



KEEPING STEP

The Official Monthly Publication of
Theodore Roosevelt Post 21
www.calegion.org/pdf/p21.pdf

Volume 16, Issue 3

Legion Post 21 Web Site
www.sonic.net/cdunn/legion

March 2011

Telephone
707-522-9350

Fax
707-542-4411

Commander
Carlton Smirni

Adjutant
Joseph Embry
adjutant-ca-legion-post-21@gmx.com

Chaplain
Morella Staggs
546-9993

Auxiliary President
Jean Mueller

Auxiliary Secretary
Norma Harrison
546-7577

Keeping Step Editor
Sandy Paxton
539-6998
keepingstep@gmail.com

Post Website
www.sonic.net/cdunn/legion

Post Email
keepingstep@gmail.com



Keeping Step Editor

Receiving the Keeping Step via email will save the Post money. Send an email to keepingstep@gmail.com to get on the email list. **NOTE:** All articles due by the **15th** of each month.

*** *All* those who receive the Keeping Step and their families are invited to attend the various activities on our calendar and we would love to see you.

Commander's Column

Another Forrest Gump *ism* may assist you in your travails in this day and age of violence: "You get into a fight, first thing you do is whang yourself over the head with a fryin' pan or somethin'. Usually, your opponent will then run away, figgerin' that if you was willing to do that to *yourself*, then what was you fixin' to do to *him!* " Seriously, though, do not use one of those new-fangled *non-stick* fryin' pans. it will only make you look foolish, and give you a headache besides. More seriously, I do hope you remember our March 2 Regular Meeting features our Women Veterans Recognition. Do turn your clocks and watches *ahead* at the stroke of midnight on March 12, and not behind to the Ides of March, the history of March Madness, or the March Hare (you'll go mad). Our Legion Anniversary Dinner Dance ,with Nello Bassignani & The Drum & Bugle Corps, is on March 19, Saturday. The First day of Spring is March 20. April brings us 1st Nominations of Post Officers, April Fools, Tax Returns / Editor Sandy Paxton busy bee period, and the Easter Bunny (first cousin of the March Hare, thrice-removed). Please complete and hand in your Americanism Reports chronicling your patriotic + activities. Legionnaires, till next time, *You Are My Sunshine*.

Carlton Smirni
Commander Post 21

1st Vice Commander

Oh boy. It's that time again to prepare for our American Legion Anniversary Dinner (also best known as the Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner.) Sign up to help, show up to work and enjoy the festivity.

Stanley Turner Jr.
1st Vice Commander

28th Feb Executive Board 7:00pm Porter Carner Clubroom

March 2011

2nd Regular Meeting 8:00pm Women Veterans Recognition
16th Social Night 7:00pm Potluck followed by Bingo/Poker
19th **Corned Beef Dinner** 6:00pm Anniversary Dinner and Dance

Pre-sale tickets 539-8301 \$14.00

April 2011

3rd Spring Fling 1:00pm Yountville hospital recreations room
4th Executive Board 7:00pm Porter Carner Clubroom
6th Regular Meeting 8:00pm Membership Awards and
1st Nominations of Officers
20th Social Night 7:00pm Potluck followed by Bingo/Poker

Adjutants Corner

Post 21 Life Memberships

We have had a very positive response to our offer to our older members to become Post 21 Life members. I have submitted (or have ready to submit) approximately 30 Post 21 Life memberships.

Honoring our World War II service members

Most of the members that I have spoken with over the past 2 months are, of course, World War II veterans. This caused me to remember some of the great stories that our late member Tom Daugherty related about his experiences as a Marine in the South Pacific, Korea and later Vietnam.

Our members of the *Greatest Generation* probably have some interesting stories to tell. If you are one of those members, Post 21 would like to hear your story and memorialize it in a short story in the *Keeping Step*. The possibility exists for some form of collection of these stories to be published at a later date. If you are interested in telling **your story**, let me know by dropping me a line, care of P.O. Box 281, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0281

What a great way to honor our World War II Veterans and pass some history on to our younger generation!

