



# 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  
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[www.vfwpost10555.com](http://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

Meyrie Peppler, Judge Advocate

Tommy Welch, Chaplain

Jim Phelps, Surgeon

Dick Gribble, Trustee 3 yr.

Rob Smith, Trustee 2yr.

Ken Gregory, Trustee 1yr.

Tracy Lopez - Service Officer

Ray Seale, Membership Chairman

Rob Lopez, House Committee Chairman

## COMMANDER'S CALL



We have had a couple of good months recently at the Post. We have gotten new members for all organizations within the Post. I want this positive trend to continue. I have to thank Walt and Bill for taking the bull by the horns and getting things done. We still have things that need to be done, so, once again, if you can help, HELP! We need you!

We would like to be at 85% membership by the end of October. We can't do it without you!!! If you are a continuous member or if you know a qualified member, sign them up.

Thank you, Tracey Lopez for stepping up and assuming the duties of Service Officer. Knowing what I do of you, I am sure you will be proactive in helping our local veterans out.

I have talked to both Arnold and Surfside schools and they are on board with Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen. I have also talked to the local Boy Scout leadership about that program.

**To all members: I would like to change the Post by-laws. It will state that the hall area is a non-smoking area. This will be brought to a vote next month. We want to encourage new, non-smoking Veterans. This must be done! There should be an area for both parties. It is not a major inconvenience for the smokers to go to the canteen**

or out back to have their smoke. It is done in every major company/organization now, so why not here!

I encourage our barstool commanders to get involved. Do something positive for the Post and the Veteran!!!

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

Don



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## Quartermaster Corner — Brian Freeman

Once again I want to encourage everyone to renew their dues if they have not already done so. We want to be All State this year and need to work at it now.

Also please encourage all qualified people that you know to visit our Post and to, hopefully, join. Be sure to remember all our organizations when soliciting members - Ladies Auxiliary,

Men's Auxiliary and the VFW.

We are having some great entertainment this month, so check the calendar and bulletin boards for any updates.



See you at the Post meeting!!

Brian



## Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

We had a very good turnout for the fish and chicken dinner in September. We have one every month on the second Friday. I want to THANK everyone that helps take part each month for this function. Of every ticket we sell, \$1.00 goes to support The Veterans and Family Support. This does so much for our Vets and their families. This program includes National Military Assistance Program which encompasses so many things. Unmet Needs provides grants to veterans and families when unexpected financial problems arise. Operation Uplink helps provide veterans in the hospital and troops serving overseas with the ability to connect with their loved ones with no cost to them. These are just a few of the programs included with The veterans and Family Support.

As a Post, I would like for us to adopt a unit. So if you know a friend or family member serving overseas, please let me know. It would be really nice for us to be able to do functions such as farewell and welcome home parties. We can also send special items to the troops we adopt overseas.

November 19th at 3pm, we are going to have a bake sale. We ask every member to bring in donated baked goods to sell to raise money. This money will go to Veterans and Family Support. Please bring the baked goods the day before or the day of with a tag on it saying what it is.

We had an early membership renewals drive for 2013 with everyone paying by August 31st was included in a drawing for a lifetime membership. Congratulations to Elizabeth Myers Hess!

Everyone has seen the beautiful blankets and baskets that Jacki and Mary have made. They are selling tickets to raffle them off and the money goes to the special programs we support. Everyone pony up and get your tickets!! Thank you ladies for your hard work!!

I hope to see you support our events each and every month. God bless,



Jenny



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

Communicating via email is fast, free and timely. If you have an active email address, please send it to me. I store email distribution lists for all our organizations. If you've changed your service provider and are using a new email, send me the change. I have several bouncing back as undeliverable. My address is: [billmcgrath6@yahoo.com](mailto:billmcgrath6@yahoo.com).

**Oktoberfest is on!!** We have it on the calendar for Sunday, October 30th, starting at 12 noon. We had to roll back the start as the band has another commitment that afternoon. Perhaps we can open the Post a little early. The fest will be similar to last year. Your ticket gets you entertainment by the "Oompha Band", a German lunch, German pretzels and a keg or real German beer along with a commemorative Oktoberfest beer mug. Tickets will be only \$12, same as last year. If you're going out of town or a northern member coming down early, let me know how many tickets to hold for you. Tickets will go on sale October 1st. We had a large crowd last year, so get your tickets early!

In addition to all the fun, food and festivities, we've got another bonus for you this year. For every **pair** of tickets you purchase, you will receive one free **GUEST** ticket.

This Guest tickets cannot be used by any member, spouse or significant other - only a real bona fide Guest. We feel this may help our membership generation efforts.

Just a little bit about the Wednesday breakfasts the MAUX has been serving. We are thinking about discontinuing the project due to poor attendance. However, the last two weeks, we went to 20 patrons and then 30 patrons. In fact, we ran out of food and had to really scramble (good pun, huh) to get more food out to the serving line. We are also beginning to see new faces. A number of people asked about our organization and the many great events we sponsor each month. They are familiar with the upcoming events as we supply each table with a monthly Post calendar. Hopefully, we'll be getting some new members soon.

Until next time...

Bill McGrath



## Musings from the House Committee - Rob Lopez

Greetings from the House Committee! The month of October has some very fun filled events and I encourage you to get the work out! Oktoberfest is one of the highlights and please bring a few new friends and let's show off VFW Post 10555 and support this event!

If anyone has events and/or musical groups that they would like to see, get those inputs to the entertainment committee.

I would also like to welcome Tracey as our new Service Officer. She will be a good fit, but maybe I'm a little biased!

I know there is some disagreement about recent changes in the smoking policy, but let's support the new rule and use the proper channels and procedures to ensure everyone's voice is heard.

Rob



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## A Message From ..... Canteen Manager - Walter Rainey

Greetings from the canteen. October will be bringing new and exciting things for the fall to the Post. I look forward to meeting our northern friends as they come back down. With the onset of Oktoberfest, we will be offering new drink specials each week. Be sure to sit down with your bartenders and get to know them as I have. They will be offering their favorite drinks, or at least the ones they like to make, as drink specials. Mary makes a mean margarita; Reba has an awesome Bloody Mary; Nisey will be announcing her special; June has the coldest ice on the beach - as well as a pretty mean draft beer; Gail throws together some pretty good Friday happy hour specials with a little extra snacks.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Walt, Canteen Manager





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## Important Dates To Remember

1st - 7-11pm-Tony Vegas Band  
8th - 7-11pm-Seminole Wind Band  
10th - 4:30pm-Entertainment Committee Meeting  
5:30pm-VFW Officers Meeting  
11th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting  
14th - 5pm-Fish Fry w/Riptide Band  
17th - 6pm-Men's Auxiliary Meeting  
18th - 6pm-Gen.Membership & LAVFW Meetings  
28th - 7pm-Halloween Party w/Riptide Band  
29th - 1-3pm-Kids Halloween Party  
30th - 12noon-Oktoberfest - tickets \$12.00  
Mondays - 6pm - Wii Bowling  
Wednesdays - \$1 12oz. Draft  
Fridays - 6pm-Bingo (if no special event)



**mike frimet**

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