



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

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Quartermaster Corner Highlights | 2 |
| Ladies Auxiliary News | 2 |
| Men's Auxiliary Memo | 2 |
| Musings From House | 3 |
| From the Canteen | 3 |
| Important Dates | 4 |
| Calendar—Inside VSO-Back of Calendar | |

Don Buchanan, Commander

Wally Stacy, Senior Vice Commander

Rob Lopez, Junior Vice Commander

Ray Seale - Adjutant

Brian Freeman-/Ken Waringa- 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

Ray Seale, 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 I will do all I can to move us forward. Check the calendars for all the events.

I need a Service Officer!! It is important in helping our fellow veterans! I am still looking for members to step forward to take on the following committees: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Boy Scouts, and Police-man and EMT of the Year. It should not be the same few as always. I encourage our barstool commanders to get involved. Do something positive for the Post and the Veteran!!

We are putting the expansion on hold until spring 2012. We have rough plans in hand and will finalize drawings soon. We have paid for them, so if decided we can proceed.

Thanks to Bill Ulchinsky for tak-

ing over the maintenance and janitorial duties. We also hired Walt Rainey as Post Manager. Please give them your support as required.

This past months meeting was enjoyable as we had over thirty members in attendance. This a great start. I hope those folks return and you come to join us. It's your Post, so come get involved!!!

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

Don



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Ladies Auxiliary News - Jenny Freeman, President

Carol MacDonald, Jacki Foreman, Mary Kilzer and I attended the school of instruction in Kissimmee last month. We learned so much of the changes to our State requirements for the upcoming year. The State has stressed that we need to focus on a couple of programs this year. The State of Florida is almost in the negative for our Cancer Grant Program. Living in Florida brings a lot of retiring members that take advantage of the cancer grants given out by the State LAVFW. They want us to pledge \$5.00 per member from our Auxiliary. They need that amount by December 31st, 2011 and by March 31, 2012 to make it to their goal of \$7.00 per member. At this time, we will make the deadline for \$5.00 per member from our Post, but to give the additional \$2.00 per member by March, we will have to do some fund-raising. I ask you on behalf of my sister's here to please help in the near future for the events for fund-raising. Another program we have to focus on is Veterans & Family Support. This program includes many branches such as Military Assistance Program, Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs, VFW National Home and Department of Florida VFW Retirement Home.

We had a wonderful turn-out for our August Fish & Chicken Fry. I thank everyone who helped to make this such a great success. The group that works every month on these dinners do such an outstanding job every time. Thank you for working together as a great team. The LAVFW has voted to donate \$1.00 from every ticket sold to The Veterans & Family Support program. Our next Fish &

Chicken Fry is September 9th. We provide wonderful home-cooked meals and the Post provides us with a band to entertain us for the night. Not only will your help make a difference when buying a ticket, but you'll find you will enjoy a great meal and good music along with your VFW family. We are having the Fish & Chicken Dinners the 2nd Friday of each month and I hope to see a great turn-out each and every month.

We have some great events I would like to do this upcoming year. Since we will be focusing on The Veterans & Family Support Program and the Cancer Aid & Research Program, I sincerely hope the members will give all possible support to these events. These programs support not only Florida Veterans as a whole, but also members of our own Post. I will be keeping you updated on the special programs in the newsletters along with posters around the Post. I want to thank you in advance for any support you can do for the events to raise money for these worthwhile programs.

Hope to see you around the Post & at the Meeting!

Jenny Freeman



Men's Auxiliary Memo - Bill McGrath, President

I've got to say something again about the monthly meetings. I know you're getting tired of my exasperation with the turnouts. However, unlike my previous laments, I am full of delight and thanks to our members. We had a full slate of officers and a good turnout of our valued members. Thanks to all who came. You are appreciated!!

The meeting itself was very fruitful. We processed four new members...WOW!!! We also voted unanimously to donate \$300 of our meager assets toward the building of our new Panama City Beach library. In addition, our organization agreed to provide ongoing support for fund-raising activities for the new library. As you may know, the state provided a grant for the library and the City has some funds from impact fees for the construction. Nevertheless, there is a shortfall of about \$750,000 or more. Well, our \$300 won't immediately motivate construction, but we have a positive commitment to see this project succeed. I understand the Ladies Auxiliary also committed some money, but I don't know how much. It looks like everyone feels a new library is something our community needs and we need to get behind the project.

Our donation brought up something under the "new

business" discussion. We have no income...ugh! The members had some great input on fund-raising and all ideas were discussed at length. I intend to bring up several of the suggestions at the general membership meeting and I want to thank all for their interest and insight. I am a strong believer in sharing ideas and suggestions. No one will ever be criticized for a bad idea. The president is chosen to lead, our groups' ideas and enthusiasm provide me with the fuel to grow and direct our organization.

Again, thanks for your turnout and your great ideas.

Regards,

Bill McGrath, President



Musings from the House Committee...Rob Lopez

Greetings from the House Committee! It is very encouraging that the Membership drive went well. Thank you to all who participated. We did not see as many new members as we would have liked, but it was a positive effort!

September is full of new events and if you have any new ideas to offer, please get them to the Entertainment Committee so we can continue moving the Post forward.

We are going to try a new format for the House Comm-

ittee meetings in September. Of course, any member can attend, after that the House Committee members, one member from the LAUX, one member from the MAUX and the Canteen Manager and/or his assistant.

I look forward to working with all of you as we press on!

Rob

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A Message From Canteen Manager - Kitty Dye

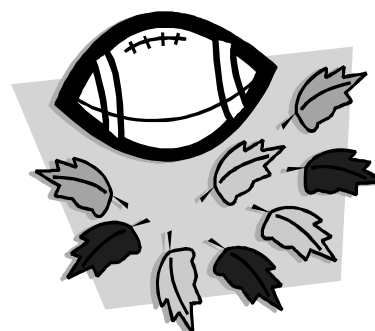
I hope everyone has enjoyed the extra features that began in August. I think that "Ladies Day" has been quite successful as has the poker on Sundays.

September has a full calendar and we are adding \$1.00 12oz drafts. Be sure to check your calendars for nights with music.

If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see done that would make the canteen better, please put them in the suggestion box.

Our newest bartender is Denise "Nisey" Walden. Come in on Sunday to meet her.

Kitty Dye, Canteen Manager





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Important Dates To Remember

3rd - 3-6pm - Karaoke with Boogie Daddy
5th - 4pm - Labor Day Ceremony
9th - 5pm - Fish Fry with Riptide Band
10th - 3pm - Town Hall Meeting
11th - 2pm - Patriots Day
12th - 4:30pm - Entertainment Committee Meeting
5:30pm - VFW Officer Meeting
13th - 5pm - House Committee Meeting
17th - 7pm - Riptide Band
19th - 6pm - Men's Auxiliary Meeting
20th - 6pm - Gen. Membership & LAVFW meetings
23rd - 6pm - Bingo
24th - 7pm - Sons of the Beach Band
30th - 5pm - All you can eat burgers & more \$5.00
7pm - End of Month Party w/Southbound
Wednesdays - 7-10am—Breakfast



mike frimet

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