



# Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-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](http://www.vfwpost10555.com)

NEW Hours of Operation  
1200-2100hrs/NOON to 9PM  
EXCEPT SUNDAYS  
Post Closes 1800 hrs/6PM

## AUGUST CANTEN ACTIVITIES

TUESDAYS: Billiards!

WEDNESDAYS: Bring-a-Friend (or Two!) to the Post

THURSDAYS: Cards! Ms. Cues!

WEEKENDS: Food! Music? Bingo!

MON 2<sup>nd</sup> – V-J DAY 1945; LABOR DAY

FRI 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30PM: VFW Build-A-Burger; 6-8PM: VFW B-I-N-G-O

SAT 7<sup>th</sup> - 8-10:30AM: MAUX Breakfast; 1PM LAUX B-I-N-G-O

MON 9<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM: AMERICAN LEGION Officer MTG; 6PM: American Legion Post MTG

TUES 10<sup>th</sup> - MEETINGS! 4:30 PM: Entertainment Committee; 5PM: VFW Officers; 5:30PM: House Committee

## 9-11 - PATRIOT DAY

FRI 13<sup>th</sup> - 2PM: LAUX Officer MTG  
5:30-6:30PM: LAUX Fish Fry w/music 6-9PM by JadeNJewel

SAT 14<sup>th</sup> 1PM VFW B-I-N-G-O

SUN 15<sup>th</sup> - 2:30-5:30PM VFW Any Type of Card Games

MON 16<sup>th</sup> - 6PM MAUX Meeting

TUES 17<sup>th</sup> - 6 PM General Membership MTG; VFW/LAUX Meetings follow

FRI 20<sup>th</sup> - POW/MIA DAY 5pm  
Ceremony 5:30-6:30 VFW Wings; 6-8 PM VFW B-I-N-G-O

SAT 21<sup>st</sup> - 1PM MAUX B-I-N-G-O

SUN 22<sup>nd</sup> - 12:30-1:30 SAVE OUR POST Mexican Dinner - 1-4 PM Music by Suede Nash

FRI 27<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 - 6:30 PM American Legion BBQ; 6-8 PM American Legion B-I-N-G-O

SAT 29<sup>th</sup> - VFW DAY 2:30 Cards



## VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander ([kcwaringa@yahoo.com](mailto:kcwaringa@yahoo.com))

I would like to bring everyone up to date on our Save the Post effort, Basically, IT IS WORKING! There is more going on at the post this summer than in previous summers so we are bringing folks in. I would like to thank everyone that helps around the post to make these events happen. I have been asked what are we doing or going to do with the money collected. We just paid our largest bill - \$11,000 for one year of liability insurance so that consumed all that we collected so far plus a large amount of our General Fund. We also recently had to replace an air conditioning unit. (Did you know our building has *nine* units?) The money isn't earmarked for anything special, just upkeep and running the post so we don't have to pull money from our savings account for normal day to day operations. We have a number of events planned for September so come out and support your post.

National VFW raised their annual dues by \$10.00 so at the meeting last night the membership voted to raise our annual dues to \$36.00 a year beginning in January 2014. If you are an annual member, I highly recommend you get your renewal in before January to take advantage of our current low rate. If you renew now your dues will not expire until December 31, 2014. Another change to membership is currently our memberships run from 1 January to 31 December. Starting next year new memberships will become due for renewal on the anniversary of the date a *new* annual member joins. A simple solution to avoid this large increase in dues or any *future* increase in dues is to upgrade to a life membership so you don't need to worry about renewals. Life memberships may be paid in full or with one initial payment and then 12 additional monthly installments.

**See you around the post. KEN WARINGA, Post Commander 10555**

PPS: We just replaced our gas grill with a 20% discount at Lowe's. They even hauled away the "old" one destroyed by a Class Bravo fire put out by Tom Randall. (NAVY training, Sir!)

[PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

## VFW Ladies Auxiliary Status: Kitty Dye, President ([kdye8918@yahoo.com](mailto:kdye8918@yahoo.com))

Dear Sisters, September is rapidly approaching and perhaps some of this terribly hot weather will stay behind. We had a very successful Fish Fry and the Post/Ladies Auxiliary Save our Post Lunch went very well. This month we will be helping with the Labor Day Picnic, a Friday Night Fish Fry the 13<sup>th</sup>, and a Post/LAUX Lunch on SUN the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Post is asking for help operating a Beer Tent at the Gulf Coast Jam THURS/FRI/SAT night the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Success at this fundraiser can lead to future Gulf Coast Jam Event fundraising. 10 Volunteers are needed between 4PM and Midnight. Don't Forget September 20<sup>th</sup> POW-MIA Day with a commemorative service at the Post.

