



Village-Stinson Beacon-Flyer Post 9021 V.F.W.



Official Publication, Village-Stinson Post 9021
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc.
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October, November and December 2011 Publication

COMMANDERS NOTES

Voice of Democracy

Parents, uncles, aunts and grandparents: We are in another new school year. V F W Essay programs are here again with scholarships awarded for the best essays in the following levels:

- Voice of Democracy for students in grades 9-12

Theme: "*IS THERE PRIDE IN SERVING IN OUR MILITARY?*"

- Patriot's Pen for students in grades 6-8

Theme: "*ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR COUNTRY?*"

- Teacher Award - Grades K-12 Have a TEACHER in mind?

Deadline: All entries have to be at Post home by 8:00 pm on November 1st.

Go to the VFW website- www.vfw.org under "Programs" or "Citizenship" to download and print brochures, with application and rules.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!! 🍂

Veterans Day November 11th

Veterans Day ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Martin and Campbell Roads at 11am. We will assemble at the Post at 10:00 am and depart for the park at 10:35 am. The ceremony will start promptly at 11:00 am. A light luncheon will follow at the Post home. **REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND THOSE WHO ARE GUARDING THE GATES OF FREEDOM NOW!**

Active Post members are 1st Sgt Tim Parrish, Seaman Jason Kaminski,

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

We will be collecting checks and donated dry and canned goods at the Post home for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please share if you can. All donated items not used by the Post will be donated to Macomb Veterans food bank; it helps veterans and their families all year.

2012 Membership Dues

Please be reminded that your dues must be paid and a 2012 membership card issued by December 31st to remain a member in good standing. This year we have had to turn away several members from the Canteen because they did not have valid cards for the 2011 calendar year. Meeting attendance is also restricted. Please see your organization's appropriate officer to make your payment or deliver it to a staff member on duty in the Canteen. Suffering a hardship or unable to pay due to other priorities? Call the Commander John at 586-216-7088

Welcome Aboard

I would like to welcome the following new and transferred members to our Post: Gerald Alanis, Jeff Ardziejewski, Michael Barszcz, Warren Broglin, Richard Grant, Kenneth Grove, Brian Hanson, Chad Harris, Jason Kaminski, Drew Kwiatkowski, Tom Luetz, David McCright, Louis Pironi, Matthew Stone, Matthew Vaughn, Anthony Young, James Greene, Lance Hendrixson, Bradley Hoffman, Jane Marcum, and Daniel Zawiejski. Please join us at our monthly meetings (2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm) to share your ideas and thoughts.

In Comradeship,

John

Post Commander

LADIES AUXILIARY NOTES

Polish Dinner October 9, 2011 from 1pm until 6pm

\$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 10 and under. Dinner includes stuffed cabbage, porgies, kielbasa and sauerkraut and dessert. Please come join us.

Gold Star Mothers Banquet October 16, 2011

The banquet will be held at the Southfield Post.

Veterans Day November 11, 2011

Please come and show your support held at our VFW. Also please remember to thank a vet.

Please show your support to our organization and the Post in any way you can. You can come to the meetings and volunteer at functions. We are in need of support. We do not want all of our elders' work to go to waste.

Get Well

Our thoughts go out to our shut-ins and those nursing home patients: Betty Mielke, Olga Hope, Betty Laird and Gene and Mary Stolarski.

Campbell soup codes and aluminum pull tabs are still being saved and collected. Drop them off at the Post.

Dues are due (\$20.00) for next year. Please send them in. If you are going through a hardship please inform Kathy Anderson, Treasurer, at 586-291-2733. *Let's make our Auxiliary 100%.*

Lastly over the next few months we will be surrounded by the holidays: *Please have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.*

Loyally.

Beth Anderson

Auxiliary President

***October 9, 2011 from 1pm until 6pm
Ladies Auxiliary Polish Dinner***

VIEW FROM THE MEN'S AUXILIARY

It was a hot, dry summer, perfect for BBQ's and being outdoors. Hope you all had a good one. Fall is here now and the temperatures outside are cooling. It's time to start thinking about our Fall and Holiday activities.

