

*Commander's Corner*  
Frank Dobek (916) 726-7885

I was a little disappointed in the turn out for the New Years Eve Party. The people that attended had a good time. I am looking forward to a better turn out for our Sweetheart Dance on February 13.

The Post bought a new plasma TV. It was installed in time for the Super Bowl. The turnout was very good. The potluck provided a wide variety of food and desserts. Everyone enjoyed the new TV. It made watching the game a real new experience. We will be covering all sporting events that are on TV. Come down and enjoy the experience.

A meeting of the Memorial Park Committee received approval for a major improvement for the park. Plans were submitted and they look great. We hope to have it finished this summer.

Comrades, the March meeting will be the time for the first nominations of a new slate of officers for the year 2009-2010. It is time for members who are really interested in taking the Post forward. The April meeting will have nominations and elections. The same people have been holding most of the elected offices for years. It is time for a change. Please give some serious consideration to becoming an elected officer. We need you.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ladies Auxiliary President*  
Jan Jordan (916) 838-2348

We will be presenting VFW Ladies Auxiliary members with pins that have attained 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 continuous years in membership, if you have not already received one. The pins will be presented at the Post Anniversary which will be the Monday night dinner on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Al will be serving corned beef and cabbage. If you plan to attend please call as soon as possible so he can have an estimate of how many to prepare dinner for that night.

Our meeting on April 14, we will have nominations and elections of officers for 2009-2010. Please plan to attend and if you are interested in holding an office or chairmanship, please let it be known.

One more reminder to all annual members that you are past due for 2009 dues. If you have not paid yet, your name will be removed from the mailing list, drawings and pin list. We urge you to pay now, dues are \$29. We have tried to contact many of you by phone or reminders by mail. Also, all Life members are asked to send in \$4.95 or \$5 for their Cancer Insurance.

We would like to have a new Auxiliary phone book for members so it would be easier to have a telephone tree when we need to call for memorials, illness, etc. However, we have discovered that many phone numbers we have are disconnected or changed since cell phones are in use. And we have change of addresses for several members, hopefully we will have a new phone book soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain*  
Terri Collette (916) 723-1224

I am sorry to report , we lost one of our Auxiliary members, Elizabeth ( Betty ) Chingo on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. She's missed by her husband, Ernie and her family as well. Memorial services will be held when the weather is warmer and drier.

Mickey Johnson is doing great. Although she lost a couple of in-laws while she was having back surgery.

Launay Evans will have gall bladder surgery on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Hazel Moses husband, Bill has had another stroke and back home. Stay well Bill. Everyone else, stay well also.

Hopefully, we all will make it to the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
God Bless.

## House Committee Report

The House Committee has been active in the operation of the canteen...(that is what we are supposed to do.) While we don't actually do the things, we do approve and request the membership to approve certain things. Don, the Bar manager has purchased a new plasma TV that is now prominently mounted on the west wall of the bar. What a beautiful addition this is to the bar. And just in time for the Super Bowl and the Pro Bowl. The House Committee has had many negotiations with the Entertainment Committee Chair about the New Year's dance and the Valentine Dance.

The kitchen manager, Al Masonius, has been doing an outstanding job with the Monday and Friday meals. Besides being a great cook, he is a tremendous asset for the Post. He does a lot of the little things around the Post that make the Post enjoyable. Al is a past Commander and helps keep the operation in line.

Don, the bar manager has been doing a great job as well. He has the bartenders working for him. I am often reminded that the bartender is there as a representative of the Commander. They have some written rules they have to follow. Unfortunately, when someone starts putting pressure on them about some innocuous thing in the bar, they cannot leave. Often they have to stay there and take the verbal abuse of the person. For this I am sorry, we have basically placed the bartender in a position that they cannot escape. We as customers have the ability to help in how we respect each other and the bartenders.

We are in the process of getting a camera system installed in the Post. While it is not going to prevent vandalism, it may record the vandalism for the authorities. At this time we are working with Ron Stadtman and John Brothers to get locations and other data for the installation. John and Ron have gotten some cameras "donated" to the Post as well as the mounting equipment. Hopefully, we can have this completed this spring. Thanks to Ron and John.

We are having some troubles with our accounting in the respect we cannot generate a budget. This is the first and only organization I have been associated with that operates sans a budget. We know we have some money coming in from different areas, antennas, dues, poppy sales, the canteen and fireworks. And we know we have money going out for salaries, insurance, taxes, maintenance and other items. I have been unable to find someone who can put it together for me. With a budget it is possible to react to the many requests we receive each month for assistance. Our purpose is to support the needs of our members. A budget will help and make our responses more in line with the needs.

Did you notice the front door? Howell was able to get the hinges welded and it now swings freely and closes securely, Thank you Howell.

