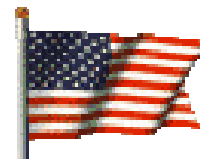


AMERICAN LEGION
 Dixon Post 208
 231 North First Street
 P.O. Box 55
 Dixon, CA 95620

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<http://www.dixonveterans.org/Legion/>
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DIXON LEGION DIGEST

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BINGO	2 <i>"Star Spangled Banner" made US National Anthem (1931)</i>	3 <i>meeting moved → tool show at Vet Hall</i>	4 Legion Post 208 Meeting	5	6 Chamber of Commerce honors "Vet of Year" Sandy Sanders
7	8 BINGO	9	10	11	12 <i>"Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)"</i>	13 Vacaville Post 165 Irish Dinner
14	15 BINGO	16	17  <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18 VFW Post 8151 Meeting	19	20 <i>First day of Spring</i>
21	22 BINGO	23 Blood Drive: 1-7 PM at the Vet Hall	24 Post 208 Executive Comm	25	26	27 40&8 Dinner at <u>Dixon Vet Hall</u> Past Commander's Club Mtg 11AM Santa Rosa Post 21
28	29 BINGO	30	31			

UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL 24TH - VFW POST 8151 STEAK DINNER
BINGO EVERY MONDAY NIGHT - 7 P.M.

		POST 208	OFFICERS		
Commander	Bob Havlin	450-0125	Chaplain	Ray Lein	693-0437
1st Vice	William Allard	447-9607	Sgt-at-Arms	Mike Brown	678-0718
2nd Vice	Tammy Cueva	678-9527	Service Officer	Jim Harris	678-6905
3rd Vice	Tony Chavez	678-2152	Judge Advocate	Kevin Kilkenny	693-0933
Adjutant	Ed Bartosh	678-8636	Historian	Ed Bartosh	678-8636
Finance Officer	Kevin Kilkenny	693-0933			

<i>UNIT 208</i>			<i>OFFICERS</i>		
President	Doris Kilkenny	693-0933	Secretary	Pam Cozzoli	678-9137
1st Vice Pres.	Bev Schillinger	693-0693	Treasurer	Marv Havlin	450-0125
2nd Vice Pres.	Freda Minderman	447-7781	Chaplain	Roxie Sanders	678-4395

Receive your Newsletter by e-mail without waiting for the mail carrier. Give us your e-mail address and check your street address and phone number in our records at <http://www.dixonveterans.org/Legion/members.asp>.

NOTE CHANGE OF MARCH MEETING TO THURSDAY (THE 4TH)!!

Commander

Fellow comrades: we held our valentines dinner & dance and had a small crowd. But the evening was fun and the dinner was great. A great thanks to the Dixon High School F.F.A. members for waiting on our tables; this was a great bunch of kids. I also have to thank Doris Kilkenny and Roxie Sanders for setting up and decorating the hall it looked great. A special thanks to Doug Hicke for doing the music again; he had everyone on the dance floor most of the night. The highlight of the evening was Marvel leading the Conga line through the hall and the bar. This was a great time and something to remember. Coming events: Dixon chamber dance and the Dixon "Vet of the year." Call the chamber to get tickets.

As for me this, will be my last Commander's Corner. As of March 4th, I will be resigning as the commander of the post. Due to my new job and purchase of a farm, I find myself not having the time to fulfill my duties as commander. I'm proud to have served as your commander for almost two years and that I've been an officer for the last seven. My biggest hope is that all my accomplishments over the years have made our post a better place. I want to thank everyone who has helped me and mentored me through the years.

Thanks for the years of support.

**Bob Havlin
Commander**

First Vice Commander

We are up to 95.95% of post membership paid for 2004 – thank you for supporting YOUR Post. Fewer and fewer members are coming to the meetings. We meet only one night a month. The post is about to go through some changes. First, Bob Havlin is stepping down as the commander of the American Legion Post. What does this mean? It means that I will become the commander. I ask that some of the more experienced members show up to help me with the transition. If you have any concerns about the state of the American legion or just a comment, please show up or call me @ 707-685-1433.

