



# THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

Post 111, Squadron 111 and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448  
Unit 111 American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448



## From the Top

Dave Richey

Commander, Sotoyome Post 111



Greetings to All Members of Post 111, Unit 111, Squadron 111 and Chapter 111 !

Thank you, to all who came to dinner with us on Saturday evening, March 10, for the Anniversary Commanders' and Presidents' feast. And it was truly a FEAST! Warren Luke and his kitchen staff did a superb job of cooking the tri-tip roasts, country potatoes, baby carrots and all the rest of the trimmings'. A big THANK YOU to him, and to all who helped with the preparation, serving and cleanup.

We were honored with the presence of three of the four members of the post who have been continuous members for many years. They are Gil DelAgnes (50 years), John Brazil (50 years), and James (Mike) Kiser (60 years). Each was presented with an American Legion Continuous Service pin and a Certificate of Recognition signed by National Commander Fang Wang, the National Executive Director and Post Commander Dave Richey. Unable to attend was Wilbur Moniz (60 years). Bud Simmons and Cmdr. Dave made a visit to him on the following Tuesday to give him his pin and certificate. He and his wife were very gracious and grateful.

Our post has now officially achieved over 100% membership. National reports us at 297 members, 3 over our goal or 101%. Finance officer Bob Taylor reports that we have nine additional paid members, to put us at 104%. THANK YOU, TEAM!! The Sons and Riders have already achieved over 100% and the Auxiliary is in the 90% range.

April 18 is American Legion Legislative Day at the Capitol in Sacramento. Any Legion veteran who can make it is encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to see how our government is operating and to meet some of the legislators who have influence on Senate and Assembly bills concerning the rights and benefits of veterans. It's possible to even talk

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## Auxiliary Happenings

Rose Sandoval

President, Sotoyome Unit 111



President Rose is back East with her sister. Her brother in law passed away soon after Rose arrived. She has asked again that I send out her message. We wish for her and her family God's blessings.

We celebrated the American Legion and Auxiliary annual birthday dinner with a St. Patrick's Day theme. The decorations were beautiful (thank you Gail and Marie) and the food was delicious. There were close to 180 people in attendance.

April brings the usual yearly quest for members to step up and accept a new position within the unit. We are currently looking for members who are willing to help our unit fill the officers and chairmen's positions. If you are interested in honoring your veteran's service by serving yourself in one of our positions we would love to have you. We need new members with fresh new ideas. Please come to our April meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm we would love to see you all.

Our membership currently stands at 143 with our goal being 151. We are so close, so if you haven't paid your dues, won't you take a moment and write that check and send it in.

We will have a guest speaker at our April meeting. She is with the American Heart Association and will speaking to both the legion and the auxiliary on heart health. Everyone is invited to attend.

Finally, the money the unit raised in December at the Christmas Party went to the Pathway Home at Yountville Veteran's Home. This is a special ward for returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are suffering from PTSD. The money went towards purchasing \$700.00 worth of gasoline cards that the veterans will use traveling down to Monterey twice a week to train with their service dogs.

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## Adjutant's Column

### Bud Simmons, Post 111 Adjutant



We are now at 100% membership pending adjustments with the Department of California. We thank all of you that have paid your dues and will appreciate you that haven't to take a moment and drop your \$25.00 check in the mail.

We are sending 9 top juniors of our local high schools to Boys State this year. It is your dues that help support this top program of The American Legion.

We are extremely pleased to announce that 3 of our last year's students to Boys State were accepted into 3 of our great military academies. All from WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL! This is quite a feat and unmatched in the California history of Boys State attendees. Our congratulations go to VINCE VALDEZ accepted into U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs; ALEXANDER LEE accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis; and SHANE MORGAN accepted into the U.S. Army Academy at West Point! Boys State is one of the finest if not finest youth programs of any veteran's organizations - and this is the proof in the pudding.

It was just a few short years ago that a student, also from Windsor High School was selected by his Boys State peers to attend Boys Nation in Washington DC. Thanks go to our Commander Dave Richey, Harold Bagdonas, Doug Newton and Pete Peterka in assisting with this year's selection process, who by the way also helped last year. Proves that we made the right choices, which of course are very difficult with the caliber of boys that we have to interview.

We encourage any veteran that is not enrolled in the VA system to do so. We all are eligible for certain benefits which are much easier to attain if we are in the system.

