

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 9785

Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries

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"All American Post"



OCTOBER 2011

Commander

Marty Harris

Ladies Auxiliary President

Tina Stoddard

Men's Auxiliary President

Al Stoddard

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Cootie Seam Squirrel Ken Monti is home recovering from hip replacement. He is in pain, is on the mend but feeling better. He welcomes cards and visitors. He has received several cards from the Post and flowers. We wish him well and hope to see him soon at the Post. 1348050

Suellyn Wright Novak Post Service Officer

WHERE POST 9785 STANDS

as of 20 September 2011

2010-2011 Membership – 1495 members

2011-12 Membership – 93.11%

<i>Life Members</i>	1359
<i>Continuous Members</i>	20
<i>New Members</i>	6
<i>Reinstated Members</i>	7
<i>Unpaid Members</i>	122

***Unpaid continuous member?
Consider upgrading to Life.***



LADIES AUXILIARY

Sisters

Another month has slipped away and here we are into the month of October, already. Where did all the time go? 9370334

A workshop was held in September and it went very well. It gave some of our newer members a better idea of how our Ladies Auxiliary works through our Bylaws and Rituals, as well as an insight to the programs we support each year. There were a few of our elder/established members who attended as well, and it gave them insight to some of the changes that has occurred over the years since they first joined our wonderful organization. There were some very good questions brought up during the workshop, as well as some ideas tossed around on how we could improve on our meetings. A resolution was passed during our Ladies Auxiliary 98th National Convention in San Antonio this past August allowing us to now be able to round-table our meetings as long as we still keep to the original format of how business is conducted during the meeting. This might bring a lot more of our Ladies Auxiliary members back to our meetings and keep them from getting discouraged from attending due to the previously structured formalities of the past.

A suggestion was brought up in our September 13th meeting to collect e-mail addresses of our Ladies Auxiliary members. The intention is to keep everybody on the e-mail list informed of upcoming meetings, events, functions, etc. If you are interested in keeping informed of upcoming events, please forward your e-mail address to

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LADIES AUXILIARY

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Susan Hviid at hviid.susan@gmail.com. By sending us your e-mail address, it automatically enters you into a drawing for a free gift. Check out the back page of this newsletter for more details.

Our Ladies Auxiliary is going to try a new fundraiser event during the month of October and most of us who have heard Sherrie Crosby's idea on it, are very excited about it. Sherrie has been working very hard to pull the details together, and it is coming together wonderfully. Look for flyers in the Post on this event very soon. 5016

This month's meeting is on Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendar accordingly and make plans to attend. Our success and survival greatly depends on you, our volunteers.

Respectfully

Tina Stoddard



President

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Hello everybody. Fall is here and winter is just around the corner.

We are done with Friday night hamburgers and now we are helping out with Friday night steaks. If you would like to help cook steaks, let Mike Garganta or myself know. Everybody needs to get involved. This is your chance to help out.

We do need more volunteers around the Post so help out your fellow Post and Auxiliary members. There is Friday Night Steaks, Sunday Breakfast and other special events. We will be having a raffle on March 3rd 2012. Raffle the Tickets will go on sale in December.

This month's meeting is on October 16th at 11:00 am. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Thanks to all the volunteers that help out around the Post.

Al Stoddard

President

VA BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

- Ask Congress to provide adequate resources to enable the VBA to reduce the backlog of claims while improving quality of benefits decisions
- Encourage the Congress to use its vital oversight authority to provide real accountability within VBA.
- Call on Congress and VA to conduct further studies to determine which disabilities, and level of disability, adversely affect a veteran's quality of life
- VA and Congress should adjust the Rating Schedule to ensure that veterans are adequately compensated.
- Call on Congress to pass legislation that offers workable solutions, not quick fixes, to the VBA system.

The above excerpted topics are part of the VFW Legislative Eight Priority Goals our Legislative Office has set for this year. While in Anchorage presenting a check for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year at the Providence Cancer Center, I was visiting with the Staff members. The check was donated in honor of my own Step-father, a three-time Vietnam Veteran who had died of lung cancer which was brought on by Agent Orange. I have learned over the last few years more and more of our Veterans are being kept right here in Alaska, due to the strong family and network support system. This was not news to me, as I had heard this very same topic being discussed by other Health Care Professionals over the last year. 816028

What I did find interesting though, is how many of our Veterans and their dependents do not realize they qualify for VA Benefits. You can help by writing to our three Congressional leaders in Washington DC to ensure to pass legislation that offers workable solutions, not just fixes; encourage our Leaders to adjust the rating schedule; do further studies to determine the various disabilities that will and has been affecting our Veterans' quality of life; ask Congress to help enable the VBA by providing adequate resources such as Claims adjusters and training. Encourage Congress to allow for marketing the VBA to all Veterans.

Please let me know when you contact our Congressional Leaders. I do not need to know the topic—so long as it was Veteran related.

Penny Mosher, LAVFW 9785 Legislative Chairman



HISTORY OF NAVY DAY

Navy Day was established on October 27, 1922 by the Navy League of the United States. Although it was not a national holiday, Navy Day received special attention from President Warren Harding. Harding wrote to the Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby:

"Thank you for your note which brings assurance of the notable success which seems certain to attend the celebration of Navy Day on Friday, October 27, in commemoration of past and present services of the Navy. From our earliest national beginnings the Navy has always been, and deserved to be, an object of special pride to the American people. Its record is indeed one to inspire such sentiments, and I am very sure that such a commemoration as is planned will be a timely reminder."

"It is well for us to have in mind that under a program of lessening naval armaments there is a greater reason for maintaining the highest efficiency, fitness and morale in this branch of the national defensive service. I know how earnestly the Navy personnel are devoted to this idea and want you to be assured of my hearty concurrence."

