

VFW Center Township Post 6158

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Post 383



Pot Shot

January & February 2012

VFW Post Housing Committee Meeting: 6 P.M., 1st Tuesday each month

Post and Auxiliary General Meeting: 7 P.M., 2nd Tuesday of each month

American Legion Executive Committee Meeting: 7 P.M., 3rd Tuesday each month

General Membership Meeting: 7 P.M., 4th Tuesday of each month

Membership Notice! Officers and Annual Members

By the time you read this it will already be TOO LATE for some of you. If your VFW membership has lapsed and you are an elected or appointed officer, you have until the first General Membership Meeting of 2012 to reinstate. If you do not do so, there is no option but to declare your position vacant. For all members who may have allowed their membership to expire, the reinstatement cost is \$33, plus you will need to complete an application and include a copy of your DD Form 214. We need to keep our post membership renewals at 100%. Please don't delay!

Challenge for a \$Buck\$

As your Membership Chairman, it's likely you'll find me a bit of a challenge. I will probably show you TWO blank membership applications and challenge you to show me just one. Don't have one on your person? Oh well, I'll sell you my extra one for a buck. Of course the dollar will go into the nearest money container—the umbrella over the canteen bar or the nearest Buddy Poppy can.

Of course, fair is fair. If you have a blank application on your person, I'll give you a buck to put it in the nearest post receptacle. And don't be surprised if the *Officer of the Day* at our meetings makes the same challenge to you or to other comrades in the canteen or at another meeting. Be ready for us, comrades!

Dominick Damore
Membership Chair

Website News Flash!

If you have news that needs to get onto the Post website, call Bill Heilmann at 802-5271 or e-mail your information to: wbheilmann@gmail.com.

Your Post Entertainment Team

Your Entertainment Team would like to thank all of you who participated in our events this year. Without your hard work, these events would not have been successful.

We have plans for many more events in 2012. We hope that you continue to enjoy our events and if you have any ideas or suggestions, please let one of us know. Again, we are: Dave Mount, KJ Dave Perez, Teresa McMahan, Irene Sidhu and Deana Dyer. We would greatly appreciate anyone who would like to volunteer to assist us.

We would also like to thank the following who have graciously donated to our events:

Frank Shear Artistry
Jim Blom's Barber Shop
My Flower Shop
Riebes Auto Parts
Lupita's Mexican Restaurant
China Kitchen
The Cutting Station, John
The Cutting Station, Bud
Orangevale Meat Shoppe
L&M Liquors
Ray Guthrie
Rachel Guthrie
Annie's Breakfast & Steaks
Wendy's Studio located in Sola Salons
Raley's

And finally, we would like to give a great big THANK YOU to Ray Sidhu for all of his efforts this past year. Ray has pulled our group together and has guided us through our first year. He has decided to take a break and leave all the fun up to us.

We meet every other Sunday at 1 PM in the Post's game room. Due to New Year's, our first meeting of 2012 will be held January 8, with a follow-up meeting January 15. Meetings will then resume every other Sunday. Come out and share your ideas!

Sweethearts Dinner and Dance February 11th

We'll be serving Chicken Cordon Bleu, followed by music. Check the Post for additional details. Continue to check in for special events throughout the year.

A Special Thank You

The Commander and his officers want to give a special thank you to all those who have been so generous with their time and gifts:

- Uncle Bob and Jan for their donation of the beautiful table and chairs for our enclosed patio
- What can we say about our hardest working volunteer, Concrete Louie: working with Sheriff's Work Project in our Memorial Park; helping the Ladies during the Rummage Sale; installing chair casters & indoor patio fan; preparing for our next Golf Tournaments & Merchant Marine Monument with our Boy Scout Eagle Project next year; etc.
- Our Ladies Auxiliary for the Small Hall table cloths
- Our American Legion comrades for the kitchen painting
- To those generous folks who provided us with our new tables, chairs and a copier
- Karen who worked so hard finding the toys donated by Dollar Tree and her tireless efforts with the Entertainment Committee and our non-existent Youth Activities Committee since her return from "harm's way"
- Mrs. Dave Perez for her graphics designing of our Post brochures and the placards for our entertainment events
- George Gatt and Bob for donating and installing our plastic windows for the indoor patio
- Robin and George Gatt for our new patio heater
- Our Ladies Auxiliary for their financial and tireless efforts throughout the year(s) especially in providing meals for funerals, etc.
- Ray for all the road help and materials
- To Connor from BSA Troop 314 for his Eagle Scout Shed Project
- **And to all those who have worked so hard reviving our Post and to those we may have forgotten to mention here. Please know our gratitude is always there for all you have done and for what you continue to do. You will always be appreciated.**

Rebuilding Sacramento

Comrades, I want to bring to your attention a very worthwhile Sacramento-based organization with programs designed to help us stay safe in our homes. *Rebuilding Together* is a local nonprofit organization that has worked collaboratively with community organizations and volunteers throughout the Sacramento area since 1991. Their goals are to preserve affordable housing, increase homeowner independence and lower energy consumption.