We are doing our annual Fundraising Raffle with a Fall theme again this year. We will be raffling a Shotgun (or LCD TV or \$500) as the first prize. A nice fishing rod and reel combination is 2nd prize and third prize is \$50. This is our big group fund raising activity and all Men's Auxiliary members need to make an effort to sell all the tickets that will be sent to them. This raises money so that we can support the Post and donate to deserving charities and to people who need our help. We will be drawing the winner at the December 19th meeting. Tickets will also be on sale at the Canteen Bar. See the attached flier.

Again this year, the Men's Auxiliary is sponsoring the Children's Christmas Party. It will be held on December 11th from 12-4 pm. Post members' kids/grandkids, 10 years old and under, are invited. Signup sheet is in this newsletter and at the bar in the Canteen. We need the applications by November 21st to have time for planning and procuring presents. We will be serving hot dogs and pizza. There will be a magician and Santa will be handing out the gifts.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Christmas Party: Purchase presents and help decorate the Hall on Sunday, November 27th. Committee chairman Mark Knudsen 586-453-8575 will be coordinating the volunteers.

Steak Outs are starting back up on October 1st. Come on out to enjoy a good meal and some great camaraderie. The Men's Auxiliary will be responsible for coordinating the Steak Outs this year, please come by and have a meal and, if you can volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our group did not meet in the Hot Summer months of July and August. We need our members to come to the fall meetings and let your voice be heard. Future meeting dates: Oct 17th, Nov 21st and Dec 19th.

NOTE: Support your Post. Check the Calendar for other upcoming events.

Have a Great Fall and Holiday Season - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Your President,
Henry Brasza

Happy Thanksgiving

POPPY DRIVE UPDATE

I would like to thank all the members, families, and friends for their generous contributions to the Post Relief Funds during this year's Poppy Drive. Fifty (50) Post and Men's Auxiliary members collected/contributed a total of \$1613. The Post received many generous contributions for which we are grateful. Special thanks to life member **Joe Cicci** for collecting \$368 during our May Poppy Days. Thirteen (13) Ladies Auxiliary members made contributions totaling \$242. An additional \$175 was collected by Ladies Auxiliary volunteers over that May weekend. A total of \$417 was deposited into the Ladies Auxiliary's relief fund.

Submitted by *Jim Muzzin*

NATIONAL CONVENTION

COMRADES: The next time someone tells you that the membership doesn't have a voice in the running of the VFW you can tell them that it surely does. This year at the convention the membership spoke loud and clear on several issues and carried the vote against the national officers. The big issue was merging the Men's Auxiliary with the Ladies Auxiliary. The membership spoke with a loud voice and overwhelmingly defeated the resolution even though it was supported by the national officers. The issue was dropped by a majority vote of the membership. All the issues are available online at www.vfw.org. Check it out and see all the resolutions and how they were voted on by our delegates.

The weather was the big issue. Our coolest day was 105 degrees and the warmest was 117 degrees. The people of San Antonio were great host and most of the attractions were within easy walking distance or public transportation.

Our work schedule was not overly jammed and most meetings were easy to make with not very many classes or committee meetings at the same time. In my opinion, it was one of the best conventions I have attended. As we get back to our own Post we have our own issues to attend to and as always provide aid and comfort to our troops and service to our communities. Remember our pledge to all our comrades, *TO HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.....*

Chaplain,
Leon Hinkle

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

More Excuses and Delays From the V.A.

It has been more than three months since a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit accused the Department of Veterans Affairs of "unchecked incompetence" and unconscionable delays in caring for veterans with mental health problems. Instead of working with the plaintiffs to address the court's concerns, the V.A. is appealing the ruling.

The 2-to-1 decision in a lawsuit brought by two nonprofit groups, Veterans United for Truth and Veterans for Common Sense, found that the V.A. bureaucracy was so slow and unresponsive that veterans were being denied their constitutional right to mental health care and to the timely adjudication of disability claims. It cited as evidence the high veteran suicide rate — an estimated 18 a day among the nation's 25 million veterans, and four to five a day among those being served by the V.A.

