



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Sacramento Mountain Post 11999



What's Happening in the Mountains?

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January Events:

January 1st

New Year's Day

National Life Membership
Installment Plan Opens

January 6th

District 3 Meeting
Post 7686, Alamogordo
Lunch at 12:00 pm
Meeting at 1:00 pm

January 14th

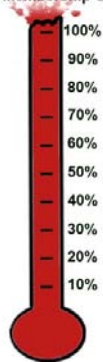
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

MOC PT 20 Scratch
7:00 pm

January 26th

Post Business Meeting
Cloudcroft Senior Center,
9:00 am

Post Membership Goal



Current Membership
132.26%

Comrades and Sisters,

2008 has arrived, and the Sacramento Mountain Post is looking forward to an exciting New Year!

January 1st marks the opening of the National Life Membership Installment Plan. Those of you who are Continuous (Annual) Members should consider starting the installment plan and becoming Life Members through 12 or 24 monthly payments. Please speak to Comrade Donna, your Quartermaster, or myself about how to get signed up.

The District 3 quarterly meeting is on January 6th at Post 7686 in Alamogordo. I know that many of you pass up the chance to go to a District meeting because of the travel involved. Since it is only in Alamogordo this time we have a great opportunity for 11999 to make a big showing! I encourage all of you to attend. Usually folks start gathering around 11:00 am with Lunch being served at 12:00. The meeting usually doesn't get going until after 1:00 pm.

Our Post has continued with its recruiting efforts. With our newest members figured in we are now at over 132%! We still need to find new members, and encourage them to get involved with our post and the communities. This post serves more than 9 different mountain communities, and there is so much we could accomplish if we weren't spread so thin. Let's continue to seek out veterans who are eligible to join our organization!

We are fast approaching the status of an All-American Post. I have received several letters from the National Commander-in-Chief congratulating our Post for all it has accomplished so far this year. Hard to believe there is still another 6 months remaining on the National calendar! The Post is looking like a lock for All-State, but I will be watching a few of the other Posts in our division to ensure we stay in the lead. Neither of these distinctions relies on membership alone. A Post must be an active part of its community. Programs and service play a huge role in making the grade.

Speaking of community, the NM National Guard unit we adopted down in Alamogordo will be returning from Iraq early. Comrade Donna received a phone call from Diana Cano, one of the Family Support Coordinators for the deployed soldiers (and wife of one of our newest members). Apparently the unit's holiday leaves have all been canceled

and their return date pushed up from June to March. More planning for their return will be discussed at our next business meeting later this month.

Comrade Donna continues to work on getting our Ladies Auxiliary started. As of last report she now has about 13 interested ladies with 15 needed to get the Charter approved. Those of you VFW members who are of the female persuasion are authorized to be members of both the VFW and its Auxiliary. I want to encourage you to think about joining this fantastic organization. The Ladies Auxiliary can be an invaluable asset to our Post and the community. Anyone above the age of 16 who is a wife, widow, mother, foster or stepmother (who have performed the duties of parent), grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster and stepdaughters (who attained that status prior to the age of 16 and for whom the duties of parent were performed), sisters, half sisters, foster and stepsisters (who attained that status prior to age 16) of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW are eligible to join. Please contact either comrade Donna or myself at (575) 987-2214. Sadly those men who would like to see a men's Auxiliary get started can not dual enroll at this time. This is something that National will be working on in the future.

I have received final confirmation that the National Commander has selected me to sit on the National Youth, Education & Community Service Committee. I will be attending the conference in Washington D.C. the first week in March. This looks to be an exciting trip as the National Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Award winners will be formally announced at the Banquet in their honor.

Over the past 6 months our little post has contributed quite a bit to our local communities. As of the end of December our totals are as follows:

Total Number of Projects:	76
Total Number of Hours:	1437
Total Number of Miles:	14,342
Total Donations:	\$2,948.00

Let's keep up the fantastic work for the remaining 6 months of this year!

With the start of the New Year I would like to remind our members that I will be throwing my hat into the ring for State Surgeon. I will be making a formal announcement at the District 3 meeting this month, and again state wide, at the Department of New Mexico Mid-Winter Conference in February. It is my intention to advance through the chairs at the state level and become your State Commander for the 2012-13 year. I hope to have all of your support in the future with this endeavor and I hope that you, the membership, will allow me to remain as your Post Commander at least through 2010. If you are interested in running for a State, District or Post Officer position please contact me ASAP so that I may include your announcement in our next edition of this newsletter.

I am still attempting to make this monthly letter into a post newsletter. I have tried to include a column in this mailing that lists upcoming events and activities. Some of our members do not have access to e-mail or the internet, and I wish to reach as many as possible. Also I know many of you are very busy within your own communities, and if you had a little warning, a list of events might help you find a moment to help us out with some event or activity.