



*For God and Country*  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
 The World's Largest Veterans Organization



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Fair Oaks American Legion Post 383

*Quarterly Newsletter*

*Motto: "Give Us Five to Stay Alive"*

**The American Legion**

**Post Officers**



1<sup>st</sup> Vice Schumacher



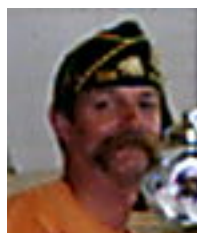
Commander Fowler



2<sup>nd</sup> Vice LaFontaine



Adjutant Stadtman



Sgt-At-Arms Lindermeyer



Chaplain Rice

**\*\* Attention to Orders - Details for Today! \*\***

**Volunteers are needed for work parties at the Post on the Second Saturday of each month!**

## **From the Commander's Desk:**

My term as Commander of Post #383 draws to a close. Reflection back on these last two years has been one of goals met, those not met, and the events that have made it so special along the way. The list of things accomplished is, thankfully, longer than those not! I have satisfaction in seeing the American Legion Fair Oaks Post growing to 220 members strong. This is the largest total ever for our group here!

Also, the sponsorship of the Young Marines JROTC unit and their acceptance of calling the Post Home their base of operations, having the Sgt. Arnold Duplantier II fund raiser for his widow and daughter, adopting Charlie Company as our home unit, being granted full access to any California National Guard or Air Guard facility for recruiting and addition of newer veterans into our ranks. Additionally, we had the opportunity to have some fun with that great Hawaiian Night, and having the VFW and Auxiliary stand with us in support of the efforts in providing for the loved ones of one of our fallen comrades.

I feel very strongly that great strides have been made towards a more balanced and workable partnership with the VFW family. Many of us belong to both organizations, and I expect that this next year will see even more efforts made to solve the challenges ahead that face both groups, with a team effort that **MUST** be implemented. By working together we will accomplish more than "us/them" thinking would ever produce.

There are goals not met, and I do recognize that these have hindered our progress, Still no Legion Auxiliary, no Sons of the Legion, poor attendance at functions and Post meetings. We lack active, participating personnel to volunteer time and talents, to help out with what we do to be a positive unit in Fair Oaks. These shortcomings are troubling, and I have not yet been able to come up with their solutions.

However, I am still proud of what we have accomplished and feel I can say my tour of duty as Commander was a success for all that DID go right. We have a couple of streamers added to our colors, and, for the first time since I have been with Post #383, we will be hosting the District Meeting in June. We are at this time #1 in membership in the 6<sup>th</sup> District at 118.92%, #3 in Area 1 out of 100 posts, and #9 in the Department of California out of 535 posts. Not too shabby!

I could not have done my job without the support and active help of your Post Officers and I thank them sincerely. Some of them will not be in the line-up next year due to health and other reasons.

It is time for the membership of this Post to step up and assume some of the duties required to keep this Post alive and running. That means **ATTENDING MEETINGS**, **VOLUNTEERING** to help out at functions and **GETTING INVOLVED!** If things do not change, then we will not be in existence much longer. I can't help but wonder that out of 220 members, we get less than 12 to show up for things that are critical to the survival of this unit. I want to think we have enough good men and women who will take their places beside us and press forward.

I thank all of you for the honor, your trust, and the privilege of having been your Commander for these past two years. I haven't the words to adequately describe the gratitude to my mentors and advisors who guided my journey to this point. All I can say is "thank you" and I pledge my full support to the next Commander to carry on our work.

God bless you all and God Bless America!

*Semper Fi!*

**Richard "Buck" Fowler**  
**Commander**



## Chaplain's Corner:

A great number of questions relate to the role of Chaplain. Rarely is the Chaplain an ordained minister, priest or rabbi. Therefore, there are certain limitations as to what can be expected of him or her. However, the chaplain, being on the staff of the commander, is to serve as spiritual advisor for all members.

Within this context, the Chaplain should:

1. Be present at all Post events. By simply being there, he or she is saying that this is a significant occasion and it is recognized that one has a responsibility to be present regardless of whether or not there is a particular role to fill. In other words, a chaplain presence is essential.
2. Prayers: Every legionnaire knows that the Chaplain gives the invocation and benediction at meetings. The chaplain also gives the memorial prayer at Post Everlasting services.
3. The chaplain should participate in the following:
  - a. Four Chaplains Sunday and Religious Emphasis Week.
  - b. Independence Day events.
  - c. Veterans Day Memorials.
  - d. Installations.
  - e. Initiations.
  - f. Funerals and memorials when requested.
4. Visit the ill, bereaved, shut-ins, disabled, and prospective members.
5. Send cards and make telephone cards as needed.
6. Take part in all rituals and ceremonies of the American Legion.
7. Communicate with officers, members, and community organizations.
8. Provide spiritual leadership through the Legion's "Service to God and Country" program.

