

The Palmer Lake Post

APRIL 2008

Comrades,

The only thing I have to say about the weather is ISH!!!!!!

I keep forgetting to ask but the Post needs some help. If you are a computer expert or a web master we would like to design and operate a Post web site. This is something that has been on my mind for a number of years but always got pushed to the back burner. The site is important now and will be even more so as the years go by. One of the things we have learned in recruiting our latest generation of veterans is that they are very electronic orientated. Virtually all of their information is received through the electronic media. This skill has only been sharpened by their deployment as it was their only means of communication. It won't be long and our newsletters will be emailed as opposed to snail mail. Not only will it be faster and more up to date but it will save the Post a lot of money. So if any of you know someone who could take on this task please call the Post as I see this as a real priority. If necessary a small amount of money could be made available to accomplish the objective. This would be a great addition for us as we could communicate information immediately through the web site as well as by email. Hopefully a member of friend of a member will take this project on.

April will be a momentous time for the Post. It will be election time and I thought it might be appropriate to think of the qualifications of leadership. This Post has been unusual for some time in that the Post Commander and the Club manager have been the same. It was never meant to be that way but seven years ago when I started there was no money to pay a manager. After a period of time the club became very profitable and a salary was established. When we have elections in April we will be voting on Post leadership not Clubroom leadership as they are two separate things. It is pretty easy to define Post leadership. Anything that concerns VFW programs is under the direction of the commander. This includes but is not limited to the following: membership, veteran's affairs and benefits, poppy program, Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Boy Scouts, Loyalty Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, Color Guard, attendance at all District Meetings and conventions, attendance at the State Convention and interacting with other Posts. Most Post members would be amazed at all of the little things that have been done by the commander over the years that have increased the visibility and reputation of this Post. In the past seven years we have become involved in all of those things and others as well. We have been featured in our National Magazine and our major newspapers for the progressive leadership of this Post. It is essential that we elect leaders that continue in that spirit. This Post has become known throughout the state for its development of the VFW programs and new ones as well. If new leadership is elected we need to look at their record and see if they have been involved in the programs listed above. We need leadership that has attended the district meetings over the last few years to learn how to interact with other Posts. The worst thing we could do would be to elect a commander whose only interest would be to be "commander of the bar." That couldn't happen because the bar manager still runs the bar subject to the house committee. We have qualified candidates who have demonstrated leadership over the years to take on the challenge of continuing to grow the Post. Let us challenge any candidate about their qualifications and record of service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and service to Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915 and not just their desire to be "Commander."

Yours in comradeship
Lee Ulferts
Commander

Men's Auxiliary

Greetings Men's Auxiliary. So far we have had two Friday fish fry's and they have been going extremely well. They will continue through Lent and we could use a little help from all members. Please let us know if you're available to help and/or come down with the family and have dinner, it's delicious. The yearly audit is wrapping up and a report is coming in the Feb. meeting^d. If you have any membership issues or want to get signed up see Rod Oppgard / Sr. Vice. If you have any community service to report contact Matt Jorgenson / Jr. Vice and he will document it for you. We are also co-sponsoring a bus trip to Turtle Lake Sat. March 1st. If interested sign at the VFW. Springs coming!

Remember, meetings are held each month on the first Wed. at 6:00. Jan. 2nd is the next one. Come and make your thoughts known and be involved.

*Respectfully
Gary Lind
President*

LADIES AUXILIARY

Pancake Breakfast April 27th

Steak Fry is April 18th. The Vets from the VA Home will be here. Please help out. Hope to see you there to greet our Vets from the VA Home!!!!

Does anyone want to try a special needs program for our female service people?? Please contact me!!

