

PALM VALLEY POST 233
THE AMERICAN LEGION OF FLORIDA, INC.

560 North Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Telephone (904) 285-2484
www.palmvalleypost233.com



Hours:
Mon ~ Fri 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs
Sat 0900 hrs ~ at least 2100 hrs
Sun ~ 0900 to 2100 hrs

MARCH 2008

Commander's Corner

Our family is very thankful for your kind thoughts regarding my Dad's passing. Even though he lived in Pennsylvania, he was a member of Post #233 and my brother is a member of the Son's. I will forward the sympathy card, to my family, with the 44 names of all who contributed to the Building Repair Fund in my Dad's honor. My Mom was delighted when I told her about it and it helped ease the pain.

Ric Smith reports Legion Membership at 101.7 and that's fantastic, especially with 5 months remaining in our 2008 Membership year. Thank You Ric, Clen Ward, and everyone involved in our successful Membership Campaign. It takes a lot of hard working members to steer this ship and everyone's efforts are truly appreciated. However, we really need more members to volunteer in the future. That's not only cooking, but cleaning, doing dishes and serving meals. I am also asking each and every member to consider volunteering for the 2009 Committees, Executive Board, and as Officers of this Post. Your talents are needed right here at Post #233. Please Help!

I want to take this time to Thank Ray Williams for completing his pledge card, which was in the January Newsletter and will appear in our future Newsletters including this one. The idea was Ray's and he stepped up to the plate. Please consider this form of contribution to aid our Building Repair Fund.

Our Valentine Event was a huge success, with 90 reservations. I'm very disappointed that I could not attend, but I have heard very positive comments and I want to Thank Chuck & Angie Kees and the very capable group of Members for all their efforts. This affair really makes Post #233 look great and inviting for future members. Thank you all so very much.

We're all working frantically to make your Post a better place. Thank You Diane, Steve, Charlie, Capt Ski, Melvin, Bob Schroeter, Bill Walker, Jason Blessing and Don Mills for the special efforts you provided to better our Post.

All For Freedom
Jim Ross
Commander

From the Auxiliary

First of all, Thank You Chuck & Angie Kees for a spectacular Valentine Dinner. It was a wonderful evening and your time and effort are appreciated. Thank You also, Dale Little and Paul Zito. You presented us with the most elegant meal ever served at Post #233.

Speaking of food, Jason Bass will be cooking our St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 12th. Corned Beef with cabbage and potatoes, Irish soda, bread and dessert featuring crème de mint.

YARD SALE!!! Our yard, plant and bake sale will be April 19th. Please start gathering your stuff. We need lots of stuff. Also, if you have items you would like to sell yourself; you may purchase a table & space for \$10.00. Your friends and neighbors are also invited to purchase tables and to donate their stuff.

Our Girls State representative is Brooke Lockerman. She's an active junior at Nease and we are proud to have her. Also, her father, David, is a member of our Post.

ALL LADIES!! Please check out our restroom. New carpet has been installed and the room has a fresh, new appearance. Thank You Debbie Muehlheuser for donating the carpet! Thank you also to John Cheek for the installation.

Our next Auxiliary Meeting is Thurs March 13th at 7PM Please join us. We welcome new members and new ideas.

Finally, don't forget: Pull tabs, coupons and stuff. Bring them anytime.

May God Bless our Country, Our Post and us
Ann Cook
Auxiliary President

Adjutant

We are currently at 376 member paid for 2008 or 102.732% of our quota. Over 80 2007 members still remain unpaid. Please renew your dues ASAP. We do not want to lose any members. May 30, 2008 is year-end closeout. Please Renew!!

As we approach the nominations for 2008-2009, we need response!!! At February meeting there was no interest in new officers. This is your Post. It is your responsibility to elect good, productive officers. District Officers wonder why Post #233 has no interest in Legion Programs. It is your turn now.....

For God and Country

Ric Smith

Adjutant

S.A.L.

