



THE GRAF-O'HARA MESSENGER

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

Post: (734) 662-3972 - Commander: (734) 994-0444

Post Web Site: www.vfw423.org

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

January-February-March

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY POST 423

Commander's Message

Time is going by fast. It seems like Christmas was last month, but spring will be here soon. The snow has melted and green will begin to develop around our Post as the leaves and grass will soon begin to grow.

We had a wonderful Christmas party, which is covered in another article. Thank you Kay, Milton, Regina, Marilyn and everyone else who helped make it a nice success. Good job folks.

The attendance at our meetings continues to be 25 to 35 members each meeting. Through the efforts of some members, our Post has reached 100% membership. We had to do some real work to pick up 18 or so members to reach that goal. With that our efforts to become an "All State" Post for the first time seem close. We will not find out for a couple months.

We certainly welcome all of our new members to our Post and hope you come out and get involved with what is now your Post too. Come check us out. We would really like to have you do that.

We will continue to need to bring more members into our Post to keep at the 100% membership mark. If every active member would bring in just one new member, we would be in great shape. So, I challenge each of you active members, and less active members too, to bring us one new member in the next year. You can do it. A special request goes out to you younger



John K. Vietnam 66-67

From The Auxiliary - Marilyn West

Another year is almost over and I feel it has been a good one. Our Christmas Party was larger than the previous ones. It was nice to see so many children enjoying themselves.

Sadly we had quite a few funeral dinners. The families all expressed their thanks for what we did.

On May 16th, we will have our annual Installation Dinner. We will have drinks and snacks at 5:00 pm with dinner at 6:00 pm. Please call me at (734) 971-4567 or Kay Davis at (734) 428-7874. We both have answering machines, so if we are not home you can leave a message. I will need to know by May 10th if you are going to attend, so I can work with the caterer.

We will have our annual Memorial weekend Museum Open House May 28, 29, 30 and 31. We will have free hot dogs and snacks on Saturday, May 29th. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this as Milton and many of the other Post members work very hard on this project.

Sincerely,

Marilyn West, VFW Post 423 Auxiliary President

Poppy Sales

If you get a hard copy of this newsletter, you should have also received a request to help with our annual VFW Poppy Sale. If you are able, just put your gift in the provided envelop and mail it back to us. Bob Kwiecinski has again taken on leadership of the Poppy Sales and you can contact him at 734.420.0772 for more information.

members, you know who you are, Jared and others. We have a wonderful Post and someday it will be yours to lead, so come out and get involved now as we plan the future of our Post.

Post officer elections will be at our April meeting. If you are interested in running for an office, please have someone nominate you to get you on the ballot. You must be there to vote.

The Installation of Officers Dinner is May 16th. Members and a guest are invited at no cost. But you must call Marilyn West or Kay Davis to reserve seats, for caterer purposes. See Marilyn's article for details.

Milton Davis and his crew of members will set up the Post museum over Memorial Day weekend. If you have not seen it you should. If you have seen it before, I guarantee Milton will bring out items this year that you have not seen before. He is continually adding to the vast array of items. So, come see for yourself.

This summer I will again be managing the Ann Arbor VFW hardball team in the Rec & Ed league. If you know of someone who plays hardball well and would be good to represent our Post, please have them contact me and we will look at them as a possible player.

Our meetings are the second Monday of each month at 8 pm. We have sandwiches and such set up by 7:30 for all to enjoy, thanks to our Auxiliary President Marilyn West. We sincerely thank you. Commander Kinzinger (734-994-0444)

Christmas Party 2009

We had a great party with 45 children and 67 adults. That is our biggest number of guests ever. Mr. and Mrs. Claus made their appearance and handed out gifts and candy to each child. Baskets donated by Mary Sougstad were also passed out. Most all of the children sat on Santa's lap and told him what

they would like for Christmas. The adults had a good time watching the kids.

The children colored on pillowcases to send to the troops. There were a lot of interesting drawings on them. I know whoever got them had to be very happy.

