

Post 491-CERES, CA The American Legion The Commander's Corner

Dear Comrades,

Membership is still important, if you have not paid your dues yet: there is still time. If you wish to cancel your membership please call the Adjutant.

This my last newsletter and I wish to thank those who served the Post this last year and supported me. I'm sure that the new Commander Irv will do a good job and work to the best interest of the Legion and its membership. As some of you already know I have been elected at the District 12 Commander for 2009-10. The installation will be June 14th at Turlock Post 88 and all are invited to attend.

Post elections were held in May. The results are as follows: Commander, Irv Gilgert; 1st Vice Commander, John Tomlin; 2nd Vice Commander, Patrick Lee; 3rd Vice Commander, Randy Wiesendanger; Finance Officer, Steve Bain. A Board of Directors was also elected this year. They serve for a one year term and participate in any Executive Board meetings and decisions. They were as follows: Dave Huggins, Buz Johnson, and Tom Dimperio. The New Commander has not yet appointed the Adjutant, Sgt-At-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Judge Advocate, or Post Service Officer. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact the Commander-elect, Irv Gilgert at 538-3090.

Memorial day will be on Monday, the 25th of May. We will putting the flags up starting at 0600 at the Ceres Cemetery. We need lots of help. We start taking them down at 1730. Again, we need as much help as possible.

Legion Continued:

The Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 1000 Hrs at the cannon. Bring your own shade and water. I'm not sure what we will have in those regards. I have not heard from the VFW as to their plans to participate with us this year, so we may need to man the Rifles as well as the Color Guard. Let me know if you can volunteer.

The Fireworks booth will start on Saturday June 28th at 10 AM to Saturday July 4th, until noon or thereabouts. We will have our sales license to sell on Sunday, July 5th, but we can decide this later. The membership will need to man the booth from 0900 set up, to 2100 close. I will have sign up sheets at the June General meeting. If we can schedule for 2-3 hr segments, we can cover without anyone having to do all day. But we need your help. Last year we were a bit short on help. This is the one fund raiser the Post has, so come help. Perhaps someone can step up and be a morning Chairman and someone else can take the afternoon chairman? if anyone is interested contact the Commander.

We will also be proposing an amendment to our By-Laws at the June general meeting. It has to do with delegates to the State Convention and reimbursement of expenses.

Walt Butler, Commander

LEGION POT LUCK NIGHT INCLUDES BINGO

**POT LUCK STARTS AT 6:30 PM.
BINGO FOLLOWS.**

**PRIZES GET BETTER EACH MONTH.
COME JOIN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.**

JUNE 2009

AMERICAN LEGION POST 491

NEWSLETTER

The views, opinions, or statements made in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the American Legion, Department of California, or the National Organization.

Steven M. Whitney, Editor (209) 538-4510

email address: cerespost491@hotmail.com

2009 POST OFFICERS

COMMANDER	WALT BUTLER	538-3432
1ST VICE CMDR	TOM VADEN	656-8411/650-0519
2ND VICE CMDR	STEVE BAIN	537-1125
3RD VICE CMDR	DAVE HUGGINS	537-7524
FINANCE OFFICER	STEVE WHITNEY	538-4510
ADJUTANT	STEVE BAIN	537-1125
CHAPLAIN	IRV GILBERT	538-3090
SGT-AT-ARMS	PATRICK LEE	557-0239
HISTORIAN	TOM DIMPERIO	537-2280
SERVICE OFFICER	TONY MEJIAS	577-0369
HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN	WALT BUTLER	918-6561
JUDGE ADVOCATE	GARY LEE HALL	531-9974

2009 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Unit President	Norma Mejias	577-0369
1st Vice President	Shanna Marshall	538-3940
2nd Vice President	Elizabeth Camp	538-5856
Treasurer/ Secty	Suzie Ortez	648-2031
Historian	Rose Cantrell	537-9429
Chaplain	Betty Myers	537-1704
Sgt-At-Arms	Mozelle Miller	538-3739

CERES POST TO SPONSOR S.A.L. UNIT (Sons of American Legion)

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members. This year, Sons attained an all time high national membership of over 325,000.

Just as each Legion post determines the extent of its service to the community, state, and nation, each S.A.L. squadron is permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet its own needs.

SAL assists their Posts in other activities such as Veterans programs, Veterans Administration home and hospital volunteerism, Children Youth projects, and fund raising. In just the past ten years, Sons have raised more than a million dollars for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Members have volunteered over 223,900 hours to date in 2007 in Veterans Hospitals throughout the country and raised over \$915,688 that has gone directly to VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment, and clothing for the patients.

There are many men who are members of, both, The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Often, these individuals started out as young members of the Sons. Then, when they were old enough to serve the military, they also became eligible to join The Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion is one of many organizations that sponsors and supports the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition formed to secure flag protection legislation through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. S.A.L. volunteers work to establish local networks by having petitions available and handing out informational material. They alert their communities to the importance of respect for the flag and they encourage flag education programs in schools and other local organizations.

Post 491 Adjutant, Steve Bain has been the driving force of this new Unit of the Post. After just a brief period, there are some 20 local area potential members. The Charter has been accepted and elections of Officers are coming up.

SAL CONTINUED...

The nominated SAL Officers are: Commander: Joel Bain, 1st Vice: Rick Collins, 2nd Vice Wayne Fatheree, Fin/Adj: Steve Bain, Judge Adv: Gary Hall, Sgt At Arms: Manny Molina, Chaplain: Andy Heath, Hist: Dan Joseph, and Post Liaison: Walt Butler

For further information on SAL, it's goals and objectives, and membership, contact Steve Bain at 537-1125.

MAY	25—MEMORIAL DAY-FLAGS AND EVENT AT CERES CEMETERY
JUNE	2—7:00 PM-BUSINESS MEETING 16—6:30 PM—POT LUCK 27—RENO BUS TRIP 28—FIREWORKS BOOTH OPENS
JULY	1-5—FIREWORKS BOOTH 7—7:00 PM-BUSINESS MEETING 21—6:30 PM—POT LUCK
AUG	4—7:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING 18—6:30 PM POT LUCK

BUS TRIP TO RENO

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009

Leave Modesto (Park & Ride at the Mall) 8AM

Arrive Silver Legacy about 11:30 AM (Receive \$10 cash and \$5 food credit)

Leave Silver Legacy 4:30 PM
Arrive Boomtown 5 PM.
(Receive \$5 food credit)

Leave Boomtown 8 PM.
Arrive Modesto 11:30 PM

Cost \$40 per person.
This is a Unit 491 Event. Contact the Unit.