



FROM THE COMMANDER

Greetings, I hope that all of you had a Happy Thanksgiving and very Merry Christmas. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to focus on our membership. We are currently ahead of schedule and are on pace for achieving our goal of 100% membership. Every year, membership is the main focus of our post. Without members, the post simply will not exist. It is vital that we get our membership numbers up. Not only does that help achieve our yearly goal, but it helps to keep this great organization alive. We have a membership team that has been working diligently to recruit new members. They have done a wonderful job thus far, but need more help. We need all of our members to spread the word to those Veterans that haven't renewed to do so and to help recruit new members. How can we recruit new members? Simple. Anytime you see an individual wearing any military apparel, ask them if they served or are currently serving in the armed forces. If they are active duty, retired, etc... sign them up (that is if they are willing). Let's show them what Yolo Post 77 is all about.

Kevin Phelps, Commander
Yolo Post 77

ALA UNIT 77 FALL EVENTS AND FUTURE CALENDAR EVENTS:

- Yolo County Fair: Past President Maria Lopez, with the help of John Moore, organized volunteers to park cars at the Woodland Mall.
- September 29, 2015: Maxwell Elementary School. At a school assembly in front of the Maxwell Elementary School, the Yolo Post Honor Guard retired the school's colors that were faded and torn. The Auxiliary purchased and presented the school with new California and US flags. The honor guard raised the new colors while Unit President, Silvia Hillyer, shared proper flag etiquette with the Maxwell students, as well as the proper way to pledge allegiance to the flag. When the flags were completely raised Silvia led the students in the Pledge of Allegiance to their new flags. The Unit

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POST EVERLASTING

Ronald (Ron) Anthony Eldon Gee, 89, of Woodland, passed away Sept. 26. Ronald was born in San Francisco and was in the US Army. He graduated with an AA degree.

Ronald was a US Postal Carrier, Electronic Technician -U.S. Government. He was a member of the American Legion Post 77, Red Cross Volunteer and enjoyed fishing and calligraphy.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Florence Gee and his son, Terry Gee.

For Yolo Post 77, Ronald served as Commander from 1969-1970, and Post Adjutant for over 20 years. He also served as the VA & R Commission Chairman for the Department of California 1991-1992. Ron was known for his great record-keeping abilities and verified all new members DD 214's and recorded them with the County Recorder's Office. He maintained the mapping of veteran's grave sites at the Woodland Community Cemetery. Ron was also a money counter for the Yolo County Fair parking for many years. He utilized his skill in calligraphy on certificates presented by the Post.

Farewell to our comrade, rest in peace.



2015 -2016 Legion Officers

Commander-Kevin Phelps
 1st Vice Commander-Juan Hernandez
 2nd Vice Commander-Tony Hernandez
 Immediate Past Commander-Richard West
 Adjutant/Finance Officer/Webmaster
 Albert "Al" Castillo
 Assistant Adjutant-Gary Leach
 Sgt-at-Arms-Vince Olvera
 Chaplain/Executive Committee-Ted Hillyer
 Service Officer-Billy Wagster
 Athletic Committee Chair-Frank Eakle
 Historian/Newsletter Editor-William "Bill" Ludholz
 Executive Committee-Don Campbell

EVENT CALENDARS

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 77

Officers:

Dan Neubauer, President
Brian Hopper, Vice President
Kathy Neubauer, Adjutant
Gary Mel, Safety Officer
Dan Neubauer, Chaplain
Kevin Phelps, Road Captain

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JAN 2nd 9 AM Membership meeting
 FEB 6th 9 AM Membership meeting
 MAR 5th 9 AM Membership meeting

For information about motorcycling with the Post Riders, call Dan Neubauer, (530) 219-2176.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

JAN 13th 7 PM Membership meeting
 FEB 10th 7 PM Membership meeting
 MAR 9TH 7 PM Membership meeting

Carl Prutch, Commander, tel. 669-7975; Gary Leach, Adjutant. SAL meetings are held at Post 77 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

AUXILIARY

Officers:

