

Commander's Corner

Frank Dobek (916) 726-7885

This will be my last comments as Commander of the Post. At our last meeting a new list of officers were elected. All the names are familiar. These are the people that are active in all post activities. Al Masonius was elected new Post Commander. He has served as Commander in the past and been very active in the Post throughout the years. He will be looking for help to fill committee chairmen. One person cannot run this Post by himself. It's time to step up. Get involved. This is YOUR Post. Let's make it the best VFW Post in the area.

Installation of the new officers will take place at our next meeting May 12th. It will be a joint installation with the Ladies Auxiliary. It would sure be nice to see a large turnout for this event. It would show the new officers that they have your full support. As always a light lunch will follow the installation.

A final note to all members – there are sign up sheets at the entrance to the Post for volunteers to help with the Buddy Poppy Program. This is a very important program for the Post. Please sign up. Donate a couple of hours to make this the best Poppy Program ever.

VFW Chaplain's Corner

John Huiting (916) 962-7456

The Post has received word that past Commander, Ralph Brazas has passed away. He was living in Oklahoma. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. Nice to hear that Bob Collette is doing better. Call me if members are ill or in the hospital.

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Election results for the Post and Auxiliary

Commander	Albert Masonius	President	Janice Jordan
Sr. Vice	Alex Briones	Sr. Vice	Dorothy Kilgore
Jr. Vice	Eurvon Clement	Jr. Vice	Cherie Valentino
Quartermaster	Howell Hedrick	Treasurer	Shirley Hainline
Chaplain	John Huiting	Conductress	Connie Clement
Surgeon	Delmar Swann	1 Yr. Trustee	Nina Phillips
1 Yr. Trustee	Emil Guisti	2 Yr. Trustee	Maree Swann
2 Yr. Trustee	Jerry Mason	3 Yr. Trustee	Cherie Valentino
3 Yr. Trustee	John McCoin		

Other offices will be filled at the next meeting due to absences. Chairman will be asked to volunteer and the next newsletter will have the new officers and chairman listed.

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Ladies Auxiliary President

Jan Jordan (916) 838-2348

I would like to say thank you for electing me to another year and thank you to the ladies that agreed to take an office. We will have installation on meeting night May 12th with the Post installation. I will be asking you to volunteer for a chairmanship, please let me know where you would like to help.

Reminder, the Post will be serving breakfast for Mother's Day and all mothers are free. Hope to see you there. We are asking Auxiliary members to sign up for the Buddy Poppy drive for a shift or two during May. The sign-up sheets are readily available at the Post. Then on June 21st, the Auxiliary ladies will be serving breakfast for Father's Day and all fathers are free. See you soon at the Post.

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Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain
Terri Collette (916) 723-1224

It is sad to report that Auxiliary member Ardath Bratten passed away on April 16th. She will be buried at old Fair Oaks Cemetery. We enjoyed seeing her last month and presenting her a 25 yr. pin. She will be missed by all who knew her. Betty Chingo's memorial was held on April 4th at her nieces' home in Granite Bay. Mary Curiel and her husband, Rudy attended the gathering. I was not able to attend for family reasons.

Well, summer is almost here, so get out and get some vitamin D. Just be careful about getting sunburn.

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.

GOD BLESS --- enjoy each day and each other, life is getting shorter.

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FYI

Auxiliary Ways and Means Chairman Laverne McClendon has Post t-shirts supporting the troops for sale. The Auxiliary will not be collecting the store coupons during the summer and will start again in September. It has been suggested the Thursday card game will be changed to Wednesday beginning in June, because the dinners will begin every Thursday instead of Friday.

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

The April and May general meetings are very important to the future of Post 383. At the 28 April meeting, we will nominate candidates to run for elected offices. Final nominations and the election will take place at the following meeting on 26 May. You are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings and take part in determining you your Post will be run during the 2009-10 Legion Year.

Post 383 and our AL Riders Chapter have recently welcomed a few new members. It is good to see some smiling new faces, and it is especially good to see that some of our new Legionnaires are volunteering to help out with our activities.

There will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Fair Oaks Cemetery on Saturday, 23 May at 10:00am. I hope to see all of you there, wearing your American Legion covers with pride. Intel indicates that the AL Riders will be there in force!