In the United States, *Navy Day* is commonly celebrated on October 27th. It was suggested by the Navy League to recognize Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, an avid supporter of the U.S. Navy.. Roosevelt had been an Assistant Secretary of the Navy and supported a strong Navy as well as the idea of *Navy Day*. In addition, October 27 was the anniversary of a 1775 report issued by a special committee of the Continental Congress favoring the purchase of merchant ships as the foundation of an American Navy.

Many nations around the world celebrate their navies, with a special day dedicated to them. Each country selects a date relevant to their navy,

often the birth date of the navy. In the 1970's, research determined that the birthday of the U.S. Continental Navy was October 13, 1775. At the time, efforts were made to move *Navy Day* to this date. However, *Navy Day* in the United States is still largely recognized as October 27th.

On *Navy Day*, give some well-deserved attention to your proud U.S. Navy, and to the sailors who serve our country.....Salute!

IS YOUR E-MAIL BEING USED to SPAM FRIENDS?

I've seen several VFW Members AOL/GMail/Yahoo accounts have been hacked. The hackers then use your account to send spam to all of your friends in your contact list. The spam email normally doesn't have a subject line and the text is nothing more than a link to a spam web site. I can't tell you what will happen if you go to the link(s), but it can't be good. 9302703

The fix for this is simple though. Go into your AOL/GMail/Yahoo mail etc. and change your password. If you have your email going to your cell phone, you'll have to change that password to reflect your new AOL/Gmail/Yahoo password.

I recommend that your password not contain any familiar dates (birth date, anniversary, etc), not contain any words, and should be at least 8 characters long. I'd mix in some numbers and special characters as well as upper and lower case letters. To help, use a \$ instead of an S, a 0 instead of an O, or an @ instead of an A. Example: P@\$w0rd

Paul Ingels

Post 9785 Webmaster



HISTORY OF COLUMBUS DAY

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451 to Domenico Columbo, a wool weaver.

He worked for his Father until he was 22 then set out to follow his own dream to become a sea captain. Many of his fellow Genoese had prospered in Lisbon under the Portuguese flag as Captains of sailing ships and he longed to join their ranks.

It was to this end that Columbus began to educate himself learning to read and speak Portuguese, Castilian and Latin. He read many geography books, and studied the bible and the writings of Marco Polo, gathering all the information he could about the world. He particularly studied, Pierre d' Ailly's "Imago Mundi," or picture of the world. He became a chart maker himself and because of these studies became convinced that the world was spherical, round instead of flat. This belief later became the basis for his quest of finding a shorter route to Asia.

Asia offered many goods Europeans craved but traveling east to get them was difficult and dangerous. However, it was with these countries of the EAST, India, China, Japan, and the East Indies, that Europeans longed to trade in greater volume. It was for this reason that a sea route around the tip of Africa to the East Indies and Asia was sought. Columbus was just one of many, explorers and tradesmen trying to find such a route.

Portugal deemed, "The greatest seafaring nation in the world," due in large measure to the discoveries, exploits and sponsorship of its prince, nicknamed "Henry the Navigator," seemed the most likely nation to support Columbus's dream of finding that shorter route to the EAST. So, it was no surprise that later, he would chose to approach Portugal's King John II for his support of his expedition. 1587025

In 1479 Columbus married Dona Felipa Perestrello, whose father had been one of Prince Henry The Navigator's captains. His wife's social rank opened doors for Columbus. And using his Father in laws collection of charts and documents

he gained more knowledge of Portuguese discoveries and plans. In 1481 he entered the service of King John II of Portugal and voyaged to the Gold Coast of Africa. 5043

Columbus wanted to discover the much sought for route to the EAST that would open up a lucrative trade. He believed there was a better way to find it then traveling around the tip of AFRICA. He believed by sailing west 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean that he would come full circle and end up in Asia without having to go south and east. He thought he would sail right into these countries never dreaming he would land on a whole new continent and lay claim to a whole new world.

In 1484 Columbus applied for ships and men from King John II of Portugal. He was refused and then his proposal was reconsidered. However, the final rejection of his proposal came when Bartholomew Diaz discovered the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. He had found an eastern sea route to India. The Portuguese were no longer interested in an unproven western route. Columbus was denied once again and returned to Spain.

He finally convinced the King and Queen of Spain to finance him and under the Spanish flag from Palos, Harbor in Spain with three ships the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria set sail at dawn on August 3, 1492.

However problems with the Nina and the Pinta necessitated a one month delay in the Canary Islands. He then set sail again on September 3, 1492 and thirty-three days later at 2:00 a.m. on October 12, 1492, Rodrigo de Triana, a seaman aboard the *Pinta*, spotted land.

Columbus actually had landed among the Bahama Islands on an island today called Watling Island. But the inhabitants then called Guanahani Island. Columbus named this land San Salvador, claiming it in the name of Spain. This NEW World would lead to the settlement by Europeans of the continents of North and South America.

LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERS – HELP US KEEP YOU BETTER INFORMED

Ladies Auxiliary Members:

Our VFW Post 9785 Ladies Auxiliary would like to keep you, our valuable members, up-to-date on upcoming Ladies Auxiliary meetings, events, functions, fundraisers, etc. Please send us your e-mail address so we can keep you informed of upcoming events. Your e-mail address will not be given/sold to any business/company or other contact list. Your e-mail address will remain confidential within our Ladies Auxiliary. Also, by submitting your e-mail to our list, it will automatically enter you in a drawing for a free gift, no strings attached. Please forward your e-mail address to Susan Hviid at hviid.susan@gmail.com. Thank you!

Susan Hviid

Ladies Auxiliary member

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

MEMBERSHIP #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-mail information to: Susan Hviid
at: hviid.susan@gmail.com

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