

**SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
HEALDSBURG - GEYSERVILLE - WINDSOR**



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

Post 111, Squadron 111 and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Visit our Website at <http://www.healdsburgamericanlegion.org/>

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Volume 83 Issue 4

Sons of the American Legion 5th District meeting and Five Star Training



Pictures on page 5

Commander's Dinner pictures on page 8

Chaplains Corner

Post: Reuel Miller, 707-874-1951

Auxiliary: All Officers will take turns

Squadron: Reuel Miller, 707-874-1951

Riders: Ed Howell, 707-292-8033



Need someone to talk to?

You or someone in the family ill?

Know of a Veteran who needs help?

Start with a phone call to your Chaplain.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

WAR-TIME VETERANS AND MILITARY MEMBERS
DEDICATED TO A STRONG NATIONAL SECURITY,
COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES; COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND THE
WHOLESALE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH.

**INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE
SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY TODAY!**

Commander Lance Ballenger



March's General Meeting for our Post ended on some very contentious notes with a number of our dedicated and committed Members voicing their concerns, frustration and disappointment over what is suggested as our Post #111 not being given the proper respect, consideration, and due support from a number of entities.

I have personally only been acquainted with the Post 111 for a few years. Card carrying members of decades, to well over half a century, tell of concerning arrangements and gentleman's handshakes that were not kept in regards to Sotoyome's interests. Some of these include the upkeep, maintenance and use of the Annex and the lack of respect and support given when it comes to occasions such as the 4th of July and local Parades.

As an example of some of these issues. In recent years the Legion Color

Guard has been placed *behind* others with no regard to the Guards cadence among not having the Colors lead the parade. Many find this an insult to not only the Legion, but to the Colors and our Mission of Americanism. I have found no specific statutes in the US Code Title 36; Chapter 10 of Patriotic Customs as to the placement of the US Flag/Honor Guard, however many municipalities such as Sacramento have adopted codes for what would otherwise be decency and common respect. Code 1.04.070, 'Regulations governing use of United States Flag' states;

D. Carrying in Processions. When carried in processions, the flag of the United States shall occupy the place of honor at the marching head of the parade with all other flags aligned across the line of march behind it, or on the right of the marching head of the parade with all other flags aligned to its left, as it advances.

Aside from the US Flag's honored placement, general protocol for parade placement and chronological order is to be given based on historical age. Just turning 98 years from 1919, the establishment of the Legion should be unquestionably leading the procession, aside from respect given to Old Glory.

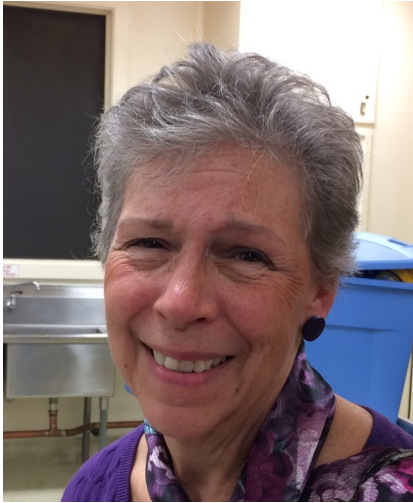
In light of this concern above, I am unaware of any efforts to mitigate and correct what we who find this placement of our Colors offensive. Perhaps there has been a push that has fallen on deaf ears. The point here is to address the concerns clearly as well direct our issues to such parties in order to come to agreeable terms.

At any rate, this is one of the recurring issues that Legionnaire's quarrel with and want to petition for change. As noted, in defense of the deciding parties, I am unaware whether this particular issue has been brought forth to a committee or addressed to the proper party/parties to remedy. First and foremost our Members need to bring forth any and all concerns with a clearly written grievance, as well suggested solutions if established, which can be voiced and heard at our next Board Meeting scheduled April 3rd at 7pm located up at the Annex. The order of the day is to address these issues, deliberate the contents, seek a clear position with a remedial objective, and take it to the parties accountable for corrective action. There is much to be said and considered about a number of grievances, as well as opinions and facts from varying angles. If you are not satisfied and want to be heard and you wish to seek change, please participate and join us as we openly discuss and deliberate issues that are cause for concern.

