

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP?

By Gary Leach  
Post Adjutant

So, just what are the benefits of being a member of The American Legion? There are many things this fine organization does for the community in general, and for its members in particular.

For the community, there's American Legion Baseball. Roughly 90,000 young athletes annually take part in this sports program which has served as a stepping stone for many major league players. Do you know what Neil Armstrong, Tom Brokaw, Bill Clinton and Mike Huckabee have in common? They are all alumni of The American Legion Boys' State program. Our High School Oratorical Contest encourages young people to study the Constitution to compete for scholarship money. The Department of California winner receives \$1,200, and the National winner receives \$18,000. The American Legion sponsors over 2,700 Boy Scout Troops nationwide, serving over 70,000 scouts. Did you know The American Legion is a supporter of the Children's Miracle Network, Ronald MacDonald House Charities, Youth Suicide Prevention, Halloween Safety, the Family Support Network, and Operation Military Kids?.

How about benefits to its members? Of course, you're already aware that it was pressure from The American Legion which led to the creation of the Veterans' Bureau, which evolved into the Veterans' Administration. And the original draft of the G.I. Bill was hand written on stationery from the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. by American Legion Past National Commander Harry Colmery. Did you know the Legion has a discount prescription drug program? How about the discounted vision care offered by EyeMed Vision Care? What about the variety of life and health insurance programs? Visit [www.legioninsure.com](http://www.legioninsure.com) for more info. Legionnaires are eligible for discounts on car rentals from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, and National. We also save 20 percent off the "Best Available Rate" at these participating hotels: Baymont, Days Inn, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, Howard Johnson, Knights Inn, Microtel Inn & Suites, Ramada, Super 8, Travelodge, Wingate by Wyndham, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Wyndham Garden, Wyndham Grand.

The benefits of membership are too numerous for one newsletter article. For additional information on membership benefits, visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). And when you receive your membership renewal notice, please renew promptly!



Area 1 Commander (and Post 77 Adjutant) Gary Leach speaks with a Military Veteran regarding the benefits of Legion Membership at the Annual Vettes for Vets Car show in Sacramento. The proceeds for the show went to programs that help veterans in the region.

## VET REPLACES VET ON WOODLAND CITY COUNCIL

Post 77 and Woodland City Council member Jeff Monroe has moved out of State. Jeff was an Army Sergeant, having served in Germany. The Woodland City Council picked as Jeff's replacement another veteran, Tom Stallard, a former Navy Lt(jg). He was a Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and Intelligence Officer overseeing 17 service force ships.



Albert Castillo, Commander  
Marty Bernavage, 1st Vice Commander  
Mike Phillips, 2nd Vice Commander  
Gary Leach, Adjutant  
Edward Trautt, Immediate Past Commander  
Corbin Smith, Finance Officer & Assistant Adjutant  
Steve Waldeck, Treasurer  
Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Ted Hillyer, Chaplain  
Zeke Plocher, Service Officer  
Frank Eakle, Athletic Committee Chair  
Dan Cameron, Historian  
Dave Kauderer, Judge Advocate  
William Allardice, Legislative Advocate  
Dan Cameron, Executive Committee  
Delbert Guise, Executive Committee

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By Corbin Smith, Past Commander

### PAST EVENTS

#### January

On January 5th, The Post hosted the Annual Past Commanders' Dinner to honor all our past commanders with their family and friends in attendance. Chef John Benedict again out did himself and cooked a rolled beef roast as the main course. We received a lot of positive comments on the dinner.

January 14th, the Post hosted a Rib-Kruter, cooked by Chef Jeff Youngmark and his posse. It was such a big hit that he has already agreed to cook another one! Proceeds will go towards buying a new convection oven.

#### February

February 6th, the Sons of the Legion with the Auxiliary hosted a breakfast and Super Bowl Party. They had a huge turnout and everyone had a great time.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### March

On Tues., March 8 we will have our annual Law-Enforcement Awards night at 7pm. Come join as these prestigious men and women of law enforcement receive their awards chosen by their peers. Cookies and punch will be provided.

#### April

On Tues., April 12 we will have our annual Firefighter's Night at 7pm. Come join us for cookies and punch and meet Yolo Counties finest!

### BUILDING HAPPENINGS:

We up-graded the ladies room and now it is the men's turn. We will begin remodeling the men's room in the near future. We will be adding new toilets, sinks, and new flooring. In the spring, we will finish the paving of the Post parking lot including painting new stripes for the parking spots. We can all agree this is a project well over due.

### BAR HAPPENINGS:

If you haven't visited us lately, you will be surprised to learn that Post 77 now has Lotto and Lottery scratchers for your entertainment. We have already had a \$1,000 winner! Good Luck!

