

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 9785

Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries

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"All American Post"



MARCH 2011

Commander

Marty Harris

Ladies Auxiliary President

Diane Monti

Men's Auxiliary President

Al Stoddard

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

I would like to thank everyone who has given support to the Post within the first few months of 2011.

I am confident we are headed into a very productive year for the Post and its membership.

When I gave my report at the State Mid-Winter Conference I reflected upon the past year and how much we have accomplished together. We have so much to be grateful for, and this is evident. 9341666

To this, I am humbly honored to serve as your commander and I would like to present to you the report I gave at Mid-Winter Conference within this News Letter.

Keep up the good work and don't forget to thank your fellow members who do so much behind the scenes to make our Post what it is today.

MID-WINTER

Comrade Commander, State Officers, fellow Post Commanders and guests,

I am honored to be the Post Commander of 9785. It has been a great year for our Post.

In 2010 we were All State and All American Post. Our very own Quartermaster was All American.

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SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Our Post 9785 was able to un-drape our charter as there wasn't anybody who passed on during the past month. I am not aware of anyone who is hospitalized at this time.

Scottie Griffith Service Officer in Suellyn's absence

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Well it's the end of another month and we had a get-together at Mid-Winter Conference on February 5th. There were about 6 of us who attended from all over the state of Alaska. We need to have some more participation from everybody in the Men's Auxiliary. Everybody needs to get involved. This is your chance to help our Post. 2936189

If you have not paid your dues for 2011, you need to get it paid ASAP. Your membership card expired as of December 31st, 2010. So, if your card does not say 2011, get it up to date by seeing Mike Garganta or myself.

We do need more volunteers around the Post. Come help out your fellow Post and Auxiliary members. There is Friday Steak Night, Sunday Breakfast and other special events.

This month's meeting will be on Sunday, March 20th at 11:00 am. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Al Stoddard

President

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from Page 1)

We have made a lot of upgrades to our post including new flooring downstairs, gas heat in the outdoor smoke shack and new doors for the security of our Post. 5068

We have a long list of accomplishments for the year of 2010 which include the following:

The VFW State Convention was held at the post, where two State bills were signed by the Governor which supported our active duty veterans.

We had a visit from our very own State Senator Lisa Murkowski who purchased a Buddy Poppy bouquet.

We had active military troop participation in three major roadside clean-ups.

We had two 4th of July booths at the Eagle River Lion's Park selling food and accepted donations from Buddy Poppy's.

We participated in the Chugiak 4th of July Parade.

Our taco booth at The Eagle River Bear Paw Festival was a big hit.

We had a 9/11 observance and held a ceremonial replacement of our Post Flags.

The Post also held two Celebration of Life and funerals for fallen members.

Our members did numerous hospital visits for our sick veterans.

The Tuesday and Saturday Market has been a continued success for the Ladies Auxiliary.

We sponsored USCG Auxiliary who supplied free boat checks and safety certifications. We've donated life preservers to our local lakes for the USCG Auxiliary in support of the Kids Don't Float program. 9098687

We've supported Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year

The Friday Steak Nights, Sunday Breakfasts, Monday night chicken wings have also been a success.

As you heard at Department Commanders Bob Myles' Homecoming, Post 9785 is 100% in their membership and is number 15 in the Nation.

I would love to stand before you and take credit for all these accomplishments, but I can't.

God has blessed this Post with members who have great talents. If you take a moment to think about this I know you will agree. That is why I am proud to be the Commander of 9785.

Marty Harris



Commander

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Our State winner, Meghan McKinnell, was present at the Mid-Winter Conference Banquet on February 5th, where she delivered her essay on this year's theme, "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?" Ms. McKinnell presented an excellent speech that gave a very positive outlook on what she felt her generation would accomplish. She was articulate and developed her ideas with a fresh new perspective. Following a standing ovation from a very appreciative crowd of VFW dignitaries, which included the current National Junior Vice-Commander, John Hamilton, she received \$1,100.00 in cash prizes. 9639492

VFW State Commander Bob Myles and Ladies Auxiliary Department President Penny Mosher each gave her 54 of their State pins to trade with the other 53 candidates worldwide. Megan's next adventure will be to travel to Washington D.C. where she will get to meet the other winners, have a guided tour of all the National monuments, the Smithsonian and a stop at the White House to meet the President. The week will culminate in the Parade of Winners where the National winner will be announced and receive the grand prize of \$30,000.00 in scholarship money.

