



**AMERICAN LEGION - POST 639
VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL**

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The Veterans Voice
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SEPTEMBER 2007 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

Hey ! “We’re On The Web” WWW.Post639.com Look Us Up



COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:

It doesn't seem possible but the first month has passed so quickly. We had our special Executive Board meeting on July 21st and all Committee Chairmen were appointed.

As most of you know on July 25th I suffered a heart attack. I am doing well, (per doctors orders), but to relieve some stress, I have appointed Jack Martin , House Committee Chairman. I know Jack will do an excellent job with the bar and kitchen, among other duties.

The 2008 membership cards are in and over 300 of you have paid all ready. Keep "em coming". Our membership has been 100% for several years, so lets “get er done”, again.

I laid out some of my goals for 2007/2008 year, some are realistic and some are hopeful. With the support of the membership and the Finance Officer we'll accomplish the majority of them:

1. Obtain 100% membership,
2. Get the membership involved in post functions,
3. Update our DD214 system,

4. Upgrading and repairing post furnishings,
5. Begin a monthly maintenance schedule on A/C and Furnace units,
6. To organize fund raisers to keep our post financially sound, as it has always been.

This is a short list of things we need to get done in the year to come. I look forward to working with the new E-Board and the membership to achieve our goals, and to assure our events are a success. This is one area that support from the membership would greatly improve camaraderie and to meet and make new friends.

Thank all of you, for your support.

For God and Country,
AL Powers, Commander

It's a warm Saturday morning in the Ozarks. About 2000 people have gathered in a very special place to honor a group of veterans that have been, until recently, ignored at best and reviled at worst by our fellow Americans.

Colors abound. The purple of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the blue of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, blue baseball caps proudly emblazoned with WW2 veteran, Korea Veteran, Viet

Nam Veteran, the “colors” of the American Legion Riders Chapters 8 and 9, the Viet Nam Veterans M/C, the Combat Veterans M/C, and the Christian Motorcycle Association. They are gathered to dedicate the Viet Nam Memorial at the Springfield Veterans Cemetery.

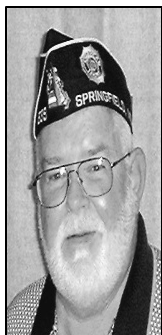
When the National Anthem was sung, after a couple of false starts, backs bent with years and labor became steel and the sharply rendered hand salutes never wavered. The pride and respect radiating from this band of heroes, men and women, was almost a physical presence. Amidst the words that were spoken that morning a challenge was issued. The time has come for Viet Nam veterans to reject the definitions placed on us by people who didn't and apparently still don't have the slightest idea what service to the United States means, especially in time of conflict. Of all the words spoken that morning the most meaningful were spoken by the non-veterans as they passed through the crowd; “Welcome Home” and “Thank You”.

Tom Newsom,
Second Vice

CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE:

Things got exciting in July - Phil Richardson had out-patient surgery,

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we will not talk about his procedure but Phil said everything is straight now and his bladder is gladder!

Tony Schmoele was in Cox South and is now going through physical therapy .

Our Commander was in Cox South also, on the heart floor, but he is back at the Post and looking like the Commander. No more smoking and limited booze so help him out and buy him WATER!

Bob Weeks was in St. John's with upper respiratory and heart problems. He is taking two hands full of pills each day with a visiting nurse to come and check on him. I asked if she was good looking - the answer was NO, HE, is a big man. Sorry about that Bob, in a case like that I will take my own baths.

Here is a thought about Heaven & Hell:

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like." The Lord led the holy man to two doors, He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful

but because the handle was longer than their arms they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen Hell." They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand." "It is simple" said the Lord, "it requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other while the greedy think only of themselves."

How do you see our Post?

Keep our men and women in the military and their families, our POW's and MIA's in your thoughts and prayers.

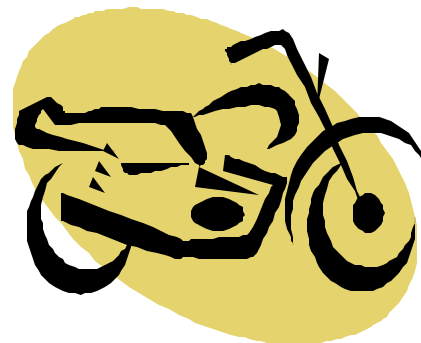
Bob Carroll

ALR CHAPTER 9

Did I mention that riding weather has finally arrived in a past column? Bad riding conditions can be experienced at both ends of the thermometer. The 100+ degree temps. have been plaguing the country for several weeks now. Director, Mike, Ride Coordinator, Paul, and I made the pilgrimage to Sturgis, S.D. a couple weeks ago. The temperatures hovered around the century mark for most of the time we were on the road. Not just going up but coming back as well. Rain would almost have been a blessing but it refused to come on down. Too hot, I guess.

