



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
32413
(850) 249-3025
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

Rob Lopez, Junior Vice Commander

Ken Waringa, QM/Adjutant

Brian Freeman, Quartermaster

Meyrle Peppler, Judge Advocate

Tommy Welch, Chaplain

Jim Phelps, Surgeon

Dick Gribble, Trustee 3 yr.

Rob Smith, Trustee 2yr.

Ken Gregory, Trustee 1yr.

Open - Service Officer

Wally Stacy, Membership Chairman

Rob Lopez, House Committee Chairman

COMMANDER'S CALL

We are trying to get folks involved at the Post. The first thing we should do when someone new comes in is welcome them, then find out their affiliation. If they are not a member, talk our place up and see if they can join. Our goal is to get as many new members as possible this year. We want to bring in new blood to get involved at the Post. It is so much easier to put on events when you have people to help and be involved with what the VFW is about. **GET INVOLVED!!** So your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I am very proud to be a part of this organization and will do all I can to move us forward. Check the calendars for all events.

As we start a new year, I want everyone to understand that we are here to serve the Veteran first! Our canteen is merely a source of income to do so. I am going to be calling on my comrades to help with our programs. Wally has stepped forward to take on membership. I will need someone to step forward for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Boy Scouts, Police and EMT of the year. It should not be the same few as always. I encourage our barstool commanders to get involved. If this offends anyone, it should. Do something positive for the Post and the Veteran!!!

The proposed building expansion

plan is out for engineers drawing. This will enable us to get accurate bids on the expansion. We should have more information as the months go on. I would like to have a decision yea or nay in the not too distant future. This is a major decision, so the more members we get to the meetings to make the decisions the better. We normally have the same 15 to 20 who make the decisions for the Post. I encourage all to attend. I will try to keep the meetings short and on point.

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



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Quartermaster Corner — Ken Waringa & Brian Freeman

I want to thank all that elected me to this position and I am here to serve the best interest of the Post. I am looking forward to working with everyone. Please allow me a few weeks to get a routine down. I do ask that when I come in to the Post to have a beverage, let me get the drink and enjoy it. If I am in the office, it is open to all to ask the questions needed. Better yet, please come to a meeting and you can get all questions answered there.

The pull tab machine - if a row is out, I am sure I will see it, so please play one of the other 7. If a row is stuck, when I check the machine, I will find it as I do a test on every row when I refill it. If there is a game you like to play and know the name of it, I will try to get in the machine. This machine is here for our enjoyment, but remember, you do not own the rows that you are playing unless you put the money in at once to clear out the row. So, no matter if you have a \$100.00 in

and someone comes in behind you and puts a \$1.00 in and hits the \$250.00, it is a game of chance. Don't get mad. It is here for everyone to enjoy.

In a few weeks as most have already heard, we will be getting a new Post Manager to handle the daily affairs that go on around here. I ask you to give John a little time to get adjusted and to bring in a few new ideas. If you have any complaints, I ask that you come to a house committee meeting or better yet, to the general meeting and express them. Let's give him an honest chance to improve this Post. I have said in the past and continue to say, if we don't get some young blood in this Post, it will not be around for the older members to enjoy.

I would like to thank Kitty Dye for her hard work over the past few years. She has been a true asset to the Post and I know she will continue to be in the future. Thank you for all your hard work. It has been a pleasure. (cont'd page 3)

Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

Just got back from Daytona Beach for our State Convention. Not only did we make All State, but we received a pewter plate "Diamond Award" for the outstanding projects we did this past year for prostate cancer. It was a group effort for all auxiliaries, VFW and our winter guests that made this happen. I thank everyone for all the hard work that went into the events to raise money for this worthy cause. At the convention, the head doctor and scientist came to accept a check for \$83,000.00 raised by our state. I learned of a new laser technology that kills the tumor in the prostate without damaging any healthy tissue. The hospital here in Florida is the only place in the world with this technology.

