

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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NEWSLETTER: May 2018

**HAVING PROBLEMS? NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?...**The “**VETERANS CRISIS LINE**” is open 24/7. Just call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. It takes an average of 8 seconds for your call to be answered. You are NOT alone!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Dale Whiddon, William Vickers, Martin Bueck, David Weilacher. Good to see you at your first meeting Dale. Hope to see the rest of you soon. There's plenty going on at the Post. Come join us!!

### COMMANDERS CALL:

*Comrades:*

*It's an honor to serve one more year as the Post Commander. Looking back on our accomplishments, I'd say it wasn't a bad year at all. And now with a year's experience under my belt, I'm hoping, with your help, to do even more to help our veterans.*

*I say “with your help” because we are going to need YOUR involvement! In order to keep this Post going, we must have volunteers. We need help for the semi-annual Belk Sales. We need people to help out in the kitchen on Wing Night Wednesdays, Fiesta Nite Thursdays, and Friday night dinners. We are always looking for members to join our House Committee to help manage our facility and plan and organize events to keep us in the black.*

*May will be a busy month and we hope to see you at the Post for some of our activities. Starting on May 1<sup>st</sup> (Loyalty Day) we are going to start showing movies every other Tuesday night. We're going to start at 6:30 pm with “Taking Chance” starring Kevin Bacon. A special Saturday night dinner and entertainment will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Sunday brunch on Mothers Day will be free to all of our VFW mothers. We need YOU for the Armed Forces Day parade at 11 a.m. at NMB Sports Complex (we assemble at 1030 hrs at the Post and sign up roster is in the Canteen) and our annual Memorial Day service at the Sports Complex at 11 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll*

*also have our Installment of VFW and Auxiliary officers for the coming year at the Post at 1 pm on Memorial Day. As you can see, we're going to be busy! Can you pitch in and give us a hand? Or just plan to attend and support our activities? I'm sure you can.....duty calls! Check out our monthly calendar for everything else that is happening at the Post*

*Nick Camera*

*Commander, Post 10804*

**YOUR 2018-2019 OFFICERS:** The post elections are over and here is the group the membership in attendance at the election meeting chose to lead you in the upcoming year:

**Commander:** *Nick Camera*

**Sr. Vice Commander:** *Kevin Rorer*

**Jr. Vice Commander:** *Lon Pike*

**Quartermaster:** *Dan Farley*

**Chaplain:** *Bob Wasden*

**3 Year Trustee:** *Mike Mallory*

**NOTE:** *Al Stahl moves to the Two Year Trustee and Bill Mincher moves to the One Year Trustee.*

**House Committee Members (up to 7):** Will be nominated and elected at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting. They assume their duties at the June 25<sup>th</sup> House Committee Meeting. First order of business is to elect a House Committee Chairperson.

**In Addition To.....**The above listed elected officials, the new Commander (prior to assuming office in June) can appoint members to various Post positions. Some are:

Adjutant, Surgeon, Service Officer, Judge Advocate, up to 3 members of House Committee, and Officer of the Day.

**Are you interested in any of these appointed positions? If so, contact the newly elected Commander (Nick Camera [ncamera@msn.com](mailto:ncamera@msn.com)) and state your interest in becoming a member of the 2018-2019 team.**

**DISTRICT 7 ELECTIONS---**On April 28<sup>th</sup> several members of YOUR post attended the District 7 Convention and Picnic. Part of the agenda included election of new district officers. Members of your post that were elected are:

District 7 Commander - Allen Rundall

Senior Vice-Commander - Margo Sheridan

Junior Vice-Commander - Nick Camera

3 Year Trustee - Dan Farley

Adjutant - Frank Fogner (appointed by commander)

**POPPY DRIVE...**The first of the Post's two Poppy Drives is happening this month. This IS the fund raiser that puts monies in the Post Relief Fund so that the Post can help veterans (and their families) in need. The Post can't help your fellow veterans in distress unless you help with the Poppy Drive. PLEASE stop by the Post and sign up for a 2 hour stint at one of our many Poppy locations.

**Department (State) Convention.....**Is June 7 - 10 in Columbia at the Hilton Doubletree. Have you contacted Dan Farley to tell him you are going? It's a great way to see your state VFW at work and maybe inspire you to get involved. Hope to see you there.

You can call the Doubletree at 803-731-0300 to reserve your room.

**Post Maintenance:** March through June is a busy time in regards to getting the Post in good shape for the future. So far your House Committee has approved and work contracts issued for:

...Putting solar panels on the building to reduce annual energy costs by 17-18%. (sometime in late May/early June at earliest).

...Replacing two 19 year old air conditioners with new systems. (a two day project that may restrict banquet hall usage)

...Fixing several roof problems. (may restrict banquet hall/canteen usage)

...Upgrading the kitchen HVAC and ventilation systems (will require the kitchen to be closed for at least 2 days).

...Flag Retirement Pit, soon to be installed by the local Boy Scout's and a scout going for his Eagle Scout Badge

**Are you a veteran who is visually impaired....and are seeking help for your problem.** The VA has partnered with a company called ORCAM that provides a product called “MyEye”. You wear the device on your glasses and when you look at something printed or digital, My Eye reads what you are looking at and reads the printed material and speaks into your ear what you are looking at. To get started you need to contact any local Visually Impaired Service Team (VIST) coordinator, or contact a local Blind Rehabilitation Center, or go to <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/blindrehab/VIST.asp>.

**NOTE:** Unfortunately there are none of these centers currently in South Carolina. The nearest one is Augusta Georgia. Might be beneficial to contact your local VA Hospital or Clinic and ask when one of these MyEye centers will be coming to South Carolina. DON'T let this stop you from going to the web site above and starting your path to better living. **It is free to veterans.**

**WOMEN VETERANS.....**Did you know that since 2014 the VA has been working with various research teams and physicians to ensure the best practices for gender-specific health issues when it comes to surgery? This includes developing more minimally invasive surgery procedures for women related medical problems. An example; is that in 2014 the VA had gynecologists on staff in only one-third of their medical facilities and women frequently needed to be referred to outside care even though they wanted to stay in the VA system. This VA medical availability has increased significantly today.

The VA, VFW, DAV and other women related veteran organizations are all working together to provide the proper service for our women veterans.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR VFW POST??....**In another month the newly elected officials of YOUR Post will be taking office. The Post exists to provide a place of comradeship, a friendly meeting location and most importantly - to be the avenue for veteran issues and to provide help to veterans as necessary.

Your leadership want to know....what can they do to provide better service to you, the veteran member? Do you have any ideas for Post activities, meals, entertainment, veteran training, veteran assistance, etc? If so, please contact Commander Nick Camera at [cdr@vfwpost10804.org](mailto:cdr@vfwpost10804.org) or [ncamera@msn.com](mailto:ncamera@msn.com)

Your Post leadership really does want to hear from and see you. The Post opens every day at Noon!

**SPEAKING OF WOMEN VETERANS....**There are bills in the House (HR2452) and Senate (S2402) that are designed to get the VA to increase the help provided to women veterans by women peer specialist. By adding women specialist to the VA staff, these women can address the specific needs of women veterans, especially when it comes to suicide prevention.

**START CALLING YOUR HOUSE AND SENATE REPRESENTATIVES!!**

**THANK YOU** for the many kind/positive comments I have received in regards to writing YOUR Newsletter!

Bill La Monte

Editor/Writer

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