You are reminded of the Aid & Attendance Benefit which, if you are eligible, provides monthly financial assistance to those needing in-home care as well as facility care. If you have any questions regarding your benefits contact me at [legionbuddy111@comcast.net](mailto:legionbuddy111@comcast.net) or 707.971.0523 or our Post Service Officer Tom Grimes whose contact information is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

You are also reminded that the Sonoma County Veteran Service Officer, Chris Bingham is a member of our Post and he can be reached at 707-565-5960 and can answer any questions you may have regarding VA Benefits.

REMEMBER - WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU.

## From The Top - Continued

one-on-one with some of them. If you would like to go, fill out the application found in the *California Legionnaire*, or contact one of the post e-Board members. Car pooling can be arranged.

## Auxiliary Happenings - Continued

The VA has found that the veterans' recovery period is enhanced with the help of their own pet or a dog who has been assigned to them. If the veteran is suffering a nightmare or flashback the service dog is trained to help by licking on the faces, tugging at their clothing and turning on the lights in their bedroom thereby relieving the anxiety and stress associated with these PTSD episodes. What a wonderful program and this unit will continue to help the Pathway Home.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America.

Melanie Taylor, Past Department President



## Memorial Week Schedule

This is a busy time for the Healdsburg American Legion Family.

Tue, May 22 - 5pm	Cleanup at Oak Mound Cemetery.
Thu, May 24 -	FAA Parade
Sun, May 27 - 8am	Flags out at Oak Mound
Mon, May 28	Memorial Day Programs
10am	Oak Mound Cemetery
11am	Geyserville Cemetery
12noon	Windsor Cemetery
1pm	Picnic for participants at the Villa Annex
Tue, May 31 - 8am	Pick up flags at Oak Mound



**FOR THOSE THAT FOUGHT FOR IT  
FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR  
THAT THE PROTECTED  
WILL NEVER KNOW!**

## April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	3	4	5	6 40 & 8 Meeting 8pm	7
8	9 Past Presidents Card Party 1pm	10 ALR Meeting 6pm Windsor	11	12 Post/Unit Meeting 7pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Bingo at Yountville 10am	26	27	28
29	30					

## May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 40 & 8 Meeting 8pm	5
6	7 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	8 ALR Meeting 6pm Windsor	9	10 Post/Unit Meeting 7pm	11	12
13	14 Past Presidents Card Party Noon	15	16	17	18	19 ALR Ottolini Memorial Run Area 1 Post 84 Auburn
20 Area 1 Post 84 Auburn	21	22 Cemetery cleanup 5pm	23 Bingo at Yountville 10am	24 FAA Parade	25	26
27 Flags Out 8am	28 Memorial Day Programs	29 Pick up Flags 8am	30	31		



## Sotoyome American Legion Family 2011-2012 Leadership

### Post 111 The American Legion

Commander	Dave Richey	568-7278
1st Vice	Roy Caporale	837-1957
2nd Vice	Warren Luke	569-9968
Adjutant	Bud Simmons	971-0523
Finance Officer	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Judge Advocate	Shannon Dean	536-5939
Chaplain	Bill Stiles	433-3733
Sgt. at Arms	Tricia Lay	695-0345
Service Officer	Tom Grimes	481-9169
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Jr. Past Cdr	Doug Newton	217-6309
Executive Board	Frank Jerins	
	George Sager	433-2044
	Frank Teuschler	431-3733

### Unit 111 American Legion Auxiliary

President	Rose Sandoval	838-7068
1st Vice	Linda Karnstedt	657-4416
2nd Vice	Gail Gibson	431-1348
Secretary	Marie Canale	431-0563
Treasurer	Melanie Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Bettie Crandall	838-4035
Sgt. at Arms	Mary Southall	527-8429
Marshall	Judy Chavez	894-4636
Historian	Madeline Thoreson	433-6035
Executive Board	Virginia Hawley	838-6395
	Virginia Wallace	838-8702
	Thelma Frey	546-7791

### Squadron 111

#### Sons of the American Legion

Commander	Al Delsid	894-5603
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Ron Collier	239-6703
Adjutant	Tom Grimes	481-9169
Finance	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Al Delsid	894-5603
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Sgt at Arms	Mark Archambault	292-6746

#### Chapter 111 American Legion Riders

President	Gary Greenough	484-6400
Vice	Tony Grado	953-5124
Secretary	Ben Gibson	480-5320
Treasurer	Mitch Laing	623-9179
Ride Captain	Mark Archambault	292-6746

