

October 2010



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326

20 N. FIRST STREET • GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
Phone: 616-842-6210 • Website: www.vfwpost2326.org

October
2010

HONOR GUARD
Al Schmidt: 616-502-3747

FACILITY RENTAL
Barbara Fletcher: 616-846-4669

POST OFFICERS

Commander Sam Young 616-405-1161
Sr. Vice Gerald Melcher 616-846-2456
Jr. Vice Jerry Sias 616-433-1764
Quartermaster John Boese 616-638-4998
Chaplain Jerry Tripp 616-837-9180



LADIES AUXILIARY

Carol Verploegh 616-847-8929
Sally Kemme 616-846-3949
Beverly Shafer 616-846-5773
Edna McCarthy 616-842-6586
Meg Young 616-846-2418
Anne Parchert 616-842-8034



OFFICE

← President →
← Sr. Vice →
← Jr. Vice →
← Secretary →
← Treasurer →
← Chaplain →

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Dan Raggl 616-846-3946
Bill Schippers 616-846-1102
Scott Bazany 231-744-5211
Brandon Weigel 616-844-2719
Brian Schippers 616-846-6062
John Zlotnicki 616-638-0239



CLUB BOARD

Sam Young	Chairman	Always Post Commander
Jerry Melcher	Vice Chairman	3yr Term
John "Dutch" Ringelberg	Secretary	2yr Term
John Bosse	Treasurer	3yr Term Always Quarter Master
Jerry Sias	1 Trustee	2yr Term
Mark Kelly	2 Trustee	1yr Term
Ted Raggl	3 Trustee	1yr Term

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Summer is rapidly leaving and fall and the football season is now upon us. I want to take the time to thank members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Auxiliary, Post members and friends of the VFW for taking time out of their busy summer for helping to make this summer one of the most successful summers the Post has seen in many years.

Now for the negative: Before I start, I want to make it perfectly clear that these are my thoughts and impressions and mine alone.

Comrades, sisters, sons and to whomever may be reading this newsletter. The Health and Welfare of this Post is in serious trouble. We are losing members on an average of 20-25 per year. That loss is to death and annual members not renewing their dues. With a member loss of that rate we must recruit 25-30 members per year to keep the Post on good footing. We are not doing that. When an old member is called to renew his dues you will hear a laundry of reasons for not re-upping; anything from there is nothing there for me or just plain don't have time. This bleeding has to stop. We all should carry a application with us.

Over the passing years I have noticed that our priorities have changed. The Post has moved from the core values of the VFW. Yes we give a few dollars to VFW charities but not nearly enough. There are a lot of non monetary help we could be providing. It seems our main focus centers on the building and bar. I have heard many people say "how can we have a VFW if we don't have the building?" The answer is very simple. The VFW does not need a building, the building needs the VFW. Right now most of our fund raising efforts seem to support the bar and the building, and not to supporting VFW charities or our sons and daughters serving in harm's way or their families. We are currently replacing the lower roof on the building, around a \$10,000 expenditure, and last winter we had to replace the sewer from the building to the street hook-up, another \$5-6000. This building is going on 60 years old. Our bar is in violations of District, Department and National by-laws. Stating in plain language that if your bar can not support itself it must close. No Post funds should go to support it. We have been doing this for years.

Lastly the area which bothers me the most is lack of interest and participation of Post membership. First off last year we had to change the number of people it took to hold a meeting from 12 to 8. At the July meeting we couldn't get 8 people at a meeting, therefore, no meeting, which means there wasn't any business taken care of and 8 people wasted their time. I'm asking you all please don't let that few people make all the important decisions for our Post. By the way, the majority of the 8 people hold a post office either elected or appointed. We have a core of about a few dozen people who are trying very hard to keep this post up and going. However, they have been at it a long time and are starting to burnout fast, step up to the plate and pitch in. We need people to take an office. There shouldn't be any reason why a person should have a position for 2 and 3 years or longer. Our Adjutant and Quartermaster have held their post almost 7 years.

If I don't see a drastic and substantial change by March which is time to nominate officers we will have to make some changes.

Like I stated in the beginning of this newsletter these are my own personal feelings and mine alone.

Until next month Kiss a Vet.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Euchre @6:30 p.m.	2 CLOSED
3	4 CLOSED	5 Tacos 5:30-7:30 p.m.	6 Post MTG. @ 7:30pm	7 CLOSED	8 Euchre @6:30 p.m.	9 CLOSED
10	11 CLOSED	12 Cabbage Roll Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m.	13 Men's Aux. MTG. @ 7:00pm	14 CLOSED	15 Euchre @6:30 p.m.	16 Bar opens @ 3:00 Buffet Supper 5-6:30 p.m. Karaoke 7-11:00 p.m.
17	18 CLOSED	19 Tacos 5:30-7:30 p.m.	20 7:00 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary	21 CLOSED	22 Euchre @6:30 p.m.	23 Omelet-In-A- Bag Breakfast 8am-11:00 am Bar Opens @ 3:00 Euchre Tour- ney 1-5:00
24	25 CLOSED	26	27	28 CLOSED	29 Euchre @6:30 p.m.	30 CLOSED Private Party
31						

