

The American Legion
 Larry E. Bennett Post 255
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The Two Five Fiver

Monthly Newsletter of The American Legion, Larry E. Bennett Post 255, National City, California
 January 2006

2005-2006 Post Officers		
Commander: J.B. Johnson	Chaplain: J.B. Johnson	E-Board: Denzil Bailey
1 st Vice: Diane DeVries	Sgt at Arms: Ken Dibble	E-Board: Steve Hawkins
2 nd Vice: Joe Bonilla	Judge Advocate: Pat DeBaca	E-Board: Paul Ressler
Adjutant: Diane DeVries	Service Officer: Sunny Farrand	E-Board: Pat DeBaca
Finance Officer: Kirk Nelson	Historian/ Jr. Past Commander: Rick DeVries	E-Board: Bill Devaney
2005-2006 Auxiliary Officers		
President: Suzie Bailey	2 nd Vice: Cheryl Russell & Jill Thornton	Treasurer: Diane DeVries
1 st Vice: Gloria Camacho	Secretary: Mazie Hawthorne	Chaplain: Rita Dibble
2005-2006 SAL Officers		
Commander: Scott Emerson	Adjutant: Jim Ferguson	Chaplain: J.B. Johnson

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Diane DeVries

During our Post meeting in December, I was honored to accept the "Early Bird" award for achieving 65% membership by November 11th. Thanks to everyone who assisted in the membership recruiting efforts.

Our membership goal from District is 359. To date we have signed up or renewed 331 members which is 92.20% of goal.

Now is the time to check your wallets for your 2006 membership card. Beginning January 1, 2006 you will be asked to show your 2006 card at the Post. Show it with pride. Remember, the cost to join is nothing compared to the price you paid to be eligible.

If you have not paid your 2006 dues, I will contact you in January (e-mail, snail mail or phone call). Your membership is important at the local, state and national levels.

Pease welcome our newest members: Salvatore Romano, Lyle Carvey, Kenneth Stewart Jr., Cekeithia Battle, Ulisses Palafox, Clifford Boyd, Caleb Toews, Allan Garrett, Buenaventura Syeu Jr., Mac Clough, Patrick Flynn, Samuel Lacy and Kris Karpow.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim Rushing, Lydia Romero and Marie Stanley. All spent Christmas in the hospital.

Also, to Steve (Joel) Hawkins. Get well soon.

Best wishes to all who have been feeling under the weather.

ADJUTANT

Diane DeVries

No more stamps! We are now able to send out the Post Newsletter by bulk mail. This is a considerable savings in postage every month (over \$100).

My next project is to get the Post website up-and-running. This will also save on postage, as anyone with a computer will be able to log on to the website and see the latest news. I'll keep you informed on the progress of the web site.

The revised *House Rules* were finalized at the December Post meeting and will be available soon. The Post *By-Laws* will be reviewed at the January meeting.

SERVICE OFFICER

Sunny Farrand

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

In an article in the Union Tribune on December 23rd on page A-3, the Veterans Administration (VA) finally informed more of the public about the availability of healthcare for those of the retired military, their spouses or widows. Even you who are not retired military, but served in the Armed Forces, are eligible for care through the VA.

As Service Officer, I would like to thank all of you for your support. I am proud to be of service to you.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

LAW & ORDER PROGRAM

Chairman Rick DeVries

The Law & Order Dinner and Award Ceremony will be held January 28th. Social hour will begin at 5 pm, dinner will be at 6 pm and the award ceremony will commence at 7 pm. We will be honoring the 2005 Law Officer and Firefighter of the Year.

ORATORICAL PROGRAM

Chairman Rick DeVries

It is my pleasure to announce our Oratorical Contestant for 2005, Russell York. Russell will present his prepared oration on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government on January 14th at 2 pm. He will then go on to compete at the District level February 5th.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The pool sticks have been replaced with new ones. Thanks to everyone who brought this to the attention of the Building Committee.

SOLDIERS 4 SOLDIERS

Thanks to everyone who brought in their used cell phones and inkjet cartridges for recycling. Keep them coming! To date we have contributed \$575 to the **American Legacy Scholarship Fund.**

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

A must see! Stop by the Post to see the album Kirk Nelson put together

highlighting this year's Holiday Food Drive. 80 complete ham or turkey dinners plus tons of "extra stuff" were delivered to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot for further distribution to junior Marines and their families. It truly was a spectacular event from start to finish.