**William Allard
First Vice Commander**

Second Vice Commander

Bingo is off to a good start. Please continue to tell your neighbors and friends BINGO is EVERY Monday night at 7PM. If any one is interested in helping out on occasion, please call me or the hall. God Bless

**Tammy Cueva
Second Vice**

Adjutant

Thanks for your confidence in voting me to complete the remainder of Jim Baehr's term. We welcome the three new members initiated at the last meeting:

James Daniels
Rosemary Chavez
Christopher Abrams

Also welcome to Victor Follis who has applied for membership but has not yet been initiated.

This will be the last newsletter for the 24 of you who have not paid your 2003 (and 2004) dues. The dues year is noted next to your name on the address label. We are sorry to see you go, but would be glad to welcome you back if you decide to rejoin us and become current in your dues.

Ed Bartosh
Adjutant

Chaplain

IRISH BLESSING: MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE....

WALLS FOR THE WIND
A ROOF FOR THE RAIN
TEA BESIDE THE FIRE
LAUGHTER TO CHEER YOU
THOSE YOU LOVE NEAR YOU
AND ALL YOUR HEART MIGHT DESIRE

We had an outstanding turnout for the last blood drive – 74 pints of blood were collected. These donations DO SAVE LIVES. One of our own comrades, Jim Baehr, required about this amount of blood and platelets in his battle with myelodysplasia and leukemia during the last year. Please remember him at the March 23rd blood drive – as always – held at the Veterans Hall from 1 - 7 PM.

Chaplain Ray

From the Auxiliary President

February 14th was a fantastic evening. Although there weren't very many attending the Sweetheart Dinner Dance, the atmosphere was great and we all had enormous fun. The dinner was terrific, another steak dinner enhanced by the efforts of cook Hal Hanna. I want to especially thank Roxie Sanders for helping me decorate on that day and also a thank you to Chris Jones, one of our newest members for helping to supply the hall with carnations. We transformed the hall into a cozy and special dining and dancing room. We also had the pleasure of centerpiece decorations created by Keri Mistler at Grand Rental Station. Again thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

The auxiliary is hosting BINGO on the 4th Monday of each month, our next one will be the 22nd of March. Try to come and join the fun. Doors open at 6:30 pm and Bingo starts at 7:00 pm.

The next 5th District meeting will be Sunday, February 29th in Santa Rosa. We will be honored with a visit from our department president Linda Caples. Try to join us if you can, it's a great way to meet our department officers.

Our next meeting is going to be on Thursday, March 4th due to the rental of the hall on our regular Wednesday meeting night. Always ask a prospective new member to join us; you never know who might be interested in our group. Hope to see everyone there.

Doris Kilkenny
President, Unit #208 Auxiliary

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS!

IMPORTANT! MARCH MEETING CHANGE

Due to an event scheduled for the Veteran's Hall on March 3rd, we will need to move the meeting this month only one day – to Thursday March 4th. Please note the calendar....

OFFICER NOMINATIONS OPEN NEXT (APRIL 7th) MEETING

According to our bylaws, Officer elections take place at the May meeting. This means that we will be opening nominations at the April 7th meeting. The elective officers of the Post are the Commander, the First Vice-Commander, the Second Vice-Commander, the Third Vice-Commander, the Adjutant, the Finance Officer, the Service Officer, the Sergeant-at-Arms and three members of the

Board of Directors. Help keep our post active by considering serving in one of these positions or an appointed position (Historian, Chaplain, Judge Advocate and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms).

HELP WANTED!

Help desperately needed! Post 208 has over 200 dues-paying members. We have 10 – 15 members show up at meetings, and a core of about that size regularly helping with jobs that keep the post functioning. Some are in need of relief – you'll see that a few officers are holding two positions. Firstly, we need members willing to actively work to run the post – this means we need fourteen (14) people willing to hold offices and keep us alive and active. We'll make job descriptions available on the web and at the next couple of meetings. We also need volunteers willing to help with the hall and events (as bartenders, security, and for our events, cooks, waiters and cleanup. We haven't needed the Honor Guard for a while, but that is an important function we provide to locally interred veterans. We will need volunteers for an Honor Guard at the softball opening ceremony, May Fair events, and Memorial Day in the next couple of months. Please come to a meeting when you can or contact an officer with your desire to help.

40&8 Society Dinner

Solano Voiture 395 of the 40&8 Society will have a benefit dinner at the Dixon Veterans Hall on Saturday, March 27th. Bar will open at 6 PM with a N.Y. Steak dinner starting at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from George Landoll at 678-3414.

