



VFW 1st District of California



DISPATCH

Volume XIIIIX No XI Best District and Newsletter in the World

March 2010

District 1 Commander Larry Brown



Greeting Comrades, Sisters, Men's Aux and VFW M/C,

The Month of February was outstanding. A Big Bravo Zulu from the State Commander Jack Turner and State President Sue Wells on their official visit to District One. The Posts we visited showed the greatest hospitality and respect for our guest. Thank you Post Commanders and Ladies Aux's Presidents from Poway, Vista, Solana Beach, Paradise Hills, Chula Vista and Don Diego.....Professionalism was the theme of the day.

Official Visit Chairmen Walter Hamilton and Vicky Sprague excellent job on the dining out.....you both did yourselves.....Bravo Zulu from me.

Looking at Department's Status Sheet:

- Buddy Poppies.....8 posts to go until 100%.....Commanders "Buy them".
- Membership 100%... 1392, 1513, 1774, 2080, 2422, 3783, 3787, 5477, 9578 and 10577.
- Membership..... 95%... 2082, 2111, 5179, 5867, 7420, 7766, and 7907
- Membership..... 90%... 1512, 1924, 2275, 3788, 4630, 4851, 5431, 5554, 5985, 7041, 9327, 11387 and 11388.
- Membership..... 80%... 3795.

We have three posts that still need to turn their December Audits in: 1392, 2422 and 5179.....We have one more quarterly audit to go.....March.....remember; you have 30 days to submit the audit to Dept.

District One was at the ground breaking at MCAS Miramar National Cemetery in January. District One Commander Larry Brown, Junior Vice Commander Dale Smith, District Inspector Jack Porath, District Surgeon Jerry Koehmlein, PSC Art Harris and Linda Brown Ladies Aux. Post 7420.

Last month, was my last official visit for District One. I enjoyed visiting your posts, listening to your questions and meeting new comrades. Thank you, Comrades for a great visit.

In March, It's election time again.....DD-214.....responsibilities and Time.....Please read the National By-Laws and your post By-Laws (if your post has them).

The Senior Vice was stress Programs and the Junior Vice was stress Membership.....May 15, 2010 is just around the corner.....full speed ahead Commanders.

March 16, is our next Membership / Information Meeting at Lakeside VFW. I hope to see all of District One's Commanders or Representatives.

So now, I say again, We are here for you and your post". Thank You.....Have a Happy St. Patrick Day.....

Yours in Comradeship,

Larry Brown

District 1 President Rosanna Vasquez



Dear Sisters and Comrades:

What a spectacular month we have had!!! Thanks to everyone who helped make the Official Visit such a wonderful four days for Department President Sue Wells and Department Commander Jack E. Turner. The hospitality from the Posts and Auxiliaries who hosted us was totally delightful. We were greeted with so much warmth and love (and great food!). I can honestly say we could not have had a better driver than Jim Bennett thanks again Jim. And to the most entertaining and best Advisors Erma (Tootsie) Dougherty, Reta Butler and Alicia Tanner what a unforgettable experience. And to my line officers what a wonderful job you all did. This is one event I will never forget.

First we were off to the Mission Valley to visit Scott Langoff and his staff it was a very short and nice visit we took many pictures and Scott explain some of his duties as a Service Officer to Our Department President Sue Wells, and also to some of the line officers and myself.

Next we were off to visit the Veteran's Hospital in La Jolla that was both interesting and informative. Department President Sue Wells presented a check for \$5,000 to the acting Administrator to purchase new T. V.'s it was very impressive. A BIG THANK YOU TO SARA HAWKS VAVS REPRESENTATIVE for setting up our wonderful visit. Also to (JoJo) Josephine Trujillo Thanks for your help as always you do a "Great Job". We also visited our Chula Visit home this facilities also has a acting Administrator he discussed several issues about the the VA Health System and what programs are available to our Veterans. He also had some good information.

I also hope everyone who attend the Official Visit Banquet had a great time. I know I sure did. The food was great and the company was exceptional!