255 MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A special thanks to **Jim Rushing** for donating fishing equipment for the Chollas Lake Children's Fishing Program. It was delivered as requested and was GREATLY appreciated.

A special thanks to December's Fish Fry Crew: **Joe, Rick, Diane, Kirk, Scotty, Jim, Ed, the Dooley clan, Andrew, Buddha, Cheryl N. and Cheryl R.** This was the best Fish Fry yet!

A special thanks to everyone who purchased Tupperware for the fundraiser. Purchases netted \$192 for the Law & Order Dinner.

A special thanks to everyone who attended the National Commander's lunch at Post 434.

A special thanks to the singers and dancers who support Friday Karaoke nights. Look out American Idol! The gift exchange on December 23rd was fun too.

A special thanks to **Al Ten Eyck and Myrna Marks** for the Monday Night Football Food Specials. Tonight (December 26) will be the last one and will feature Joe's super burgers. If you are interested in sponsoring a "food special" contact Joe or Fitz.

A special thanks to December's Thursday Lunch Specialists: **Janet Garmon** and **Joe Bonilla**.

A special thanks to **Kevin and Sissy Miller** for the continuous assistance with the office computer.

A special thanks to **Janet Garmon** for her membership recruiting efforts. Commander J.B. Johnson presented Janet the "National Commander Tom Bock Rounder Pin (first award)" for signing up 5 new members.

A special thanks to everyone who made our Christmas Dinner this year a big success: **Rick DeVries** (bartender), **Diane DeVries** and **Jim Ferguson** (cooks) and **Bill Devaney** (potato-peeler). Also, thanks to **Bill and Elsa Devaney** for donating rolls and potatoes, **Gigi, Denise** and **Suzie** for supplying the yummy deserts.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

FOR SALE: One industrial strength freezer in good condition. \$400 or best offer. Contact Fitz if interested.

The American Legion District 22 sponsors **BINGO** the second Saturday of every month at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in La Jolla. BINGO starts at 1:00 pm and is over by 4:00 pm. Volunteers are always needed. Next bingo event is 14 January.

The monthly meeting of the United Veterans Council of San Diego County is held the fourth Saturday of each month at the Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center (the old Navy Chapel), 2115 Park Boulevard in Balboa Park at

9:30 a.m. The next meeting is Saturday, January 28th. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Al and **Myrna** are planning a great **Superbowl Party** at the Post on 5 February. There will be food and drink specials, special prizes (27" TV) and other events. Come root for your favorite team or just kick back and enjoy some good football with your Comrades. Contact Al or Myrna for details.

The San Diego Union-Tribune is working on a story about hearing loss among veterans. If you or someone you know has suffered a service-related hearing loss and would like to be interviewed, please contact Steve Liewer at the Union-Tribune, (619) 293-1293 or steve.liewer@uniontrib.com.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SALS)

Commander Scott Emerson

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. The end of the year is here, so if you haven't paid your dues, come on down and pay.

Janet and I will be going to the Brawley Post 60 for the Chili Cook-Off on January 21, 2006. If you want a day of fun, come on over to Post 60 and support the 255 "Emersome Biggins & the Chili ain't bad either" chili team.

Be safe and see you down at the Post.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE POST MEETING

1. Joe Bonilla made a motion to sponsor one child from Otis Elementary School to camp in February at a cost of \$125. The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Commander J.B. Johnson displayed an Americanism Citation for 2004-2005 presented to Post 255 at the last District meeting.

OVERHEARD AT THE BAR

1. Jimmy Nieto to Kelly: You got to pay for it!

AUXILIARY NEWS

President Suzie Bailey

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope Santa was good to everyone.

On December 3rd, Brittany and Jackie (2 Juniors), Andrew (a SAL member) and myself helped decorate the Chula Vista Veterans Home for the holidays. A San Diego Union reporter was there and interviewed us. Brittany's picture was on the front page of the San Diego section on December 4th. The residents thanked us and offered candy and sodas to everyone.