### DUES:

If you haven't already paid your dues for this year, please do so now. We are currently at 437 in membership and we need just 85 to Reach our set goal of 522. Any questions regarding your membership can be directed to Gary Leach or Corbin Smith.

continued on page 3

## EVENT CALENDARS

### MARCH 2011

3rd	7:00 PM	Yolo Veterans Coalition meeting at W. Sac VFW
5th	9:00 AM	Legion Riders Dist 6 monthly meeting. Breakfast meeting at Carol's, 1201 W Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691
8th	7:00 PM	Law Enforcement Night
12th	9:00 AM	Flag Retirement Ceremony at West Plainfield Fire Department
	6:00 PM	Dinner-Cornd beef and cabbage.
16th	7:00 PM	Post 77 Executive Committee meeting.
22nd	7:00 PM	Post 77 General Membership meeting. 1st round for officer nominations

### APRIL 2011

7th	7:00 PM	Yolo Veterans Coalition meeting at W. Sac VFW
12th		Firefighters Night
20th	7:00 PM	Post 77 Executive Committee meeting.
21st - 22nd		Area 1 meeting at Post 77
26th	7:00 PM	Post 77 General Membership meeting. 2nd round for officer nominations

Please Check our website for updates to our Calendar  
[www.yolopost77.com](http://www.yolopost77.com)

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

March 9 7:00 p.m. Sons Membership meeting

April 13 7:00 p.m. Sons Membership meeting

Carl Prutch, Commander, tel. 669-7975; Robert Roe, Adjutant  
SAL meetings are held at Post 77 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

## AUXILIARY

Auxiliary officers:

President-Christine Rogers

First Vice President-Maria Lopez

Second Vice President-Arlene Sandoval

Secretary-Lorraine Childers

Treasurer-Vacant

Chaplain-Maria Hernandez

Sergeant-at-Arms-Mary Cogburn,

If you have any questions about the Post 77 Auxiliary or would like a ride to an Auxiliary meeting, please call Auxiliary President Christine Rogers at 908-5686 or Mary Cogburn at 662-0624

**AMERICAN LEGION BENEFITS:**

To read about benefits you receive from your membership dues visit <http://www.legion.org/benefits> and <http://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits>  
Your dues help support all the following American Legion programs:



**AMERICANISM**

Legislative Action Center • American Legion Baseball  
Boys Nation / Boys State • Flag Advocacy  
Citizenship • Education  
Flag etiquette • Get Out the Vote

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Legislative Action Center • American Legion Baseball  
Boys Nation / Boys State • Child Welfare Foundation  
Junior ROTC / ROTC • Junior Shooting Sports  
Oratorical Contest • Scholarships  
Scouting

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Legislative Action Center • Family Support Network  
National Security & Foreign Relations  
Operation Comfort Warriors • POW/MIA advocacy  
Temporary Financial Assistance • Troop Support

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

Legislative Action Center • Benefits Center  
Heroes to Hometowns • Homelessness  
My GI Bill • Department Service Officers  
Veterans Career Center • Volunteering  
Women Veterans

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Legislative Action Center • American Legion Auxiliary  
Family Support Network • Freedom Car  
Legion Riders • Legiontown USA  
Media Center • National Emergency Fund  
Sons of The American Legion  
Temporary Financial Assistance  
Volunteering

**LEGION DISCOUNTS:**

These are some of the discounts you receive being a member of the American Legion (read more about them on the website top of page):

- Automobile Rental
- Financial & Insurance
- Moving & Relocation
- Automobile Rental
- Financial & Insurance
- Moving & Relocation
- Home Services
- Medical
- Travel & Lodging
- Home Services
- Medical
- Travel & Lodging

**THIS MONTH'S MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT:  
VETERANS HOLIDAYS**



SPACE A RENTALS- Whether you have a night, a long weekend or a week, you can stay in great resort condominiums and choose from a world of vacation possibilities. GREAT SPACES. Forget cramped quarters. Spread out in spacious accommodations that are far bigger than the average hotel room – with access to extras, including: • On-site recreational facilities • Resort amenities • Full kitchen (many units) • Washer and dryer (many units) • Kids activities GREAT PRICES. You don't have to spend a lot to get a lot out of your vacation. With Veterans Holidays®, you can enjoy 7-night stays for \$369\* USD a week when booking through the call center. Book online at [www.veteransholidays.com](http://www.veteransholidays.com) and get an automatic \$20 USD discount, 7 nights for only \$349\* USD on space available accommodations. That's per unit, not per person.



Post 77 Commander Al Castillo and Chaplain Ted Hillyer Pause for a photo op while serving at the annual Crab Feed.

