



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

POST 10804 (N. Myrtle Beach, SC)

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Little River, SC 29566

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NEWS LETTER – October 2017

WELCOME: New Post members: Brandon Downey, John Massey and Travis Davis. Thanks to Brandon for attending his first meeting and for volunteering to help cook on Thursday night's.

WELCOME: to Don Whitaker as our newest member of the House Committee.

THANK YOU: to Bob Fedortion for his many years of service to the House Committee. His new Department (state) duties are expected to occupy considerably more hours than he used to spend on HC duties. GOOD LUCK with the new position Bob!!

COMMANDER'S CALL: A quick reminder that our October 14th regular business meeting will be preceded by a **special joint session** with the Auxiliary in the banquet hall. There will be an interesting and informative presentation by a group of attorneys giving us advice on what to do (and what not to do) in the event of being pulled over for a DUI. **BE IN THE HALL FOR THIS SPECIAL 10:30 A.M. SESSION.**

As we move into the Fall season, I'd like to say a few words about our House Committee (HC) and the hard work they do to make sure every one of our functions is successful. Over the past year, the HC has planned every event, every Friday night dinner, every Sunday Brunch, Wing Night, Fiesta Night, and you name it. They are the true heroes of our Post and their labors should be recognized. They are researching the possible installation of solar panels and recently had an energy audit performed on our Post to find ways to lower our operating costs and pass the savings on to you with affordable meal and beverage prices in the Canteen. And they need a few more volunteers to help spread the labor so that no-one gets "burnt out". We'll be looking for some volunteers to help do a good cleaning of the kitchen area and the canteen soon. So please call Bill La Monte or Jim Risser and give them your name for this special detail. We can't do it without volunteers!

And one last reminder about our special "Warrior Ride" dinner on Friday night, Oct 20th. We'll be hosting of disabled vets who will be riding bicycles in Brunswick County during the week

prior. They are looking forward to meeting and eating with our Post members....so please plan on joining us for that special Friday night dinner.

Thanks to all who have donated to our fund to help victims of the recent hurricanes. If you're able to donate, please write a check to VFW Post 10804 and Quartermaster Dan Farley will get it to those in need.

And don't forget our "Power of Three" Luncheon at the banquet hall on November 10th – the actual Veterans Day Holiday. Tickets are on sale in the Canteen.

Hope to see you all at our meeting on the 14th!

Nick Camera, Commander

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DID YOU KNOW that Tri-Care fee increases ONLY apply to members joining the military after January 1, 2018.

The Annual Post Golf Tournament was a sell-out and Allen and his crew were able to get more hole-sponsors and gift-donors than ever before. Thank You to all the businesses and individuals who donated!! Monies raised in this tournament will be used to help local area veterans and help with the operating costs of the Post. THANK YOU Allen and volunteers.

WHAT LAWYER WROTE THIS, or better yet, THIS IS WHY QUARTERMASTER'S GO CRAZY... I took this directly out of the Department of S.C. member definitions:

LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN....This is not technically a separate category of membership, so it may be somewhat confusing. If a new member joins by paying the \$45 for the installment plan, they will show under your NEW MEMBER totals. If they are a reinstated member, they will be under REINSTATED, and if they were previously a paid Annual member, they will be counted under CONTINUOUS.

If a member on the installment plan makes their final payment during the membership year and they have already been credited to your Post as a New, Reinstated, or Continuous member, they remain in that category for accounting purposes (You do NOT lose an annual member and gain a Life member, in other words) for the remainder of the membership year. In the next year, they will show up as a Life member when the Life Member payouts are made in September.

In short, installment Life members are considered to be Annual members and are counted as such. Once their final payment is made, they become a Life member and will be counted as such when the next year's Life Member payout is made (in September).

Let's stay in the membership realm, but talk about something that will provide a "lasting legacy" while you are here and once you are gone. It is the

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP.....It is for any member of the VFW and it comes in 3 varieties, with 3 different costs and 3 different sets of benefits/contributions:

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP: Cost \$400 entitles you to:

Plated engraved Life Member Card

Lapel Pin

Hat Pin

Distinctive emblem and supply line for Legacy Life members

Framed Legacy Life Certificate

Recognition on Internet and Convention programs

Recognition at kiosks at Memorial Bldg, DC and National HQ. Museum

Supply discounts of 5% (VFW Store)

Free \$2,000 AD&D insurance policy

Annual Endowment to Post & Dept. (\$6.00 ea)

SILVER MEMBERSHIP: Cost \$800

ALL the above plus:

A Special Plaque

Supply discounts of 10%

\$3,500 AD & D insurance

Annual Endowment to Post & Dept. (12.00 ea)

GOLD MEMBERSHIP: Cost \$1,200

All the above plus:

A Hat Patch

Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza

Supply discounts of 15%

\$5,000 AD&D insurance

Annual Endowment to Post and Dept. (\$18.00ea)

All endowments continue after death.

There is a payment plan of paying 1/4th of membership level and paying the rest in 3 quarterly payments billed by National.

You can get a Legacy Life Membership on line and follow instructions.

I AM A GOLD LEGACY LIFE MEMBER and proud of it!

Hey Ladies, Did You Know.....That 5% of the Vietnam veterans are women....That 15% of today's military are women....That nearly 350,000 of you women have deployed since 9-11....and that by 2020, women will make up 11% of the total veteran population. This all happened because during the early stages of Vietnam, Congress lifted the 2% cap on women allowed in the military.

Here's some VA information for you direct from VA Secretary Shulkin's VA Reform Plan.....

...The VA Choice Program is a viable means for providing medical service to our veterans. The big problem with this plan is VA timely payment to Choice providers.

...The VA has 168 VAMC's. Fourteen (14) have been identified as providing care below community standards. The VA has deployed teams to implement performance plans to improve their performance standards.

...There are currently 90,000+ disability claims that are taking more than 125 days to process. The plan is to cut this processing time in-half within two years.

...VA facilities average 60 years in age, many in serious stages of disrepair. The VA estimates it will cost \$18 BILLION to bring VA facilities up to standard. There are ELEVEN (11) major VA construction projects, costing \$1.4 BILLION, because the VA and Army Corps of Engineers can't get their acts together.

...Secretary Shulkin's top clinical priority is to provide emergency mental help service to veterans discharged under 'other-than-honorable' circumstances.

There are many organizations affiliated with the Vietnam War that are commemorating the 50th year since the U.S. got involved in that country. Keep in mind, that the U.S. officially got involved back in **1955** when the U.S. sent war materials and trainers/advisors over to help the French. That was "67 Years ago..

SEPT. 29th was **National VFW Day**...celebrating 118 years since the start of what would later become the VFW. YOUR Post celebrated with a little over 100 veterans, spouses and friends enjoying a baked chicken dinner. Musical entertainment was provided by Cheryl Z and she did her usual great job with music, trivia and karaoke.

A SPECIAL THANKS.....to all the volunteers who made this event such a success!!!!

NEXT MONTH....I will discuss the VFW/Post election process as relates to training and advancing within the VFW ranks.

FIND AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN and do them a favor and MAKE HIM/HER A VFW MEMBER!!

Don't forget to check us out on our web-site or on Facebook

Bill La Monte

Editor

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