Silvia Hillyer - President • Maria Lopez - Vice President
 Arlene Sandoval - Secretary • Christine Rogers - Treasurer
 Mary Cogburn - Chaplain/Historian
 Jackie Huff - Member of the Executive Committee

JAN 8th 6:30 PM Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM Membership Meeting
 FEB 5th 6:30 PM Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM Membership Meeting
 MAR 4th 6:30 PM Committee Meeting
 7:00 PM Membership Meeting

For information about the American Legion Auxiliary, contact Silvia Hillyer at (530) 661-6326

**Every Tuesday for Bingo-Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
 5:30 to 6:30**

POST EVERLASTING

RONALD (RON) ANTHONY ELTON GEE,

"Farewell, My Comrades."



JANUARY 2016

JAN 20 1900 AL EXEC MEETING
 JAN 23 1730-1900 AL BASEBALL CRAB FEED @ FAIRGROUNDS
 JAN 27 1900 AL GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2016

FEB 6 1800 PAST COMMANDER RECOGNITION DINNER
 FEB 17 1900 AL EXEC MEETING
 FEB 24 1900 AL GENERAL MEETING
 FEB 26 ORATORICAL CONTEST @ CITY HALL

MARCH 2016

MAR 2 1930 SPECIAL MTG AL PEACE OFFICERS RECOGNITION AWARDS 1930 (TENTATIVE)
 MAR 16 1900 AL EXEC MEETING
 MAR 23 1900 AL GENERAL MEETING



**American Legion
 Yolo Post 77**

**ANNUAL
 CRAB
 FEED**



American Legion Post 77

BINGO Every Tuesday Night

SESSIONS: 4:30PM & 6:30PM

523 BUSH STREET



BOYS' STATE AND GIRLS STATE 2015 RECOGNITION DINNER



A Recognition dinner for both Boys' and Girls' State delegates, their parents, school officials and Post members was held at the American Legion Post 77. Boys and Girls State citizens were recognized for their participation, and to provide them with an opportunity to share their personal experiences while attending their respective Boys' and Girls' State sessions. This years delegates were presented with a Citation of Citizenship as well as the Boys' and Girls' State medal.

The 2015 session of the American Legion California Boys State was held at Sacramento State University in June. 1,010 high school students, attended as delegates. The following organizations and individual financially sponsored these delegates: Past Commander Albert Castillo, The Dan Good Distributing Company, Esparto Host Lions, Marine Corp League, The Veterans Coalition, Winters Rotary, Woodland Kiwanis Foundation and the Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club.

Yolo Post 77 sponsored 9 delegates from Yolo County high schools. Davis Senior High School – Varun Kota and Eric Smith, Esparto High School, Alfonso Casares, Pioneer High School – Carson and Evan Jones, Winters High School – Edgar Chavez, Woodland High School - Garrick Smigelski, Woodland Christian High School – Braxton Difuntorum.

The 2015 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State was held on the Claremont campus of McKenna College in southern California in June. A little over 500 California high school juniors attended as delegates. The following organizations and individuals financially sponsored these delegates: Auxiliary member Ms. Carol Rose, Esparto Lions Club, Gustafson Family Trust, Marine Corp League, Winters Rotary, Woodland Host Lions, Woodland Kiwanis Foundation, and the Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club.

The Yolo Post Auxiliary Unit 77 sponsored 7 young women from Yolo County high schools. Davis High School – Emily Albertson, Esparto High School – Jynelle Brillantes, Leonardo Da Vinci High School – Genevieve Kirsch, Pioneer High School – Belen Alcantar, Winters High School – Esmeraldo Escobedo, Woodland Christian High School – Hannah Wyatt, Woodland High School – Natasha Solorio.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our local sponsors listed above as well as the high school administrators that assisted in the selection of their delegates. Their time and care in the selections is greatly appreciated.

Ted Hillyer, Chairman Boys' State, Yolo Post 77

Silvia Hillyer, Chair Girls' State, Yolo Post 77 Auxiliary

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received several thank you cards from the students, and they were displayed around the Post in time for the Veterans' Day luncheon.



