



The Patriot

One who loves his country
and zealously supports its
authority and interests



March – April, 2009

Commander's message

Comrades,

We have made the New Year a success. We are currently above 95% membership. Our work is still not complete. I am usually not a "numbers" guy, but having us so close to 100% makes me feel that we can do it. I like this because we now have a true 100%. Please help me in welcoming our new members, many of whom want to contribute by being active in our Post home.

Your participation for the cash drawing is needed. We are close to having half of the needed tickets sold. Let's work on the other half. See Ron, Patty, Bryce, or the attending bartender for tickets.

As we say goodbye to winter remember to look at activities to get involved. We need our members to start going to VA hospital visits. They occur once a quarter and are well received by veterans that are visited. Check with Helen Carter for the upcoming one in April.

Upcoming activity will be a Post cleanup tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in March. Remember it is your Post and having a clean one says much about your dedication to our veterans. Do your part to make this happen. Contact Allen Daniels for details.

I want to personally thank all of our members for helping make our Post the home that we all can enjoy and be proud of. Your commitment to making our organization successful has translated into our membership growth. Let's keep up the good work!

Your Comrade in Arms,
Jesse Mendoza

Ladies Auxiliary President's message

Sisters and Brothers,

The year is quickly coming to an end and elections are right around the corner. It is time to think about the people you would like to represent you.

There are several irons in the fire; Post drawing in May, fundraiser for Carter, Garner Veteran's Memorial. Come in and help where you can. There are several members that help with steak night and fish fry night that have or will be undergoing surgery and won't be available to help, so it is time for others to step up to the plate.

Be sure to check the website for updates and don't forget to email or turn in community service activities.

Teena Barbour

Themes announced

The themes for the 2009-2010 student competitions have been announced. Students in 9th -12th grades are eligible for the *Voice of Democracy* (VOD) competition. The *Patriot's Pen* is opened to students in 6th – 8th grades. Deadlines for submission are Nov 1, 2009. The themes for the coming year are:

Patriot's Pen: *When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?*

VOD: *Does America Still Have Heroes?*

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

2008-2009 Officers

VFW Officers

Commander	Jesse Mendoza
Sr. Vice Comdr	Mark Judson
Jr. Vice Comdr	Bryce Miller
Quartermaster	
Chaplain	Clarence Hayes
Adjutant	Ron Ryhal

Ladies Auxiliary Officers

President	Teena Barbour
Sr. Vice Pres	Joy Clifton
Jr. Vice Pres	Peggy Morris
Treasurer	Gerri Griggs
Chaplain	Dot Fulghum
Secretary	Denise Trainer

Men's Auxiliary Officers

President	Dennis "Mac" McMillan
Sr Vice Pres	Jim Backlund
Treasurer	Russ Marcom
Secretary	Scott Hood

Newsletter Editor: Helen Carter (779-6314) Post Home: 772-1062
House Committee: Allen Daniels, Dennis Clifton, Ken Skinner

Cootie Corner

The March meeting will be the election and installation of officers for the Pup Tent and Auxiliary.

The next 5th Supreme District meeting of the MOC and MOCA will be held in Waycross, GA on March 13-15. Reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn, 1725 Memorial Drive. Make your reservations now by calling 912-283-4490. This will include the election of officers for the next 2 year term.

Our Grand Convention will be hosted by Pup Tent 57 on May 30-31 in Hickory. Reservations can be made at the Quality Inn & Suites, 1725 13th Ave. Dr. NW, Hickory, NC. Phone: (828) 431-2100.

Our next regular Cootie Hospital visit will be April 30th at 6:45 at the Durham VA. Plan now to come join us. We'd love to bring some new faces with us to visit the patients. Come dressed as a clown or as a Cootie, but please come out and join the others to bring a smile to the patients. We leave the Post at 6:00 PM, or meet at the VA at 6:45.

Are you interested in joining the Cooties? We are actively looking for new members. If you are interested in joining, contact Allen Daniels at 894-8376

Announcement has been made of the Supreme Convention to be held Aug 20-23, 2009 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, in Phoenix, AZ. Phone: 1-800-950-0086. Make your plans soon.

We are sad to report the death of one of our Cooties, Jim Massengill. Jim, who was also an active member of the Seabee Veterans of America (SVA), died on Dec 19. Our condolences go to his wife Cornelia and all of his family and friends

Monthly events

The monthly Steak night, is held the first Friday of each month. We serve from 6:00 to 8:00 PM (or until the steaks run out). Cost is \$13 per person, eat in or take out.

Our monthly Fish Fry Nights are held on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The cost is \$7.00 per plate, eat in or take out.