## Information on the Web

### Sotoyome Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=1530223525>



### Department of California, The American Legion

<http://www.calegion.org/>



### The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California

<http://www.calegionaux.org/>



### California Detachment, Sons of The American Legion

<http://www.salcalifornia.org/>



### California American Legion Riders

[http://www.alrdoc.com/ALR\\_DOC/Home.html](http://www.alrdoc.com/ALR_DOC/Home.html)

Being able to click on links is one of the great advantages of getting your Sotoyome Newsletter by email. That and pictures in color. Email us at [sotoyome111@aol.com](mailto:sotoyome111@aol.com) switch to an electronic newsletter

## Remembering...

Since the last newsletter we have said a final goodbye to the following members of our American Legion Family.

### Dan Rose, USMC, WWII

Please let your Chaplain know when you become aware of the death of one of our family members. You can also let one of the board members know and they will pass the word.





## Sotoyome Son's Update

Al Delsid, Commander,  
Sotoyome Squadron 111



I would like to express my deepest condolences to Ron Collier for the loss of his wife Donna last month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Our calendar is empty for the month of April but we are looking forward to participating in the Future Farmers Parade and the Annual Memorial Ride by the Legion Riders in May. This year's ride will honor the memory of Michael Ottolini. We are also working on the plans for our flag retirement ceremony on June 14. Last year's event was very successful and our hope is to continue this event on an annual basis.

We will have a SAL meeting on April 12 at 6pm before the regular meeting as agreed in January.



**By Their Side with Honor and Pride**  
Sotoyome Squadron 111  
**Sons of The American Legion**

## Sotoyome Chapter 111, ALR

Gary Greenough, President



The Legion Riders are moving ahead with plans for the Ottolini Memorial Run on May 19. Advertising has been submitted to Thunder Press and should be printed next month. The Ottolini Post 40 of AmVets will be taking care of the 50/50 as the riders come in. Legion staff are on board for the BBQ, of tri tip, beans and salad. Deserts will be supplied by MOMS and Blue Star Mothers.

The Legion Riders meet the Tuesday before the American Legion general meeting, at the Windsor Palms at 5:45 PM. The AL general meeting is always the second Thursday of the month. Membership in the Riders program includes all veterans with a motorcycle big enough for freeway riding, and who are Legion members, Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary.

Legion officer positions are being selected for all divisions. Please consider serving in an officer position. I have taken the position of President of the Riders since its inception two years ago. New blood is always good to help an organization grow with new ideas and action plans. Please consider nominating someone, other than myself, for the position of President of the Riders.

## Chaplain's Corner

From Post Chaplain Bill Stiles

Dear God,  
Teach us to think wisely and carefully  
Before we speak,  
To Act with courage and conviction  
For the good of all, rather  
Than for vested interests and to  
Deal charitably with one another  
That we may all continue enjoy  
Mutual respect.  
Amen

## Chaplain's Corner

From Auxiliary Chaplain Bettie Crandel. I would like to applaud two unit members who have done so much for our troops and our veterans.

One is Mary Stclair, who started sending comfort items to Afghanistan when her son was stationed there several years ago and has continued all this time. Just since August she and her team has sent over 500 boxes.

The other is Anne Thomas, who collects household items from friends and neighbors for VetConnect (Kym, 569-2390). They furnish apartments for returning service men and women. She also has made many lovely Valentines for wards at Yountville and has knit a lot of helmet liners for Afghanistan troops.

Thank you ladies! Everyone please remember to keep our troops in your prayers.

## Sotoyome Post 111 The American Legion

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Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Post 111, Auxiliary Unit 111, Son's Squadron 111, Legion Riders Chapter  
A proud part of the Healdsburg Community since 1920

If you know of a veteran and his/her family  
in need, please call Adjutant Bud Simmons  
@971-0523 or Service Officer Tom Grimes  
@ 481-9169,

## The Back Page

### Wear Your Poppy with Pride...

Sotoyome Unit 111 send out poppies to every member of the Sotoyome American Legion Family. Wear your poppies with pride and support the unit by sending them a contribution. The unit uses the profits of the poppy sale to support the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program. Wear your poppy with pride during poppy week, May 13-19 and on Memorial Day, May 28th.



### The Sotoyome Newsletter

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## THE AMERICAN LEGION

The World's Largest Veterans

Organization

**MEMBERSHIP Is our Lifeblood**  
**INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US**  
**TODAY**