Again thanks to the people behind the scenes who made everything come off perfectly. Thank you to Vicki Sprague, Tim Sprague, Walt Hamilton, Sue Hamilton, Jim and C.C. Bennett and to ALL my Line officers Thank you from the Top and Bottom of my Heart I could not have done it with out every ones help "THANKS AGAIN"

Just a reminder Ladies You're doing a wonderful job on membership and in working your programs. Keep up the good Work.

Loyally Yours,
Rosanna M. Vasquez
1st District President

**District 1
Junior Vice Commander
Timothy Sprague**



Comrades and Ladies

It was a wonderful time at the District 1 Official Visit. I've heard nothing but great things about the Town and Country. I so enjoyed having all the Department officers down here enjoy our San Diego weather and sights. As the Commander Jack Turner's driver I did make a mental note that every time we got in to the van it started raining so I have decided to select a committeeman to be in charge of weather. DO I HAVE ANY VOLUNTEERS?

I want to say Thank You to a few comrades and sisters: District President LA Roseanne Vasquez for opening her room for the Jack's Hospitality room, Auxiliary 2111 President Beth Neitzelt and her team for the fantastic Breakfast by the Bay (even though the weather made us have to move the event to Roseanne's Room) Richard Neitzelt , and Richard Crouch for their assistance. Dale and Marla for the quick reaction in bring the booze, I mention this because no event even with all the planning in the world can be accomplished without our fantastic comrades and sisters.

You've heard this before Membership, Membership, Membership there are posts that only need one or two and most are less than twenty that are needed to make 100%.

Don't forget Programs, Programs, Programs one event can have several Form-12's, so let get them into the Department Chairman, District Chairman make then know who you are send as many as you can. This will tell them we are the MIGHTY FIRST DISTRICT by overflowing their filing cabinets with our Form-12's.

Dates to Remember:

March 5th -6th Membership Drive

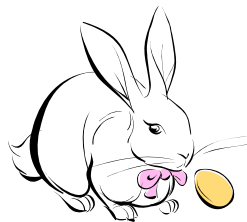
16th District Membership Meeting at Lakeside Post 5179
1800 Meal

1900 Announcements

1930 Meeting

19th and 20th Membership Drive

Sincerely
Tim Sprague



**District 1 Auxiliary
Senior Vice President
Cecilia Bennett**



Dear Sisters and Comrades:

What happen to January and February? My goodness the new year just started and here comes the Eyes of March. We are moving right along!

As many of you know the month of February brought our Official Visit. We all had a very good time. The banquet was fun. The banquet food was delicious, and the hotel was amazing. Thank you Official Visit Chairman, Vicki Sprague. The only little problem was "the weather". Therefore, Breakfast on the Beach was moved indoors, right into President Rosanna's room. The food was yummy, thank you Beth Neitzelt, Cheryl Salier, and Pam Everett, for all your help. It was so nice to spend time with Department President Sue Wells. She was very appreciative of all the hospitality shown to her with every stop we made. She certainly enjoyed herself in all our travels.

To that end, I would like to personally thank my husband, Comrade Jim Bennett for driving President Rosanna, her guest Dept. President Sue Wells, and the rest of the line officers. Thanks for all your patience, in a van full of women. Also, to our neighbor Comrade Captain Rudy Diaz USN for donating his van again this year.

Sisters, elections are right around the corner. Please start considering who your new auxiliary officers will be for the ensuing year. Once you have determined who will run for President, Sr. Vice President, Jr. Vice President, etc. Your next selection will be that of your chairmen. If selected and you accept, please to your best. Your auxiliary will benefit and shine as you work all the programs. We do the work for our veterans.

In closing, I would like to thank all the sisters and comrades, who have either called, visited or sent cards to my husband Jim, he is currently recovering at home, after back fusion surgery. He's doing better, starting to return to his old self

Remember to continue to pray for our brave troops in warms way, far from home. Also, please remember their families here at home. Do all you can for them as well.

