

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



Bi-monthly Newsletter, Issue #8

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 55



**Jim (Dusty) Douglas Jr.**

Commander

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Fellow Legionnaires,

IT'S BACK! YOUR POST 55 NEWSLETTER IS HERE!!!

First I want to say it's my honor to serve all of you as Commander of your Post. I'd like to formally introduce myself and share my background with you. I've been a member of the legion for 21 years and with Post 55 for the last 10 years. I'm retired from the Air Force as an Msgt (E-7). I presently work at Disney as a General Mechanic. My wife Shirley is also retired Air Force. We have 4 wonderful children: Jim III (31, Air Force Gulf War Vet), Angela (29, school teacher), Jason (22, computer student also works at Disney), and Elizabeth (20, studying hospitality management at UCF). We have one grandson, Christopher, he calls me pop-pop, you can call me Dusty.

This newsletter would not be possible without the hard work of Jackie Lafler, a member of the Auxiliary and the dedication of the presidents of the Auxiliary, Sons and Riders who all banded together to meet the deadlines and gather the information being shared with you. Did you know that our newsletter reaches over 500 local households? We are looking for advertisers to defray the costs of printing and mailing. If you or someone you know would like to advertise, let me know. Also, we are considering reviving the Booster Club section in this publication. Please share your thoughts with me or an officer about the Booster Club. If you have any information you would like to be printed in the Jan/Feb 2011 newsletter, please inform me before November 30.

I'm working to establish the committees that our Post is required to operate and we need your help. We can not let only a handful of members do all the work. If only a few are doing everything it creates a perception that the legion is run by only a few, when in fact this is a post for all and everyone can play a part. The committees that

have been formed thus far: House Committee, Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee. The committees that are needed include: Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Membership/Post Activities, Public Relations, Legislative, Economic, Service, Graves Registrations/Memorial, Uniformed Groups and Visiting. As you can see, we have a lot of spots to fill. Some of these committees are being supported by only one person and others have no one yet. Your officers are wearing many hats to get your post work done, the post needs YOUR Help too! In the near future I will be posting detailed information about the committees and sign-up sheets.

I would like to express my appreciation to former Commander Rube Morehouse for all of his hard work in support of your post. Not only is he filling the role of Historian, he is also doing the work of Post Adjutant. He is heavily involved with the Korean Veterans and he is working with several other members of the post to form a viable Honor Guard...members needed ☺!

Also a very large thank you to Rube's lovely wife, Ruth Morehouse, who continues to put in long hours with the Auxiliary. You can find Ruth in the kitchen cooking for bingo night and special events. She is also serving as one of the members of the House Committee. Please thank both Ruth and Rube for all that they do for Post 55. They really live up to the motto "For God and Country". Again, **THANK YOU RUBE & RUTH!!!**

As of this writing, there are three open positions: Adjutant, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Trustee. If you are a Legionnaire and interested in helping, please see me ASAP.

We are planning a New Year's Eve party and I'm hoping it's second to none! Heading up the planning is Alan Watson and Brendon Diamond. Alan and Tammy Watson have donated a DJ to spin your favorite tunes. If you'd like to help decorate or would like to serve on the Food & Refreshments and/or Door Prize committees, See Brendon or Alan. Let's make this party an event to remember and ring in the New Year with style!

This Post would not be a success without all of the volunteer work of the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and you, our Legionnaire members. The Auxiliary recently purchased new tables and chairs for the meeting room and they donated \$500 to Boy Scout Troop #551 for new camping

equipment. The Sons recently donated \$200 to the Fallen Warrior bike run that was hosted by the Riders. The Sons were also recently recognized by the Special Olympics for their support of the South Lake Special Athletes.

Members from ALL the units at our Post have really stepped up with the recent painting, electrical rewiring, remodeling projects, yard work, propane tank removal, etc....I know I'm forgetting some things, so for everyone involved...**THANK YOU!!!**

I encourage everyone to get involved with our post. Elections for next year's officers are just around the corner. The nomination process starts in February.