Post Officers

Lee Ulferts – Cmdr.
Lee Mudge – Sr. Vice
Scott Bill– Jr. Vice
Ray Trebus - Qtmstr
Don Nelson – Adjutant
Jim Evans – Chaplin
Steve Cosgrove – Judge Adv.
Chuck Kashmark–Surgeon

**Post Meeting
Wednesday 7 PM
April 9, 2008**

Ladies Auxiliary Officers

Kim Mudge-President
Lorraine Zech- Sr. Vice
Jill Morton-Jr. Vice
Gaye Palmquist-Secretary
Pam Johnson-Treasurer
Francesca Bill-Conductress
Doris Chvestiuck-Guard
Judy Hystad-Chaplain
Dorothy Clarke-Pat. Inst.
Annette Jarosz -Trustee
3yrs
Silver Whelan– Trustee 2 yr
Linda Cosgrove–Trustee

**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
Tuesday 6:30 PM
April 8, 2008**

Men's Auxiliary Office

Gary Lind-Pres
Rod Oppgard – Sr Vice
Matt Jorgenson – Jr Vice
Lenny Medaris – Sec.
Jim Young – Treas
Vance Gust-2 Yr Trus
Dale Palm-Chaplin

**Men's Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday 6:00PM
April 2, 2008**

Dear Sisters,

Is it SPRING yet???? The signs are in the air and I don't know about you, but I am so ready!!!!

We have a lot of things coming up so here goes—Elections are coming up at our next meeting. Please try to attend to make your voice heard.

Steak Fry in April we are hosting the Vets from the VA Home as guests to our BUY A VET A DINNER program. Please try to come down to help out or just plain visit with these special guests.

Palmer Lake is hosting the District Convention on April 19th. Let's make a good showing so the District will see just how GREAT we are at 3915!!!!

I am proud to say our Aux. has hit 100% membership and a special welcome to our newest members!!!

We will continue our program of making donations to the VA Hospital, Home and MAC-V. If you can contribute, please do so. It is so much appreciated!!!

Memorial Day is right around the corner—Let's do something special. We will be doing new POPPY wreaths and will need some help. Info about dates coming later so keep in touch.

Again, I urge you to contact me if you have a desire to start some new programs to support our women Vets at home and overseas. The need is great. We are checking in to an Adopt a Platoon program. I will have more info at the next meeting.

Did you know any volunteer hours you do count for the Auxiliary? Report your volunteer time to Jill Morton, our JR Vice President.

Please contact the Post or Judy Hystad at 763-561-9122 about any illness or deceased members. For Post questions call 763-560-3720

We are still paying the first \$50.00 for life membership. So come in and sign up for it. Know somebody who is eligible for membership—sign 'em up!!!!

I wish those who are under the weather a very speedy recovery and my heart felt sympathy to those who have lost a loved one. You are in my prayers.

Loyally,

Linda Mudge

CLARENCE LABELLE VFW POST 217
APRIL NEWSLETTER 2008

COMMANDER C.QUIGLEY 763424 6417
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT A. NASLUND 763 443 9346

Comrades and sisters I was picked as a state VFW member to meet with our lawmakers in Washington DC. Jim Ramstead was the congressman we were to meet with. Due to many pressing issues the congressman was not available. We met with his top aide who listened to us and wrote down our agenda. He said he would pass our concerns on to Congressman Ramstead. Our goal is to get more help for our veterans in need, less time waiting to see a doctor at the VA Hospital and less time to take care of claims. All any of us can do is give our story and hope it's acted on. The vets need help and they need it now. They did their job in the War Zone and we need to do our job for them when they come home. Bless all our veterans and their families.

Election of officers is this month for the Post and Auxiliary. If you are interested in an elected office or to vote your choice show up and lets keep 217 alive and well.