- Veterans' Day, November 11th: Junior member, Kaitlyn Baugus, marched the Unit flag at the Veterans' Day memorial service. Member and junior member, Julie and Elizabeth Phelps, placed the wreath on the Memorial. The Unit President purchased the customary food for the community luncheon. In addition, our members provided the following to add to the lunch: 1 macaroni salad, 1 potato salad, 1 carrot raisin salad, 3 platters of turkey salad sandwiches, 3 platters of egg salad sandwiches, and 3 platters of assorted meat sandwiches. Eight ALA Unit members helped serve lunch.



- Blue Star Moms, November 14th: Unit President requested and gathered donations for the care package campaign for deployed troops. The following volunteers helped box up the care packages at the event in Roseville: Hannah Wyatt, Girls State delegate from Woodland Christian HS, Unit President along with Cindy Garcia, her daughter and granddaughter.
- Tuesday Bingo: We continue to provide hamburgers and hot dogs during bingo and to the clubroom customers every Tuesday.

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California State Military Reserves

By: Daniel Cameron

Did you enjoy your time in the military? Do you ever wish you could go back to those days? Do you ever wish you could be a part of the military today so that you were “Up” on all the new equipment and understand what’s happening out there? Are you the spouse of a military person and always wondered what it was/is like to be in the military? Well, there is a way you can do this today. It’s called the California State Military Reserves (CSMR).

The CSMR is a part of the California National Guard (Army and Air Force). The mission of the California State Military Reserve is to provide an adequately trained and organized State military reserve force under the exclusive control of the Governor. The CSMR is meant to be capable of accomplishing those State emergency responsibilities normally assigned to the National Guard, when the Guard is federalized or otherwise not available.

CSMR performs such military duties as the Governor directs within the parameters of applicable federal and state law. Typically those additional military duties include assisting civil authorities during domestic emergencies and assisting in the mobilization and demobilization process of the National Guard.

The CSMR is a volunteer operational force upon which the California National Guard depends. Its members are subject to call to state active duty by the Governor of the State of California.

As a member of the CSMR you are a part of the National Guard, but you cannot be called to active duty for a conflict, only in the case of a state disaster. There is no pay for your service unless called to active state duty by the governor. You do have to purchase your own uniforms and you do have to qualify medically (I.E. able to do the job you have signed up for and able to meet the “Height-Weight” requirements). To Enlist you must be at least 18 years of age (21 for officer position) and there is no maximum age as long as you are capable of completing your assigned duties. Membership in the CSMR can also lead to employment with the National Guard through State Active Duty.

Rank will be determined by the rank you left the service with. If you were not in the military previously you will be assigned the rank of E-3, or E-4 if you have a college degree.

If you would like more information about the CSMR you can check their site at: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/CSMR>

or contact ISG Janice Barnes at 916-854-4474 or their toll free line at 1-866-526-4543.

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- Kitchen cleanup: Nancy West and the Unit President have completed two kitchen cleanup afternoons. All the Post plates, etc. were washed and sterilized and the cupboard shelves as well.
- Christmas Parade: Our members marched behind the honor guard.

Future Projects:

- Post floor cleanup: the Unit has approved paying for cleaning the Post floors.
- Suds Program: the Unit President’s mission this year is to provide a clean clothes program for our Woodland homeless veterans. Our former Past National President Nancy Brown Parker initiated this program during her year as National President. It is my hope that I can help our local veterans with washing their clothing. Donations from members of the Post have already been gathered.

Unit Monthly Meetings: Executive Committee – 6:30 PM, the first Thursday of the month; General Membership - 7:00 PM, the first Thursday of the month.

ONE OF POST 77’s BEST MEALS OF THE YEAR IS COMING UP ON MARCH 12

In celebration of the American Legion’s 97TH birthday in March, Post 77 will hold its annual **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN LEGION** Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 12, 2016 6:00 p.m.

If you are one of those people who likes good food, don’t miss the Post’s annual corned beef and cabbage dinner!