We had a very low turn-out for Father's Day. We had a very generous VFW member, Ned, who donated \$80.00 for tickets for those who wanted to attend the luncheon. Thank you very much, Ned. Your donation allowed us to break even. Thanks again to the kitchen staff for your many hours of work to make this a delicious event. We have 170 members in the

LAUX, but the same 10 people are always the ones who help. This is very disappointing and I would like others to step forward to help them out.

The Women's Garden Club hired our auxiliary to make lunch for about 60 members and I've heard many great comments about the food. Thank you Jacki Foreman, June Baker and Kitty Dye for doing this.

Our June Fish Fry didn't have much of a turn-out either. We are having another dinner July 8th and the price is \$9.00, so please join us and encourage others to come. We thank the ones that have come to enjoy the food, but really need additional support of our events as they produce the money we use for our veterans programs that are required by National to keep our charter. SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Hope to see you around the Post,

Jenny Freeman

Men's Auxiliary Memo - Bill McGrath, President

I noticed that our roster has a very high percentage of active members listed as unpaid. If you haven't paid, please do so before you are purged from the organization. I suspect that most unpaid members have moved, so please make sure we have your correct address. Send your address changes to: billmcgrath6@yahoo.com If you would like to be added to my email distribution list, just send me an email.

I'm just back from the state convention. As you know, I took a check for \$1800.00 to present to Col. Lugo, Director of the Ft. McCoy Veterans Home. I presented the check in the corridor of the hotel - that's right - outside the meeting room! I was told to bring the check to the VFW meeting and, with our Commander, would be allowed to make the presentation in front of the VFW membership. A National official attending the state meeting told the state officials that I could not come into a VFW meeting and present the check. I think you can

see why the MAUX have to fight an uphill battle for recognition when our National officials feel comfortable embarrassing us in front of hundreds of VFW members. This was an absolute disgrace and embarrassment for our State and all Men's Auxiliaries. Make no mistake, this was not generated by our State officials. Our state VFW supports the MAUX and firmly stands behind what we do for the VFW. The VFW State Commander later attended our MAUX meeting. He addressed our forum and emphatically and angrily denounced the rebuke by this National official. He made it perfectly clear that the VFW was firmly behind us and this embarrassment should never have happened. I agree with the State Commander and thank him, our Posts, Districts and State for their unwavering support of all the Men's Auxiliaries.

Until next time,

Bill McGrath

Quartermaster (cont'd)

I want to welcome Rob Lopez, our Junior Vice Commander, as the new house committee chairman. As the new year starts, I know he has his work cut out for him. Knowing Rob, I'm sure he can do it. I will give everyone fair warning - he was a boatswain mate in the Navy. If you don't know what that is, I will just say our Commander Don was one also. They are just alike when running a meeting. Just saying, tread lightly.

Lastly, I would like everyone to know that it is going to take a team effort to get through this year. Commander Don

is going to need your help with the programs that the VFW require us to do to maintain the liquor license that keeps us in beer. Remember, we are a VFW first and a canteen second. I'm just asking for you to help out with one project. Ask the Commander what you can do to help to make this a success.



Thank you,
Brian



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A Message From Canteen Manager - Kitty Dye

Well folks, the canteen is still the canteen. There are lots of rumors going around and most of them are false. There is a new Post Manager and I have been asked to stay on as his Assistant. He should be coming on board sometime in July. Let's all make him welcome.

Remember that Happy Hour is Monday through Friday from 2pm until 5pm. We also have weekly specials, so check them out. Come out and join the fun in your Post's Canteen.

Remember to tip your bartenders as they work hard for you and this Post.

Kitty Dye





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Important Dates To Remember

4th - 1pm - Flag Ceremony w/ band & food
8th - 4:30 - Riptide
5pm - Fish Fry - Tickets \$9.00
9th - 7pm - Patriots Guard Movie
11th - 5pm - Entertainment Committee Meet.
12th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting
18th - 6pm - Men's Auxiliary Meeting
19th - 6pm - Gen. Membership & LAUX Meet.
23rd - 3-6pm - Karaoke
Saturdays - 1pm - Bingo
Sundays - 2pm - Poker
Mon.-Fri. - 2-5pm - HAPPY HOUR!!



mike frimet

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