The group's mission is accomplished through home repairs and modifications that create safe, healthy and efficient homes for those they serve. Senior citizens, single parents, grandparents raising grandkids, disabled, families with children, Veterans, children caring for ailing parents, and those of us who are sick or in poor health are the beneficiaries of *Rebuilding Together* programs. You can find out more about how you may be eligible for services from this group by visiting their web site at www.rebuildingtogethersacramento.org or by calling them at (916) 455-1880.

Rebuilding Grant

Recently your Post Officers met with representatives of *Rebuilding Together*, and we discussed a possible grant that involves a cash donation from Home Depot and matching funds from other contributors.

If the Post is selected, a number of maintenance and improvement projects will be completed at the Post by *Rebuilding Together* volunteers. We of course will be helping as well.

The improvements will be carried out on the Martin Luther King holiday, so if we are successful you can expect 50 or more volunteers working at the Post on that day. The Post improvements that the Officers proposed for inclusion in the grant were those that the membership proposed to the House Committee.

The above two articles were provided by
Ted Raub
Chair, House Committee
Sr. Vice Commander

American Legion Post 383

From the Commander's Log:

Part 2, *The American Legion Riders*

(Continued from last month)

Where We are Today

As the membership of the American Legion Riders is a very diverse group, so are the programs that they are involved in. By allowing each American Legion Rider Chapter to give its members the ability to manage their program at the Post level, the overall program has been allowed to grow. Today Legion Rider programs exist in several states, with many more starting. The types of things that these groups are doing are far too many to mention in this article, but here are a few examples:

1. Participation in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder"

2. Sponsoring or participating in local charity events

3. Raising money for such organizations as local VA hospitals, battered women and children's centers, varied children and youth programs, a school for blind children, veterans' relief, needy families and many others

4. Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle "Runs" to benefit numerous charities, including charities for underprivileged children and medical research, just to name a few

5. Participation in memorial ceremonies and community parades

6. One group is spearheading an effort to erect a "Veterans Memorial Park" in the center of their Downtown area.

The recognition by local communities has marked the program as a true success. The American Legion Riders Group in Michigan was even honored by the local city council, when the council drafted a resolution declaring the American Legion Riders a valuable asset to the community. Motorcyclists can be a very dedicated group of people. When you combine this with the fact that they are legionnaires, you create a win/win situation.

Who benefits from forming an American Legion Riders Group? We all do! Many of the groups in existence today have stories about some of their Post members being a little reluctant to let a group of "bikers" into their Post. After seeing what these groups

were doing for the American Legion their opinion soon changed. Not only did the Post welcome them, but in most cases Post members did what they could to help support their efforts by participating in some of the group's fundraising events.

There are also many stories where the American Legion Riders group worked in conjunction with the Post to sponsor programs. The Post was glad to have their help and the Riders were honored to be asked. We were able to break down some barriers. Just because one person wears a leather motorcycle jacket and another wears a golf shirt and slacks, we now know that we can work together to promote the aims and purposes of the American Legion. We have done it and everyone involved was able to see the benefit.

The American Legion Riders was never intended to be a "Motorcycle Club." As stated, it is to be able to work with the local Post to assist in promoting the American Legion.

Membership, membership, membership! Literally every Post program of the American Legion Riders has brought in members that may not have joined the American Legion were it not for the Riders program. The Riders program has been able to spark a new interest to join the American Legion. Some of these members who joined for the Legion Rider program have gone on to serve as officers within their Post. Conversely, we have also had Post members go out and purchase motorcycles just to join the Riders.

One Post that recently started an American Legion Riders group advertised its first meeting. They expected only six or seven prospective members to show up. When the meeting began, they had 17 people wanting to join, nine of whom were joining the American Legion that night so that they could become members of the Legion Riders. Have you had a program that has brought in that many new members in one night, lately? Pure enjoyment!

The program was designed for people to work together and enjoy themselves. It may be a group of Riders working on a fundraiser for a local charity; it may be just a warm summer evening ride together or maybe just sitting at the Post sharing stories. It's all about members working together and playing together—it is there for them to enjoy.