**WANT YOUR MONTHLY POST 77 NEWSLETTER IN COLOR?**

Each issue of the Post 77 newsletter can be emailed to you rather than mailed through the U. S. Postal Service. The emailed version comes in color. The mailed newsletter is in black and white. If you would like your Post 77 newsletter by email rather than through the mail, send us your name and email address at [optout@yolopost77.com](mailto:optout@yolopost77.com)

**RED CROSS WILL HELP PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE SERVICE**

As you may yourself have experienced, sometimes a deployed member of the Armed Forces needs to be located quickly to be provided important or emergency information. The Red Cross has a system in place to help. Call (800) 696-3873 and the Red Cross will assist you to locate your family member in the service, wherever she or he may be.

## From the Commander: Albert Castillo

### APPRECIATION AND WELL WISHES

Post 77 would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to our First-Vice, Marty Bernavage. Marty has been involved in our Post for a number of years and has done an outstanding job. As Second-Vice last year, he gave us a memorable Veterans' Day ceremony. And, has done an admirable job in his current position as First-Vice. Marty stepped up to the plate and has been very involved in the Post helping with all Post activities and events.

Marty is an asset to the Post and we miss him! Marty was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in late December and has been struggling with Chemotherapy and Dialysis since. We wish him and his wife, Mary, and their family the best. We encourage him to keep up his spirits. We are thinking about him, our prayers are with him. If you like, you can leave a card for Marty at the Post and it will be delivered to him.

### BON VOYAGE MIKE!

The post has lost a valuable member of the team. Mike Phillips relocated to sunny southern California for his job. Mike was our Second Vice and was sure to be a strong Commander, but just our luck he moved away. We will all miss him and his Oklahoma accent for sure, good luck to you and your wife, we will keep your seat warm for you when you decide to rejoin us!

### ATTENTION ALL WWII VETS!

Get out you Beret's Wine and Cheese! This not a joke, those Veterans from the greatest generation that participated in the Liberation of France are being awarded Frances highest Military distinction the Legion of Honor. If you would like to receive this honor get the details at the post website: [www.yolopost77.com](http://www.yolopost77.com) or contact the post commander at [acastillo@wavecable.com](mailto:acastillo@wavecable.com)

### POST 77 NEEDS YOU!

When the country called you answered! Now it's time to give back to your post. Yolo Post 77 is looking for good people to fill some officer positions. We are in need of a Second Vice and a Historian among others. If you want to serve your community and post then this is for you. Contact the Post Commander Al Castillo at [acastillo@wavecable.com](mailto:acastillo@wavecable.com)



Corbin Smith is awarded the Bob Dahl (legionaire of the Year) Award 2010 from Gary Leach Post Adjutant with Past Commander Warren Meyer

### IT IS TIME TO GET YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

In the category of better late than never, the Yolo County Office of Education is offering high school diplomas to those who served in World War II, Korea or Vietnam and left for the Armed Forces before graduating. For those who come within that category and wish to be a diploma recipient, if you choose to attend, there will be an awards ceremony May 31, 5:30 p.m.

Sign up by calling Patti Robles at (530) 668-3755.

### ONE OF POST 77's BEST MEALS OF THE YEAR IS COMING UP ON MARCH 12

In celebration of the American Legion's 92nd birthday in March, Post 77 will hold its annual HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN LEGION

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on  
Saturday, March 12, 2011  
6:00 p.m.

If you are one of those people who likes good food, don't miss the Post's annual corned beef and cabbage dinner and celebrate St. Patrick's Day too!

Get your tickets at \$12. for this highly popular corned beef and cabbage dinner by stopping at the Post clubroom or calling (530) 662-9772.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
AMERICAN LEGION  
BORN MARCH 15-17,  
1919.



### IN MEMORIAM

**ROBERT LEITHOLD "BOB" GRIFFITH**

**VICTOR "LEON" FANN**

**"Farewell, My Comrades."**



## Constitutional Oratory Held

By Larry Schapiro

High School student Lynette Rheault receives an award and \$500 from the American Legion on Sunday as winner of the Legion's Northern California oratorical contest held at Woodland City Hall Council Chambers. Making the presentation are oratory chairman William "Smoky" Davis, right, and Area 1 Commander Gary Leach, a member of Post 77 in Woodland.

The U. S. Constitution appears to be in good hands with our younger generation, as indicated by high school students from throughout Northern California who participated Sunday in a constitutional oratorical contest at the Woodland City Hall Council Chambers.

Sponsored by the American Legion Area 1, students spoke on a topic of their choosing dealing with the Constitution with an emphasis upon the duties and obligations of citizens to our government.

This was followed with an extemporaneous speech by the students about the 27th Amendment.

The winner of the American Legion northern California oratorical contest is Lynette Rheault, representing Yolo County and Sacramento counties.

Her speech concluded with an impassioned plea: "If we want to keep our freedom and liberty, it is our duty as citizens of the United States to get back to the founding principles of this great Republic, to know our rights, to ensure that our Constitution is being followed, to know the limited powers of our elected officials, and to respect and remember the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom."

