



AMERICAN LEGION POST 383 COMMANDER'S NEWSLETTER

October 14, 2015

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Legionnaires: Hello to October and Fall. Sure would be nice if the temps came down a bit and felt more like what it's supposed to be. I hope this Newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits.... So let's get on to it....

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As we draw to the close of the year many activities are starting to wind down. The major task before us will be our Christmas shopping as we get past Halloween and Thanksgiving. As I scour the internet I will endeavor to let you know what activities are ahead along with the general status of things.

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Last month our finance officer, Al Rowe had to have emergency surgery due to an injury. Some of the post members have been keeping a close eye on him and at this time I can let you all know that he is at home and doing well.

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I'd like everyone to be on the lookout for each other. If there are any of our members out there struggling with any issues; please let either myself or our Chaplain, Steve Rambo (rambo4849@comcast.net) know so we can see if we need to extend a helping hand. This is especially true for those hidden wounds veterans often bring home, making it difficult to deal with day to day life. Veterans helping veterans is one of the most important foundations of the American Legion and one I'm working to keep alive in our post. There is nothing more important than this in what we do. Please remember that you are not alone.

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I know many of you follow Facebook. Awhile back I activated a site for the post. The page is titled "American Legion Post 383". Catchy, don't you think? Facebook member are free to post on the page (or wall as some call it). Anything post should related to Veteran issues of

subject matter. Anything deemed inappropriate will be subject to removal. Please do not post any advertising or political issues on the wall.

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At last next meeting we discussed the per capita increase being mandated by the National Headquarters. The way this works is that each post is required to pay a set amount to both Department and National. What we set as our dues is done by the membership, that being each of you. Our by-laws require our dues to be at least \$5.00 per member over the per capita requirement. As things stand we currently keep about \$12.50/member for the post. If we keep our dues as is, this will drop to \$7.50/member. Since we just had an increase just two years ago (due to an increase by Department of California), we discussed and voted to keep them as they are for now.

The actual per capita increase for National will go into effect on Jan 20th, 2016, for all dues paid on or after that date, even if it's for the current year. If you haven't paid your dues yet, we are asking that you do so before January so that the post will not be assessed at the new rate. As for 2016, we will leave the dues as is and plan to make up the difference through fund raising; something we are looking into at this time.

Please understand that even though they start collecting dues in June, the dues cover your membership from January to December, which is based on a calendar year. If you are having trouble paying your dues in part or at all, please let me know and we'll see if we can help you out. We realize many of our members are on a challenging budget and it is our preference to keep you as a member of the American Legion. We have members who are more than happy to help.

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Our SAL Squadron met on Sept. 17th. Participation was better, but still needs to improve. SAL members established a 3 man committee to refine the Constitution and by-laws for the squadron. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15th. Please keep an eye on your email if you're a SAL member for important information.

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At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of the Post sponsoring a local Boy Scout Troop. The membership voted to look into the possibility of doing that. We are looking into contacting a local troop to discuss the possibility. A report will be given at the next meeting.

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Last month, weekend I received an email from Joe Blenkle. He informed me that Don Barney, current baseball coach at Mesa Verde High School in Citrus Heights, says he can put together a coaching staff to run the team. We discussed this at the last post meeting and the membership voted to go ahead and support the team for this coming year. At this time I am looking for one or two post members to act as liaison for the post to the team once things get rolling. I will be contacting Mr. Barney before the next meeting and will report back on it at that time.

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At our last Post General Meeting, Tyler Collard made a presentation on his experience at Boys State this past Summer. He was given an award following his presentation. Jaleel Baker's will be mailed to him.

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Occasionally we receive notice for funeral services for homeless vets who have passed. Reichert Funeral Home has been graciously doing this for our forgotten vets. At this time we don't have any pending. Emails will be sent out as they are scheduled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat-Oct 17th Combat Veterans Poker Run supporting the Pathway Home on Oct 17th, next Saturday. The poker cards will be determined by your shooting ability at an indoor shooting range in Yuba City. The event starts at C&E Cycles in Auburn, 11 AM to 4 PM. If anyone is interested let me Bon Farrell know at waterknav@gmail.com.

Since the Potshots Newsletter for October has not yet been published, I do not have the dinner schedule... my apologies.

Tue-Oct 20 Post Executive Committee Meeting at 19:00 at the Post. Members are welcome to attend.

Tue-Oct 27 Post General Meeting at 19:00 at the Post.

Sat-Oct 31... There will be a Halloween pot luck, costume party, games, and more at 7:00 PM at the post hosted by the VFW! Bring a dish to share, and wear your spookiest Halloween garb. to receive both a KIA flag with Mike's bio on it as well as a certificate of honor thanking him for his service to his country. Also there will be a bagpiper playing various tunes and ending with Amazing Grace so bring your tissue box! (See the Oct. Potshots on the VFW website for more information)

As I receive other information, I will forward it to the members as needed. I hope this newsletter will help everyone stay in touch with our great post. **Thank You** everyone for your service and all you do for the American Legion and Veterans at large.

May God Bless America and Her Veterans