Till next time,
Chuck Quigley commander Post 217

OPEN LETTER TO VIETNAM VETERANS

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era. I was a single mother and, I'm sad to say, I was probably one of the most self-centered people on the planet. To be perfectly honest. I didn't care one way or the other about the war. All I cared about was me-how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played. I was never politically involved in anything, but I allowed my opinions to be formed by the media. It happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news and I listened to all the people who were talking. After awhile, I began to repeat their words and, if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war. It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam. My brother joined the Navy and then he was sent to Vietnam. When he came home, I repeated the words to him. It surprised me at how angry he became. I hurt him very deeply and there were years of separation-not only of miles, but also of character. I didn't understand. In fact, I didn't understand anything until one day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you. I understood that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do. One day about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam, and he got a look on his face and said, "Yes." Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face, and said, "Thank you for going." His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face, and then he said, "No one has ever said that to me." He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes. It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs to be said. How do we put into words all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it so here goes. Have you been to Vietnam? If so, I have something I want to say to you-Thank you for going! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. I don't know how I could have been so blind, but I was. When I woke up, you were wounded and the damage was done, and I don't know how to fix it. I will never stop regretting my actions, and I will never let it happen again. Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam because you were a hero and you deserved better. Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away and you know what? It's inside of us, too; because when we let you down, we hurt ourselves, too. We all know it and we suffer guilt and we don't know what to do so we cheer for our troops and write letters to "any soldier" and we hang out the yellow ribbons and fly the flag and we love America. We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart that, when we cheer wildly for our troops, part of the reason is trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you. We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our country. We did it and we need your forgiveness. Please say you will forgive us and please take your rightful place as heroes of our country. We have learned a terribly painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From the heart,

Julie Weaver 237 East Gatewood Circle
Burleson, Texas 76028-8948

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 Guest Drawing 5:30 Meat Raffle	2 5:30 Auxiliary Drawing 6:00 Post #3915 Men's Auxiliary Meeting	3 6:30 Bar Bingo	4 7:30 Y'all Come DJ	5 12:00 Cribbage 3:30 Meat Raffle 7:30-12:00 Karaoke
6 Race Sunday	7 5:30 Members Drawing	8 5:30 Guest Drawing 5:30 Meat Raffle 7:00 Post #3915 Women's Auxiliary Meeting	9 5:30 Auxiliary Drawing 7:00 Post #3915 Meeting	10 6:30 Bar Bingo	11 7:30 Y'all Come DJ	12 12:00 Cribbage 3:30 Meat Raffle 7:30-12:00 Karaoke
13 Race Sunday	14 5:30 Members Drawing	15 5:30 Guest Drawing 5:30 Meat Raffle	16 5:30 Auxiliary Drawing 7:30 Post #217 and Auxiliary Meeting	17 6:30 Bar Bingo	18 7:30 Y'all Come DJ 5:30-7:30 Steak Fry	19 12:00 Cribbage 3:30 Meat Raffle 7:30-12:00 Karaoke 9 AM DISTRICT CONVENTION AT PALMER LAKE
20 Race Sunday	21 5:30 Members Drawing	22 5:30 Guest Drawing 5:30 Meat Raffle	23 5:30 Auxiliary Drawing	24 6:30 Bar Bingo	25 7:30 Y'all Come DJ	26 12:00 Cribbage 3:30 Meat Raffle 7:30-12:00 Karaoke
27 Race Sunday 10:00 Pancake Breakfast	28 5:30 Members Drawing	29 5:30 Guest Drawing 5:30 Meat Raffle	30 5:30 Auxiliary Drawing			

**PALMER LAKE VFW POST 3915
2817 BROOKDALE DRIVE
BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55444-0016**

CLARENCE LABELLE POST 217

NEWSLETTER ENCLOSED

**NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
* PAID**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

PERMIT 3421

A man and a woman who had never met before, and were both married to other people, found them selves assigned to the same sleeping room on a Transcontinental train.

Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing a room, they were both very tired and fell asleep quickly... he in the upper bunk and she in the lower.

At 1:00 AM, the man leaned down, and gently woke the woman saying:" Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but could you reach into the closet and get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold".

"I have a better idea," she replied. "Just for tonight, let's pretend that we're married."

"Wow! That's a great idea!" he exclaimed.

"Good," she replied. "Get your own #*//*# blanket."

After a moment of silence, he farted.