

VFW POST 4108

August 2009



From the Commander... Jeff Casserly

Good day Post Members and Families,

August already...slow down summer I'm still trying to get a suntan. It seems that the dog days are upon us and every hound except that crazy lab puppy is sprawled out under a shade tree snoozing'...and she's sleeping in the big water dish. It's tough to get anyone moving with the heat, yet projects still need to be completed before football season kicks in and most VFW volunteers become totally invisible...even to their wives.

Here's your call to action to give a hand before the snow flies. We might have 90 days left to complete a few projects and you can help. Carpentry and concrete work plus the gravel and sand to finish the horse shoe pits, gas line plumbing to the fire-pit, patio heater and future BBQ, water lines for the flower beds, fabrication and installation of the windows in the covered patio area, fence and shovel work for the "Kid Zone"; all projects that with a few of your hours, could supply years of fun and function for everyone.

This spring and summer we inspected for electrical safety and are now completing repairs in the Canteen and Kitchen areas. We recently completed the video monitoring system and upgrades to our security system and we have quotes coming in to install a new roof with insulation by this fall. We are also reviewing the present cooling and heating systems for possible replacement next year. There will continue to be opportunity for you to show us your skill with a hammer or a paintbrush, a drywall blade or a caulking gun until with a satisfied sigh you can say "This looks really good, and I helped".

The VFW is you and other veterans like you; the reason and the only reason for its existence. When we're young the challenges of later life aren't real or they're something to consider tomorrow.

Tomorrow eventually does arrive and those hours you enjoyed supporting your fellow veterans may be repaid in like kind by the next VFW generation.

In June we lost a notable member, a volunteer who was there when help was needed, often without being asked; Gary Fearrien will be sorely missed. This month we have another vacancy that will be extremely difficult to fill. Harold "Dave" Davidson, a strong promoter and leader of Post 4108's military Honor Guard and a true friend of Veterans has joined the ranks of honored past members. We will long cherish the memory of these and other recently deceased members; unsurpassed and always remembered. Volunteers: Remember your Post, come visit occasionally and bring a friend, add your suggestion for the new patio area's name and try volunteering; it feels good. Semper Fi.
Jeff

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary... Pinky Christopher—Saying "Hello"

Well, I kind of missed the last newsletter, so I will have to get with the program. I thank everyone for all the help and donations since the last time I wrote. But we never thank all the people who make it work: that is the folks who come out and eat! To all the people who came out to enjoy the wonderful Mother's Day brunch: THANK YOU.

The Men's Auxiliary is coming right along. We are getting more members as time goes by and that is great. A big thanks to all of you. We hope in due time to see more of you at our meetings. The officers are proud and showing up which makes the chapter. Hang in there; that is wonderful.

As far as committees go, the horseshoe pits are coming along. Doyle stepped in to head it up, as Jerry had to work out of town. To finish the pits, Doyle said we need a good turnout, so come and help. George says the rafting trip is coming along. He mainly needs people to take advantage of a good deal and have lots of fun. It sounds as though George and family show you a good time and a safe trip. Join us--you can have a great time and help the Men's Auxiliary all at once.

The more members we have participating, the more we can accomplish. Our next meeting is at the VFW hall on August 12th, 2009. I hope to see you there.

President Pinky (923-3133)

From the Auxiliary President... Becky McDonald

Hello V.F.W. and V.F.W.A from your Auxiliary President. WOW what a fast year this has been so far; so much going on. I would like to say on behalf of Gary Fearrien's family Thank You so much for the Memorial at the V.F.W..

They were very happy that he was so cared about! I had a chance to talk to Christy and to Brooke and they both said thank you for everything. I am so sad that Harold Davidson also passed. I hope the turnout for Harold will be as great as it was for Gary.

I now thank all my Ladies who were able to be in the 4th of July Parade; walking, on the float, and at the BBQ. I want to also thank the Ladies who brought potluck items. Delicious! The Ladies would like to thank everyone for the VHS tapes and books donated in the past. For the time being we do not need any more books, and will no longer want donations of VHS tapes as everyone is going to DVD. Thank you so much to all of who do donate to our different organizations.