Get your tickets at \$15. for this highly popular corned beef and cabbage dinner by stopping at the Post clubroom or calling (530) 662-9772.

Happy Birthday
American Legion
born march 15-17, 1919.



Letter of Rebuttal to “FROM THE COMMANDER”

Published in the Oct – Dec 2015 Newsletter

The following is being written in response to the Oct-Dec 2015 Yolo Post 77 newsletter column, “FROM THE COMMANDER”, which I read with profound dismay! And I have heard from other members that they felt offended by this column. The Commander mentions that his goal is to get the post back to where it used to be by getting back to the Four Pillars of the American Legion. I must ask, “When did Yolo Post 77 ever get away from the Four Pillars of the American Legion?” I have visited many posts over the years, and been to numerous Department Conventions. Our post has received many awards at those conventions. Some are on display in the trophy cases in the back of the club room. Some, but not all. The cases don’t have enough room for all the awards this post has received. We have one of the best posts in the Department of California. For someone to state that we need to “get back to the Four Pillars” indicates a lack of knowledge about what we do and is an affront to the dedicated members of this post.

Veterans’ Affairs and Rehabilitation: Our post Service Officer also happens to be the Yolo County Veterans’ Service Officer. He processes close to a thousand claims annually for the purpose of helping veterans get the benefits they’ve earned. We conduct a Veterans’ Day ceremony and a Memorial Day ceremony each year. We also take part in a second Memorial Day ceremony, conducted by the Yolo County Veterans’ Coalition of which Post 77 is a member. The annual dues we pay to the Coalition supports its programs for veterans. Probably most important among these is the van program which provides local veterans transportation to their VA medical appointments. Post 77 has supported the Wreaths Across America program, which places wreaths on veterans graves at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon. As a member of this post, I have served as a speaker at that ceremony on several occasions. And members of this post have volunteered many times over the years at the North Bay Stand Down for Homeless and At-risk Veterans in Dixon.

National Security: This is something we support simply through being members. The National organization lobbies legislators in Washington to maintain a strong national defense. We no longer have active military units in Yolo County, but we have supported active military personnel by raising funds to purchase phone cards for personnel deployed from the Sacramento National Guard Unit. We have also collected toys and school supplies and delivered them to Beale AFB, Travis AFB, and the National Guard in Sacramento.

Americanism: This covers almost everything we do: Color Guards in parades and at civic events, flags on Main Street for patriotic holidays, Honor Guards for deceased veterans, patriotic holiday observances, Law & Order Program, and Firefighters’ Program. There’s Legion Baseball, Scouting, Boys’ State, and the High School Oratorical contest which all come under the heading of Americanism, while at the same time serving the youth of our community. Post 77 has been involved in all these programs.

Children & Youth Programs: We’ve won First Place in the Department of California on more than one occasion for our Children & Youth activities. Some of our efforts have already been mentioned above under Americanism: Legion Baseball, Scouting, Boys’ State, and the High School Oratorical contest. Also, there’s the Veterans’ Project at Woodland High School and the Veterans’ Day Essay Contest, scholarships at Woodland High School and Pioneer High School, and American Legion School Awards at Douglass MS, Lee MS, Holy Rosary, and Woodland Christian School. We have also hosted a Children’s Christmas Party, following the Woodland Christmas Parade, for the past several years, and will do so again this year.

I’m sure I could think of more we’ve done if I took more time. Yolo Post 77 is already one of the best in California when it comes to supporting the Four Pillars of the American Legion. To imply otherwise is just plain wrong. Our awards speak for themselves. And while it may be true that some Veterans’ Service Organizations suffer from the image of being just a bar, the way to fix that is not by closing the club room, but by getting publicity for the good things VSO’s do in their communities. The Commander’s column indicates he wants the post to be more family oriented, kid friendly, and attractive to younger veterans, but offers no particulars whatsoever on how to accomplish this. This is a post to be proud of, but I don’t claim that it’s perfect. We can always make things better. Let’s hear some specifics on how to improve it. Our members deserve nothing less.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Leach, Past Commander and Past Adjutant

THE POST LOG

Annual Veterans' Dinner

Veterans' Dinner took place Saturday November 7th. Around 90 members and guests took part in the dinner where Phil Tapia was awarded the Bob Dahl Legionnaire of the Year Award for 2015.

