and Mike McGill. We were awfully sorry that they didn't turn out as we would have run it in this column, and tried to have had it placed in the Legionary.

Heard a certain dart room crowd of Henry's ask him how he could get ribbons like Henry's. Replies Henry, "go out and join the army young fella!" Fred explained he couldn't, they disbanded the cavalry after the first war!

Buy him a bicycle. How this year has gone, and we will wager that it's been probably the most successful, happiest and prosperous of any ever known by Branch 120. The financial report will bear that out, too we think. In fact looking back over the past two years, we think the Legion has accomplished more than in any comparable period in its history. We have only to point to, air conditioning, redecorating, new ladies wash rooms and last but not least that \$3,000 facelift in the television room. It has been a wonderful, prosperous time for us all, and we should be very thankful for it, and also for the fine job that our elected executive has done.

We were quite surprised to find that Bob Hedley a fairly new member of the branch, is a son in law of Art Hornsby of Brampton, past president there and past zone commander. Art and his wife, who is active in the Brampton Legion WA, have always been keenly interested in Legion work not only in his own branch but in the entire zone.

Remember, comrades! Bring in a member as soon as possible and get a chance on that new car. The campaign is going well, we hope to very soon circularize the newcomers to town, and we want every one to lend a hand. Why Chubby tells us that even friend John has got one. Seems somebody told him about the new car draw, so he's started taking driving lessons.

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