Our kitchen is in need of a cleaning! This will take all of us men and women. I will be calling for assistance. We all use it so we should all clean it. RIGHT? Our kids' day is on Fair Weekend, so we will see. I will be there. We will be starting kids' projects for the bazaar in Nov. The kids love to make things to donate. Aug. 29th is our first annual Luau. Dan Rohrer will roast a whole pig, and Dan and Jocelyn will head up the rest of the meal, with shrimp fried rice, mango & Macadamia spinach salad, Hawaiian bread, and pineapple upside-down cake. It is going to be great so don't forget to sign up for that at the canteen. Cost of the meal is \$10.00.

Our next meeting is the 6th of August so please be there. The next pack up for troops is the 8th of August. If you have anything to donate, now is the time. I wish everyone health & happiness. Sincerely, Becky McDonald

From Dennis and Dianne Guthrie

Membership:

August is here and the new membership year is on its way. Last year our Post slipped from the 2nd largest Post in the State to the 4th largest Post in the State. The largest Post is Klamath Falls with over 1,000 members. We would have a tough time reaching that, however, reaching second largest is very attainable. We fell short by only 50 members last year. My point is...there are a lot of Veterans out there. Some have never been asked to join. Even if they don't want to come to meetings, their dues do help us and National VFW help Veterans and their families. PLEASE ASK THOSE YOU MEET AND HELP US MAKE OUR POST THE SECOND LARGEST POST IN THE STATE OF OREGON. Dennis Guthrie 548-6990

Community Service

Last year the Ladies Auxiliary came in 1st in the State for Community Service and the Post came in 2nd overall. Post #4108 has been the best in Oregon 3 of the last 6 years and now with a second place.

I know that there are a lot of comrades and sisters that are doing work for Meals on Wheels, coaching soccer or baseball, donating to your church or March of Dimes. Maybe you help a senior get to the doctor. All these good deeds are great community service even if it is for your families and friends. So please report your good deeds on the forms in the Community Service Book in the Canteen. We need to know how many miles you drove, how many hours, and any money you spent or donated, and a little about the activity so we can place it on our report. You can even call me and give me your report over the phone and I will give it to the proper person. Dennis Guthrie 548-6990

Caring For Troops

About 180 troops from Central Oregon have now deployed to the Middle East. Currently CFT is sending packages to over 200 troops. CASH is needed to send this many packages. You can donate directly to Caring for Troops or you may donate through the Post or the Auxiliary.

All items donated can be left at the Canteen and must be marked "Caring for Troops". Questions? Dianne Guthrie 548-6990. Please try and tell me when you have left things at the Post for CFT.

The list of items is posted with extra copies on the bulletin board outside the Canteen door. Help yourself. Even a few items make a difference. Many troops receive nothing from home. It is important to let these young men and women know that Central Oregon cares and we honor their service. Regardless of how you feel about this war, we must take care of our troops and honor them for their sacrifice and service.

Please no VHS movies. No one has this technology any more. Try Goodwill.

Veterans & Family Support

We did get an UNMET NEEDS grant for a young soldier that needed help with rent.

We now have a young NAVY wife in dire need! It is extremely unfortunate circumstances. She was forced to leave an abusive situation and was promised help by a relative locally. When she arrived with her two young children the help evaporated. She has been here for a year, no assistance from the spouse, unable to find work, and now is facing life in a shelter for awhile.

Because of our limited resources and no job on the horizon, we need donations so we can buy food cards at local grocery stores for awhile. Food stamps just do not feed 2 growing children and 1 adult. If you know of any Veterans or families of Veterans that are struggling with problems related to their service or related to the economy, let us know. There are both National & local resources to work with. Names are never revealed and it is all confidential.

VFW National Home

We need your Campbell's, Swanson's, and Tyson labels. We need just the bar code. There is a box under the very small table in the Canteen just to the right of the door into the kitchen. Please place your labels in the box.

They need labels to buy a van. If every Post and Aux. in the country collects the labels they can get the van. Thank you for your help. Dianne Guthrie 548-6990

Tuff Butts Classic

Remember August 8th! Bring your car, your motorcycle, or your riding mower if you want! Come to the Post and sign up for a Poker Run. It's about 210 miles of the best Central Oregon scenery from Smith Rocks to the High Lakes.