One of my goals is to increase membership and participation in the post. To create awareness I've been setting up and manning a legion booth whenever I can. We've been represented at Beef O'Bradys Bike Night and local public gatherings. If you'd like to assist, please contact me.

In closing I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,  
Jim "Dusty" Douglas  
*Commander*

### SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Election Day
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Poppy Distribution
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Car Show
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veteran's Day
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Westminster Nursing Home
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Poppy Distribution
Nov 19-21 <sup>st</sup>	Fall Conference
Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bake Sale
Nov 23-24 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Thanksgiving Donations
Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	Care Packages to Afghanistan
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Light Up Clermont
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Groveland Christmas Parade
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bake Sale
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Eve Party
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Bowling Tournament

## Who's Who at Post 55

### POST 55 OFFICERS

Commander: Jim "Dusty" Douglas

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: James "Radar" Henry

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Alan Watson

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice: Ed McGuire

Adjutant: OPEN

Finance: Brendon Diamond

Chaplain: James Lush

Sgt-at-Arms: OPEN

Historian: Alton "Rube" Morehouse

Service Officer: Gary "Crash" Bowman

Judge Advocate: Les White

Trustee: OPEN

Committeemen: Gary Anthony

Committeemen: Gary Barrett

*If you are interested in any of the OPEN positions please see your Commander. Thank you.*

### SONS OF THE LEGION OFFICERS

Commander: Sonny Perchitti

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Pierre Beaudet

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: John Dougherty

Adjutant: Ric Figueroa

Financial Officer: Matt Block

Sgt-at-Arms: Jim Badasso

Chaplain: Joe Garcia

### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President: Tammy Watson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Jan Bowman

Treasurer: Shirley Douglas

Secretary: Gerry Stiles

Sgt-at-Arms: Bessy Grady

Chaplain: Kim Bumgardner

Membership: Millie Land

Historian: Sue Miller

### AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ruth Morehouse

Margarie Smith

Naomi Tiptton

### CANTEEN INFORMATION

**Part time Canteen Bartender NEEDED.** Must be a member of Legion, Auxiliary or Sons. Experience preferred. Contact the House Chairman if interested.



The Canteen is serving Pizza & Hot Dogs daily.

Enjoy \$2.00 Margaritas every Wednesday.

Sat & Sun: Bloody Marys & Screwdrivers from 11-2

Thursday all day:

Drafts are 75 cents, Bottles for \$1, Well Drinks only \$1.50



## S.A.L. Corner



Hello Members,

Seasons change but some things remain the same, our freedoms. Let's remember our vets and the women and men serving in the military this season.

***Please Support Our Troops!***

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day and the Sons will be honoring the service of our nations Vets at the Westminster Nursing Home from 10am to 1pm. The Sons of Post 55, in partnership with the Elks, will be serving food and providing and distributing gift bags. We look forward to sharing a little bit of our time with those that have given so much.

Our good deeds continue at Thanksgiving. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> we will deliver Thanksgiving dinners to 10 deserving families. We've still got some planning to do so more details to follow. I am very grateful for all the volunteers that help to make this annual event a success.

December is a busy month for us. We are once again hosting a Christmas Party to benefit the South Lake Special Athletes. This annual event will be held at the Post from noon to 3pm, date TBD. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to distribute gifts donated by the Sons. Food will be provided and smiles from ear to ear on the faces of little ones will gladly be received.

Light Up Clermont is December 4<sup>th</sup> and we'll be out in full force manning a booth for the event. From 9am to 3pm we'll be serving BBQ Chicken, baked beans, cole slaw and potato salad for \$5 a plate. Beverages are \$1 each. Come out and join the community in supporting our members and Post 55.

