

VETERAN'S VOICE

Volume 2, Issue 4

MONTHLY

APRIL 1, 2004

POST OFFICERS:

COMMANDER:

VINCE FISKE

1ST VICE COMMANDER:

EDITOR

JEFF MCKENDRY

2ND VICE COMMANDER:

BOB FOX

3RD VICE COMMANDER

ROBIN KRAHENBULH

ADJUTANT:

KEITH COTTREL

FINANCE OFFICER:

MERLE METZLER

CHAPLAIN:

KEITH COTTREL

SERVICE OFFICER:

WILLIE RICE

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT

On March 1st, the Department Of California kicked off its 2004 Rehab Fund Drive. The purpose of the Fund Drive is to offset the expenses incurred by the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division (VA&R). Last year, this Rehabilitation Fund Drive raised \$219,000. Actual operating expenses of the VA&R were \$767,000. As you can see, a great need exists for participation. This program is considered, 2nd only to membership, the most important

fund drive in The American Legion. Its purpose is to subsidize the efforts of the VA&R division expenses in its effort to help the veterans obtain US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits in the State of California. **EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO THE REHAB FUND DRIVE IS APPLIED TO REHAB. IT DOES NOT GO IN THE DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.**

A SWEETHEART OF A NIGHT

Valentines Day at the post was a night for good food, good company and a special time for couples to enjoy a romantic evening. The Don Foote Memorial Hall was transformed to an atmosphere of coziness and intimacy with candlelight and chocolate kisses. Romantic lighting not only enhanced the mood of the evening but also provided a special ambiance to the evening's meal. Prime Rib, prepared with tender loving care by Chef Bob Fox and his usual team of volunteers was exquisite. Music of all kinds was provided by our own Commander Vince Fiske that

lent to many dancing to that "special" song that brought back happy memories of Valentines Day gone past. Beautifully decorated baskets were done up containing an assortment of Valentine offerings for raffle. Many stayed for hours and enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful evening that everyone who chose to attend will remember all year long. Kudos to all who worked so hard to make this a memorable night.

AUXILLARY OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

BONNY WRIGHT

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

MADELINE FISKE

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

ESTHER HANKS

SECRETARY/TREASURE

LINDA HUNT

CHAPLAIN

INA MAE TINSLEY

FIRST NOMINATIONS HELD

First nominations of officers for the 2004/2005 year were held during the March general post meeting. For Commander, the following were nominated and accepted: Bruce Windsor and Jeff McKendry. For Finance Officer: Vince Fiske and Emery Sabo. For E-Board: Iris-Coleman Hodges, Bob Mageeche and Harry Offerman.

No other nominations were made for openings for 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander or 3rd Vice Commander. All members in good standing wishing to place

their names on the ballot in May, are encouraged to be present at the next general meeting in April and either have someone nominate you or nominate yourself. You must be present to accept any nomination. The April general meeting will be the last chance to place your nominations as no further nominations will be accepted afterwards and the election will be held at the May general meeting.

Good luck to all current candidates.

COMMANDERS CORNER

Hello Comrades:

Well its finally done! The scaffold is down and the new sign is up. The building, with the exception of a few cosmetic touches, is complete. The flag pole will be put up in the very near future but the flags should be up in the front of the building by the time you get this bulletin. We will start April with a Friday Night Fish Fry on April 2nd Honoring The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor WWII P.O.W. Survivors. This is a fundraiser for the Post with all proceeds to benefit The Building Improvement Fund. No Host Cocktail Hour 5 to 6 PM. 6 to 7:30 Dinner and Program. Advanced Tickets Required. Purchase tickets for this event at the Post for \$10.00 per person. At 8:00 PM a video will be shown "In The Hands of the Enemy". There will be a discussion following the video with some of the P.O.W Survivors. Just a reminder, May 1st we will be having another Enchilada Dinner. Advance Tickets will go on sale starting in April 1st. Remember the last Enchilada Dinner sold out, so get your tickets when they go on sale. May 15th will be our Grand Opening for our new building so please make your plans. We will have more information on this next month. Again thank you for all that contributed during the month. Let us always be mindful of our obligation to our Veterans and their families. Keep up the good work.