Our lawn mower has basically given up the battle. We are in the process of getting John a new lawn mower. It looks like we will go with another Craftsman. The one we have has given us good service but it also has been worn out through use. Our lawn is kept in good condition through the dedication of John Huiting. For this we all extend a Thank You to John.

The House Committee is reminded that we are going to have a new Commander in June. We are reminded that the process starts in March with the nominations of candidates for the offices, and the elections are to be in April at the Post meeting. The Installation should be in May with the officers assuming command when the state (department) officers assume command. This is a reminder for all members to attend the March and April meetings.

The last thing I want to comment on is the over all outside appearance of the grounds. The park is very good, it really will be improved when the new trees get a few more feet of breadth on them. There is going to be a cover installed over the patio in the lawn. This is a lot of work and a lot of the material and labor is being donated. For more information see the Quartermaster, he has a drawing of the proposed cover. On the South side and the East side, seems to have collected some vehicles/rolling stock that make the place look trashy (to say the least). What should we do to make it better?

George Gridley

George Gridley – Chairman (916) 967-5110

Voice of Democracy  
Patriot's Pen  
Teacher of the Year

Just in from National Headquarters, the winner of the Voice of Democracy for 2008 was Jordan Lord, Gulfport Mississippi. He spoke on the theme "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans." This is a stirring speech and may be heard on the VFW web site. For this speech he won a \$30,000 scholarship.

The Patriot's Pen winners for 2008 were also announced. The Patriot's Pen theme was "Why I am an American Patriot." Here there are multiple winners, one from each state and territory. The big winner (remember these are 6, 7 & 8th graders) received a \$10,000 savings bond. The rest of the participants received lesser amounts, down to \$1,000. Katharine Garcia, a Seaside, California 8<sup>th</sup> grader, will receive a \$1,000 savings bond.

The Teachers of the Year are broken into three groups, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Here each state has winners in each group. California honored: Raymond Danaher of Lucerne Valley Elementary School; Ronald Harris, Prescott Senior Elementary, Modesto; and Oscar Fry, Linden High School, Linden. These teachers received \$1,000 for professional development. Each school received \$1,000 and there are plaques for the teacher and school. Additional there is an all expense paid trip to attend a VFW and Auxiliary National Conference in Washington DC. All of these are nice awards for the individuals, the Posts and the schools involved.

The NEW Themes are out. The Voice of Democracy 2009 Theme is: "Does America Still Have Heroes?" The entries are due to our Post by November 1, 2009.

The NEW Patriot's Pen Theme for 2009 is: "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?" These entries are also due to the Post by November 1, 2009.

The Teacher of the Year is one promoting Citizenship Education. These too are due by November 1, 2009.

All this information is available on the VFW web site. If you need help or want questions answered please contact me. Have a good summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Operation Recognition:** The Sacramento Office of Education has announced the starting of "Operation Recognition." This will award high school diplomas to individuals whose education was interrupted due to wartime circumstances. Those eligible for diplomas include persons who left high school to serve in the U. S. military during WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Japanese American citizens who were interred in WW II relocation camps.

There are requirements to be met, and these are listed on the application form. The applications are available in the Post Quartermaster's office or on the Internet [www.scoe.net/](http://www.scoe.net/). The person must have received an honorable discharge from the military. And persons may apply for a diploma to posthumously honor a deceased family member.

For more information please see the Quartermaster, Howell Hedrick, or George Gridley before May 8, 2009, that is the ending date for 2009.

**American Legion Post 383**  
**Commander Bill Heilmann (916) 802-5271**

This year's 72<sup>nd</sup> California Boys State will take place 20-27 June at CSU Sacramento. Post 383 will be sponsoring one delegate, and we plan to interview candidates at the end of March. If you know of any interested high school boys who are currently juniors (grade 11), and they attend Casa Roble and Bella Vista high schools, please ask them to contact their junior class counselor soon. Also note that our District 6 Auxiliary will be sponsoring delegates to Girls State. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Come on down to VFW Post 6158 for dinner every Friday and Monday. The excellent meals are prepared by "Chef Al," you really can't beat the prices. Besides, it is a great opportunity to share in a little camaraderie with your fellow veterans. Especially remember to join us on the third Friday of each month, because our Post 383 sponsors that dinner.

VFW Post 6158 has been our meeting place for several years now. They provide us with the use of their hall free of charge for meetings and some other activities, we enjoy membership privileges at the Post Canteen, and we are invited to all of their activities. Like most other organizations these days (including ours), VFW Post 6158 has difficulty in mustering enough volunteers to support their various endeavors, many of which benefit ALL veterans, including our Legionnaires. Won't you please consider volunteering a little of your time to help out with some of the VFW's activities? Memorial Park maintenance and the upcoming Buddy Poppy Drive on Memorial Day weekend are two activities that need your help. Also check the Pot Shot calendar for more opportunities to volunteer. Remember that we are ALL veterans together, and one of our objectives is to help other veterans.