Our membership is doing well. We have 163 paid up so far for the 2005-06 year. Our goal set by District is 188 so we are only short 25. Any new members also count. If you know anyone eligible to join the Auxiliary, or children or grandchildren eligible to join Juniors, let them know about us.

Keep the coupons coming in. So far I have mailed out 8,000 to overseas commissaries for the military living there. Just drop them off with the bartender or put them on the desk in the office. Thanks again.

Good to see Betty Wright and Penny Geer out for our Christmas Dinner. We miss you both.

Thanks to all the ladies who attended our December meeting. We had our gift exchange and a pot luck dinner. Food was delicious and the gifts were lovely.

Children and Youth

For the Children's Party to be a success it takes many helpers. The Christmas tree was assembled by Janet Garmon, Ed Cardwell and Zeke McMains and decorated by Janet and Kayleigh and Ian Ferguson. Jill Thornton and Cheryl Russell had already been at work helping Santa with the shopping. The presents were wrapped and tagged by Jill, Cheryl and Molly in no time. The morning of the party the cooks were busy. There was sausage and pancakes to get ready. In the kitchen cooking were Scotty Emerson, Jim Ferguson and Kayleigh. Santa (Bob Dreyer) arrived to have breakfast with the children and hand out the presents. Santa's helpers were Brittany Dooley, Gigi Subers and Janet. The party was for Post 255 Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and Junior Auxiliary members, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren up to the age of 12 years old. We requested that the sponsor and the child attend this event to receive presents, but that didn't happen in all cases. Sorry for those sick or unable to attend. This year Santa didn't give out candy due to too many complaints last year. Many thanks to everyone for all the help. This party wouldn't be a success without every one.

Suzie:
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
JANUARY 2006**

* Food specials on Monday depend on volunteers available.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	January 2 * FOOD SPECIAL	January 3	January 4 SAL meeting 6:30 pm	January 5 Lunch Special	January 6 FISH FRY 6 pm NO KARAOKE	January 7
January 8	January 9 * FOOD SPECIAL	January 10	January 11 MAGA meeting	January 12 Lunch Special	January 13 KARAOKE 6-10 pm	January 14 Legion Bingo at VAMC 1-4 pm Oratorical Contest 2 pm
January 15	January 16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i> * FOOD SPECIAL	January 17	January 18	January 19 Lunch Special Post & Aux meeting 7 pm	January 20 KARAOKE 6-10 pm	January 21 Brawley Area meeting and Chili Cook- Off
January 22	January 23 * FOOD SPECIAL	January 24	January 25	January 26	January 27 KARAOKE 6-10 pm	January 28 Law & Order Dinner 6 pm
January 29	January 30 * FOOD SPECIAL	January 31	February 1	February 2 Lunch Special	February 3 FISH FRY 6 pm NO KARAOKE	February 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU for JANUARY

<p><i>Harriet Tagye – 4th</i> <i>Helen Lafata – 6th</i> <i>Bobbie Arciga – 8th</i> <i>Monet Brengle – 8th</i> <i>Ardy Tinkle – 9th</i> <i>Carlos Acevedo – 11th</i> <i>John Kirk II – 11th</i> <i>Rebecca Robinson – 11th</i> <i>Eddie DeBaca – 12th</i></p>	<p><i>Jay Wright – 12th</i> <i>Sunny Farrand – 14th</i> <i>Gilbert Candelaria – 15th</i> <i>Jewel Davenport – 15th</i> <i>Wendy Kerrigan – 15th</i> <i>Kirk Nelson – 16th</i> <i>William Andrus – 17th</i> <i>Ted Sandez – 18th</i> <i>Rebecca Klinger – 18th</i> <i>Uwe Froehlich – 19th</i></p>	<p><i>Stephen Hawkins – 19th</i> <i>Lorraine Murphy – 20th</i> <i>Dominic Revelez – 21st</i> <i>Ian Harmer – 25th</i> <i>Jim Fitzpatrick – 26th</i> <i>Anthony Martinez – 26th</i> <i>Barbara Polansky – 26th</i> <i>Justin Babcock – 27th</i> <i>Fred Saiia – 29th</i> <i>Shawn Hildebrandt – 29th</i></p>
<p>If you have a birthday in January and don't see it listed, please call (619) 477-3055 to update our database.</p>		