Hope to see you real soon.

Vince Fiske, Commander

2ND VICE 'S VOICE

Hello,

I hope all is well with everyone. The post dinner for April will be meatloaf with macaroni and cheese. The dinner will include a salad, bread, a vegetable and dessert. Dinner will be from 6pm to 7pm and the price is \$6.00. The kitchen crew looks forward to seeing everyone and enjoys your company. I would like to thank everyone who has helped out in the kitchen and especially those who helped with preparing and serving the Valentines Day and the St. Patrick's day dinners. Once again we had very successful events, and it couldn't have happened without the help of all the volunteers.

V/R

Bob Fox, Second Vice Commander

Children's Miracle Network Fundraiser

The Post and Auxiliary will be hosting a charity bingo fundraiser on 18 April at 1pm. The event will be Disney themed and include bingo games for cash prizes, door prizes, snacks and an really fun auction for some great Disney and other items. Donation to attend is \$15 with all proceeds going to the Children's Miracle Network. So come on down and enjoy a fun filled afternoon with friends while helping raise money for a very worthy cause. Wear your favorite Disney apparel and you could win something special.

AUXILIARY NEWS



Hello Ladies,

Hope ya'll had a great St. Paddy's Day!! I sure did!! The post put on a real nice corned beef and cabbage dinner and Bonnie Fox made a wonderful cake!! Thank You, Bonnie. Don't forget our Rummage Sale Apr 3 (Saturday, 9am-4pm) and Apr 4 (Sunday 9am-3pm). On Sunday the

post will be serving a pancake breakfast for only \$4.00. Remember the money from our Rummage Sale goes to our Girls State Program. If you need help getting your "Rummage" to the post, call me (509-0535 or 487-7107) and we'll get it down here. The E-Board meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 Apr at 7pm and the General meeting on Wednesday, 7 Apr at 7:30pm. We will be having an initiation that night also, so, if want to be initiated, call me. PLEASE CALL ME!! Hope to see all of you at the meeting and have a peaceful Easter.

Hugs Always, Bonny W.

BOUTIQUE ITEMS NEEDED

The Auxiliary is in need of items to sell at our monthly boutique. We are looking for small household items, crafts, or jewelry in good condition. If you have items you wish to donate, please call Esther Hanks @ 486-0766.

E-BOARD MEMBERS

Please remember to bring your list of hours, projects and donated monies to the E-Board Meeting in April. Year-end reports are due and we need the documentation.

WHOOPIE!

Our first annual recycle drive has officially ended. We raised \$150.00 this year and hope to at least double that amount over the next year. Remember that the money must stay in Ventura and we must make our decision as to how to use it at the April meeting. Bring your ideas!!

Annette McKendry, Community Service Chairman

CHAPLAINS CORNER



Comrade Jack Leigh (U.S. Army, World War II) transferred to Post Everlasting on 25 January 2004 at the age of 87. Our condolences go out to his family. The post was asked to perform the flag presentation at the memorial service on 29 January 2004, as burial will be in South Dakota. Participating were Keith Cottrell, Merle

Metzler, Willie Rice, Sam Merriman and Richard Klock. Thanks to all of you.

Post 339 was asked to conduct a graveside service for Francis Rawson (U.S. Army, World War II) on 4 February 2004. Participating were Keith Cottrell, Willie Rice, Vincent Fiske, Nap Wilson, Erv Sykora and Ernie Gulovsen. Thanks to all of you.

Post 339 was asked to present the flag at the memorial service for Ronnie Hurst (U.S. Army, Viet Nam) on 14 February 2004. Participating were Keith Cottrell, Willie Rice, Eddie Leighton, Erv Sykora, Ray Stratton and Sam Merriman. Thanks to all of you.