This Post does great work in Sonoma County and beyond as a leading Veterans Organization for Vet's and the Community alike. Many of us have given much to our Nation in the Service of our Country as well selfless sacrifice, time and energy put into Legion functions of our Members after the fact is admirable to say the least. Post 111 is a significant part of the community and our voices, opinions and concerns count.

~Lance

Auxiliary President Linda Karnstedt



As spring approaches and it stays lighter in the evening, I hope you will consider coming to a meeting and catching up with what is going on in your Auxiliary. We completed the interviews for our Girl's State delegates and they had until March 15th to get their paperwork in.

The St. John's Elementary School "Americanism" essays were submitted and a BIG thanks to **Linda Clary**, **Shirleen Perry**, and **Eddy Sauers** for reading them and to **Thelma Frey** for continuing to chair the Americanism program for our unit.

We nominated new officers for the 2017-2018 year in April and I am pleased to announce your current President, 1st Vice

President, 2nd Vice president, and Treasurer have agreed to stay on, however we desperately need to find a Chaplain and a Secretary, so if you'd like to take one of these officer positions please let me know.

May will soon be here as well and that means poppy sales. If you have a business or know of one that would be willing to have some poppies for donations in their business please let one of the Board know. The proceeds from the poppy sales allow up to pay for the poppies both for this year and next. In May we will also host the Girls State luncheon so our unit will be busy the next few months.

Please help support your unit and all we stand for to help support veterans, active military, and their families. I would love to see more members at the meeting so if you need a ride please call one of your board members.

To the board: we will meet at 6pm on April 4th at Tom and Nancy's house.

Sincerely, ~Linda



Coming home may be the end of one journey for many veterans; it is also the beginning of a new journey to transition to a "new normal." Helping them get there is at the core of the purpose and service of the American Legion Auxiliary. Members are passionate about providing care and comfort to our heroic U.S. service members who are so highly deserving of everything we can possibly do for them.

2nd Vice Commander Tim Madura



Spring has begun and we are still having some much needed rain. Good weather is coming and it will be enjoyed and welcomed by all.

I remind you to always try to encourage the enlistment of new members in the American Legion. As the older members of WWII are passing away, and the Vietnam and Korean War veterans are getting older, we need the newer members of the Sand Wars and new enlistments to our military to join our great organization that has the power to help Veterans understand the benefits they are due by our government. This includes medical, education, housing, disability, and many other benefits. It does not

matter if you are not in Sonoma County when you spread the message of the American Legion to other people. I met a young person who had just joined the National Guard and had not even given any thought of joining. His uncle was a member in the Sacramento area and had never considered it until I talked to him about the benefits. He is going to the next meeting with his uncle to join. I always like to encourage them to join Post 111 but to join anywhere is for the good of the whole American Legion. Don't forget about the Sons and Auxiliary of the American Legion for people who have not been in the military but have family members that are or were in the military. We need these members too.



On April 12, 2017, at 2 PM, the Honor Guard of Sotoyome Post 111 will be the official Honor Guard at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon for the Missing in Action Project (M.I.A.P.). Our thanks to Ron Collier for arranging the Post 111 Honor Guard to participate in this final tribute to these lost and forgotten Veterans. Thank you to the Honor Guard members. Up until now, the cemeteries have always used active military honor guards. So, this day will be a first for any American Legion Honor Guard to provide this great honor at the ceremony. For those who do not know about M.I.A.P., it is about the gathering of veterans' remains who have passed, are not claimed by a family member, and have not been buried. There are approximately 70,000 of these veterans sitting on some lonely shelf in a mortuary or morgue across the country waiting to be claimed and provided a proper and honorable military burial. This is what M.I.A.P does.

It is an emotional ceremony to see and I encourage anyone who can make it to Dixon to experience this event and support our Post and the Honor Guard

~Tim



The purpose of the MIA Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

Sons of the American Legion District 5 Meeting in Cloverdale

There were twenty-seven SAL, Dual (both Veteran & Sons) and Legion members representing the Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Mare Island, Fort Bragg, Benicia and Napa Squadrons and Posts at the quarterly meeting of District 5, held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cloverdale on March 25th.

District 5 Commander Al Delsid of Cloverdale presided over the quarterly meeting.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, SAL Five Star training was conducted by SAL Jr. Vice Commander James Fischer of Rialto. All individuals who successfully completed the training were presented the prestigious Five Star medal.



IMPORTANT!!