I hope you enjoyed the history of the American Legion Riders. Our American Legion Riders have

(continued on page 5)

From the Commander's Log

(continued from page 4)

become a wonderful asset to our post. Take the time to talk with them and ask questions. You will find that our riders are family oriented with careers and skill sets that range from Medical to Mechanical. All are a light-hearted, fun-loving veterans, and their families are strongly rooted in patriotism with a great desire to support and give back to those who gave. Post 383 has an open invitation to motorcycle enthusiasts to come take a ride with us on one of our monthly outings.

To be a member of the American Legion Riders you need to be a member in good standing with the American Legion, A.L. Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding with our group or any other ALR group please feel free to contact our 1st. Vice Commander and ALR President Ben LaPolla (916) 718-6856.

As always, when you walk out the door remember who you are and what you represent.

Ron Stadtman, Cmdr.

Belated Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessing

Editor's Note: A submission by Everette Smithburg was forwarded to *Pot Shot* by Auxiliary Chaplain Hazel Moses. There was not enough space in this issue of *Pot Shot* to reprint the entire article. It was clipped from a publication and explained that "Advent" (as related to Christ's coming) and "adventure" were related words.

The article included the following from Ephesians 5:19-20:

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like a copy of the article, please contact the Pot Shot editor. See bottom of Page 8 for contact information.

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Student Competitions

Each year the Post participates in the **Patriot's Pen** and **Voice of Democracy** competitions. The programs are designed to encourage middle and high school students to write about patriotism. The VFW national office selects a different theme annually for each program.

This year's Voice of Democracy theme: *Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?* The theme chosen for the middle school Patriot's Pen student essays: *Are You Proud of Your Country?*

The Post's program chair, Ken McKowen, contacted local public and private middle and high schools, corresponded via telephone and e-mail with numerous teachers and was requested and gave personal presentations to several English classes at Andrew Carnegie Middle School and Casa Roble Fundamental High School.

A stack of submissions came into the Post near the deadline, and while every essay was pertinent to this year's chosen themes, only two of the best could be forwarded to the District competition. Those were written by 8th graders Brook Eberle and Yuliya Fedorova, both from Andrew Carnegie Middle School.

District officials requested five "runner-up" essays also be submitted. Those selected were written by Ethan Herr, Hannah Bow, Joanne Chung, Melissa Paul and Keegan Kim.

Only one Voice of Democracy entry was submitted and forwarded to District: It came from Casa Roble Fundamental High School freshman Anne Cooper. Unlike the middle schools' Patriot's Pen entries, all VOD entries must include a CD of the student reading his or her essay.

Auxiliary Chaplain's Message

I hope you have had a very Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year.

Let's all remember to pray for each other; our veterans and their families; our country and the world situation.

*Hazel Moses
Chaplain*

January 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|-----|--|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 New Years Day  | 2 | 3 6:00 PM VFW House Committee Game Room 2:00PM | 4 | 5 6:00 PM Steak or Shrimp Karaoke | 6 Game Room 2:00PM | 7 |
| 8 | 9 6:00 PM Chicken Fried Steak | 10 7:00 PM VFW/Auxiliary Meetings Game Room 2:00PM | 11 | 12 6:00 PM Ribs or Shrimp Karaoke | 13 Game Room 2:00PM | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Martin Luther King, Jr Day 6:00 PM Clam Chowder | 17 7:00 PM American Legion Board Meeting Game Room 2:00PM | 18 | 19 6:00 PM French Dips Karaoke | 20 Game Room 2:00PM | 21 |
| 22 | 23 6:00 PM Meat Loaf | 24 7:00 PM American Legion Post 383 Meeting Game Room 2:00PM | 25 | 26 6:00 PM Seafood Alfredo Karaoke | 27 Game Room 2:00PM | 28 |
| 29 | 30 6:00 PM BBQ Pork | 31 Game Room 2:00PM | | | | |

February 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | 6:00 PM Steak or Shrimp <i>Karaoke</i> | Game Room 2:00PM | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | 6:00 PM Chicken Fried Steak | 6:00 PM VFW House Committee Game Room 2:00PM | | 6:00 PM Ribs or Shrimp <i>Karaoke</i> | Game Room 2:00PM | VFW |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Lincoln's Birthday  <i>Lincoln</i> | 6:00 PM Macaroni & Cheese with Kielbasa | 7:00 PM VFW/Auxiliary Meetings  Game Room 2:00PM | POT SHOT ARTICLES DUE! | 6:00 PM Pork Chops <i>Karaoke</i> | Game Room 2:00PM | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | 6:00 PM Salisbury steak Presidents' Day  | 7:00 PM American Legion Board Meeting Game Room 2:00PM | | 6:00 PM BBQ Chicken <i>Karaoke</i> | Game Room 2:00PM | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |
| | 6:00 PM Spaghetti | 7:00 PM American Legion Post 383 Meeting Game Room 2:00PM | | | | |