The following are the cash award winners:

*1st Place - Meghan M. McKinnell, from North Pole High School - representing North Pole Post 10029

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VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

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*2nd Place - Laurel R. Stark, from Juneau-Douglas High School - representing Juneau Post 5559

*3rd Place - Elizabeth J. Higgins from Interior Distance Education of Alaska - representing Petersburg Post 10002.

Scottie Griffith VFW Dept. VOD Chairman

WHERE 9785 STANDS

as of 22 February 2011

2009-10 Membership - 1419 members

2010-11 Membership - 102.33%

Life Members	1320 (+13)
Continuous Members	78 (+4)
New Members	40 (+3)
Reinstated Members	14 (--)
Unpaid Members	104 (-3)

FLEA MARKET

Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary to
VFW Post 9785 - Eagle River



Held first Saturday of each month.



March 5, 2010

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Come sell Jewelry, Avon, Tupperware, Make-Up, Home-made items, Photographs, Books, Crafts, Paintings, Native Arts, Knitted/crocheted items, Baked Goods, etc., etc.

Rent a table for \$20 or two tables for \$35.

Set-up begins at 9:00 am.

Doors open at 10:00 am

Everybody welcome!



Call Crystal Adams at 694-2739
for more details or questions.



Get your Life Membership Now!

Pay for it over 12 months!

See your VFW Post Quartermaster!



LADIES AUXILIARY Cancer Dues

If you are a Life member of the Ladies Auxiliary, please pay your Cancer Dues of \$2.00 per year. Please consider making an additional \$1.00 per year donation towards our own Auxiliary Cancer Grant Fund. Life Members are responsible for their own Cancer Dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Membership #: _____

No. of years paying for: _____ at \$2.00 per year for National Cancer Dues.

TOTAL: _____

No. of years paying for: _____ at \$1.00 per year for LAVFW 9785 Cancer Grant Fund.

TOTAL: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Send to: Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9785
Tina Stoddard, Treasurer
1501 Demeure Pl.
Anchorage, AK 99508

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th, this religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.

On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. 3436919

Over the next thirty-five years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies, like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

Today, people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17th. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin; a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and fireworks shows.

IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Now Barkley stay calm, boy! I have some bad news. Due to finances, we've had to downsize. You now have to be the Lead Dog, Swing Dog, Team Dog and the Wheel Dog. OK, now mush! MUSH! MUSH!



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Someone once said the membership in every organization is made up of four kinds of bones. There are the "Wish Bones" who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the "Jaw Bones" who do all the talking but very little else. Next are the "Knuckle Bones" who knocks everything anybody tries to do. And finally, there are the "Back Bones" who get under the load and do the work! 5112
What kind of BONE are you?

GREETINGS FROM KETCHIKCAN!

Hal and Lisa Hoversten are very excited to introduce Evelyn Ailene Hoversten. Evelyn was born on January 10th, 2011. She came into the world at 7 lbs. 2 oz and 20 inches.



NOMINATIONS OF 2011/2012 OFFICERS

Nominations of VFW Post 9785 Officers for the upcoming 2011/2012 year will be held during the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, March 8th, 2011. Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 12th, 2011

Nominations and elections of Ladies Auxiliary Officers will be held during their General Membership meeting on Tuesday, April 12th, 2011.

Nominations and elections of Men's Auxiliary Officers will be held during their General Membership meeting on Sunday, April 17th, 2011.

Think about who you want to represent you in the upcoming 2011/2012 year, and nominate them. If you don't cast your vote, don't complain.

MARCH HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

- March 3 – National Anthem Day. Star Spangled Banner written in 1931 by Frances Scott Key.
- March 4 – Hug a GI Day
- March 4 – Constitution of the United States of America ratified in 1789.
- March 8 – Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday
- March 9 – Ash Wednesday
- March 12 – Girl Scout founded in 1912
- March 13 – Daylight Saving Time starts
- March 16 – Freedom of Information Day
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 – Camp Fire Boys & Girls established in 1910
- March 20 – First Day of Spring
- March 31 – United States ordered first combat troops to Vietnam in 1965

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