There are still many members (you know who you are!) who have not paid their 2008 membership dues. We need a minimum of 15 members to pay their dues in order to reach our membership goals. Please come by the post with your check (or mail it in) a.s.a.p. While you are at it, bring a friend and encourage them to join our post. Remember, post privileges will be suspended if you are not current.

Our donations so far this year include (but are not limited to) the following: \$400. to the Voices of The Children; \$250. to the Florida Chapter of the Special Olympics; and \$300. to the Wounded Warriors Project. Very soon Ron Joy and his crew will complete the kitchen upgrades. Many Thanks! ~~Keep your eyes on the event calendar this Spring and Summer when we will be hosting exciting fund raisers to further the kitchen renovations and to raise money for other deserving local charities.~~

Don't forget that on Wednesday nights Chuck Kees and I host "Team Trivia" (the best trivia show in the valley!) and on alternating Wednesday I host "Karaoke". If you have not experienced these "fun, entertaining and educational" events, you should make plans to be at the next show.

We would like to have everyone's e-mail address (we promise no solicitations -only Post information/ updates will be sent!) As soon as you can, please take a minute to send Steve Willis a quick note to pvpost233@bellsouth.net.

The Post will continue to sell U.S.Flags until the end of this month. At that time we will assess whether this service is financially viable. These are best quality outdoor flags at "Legion-like" prices. We encourage you to place your worn flags in the "mailbox" outside the entrance (be assured that they will be disposed of in accordance with the U.S.Flag Act) and then come inside and select your new flag. If you don't find the size or type of flag you require please notify a bartender and we will order it for you. I will be happy to assist you in any other flagpole or flag requirements.

If any of you have any questions or suggestions regarding Post #233 or S.A.L. issues, my phone number is 904-233-0976 and my e-mail is flagman49@yahoo.com.

DUES!!!!.....DUES!!!!.....DUES!!

For God and Country

Jeff "TEX" Ward

Commander - S.A.L.

Canteen Manager

First up, there aren't enough words to describe what a fabulous job Chuck & Angie Kees, Dave & Deb Jordon, Paul Zito, Dale Little and their entire crew of helpers did on the Valentine Dinner party. They had a plan and executed it beautifully. As Legion events go, this one was the best ever and this team has re-set the bar pretty high. Many thanks from all of us for a job well done!

Our Tuesday night Texas Hold'em poker tournament is going well but there is plenty of room for more players. The dealers are knowledgeable and friendly and from what I have seen the players are having a good time. We are offering food on Poker night so come out and join the fun. There is no experience necessary, just show up at 6:30 p.m.

In this mailing you will find a short questionnaire regarding your preference to continue receiving the Newsletter by mail or by e-mail. As our mailing list and the postal rates both continue to grow, this is an important issue. Additionally, whether we like it or not, we are living in an electronic age. Many organizations now do the bulk of their communications by e-mail. By building an e-mail database we will be far better able to notify you the membership of upcoming events and/ or important issues that often come up between newsletters. Please take a moment to complete the form and return it.

I'm fresh out of good news (you knew this was coming didn't you?) We are now in the final stage of our cost analysis of the Post food and beverage service. Please understand that a great deal of research, thought and discussion has gone into this as well as input from a couple of our members who are in the commercial food and beverage industry. The bottom line is that within the next week or so you will notice a slight increase in bar prices. Most will be in the quarter (.25) range. Some premium call brands will increase slightly higher than that. Price increases are never popular, however as you have no doubt noticed in your own daily shopping, the cost of goods and services have risen everywhere. ~~The Post is not immune from the increase from our suppliers and we continue to be plagued by repair cost from our aging appliances. In the big picture, the increases are nominal but combined with some cost cutting measures we have put in place; they will help our bottom line considerably.~~

I really hate to beat a dead horse and this one has most certainly been beat to death, but the easiest and best way you can help keep the Post solvent and operating like the finely tuned machine we strive to be, is your patronage. It really doesn't matter how hard we try to keep the expenses down and the price increases at bay if business at the bar and attendance on meal nights and at various special events remains low. There are currently 629 people on the mailing list. (Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. combined). That number is astounding when you consider that we only see about 10% of them on a regular basis and are forever begging for volunteers to cook Sunday breakfast, weekly lunches, etc. Where in the world are that many people hiding and what's the weather like there?