The judges pointedly noted that the agency had no suicide prevention officers at any of its outpatient clinics and that 70 percent of its health facilities had no systems to track potentially suicidal patients. The court agreed with the plaintiffs that "system wide" changes were needed at the V.A., especially given the rising flood of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It ordered the case back to the district court so a plan could be devised. The V.A. is determined to overturn that ruling. It is seeking a rehearing from the full appellate court. It argues, among other things, that Congress had specifically sought to prevent federal circuit courts from "second-guessing" V.A. decisions about benefits under a 1988 law, which set up the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to review disability claims. The two nonprofits are urging that the rehearing be denied. They argue, sensibly, that while the 1988 law imposed limits on federal courts' oversight of the V.A.'s bureaucratic decisions, Congress

surely did not intend to deny veterans any judicial forum to challenge the systematic and structural denial of their constitutional rights.

The current crisis, they say, is not about federal judges meddling in specific decisions by the agency to grant or withhold some veterans' benefits. It is about trying to compel the agency to fix a grossly deficient process for providing mental health care, a system that is failing nationwide. For veterans who are dying for lack of timely care, due process has been replaced by no process, or process with pervasive delays. These court delays are adding insult to those injuries. This cannot continue.

VA Presumption of Service Connection of Gulf War Illnesses Expires December 31, 2011

Do Not Allow the VA Presumption of Gulf War Illnesses to Expire

The current presumptive period expires December 31, 2011

Persian Gulf War expires on 31 December 2011. Consider that many of the 14 diseases presumed caused by exposure to agent orange in Vietnam have no expiration dates and that those veterans can still be compensated. Yet Gulf War veterans are discriminated against with an expiration date when researchers still cannot establish why the men and women are getting sick.

This is the last day that thousands of sick veterans will qualify for access to medical and other disability benefits afforded to them for these acts of unselfish duty during the Gulf War.



VFW Post 9021 Men's Auxiliary

Gun Raffle Fundraiser



Dear Members of Post 9021

Each year the Men's Auxiliary raises money so that we can support the Post and donated to deserving charities and people who need our help. In order to do these good things we need to raise money and that means getting everyone involved. So this fall we are having a Gun Raffle.

- 1st Prize is a Remington 870 Combo Shotgun or \$500.00 cash
- 2nd Prize is a Rod and Reel Combo valued at \$100.00
- 3rd Prize is \$50.00 cash

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Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Tickets are available from Men's Auxiliary members and at the bar in the Post Canteen.

The drawing will be on December 19, 2011 at the Men's Auxiliary meeting.

We feel strongly that it is part of our responsibility to help others in our community and the Post, your participation would be greatly appreciated.

First Place



Children's Christmas Party 2011

Sunday December 11th

12pm to 4 pm

Food – Hot Dogs and Pizza

Children's Entertainment – Magic Show

Santa is making a special trip here to give out the presents!!

The Men's Auxiliary of VFW Post 9021 invites all Post and Auxiliary (Men's and Women's) members, their children or grandchildren 10 years old and under and other close relatives to attend.

We will be buying gifts from Santa for all of the children. It is important that the form on the back of this page is completed and returned by November 10th so that we can plan accordingly for food and gifts.

We only have room for 100 people in the hall, so seating will be based on when forms are received. Children will take precedent over adults.

Thank You, Mark Knudsen Chairman
VFW Post 9021 Men's Auxiliary
32100 Ryan Road, Warren, Michigan 48092



Please Return this form before November 21th 2011

Number of Adults _____ (2 per child, Max 4)

Name of Child	Age	Gift Suggestion

Please take a gift from the child's Christmas list with a value around \$15 to \$20.

Return this form to:

Children's Christmas Party
VFW 9021 Men's Auxiliary
32100 Ryan Road
Warren, MI 48092

If you have any questions call
Mark Knudsen at: 586-453-8575

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Rush your response PLEASE !!!!!