Members please try to attend the next regular General Membership meeting TUES the 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM Anyone wanting to attend that can't find a ride should contact me personally @ 234-8918. The Post is collecting items for the next Post Yard Sale coming up next month since the last one was a BIG success. If you have items to donate, just drop them by the post or call me at the phone number above. Please renew your annual membership and consider asking your eligible friends and neighbors to join our fine Ladies Auxiliary.

**Until next time, Kitty Dye, President Ladies Auxiliary 10555**





**VFW Men's Auxiliary and American Legion Update: Bill McGrath, President/Commander**  
([billmcgrath6@yahoo.com](mailto:billmcgrath6@yahoo.com))

Don't forget the MAUX's monthly breakfast Saturday September 7th. We've changed the hours slightly, because patronage seems to fall off after 10AM. So, please note the new hours of: 8-10:30AM. We'll still provide you with a great full breakfast, but if you aren't a breakfast eater, come and have one of our light breakfasts of sausage and biscuits, or pancakes, or biscuits and gravy, or bacon and biscuit all for only \$1.50. Coffee and juice come with the full breakfast, but if you choose the light breakfast we'll need to add \$.50 if you wish to have juice.

We had to rearrange some of our scheduled winter events. We'll publish those in the near future, since most are still in the planning stages. However, we would like to announce one new major event we'll be putting on for the first time with the cooperation of all our organizations – The First Senior Prom. This will be a Save Our Post event. That is, all organizations cooperate by sharing the expense of the event, by paying for food, entertainment, decorations, etc., as well as providing volunteers as needed to assure success of the event. We've done this before, and the cooperation has been extraordinary.

This event will be slightly different than other events – it is a "Dress Up Affair". Guys, you will need to break out your jacket and tie. Or, you may opt for the VFW/Legion uniform of white shirt and black pants. Military, you are encouraged to wear your class A uniform. Ladies, I think you know what to wear if your guy wears a suit and tie. I won't dictate what you must wear. I am not a stupid man!

This event will sell out, so if you wait to get your tickets at the last minute you probably won't be there. The date is Saturday January 18th. Oh, and this will be a catered event, so none of our members will be stuck in the kitchen. That will run the cost of the ticket up somewhat, but I think it is worth it. Also, I know there are really great artists out there, so start thinking about a theme and decorations.

A quick note on the American Legion - the Legion held their first event August 23rd. Since the Legion had no money in their treasury yet, several members donated food and time to make the BBQ and bingo a great success. Thanks to all who donated, helped and attended.

*Regards, Bill McGrath, MAUX President, American Legion Post Commander*

**Found: One Dedicated Post Service Officer ([pleesullivan@gmail.com](mailto:pleesullivan@gmail.com))**

Lee Sullivan, well known to us all as Panama City Beach's former Mayor and Police Chief, has stepped up and volunteered to take on the duties and responsibilities of our Post Service Officer. Lee, a combat wounded Marine, was "blown up" in an Armored Personnel Carrier designated LVT (or LVTP?) known as an AMTRAC. Lee told Tom Randall, our Post Surgeon, that when he explained his combat experience to a VA claims representative, that person asked him what he was doing on a train ("AMTRACK") in Vietnam? No stranger to the VA system, Lee, Tom and Larry Striblin our Chaplain are working to help one of our newest members, David Downing, get connected with the right Social Security and VA benefits to help him recover from a stroke earlier this year. Why? It's like Lee said at the last meeting, it is simply the right thing to do.

**Hospital Committee (Surgeon/Chaplain/Service Officer)**

As a reminder, we have a trip to Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Nursing Home planned for October and a visit to Lake City Domiciliary planned for December. Please give or donate generously, it is through these good deeds that we prove that there is NO veterans service organization that does more for veterans in Panama City Beach. A more immediate need is for Comrade David Downing at home in PCB. He needs medical transport capable of moving a non-ambulatory patient for a critical 23 SEPT appointment at the VA Clinic at the Naval Support Activity. Beth Vickery, his significant other, has told the Hospital Committee that Lifeguard Ambulance wants \$1000 to transport Dave to his appointment. No way! There has to be a cheaper option. The Committee contacted Emerald Coast Medical Transport; do you have anyone in your personal network that might be able to help?





