PALMER LAKE VFW POST #3915 | Issue 2019-12



# **PALMER LAKE VFW POST** #3915 www.palmerlakevfw.org

## **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

# **Happy Holidays**

By Commander Jarrod McReynolds



Comrades brothers and sisters the Auxiliary greetings.

Just like that winter taken

Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year for the Post are completed, and we turn our attention safety awards and staying warm.

But before we get to far into our winter hibernation, don't forget we are hosting the 7th District meeting this Saturday starting at 10 AM followed by the Annual 7th District Christmas Lunch. This is a potluck lunch and should start at Noon. Please bring an item to share with your comrades if you are able.

The Auxiliary will be having it's annual Kids Christmas party on Saturday the 14th, more information can be found later in this Newsletter.

Don't forget the Commanders brunch the 1st Of January 10 AM-1 PM. This is a great way to kick of the New Year with your brothers and sister at the Post.

Mid Winter conference is also right around the corner, it would be great seeing faces from both the Post and the Auxiliary in attendance.

Palmer Lake has also been awarded the Host Post for the 7th District Golden Dinner. If you have never been to a 7th District Golden Dinner you do not want to miss this event.

As I am putting the final touches into this Newsletter I know that members from the Auxiliary with the help of a few Post members are putting the final touches on the Winter Wonderland in the hall at the Post. I want to personally thank each and everyone of them for taking the time out of there busy days to Help Wanted & Contact Us come together to complete this work.

I want to personal that you all for your hard work and dedication to our Post, the Veterans and their families we serve. Have a Marry Christmas.

Commander

Jarrod McReynolds

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# **Auxiliary News**

By President Tracy McReynolds

### Merry Christmas,

Once again we are at an exciting time of year for our little ones and our families. Remember to open your hearts to the families who may have a loved one who is deployed, or a service member who may need some extra TLC this year.

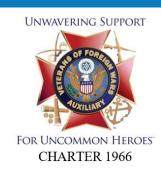
### Dates coming up

\*District meeting will be held at our Post this Saturday 12/7/2018, I would love if you could make it Meeting starts at 10:00 with a potluck immediately following, and a bake sale.

\*Tickets for our Kids Christmas Party are now available from the bar, so get the kiddos signed up. The Party will be 12/14 1-3 pm. We are serving snacks. **DEADLINE for signing up is 12/9 Santa & Mrs Claus will again not disappoint!** 

Our Family wants to personally say Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all of you and your families. I hope you all enjoy your families and loved ones during this Holiday Season and remain safe and healthy.

Our next meeting will be December 10th at 6:00 pm at which time we will be wrapping presents for the little ones and a potluck following a brief meeting, hope to see you there.



Thank you for your support,

Tracy McReynolds

Auxiliary Email: <u>Auxiliary.vfw3915@gmail.com</u>

Regardless of how you choose to volunteer your time, always remember to log your community services hours in our community service log on our website.

**Click Here** 



# **Auxiliary News**

By President Tracy McReynolds



# Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915 Annual Kids Christmas Party

Saturday December 14th 1:00 – 3:00

Free for ages 0 -8 years

Every child must have a ticket. <u>They are now available from the bartenders.</u> We need you to fill out the ticket with the child's first & last name, age, and what they like or are interested in as they will be getting a gift from Santa's Elves.

Santa will be at the party to hear what each child wants for Christmas this year and to find out if they have been naughty or nice. So bring your camera/cell phone to capture that precious moment. There will be a craft for the kids, a Santa Elf hunt game, cookies & juice and a gift from Mrs. Santa too.

It is always a very fun day, but tickets are given out on a first come first serve basis as we have a limited quantity. Also you need to stop at the club to get a ticket this means no phone in requests.



There will be lots of Elves at the party. They will be having a lot of fun. What will they be doing?

## **Prayer Corner**

By Chaplin Nate Gehl



Palmer Lake VFW is not only a Veteran's organization, but also a family. We grow, work, laugh and morn together.

Please keep Bob Whitcraft, Andrea Fierst, and Lynn Olkives and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to battle cancer.

#### Prayer Wheel

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. "

Amen

# **Community Service**

Senior Vice Jonell Wilson



Greetings from your Community Service Chair.

Palmar I aka Supports the "Rlue Star Mothers – Chapter 7 – North Metro"

Hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner. On November 21 st at 7:00 PM the Blue Star Mom's and anyone who would like to volunteer are

packing the boxes to mail to the Troops for Christmas.

#### HOW CAN I HELP?

There are many different way to help make a difference.

This Holiday Season offer to take a shut-in neighbor shopping. Take new Christmas cards to a nursing home for the residents to send to someone of their choice; including a few stamps would not hurt either. If you play an instrament, sing, or do standup comedy, volunteer a few hours to a hospital. Take a box of individually wrapped candy canes to the children's' ward at a hospital, or volunteer to read a Christmas story to the kids. Kids love a sing-a-long and they ususally do not care if you have a good voice as long as you know the words.