In our effort to cut down on expenses, we are looking for ways to reduce the cost of publishing the Pot Shot newsletter. Current and past issues are available at our web site, so if you have Internet access, please consider calling me to cancel the delivery of your paper version of the Pot Shot.

Be sure to stay informed by visiting our Post 383 web site at [www.AL383.org](http://www.AL383.org), and the VFW web site at [www.vfw6158.org](http://www.vfw6158.org).

=====

Thank you to everyone that helps and collates the Pot Shot. Bill Heilmann, Connie Clement, Del & Maree Swann, Terri & Bob Collette, Jeri Kipgen, Howell Hedrick, Jean Kelly, George G. and Denise V. And anyone we forgot to mention.

+++++

*VFW Chaplain's Corner*

John Huiting (916) 962-7456

Bill Moses had another stroke and is home now. Ernie Chingo's wife, Betty, passed away. Our condolences to Ernie and family. You may contact me at 962-7456. God Bless you all.

^^

**Loaves and Fishes**

The Ladies Aux. sent donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Here is a list that anyone can help now.

- |              |              |             |             |                                |      |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------|
| toilet paper | paper towels | baby cereal | Kleenex     | reading glasses (dollar store) | wash |
| clothes      | deodorant    | diapers     | socks       |                                |      |
| underwear    | coffee       | razors      | cough drops | canes                          |      |

## VFW Post Officers 2008 – 2009

Commander	Frank Dobek	726-7885
Sr. Vice Commander	Bill Heilmann	802-5271
Jr. Vice Commander	Alex Briones	716-6024
Adjutant	Jerry Mason	989-1378
Quartermaster	Howell Hedrick	967-1363
Chaplain	John Huiting	962-7456
Advocate	Linvel Phillips	983-5410
Surgeon	Delmar Swann	965-7112
Service Officer	Howell Hedrick	967-1363
Officer of the Day	Jerry Mason	989-1378
1 <sup>st</sup> Yr. Trustee	Melvin Buzzard	635-6129
2 <sup>nd</sup> Yr. Trustee	Emil Guisti	725-0625
3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr. Trustee	Al Masonius	838-0334
Guard	Ted Pedersen	989-1630

## Ladies Auxiliary Officers 2008 – 2009

President	Jan Jordan	838-2348
Sr. Vice President	Dorothy Kilgore	988-2054
Jr. Vice President	Barbara Guisti	759-9955
Treasurer	Cherie Valentino	723-6644
Secretary	Launay Evans	966-5648
Chaplain	Teresa Collette	723-1224
Conductress	Connie Clement	723-5950
Patriotic Instructor	Jeri Kipgen	988-9425
1 <sup>st</sup> Yr. Trustee	Nina Phillips	224-0460
2 <sup>nd</sup> Yr. Trustee	Shirley Hainline	988-4815
3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr. Trustee	Maree Swann	965-7112
Guard	Jean Kelly	988-1876

## Post Committees

Pres. House Committee	George Gridley	967-5110
Chamber of Commerce	Charles Barr	944-4490
Public Affairs	Charles Barr	944-4490
Membership	Alex Briones	716-6024
Americanism/VOD	George Gridley	967-5110
Buddy Poppy	Jerry Mason	989-1378
Employment	Bill Heilmann	802-5271
Hospital	John Huiting	962-7456
Legislative Officer	Alex Briones	716-6024
Club Manager	Don Williams	966-1663
Entertainment	Melvin Buzzard	635-6129
Memorial Park	Charles Barr	944-4490

## Ladies Auxiliary Committees

Membership	Jan Jordan	838-2348
Hospital	Jean Kelly	988-1876
Legislation	Dorothy Kilgore	988-2054
National Home	Shirley Hainline	988-4815
Youth/VOD	Cindy Juarez	505-1629
Historian	Sam Harnack	616-7267
Sr. Citizens	Jeri Kipgen	988-9425
Jr. Girls	Cindy Juarez	505-1629
Social Activities	Dorothy Kilgore	988-2054
Ways & Means	Laverne McClendon	961-5266
Pot Shot Newsletter	Shirley Hainline	988-4815

## American Legion Post 383

Commander	Bill Heilmann	802-5271
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Ray Howe	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Ron Stadtman	863-5885
Adjutant	Ron Stadtman	863-5885
Chaplain	Jim Clay	233-5127
Treasurer	Jacquelyn Daley	489-3132
Sergeant at Arms	Pete Weinberger	
Service Officer	Jim Clay	233-5127
Judge Advocate	Ed MacDonnell	635-5315

**We need help on our committees.  
Please volunteer and be part of the  
team. You can work as a team or  
co-chair one of our committees.**