We received information from the families that the following members have transferred to Post Everlasting: John N. Petersen, Henry E. Clopper, and Robert B Ashton. The post was not asked to provide services for these comrades. Comrades, as the above paragraph shows, we sometimes don't receive notice about a comrades passing until the next newsletter goes out and the family notifies us to stop delivery. If the family asks the funeral home to request

American Legion services, we get notified that way. However, many times the family has the flag presented by another organization. Then, we only get notified if someone from the family calls us. When we are called, we take care of notifying the Department. I realize that a family may not want a full-scale Legion service. We try to provide what the family asks for. This can range from a single representative of the legion presenting a pre-folded flag to a full color guard with bugler. We are not able to provide a firing squad

GOOD-OF-THE-LEGION

- Don't forget the Country Dances on Fridays. Come down and shake a leg with us. 7-10PM.
- Remember the time change on the 4th.
- THE SIGN IS UP ON THE BUILDING. There is no reason for not coming down now.
- Grand opening planned for May.
- Come down and support your favorite candidate or nominate a new one at the next General Meeting.
- Post Clean-Up Day rescheduled for the 24th. Call Jeff for more info. Lots of help needed.

GEORGE COMPTON'S ADVICE



Question: In a recent column you stated that a service-connected veteran with at least a 10-percent service-connected disability did not have a co-pay for medical services. Did you mean for any medical services or just the service-connected condition?

Answer: Veterans with a service-connected disability or disabilities rated at 10 percent and higher do not pay for medical treatment for almost any condition. That includes glasses and hearing aids. The only treatment not included is dental.

For dental treatment, the veteran must have a service-connected dental problem or be rated 100-percent service-connected disabled.

Veterans rated at 10 to 40 percent, depending on income, have to pay for prescriptions for nonservice-connected problems.

The VA can also try to get a veteran's medical insurance to provide some payment, but the veteran cannot be charged.

Question: I understand that concurrent receipt for retired military rated at least 50-percent disabled was approved. When will we start getting paid?

Answer: Concurrent receipt for routine cases started on

Feb. 2. Those cases not finalized or with questions to be resolved should see payment by April 1. Retirees rated by the VA at 50 percent and higher do not have to apply for this benefit. If a veteran does not receive payment, this office will assist.

Question: In a recent column you stated that the budget would not allow Priority Group 8 veterans get health benefits. I have been getting treated at the VA clinic in Oxnard. Will they still see me?

Answer: I am sorry if I confused you, the budget will not allow new Priority Group 8 veterans to be seen. The veterans who were enrolled before the restrictions began will still be seen as usual.

George Compton, retired Army colonel, is the veterans service officer for the County of Ventura, Human Services Agency. Send your questions to Veterans Service Office, 1701 Pacific Ave., Suite 110, Oxnard, CA 93033; phone number: 385-6366; fax: 385-6371; or e-mail: George.Compton@mail.co.ventura.ca.us.

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Veterans Helping Veterans

MAILING ADDRESS

April 2004

April Schedule of Events

- 4/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — Bingo
- 4/9, 16, 23, 30—Country Dance. \$3.00
- 4/2 — Bataan Dinner and presentation 5:00PM on. \$10.00 in Advance
- 4/3, 4—Auxiliary Rummage sale
- 4/4— Pancake breakfast for \$4.00.
- 4/5—County Council meeting 6:30PM Moorpark
- 4/6—E-Board meeting 7PM
- 4/7—General Meeting w/ Dinner. 6PM Meatloaf. \$6.00
- 4/18—Disney Bingo Party –Doors open @ noon, Games begin @ 1pm \$15.00 Donation.
- 4/24—Post Clean-up Day 10AM
- 4/25—Pancake Breakfast

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 	3 
4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10
11	12	13	14	15 	16 	17
18 	19	20	21	22 	23 	24 
25 	26	27	28	29 	30 