Joe Embry
Post Adjutant 707 548-2740

Terry's Corner

Thanks to everyone that is using their **SHARES** card at Lucky or FoodMaxx. It is really appreciated. Keep up the good work. Still have cards if you want one.

Please consider joining us on the Drum and Bugle Corps. It really takes very little time and is fun. Maybe you have some kids or grandkids that play an instrument and would consider playing with us.

Terry Thurman

We can use some nice prizes for our raffle at the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 19. This is our big fund-raiser of the year so if you would like to contribute please contact Norma Harrison @ 546-7577.

On our meeting night in February, we were invited to attend the tribute to the Four Chaplains conducted by the Post, with the assistance of the Sea Scouts Orion, and it was very well done. These young scouts are certainly an asset to the community.

The Girls State interviews are now completed and we are always impressed with the ability and character of these young women. The annual Girls State Orientation Luncheon will be held on May 15 at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. in Petaluma. Anyone can attend but reservations are a must—lunch is \$8. You may contact GS chairman, Maryann Laughlin 542-1009 or one of the Auxiliary officers.

The next District 5 meeting will be held at the Sonoma Post on March 27. The Department of California President, Pilar Reyes, will be making her official visit and everyone is urged to attend.

The annual Spring Fling at Yountville will be on April 3 so do mark that on your calendar. That is the day we share hors d'oeuvres and good conversation with the Veterans who reside at the hospital.

Jean Mueller

Auxiliary President

VVA Fundraiser for Gold Star Families - As time has gone by the Gold Star Parents of California achieved the mandated goal of raising \$300,000 in order to begin producing Gold Star Family license plates and those plates are now being issued. We are still on track for a fundraiser on Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 21st. Please make a note on your calendars. The funds raised will go to support the annual Gold Star Parents gathering in San Francisco held at the Marines Memorial Association. This two-day program supports parents of the fallen from all over California. It is sponsored by the Blue Star Moms, East Bay Chapter and the Marines Memorial Association and provides a respectful and caring place for us to talk about our fallen children and the difficult path we have in common. I hope you will feel it is worthy of your support in May.

Norma Viglienze

Gold Star Mom

Hattie Stone is on the mend after a miserable time with allergies. Our condolences to Bud Simmons and family in the lose of Elaine.

Inspire us, O Lord, to continue to seek peace in our world from a position of strength, justice and compassion. May we ever be ready to serve You our God, and our Nation? We make our prayer in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Morella Staggs

Post Chaplain

Post Everlasting



Granville DeMerritt WWII

Thomas Lowney Korea

Mario Simonetti Korea

Got yarn laying around and you want to find a new home for it? We have a few ladies who knit and crochet and make lap covers and scarves for our Veterans at Yountville. So if you or your friends have yarn that you would like to part with, you can call Norma Harrison 546-7577 or Sandy Paxton 539-6998, you are welcome to bring it to a meeting. Thank you

VOLUNTEERING is considered AMERICANISM. The American Legion has an Americanism Program. The time we spend volunteering helps to show how active our Post is. You can really contribute to the viability of the Post by submitting your volunteering report. Attending meetings isn't all there is to the American Legion. Let us know how much **you are already doing**. Don't forget. If you volunteer anywhere, doing anything, please document your hours or miles for the past year. Get the report to the Commander ASAP. He has a report that he needs to turn in at the State Convention. **Terry Thurman**

Thanks to our Legion friends who are lending their support:

Christopherson Homes, Santa Rosa—Forestville/Guerneville

David J. Marquardt, at Creative Property service, Residential and Investment Properties.
www.davidsellssonomscounty.com

Jim Connolly at Sutter West Mortgage, Providing Real Estate Loans for Veterans and their families.

Adam's Custom Millworks, offering fine carpentry work—re-models, kitchens, cabinets, doors and windows. Contractors License #832964 admillworks@sbcglobal.net

McLeas's Tire and Automotive Service—Santa Rosa, Cotati, Petaluma, Sonoma —
www.mcleastire.com

Sequoia Landscape Materials 1330 King Street Santa Rosa 527-5512

Young's Handyman Service 707-478-8537 or 707-523-2815