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Meets 1st Monday each month
 April 5, 2010

Vol. 89

American Legion Hall 3110 West Lane 6:00 P.M.

No. 01

COMMANDER'S CORNER

First I would like to thank those of you who are attending our monthly meetings. Adjutant Bauer brought up several things at our last meeting which stimulated dialogue about our Chapter and what we are and are not doing. I encourage all of you to attend our meetings and provide your input. We need to be thinking "outside the box" to keep our Chapter going and supporting the veterans in our area as well as encouraging younger disabled veterans to join the DAV and Chapter 15.

Bennie Gatto Commander

INSTALLATION DINNER

GUEST SPEAKER
DEPT OF CA SECRETARY OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS,
ROGER BRAUTIGAN
May 3, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

The membership voted to have an Installation Dinner in lieu of our May regular monthly meeting. Menu will be decided at our April 5 Meeting. So bring your spouse or significant other and join us in welcoming **Secretary Brautigan and Congressman McNerney's Veterans' representative, Gary Prost** who will update us about California and National Veterans' issues. This is a great opportunity to get up to date information on Veterans' issues and a nice dinner to boot.

PLEASE CALL (209) 323-9304 WITH YOUR NAME AND HOW MANY WILL BE ATTENDING to assure you will get a seat. NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 2010 This telephone will NOT be answered but is for messages only. You also can leave a contact number if you have questions and I will try to return your call promptly.

Lanny Bauer Adjutant/Treasurer
COMING EVENTS

Mar 30 Vietnam Veterans Recognition
 Day 12:00 to 2:30
 Stockton Civic Auditorium

Apr 5...Regular Meeting
 6:00 PM Ed Stuart Post
 2nd Nomination and election
 Of Officers

May 3....Installation of Officers and Installation dinner
 6:00 PM Legion Hall
 Guest Speakers: **SEE ABOVE**

Jun 2-6 Dept of CA Convention
 Raddison Hotel, Fresno CA
 No Regular Meeting

Jul-Aug DARK

Sep 6 Regular meeting 6:00 PM
 Ed Stuart Am.Legion Post
 Final Picnic Planning

Sep 25 Annual Picnic Micke's Grove
 San Joaquin Area
 11:00am - 3:30 pm

ADJUTANT'S RAMBLE

Be sure to call the sign up number so you can get a seat at the Installation dinner. WE NEED AN ACCURATE HEADCOUNT BY APRIL 26th.

I have worked on a couple of issues with Secretary Brautigan and with Gary Prost in Congressman McNerney's office. Both are hard workers for the Veterans of California. Come to the dinner, enjoy a nice meal and get the latest information straight from the hip.

We are starting to get new attendees at our meetings now and I am hopeful this is a new and positive trend. We will continue the annual picnic which is a great way to get the membership together and to enable us to continue to support needy area veterans with food during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday period. We have always received positive feedback for this event. But I believe we can do more and we should do more to help our comrades who are unable to get around and those who need encouragement and direction with their claims. We have been without a DSO since that position was vacated in 2007. I have made numerous calls to Dept. of California requesting that the position be filled and have been told repeatedly that "the numbers aren't there to justify this position at this time and that there is no office space available" and that the salaries for the DSO's are paid for by Dept and DAV Rehabilitation Foundation and funding sources are down. DAV Charities of San Joaquin County supplemented these salaries in the past but the Charities' funding has also been almost totally wiped out. If you feel strongly that we should have a local DSO, I encourage you to contact Department of California and express yourselves.

Along those lines, I also encourage you to attend our meetings with your ideas about how we can increase our funding to enable us to support the salary of a local DSO. We need to be proactive and not just react to the current situation. We need not only your ideas but your physical contribution because whatever we decide to do as a Chapter to continue the "SERVICE" tradition which is what the DAV is all about, it will require work. One or two people carrying the load won't cut it.

For the most part (with a couple of exceptions) those who are active in our Chapter are 60-80 years old and we need to start working with some of the younger veterans to get them involved so that the strong tradition of DAV service can be carried on.

We will have 2nd nomination of Officers and election at our April 5 meeting. Come out and make your voice heard.

Semper Fi,

Lanny Bauer Adjutant/Treasurer

TEMPORARY DECREASE IN MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP FEE

In order to stimulate recruitment and to provide every eligible veteran an opportunity to experience all that the DAV has to offer, National Commander Bobby Barrera recently authorized the National Membership Department to accept a **minimum membership down payment of \$20 through the end of the membership year on June 30, 2010.**

A mass mailing from our current net prospects list is being prepared to encourage potential members to take advantage of this limited time offer. The change should ease the challenges recruiters face from prospective veterans who want to join but could not afford a full \$40 toward membership. The Commander hopes recruiters will redouble their efforts during this period. While the nation is facing economic challenges, the DAV's shifting demographics necessitate a steady stream of new veterans to fill our ranks.

VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

The first "official" State of California Vietnam Recognition Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 30 in front of the Stockton Civic Auditorium.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the bill last year making March 30 of each year Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. The celebration is sponsored by the **Stockton Veterans Coalition**, which consists of various representatives of Karl Ross and Ed Stuart American Legion Posts, DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15, VFW Luneta Post, Fleet Reserve Association.

Keynote Speaker for the event will be **Medal of Honor Recipient, Richard Pittman.**

Representatives from Travis AFB will conduct the 5 Hat Ceremony, and the Flag unfolding/folding Ceremony. A Wreath Laying Ceremony will be conducted by two Vietnam Veteran Nurses. Other events are being scheduled but unconfirmed at this time.

This day was celebrated last year but was not officially recognized by the State of California until signed into law by the governor. During the budget crisis this past year, **California Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Roger Brautigan** was instrumental in convincing the Governor to sign the bill. The Governor was not signing any other bills into law in an effort to get State legislators to continue to work to solve the budget crisis.

As mentioned earlier, Secretary Brautigan will be our guest at the Installation Dinner on May 3.

Lanny Bauer Adjutant/Treasurer