Loyally Yours,
Cecilia "CC" Bennett
District 1 Sr. Vice President

District 1 Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Evie Holland



Chaplain's Report
March, 2010

It is with deep regret that I announce that Past Department President Mary Bellon's brother lost his battle with brain on January 27, 2010. Cards can be sent to: Mary Bellon, 4099 Marlesta Drive, San Diego, CA 92111. May he rest in peace

Past District President, Vonna Stover, suffered a very serious stroke on February 3rd and is currently in the hospital at Kaiser. However, currently, no one is allowed to visit except for family members. Her right side is paralyzed and has no speech right now. She also doesn't really know anyone. Please keep her in your prayers. As soon as I hear any news, I will get it out to the auxiliaries.

Past District President Linda Roberts broke her leg and had surgery on February 11th. She is recovering at Kaiser. Cards can be sent to her at 440 N. Chambers St. Apt # 106, El Cajon, CA 92020-3288.

Linda Brown, our district commander's wife, had her second surgery for breast cancer and the prognosis is looking good. Please keep her in your prayers as well. Pat Cook, our district musician has been in and out of the hospital for heart problems. She is home so cards can be sent there. Also our color bearer, Eufemia Contreras, aunt of our District President, is recovering from a recent illness in a rest home.

This is just a reminder that you must drape your charter in remembrance of our Past National President, JoAnna Ott who passed away on January 7, 2010, for 30 days.

Our Past Commander Keith McDonald is having a biopsy on Wednesday, February 10. We all hope it turns out well for the McDonald Family. You can send cards to 1642 Villa Crest Dr., El Cajon, CA 92021.

I have been asked to pass on from our Department Chaplain, Rene Fulk, to send any death notices to her new address which is 111 Via Presa, San Clemente, CA 92672. She is still getting mail forwarded from her old address and is afraid that they won't all get to her. Also all notifications must be in her hand as well as mine by May 1 so that we can get them into the memorial books. If we don't receive them by that time, they will be passed on and put in next year's book. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter

"Oh God, I hope with complete trust that you will give me, all the necessary grace in this world and everlasting life in the world to come, for this is what you have promised and you always keep your promises. Amen"

Respectfully submitted,

Evie Holland
1st District Chaplain.

Sheri Carrington
Veterans and Family Support

VFW Department Service Officer:

If you haven't yet donated to this fund, I encourage you to do so. Each Auxiliary donating at least \$50 will receive a citation and the gratitude of both Department President Sue Wells, Department Chairman Marilyn Peck, and me for supporting her Special Project. If you have the time, I also urge you to be trained to assist the Service Officers by being trained to help fill out applications.

Buddy Poppy:

I hope everyone had a successful Buddy Poppy distribution in November and were able to get the story of the Buddy Poppy out to the public. Our next "official" distribution timeframe is the new "All American Star Spangled Banner Bonus Day" on March 3rd. Of course you can distribute at any time during the year. In addition, please ensure you use Poppies in all your decorations.

Other Veterans & Family Support Activities:

When your Auxiliary pays its quotas to Emergency and Drug Abuse funds, or you send cards to members, or help a Veteran or one of their family members in any way, you are doing a Veterans & Family Support project. Remember, this work, as with all projects, must be done in the name of the Auxiliary.

Thank you for all you do and continue the good work!!!!!!!

From the Junior Vice
Commander

Membership continues to improve with the District being at 96.12 as of 1/12/10. Keep up the good work! The following are the recruiting days for February/March. Please plan on attending any or all. Ladies Auxiliary is welcome to attend as well! Remember you can now receive \$5.00 for every new or reinstated as of February 1.



February 19/20 - 32nd St Naval Station - Fleet Exchange 1000-1400

February 26/27 - MCCS Miramar - Mini Mart 1000-1400

March 5/6 - MCCS Miramar - Mini Mart 1000-1400

March 19/20 - 32nd St Naval Station - Fleet Exchange - 1000-1400

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Dale E Smith STCM(SS) Ret
Jr. Vice Commander
Mighty 1st District
Department of California
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Note from Editor

The deadline for the submission of articles for the Dispatch is the 15th of the month. Due to time constraints nothing will be accepted after this date. Although I love having lots of input into the Dispatch I must insist that this deadline be held for everyone.

