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Welcome to
The American Legion
The World's Largest Veterans Organization
El Dorado Post 119

Commander's Report By Michael Raffety Dinner 6:30 p.m. March 1

This dinner will be our annual Officers of the Year dinner. Introducing each chosen officer will be Sheriff Jeff Leikauf, Police Chief Joseph Wren, District Attorney Vern Pierson, and CHP Placerville area Cmdr. Rick Hatfield.

The February dinner featured chicken that was very tasty, Our turnout was routine. I expect a larger turnout for the March dinner, which will, of course, feature corned beef and cabbage.

There was a bigger than usual turnout for the 7:30 membership meeting. That followed the dinner.

Dinners are still \$7 but expect them to rise to \$8 following the executive board meeting.

Delores will be back taking tickets for the March 1 dinner. She always does the prayer for the Officers award night.

Crab feed tickets were sold out. Several members worked diligently to obtain prizes for the crab fee to be raffled off. The crab feed hasn't happened yet as I write this report, but all indications are it will be a successful fundraiser event.

Happy hour bands will play March 3 and March 17. Enjoy the music and support the bar.

See you March 1 at Officer of the Year Awards Night.

Adjutant Corner

No report

Membership Corner

Welcome to our new members!

Service Officer Spotlight

It takes a Village.

I am part of a collaborative facilitated by Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless, which meets every other Tuesday, and some names of homeless Veterans get stuck in my head, even if I am not serving them.

Tamara Janies is the only boots on the ground on the Western Slope that Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless has, but she has facilitated some meet and greets with some of her clients.

So, I recognized BAG's name, and had a plan in mind when I met him.

I took him to the county VSO's office, where Julie Limbaugh helped him submit an intent to file a claim for a permanently damaged finger due to his service. She also helped him apply for VA healthcare.

BAG always had trouble getting his military service fully honored and respected by the VA, and had not used VA healthcare for decades. A service connected disability would solve that problem.

Also, Julie could immediately confirm that he had served.

But was he VA healthcare eligible?

Thanks to Cate Evans, a VA social worker, I knew to call 877-222-8387, with BAG present.

After half an hour of Muzak and announcements, a human answered. In just a few minutes the VA announced he was VA healthcare eligible.

The next day I took him to Mather, where enrollment and eligibility took his picture and welcomed him aboard. Then I walked to the access for HPACT, homeless primary care.

The doctor was not in, but a social worker was. BAG presented some health concerns that warranted walking over to ER. After a few hours of exams and tests, they gave him some meds, and he was good to go.

After all these years, BAG finally felt fully acknowledged as a Veteran.

The Upper Room is more than just a food place. Thanks to Karen Stinson and her staff, they offer a wide variety of services. Karen facilitated a phone call with Victory Village and BAG, downloaded their application form, helped BAG fill it out, uploaded the form to Victory Village, and facilitated his initial intake phone call.

Victory Village needed a couple days to do background checks, and get BAG approved for a VA housing program called Grant per Diem, probably through VA GPD case worker Leah Reeves.

Figuring that a couple days of decent sleep, and a shower would do BAG a lot of good, and improve the odds of his making a decent impression when he arrived at Victory Village, I took him over to the Gold Trail motel, in walking distance to the Upper Room.

The couple that runs the place are used to me. They have a great good cop, bad cop routine, and, fortunately, the good cop husband won the discussion of letting BAG stay.

Mike Schiavone, treasurer for the American Legion instantly showed up, and wrote a check to cover two nights.

Turns out BAG could not see to fill out the guest form. Took him to the Dollar store on Broadway, and for \$1.25, he got reading glasses that solved the problem.

Two mornings later got the call from Victory Village.

"He's in!"

Drove him there immediately.

In one week BAG went from being a homeless nobody to a respected Veteran, hopefully on his way to the State Veterans home in Redding, or wherever his heart leads him.

A fellow Veteran was the first person to see him at Victory Village, and welcomed him.

"You will be safe here."

It takes a Village.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119
530-919-8488

Rider News

On February 4, 2023, the Legion Riders attended the annual Chili and Cornbread Cookoff hosted by the Folsom Harley Owners Group at Folsom Harley Davidson. Legion Riders attending were Sam & Jane Fergason, Joe Rendon, Mark Sanders, Frank Perez, and Erin Simmons. The event was well attended and included 1st and 2nd prizes for chili and cornbread and a 50/50 raffle. Sara Campbell, spouse of Joe Rendon, won 2nd place and a \$50 gift card in the cornbread competition.

Sam Fergason
Director





Sons Spot by Bill Bryant

Sons Meetings 3rd Wednesdays @ 6 pm

Belly Up To The Bar...