The Groveland Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The South Lake Special Athletes will join us in the parade. We'll be riding on a float provided and built by our members. Fireworks follow the parade that evening. Join us and the city of Groveland for a fun filled event!

***Wishing everyone a  
Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas!***

For God & Country,  
Sonny Perchetti

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**6th District 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Handicap Bowling Tournament** is January 30, 2011. Net proceeds from this event will again be used to help offset the transportation cost for all Boy and Girl State Delegates from every post throughout the 6th District. The winning team will be awarded the annual roving bowling trophy with their names and Post number engraved for display at their post throughout the year. Teams may be mixed or of same gender and must have at least one Legion member on the team. **Entries must be submitted by January 9, 2011.** All bowlers must be 18 or older and a post may enter more than one team. The tournament is at Colonial Lanes, 400 N Primrose Drive in Orlando and starts at 11am. Entry fee is \$15 per person and includes a buffet luncheon and entertainment courtesy of Post 286 immediately following bowling. See the Commander if you'd like more information on this great event.



Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2011. When you are exercising your right to vote, remember the vets that fought and continue to fight for your freedoms. Veterans Day is Thursday, November 11, 2011. Wear a poppy to honor our nations heroes.

***Remember.....***



President's Corner

Good Afternoon Members,

It's exciting to be us! We've been busy and there's no rest for the weary as we head into the holidays. A quick reminder that monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday at 7pm. Our next meeting is November 2nd, the same as Election Day. Go out and rock the vote, then join me at the Post for our meeting.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for POPPY DISTRIBUTION**

**Saturday, November 6 starting at 10am.** We need people to help man the tables and take donations. Poppy distribution locations are:

- Publix at Kings Ridge
- Publix in Groveland
- Walgreens in Clermont

**Thursday, November 11 starting at 10am.** Be there to honor our vets. Poppy distribution location is:

- Belks at Citrus Tower

Calling all Bakers, we need you! The ladies of the Auxiliary will be hosting two Bake Sale fund raisers at the Post. Tuesday, November 23rd from 4-7pm and Thursday, December 23rd from 4-7pm. If you love to bake, we'd love for you to donate your items for our sale. Baked items can be delivered to the Post the day prior and the day of. Thanking you in advance for sharing your sweet goodness.

**Call to Action!** We have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of 25 female soldiers stationed in Afghanistan. Zophie Champaux, one of our very own Legionnaires, is among the women serving. We are putting together a Christmas care package for her and the 24 other women serving with her. We hope to fill it with female toiletries, necessities and personal items such as, but not limited to the following:

- chapstick, lip balm, shampoo, conditioner, hand & body Lotion, hand sanitizers, feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, foot powder, odor eaters, soap, body wash, baby wipes, mouthwash, razors, etc...*

**Call to Action!** We need donations. Please deliver all donations to the post, marked to Tammy Watson's attention before November 30, 2010.

Give a girl a break! We're delighted to serve food every Saturday night during bingo. Ruth Morehouse and Sue Miller do a fantastic job of keeping the food flowing and they could use some help. We welcome any and all volunteers to the kitchen. Let me know if you are interested in assisting, we'd sure appreciate it!

*Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season!*



For God & Country,  
**Tammy Watson**

*Just a quick note from all of the Officers of Post 55,*



*to our many volunteers. We would not be what we are, or do what we do, without the contributions of each one of you!! The list is endless so forgive us if we miss you or your contributions.*

Many thanks to our: Bingo Volunteers, Cooks, Grounds Keepers, Painters, Texas Hold'em Workers, Clean-up Crews, Bartenders, Booth Workers, Poppy Volunteers, Bakers, and Party Planners. A special shout out to the volunteers that helped paint the Legion on October 22 & 23: Gary Bowman, Bill Collins, Jim Douglas, Brendon Diamond, Radar Henrey, Shirley Douglas, Rube Morehouse, Ruth Morehouse, Cindy Moore and Disney volunteers Tom Day, Fred O'Neill, and Rick Huss. Big round of applause to Disney Sub-contractor J.P.B.T. for their donation of the paint.

