

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



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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 3

Boys State Interviews

A panel representing American Legion Post 111 interviewed potential delegates to attend California's Boys State in Sacramento. A total of eight boys were interviewed from Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor High Schools. The Post will sponsor seven delegates this year. American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. It is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.



l to r, **Harold Bagdonas, Frank Teuschler, Steven Bowne, Trevor Lorence Windsor HS, & Dave Richey**

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



Not a lot happening this last month with the exception of trying to stay dry...hold back the roof leaks and keep a small boat with oars handy... Hopefully all our members braved one of the wettest months on record and aren't ankle deep in water in the living room.

The good news is that we have a lengthy list of great people who are always willing to reach out and help out each other when the need arises. Check on your neighbors, and especially our old timer Vets, as well as our support personnel that call Post #111 their home. Veterans carry with themselves a remarkable kinship that was sparked from comradery that only comes from situations in our military lives that *require* we count on each other, be it in a dank foxhole in the jungles of Vietnam, hazardous and chaotic flight decks aboard Navy

vessels rolling through rough seas in the Arabian Seas, unbearably sweltering heat and unimaginably brutal battlefields of the Pacific and those Chosin frozen tangling with hundreds of thousands of the enemy in conditions -35 degrees where the blood plasma was frozen and useless. These conditions, just to name a few, is what the term Band of Brothers has come to signify. Life events such as these, as well the challenges presented serving in peacetime, creates a bonding cohort among men and women that is immeasurable. I cannot think of a better class of people to weather tough times at my side than them.

Last month an email blast was shot out for a WW2 Veteran in need that had a water leak burst from a freeze. Within hours our members **Ken Cody** and **Harold Bagdonas** jumped into action without blinking to lend a hand. Ken, being a the small guy he is, was given the task to low crawl under the gentleman's mobile home to get to the leak and with a pipe wrench clinched between his teeth like a K-bar. Military training clearly paying off on the outside world. Harold did a fine job as well delegating and keeping an eye on Ken's 6 to insure he didn't get snuck up on by any rats...I kid a bit, but these kind of acts of selfless service is what we are all about.

Grab the phone, check on your buddies, friends and family. Keep in mind that a good deal of our Vets are afflicted with PTSD and psychological wounds that make even simple daily trials difficult. We need to stick together and look out for our own. ~**Lance**

800-273-8255

Veterans Suicide Hotline



Crab Feed planning committee meeting

Auxiliary President Linda Karnstedt



Hopefully the weather will start to be more conducive to getting out and about. So what is March going to bring besides our regular meeting on March 9 - our annual "Birthday" Dinner on Saturday March 11. The Tri-tip dinner with all the fixings will be \$5 if you have paid your dues. We completed all the interviews for our Girl's State delegates and what a nice group of your ladies. In planning for our poppy sales in May we thought we'd try and get more businesses involved. So 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 poppies are made by the veterans at Yountville and they are paid for them so our sales allow up to pay for the poppies both for this year and next. We will be having the essay contest again this year to support the Americanism program. In May we will have the honor of hosting the Girls State luncheon again and will have a very special guest in attendance as the National ALA President will be in our district. It will be a busy next few months supporting all the things 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 7pm on Monday March 6 (NOT the night of the meeting as we have to plan for the dinner Saturday). See you there, ~Linda

Historian Harold Bagdonas



United Veterans Council has paid entrance fees for Petaluma "**Butter and Eggs**" parade on **29 April 2017**. You can get more on the web site and paid the entrance fees for "**Luther Burbank Rose Parade**" on **20 May 2017**. Again find all information on the web site. We will have a float ,(flatbed trailer) in the parade for those who are unable to walk. We are asking veterans and veteran origination's to join us in these two parades. You can contact me at "airforcevet59@usa.com" or call/text me at (707) 480-5379.

Our goal is to form the largest group of veterans and Active duty/ Reserves/Guard etc. that we can to show the public that we are united. We have always been spread out throughout the parade rout which takes away the visibility of the number of Veterans in this county.

There are over 40,000 veterans in Sonoma County.

We are running into problems with the use of Veteran Memorial Buildings, maintenance and upkeep of said buildings. WE NEED to UNITE now and show everyone that we intend to be counted and heard. Massing together in the parades is one way of doing this.

It is too early to enter in the Petaluma "**Veterans Day Parade**", but keep **11 November 2017** open on your calendar for this parade also. I will advise when I'm able to submit the entrance application.

Thank you for helping us Veterans as one huge origination.