Jim Baehr Service

For those who receive this in time, there will be a memorial service for Jim on Sunday February 29th at 1 PM at the Dixon Community Church. Janyne said that wearing the Legion or VFW cap or insignia would show locally how he was remembered.

Jim's funeral was held on January 31 in Dorchester, Wisconsin. His siblings, nieces, nephews, and friends gathered at Maurina Funeral Home. The VFW provided a color guard, and a bugler played Taps at the cemetery.

Vacaville Post 165 "Feast of the Irish" Dinner

Vacaville Post 165 is holding a "Feast of the Irish" dinner on Saturday March 13th at the Vacaville Veteran's Hall. No host bar opens at 6 PM. Tickets go on sale March 1st and cost \$12. Contact the Vacaville Veterans Hall at 447-6354.

MARCH IS "WOMEN'S HISTORY" MONTH
<http://womenshistory.about.com/library/weekly/aa030200a.htm>

legislative advocacy

read about the issues and take action!

The Veterans Homes Expansion Program Must Not Be Delayed To Solve State Budget Problem

This letter is to express the strong concern, frustration, and opposition of the California Department of The American Legion regarding recent proposals to postpone construction of some or all of the five future veterans homes, which have been overwhelmingly approved by the voters and the State Legislature."

Strong words - cryout for strong actions.....

We are asking everyone to e-mail, write, phone and visit their local state legislators including the governors office voicing strong opposition to any delay in the construction of our future veterans homes.

(Below is the letter sent by Department Commander Jim Hackney to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to use as a reference.)

Do not delay. . . Send Right NOW!!!

Become a legislative advocate TODAY!

E-mail Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
governor@governor.ca.gov

or better yet WRITE:

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor , State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 26, 2004

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor State of California

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This letter is to express the strong concern, frustration, and opposition of the California Department of The American Legion regarding recent proposals to postpone construction of some or all of the five future veterans homes, which have been overwhelmingly approved by the voters and the State Legislature.

On behalf of the 2.7 million California veterans, we plead with you not to abandon the promises and commitments made over the past few years to finally provide dreadfully needed veterans homes throughout the state. These California veterans fought for our great nation in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other wars around the globe, including the current war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. They put their lives on the line in defense of our freedoms and security. It is our obligation to make sure they have a place to live their final years and to die with dignity when they can no longer care for themselves.

In 1999-2000, the California State Legislature overwhelmingly approved placement of Proposition 16 on the March 2000 ballot, by votes of 32-0 in the Senate and 76-4 in the Assembly. In March of 2000, California voters approved Proposition 16 with a dramatic 65% Yes vote, providing \$50 million in General Obligation bond funds for veteran home construction. Since the Federal government provides 65% of the cost of building veterans homes, this commitment by California voters of \$50 million leverages another \$93 million in federal funds, for a total of \$143 million approved for veteran homes development and improvements. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has estimated the unmet need in California for long-term care is 3,567 beds.

After an extensive needs review and site selection study, in August of 2002 the Governor signed four bills into law, providing for the construction of five new veterans homes in West Los Angeles, Ventura County, Lancaster, Fresno County, and Shasta County, as well as major renovations to the existing veterans home in Yountville. Again, the State Legislature overwhelmingly approved these bills and the construction program:

<i>Legislation</i>	<i>State Senate</i>	<i>State Assembly</i>
SB 1234	39-0	60-0
AB 2559	30-0	60-0
AB 2953	30-0	61-0
AB1773	35-0	61-0

It would be a disgraceful insult to California's veterans, and plain poor business strategy, to postpone veteran home construction. Such postponement could jeopardize the availability of millions of dollars in Federal construction assistance, and would simply force higher construction costs because of inflationary effects taking place each month that construction is delayed.

For all of these reasons, the California Department of The American Legion pleads that you not abandon the promises and commitments to California's veterans. Please do not approve current proposals to again postpone the development of desperately needed veterans homes.

It is just not right, nor is it good public policy to keep balancing government budgets by ignoring promises made to the men and women who place themselves in harms way to protect our freedoms.

Respectfully yours,

James W. Hackney, State Commander
The American Legion Department of California