**A Message from Canteen Manager: Billie Jones ([vfw10555@knology.net](mailto:vfw10555@knology.net))**

Summer is winding down, the month of September is here and so is Labor Day! Many events are scheduled the throughout the month and we start with a Labor Day Picnic with music by One Nite Tribe 3-6 PM and food served 3-4:30 PM on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Post is asking for a donation to defray the cost of the food, please bring a dessert if you so desire. Come and enjoy the music and fellowship with your friends and our post family. This is a "Save our Post" Event. The MAUX is serving breakfast the second Saturday of this month, on the 7th between 8 - 10:30 AM. If you have not been out to enjoy a great breakfast with us, this is the month and you will come back every month. B-I-N-G-O on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons are still a hit. Food is served on Friday evenings and Saturdays you can enjoy a hot dog with or without chili. Events are posted on the calendar and here in the newsletter. LAUX' fabulous Fish Fry and entertainment is there, too. Check out their chicken if you do not eat fish. New Sunday Canteen hours are 12 to 6 PM and we have different events on these days – Game Day has cards; pool and darts- Pool Tournament 8-Ball – Save-Our-Post Music with Steve Suede doing Neil Diamond tunes and more. Thursdays are still Ms. Cues at 2PM and cards at 6PM, Tuesdays have Men's Pool 1-5PM. Please check the monthly calendar or newsletter for all events, times, and other information. You can also call the Post for information at 249-3025, we will be happy to inform you of what is going on.

**Remember that our bartenders are volunteers and your please treat them with courtesy and respect. Come out and enjoy VFW Post 10555 and American Legion Post 402. Hope to See You Soon. Billie Jones Canteen Manager**

**VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Corner, Rob Smith ([baltorob@comcast.net](mailto:baltorob@comcast.net))**

At the August General Membership meeting, the drawing for the Life Membership was won by our Post Judge Advocate, Anna Miner. Congratulations, Anna! Also at the meeting, the membership voted to increase the annual dues to \$36 effective 01 January 2014. This increase coincides with the approved \$10 raise in annual dues remitted to National HQ for each new or renewal annual member after 1 January 2014. What this means is that, until January 2014, for each new annual member or annual member renewal, each Post Quartermaster is required to submit \$19.50 to national HQ. After 1 January 2014, that amount increases to \$29.50. Clearly, our current post annual dues of \$23.00 would result in a deficit of \$6.50 per new or renewed annual member at 10555. In order to avoid paying this increase next year and every year after until the *next* annual dues increase by the National HQ, I suggest that all continuous members renew before January 1. I know I did! If you renewed prior to 1 SEPT 13, you were entered into a drawing at National HQ to win an iPad Mini. This included renewals submitted at our Post.

September is here and with it brings a bunch of events at the Post. Check the calendar, come out, enjoy your Post!

**See You Soon! Rob Smith, Post Quartermaster**

PS: Consider a Life Membership Option as found on the back of our membership applications:

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE**

ATTAINED AGE ON 12/31	ONE TIME PAYMENT	LIFE 12 MONTH PAYMENT PLAN
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$15.45

**Payment Plan Terms and Conditions:** The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either installments after an initial payment of \$35. The member will be issued a "Provisional Life" membership card and can elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement. No refund of any portion of current year annual dues will be made.

A "payoff amount" will be printed on each monthly invoice, allowing the member the option to pay in full, thereby avoiding additional service fees. If the member pays off early, no additional monthly fees will be collected.

Delinquencies will be handled as follows:

Up to 30 days – continue to bill

31 to 120 days – delinquency can be corrected through make up payment or plan end date pushed forward.

More than 120 days – member is dropped from the installment plan, all payments made to date, excluding service fees, are applied to future years dues. Any excess amount will remain on the member's account.



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## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE VFW BENEFITS? (CALL POST FOR MORE INFO)

### A VFW MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU SAVINGS ON:

- SAT/ACT COLLEGE TEST PREPARATION
- TRAVEL SERVICES (ASK FOR PAM RUSSELL)
- FINANCIAL SERVICES
- COMPUTERS
- REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGE SERVICES
- VFW SPONSORED INSURANCE PROGRAMS
- HEALTH CARE SERVICES
- DIGNITY MEMORIAL PROGRAMS
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