There will be a SAL meeting prior to the regular Legion meeting on Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 PM. A discussion on the viability of continuing the Squadron will be had along with making nominations for next years officers.

American Legion Sotoyome Family Leadership Team 2016-2017

Post 111 American Legion

Commander	Lance Ballenger	415-205-6661
1st Vice	Ken Cody	707-536-5562
2nd Vice	Tim Madura	707-815-6983
Adjutant	Reuel Miller	707-975-1541
Finance	Bob Taylor	707-894-0857
Asst. Finance	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Judge Advocate	George Sager	707-433-2044
Sgt. at Arms	Tony Grado	707-527-8233
Service Officer	Chris Bingham	707-565-5960
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	707-843-4790
Chaplain	Reuel Miller	707-975-1541
Bar Manager	Frank Teuschler	707-431-2328
Jr. Past Comdr.	Reuel Miller	707-874-1951
Executive Bd.	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
	Tricia Lay	707-695-0345
	Roy Caporale	707-894-8954
	Stan Shusda	707-838-4593
	Frank Jerins	

Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary

President	Linda Karnstedt	707-529-1243
1st Vice	Shirleen Perry	707-838-9790
2nd Vice	Judy Chavez	707-857-0024
Secretary	Marie Canale	707-431-0563
Treasurer	Melanie Taylor	707-894-0857
Chaplain	All Officers will take turns	
Sgt. at Arms		
Marshall		
Jr Past Pres.	Eddy Sauers	707-838-9429
Executive Bd.	Linda Karnstedt	707-529-1243
	Nancy Grimes	707-529-2271
	Judy Chavez	707-857-0024

Squadron 111 , Sons of The American Legion

Commander	Matt Foreman	707-340-0315
1st Vice	Dave McAleece	707-838-2676
2nd Vice	Ken Cody	707-536-5562
Adjutant	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Finance	Bob Taylor	707-975-1541
Chaplain	Reuel Miller	707-874-1951
Sgt. at Arms	Terry Perry	707-838-2432
Judge Advocate	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	707-843-4790
Jr. Past Comdr.	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541
Executive Bd.	Mark Archambault	707-292-6746
	Ron Collier	707-239-6703
	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541

Chapter 111 American Legion Riders

President	Ron (Campy) Dillow	707-753-0575
Vice Pres.	Ron Krudop	707-765-0373
Secretary	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
Treasurer /Adj.	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Sgt. at Arms	Terry Perry	707-838-9790
Chaplain	Ed Howell	707-542-1135
Road Captains	Matt Foreman	707-340-0315
	Joe Manning	707-501-9880
Past President	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541

Delegates selected for the 2017 session of Boys' State

After being screened by an interview committee from Post 111, six delegates from three Sonoma County high schools were selected to attend the 80th session of California's Boys' State. The program will be held on the campus of Sacramento State University from June 17th to the 24th.

At Boys' State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

The six delegates are:

Brett Stibi and **Trevor Lorence** from Windsor High School; **Liam Lopez**, **Jacob Wilcox**, and **Bryant Somers** from Healdsburg High School; and **Matt Markell** from Geyserville High School.

Upon completion of the session, the delegates will share their experiences with Legion members at a future Post meeting.



ALR Vice President Ron Krudop



ALR Riders, We are doing a ride on April 1st to the Nike missile base in the Marin head lands. We will be stopping on the way for breakfast.

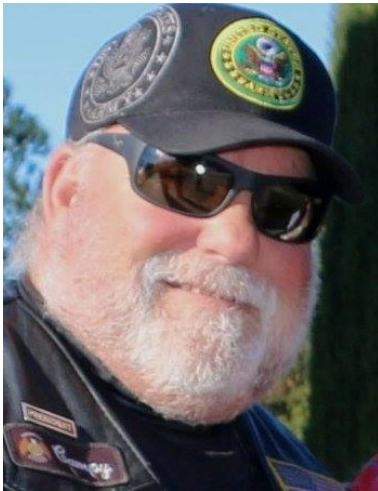
Meet at Bad Ass Coffee at 08:30 with KSU at 09:00. On April 12th we are doing an MIAP escort to Dixon. We will be escorting two Veterans; one WWII and one Vietnam.

I encourage all that can attend the event as our Post is doing the honors at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on the 12th.

~Ron



ALR President Ron "Campy" Dillow



Well riders, the sun is starting to come out and other than the convention coming soon, not much is going on.