~Harold

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

Sons of the American Legion

District 5 of the Sons of the American Legion will be having its quarterly meeting at Cloverdale Veterans Memorial Building on March 25th at 10:00. After the meeting, there will be a Five Star training program.

The "Five Star Award" is for all members of the Sons of The American Legion who show perfection in the "Five-Point Program of Service", consisting of Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership, & Legionism.

After the member has received the 5 stars, he then will be awarded a "Five Star Medal" for perfection in S.A.L. work.

Please RSVP to District Commander Al Delsid at 707-894-5603 if you plan on attending. New members are welcome.



American Legion Riders

Area I Vice President **David George** scheduled a meeting for all Chapter Presidents in Area I on February 11th at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Auburn.

The meeting was attended by members of Post 84 Auburn, Post 96 Fort Bragg, Post 119 Placerville, Post 383 Sacramento, and Post 521 Elverta.

Post 111 Healdsburg was represented by **Campy Dillow**, **Ron Krudop** and **Steven Bowne**. Also in attendance was State ALR Vice President **Randy Brennan** and ALR Area I Commissioner **Bob Perryman**.

Due to the inclement weather we have been experiencing, there have been no significant rides taken (other than Campy and Ron riding to Auburn).

It is anticipated that a ride to the Nike Missile Base in Marin will be scheduled in April, weather permitting.

The next ALR meeting at Mary's Pizza will be on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00. Come early for Happy Hour and food.

Submitted by Editor



Veterans Hall, Auburn, CA
President's Meeting

It to rt, Ron Krudop, Campy Dillow,
Adam George Post 84



Annual Crab Feed Successful

Thanks to all who helped with the Crab Feed

A bigger success this year than last, thanks to all the folks that helped. Saturday Morning there were more than 30 people to help set -up with more than that amount to help with the Crab Feed Saturday night. We have had the Windsor High School Culinary students help with the event for the last 2 years and they have been fantastic.

If the noise level is any indication of the success of an event, those attending had a very good time. This is one of the few events that I see in Healdsburg still attended by a lot of the "Old Timers"; by that I mean families that have lived in the area for generations. I believe that we are successful because we serve only crab, salad, bread and condiments - no pasta, no auction just a good time with good food and good company. I was told once that at a crab feed you either make money or make friends, but I believe that we do both.

We made a little more than \$13,000.00 for the fireworks and other programs.

Bear Republic donated all the beer, River Rock Casino donated the water and Costeaux Bakery donated a portion of the breakfast that we enjoyed before set-up on Saturday morning. If anyone has a suggestion as to how we could improve please let us know.

Thanks again for all your help.

Submitted by Frank Teuschler



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 VFW 7 PM Annex	3	4
5	6 Board Meeting 7 PM Annex	7 ALR Meeting 6 PM Windsor	8 United Vet Counsel 7 PM SR	9 Post meeting 7 PM Annex Honors Team 5:30 PM Annex	10	11 Commanders Dinner
12	13 Junior Shooters Practice 6:00 Annex	14	15 American Legion Birthday	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21 Newsletter Input due	22	23	24	25 SAL District 5 Meeting Cloverdale 5 Star training
26	27	28	29	30	31	

These contributors support the Sotoyome American Legion Family.



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Santa Rosa Veterans Building use fees for Veteran Organizations must be opposed.

The county is attempting to charge veterans a use fee for the room if they hold a fund raiser and charge admission and invite the public. Steve Bosshard often sends email blasts out about these meetings but I think we need the membership of every post in Sonoma County know what is going on. Lou Nunez and Terry Leen are building representatives for the veterans at these meetings. Up coming in the near future is a County Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss this matter. We need every veteran to attend this open meeting and be heard.

The County's problem stems back to, I believe, 1975 when Proposition 13 was passed limiting the increase of property taxes. Prior to that time Sonoma county had a mill tax added to property taxes to cover the cost of maintaining the Veterans Buildings. The courts ruled that the mill tax was no longer legal because of proposition 13. The county has to find another way to get funds to operate and maintain the buildings. A group of Veterans using the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial building in 1985 drafted and approved the request of the County to charge veterans fundraisers if they included the public. All Veteran groups in the County need to voice their feelings on this issue. Lou and Terry have drafted a new proposal to the use of and collecting fees to have a fundraisers that includes the public. If a public entity wants to rent a room in the Building and no Veteran organization has that time and date then the county will be able to rent the room for a set fee. When this is finalized and reviewed by the county, it will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors at one of their open meetings and this is when we need the masses of veterans there to push it through. It is our building whether a particular Veteran group uses it or not.

Submitted by Harold Bagdonas

The Sotoyome Newsletter

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