**VETERANS NEEDED**



Your community wants to Thank You and acknowledge you for your years of service. The following organizers have invited Veterans to attend their events. Please wear your uniform and be prepared to meet and greet with civilians and other military personnel.

- ⊛ Saturday, November 6 ~ Westminster Nursing Home S.A.L. & Elks Brunch from 10am to 1pm
- ⊛ Thursday, November 11 ~ Clerbrook Trailer Park Ceremony & Breakfast at 7am
- ⊛ Thursday, November 11 ~ Poppy Distribution at Belks in Clermont ~ Starting at 10am
- ⊛ Friday, November 12 ~ East Ridge High School Football Game

Please provide your name, rank and branch of service when expressing interest. Need to know asap if you are interested in participating. Contact Jim "Dusty" Douglas, any Officer or leave your information with the bartender before November 4th.

## NEWS to NOTE

The 2010 Fall Conference is November 19-21 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. This year's conference will include special guests National Commander Jimmie Foster and National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk, Jr. along with others. There will be training classes for officers and several "get togethers" with members from all over. We'll report out and hopefully include a few pictures in the next newsletter about the conference.



The following is reprinted from the 2010 American Legion Officer Guide.

*THE HOUSE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE: To supervise the operation of physical facilities of a post such as a clubroom, American Legion center, meeting room, etc. Supervision includes administration, responsibility for equipment, hiring and direction of employees, as authorized by post executive committee and general rules applicable to the conduct of members while on the premises of the post.*

The House Committee Members of Post 55 are:

Gary Breese – Chairman  
 Pierre Beaudet  
 Cubby Cabanos  
 Ruth Morehouse  
 Jay Neff  
 Alvin Stevenson  
 Tammy Watson

The House Committee meets when needed to address concerns, manage the business at hand and forward items to the Executive Board for review. If you have suggestions for the House Committee, please submit them in the suggestion box at the post. \*Important reminder: suggestions must be signed to be valid. Suggestions not signed will not be considered.

## New Year's Eve Party Update



Planning is underway for our NYE party. We're going to have a DJ starting at 8:30pm to rock the night away, door prizes throughout the evening and a potluck dinner. A champagne toast, party activities and other details are being discussed. We invite you and your guests to join us for this memorable event!

**BENEFIT RAFFLE**

For American Legion member and Air Force Veteran:

**JIM LUSH**

All proceeds will be donated to assist with cancer treatment expenses.

**PRIZES**

**4 Walt Disney World 1 Day Park Hopper Tickets**

1 Ticket for \$2 and 3 Tickets for \$5

**Basket of Cheer**

1 Ticket for \$2 and 3 Tickets for \$5

Drawing to be held Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8pm at Beef O'Brady's in Clermont, during Bike Nites. You need not be present to win. Honda of Winter Garden is a proud sponsor of Bike Nites every Wednesday.



**11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**VETERANS CELEBRATION**  
**CAR SHOW**

Citrus Tower ~ Hwy 27 ~ Clermont

**Sponsored by the Citrus Tower Cruisers to  
 benefit the Korean War Veterans of Lake County  
 Chapter 188**

**\* Honoring Veterans of all wars and conflicts \***

**November 7**  
**9am to 4pm**

Call 863-207-2498 for information

Registration is \$15 and all registrants are eligible to win a 4-Post car gift. The show is open to all 1979 and older cars & motorcycles.

**TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION**

*Please bring an unwrapped gift for a disadvantaged child.*

Post 55 will be there with a booth to solicit membership for the Legion, S.A.L., Auxiliary, & Riders.

Volunteers needed.

***Stop by and say hi!***

**Bike Run for TOYS.** Riders will leave the post at 8am. Breakfast will be served by the Salvation Army starting at 9am. Kick stands up at 11am.