Speaking of Memorial Day, remember that we promised to help the VFW out with the Buddy Poppy Drive on Memorial Day weekend. The event chairman, Jerry Mason, has placed sign-up sheets at the entrance to the canteen. Be sure to stop by and sign up for a couple of two-hour shifts.

We have selected our delegate and an alternate for the 72nd California Boys State convention that will be held in June. This year, both boys are from Bella Vista High School.



Only in America—do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in America—do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Only in America- - do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in America—do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.



The House Committee Report

As can be imagined the last two months have been very active in the house committee. Our meals have been declining despite our wonderful cook. We are now looking at changing the Friday night meals to Thursday nights starting in June. The thinking on this is the Moose Lodge, and the Folsom VFW have Friday night meals and evidently these are the competition that we have been losing to. We are not trying to make a profit with any of our services but we do need to pay the costs. Our Monday night meals are self sufficient, our Friday nights are consistently losing money. Our Quartermaster and accountant compared the meals for the first quarter this year to the first quarter in 2008. Remember this is all the meals and the comparison shows a loss of \$1,483.30 or a difference of 44% when the two quarters are compared. This year we brought in \$1,834.13 and last year we brought in \$3,317.43. That is a very noticeable difference. Our first recommendation is to move to Thursday night. Naturally our next recommendation is to increase the cost to the members. I guess the final recommendation is to eliminate that which is costing us money.

We had to buy a new lawnmower, our old one would cost us as much as a new one if we were to repair it. So now we have a new lawn mower to finish this year on.

While we are on money, it is needed to show at this time our Post, in 2008, made a total profit of \$2,130.93. That is a total profit for everything and all the expenses as shown on the expense/income ledger we have to maintain. Our big income is the tower rentals, and almost everything else has a negative value, an expense. We have some income from the Fourth of July Fireworks, Buddy Poppies and interest accounts.

When we compare the bar income for the first quarter this year to last year we again see a major disparity. The difference between the two is this year we are down \$4,470.92 from what we had last year. Some of this has to do with the costs increasing from the supplier, some from tax increase and some general operating expenses. This is a 26.5% loss from last year to this year. When you look at this you have to recognize we either have to decrease the expenses to us or increase the income. I think everyone can foresee a possible increase in prices at the bar. We are open to any other solution.

We are going to have a problem with the Pot Shot in the next couple of issues. The publisher and I will be gone so we will not have any input until probably September. We need someone to step up and start doing the task.

As many have heard the Post is going to build the "pole shed" in our Memorial Park. The money is available and in the Memorial Park Fund. Keep your eyes open as this is going to be a beautiful structure and if you have time please feel free to volunteer. We really owe Bud Norris a large Thank You for his vision and ability to get it started.

Keep your eyes on the Pot Shot as the calendar will show when the meals are going to be served. Yes, the Friday meal will become a Thursday meal in June. Then there are the special breakfasts, Mother's Day, Father's Day and the fourth Sunday of every month. Also we will be allowing a motorcycle group, "Iron Cowgirls" to use the facilities on the second Sunday of every month for a breakfast, starting July 12 for three months trial. The breakfast will be a different but set each time, not to order as we have been doing. The profit will go to emergency assistance for our troops overseas and their families here at home as well as helping the injured who are coming home. The Post would get the bar tab, they would get the breakfast income.

The Post has received a notice of some of the Charities we contribute to being rated less than acceptable. There is a letter on the bulletin board about the rating of these charities and how they spend the money they ask for. Some examples are "Air Force Aid, A+", "Disabled Veterans Association, F," "Military Order of the Purple Heart, F". That means the money we as a Post or you as an individual give them is not going where they say it should go. For more information I suggest you go to:

<http://lists.blu.org/mailman/listinfo/vhfcn-1>

With that I must now tell you that I have resigned as the chairman of the House committee. My reasons are numerous but mostly I have, in two years, been unable to build a budget, to supply more services to our members and to increase the membership. There are many other smaller issues but those are the primary issues. I also will be traveling more and thus be unable to fulfill the duties of Chairman. I will continue to the end of my three year term. I also will continue with the student speeches and essays.

George Gridley