



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

Ray Seale, Junior Vice Commander

Ken Waringa, Adjutant

Ken Waringa, Quartermaster

Meyrle Peppler, 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



We have just had another good month at the Post and we have another busy month of activities scheduled. I hope the two month calendar helps in your planning.

We will be accepting nominations this month for next year's officers.

We are at 90% on membership. We still need to improve. I am looking for folks to help recruit new members. As discussed in the last meeting, we need to set up at local establishments. We need a full press to get new members. As always, Active Duty military members are free for the first year. So I request all members do what you can to promote the VFW and our Post. Get Motivated!! Thanks.

The Post By-Law changes have been approved and will be forwarded up the chain for approval. We have three committees formed to look into setting up a permanent spot of prominence for the POW/MIA table, relocating the restrooms, and Post operational directives.

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

Don



Quartermaster's Corner

It looks like spring is finally arriving as the last few days have been beautiful. The Commander has appointed a committee to come up with some Post policies. The first

one I'm working on is a policy for using the Hall. This policy will lay out the requirements to use the hall for an event as well as renting the hall. Once drawn up, the policy will go to the House committee for approval and, if approved, it will go to the general membership for final approval. There are a couple of other issues we're looking at writing a policy for as well. We feel if we have a written policy, everyone will know what is expected in order to host an event.

For a while now, the bartenders have been told to use the measure when pouring liquor. The automatic pourers we have don't always pour exactly an ounce and a half like we want, so we had them use the measure. We are going to start enforcing this policy with the bartenders. We feel an ounce and a half of liquor for the prices we're charging is a good value. We've gotten notices of price increases from two of our vendors in the last week and we're trying to keep our prices as they are and still pay the bills.

Speaking of bartenders, because of some recent issues, the House Committee and the general membership passed some new policies to hold the bartenders accountable for properly following the procedures of the Post. We are instituting a three strikes and you're out policy. (con't)

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Quartermaster Corner — Ken Waringa (con't from page 1)

The bartenders can get a strike if they don't use the measure to pour liquor, if the door is unlocked, if a transaction isn't rung into the register immediately, or if the bar bag is not correct. After three strikes, the bartender will no longer be able to tend bar at the Post. We realize they are volunteers, but when they assume the job they also assume the responsibilities that come with the job.

Another issue that passed the general membership meeting is that we will no longer sell split buckets of beer. A split bucket is 3 bottles of one kind and 2 bottles of another kind of beer. We have no way of tracking the inventory when selling the split buckets other than the bartender writing it down and when they are busy, they just don't have the time to do this.

If you have issues with the bartenders, please don't give them a hard time. Bring your issues to the attention of the Canteen Manager or a Post officer.

The last issue I want to discuss is the front door. We get a lot of complaints saying the front door is always locked. There

is a motion sensor inside that unlocks the door so a person can leave the building. This is a safety requirement that must be in place. The problem is when the Post is busy and the bar crowded, if someone is standing within a few feet of the door, the sensor picks up the movement and unlocks the door. Also when you leave or enter the building after the door closes, there is a five second delay until it locks again. It's easy to determine if the door is locked or not. Behind the bar at the end of the liquor racks, there is a toggle switch that the bartender uses to turn off the door to allow someone in when they ring the bell. If the toggle switch is up, the door is locked. If the toggle is down, the door is unlocked. All you need to do is look at the toggle switch and you can tell if the door is locked or not. Again please don't give the bartenders a hard time about the door. If you have a problem, bring it to the attention of the Canteen Manager or a Post officer.

See you around the Post,

Ken



Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

I must start off giving a big huge THANK YOU to Dillard's, our volunteers, the Men's & Ladies Auxiliaries and VFW members for their help with our Fashion Show for Prostate Cancer Research. A very special thanks to Jane Brewer. I had a dream for this event and you ran with it, making my dream into a reality. I never imagined our hall could look so elegant. There were many hours that Jo Seale and Kathie Currington spent in making the New York City backdrops, floor lamps, tablescapes and outside marquee. The food at the event was outstanding. I owe my thanks to Jacki Foreman for putting together hors d'oeuvres that became a meal. Thanks for rounding up your kitchen help such as Kitty Dye, June Baker, Barbara Lesson and many more volunteers who made and served the wine and food. For the Broadway lighting and music, I

give thanks to Bill McGrath and the Men's Auxiliary. The beautiful programs and tickets were done by Kitty Dye. Thank you, everyone who helped with the clothes, hair, makeup and all the backstage assistance with the models. Look out next top model! Thanks, ladies. You were great! The Arnold High School singers and dancers did two routines. I really felt as though I was attending a celebrity fashion show. Again, THANK YOU for all your hard work.