Every month I have advertised my e-mail address (dianebeason@comcast.net), and asked for your comments or suggestions on how we could serve you better or entice you into the Post more often. To date, I have never received the first e-mail so I have to assume we're doing everything right. If I'm wrong about that, let me know and my tireless dedicated staff and I will make every effort we can to make it right and win you over.

Finally, our prayers and sincere condolences go out to Commander Jim Ross and his family on the loss of his father. Mr. Ross Sr. was a 94-year-old man and although he was a resident of Pennsylvania, he was a member of Post #233.

To those we see frequently, thank you. We appreciate your business and it is our pleasure serving you. To those we don't see, we know you're out there, you're on the mailing list. Hope to see you soon.

For God and Country

Diane Beason

Canteen Manager

FINANCE OFFICER

Oh, good gosh! The Finance Officer has written another article, and he rarely publishes. Well, what does he have to say this time? Read on.

First, a few comments are in order regarding our financial report for January 2008. In short, we didn't do very well. In gross revenue our post took in \$15,573.00. Hey, Hutch, that doesn't sound bad. However, and here comes the down side, our expenses for the month amounted to \$17,853.24. That gave us a net revenue flow of..... well, you do the math and see what figure you get. (Hint: when my cat and I did it, we came up with a figure that said we lost around \$2,280.00).

What made January 08 bad, you may be wondering? Well, business was down when compared to December 07. In December, the canteen sold over \$9,337 in Christmas cheer compared to \$8,907 in January. On the other hand, and this is indeed interesting, we sold over \$4,302 in meals (steak night, Wednesday nights breakfast and lunches) during January and only \$3,219 in December. Now, this brings up a paradox. If the canteen sales were down and our meal sales for January were up, what went wrong to make us look so bad for January overall? In looking over the list of individual expenses for January, my cat saw it in about three seconds, and it was a subject near and dear to her heart. I won't tell you what she saw, but I shall give you a hint. And the hint is..... food, food, and more food. Want details? Review January's financial report next time you come to visit Post #233. In February's newsletter I identified those individuals who have copies of the detailed financial report.

Don't despair too much just yet. Even though the accounting period for February 08 is still open, it looks like we are doing fairly well. I am in the process of doing an intern report before I leave for Miami, and I should have a good idea of where we stand for February. I know the Valentine Dinner put on by Charles Kees and so many others really helped. If you didn't come or didn't reserve early.... Well, you have no one to blame but yourself. We'll be talking about this evening for months.

I never promised you a rose garden (that was a hit song in my younger days, but I don't know the singer), but I did promise you a brief article on the pull-tab operations known as Instant Bingo. There is a law governing how the American Legion may operate this game of chance (i.e. euphemism for gambling). This game is governed by the Evelyn Wiesman-Price Act, more simply known as Florida SB 500. Rather than read the entire law to you, I will summarize:

1. Veteran organization may operate such a program provided that we buy pull tab tickets from State approved vendors. (We do that)

2. The law requires that at least 65% of the revenue generated from the sales of those tickets be paid back in prizes. (Hey, that is pretty good odds in favor of those who want to gamble on this game. Oops, I should have used the euphemism "chance" in lieu of "gambling"). The remaining 35% is to be used in expenses to operate the Instant Bingo Program and the veteran organizations. Now hear this. **UNDER no circumstances will the post proceeds be used to pay salaries, expenses such as electricity, food, alcohol, repairs, etc., for the individual Post.** So if you think that Instant Bingo is a "slush fund" to be used for day-to-day operation, forget it!