I hope every one had a good Winter and is getting ready for summer. Now is the time to get the bikes out and get them ready for riding.

Time to get the dust off, check the air in the tires, change the oil and anything else you can do to make it safe.

I hope that this year we can get together for more rides as a group.

I would like to see members get more riders to join our Chapter this year. So go out and talk to people and let them know what we do, how much fun it is to be part of the 111, and how we help Veterans.

I know when I tell people what we do, they think that is the coolest thing they have ever heard. We also need to target younger riders as we need to keep ALR going.

Most of you have business cards so lets hand them out when ever you can and lets have a great and safe summer. Remember, meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at Mary's Pizza in Windsor beginning at 7:00 PM. Arrive early for Happy Hour.

~Campy

What Are The American Legion Riders?

Simply an enjoyable post activity now a commission of the Department of California for Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and SAL members throughout the state who enjoy motorcycle riding--and an ideal way to support The American Legion's programs. ALR is not a motorcycle club. Since motorcycle riding is becoming a popular free time and social activity, Posts and Departments can benefit from the growing popularity of The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a way to connect and communicate across the Nation. As the membership of the ALR is a very diverse group, so are the programs that they are involved in. By allowing each American Legion Riders Chapter to give their members the ability to manage their programs at the Post level, the program has been allowed to grow. Today there exist nearly 100 Legion Rider programs in more than 32 states, and more are organizing each year. There are approximately 2000 ALR members in the state of California.

Commander's Dinner March 11, 2017



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ALR Nike Missile Base ride 9:00 AM
2	3 Board Meeting 7 PM Annex	4 ALR Meeting 6 PM Windsor	5	6 VFW 7 PM Annex	7	8
9	10 Junior Shooters Practice	11	12 Sacramento Natl Cemetery Honor Guard & MIAP 2:00 PM	13 Post meeting 7 PM Annex Honors Team 5:30 PM Annex	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Newsletter Input due	26	27	29	29
30						

These contributors support the Sotoyome American Legion Family.

 <p>Reuel Miller NRA Certified Instructor # 183327345 RIFLE - PISTOL - PERSONAL PROTECTION NRA Level 1 Coach CA DOJ Firearm Safety Certificate Instructor Office 707-874-1951 3440 Joy Rd, Occidental, CA 95465 Cell 707-303-0575 email- reuelmiller@comcast.net</p>	<p>SANTA ROSA'S OLDEST TRANSMISSION SHOP</p>  <p>SANTA ROSA HYDRAMATIC TRANSMISSION SERVICE ON THE CORNER OF COLLEGE AND CLEVELAND</p> <p>104 College Avenue • Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Tel: 707.542.0303 • Fax: 707.542.0164 www.srhydramatic.com</p>	<p>Steve Ferguson Dr. Brad Parsons</p>	<p>JOHN V. REYES Internet Manager Bus. Phone (707) 433-3318 Cellular (707) 477-8807 Fax (707) 433-7353 jreyes@vbbn.com</p> <p>W.C. SANDERSON FORD 453 Healdsburg Ave. HEALDSBURG, CA 95448-0875</p>  <p>Super Duty Trucks</p>
 <p>Lic. #793504 C13 C23 C51 Jeremy Crockett</p> <p>1230 Century Court • Santa Rosa, CA 95403 Cell (707) 326-3298 • Tel (707) 326-3298 • Fax (707) 573-0788 Jcrockett@ahlbornco.com • www.ahlbornco.com</p>	<p>RON'S FLEET SERVICE Specializing in truck and farm tires</p> <p>RON DILLOW Owner</p> <p>P.O. Box 1130 Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928</p> <p>707-753-0575</p> 	 <p>Bus. 542-8148 Res. 544-6343 gary@senneffinsurance.com Fax 542-0539</p> <p>Gary Senneff Agent State Farm Insurance Co.'s</p> <p><i>Auto - Life - Fire - Health</i></p> <p>474 Larkfield Center (In the Larkfield Shopping Center)</p> <p>Lic #0473031 Santa Rosa, CA 95403</p>	

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Lake Sonoma Ride March 12th

l to r: **Joe Manning,**
Gary Greenough,
Terry Fry, Steven Bowne,
Matt Foreman

Flag replacement ceremony at Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building.

March 8, 2017

Photo by **Press Democrat**



The Sotoyome Newsletter

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