Our dinner menu was delicious. There was turkey, ham with scalloped potatoes, sweet potatoes and all of the trimmings. There were a lot of other foods and desserts brought by members.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped with setting up and the clean up after. There are so many people to thank for all their help. And I would like to thank the Auxiliary and the Post for making this party possible. Kay Davis

VFW Post 423 Bingo

Our Ann Arbor VFW Post continues to put a bingo each month at the Ann Arbor VA. Pictured are the volunteers at our March 10th bingo (LtoR Dale Burgess, Marv Konkle, Dick Knight, Horace Frazier and John Kinzinger. Note that three of the five of us are over 80 years old). We had a good time. The patients won many coupon books to purchase items in the Canteen store in the Medical Center. So, they were happy to have us there.



I do not know how long our Post has been doing bingo at the VA, but I would guess 30 or more years. Marilyn West, with our Auxiliary, was a lead person for us at the bingos for years. Recently an edict came down from on high in the VA that we could no longer give the patients any food whatsoever. That was Marilyn's specialty. She and her group Auxiliary members would put to-

gether very nice snack bags with fruit, granola bars and such. The patients would take them back to the rooms for a snack later. They loved them. Now that food is not allowed, Marilyn said she was no longer needed at the bingos. That was sad because she loved doing them for the patients.

So, now it is up to us members to do the bingos. Auxiliary members are welcome to join us too. All the patients are allowed is water and coffee. We do need members to come out and help the patients and pass out canteen books to the bingo winners. Some patients need help watching their bingo cards as the numbers are called, which allows you to meet and talk with them too.

It takes 5-7 people to do this. And it takes about one hour. There is usually a regular VA helper there in case help is needed. If you are interested, the following are our coming bingo dates. May 5, June 2, July 21, August 11, September 7, October 6 and November 10

You need to be in the nursing home dining room by 6:45 pm. So, come on out and enjoy bringing a smile to the faces of our local hospitalized Veterans. - John K

- TAPS -

We have lost the following Post members in the last 15 months.

Paul Dumsch, USA, 9-10-09, - Vietnam War

Robert Mueller, USA, 8-31-09 - Korean War

Richard Betoni, USMC, 12-18-09 - WW II

Robert Frick, USA, 11-18-09 - WW II

Harold Hultquist, USMC, 12-18-09 - WW II

Joe Nowak, USMC, 3-1-10 - WW II

Richard Saltzmann, USA, 8-23-09 - Korean War,
(Past Commander)

Dewayne Wilson, USA, 11-16-09 - WW II

John Smith, USN, 2-18-09 - Vietnam War

Charity Fishing Tournament for Michigan's Veterans

Lake Michigan, Manistee

Sunday, May 23rd and Monday, May 24th.

Registrations must be received by April 1, 2010. Contact Bob Guenthardt at 231.723.3282 - renegade22@att.net or Rick Briggs at 810.229.5880 - veterans@biami.org for sponsorship opportunities, donations or other information

This event is free for Michigan Veterans but you must register by April 1st.

Free Summer Camp for Military Kids

Sign up to attend the camp in your area. The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple camps offer a free week of fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed.

Where: YMCA Storer Camps, Jackson MI

When: June 20 through June 26, 2010.

Visit www.militaryfamily.org for registration information or additional locations and dates.

Post Elections Nominations

Commander John Kinzinger - Horace Frazier

Senior Vice - Adam Betz

Jr. Vice - Greg Champion

Quarter Master - Milton Davis

Post Advocate - Bob London

Chaplain - Murl Eastman

Surgeon - Marvin Konkle

1 year Trustee - Bill Estep

3 year Trustee - Matt Davis

Sgt. At Arms -

Be sure to show up at our April meeting to cast your ballot for the next year's Leadership of Post 423.

US Korean War MIAs

1,788 Declared KIA

2,031 Died as POW

5,400 Remains still in North Korea

229 remains recovered by JPAC since 1996

75 Remains identified since 1996

126 Remains identified since 1982

866 Sets of remains interred at the Punchbowl cemetery in Hawaii

Source: DPMO, January 2010

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VFW Post 423
PO Box 2509
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VFW Post 423 Calendar of Events

April 12th Membership Mtg. 8 PM - Election of Post Officers

May 10th Membership Mtg. 8 pm

Auxiliary Mtg. 8 PM

May 16th Installation of Officers Dinner at the Post

May 28th, 29th, 30th, & 31st. Post Open House - Museum will be on display - Volunteers needed to set-up and take down.

June 14th Membership Mtg. 8 PM