March is going to be hopping at the Hall!

On March 3rd, we will have a new band (to us) called Neon Moon from 5:30-8:30 pm.

They play jazz, blues, country & rock - a little bit of everything!

On March 17th, we will have our favorite Last 5 Standing from 5-8 pm.

They also play a bit of everything - fun to dance to!

Food will be available from Michelle 5:30-6:30 or til she runs out, so get in line right away!

Here is our Friday Night Food Schedule for March, subject to change:

3/3 - Enchiladas, Rice & Beans

3/10 - Chili & Cornbread

3/17 - Corned Beef & Cabbage

3/24 - Meatloaf, potatoes & Veggies

3/31 - Pork Tenderloin, Rice & Veggies

Come on out & support your Hall, Michelle & our Bands!

See ya there,

Barb

American Legion Auxiliary

No report

From your Editor: If you would like to take on the task of this newsletter, please contact the Commander.

Enjoy this newsletter. If you have suggestions, or something you want me to add to the newsletter, you can reach me at

Steph2472@yahoo.com Steph

I



A very happy birthday to those who are March youngsters!!!

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day 2022 will take place on Thursday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

[Who was the real St. Patrick?](#)

For upcoming events/calendar, [click here](#)

Did you know?

[Newly updated comic book helps teach youth flag etiquette](#)

[Military Women's Memorial planning 25th anniversary celebration](#)

[South Dakota Legionnaire raising awareness and funds for homeless women veterans](#)

[while competing for Ms. Veteran America](#)

[A year of gains for women veterans](#)

The American Legion has podcasts and videos to listen to or watch...

Podcast Link <https://www.legion.org/tangoalphalima>

Watch videos here and stay up to date on all things

Legion <https://www.legion.org/magazine/videos> and

The VA has started an initiative focused on supporting veterans through self-care.

<https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/get-involved/get-healthy.asp>

"Borne The Battle" is a weekly, interview-based podcast that recognizes each battle, challenge, and sacrifice our Veterans endure during and after their service, as well as, spotlighting important resources, offices, and benefits VA offers our Veterans.

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/84285/accessing-va-podcast-network/>



Executive Team

Commander Mike Raffety

(530) 626-8020

1st Vice Sam Bradley

(530) 626-3956

2nd Vice James Leadbetter

(916) 254-7529

Adjutant Joe Rendon

(530) 672-1161

Finance Mike Schiavone

(530) 409-2710

Sgt At Arms Milt Bandera

(530) 677-4423

Chaplain Gary Gonzales

530-621-0344

Judge Advocate Vacant

Bar Manager Barb Schiavone

(530) 409-7746

Building Manager James Leadbetter

(916) 254-7529

Veterans Service David Zelinsky

(530) 919-8488

Membership Joseph Rendon

(530) 672-1161

Historian Vacant

Newsletter Editor Stephanie Carlson

(530) 409-9716

Executive Board Members

Jim Ayers (916) 739-9421

Bud Brown (530) 677-4135

L. Flannery

W. Comstock

John Krahn (530)-677-6356

Bob Russell (530) 626-5533

Vacant position

All Legion Members welcome.

Chapter 119 American Legion Riders

President Sam Ferguson

530-409-7489

Unit 119 American Legion Auxiliary

President Janie Bandera

(530) 677-4423

1st Vice Rebecca Marty

(530) 677-4423

2nd Vice VACANT

Secretary Carol Mueller

(530) 622-0674

Treasurer VACANT

Chaplain Dolores Wadsworth

(530) 677-1255

Sgt At Arms Joy Krahn

(530) 677-6356

Marshall VACANT

Executive Committee VACANT

The Auxiliary Meets on the First

Wednesday of each month at 2000

Unit 119 Sons of the American Legion

Squadron Commander and Treasurer

Bill Bryant

(530) 409-8414

Adjutant and First Vice Gary Coverdale

(707) 339 2362

Treasurer

Membership Bob Springer

(925) 321 0017

Sgt at Arms and Chaplain Rich Klinke

(916) 207-5674

Historian Vacant

The Squadron meets on Third

Wednesday of each month,

MEETING STARTS AT 1730

Chef de Gare

Milt Bandera 530-677-4423

Commissaire Intendant

Bob Russell - 530-626-5533

Correspondent

Bud Brown 530-677-4135

Conducteur

Bob Russell (530) 676-5533

Garde de LaPorte

Leo Cooper (530) 306-3969

Chef de Train

Milt Bandera (530) 677-4423

Lampiste Vacant

40 & 8 meets the first Monday of each month at

1730



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