Second-place winner Sarah Crowder of Antioch analogized that "Just buying the ingredients is not going to produce a cake. The Constitution has an important list of ingredients. The American people need to use the rights the Constitution has given them."

Willits High School student Davis Stansberry was concerned that we not continue to "see a similarity between a presidential campaign and choosing a prom King and Queen."

Area 1 first place winner Lynette Rheault goes on to the State American Legion contest this weekend in Ontario.

The oratory contest judges included Woodland High School teacher Mike Owens, Col. Ed Trautt (retired) of Davis, retired teacher Margaret Ross, Sacramento American Legion Post 807 Historian Susan Johnson, and teacher Greg Patterson. Area I American Legion Commander Gary Leach of Dunnigan and William Davis of Wheatland were in charge of the event, with assistance from Yolo Post 77 members.

## From the Chaplain

As Post 77 Chaplain I attended the Children's Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic School on Friday, Feb. 11, 2011. This mass was to celebrate "National Catholic Schools Week". All of the readings were done by the students and they really did a good job.

Mrs. Dias presided over a ceremony that recognized all organizations and benefactors that had in any way helped out the school over the past year. As a representative of Post 77, I accepted a Certificate of Appreciation thanking the American Legion for their contribution and support.

I have sent condolence cards to the families of Robert Leithold "Bob" Griffith and Victor "Leon" Fann, comrades who recently passed away.

I sent a "get well" card to Marty Bernavage telling him that he will be in our thoughts until he returns to his post.

Sincerely submitted,

Ted Hillyer, Chaplain



On Feb. 7, 2010, the second graders of Brownie Troop 1121 met at Post 77 for their annual Investiture and Rededication ceremony.

## WOODLAND HIGH SEEKS VETERANS WHO SERVED IN A WAR ZONE

Post 77 is again working with Woodland High School to present the fourth annual "students interview the vets" program on April 6, 8 a.m. On that day, all the Woodland High School juniors will be interviewing veterans to learn first hand about America's participation in World War II to the present conflict in Afghanistan. This Post 77/high school project is designed for students to hear about American military history and the impact of war upon individual soldiers, sailors and Marines. The students afterwards write reports and prepare oral presentations based upon their interviews with veterans.

We ask Post members who have served in war zones to join us on April 6 at Woodland High School. Legion members have mentioned year after year how much they enjoyed participating.

Please call Larry Schapiro at telephone number (530) 304-6099 to sign up. You will like this experience.



American Legion  
 Yolo Post 77  
 523 Bush Street  
 Woodland, CA 95695

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## CRABS AND POST 77 GO HAND AND CLAW TOGETHER



The January 22nd Post 77 annual all-you-can eat crab and shrimp fest dinner has again earned enough money to cover the expenses of next season's Post 77 baseball team, plus for money that goes towards the American Legion Junior Baseball team in Davis. The Post Baseball Committee spends a thank you to all who attended. A much appreciated also goes out to the many people who helped put on the event, including the many servers at the dinner.

Post 77 crab feeds began 35 years ago. Back then, there were only four organizations in Woodland who held crab feeds. Along with Post 77, the other three were the Flyers Club, Yolo Sportmans' Club and Willow Oak Fire Department. There are many more now. In fact, when the Post held its crab feed this year, there were three other crab feeds in Woodland the same day. The Post 77 crab feed averages attendance of 500 to 600 people.

The annual Post crab feeds were initially run by World War I veteran Harvey Frazier, along with the "young guys," World War II vets Wally Frasier, Jack Richter, Joe Espigares, Ray Sanchez and Don Urain. They are all gone now. Frank Eakle, Doyle Gasperson and Steve Hedington have taken over the duties for many years now, with the help of a legion of Legion members and others.

The money earned from the annual crab feed is used to support the Post youth baseball program. Post 77 has sponsored American Legion baseball in Yolo County for over 80 years. The student players do not have to pay anything to play. Post 77 picks up the cost of uniforms, tournament fees, and the expenses of motels and food for away games, among other expenses.

Baseball Committee members for 2010 were: Committee Chair Frank Eakle, Frank Lucchesi, Zeke Plocker, Gil Garcia, Jim Ruiz, Vince Olvera, Dave Isbell, Doyle Gasperson and Steve Hedington.

## American Legion Post 77 Baseball

On behalf of the Yolo Post 77 Athletic Committee, I would like to express our thanks to all of those who supported our annual Crab & Prawn Feed Fund Raiser to support the Post 77 Baseball program. This includes both those that helped with their support, or by attending the function. With your help the Yolo Post 77 Baseball program will be able to participate in another season.

Thank you again.  
 Frank Eakle  
 Athletic Committee- Chairman