An example will help clarify or confuse the above point. Post 3.14159... (that is the value of Pi, a constant whose absolute exact value cannot be determined; therefore, we shall never really be absolutely certain who Post 3.14159... is, and their post judge advocate likes it that way) buys 4,000 tickets (called a DEAL by SB500) that are sold to you for \$1.00 each. Post Pi pays the State approved supplier \$.03 per ticket for a total expense of \$120.00. Post Pi now sells to its member's 4,000 tickets that bring in \$4,000. Since 65% is paid out to the gamblers, \$2,600 would be paid to the individuals who play the game of chance (65% of \$4,000). The post would get the remaining \$1,400 (35% of \$4,000). The Post's net proceeds from that deal would be \$1,280 (\$1400 - \$120 = \$1280). That money may be used to donations veteran activities or expenses associated to operating the Instant Bingo Program. Enough said about Instant Bingo in this article.

As with the last article I wrote, my cat has come and is reminding me that it is time for an early evening drink. Mindful of my cat's wishes, I close my article by saying:

Fully support and give prayers to our combat troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraqi. May God and their leaders guide them well.

Fully support and give prayers to our wounded soldiers recovering in military and VA hospitals so that the soldiers and their families may find comfort and hope.

And never, never forget to honor and remember our fallen heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice to gain and preserve the freedom of the United States of America.

Hutch
Finance Officer

FOLDING THE FLAG

Have you ever noticed how an Honor Guard pays amticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 6th fold is for where people's heart lies. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th Fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of an "ed" hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2. Ron Joy | 17. C.P. Connelly |
| 3. Rennie Davis | 18. Betty Bacom |
| Michelle Sears | 25. Debbie Muehlheuser |
| 6. Ronnie Bass | Connie Warren |
| 8. Janet Kibler | 27. John Berry |
| 10. Elizabeth Ann Payne | 29. Huff Lehman |
| 11. Brenda Cowgill | Donna Floyd |
| Diane Aprile | 31. Kim Mullins |
| 16. Sandy Jones | |
| Karia Singleton | |



Palm Valley American Legion



March 2008 Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Cooking Bill Furr, Glen & Ben Ward	2 Lunch 11-1:30 SUPPORT OUR TROOPS	3 Lunch 11-1:30 6:30 - Texas Hold-em Tournament	4 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Dorrie Waggoner	5 Lunch 11-1:30 Executive Board Meeting Legionnaires meeting 7PM	6 Lunch 11-1:30 Ladies Aux Streak Night 6:30-8:30pm ENTERTAINMENT Austin Williams	7 5PM -until Monthly Birthday Celebrate your birthday at the Past
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Cooking Mike & Karen Dubin	9 Lunch 11-1:30	10 Lunch 11-1:30 6:00 BLESS AMERICA 6:30 - Texas Hold-em Tournament	11 Lunch 11-1:30 Trivia w/ Tex	12 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Kelly Claws / Aux Corn Beef & Cabbage Karaoke/Chuck & Tex	13 Lunch 11-1:30 Jack Blessing Streak Night 6:30-8:30pm ENTERTAINMENT Reggie	14 15
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	16 Lunch 11-1:30 WELCOME ALL LEGIONNAIRES	17 Lunch 11-1:30	18 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Chuck Kees Pork Loin	19 Lunch 11-1:30 Aux Meeting 7 PM	20 Lunch 11-1:30 Streak Night 6:30-8:30pm Roy Williams ENTERTAINMENT Dewayne Saunders	21 22
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	23 Lunch 11-1:30	24	25 Lunch 11-1:30 Dinner 6:30-8:00pm Georgia Chicken Tetrazzini	26 Lunch 11-1:30 Soil Meeting 7:00pm	27 Lunch 11-1:30 Streak Night 6:30-8:30pm Wilford Lyons ENTERTAINMENT Doyle Primm	28 29
Breakfast 9:00-12:00 Need breakfast cooks	30 Lunch 11-1:30	31	31			
\$5.00 Donation for Sunday's Big Breakfast \$7.00 Donation for Wednesday Dinner \$12.00 Donation for a great Streak Dinner & entertainment on Fri.						