



THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

3230 S. WAGNER ROAD PO BOX 2509, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

(Between Ann Arbor and Saline)

Meetings – 2nd Monday Each Month at 8:00PM

January/February 2008

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander's Message - John Kinzinger

We have entered a new year. Behind us was a good year for our VFW Post. To look back, we began our Support Our Troops Care package mailings, which we will continue to do every two months. We had our Second Annual WWII and Korean War Veteran Dinner (in 2007 we added our Korean War comrades as our honored guests). We have brought in a significant number of recent war Veterans, who will become the future of our Post. We had a most wonderful Post Christmas party. Our monthly VA bingos continue, thanks to our group of bingo volunteers. We had a most successful Poppy Sales in 2007 and our Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing went well too (brought in \$602.03). We put on a CPR class for several members and purchased a portable defibulator for emergency purposes at our post. Our Post grounds continue to improve each year and our Post home is one of the finest in the area.

We continue to sponsor a Boy Scout troop, who use our post for their weekly meetings and some of their special events each year.

The year 2007 also had some sad aspects too. We had several of our Comrades pass from this life. Some like Betty Dove and Fred Bentz, are certainly missed. Others were past commanders and proud VFW members. We look to other members and hopefully our younger members to pick up their banners and help move our Post forward into the future.

I look forward to the coming year and the events at our post. Please try to get out to some of the events and meetings. I hope we do more as a post this year than last. The more of us who come out, the more we can do for our post and our commu-

Aux. President - Marilyn West

We finished the year with a very successful Christmas party. There were 30 children at the party. Thanks to Kay Davis who went shopping for the gifts. Kay does a fabulous job of matching gifts to the ages of the children. The children ranged from just a few months to 14 years of age. A special thanks to the ladies of the auxiliary for all the wrapping they did the day before.

The post supplied the meat and pot luck dishes were brought by those who attended.

I think everyone enjoyed themselves and I am sure we will do it again next year.

A special thanks to Marv Konkel and the lady who provided a special treat for each of the children. This special person provided stuffed animals of all sizes and beanie babies in wicker baskets and wrapped them in plastic wrap. There were two to three items in each basket. There were enough so that each child was able to chose one to take home.

Marilyn West, President



Christmas Party With Santa!

nity.

In May, our post will be hosting the District 6 Installation Dinner. Be watching for more information and please try to attend. Comrade David is to be installed as the new District 6 Commander. And on the post's Auxiliary side, Regina Liedel is to be installed at the District 6 President. This is a real honor for our post.

If you have questions on what you could do for your post, please call me (734-994-0444) and I would be happy to discuss that with you.

Until the next edition, I wish you and your loved ones the very best.

Commander Kinzinger

Baseball Anyone?

Any of you who would like to join our Post competitive hardball team? Please contact me soon. We need several players this spring. This is in the Ann Arbor Rec & Ed wood bat hardball league. Teams come from all around southeaster Michigan to play in this league. It is competitive and we hope to be more competitive this summer. The average of the players is about 26-28 years old. There are a few older players (40-50s) in the league. Last year I believe our final record was won 5 and lost 11. We were in most of the games we lost, but just could not finish the game with the winning score. We had fun. Our post purchased the uniforms last year. We were certainly the sharpest looking in our uniforms. Anyway, if you might be interested, please call me, 734.994.0444. Commander Kinzinger

Note From Iraq

(the following is an email dated 1-10-08)

Hello all, and greetings from Baghdad!
Today's surprise: It's SNOWING! Yep, wet, big-flake snow. You have to wonder about this place.

I hope you are all well. We are staying busy and really trying to get the job done.

We see a positive change in the attitude of the Iraqi people. More and more receptive of our presence and effort to help them every day.

I hope you are all well.

Take care

Troy (Infantry Major with the 4th Infantry Division recently deployed to Iraq)

Care Packages For Our Troops February 11th 6 pm

Before our December post meeting, several of us packed Care packages which were mailed to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We packed many nice packages and plan to do another packing at 6 pm before our February 11th meeting. If you have the address of a person serving overseas, please get that address to Commander Kinzinger, along with when the person is expected to come home. If you would like to help us pack, please come on out. If you would like to bring cards and or letters to send to the troops in the packages, please do for they are most important to our troops.

*****By-Laws Change Vote*****

At our December 2007 post meeting a motion was made to make a change to our Post 423 by-laws. At the March meeting we will vote on this change to our by-laws. The requested change was to 'make the starting time of our monthly membership meetings 7 pm', versus our current 8 pm start time. If the vote for the change passes, our future membership meetings will begin at 7 pm, according to this by-laws change. If you desire to vote for or against this change, you must be in attendance to vote.

*****Elections*****

Our post elections will be at our April 14th membership meeting. We will open the nominations for officer positions at our March 10th meeting. So, if you are interested in running for an office of our post, just let other members know and get them to nominate you for the position you are interested and that will get you on the ballot. So, keep those dates in mind and be thinking about members to nominate for the different offices.

VA Bingo Parties

Our VFW Post 423 puts on a bingo most every month at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. In 2008, we are signed for the dates below. Just show up in the Extended Care dining room at about 6:30 on that evening and you can help setup for the 7:00 bingo. Marilyn West leads our efforts there by bringing snack bags for the patients and seeing to it that we have canteen books to give to the bingo winners. We can always use a few more volunteers for our bingo parties.

Bingo Dates: Feb 13, Mar 12, Apr 1, May 7, June 4, July 16, Aug 13, Sep 2, Oct 1 and Nov 12.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

I personally want to thank your for helping keep the tradition of ringing Salvation Army bells going for our VFW Post. We have been doing this for decades. Our bell ringers this year were:

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Michaele Reeves | Bob Fugate |
| George Perrault | Ken Parks (<i>dressed as Santa</i>) |
| Roy Hall | Glenn Timpe |
| Gary Lillie | Vance McCrumb |
| Bob Kwiecinski | Brandon Houser |
| Gene Liedel | Pete Belaire |
| Bob London | John Kinzinger |



Bell Ringers Bob K and Micheale Reeves

If you did not see Ken Parks in front of Korger with the Santa uniform with his balck dog (reindeer) Shirley, you missed a good one. I know folks liked seeing Santa and they loved petting Shirley. And, it must have helped with filling his bucket. Good going Ken!

Commander John K



Santa and his helpers!



Ulcers are what you get from mountain climbing over mole hills.

My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

The nice thing about senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

GRAF-O'HARA
VFW Post 423
PO Box 2509
Ann Arbor, MI 48106



Calendar of Events

January 21st County Council Meeting Manchester American Legion 8 pm.
February 11 Packing Party 6 pm prior to the Membership meeting.
February 11th VFW Post 423 Membership meeting 8 pm.
February 13th VA Bingo - Extended Care Dining Room 7 pm.