Retired Veterans

Frank Lucchesi and Jim Weber presented letters of thanks to our veterans at St. Johns and Stollwood Retirement Village on Veterans Day.

Area Meeting

The Department of California, Area 1 meeting was held at Post 77 the weekend of November 21st and 22nd. Area 1 consist of Districts 1 through 7 and covers Northern California from about Elk Grove to the Oregon border (excluding the Bay Area).



World War One Centennial

Post 77 is participating in Yolo County World War One Centennial. The organizing committee met for the first time on November 17th. We'll be looking for any artifacts or family stories to help us tell the story of Yolo Counties in WW 1.

CLUBROOM UPDATE

Many of you may have heard the rumors surrounding our clubroom. This is to try and clear up some of the rumors and disinformation. Some time ago a person made an accusation towards several members of the post leadership. To make long story short law enforcement was contacted to clear up the complaint. Since the person waited six weeks to report their complaint it made it impossible to substantiate their complaint. The police have determined that there was no evidence of any wrongdoing in the post. In the process of this action a review of the post liquor license revealed that we hold a Type 52 liquor license which means we are restricted to serving American Legion members and guests only. For now we will be placing signs on each entrance to the clubroom outlining this policy. We hope to put this unfortunate event behind us so that we can get back to doing the good work that we do.

California Launches Veteran Driver License and ID Card

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11/10/2015

California Launches Veteran Driver License and ID Card

Veterans can apply for "Veteran" designation beginning November 12

Sacramento – The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) announce a new program honoring our Veterans by allowing them to apply for a "Veteran" designation on California driver licenses and identification cards.

"California's new driver license and identification card program honors and recognizes the military service of our Veterans," said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, CalVet's Secretary. "I encourage our Veterans to contact a local CVSO and start the process and learn about their earned benefits, just as I have. As an added bonus, the new "Veteran" designation means businesses can easily confirm Veteran status when offering discounts."

Obtaining your "Veteran" designation for a driver license or ID card is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1. Get Records.** Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact any County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) by calling 844-737-8838.
- 2. Visit Any CVSO.** Take your DD214 and government identification to any CVSO to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form. For faster CVSO service, you can make an appointment with any CVSOs by calling 844-737-8838 or finding your local CVSO at www.calvet.ca.gov.
- 3. Visit Any DMV.** Go on-line or call any DMV for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to DMV. Complete your application, pay any application fees in addition to a \$5.00 Veteran designation fee, and complete any testing requirements. To schedule an appointment at any DMV, visit www.dmv.ca.gov or call 800-777-0133.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

If you have any Post related articles, pictures or events please let me know. Be sure to include who, what, where and when! You can email them to me or give me a call to arrange for me to pick up your submission. Contact: Bill Lodholz, william.lodholz@wattswater.com, 530-666-2493 x496185



American Legion
Yolo Post 77

ANNUAL CRAB FEED



SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

Yolo County Fairgrounds • Waite Hall

No Host Social Hour 5:30-7:00 p.m.
followed by Crab & Prawn Dinner

This popular fundraiser is back!
Support Legion Baseball
and other youth sport functions!

For tickets or information call 662-9772
Monday-Friday 1:00-8:00 p.m. • \$45.00

Mobil Chemical
KORDITE Western Region

REUNION TIME

*Stop By For Some
Memories & Friendship*

Place: American Legion Yolo Post 77
523 Bush Street, Woodland, Ca

Date: Saturday JANUARY 16, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

NO HOST BAR

**RSVP: No Later than JAN. 8 2016, call or email
Frank Lagura (530)-756-0216 / f.lagura@gmail.com**

A maximum of 110 Attendees can be Accommodated
therefore, reservations will be on a first reserved basis