Regardless of how you choose to volunteer your time, always remember to log your community services hours in our community service log on our website.

#### **Click Here**

If you have questions or have an idea on a Community Service activity, feel free to send an email to the Commander (see link on the contact page).

Thank you everyone for your continued community service contributions.

#### Share the Veterans Crisis Line Number to Save a Life

Crisis Line. This confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hot line serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified, caring responders:

by phone at 800-273-8255, via on-line chat on their website, or by text message at 838255.

## Membership

unior Vice Janet Schaak



If you bring in a lead that turns into a new member, you will get competes for national awards totaling \$55,000, with each your name in the drawing for a \$100 Post Gift card. We currently need 9 New members or reinstates to reach 100%. We also sit in 8th membership in place for Remember we need to be in the top 50 to qualify for All-American Post honors. Let's do it this year!!!

## **Youth Activities**

Program Chair Janet Schaak

The 2019-20 theme is: What Makes America Great



Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The first-place winner from each state

first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level.



Established in 1947, our Voice of **Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in democratic regards patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational

scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

## **Honor Guard**

Honor Guard Commander Robert Hystad

Pictures of the Honor Guard presenting the colors at Boston Scientific on Veteran's Day 2019



Pictures courtesy of Steve Peterson

Palmer Lake VFW 2817 Brookdale Drive, Brooklyn Park MN 55444 Phone: 763,560,3720 Cell: 651,307,6133 Fax: 763,560,0408 Email: palmerlake.vfw3915@gmail.com Website: www.palmerlakevfw.org

## Other stuff

Winter Solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight during the whole year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it always occurs around December 21st or 22nd.

The first president to set up a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce, and the first president to establish the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House Lawn was Calvin Coolidge.







Rudolph the red nosed reindeer was created 80 years ago by a Montgomery Ward adman. The store gave away 2.6 million books to children in Christmas 1939.

In the original book Rudolph did not live at the North Pole.

# Safety

Program Chair Don Herman

Have you entered into the Community service report your safety Volunteer work?



If you have participated, or assisted in any work that deals with Pedestrian Safety, Drug Awareness, Recreational Safety, Highway Safety, Home and Fire Safety or other Safety projects please submit this on the **Community Service and Volunteer form**.

Don't forget to also include Time spent donating blood anything that you do for the betterment of others has a place on the Community service and Volunteer form.

## The Cooties Corner

By CCDB Terry Wagner



Greetings All,

I want to thank everyone that came out and supported our annual turkey raffle. The proceeds help us to continue our nursing

home and hospital visitations.

As we enter this holiday season let us not forget the loved ones that are unable to be with us, our service members serving in faraway places, and our Veterans in hospitals and other care facilities.

I hope everyone has a joyous and safe holidays.



I invite anyone that would like to learn more about the Cooties and possibly joining us, to talk to any of our officers about membership.

To contact me:

E-mail at wagnerterry@comcast.net

Or phone at 612-581-2719

Terry E. Wagner

CCDB PT (Sticktites) #66



## Veterans' Issues

By Post Service Officer Jeff Jarosz

VA PreNeed Eligibility

Here is the info to apply for VA Burial before a Veteran dies. If you plan to be buried at one of the State of Minnesota Veteran cemeteries, this form is not for them it is only for the VA cemetery. At the state cemetery, the Veteran is buried free of charge but to bury your wife is not free it cost \$500. At VA cemeteries you and your spouse are buried free.

To learn more, read the full article.

#### Tricare for Life Prescriptions

Military retirees until February 2018 received their prescriptions through the mail at no cost at all as Military Retirees had been promised when they put in their 20 or more years of duty. In February of that year suddenly without notice the program now cost a \$7.00 co-pay for each 90 day supply of generic drug sent through the mail. The Retirees found out that the DIC offset (also known as the widow's offset) was overturned in congress but they forgot to fund it. The funding comes from the newly implemented co-pay for prescriptions by the Military Retirees. Just as the Retirees are trying to adjust to this unseen take away of their earned benefits, as of January 1, 2020, they will be getting another surprise. There will be an additional 40 per cent increase in their generic co-pays, bringing the co-pay cost from \$7.00 to \$10.00 for each generic prescription. And even more for brand names. As your Post Service Officer I recommend that you check out prices at Walmart Pharmacy, Cub pharmacy and Costco pharmacy (be sure to ask for the price of a 90 day supply). I think taking from one program to fund another is bad and another case of the government backing down from what they promised our Retirees for staying on duty for 20 or more years. This slow erosion of promised benefits has got to stop.