Men's' Auxiliary President's message

Members and Auxiliaries,

Springtime is almost here and is a symbol of rebirth, renewal and new beginnings. So let's start off with a rebirth of our Post as a family, a renewal of our commitment to our Post, and a new beginning of working harder for the future of our Post through more volunteers, more time, and a feeling of love for what we have.

In the last several months, it seems we have had more than our share of illness and other problems, but with faith, hope, and the rebirth of our family attitude, we can make it through these times. Our ability to be there for each other has always pulled us forward to overcome any obstacle. A house divided and can not stand, but a house united can accomplish anything.

We have set several goals for ourselves in the coming year. I would like all of us to set a goal of a closer family. Call someone who you have not seen or heard from for a while. Ask if you can do anything for them, or for the Post. Let someone know when you have some free time to donate. Dust a shelf, clean a window, or sweep a floor. Remember the Post is here for you, in turn, be there for the Post.

God Bless all of you,
President Dennis "Mac" McMillan

Aux Cancer Insurance Premium Due

As many know, the Ladies Auxiliary annual dues include a premium on our Cancer Insurance program. But this is not included in the Life Membership fee. Therefore, Life Members need to pay this fee annually each year in order to be covered. All Auxiliary Life Members are asked to please send the premium of \$10 to Treasurer Gerri Griggs.

VA Hospital Visit

Our next VFW VA Hospital visit will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00 PM. Please join us bring a smile to our Comrades -- and we could use lots of new faces to deliver those smiles.

Nominations and elections of officers

In accordance with the National Bylaws, VFW nominations will be at the March meeting. Elections for Post and the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary officers will be at the April meetings. If you would like to run for an office or nominate someone for office, please come to these meetings. Officers will assume their duties in June, after the State Convention.

All elected VFW officers must have their proof of eligibility on file prior to being installed.

District Convention planned

The spring District 7 Convention of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary has not yet been scheduled. However, watch the website for information when it is. At this meeting, elections for the 2009-10 officers will be held. Please come and join us there to select our new leaders and to learn about the programs and activities for the organization.

Welcome new members

Please say welcome to these new members who joined our ranks over the past several months:

Post:

Richard Jansen
Thomas O'Connell
Paul Sadowski
James Greene
Wilbert King

Ladies Aux

Barbara Allen

State Convention scheduled

The Department Convention will be held early this year, June 18-21, 2009 at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Raleigh. All members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the organization and meet the officers and members from around the state.

BBQ fund raiser planned

The Post is hosting a chicken BBQ to help with medical expenses of a young child stricken with LCH, a life threatening blood disorder. It will be held on Friday April 24, 2009, starting at 11:00 AM.

Plates cost \$10 each, and orders of 10 or more plates can be delivered. So get your friends and co-workers together and place an order.

Letting us know ahead of time can assure that we have enough supply. Just call us at the Post at 772-1062.

Chaplain's message

Patrick Henry's Foreign Policy

Patrick Henry stated in a courtroom speech as recorded by his grandson, William Wert Henry in *Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence and Speeches*, Vol 3):

"I know, sir, how well it becomes a liberal man and a Christian to forget and forgive. As individuals professing a holy religion, it is our bounden duty to forgive injuries done us as individuals.

But when the character of Christian you add the character of patriot, you are in a different situation. Our mild and holy system of religion inculcates an admirable maxim of forbearance. If your enemy smite one cheek, turn the other to him. But you must stop there. You cannot apply this to your country. As members of a social community, this maxim does not apply to you. When you consider injuries done to your country your political duty tells you of vengeance. Forgive as a private man, but never forgive public injuries. Observations of this nature are exceedingly unpleasant, but it is my duty to use them."

Chaplain Hayes

Drawing to be held

Have you gotten your ticket yet? Don't forget about the drawing to be held in May. Tickets are only \$10 each, with a limit of only 500 tickets being sold – so get them while they last.



Then come to the drawing on May 23, where 10 lucky winners will be selected throughout the day to receive the cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$250. Price of the ticket includes a chicken BBQ meal and a dance on the day of the drawings.

You need not be present to win, but the meal is free to all ticket holders. Tickets are on sale at the Canteen, or if you want some to sell, let us know and we can send you some.

So you can't lose – you get the day of fun, a good meal, and music to dance to – all for only \$10. And at the same time you have a chance to win and you help a child in need. Buy yours now (buy **several!!!**)



Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliaries
South Wake County Post 10225
1706 West Garner Road
Garner, North Carolina 27529
Post web site: www.vfw10225.org

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The Patriot



"What after all, has maintained the human race on this old globe, despite all the calamities of nature, and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities and courage to advocate them."

Jane Adams