*I hope this will clarify the role of the Chaplain for the benefit of all members.*

Carroll A. Rice, Jr.  
Chaplain

**Please be sure to contact me when you have news of anyone, member or spouse, who is ill, incapacitated, or otherwise indisposed or deceased. You may contact me at (916)988-6163 (C. Rice).**

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# Calendar

## April

- 5<sup>th</sup> Post 383 Executive Committee meeting 7:00 PM at the Post
- 12<sup>th</sup> Post 383 General Membership meeting.  
Initial Officer nominations for the new Legion year.  
7:00 PM at the Post
- 20<sup>th</sup> American Legion sponsored dinner, pork chops or fish, 6:00 PM at the Post
- 24<sup>th</sup> Legislation Day in Sacramento.  
Meet in Eureka Room, Capital Bldg Basement cafe at 8:00 AM

## May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Post 383 Executive Committee meeting – 7:00 PM at the Post
- 10<sup>th</sup> Post 383 General Membership meeting – 7:00 PM at the Post. Final nominations and election of officers for the new Legion Year
- 18<sup>th</sup> American Legion sponsored dinner – 6:00 PM at the Post. See “Pot Shots” for menu
- 27<sup>th</sup> American Legion\VFW sponsored breakfast – 9:00-11:00 AM at the Post

## June

- 7<sup>th</sup> Post 383 Executive Committee meeting – 7:00 PM at the Post
- 10<sup>th</sup> District 6 meeting hosted by Post 383 at 7:00 PM.,  
including initiation of new members of the Post
- 14<sup>th</sup> Post 383 General membership Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Post
- 15<sup>th</sup> American Legion sponsored dinner – 6:00 PM at the Post. See “Pot Shots” for menu
- 16<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup> Boy’s State, CSUS Sacramento
- 24<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup> Department of California Convention at Palm Springs, CA

We still need to know your E-mail address so we can communicate with you better. Please send your name and E-mail address to [alpost383@daleyhouse.com](mailto:alpost383@daleyhouse.com) and join us in creating a better information flow for your benefit.

# Events

## **Boy's State Update:**

Post 383 has made arrangements to send two representatives to Boy's State this year. See the Calendar for dates and place.

## **Change in Post 383 Meeting Nights:**

Our Post will change the Executive Committee and General Membership meeting nights beginning in **July** at the beginning of the new Legion Year. The Executive Committee will meet on the **third** Tuesday of each month and the General Membership will meet on the **fourth** Tuesday of the month. This will free up the big hall for rental or special occasions on Thursdays and provide for better planning and coordination between our Post and our VFW hosts.

## **First Nominations for Next Year's Officers:**

First nominations for Post Officers have been completed as of the General Membership meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check in at the May General Membership meeting for the final nominations and election of your Officers for the coming Legion Year which begins on 1 July.

## **Resolution:**

A final Resolution has been approved by the General Membership and will be submitted up the chain-of-command for action forthwith. This basically takes the position that National's treatment of dues notification was incorrect in that they asked for a per capita member increase, and that National should prohibit the collection of this increase accordingly.

## **Pasta Feed and Raffle:**

The Sacramento Blue Star Mom's are planning to put on a Pasta Feed and Raffle on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Hours will be from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Location will be the Roseville Veteran's Memorial Hall Auditorium located at 110 Park Drive, Roseville, CA 95678. This includes no-host cocktails from 6:30 to 9:30 PM, dinner, music (band) from 8:00 to 10:00 PM (bar closes at 9:30 PM). For more information and tickets, contact Terri Chumbley at (916)715-0544.

## **Veterans Dinner and Dance:**

The Carmichael Elks Lodge will host a Veterans Dinner and Dance on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. There will be no-host cocktails, a great buffet dinner at 7:00 PM, and a Sierra Country Band. Tickets will be \$16. Check with Howard Schumacher for more details at (916)728-3128.

## **National Cemetery Dedication:**

Dedication of the Sacramento Valley Veterans Administration National Cemetery in Dixon, California. This will be a big event! The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be there. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be there also, as will many Federal and State politicians. The Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) have been asked by the VA to organize the ride-in, and we are working with the CHP, Dixon PD and other bike groups and organizations on this. We have already been contacted by PGR riders from Southern California, Oregon and Nevada who will be participating in this event. We have also invited the ALR Riders, Black Sheep, VFW Riders, the CMA, Marine Vet Riders and others who will be riding with us! We are expecting between 200 and 500 bikes, so it is essential that you keep updated and listen to instructions at the staging area. The staging area will be the Wal-Mart parking lot located at I-80 and Highway 113. The Wal-Mart manager has been very agreeable and helpful in accommodating us. There are gas stations (2) and food services in the immediate area. There is also a Cattleman's Restaurant across the street. **All instructions will be given at 12:30 hours!**

Please note. If you are not participating in the actual ride-in, you will not be able to drive to the cemetery proper due to lack of parking facilities. Instead, the CHP will route you to an industrial park for parking and you will be bussed to the cemetery.