Thank you for your input and understanding
Vicki Sprague, Dispatch Editor

Aux Membership

January's meeting was held at LCDR Arnold Betcher 3788, and you turned in 18 more transmittals. Thank you ladies, you are all doing a great job. Another thank you goes to the ladies of LCDR Arnold Betcher 3788 for hosting that meeting, and for providing us with a very delicious meal and deserts.

Your Division winners for the month of January are as follows:

1. Campo Mountain Empire 2080
2. Thomas H Cosby Jr 4630
3. Bert Fuller 9578
4. Lt Fred Lewis Kent 7909
5. PFC Archie G McArthur 3783
6. Don Diego 7420
7. Carter Smith 5867
8. LCDR Arnold Betcher 3788
9. No Winner

As of January 31st we now have 20 Auxiliaries that have joined the ranks of 90% and above and 9 out of those 20 are now at 100% and above. Two of you are so very close to achieving 90% and a lot more are very close to 100%. I know that this gets old, but we need you to call your continuous members and have them pay their dues.

Going into January's meeting we needed **204** more transmittals (continuous, new, or reinstated members), upon leaving that meeting, the District needed **186** more. It is now lower. How much more? Come to our next membership meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd at Lt Fred Lewis Kent 7907 in Poway at 7:00 pm and find out how close we are to hitting that target goal of **100%. Ladies we can do this.**

If you get this newsletter after our meeting, then come join us at Thomas H Cosby Jr Post 4630 in National City for our March meeting. I hope to see a lot of you at our membership meetings, because without you, we cannot do this.

Official Visit was great. At the Banquet we honored the 100% Auxiliary Presidents and their Membership Chairmen. What an honor it was to introduce these Presidents to State President Sue. Now, unless you are up on that podium, you cannot understand how nerve racking it is. I had all my notes with me, and I was so nervous that I skipped half of a page of what I wanted to say. So here goes: "I have not done this Chairmanship all by myself, I have 3 wonderful ladies, who have given me a lot of help. Julia Price, wife of our Department Jr Vice Commander, Bobby Price, Nancy Williams and Rosanna Vasquez, 1st District President, **THANK YOU**, and then there are all the ladies of the Mighty 1st District, who without them, membership could not be possible, please give yourselves a hand. I also want to thank Gracie Leyva and Leticia McCoy, our Registration Team. Thank you so much for all your help.

Keep up the good work,
Rose Busang

MASS INSTALLATION

Comrades and Sisters,

We have the honor of being your chairmen for the 53rd Mass Installation being held on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

This is the first event where we show the BEST this organization has in its leadership of our Posts, Ship, Auxiliaries, and Units for the 2010-2011 VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary year.

Department Senior Vice Commander Denis Wells and Department Senior Vice President Judy Jones will be the Installing Officers. Let's show them what we are truly made of and how we continually maintain our name... the **Mighty First District!**

We want this event to be a huge success and with your help and participation we can make this happen. Please make this event a priority in which to participate. You ARE the backbone of First District--without you there is no District.

Enclosed on the following pages are the highlights for each portion of the 53rd Mass Installation.

Remember that much goes on behind the scenes to make this event possible so it is mandatory that the deadline of April 26, 2010 be observed.

All monies MUST be paid in advance.

Loyally Yours,

Dannie E. Boston

Gayle L. Boston



First District
Veterans of Foreign Wars
and its
Ladies Auxiliary
Announces the
53rd Mass Installation and Luncheon
of
Posts, Ship, Auxiliaries and Units

Saturday - May 8, 2010
At Carter-Smith Post # 5867
12650 Lindo Lane, Lakeside
Luncheon at 11:30 am
Ceremonies at 12:30 pm

Let's make this the best attendance ever seen in the history of
this event!

It is the PERFECT time to introduce our Department Officers to the
2010/2011 Comrades and Sisters who are behind the leadership,
strength,
dedication, and talent we have in the Posts, Ship, Auxiliaries, and
Units of the

MIGHTY FIRST DISTRICT

You are ALL invited to participate!