This is a fund raiser to help us help Veterans and some of the proceeds will go to the Fisher Houses. Fisher Houses are Ronald McDonald type houses that house families of wounded Vets or Vets undergoing other treatments. These houses have literally saved families millions and allow them to be within walking distance of VA Hospitals and support their soldiers when they need their support the most.

We will have live music (good Rock & Roll) and hamburgers for sale after the run. The winners of the Poker hands will be announced as well as door prizes. There is also a 50/50 drawing. If you win you get half of the pot! That can really payoff.

This is a beautiful, fun event. You go at your own pace so if you want to stop and take pictures you can. Dennis Guthrie 548-6990

From the Aux. Chaplain...Bernis Lee

Get well wishes to Kathleen Gully and Linda Givens. They were in the Hospital earlier this month. Linda Parker fell and broke her arm last week. Get well soon girls. Please pray for our troops and their Families; PLEASE say a special prayer for our troop who is being held in captive in Afghanistan that he will be released very soon. Hugs and blessing, Bernis Lee "Chaplain"

From the Public Relations Officer...John Wrinkle

POST 4108 ACTION NEWS; Public Relations Officer John Wrinkle – 541-923-8591 (Home and Fax), 541-678-3895 (Cell), jwrinkle@bendbroadband.com.

The following are items of interest for your consideration:

1. The 4th of July Parade and potluck were a great success. Thanks to all who marched, cooked, served or performed clean up.
2. The 4th of July fund raiser at Schlotzkys in Bend cleared around \$400 for Caring for Troops.
3. Thank you to the volunteers from the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries for their work at our Tri Tip dinner and Sock Hop on July 18. The turnout could have been better but the cooperation between the two Auxiliaries was wonderful to see. A special thanks to Dan and Jocelyn Tureck for preparing the delicious tri-tip.
4. Please note that the Crab Feed at the Bend VFW Post scheduled for July 25 has been canceled.
5. The Fair Committee is looking for uniforms (with ribbons or medals and a picture of the owner in uniform if possible) to put on display in the space provided for Veterans. If you have one you would like to loan out please contact John Wrinkle at 541-923-8591. Please provide a contact name and telephone number so the uniform can be returned.
6. According to the Central Oregon Veterans Council, two organizations that provide counseling and healing for veterans are often overlooked here. "Healing Waters" is all about using fly fishing as therapy (www.projecthealingwaters.org) and "Healing Reins" uses horses (www.healingreins.org). If you know someone who could benefit from either of these groups, please encourage them to check them out.
7. Veterans also have options to use benefits from GI bill and Vocational Rehabilitation program since LEA is an approved school for these programs, officials add.

Upcoming Events:

1. The next regular Post dance will be Saturday, August 1, 2009. Bob & Edi will be performing. Come down and support your Post and have fun at the same time. Dance is from 7 pm to 11 pm. Cost is \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members.
2. The Deschutes County Fair will be the last weekend in July through the first weekend in August. A space will again be provided for Vets that must be manned while the fair is in operation. (See above regarding Uniform display).
3. Saturday, August 29 Luau Dinner/Dance –Enjoy whole roast pig with great fixin's and dance to Bob & Edi.
4. The next Commissary sale is scheduled for October 2, 3, and 4 at the Deschutes County Fair Grounds.

From the Canteen—Jan Nolan

August will be a slow month as far as outside functions. We will still have our 2 dances August 1st. and August 15th.

We will have Spaghetti, salad, dessert, and French bread for \$6.50 on August 3rd at 6:00 pm.

On the August 17th we will have Pork Chops, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetables and a dessert for \$6.50 starting at 6:00 pm. See you all there.

Hamburger nights are on Tuesday the 11th and Tuesday the 18th. Mark and Paula's Tacos are served every Thursday.

We would like everyone to use the front key card door when coming into the Canteen so the Bar-Tenders will be aware you are in the building. We all thank you. Jan, Kellie and Paula