## **Legislation**

### **Pork Wins Over Troops:**

Lawmakers still don't get it!. The National Commander of the American Legion has *again* voiced his organization's strong opposition to the passage of the modified FY 2007 Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations request which has also barely passed in the Senate.

A slim majority in the Senate pushed through an ill-advised \$123 billion Emergency Supplemental *Appropriations* bill for FY 2007 on April 12<sup>th</sup>. A similar bill was passed by the House a week earlier by only six votes.

Even though the appropriations legislation contains millions in *non-defense* related funding, National's main objection is that it calls for a deadline with regard to the war on terror and ties the battlefield commanders hands over troop movements. "We all know the fastest way to lose a war is to quit," Commander Morin said. "Well the House and Senate just gave the entire world our game plan wrapped in red, white and blue ribbons!"

(Extracted from a news release, 4/12/2007)

Please note that President Bush promised in his speech at American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA recently, that he will veto the appropriations bill containing provisions for a "timetable for withdrawal." If Congress fails to pass a bill he can sign by mid-April, then funding for troops will be delayed and face all kinds of consequences, detrimental to both our initiatives in the mid-East and here at home. Circumstances are rapidly being overtaken by events. Therefore, it is the duty of every member of the American Legion to contact their members of Congress to demand passage of a bill that funds our troops without the artificial timetables for withdrawal.

Do it now. Do it today. Do it for the troops!

## *Veterans Issues*

### **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP):**

We have contacted our legislators many times in the past concerning the fact that we are long overdue for relief of the never ending monthly costs of our SBP plans. They have consistently failed to respond to our pleas. Instead, they used the old device of setting a fix date several years down the road and letting our pleas fall on deaf ears.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup> we will finally see an incremental change in our SBP, with the final change due in April of next year. Even with this, the program will still lack proper support for our spouses in event of our passing. We need to keep the pressure on for fair and equal treatment through our veterans organizations and by direct communications with our legislators. Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fla) and Representative Henry Brown (R-S.C.) have been acting on our behalf until now and deserve our thanks in spite of the dismal record of the legislatures as a whole.

### **Health and Welfare of the Troops:**

The on-going problems of VA health support and the situation at Walter Reed are finally getting past-due attention at the higher levels.

The Senate Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Commissions held a rare joint hearing on April 11<sup>th</sup> to examine inconsistencies between the military and VA disability rating systems. Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and other senior DOD and VA witnesses testified at the hearing. But, the most riveting testimony was given by the Chairman of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC), LTG James Scott Ret.).

Scott said his Commission's analysis shows large variations between VA and DOD disability ratings. He also cited significant disability ratings awarded by different services. By policy, DOD's disability rating systems limits the number of conditions rated and consistently rates lower than the VA. DOD is to provide a response to the groups recommendations before the end of April.

Senator John Warner (R-VA) and other senators from both parties went on record expressing deep concern over the pending tour extensions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, A DOD created Independent Review Group has been meeting to identify short comings and needed improvements for patients and families at Walter Reed, Bethesda and other casualty treatment centers. A final report is due by April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, the nine-person President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors is holding hearings . Its task is to make recommendations for improving care for returning wounded in the military and VA health care systems. The Commission's report is due by the end of June.

## And Now from our Humor Files

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand.

He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk says, “We have been copying from copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son.”

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held as archives in a locked vault that hasn’t been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot.

So the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing, “We missed the “R”!, we missed the “R”!”

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the old abbot, “What’s wrong, father?”

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies, “The word was . . . CELEBRATE !!!”

Author Unknown

## EDITORIAL

When I came aboard several years ago our Post had no means of communication with its members, except for a few scant lines in the “Pot Shots”. It seemed like a good idea to have our own news letter so we created one.

We tried many different styles and types of content over the intervening years and welcomed ideas from members on how to make it more appealing. The result is what we have today. We have received kudos from you for our product and as a result have been urged on to make even further improvements, particularly in content. However, not to rest on our laurels, I’m sure there are those of you who have some good ideas on how to make it better still. We would like to hear from you. Better still, come to our monthly meetings and give forth with your suggestions. It will be to everyone’s benefit. It might be well to have our own Post Web Site and provide monthly news updates and event schedules, and I’m sure there are many more good ideas out there.

Perhaps you have writing and computer skills and would like to take a crack at being Editor of our News Letter. Quite frankly we would be more than happy to mentor you if needed. So there would be no undue stress involved with starting up. It is both a fun and rewarding job, plus it gives you some license to say it like it is! So let’s hear from you!

Carroll A. Rice, Jr.  
Editor

***“Keep Your Post Alive by Participating with Your Buddies!”***

