



# VFW 10555 GREAT AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Emerald Coast Post 10555  
17680 Ashley Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL  
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www.vfwpost10555.com

Hours of Operation  
12 Noon to 9 PM  
7 DAYS A WEEK

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### Don Buchanan, Commander

- Wally Stacy, Senior Vice Commander
- Ray Seale, Junior Vice Commander
- Ken Waringa, Adjutant
- Ken Waringa, Quartermaster
- Meyrle Pepler, Judge Advocate
- Tom Welch, Chaplain
- Dick Myers, Surgeon
- Rob Smith, Trustee 3 yr.
- Ken Gregory, Trustee 2yr.
- Fred Niederberger, Trustee 1yr.
- Dale Kiel, Service Officer
- Ray Seale, Membership Chairman
- Jim Foreman, House Committee Chairman



## COMMANDER'S CALL



Well, 2010 is coming to an end. I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday and my best wishes go out to all for the New Year.

We have several events scheduled for the month, so please come on out and partake.

Many of our friends from the North are back and it's great to see them. I know they have Big Al on Wednesday's and we are working out the schedule for the rest of the winter months. I hope we get a big showing for all. We have discontinued karaoke on Saturdays due to the lack of participation. We spend a lot of time and money on entertainment and we have not gotten the participation I would like. So if anyone has any new ideas to entice new members and keep the ones we have interested, please get with me or another of the officers of the Post.

We are at 74% on membership. We need to improve upon this in a big way. I wanted to be at 90% by the end of the month. We fell short of that, but we can make it up this month. The goal is to be at 106% by February for the Post to be a shoo-in for All State. A reminder that all Active Duty military members dues are free for the first year. I request all members do what you can to promote the VFW and our Post.

We also need folks to help at the Airport Welcome Center. I will be getting a schedule from the volunteer coordinator and will post it on the Post bulletin board for sign up. We have another trip to the Lake City Veterans Home scheduled for the 4th of December. We need more members to step up and help support this cause. It requires an overnight stay, but it is truly worth it. Any persons interested can get hold of me. We don't want to stop going, but unfortunately it's the same folks participating each time. A heartfelt thanks to Tom, Carol, June and Jenny and any others who have supported this cause throughout the years.

See you at the meeting. Hopefully I will see you before then!

Don



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## Quartermaster Corner — Ken Waringa

Greetings! The holidays are on us already - this year has absolutely flown by. I hope everyone has had a great Thanksgiving.

By the time you get this newsletter, we should have a new pull-tab machine in the Post. I've been trying to use the newsletter to get word out about decisions made at the monthly meeting that affect everyone, but I was out of town for this month's meeting. When I get back in town and get the minutes typed up, I'll post any updates on our web site: [www.vfwpost10555.com](http://www.vfwpost10555.com). You can also check the web site for updates to the calendar that occur during the month.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season. See you around the Post!

Ken



## Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

The holidays are already here along with this cold weather. Our Northern members are starting to come into the Post. What a joy to see our friends again!

December 11th will be our Christmas Party at the Post. The Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries are providing a keg of beer for the party. The VFW is providing the music and the snacks. We ask everyone attending the Christmas Party to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or give a \$5.00 donation for the same. During these hard times, you can only imagine how many kids may not have a Christmas. Come out and have a great time and make a differ-

ence in some kid's Christmas.

The LAVFW along with the VFW is putting on the New Years Eve Party. It'll be great fun and we hope to see everyone there.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year with many blessings. See you around the Post.

Jenny Freeman



## Men's Auxiliary Memo - Bill McGrath, President

Last month I mentioned the national vote against the recognition of the Men's Auxiliaries. That is, the refusal of the VFW to provide to the Men the same recognition currently enjoyed by our Ladies Auxiliaries. Currently, we are a VFW organization that reports to the local Post and only the local Post. Nevertheless, we must follow national directives on membership, procedures and basically all the processes the Ladies Auxiliaries also follow with few exceptions. While the ladies sit side by side with the VFW members at district and state meetings and events, the new are excluded. There is something inherently wrong and unfair when a national organization turns its back on one gender based organization over another. That got your attention, didn't it!! I am not criticizing our wonderful Ladies Auxiliaries and certainly not our state VFW - both have always supported and encouraged our many endeavors. I am, however, criticizing the VFW national leadership for its poor leadership and lack of vision in the affairs of the support organizations. So what can be done? As I mentioned, the Men's Auxiliaries decided to set up a committee to investigate options if the recognition rule change failed. I'm sure the options will go from minimal to "nuclear". That is, at one end we may refuse to provide national any money out of our dues while at the other end, we could seek legal ad-

vice. I find neither of these appealing because both are revolutionary in nature from the modest to the extreme. I would choose an option given to me by a district commander: Florida should go it alone and set up Men's Auxiliary districts. This, I believe, could be done by a state addendum amplifying national rules, whereby the Men's Auxiliary districts are recognized until such times as national provides the required guidelines to correct the gender disparity. We just need a Post to champion the idea. Hey, Post 10555?? Enough said.

On the lighter side, the fish fries continue to be a great success. Last time we added chicken to the menu for a little diversity. If you haven't been to one of these fish fries, you need to try it out. But get your tickets early, since they sell out quickly. Also, if you liked Oktoberfest, we're working on something similar, but with an "island" theme. We hope to have a steel band, a keg of beer, and maybe some island punch and food. So watch for it on a Sunday afternoon and wear your island gear - flowery shirt and straw hat. For this one, you better get your tickets very early.

Until next month....

Bill McGrath



## Musings From The House Committee Chairman - Jim Foreman

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe another year has past. Welcome back to all the Snowbirds.

December is a busy month not only with shopping, but with the Post. Lots of events, so watch the calendar and bulletin boards for any changes. Buy your tickets early as most events have a limited number of tickets.

For personal reasons, effective with this letter, I am

resigning as House Committee Chairman. I would like to thank those of you who supported the committee in our efforts to better our Post. I will definitely still be around.

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and the upcoming new year. Thanks, again.

See ya around the Post,

Jim



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## A Message From ..... Canteen Manager - Kitty Dye

As you are reading this, another month has come and gone. It's hard to believe that it is December and Christmas is almost upon us. The canteen will be closed on Christmas Day and we will close early (6pm) on Christmas Eve. The bar will also be closed early on New Years Eve to the public (6:15pm). Only those with tickets will be allowed in. Watch for the Basket of Cheer. The tickets will be \$5.00, the drawing will be New Years Eve and you will not have to be present to win.

Here's hoping that you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and wishing each and everyone a Merry Christmas.

Kitty Dye, Canteen Manager

P.S. - If you dip snuff or chew tobacco, PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR WASTE RECEPTACLE ON THE CABINETS OR TABLES. THANK YOU.





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### Important Dates To Remember

- 7th - 3pm - Pearl Harbor Day Celebration
- 11th - 5-8pm - Christmas Party \$5 w/Riptide Band
- 13th -5pm- Entertainment/Events Committee Meet
- 14th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting
- 18th - 3-6pm - Boogie Daddy
- 20th - 6pm - Men's Auxiliary Meeting
- 21st - 6pm - Gen. Membership & LAVFW Meetings
- 24th - 1-6pm - Christmas Dinner (Cost TBA)  
6pm - Post Closed
- 25th - Christmas Day - Post Closed
- 31st - 8pm-1am - New Years Eve Party w/South Bound \$15 includes food  
6:15pm - Bar closed for those w/o tickets
- Wednesdays - 2-5pm - Big AI with meat raffle
- Saturdays - 1pm - Bingo



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