We started seeing bikes on trailers and big motor-homes pulling enclosed trailers soon after entering

Kansas. We named them "Trailer Queens", for going to a motorcycle rally in a truck or camper instead of riding their bikes. I'll bet they were cooler than we were though. The local media reported the smallest crowds in 20 years. Maybe people are tired of being gouged by the motels and the vendors. Still, there were thousands and thousands of bikes and people EVERYWHERE.



ALR member, Jeff Anderson was busting his butt working at the Kuryachyn tent at the Black Hills Harley- Davidson dealership. He introduced me to several of his co-workers who live around here. Gotta get them to join up Jeff. He did such a good job on one bike he was working on he got a special "tip". Ask about it next time you see him in the Post.

The hot weather has kept our dinner ride and day ride attendance down to just a hearty few. Just remember if you're not along with the group, you'll probably be talked about !!

I've been asked to mention the "Back to School" party being planned for September 8th. at the Post. This is the same weekend that we are headed to Crater of Diamonds Park in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. For those members that don't make the ride down there here's something to do on Saturday night. Joyce asked for everyone to dress as "the stu-

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dent you were or wanted to be", while in school. This party should be a blast.

Thanks to ALL the riders who gave up a part of their Saturday morning, ALR, PGR, CVMA and also VVM/C. We had about 30 bikes leave from the Post at 09:00 and probably 60 -70 bikes total.

Our preparation for the Poker Run are coming along nicely. Most of the tickets for the pistol have already been sold. The odds of winning with only 500 tickets being sold, seem to be the big attraction along with the \$5 price. Keep trying to get donations for the silent auction for business owners you know or come into contact with. We stand to make a lot of money for the Jesse Hardin scholarship fund, with this poker run as well as meet lots of potential members for our chapter. The bigger our chapter is the more "horsepower" we hold in dealing with the state leadership of ALR and also with Department of Missouri.

Ride Safe,

Ron Jackson, Asst. Director, Chapter 639 ALR

Biker wisdom: Sometimes you have to go through a full tank of fuel before you can think straight.

LADIES AUXILIARY



Hi Ladies,

Well, we're on our way to another year. You should be getting your yearly reminders for dues, let's get them paid. The new cards are here; see Marlene this

year to pay your dues. We've got a great year ahead, with many opportunities, come join our meetings. We will have our monthly meeting September 4 th, ladies bring a dessert, if you are able. Also, please bring an article for our Party basket that we will be putting together for it's giveaway September 29th, at the ALR Poker Run and Silent Auction. Let's support the ALR and the Auxiliary.

We have a fun Party on Saturday, September 8th for "Back To School". We will be having a Music, so ladies let's support "Your Post" and come out to this event, it isn't all work and no play. This will be an event we all can have fun at.

September 12th we're having a Party Light, Party to support the Ladies Auxiliary. Bring a friend and check out the new items

We will be having our Big Annual Event, our October Fest with silent auction, cake walk, and Brats on October 12th, 2007 starts at 5:00 PM—10:00 PM. We always have a lot of fun. Bring your ideas and donations for our silent auction as well.

We are also looking forward to our "Halloween Kids Party", on October 27th

Yes, we have a busy 2 months, but "We" can not do it without you and it definitely wouldn't be any way near as much fun without you being there.

Come and support the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you for joining our Post. We appreciate all of you. We cannot do it without you. Let's remember each other, Commander AI, and our troops in your prayers!

Terri Chandler

Bar & Kitchen Report

We had a good month, all things considering. Ladies Auxiliary picnic kicked off a great fun filled day !

The food was plentiful and all the gals cooked out despite the rain. We all tried to ride the storm out however we had to give it up and Ya—Ya on the inside. If you weren't here ya missed a good one. Following was entertainment by Howie and The Hillcats. Thank you Burman, Mick, and Ken for all your help.

The prior week AI had a suffered a Heart attack It sure is good to have you back and looking well again.

We are having a "Back To School Party", Saturday, September 8th at 7:00 PM. With the music from the 50's, 60's & 70's by Chris Foster! So, dress like the school boy or school girl you once were or always wanted to be. Rumor has it, there may be a special guest

We have a New Cook, but familiar face, Nancy is now cooking for us Monday—Friday.

Made Rites on Mondays, Tacos on Tuesdays, Ham & Beans with fried taters on Wednesdays, Cindy's Pork Tenderloin on Thursdays and Nancy's BBQ on Fridays.

Stop in and see your bartenders, Bobby, Sheila, Gretchen, Connie and of course Nancy.

Always a pleasure to serve you, Granny, Joyce