We've had three great events for Prostate Cancer Research - the wine & cheese party, the bake sale and the fashion show. Each time I asked for help, it was delivered 110%. From these events, we have raised \$1600.00. WOW! Prostate Cancer is diagnosed in approximately 80% of men by the age of 80 years old. I hope in my lifetime, we can have a cure. (con't)...pg 3...

Men's Auxiliary Memo - Bill McGrath, President

A couple of quick "Shout Outs" - to the Ladies Auxiliary for your fashion show which was "Class Personified" and the Burns Supper - another class cultural event. Both events reflect a quality this Post should be proud of. Well done!

As committee chairman of the Entertainment Committee, let me explain our goals. Our goal is to fill the month with as much activity as our membership can support. We don't expect you to attend all the event, just the ones you want to attend. We are trying to provide something for everyone. With the Post supplying a two-month calendar, you will get more advance notice to plan your own calendar. We are trying to make the Post a place you want to come to often.

There are a couple of other good results of these events. I've heard members from other posts saying there was so much going on at our Post they would come back. Another unexpected success is the Men's Auxiliary is being asked for membership applications at every one of these events. Our mem-

bership has increased from a mere 43 to the 65 members we now have.

One other note on the negative side—we had to raise the admission for the monthly fish fry. Since we started these last year, food prices have skyrocketed. I hope you understand the necessity to increase admission to \$9.00.

One last but very important request. On March 12th, the Men's Auxiliary is hosting Comedy Night at the Post featuring comedian Sheila Van Dyke, a stand-up comedian who has entertained all over the world. Unlike our other events, this is a Veterans charity fund-raiser. That means that 100% of all proceeds will go to Ft. McCoy Veterans Home. We've placed the ticket price at \$15.00 and that will include a light dinner. Please try to attend this function. We support our veterans, especially those who are old and in failing health.

Bill McGrath



Ladies Auxiliary (con't from page 2)

March brings some fun events. The 4th is our monthly fish and chicken fry dinner. The Ladies Auxiliary is well known for their good food. Many say our fish fry is better than some of the restaurants in our area. So if you've not been before, come and treat yourself to some great food and good music. March 6th we're renting a bus and visiting 4 VFW Posts in District 17. This is our annual 'Booze Cruise'. We have drinks at the Post and we also have BYOB. The 20th is our home-made meatloaf dinner. Tickets for these events are sold two weeks before the event at the canteen.

This past meeting we installed three new Ladies Auxiliary members. We welcome Judy Snyder, Karen Schultz and Denise Walden. Our Auxiliary is a lot of work and fun. I hope you find as much happiness as I do in our Auxiliary.

Thanks to everyone for all your support during my convalescent period after knee replacement surgery. I don't know what I would have done without you all.

Jenny Freeman



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A Message From Canteen Manager - Kitty Dye

The canteen has been very busy this past month. The Friday Fish Fry had a very good turnout as did the Super Bowl Party and Wednesday afternoon sessions. The Valentine Party sold out.

Please remember that we are in a new year. Some key cards have been deactivated. If you have to ring the doorbell, please have your current membership card out to show the bartender.

Thanks to the person who changes the doorbell ring. Variety is nice and it give me something to do to change it back.

Until next month, tip your bartender, smile and say something nice to someone.

See you around the canteen, and don't forget the St. Patrick's Day Dance and dinner.

Kitty Dye, Canteen Manager





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Important Dates To Remember

- 4th - 5-9pm - Fish Fry w/music by Riptide \$8.00
- 6th - 8am-3pm - Booze Cruise - \$25.00
- 7th - 3:30pm - Volunteer Meeting
- 5pm - Entertainment & Events Com. Meet.
- 8th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting
- 9th - 1pm-Men's Aux. Lunch for Winter Guests
- 12th - 5pm-Comedy w/Sheila Van Dyke \$15.00
- 14th - 6pm - Men's Auxiliary Meeting
- 15th - 6pm - Gen. Membership & LAVFW Meeting
- 16th - 2-5pm - Big Al's last performance
- 17th - 5-9pm - St. Patrick's Day Dance
- 20th - 1-4pm - Meatloaf lunch w/Southbound \$8.
- 25th - 6-9pm - Jam Session / Chili Cook-off \$1.
- 26th - 1-5pm - Car Show w/Howard Jarvis Band
- 27th - 2-5pm - Karaoke w/\$1 Hot Dogs



mike frimet

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