If any member has questions about their earned VA benefits, Minnesota Veteran's benefits or questions about filing a VA claim, I can be reached at jajarosz@q.com or 763-434-9708

Jeff

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking the skills and experience of our military

personnel and veterans! The DNR will be hosting a veterans employment information event on Thursday, January 9 at its' St. Paul central office. Representatives from all divisions will be available to share career opportunities, answer questions on education requirements and work experience, and guide participants on how to set up job searches and notifications. Attendees will also have the option to meet with current DNR employees who are also military veterans to learn resume tips for translating military skills and experience to better match position qualifications. As a Yellow Ribbon Company, the DNR is a military-friendly place to work and is excited at the chance to have you as part of its team!

Registration is required and space is limited. Sign up at: www.tinyurl.com/dnrvets2020.

If you know of a currently-serving military member or veteran, please spread the word about this event. If the event appears full, check back as spots may open as registrants are no longer able to attend.

Find DNR job postings and other career information at: <a href="https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/jobs/index.html">www.dnr.state.mn.us/jobs/index.html</a>.

What: DNR Veterans Employment Information Event

**When:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 (9 am - 1 pm) **Where:** 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55101

Questions or assistance: 651-259-5371

#### FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR VETERANS

Up coming dates for legal clinics in Anoka for 2019-2020 are:

Thursday, Dec 5 2019 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. Thursday, Mar 5, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Thursday, June 4, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Thursday, Sept 3, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M,

Anoka County Government Center Room 237 2100 3rd Avenue Anoka, MN 5530

#### **Anoka County Veterans Advocate**

Attached is the Anoka County Veterans Advocate link that has some very interesting information for all veterans. <u>Click Here</u>

Sign up for TRICARE email updates **Click here** 

## Legislation

By Program Chair Larry Fonder

Greetings Palmer Lake Comrades, Friends, & Family,

Welcome to December! Despite the fact 'Winter is coming', we have a positive effort on the legislative front started by Minnesota's Senator Tina Smith. Just before Veteran's Day, she introduced the Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019:

#### Read more here

The legislation aims to make a diagnosis of hearing loss and/or tinnitus a presumptive of active duty service for Veterans who served in military occupational specialties that were likely exposed to a sufficiently high level of acoustic trauma or who served in combat.

This Act would be a win/win. Not only would it benefit the Veteran, but it will also benefit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as well as the Veteran Service Officers (VSO) who advocate to the VA on behalf of Veterans. Hearing loss and tinnitus constitute the number one claimed disability; making it presumptive will massively reduce the work hours dedicated to adjudicating, and appealing the claims which in turn would get benefits to Veterans faster.

As a VSO, I have represented several Veterans on appeals in front of VA Law Judges. I don't' have the exact stats in front of me, but anecdotally, at least half of those appeals (likely more), were for hearing loss and/or tinnitus. All Veterans filed their claims years before appearing in front of a judge; it had been so long for many that they did not even know their appeals were still ongoing! Further, most Veterans needed to pay out of pocket to a private provider for a medical opinion that linked hearing loss or tinnitus to their service in order to win the appeal.

Veterans should not need to wait years or spend money to be service connected for hearing loss or tinnitus – passing the Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019 would help make that a reality. Let's support it.

Comrade Larry Fonder

#### VFW3915legislativechair@gmail.com

Conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai

<u>Iranian Air Defense Site</u>: 'Unknown aircraft, you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself.'

<u>Aircraft</u>: 'This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace.'

<u>Air Defense Site</u>: 'You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace, we will launch interceptor aircraft!'

<u>Aircraft</u>: 'This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 Fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait!'

<u>Air Defense Site</u>: (... Total silence)



The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

To view this week's edition: Click here

## Veteran and Post Activities

By Program Chair Blair Sorvari

POST ACTIVITIES (Open to all Post, Auxiliary Members and their Guests)

**Monday Texas Hold'em Poker** – Starts at 7 pm and goes until one individual has all the chips. This is open to All Members and Guests and there is no cost to play. Winners receive Palmer Lake Gift cards and can earn points to larger Tournaments.

Wednesday and Friday - Bingo (6:30) and Bargo (7:30) respectively

Tuesday (5:00) and Saturday a (3:30) – Meat Raffles

Friday - \$3 burger nights

**Saturday** - Cribbage starts first Sat in October - Noon sharp. Sign-up starts at 11 AM, **first come**, **first served** 

The Post is now serving lunch while supplies last:

Monday - one of either soup or chili - \$3

Tuesday - a sandwich - \$3 or \$4

Wednesday - Tacos - 2 for \$3

Thursday - Manager's Choice



#### Mid Winter Conference Room and Banquet Signup now open

When the leaves fall that is a sure sign it is time to start thinking about the mid winter conference in Minneapolis January 17, 18 and 19. Because a great deal of business is conducted at this meeting the Commander often asks some of the Post leaders to attend the conference and/or banquet. The Quartermaster is charged with reserving rooms and purchasing banquet tickets for those comrades.