Please make this a priority Comrades and Sisters

First District
Veterans of Foreign Wars
and its
Ladies Auxiliary
53rd Mass Installation

PARTICIPATION FEE and BOOKLET AD

Participation fee for each Post, Ship, Auxiliary, and Unit is \$15.00

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 2010

CHAIRMAN Dannie Boston,

_____ YES! Post #/Ship#/Auxiliary#/Unit# _____ WILL be participating in the 53rd Mass Installation.

_____ No, Post #/Ship#/Auxiliary#/Unit# _____ will not be participating in the 53rd Mass Installation. Please notify Chairman by mailing this response.

Enclose a check for \$15.00 made payable to "VFW 1st District" earmarked "Participation Fee" NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 2010

Mail to: Dannie E. Boston

9675 Los Coches Road, Lakeside, CA. 92040-4259



Post, Ship, Auxiliary, Unit, and Business advertisements are encouraged for publication in the Mass Installation Booklet.

Price per type of advertisement:

Business Card size \$ 25.00

Half Page size \$ 50.00

Full Page size \$75.00.

DON'T FORGET TO ENCLOSE YOUR ARTWORK

This is a wonderful way to advertise your functions!

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 2010

CHAIRMAN Dannie Boston,

Post #/Ship#/Auxiliary#/Unit#/Business _____ would like to have the enclosed artwork published in the Mass Installation Booklet.

Enclose a check for appropriate amount made payable to "VFW 1st District" earmarked "Advertisement" NO LATER THAN APRIL 26, 2010

Mail to: Dannie E. Boston

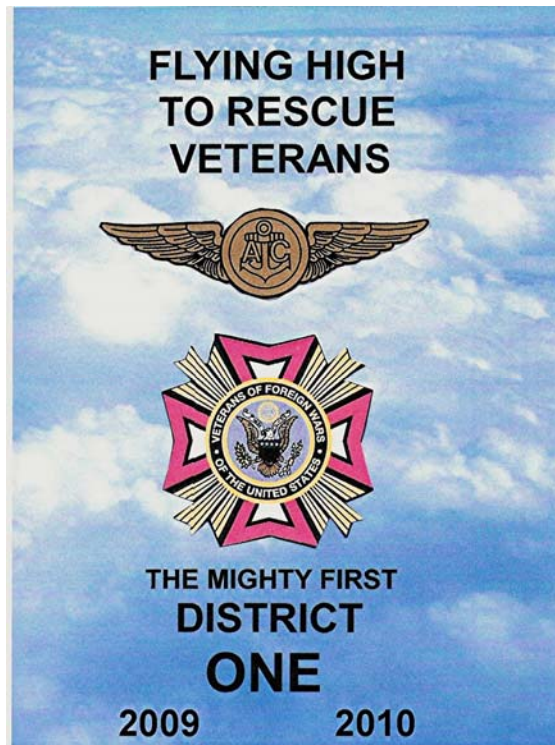
9675 Los Coches Road, Lakeside, CA. 92040-4259



Miramar National Cemetary ground breaking ceremony.

District 1, Commander Larry Brown, Wife Aux member 7420 Linda Brown, District 1 Jr Vice Commander Dale Smith, and Jack Porath attended as well as several others.





District 1 Commander Larry Brown



District 1 Auxiliary President Rosanna Vasquez

Disclaimer

The "Dispatch" is the official monthly publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, District One, Department of California and shall act as a periodical for the benefit and enrichment of all VFW Posts, Ship, Men's Auxiliary, and Ladies Auxiliaries comprising First District. As Department Officers, any and all communications from the First District Commander and First District President are considered to be official as they have the privilege of membership on the Council of Administration, Department of California for the current calendar year.

Submission of articles for the Dispatch must be to the Editor (www.vknight2@cox.net) no later than the 15th of each month. Don't forget who, what, where, when!

The Dispatch is available monthly at: www.vfwdist1ca.org