Calendar Subject to Change

Post Roster

VFW Post Officers

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Commander | Alex Briones | 716-6024 |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Ted Rauh | 261-8011 |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Dominick Damore | 726-9462 |
| Adjutant | Dominick Damore | 726-9462 |
| Quartermaster | William Farris | 361-9141 |
| Chaplain | Don Colbert | 729-2034 |
| Judge Advocate | William Puthuff | 967-7466 |
| Surgeon | John Williams | 965-1090 |
| 1st Year Trustee | Nate Hunter | 961-0829 |
| 2nd Year Trustee | Steven Linares | 334-1270 |
| 3rd Year Trustee | Tom Anthony | 849-2239 |
| Service Officer | James Russell | 988-0703 |
| Officer of the Day | Bill Heilmann | 802-5271 |
| Guard | John Benefeito | 541-9163 |

Post Standing Committees

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| House Committee | Ted Rauh | 261-8011 |
| 1 Year House Member | Bill Heilmann | 802-5271 |
| 2 Year House Member | Charles Barr | 944-4490 |
| 3 Year house Member | Dave Perez | 412-8970 |
| Community Activities | Charles Barr | 944-4490 |
| Membership | Dominick Damore | 726-9462 |
| Buddy Poppy | Jerry Mason | 989-1378 |
| Publicity | Ken McKowen | 217-2143 |
| Website | Bill Heilmann | 802-5271 |
| Americanism, VOD | Ken McKowen | 217-2143 |
| Relief | Don Colbert | 729-2034 |
| Safety | John Williams | 965-7112 |
| Ways & Means | --- | |
| Entertainment | David Perez | 412-8970 |
| Memorial Park | Jerry Mason | 989-1378 |
| Club Manager | Don Williams | 966-1663 |

American Legion Post 383

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Commander | Ron Stadtman | 390-6785 |
| 1st Vice Commander | Ben LaPolla | 718-6856 |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Bob Rudge | 987-0609 |
| Adjutant | Bill Heilmann | 802-5271 |
| Finance Officer | Jacqui Daley | 489-3132 |
| Judge Advocate | Jerry Kennedy | 530-305-1178 |
| Chaplain | Bill Nagel | 988-2512 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Virgi Bondi | 780-0860 |

EDITOR'S NOTE

In order for the Post to save money and paper—while providing more Post news—please save this page for reference. Future editions of *Pot Shot* **may not** include this page when few or no personnel changes are made.

Ladies Auxiliary Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|
| President | Cherie Valentino | 723-6644 |
| Sr. Vice President | Deana Dyer | 501-9583 |
| Jr. Vice President | Teresa McMahon | 768-0669 |
| Treasurer | Shirley Hainline | 988-4815 |
| Secretary | Launay Evans | 966-5648 |
| Chaplain | Hazel Moses | 967-3720 |
| Conductress | Connie Clement | 723-5950 |
| Patriotic Instructor | Robin Vickery-Gatt | 838-1787 |
| 1st Year Trustee | Deana Dyer | 501-9583 |
| 2nd Year Trustee | Teresa McMahon | 768-0669 |
| 3rd Year Trustee | Robin Vickery-Gatt | 838-1787 |
| Guard | Jean Kelly | 988-1876 |

Ladies Auxiliary Committees

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Vet. Family & Support | Hazel Moses | 967-3720 |
| Americanism | Deana Dyer | 501-9583 |
| Cancer Aid & Research | Shirley Hainline | 988-4815 |
| Community Service | Jean Kelly | 988-1876 |
| Hospital | Jean Kelly | 988-1876 |
| National Home | Shirley Hainline | 988-4815 |
| Legislative | Dorothy Kilgore | 988-2054 |
| Historian | Deana Dyer | 501-9583 |
| Ways & Means | Laverne McClendon | 961-5266 |

REMEMBER

The most recently updated roster information is available on the Post website www.VFW6158.org or call the Post at 916-966-1663.

Regarding Article Length

Pot Shot must limit its number of pages each issue in order to stay within its printing and postage budget. Therefore, please keep your articles short—200 words or fewer is better. Long articles will be “reduced” if there are too many articles submitted for one issue of *Pot Shot*.

Pot Shot Deadline

Please e-mail your news articles (and photos) to KenMcKowen@gmail.com by February 15th for the March-April issue. No e-mail? Leave your articles at the Post; there is a *Pot Shot* Envelope behind the bar. Or mail it directly to Ken McKowen, *Pot Shot* Editor, PO Box 607, Orangevale, CA 95662.