If you are one of those folks the commander has asked to attend there is an easy request form you need to complete. You must submit your request before December 15th so all the requests can be combined and submitted. The form is located at: Click Here

Tom Heinrich, Quartermaster

Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915

Pancake Breakfast served on Veterans' Day
It was also the 244th Marine Corps Birthday



Pictures courtesy of Judy Peterson





## **Veteran and Post Activities**

#### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

This month we are recognizing the members of the Auxiliary who have presented a Children's Christmas Party every year since sometime in the 1970's. It is their creativity, energy and passion that has made the party the success that it is. Also a big big thank you to the Post for their support financially and for the use of the hall through the years.



(If you are or know someone who should be in the members spotlight please send their story to the editor.)

# Americanism and Citizenship

Program Chair George Hunt

## **Upcoming Holidays Dates**

From the Latin word decem "ten" because this had been the 10th month of the early Roman Calendar

- Dec 5 Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
- Dec 7 National Pearl Harbor (Remembrance) Day (1941) Flags at half staff until sunset.
- Dec 8 War Declared on Japan (1941)
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec 11 Germany and Italy Declared War on U.S. (1941)
- Dec 14 Children's Christmas Party Tickets available at the bar.
- Dec 15 Iraq War Ended (2011) Bill of Rights Day
- Dec 20 Panama Campaign Began (1989)
- Dec 22 Hanukkah Begins, Winter Begins



Dec 24 - Christmas Eve



Dec 26 - Kwanzaa

Dec 31 - Official End of WWII (1946) Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013) New Years Eve

## **Dates to Note**

Next Aux meeting December 10th at 1800

Next Post meeting December 11th at 1900

Next Hospital Visit December 17th at 1900 meet at the post at 1830

PP/VOD/TOTY Awards Banquet Dec. 2nd Coon Rapids VFW #9625 @1830

7th District Meeting December 7th Brooklyn Park #3915 @10:00

Annual Midwinter Conference Jan. 18-20 Minneapolis Marriott Center

Blue Star Mom's meet the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Blood Drive Monday, January 13th 2020

Monday, March 16th 2020 Monday, May 11th 2020 Monday, July 6th 2020

Monday August 31st 2020

2nd Annual Ice Fishing Contest - February 21, 2020

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# **Help Wanted**

**Content Contributor/Video Editor** – Looking for an individual that is tech savvy that can assist in uploading and managing YouTube content, along with editing video content. Maybe also an opportunity to record content. There is no pay associated with this job, it is strictly volunteer.

Email - palmerlake.vfw3915@gmail.com

**Newsletter Journalist** – This newsletter should be more than just the commander or the President giving out information. If you have something you want to share, this is your chance. Send an email to the newsletter editor at <a href="mailto:editor.palmerlakepost3915@gmail.com">editor.palmerlakepost3915@gmail.com</a> with an article or a picture you want added to the newsletter, it will be looked at, and someone will be in touch with you.

#### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Are you the type of person who is great with organizing records and who is looking for a unique volunteer opportunity at the Post? This volunteer opportunity would be right up your alley.

As published in October's General Orders the Department Quartermaster has advised all Posts to verify they have each members application for membership on file. This is to satisfy the IRS requirement for our exempt status.

Our Post does maintain the original application for membership from each of our members. However, over the years the drawer containing this information has become disorganized and, well, kind of a mess. It needs some tender loving care. The project would require the use of the current membership list and then locating the application and properly filing the application. Unneeded applications can be archived.

The advantage of this project is it can be done at your convenience and no time deadline is required. It just needs to keep moving forward. The project ends when 100% of our current members have an application on file. Our post has between 500 and 600 members at any given time.

If you are the right person for this task please contact the Quartermaster at 3915Quartermaster@gmail.com

Tom Heinrich, Quartermaster

## **Contact us**

Commander <a href="mailto:palmerlake.vfw3915@gmail.com">palmerlake.vfw3915@gmail.com</a>

Auxiliary President <u>Auxiliary.vfw3915@gmail.com</u>

Newsletter information <a href="mailto:editor.palmerlakepost3915@gmail.com">editor.palmerlakepost3915@gmail.com</a>

Club Manager <u>clubmanager.vfw3915@gmail.com</u>

Lawn Care Team davthomp07@gmail.com

# Canteen Calendar

Club Manager Andrea Moy

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27 HAPPY HOUR 6PM-SPA	28 HAPPY HOUR 6PM-8PM	EARGO-730PM	30 ST ST RECORDY'S & SCR	1 \$3.50 BLOODY'S & SC
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• 7:00pm Texas Holden			• 7:30pm KARAOKE WI		<ul> <li>3:30pm MEAT RAFFLE</li> </ul>	